

Female protesters accuse president of defamation

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Apr. 17 — Female anti-government protesters from Al-Tagheer Square in Sana'a have submitted a criminal charge of defamation to the general prosecutor's office against President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The charge has been made against the Minister of Information, Hassen Al-Lawzy, the head of the Yemeni Public Corporation for Radio and Television, Hussein Moqbel Ghuthem, and the directors of Yemen, Shaba, Eman, and Aden television channels. The complaint was for libel and slander because of the president's accusation that the mixing of men and women in 'Change Square' is un-Islamic.

Following Wikileaks revelations of President Saleh's taste for fine whiskey, he is not known for his piety among Yemenis.

Thousands of Yemeni women marched on Saturday and Sunday against President Saleh in the capital Sana'a, in one of the largest protest marches witnessed since they erupted in early February.

"We participated in the peaceful demonstrations beside our brothers in Al-Tagheer Square since early Feb. 2011. We were practicing our rights of expressing our opinions in a civilized way via peaceful demonstrations as granted by Yemen's constitution," said a protester in 'Change Square'. "After Friday prayers, President Saleh accused us of mixing with men in a manner forbidden by Islam in front of 5,000 people in Al-Sabeen Square."

On Friday, President Saleh in a speech called on the "Joint Meeting Parties to use their conscience and to join the dialogue in order to agree on one decision for the sake of the security and stability of this nation. I call on them to reject the mixing of sexes as it is forbidden by Islam. The mixing of sexes is forbidden in the Al-Jami'ah Street."

In a march on Siteen St., well-known female activists mingled with male protesters as a response to the President's speech, to show that there is nothing is wrong in practicing their rights. Some female protesters offended by the president's speech were assaulted by soldiers from the 1st Armored Division and had their cell phones and cameras confiscated according to a statement from HEMAIA, a coalition of lawyers and activists. HEMAIA condemned the assault on peaceful female protesters.

"These assaults are what the corrupt regime wants to happen to the protesters. The protesters do not need a testimony on their behavior," read the statement. HEMAIA demanded that leaders of the JMP take the necessary actions to stop these kind of assaults on protesters by JMP members.

Summer Ali, one of the protesters at Al-Tagheer Square, said that the president has always been using women's rights to promote himself, but is now speaking against what he said in his electoral speeches. "Wasn't he [Saleh] the one who suggested 44 seats for women in a parliament among 267 male parliamentarians last year to get out of his political crisis? Isn't that the kind of mixing that he now calls forbidden?"

Does he only pick the standard that suits him when he needs them?"

Frieda Al-Yaremi, the first female to join the protesters at 'Change Square' in February, said that women in Yemen's conservative society need to revolt twice: first against the regime, and second against a hypocritical society.

The role women in the protests that began on Feb. 3 was initially limited. Activists expected that the government and the General People's Congress (GPC) would respond violently against the protests. This fear initially led the opposition Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) to call on its female members not to join the protests and stay at home. However, on the same day the GPC encouraged its supporters to take to the streets in response to the opposition. The GPC rally was protected by the military, and they bussed in women and girls to show their support for the ruling party and its president.

The face of the opposition protests have now changed. Anti-government demonstrations in Sana'a now include four large tents especially for women. Here they can eat, pray and sleep away from the male protesters. During the day, many hundreds of women attend the protest, and are as vocal as their male counter-parts.

On the first day of the protest, 30 men came to set up their tents outside Sana'a University. On the second day, Farida Al-Yarimi, a 47-year-old mother of two girls and three boys set up her tent at the protest. This shocked many in Yemen's deeply conservative society where it is considered illegal to sleep in the same



Thousands of angry women went on the March in Sana'a to condemn Saleh's statement that women and men should not mix at protests

area as men unknown to the woman. However, over the coming weeks, more women joined the demonstration, and they are encouraging others to do so.

"I knew what I did wasn't expected, but one of us had to start doing something. When I first came here I expected the worst, but it was great. The way the

men protected me and secured the tent was good. Even traditional tribesmen don't look down at us now. This revolution has brought back the good behaviors of the past," reflected Al-Yarimi on her experience.

Al-Yarimi's family joined her two days after she set up her tent, and she has since become a leading female pro-

tester. Most female protesters are over 40, as many Yemeni families are still preventing their daughters from participating in the demonstrations.

Azmi Beshara, an Arab intellectual, has said that a new civilized culture has emerged in Change Square that has moved the country forward 10 years in only a few months.

Opposition bows to Gulf proposal, agrees to attend Riyadh talks

By: Muhammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, April 17th — Representatives of Yemen opposition coalition (JMP) left to Riyadh Sunday evening to explain their position on the current situation in Yemen, Mr. Sultan al-Atwani told Yemen Times.

Mr. Yassin Saeed No'man, the JMP supreme council current chairman, told the press that the delegation will affirm to the GCC foreign ministers its commitment to the first initiative adopted by Gulf leaders to settle the political mayhem in Yemen and put the ministers in the picture.

The Gulf states have announced a proposal for president Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down, but was later amended to call for him to transit his

powers to his deputy. This has alarmed both the protestors and the opposition that Saleh may remain in his current post even as an honorary president.

Well-placed sources in Riyadh had said that GCC foreign ministers would hold on Sunday their third consecutive meeting to discuss the worsening situation in Yemen, which is a member to the GCC in some of its bodies including those of education, health, labor...etc.

The same sources said that the GCC foreign ministers would discuss during the meeting conditions in Yemen and would meet a delegation of the Yemeni opposition before the meeting that had been suggested a week before to solve the problem in the country peacefully.

The ministers will hold a closed meeting before talking to the six-member

Yemeni delegation representing all opposition parties and groups in order to debate the initiative clauses and ways to implement it.

The sources expected the meeting to conclude positive results "that would meet Yemenis' expectations".

Nevertheless, other sources said that Yemeni delegation is determined to pinpoint a date for Yemeni president to step down before engaging in joint negotiations with the Yemeni government delegations.

According to these sources, the GCC foreign ministers are also resolute to solve the problem during that meeting to "stop bloodshed resulting from the confrontations between anti and pro-president demonstrators".

Yemen has seen demonstrations since

January 27 demanding president Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has been in power for 33 years, be overthrown. About 130 persons were killed and thousands were injured during the protests.

Dr. Yassin Saeed No'man said that the JMP will consult with the Gulf officials over the contents of their first initiative that talked about the president's resignation and not to dialogue with the government.

He told Aljazeera on Saturday evening that the JMP had been confused about the new Gulf initiative, which included positions that he would not as "discrepant" but as "different" that have caused confusion because they are different from the previous initiative concerning the president's stand-down.

