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Bin Laden’s widow to return to Yemen

By: Ali Saeed

SANA’A, May 7 — Aml Ahmed Abdul Al-Fatah Al-Sada, the Yemeni widow of Osama Bin Laden will be repatriated back to Yemen from Pakistan after her husband, Al-Qaeda’s top leader, was killed on May 2nd by US special forces.

Dr. Diyar Khan, Deputy Ambassador of Pakistan to Yemen told the Yemen Times that the embassy in Sana’a received information from their government in Islamabad that some family members of Bin Laden were held in Pakistan after his assassination.

“They [Pakistani authority] told us that they are in safe hands and when initial questions are completed, they will be sent to their home countries,” said Khan.

Al-Sada was with Bin Laden in a bedroom when US special forces stormed the house and was shot in the leg while attempting to defend her husband.

band. She is currently being detained in a hospital in Pakistan, but authorities there told her family that they will send her back to Yemen soon, according to sources close to the family.

Al-Sada is from a Yemeni family living in the Al-Sayyani district of Ibb governorate, 193 km south the capital Sana’a. She was married to Bin Laden in 2000, whose ancestors came from Hadramout governorate in Yemen, one year ahead of the 9/11 attacks.

The bride accompanied with two family members were brought to Pakistan with the assistance of Sheikh Rashad Mohamed Saeed Ismail, also known as Abu Al-Fida, a member of Al-Qaeda in Yemen.

Ismail, who spoke to the Yemen Times on the phone from Ibb, said that he was in Afghanistan with Bin Laden who told him that he was looking for a woman to marry.

“I said, well what should she look like? He [Bin Laden] replied, “a religious woman with morals from a decent family.”

Ismail said he knew Aml at the time as he was teaching her Islamic religious sciences in one of the religious schools in Ibb.

“I used to know her. She was a good calm girl who did not like to talk much. She was very religious and spiritual,” he said.

“So when I came back from Afghanistan to Yemen in 1999, I offered her marriage proposal from Bin Laden. I also explained to her the situation in detail to show her the reality of the man, and how he lived moving from one place to another, being pursued by the Americans,” said Ismail.

He claimed that the girl accepted the proposal and then he went to her family to ask for her hand on behalf of Bin Laden.

“They informed me of their acceptance one week after my conversation with them,” he said.

“After that I notified Bin Laden and arranged for the travel of the bride with one male member of her family and her older sister from Yemen to Pakistan, and from there to Kandahar in Afghanistan,” he said.

“The marriage ceremonies and the wedding day were performed in Kandahar with the attendance of Bin Laden and other Mujahedeen,” he said.

Al-Sada was married to Bin Laden at the age of 18, when he was more than twice her age, according to Ismail. She was the fifth and youngest wife of Bin Laden.

During her wedding journey from Ibb to Kandahar, where Al-Qaeda’s leader used to live at the time when Afghanistan was under the control of the Taliban, she was not intercepted.

“We traveled from Yemen to Pakistan and from there to Kandahar on our real passports, and no one stopped us for questioning because it is our right to move anywhere,” said Ismail.



Aml's passport which was found in bin Laden's bedroom

US resumes drone, missile strikes in Yemen

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA’A, May 9 — As President Barack Obama vowed to destroy Al-Qaeda after killing Osama Bin Laden on 2 May 2011, Yemen once again came under the spotlight for being the epicenter of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula’s (AQAP) activities.

Last Thursday, two brothers were bombed while driving in Shabwa governorate. According to one Yemeni government official, the men were alleged AQAP members. The attack was orchestrated by an American drone.

US officials said that Thursday’s drone strike was the first in Yemen since 2002. Many Yemeni citizens accuse the US of killing innocent civilians in its various attempts at targeting AQAP members.

Although this is the first drone attack that the US has admitted to since 2002, Amnesty International has suggested that the US has been bombing civilian areas in Yemen throughout the past eight years.

In one report, Amnesty International said that on 17 December 2009, missiles were fired at two settlements in the Al-Ma’alah area of Al-Mahfad district in Abyan governorate. At least 41 people were killed, 14 of them women and 21 of them children.

At the time, the Yemeni government said that AQAP had a training camp in the area. However, a parliamentary investigation committee later determined that there was no evidence to suggest that a training camp was located in Al-Ma’alah. Instead, it asserted that the five missiles had been launched wan- tonly, killing dozens of Yemeni civilians. The Yemeni government later apologized for its “mistake”.

Amnesty International also obtained photographs of the attack’s aftermath that suggest a US-manufactured cruise missile containing cluster munitions had been used. The US media subsequently reported that American cruise missiles had been launched under presidential order at two alleged Al-Qaeda targets in Yemen. The Pentagon declined to comment on the matter, saying that only the Yemeni government could respond to questions concerning AQAP-related operations.



The following are bomb fragments found in Abyan in a 2009 US cruise missile strike. Part of BGM-109D Tomahawk cruise missile, probably fuel tank section



Part of propulsion unit of BGM-109D Tomahawk cruise missile.



Unexploded BLU 97 cluster bomblet - the Tomahawk BGM-109D cruise missile would have carried 166 of these

Sheikhs in this country are notoriously well-armed and a coalition representative insisted that they are “for sure” able to fight AQAP.

“We are over forty thousand and they [the AQAP members] are less than one hundred. So can for sure overcome them,” said Sheikh Hussein Bin Othman, the head of Shabwa’s sheikh coalition.

“Yemen has lost dominance over its own airspace by allowing the US to attack AQAP,” said one local Shabwa resident, who feels offended by the American incursions into his country.

“They [the Yemeni government] do that [allow the US strikes to occur] to gain money through counterterrorism funding,” he continued. “We all know who the AQAP members are. They are few and overcoming them is totally possible, but it seems the government

wants them to spread.”

In the capital’s Al-Tagheer (Change) Square, where pro-democracy sit-ins have been taking place since February, protesters also believe that AQAP continues to find support from the Yemeni government, as the latter enjoys the funding it receives in the name of combating terrorism.

Mohammed Abbas, one of the protesters at Change Square, told the Yemen Times that he is against the US drone strikes in Yemen for two reasons.

“It’s a violation of Yemeni domination over its own airspace,” said Abbas, “and it gives AQAP further motivation to stay and to spread, as they will see their enemy [the US] transfer the battle to their own lands.”

