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Confusion, mixed feelings surround Saleh's departure

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, June 5 — Jubilant screams and dancing broke out in Change

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Winter inside.

Square after protesters first heard the news of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's departure to Saudi Arabia for treatment according to an official

statement from Saudi government. Based on article 116 from the Yemeni constitution, vice president Abd Rabu Mansur Hadi was placed in charge as acting president.

The Yemeni government has yet to release any official statements to confirm, deny or clarify the condition of the president of the conditions surrounding his departure.

In spite of Saleh's departure, fighting between loyalist government military forces and tribesmen continued to rage in the Al-Hasaba district of

Despite the dancing in the squares, the explosions didn't stop. On Sunday sources from the 1st Armored Division, loyal to defected Major General Ali Mohsen said that an attack was ordered by acting president Hadi against the 1st Armored Division camp inside the city. The explosion left two dead and 15 injured.

"This will be the last explosive fired against the Division, I promise" Major Hamdan Faris told the Yemen Times. "Many of the Republican Guards will join the revolution today" he said.

Abd Al-Ghani Al-Eryani, a political

analyst told the Yemen Times that the whole situation is just the implementing of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries initiative that was signed by parties, the Joint Meeting Parties [the Opposition Coalitions Parties] and the ruling party that plans a peaceful transmission of power.

President Saleh on Saturday declared his willingness to complete the GCC initiative according to the official news agency.

"What happened is just step number one of the three steps that was suggested by the GCC initiative" Said Al-Eryani. "He rules 30 days and authorize his duty to his deputy. The General People's Congress signed and the Joint Meeting Parties signed with Saleh as the only obstacle in its implementation.

There are conflicting reports that Saleh's Family, who have command positions in the military and armed forces, left with him to Saudi.

"We still aren't sure who has left with Saleh. I would prefer that his family stay and answer to parliament to shed light on the past four months of protests, to give us a look behind

closed door," said Al-Eryani.

Al-Eryani said that also people are celebrating in the streets for the revolution victory still it didn't meet its aim yet in withdrawing the regime. "Everything the peaceful protesters seek hasn't happened yet. There is no parliamentarian regime under the rule of law. What happened is just the symbol of the corrupt dictator retreating, not the regime itself," he added.

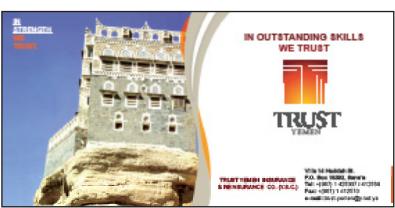
"We need the GCC initiative to complete the procedures of bringing down the regime," he said.

A ruling party official has reported that Saleh will return to Yemen in a couple of days.

MP Shwaqi Al-Qadhi said that the peaceful revolutionary youth have a harder task now and need to come together to fight for their revolution's goals to come true and to prevent the "counter- revolution" of those who would try to get benefit from the revolution and ruin it.

"The world is still waiting for the US position. They are still trying to rearrange their policies and the Arabs still waiting for Saudi Aribia to react," said al-Qadhi.





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New president, old guard

Abd Raboo Mansour Hadi, the vice president of Yemen has taken over as presidential responsibilities in Yemen after Saleh left Sana'a to Saudi Arabia on Saturday night for medical treatment, Yemen's Abdo Al-Janadi, deputy minister of information stated

Saleh's health condition has been reported worse that it was believed, according to Saudi medical sources.

Dr. Mohamed Abd Al-Malek Al-Mutawakel, member of the supreme council of the opposition coalition known as the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) told the Yemen Times that vice-president is the legitimate person to take over the president's tasks for 60 days and presidential elections are to be held during this period, according to Yemen's con-

"The opposition will start a dialogue with him and forming a national unity government headed by the opposition to implement the GCC brokered power transition," added Al-Mutawakel

"Al-Hadi has been known as a military figure and he participated in the war against the south with Saleh in 1994," said Mutawakel.

He noted that Hadi was not designated as VP by a republican decree, but with personal direction from Saleh.

"John Brennan, President Barack Obama's national security adviser, spoke with the Yemeni vice president by telephone on Saturday, a White House official said, but offered no details," the Associated Press reported on Sunday

During a three-day visit which ended on Friday, Brennan traveled to Saudi

Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to discuss the crisis in Yemen.

Yemen's constitution stipulates that, "If the post of the President of the Republic becomes vacant or should the President become permanently disabled, the • Vice President temporarily takes over the presidential functions for a period that does not exceed sixty days, during which new elections for the President of the Republic shall take place."

"If the posts of the President of the Republic and Vice President become vacant at the same time, the Presiding Board of the House shall temporarily take over the functions of the President. If the House of Representatives are under dissolution, the government shall replace the Presiding Board of the House in carrying out the functions of the Presidency, and in this case election of the President of the Republic shall take place within a period that does not exceed sixty days from the first session of the new House of Representatives." Below is more information about Hadi, his life and his military and political contribution in the south and north of Yemen:

- Born in Thukain village of Al-Wade' district in Abyan governorate on May 1st 1945.
- Graduated in 1964 from Aden Protectorate Army School, which was privately military school for
- qualifying sons of army officers of the southern Arab Union Had a scholarship to Britain and
- joined a military course on military terms and then joined also one year half special military course. During this course, he learned to

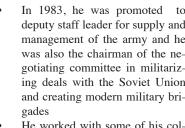
speak English and graduated in

He came back to Aden and had a military scholarship to Cairo on tanks until 1970

- In 1976, he received a four-year military scholarship to Russia on leadership and staff
- He worked as a leader of an armored division until the independence of the south Yemen from Britain in 1967, after the independence he was appointed as a leader of armored division at Al-Anad military base, in the western area of the south, then manager of armored school, then staff officer for armored weapons, after that staff officer for the military college and then director of human resources training circuit of the armed forces
- In 1972, he moved to Al-Dale' area and was appointed as deputy leader of Karash area and he was a member of the mediation committee for ceasing fire and head of the military committee in mutual negotiations which followed the war between the north and the south, after that he lived in Aden as a director of human resource training department of the south's
- When Abd Al-Fatah Ismail was removed from ruling the south of Yemen known as the peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen and Ali Naser Mohamed took over after him in 1980, he remained in his position as the director of training department of

- In 1983, he was promoted to deputy staff leader for supply and management of the army and he was also the chairman of the negotiating committee in militarizing deals with the Soviet Union and creating modern military bri-
- He was appointed as a military leader of Al-Baida and participated in the 1994 civil war between Saleh's regime and the socialist leaders of the former government
- On April 10th 1994, Saleh designated him as vice president of

the army during bloody conflict in northern rural areas between the regime and the national front which was backed by the regime in the south



- He worked with some of his colleagues on gathering military brigades who displaced from the south to the north during the bloody clashes with the national front with the northern regime. He coordinated with the regime in the north and reorganize the conditions of these brigades were called the brigades of Yemen's unity. He remained in the north of Yemen until May 22nd 1990 when the unification was announced between the Arab Republic of Yemen in the north and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in the south
- in the south
- In May 1994, he was designated as a minister of defense by a republican decree



He was graded in military ranks starting with an officer in the southern Arab Army in 1966 until a lieutenant general in 1997

On Saturday evening 4th June 2011, Hadi took over the power of

president of Yemen after Saleh left Yemen to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment from injuries due to attack on his compound amidst nationwide uprisings demanding an end to Saleh's 33-year rule

Taiz violence continues

By: Emad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, June 4- The city of Taiz, 265 km south the capital Sana'a in home to some of the most serious violence in the entire country after the state's security forces withdrew from streets and governmental buildings on Saturday. Looters stormed many public offices including police stations, prosecution office, agriculture office and the branch of Saba news agency.