Continued on page 3

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Yemeni teachers to escalate strike into civil disobedience

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Apr. 17 — Yemeni teachers who have been on strike and have now had their salaries stopped, have responded by escalating their strike into civil disobedience until their demands are met.

The Yemeni Teacher's Syndicate and the Yemeni Educational Professions Syndicate issued a statement last Saturday condemning the "authoritarian practices against teachers who are on strike demanding their rights."

For more than five years, Yemeni teachers have been demanding allowances and increased salaries in accordance with promises from the government that have so far been unfulfilled.

The statement denounced the cutting of teachers' salaries as arbitrary, and called for all Yemeni teachers to maintain and escalate their strike until attaining their demands.

Mohammed Al-Maqrami, secretary-

general of the Educational Professions Syndicate, told the Yemen Times that most teachers have responded to the call to strike. He indicated that the strike has been almost total in the southern and eastern governorates, and in Sana'a almost 70 percent of teachers are now on strike.

"The stopping of teachers' salaries is not constitutional or legal. This is a flagrant breach of the constitution," he said.

The Ministry of Education has replaced protesting teachers with unskilled teachers, according to Al-Maqrami. "They have replaced our teachers with people from the security forces. Those people are totally unskilled in education or teaching," he explained.

Al-Maqrami described the recent actions of the ministry as "rude" and said that the ministry is unable to deal with the teachers' problems and demands.

"We formed a legal committee to set-

tle this violation against teachers, and have sued the Ministry of Education for illegally stopping teachers' salaries," he said.

Hasan Al-Khawlani, a former manager at the Ministry of Education, said that striking teachers have faced abuse on top of having their salaries cut. He added that the government has not responded to promised salary increases for the last six years.

Speaking to the Yemen Times, Al-Khawlani said: "Unfortunately, the Ministry of Education resorts to threatening teachers instead of giving them their rights." Al-Khawlani slammed the Ministry's initiative to replace striking teachers with unskilled workers.

"This is a thuggish action. It's unreasonable to replace those teachers with anybody," he said angrily. "The ministry has nothing except threats... We will escalate our strike and we will not stop until we have achieved our demands."

Saleh Loyal tribes destroy pipelines, power lines in Marib

By: Mohammad bin Sallam

SANA'A, April 16 — At 21:30 on Thursday a tribal group destroyed a number of power lines in Marib governorate, which led to power cuts in a number of Yemeni cities for around 20 hours, amongst them the capital Sana'a.

The journalist Hassan al-Zai'idi, who is from Marib, accused tribes that support the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) of being behind the repeated damage to the power lines. However, others are of the opinion that the al-Shabwani tribe are behind the damage to the power lines and the oil pipelines, in protest for the government's failure to respond to their demand for an investigation into the death of Jaber al-Shabwani, the secre-

tary-general of the Marib local council, who was killed by an American drone last year.

On the same day Marib also witnessed the destruction of an oil pipeline in the area of Sarawih, 40 km west of Marib City. Armed men from the Jahm tribe carried out this attack.

According to tribal sources, tribes led by a member of the local council of Sarawih district, who is a member of the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) Party, was the leader of the operation to blow up the pipeline, which is situated between the Kofal and al-A'roush stations.

The sources also indicated that a large amount of oil has leaked over an area of 9 km, and large flames are erupting from

the pipeline, as well as black clouds covering the area.

Sources spoke of citizen's resentment and dissatisfaction at these actions, which have been described as "destructive" and "irresponsible," especially as the armed men involved in this attack are supporters of the ruling party.

The same sources pointed out that, last Tuesday, the armed men themselves tried to damage the power lines situated on the Sana'a - Marib route, that provides the capital and other governorates with electricity, by attacking it with rocket propelled grenades. However, the attempt failed after tribal parties in support of the peaceful Yemeni revolution stopped them from this "destructive" attack, according to the source.

Youth urge rallies for "honor and dignity" next Sunday

By: Mohammad bin Sallam

SANA'A, Apr. 17 — A revolutionary youth regulatory committee in Sana'a has denounced the "slandorous" content of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's Friday speech, namely that which concerned the participation of Yemeni women in pro-democracy demonstrations at Sana'a University's Change Square. President Saleh claimed that the mixing of men and women at protests is "...not sanctioned by Islamic law," while the youth committee believes such a claim is an ethical violation of women's rights.

In a statement made on Friday evening, the committee asserted that President Saleh's slur against Yemeni women - made during a speech at Al-Sabeen Square in Sana'a - further exposes his latent psychopathy. The statement called upon all Yemenis to go out into the streets in millions next Sunday, so as to rally in support of national "honor and dignity".

The youth committee urged the international community to take all necessary steps to address insults that have been levied against Yemeni women who are taking part in the revolution.

Taiz clashes kill one, injure 14

By: Mohammad bin Sallam

SANA'A, Apr. 17 — One person was killed and 14 others were injured at pro-democracy demonstrations in Taiz this past Friday. Of the injured, three were in critical condition according to medical sources at Al-Hurria Square field hospital.

The clashes occurred when protesters marching from Al-Hujariah district to Al-Hurria Square were intercepted by security forces. Those who were injured were rushed to medical facilities in Najd Qasseem and Wadi Al-Qadhi junction.

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Opposition bows to Gulf proposal, agrees to attend Riyadh talks

As for his comment on the change in GCC position in their new initiative concerning president withdrawal, No'aman said that could be attributed to the secret official delegations sent by the regime: the first headed by the foreign minister and the second by Ali Al-Anesi, chairman of the National Security. According to No'aman, the delegations' mission was to mislead brothers in the GCC concerning realistic conditions in Yemen, which, he added, if not dealt with immediately may become very serious.

As for the rumored American-European proposal to schedule Saleh's departure within 30 days followed by his sons, relatives and Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar, he said, "What I know is that the ideas presented by the US and the EU are a schedule to implement the first Gulf proposal on Yemeni crisis".

Some JMP members have disclosed that the delegation will be led by Dr. Yassin Saeed No'aman and Mr. Mohammed Basondwah, head of the Preparatory Committee for National Dialogue. Other members will include Mr. Sultan al-Atwani, Secretary-General of the United Nasserite party and Mr. Abdul Wahab al-Anesi, Secretary-General of Islah party.