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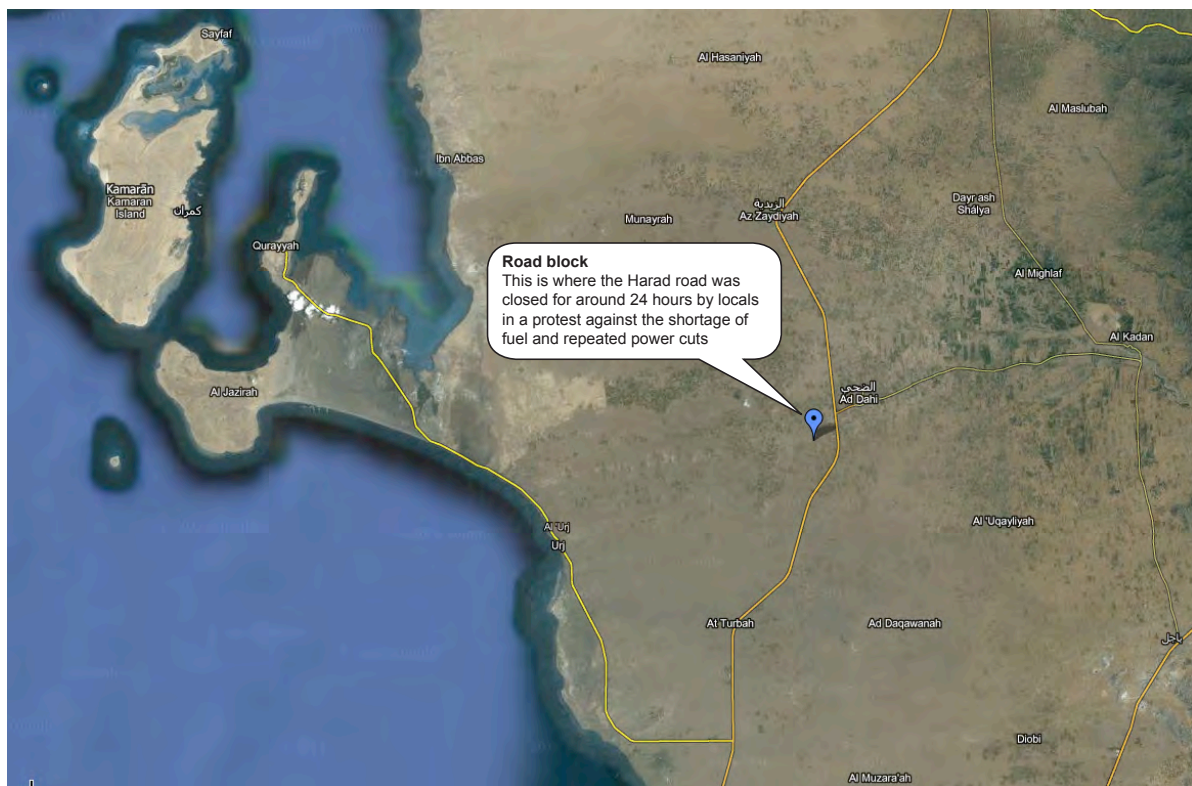
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Angry citizens in Hodeida block Harad Road



By: Ali Saeed

HODEIDA, May 8 — A group of citizens in Hodeida governorate, located 200km northwest of the capital Sana'a, recently seized Harad Road and blocked all vehicles and shipping containers from passing. According to one local source, the citizens are demanding a toll from all onward traffic, in protest against Yemen's crippling fuel shortage.

The 186km-long Harad Road is a vital commercial thoroughfare for Yemeni exports and imports, coming to and from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and Jordan.

With this latest security threat to the road, Yemeni commerce is at risk, and many businessmen and companies are expected to lose money.

Mohammed Omer, a Syrian truck driver who transports fruit from Sana'a

to Damascus every week, told the Yemen Times that this past Saturday, he found himself stranded between Al-Zaydiya and Al-Qanawis districts on Harad Road, surrounded by a group of six youth.

"They did not allow me to go until I paid them YR 1,000," he said.

Omer, who has been working on Harad Road for over four years, explained that, "Security and stability on the road are very important for the safety of commercial activities."

Waleed Aqeeli, a community leader in Al-Qanawis district where Harad Road has been closed, told the Yemen Times that the blockage is motivated solely by the fuel shortage.

"They [the citizens] have blocked Harad Road and are preventing all vehicles from passing," said Aqeeli. "This is because the electricity has

been cut for entire days at a time and petrol stations are refusing to sell fuel. These were the triggers and the locals will continue to protest until the power comes back on and stations resume selling fuel."

Later, Aqeeli reported that the road was reopened on Sunday, immediately after citizens were able to find fuel at the petrol stations.

The countrywide problem of fuel shortages started earlier this month, with no explanation for the crisis given by government.

A similar problem took place in January, at the beginning of the popular uprisings that are calling for an end to President Saleh's 33-year rule. At the time, President Saleh suspended the Minister of Oil and the manager of the state-owned petroleum country. The problem was then solved in a very short period of time.

Symposium on the Gulf initiative and its potential effect on Yemen's future

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, May 8 — This past Wednesday, a seminar was orchestrated by the Arabian Peninsula Forum and Saudi Arabia's Okaz newspaper, to review the Gulf initiative and its potential effect on the future of Yemen.

During the event, Dr. Mohammed Ali Mujawar, Prime Minister of the caretaker government, said that political leadership — headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh — has shown a clear position on the Gulf initiative, based on a commitment to prevent bloodshed in Yemen and to generate conditions for a smooth and safe transition of power.

"From this platform," said Dr. Mujawar, "we renew our earnest invitation to our brothers in the JMP [the opposition Joint Meeting Parties] to take a patriotic and responsible stance during this pivotal moment in Yemeni history, and to renew their commitment to the sensible and responsible contents of the Gulf initiative — a basis for power transition. We also request that they refrain from vengeful inclinations and the belief that street incitement is the sole means of catalyzing change."

Chairman of the Arabian Peninsula Forum Najeeb Ghalab and Okaz Editor-in-Chief Ayman Habib both indicated the significance of the symposium in shedding light on the initiative's contents, which aim to break the Yemeni crisis, as well as on the efforts made by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to achieve reconciliation amongst Yemen's various political opponents, so as to ensure Yemen's security and stability.

They added that the colloquy was intended to be a "re-reading" of the Gulf initiative, so as to make sure that it is an appropriate strategy for exiting the current political crisis. They called upon all political parties to give preference to the national interest, rather than their own narrow ambitions, and to return to a concerted dialogue.

The symposium's participants discussed six working papers on the Gulf initiative in two separate sessions, the first of which was chaired by Deputy Minister of Information Abdu Al-Janadi and the second of which was headed by Prof. Adel Al-Shuja'a.

The first paper was presented by Ahmed

Abdullah Al-Soufi, the president's Secretary for Media, and it was titled "The Gulf Initiative: Reading Its Contents And Aspects". In his paper, Al-Soufi asserted the importance of the initiative as an excellent opportunity for Yemen to contribute to Gulf security, as well as to protect the regional role of the GCC.