Abdullah Qairan, security chief of Taiz told the Yemen Times that armed men also raided state's prisons and released

Locals also reported that they saw looters stealing property of the Al-Qahira police station in the heart of Taiz city. Saleh since he was attacked in his personal compound in Sana'a and five of his senior officials were severely hurt. State-owned media confirmed on Saturday that Saleh and other top officials were sent to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment.

On Saturday the city witnessed violent clashes between armed backers of the youth revolution and Saleh's loyal forces. On the Same day, the 32nd brigade in Al-Janad known as Khaled Bin burned a military vehicle and seized Al-Waleed camp, which includes 800 soldiers, was divided into two halves between pro-Saleh and supporters of the anti-government protesters.

This new military defections took place after pro-democracy protesters in Taiz retook control of freedom square on Friday June 3rd after it was taken by Saleh's forces on Sunday May 29th in a night raid that killed dozens of peaceful protesters and burned the camp.

The protesters were able to take over the square with the assistance of armed tribesmen and retired soldiers in Taiz since tribal leaders in the governorate vowed to protect protesters in an emergency meeting held on Monday, following Sunday developments.

The chaos in the city was bolstered The clashes between Saleh's forces amidst the unknown fate of president and armed men and retired soldiers broke out on Friday morning when they first prevented protesters from coming back to their square. Three protesters were killed and 28 were also injured, according to eyewitnesses, whereas four soldiers of Saleh's forces have been killed and 25 others wounded, according to an official source in

> Eyewitnesses reported also that armed men and around 40 defected soldiers

another one during the clashes on Fri-

Saleh's forces withdrew from the square after news on Friday afternoon said that Saleh was injured in his palace in a mortar-shell attack launched at his mosque in the palace and left seven of his guards dead and four top official wounded, one of them in critical condition.

The city now witnesses streets war between defected soldiers and Saleh's forces which are being supported also by some thugs loyal to the ruling par-

The city is also under siege and all entrants are closed amidst lack of service including power, water, fuel and shortage of food, according to locals who spoke to the Yemen Times on the phone.

Terror also grips the city as the exchange of fire takes place in every corner and street of the city. People can't go out due to increasing clashes all around the city.

Locals also said that snipers of Saleh's forces have centered on the roofs of high buildings across the city in an attempt to prevent any gathering of



Security forces were withdrawn from governmental buildings in Taiz leaving it vulnerable for looting and

Taiz was the first governorate of Yemen to start a popular protest in January demanding an end to Saleh's 33- have been killed since the beginning

vear rule.

More than 100 peaceful protesters

of protest movement in the city which has been know the most civilized area in the country.

Amid mounting violence, a call for restraint

Geneva/Sana'a (ICRC) - Violence in Yemen has taken a new dimension with the eruption of armed confrontations in the capital, Sana'a, and in other major cities, such as Taiz and Abyan. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is alarmed by the escalating violence and is deeply concerned about the consequences as dozens of people have been injured or

«The consequences, in humanitarian terms, are becoming more serious by the day,» said Jean-Nicolas Marti, head of the ICRC delegation in Yemen. «Hundreds of civilians have found themselves caught in the crossfire, and dozens of people on all sides have been injured or killed in fighting in Hasaba, in the northern part of Sana'a. In Taiz and Abyan the situation is getting worse as the fighting intensifies.»

The ICRC calls upon all those involved in the current clashes to exercise restraint in the use of force and to help first-aid workers save lives and, if necessary, transfer casualties. Human life and dignity must be preserved at all times. Human remains must be treated with dignity and handed over to the families for proper burial.

«People in the capital and other major cities are facing new and difficult challenges,» said Mr Marti. «People are afraid and uncertain of how things will unfold. Many families, fearing more violence in the coming days, are stocking up on food and water. Gunshots and loud explosions can be heard

over long periods, even at night.»

Hospital staff are coping with increasing numbers of casualties. Yemen Red Crescent volunteer first-aid workers face many difficulties performing their life-saving tasks.

The ICRC has been able to reach violence-stricken areas in Abyan and has supplied Al Razi Hospital in Khanfar with dressing kits and first-aid supplies. It has also given dressing kits to the Science and Technology Hospital in Sana'a.

The ICRC continues to monitor the situation very closely and remains firm in its support for the Yemen Red Crescent. It is carrying on with the work it performs for detainees and others suffering the effects of the ongoing violence.

At least 10 die in smuggling boat incident in the Gulf of Aden

GENEVA - At least 10 people have detection by the Yemeni navy, forced smugglers' utter disregard for human lost their lives in a tragic boat smuggling incident on the Gulf of Aden after a two-day journey from Somalia to

According to initial reports citing some of the original 115 passengers found on Yemen's shore near Al Hamra, some 200 kilometers east of Aden, the smuggler's boat set sail from Bosasso, Puntland in northern Somalia early on Sunday morning. Ten Ethiopians suffocated en route to Yemen as the smugglers crammed and confined 25 people to the engine room with no ventilation. Survivors claim that their bodies were thrown into the sea some seven hours after departure.

Another four people reportedly perished in waves as smugglers, fearing

the remaining passengers to disembark too far from the coast. After the exhausting trip they were simply too tired to swim and succumbed to the

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) is shocked and saddened by this latest

tragic incident. "We condemn the unscrupulous and inhumane treatment of refugees and others who are desperately seeking to flee the violence, human rights abuses and seriously debilitating life options in the Horn of Africa," said Erika Feller, the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection. "We have witnessed similar, isolated, individual incidents before - but never on such scale. This speaks volumes about the

As of Tuesday morning, UNHCR's local partner in Yemen, Society for Humanitarian Solidarity, had recovered one male and one female body.

They were buried on Tuesday at the local cemetery near Al Hamra. The 101 survivors, mostly Ethiopians, were transferred today to Ahwar Reception Centre for care and recovery.

One hundred and eight people are known to have drowned or fallen victim to risky crossings on the Gulf of Aden since the beginning of the year – compared to only 15 during the whole of 2010.

More than 9,000 Somalis and 27,000 Ethiopians have arrived in Yemen by boat so far this year.

Yemen's Revolution

In the wake of the Tunisian Revolution, in a movement which is known now as the Arab Spring, Yemen decided to rise against the decades long rule of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The uprising began in February and pushed forward into June. Now that Saleh has left, we look back on more than four months of protests throughout Yemen.

By: Michelle Laval

FEBRUARY

2 February 2011: Thousands of Yemenis opposed to the government take to the streets of Sana'a, Aden and Taiz on the "First Day of Rage". Protesters are demanding that the Consitution be amended in order to prevent President Saleh to run for another term. In a speech to the nation, Ali Abdullah Saleh promises that he will leave the presidency once his term completed and that his son Ahmed will not be put forward as he next presidential candidate.

The President urges the Opposition to enter into a dialogue, claiming that he is in favor of a "National unity Government". 3 February: Tens of thousands of protesters in Sana'a on "Second Day of Rage" decry government corruption, and Saleh's control of power and resources. Saleh again calls for dialogue with the opposition.

10 February: Thousands of Southern Movement (SM) supporters march in several parts of the south in protest to the military siege imposed by the government. They demand the release of all political prisoners detained for their involvement in the SM. The government is accusing the Movement of promoting secessionist sentiments.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak resigns.

12 February: In Yemen's capital Sana'a, thousands of men and women are seen celebrating the fall of Mubarak in a show of solidarity with Egypt. Banners are raised: "Today we are all Egyptians".

The demonstrators are soon met by supporters of the Regime in Tahrir Square and clashes between the 2 escalate to violent outburst. Other anti-regime protesters decide to march towards the Egyptian Embassy, demanding the end of Saleh's regime and his immediate departure.

2 men are injured, attacked by Saleh armed thugs.

13 February: Tens of thousands rally in front of Sana'a University as well as in Liberty Square in Taiz. They are confronted by pro-government demonstrators in both cities. Government security forces arrest 120 protesters in Taiz, according to Yasser al-Maqtari, a human rights activist from Taiz.