Special sources told Yemen Times that the delegation was supposed to include Mr. Hasan Zaid, Secretary-General of al-Haq party and Sakhr al-Wajih, an MP and member of the Preparatory Committee for National Dialogue, but Hameed al-Ahmar, the leading figure of Islah party called the two men Saturday evening telling them that it was not possible for them to participate in the delegation without giving reasons for that.

The first Gulf initiative indicated that sons of the president: Ahmed, commander of the Republican Guard and Ammar, deputy chairman of the National Security Chairan and the president's nephew, Yahia Mohammed Abdullah Saleh, chief of staff of the Central Security should leave Yemen.

Saudi news agency had said that the meeting would be held at the GCC headquarters in Riyadh and that it would be chaired by Mr. Abdullah bin Zaid Al Nahian, UAE foreign minister, the current chairman of the GCC ministerial council.

The agency also said that the meeting would aim to discuss developments in Yemen in view of what had been agreed by GCC states during their exceptional 31st meeting on April 3, 2011 and the exceptional 32nd meeting on April 10, 2011 concerning communicating with the government and the opposition in Yemen through the Gulf initiative.



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3. Work closely with the Outreach Coordinator and Monitoring and Evaluation officer of EA Yemen to keep track of the effectiveness of project activities.
4. Liaising with the implementing project partners and independently negotiate work strategies and implementation plan with them.
5. Coordinating with stakeholders of the project including Government of Yemen officials and the broadcasting agencies.
6. Maintaining and monitoring of the reporting calendar.
7. Working with program team members, Outreach Coordinator and M&E Officer for drafting and finalizing of quarterly and annual progress report on project activities for submission to donors on timely manner.
8. Work closely with the program, outreach teams and field staffs for collection and documentation of feedback from the audiences/beneficiaries/community, success stories and good impacts of the projects and ensure that those are incorporated in the reports.
9. Closely monitoring and evaluating the progress of team members, be responsible for management of staffs, including conducting performance reviews, setting attainment goals and providing mentoring and identifying opportunities to enable personnel to achieve these goals.

Required qualifications and skills:

1. Good understanding of Yemen's development concerns, particularly issues of young people in Yemen.
2. Candidate must have an advanced university degree in the relevant field or bachelors degree with at least 2 years of experience in related discipline.
3. Experienced in project planning and implementation.
4. Excellent ability to work on the project budgets and reporting against projects.
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6. Excellent communication and negotiation skills, presentation skills,

- planning and budget skills, ability to work according to planned budgets, to redesign projects and budgets will be essential.
7. Proven leadership skills and ability to manage a team with various backgrounds, ability, strengths and weaknesses.
8. Good knowledge of computer skills.

2. Outreach Assistant

Description of the duties:

1. Assist Outreach Coordinator in conceptualizing and design of the project's outreach activities.
2. Ensure smooth implementation of outreach activities within project time lines and make sure that required outputs and outcomes are achieved.
3. Be in touch with the listening group facilitators of EA Yemen's radio programs and follow up with them on regular basis to ensure they organise weekly listening sessions within their groups.
4. Collect feedback forms from the facilitators regularly and closely support the data entry process from the feedback forms to EA database.
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6. Support Outreach Coordinator to organize various outreach activities such as organizing round tables, workshops and trainings in the governorates and assist in documentation of the same.
7. Collect and maintain a database of monitoring data covering outreach activities.
8. Visit outreach sites as per the need.

Required qualifications and skills:

1. Candidate must have at least a bachelor degree in the related field of study, with at least 1 year of experience in similar capacity.
2. Should be able to supervise and manage outreach activities at the community level.
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6. Good communication skills (ability to speak/write in Arabic and English language) and interpersonal skills.
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9. Knowledge of monitoring and evaluation of programs/projects would be an extra benefit.

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8. Liaison with office staff and other stakeholders for effective and efficient running of EA Nepal day to day program.

Required qualifications and skills:

1. Have a bachelors' degree in a relevant background.
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Al-Rowaishan mass transport between a tribal rock and a government hard place

By: Amira Al-Arasi

Al-Rowaishan buses, Yemen's first and most famous means of mass transport, have stopped making trips between Sana'a and Marib, allegedly because of marauding highwaymen.

Mohammed Al-Khazraji, Al-Rowaishan's general manager, said that, "The company has been losing up to YR 150,000 a day since the incident that occurred on the highway last year. Between 12 December 2010 and 31 March 2011, that amounts to about YR 10 million."

Al-Khazraji described some of the tribesmen in Marib as being quasi-bandits. "The lack of any rule of law," he explained, "encourages such tribes to go too far and barefacedly blackmail the company."

The episode of alleged highway banditry took place on 12 December 2010 and there are a number of conflicting reports as to what actually took place. What is certain is that the incident resulted in several serious injuries amongst Al-Rowaishan employees. As a consequence the company has had to pay nearly YR 10 million in healthcare bills.

"We have issued an appeal for help from the national security services, but thus far it's been in vain," said Al-Khazraji.

"Immediately after the incident, six of our buses were detained by the tribesmen," continued Al-Khazraji. "Now, two buses are still being held. They refuse to repair the buses themselves so we have paid them USD 28,000 in cash [for maintenance]. We are losing money by the day. I have informed the Minister of the Interior and the Sana'a

security administration – as well as the transport administration – and they have all reached the same conclusion: they are not able to take any action against the tribesmen. They advised me instead to negotiate with the men, which we did, but without reaching any agreement."

The Yemen Times called Ali Mohammed Al-Qarith, a relative of one of the victims of the unfortunate event. According to him, two of his brothers and his son were driving their private car two kilometers from the refinery at which they work, when an Al-Rowaishan bus crashed into their vehicle, causing it to overturn six times.

"The bus driver fled the scene without even trying to save the victims," said Al-Qarith. "Some good people who happened to be at the locations of the accident took the injured people to a hospital. Now, one of my brothers is in a coma and is suffering spasms. I have also taken my injured relatives to Cairo to receive medical treatment."

Al-Qarith said that he sent a letter to Sheikh Mohammed bin Yahya Al-Rowaishan, overall chief of the Al-Rowaishan company, asking him to pay for the hospital bills that, up until this point, he has had to pay out of his own pocket. He claims that the company did not respond positively to his request and that his relatives are now one month behind their originally anticipated discharge date in Cairo.

Despite discrepancies between the statements given by Al-Rowaishan's traffic officer and the refinery employees, the statement that should most definitely be taken into consideration is that of the bus driver, Rasheed Al-Yafi'ee.

"While we were leaving the refinery," said "Al-Yafi'ee, "four armed men stopped us with their vehicle. Two of them boarded our bus and the other two

waited outside. An old man from the oil company pleaded for the men to leave us alone, but they did not pay him any attention. This is considered shameful according to tribal conventions. The armed men then asked the passengers to leave the bus immediately."

