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Fighting between defected soldiers and security forces

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANAA, Apr. 13th — Clashes have occurred between the pro-government Republican Guards and the defected 1st Armored Division, which is loyal to Major General Ali Muhsin Al-Ahmar. Maj. Gen. Ali Muhsin recently announced his support for the pro-democracy protesters. The clashes happened in Amran near the capital city of Sana'a early Wednesday morning. Eyewitnesses told the Yemen Times that heavy machine guns were used. According to Major Colonel Abdasalam Al-Alyani, two people were wounded and one was killed.

"The Republican Guards started the clashes," said Al-Alyani.

Tension is ongoing between the 1st Armored Division and the Republican Guards still occupying Amran Round. The Division has prepared itself to defend itself against any attack and the Republican Guards have stationed themselves just 200 meters away from Division forces.

"We hope that there will not be any more clashes between the Division and the Republican Guards, as we are all one people who belong to Yemen and we should never harm each other for any reason," said Al-Alyani. "Yet we are committed to defending ourselves after all."

"We heard heavy gunfire around 12 o'clock midnight," said Abubakr, a resident within the area where the clashes took place. "We heard explosions that we thought were RPGs that continued for ten minutes and then stopped. In total, the clashes continued for an hour and a half. We didn't go out of the house to check what was happening but we watched the Suhil television channel, which was reporting on the clashes at the time."

Zyad Al-Jabri, a reporter for the opposition Suhil channel, said that the clashes started because the Central Security Forces and the Republican Guards were chasing officer Abdullah Al-Shara'bi, a staff member of an air force base that is under the control of the Division.

"They were trying to assassinate him and they eventually did, as he is the one that was reported killed, along with three others from the Division," said Al-Jabri.

"The regime is using violence as a tool to escape from all initiatives. It's already been a way to get out of any

crisis. It's a way to spread fear of civil war. But all of the presidents to spread such fear have failed thus far," said political analyst Ahmed Al-Zurqa.

"The Division will not be led into a civil war," continued Al-Zurqa, "and the president cannot afford such violence as well. He knows that it would cost him a lot, as he lives in the capital along with his closest and most powerful relatives. Because the 1st Armored Division is also in Sana'a, any possible conflict would take place in the capital and that would cost him a great deal."

Maj. Gen. Ali Muhsin has assured the public on multiple occasions that he is not interested in seizing power. Rather, the main reason for his defection was to protect young protesters and their revolutionary objectives.

Meanwhile, on the protesters' side, many coalitions and youth movements at the pro-democracy demonstrations have announced a new vision for a civil state, which they hope to inaugurate after the revolution taking place in Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Hodeida and Al-Baida has succeeded.

As an alternative to the Gulf Cooperation Council mediation proposal — which was rejected by pro-democracy protesters — the steering committee for the youth demonstration in Sana'a republished the revolution's aims, stating that President Ali Abdullah Saleh's departure from power is non-negotiable.

The committee also listed four other goals for the revolution in Yemen, including the withdrawal of the dictatorial regime, the freezing of all of the president's family bank accounts, the reclaiming of all that has been "looted" by the current government (whether public or private property) and the trying of key figures for the deaths of the country's peaceful protesters. The period in which these goals must be met was cited as nine months.

Some of the revolution's youth groups have begun diplomatic discussions with foreign embassies and international civil society organizations.

The US embassy expressed particular concern that the young protesters have not yet organized themselves into a single representative entity and that if such organization does not take place, nothing will change for young people if power is transferred to the opposition parties.

Civil disobedience and bloody clashes in Aden

By: Ali Saeed

ADEN, Apr. 13 — With civil disobedience spreading across all parts of Aden, bloody clashes erupted on Wednesday between pro-democracy demonstrators and special forces and the republican guard, local sources told the Yemen Times.

Violent clashes started at 10am Wednesday morning, and continued until noon. These resulted in the death of three people with dozens injured, Mohamed Noman, director of the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies, told the Yemen Times.

Demonstrators have blocked roads connecting various districts of the city, as well as some streets within neighborhoods. Many private and public employees have been unable to go to work, according to Marwan Al-Shuaibi, a local resident in Aden.

Students were unable to attend school as the city adopted a stance of full civil disobedience in solidarity with protesters at the 'Change Squares' in Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, and Hodeida. According to Noman, protesters have declared every Wednesday and Saturday as days of civil disobedience.

"The special forces and the republican guards have shot demonstrators in the Al-Mualla, Al-Mansoura and Al-Sheikh Othman districts of Aden," said Noman. He added that sounds of live ammunition fire were heard over

all of Aden City including Dar Sa'ad. Heavy military vehicles and tanks have surrounded the city for more than two months.

Yemen has experienced pro-democracy protests and demonstrations in many governorates, including Sana'a and Aden, calling for the removal of the regime since January 15th, when the Tunisian President, Bin Ali, fled his country because of a popular uprising.

Yemen's popular protests have gained local and international momentum after the mass killing of at least 52 protesters in Sana'a on Friday March 18th by snipers believed to be supporters of President Saleh.

Since then, many civil, military and diplomatic figures have defected from the regime and announced their peaceful support of the protesters. At the head of the defecting military leaders is Major General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, leader of the first armored division for the North-Western area. He defected on March 21st and pledged to protect the peaceful protesters at Sana'a University.

At least 60 parliamentarians from Saleh's ruling party have quit the the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) party and announced a new coalition block in protest against the crackdown against protesters.

More than 101 people have been killed since the beginning of the protests, with at least 52 dead in Sana'a, 29



Security forces try to disperse demonstrators in Aden amidst full civil disobedience.

in Aden, and an estimated 20 in Taiz.

In 2007, a secessionist movement emerged in southern governorates calling for a return to the independent state that was South Yemen which existed prior to 1990.

Around 460 people had been killed and thousands injured in the southern governorates during protests demanding their independence from the north, according to the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies in Aden.

However recently, with the nationwide protests calling for President Saleh's

departure, the calls for secession have been replaced with a movement saying: "Leave," or "The people want to topple the regime." The call for a demise to the regime seems to have replaced the previous calls for secession, and united a previously fractured state.

On April 6th, Amnesty International called on the international community to investigate the killings that have occurred during the protests in Yemen, and warned against any political deal that provides Saleh with immunity from prosecution.

GCC proposal fails to resolve Yemen crisis

By: Mohammed Bin Salam

SANAA, April 13 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the JMP failed this week to agree on a new Gulf proposal to resolve the country's ongoing political crisis and civil unrest.

The government on Monday, welcomed a new Gulf proposal, with conditions, while the political opposition demand 'clarification' on the details of the GCC power transfer plan. Reactions to the Gulf "initiative" proposed to settle the political stalemate in Yemen varied largely this week.

As Saudi Arabia, the Arab League, American and French foreign ministries hailed the proposal, released on April 10, a Yemen presidential statement said they "commend gulf efforts as a means to defuse the crisis in Yemen" and expressed the president's willingness to transit power peacefully "within the

framework of the constitution".

A source from the presidency told state news agency, Saba News, they had reviewed the statement by GCC foreign ministers, following their meeting last Sunday in Riyadh, reiterating the welcome of "efforts and endeavors" by brothers in the GCC to contribute to ending the current crisis in Yemen.

President Saleh "has no reservations whatsoever about transiting power peacefully and smoothly within the framework of the constitution," said an official statement, without declaring full agreement on the details of the initiative, but stipulating it complied with the constitution — allowing the president to remain in power until the end of his term in September 2013 - after which the initiative would be approved either wholly or partially.

The transfer plan created a mixed reaction from opposition parties. Sources

close the JMP said there were conflicting elements within the six-party opposition coalition. A minority agreed with the initiative without reservation, including some figures within the Islah party. While the majority maintained that Saleh should either leave, or hand over power to the vice-president before dialogue could proceed.

Sultan Al-Atwani, a leading JMP figure said in a phone call with Yemen Times, that there was no truth to reports of internal disagreement within the JMP.

"Nevertheless there are some differences in view here and those we are able to resolve."

Concerning the JMP's acceptance of the Gulf proposal, Al-Atwani said, "We have some comments and questions that need answers. Our meeting yesterday (Tuesday) with a number of GCC ambassadors ended without achieving any

result."

The GCC ambassadors were not in a position to give answers or clarifications to the JMP because the foreign ministers of the concerned countries, according to Al-Atwani, had prepared the initiative, while they requested a list of their demands to refer back to GCC members.

"When we reach a decision, we will announce it in due course," Al-Atwani told the Yemen Times on Wednesday.

Al-Atwani was skeptical about the government's response to the initiative and the methods of manipulation.

"It's clear that there's evasion on the part of the regime in order to gain more time, said Al-Atwani. "We all know that the presidency has not indicated their express agreement to the initiative, but said they liked the efforts by the GCC."