15 February: About 2,000 Saleh supporters, backed by undercover police, attack over 3,000 student protesters in front of Sana'a University, using sticks and electric batons; Khalid al-Ansi, executive director of the National Organization for Defending Human Rights and Freedoms (a local NGO know as HOOD), reports to IRIN.

16 February: Around 500 protesters in Aden demand Saleh's ouster. 2 protesters are killed in Sana'a.

17 February: At least 25 are injured in clashes between pro- and anti-government protesters in front of Sana'a University.

18 February: 4 killed, 11 injured when the authorities attempt to disperse thousands of protesters in Aden in a demonstration called "Friday of Start". A local council building, police station and several police vehicles are set ablaze; Mohammed Salim, a riot police officer, tells IRIN from Aden. At least three killed and another 87 injured when a grenade is thrown at tens of thousands of protesters in Taiz's Liberty Square. Ten injured in another protest staged in the southern city of Mukalla.

19 February: One protester is killed and another 15 injured in clashes between police and anti-government demonstrators in front of Sana'a University. Another protester killed in Aden.

21 February: The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), an opposition coalition, and Houthi followers in the north declare their support for the young protesters demanding Saleh's ouster. Tens of thousands take to streets of Sa'dah, demanding the same.

22 February: At least 5 students injured in clashes with Saleh supporters in

front of Sana'a University.

23 February: 10 MPs resign from ruling General People's Congress in protest at the government's crackdown on protesters. Two protesters killed and 23 injured in Sana'a.

25 February: Hundreds of thousands of protesters stream onto the streets of Sana'a, Taiz, Ibb, Amran, Sa'dah, Aden,

Dhalea, Mukalla, Lahj, Shabwa, Abyan, Dhamar, Marib, Al-Jauf and Hodeida on the "Friday of Immovability". At least 7 killed and dozens of others injured in Aden, according to HOOD.

26 February: Senior Sheikhs from Yemen's most powerful tribal confederations, the Hashid and Bakil, declare their support for the protesters. "Saleh and his regime must leave now," said Sheikh Fasail Al-Dheli from the Hashid tribe. "How is it possible for a regime to reform things in two years after it failed to do so in more than three decades?" he asked.

27 February: 8 killed, 36 injured in Aden protests, raising death toll since 2 February to 26, according to YHRO.

MARCH

1 March: Hundreds of thousands rally in most main cities to express solidarity with the families of protesters killed in Aden in a day named "Tuesday of Rage". "Ending Saleh's rule is the only option for us. We will not leave this place until Saleh steps down," former MP Fuad Dihaba tells IRIN.

4 March: 2 killed, 6 injured when army attacks anti-government protesters in war-torn Harf Sufyan District, Amran Governorate.

8 March: Some 70 to 80 students are injured and one killed after government troops fired with live ammunitions at protesters in front of Sana'a University. On the same day a riot erupts at Sana'a central prison: 60 injured, 20 of them police.

10 March: Saleh goes on TV to announce plans to change the constitution to move to a parliamentary system.

18 March: More than 50 protesters were killed in Sana'a as plainclothes snipers opened fire from surrounding buildings. Known as Jumat Al-Karama, it is the bloodiest day in more than two months of protests throughout Yemen and the ramifications would shake the country.

21 March: In reaction to the March 18th massacre in Sana'a, Major General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar announces his support for the youth revolution, defecting from the Saleh regime. He then orders his 1st Armored Division to protect Change Square from any further attacks.

APRII

5 April: 3 killed and more than 400 injured in renewed clashes between thousands of protesters and police in Sana'a and Taiz.

6 April: Tens of thousands of demonstrators besiege Taiz Governorate's administrative HQ in protest against the firing of live rounds against the crowds on the previous day. 15 activists are arrested in Aden following clashes with the police

8 April: Hundreds of thousands of protesters take to the streets in about 15 of Yemen's 21 governorates on a day the protesters call "Friday of Determination"

10 April: 4 killed, 43 injured in clashes between protesters and riot police in Taiz. Some 500 protesters are taken ill after inhaling tear gas.

11 April: Saleh announces his acceptance of a 30-day exit plan offered by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states. The plan anticipates Saleh handing power to his vice-president in exchange for giving him and his family immunity from prosecution.

12 April: Hundreds of thousands of people take to the streets of main cities to protest against the GCC proposals.

13 April: 5 soldiers are killed and 4 others injured in clashes between the First Armoured Division (led by Ali Mohsen, the defected General) and government troops. 2 protesters are killed in Aden

15 April: Hundreds of thousands of protesters go onto the streets in about 17 governorates on what they call "Friday of Tolerance". Some 13 protesters are injured in Taiz.

17 April: The GCC foreign ministers meet with the Yemeni opposition in the Saudi capital, Riyadh. 2 protesters are killed, 45 others injured in Sana'a. "Ambulances taking injured protesters were attacked by pro-government thugs and their staff injured," Mohammed al-Qubati, deputy manager of the field hospital at the Sana'a University protest site,

21 April: 15 people, including 13 soldiers are killed in clashes between a contingent of the Republican Guards, led by Saleh's eldest son Ahmed and armed tribesmen in the southern governorate of Lahj. "The clashes erupted after tribesmen moved to drive a Republican Guard contingent from a strategic position in their area," Mohammed al-Khalidi, a tribal sheikh, told IRIN from Lahj Governorate.

22 April: Hundreds of thousands of protesters take to the streets of main cities on what they call "Last Chance Friday". The president's supporters rally in the Sabeen area of Sana'a, near the Presidential Palace.

10 Republican Guards are killed in an ambush by armed tribesmen in Marib Governorate.

27 April: At least 7 are killed and more than 100 injured in clashes between protesters and government supporters as the former advanced towards the state TV building in Sana'a.

29 April: Hundreds of thousands demonstrate in 17 of Yemen's 21 governorates on what they call the "Friday of Loyalty with Martyrs". Saleh dismisses Attorney-General Abdullah al-Ulifi for demanding there be an investigation into the death of the protesters allegedly massacred by the Regime's Security Forces on March 18th..

MAY

4 May: Tens of thousands of people in Sana'a, Taiz, Hodeidah, Ibb, Dhamar and other cities demonstrate against the government's bombing of Yafea District, Lahj Governorate.

The government accuses the opposition of cutting off the tongue of a poet loyal to Saleh.

5 May: Tens of thousands of people demonstrate in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Ibb to press Saleh to step down. Protesters announce that 7 and 11 May: are to be days of civil disobedience.

6 May: Hundreds of thousands demonstrate in almost all Yemeni governorates on what they call "Friday of Speaking to his supporters in Saneen area, Saleh vows to crack down on what he called "opposition-backed bandits" who hit oil pipelines and a power plant in Marib Governorate.

8 May: 3 protesters are killed, 20 injured in clashes with riot police in Taiz and Hodeidah governorates.

9 May: "Revolution Youth" closes government offices in Ibb, Taiz and Hodeidah. 4 are killed, more than 100 injured in Taiz after government troops tried to disperse protesters besieging government offices in the city, using live ammunition, batons and water cannons.

10 May: Demonstrators march out of 'Change' Square demanding President Saleh's resignation.

11 May: Saleh Security Forces dressed in Ali Mohsen Brigade's uniforms attempted to corner protesters while they were marching in the capital . As a result 12 civilians died and more than 150 were injured. The protesters took refuge in a Mosque, helped by the intervention of a Sheikh. 8 men were killed in Taiz, Hodeidah and Ibb.

13 May: 3 protesters are killed by the police in Ibb city as hundreds of thousands take to streets in almost all Yemeni governorates on what they call "Friday of Decisiveness". Speaking to his supporters rallying in the Sabeen area on what the Regimed calls the "Friday of Unity", Saleh says: "We will encounter defiance with stronger defiance."

