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# Protesters vow to continue amidst violence

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Feb. 13— Despite initial signs of optimism at protests in Sana'a on Sunday morning, interactions turned violent as security used batons and tasers on protesters, arresting dozens. Earlier in the day demonstrators were seen shaking hands and exchanging greetings with security forces.

Charged by the resignation of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, more than one thousand anti-government protesters called on Sunday for President Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down, chanting: "There is no way out, either leave or step down."

The protesters began marching from Sana'a University towards Al-Sabaeen Square, where central security placed barbed wire obstacles to prevent en-





Pro- and anti-government demonstrators faced off during protests on Sunday morning. Opposition demonstrations continued until protesters were violently dispersed by security forces.

trance to the area, popular for protests and large celebrations.

After protesters changed course, a group of uniformed policemen and security forces in civilian clothes launched an attack on demonstrators, dispersing many from the crowd.

"Even the women were not spared. A Suzuki private license car distributed batons and tasers to the security men who started using them against the protestors without discrimination," said lawyer and activist Abdulrahman Barman. "Our friend Samiya Al-Aghbari was almost abducted by a man wearing civilian clothes after he tased her. When she screamed we went to her rescue and he pushed her savagely to the ground. She was injured badly on her head and had to be hospitalized,"

Hamoud Hazza', a journalist in the state run Saba News Agency confirmed

the story and said that the central and public security soldiers dispersed protesters using batons and tasers.

"They will not stop us. They are only making us more enthusiastic to continuing our struggle," said Hazza'.

The protests have grown in the last three days and protestors promised, that despite harassment, they would come back and in larger numbers.

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# JMP accept President Saleh's initiatives with conditions

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Feb. 13 — The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) have acknowledged the initiative made by President Saleh on Feb. 2, in which he vowed not to extend his presidency beyond 2013 or hand power to his son, to postpone elections to a mutually agreed date, and to withdraw amendments to the constitution.

The JMP added during a press conference held jointly with the National Dialogue Preparatory Committee that they were ready to sign this week minutes that would define the framework and steps of a comprehensive national dialogue until it reaches its desired objectives.

The JMP called upon the regime to learn from what had happened in Tunisia and Egypt, and to note the recent reactions in Yemen.

The opposition also requested the Friends of Yemen Group attend to witness and be familiar with the agreements concluded. They affirmed that should the GPC break their commitments, the streets will be the judge.

The JMP suggested in a statement read to journalists, correspondents and interested parties a draft that emphasizes the necessity of eight central points. The points include the creation of committees to increase communication with the Southern Movement, engaging opposition groups including Houthis, the establishment of joint legal, constitutional and economic committees, the drafting of a comprehensive reform plan and amending current election laws that deny legal voters the right to vote, among other demands.

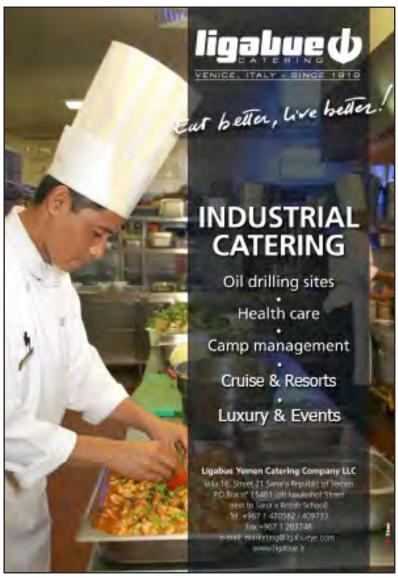
At the end of their statement, the JMP requested that the regime offer major concessions in order to achieve radical reforms and create necessary change. This included the removal of the president's sons, brothers, nephews and other relatives to the fourth degree from their leading positions in the military, security, government, local councils or civil services.

President Saleh had called upon the JMP to resume dialogue and form a national unity government and suspend demonstrations.















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# Protests intensify and spread throughout governorates

By Mohammed Bin Sallam and Emad Al-Saqqaf

SANA'A, Feb. 13 — Demonstrations gathered strength in Sana'a, Taiz and other governorates after news spread of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's resignation, which came as a direct result of popular protests that began on January 25.

Security services in Sana'a prevented hundreds of demonstrators from approaching the Egyptian embassy on Friday night, keeping them at bay as power was cut in the vicinity.

Parliament members and human rights activists took part in the Friday demonstrations, while protests on Saturday were limited to mainly university

Protestors demanded an end to the current regime and held up their hands in prayer for its leaders to be removed. This led authorities to send dozens of patrol cars and security personnel in civilian clothes to intervene using batons to dispel demonstrators.

In the same area, tens of pro-Saleh protestors staged demonstrations demanding that he remain in office.

In Taiz, thousands of people have gathered in the streets since Friday, celebrating the success of the Egyptian revolution and calling for Saleh's regime to be ousted. An estimated 20,000 people were in attendance at protests that ran from Saturday night until Sunday morning. Complaints from protesters resembled those heard among youth in Tunisia and Egypt, where unemployment, corruption and lack of freedom were primary grievances.

"I graduated from university in 2000 and still have not been able to get a job," said Mohammed Said, a Taizbased protester. "We do not trust the opposition, nor do we trust the ruling party. Our example is the great people of Tunisia and Egypt."

Security forces armed with batons were dispatched by mid-morning to forcibly disperse demonstrators.

A security officer, arresting people on the scene, proclaimed the demonstration illegal. "This protest is against the law and is unlicensed. We have arrested protesters based on complaints from neighbors who are affected by their presence in large numbers," he said.

"The arrests are a message from the state that it does not accept democracy and is a sign that they have not yet understood that the Arab people have changed," said Abduljaleel Al-Zuraiqi, a Taiz JMP member. He added that many of the protesters had lost faith in the opposition parties because they feel they do not sufficiently represent their

Ali Al-Serari, a leading figure of Yemen's Socialist Party, said that protests against the government would continue throughout Taiz until the president either accepts reform or leaves office.

In Aden, security forces dispersed demonstrators by firing live ammunition and tear gas on Friday in Al-Mansura, Sira and Khour Maksar districts.

20,000 protesters gathered overnight on Saturday in Taiz. On Sunday morning, security forces arrested dozens of activists, citing that the demonstrations lacked permits and were thus illegal.

The protests in Aden commenced after Friday prayer in response to calls from the Southern Movement to stage a "Day of Rage Friday". Hundreds of demonstrators were in attendance.

The protests expanded online as a number of the SM youth established opposition pages on the social networking site, Facebook, in order to build opposition numbers and untie factions.

In Zinjibar, Abyan, another march was conducted in reaction to a call by Sheikh Tariq al-Fadhli. Al-Fadhli also requested the release of detainees arrested in previous protests in Abyan and other southern governorates. Abyan protestors wore white shrouds, traditional burial garments, indicating that they were ready to die for the cause.

Abyan police spread throughout the city access points, but refrained from engaging with protesters.

In connection with the protests, president Saleh headed an extensive and urgent meeting of the Supreme Security Committee Friday night, after president Mubarak announced his resignation.

The meeting discussed the Egyptian revolution's effects on Yemen. The meeting also discussed approved measures to ration government spending, the necessity to increase the salaries and wages of government employees and the president's orders to investigate corrupt officials, according to an offi-

# More demonstrations planned by syndicates

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Feb.12 — More anti-government demonstrations are planned for this week, while pro-government demonstrations have also continued.

The professional syndicates are organizing separate protests demanding the government meet their needs.

"It's not a revolution for young people only, it's a time for all Yemeni people to move," said political analyst Dr.Abdullah Al-Faqih. "They are only waiting for Saleh's next mistake that will develop the rage in them."

The Lawyers Syndicate in Sana'a is organizing a protest on Monday. The syndicate is demanding that the head of National Security should step down and be tried along with his assistants.

Mohammed Rajjeh, the head of the syndicate, was recently "assaulted" by National Security at Sana'a International Airport, according to the syndicate's statement. The protest is the last option they have to take after the regime failed to take action against the security personnel who attacked Raijeh.

"The assault was not targeting Mohammed Rajjh personally, it was an assault on all Yemeni lawyers as he was attacked for being the head of the syndicate," read the statement, released on Friday.

"This is part of a planned tactic by the different security systems in Yemen

to continue their violations against the citizen's rights. And the regime must make amendments and realize that these kinds of oppressive tactics are what made people in other countries revolt against their regimes."

"The capital's demonstrations will be a challenge to the regime, as this regime has gathered all its power in the capital," said Al-Fagih.

Teacher's syndicates are organizing further protests this week. In Taiz, teaching staff are leading the call for demonstrations in front of government buildings all over the country. The teacher's syndicate is demanding the regime enforce the 2005 fees and salaries law, which set out minimum fee

rates and increased salaries for those teaching in rural areas.

"We are fed up with our situation under this regime," said the teacher's syndicate in a statement.

The anti-government protests, which began in Yemen on Jan. 16, have grown since the resignation of Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak on Friday. A ruling GPC party rally once again took over Tahrir Square late on Friday night.

"They are trying to destroy the stability and safety of the country, just as the Egyptians did in Egypt," said Nashwan Naji a pro-government activist. "I am calling for everybody not to allow the people who protest against the highest interests of the country to depose them and please do defend the country that is represented in one man who is the president, God bless him."

The ruling party formed preemptive demonstrations and have camped out at Tahrir Square since Feb.2. Minister of State and Mayor of the Secretariat Capital, Abdul Rahman Al-Akwa'a. opened a plastic art and handicraft exhibition in the tented village in Tahrir Square on Saturday.

"Saleh's wealth is more than Mubarak's, and he gave the most important positions in the country to his siblings and family. That's what makes the people angry," said Al-Faqih.

Meanwhile, President Saleh held a meeting with the supreme commander of the armed forces on Friday evening in an expanded meeting of the National Defense Council, political leaders and the Security Committee. The meeting decided to improve the wages of government staff and personnel of the armed and security forces, and stressed the need to combat tax evasion and take legal action against tax and customs duty evaders. They also reviewed ways to reduce expenditure and raise income

"Mubarak's stepping down is certainly a concern for Arab leaders, especially for Saleh," said Al-Faqih. 'Saleh's regime is exactly the same as Mubarak's, with the same mistakes if

# Billions of rials lost from electricity sector

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Feb.12 — Non-payment or delayed payment of electricity bills in on the increase, a practice that has cumulatively cost the Public Electricity Corporation over YR 24 billion rials (over USD 112 million). The corporation is working hard to collect the out-standing money in order to cover project expenses.

Unfortunately, most of the people who did not pay their bills are public corporations and those in power whom we cannot sue or stop providing them with power when they do not pay," said Khaled Rashed, head of the corporation.

In some Yemeni streets, almost onethird of the electricity is wasted or stolen. Street lamps are left on day and night, and many locals connect wires from their houses directly to the main electricity cables without an electricity meter from the corporation.

"They do not pay a penny for their electricity," said Rashed of those who take electricity without a meter.

To reduce the loss of electricity, the corporation has started observing the street lamps in Sana'a and turning the street lamps off during the day.

The cost of oil used to generate power in 2010 was about YR 1 billion (almost USD 4.7 million). Using gas to generate power proved to be more cost effective as it consumes fewer kilowatts units, said the Minister of Electricity, Awadh Al-Sogotri.

The Marib Gas Power Plant, the first gas power station in Yemen, was launched in Aug. 2009 with an initial generating capacity of 260 megawatts. This increased the electricity capacity of the country, and was able to produce electricity cheaper than oil powered plants. When the Marib plant started in covered around 38 percent of the electricity consumption in Yemen.

Demand for electricity is increasing at about nine percent a year. A second phase of Marib Gas Power Plant was started in Jan. 2011, to enhance the station's capacity to meet the increasing demand for electricity, according to Al-Soqotri.

According to the Ministry of Electricity, the second phase of the project will take 33 months. When work is complete, an unspecified number of new employees will be hired. The second phase of the power plant will cost Yemen nearly USD 393 million. The project is funded by the Saudi Fund for Development, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Omani government and the Yemeni government.



The second phase of the Marib Gas Power Plant, expected to be operational in 2015, will bring an additional 400 megawatts to the national electric grid at a total cost of approximately USD 393 million.

Engineers met to discus the shortage of electricity in Yemen at a seminar held a month ago at Sana'a University. The Minister for Electricity and the head of the Public Electricity Corporation both attended the seminar.