JMP spokesman, Mohammed Qahtan expressed "his personal" acceptance and welcome of the GCC proposal saying, "Personally I agree to and welcome the Gulf initiative," he said. In response to the initiative's proposal for Saleh to handover power to vice-president Abdrabu Mansour Hadi, he said that power transition and president's immediate resignation "are welcomed by us without hesitation". He added the constitution states that for such transition the president should go to parliament and announce his resignation on which parliament should vote.

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Demonstrations gain momentum in Hodeida after repeated attacks

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Apr. 13 — At least eight demonstrators were wounded in Hodeida last Tuesday while marching from Sana'a Street to Change Square, demanding that President Saleh step down.

Thugs who belong to the regime attacked the peaceful demonstrators with batons and stones, according to one political activist in Hodeida, Abdulhafeedh Al-Hattami.

Demonstrations in Hodeida governorate — one of the poorest in all of Yemen — have gained momentum after repeated attacks on pro-democracy demonstrators who have been camping out on Change Square.

Speaking to the Yemen Times, Al-Hattami said that the regime regularly sends thugs and inmates to attack peaceful protesters.

"People in Hodeida are peaceful," he said. "They want to be peaceful. Unfortunately, the regime brings in people from other governorates to at-

tack the kind people of Hodeida. The regime wants to provoke the demonstrators into violence, but it cannot."

Al-Hattami also indicated that universities, secondary schools, shops and companies all committed acts of civil disobedience this week.

He revealed that pictures of President Saleh have been torn up in Hodeida and that people are afraid of the deployment of Special Guards in the governorate, as well as of snipers on the rooftops of buildings.

Effective women's participation

Sameera Mohammed Esmae'el, a female political activist in Hodeida, told the Yemen Times that there are many women who are participating in the governorate's revolution.

"There is an unprecedented consciousness amongst women in this poverty-stricken governorate. Participation of women in the revolution has been increasing every day," she said.

Esmae'el continued by saying that many housewives, female students,

teachers and medics are participating in the revolution both enthusiastically and effectively.

"They have proven that women in Hodeida are conscious and eager for change," she said.

"Women here are preparing for mass demonstrations that will take place over the coming few days, so as to convey a message to the regime that they are not afraid of it," Esmae'el added.

She also indicated that women in Hodeida distribute cookies and juice to people at the sit-in, and donate their gold so as to provide the revolution with funds.

"Yemeni women have regained their prestige and confidence during this revolution," said Esmae'el. "We [the female activists] didn't expect that women would participate so effectively in the demonstrations."

"The revolution has proven that women have a big voice and a crucial role to play," she confidently concluded.



Protests in Hodeida have been picking up speed in recent weeks following repeated attacks

Young unemployed accuse private companies of being sexist

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Apr. 13 — In Yemen, many young people who are unemployed hold women responsible for their predicament. Some accuse women of having a monopoly on jobs because company managers prefer to hire females rather than males.

Sarmad Hada, a 21-year old who works for a public relations company, thinks that women can find jobs more easily than men, even when the man is sufficiently qualified.

Lamess Shamsan believes that it's a worldwide problem for women to be hired over men, as men have more needs and a greater responsibility to care for their families. Women, however, ask for lower salaries and are therefore more desirable to companies.

On the other hand, Somaya Noman and Randa Hussein believe that women are generally more qualified and loyal to their companies.

"Women also don't waste time like men, who go to chew qat. That makes them more qualified. They make their work a priority," said

Hussein.

Ismail Sheikh thinks that there are many reasons for consistently hiring women. One of those reasons is that in a conservative society like Yemen's where women have typically not participated much in life beyond the home — and where women have generally been seen as not having the same productive capacity as men — women are all the more keen to shatter gender stereotypes, usually by giving 110 percent of their efforts for half the salary demanded by men.

According to Sheikh, the second reason why women make for good employees is because unlike men, they take good physical care of themselves, which clients find appealing.

Fras Shamsan, a reporter for pro-government television channel Al-Aqiq, said that the only reason one should hire a woman is for her "physical qualifications" and her sweet voice.

Amal Ali Saleh disagrees with Shamsan, saying that so-called "physical qualifications" are one of the requirements for any good employee and that men should be obliged to take care of

their appearance as well. Saleh said that there is no justification for men blaming employed women for their own poor success when men themselves are not working to cultivate their business skills.

Adnan Al-Rajih, who graduated in 2009 and has not yet been able to find a job, said that some managers only "claim" to hire women so as to encourage gender equality. This, according to Al-Rajih, is an example of sexism against men.

Unemployment in Yemen is reported to be over 60 percent among youth aged between 35 and 40 years. According to Mal press, an economic website, the majority of this percentage is made up of qualified university graduates. 25 percent alone are technical school graduates.

About 194,000 unemployed youth are registered at the Civil Services Ministry, in the hopes of receiving a job when the government needs them. President Saleh recently promised youth that he would generate 60,000 new jobs within the year. Economic analysts have said that the country's budget cannot guarantee such a commitment.

Laid off construction workers join protests

SANA'A, Apr. 11 (IRIN) — Faris Ubad, 34, is one of hundreds of day labourers who get up at the crack of dawn and make their way — with their shovels, hammers and other construction tools — to the Dar Salm intersection in southern Sana'a in the hope of finding a day's work from passing contractors.

But many wait all day in vain: Since the political unrest began a few weeks ago, the construction sector has all but come to a standstill.

"It has been more than 35 days since I picked up any work... I was forced to sell our TV set last week to feed my wife and four children, Ubad, who in the past worked as a builder's mate, told IRIN.

According to recent government statistics, more than one million day labourers depend on the construction industry for a living, with most earning the equivalent of about US\$9 a day.

"The construction sector is currently experiencing unprecedented stagnation. As a result, hundreds of thousands of labourers are left without any income," said Mohammed Ayish, an economist in the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation.

Investors and contractors have either suspended construction projects or are watching and waiting until calm returns.

"Project owners told us to stop until the political crisis ends," Ali Sarari, a Sana'a construction contractor, told IRIN.

The devaluation of the Yemeni riyal over the past

couple of months has caused imported construction materials like iron and cement to rise sharply in price, and the riyal has fallen from 214 to 238 to the US dollar in the past month. The Central Bank of Yemen has not made any attempt to stabilize the riyal, Mohammed al-Hadhari, an exchange dealer, told IRIN.

Reduced demand for construction materials

Businessman Hefdhullah al-Ansi said demand for construction materials had declined by 70 percent. "I used to sell more than YR500,000-worth of construction materials a day, but now it is YR200,000 maximum," he told IRIN, adding that he has had to lay off four of his six workers.

Instead of staying idle, many of the unemployed have joined demonstrations organized by the youth movement near Sana'a University. They see the protests as an opportunity to air their grievances.

"We need change. We need to have access to free health care. We need a new government with good economic policies," construction worker Saif Ahmad, currently camping out with the university protesters, told IRIN.

Hundreds of casual workers are now camping out with the young protesters near the university, economist Ayish told IRIN. "They have found somewhere they can get food and express their demands; they spend their time participating in anti-government demonstrations."

Riyal nears collapse

By Abigail Fielding-Smith

"SANA'A, Apr. 13 — When I open in the morning, a thousand come to buy dollars," says Yahya, a money exchanger in Hadda street who is all out of greenbacks. "The shortage gets worse every day."

Yemen is currently experiencing a perfect storm of pressures on the local currency which many fear will precipitate economic catastrophe. The country's current account deficit, whereby it imports almost everything, and relies heavily on declining oil revenues to bring in foreign currency, created pressure on the riyal last year, which the central bank had more or less succeeded in stabilizing, at least in the short term, before popular anti-government protests broke out in February. Since then the riyal has slipped from around 214 to the dollar to 238 at the end of last week as demand for foreign currencies from panicked

citizens has surged, government spending in an attempt to contain the unrest has increased, and economic activity has dramatically slowed down.

According to Gazi Shbaikat, the IMF country representative for Yemen, a recent measure by the Central Bank to reduce reserve requirements on commercial banks has succeeded in freeing up around \$300 million to help meet demand, but the pressure on the local currency continues. "The longer the political situation continues the worse the pressure on the riyal," says Mr. Shbaikat.

The package of populist economic policies announced by President Saleh in response to unrest earlier this year is also putting pressure on the riyal, say economists. With little financing available, the government has had to borrow from central bank reserves to pay for the measures, risking inflation.

Another looming concern for the riyal is a disruption in oil exports if the situation continues. Production was severely disrupted when a pipeline was attacked in Marib last month, although this has yet to affect revenues.

A collapsed riyal would be a disaster for Yemen, which imports 80% of its food. Already, many businesses are believed to have slowed down imports because of difficulties getting letters of credit. The 3 million Yemenis who spend 35% of their income on bread can little afford further price rises.