Al-Yafi'ee continued by saying that he was ordered by the gunmen to drive the bus to a certain yard, where he then parked and left with the ignition key in hand. After that, he informed Al-Rowaishan of the incident.

Ali Saleh, an employee of the oil company, told the Yemen Times a different version of the story: "The company I work for provides us with transportation home after every month of work. When the Al-Rowaishan bus arrived, I and seven of my colleagues got on board. About 50 kilometers from the refinery, a man brandishing a gun forced us to stop. Two young men – I believe they must have been between 18 and 20 years old – boarded the bus and asked us to get off. When we asked why, they told us that another Al-Rowaishan bus had collided with one of their tribe's vehicles (they were from the Hatiq tribe), causing injuries to the driver. They also said that after two months, their fellow tribesman had not received medical treatment, nor had his vehicle been repaired."

According to Saleh, he and the other refinery employees refused to get off the bus. One of the young armed men then called his father, who instructed them to seize the vehicle. An hour-long negotiation ensued, whereupon one of the refinery workers called his company to brief them on the situation. The refinery managed to organize three other cars to take the employees to Sana'a. The bus driver was left behind.

"I don't know what happened to the driver after the bandits took him and the

bus," said Saleh. "I think that if security forces had been there, none of this could have happened."

Tribes are known for being hospitable and generous to their guests (and even their hostages). However, when it comes to the injury or death of one of their people, if the government fails to impose a swift and acceptable penalty, the tribe becomes a government unto itself.

Ahmed Al-Turki, Al-Rowaishan's traffic officer, stated that the bus referred to by Ali Saleh is still being held by the tribesmen and that the driver had been released four days after the incident.

"At this moment," asserted Al-Turki, "there are three other [Al-Rowaishan] buses being held in Sayun, Al-Mukalla and Shabwa. There is no security – especially lately. All points of access and exit are controlled by the tribes."

As for the alleged accident with the tribesman's car, Al-Turki said, "The truth is that the car overturned next to our bus, but we had nothing to do with the accident. Tribes are difficult to reason with, though, so we had little choice but to ask the insurance company to pay them. I have no idea of the exact damage that were paid."

Al-Turki also said that Al-Rowaishan owns a total of 37 buses, whose routes cover most of the country.

The Yemen Oil Company has a contract with Al-Rowaishan, guaranteeing the safe transport of its employees to and from the capital.

"We have no choice but to contract Al-Rowaishan to move our employees in and out of Sana'a," said Tahrir Radman, the Yemen Oil Company's general director of financial and administrative affairs. "Moving them by air is very costly. But now we don't know what will happen – what safe alternative

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The Yemen Times also spoke with Sheikh Naji Al-Iradah, the mediator between the tribesmen and Al-Rowaishan, and who was chosen by Sheikh Al-Qarith and approved by the company.

"Al-Rowaishan has not denied the accident and has therefore paid a YR 1 million penalty," said Al-Iradah. "It also submitted four machine guns as a tribal arbitration convention immediately after the accident. After we held a meeting, the company agreed to pay a further USD 28,000 in cash for each of the USD 21,000 vehicles. This payment was made through me."

Al-Iradah continued by saying that, "As a tribal convention, when an arbitration is taking place, no party is allowed to violate the verdicts that are passed. Otherwise, the violator must pay a fine of up to YR 500,000. As such, when Al-Qarith held the buses after the mediation, this was considered a violation."

Al-Iradah added that Al-Rowaishan is still waiting for the tribesmen's healthcare bills, so as to be able to pay the remainder of its penalty.

"As their mediator," said Al-Iradah, "I had no idea that the injured persons were one month behind their discharge date [in Cairo]. Al-Qarith should have told me that."

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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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Al-Rebat Street
Hail Saeed Area
Sana'a City
P.O Box 18383

Tel: +967 1 474732/474733
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Fax: +967 1 204524
www.soul-yemen.org
E-mail: soul-yemen@y.net.ye, n_noor@soul-yemen.org

YT vision statement



Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999) Founder of Yemen Times

"To make Yemen a good world citizen."



OUR OPINION

How much will Yemen benefit from prosecuting the president?

What is happening in Egypt, Cote d'Ivoire and Libya is making our president stressed. After being president of 32 years he really does not want to end up like any of those rulers. However, at the same time, no one is giving him a clear exit or so it seems.

During the last week I have met with decision makers of various sides of Yemen's struggle and almost all agree that maybe they should just wipe the slate clean.

Even the youth in the streets protesting and vowing to do what it takes to make him "pay" could be turned around according to their leaders. Simultaneously, Saleh is going through very uneasy times with his family and close friends pressuring him into fighting back and not letting go.

Already Yemenis in Sana'a have started creating popular committees with names and shifts of the young men who will be in charge of protecting their streets. This is an indicator of probable escalation in the city.

Another indicator is the every now and then clash between Ali Muhsin Al-Ahmar's soldiers and that of the state. The casualties and extent of fight are somehow limited, yet there is no guarantee this will be the case in the near future.

Considering the pros and cons, and keeping aware of the backlash I am sure to get from the passionate protesters, I am advocating for letting Saleh and his family just go in peace.

We are stuck in a vicious circle of blaming and pointing fingers forgetting, that if we start the accountability game I am sure we would put two thirds of Yemenis in jail. Even today's heroes of the defecting general, Al-Ahmar family, and the many resigning officials have some explaining to do.

The burden is already heavy. There are so many challenges in the next stage that we can't afford to make new enemies or distractions.

Our mission is rebuilding Yemen, let history deal with the wrong doers.

Even Saleh with all his corruption has shown several signs of amnesty when he was much more powerful.

I am not saying forgive or forget. I am saying get over it. We have work to do.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Yemen: Children echo timeless call for peace

By: William Lambers For the Yemen Times

Yemen may not have much in common with Oregon, but there is a certain echo that the two surely want to share. Once upon a time, the hills of the Willamette Valley in Oregon were filled with echoes of rejoicing. It was a celebration of peace.

It was 1846 and word had reached the Valley that a peace settlement had been forged between the United States and Great Britain.

There was no CNN, no twitter or blogs back then, so it took months for them get the news by boat. But what great news! A boundary dispute between Britain and the U.S. was resolved via the Oregon Treaty. What the Oregon Spectator newspaper described as "the miseries of war" was averted.