Al-Soufi reviewed some of the more vague aspects of the initiative, while emphasizing that such obscurities did not make the initiative, nor the efforts of the GCC, any less important.

He said that one of the more unclear clauses lacked a solid definition of the duties of the president during the 30-day period leading up to the transition of power.

"During the first 60 days after the resignation of the president," wondered Al-Soufi, "who would assume power? Would it be the Prime Minister or the Vice-President? What guarantees are made to end the sit-ins and to eliminate all forms of tension?"

Al-Soufi also emphasized that all media campaigns, sit-ins, rallies, strikes, road blockades, attacks on public and private buildings, and rebellion within the military must stop.

The president's media secretary indicated that the initiative's success would be dependent upon accomplishing its various clauses and tasks one-by-one, so as to ensure that no clause is skipped and that no task is begun before the previous task has been finished. He said that the initiative's implementation should be governed by the priorities and needs of each party, and that commitment to the initiative should be the main criteria for trust amongst Yemen's various political groups.

Al-Soufi also invited international observers and guarantors to play a supervisory role during the initiative's execution. This, he justified, should be done so as to prevent the selective application of the plan's clauses, which could result in corruption and prejudice.

The second working paper, titled "Possible Scenarios: Whether The Initiative Should Be Accepted Or Rejected", was presented by Al-Shuja'a and concerned the nature of current conflict between Yemen's political parties. The paper asserted that broad agreement over the Gulf proposal is the only way of preventing future clashes

and civil war.

The paper also reviewed the causes of the present stalemate, and how both the ruling party and the opposition have brought about such a reality.

Prof. Mohammed Al-Himiari presented the third paper, titled "Strong Factors In The Gulf Initiative And The Possibility Of Its Success In View Of Differences Over Its Potential Course". It focused upon the various strengths of the proposal's mechanisms, outlining the document's most important clauses and discussing ways in which they could be adopted to the satisfaction of all parties.

A fourth paper titled "The Youth: Between The Ruling Party And The Opposition, And Positions On The Gulf Initiative" was presented by Prof. Adel Ghanima. It reviewed the stance of youth on the Gulf plan, with particular consideration given to the views of young people who are protesting within the country's various Change Squares.

The paper also mentioned the JMP's position on the youth's negative attitude towards the initiative.

Abdul Hafith Al-Nahari's paper was presented fifth and was titled "Change And Reform In Yemen: Reviewing Conflicting Parties And The Nature Of The Political System That Would Achieve Change".

Near the end of the symposium, Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Irani, the president's political advisor, warned against waiting too long to sign the Gulf initiative.

"Not signing the initiative that would lead to the president's resignation within a month," said Dr. Al-Irani, "would subject Yemen to a risk of collapse."

While speaking to the US website Bloomberg via telephone, Dr. Al-Irani later admitted that the president himself had refused to sign the initiative. However, he described President Saleh's refusal as a "tactical issue". He then called upon the world to not allow Yemen to fail because of this initiative.

Dr. Al-Irani confirmed that he was still "optimistic" that the political impasse would be overcome.

"Yemen cannot withstand further weeks of demonstrations. They should be ended soon, lest the country's economy and security collapse," he said.



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Customers making use of the services of Al-Kuraimi Islamic Microfinance Bank services at the headquarters on Hadda Street in Sana'a. There are only one million current bank accounts in the entire country. This is around four percent of the total population.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

When the Al-Kuraimi Exchange chain started in 1991, it was the first private Yemeni financial institution that wasn't a bank.

"The existing exchange shops were shabby and worked almost like street vendors. They laughed at us when we registered Al-Kuraimi Exchange as a company with the Ministry of Trade. They said we were spending way too much on the interior decoration trying to make the place look presentable," said Managing Director Yousuf Al-Kuraimi, who co-runs what has today become Al-Kuraimi Bank for

Islamic Financing.

The bank's administrative board of five brothers have many years of financial experience between them, and several high level degrees in management. But most importantly, they have a vision and the know how to achieve it.

"All financial services are accessible by each person in Yemen," reads the company's vision statement.

The founders wanted to be part of a larger dream which is to empower Yemenis financially through providing them access to financial services as a part of their social responsibility. Kuraimi Islamic Microfinance Bank (KIMB) have five-year plans to achieve this vision.

In 2010, the exchange company turned into a bank which offered saving accounts and microfinance services. This makes it the only private company in the region that offers these services.

"This monetary company had the makings to become a bank a long time ago, but the management is working on planned ambition, not greed, and this is what makes them one of the most successful companies in their field in the entire region," said Al-Wuzna, a financial expert working with the bank in the newly established microfinance sector.

The company's management plans carefully and tries to adequately deal with the challenges while expanding business. The most difficult challenge it faces is dealing with the government sector, which has issues of overlapping responsibilities and unclear legislation.

Finding qualified employees is not a problem, says Managing Director Yousuf Al-Kuraimi, as they realize that they have to invest in people. They start with a vigorous hiring scheme through which they identify the best potential candidates. Then they train and invest in their employees when they are working for the company. He says that this is working and that the turnover rate in the company's 600 employees is very low.

Microfinance

Since the law on microfinance was introduced in 2007, Al-Kuraimi's company leadership has been working on a strategy to enter into this field. Although this may not be the most lucrative area, and is considered one of the most difficult monetary services, they decided to go ahead in order to contribute to eradicating poverty in the country.

As with all of the company's moves, joining the microfinance world required extensive planning and training. This included a study tour to one of the world's leading microfinance institutions, the Pro-Credit Holding Bank in Frankfurt, which comprises of more than 22 banks.

"Across ten days we talked to many people, from top management to clients. We saw how things are run," said Al-Kuraimi.

But encouraging Yemenis to practice savings and adopt a mentality for investing takes a lot of cultural change. One of the ways KIMB implements this is to encourage their clients to pay their credit installments on time.

There are 11 microcredit institutions in the country, most of which are government owned. Their target is poor Yemenis who are seeking to start a micro-business that requires capital not exceeding YR 50,000 (around USD 230). KIMB also targets Yemenis who already have a small business and are looking to expand or invest. They are provided with credit of between YR 100,000 to YR 2 million.

"We believe that microfinance is one of the main tools to fight poverty in society," explained Al-Kuraimi. "Our targets are Yemenis who are on or just above the poverty line, and who with the slightest financial difficulty could be pulled under. Through empowering them, not only do we ensure they escape poverty, but also that they pull more people from below the poverty line by providing job

opportunities to others as a result of their expansion."

The choice of targeting this group came after careful research and study of the market. KIMB realized that this is an opportunity for poverty reduction as a part of its commitment to social responsibility, especially since there are no similar services for this target group in the local or even regional market.

