

Arrant gunfire during pro-Saleh celebrations kills six

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, June 12 — Last Wednesday, thousands of supporters of President Saleh fired ammunition into the air in celebration of Saleh's successful surgery, accidentally killing six according to medical personnel at the Al-Thawra hospital.

The random firing by different sorts of weapons in the capital Sana'a left 59 wounded. Many of those people were admitted to the Al-Thawra hospital. Six of them died later due to injuries to the head. There were also dozens of cases who were reported in other public and private hospitals.

The bullets coming down from the air hit people on the streets or on the roofs of building leading to several death and injuries, according to Dr. Mohamed Isa, a surgeon at the Al-Thawra hospital.

The sudden firing which took place on Wednesday night has scared the people because they had no idea of the reason for the firing and when they heard the sound of the bullets, they thought the war has broken everywhere in Sana'a since the northern area of the capital is already on war between Al-Ahmar family and Saleh's forces.

Celebrating with firing bullets in the air is legally a combination of crimes against the life, properties and tranquility, according to the Lawyer Abdul Rahman Barman, a human rights activist at the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms known as



A boy in his family's destroyed house in Al-Hasaba area where fierce clashes took place between Saleh's forces and armed supporters of Al-Ahmar family.

HOOD.

"It is murder and as long as the person who fires is aware of the possible consequences, he is accountable for all the legal recourse," he said.

The action of firing bullets in the air is also a crime of exhausting public money which is supposed to be maintained for the goodness of the Yemeni people, according to the lawyer.

He highlighted that firing the air also includes the crime against properties as some cars, windows of houses and water tanks in many areas were damaged by bullets and ricochets coming down from the air.

The Wednesday night terrified all people especially the children who are vulnerable to diseases caused by panic such as enuresis.

"My cousin has now an enuresis because he was terrified on Wednesday night," said Al-Barman.

Dr. Salah Al-Din Al-Jumae, professor of psychology at the University of Sana'a said that "high sounds negatively effect on children, so what do you think of bullets' and machineguns' sounds."

"The child feels anxious due to these sounds," he said.

Continued on page 2

Protesters condemn US stance

By: Shatha AL-Harazi

SANA'A, June 11 — Hundreds of independent youth have split their sit-in apart from the political parties. They are also planning to continue with their escalation plan announced last May. They have planned more marches demanding forming a civil transitional council to take power and condemn the lack of action by the international community to support the Yemeni revolution so far.

In a statement denouncing the US stance, protesters claimed they realized that the entire Saleh regime has not yet fallen and the US should change its position to aid with the remaining goals of the revolution.

On Saturday, a march started from the old university area toward the main stage in front of Sana'a University. The protesters held banners that shows president Saleh and former US president George Bush saying "Saleh=Terrorism, No Saleh=no Terrorism".

"It is the main idea the American people need to hear, to stop their huge fear that Yemen won't be a civil state if Saleh is not ruling it, which is not true at all" said one of the protesters.

The organizers distributed written explanations on how the US took different position towards the revolution in Egypt, Libya, Syria and Yemen. Concerning Egypt it read, "The US called on ousted president Hosni Mubarak to step down only after two weeks of the Egyptian revolution"

Concerning Libya it read, "The US imposed a no-fly zone on 17 March and also started American air strikes on 19 March although that the Libyan revolution started on 15 February."

Concerning Syria, it read, "The US president Barak Obama signed an order to impose direct penalties on President Bashar Al-Assad and six officials for their role in what Washington called 'suppression of protest movement that has started in 18 March.'"

Concerning Yemen, the statement read, "Even after the regime used the



weapons that were provided by the US to counter-terrorism against the peaceful protesters to suppress and kill the revolution youth, the US seek to guarantee honored ouster and protection of prosecution for Ali Abdullah Saleh through the GCC initiative," it read, "on the US position against the regimes massacres and crimes the US did nothing but commanding the inhumane crimes, currently the US still seeking to implement the GCC initiative, this was the US position although the Yemeni revolution started in 11 February."

"The American ambassador's rule in Yemen has ended" shouted the youth. Many called on Obama to take a firm position toward Yemen and to urge forming the transition council soon in Yemen.