In Yemen there is a huge dependency on oil derivatives to generate power and this may cause Yemen to run out of oil soon, said Rashed. He suggested that oil is much better used for transportation than power.

working paper at the seminar suggesting that Yemen could exploit its geothermal sources of energy to save its oil and gas for other purposes. Geothermal energy production relies on using heat deep underground to power generators rather than burning oil or gas. Al-Ashwal explained that power generated from underground heat is permanent, cheaper and could cover the increasing demand for electricity in Yemen.

# Engineer Ali Al-Ashwal presented a crisis last week.

# MSF negotiating return of staff to Radfan Hospital

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Feb. 13 — Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), also know as Doctors Without Borders, is negotiating with conflicting parties in Lahj governorate to allow their staff to return to

MSF evacuated some of their international and national staff from their office in Radfan district, Lahj governorate, on Feb. 3 due to security concerns, Carolyn Merry, head of the organization's Yemen mission told the Yemen Times on Sunday.

"We evacuated some of our international and national staff, but we still have some staff working in the hospital," Merry said. She explained that at the moment the organization is not working at full capacity, but remaining staff are attempting to keep the hospital running. She added that some patients requiring surgery are being referred to other hospitals in Lahj or Aden.

She denied some media reports that claimed the organization is leaving Radfan saying: "This is not true. We have withdrawn some of our staff and now we are negotiating better security for medical activities in Radfan."

She stressed that the organization's intention is to return with full capacity and the evacuation was just short term, due to security problems. "We are still supporting the hospital," said Merry.

The organization provides some support for the emergency room in Radfan Hospital as well as other medical assistance, according to Merry.

As an international medical care organization, the MSF assists anybody who is in need of medical care regardless of his or her political or religious affiliation, but in the past several weeks the organization was not able to do that "in a neutral way", according to Merry.

She explained that when they refer some patients, the ambulance is vulnerable to many security checks and "this makes work very difficult and dangerous for the patients, drivers and

She added that fighting often takes

place around the hospital, and MSF calls on all parties to respect the space of the hospital to enable workers to give medical care in a safe environment. She hopes that evacuated staff will be able to return soon, as the organization has had "positive talks with different sides of the conflict and they want us to resume our full activities.

A local source in Radfan told the Yemen Times that the existence of MSF staff in Radfan Hospital "is vital as the health services in the district has been hugely improved after their intervention," he said. "They have operated the micro-operations after being suspended for a year and they provide all the medical care for people in need, for free."

### **Khawlan and Hashed tribes** won't risk relationship over "political issue"

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Feb. 12 — The Khawlan tribes, to which Sana'a governor No'man Dowid belongs, announced last week that they ould not support a political feud against opponent Sheikh Hameed Al-Ahmer. On Thursday Khawlan's sheikhs held a meeting to discuss the escalating tensions between the Khawlan and Hashed tribes that saw gunfire exchanged between the two sheikhs two weeks ago.

Al-Ahmer, a leading figure in the opposition Islah party, accused the ruling party of attempting to distract him from opposition activities by creating a tribal

Sheikh Derham Al-Dhama, who attended last week's meeting, confirmed that the Khawlan tribes respect the

Hashed and Al-Ahmer's sheikhs, and that they are unwilling to risk the tribe's relationships for a political issue that serves what Dhama labeled "a corrupt regime".

in what Dowid claims was an attack against him by four cars full of gunmen sent by Al-Ahmer. Al-Ahmer also accused Dowid of sending gunmen to assassinate him and of stealing his car.

Al-Ahmer offered himself for tribal judgment by his opponent's tribe, sending 10 guns to Dowid in a show of good faith that he would accept judgment. "It's all political and can't even be considered a tribal issue at all. Dowid only called us by phone, giving us a ridiculous speech about supporting his regime," said Al-

# Continued from Page 1

### Protesters vow to continue amidst violence

s"These demonstrations will gain momentum in the next days. Yemenis will escalate their protests, especially because of the police brutality," said Barman.

### Three-day protests

Sunday's protests marked the third consecutive day of anti-government demonstrations since university students marched in the streets of Sana'a celebrating Egypt's revolution.

On Saturday, protestors took to the streets chanting: "Our demands are clear, go out Saleh" and "long live Yemen. Down

On Saturday night, Faisal Al-Neshma, a 45-year-old Al-Eman University employee, said that pro-government protesters physically assaulted him during a demonstra-

Al-Neshma held hands with a group of other protestors, creating a human shield to prevent men, who he said were paid off to incite violence, from harming other dem-

"When I tried to protect the university students peacefully, I and my fellow demonstrators who were at the forefront received beatings," he said. "I lost consciousness after being hit on the head, later I work up with eight stitches in my head."

"Our revolution is just around the corner," he added.

University student Qahtan Ali, 23, said that he left his university classes and joined the protest

"All problems in Yemen are happening due to our president's policy. Secessionist demands, rebellion in Sa'ada, it's all happening due to poor policy from our regime. We will continue our peaceful protest as students. We will not give up at all," he

"Nobody was expecting that the Egyptians would make it. Yemenis can really make revolution," added Ali.

Barman, an attorney, noted that the police had violated the law and constitution that guarantee Yemenis the right to protest. "They infringed international conventions because assaulting on protesters is



# JAGUAR LAND ROVER CELEBRATES 2010 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS SUCCESS

Jaguar Land Rover is celebrating a successful 2010 having received more than eighty international awards for its vehicles during the year, incluing 5 awards from the MENA region.

The tally of awards was shared almost equally between the two brands. Leading the charge for Land Rover was the LR4 with over 28 global awards this year bringing its total to 144 since launch in 2004. Commenting on the awards Land Rover's Global Brand Director John Edwards said: "The LR4 offers an exceptional breadth of capability. It is now one of the most highly-decorated vehicles ever and we are thrilled that it continues to receive such great recognition across the industry."

Other Land Rover nameplates also had a tr-mendous year with the Range Rover being voted the 'Car of the Decade' by readers of autocar. co.uk, the Range Rover Sport voted 'Best 4x4' by Auto Bild (Germany) and the LR2 was voted 'Best Compact SUV' at the Auto Express Car of the Year Awards. In addition the Range Rover Vogue won the Middle East Motor Award for 'Best Premium Luxury SUV' at the recent I -ternational Automotive Show held at the Expo Centre in Sharjah.



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# **Special Report**

# Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

here are two types of Al-Qaeda branches operating in the local and international arena. One is connected directly to central leadership in Afghanistan, with organizational structures governed by a strict management hierarchy. The other is an intellectual system, which embraces jihadist ideology and rejects all aspects of Western lifestyle and hegemony. Through international divisions, the latter seeks to establish an Islamic caliphate it claims is based on the principles of the Prophet, adopting violent jihad as one of its most prominent tools.

The intellectual system is broader than the organization itself. It co-opts self-governing extremist cells, as seen in the cases of the Al-Bashair group that emerged in Saudi Arabia in 2006 and the Kataib Jund Al-Yaman, or Yemen Troop Battalions, established in mid 2007.

A few months after its establishment, Al-Bashair joined Al-Qaeda with a statement that made a greater splash than any of the group's actions on the field. As for Kataib, it vanished when its leaders were killed in Tarim, Hadramout in 2008. Kitaib claimed responsibility for operations resulting in the deaths of Spanish and Belgian tourists and an attack on an American oil company's residential complex in Sana'a.

In January 2009, the group became part of 'Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula', after Al-Qaeda central's second-incommand, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, endorsed the leadership of Nasser Al-Wahaishi (aka Abu Basir) as Amir Al-Mujahideen. or commander of mujahedeen. The merger, which joined Saudi and Yemeni cells, was considered a jihadist revival in the Arabian Peninsula. This was also blessed in June 2009 by Mustafa Abu Al-Yazid from the General Command in Afghanistan, who supported Abu Basir as the commander of mujahedeen in the Arabian Peninsula.

Yemen plays a pivotal position in the thought of Al-Qaeda's central command and forms an essential foundation in the organization's universal program. According to Al-Qaeda's ideology, Yemen is the "land of supply, the breath of the Gracious and from the land in its south a twelve-thousand-strong force that is the most elite army will appear to fight for sake of Allah."

In view of Yemen's geography (valleys, mountains and coasts) and its population mix (mostly tribal), it has the ingredients that support the needs of an armed organization like Al-Qaeda. With a population known for sheltering and protecting strangers, not to mention being one of the most heavily armed civilizations in the world, Yemen stands as obvious choice for the organization's favorite location.

This explains the near constant stream of Yemeni fighters in the fronts run by Al-Qaeda in recent years; from Nairobi and Dar As Salam in 1998, the bombing of the USS Cole in 2000, 9/11, in the open fronts in Afghanistan and Iraq, to the Fateh Al-Islam militia that appeared

in Lebanon in 2007. After the 2004 Madrid bombings, Al-

Qaeda stated that Yemen would be the third front, following Afghanistan and Iraq, used to exhaust the American-led NATO forces. Therefore, Al-Qaeda operates around the world according to its ideological dimension, i.e. building up four main armies that would move inward to the "heart of the world" in Palestine. The armies are from Khorasan (present day Pakistan and Afghanistan), Iraq, Yemen and the Levant. The last is the fourth front expected to be launched by Al-Qaeda, and was explicitly mentioned by Osama bin Laden during the January 2009 Gaza war.

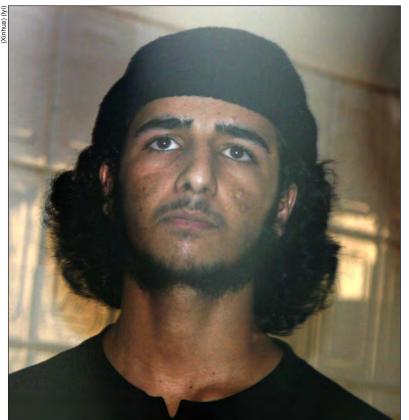
### Al-Qaeda growth factors

Tribes, religion, regime, political crises and economic crises are all elements that have helped to invigorate Al-Qaeda and provide fertile soil for its growth in recent

Al-Qaeda exists in urban and tribal areas alike. Arrest operation figures show

Economic conditions in Yemen have led to very high levels of poverty. This has affected people psychologically and altered local perspectives on the world. This is an essential factor sought by Al-Qaeda, and such a requisite hard life has been offered on a silver platter. Al-Qaeda looks for youth who do not see the difference between life and death, and this can be found in tribal and Bedouin areas where revenge, killing and fighting prevail due to the distinct absence of state

American-Yemeni counterterrorism operations in Abyan, Shabwa and Arhab show that the government has little real authority in such areas. Even after such areas were bombarded by American missiles, the government did not visit them for fear of the locals' rage. Such areas have witnessed clashes against the government and have seen inhabitants take over government facilities during the months surrounding the strikes. Another



Mansour Saleh Dalil, suspected of being a member of Al-Qaeda, is accused of involvement in three attacks against the Yemeni military. Dalil was given the death sentence by the Yemeni Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a on July

that Sana'a and its vicinity are used most heavily for launching Al-Qaeda attacks. However, its spread varies in other areas. Economic and political conditions have played a principal role in Al-Qaeda prevalence both as an organization and as an ideology. Local factors have a greater effect than external ones. The Palestinian cause is exploited by Al-Qaeda in its instigative discourse as an outside factor that exists in the region. But more than anything else, it is the appealing local environment that helped Al-Qaeda's re-

attractive factor for Al-Qaeda was the opposition discourse condemning the government and questioning the legitimacy of its actions. This created public opinion consistent with the general demands of Al-Qaeda, and they availed themselves of this call from the opposition for ousting the regime, though by employing different methods.

Al-Qaeda utilizes a simple, "sacred" discourse that is evident in its local slogans such as: "Expel the polytheists from the Arabian Peninsula", "Twelve thousand fighters emerge from Abyan-Aden"

and "Yemen is the land of supply", which are accepted by common Muslims. These constitute the suitable grounds for Al-Qaeda homilies to create a form of consistency within pre-existing public opinion and its own strategy.

Also the political crisis and rift between the regime and the opposition have given Al-Qaeda a chance to take the initiative to recruit and train. In addition, the war in Sa'ada acted as a convenient distraction for the government from what was taking place in the southern and eastern governorates, and thus Al-Qaeda managed to establish its regional center in Yemen.