He urges loyalists to align with the Army and the Security Forces in defending government institutions. Clashes between the First Armoured Division and the Republican Guards in Ban Matar District, 40km west of Sana'a, leave 3 soldiers dead.

14 May: 5 Republican Guards are killed in an ambush by tribesmen in Marib Governorate, 180km east of Sana'a. 6 members of the government Security forces are killed in Rada city, in Beida Governorate about a 150km southeast of Sana'a, when armed tribesmen attacked a security checkpoint at the city's eastern entrance.

18 May: President Saleh said to be planning to sign the GCC proposal. Saleh refuses to sign the deal hours before scheduled time. A Candle Light Vigil is held at 'Change' Square in Sana'a for all those abducted and unlawfully detained by the regime.

21 May: President Saleh celebrates national holiday Unity Day with a Military Parade and Speech. JMP members sign the GCC agreement. Saleh announces that he will ink the deal on the following day.

22 May: The day starts with celebra-

tions for Unity Day all over Yemen and Sana'a. Millions of demonstrators celebrate in Change Square as President Saleh celebrates on Police Street.

Only hours before the scheduled signature time Saleh refuses to sign the proposal after all. He demands that the Opposition joins him in the Presidentail Palace to sign in his presence and that of his party.

Sana'a is under siege by Saleh's military, thugs and supporters. Streets are blocked and chaos hits the streets. The US, UK and EU ambassadors are trapped in the UAE embassy as Saleh's military and thugs surround the perimeter, carrying weapons.

The GCC Secretay General, al-Zayani's convoy is attacked by Saleh supporters who are accusing him of meddling with Yemen internal affairs. The diplomat takes refuge within the wall of the Embassy after several minutes of intense chaos and confusion.

The UAE Foreign Ministry sends a message to the Yemeni government, warning that if any harm comes to the embassy staffs, the diplomats or the ambassadors, Saleh would have to bear the consequences of his actions.

By the end of the day, the ambassadors are airlifted out of the embassy, to the Presidential Palace. Gunshots are heard all over Sana'a. Supporters blocking all roads with batons argue they won't leave until they are reassured that Saleh won't sign the deal. Many believed that this was an act ordered by the President himself in a bid to show the World he had his countrymen support.

Saleh later announced that he would not sign the GCC deal in respect for all those who came out and demonstrated on the streets in support of him.

23 May: Ali Abdullah Saleh orders an attack on Sheikh Sadeeq al-Ahmad, the tribal leader of one of Yemen most important tribe, the Hasheed. The house was shelled from all sides, leaving many tribesmen dead. The sheikh lives in the Hasada district in the capital, Sana'a.

Just as the attack started on al-Ahmar,government forces started to gather around Change Square. Shelling and gunfire were heard.

24 May: The government is once again assaulting Sheikh al-Ahmar's house using heavy artillery and tanks. Witnesses are saying that many sheikhs are currently in the house which is now surrounded by the Republican Guards. Gunshots are being fired from the Interior Ministry. At least 4 men are declared dead, many more casualties. The tribe attacked several government buildings and set fire to Al Yemenia Airways headquarters.

Tribes over the country are outraged, and say to be willing to join arms with the Hasheed.

25 May: Many families are seen leaving the Hasaba neighborhood by fear of more clashes. US President Barack Obama Wednesday called on Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh to "immediately" honor his promise to transfer power, amid rising violence between the government and the opposition, AFP reported.

"We call upon President Saleh to move immediately on his commitment to transfer power," Obama said, in a joint press conference with British Prime Minister David Cameron in London.

Reports also came through saying that Sana'a International had closed.

Clashed between Hasheed and government forces are still raging as gunshots are heard in more areas of the capital. Rumors are circulating that some residents leaving in Hadda street have been asked to evacuate as the fighting was coming their way. We were unable to verify those claims.

26 May: Tribal leader Sadeeq al-Ahmar told Reuters there was no chance for mediation with Saleh and called on regional and global powers to force him out before the Arabian Peninsula country plunges into civil war.

"Ali Abdullah Saleh is a liar, liar, liar," said Ahmar.

The US decides to airlift its diplomats

for fear of more violence.

The government is pushing for a

cease-fire as tribes are gathering more men on the outskirts of the capital. Throughout the country, in Taiz, Ho-

deidah, Dhamar, Ibb, Aden and Sana'a more demonstrations are organized. Protestors are more determined than ever.

More military men are defecting, refusing to carry on attacks against unarmed civilians or fellow tribesmen.

27 May: President Saleh orders his Air Force to strike the Hasheed tribe about 80 km. away from the capital in

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a bid to block its advances. At least 12 den men lose their life in a battle opposing the tribes and the Republican guards.

The Opposition fighters managed to 2

surrender. A military base is taken....

28 May: Zinjibar, southern capital of Abyan falls to the hands of Al Qaeda after Saleh orders the Army to surrender its positions. The President wants to make do on his threats that without him al-Qaeda's influence will grow stronger.

take down a helicopter, while 2 others

Several senior members of the Army who defected held a conference accusing the government of plotting against Vernen

29 May: President Saleh orders the Republican Guards to attack unarmed civilians and to destroy the camp set up in Liberty Square. Taiz is the second largest city in Yemen and has been the southern epicenter of the Revolution.

This attack on will turn out to be the most violent and bloody the country ever witnessed. The government is seen using live ammunition, snipers, batons, anti-aircraft artillery against unarmed civilians, tear gas canisters and toxic gas bombs. But most horrid of all, water cannons were filled with gasoline to set the protesters' tents on fire. Many elderly or disabled people sadly could not escape the inferno and perished victims of the flames.

Back in the Capital Sana'a, Hasaba district is still under mortar attack.

In Hadramout on the eastern part of the country, some clashes between the Security Forces and tribesmen erupt leaving 8 people dead

30 May: In Sana'a, Hasaba is still under attack, forcing 100s of families to flee to safer grounds. Sana'a experience it s first mass exodus. Hasaba has been cut off from water and electricity. Al-Ahmar's men are making a stand, fighting off the government forces with all they've got. Although poorly trained the men are displaying great bravery.

In Taiz the Republican Guards continue their attacks on the protesters. So 250 are reported dead, and an added 2000 in

the hospital.

31 May: Sheikh Sadeeq al-Ahmar's house is hit by a mortar bomb and is now on fire alongside a gas station situated nearby. Things are getting quickly out of hands as the armed clashed are spreading outside Hasaba.

Witnesses report that General Ali Mohsen, the defected General has been forced to enter the fight when his men were attacked by the government forces. Explosions are heard nearer to Change Square and many protesters are no fearing a repeat of Taiz events.

Tribesmen are gathering under the command of Hussein al-Ahmar in the outskirts of the Capital, determined to break through the government checkpoints.

JUNE

1 June: Sana'a is once again rocked by explosions as missiles land on General Ali Mohsen"s base. Saleh is truly doing is best to draw the General out, hoping to finish off his men. So far it looks like the defected general is doing the kicking.

Mareb tribesmen are reported to be surrounding the administrative presi-

dential palace, downtown Sana'a. The building is used by Saleh to receive foreign dignitaries.

2 June: Wednesday was another day of heavy fighting for Sana'a. All through the night and until the early hours of the morning the town resounded from the blasts of mortar attacks.

Despite many casualties the Hasheed under the leadership of Sheikh Sadeeq al-Ahmar pushed the government forces further back. After having stormed the ruling party's' headquarters which was under control of the tribes; Sheikh Sadeeq ordered his men to retake it. His fighters furiously assaulted Saleh's men who fled before the threat.

In Taiz, the situation is very similar to that of Sana'a. Soldiers have received ordered from the President to shoot at groups of people. Saleh is trying to prevent any new demonstration. However, much more determined that the President ever thought they would be. The tribes are now fighting around the Presidential Palace, determined to crack the cordon of Republican guards massed around it.