There are widespread expectations that if a political settlement is reached, money will flow in from the Gulf and the international community, which would help stabilize the riyal. But it is not clear that Yemen can wait until then. As Wilfried Engelke, chief economist at the World Bank in Sanaa puts it "time is running out."

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GCC proposal fails to resolve Yemen crisis

The new initiative called on the Yemeni government and opposition to meet in Saudi Arabia under the GCC umbrella according to the following principles:

The solution concluded by this agreement should preserve Yemen's unity, security and stability.

The agreement should meet Yemenis' expectations of change and reform.

Power transition should be smooth and safe in order to spare Yemen slipping into anarchy and violence and it should be conducted within national consensus.

All parties should commit themselves to removing all causes of political and security tension.

All parties should commit themselves to guarantee against all acts of revenge, follow-up prosecutions and undertakings against the president and his family while following these executive steps:

The president shall declare transi-

tion of his powers to the vice-president.

A national unity government is to be formed and presided over by the opposition that should have the right to set up competent committees and councils to direct political, security and economic activities, draft a constitution and hold elections.

The GCC reiterated its concern over Yemen's political tension and the serious deterioration in security situation. It also expressed its deep regret that casualties continue to be incurred. It also confirmed its commitment to the unity, stability and territorial integrity of Yemen as well as respect to the people's will and options as a means to preserve civilian peace, security and stability and national achievements.

According to Reuters news agency, Vice-President Abdurabu Mansour Hadi, does not want to assume power, even temporarily, as the Gulf proposal stagnated.

The youth movement in 'Change Square' were quick to issue a statement rejecting the Gulf initiative,

stressing they would continue their long-running sit-in until all their demands were fulfilled, most notably the end of the regime, without providing any guarantees or immunity and without the president choosing his own successor.

The statement signed by the youth stated, "Demonstrators reject any person or agency that claim to represent the youth in any dialogue with the regime inside Yemen or outside."

The youth statement said that while they appreciate the efforts made by the Gulf States, they would reject any initiative that would not include the departure of the president and his relatives.

"The revolution council will speak for the youth without interference from outsiders," said Yasser Al-Ra'aini, spokesman of the Youth Coordination Committee. "The youth will stay in the square until the regime leaves and a modern state begins to take shape," said Al-Ra'aini, urging the GCC states and the international community to support the youth.

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Heritage meets communication

Refugee singer still longs for home

By: Mohamed Adam
For the Yemen Times

When talking about her passion for music, Fartun Abukar cuts an image of an extremely charming and charismatic woman whose face-crumpling grin is hard to reconcile with the devastating experience she endured at the hands of the Al-Qaida inspired Islamist insurgent group in her home country of Somalia.

Clad in a black cloak, in a tiny room she shares with her friends, she wittily and engagingly talks about her past agony and hopes for the future.

"They killed my two brothers and gave us a phone call to collect the corpses," she says as she narrates the harrowing story of her family. "My father and one of my stepmothers went to collect the dead bodies but they never came back."

"For three consecutive days we heard nothing about my dad and stepmother. Then the fourth day I received a call from a warehouse where we usually received cargos from relatives and business partners of my father. I went to collect the consignment," she says. In a bleak whisper, she recounts the sight that awaited her: "I received a box and opened it at the spot just thinking it was a normal package, but in the box were shocking pictures of the dead

bodies of my brothers and the decapitated head of my father."

Did she hear about her stepmother? "No. I didn't hear about my step-mother and she is presumed dead," she says in a bemused look betraying her struggle to overcome an upsurge of emotion.

As if the execution of her family members was not enough, the Islamist kept giving her threatening phone calls denouncing her as the daughter of an 'infidel'.

"After being in cautious hiding for a week amid growing rumors that the Islamists wanted to kill me I escaped to Djibouti, where I took a boat to Yemen." She relates.

Her family's crime, she says, was her father's friendly relationship with Ugandan army men based in a neighboring hospital.

"My father would chat with the Ugandans after he came from his work and they liked him because he spoke their language. Unfortunately, that didn't make the grade with the Islamist who deemed my entire family as disbelievers." She says of the Islamist insurgent group fighting to overthrow the United Nations recognized interim government of Somalia.

Uganda is part of African Union effort to stabilize the chaotic Horn of Africa nation and counter the Al-Qaida inspired radical Islamist group, Al-Shabab.

The group is accused of terrorizing the Somali public, chopping off hands, ston-

ing people to death and banning TV, music and even bras in their quest to turn Somalia into a Taliban-styled state. They deploy suicide bombers and attract jihadists from around the world to their cause.

"They're desecrating our culture, and destructing the fabrics of our religion. We were practicing Islam before they came, but to them we were pagans. We believe in Allah and follow the teachings of the Holy Quran, but for them whoever refuses to abide by their interpretation of Islam is an infidel," says the 24-year-old budding singer about the Islamists.

Fartun nurtured her music talent in Yemen and has never been on stage before. She says music helps her dust off her past nervous times. Most of her songs are satirical work against Al-Shaba and classical patriotic and love songs. She writes the lyrics of her songs.

Apart from occasionally staging concerts for the refugees in Sana'a, she performs at the international events like the World Refugee Day.

She says: "I had positive impression from my first big performance in last year World Refugee Day and the audiences were brilliant. It seemed like something both the Somali refugees and the other audience were equally eager for."

She plans to release her debut album Muqalka Mogadishu (The Sight of Mogadishu) in August this year.



Fartun Abukar (right)

She says people's perceptions of her motherland disturb her to the core and the Muqalka Mogadishu will paint a different picture of Somalia.

"The first thing that comes to mind when people hear Somalia is gun-wielding fractious warlords and hordes of hardcore half-naked pirates. So it feels so rewarding presenting the Somali culture and history to cheerful audience." She says with a chuckle.

When asked on life in Yemen she says:

"I am at ease with the safety I enjoy here, but feel homesick."

"My entire life is in a limbo in a foreign country where I find hard to blend in with every aspect of life. You know, it is about everything that I miss back home- the food, the weather, the people and more than anything else the breeze of the Indian Ocean."

"I also get disturbed when referred to Warya (Euphemism for Somali)," she jokingly adds as a slight smile plays on her

lips.

Fartun was born in Mogadishu Somali to polygamist father who married four wives her mother being the second wife. She is the middle born of seven siblings.

When she was 14, she eloped with an 18-year-old man against the will of her father who wanted to marry her off to an octogenarian tycoon.

"I didn't want to get married then but I was between a rock and hard place. I thought I convinced the man I eloped with to fake our marriage but deep down he had different arrangements. He wanted to legally marry me and he won me over," she says.

At 18 she got divorced after she had two sets of twins, two sons and two daughters who now live with their father in Bosaso, Somalia.

Her late brothers left behind their wives and seven children. The wives abandoned the children and the family after their family business of a wholesale store was seized by Al-Shaba. Her mother fled Mogadishu to distant nomad pastoral relatives to support her raise her grandchildren.

Speaking of justice she says: "I reckon one day I will go back to Somalia and see the men who ruined my family brought to justice." However, she says she acknowledges her optimism is far-fetched until there is peace and strong government in her country.

Female empowerment in Marib

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

The historical city of Marib in Yemen is mostly known for being a tribal city where the state's laws barely apply. The name of the city has most recently been associated with Al-Qaeda, terrorism and revenge killing. The untold story is the role of women in this society.

The stereotype of women in Marib is that they are tough and armed. Yet there are no female sheikhs to judge between opponents or play a mediating role in political or social crises. However, women can still take the lead in times of war.

"It's the best time for woman when there is a war between their tribe and other tribes. As the men are busy fighting, some-

times there are dangers so women have to take the lead and manage daily life. No opponent will harm them or even talk to them because of the great respect women have in our community," explained Yasmeen Al-Qadhi, the first female journalist in Marib.

Some tribes train their daughters in how to use weapons for self-defense. Hajwa Hassen, a woman in her fifties, has her own Kalashnikov. She was living with her husband in a conflict zone that witnessed several months of shooting between opposing tribes. Hajwa had to learn how to use the weapon to protect her family and land in the absence of her husband. As the tribe's men don't treat women as opponents, they never attacked her while her husband was away. On some dark nights,

when strange cars passed through their land, Hajwa would fire warning shots into the sky. When the strangers saw that it was a woman shooting, they would leave.

When women travel far from their house they carry weapons. "Marib is the safest place for women. They never worried about harassment, as it's a tribal place, and everybody knows each other. So everyone avoids this situation," said Yasmeen.

The interaction between women and men in Marib is simpler than in the big cities, as everybody knows each other. Even strangers are treated as guests. So women are allowed to receive men at home and welcome them in the absence of their husbands. While in the capital it is seen as shameful for a woman to accept

a ride in a private car, it's not the same in Marib. Women do accept rides with people they know or even those they don't, though sometimes it's a silent ride.