The organization and the tribes have one thing in common: both govern themselves and do not bow to the central government authority, which Al-Qaeda actively works to destroy.

By rooting itself in the local

regional and international domains, a move that was facilitated by the 2009 merger and the appointment of Saeed Al-Shehri (aka Abu Sufian Al-Azdi Al-Shehri). Al-Shehri, 35, was among the first in a steady stream of Saudi militants to join the organization in Yemen in late 2007. Other notable Saudis based in Yemen included Abu Hammam Al-Qahtani, 24. and Abdullah Hassan Aseri, 23, who attempted to assassinate assistant interior minister Prince Mohammed bin Naif late in August

ideology Al-Qaeda claims to adopt the principle of an eye for an eye. If you make us feel unsafe, we will see to it that you suffer the same, spokesmen have said on numerous occasions. From this simple

concept originated the idea of carrying out operations on a cross-border and international scale.

Al-Qaeda's success in producing virtually undetectable weapons has encouraged it to "export" operations, based on its confidence that it is capable of pulling off such operations. This led AQAP leader Al-Wahaishi to say "... so Muslims should not worry about making this explosive because the tools are available in your kitchens and its ingredients are obtainable and are impossible to detect. So strike the airports and capitals of the countries combating Muslims, baffle them and undermine their security."

The basic ideology of Al-Qaeda was apparent in the Al-Maraquesha mountains in Abyan in December 1998 when the so-called "Islamic Abyan-Aden Army" claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Western tourists. The situation escalated into clashes with local security forces that resulted in the deaths of four British tourists. The group's founder and leader, Abu Al-Hasan Zain Al-Abideen Al-Mehdhar, a dignitary from Shabwa was arrested, and in 1999 executed by Yemeni authorities.

One of the notable features of this early phase was the appointment of a local leadership of Al-Qaeda, namely Abu Ali Al-Harethi, 40, who was later killed by a CIA drone early in November 2002. The local leadership had its own global objectives that included, inter alia, the bombing of the USS Cole through which the organization managed to attract new recruits for the next phase.

### When did Al-Qaeda modern history begin?

A new phase of Al-Qaeda in Yemen commenced on February 3, 2006 with the escape of 23 men from the Political Security Central Prison in Sana'a. The escape occurred via a 45-meter tunnel that took 55 days to burrow. Thirteen of the men were declared by the USA as wanted and dangerous Al-Qaeda members who were accused of involvement in the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole, and the 2002 bombing of the French oil tanker Lim-

The most eminent Al-Qaeda leaders in Yemen escaped from custody that day. In July of the same year, Bin Laden made an address where he described President Ali Abdullah Saleh as the "traitor who is submissive to America." This was a clear signal to the organization's members to work for his removal, as his speech was specifically dedicated to the escapees. This was the start of a campaign of incitement to oust Saleh, who had previously been unmentioned in the speeches of Al-Qaeda's leader who had previously focused on Saudi leaders. In the phase that began in 2006, Al-Qaeda carried out four operations against public security leaders. Three attacks, targeting the American Embassy in 2008, South Korean tourists 2009 and ongoing campaign against Yemeni security forces proved successful while a fourth, directed at Saudi Arabia's Prince Mohammed ben Naif, failed at the last minute, though the organization managed to infiltrate strict security measures.



Members of Al-Qaeda address a crowd and take photos in Yemen's southern province of Abyan on Dec. 22, 2009. The militants announced that they had no issues with the Yemeni Army, but warned civilians not oppose Al-Qaeda.

This phase also produced the first operation to attempt global reach from Yemen. On Christmas day 2009, a young Nigerian man, Umar Farouk Abdul Matalib, 24, attempted to detonate a bomb he had successfully kept undetected through six international airports as his plane approached one of America's largest cities, Detroit, Michigan. The bomb failed to detonate properly, and Abdul Mutalib was restrained and taken into American custody. He is now facing six charges,

Mutalib's failed attempt garnered international attention for Yemen's Al Qaeda branch, and ushered in a new era of publicity for the group. Al-Qaeda now devotes considerable attention to media and publicity. 2008 witnessed the birth of Al-Malahim (Epics), a foundation that has released seven promotional films, a bimonthly magazine and publications on Islamic legal studies and an Englishlanguage magazine aimed at Western recruits. The foundation broadcasts the organization's statements. Al-Qaeda's activities were covered locally in Yemen owning to a margin of press freedom that was not available to the organization elsewhere at this stage, a void that Al-Malahim has since filled

including conspiracy to use a weapon of

mass destruction.

While international jihad efforts seemed to slow and an emphasis on communication emerged, Al-Qaeda's local operations continued steadily. The open showdown between security forces and Al-Qaeda moved to the Al-Houta district in Shabwa, a southern governorate of Yemen. It turned out that Al-Qaeda's back was not "broken" as official sources

had stated during the fighting in Lauder, Abyan where 33 people were killed from both sides in a 2010 shootout.

### **Relations with local parties**

It is unfortunate for Al-Qaeda that the main political blocs in the country do not maintain association or share affinity with it. The Southern Movement considers it radical and agrees with the West and the US on the necessity to eradicate local extremism. It also believes that there should be cooperation with the international community to eliminate it. Opposition parties offer little shelter, and consider the organization to be the regime's puppet used to stay in power. The northern Houthis view it as a terrorist movement that helps the government in its war in

However, the spread of Al-Qaeda ideologies in wealthy areas presents a direct threat to both local and international interests. The group exists in eastern and southern areas (Marib, Shabwa and Hadramout) as well as Yemen's southern and western coastal areas (Abyan, Aden and Hodeida) whose waterways and straits are considered among the most important in the world in terms of shipping. Thus, Al-Qaeda poses a direct threat to sources of wealth invested by Western companies, and remains a threat to the passage of merchant and military fleets at sea.

This is among the many reasons the West articulates its worry about the Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and expresses its willingness to engage in a decisive battle with it in Yemen because of its closeness to areas where its forces are stationed and primary interests exist

### **Key events in the evolution of AQAP**

October 12, 2000: A suicide attack against United States Navy destoyer USS Cole in the port of Aden kills 17 American soldiers and injures 39. Al-Qaeda claims responsibility for the attack.

October 6, 2002: An explosive laden dinghy is rammed into the side of the French oil tanker Limburg in the Gulf of Aden, killing one crew member and injuring 12.

February 3, 2006: 23 inmates escape from Sana'a Political Security Prison by tunneling into a nearby mosque. Among the escapees are 13 convicted of involvement in the USS Cole bombing as well as Qasim Al-Raimi, now military chief of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and Nasir Al-Wahishi, the official leader of the group.

September 17, 2008: Al Qaeda affiliated militants attack the US embassy in Sana'a, using vehicle bombs, rocket propelled grenades and automatic weapons. 19 are killed, including the 6 attackers, 6 Yemeni police and 7 civilians.

March 16, 2009: Four South Korean tourists are killed and three injured by a suicide bomber with links to Al Qaeda at Unesco world heritage site Shibam, Hadramaut.

March 18, 2009: A suicide bomber attacks two cars in a South Korean delegation en route to the airport in Sana'a. No one apart from the

August 27, 2009: Abdullah Hassan Al Aseery, a suicide bomber linked to Al Qaeda, attempts to assasinate Saudi Assistant of the Interior Ministry Prince Muhammad Bin Nayef at the prince's Jeddah palace. Bin Nayef survived the attack reporting only light injuries.

December 25, 2009: Umar Farouk Abdulmuttalab, a Nigerian citizen, attempts to detonate plastic explosives hidden in his underwear on a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit, Michigan. Abdulmutallab spent seven months in Sana'a, where he is said to have received the explosives and is suspected of having ties with Yemeni-American cleric Anwar Al-Alwaqi.

October 29, 2010: Two parcels containing printer cartridges filled with explosives are sent from Sana'a and are intercepted in Britain and Dubai. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula claims responsibility for the attack, which caused no injuries.



Picture from press release No. 11 of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Jund Al-Yaman community, the organization army. In the release, militants demanded the expulsion of infidels from the peninsula. was able to cross borders to The image shows late Al-Qaeda member Abu Dajana (right).

Part II of the Yemen Times Special Report on Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula continues on Thursday, February, 17.





### Vacancies for Yemeni Nationals only

OMV Exploration & Production GmbH is the independent operating division of OMV AG, the leading oil and natural gas group in Central and Eastern Europe. We operate over 450 oil and gas fields worldwide both onshore and offshore. Our ambition is to become a significant international upstream player by seeking new business opportunities and targeting production growth like our oil field operations in Shabawh governorate, Republic of Yemen.

### Public & Government Relations Superintendent

### General Sections Responsibilities:

- Manage and provide day to day direction and directives to the section staff in the performance of their duties, establishing work priorities, and in achieving management initiatives. Streamline business processes to maximize efficiency and effectiveness within the section; Responsible for analyzing and directing all function-related activities within the scope of the PR & GR Management System.
- Work with HR, PR&GR manager to define the PR&GR goals and objectives, Participates on committees, and special projects and seeks additional responsibilities.
- Manages and Leads initiatives to formulate the yearly and long-term workforce plans and develops plans and strategies as they relate to OMV Yemenization commitments in consultation with the various stakeholders including OMV managers, EP-HR (Vienna), Ministry of Oil & Minerals etc.
- Establishes annual budgets and objectives for each of the public and government relations areas and ensures annual targets are met or exceeded. And, upon final budget approval, assures that all functions operate within appropriated amounts. Verifies a variety of section expense and invoices as per the defined limit. Advices, negotiate, manage, and administer any Public & government Relations-related contract. Ensures such contracts are effectively implemented.
- Ensure legal compliance as per local labour law as well as OMV's corporate standards for corporate social responsibility.
   This may also require branch office specific policies. i.e Rota policy, any Labour agreements, Grievance handling, Disciplinary action etc.
- Advises management and counsels employees and managers on a variety of subjects including but not limited to the formulation and administration of plans and policies for PR & GR activities, national employee relations matters, policy interpretation and labor issues, etc. Participating in disciplinary matters such as employee and applicant appeals. Moreover, investigating employee grievances and resolving issues with managers.

### PR, GR, Yemenization and Immigration Responsibilities:

- Manages the Company's activities related to the immigration of personnel to Yemen. Includes reviewing documents such as passports and health certificates, submitting documents as required to the Ministry of Oil and Ministry of Labour. Ensures that appropriate approval is obtained form Political Security, and submits documents to the Ministry of Labour for final acceptance of application and issue of visa. Applies to the Ministry of Labour and Immigration authorities for issue of Work Permits and Residence Permits and stamping. Obtains exit Visas for personnel wishing to leave the country. Lielses with Travel and Immigration section to ensure alignment on processes and procedures particularly with regard to immigration matters.
- Resolves problems which arise such as expiry of passports and entry of specialist personnel on special request basis, includes the seeing of personnel through immigration, Customs and Passport Control at Sana'a Airport.
- Foster and maintain positive relationships with company constituents and customer base, serve as an interface between internal/external customers and functional team members to ensure effective definition of and delivery of Yemenization, immigration, government related issues and provide overall prioritization of work assignments and management of functional team resources and their activities.
- Coordinates government and public relations activities. Includes establishing and maintaining relationships at senior level with government ministries, holding discussions with them on such topics as Yemenization, social affairs, economic matters, security and political issues etc which may affect the company and its staff, assisting employees to obtain official authorizations e.g. driving licenses etc advising employees on social customs, traditions, legislation etc. affecting them, coordinating relations with the community when special events occur or are organized, making arrangements for parties, or special company celebrations.
- Build strong, trusting relationships with key external stakeholders such as community groups, NGOs, policy-makers, media,

- etc. Build and maintain a healthy and cooperative network of peer counterparts in other organizations for gathering information and sharing ideas regarding PR & GR related issues. Create impactful internal and external communications influencing and inspiring others to take action and ensuring broad-based support for a healthy PR & GR strategy. Represent the company in public forums to improve stakeholder relations and corporate reputation.
- Conducts benchmarking studies of similar nationalization programs by contacting other companies and gathering information on effective strategies and practices.
- Ensures alignment of Yemenization development programs with other Company training programs and strategies by communicating regularly and working closely with the Heads of Training and their staff, looking (i.e. beyond the current job) in developing their employees.
- Carries out other similar or related duties such as Maintaining good business and personal relationships with the Government's Yemenization department and the Labor office within MOM and social security offices to define any areas of improvement. Advising company management on civil issues such as strikes or 'go-slows', immigration taws, acting as interpreter in meetings between expatriates and Arab speaking officials, processing and following up on visa applications for nationals travelling outside Yemen. Submits monthly reports on hires, promotions, changes in national employees including nationalized positions, in accordance with the approved Yemenization plan. Keeps apprised of labour laws and regulations in order to ensure Company compliance.