The problem now is that a culture of formal credit is almost non-existent in Yemen. There are currently only one million bank accounts in the entire country, around four percent of the total population. Even this is probably an over-estimate as many of those who hold accounts have multiple accounts in different banks.

One way KIMB to encourages Yemenis to use savings and microfinance services is to conduct them according to Islamic jurisprudence. The bank conducted a survey prior to expanding and found that at least 67 percent of the Yemeni population favored dealing with an Islamic bank rather than a commercial one.

Through general advocacy as well as promoting the services in a way that appeals to the target market, the bank has already signed up 4,735 clients with saving accounts. They have given credit to 399 YR clients with a total value of around YR 145.5 million, and 57 USD credit clients with a total value of USD 240,000. They launched the two services in mid 2010.

What makes this microfinance service special and different is that it is targeted towards people who do not have access to banks, mostly because they cannot provide the guarantees required by banks to get credit.

KIMB provides credit requesting only minimal guarantees, sometimes just proof of a person's good character is enough. And even during the country's current financial crisis the bank continues to offer these services to those who request it.

"We have not publicized these services that much because we don't want to be overwhelmed by the demand.

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Slow and steady is how we do this, but our strategy is by the beginning of next year to launch a huge media campaign to advertise these services," said Yousuf Al-Kuraimi.

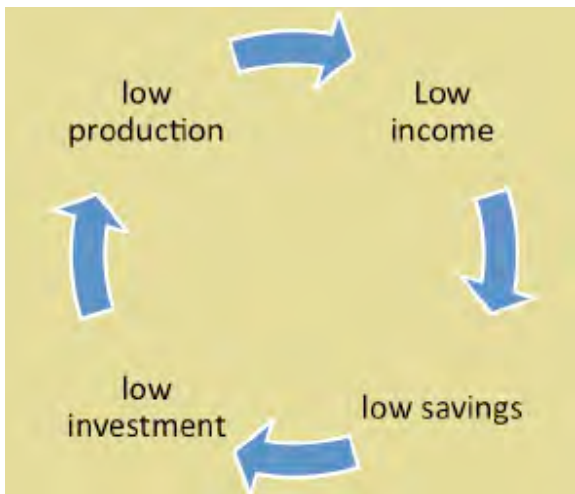
As for the clients commitment to pay back the installments, Al-Wuzna says that when they get into the system they regularly pay on time.

"In my opinion, if the client does not pay on time it is not their fault. It is the fault of the credit officer who has not been on top of things, or was not trained how to encourage clients to commit to the deal," said Al-Wuzna. "So far all of our clients are paying their installments on time. It is a 100 percent success."

This new service, although slow to catch on in Yemen, is contributing to changing the mentality of Yemenis and promoting a culture of saving. According to Al-Kuraimi, financial studies say that anyone who is able to save between 15 to 25 percent of their income today will automatically become a rich person in the future.

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If you are interesting in learning more about the microfinance services provided by KIMB, you can visit their website at www.alkuraimi.com.



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You will have a proven track record of contributing to overall project management including monitoring and evaluation. You will be able to provide intensive needs-based technical support to project partners, as well as an ability to monitor project activities on livelihood / food security, both technically and financially. You will undertake project budget preparation and monitoring, and will assist in fundraising and proposal writing for new initiatives.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least 2 years of experience working in livelihood / food security programmes and proven understanding of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and local socio-economic development issues, institutions and communities. You will show sensitivity to gender and equity issues. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated communication skills and the ability to work well with others and as part of a team. You will have excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic, and will possess good computer skills.

To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in this position, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job you are applying for, to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk or send a fax to 01 450170.

Closing date for applications is 17th May 2011

Please apply immediately as we will be interviewing suitable candidates before the closing date



JOB OPENING

SAFER EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION OPERATIONS COMPANY ("SEPOC")

SEPOC is the Republic of Yemen's leading national Oil and Gas Company. It is the upstream Operator of Yemen's premier Marib Block (18) .

SEPOC is currently seeking to recruit for the following vacancy talented, qualified and dedicated professionals who desire a fulfilling and rewarding career with a growing and outstanding organization:

Job Title: Oracle Financial Consultant - EBS

Description:

The Oracle Financial Consultant is responsible for financial assessment and configuration of Oracle Application Financial implementation. The primary tasks for this role include configuring Oracle Financial EBS software to meet business needs and the business process requirements in the financial area, recommend a configuration approach and provide depth of skills for configuration activities, direct configuration and testing activities, work with business financial team members and document key business decisions and the rationale behind configuration settings for future reference and review.

Requirements:

Education & qualifications	Post Graduate Commerce Degree - Any Specialization.
Skills / Abilities	1. Experience in Business Process Optimization, Improvement or Re-engineering 2. Understanding implicit requirements in functional specifications and making a thorough content validation. 3. Strong organizational, multi-tasking, and time-management skills. 5. Complete functional designs and review technical designs for custom reports, interfaces or extensions impacting the financials area. 6. Technical knowledge of using Toad / Oracle Developer will be considered a plus point.
Work Experience	1. Experience in General Accounting, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Cash Management, Fixed Assets & Consolidation. Job Cost, Project Costing. 2. Implementation and support on Oracle Financial 12.0.6 or above. 3. 5- years of experience in Implementing Oracle E-Business suite. 4. Should have implemented, witnessed and participated in three to four full Oracle Financials implementation (GL, AP, AR, Cash management, Fixed Assets) 5. Team member in two implementations, but should be a team leader in at least two implementations

Other job details of the above positions are posted on 'Careers' at SAFER'S Website:

www.sepocye.com . To apply and process your application and CVs for the above positions, please visit SAFER'S Website.

Applications must be submitted online no later than **May 11th, 2011** . Faxed, mailed, or handed applications **will not** be considered.

ONLY shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

YT vision statement



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

**“To make Yemen
a good world
citizen.”**

OUR
OPINIONBreaking the vicious
cycle of poverty

The single most successful initiative that has helped many countries overcome poverty is microfinance – small credit that goes a long way in improving the lives of the poor.

However, the essence of microfinance is the efficient handling of money. This, unfortunately, no bank or financial institution can teach.

Children in more developed countries learn from an early age the concept of appreciating money and saving. They are given what is commonly called a “piggy bank”, in which they try to collect money from their allowance, or funds earned through doing extra services at home or in the neighborhood.

During one of my travels, I remember seeing little children selling lemonade in the street, having what is called a “garage sale” in which they sell their old toys, or cutting the grass of their neighbor for a few dollars. In fact, I have even read a story about how some kids are obliged to put a dime away for every curse they say.

In our part of the world, these practices are alien. We even have proverbs that encourage the total opposite of responsible saving, such as, “Spent whatever is in your pocket and receive what fate has to offer.” Such thinking encourages people to spend their money without consideration and to depend upon God to reimburse them.