Over the past 10 years, there has been a noticeable change in the way women are regarded in Marib. Development NGOs have run programs targeting women in the governorates of Marib, Shabwa and Al-Jawf. Many of the programs are focused on leadership skills, and in involving women in anti-terrorism roles through educating their families. Whilst many girls in these areas attend primary school, they still do not often get the chance to continue their education further.

In the early 1980s, Sheikh Ali Al-Qadhi defied the norm of his local society and allowed his daughters to continue their

education past primary school level. His daughters became the first four girls to continue their education in Marib. Many in the area accused Al-Qadhi of acting in a shameless manner for allowing his daughters to become educated. Three of the daughters were forbidden to study beyond the fourth grade, but one, Layla Al-Qadhi was allowed to continue.

At the time there was no high schools in her district, so Layla travelled to Sana'a to continue her high school education. After that she went to Sana'a University and graduated in history. She returned to Marib to become head of a school there, and also head of the department for women in the ruling General People's Congress. The sheikh and locals donated money to have a school built in the district so that no oth-

er girl would have to stop their studies for lack of a local school to go to.

Sheikh Al-Qadhi now has 16 daughters. Some of them have masters degrees, some are politically active. Two of his daughters have established a training and development association to help their district's women to become decision makers. Previously Al-Qadhi's daughters were looked upon in anger as breaking with local traditions, but now they are well known for their education and have become role models in Marib. When the daughters get married, the marriage contract has a condition that the husband allows their wife to continue her education. Two are married, and are studying for their masters degrees abroad without their husbands.




HUMAN RESOURCES ANALYST (HR Department)
Position#0625/0766 (B14)-CPF Massila - Hadramout
For Yemeni Nationals Only

Basic Function:
Responsible for a variety of Human Resources activities and acts as HR generalist. Provides front-line advice and responds to employee's and line supervisor's day-to-day queries regarding HR procedures related to areas of job's responsibility. Handles National employee data changes, maintains National employee files and performs administrative work to support the Human Resources department. Produces standard and ad-hoc reports and assists in the maintenance and update of the HR information system. Tracks timesheets and reconciles the excess days. Participates in the arrangements of HR programs such as the National service award program and employee of the year.

Job Duties:
The incumbent shall:

- Reviews to validate & processes timesheets for more than 650 National employee at the CPF & Terminal. This includes updating the excel spreadsheets to track all timesheets reconciliations and prepares periodic and annual statistical reports for excess / deficit days payment for the review of His Supervisor & Manager.
- Prepares the payroll memos based on the approved & validated timesheet reconciliation, then line managers signatures, to be scanned to Sana'a payroll for the final processing (payment / deduction).
- Provides front line advice to employees to respond to daily queries related to established HR policies and procedures that are related to areas of responsibility including Payroll adjustments, leaves of absence and excess days reconciliations etc. Refers complicated or exceptional issues to HR Specialists.
- Prepares a Weekly Accommodation Allowance list for CPF & TER National employees who live in remote area and submits it to the Field & Terminal Accountant for payment.
- Processes salary advances to Sana'a Payroll for installments deduction, and submits the original to field accountant for further accounting process.
- Participates in the arrangements of the Service Award Program and Labour Day including maintaining and performing inventory of all awards in stock and creates new PR/PO in SAP and co-ordinates with vendor to order new items to ensure items availability in stock at all times.
- Assists in the recruitment of Nationals, including calling selected candidates for interview and testing, coordinates with the aviation, travel and camp accommodations for the necessary arrangements and prepares their expense claims. This includes participating in the new hire HR orientation and preparing new hire personal file with all required documentation.
- Prepares required documentation for resigned/terminated employees as required such as reference letter, social security form, bank and hospital letters etc.
- Maintains proper filing system for all CPF and Terminal National employees' personal and medical files and files all documents relating to areas of responsibility. Includes keeping files orderly and up-to-date with relevant documentation.
- Processes approved Hajj Leave applications, Emergency, Sick and Unpaid leave to ensure leaves are duly reflected in the timesheet and captured in ABRA.
- Handles and Tracks annual leave for Terminal national employees on 5:2 schedule. This includes receiving applications, verifying leave entitlement and obtaining HR Specialist approval.
- Carries out other similar or related duties as required includes providing some job coverage during the absence of HR Specialist or during the times of workload.

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Commerce or Administration.
- Minimum of 4 years experience in an administrative role within an HR department or equivalent.
- Intermediate knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets, database applications.
- Very good knowledge of English, interpersonal skills and communication skills.
- Valid Yemeni driving license.

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US overlooks a sleeper in Yemen

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf and Felice Friedson for the Media Line

Since unrest began flooding through the Middle East, Western assessments have been colored by hopes and expectations as much as by the events themselves. Media and governments alike have waxed near-euphoric in bestowing virtue and righteousness upon those who break with the incumbent rulers. While great attention is paid to past infamies, little understanding of successor regimes has been offered. Regarding Egypt, for instance, a military council was stipulated to hold only the purest of motives although no proof was forthcoming. Even the denouncement by Mohammed ElBaradei [the opposition leader with arguably the most prominent international profile as former head of the UN nuclear watchdog organization] of the council's proposed constitutional changes as a "dictator's constitution" failed to alter the tone of coverage – at least until the Muslim Brotherhood had emerged as the clear winner in that referendum.

Yemen, as a case-in-point is frightening. The formula there for both media and diplomacy has been "anti-Saleh good" and "pro-Saleh bad," leaving no room for further due diligence. So when General Ali Muhsin Al-Ahmar defected from the Saleh camp it was by definition a good thing. But has anyone

bothered to examine Al-Ahmar's past performances and question whether his ties to Al-Qa'ida are still in-tact? So much so that it raises the specter of a front man for the international terrorist organization.

Although the US government professes the war against terror to be a priority among its concerns in the Middle East, apparently no one is paying attention to this very issue in the controversial poverty burdened Yemen.

What many fail to realize about this general is that his defection may not be totally related to the call for change advocated by opposition parties and protestors in the streets. Al-Ahmar has been known to be strongly affiliated with Al-Qa'ida. According to a 2005 cable by the American ambassador to Yemen Thomas Krajcski revealed by Wikileaks, Al-Ahmar appears to have amassed a fortune in the smuggling of arms, food staples, and consumer products.

He is one of what we call in the Arab world a "war prince" – someone who benefits from times of conflict.

Signs backing this analysis are already showing in the latest news from the southern governorate of Abyan where the US had attacked an Al-Qa'ida training camp in 2009. The camp was allegedly run by Al-Ahmar, yet this point did not seem to resonate with either US thinkers or Yemeni authority as they dealt with this name.

"It is all about power struggle," cry out activists leading the youth protests

in Change Square as they complain of losing faith in all political parties including the opposition. They feel that they have been failed by all political entities – both inside and outside the country.

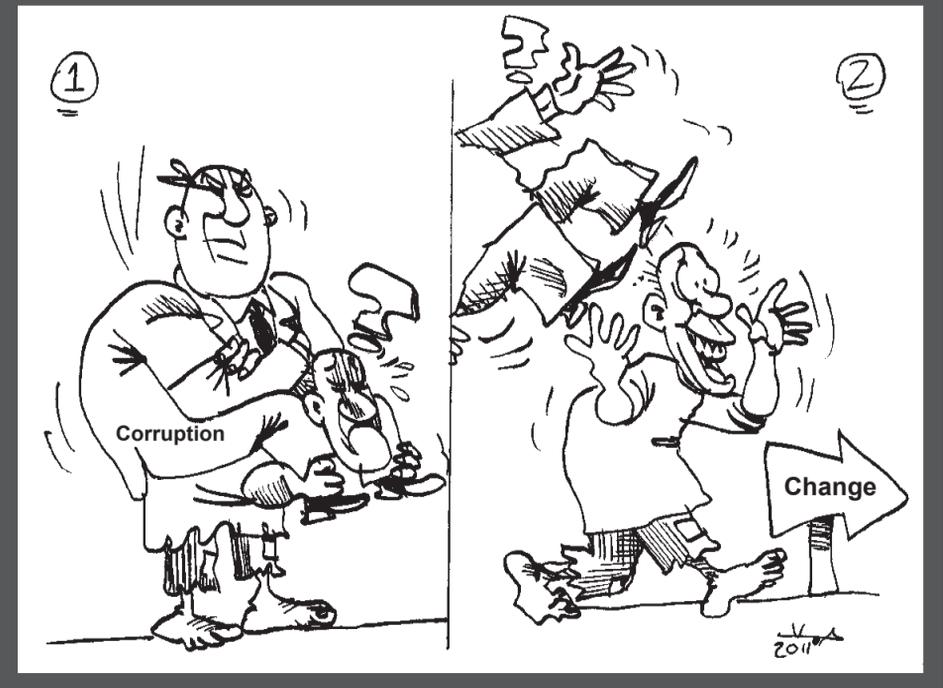
In fact, the United States was not spared protestors' angst, as bullet shells and other armament were displayed on television with a sign reading, "Made in USA" and accompanied by shouts of "the US is killing us."