### Supervisory Responsibility:

- Supervises
  Yemenization Supervisor
  - PR & GR Supervisor
  - Office Assistants

### Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Journalism, Law or equivalent.
- 10-12 years' PR & GR and Immigration and labour relations experience in an oil industry environment including 2 years super visory experience.
- Knowledge of Yemen immigration laws and procedures. Experience in the travel industry particularly in international airline travel.
- Government and/or Public Relations experience. Strong interpersonal skills in a multi-cultural setting coupled with MS Office proficiency skills.
- High level of proficiency in the use and comprehension of the English language.
- Deep understanding of immigration techniques concepts and terminology and ability to accurately define and explain immigration rules and processes across OMV.
- Fluent understanding of the compliance function within large corporate organization and the inter relation between immigration compliance and the immigration Compliance, legal and HR functions.

### Public & Government Relations Supervisor

### Your Responsibilities

- Liaison with various Government agencies/Ministry officials that the Company deals with, setting up meeting appointments with the same and providing feedback to the HR Manager ,PR Superintendent about any issues or concerns raised.
- Assisting PR & GR Superintendent in Visa processing, work permits. Liaise with Ministry of Labour and Immigration authorities as and when advised.
- Coordinates conflict resolution meetings. Includes arranging meetings between appropriate company representatives and community or government authorities to discuss issues such as government policies, pipeline construction through a community, delays with ship loads, obstructing maintenance on a pipeline, oil on shore, etc.
- Participate in the arrangements of the Company's special occasions and celebrations and document their activities including names of individuals hosting the same. Prepare and forward invitations to persons pre-approved to attend these functions.

- Participate in the preparations, designing and distribution of the promotional items, greeting cards and any other publications that the Company produce and distribute to the government agencies and the community.
- Carries out other similar or related duties as required, including updating Sana's with current PR information, ensuring company representation at government functions, and keeping abreast of political activity within the area.

### Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Public/Government Relations, Journal ism or equivalent.
- Knowledge of business correspondences and report prepara tion.
- ▶ 4 5 years experience in Government/Public Relations. Excel
- lent communication skills and ability of quick understanding.

  MS Office proficient skills.
- High level of understanding and ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines.

### Senior Immigration Coordinator

### Your Responsibilities:

- ▶ Coordinates the handling and processing of passports for immigration and residence purposes. Includes checking passports for compliance with government immigration requirements, expediting work permits from Sana'a, Aden or Shabwah and ensuring that all required formalities are complied with. Directs Travel Representative in carrying out these formalities.
- ► Coordinates the issuance, cancellation and renewal of work permits for expatriates. Includes coordinating with HR to ensure that all required documents such as C.V.'s, educational certificates, work contract etc are available for the renewal of work permits and coordinating arrangements with HR and Labor Office for cancellations as applicable. Also directs and participates in the preparation of all related correspondences.
- Assist the PR & GR Supervisor as required with various section tasks, such as preparing responses to government related agencies letters to immigrations and Yemenization.
- Coordinates travel related matters such as passport validity, journey eligibility under company policy, issue of HIV certificates, availability of personal photographs and similar matters. Maintains records for international and domestic travel, immigration, visas, and passport and Labor office tasks and furnishes the required weekly and monthly reports. Coordinates as necessary with H.R.
- Prepares weekly Immigration, yemenization status report relating to expatriate staff. Includes reviewing daily workload, assigning work and following up to ensure compliance with established procedures.

### Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or equivalent.
  5 years experience on the same profile or equivalent.
- Excellent communication skills couple with MS Office proficiency.
- Self motivated, result oriented with a positive outlook and a
- clear focus on high quality performance. Excellent report writing skills.

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# Initiatives for the orphans of Yemen

By: Benjamin Wiacek

fter winning a great soccer match under the sun with his friends, Hassan Zaid, 12, said "It's really nice for the orphans, it's a chance for us to feel that we have a family and can be like normal kids." Hassan is an orphan, and like 150 others that day, he attended the Children's Day organized by the Orphan's and Child Welfare Department at Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY) on Friday Dec.

This is an event where kids were able to enjoy different activities such as horse riding, trampoline, a small train ride, kites, swings, singing, and football. It is part of the overall IRY program which aims to support vulnerable orphans in Yemen. IRY provides sponsorships to over 600 orphans in the six governorates of Sana'a, Sa'ada, Aden, Abyan, Lahj, and Taiz. "Poverty is an epidemic in this country. Many children, and especially orphans, have a very difficult life, without access to a proper education, healthcare, and a great number suffer from physical, mental, and sexual abuse," explained Atiaf Zaid Al-Wazir, orphans and child welfare program manager at IRY. The NGO also focuses on sponsorship, promoting education, health care, social welfare and shelter, and provides orphans with seasonal projects including life skills training for adolescents.

Helping the orphans

There are many organizations that work with orphans in Yemen. The Al-Rahma Foundation opened in 2001 as the first orphanage for girls in Yemen. They now have houses for children in Sana'a and in Taiz, taking care of more than 300 orphans. "Our goal is to help the girls start a new life, by providing them with a nice environment, like a new family," explained Maysoon Ahmed Al-Sunidar, the executive director of Al-Rahma Foundation. While they mostly focus on female orphans, the orphanages also accept boys if they have sisters. "We really insist on the familial atmosphere here, and it was very hard for the girls to be separated from their brothers," added Alya Al-Anesi, projects manager at the foundation.

The orphanage is divided into different apartments where the girls live under the supervision of a 'step mom', who takes care of them. Beside their studies, they're encouraged to attain skills - with computer training, languages courses, and sewing activities - so they can be independent once they

The foundation also provides a monthly sponsorship to around 380 families to support the orphans' cost of living. Each family receives special training before sponsorship begins, and the kids have to continue school and pass a medical exam. The services of a psychiatrist are available for those who need it. "It's essential for many of the

children. How do you start a new life when you're still traumatized by the past? Many of the children have to deal with terrible things such as poverty, loneliness or abuse. They need this help to grow up in a sane way," commented Alya Al-Anesi.

The Insan Foundation for Development, established in 2005, also runs houses in Yemen for orphans and poor children including street children. Two hundred and fifty orphans live in the five centers run by the foundation - two in Sana'a, and one each in Hodeida, Taiz and Aden. "We want to offer the kids all that they need to have the best future possible. They go to private schools for free, and we also have teachers here to help them," explained Saddam Saleh Al-Thaibany, executive manager of the foundation, to the Yemen Times. The orphans sometimes have the opportunity to go on a three to four day trip around Yemen organized by the foundation. "In addition to the orphanages, we also have a sponsorship program of USD 100 a month for orphans who still have family," added Al-Thaibany. This kind of sponsorship is very important because it allows the orphans to continue living with their families.



The work done by all these organizations constitutes a tremendous help for the orphans under their umbrella. But how many orphans are there in Yemen?

A group of smiling orphans at Al-Rahma Foundation. Photo: Al-Rahma Foundation.

national research done on orphans in Yemen. Each NGO maintains their own numbers concerning the children they take care of, but it is impossible to find national statistics of the situation.

For example, the Islah Organization works with more than 30,000 orphans while the Orphans Development Foundation works with 35,000 children. The latter NGO organized the mass wedding for 1,600 couples last October claiming

it was the second time such an event was organized for orphans. Each NGO has a number for the total orphans sponsored, but what percentage of the total number in Yemen does that constitute?

Saddam Al-Thaibany told the Yemen Times that he estimated "the number of orphans in Yemen is around one million." Facing the difficulty of getting precise information about this issue, the Însan Foundation is planning to open

a research center dedicated to orphans in 2012. "It's necessary to know more about orphans in order to be able to help them more," he concluded.

According to a 2005 UNDP report, more than 45 percent of the population of Yemen were under the age of 15, which equates to around 10 million children. They are our next generation, so by taking care of them we ensure a better future for Yemen.



The children enjoyed the spacious park and ran with kites.



Girls learn how to sew to get skills for the future.





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OMV-Yemen is working on a fast track training and development program spread over three years. This program will ensure that university graduates, in different disciplines, are developed to take direct responsibilities in Exploration & reservoir, Engineering and Projects.

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## OUR OPINION

# The essence of time

Il around the world Egyptians are celebrating their success at bringing an end to Hosni Mubarak's three-decade reign. The entire Arab region and many other countries throughout the world are also celebrating Egypt's revolution. They feel a sort of vendetta, charged by the success of two nations, Tunisia and Egypt, that have now proven their ability to sweep the floor from underneath their rulers.

Although I understand and even empathize with the rejoicing people, my concern is that this vendetta is not healthy.

It is not healthy to hate your leaders so much and take it so personally – to smear their reputation and ignore their achievements regardless of the mistakes they have made. Reading into the history of Egypt's ousted president, I can't help but be impressed at some of the things he has done, despite a record of many flaws

But it is the nature of humans to forget. And when people stay for years under oppression while being deprived of the basic needs that protect their dignity, it doesn't matter if this leader was a war hero or achieved world peace.

You can't blame the Egyptian people for lashing out against their former president. These feelings have been simmering for a long time.

What world leaders should learn is that they should not outstay their welcome. As rulers, they have to make sure that they stay long enough to make a difference, and short enough to be remembered fondly. This is actually the concept of peaceful transition of power that our leaders have yet to understand.

Many people in Yemen said that considering what happened in Egypt, there is no way Saleh will run in the next elections or that his son will run and win. My guess is that they are wrong. Yemen is still not ready to do what Egypt has done. One of the reasons is that we keep ourselves, or are kept busy (depending on how much you believe in the conspiracy theory), thinking about petty details of daily life while broader issues like our involvement in politics takes a back seat.

If you talk to regular Yemenis of average income, their daily conversations and concerns center around where they are going to go, what to eat, whom to meet or where to get the money to chew qat that day. Women are even more involved in those details, thinking about what to cook, whom to visit, what to watch on TV, etc. There are exceptions of course, but this is unfortunately the general trend.

I have many friends who spend inordinate amounts of time deciding what to wear, where to eat and what to eat. It is almost painful to watch. I don't mean to be condescending, but if someone has the luxury to spend one hour deciding on what to wear that day before going to work, then their time is cheap. Or maybe they don't realize how important time is.

The point is we need to use our time wisely and make sure we utilize it to our advantage.

Leaders need to keep track of their years in power and make sure they make the best of them, and not extend them until the people revolt against them in such ugly ways like we have seen recently.

People need to track their time and make sure their lives are not wasted on the mundane. Instead, they should dedicate their hours living and being a part of life, the real life that will make a difference in the future.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

# What about Yemen?

By: Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi

hilst there has been much analysis on the recent uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, comparatively little attention has been devoted to the situation in Yemen. There have been ongoing protests, particularly in the south, against the government of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has announced that he will not seek another term in office. This raises two important questions. What is the present state of Western governments' policies towards Yemen? And how, if at all, should they be changed? These problems are urgent to resolve in light of the active Al-Qaeda insurgency ('Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula'- AQAP) in the south of the country, which is likely to have been responsible for the failed Christmas Day bombing attempt by Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab.

Currently the main financial backer of Saleh's government is the US, which has dramatically increased military aid to Yemen since the Christmas plot. This aid has effectively been doubled and could well reach \$250 million in 2011, excluding the substantial amounts of development aid that will probably increase too. The US also occasionally carries out drone attacks in counter-terrorism operations. Despite such measures, however, the country has become progressively more unstable, as Al-Qaeda now has a well-established foothold in the south, which is itself mostly in the hands of separatist movements that Saleh failed to integrate into the political system after the Yemeni civil war in the 1990s.

One useful way to look into the failures of Western policies in Yemen is through examining the Wikileaks cables, which show that US diplomats were actually well aware of Saleh's double game of diverting aid to suppress internal opponents. For example US ambassador Stephen Seche noted in one cable that Saleh was using a commando group (funded and trained by Britain and the US since 2002 to fight Al-Qaeda) and perhaps American Humvees against the Houthis. The Houthis are a Shi'a movement in the north of the country that began a revolt in 2004, primarily in opposition to what they regard as discrimination by Saleh's government against the north in terms of jobs, development and lack of political autonomy. Although Qatar was able to mediate a ceasefire between the Houthis and Saleh's government in August, a lasting peace agreement failed to materialise. Seche himself merely protests vainly against what he rightly sees as the Yemeni government's misuse of US military aid.