A missile hits the Capital in the early hours of the evening, landing on a mosque near Tahrir Square, missing by a mile the protesters. Many suspect that the miss was calculated.

Clashes are witnessed across the capital, many casualties on both sides.

3 June: Saleh order an attack on Hamid Al-Ahmar's house near Hadda, which is near the Presidential Palace. The Capital is resounded for the explosions. Al-Ahmar unleashes his heavy artillery answering to the government's attack with the same intensity.

In an incredible turn of events, a bomb hits the Presidential Palace.

A "rogue unit" would have set up a bomb within the Mosque in the presidential compound. The explosion left several senior officials severaly injured and 7 others dead. President Saleh is transported to the Military Hospital.... chaos follows as rumors run wild in the country and across the Globe.

In Taiz the protesters retake the Square, having decided to retaliate against the government attacks. Some of the protesters take arms.

4 June: According to Yemen's Minister of International Co-operation, Hisham Sharaf, the president would have received light injuries to his head.

However, there were reports that the injuries might have been more severe. Sources close to the president told the BBC that Mr Saleh had a piece of shrapnel almost 7.6cm (3in) long under his heart and that it was puncturing his lungs. The sources added that it was unclear whether the president needed surgery.

Mr Sharaf also said the speaker of the lower house of parliament, Yahya al-Rai, was seriously wounded, while several other senior officials were also hurt, including Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawar, the speaker of the upper house, Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, and Mr Saleh's security adviser. The Saba news agency said Mr Mujawar, Mr Rai, Mr Abdul Ghani, Deputy Prime Minister Rashad al-Alimi and the security adviser, who was in a serious condition, were later flown to Saudi Arabia for treatment.



YT vision statement



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

"To make Yemen a good world citizen."



OUR OPINION

Trusting that Yemenis can

veryone is worried. Considering the latest development and the intensity of the fighting, including the attack on the president in his own palace, it is sure that transformation time is here.

Now what will happen next? So many people are betting on the Somalization of Yemen. They are saying that once the regime falls everything else will fall apart. The threat of Al-Qaeda, organized crime, tribal conflicts, Tabliazation through the rule of an Islamist regime, and everything in between.

First of all I hope that the president finally sees in his heart the best interests of Yemen and decides to allow us to transition politically, saving whatever is left of our nation.

But then, even in the worst case scenario where the two parties fight to the death, I don't think the concerns everyone has will materialize. You can say it is idealism or unrealistic optimism but really this revolution has surprised us so much that I am beginning to have hope in the Yemeni people that "yes we can."

Yes we can have a peaceful transition of power even if we have to swim to it through a sea of blood caused by others.

Yes we can control our country and ensure security and rule of state even if we have been used to jungle rule and nepotism as the way things worked around here.

Yes we can empower civil society and accept women's active participation in the public life, politics and otherwise. Yes we can rebuild our country using our intelligence and hard

Still not convinced? Here are some indicators, proving I'm not

just dreaming.

- 1) Yemen's youth revolution was peaceful until the very end even when the protestors were being shot
- 2) Tribes did not resort to violence until they were attacked personally. But tribes in the Change Square with the youth protestors are still keeping their weapons at bay even though they have plenty of them
- 3) Women are an integral part of the revolution from the very beginning, even leading it
- 4) The internet has played a strong role in organization and advocacy for this revolution even though we have less than 5% internet penetration
- 5) Youth groups are organizing themselves into more concrete entities and are very visible in change square and in the me-
- 6) Resigning members of the GPC created their own party lead by Mohammed Abu Luhoom whom I think will play a very strong role in the new Yemen
- 7) Yemenis can see through the politicians of today, especially the ones in the opposition. There is a belief that the opposition parties are riding the wave of protestors to get to power. Well, there is another way of looking at it and this is that independent protestors are using the resources and skills of political parties to organize themselves

The latest attack on the president is still a mystery to me. There is so much being said and I don't want to get into speculations like many others but one thing is certain - Yemen like we know it is gone and the new Yemen will be much better despite all that is been said. Trust in the Yemenis inside and outside the country and you will see.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Yemen on the brink of civil war

By: Fedoruk Vladimir

he situation in Yemen is boiling over into a civil war and threatening the oil region in the Arabian Peninsula. Fierce confrontation between opponents and followers of President Ali Abdullah Saleh is heating up near that country's capital city of Sana'a. The opposition has been joined by thousands of warriors belonging to one of the influential Yemeni tribes. All this entailed the deaths of dozens of people and the shutdown of the international airport in Sana'a. The Russian Foreign Ministry strongly recommends its nationals to leave the troubled country as soon as possible.

This has become the second time the Sana'a airport has been closed over the last few days. On May 26th, flights were cancelled due to clashes between the army and tribal militants guided by influential Islamist Sheikh Abdelmajid Zendani accused of international terrorism by the US. The past week alone saw over 200 people becoming victims of the bloodshed, whereas Al Qaedalinked Islamists are becoming more active in that country's southern regions. They were encouraged by the capture of Yemen's third largest city of Zindjibar on May 27th . In the opinion of Georgy Mirsky, a political analyst and expert at Russia's Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Yemen is turning into one of the links in the series of Arab revolutions.

"The situation in Yemen evolved as part of the notorious domino effect. The chain reaction is evident - first Tunisia, then Egypt and other countries of the Arab world. Now the wave has reached Yemen where General Saleh, whose rise to power resulted from a coup, has been ruling for over 30 years already. The causes of Yemeni protests are quite the same as in Tunisia and Egypt - corruption, nepotism and tiredness with the reign of the incumbent leader," Georgy Mirsky said.

Ali Abdullah Saleh himself repeatedly announced his plans to quit but always changed the terms of this resignation. The situation did not change even after the interference of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the

[Persian] Gulf (CCASG). Its members suggested that Saleh pass his duties on to the opposition in exchange for guarantees of his not being prosecuted under law. The Yemeni president refused, provoking a new wave of military activity on the part of the opposition, with even his own tribe waging war against

Meanwhile, Saleh's position has become so shaky that he is once again considering the possibility of accepting the mediation of the CCASG. The Arab initiatives will most likely remain the same: the resignation of President Saleh within a month in exchange for his personal inviolability. However, the Yemeni leader's genuine intentions are still unclear - either he is going to sing the CCASG ultimatum or will just attempt to extend his stay in power, like it happened last time, in order to transfer all his money abroad and help the rest of his family leave the country. According to Russian political analyst Alexander Vavilov, Yemen's tending towards a civil war will destabilize the entire

"The greatest danger is that Yemen

may in fact split into several pieces, repeating the fate of Somalia with its territories governed by Islamists and sea pirates. All this is also possible in Yemen, with due regard to various tribes' ambitions," Alexander Vavilov said.

Analysts believe that the worst-case scenario in Yemen plays into the hands of the Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula organization which is mostly interested in that country's southern part, where the sea border with Somalia is located. The expansion of its influence there will entail an opportunity for its direct cooperation with Somalia's Islamist organization Al- Shabaab and the subsequent establishment of training camps. The organization will most probably engage in piracy in cooperation with the Somalis. According to head of the European Strategic Intelligence and Security Center (ESISC) Claude Moniquet, Islamists treat Yemen as an important stage before expanding into Saudi Arabia, the main Sunni country of the Arab world. The more so as Yemen is one of the major keys to shipping routes used to export Saudi Arabian oil.

Cry, cry and cry again for my beloved Yemen

By: Paul Holmes

here are three Arab leaders at the moment who can be seen clearly for the power- hungry "power at all costs" political thugs of the world that they are.

Take Gaddafi. You look at that face and you know he is stark raving, deluded, barking mad.

You look at Bashir Assad in Syria and you know you're looking at a weedy, reedy little son of a powerful father who without the father would be a seedy, weedy nobody.