Yemeni children are not raised to appreciate money in a productive way. The concept of financial planning does not exist and many children who grow up to be parents themselves do not have any idea as to how they should manage their money. Oftentimes, these grown-ups will end up completely broke.

Last week, I met with a Yemeni businessman who runs a finance company. He said that he himself recently had a conversation with a man who spends YR 1,000 per day on qat. During the weekend, this man would spend up to YR 3,000 per day feeding his addiction.

“I told him that if he saved this money instead of wasting it on qat, he could have around YR 1.5 million in three years,” said my businessman friend.

Apparently, the qat chewer said that he would think about it. Unfortunately, I doubt that he will do anything about it.

Our problem is that we as Yemenis are generally very passive. We let things slip from our hands, surrendering control of our lives to what we think is fate or God. Yet every text within our religious books encourages planning, saving and taking matters into our own hands.

I believe that it is an issue of culture. We need to wake up from our fate-dependent sleep and start to think about how we can improve our lives for the better. The first step is saving. As the financial experts say, one who can save a quarter of their income is bound to become rich.

So we all have the potential to be rich. How about that?

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Yemen – the new front line in Obama’s
war for a second term

By: Jeb Boone

Following the death of OBL, all eyes are on Yemen as the “new frontline” in the war on terror. Considering Thursday’s drone strike in Shabwa, it’s something that the US government (and Obama’s 2012 reelection campaign) actually believe.

However, contrary to popular belief, AQAP is most likely comprised of around 100 religious fanatics somewhere in Shabwa. The operational strength and resources of AQAP is highly overestimated by western governments and analysts. If we look back on AQAP’s three biggest operations since the organization’s founding in January of 2009, we can clearly see that not only are they executed fairly cheaply (AQAP even bragged about this in an issue of inspire) but they really don’t take much skill to pull off.

Not to mention, all the following operations ended in failure.

August 2009 assassination attempt
on Saudi Deputy Interior Minister
Mohammed bin Najaf

How it went down: Abdullah al-Asiri, brother to current AQAP bomb maker Ibrahim al-Asiri, walks into the bin Najaf’s office with a bomb hidden inside his body. End result? Al-Asiri kills himself, bin Najaf survives.

December 2009 bombing attempt on
Northwest Airlines flight 253

How it went down: Nigerian AQAP member Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab tries to blow up a plane with a hidden bomb. Umar sets his breeches on fire, the plane lands, and Umar will never see the light of day again.

October 2010 parcel bomb plot

How it went down: AQAP sends two printers with bombs inside to two locations. One is intercepted in Dubai and the other in the UK. How much did it cost? “Two Nokia mobiles, \$150 each, two HP printers, \$300 each, plus shipping, transportation and other miscellaneous expenses add up to a total bill of \$4,200. That is all what Operation Hemorrhage cost us,” said the organization in an edition of their English language publication Inspire.

Inside Yemen, AQAP have also been involved in two attacks on foreign elements, one on former UK Ambassador to Yemen Tim Torlot and another attack on a British diplomatic convoy. There have also been several attacks and skirmishes between the Yemeni Military/Government and the organization, resulting in several deaths on either side.

This list also doesn’t include the Fort Hood shooting that resulted in the death of 13 American soldiers. All that took to carry out was two crazy people with email accounts and one random act of violence.

Now that we have a short operational history of the organization, I’d like to briefly profile some of AQAP’s leading members. You won’t find Anwar al-Awlaki on this list. He IS NOT the leader of AQAP nor does he play any operational role in the organization. How could we describe his role in the organization? Perhaps spiritual advisor, keeping in mind that any nut with a religious text could fill that role in any fanatical organization. Also, he’s probably the go-to English speaker. Beyond that, there isn’t much else.

The fact that so many news outlets (including CNN and Reuters) continue to report that al-Awlaki is the leader of the organization is simply embarrassing.

Who is the actual leader of AQAP? Surprise, he’s a guy named Nasir al-Wuhayshi, someone people who don’t follow Yemen or AQAP closely have no idea about. Al-Wuhayshi is a Yemeni and served as one of OBL’s personal secretaries in Afghanistan. His close involvement with OBL is what gives him credibility in the organization. He is one of the 26 AQ members that escaped from prison in Yemen in 2006. He’s been “killed” a couple of times already but has managed to crawl from his grave in zombie like fashion.

Qasim al-Raymi is another big-wig in the organization and one of al-Wuhayshi’s prison break mates. In terms of operational involvement, this guy

is who is really running the show. He’s AQAP’s military leader and is involved directly with training operations.

Saeed al-Shihiri is a former Gitmo detainee and a Saudi citizen. Wikipedia says he’s dead. He’s not. Another operational head.

Ibrahim al-Asiri is a Saudi citizen and head bomb maker for AQAP.

So, what’s the best way to deal with the small but still slightly dangerous AQAP presence in Yemen? Considering how drone and missile strikes keep missing, killing civilians and in one case killing the deputy governor of the Marib Governorate, a man involved in Yemen’s fight against AQAP, it’s time for a new strategy.

Yemen Times journalist Shatha al-Harazi has reported that many of Yemen’s tribal sheikhs are actively involved in operations to expel AQAP members from their territory. Why isn’t the US or other western governments directly involved with these sheikhs? Why can’t the US trade a couple Land Cruisers for every AQAP member with these guys? It’s a lot more cost effective than failed drones and missile strikes.

The WSJ is now reporting that Thursday’s strike in Shabwa was targeting Anwar al-Awlaki and missed. No doubt, we’ll be seeing more similar strikes in the coming weeks as the US government brings the war against Obama’s 2012 political opponents to Yemen.

New Yemeni democracy

By: Ammar Al-Sharqi

Imagine you run a market in northern Yemen, a region which is trying to rebuild after years of conflict between the government and rebels.

You are basically trying to restore your livelihood. What do you want to see? You need customers.

But war takes its toll on communities, and poverty is the result. Many families have lost their livelihoods because of the conflict. They may have been displaced from their homes too.

High food prices are common in Yemen and it may be tough for people to make purchases at your market. They cannot access all of the foods they need for decent living. This can lead to malnutrition within their family. This means less productivity, less schooling. It’s the poverty trap at work. You can see the impact it has on the community, including less business for your market and less income for you.

Save the Children, though, is hoping to launch a plan to break this cycle in northern Yemen (Sa’ada province). The idea is to provide vouchers for struggling families so they can purchase food at local markets. It’s a safety net for these families; it gets food back on the shelves of their pantry and stimulates the local market.

The U.S. Food for Peace program is funding this initiative. One thousand, four hundred households, about 9,800 people, will take part in this project in northern Yemen.