Incidentally, the cables dispel the myth that US officials regard Al-Qaeda as being in any sort of alliance with the Houthis. For example, in a meeting in September 2009 with White House counter-terrorism advisor John Brennan, Saleh specifically pressured the US to provide armoured vehicles, airplanes and ambulances for his campaign against the Houthis. Brennan rejected Saleh's pleas, affirming that 'the USG [US government] is prohibited by law from providing military support to the [Yemeni gov-

ernment] to be used against the Houthis since the USG considers the group a domestic insurgency'

Meanwhile, Saleh has been remarkably tolerant of Al-Qaeda figures in Yemen. At lunch with a US envoy in 2007, he openly bragged about having met with Jamal Badawi for a chat only two weeks earlier. Badawi was the chief Al-Oaeda member responsible for orchestrating the bombing of the USS Cole in 2000 that killed seventeen people. Though Badawi's whereabouts are unknown today, it is clear that Saleh has been pursuing a strategy of attempting to co-opt Al-Qaeda leaders in Yemen rather than crack down on them. When one also takes into account the diversion of Western support to crush internal opposition, is it any wonder that Al-Qaeda is so well entrenched in the country, in contrast to an estimate of only 50-100 Al-Qaeda fighters in Afghanistan?

So what is the best course of action for Western governments vis-à-vis Yemen? Given the corruption and unpopularity of Saleh's regime, together with its unreliability as an ally in counter-terrorism operations against AQAP, it seems that the most sensible option is to simply end aid to his government and allow it to fall at the hands of the current wave of protests in Yemen

One might object that such a move would instead help AQAP by creating a power vacuum. This would certainly be a risk, but not if the West backs the Houthis, who are themselves opposed to Al-Qaeda, with the latter now having declared jihad against the Houthis in an audio message posted on the Internet. As Saeed Ali al-Shihri, the deputy leader of AQAP, puts it: 'to our Sunni fellows in northern Yemeni provinces of Saada, Al- Jouf and Amran, we (AQAP) announced jihad [holy war] against Iranian-backed Houthi Shiite advocates'. In this context, it should be pointed out that there is no evidence that Iran is backing the Houthi rebels. Even so, with Western support and guarantees for protection, the Houthis could well serve as a containment force, diverting AQAP's attention from waging international jihad and spreading beyond Yemen into the Arabian Peninsula, since the group's primary goal is to unite Yemen as an Islamist state.

On the other hand, the US should end drone attacks in Yemen (where overt military intervention, as in Somalia and Pakistan, undermines our own security interests), whilst Western governments should make it clear to AQAP that any further aggression will be met with severe retaliation. Furthermore, if our governments are to win over the Houthis, who are at present resentful of Western support for Saleh, they should also put pressure on Saudi Arabia to stop conducting airstrikes against Houthis in Yemeni territory, a fact of which US officials have long been aware.

By adopting a strategy of containment as outlined, it does not follow that AQAP will be eradicated from Yemen, but we will at least be able to safeguard our security interests against any threats emanating from Islamist militants in that country. For too long, review of policy towards Yemen has been neglected. A major shift is desperately needed.

# [US government] is prohibited by law from providing military support to the [Yemeni gov SKETCHED OPINION By: Hamid Change, the hard way

### **COMMON SENSE**

# A new dawn for the nation – the world they said the Arabs could never do it!

or decades now, the Arab World has been painted mistakenly in western media as a people without any dynamism, verve or synergy, who can be subject to every form of human humiliation that any man, woman or child can ever endure. No doubt, any human being with any degree of intelligence and knowledge knew better than to fall for such a Zionist trap and bigoted portrayal that had more than objective, all of which were shrouded in evil intentions and meant to mislead far and near that their evil mission in the Holy Land had its



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

justifications. After all what better idea than to subject the entire region of barbarians to Zionist domination, even if the latter was bound to lead all of mankind to the pit of hell. But alas, first the brave and proud descendants of Hannibal and then the improvisational descendants of Ramses showed the world that indeed the people of this region have a lot more political clout and vitality and can still contribute to the development of freedom inspired and liberty oriented political configurations than could ever be produced by mankind. More than that, the revolts of Tunisia and Egypt have shown the world that this region is indeed the innovator of human governance that rests on clearly laid out moral and ethical implications that overpowers all forms of narrow interests and human oppression and transgressions on the covenants of the Lord Al-Mighty.

For this, we do have a great reason to be proud of our brothers in Tunisia and Egypt. In fact there is now cause for all the rest of the Arabs in the region, who still suffer from the horrible regimes maintained by the autocracies dominated by the self proclaimed Generals and Marshals and whatever represented by Omar Al-Basheer, Ali Abdullah Saleh and his kin, and Muammar Al=Qadhaffi, as well as the medieval monarchies such as that of Saudi Arabia and the other cutthroat dictators in the region, who still do not realize that their very own cultural past is a long track record of victories against all form of human oppression, to clean their shops as well. The time has come for the rest of the monstrous regimes in the region who have forgotten that their constituents are of the same blood and skin as theirs and that God has forbidden oppression by Himself, let alone that of humankind, to pack their bags and leave and let their people draw the course of their own destinies! They have more than taken away just the material resources that could have catapulted this nation to its rightful place among creative and industrious nations, they have taken away its breath of life as they played into the hands of forces that never saw any desire for this nation to wake up from its slumber and enter the fray of nations that are governed by the moral standards set forth in all scriptures and the missions of the prophets from Ibrahim to Moses to Jesus to Mohammed, all of whom are the sons of this region long before those who claim to uphold their testaments knew how to read and write.

To those who continue to sing the Anti – Islamic song of the likes of James Woolsey, the former CIA head, who still continues to think that they can dictate to this region what is right and what is wrong for THEM, as if they were ordained by God to decide for mankind what is right and wrong, just as long as they continue to pilferage the world of its resources and destroy its natural ecological equilibrium, for the sake of a few extreme proponents of capitalism in all of its negative manifestations, which enriches the few at the expense of all of humanity, without regard to moral and ethical norms, ordained by God or developed by the political intellect of Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson, Sa'ad Zaghlul, Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Zubeiri, Wael Ghonem and so many others who sacrificed their lives so that other human beings can declare that at last, "We are free"!

Yes, we hope that the remaining autocrats of the region will see the light and simply let their people write out their destinies and define who their enemies are, rather than wait for the dictates of some far away corporate or institutional totalitarian establishments like the International Zionist Establishment, which is now more scared than it ever was, as it now has an enemy, who really knows where it is at, and has found its way out of all forms of repression, proximate or remote.

There is an interesting prognosis to all this, that suggests that perhaps Washington sees in these dynamic events in the region as a good slap in the face to the intransigence of the likes of Benjamin Netanyahu, Shimon Perez, and even Joseph Lieberman (who lobbied for the regime in Sana'a!), who have been mistakenly trying to convince the world that it is better for the world if the Arabs were ruled by horrendous dictatorships, just so the unholy concoction of Israel can continue to bleed the region and embezzle the rest of the world.

Gratitude is warranted to Anderson Cooper, Hala Gorani and the maverick reporter, Ben Wederman of CNN for their responsible and professional journalism as they covered these historic moments that unfolded in Egypt. The coverage was unbiased, inspirational and comprehensive.

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

# YEMEN TIMES

First Political English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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# The poverty of dictatorship

By: Dan Rodrik **Project Syndicate** 

erhaps the most striking finding in the United Nations' recent 20th anniversary Human Development Report is the outstanding performance of the Muslim countries of the Middle East and North Africa. Here was Tunisia, ranked

of improvement in its Human Development Index (HDI) over the previous four decades, ahead of Malaysia, Hong Kong, Mexico, and India. Not far behind was Egypt, ranked 14<sup>th</sup>.

The HDI is a measure of development that captures achievements in health and education alongside economic growth. Egypt and (especially) Tunisia did well enough on the growth

sixth among 135 countries in terms front, but where they really shone was on these broader indicators. At 74, Tunisia's life expectancy edges out Hungary's and Estonia's, countries that are more than twice as wealthy. Some 69 persent of Egypt's children are in school, a ratio that matches much richer Malaysia's. Clearly, these were states that did not fail in providing social services or distributing the benefits of economic growth widely.

Yet in the end it did not matter. The Tunisian and Egyptian people were, to paraphrase Howard Beale, mad as hell at their governments, and they were not going to take it anymore. If Tunisia's Zine El Abidine Ben Ali or Egypt's Hosni Mubarak were hoping for political popularity as a reward for economic gains, they must have been sorely disappointed.

One lesson of the Arab annus mirabilis, then, is that good economics need not always mean good politics; the two can part ways for quite some time. It is true that the world's wealthy countries are almost all democracies. But democratic politics is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for economic development over a period of several decades.

Despite the economic advances they registered, Tunisia, Egypt, and many other Middle Eastern countries remained authoritarian countries ruled by a narrow group of cronies, with corruption, clientelism, and nepotism running rife. These countries' rankings on political freedoms and corruption stand in glaring contrast to their rankings on development indica-

In Tunisia, Freedom House reported prior to the Jasmine revolution, "the authorities continued to harass, arrest, and imprison journalists and bloggers, human rights activists, and political opponents of the government." The Egyptian government was ranked 111th out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2009 survey of corruption.

And of course, the converse is also true: India has been democratic since independence in 1947, yet the country didn't begin to escape of its low "Hindu rate of growth" until the early

A second lesson is that rapid economic growth does not buy political stability on its own, unless political institutions are allowed to develop and mature rapidly as well. In fact, economic growth itself generates social and economic mobilization, a fundamental source of political instability.

As the late political scientist Samuel Huntington put it more than 40 years ago, "social and economic change urbanization, increases in literacy and education, industrialization, mass media expansion - extend political consciousness, multiply political demands, broaden political participa-Now add social media such as Twitter and Facebook to the equation, and the destabilizing forces that rapid economic change sets into motion can become overwhelming.

These forces become most potent

when the gap between social mobilization and the quality of political institutions widens. When a country's political institutions are mature, they respond to demands from below through a combination of accommodation, response, and representation. When they are under-developed, they shut those demands out in the hope that they will go away - or be bought off by economic improvements.

The events in the Middle East amply demonstrate the fragility of the second model. Protesters in Tunis and Cairo were not demonstrating about lack of economic opportunity or poor social services. They were rallying against a political regime that they felt was insular, arbitrary, and corrupt, and that did not allow them adequate voice.

A political regime that can handle these pressures need not be democratic in the Western sense of the term. One can imagine responsive political systems that do not operate through free elections and competition among political parties. Some would point to Oman or Singapore as examples of authoritarian regimes that are durable in the face of rapid economic change. Perhaps so. But the only kind of political system that has proved itself over the long haul is that associated with Western democracies.

Which brings us to China. At the height of the Egyptian protests, Chinese Web surfers who searched the

terms "Egypt" or "Cairo" were returned messages saying that no results could be found. Evidently, the Chinese government did not want its citizens to read up on the Egyptian protests and get the wrong idea. With the memory of the 1989 Tiananmen Square movement ever present, China's leaders are intent on preventing

China is not Tunisia or Egypt, of course. The Chinese government has experimented with local democracy and has tried hard to crack down on corruption. Even so, protest has spread over the last decade. There were 87,000 instances of what the government calls "sudden mass incidents" in 2005, the last year that the government released such statistics, which suggests that the rate has since increased. Dissidents challenge the supremacy of the Communist Party at their peril.

The Chinese leadership's gamble is that a rapid increase in living standards and employment opportunities will keep the lid on simmering social and political tensions. That is why it is so intent on achieving annual economic growth of 8 persent or higher – the magic number that it believes will contain social strife.

But Egypt and Tunisia have just sent a sobering message to China and other authoritarian regimes around the world: don't count on economic progress to keep you in power forever.

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



# **Duties & Responsibilities:**

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### Our life tions:

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- Strong knowledge livestock as an general practices in Hallmannet and Al-Malan
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- Email: LeenaAlazazi@tatcoyemen.com
- Or deliver your resume to the company, located in the Western side of sixty Street beside aviation Warfare College.