Atiaf Al-Wazeer an active youth in the protest said that they youth have been neglected by the US administration although they were the one who made the revolution." There is a po-

litical gap, if the youth didn't escalate now all what they achieved in the last four months will be wasted," said Al-Wazeer." The US position is so negative they are talking about peaceful transition of power without including the youth, the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative doesn't include the youth as well, all the dialogues on the change mechanism doesn't include the change makers themselves who are the youth, they are talking to the same figures who couldn't change anything throughout the past years".

The youth noted out that the war against the armed groups in Abyan governorate using US air strike is not acceptable as it makes Yemen lose dominion on its air and lands. "the US declaration still confusing for us, one day it's positive and the next day it goes back to the same point, they can put pressure to start forming the transition council" she added.

Continued on page 2

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NEVER IN THE DARK

FBI arrives in Yemen for investigation of palace bombing

By: Jeb Boone

SANA'A, June 12 — The United States has sent an FBI forensics team to Yemen to investigate the attack on the compound of President Ali Abdullah Saleh that seriously injured the president, forcing him to leave the country last week.

"The FBI is aiding Yemeni law enforcement in their investigation in the attack on the presidential compound. The FBI team arrived in Sanaa last Wednesday," said a senior Yemeni government official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the press.

The arrival of the FBI team, which came at the request of the Yemeni government, underscores the close relationship the United States and the Saleh administration continue to maintain, despite a months long uprising and subsequent violent crackdown by government security forces that have killed hundreds of peaceful protesters.

Yemen, the home of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, an Al Qaeda offshoot that is responsible for a number of attempted attacks against the United States, has for years been an important ally of the United States in the fight against religious extremism.

Although it was originally assumed that the attack on Saleh's compound was carried out by a rival tribe that had been fighting government forces for several weeks, the Yemeni official said the FBI has determined a number of other possible suspects, including Al Qaeda and members of Saleh's inner circle.

"They are concerned about how the attack was carried out. Everyone is a suspect," the Yemeni official said, adding that the FBI team is expected to complete its investigation by the end of next week.

Wounded in the rocket attack, which took place on the afternoon of June 3, Saleh fled to Saudi Arabia for medical



Prime Minister Ali Mujawar was also injured in the attack on the presidential palace

treatment. Although rumors of his return persist, many analysts believe that the president is gone for good.

The ensuing chaos has provided an opening for both tribal fighters and Al Qaeda to assert themselves in some parts of the country.

The FBI's arrival in the Yemeni capital comes as the United States steps up its covert military campaign against Al Qaeda cells in the southern Yemeni governorate of Abyan. The United States has been using airstrikes and unmanned drone attacks in its attempt to kill the American cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, the leader of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and other top Al Qaeda members based in Yemen.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula is now engaged in a guerrilla war against the Yemeni government in Abyan. Militants have begun flocking to Abyan in support of Al Qaeda, which last week captured Zinjibar, the provincial capital, and announced the establishment of

an "Islamic Emirate."

The official denied that the Yemeni government believed Al Qaeda had infiltrated the Yemeni government or security apparatus, emphasizing that the government simply wanted the aid of the FBI's expertise and resources in the investigation.

But according to some analysts, the U.S. interest in the attack implies that there is some possibility that Al Qaeda was behind it.

"The Americans will come to the aid of Yemen if they are asked. However, it is important to note that if there was even the slightest possibility that Al Qaeda was involved in the attack, the U.S. would take an extreme interest and, if they could, become involved in the investigation," said Abdul Ghani Al-Iryani, a Yemeni political analyst.

"They Yemeni government has said that it believes Al Qaeda was behind the attack," he added. "And it is quite possible."

The US uses power vacuum in Yemen to target al-Qaeda

By: Michelle Lavan

SANA'A, June 12 — While Yemen is left reeling from the latest armed confrontation which opposed al-Ahmar's tribesmen and the government Security Forces; the US is using this opportunity to intensify its airstrikes on al-Qaeda targets.

According to a US official, the Obama administration would be conducting drones and fighter jets attacks against terrorist militants within Yemen.

With President Saleh desperately attempting to retain his presidential position amidst the popular uprising which is sweeping through Yemen; the US had grown concerned that al-Qaeda would use the situation to assert its position in the region. Too preoccupied with the revolutionary movement, President Saleh has abandoned over the past few months his counter terrorism campaign efforts.