Unfortunately, recent political unrest in Yemen has put the plan temporarily on hold. Aysha Twose of Save the Children says, “The political situation has been

quite difficult, but we’re hoping that we’ll be back up and running soon.”

She adds, “We’ve used food vouchers in many contexts (e.g. in Haiti and Pakistan last year) as they are quite effective in helping families meet their needs and also supporting the local market. So hopefully we’ll get it going soon in Yemen too!”

The voucher program is scheduled to last eight months. Perhaps this concept can spread to more parts of Yemen. No matter what happens politically, this is a country that needs to fight hunger and

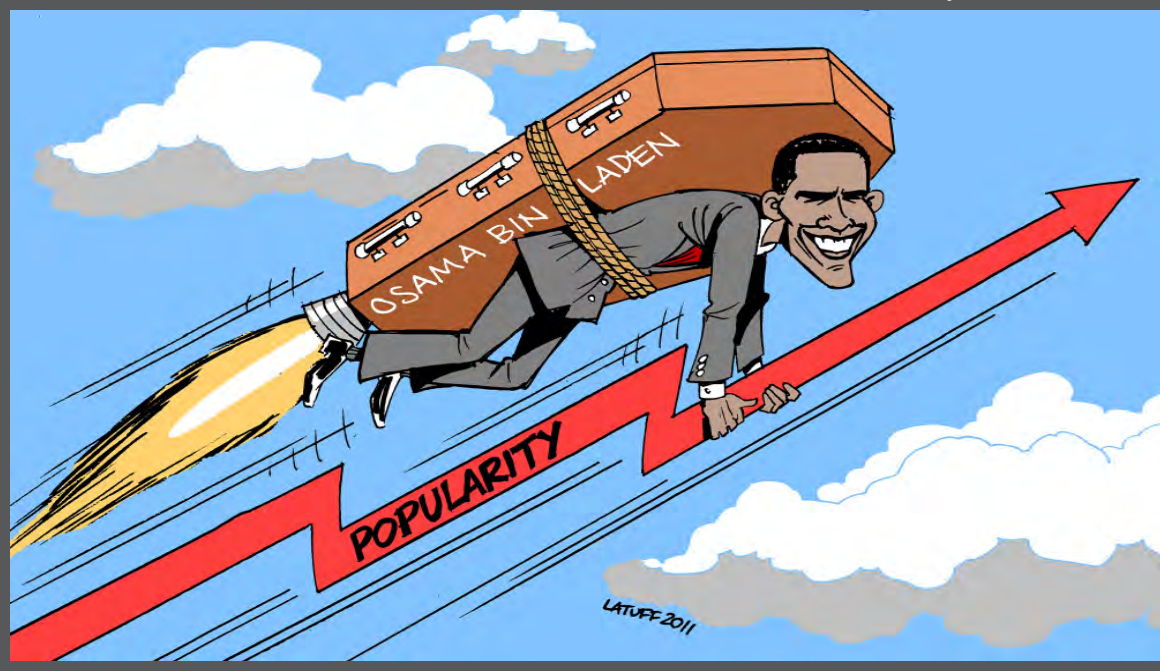
poverty. They need food for peace in the worst way.

High food prices continue to be a serious concern. Save the Children reports, “Our rapid assessment showed an average 15% increase in the price of staple foods – the highest increase was the price of vegetable oil which had gone up by 25%.”

Food safety nets for Yemenis will play a vital, stabilizing role as the country continues to sort out its political problems. Losing these safety nets will compound an already tense situation.

SKETCHED OPINION

By: Carlos Latuff



		Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations PROFESSIONAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO: 01/2011 Issued on: 5 May 2011 Deadline For Application: 21 May 2011	
Position Title:	Assistant FAO Representative (Programme)	Grade Level:	NO-B
Organizational Unit:	FNRYAR	Duty Station:	Sana'a-Yemen
		Duration:	12 months- Fixed Term
		Post Code/N°:	
		CCOG Code:	
Applications from qualified women as well as from qualified nationals of non-and under-represented member countries are encouraged			
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES			
Under the supervision of the FAO Representative (FAOR), but with considerable independence and initiative, the Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) is responsible for the coordination of the technical and operational support of the programme and project activities of the FAO Representation in the areas of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, nutrition and rural development. Specifically, the incumbent will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise and cooperate with government authorities and local, national and international institutions in the areas of FAO's activities in the country and in liaison with other UN agencies. He/she may represent FAO at inter-agency meetings as required; • Promote the image of FAO through advocacy of the Organization's mandate, programmes, national priorities and activities including development and maintenance of communication tools (e.g. website, press releases and publications) and support the implementation of FAO's regulatory frameworks (Codex Alimentarius, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Safe Use of Pesticides, etc.) in the country; • Coordinate the collection, consolidation and maintenance of country data on food, crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries including information on external aid in FAO's corporate systems and monitor changes in national policies affecting the agricultural sector; • Participate in producing technical, economic and policy studies as required and developing country level development frameworks such as the National Medium Term Priority Framework (NMTPF) and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF); • Participate in the identification, formulation and preparation of programme and project proposals and monitor and review the status of programme/project implementation to ensure that all operational activities are carried out in line with the work plan and the project document; identify inconsistencies and delays and, when necessary, propose corrective measures to overcome operational constraints; • Act as Officer-in-Charge for the day-to-day running of the FAO Representation during the absence of the FAOR, if required; • Perform any other duties as required. 			
SELECTION CRITERIA			
Candidates will be assessed against the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level and relevance of experience in programme/project development and management. • Demonstrated understanding of the purpose and functions of the technical programme, operational guidelines and project / programme management procedures, possibly of those adopted by the United Nations or FAO. • Proven capacity to approach work assignments in systematic and efficient manner with judgement and analytical skills. • Demonstrated ability to communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing. • Demonstrated ability to use standard office software, such as MS Office (Windows, Word, Outlook, Excel, Power Point, and Internet) and project management software and other information systems /databases. 			
Please note that all candidates should possess computer/word processing skills and should be capable of working with people of different national and cultural backgrounds.			
*The length of appointment for internal FAO candidates will be established in accordance with applicable policies pertaining to the extension of appointments			
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A competitive compensation and benefits package is offered. For information on UN salaries, allowances and benefits, click on the following link: http://icssc.un.org/			
to apply: Carefully read and follow the Guidelines to applicants			
Send your application to:	V.A 01/2011 FAO Representative in Yemen FAO Representation in Yemen Behind Post Office, Attan Area, Near Alloy Al-Salamy Residence Sana'a, Yemen, Fax: 01-432686 E-mail: FAO-YEM@FAO.ORG		
Interested applicants should submit their applications, through the standard FAO Personal History Form (PHF), which is obtainable through FAO Office or the following link: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/employment/ADM11USE.DOT			
Please note that FAO staff members are international civil servants subject to the authority of the Director-General and may be assigned to any activities or office of the organization.			
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- Letters to the Editor must include your name, mailing address, or email address. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, style, and length.
- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.
- For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices



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:

As a Yemeni, do you accept external intervention into Yemen affairs (including, for example, the Gulf initiative)?