His regime is proving to be monstrously cruel to its people. Hard to believe Bashir is a London-trained oph-

I suppose that fact sounds so incongruous because we associate medicine and doctors with the doing of good.

First, do no harm. I don't know why we necessarily do. Dr Mengele at Auschwitz, the Angel of Death, a qualified medical man, was one of the creepiest freaks in history.

Another of these Arab scumbags is the Yemeni President, Ali Abdullah

Everyone knows he will go down absolute power, the bigger he will go ing as the Grand Canyon.

So now my beloved Yemen is on the verge of going up in flames, on the verge of a cataclysmic civil war. I say

"my beloved" because I had such an extraordinary time there on an Intrepid Journey a few years back.

Not a lot of people actually know where Yemen is. I don't think I really did until I checked a map before we went there. It is essentially the bottom left portion of the Arabian Peninsula.

And what I certainly didn't realise about the entire Arabian Peninsula is that a massive mountain range runs north to south down its western side, sloping down eventually to the Red

In fact, the Saudis move their capital up to the mountains, to Taif, during the ferocious Arabian summers. The Yemeni capital Sana'a sits in this same mountain range.

The thing about Yemen is the architecture. There is nothing like it in the world. They seem to have engineering in their genes. They built skyscrapers when no one was doing it.

Osama Bin Laden's father, who got rich building roads in Saudi Arabia, was Yemeni. He got so rich he rebuilt the mosque at Mecca with his own

Old Man bin Laden came from one of the most spectacular parts of the world I have ever seen, the Wadi Hadromaut. bigtime. The longer he holds on to It is probably as vast and as breathtak-

> And all through this great and ancient valley are villages perched on high, impossible sites, above steep cliffs, and you look at them and marvel because

they have been there hundreds and hun-

How in God's name did they do that, you find yourself asking time and again, round every corner. It's the same through the entire country, especially in that great mountain

ings six or seven storeys on the most unreachable ridges and peaks. And, of course, that was the point.

range, villages with slim, square build-

Defensively, they are brilliantly sited. The truth is, neither the Turks - of whom there are still some 10,000 in Yemen - nor the British ever really con-

quered anywhere but the Yemeni coast. You couldn't get near those mountain villages. The Yemenis simply rolled great rocks down on you.

And it was in Aden on the coast that al-Qaeda made itself really known to the United States when, in October 2000, in one of the cleverest, most dazzling stunts in modern warfare, a small group of lads in a simple runabout with a thousand pounds of explosives on board sailed right up to the USS Cole while the ship refuelled.

The Cole's hull was designed to withstand the pressure of thousands of pounds of explosive power per square inch. Its radar technology could see anything in the sky within a 200 mile

It was perfectly designed to fight the Soviet Union. It was no match for a few Arab lads in a runabout. That was terror, all right.

But as we drove around Yemen on that journey, apart from the brilliance of the scenery, the sun setting blood-orange over the great terraced mountains, the historic Red Sea, the Wadi Hadromaut, there were three ugly things you saw everywhere.

Firstly, there was the poverty and the backwardness. Secondly, there were the plastic bags thrown down everywhere, infesting the entire country. You have never seen the like of it.

And thirdly, there was the Kalashnikov. Yemen will go off like a bomb.

And there were also the ubiquitous roadside hoardings with their portraits of the smiling, beneficent leader, Ali Abdullah Saleh.

And you looked at the poverty beneath the posters, the stalled development, the littering and the obvious lack of education of the people and you knew he should have been shot years

I had no political sense of Yemen at all. I always thought that strange. Politics never came up, as if politics didn't

Once, though, I was invited into a meeting of men who were extremely and pleasantly interested in us and they spoke about their country and matters radius. The Cole was armed to the to do with their country in a way that I can only describe as elliptical.

I wondered that day if stuff was going on, deep beneath the surface.

Yemen's military turn against Saleh

By: Brian Whitaker

resident Saleh's position in Yemen was looking extremely precarious on Sunday amid signs that the military is beginning to turn against him.

The Associated Press reported that a brigade of the Republican Guard (commanded by Saleh's son, Ahmed) has defected to the opposition.

Meanwhile, posts on Twitter said

Yemen's Military Council has issued a statement attacking Saleh. The council is apparently not in direct command of troops but its stance may have some influence on other sections of the army.

One of the top brass, General Abdullah Ali Elaiwah, reportedly accused the regime of misconduct in "handing over certain governorates to rogue elements". He also reportedly claimed that several of the regime's most senior politicians – the vice-president, the prime minister, two former prime ministers

and the foreign minister – have advised Saleh to quit. If that is true, it's hard to see Saleh

surviving in office for more than a few

The military seem to be especially angry about the southern town of Zinjibar being taken over by militants who are alleged to be linked to al-Qaeda. They claim that Saleh deliberately allowed this to happen, presumably to reinforce his prediction that the same will happen to the rest of the country if he

leaves. If that was the president's ploy, it seems to have backfired badly.

The military's claim is supported independently by a report from CNN which says that security forces "abandoned" Zinjibar without resisting the militants.

A resident quoted by CNN said: "They [the militants] suddenly arrived and in large numbers. There were no clashes when they arrived on Friday night. We tried to complain to security forces but could not find them."

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Saudi Arabia looks to ban child brides

By: David E. Miller For the Media Line

ut effort to make marriage more female-friendly raises conservatives' ire

The case of a nine-year-old girl given away in marriage by her father to a 58-year-old man because of argument with his wife shocked many Saudis. Widespread media coverage brought the plight of child brides to the fore in the oil-rich Gulf kingdom where no law currently protects children like "the Unayzah girl," as she was called after her home town, from the misery of early marriage.

That was two years ago. Finally, the Shoura Council, Saudi Arabia's 150-member consultative body, voted this week by a large margin in favor of setting a minimum marriage age for women. The council is only an advisory body, so the matter has been sent to the Justice Ministry for enactment. Government sources told the on-line daily Ilaf that the ministry would set the

minimum marriage age at 17.

"The only way to stop this legal rape is to pass a law," Wajeha Al-Huwaider, a Saudi woman activist, told The Media Line. "They can start with age 15, like most Gulf countries, and then they gradually increase

The practice of families marrying off their underage girls to elderly, usually wealthy, men has long been criticized by local and international human rights organizations. But the most conservative Saudis, including many in the religious establishment, are loath to disrupt age-old customs that are often assumed to have a basis in

Thus many activists are sceptical that the minimum age will see its way into the law anytime soon. Huwaider said Saudi Arabia's decision makers were not "brave enough to protect the little girls," a view echoed by Khuloud Al-Fahad, a Saudi women's rights activist from Dhahran, who said she welcomed the Shoura Council's vote.

"I'm not optimistic at all that this will be-

"The radical Islamists are the ones who decide, and they don't believe in women's

The proposed ban of May-December weddings comes amid a wider effort to make marriage law friendlier to women. The planned changes would be a small advance for women in a country where their rights are among the most severely constrained in the world -- banned from driving, voting in what few elections there are, or mixing with men who aren't related to

A proposed amendment to the law would make it easier for Saudis to marry foreigners and limit the age difference allowed between men and women who marry in Saudi Arabia to 25 years. But conservatives oppose that change, too, for exposing Saudi women to foreign gold-diggers.

Al-Fahad said conservatives justify child marriage by arguing that the Prophet Muhammad married his beloved wife Aisha when she was nine. They then accuse domestic opponents of child marriage of being un-Islamic and they have the backing of Saudi Arabia's grand mufti, Abd Al-Aziz Al-Sheikh, the highest religious authority in the kingdom.

"It is wrong to claim that marrying a girl under the age of 15 is unlawful," Al Al-Sheikh asserted girls when the debate on child marriage peaked in 2009. "When a female passes the age of ten or twelve, she is ready for marriage, and anyone who claims otherwise wrongs her."