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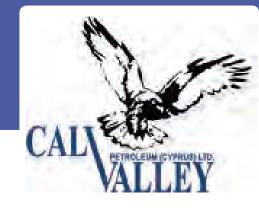
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# New Job Opportunities

### For Yemeni Nationals only

alvalley Petroleum (Cyprus) Ltd. The operator of Malik Block 9 in the Republic of Yemen invites Yemeni Nationals Only to join its team and apply for the following Positions:





### **Customs & Clearance Officer**

### **Brief Description:**

This person works closely with Customs & Clearance Agencies to achieve the goals of the category business plan and work in accordance with all policies and procedures established by the company.

### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Working on the Exemption form in coordination with clearance agent and reviewing the relevant documentation according to the valid local custom laws.
- Applying amendments on the processing of exemption with official authorities including all kind of paper work and justification letter and back up document.
- Knowledge in customs authority processing procedures and steps and knowledge in the (ESCYUDA).
- Ability to solve and follow up on any pending issues that may arise with PEPA/ Custom authority.
- Ability to track international shipment online and update the ETA.

### Requirements

- Degree in Business, Marketing or related field or relevant experience of marketing, management practices preferred.
- Fluent in English (reading & writing).
- Must have a minimum of Three years retail Customs& Clearance
- Must have strong analytical, strategic and planning skills.
- Strong team playing, clear communication. Flexibility to perform assigned tasks independently or as part of a
- work team
- Organizational skills and ability to manage multiple priorities and meet frequent short timeline goals and deadlines
- Advanced Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications, especially Excel and Word.

### **Head of Procurement**

### **Brief Description:**

This person works closely with buyers to achieve the goals of the category business plan and buys in accordance with all policies and procedures established by the company.

### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Manages, directs, and holds all Buyers accountable for their job du-
- Establish and optimize strong vendor relations between Calvalley and Its vendors
- Reviews acquisition costs to ensure items purchased are at the lowest cost consistent with considerations of quality, reliability of source, and urgency of need.
- Review all products available from current distributor base. Find or negotiate the lowest possible ne plicate vendors of the same items. Creates and maintains vendor scorecard for the direct and retail businesses on various criteria.
- Works closely with Buying team on Open-to-buy, PO management and product flow through various distribution channels
- Works with Buyers on future purchases to ensure best method of shipping that will to ensure lowest costs as a percentage of product costs.
- Submits daily and weekly reports to check service levels and inventory turns, makes adjustments as needed.
  Visits stores, as needed, to monitor programs, obtain store feedback
- and to assess overall implementation effectiveness.
- Maintains all necessary department files and records.
- Assignment the system requisition to the Buyers.

### <u>Requirements</u>

- Degree in Business, Purchasing, Marketing or related field or relevant experience of marketing, accounting and financial management practices preferred.
- Fluent in English (reading & writing).

  Must have a minimum of five years retail purchasing experience.

  Must have strong analytical, financial, strategic and planning skills.
- Strong team playing, clear communication.
- Flexibility to perform assigned tasks independently or as part of a work team

- Sense of urgency
- Organizational skills and ability to manage multiple priorities and meet frequent short timeline goals and deadlines
- Advanced Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications, especially

### **Materials Receiving Clerk**

### **Brief Description:**

This person works closely with Vendors to achieve the goals of the category business plan and receive in accordance with all policies and procedures established by the company.

### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Manage daily activity of the warehouse.
- Receiving of incoming goods & materials. Loading and off loading materials
- Issuing goods in and out.
- Weekly physical inventory of materials.
- Monitoring service companies materials. Coordinating with the field warehouse.

### Requirements

- High school, Fluent in English (reading & writing)
- Must have a minimum of Two years retail purchasing experience.
- Must have strong analytical, strategic and planning skills. Strong team playing, clear communication.
- Flexibility to perform assigned tasks independently or as part of a
- Sense of urgency Organizational skills and ability to manage multiple priorities and meet frequent short timeline goals and deadlines
- Advanced Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications, especially Excel and Word.

Interested applicants should send their CV's with a covering letter to the following email address jobs@calvalleyyemen.com (Please write the title of the post you are applying for in the subject box). The closing date for all positions is Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>,2011. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.







### **WAREHOUSE MAN** Position # 98125 (B14) CPF - Massila <u>For Yemeni Nationals Only</u>

Executes the physical issue of all materials from the warehouse and Marshalling yard and records in SAP. Provides assistance to end-users and suggests substitutes if requested items are not available

### Job Duties

### The incumbent shall:

- a. Locates materials in SAP catalogue to match user's request. Finds items in store and removes requested quartity for issue. Completes Goods Issue Stip (GIS)
- b. Validates coding and recipient authorization prior to releasing material
- c. Ensures all end users are notified by telephone or e-mail when orders are available for pick-
- d. Conducts cycle counts on a regular basis to validate SAP data base accuracy. Initiates adjustment requests as required to correct any discrepancies.
- Scans material and user ID (bar-code scanner) to record goods issue in real time.
- Directs contract labor Foreman to assist in work Completion.
- g. Ensures all on-site contract labor for Logistics work in accordance with Nexen's safety standards and Responsible Care awareness (use of Personal Protective Equipment - PPE, Hazanbus Material Handling, and Forkfift/Crane safety operations/certification verification).
- Demonstrates thorough knowledge of Hazardous Chemical Handling including successful completion of the EHAS Chemical Safety course, appropriate MSDS knowledge and application, proper use of Personal Protective Equipment and proper Hazardous Signing. Demonstrates thorough knowledge of Company's Responsible Care initiatives.

Operates Fortifits as required. Demonstrates thorough knowledge of Forkift operations to meet Neven safety standards. Provides Fortdift operations assessments to contractors to ensure Nexen safety standards are fully met.

- Demonstrates knowledge of MEPAW Browser to look up and report status of open orders in
- Maintains the orderly storage of received parts and supplies according to commodity classification. Includes determining bin location for storage of new line items, and reallocation of existing stored items.
- Participates with Supervisor in weekly rounds for Housekeeping Schedule.
- Chairs morthly Safety Meeting on a rotating basis.
- nr. Participates in annual physical inventory audit.

### Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of grade 12 education.
- b. 2 years' storekeeping experience or equivalent.
- c. Good knowledge of English (oral and written).
- d. Good PC skills required. SAP knowledge an asset. e. Ability to work in a multicultural environment.
- To Apply for this Job please apply to: recruiting \_yemsana@neseninc.com
- Applications should be submitted NO later than Feb. 28th, 2011. Faxed applications will not be considered.
- Make sure that you mention the job file you are applying for in the email subject.
- Only short listed caudidates will be contacted.



### Leadership Position Opportunity

Title: General Manager-Youth Leadership Development Foundation Location Sanaa, Yemen

Feb 25th 2011 Application deadline:

The York Landerskip Development Paradiction.

is seeking a General Manager for the Yorth Landership Development Franchism.

Reporting to the Admin Bornt of YLLE, the General Manager will provide support for the strategic deve ment and overall remognesses of the designated YLDF strategy. Responsibilities include but one out limited to:

- Overall exampessent and supervision of the Guls World Consensiontion Contes.
- Overall management and supervision of the Yorth Economic Development Center.
- Contributes to the development of the Foundation strategy, presenting the foundation in reastings, conferences and wedesloys, emistain subtimeligs with families and in developing parteneships / colationships with lay stabeholders, and has a supporting rate in the implementation, administration, formula canagement, and evaluation of the program.
- Establishes, and accounts effective, officient and accountied accompanied of the York Loudeship Development Franchise.

### Qualifications

### Strategic Property and

- University or college degree in surrequents or my other solewart field.
- 4-years of work objections leading a disease team arbitraing solid results.
- Work Edynamics with siril suriety organizations. Strong background in Human Resource Development.
- Education and regulational skills
- Good command of Microsoft Word, Educal, Outlands Quantilage of Database software is an asset). Education interpresent shills: test, diplomary and discussion.
- Ability to lead and motivate others.
- Strong Presentation Skills.
- Facilitating and training skills are assets.
- Not abler than 35 years abl.

Ability to concenious early and cord, write and endurated decrements in both Archio and English.

### Other received in a con-

- Conscitment to YLDF mission and values
- Ability to turvel up to 3 to 4 times a year.
- Ability to work well in a torre.
- Availability to work flotible hours.

Please direct year assume with a letter obplicing your contivation in applying to: Ms. Gabrol al-Material / perfydd my / Tel : 471 677 / Fat : 471 688

YLEF thinks all applicants for their intensit; however, only applicants under consideration will be contented.

Doubline for applications: Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 2811.



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or contact your travel agent: Universal Travel - www.universalyemen.com





### Terms of Reference for KAP study of the Youth Interventions Marie Stopes International in Yemen (MSIY)

The programme: MSTY is currently implementing a programme aimed to improving the RH status of wornon in Yearse. The objectives of the programme are 1) To increase the arcess of Yearsei women of reproductive age to quality reproductive health (RH) and family planning (FP) services by establishing centres that provide a variety of high quality services (in-house and outmach) and an active network of community midwives, and 2) To increase the access of young people to reproductive health information and sorvices.

The purposed KAP study will be the baseline for the worth interventions which will be conducted in six aslected sites, which are: Girls School in Sana'a, Buys schunt in Sana'a, new students from selected colleges in Sara'a university, Billall girls sports club, Taiz Football club and 18h funtball club.

### III. This assignment and scope of services.

The consultant will conduct the KAP study and prepare the study report. The consultant's main tasks are to:

- Design the study (quantitative).
- Deline the sampling frame and the inclusion and exclusion criteria.
- c. Design the tools
- Define the data entry, management and avalysis plan.
- e. Recruit and be responsible for investigators, and conduct their training
- Conduct data collection while ensuring complete quality control.
- g. Lead the data every and analysis, basic data tables and exces tabs h. Draft and submit the study report with tables, graphs and charts
- i. Sobrait a powermost with main study findings
- j. Incorporate the feedback on the draft study report and submit it for food approval.

The KAP should consider the programme aims and key strategies, design the took to assess and measure the effectiveness of the interventions. The study should ensure informed consent from the respondents and complete confidentiality.

### III. Deliverables

build Proposal: A proposal for designing and conducting the KAP should be submitted to MSIY for neview and approval. This plan should include the proposed budget as well as plan for data collection in the study

KAP study report: The Consultant will present the findings and submit the draft study report on which feedback will be provided. A final report about the submitted to MSIY after incorporating the feedback for final neview and approval.

Data (ables: all data- yaw data, data tables and cross (abs., should be submitted to MSIY.

### IV.Qualifications and experience

The consultant assigned must have demonstrated innovinings of current meetach methods and methodologies, and several years of experience in developing, conducting and analyzing quantitative survey, in-depth understanding and experience on research and statistics, and a good understanding of the context of Yesten. The consultant must be fluent in English and Arabic.

Proposals are invited from qualified parties. Please send in your Expression of Interest and initial proposal latest by 23rd February 2011 to more bokir@yamaan.org

# Social uprising in Arab world is no threat to local banking business

By: Ali Saeed

ith the extended wave of social uprisings in Arab countries bringing major economies to a standstill, many are concerned about effect of unrest on the region's banking business.

Meguerditch Bouldoukian, former deputy governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon and current CEO of Banque Libano-Francaise thinks that recent social upheaval will not affect Yemen's banking institutions – as long as foreign banks continue to cooperate with the country.

However, if international banks and foreign investors decide that the environment is too risk-laden to continue, the effects could be drastic. Egypt and Tunisia have both witnessed significant economic fallouts resulting from their respective revolutions, primarily as a result of anxious foreign investors withdrawing from the countries.

If foreign banks sever ties, says Bouldoukian, "they only will make the crisis more acute."

Dr. Mohamed Jubran, a professor



When Yemen's opposition called for popular demonstrations throughout the country two weeks ago, many bank customers withdrew large sums of cash, fearing disruptions in the banking sector.

of economics and financial analyst at the University of Sana'a, estimates that during the 18 days of protests, the government of Egypt lost USD 50 billion.

However, current economic and social turmoil doesn't necessarily mean that foreign investors are running for the hills. On the contrary, with cur-

rencies across the region experiencing widespread devaluation, stable companies, like established international banks, stand to make substantial gains. By compounding investments and waiting for an economic recovery, financial institutions are likely to find themselves in a highly advantageous

situation, says Bouldoukian, whose Banque Libano-Francaise remains firmly entrenched in the country.