Khalid Al-Karimi, college student

I'm okay the foreign intervention into the Yemeni affairs as long as the intervention is necessary. I think that considering Yemen's current political crisis, we may need a third party to step in and help. In this case, foreign assistance is a must in order to resolve the crises smoothly and peacefully. The Gulf initiative, if implemented, may defuse all this political tension. The Gulf initiative is crucial.

Sami Shamlan

I accept some foreign intervention because we can't solve all our problem alone, sometimes a third party is necessary. We can't do anything without outside help right now. But as youth, we will not accept any initiative from any party, foreign or domestic, because we don't trust President Saleh.

Saleh Al-Asad

No, I don't accept foreign intervention into Yemeni affairs. How could I? Especially from the Saudis, how can they broker a democratic agree-

ment for a transfer of power? They are the most terrible tyrants in the world! The KSA will use all of its strength to crush democracy in the Arab World.

Mojeeb Assaj

Any external interference into Yemeni affair, whether it's from the Arab World or the western world, is unacceptable. The peaceful youth revolution began in order to bring down down Ali Saleh's regime and build a new Yemen in its place. Revolutionaries around Yemen demand that this regime step down and we refuse external influence.

Murad N. Alziady

I accept the gulf initiative. In my opinion, we must look for any solutions to stop the bloodshed around Yemen, regardless of whether this came from within Yemen or from our Arab brothers outside of Yemen.

Amr alnaga

As we know, in the recent days several gulf countries have been offering an initiative. This initiative is

comprised of guarantees for Saleh and suggestions for the JMP. There is no mention of the youth, the martyrs, or the families of our beloved martyrs. We can't accept Saudi intervention, NATO intervention, or anything else like that. Never..

Muammar Al-ghubari

I think any external intervention into Yemeni affairs should preserve Yemen's unity, security and stability. Yemen face several challenges after the departure of the president, especially the economic situation, so we will need real support from the USA and Gulf countries to recover from an already dire economic situation.

Haitham Almatari

Actually I'll never accept any intervention in my country. However, this time I have to accept it to fix my country.

Taha Mothana

I think that I will accept it as tool that may help, but I still believe that it is nothing more than a political game between the GPC and JMP.

Next Week's Question:

What do you think about what local or national channels show about Yemen?

Follow this section for a new question every week and feel free to reply with your answers or feedback by sending an e-mail to

ytyouth@gmail.com

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



The Change Square art gallery provides local artists with a venue to display their work

Photo by Jeb Boone

Media freedom in Yemen and the US

By: Mohamed Ali
mohamedali2009@maktoob.com

It would be interesting for your readers if you wrote about your editor-in-chief's recent tour of America to compare media freedom in American to media freedom in Yemen.

Your editor-in-chief stated that the Yemen Times does not hold a political bias. This is not true. Did you write about the Assabain people who were very close to your office and you are the main source to other media? Because you saw and heard them from your office, but when

we read it in the Yemen Times it is the same as we are hearing from Suhail, Al-Jazeera and Al-Alm. Is that not altering the facts? You stated most newspapers, websites, and television Station have their agenda. They are same as the Yemen Times, which has become to follow Suhail's agenda.

We are at the beginning of media freedom in Yemen. Of course not like America, there they have had media freedom for hundreds of years. And we are a poor people and an underdeveloped country. Are the media freedoms in America like the media freedoms in Yemen? Are they working against their country like in Ye-

men? Or do they have no need for that as they are the first power in the world? They are a rich people with no need of financial support from other countries, and justice there.

Are there national principles? Are there laws to punish anybody who writes against his country as you are doing now in Yemen? Or do you want more freedom than this? If the Yemen Times is independent, and they respect the view and the other view, could you please publish this? Or is permission required through Suhail or any other agenda?

Are you not for the alliance? Fear God. This is your country.



اختيار مقاولي النقل - برنامج الاغذية العالمي للأمم المتحدة

يقوم برنامج الأغذية العالمي التابع للأمم المتحدة في اليمن بمراجعة وتحديث قائمة شركات النقل المحتملة، وعلى الشركات المهتمة والمؤهلة والراغبة، تقديم طلب إستمارة الخاصة بالنقل، لتعبئته وإرفاق جميع وثائق و بيانات الشركة و التراخيص ذات الصلة، خلال فترة أقصاها نهاية دوام يوم السبت الموافق ١٤ مايو ٢٠١١، و يطلب من الشركات المعتمدة لدي برنامج الاغذية العالمي للأمم المتحدة، تعبئة إستبيان النقل و تقديم جميع الوثائق و التراخيص ذات العلاقة خلال الفترة الموضحة أعلاه، علماً بأن الطلب الوارد من قبل الشركات بعد هذا الموعد لن يأخذ بعين الاعتبار، و ينبغي تقديم الطلب إلى مكتب البرنامج في صنعاء على العنوان التالي، مع كتابة «قائمة الشركات»، علماً بأن الشركات التي سيتم قبولها في القائمة هي فقط التي سيتم دعوتها للمشاركة في المناقصات.

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"United Nations World Food Programme - Selection of Potential Transporters"

The United Nation Word Food Programme, Republic of YEMEN is currently reviewing its shortlist of potential transport companies.

Interested and qualified companies are requested to fill the WFP Transport Questionnaire, and submit it together with a letter of interest, a company profile and supporting documents such as references, copy of company registration or relevant authorization. The deadline is Saturday May 14, 2011. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Companies who are already short listed by The United Nation World Food Programme are requested to fill the Questionnaire and submit it again along with the supporting documents. Applications should be submitted to the following address, with reference «Logistics Shortlist». Please note that only short listed companies will be notified and receive request for offers.

The World Food Programme
Villa no. 22 Nouakchott Street,
Tel. 01 214100/1
Sana'a office

Interested companies are requested to collect Transport Questionnaire at the WFP office located at the above indicated address. The questionnaire is expected to be submitted together with other supporting documents.

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Social Fund for Development was established as an autonomous State organization, under the Council of Ministers in 1997 by Law No. 10 to contribute effectively in the implementation of state plans in both the social and economic fields. Due to the constant development of the operational and administrative operations, SFD is currently seeking to recruit highly qualified and experienced Yemenis to join its head office team in Sana'a. Deloitte was commissioned by SFD to assist in the establishment and development of the HR Unit for its headquarters in Sana'a. SFD currently has the below vacancies.