Al-Fahad said that as troubling as the phenomenon was, marrying off young girls is still quite rare in Saudi society and mostly limited to rural areas. She insisted that the majority of Saudis condemn the practice.

Official data recently published in Saudi Arabia supports Al-Fahad's claim. According to a recent poll conducted by the Saudi National Society for Human Rights (NSHR), two thirds of Saudis oppose marriage for girls under the age of 18.

Moreover, Saudi Arabia has joined international conventions that ban the abuse of children and women, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the Kingdom ratified in 1996, and the Treaty for the Rights of Women, which Saudi Arabia joined in 2000.

"Marriage of underage girls is a murder of innocence and a violation of childhood," Zoheir Al-Harithi, a Shoura Council member who tabled the proposal told the Saudi daily Okaz. "Minors are financially and physically exploited; they cannot grasp the consequences of this connection nor fathom its repercussions."

Last January, the Shoura Council for the

first time defined childhood as the age between birth and 18. But the council deliberately excluded the matter of child marriages

Council member Al-Harithi said he believed the international treaties are a secondary reason to support legislation banning chid marriage.

"More important is that we have a social problem and legal-humanitarian one, which we are not embarrassed to admit, especially considering that [this issue] has started affecting our lives and the future of our children." he told Okaz.

Security professionals learn to go native

By: Arieh O'Sullivan For the Media Line

mand in Middle East for personal protection It looked as if someone had broken into the central casting wardrobe room and handed out the jalabivas and kaffiyyehs marked "Arab sheiks" to the two dozen unshaven men lounging on a grassy knoll, puffing on water pipes and looking

bored. A large, blue United Nations flag

rab Spring unrest boosts de-

Suddenly, a group of young men, faces hidden by masks, rushes into the compound shouting Allahu akbar and the shooting begins. Out from under the robes of the "sheiks" come automatic weapons, as they spring into action. One man, a suicide belt strapped to his body, moves forward, his hands clenching two grenades. Two of the men in robes fly at him and wrestle him to the ground, knees in back, as they disarmed him.

It looks like a scene from a low-budget action film, complete with smoke grenades and onlookers slipping into the frame like loose boom microphones. But it's the final drill in a week-long course for protection specialists learning how to behave in the high-risk Middle East environment. The participants were reenacting a real incident at a UN installation not long ago, except that it was staged near Israel's border with the Gaza Strip.

"When you neutralize a suicide bomber, you don't need to kill them. You don't need to give him a bullet if he is still alive and, anyhow if you have to give him the bullet, it has to be in the right place because otherwise you might hit the explosives," explains instructor Mirza David.

With unrest in the Arab world now in its sixth month and no end in sight, there's growing demand for personal security experts from government officials and businesspeople. Over two dozen people came to Israel to learn from former members of the country's secret services. They got instruction not only how to carry a weapon and disarm an attacker but how to look and

But don't call them bodyguards.

"It's a protection counter-terrorism specialist and, no, we don't do body guarding. We do guard VIPs, but that is just one aspect. A small, small aspect to what we do. It can go all the way from guarding convoys in the Middle East to guarding an actor or actress in Hollywood. It's very broad," says Daniel Hout, an American currently working in Afghanistan.

Mirza David, chief executive officer of the International Security Academy (ISA), the company running the course, believes the chaos will last "more than a decade." In the meantime, countries need to keep their governments and economies functioning, which requires experts such as business people, engineers and policy makers to be there on the ground.

"Without protection specialists, nobody will enter," David says. "You cannot improve the economy in a developing area if nobody is protecting you."

On this training base run by ISA, they are tapping into Israel's unique experience in dealing with these threats and learning counter-terrorism techniques like convoy and VIP protection. The week-long course on familiarization with the Arab-Islamic world was preceded by three weeks of armed and unarmed tactical response train-

While learning how to look and act like an Arab, the students have gone unshaven and dress the part. They even were taken on a ride on the desert "Ferrari," a grunting camel, and learned rudimental Arabic phrases that will allow them to do their job.

David, a chunky, gregarious former highranking Israeli security officer, struts into the Bedouin tent and says in his booming voice: "Repeat after me, 'Amn al-ard."" The crowd of mostly Europeans with a

smattering of Africans and Asians reply, "Amn al-ard." It's the Arabic for "security on the ground.

Out here, far away from prying eyes,

You repeat this to let people know you are there when you secure an area," David

ISA instructors teach Israeli tactics. It is based on an aggressive philosophy, one that requires you first neutralize the threat and

then evacuate the VIP.

With this kind of audience, representatives of Israel Military Industries (IMI), the state-owned weapons manufacturer, couldn't pass up the chance at making a sales pitch. Tossing about the micro-Uzis and Tayor assault rifles of various sizes. he demonstrated their lethality and offered them loaded to students to pop off a few

Some of these men already work as close-protection bodyguards for the world's leaders or leading business people.

Feti Fanaj, 31, a former bodyguard for Albania's prime minister, says he sought out expertise for his new security business and was drawn to the course due to Israel's

"We have Albanian investors working in Iraq and Afghanistan. The idea of close protection in high-risk zones makes them feel confident with us," Fanaj says.

"Some of those dictatorial governments have fallen very recently, and that's going to create new chaos and confusion in the market and is also going to create some instability in the market so I think there will be more incidents of terrorist attacks and such," says Venky Raman, CEO of Singapore-based Homeland Security and Defense, who also taking the course.

Their background is diverse, from police to military, even a former French Legionnaire. They will go on to work for governments and private security contractors. Julian Douet, 37, an Austrian who was born and raised in Lebanon, says he left his family's restaurant business to answer a calling.

"For this profession, you have to do it with heart and soul and the body for sure. It's an instinct which had lay dormant inside me. I needed someone to wake it up and they did it." Douet says.

Multilingual, Douet is confident his meager resume isn't going to prevent him from

"There are a lot of European businesspeople and they would like to come and continue their business in the Middle East. Now it's impossible to go alone and that's why they need our protection," he says.

Hyacinth Turnoe, a bodyguard for Nigeria's minister of commerce, says he's anxious to share what he learned with his

"Israel has brought a standard of training that everyone in the world will have to emulate. I will take what I learned from Israel and impact on my fellow colleagues to make them perfect," Turnoe says.

It's an expensive program, costing upwards of 2,000 euros a week. But this can be a lucrative profession earning thousands of euros a day. Just don't call them merce-

"This has nothing to do with soldiers of fortune. We aren't mercenaries, nothing like that. We are here to protect against global terror, from sea to sea and from country to country. This is what we are here for," says the American Hout.

But David sees the connection, even if he disagrees with the semantics.

'Yes, this is a profession that has existed for thousands of years. Once it was called a musketeer, or a samurai. Today, it's a modern protection and counter-terrorism specialist," he says. "Those who call these guys mercenaries really don't appreciate the risk these people are taking in order to protect their interests in this world."



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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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Programme Officer - Based in Sana'a Contract duration: 6 months

The role

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Land mines in Southern Sudan

UBA, Sudan -- An increase in military battles in Southern Sudan has resulted in the laying of new land mines, reversing the time-consuming progress de-miners had made to clear the south of mines after two decades of civil war, a U.N. mining expert said Saturday.

The new mines are resulting in civilian and military casualties and are preventing aid groups from helping populations in the oil-producing greater Upper Nile region, where a range of rebel militias are battling the southern army.

A U.N. Mine Action map dated May 20 shows 16 incidents of explosions of both anti-personnel and anti-tank mines from mid-November to mid-May in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states.

Six of the cases occurred in the first half of May, and at least one additional explosion that killed three people has since been reported, according to an aid worker familiar with the incident who is not allowed to be identified by name.