150 plus years later, far away from the hills of Oregon, others are searching for their own celebration of peace. They are children in Yemen who are right now caught up in the unrest between supporters of longtime President Ali Abdullah Saleh and protesters who want him to step down.

This is not the first moment of trial for Yemenis. Even before the recent unrest, this country has suffered through a violent conflict in the north between the government and rebels. There has been a secessionist movement in Southern Yemen. The Al Qaeda terrorist group has made Yemen a base. Along with conflict there is tremendous hunger, malnutrition, poverty and a disappearing water supply.

Who suffer the most from this tragedy? Children. Last year three Yemeni children got to voice their message of hope for their embattled country. This was part of an interactive event hosted by Susan Rice, the US ambassador to the United Nations. Bashir Shalili, a boy from Yemen said, "We don't want war. We want peace. We have the right to education."

Hadil Mouafak provided a tragically accurate assessment of the state of many children in Yemen. The young girl said "Education is lousy, their health is poor. When you see them you feel sad inside. We want security and happiness for all the children in Yemen. We are tired."

Sleiman Sinan, a Yemeni boy said,

"frankly, this is an international crisis. Whoever has a say in this matter must help bring peace and security for the sake of the children."

UNICEF's Mohammed Al-Asaadi recently published a story whose title, "Yemen's children hold onto dreams amid violence" sums up the reality for the nations' youth.

The story profiles 17 year-old Ahmed who is trying to finish school. Ahmed says, "My friends and I should be studying and playing, without having to worry about politics or conflict."

Children and young adults don't get to make the decisions for a country, but yet they are the ones that have to deal most with the consequences.

In Yemen the protests have already turned deadly. What happens next? An escalation of violence or peace? Will the peacemakers, like the children we just heard from, step forward?

Back in 1846 for Oregon there were peacemakers like the veteran diplomat Albert Gallatin, who for many years championed an amicable resolution of the crisis. For Gallatin and other peacemakers knew what the costs of violence would mean. The people of Oregon were so thankful war would not visit their land.

The Oregon Spectator of that time read, "War is inimical to the prosperity of our institutions, poisonous to the very life blood of our happy republic. We have never yet come out of a war, however so glorious have been our achievements, however so victorious to us its termination, without having been retarded and thrown back in our progressive march."

Today, Yemen can ill afford more conflict. When you look at the scope of the problems of hunger, water shortage, poverty facing them, they cannot afford another setback from violence.

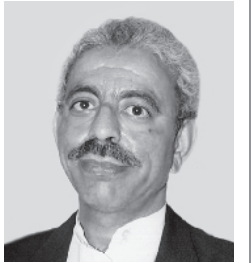
We watch news reports come in almost every hour from Yemen. Some of these show progress in peacefully resolving the standoff between protesters and President Saleh's supporters. But then will be an episode of deadly violence. Could this disintegrate into a civil war? No one knows where this is going.

One thing we can count on are the voices for peace. We can count on the hopes of the children. They are always with us. Can they prevail today in Yemen?

COMMON SENSE

Why it must be Over?

One would think that with so many millions of Yemenis, who have gone into the streets from Sa'ada to Hadhramaut, screaming as loud as their voices could shout, LEAVE, LEAVE, the President of the Republic of Yemen would say, like Zein Al-Abidine, the dethroned former President of Tunisia, said three months ago, "I understand"; i.e., I got the message. There is nothing that could show President Ali Abdullah that there is really justification for continuing to hold on to the Presidency with most of the institutions in Government, which really matter to the people of Yemen, hardly functioning by any means.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The Central Bank of Yemen and a considerable portion of the Republican Guards and Central Security are the only elements that the President insists give him the right to carry on his already untangling stranglehold on the Yemeni people, who he has been more than lucky to be able to rule now for nearly a third of a century. There is, no doubt, considerable pride that the President might be able to feel in being able to hold the record of all the Presidents, who have ruled Yemen, since the Revolution of September 26, 1962 and October 14, 1963. There are even some achievements that the President might also consider as worth some note in history, mainly the unification of Yemen (which was partly stimulated by a rapidly changing global arrangement spurred by the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union). But, the President did take the initiative that eventually removed the border barrels at Habilayn and other border outposts as well as the unnecessary fortifications that worked to bar entry and exit of Yemenis on both sides of the former border that superficially divided the Northern Governorates and the Southern Governorates.

The unification of Yemen could not have been surpassed by any other event by which Yemen enters the 21st Century or the Third Millennium. However, after Mr. Saleh transformed the once commendable unification agreement into a private enterprise, in addition to the other maladies brought on by the regime, in both north and south, the threat of fragmentation reappeared. Regrettably speaking, the disagreeable practices of Mr. Saleh, his relatives and the other icons of the regime, in the Southern and Eastern Governorates, especially after 1994 and the breakdown of all hopes of saving the positive spirit that was evoked by the Unification Agreement did richly produce much discontent amongst our fellow Yemenis in the South. There have been even recent calls for "breaking the ties" of unity mainly by elements of the regime that used to manage the state of affairs in the South before unification and a considerable number of other fellow Yemenis in the South. Without a doubt, such calls are understandable, as indeed President Saleh has reneged on the unification agreement, but they certainly could never be acceptable, because the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen was put to a national referendum and the overwhelming majority of Yemenis in both the Governorates that made up the former "People's Democratic Republic of Yemen" and those that made up the former Yemen Arab Republic voted yes for termination of the fragmented status of Yemen and the beginning of a new era that conforms to the natural and historical legacy of Yemen from ancient times to our age.

Incidentally, even the British recognized that Yemen was indeed one country and allowed the Imam of Yemen before the September Revolution to keep a Viceroy in Aden and a Viceroy in Mukalla. The fact that President Saleh did not even try to solve the grievances of our southern brothers has done much to tarnish his record as the initiator of unification and all that was required is that the southern elements of the government that used to run the PDRY should not have been ignored and literally abandoned by the Government of the Republic of Yemen, in both the military side and the civil service side. There were some really outstanding military and civil service personnel that were in the Government of PDRY and they should have really been allowed to maintain their positions, which they held before the unfortunate War of 1994. Perhaps the only entity that seemed to have kept the management intact, with the personnel that came with the unification to Sana'a and the other way around to Aden that I am aware of was the Public Electricity Corporation. The credit of this goes to no other than Engineer Ahmed Hassan Al-Aini (Managing Director at the time of the Public Electricity Corporation), who indeed instilled the spirit of unity and brotherhood amongst all the staff and there was never any feeling of aloofness or detachment among the PEC staff from both north and south of the Mikeiras line even after the 1994 War.