HR Manager

Main duties include developing strong partnerships with senior stakeholders, working with them on all employee and legal matters and delivering HR initiatives that drive commercial success. Responsibilities of the role include leading the HR function by providing strategic support in a wide range of areas including recruitment, payroll, performance management, rewards and employee relations, as well as learning and development, and talent management. The successful candidate will ensure the development and implementation of policies and procedures that reflect management philosophies, while working to improve communications and strengthen operations. Other responsibilities include developing the manpower plan and budget with the department heads in line with business objectives and the corporate strategy. This exciting opportunity targets candidates who are people oriented with demonstrated strengths in leadership and problem solving. Strong communication and presentation skills with the ability to influence others are also necessary. Applicants should have a Master's degree in business administration or an HR degree from a leading university with 10 years of experience in human resources including five years in a supervisory role with a leading institution. Fluency in Arabic and English is a must.

Applications

Interested candidates meeting the above requirements are invited to send their detailed CV quoting the job title by 15th May 2011 to maoos@deloitte.com and a copy to hr@sfyemen.org. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Visit Us at www.deloitte.com/yemen
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Officer, Planning and Employment Section

Main duties include developing procedures to determine and benchmark required staffing levels to improve the effectiveness of the business process and to produce greater profitability. The successful candidate will prepare the annual workforce plan in coordination with the unit's head, put in place a talent attraction strategy and design and implement a structured and sophisticated recruitment process to ensure effective hiring of the best talent in line with the competency framework. Strong organization and negotiation skills with the ability to influence and persuade others are also necessary. Applicants should have a business administration or HR degree from a leading university with six years of experience including three years in a supervisory role with a leading institution. Fluency in Arabic and English is a must.

Team Leader, Training and Development Section

Main duties include working in conjunction with team leaders and department heads to analyze and identify skill gaps and make recommendations as to whether these should be filled by development and training of existing staff or by strategic and targeted recruitment. The successful candidate will identify individual and organizational training needs, establish a realistic training and development plan and budget as well as develop an integrated management development training scheme for professional staff through external/internal resources and in-house training seminars. The incumbent will also oversee the appraisal system, develop the firm's competency framework and update policies and procedures as necessary. Strong organizational, analytical and time management skills are essential. Applicants should have a business administration or HR degree from a leading university with a minimum of six years of experience in the training and development field, including three years in a supervisory position with a leading institution.

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As protests rage, children are caught in the chaos

By: Carl Conradi

When it comes to the protection of children during this critical moment in Yemeni history, all sides of the political dispute have blood on their hands. Indeed, when exploring the capital city's two epicenters of protest – the pro-government camp at Tahrir Square and the pro-democracy tent village at Sana'a University – one cannot help but notice the number of boys and girls who are being exposed to the most disturbing of physical risks. Unfortunately, adults seem to be more interested in using youth as political pawns, than in sheltering them from a political struggle that most children are too young to understand.

When asked by the Yemen Times why they had brought their sons and daughters to the demonstrations, many fathers at Change Square said that they wanted them to be exposed to history in the making. They wished for their young ones to play a part in the overthrowing of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime.

Likewise, in Tahrir Square, it is not uncommon to see children take to the main stage with their parents, gripping the microphone and shouting angry pro-government slogans in high pitched voices. These same children will then take to the streets, playing violent "soldier and protester" games with their young friends.

But do parents have the right to turn their small and inexperienced children into spokes-children for their own political grievances?



A young boy at Change Square in Sana'a wears a headband that reads, "I am the next martyr."

The risks are certainly high. On 21 March 2011, UNICEF reported that 19 children had been killed in protests across Yemen. As one UN report noted, "This is an estimated 20 percent of the total number of casualties, and is 'absolutely alarming,' according to UNICEF Child Protection Specialist George Abu-Zulof."

As of 19 April 2011, this number had risen to 26 children. Such figures beg an important question - do parents have the right to expose their young ones to potential death, even for the sake of revolution?

When speaking with the Yemen Times, Abdissalam Al-Zubeiry, a pro-democracy activist who contributed to

Change Square's Martyr Project and father of three, said, "Having our children inside this revolution is important, as it gives them a voice and it helps them to learn their rights."

Does Al-Zubeiry worry for his children's safety?

"For sure," he said. "We're extremely worried as fathers and mothers. But now, the children themselves ask us to take them to the square. They say, 'Papa, we don't want to go to the park. We want to go to the square.' There they find other children and they sing the national anthem together."

Even more alarming has been the alleged use of child soldiers by both government and opposition security forces.

According to the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, "State parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of 15 years do not take a direct part in hostilities." This means that the use of children under the age of 15 in armed combat is punishable both by Yemeni law (as Yemen is a signatory to the Convention) and international law.

The 2002 Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict raised the legal age of soldiery to 18. Yemen's accession to this Optional Protocol took place on 2 March 2007.

Finally, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into effect on 1 July 2002, states that the use of children under the age of 15 in armed combat is a war crime. Yemen signed this Statute on 28 December 2000, but has yet to ratify it.

In spite of these various international treaties, however, child soldiers continue to be used in all of Yemen's major conflicts and by all of Yemen's main political groups.

In an article written by Al-Jazeera in 2010, the Chairman of the Dar As-Salaam organization in Sana'a claimed that, "As many as 500 to 600 children are killed or injured through direct involvement in tribal combat in Yemen every year."

According to Ahmed Al-Gorashi, the Director of the Seyaj organization who is quoted in the same article, many of these child soldiers are killed in Sa'ada governorate, where – as is the case in many Yemeni tribes – "If you are old enough to carry the jambiya, then you are old enough to fight with your tribe."

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But it is not just the Houthis who have been accused of employing children under the age of 18 in armed combat. According to the most recent edition of the Child Soldiers Global Report, "Children as young as 15 [have been] allegedly given weapons by [President Saleh's] armed forces and sent to the front with no training."

The fact that President Saleh has recruited child soldiers was confirmed when Maj. Gen. Ali Muhsin Al-Ahmar, the leader of the 1st Armored Division, defected from government and joined the protesters.

According to Human Rights Watch, Maj. Gen. Ali Muhsin took with him many underage combatants – some as young as 14-years old – who had former-

ly been employed by President Saleh's military. There has been no indication as of yet that either the defected 1st Armored Division or the state military has shed itself of these illegal child soldiers.

Child soldiery is a crime punishable both by Yemeni and international law, and yet Yemen's president, opposition and tribes are all guilty of it. Bringing children to pro- or anti-government demonstrations, on the other hand, is not a crime, but it is a highly dangerous environment for a child to be in.

Yemen's adults will continue to protest against one another's politics for the foreseeable future – either peacefully or violently. But Yemen's children have the legal and moral right to be protected from such instability and bloodshed.

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