The U.N. map indicates that both civilians and southern soldiers have been killed and injured by mines. The most recent explosion on the map, from May 17, left a 17year old boy injured, after he stepped on an anti-personnel mine in Unity state "when looking after his cattle," according to the U.N. map. Another U.N. security report said that the boy lost both feet.

In March, two women were injured when they stepped on an anti-personnel mine while collecting firewood in a remote area of Jonglei state where the rebel leader George Athor had fought intense battles with the southern army the previous

Tim Horner, deputy director of the U.N. Mine Action Office in Southern Sudan, said his agency thinks that the evidence indicates that rebel militia groups are laying

"We've seen an increase in mine incidents and mine accidents over the past six months or so and in many areas we think there are a lot alleged cases of re-mining," Horner added. "We can't prove because we haven't seen but anecdotal evidence that these are newly laid, not old mines."

Another U.N. security report said that troops from the southern military commandeered an aid group's 7-ton truck last month, loaded it with land mines and drove

Horner called the new cases of mine laying "sad," given that the new mines reverse the painstaking work of de-miners across the south since 2005, when Sudan's north and south ended a more than two-decade-

long civil war. When the war ended, Southern Sudan was riddled with mines, and Horner said it was difficult to safely traverse most of the south's main roads. The mines had been laid by both northern and southern armies.

The new mine laying is forcing aid groups and U.N. agencies to stop working in areas of the most serious conflicts. "The laying of mines since January is

seriously impeding humanitarian access," said Lise Grande, who leads the United Nations' humanitarian operations in Southern Sudan. "Mines are being laid in areas where rebel militia groups are active."

The medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres said its malnutrition programs and other medical programs have been hampered both by the ongoing army-rebel violence in Unity state and by the laying of

"As of mid-May, we had no choice but to stop movements out of Bentiu after receiving reports of land mines located on several roads we normally use for outreach visits to treat children with severe malnutrition." said MSF's Gautam Chatterjee. The group also could not send out a medical team to the town of Mankien, which was attacked by rebel forces last month, because of the threat of mines.

In 2004, Sudan signed the Ottawa Treaty, committing the Khartoum-based government to clear all the mines laid in its territory by 2014. Horner said the laying of new mines makes it even less likely that the 2014 goal will be reached.



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The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 1

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Suhail channel survives despite repeated attacks

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

ince its establishment two years ago, opposition television station Suhail channel announcers and workers face repeated threats because of their critical media coverage about the regime and president Saleh.

In the last few days, the station's office in Sana'a was fiercely attacked when a group of Saleh loyalists set fire to the office after stealing all equipment. The attack was widely condemned by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate and different organizations.

Abdul Baset Al-Qaedi, a journalist and political activist told the Yemen Times that the regime doesn't want to hear other's opinions and doesn't want Yemenis to hear opposing opinions that expose regime's crimes.

"The regime wants to hide its corruption and scandals. It resorted to confiscating opposition newspapers, intimidating journalists and recently it

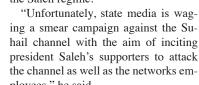
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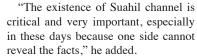
resorted to attacking the offices of opposition media," said Al-Qaedi.

He indicated that Suhail channel annoyed the regime more than newspapers because the channel could reach most Yemenis and could expose many issues and the complete corruption of

the Saleh regime.

ployees," he said.





Mohammed Qasem, head of scheduling and broadcasting at Suhail said that attack on the channel was expected since the beginning of the revolution.

Speaking to the Yemen Times about Suhail, Qasem said, "If there is no Suhail channel in Yemen the regime will commit many crimes. Suhail plays a big role in exposing many untold stories in Yemen.'

"The staff in the channel is determined to work hard although the difficult circumstances that they face," he said. "Even if they destroy our offices and equipment we have the other alternatives to survive."

Dr. Mohammed Qizan, director of Suhail channel stated last Saturday, in the televised interview, that the channel has succeeded to expressig the aspirations of Yemenis who used to be forced to watch state channels.

According to Qizan, Suhail channel has exposed many human rights violations committed by the regime because of opposing policy and criticizing pro-

"In the recent days, the violations against the channel have reached a new peak," he said. "We receive repeated threats, some announcers and cameramen were beaten and arrested, our tapes are confiscated, and many officials are banned from giving any quotes to the channel.'

"The incredible thing is that our violated workers are enthusiastic to continue working without fear," he said. "More attacks on the channel create popular sympathy by Yemenis and make our workers determined to work

The account of losses due to the recent attack is three million dollars. according to Abdurrahman Al-Namer, Suhail's executive manager.

"They stole all of our office equipment and set fire to it after that. They completely destroyed our infrastructure," said Al-Namer. "We will sue them for their brutal attack and we have the names of the attackers. We call for all rights organizations to support us suing those attackers."

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Yemen: Other states should freeze officials' assets

Human Rights Watch Report

he Yemeni government's escalating violence against largely peaceful protesters and medical workers should prompt countries around the world to freeze foreign assets of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his top security officials, Human Rights Watch said today. Other countries should also ban all exports of arms and security equipment to Yemen, Human Rights Watch said.

During the three-day rampage in Taizz, beginning May 29, 2011, and followed by an additional attack on June

3, state security forces, in concert with pro-government assailants, shot dead at least 19 people, including a young boy and a man who bled to death after troops forced a doctor to stop tending him, witnesses and doctors told Human Rights Watch. Doctors pronounced at least eight other protesters clinically dead. They said the clashes left at least 262 people wounded. Security forces and armed gangs also burned and razed protesters' tents to force them from their sit-in site, fired on medical facilities using live ammunition, prevented medical workers from treating wounded protesters, and detained a doctor and four nurses along with two dozen protesters, the doctors and witnesses said.

"First the security forces kill and wound protesters, then they keep medical workers from treating the wounded and raze the protesters' camps to wipe out all traces of them," said Joe Stork, deputy Middle East director at Human Rights Watch. "Foreign countries need to respond. They should freeze the assets of the president and other top officials until these horrendous abuses stop and those responsible are brought to account."

The fatal shootings of anti-government protesters and assaults on medical workers in Taizz coincides with sharply escalating clashes in Sanaa, the

capital, and elsewhere between Saleh's forces and opposition tribal fighters and a shelling of the presidential palace on June 2 that injured Saleh.

States should freeze Saleh's assets and those of top security officials, including the president's nephew Yahya Muhammad Saleh, who commands the Central Security paramilitary forces, and the president's son Ahmad Ali Abdullah Saleh, who heads the elite Republican Guards, Human Rights Watch said. The US, the EU, and Gulf states have condemned serious human rights violations and stepped up calls for the president to relinquish power, but have stopped short of imposing arms embargoes and individual sanctions similar to those in place against officials in Syria and Libya.

"We did nothing; we are peaceful protesters," one protester told Human Rights Watch after the first round attacks in Taizz on May 29 and 30. "So why is the president doing this to us?"

Human Rights Watch has confirmed the deaths of 166 people in attacks by security forces and pro-government assailants on largely peaceful protesters since February, when demonstrators took to the streets to call for an end to Saleh's 33-year rule. At least 130 people have died in heavy fighting

since May 23 between government and opposition tribal forces in and around Sanaa but because of precarious security conditions Human Rights Watch has been unable to confirm how many were civilians. Government forces in recent days also reportedly conducted airstrikes against alleged Islamist militant targets in the southern coastal town of Zanjibar.

Summer Registration

Human Rights Watch also urged the United Nations Human Rights Council to pass a resolution condemning the serious human rights violations against protesters in Yemen and to establish monitoring and reporting mechanisms to address the abuses. Human Rights Watch criticized the UN Security 5 Council for stalling on addressing the Yemen crisis.

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"After months of coordinated attacks by government forces and armed gangs on largely peaceful protesters in Yemen, the silence of the Security Council is deafening," Stork said. "It's past time for the Security Council to take steps to help protect the Yemeni people from unlawful attacks."



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