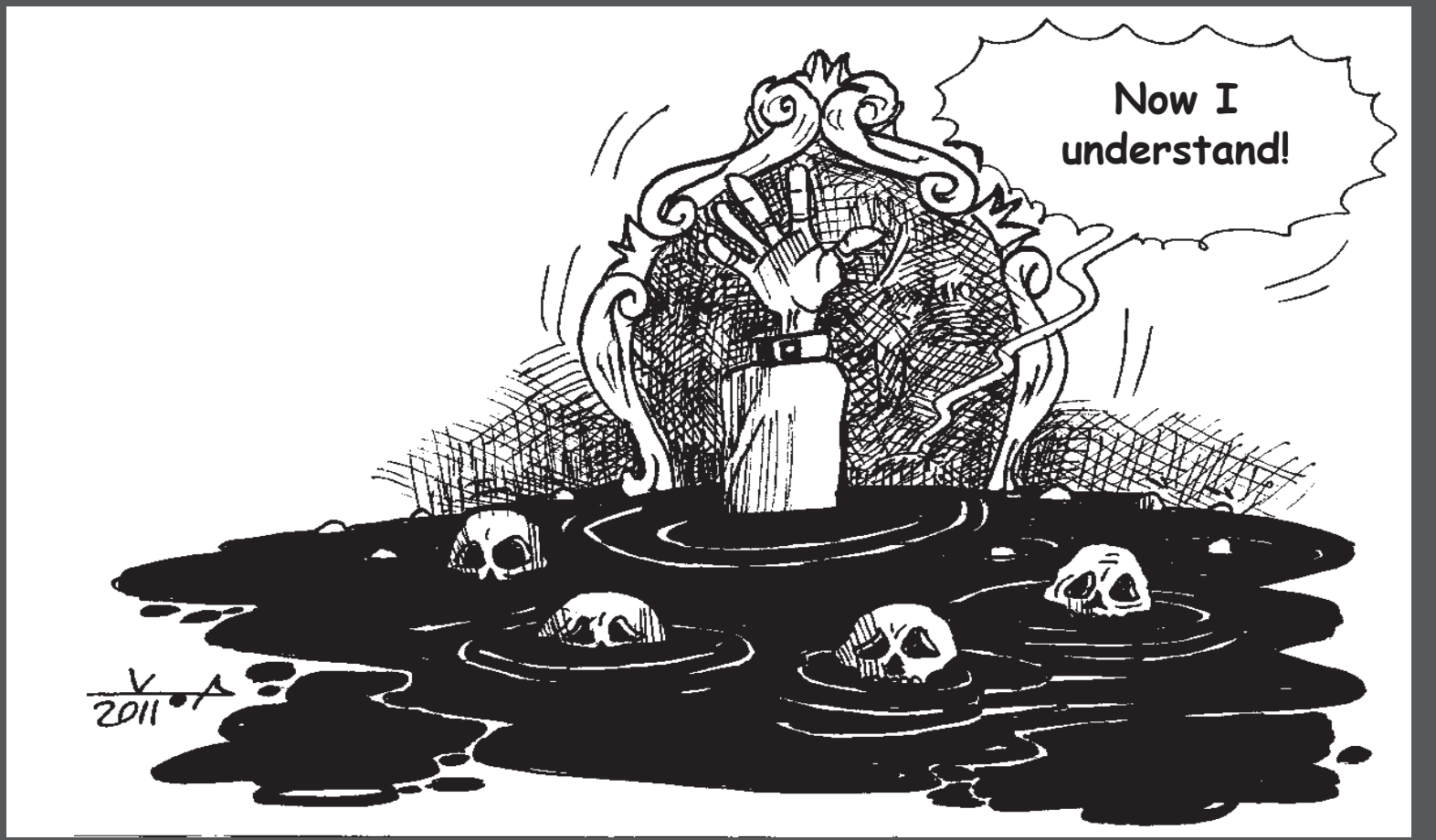
Thus, it can be seen that if we are to be able to maintain the unity of the country without further raising the discontent of our southern fellow Yemenis, it goes without saying that maintaining the Presidency of Ali Saleh will never alleviate the aura of despair and hope amongst our southern brothers and sisters. Therefore, for this very important reason, the President should understand that the continuation of his Presidency brings with it the risk of forcing many of our southern brothers to seek a secession. One of course does not really see any reason yet that such a drastic step should be taken and for all intents and purposes, such irrational course would be tantamount to distorting the sovereignty of Yemen to the unholy state it was in before unification. Such a state was certainly not favorable for any Yemenis on both sides of the fictitious border that then divided them. Both sides lost many lives and much of the scarce resources of the country as each side sought to instill their version of a united Yemen. It was impossible for a Marxist agenda to be imposed on all of Yemen and the ultra conservative north also did not present a commendable formula for application on both sides of Yemen. That is why, we are today facing the risk of fragmentation and it is therefore the first task of the Post Saleh democratic Government to ensure that the issues that have bothered our southern brothers be dealt with justly, equitably and with an emphasis on restoring the dignity and pride of our southern brothers. This, along with the consequences of the Sa'ada Wars should be sufficient reasons to convince the President that it is all over for him, otherwise Yemen faces the threat of becoming fragmented beyond repair.

Amidst this depressing note, it is inspiring to see how Yemenis from every corner of Yemen have found an almost utopian era in Change Square, where no one is ever discriminated against or even recognized as being from that region or this governorate. All insist only that they are Yemenis and all have come to the Square ready to risk their lives in order to bring about a readjustment of the unhealthy course, which the long standing regime of Saleh has set the country on without regards to the interests of the Yemeni people at large. Instead the Saleh regime has focused all its efforts and directed all the resources of the country to maintaining the domination of the President's family and cronies over all aspects of Government, business and of course social affairs, while leaving the vast majority of the Yemeni people, in the North and the South with very little to look forward to if the Saleh regime is not removed once and for all. There simply is no other course left for Yemen to take.

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>

SKETCHED OPINION

By: Hamid



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Protesters on the march carry portraits of Ibrahim al-Hamdi. The assassinated former president of Yemen is remembered fondly among protesters

YT photo by Heath Gerhard

You Should be Proud of Yemen

By: Abubakr Al-Shamahi for KABOBfest

Today, I'm not even going to pretend to be neutral.

Today I witnessed, and was part of, one of the biggest protests in Yemeni history, and definitely the biggest Sana'a has ever witnessed.

This is supposed to be Saleh's city. This is supposed to be his heartland, his base, his stronghold.