So what is America's involvement in Yemen? Is it the long standing commitment to support President Saleh as an ally in the war against terrorism still operative? If so, is Saleh's friendship and protection of Yemeni leader Abdulmajid Al-Zindani – frequently on the "Most Wanted Al-Qa'ida" list – problematic? Or need Saleh answer for Al-Ahmar's use of jihadis to fight Shi'ite rebels linked to Iran between 2004 and 2008?

There is more to Yemen than is being reported or discussed in the media and behind closed doors whether in Washington or Sana'a. The US needs to stay focused and understand the dynamics of Yemeni politics and the various connections in order to really address the issue of terrorism. As events continue to unfold and foment, who is on whose team today seems to be of minimal concern. But the message of the street rejecting such arbitrariness is becoming louder and far less ambiguous than that of the politicians. It's that voice that needs to be heard.

SKETCHED OPINION

By: Hamid



Youth revolutions: Unite the Orient 'Arab' and divide the West

By: Fuad Hazaea
alsharabifud@yahoo.com

The unexpected tsunami of change that hit the Arab world confounded the policy makers, observers and analysts around the world. This tsunami which has united the Arab people against dictators has divided the West's reaction between those supporting these revolutions and those supporting their allied regimes. This division comes from their inability to evaluate the rising situations and its possible outcomes. The uncertainty of these revolutions' success was a disaster to the West's policy makers and their intelligence agencies. Their fears, depending on the outcomes, were to lose their allies or make new enemies in the region. This made their statements ambiguous and irresponsible.

These revolutions have revealed the real ugly face of the West. They have

always acted as if they had sole custody of our nations and as the sole protectors of freedom and human rights around the world. The USA and the European countries used different approaches and methodologies in dealing with the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions. Some favored these revolutions and others did not hide their fear of the situation. Moreover, the international community's late response to Al-Gaddafi's massacres draws a clear picture of these developed countries. They never cared about the people of this region or their interests. All they have always cared about are their own interests, the energy sources and the safety of Israel. As citizens of these nations, we do not want or expect anything from the West. All we ask from them is to respect our entity and rights. We have the ability to draw our own bright future without their interference in our internal affairs.

On the other hand, this tsunami has united the Arab people against the dic-

tators. These revolutions have formed the most perfect unity of the Arab people in modern history. It has consolidated their voices and demands. The fact that these citizens share a lot in common, for instance misuse and oppression, made the winds of change spread from one country to another very quickly and effectively. The Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions encouraged the youth in other Arab countries to follow the same path, and seek immediate and peaceful change. Educated youth have been the pioneers, facebook was the starting point and Al-Jazeera was the global voice of these revolutions. A message to the fighters for freedom in the liberation/change squares is to rely on no external assistance but to rely on their faith, to believe in their abilities and power, and to realize the legitimacy of their demands and the weakness of these dysfunctional regimes. Whatever it takes, the victory will be coming sooner or later.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTANT SERVICES)



Yemen
Healthy Mother Project
Health Sector
Grant No. JSDF Grant no. TF094846
Project ID No. P116110



This request for expression of interest (Eoi) follows the General Procurement Notice for the HMP that appeared in UNDB online on 31st October 2010.

SOUL for Development has received financing from the International Development Agency (IDA), the administrator of grant funds provided by Japan under the Japan Social Development Fund, toward the cost of the Healthy Mother Project (HMP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultancy services. This project aims at helping the poor women by providing accessible, quality maternal health services to a total number of 12,000 poor women in rural Sana'a Governorate between 1st, June, 2011- 31st June, 2013. The services include:

- Provision of standard quality Mother – Baby Package, to women of reproductive health age (15-49) in the rural area in Sana'a including:
 - Antenatal care.
 - Safe delivery services.
 - Postnatal care.
 - Emergency obstetric care.
 - Referral services.
- Identification and enrollment of eligible beneficiaries by outreach activities.
- Provision of transport for beneficiaries to health facilities which include health units, midwife home-based clinic and referral units and hospitals.
- Conducting educational campaigns to increase public awareness on the following subjects:
 - The benefits of utilization of the maternal health services.
 - Mothers and children nutritional needs.
 - Newborn care.
 - Family planning.
 - Breast feeding.

SOUL for Development now invites eligible consultants to express their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the HMP predetermined services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications. Each selected consultant will provide services in one or more than one of the areas listed in the table below, depending on its capacity, experience and area preference.

Table 1: Sana'a Governorate targeted areas:

Area 1.1: Hamdan, Arhab	Area 2.1: Bani Matar	Area 3. 1: Blad Alroos , Sanhan and Bani Bahlool
Area 1.2: Nahm, Bani-Hoshish	Area 2.2: Al-Hema Al Dakheleia	Area 3.2: Al-Tayal, Bani Thebyan Khawlan
	Area 2.3: Al-Hema-Al Khargia	
	Area 2.4 : Manakha, Safan	Area 3.3: Al- Hosn, Jehana

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers* (January 2011).

Interested consultants may obtain draft Terms of Reference [subject to change] of HMP Service provision or any further information from SOUL website www.soul-yemen.org, or SOUL's Office during working hours [0800 to 15:30 hours] from Saturday till Wednesday.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by May, 2nd, 2011

Attn: Nadeen Noor, HMP Technical officer

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Yemen terrorists are pawns of power

By: Sarah Phillips

YEMEN is at an extraordinary juncture, but 32-year stalwart President Ali Abdullah Saleh won't go without a fight and he is using every trick in the book to cling to power. The most problematic trick is his penchant for releasing militant jihadis from prison when his legitimacy with the West is strained.

While the story has not been widely released, local security sources have confirmed that this is just what he did on March 8 when he quietly granted 70 al-Qa'ida suspects their freedom from a political security prison in Sanaa.

In other words, the man whom the US continues to look to for assistance against al-Qa'ida in Yemen has - again - released al-Qa'ida suspects from jail.

There have been dubious "escapes" from prison by al-Qa'ida figures in the past, the most audacious when 23 members walked out of the same high-security prison in February 2006.

Included in this group of 23 were two of the men who now lead al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula, the group US Secretary of Defence Robert Gates recently referred to as "perhaps the most dangerous of all the franchises of al-Qa'ida right now".

There are other reasons to doubt Saleh's genuine commitment to combating militant jihadis in Yemen. In 2007, he released convicted USS Cole bombing architect Jamal al-Badawi to house arrest, and pardoned

Fahd al-Quso, who was also convicted for the attack. Quso re-emerged in an AQAP video last year, threatening to attack US interests.

This all seems rather counter-intuitive. Why would Saleh release members of a group that actively threatens him, particularly when he has also undermined his local legitimacy by consenting to US airstrikes against them? The answer is that he has built his power on crisis and al-Qa'ida are agents of crisis.

The presence of al-Qa'ida in Yemen ensures that the West will continue to look at the country through a counter-terrorism prism at the exclusion of the other seismic shifts that occur there.

It ensures that the West will argue for "stability" and "orderliness" rather than change through the emergence of a movement that is built on the rejection of the President's smoke and mirrors.

In so doing, Saleh has read his audience very well and, essentially, got away with murder.

Ten days after releasing the 70 men from prison, he placed snipers armed with Dragunov rifles on the buildings that overlook "Taghair" (Change) Square in Sanaa. Within a few minutes, they killed more than 50 unarmed protesters and injured hundreds more. Footage of the massacre shows the snipers targeted those who used handheld cameras to record the protest. Local sources say that ambulances were barred from entering the area and that government hospitals were told not to assist the injured.

Conscious of the security threat Yemen wields, US President Barack Obama responded to the massacre by saying "those responsible for today's violence must be held accountable", as if to suggest that Saleh might not really have been behind it.

Gates also tried to avoid commenting on the behaviour of America's ally when he said:

"I don't think it's my place to talk about internal affairs in Yemen." He later elaborated when he was asked by a journalist: "How dangerous is . . . a post-Saleh Yemen to the United States?"

Gates's answer articulated the vain hope that Saleh was the man to prevent al-Qa'ida from gaining ground in Yemen. "We've had counter-terrorism co-operation with President Saleh and the Yemeni security services," he said.

"So if that government collapses, or is replaced by one (which) is dramatically more weak, then I think we'd face some additional challenges out of Yemen, there's no question about it."

But this is a leap of faith for the US. As a source close to Saleh once told me, the President's strategy is to "sell al-Qa'ida to the highest bidder". By sanctioning the release of the 70 prisoners from the political security prison in Sanaa, Saleh has tried to insure himself against becoming obsolete.

For a man who has ruled by creating chaos and confusion among those who might challenge him, releasing people who can show just how dangerous Yemen can be is the sale he was looking for.