There are currently 18 banks operating in Yemen, 11 of which are commercial, two state-owned and five privately owned.

But the biggest reason that Yemen's

banking sector is unlikely to crumble is also the most obvious: only four percent of the country's 23 million people have bank accounts. With so little capital in the country's banks, there's not much to lose. The sector remains highly underdeveloped, partially due to a lack of trust in the banking system.

Saeed Ba Zara'a, executive officer of the Shamil Bank of Yemen and Bahrain, told the Yemen Times that two weeks ago, when the Yemen's opposition called for popular demonstration across the country, many depositors withdraw large sums of cash, as though they expected the system to stall.

As an alternative to traditional banking, money exchange shops have long been a mainstay for domestic financial transactions. Approximately 800 exchange shops, both licensed and unlicensed, operate in Yemen. Many exchange shops remain unregulated and are incapable of providing the security or insurance of a banking network.

Prior to the incorporation of the banking system in Yemen, such shops were the only way to manage transac-

"Sarafs (exchange shops) were there when there were no central banks.

There were neither currency boards nor currency monitory agencies," says Bouldoukian.

The public's reliance on them, however, continues to keep banking growth

"This is the disadvantage of cash societies," says Bouldoukian. "People do not have their funds in banks. It is the same in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Yemen."

While progress may be slow, the local banking sector is beginning to make headway. Bouldoukian's Banque Libano-Francaise has noted an upward trend in recent years. And it's not only his bank that seems to be on the rise.

"Two of the Yemeni commercial banks are being rated by Capital Intelligence Ltd. based in Cyprus, and one of the banks told me that their rating has been improved," he said.

For the third consecutive year, The Yemen Commercial Bank received a prize from the UK based the Banker magazine.

"This encourages other banks to have good competition among each other in order to improve performance not only in Yemen, but also outside Yemen," said Bouldoukian.

# Marketing Yemenis to the world

Several initiatives have been launched in Yemen to train Yemeni workers and provide them access to markets outside Yemen.  $\,$ 

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

o Mansour Hafez, a 26 year old Yemeni with a community college degree, living through every day is a painful struggle. As he tries to fill his day with constructive activities, he has his hopes hanging on the promises from officials to ship him off with other waiting Yemenis to the Gulf.

"There isn't a program that I have not signed up for and paid money. My dream is to work in the Gulf. I have tried to find a job in Yemen, but it is all just nepotism and this depresses me beyond limit," said Mansour.

Minister of Labor, Dr. Amat Al-Razaq Hummad, had promised that by 2015 at least two million Yemenis will have found their way to Gulf markets.

Already the initial signs of this trend are showing through several national and regional initiatives such as the Silateck program. This program has trained, and is about to ship, thousands of Yemeni vocational workers to Qatar

According to 2004 data from the Central Statistical Organization there are already around 1.8 million Yemenis working in the Gulf, the majority of which are in Saudi Arabia.

Yet beyond the mass marketing of Yemeni labor to the Gulf, there are individual private employment companies that are making a difference for some job seekers.

Fighting against the flood of more than 400,000 job seekers registered with the Ministry of Civil Services by 2011, there are 22 private employment agencies registered with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, and many more operating without a valid license. In total there are over 50 agencies.

One online recruitment agency is YemenHR, which started in June 2008 as an initiative to connect employers in-

side Yemen with job seekers. Since its establishment, YemenHR has received around 30,000 candidates applying for the 3,000 jobs advertised on their website. The number of applicants is continuously increasing, and in 2010 YemenHR received on average around 1000 per month.

Recently the company's work extended beyond Yemen and they were able to send some Yemenis to work in Saudi Arabia. Yet most of the job requests they get from Dubai or Saudi Arabia, for example, are for a different group that involves unskilled and skilled labor with no academic qualifications. This is not the main target of the recruitment website.

The majority of candidates on the website are college graduates, with good English, and some experience. This has been the target of YemenHR, although there is an inclination to cover a wider group that could involve both unskilled and skilled labor.

"We have also branched out and are soon going to provide training for candidates. We want to start it because it is part of what YemenHR will be doing for years to come – human development," said Ameen Sanad, founder and manager of YemenHR.

However, these agencies tend to be able to find jobs for the rather better qualified Yemenis of productive age. According to the National Population Council, around half the Yemeni work force is uneducated, with one third completely illiterate.

YemenJobs is another online recruit-

ment agency connecting Yemenis to the job market. It was established in July 2009 and receives between 100 and 200 job applications a month. However, the difference is that this website does not interfere in the recruitment process as such, but provides a medium for job seekers and employers to connect directly.

"Around 75 percent of the applicants are postgraduates and at least a quarter are English speaking Yemenis. Most companies that take them are in the private sector, civil society or oil companies," said Raafat Binhashim of YemenJobs.

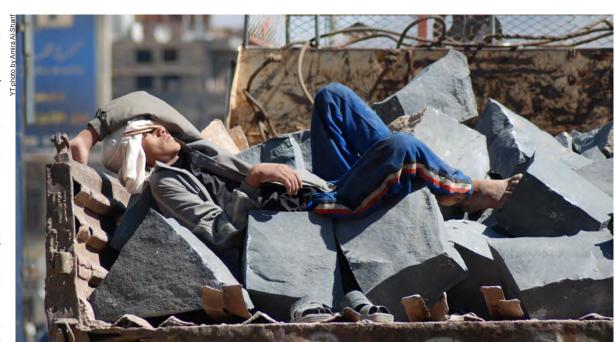
Forecasts from the 2004 National Population Census predict that there are close to 13 million Yemenis of working age, around 16 percent of whom are unemployed.

"It is difficult to say how many Yemenis are unemployed. The figures range from 12 to 35 percent. The problem is that we have not had any true national census recently, and because of the unorganized economic sector it is almost impossible to give an accurate estimation of the percentage of unemployed in Yemen," said Dr. Mohammad Al-Maitami, country representative of the Silateck program in Yemen. "Needleless to say, even if we don't know the exact figure, it is safe to say that it is high, and is one of the main challenges of the country's development."

The Silateck initiative is based on the supply and demand relation through providing the Gulf markets with their requirement of skilled Yemeni labor.

According to Mohamed Abdulaziz, a specialist in Middle East economies, Yemenis cannot be forced onto the Gulf's private sector given the free-market based approach they adopt. "Without adopting an incentive based approach to mobilizing Yemeni workers, significant legal penetration of skilled Yemeni labor is unlikely to take place. This is a crucial point for preferring a neoclassical approach to that of a political economy," he said.

The governments of GCC countries have reiterated time and again that they cannot force their private sectors to employ Yemenis, and its up to the employers and labor market forces to attract the skills and talents which they seek, be they Yemenis or others. This is very relevant to Yemen given the low skill base of Yemeni workers, and the lack of a clear human capital develop-



A young Yemeni day laborer takes an uncomfortable nap while waiting for a job in construction. With the national illiteracy rate exceeding 40 percent and unemployment estimated as high as 35 percent, many Yemenis are forced to work in the informal sector for daily wages.

ment or skill development strategy for Yemen's workforce. It is even more relevant given the future demand for skills in the region.

### Marketing illusions of employment

Like in many other walks of life in Yemen, there is large manifested corruption within the process of enabling Yemenis to reach employment opportunities in neighbouring countries. This is particularly due to almost non-existent monitoring on the part of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. The lack of oversight allows employment agencies to auction work permits in Saudi Arabia and other GCC countries to the highest bidders, even noting that such work permits do not come with a guarantee of employment.

The demand for overseas visas continues to increase given the on-going economic hardships the Yemeni population suffers. This impacts particularly

on those within the lower economic classes in rural areas, where agriculture-based livelihoods are no longer able to support the increasing population. Some farmers sell their land, livestock, and use whatever savings they have to procure an overseas visa. They trust the political rhetoric on allowing Yemenis access to the GCC market, and leave the country without a guarantee of employment.

In fact, according to some Yemeni laborers returning from the Gulf, they found that such visas did not get them employment and are sometimes recycled. The holders of work permits in GCC countries are deported back to Yemen, despite having a visa, under the claim that they are "unwanted human resources". Then the same visa is recycled, at a price, to another Yemeni worker who may suffer the same re-

The ILO office in Yemen indicated

that they are aware of the need to support the monitoring role of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. ILO's national coordinator in Yemen, Mr Raidan Al-Saqqaf, has indicated that with the support of the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), ILO will be providing technical assistance to the newly founded section at the ministry called "Yemeni Workers Abroad." ILO aims to assist the strengthening of the ministry's monitoring role of private employment agencies.

"We are concerned about protecting the rights of Yemeni workers receiving the services of private employment agencies in Yemen, and being sent to neighboring countries. We feel that there are a lot of legal and organization loopholes in the current modalities of sending Yemenis to work in neighboring countries, and we hope, with the support of SDC, to address some of those issues."







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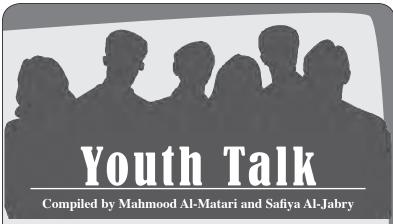
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In this new section we talk to young people about their concerns, hopes and dreams. Every week we hit the streets and share what young people have to say right here.

This week's question:

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

Ahmed Ali, Employee.

The unrest in Tunisia and Egypt reflect the people fighting for their rights. At the same time, Yemenis are just trying to raise their voices to be heard. I don't think unrest in different countries effect each other; I just believe they all happened to be taking place at the same time, hence supporting each other. As the saying goes, birds of a feather flock together.

### Salah Al-Ameri

Egyptians have their own demands and so do Tunisians. This does not mean Yemenis should copy them. Half of the Yemenis are satisfied with their president and their country so I don't think they will be affected by whatever's going on in the outside world.

### Majda Abdullah, Employee

I think the unrest in those two countries will have an effect on the president and people in the government to try and do their best in satisfying people's demands.

### Ahmed Qais, Pharmacy student.

It will have no effect on Yemeni citizens at all. I think everyone is happy for the two countries because they finally got what they wanted. After all, the president is there to serve his people the best way that he can and the people have the right to change the president if they don't like him.

### Fatma Yahya, Graphics design student.

I think we have all come to see that presidents in Arab countries want to be presidents for as long as they live which is not right. The unrest in these two countries will give Yemenis as well as other Arabs the power to change their president if they don't like them or to overthrow those presidents who never want to step down.

### Saleh Mohammed, High school student.

People in Yemen get paid to say they don't want change in the country. As for the ones from higher families, they simply want status quo as they enjoy all the benefits of their perfect lives.

### Samira Lardhi, English student.

I don't think it will have much effect on Yemenis unless they stop chewing qat and start thinking with clear heads.

### Najib Saleh, Marketing student.

It will have no effect on Yemenis at all especially after the president's speech in which he said he will step down in 2013.

### Jamal sultan, English student.

I think Yemenis want change like Tunisia and Egypt but are scared of the effects this will have on the country and the violence that will arise because of this.

### Rodina Ahmed, Employee.

It will just encourage the Yemenis to do the same if the president does not fulfill his promises.

### Bushra Kamal, Management student.

Yemen is much better than Egypt and Tunisia in so many ways. Half of the Yemenis like the way their country is, so I don't think the unrest in Egypt and Tunisia will affect Yemenis that much.

### Next Week's Question:

opinions with other young readers!

### How does qat affect the political process in 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 So this is your chance to share your humorous stories, poems or

# Without soundtrack

By: Riyadh M. A.

rnkaradi@gmail.com

It lacks only music A soundtrack To become a long novelistic movie An ambiguous beginning with an open ending For the last scene Which needs someone to shoot it Then upload it on Youtube To be watched by all Or some of all The child man

Who catch by eyes His own eves The other life A Second life Which they say and write about Like them I say and write Beyond this wall This thick curtain Which separate death and birth There is nothing Except another hidden camera For another life Without soundtrack

# An urgent appeal

By: Mohammed Ali Al-Qahtani

t the beginning of the academic year the Minister of Education announced that the ministry was completely prepared to meet all educational requirements for the school year, and even inaugurated the opening day of study at many schools in Sana'a. Parents were grinning form ear to ear when they heard the minister's announcement. They were stimulated enough to push their children to join school and begin their new year of studies. Likewise, children were happy and highly motivated to enter school as they felt refreshed from the holiday and eager to resume their studies.