We marched through his 'stronghold'. We marched through places which were supposedly 100% Saleh. We marched through districts that our typically Arab elections had given overwhelmingly to the ruling party.

All this after a night where I was woken up by heavy gunfire and explosions. A night where we were warned on state TV that it was completely forbidden for citizens to join unauthorised protests. A morning where fighter jets flew low over the city. A morning where I questioned what I had gotten myself into. I suspected a civil war was imminent, and it still might be. But after the sights I witnessed today I doubt it.

This was an afternoon march, scheduled for 4pm. I arrived at Change Square, the heart of the protests in Sana'a, to find the tents practically empty. A few men were left in their tents, chewing qat, the Yemeni's narcotic of choice, but many of even these hardcore chewers joined in after being shamed by women chanting that "this is a time for revolution, not for chewing."

The protesters did not go down the same streets, due to the numbers. There were at least three different routes, which eventually met up. Women left to go on their own separate march. The numbers were simply too huge to have them on the same route in this conservative country.

To stress the point, Yemeni women are not submissive. The average person looking at Yemeni women will see figures, mostly dressed in black, mostly covering their faces, and assume that this is Taliban Afghanistan. It is not. These women shout louder than the men, are more heartfelt than the men, and often more politically active than the men. Look at the woman who started the protests in Yemen, Tawakkol Karman.

Mixing in the vast crowds I came across all the sections of Yemeni society. The

youth, the country's ticking time bomb, were present. But so were there parents and grandparents. I saw the poor and the well off. I saw men in traditional Yemeni clothing, dagger on their belt, and men in suits and ties. I saw every strata of Yemeni society making it clear that the people want the downfall of the regime.

The crowds were ecstatic to see a camera present; shamefully there has been poor coverage of this people's revolution. Ahmed told me he was present because "corruption has reached terrible levels, and there was one man to blame." That man's name was in graffiti all over the city, 'erhal ya ali' - Ali, leave.

We carried on. I saw the most amazing image of a man dressed in traditional Yemeni attire carrying a huge picture of Che

Guevara. The revolution will be globalised. Eventually we reached al-Qa', an area notorious for its supposed support of the President. Here, we did meet his supporters. In reality though, they barely reached a hundred souls. Many carried pictures of the Saleh, chanting that they had no one apart from him. The crowds swarmed past, and this is where it potentially could have gotten ugly. We are always warned that Yemenis are armed to the teeth. State TV report that the opposition and the protesters are violent thugs, constantly attacking the security forces.

Well, here were crowds of hundreds of thousands, passing by provocateurs, and yet simply carrying on with their chant of "peacefully, peacefully." Even when passing men threatening them with rocks they refused to be provoked. I was threatened myself by a youth carrying a large stone, my response was to take his photo. Not the reaction he expected.

Going over one of the main overpasses in the city I met Khaled. He told me of the start of our Yemeni revolution.

"We came here on February 11, when Mubarak was deposed. You could count with your fingers. People laughed at us, and told us that nothing was going to happen here. Look at us now. Look at the people now."

We continued past the Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the unfinished Parliament building, and the Vice-President's mansion. All were plastered with graffiti denouncing the regime. 'Go, murderer, go.' 'The people want the trial of the regime.' And the simple 'Get out.'

We carried on. We were now in the heart of Sana'a, near the pro-government camp in Tahrir Square. Here there was a large security presence. Riot police and Republican Guard members, units who had previously attacked protesters in many places that we passed on the protest route. Yet today they stood passively, the large crowds making it impossible for them to launch any kind of attack.

Civilians linked arms in front of them, defending the people from the regime. Many of the government's men looked uncertain. They are normal people. Here they were being handed roses, and being kissed on the forehead by protesters. The demonstrators chanted that the people and the army were one, that the people and the police were one. They invited them to join. None did, but their reactions make me hope that they will not agree to being used to attack the people again.

On we went. Reaching a high point I looked back to try and see if I could see

the end of the protest. All I could see was the stunning backdrop of one of the many mountains that surround Sana'a, and an apparently unending sea of people.

As nightfall fell we started to approach areas controlled by the 1st Armoured Brigades, who joined the revolution after the Sana'a Massacre of the 18th March. They waved from their tanks and took photos with the protesters. The chants continued, "the people and the Brigade are hand in hand."

Youssef and Mohammed approached me and insisted to speak to the camera in English. "We want freedom," was their simple message.

Turning the corner off the one of the main highways we started passing through a busy shopping street. Here the protesters chanted for the shopkeepers to close their stores, and made a general call for civil disobedience. Some of the shopkeepers heeded their call, closed their shutters and, fists pumping, joined the march. Others stood outside their stores, cheering in support, and raising their fingers to display the victory sign.

Families watched from the videos, with children waving Yemeni flags and cheering. At one stage a family poured confetti on us, eliciting applause from those passing by.

Getting back into Change Square meant going through eight lines of civilian checkpoints. There are very real fears of infiltration, and they are well-founded. Over 250 people have already been killed by the regime in our peaceful revolution. At least two were killed today in Aden, they do not have the protection of the army.

The square itself felt like a festival. Music was being played, with children singing on the main stage. A large crowd of women came past, all holding candles. Pictures of the martyrs of the revolution are strung up everywhere in this square, alongside photos of President al-Hamdi, widely regarded as the best President Yemen ever had. He was assassinated in 1978, the year Ali Abdullah Saleh came to power.

I am tired. I am hoarse. I am hungry. I am thirsty. I am dirty. But today, I am truly proud of my people who have finally risen up against the regime that has robbed them for 3 decades and left them in poverty. Today, I am proud that they have found their voice. Today, I am proud that they have persisted and remained peaceful. Today, I am proud of their inspirations, our Tunisian and Egyptian brothers and sisters. Today, I am proud to be Yemeni.

Abubakr Al-Shamahi is a Politics student at SOAS, University of London and is the editor of Comment Middle East. He is currently in Sana'a.



Yemen Red Crescent Society

VACANCY

The Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS), Head Quarter, Health Department, invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the vacant jobs: 4 **CBHD (Community Based Health Development) project officers based in Hadhramout-Sayoun, Hodeida, Ibb and Mahweet**. The position holders will be responsible for management and implementation of the CBHD project in selected communities in Sayoun, Hodeida, Ibb and Mahweet with technical and managerial support from CBHD program officers, Health And Care coordinator and the health delegate.

The CBHD Project Officer will be responsible for close collaboration and coordination between the CBHD project, local authorities at governorate and district level, other organizations and partners working in the district. The CBHD Project Officer will keep the district and governorate bodies of the YRCS informed about the progress of the CBHD project. The position holder is also responsible for providing technical and managerial support and supervision of project staff, volunteers and local authorities involved at governorate and district level.