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An interview with UNHCR representative Dr. Claire Bourgeois “It would be very difficult to say that there are higher rates of HIV/AIDS amongst refugees than the Yemeni population.”

Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula that is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its subsequent 1967 Protocol. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) first established operations in Sana'a in 1992, in response to the ongoing large-scale influx of Somali refugees across the Sea of Aden.

Yemen faces a number of specific and unique challenges pertaining to mixed migration flows. Some refugees are fleeing war and persecution in the Horn of Africa, while others are searching for economic opportunities in the Gulf states or beyond.

Although Somalis are granted immediate prima facie refugee status, other nationalities must go through a Refugee Status Determination process.

The emergence of the nationwide pro-democracy protests demanding an end to President Saleh's 33-year rule has created a host of new challenges for the UNHCR. Refugees who are fleeing bloody conflict in their own country may now find themselves in a Yemen that is facing increasing levels of social upheaval, a non-responsive government and a dearth of socioeconomic opportunities.

To learn more about the UNHCR's work in Yemen, Ali Saeed of the Yemen Times met with Dr. Claire Bourgeois, a representative of the UN organization.

How do you assess your operations in Yemen during periods of unrest?

The present situation affects both refugees and asylum seekers. They are worried about the situation and also about the assistance that can be provided to them.

The main point is that refugees are worried about where to go. They fled their own country because of problems in their country. 99% [of refugees in Yemen] are from Somalia, so for them, if the situation continues to be really difficult in some areas, they continue to be really afraid.

We have told them that they should not participate in the demonstrations, even if they are pushed to do so or are attracted to doing so. They need to keep a neutral political position in Yemen.

Did the Yemeni government come to you and complain that some refugees are participating in demonstrations?

No. I have not heard any such thing from the government. I have also spoken with the head of refugees and have sent messages saying that refugees should not be manipulated by anybody. Refugees cannot take any sort of political position.

Do you face any financial shortages because of the unrest in Yemen?

At the moment, we are concerned with the outcome of the situation. It has been more difficult to raise funds to continue operations.

Some activities have unfortunately been put on standby. You may have heard of the example in Aden where difficult in accessing schools has forced most schools to close.

Another problem is that some convoys of refugees coming from Somalia via Mayfa'a and the Bab Al-Mandab cannot leave Mayfa'a to come to Aden because of turbulence in either Abyan or Aden.

So refugees need to stay for a longer period of time in reception centers and this requires us to provide assistance for a longer period of time. We have started stocking goods so that we can respond to increased needs.

In spite of the unrest in Yemen, the influx of refugees – especially from Africa – is increasing. Can you explain why?

There are a number of reasons. First of all, in the case of Somalia, refugees are fleeing their home due to continued civil war. Somalia is still not a country that has found peace and it is for this reason that Somali refugees keep flowing into Yemen – because of fear for security and safety.

The number of Ethiopians coming to Yemen is also really high – about 15,000 over the past three months. Most of them are economic migrants. They are here looking for jobs or hoping that they can cross and go into Saudi Arabia. The economic situation might be more difficult in Ethiopia than the situation here. But we do know that they are not seeking asylum here. The percentage of [Ethiopian] asylum seekers is really low.

So is there any plan to contain the problem coming from Ethiopia?

There is now a bilateral program between Ethiopia and Yemen that has been initiated by the International Organization of Migration (IOM), which is an international agency that deals with migrants.

What we are doing at the UNHCR is that we're conversing with migrants to make sure that none among them are asylum seekers. If they are seeking asylum, they are under the UNHCR's mandate. If they are not seeking asylum, they are usually trying to find a job here or to cross into Saudi Arabia through Haradh.

We do tell migrants that they should not cross into Saudi Arabia and the IOM is working with the Government of Yemen to see how such people can be returned to Ethiopia.

The UNHCR is working very actively on this issue. I recently met the ambassador of Ethiopia to see how we might discourage people from coming, because of the situation in Yemen being what it is. It is not easy to find a job in Yemen and to go to Saudi Arabia is even more difficult. We need to spread this information at the source, in Ethiopia.

Many of African refugees are drowning in the sea every month and the Government of Yemen says that its capacity is not great enough to support the Yemeni government to improve their sea capabilities?

We need to recognize that the coast guard already has more capacity than it used to, thanks to support received from different kinds of donors. We at the UNHCR are responsible for looking after people and not so much for providing naval equipment. Our contribution is to ensure that the people who are rescuing refugees at sea are devoted to the task, regardless of where the refugees are coming from.

What percentage of asylum seekers are granted asylum in Yemen?

Overall, the rate of recognition is about 60 percent. This means that among the people who come to seek asylum, after each individual has been interviewed, reviewed and analyzed, about 60 percent are accepted.

Do most people tend to seek asylum or economic opportunity?

Last year, about 45,000 Ethiopians came to Yemen. Overall, about 24 percent were seeking asylum, but we later recognized that the majority – about 95 percent – were actually economic migrants. They did not come to seek asylum. They only came to make money in Yemen or other countries.

Can you tell us how large the UNHCR's budget is in Yemen? How much of it goes towards addressing the interests of refugees? Some people say that only 25 percent of the budget actually helps refugees, while the rest is used to pay employees.

About 80 percent of the budget that we receive goes towards implement-



Dr. Claire Bourgeois

ing projects for refugees. We also have projects for internally displaced people because of the conflict in Sa'ada.

Of course, the vast majority of the money is for the refugees and the displaced persons – to provide them with protection and documentation, to make sure that their kids go to school, to rehabilitate schools, to provide medical facilities with drugs, as well as to rehabilitate some vocational training centers for refugees and the Yemeni population. We have a variety of projects that benefit both Yemenis and the refugees.

But you did not tell me how much your budget is.

The budget for this year is USD 50 million. But since we didn't get all of the allocated money right away, we've started with a budget of USD 30 million. We planned activities on the basis of a USD 50 million budget and that means that USD 20 million worth of projects can't be implemented until we receive more contributions from donors.

Do refugees have health insurance?

Refugees can't have access to Yemeni health insurance and that means that we – the UNHCR – are their insurance. It means that we are paying for all of the refugee's drugs. If some refugees need to have high-level medical care in a hospital, some hospitals can contribute services free of charge. Some do charge for services and in this case we pay on behalf of the refugee.

Some Yemenis say that many African refugees coming to Yemen are carrying the HIV/AIDS virus. Do you carry out periodical HIV/AIDS tests among refugees so as to examine their health condition?

First of all, it would be very difficult to say that there are higher rates of HIV/AIDS amongst refugees than the Yemeni population. Unless this were proven by a study, what we really need to be focusing on is programming. If someone is diagnosed with

HIV/AIDS, how can that person be treated? How can we also develop a prevention awareness campaign in the community?

We are working closely with the National Anti-AIDS Program and we have agreed with the government that we should not test every incoming refugee to see whether they have HIV/AIDS or not. However, the test should be available if a refugee or a Yemeni wished to be tested. We need to see how we can address this problem.

Why is there a huge difference between your statistics and the government's regarding the number of refugees in Yemen? You say that there are no more than 180,000 refugees in the country, whereas the Yemeni government says that there are more than 1 million.

You are right and I got the same question last week from the government. I do not know the precise answer regarding the statistics of the government. Maybe, when the government says that there are 1 million refugees in Yemen, they are referring to both asylum seekers and economic migrants. There might be some confusion in terminology.

If we calculate the number of migrants who have come to Yemen over the past fifteen years, I think we would come up with a number of around 700,000 or 800,000, including refugees.

According to conventional terminology, refugees are people who fled their own country because of security threats to their lives. For the UNHCR, we have registered about 118,000 Somali refugees in Yemen, plus about 10,000 non-Somali refugees.

So I think that the difference may be a question of terminology. For example, I can say that last year 50,000 Somalis and Ethiopians arrived in Yemen. The year before, 70,000 Ethiopians arrived in Yemen. They year before that, it was about 60,000. So if you add those figures with the ten years prior, it will come out to about 700,000 people, with migrants and refugees together.

HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



This weekly column disseminates health information to readers in Yemen and beyond. Dr. Siva currently works at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Lifestyle, diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and naturopathy are his passions.

Health secrets of lemons

The health benefits of lemons that have been known for centuries. Ancient Egyptians believed that eating lemons and drinking lemon juice offer protection against a variety of poisons. Lemons contain many substances- the fruity citric acid, calcium, magnesium, potassium, vitamin C, bioflavonoids, pectin, and limonene- that promote immunity and fight infection. Lemon has antibacterial, antiviral, and immune-boosting powers. There's so much more to this little yellow fruit. Whether you use them in the form of juice, teas, drinks, dressing, poultices or in the bath, take advantage of lemons' natural healing power.