One month later, parents and students began 'cursing' the media and stating that the minister's words went with the wind. They said nothing had come true of their former dreams that were aroused by the minster's words!

"My son has only got two books for his curriculum and has to share them with another pupil," said one father. "I'll not go to school again. I don't have books and the teacher just beat us from the first day," said one child. When I asked a headmaster of a school why people grumble and complain about the shortage of books for the curriculum, he answered: "There is a crisis in getting the syllabus. There's no successful plan in the education office for distributing books among schools... What is sad is that books are available for purchase in the streets, but the education office has affirmed their shortage or absence." For the sake of space I haven't listed all the people's complaints.

But what is worth complaining about is the absence of chairs, desks, tables and furniture in many schools, especially the rural ones. Imagine, dear reader, how kids suffer sitting on the floor (just flat stones) without even a piece of carpet, rug or chair, particularly during these cold days!

One might say that a teacher can compensate students who haven't got books and provide them with knowledge. But who can warm the cold classrooms that have no furniture at all? Who will compensate for the students' lost health in cold cities like Sana'a, Ibb, Dhamar?

These critical situations and many others aroused my attention and pity towards those innocent victims (students) who dream of being somebody in their society.

In my view, the lack of curriculum, specialized teachers, furniture for classrooms, good health, and others matters, are all stumbling blocks in the way of the learning process. It's really an urgent matter that is worth looking at, even if it's not entirely solved. It needs serious solutions and strong decisions if we truly want to build our country up and follow civilization. Therefore, I felt it necessary to convey this appeal to our dear Minister of Education and other people concerned with looking after those kids, and to never forget to bear and fulfill the responsibilities vested in them

I hope this appeal can make a difference and not encounter deaf



**Educational reform is becoming increasingly urgent** as the country struggles to keep up with a rapidly expanding young population. The median age in the country is only 17, lower than any Arab nation. With teachers and textbooks in short supply, it's going to take major efforts to keep children engaged in the classroom.

YT photo by Amira Al-Sharif

# Appearances are deceptive

By: Mohammed Ali Al-Qahtani

hen the Southern Movement first appeared, people, media and government took it into consideration and negotiated with the so called 'Southern Movement Leaders' to know what their demands were. They alleged that they were only demanding their own "invaded rights" and nothing else. As a response to their allegations, the government sent committees headed by high officials to survey the events and make sure of their demands. Unfortunately, Southern Movement members seized the kindness of the government and started organizing demonstrations in many areas of the south, and went on with their disgusting acts of violence. They called for the separation of the country and raised the separatist flag in public too!

And when they were questioned about their rebellion against authority, blocking main roads, targeting and attacking the security guards and check points, inciting crowds to violence, etc., they beat around the bush and couldn't give reasonable answers! Their demands were false and nothing was true, and by their despicable acts of violence, they were definitely found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

That's what I know from the mass media as I don't live there to know what happened in reality. Actually, a nagging question came to my mind, i.e., where do the opposition parties stand regarding all this disturbance of the homeland's stability? I could not

help asking that question to an active member of the JMP in our district. His answer was: "In fact, we do agree with them in terms of peaceful demonstrations, demanding their rights, but without shedding blood." But, when I told him about an official report shown on TV denouncing their criminal acts, he answered: "Don't believe everything in the media. If you go Aden, Al-Dhale', Lahj, etc., you'll see how people suffer. Ask ordinary poor people there, or even officials, and you'll realize their suffering." "Mohammad, our wealth and potential resources are being stolen, and no infrastructure in return!" he added with contempt.

Therefore, I felt pity and mercy on them and gave myself a promise to visit Aden when I could get a chance, just to feel and touch people's grievances there.

Luckily, I visited Aden on the opening day of the 20th Arabian Gulf Cup that was held there. I encountered many check points on my way doing their procedures willingly.

As opposed to what was instilled in my mind by that JMP member, Aden seemed to me as a very beautiful whitedressed bride who is flourishing and showing her beauty to all surrounding her! What a lovely city! What nice infrastructure! I was really paralyzed with happiness as I saw the sum of public and private institutions that I didn't see before when I last visited Aden. Then I made up my mind to have a walk and get some acquaintance with people there, aiming at getting true information regarding the so called 'Movements'. I began to see the light and remembered Shakespeare's saying: "Appearances are deceptive."

When I talked to a kind old man, he sorrowfully said: "O! Son, you don't know how we suffered in the former 'Hizb' system (meaning socialism). No one dared to build a big house for his own family. 'Hizb' had the authority to use most of the apartments, and gave you nothing in return. There was no infrastructure at all. We were deprived of all rights and freedoms in all meanings of the terms. No one could utter even a single word against 'Hizb' and, if they did, they were directly jailed or killed.' The old man continued: "Nowadays, they call the president's name, protest against the authority, breach the law, and the president grants them amnesty and forgives them all. But they exploit his kindness negatively," added the old man and took his leave. A 50 year old clothing store owner said: "Those alleged members of movements are only the ones who are idle and have no objectives. They used to gain money via blackmailing others and are incited by the homeland's enemies to violence."

In fact, any rational wise person could simply realize their despicable acts and self-interested narrow aims in the days coinciding with the 20th Gulf Cup. "They had set a schedule for their demonstrations which covered each day of the Cup," quoting the Yemen Times, issue 1419. But their offensive hopes were ruined, wrecked and defeated as they encountered our patriotic armed security guards everywhere.

They had planed to do many other things in order to destabilize the government and threaten the participants of the 20th Gulf Cup and prevent it being held in Aden!

Dear cultured readers, think for a while, please, and try to answer these questions:

Is it fair to reward your homeland, which you are supposed to be proud of, by planning to destabilize its stability and intend to deprive it of such an important tournament?

Is it right to call for segregation among your own land's citizens?

Is it logical or ethical to kill innocent people, letting their orphaned kids be deprived of bread?

By answering these questions, I'm sure you have determined your attitudes about the traitors. The so called "The Southern Movements members", who are just a basket of all the corrupt

Finally, allow me, please, to convey this personal warm thanks to our faith ful champions of security and armed forces who work around the clock to establish the peace in our land, as a whole, and who were sent to Aden for the 20th Gulf Cup, in particular.

A very warm thanks and big congratulations must be extended to the head of the security committee, the vice interior minister, and to the Minister of Interior, Colonel Mutahar Rashad Al-Masri, who were behind the success of the precautionary measures of the Gulf Cup. All this progress in terms of security was, absolutely, under the supervision and support of His Excellency, President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who spared no expense to build up the country. A million thanks and congratulations to all of them.

# Widen your vocabulary through reading

By: Taha Yaseen taaya2010@yahoo.com

nglish learners at the tertiary level suffer from encounter

limited vocabulary. They unknown words and are unable to recall the right word when needed, which makes these learners so panicky and may kill their enthusiasm. Here are some practical strategies to build up the vocabulary needed for reading and self-expression.

As English learners, we should practice reading stories, magazines and English newspapers. Use a small piece

of paper to write down the words that you are not familiar with in one column. Then, later on, when you have a dictionary at your disposal, write down the common definition of each word in a second column. You may break the words into prefix, suffix and its root to find the core meaning of the word. In the third column, write down a short sentence, in which the word is used.

Take this piece of paper with you all the time. In your free time, when you are sitting in the bus, during breaks between classes or on the way to and from campus, take out this paper and revise these words over and over again until you feel comfortable that

you would be able to recognize and understand them. When you encounter words you don't know you might sometimes find out that they are rather

An amazing thing you can do is to explore words and phrases by comparing them to similar ones before you check their meaning. Consequently, you may find them interesting and fun and will keep your mind hungry for more. For instance, have you ever seen egg in eggplant, ham in hamburger or is there any pine or apple in pineapple? Or if readers read and writers write, can grocers groce or hammers

In brief, making reading even one English article a day one of your daily habits, it will widen your vocabulary comprehensively.

Please note that these are the reader's views and not that of the Yemen Times newspaper, its editors or publisher. The Yemen Times offers any individual the right to reply to opinions expressed within these pages. Please send all letters and feedback to ytreaders.view@gmail.com

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1800   1100   Sana'a' Jedda' Sana'a   B-738   IY-5067     2100   1370   Sana'a' Addis Anbara' Sana'a   B-738   IY-5067     2100   Sana'a' Addis Anbara' Sana'a   B-738   IY-5067     2110   Sana'a' Mumbely Sana'a   B-738   IY-5846     2110   Sana'a' Mumbely Sana'a   B-738   IY-5846     2220   Sana'a' Jedda' Sana'a   A-330   IY-560     2230   Sana'a' Jedda' Sana'a   A-330   IY-560     2150   0001   Sana'a' Jedda' Sana'a   A-310   IY-520     2150   0001   Sana'a' Dibbari JiAona'a   A-310   IY-520     2150   0001   Sana'a' Dibbari JiAona'a   A-310   IY-620     2150   0001   Sana'a' Dibbari JiAona'a   B-738   IY-510     0445   0220   Sana'a' Jedda' Sana'a   B-738   IY-510     1900   1000   Sana'a' Joeda' Aona   Joeda' Aona   B-738   IY-510     1900   1000   Sana'a' Joeda' Aona   Joeda' Aona   B-738   IY-510     1900   1000   Sana'a' Joeda' Aona   Joeda' Aona   B-738   IY-510     1900   1000   Sana'a' Joeda' Aona   Joeda' Aona   B-738   IY-510     1900   1000   Sana'a' Joeda' Aona   Joeda' Aona   B-738   IY-510     1900   1500   Sana'a' Joeda' Aona   B-738   IY-510     1900   1500   Sana'a' Joeda' Aona   B-738   IY-510     1900   1500   Sana'a' Jedda' Sana'a   B-738   IY-510     1900   1500   Sana'a' Jedda' Sana'a   B-738   IY-510     0245   245   Sana' Aode   Jedda' Sana'a   B-738   IY-510     0245   245   Sana' Aode   Jedda' Sana'a   B-738   IY-510     0250   230   Sana'a' Aode   Jedda' Sana'a   B-738   IY-510     0250   230   Sana'a' Aode   Jedda' Sana'a   B-738   IY-510     0250   230   Sana'a' Aode   Jedda' Sana'a   B-738   IY-510     0250   235   Sana'a' Aode   Jedda' Sana'a   B-738   IY-520     0250   235   Sana'a' Aode   Jedda' Sana'a   B-738   IY-520     0250   236   Sana'a' Aode   Jedda' Sana'a   B-738   IY-520     0250   236   Sana'a' Aode   Jedda' Sana'a   B-738   IY-520     0250   236   Sana'a' Aode   Jedda' Sana'a	Mor			<u> </u>		
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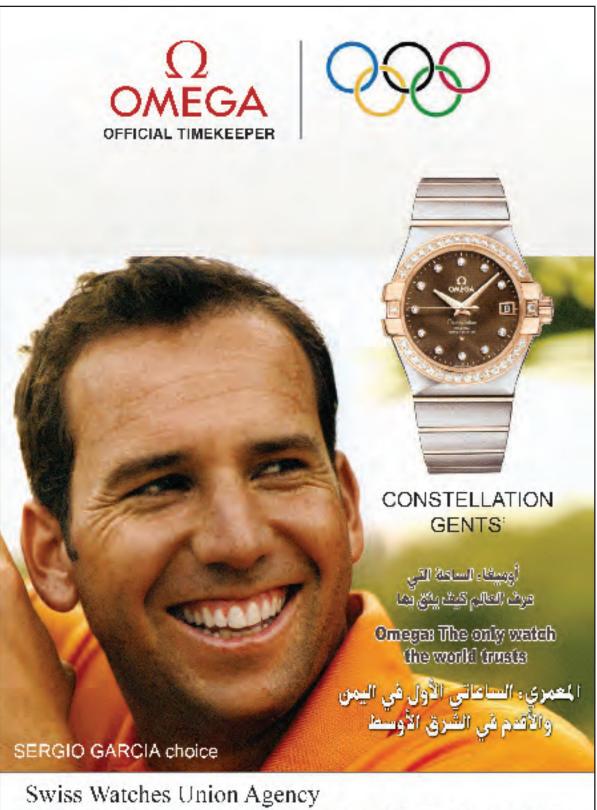




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