Main Tasks:

- Responsible for the day to day management of the CBHD project in the assigned governorate.
- Assist in the preparation of detailed annual plans of action and corresponding budget; to be revised quarterly and submitted to the YRCS headquarters and the supporting national societies through the YRCS branch in a timely manner.
- Ensure that project implementation is in accordance with the YRCS, the Federation, the supporting national societies and GoY policies and guidelines.
- Ensure accountability of human, material and financial resources at community, district and governorate level.
- Assist in the development and/or introduction of new approaches, methods and practices in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities.
- Facilitate identification/selection and training and induction of volunteers.
- Provide input to the YRCS process of developing training curriculum and materials.
- Undertake on the job training and training of project volunteers through all stages of the process (project development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation). In particular, guide and supervise field personnel in community based methodologies.
- Establish a close contact to and promote that all stakeholders at community and district levels are involved to ensure a smooth implementation and achievement of objectives.
- Support and supervise YRCS volunteers implementing activities in the target communities and participate in periodic reviews and evaluations (internal as well as external).
- Provide input to the quarterly and annual progress reports to be submitted to the YRCS and the supporting national societies.
- Ensure coordination and collaboration with relevant government and non-governmental organizations at district and governorate levels to avoid development of parallel structures and to ensure long term sustainability of initiated activities.
- Attend relevant district and governorate sector coordination meetings in discussion and agreement with the YRCS branch management.
- Facilitate and support the visits of YRCS headquarters, OA, the Federation, supporting national societies, consultants, journalists, etc.
- Any other tasks relevant to the CBHD project as assigned by the Program Officers or the health delegate.

Successful applicant should fulfill the following requirements:

- University education in the fields of health, sociology or management.
- A minimum of 3 years working experience in community health.
- Familiar with participatory approaches such as PHAST (participatory Hygiene and sanitation Transformation).
- Demonstrated ability of analyzing and reporting.
- Demonstrated ability of working in multicultural environment.
- Proven skills in leadership and team building.
- Fluent English and good computer operating skills.


Contract:

- One year contract with possibility of extension
- Full time based in Hodeida, Sayoun, Ibb and Mahweet with frequent visits to project areas.
- Salary, according to YRCS salary scale.

Applicants should submit their CVs with a cover letter to email address: salhabshizoo4ster@gmail.com not later than 30th April, 2011, 3:00 PM.

Females are encouraged to apply. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

Applicants are required to specify the positions of the governorates they are applying for: Hodeida, Hadramout - Sayoun, Ibb or Mahweet.



Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen)

Re-announcement for Job Opportunity

Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen), would like to re-announce the following vacant post within its main office in Sana'a.

1) Manager Human Resources

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Aim to achieve a homogeneous work force in Sana'a area and all TeleYemen Regional offices.
- Control and interpret the application of the Labour Law, Social Insurance Regulations and TeleYemen By-Laws, Rules & Regulations.
- Control the relevant returns to local Administrations, Ministries, Companies and answer queries arising there from.
- Manage and control the activities and internal administration.
- Control and administer all routine matters concerning staff in TeleYemen.
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IDEAL

Popular actor Fahd Al-Qarni speaks to the Yemen Times “Artists who shun the revolution are not artists and they let their fans down”



By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Al-Qarni said that many of Yemeni artists have worked hard for last weeks and presented hundreds of patriotic songs, plays and sketches for the revolution.

“Yemeni actors and singers are pioneer of the revolution. Their arts mobilize and encourage people to take part in the revolution,” he said.

“This revolution has proved that Yemenis are conscious,” said Al-Qarni. “Actors and singers have contributed to develop this consciousness.”

“All artists don’t obtain any amount of money in return for their contribution towards the revolution and that means that Yemeni artists give priority for people not for the regime or corrupt officials,” he said.

“I called for many Yemeni artists to join the revolution and take part in it but some of them were reluctant and afraid of the officials. However, I could convince several artists to participate in the revolution,” he said.

According to Al-Qarni, the regime created such reluctant and scared artists. “The regime repressed Yemeni artists and make them submissive. Most artists didn’t dare to criticize the regime because they considered it impossible to criticize the regime or president,” he said.

“Unfortunately, the regime controlled artists and that’s why the Yemeni art isn’t successful. The regime didn’t build cinemas and didn’t support artistic activities but it exploits Yemeni artists to extol the virtues of the president,” explained Al-Qarni.

Al-Qarni slammed artists who commend the president at this time. He said that those artists defend dictatorship and under-development. He conveyed a message to those artists, saying: “Yemenis will not step down only president but they will step down all artists and people who defended this totalitarian president”

He indicated that some artists said that they prefer to be away from politics and revolution.

“Artists who avoid the politics and revolution are not artists. They let their fans down because they are away of people’s agony,” he said.

“Artists play crucial role in this revolution,” said Al-Qarni, indicating that art is the most important part in the revolution.

Al-Qarni and his fellow artists have established an open-air theater in Taiz to present artistic works to people in the sit-in. “I’ve never seen a strong and emotional reaction from the people about plays and sketches like this time” Al-Qarni said.

“Artistic activities stimulate people in the sit-in to insist in their demands,” he added.

Al-Qarni said that his plays and

rough sketches try to convey a message to public channels. “These channels legitimize violence and killing peaceful protesters. We present in the change squares real arts unlike public channels that present inflammatory speech,” he said.

“Cancellation of public channels is one of our top priorities after success of revolution,” he said.

“Liberal art has become desirable by people. In next days, there will be no place for the art that glorify specific people,” he said. “Normal people and their suffering will be our priorities.”

He said, addressing the Yemeni artists: “If you want to maintain your popularity, you should prefer normal people to corrupt leaders.”

Asked if he receive threats from some officials because of his artistic activities, he said: “undoubtedly, threats reach their peak at this critical time. All opponents and activists also receive threats from this corrupt

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Fahd Al-Qarni is one of the few artists who have a political culture and different artistic vision. His courage to speak out about corruption and President Ali Abdulla Saleh had led him to be sent to prison for long time.

Yemenis call Al-Qarni ‘people’s artist’ because of his works that depicts people’s suffering, corruption, poverty and injustice issues.

Al-Qarni stepped up his artistic activities during the revolution. He presents these activities voluntary.

Yemen Times interviewed Fahd Al-Qarni about position of Yemeni artists of the revolution and about his contribution towards the revolution in Taiz.

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