Abolishes acne

Lemon contains citric acid, which can be effective in treating acne. In addition to drinking lemon juice with water first thing in the morning, you can apply fresh lemon juice on acne and leave it overnight. Wash with water the following morning. Apply a mixture of freshly squeezed lemon juice with an equal part of honey on affected areas for at least half an hour and wash. Repeat in the morning and the evening.

Abandons anxiety

Research has shown that lemon has a calming effect and therefore may be able to help remove fatigue, exhaustion, dizziness, anxiety, nervousness, and tension. Inhaling lemon oil helps in increasing concentration and alertness.

Mitigates mouth sore

Rinsing your mouth with freshly squeezed lemon in a glass of lukewarm water three times a day soothes and cures mouth sores.

Fights fever and cold

Here is a method that can ease symptoms of fever and cold: add the juice of 1 lemon to a cup of hot water with honey and drink at once, then every 2 hours until the fever or chill subsides.

Lemon helps in cold, runny nose and throat pain too.

Drink the freshly squeezed juice of 1 lemon in a glass of lukewarm water every 2 hours, for cold.

For sore throat, add the juice of 1 lemon and 1 teaspoon (5ml) of sea salt to 1 cup (250ml) lukewarm water. Gargle three times a day for 1 minute to diminish the burning sensation. If it's a case of tonsillitis, gargle every 2 hours for at least 30 seconds with the freshly squeezed juice of 1 lemon.

Cures corns and calluses

Lemon poultices applied overnight are a good home remedy for corns and calluses. Place a slice of lemon approx 5 mm thick on to the corn, bandage and fasten. Dabbing the affected area with lemon essential oil also helps accelerate the healing process.

Eases eczema

If you suffer from skin infection such as eczema, a lemon wrap may offer relief. Add 8 drops of lemon essential oil to 1 cup (250ml) lukewarm water and 1 tablespoon (15ml) of liquid honey. Honey also has anti-inflammatory effect and strengthens the healing power of lemon.

Soak a linen cloth in the liquid and gently place the cloth on the affected area for 15 minutes. 2 to 3 times a day. Not only will this ease the infection, it will counter the overwhelming urge to scratch.

Fights fatigue

A small amount of lemon juice will quench thirst more effectively than many times the amount of water. Lemon has Potassium which with combat fatigue and electrolyte loss due to sweating, diarrhea or vomiting. Lemon juice also has antiseptic qualities. Lemon oil also seems to be able to stimulate brain activity so whenever you feel tired for no reason or are finding it hard to focus or concentrate, add 4 drops of lemon oil to a water-filled aromatherapy lamp. Alternatively, drink a glass of lemon water every few hours.

Banishes bad breath

Lemons can help freshen breath. Rinse your mouth several times a day with the freshly squeezed juice of 1 lemon in a glass of lukewarm water. Chewing on a lemon slice after every meal will also help.

Helps hypertension

Add 3 crushed garlic cloves and 1 chopped onion to 1 liter of skimmed milk or soy milk. Slowly bring to the boil and let it stand for 5 minutes. Pour through a sieve and chill. Add freshly squeezed juice of 3 lemons and sip throughout the day.

The pectin in lemons along with its other metabolism and circulation boosting nutrients can help lower cholesterol.

Soothes bug bites

Massage 1 to 2 drops of lemon oil, mixed with 1 teaspoon of honey, into the skin around the bite, after removing the sting.

To repel insects, add 20 drops of lemon oil to 1 cup (250ml) of water and spray into the air. It smells great and repels insects at the same time. Another home remedy is to place a cotton ball soaked in lemon oil in your bedroom. If you are sitting outside in the evening, apply lemon scent to skin areas not covered in clothing.

Or, add 10 drops of lemon oil to 1 1/2 oz of sunflower oil and rub into the skin.

Puts insomnia to rest

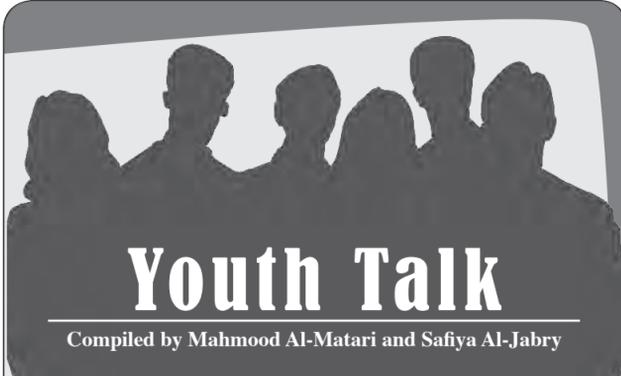
Several studies have found that lemon balm combined with other calming herbs (such as valerian, hops, and chamomile) helps reduce anxiety and promote sleep. In a recent double-blind, placebo-controlled study, 18 healthy volunteers received two separate single doses of a standardized lemon balm extract (300 mg and 600 mg) or placebo for 7 days. The 600 mg dose of lemon balm increased mood and significantly increased calmness and alertness.

Pulverizes pain

Lemon juice has a powerful alkaline effect in the body and is therefore a natural agent against excess acid, which is in part responsible for many illnesses. Drink freshly squeezed lemon juice in a glass of lukewarm water, 3 times a day. Lemon oil has pain-relieving qualities, so to inhibit inflammation and ease pain, massage the affected area daily with several drops of lemon oil mixed with 1 tablespoon (15ml) jojoba oil.

Vanishes varicose veins

Lemon oil has vessel-strengthening properties that can help fight varicose and spider veins. For spider veins, take 2 to 3 drops of lemon oil every day and mix in a small bowl with jojoba, avocado or almond oil and massage the affected area. For varicose veins, add 6 drops of lemon oil to 50 ml of wheat germ oil, and 2 drops each of cypress and juniper oil. Use this mixture daily for a gentle massage of the legs from bottom to top.



Youth Talk

Compiled by Mahmood Al-Matari and Safiya Al-Jabry

In this 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:

Do you think that the president Ali Saleh is making the right decisions for the country?

Saddam Al-Samadi

If the president is seemingly making the right decision, then why are there more and more people accumulating in change squares throughout the country demanding his immediate ouster? It is clear that the current regime is slowly weakening and will soon come to an end. It's just a matter of time before the sun shines again on all Yemenis when he finally steps down.

L. Ali

I don't believe the president is making a wrong decision by staying in power until now because he is agreeing to fulfill people's demand. Plus there is no one who is willing to come forward and take the responsibility of being the president. Until such a person comes forward and steps up, I think the demonstrators against the president should peacefully go back home.

Abdulrahman Saif Alshamiry

Ali Saleh is trying to cling to the power without much care of the cost. In these past weeks, his regime succeeded to some extent just to shut up people from expressing their demands and needs. Days continue to prove that nothing scares him. On the other hand, history has proven that bullets never succeed to muzzle tongues from chanting free and revolutionary words. Those who seek freedom will eventually come to taste the fruits of their efforts.

Yemeni Woman

People in Yemen should be realistic and learn from Tunisia and Egypt. They wanted to overthrow their presidents and what benefits are they enjoying now? They still live in unstable countries where people die every day due to meaningless demonstrations. So far, our president still talks to his people and is trying to make them come to their senses. He will step down eventually so people need to be patient and wait for that to happen peacefully. Don't forget we are still a developing country.

Khalid Alkarimi, college student

The wrong decisions set by President Saleh are the prime reason behind the nation's deterioration in all aspects. I am confident to say he has paralyzed minds that lack the ability to think clearly. If he is a man of sensible resolutions, Yemen would not experience such a crisis. Reputedly, he is wise, yet wisdom abandons his brain. He is insanely dragging the country to a grave dilemma. Saleh wants to demolish the simple achievements realized in the course of his reign prior to his departure.

Qahtan Nagi Al-Mowled, Journalist

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our opinions. I don't think the president is making the right decision for the country. If he is making the right decision, he would do his best to get the country out of this bad situation it is in. Making the right decision means real freedom, development, equality and stability.

Abdulkhalek Al-Kamisi

I think the president has not yet fulfilled the promises he made to the youth like providing 60,000 jobs opportunities within three months. He must be in contact with ministries to receive the youth's requests.

Sultan Al-Saudi

Yes, I believe he is doing the right thing, the concessions are the proof. Anti-government protesters should accept them and take the responsibility and the consequences for what happening in the country these days.

Walada Abubaker

In my opinion he did not do the right thing when he gives amnesty to the trouble makers after every demonstrations in the country, he should take them for trial if they wronged. He must not allow the same ministers to move from one ministry to another.

Alia Ahmad

I don't think he is doing exactly what he must do as the president right now. He has to make real and particular changes. He should build the nation before building the country.

Next Week's Question:

The youth make up a large percentage of the Yemeni population yet they are not effective both politically and socially, why do you think this is?

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 tyyouth@gmail.com
So this is your chance to share your humorous stories, poems or opinions with other young readers!



One man prays solemnly at a memorial honoring the martyrs of the March 18th massacre in Sana'a.

YT photo by Jeb Boone

Thank you, martyrs

By: Najji Gazali
naji734@gmail.com

The brutal killing of over 50 young students and protesters in Change Square was the last straw for this regime to continue governing us with any moral or legal status. It has become criminal, illegal, and anything against it is fare game. Real Yemenis stepped out from their comfort zone and declared their defection after seeing those young martyrs killed without any mercy, where killers pointed their guns to upper parts of the demonstrators intending to do nothing but to kill them. But they did know that every time they killed one martyr, they were only digging their own graves deeper, and bringing their day of removal a little bit closer. Yes, Saleh has hastened his overthrow by ordering his thugs to massacre those young men, who faced death with naked breasts and unbelievable courage. Their deaths have awoken many respectable and honorable men who now refuse to continue supporting Saleh. Military leaders, tribal leaders, ambassadors, ministers, parliamentarians, and other civil society leaders rushed to Change Square declaring their alliance to the revolution. One defection was the biggest lost to the Saleh regime. It was Ali Mohsen's defection.

Without Ali Mohsen's defection, this revolution would be targeted again. It must be noted that what this man did is honorable, and he must be credited for it. Saleh will retaliate against him, possibly by removing him or trying to do so. In fact, Saleh lost his mind and ordered his defense minister to go on national TV to declare that the army is with the president, despite Mohsen's defection. Such a hasty and short declaration by the defense minister only shows how much of a blow the defection of Mohsen was to the president. Even the republican guard commanders have defected after Mohsen paved the road of defection, or as I call it, the road of correction, and sided with the revolution of the people. Now Saleh is really on the defensive, when only two days ago he was on the offensive against the revolution. That is the decisive blow that Ali Mohsen has struck.

I know a lot of us in the revolution, and ordinary oppressed Yemenis, are not satisfied with Ali Moshen's record. But let us be wise and practical and accept him as a supporter, but never as a leader. In fact, it must be known by all the military leaders and tribal leaders who have joined the revolution, that

those martyrs who died for change will not have another dictator. Those martyrs died so Yemenis will be governed by those who they elect freely. We need leaders who do not have any association with the deposed regime. We need a civilian leader to lead Yemen. The military men are welcome to stay

in their barracks, but they must give up any government position if they want to get paid for their services. Those tribal leaders who are getting paid for their loyalty will have to find a job to feed themselves. No more free lunches. The end of the regime means the end of corruption. Saleh is going in the

coming days. Salutes and bowed heads to the martyrs of the revolution, who have changed Yemen's future in days. May all your martyrs rest in peace in heaven where you are alive. You have given us another chance to live in dignity, and we will not let your sacrifice go in vain.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT Yemen Microfinance Network (YMN)

The Social Fund for Development (SFD) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) jointly initiated a project to establish the first member based National Microfinance Network in country. The network, an entity in its own is called the Yemen Microfinance Network (YMN). YMN will act as a secretariat for the Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in Yemen, creating a platform for member institutions to strengthen themselves as capable and viable institutions enabling them to reach the poor of the Republic of Yemen in the most effective and efficient manner. YMN will focus on training, capacity building, information exchange and transparency.

YMN is looking for capable individuals, who are resident of Yemen (Yemeni nationals), to fill up the following position, based in Sana'a.

Finance Assistant:

To successfully achieve the objectives of capacity building and increasing transparency in the sector, under the overall leadership of the Managing Director of the Network, Finance Assistant will be responsible for:

Specific Responsibilities:

- Monitor and record of all receipts/expenses and prepare reports on periodic basis;
- Day-to-day book keeping of all expenses;
- Monitor budget variance and prepare reports of approved and actual expenses on monthly basis;
- Process monthly payroll and payments to third parties including consultants and service providers;
- Ensure timely deposit of all Govt. liabilities including taxes, utility bills etc.
- Maintain petty cash and prepare daily cash closing statement;
- Liaison with banks and prepare bank reconciliation statements on monthly basis;
- Prepare monthly financial reports including income statement and balance sheet and ensure its timely submission to donors;
- Assist the management in preparation of annual budgets;
- Ensure compliance of YMN finance and accounting policies, accounting procedures of donors in all expenses;
- Maintain fixed asset register and inventory of all office supplies;
- Make sure that all financial records and backup documentation is ready for internal and external audits;
- Take lead on collection of information/data from network members to ensure transparency in the sector;
- Responsible for SEEP forecast and analysis of data for members
- Collect members audited financial statements and fill in the Mix tool
- Review and ensure accuracy of financial reports submitted by members;
- Assist network members in completion of periodic financial data reports for reporting to Mix Market and other stakeholders;
- Facilitate trainings of finance managers of network members on microfinance reporting and industry standards;
- Assist in the preparation and development of network financial procedures
- Work closely with internal and external auditors;

Skills/qualifications/experience:

- Bachelor Degree (Masters preferred) in Accounting, Finance or Economics;
- At least 2 – 3 years experience of accounting and bookkeeping;
- Experience with Yemen soft Accounting system;
- Familiar with donors grants system
- Ability to read data and translate graphical tables and formulas
- Experience in reporting and coordinating audits;
- Excellent writing and communication skills in English and Arabic;
- Excellent computer skills, knowledge of accounting software will be a plus. High proficiency in MS Excel required;
- Ability to work independently within tasks assigned, and as part of a team in terms of collaborative climate and dedication to deliver results;
- Work as a very reliable and trustworthy member of the team
- Demonstrated high professional and ethical standards;
- Ability to manage multiple projects within a dynamic environment with a high level of urgency without compromising productivity;

Submission guideline:

The application should comprise of a **one page cover letter clearly stating the position applying for and explaining the applicants' interest and suitability for the position**, indicating earliest joining date if selected, and a CV.

Interested candidates should submit their application by email to: hr@yemennetwork.org before the deadline of 27th April 2011. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

Other information:

The position will be subject to a comprehensive term of reference and this document will serve as the official task and duties for the above mentioned position.

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New Yemeni syndicate protects IT workers and disseminates culture of technology

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

A Telecommunications and IT Syndicate is a newly-established Yemeni syndicate which aims to protect programmers, graphics designers, and all workers in the field of information technology, computer science and telecommunication market.

Mohammed Al-Riyashi, head of the Syndicate spoke to the Yemen Times about aims and ambitions of the syndicate that has about 1100 members.

According to Al-Riyashi, all members of the syndicate are working in networks, websites and graphics designing, telecommunication, computer programming and IT science. He said that those members are preparing for enacting laws that will protect rights of Yemeni computer programmers.

"Yemeni workers in this field face many problems like hacking their websites and stealing their information," he said. "We aim to protect Yemeni programmers and websites designers from hackers, as well as protecting intellectual properties." He said.

"The syndicate registers any intellectual property and grants patent for programmers. We call for all computer programmers to apply for patent to keep their rights and

intellectual properties," he said.

According to Al-Riyashi, the syndicate is a very important in Yemen because there is no Yemeni authority protects those people who face continuous problems and violations without protection. "Computer programmers and IT specialists cannot do anything if they face any problem because they have no rights or protection."

He indicated that the syndicate has a disputes section aims to solve problems between workers and their employers in the computer and telecommunication sector, calling for the Ministry of justice to establish a section for solving problems concerned with IT and computer issues.

We call for all workers in the computer field to cooperate with us because this syndicate was established with the aim of protecting them.

Activities and training

In addition to its protection for the computer programmers and specialists, the syndicate has implemented several activities and free training for several NGOs and associations like Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, Yemeni Institution for dissemination of Culture and Knowledge, Al-Mostafa Women's charity Association, Al-Rahma Foundation for caring Orphans.

"We will focus on dissemination



Mohammed Al-Riyashi

of the culture of using computer and information technology among Yemenis," he explained.

Al-Riyashi indicated that the syndicate has no aid from any governmental or private sectors. "We depend on financial contribution of the syndicate's members. Those members are keen to activate the

syndicate from their own pocket."

"The government doesn't support us financially or morally," he said.

In Yemen, there are many professional and good computer programmers and designers but they lack support and encouragement, according to Al-Riyashi.

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"We have a section for research and development that aim to help graduates to train them to be able to work in this field," he said.

"We are about to launch a website that has electronic library and technical support for people who are interested in computer science and IT. Anybody can ask us about any technical issue and we will provide consultation to them. We will provide the website's visitors with distance learning as well," Al-Riyashi said.

Governmental-run Telecommunication and Post Syndicate and other NGOs have asked us to cooperate with each other in training

different employees as well as organizing different activities.

"We are ready to train employees or people in different organizations or associations freely," he said. "We welcome people who want to be a member in this new ambitious syndicate."

4U

If you are willing to be a member of the syndicate or want to contact with the syndicate to take a help or consultation. You can call on this number: 711267335

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