A few weeks ago, al Qaeda fighters attacked the southern town of Zinjibar in the Abyan directorate, creating panic within the civilian population. And if at first President Saleh sent his troops to push back the terrorist group, he soon lost interest and recalled his men back

to the capital where he felt they would serve a better purpose.

US officials felt they had little other choice but to conduct air strikes against al-Qaeda in order to prevent the organization from spreading across Yemen.

Only recently, a US jet would have killed Abu Ali al-Harithi a middle rank al-Qaeda operative as well as other militants in south Yemen. A few weeks before that, the US carried out a mission against Anwar al-Awlaki, the American-born cleric but failed.

It seems evident now, that the US is determined to resume its anti-terror campaign following a year long pause which was brought about by the increasing numbers of civilian casualties as a result of the attacks. US officials are justifying the move by saying that they have received new data on terrorist locations and movements.

However, a senior Pentagon official admitted under cover of anonymity that the fact that al-Qaeda fighters were now mingling with anti-government militants and tribesmen made any attack on Yemen much more complicated.

For now, the US main concern is that if Saleh was to indeed fall, the next government in place might not give it the same type of leeway in its operations

against al-Qaeda. News of unilateral US operations did create popular outcry in the past, and put President Saleh under much political pressure as he was accused of treason by his countrymen. President Obama has been since very privy over the extent of his covert war in Yemen.

The US Ambassador to Yemen met with the Opposition leaders to ensure that they will continue to support his country's policies in the region in regards to al-Qaeda and terrorism.

With President Saleh now in Saudi Arabia following an attack on his presidential compound, the US is pushing hard for a constitutional transition of power. "This isn't a time for inaction," said Mark Toner, a State Department spokesman.

With the government still claiming that Saleh will return, and the pro-democracy activists saying that they will form their own presidential council if nothing was done soon by Vice President Hadi, Yemen still could revert to the use of violence.

If Yemen was to become another Ethiopia, it would make the US war on terror that much more difficult and it could mean instability for the entire Arabic Peninsula.

WHO responds to Yemen crisis

WHO report

As violence in Yemen escalated last week with fighting in the capital Sana'a leaving 29 dead and 113 injured, WHO is assisting health providers to cope with the increased demand for health services, particularly emergency health care.

Since February, this brings the combined total number of casualties in Yemen, from both demonstration related violence and fighting, to 262 deaths and 3287 injured.

Crisis affecting health situation

The limited number of trained health workers and the shortage of trauma management equipment and supplies are affecting the treatment of victims.

The security situation prevents health workers from reporting for work. An estimated 30% of the population, mostly elderly women and children, face difficulties in accessing health services.

The crisis has also interrupted regular health programs for primary health care, especially for children, reproductive health and vaccination.

In addition, the acute shortage of fuel and electricity threaten the cold chain for vaccination storage.

WHO response

The WHO office is maintaining close contact with all parties and supporting the Ministry of Public Health and volunteer groups in delivering the life saving health services.

In order to treat the victims of violence in different demonstration areas, advance medical post and field hospitals have been established and referral facilities strengthened.

Since the beginning of the crisis in February, WHO delivered close to 46 tons of life saving emergency medicines and supplies across the country. An additional 20 tons of medicines and supplies from Dubai reached Sana'a



Medics working at the Change Square Field Hospital have been undersupplied for months.

last Friday.

Essential life saving equipment was also provided to several hospitals, strengthening the capacity of Operation Theaters (OT) and Intensive Care Units (ICU).

WHO has supported MoPH to keep 33 ambulances functional 24/7 by providing incentives for staff and ensuring vehicle maintenance and fuel. As they are located close to the demonstration sites, ambulances have been able to provide services to more than 2500 injured people. They proved crucial last week when over 100 injured people were reached quickly and transported to the nearest health facility.

In addition, the WHO mobile team comprising of one male doctor and one female nurse has delivered PHC services in Aden to some 10 000 displaced persons from Abyan region since 30 May.

Additional funding needed

The initial funding needs for the Health

Cluster for Yemen for 2011 are covered at 21%, with US\$ 2.9 million received of the US\$ 13.7 million requested. The ongoing crisis significantly increased financial requirements.

WHO technical support needs to be continued. The large quantity of emergency medicines and supplies need appropriate management, distribution and monitoring. The ongoing technical support for training health workers in mass casualty management must be continued and strengthened.

Additional funding is needed to strengthen advance health posts and field hospitals in terms of equipment, trauma care management and ensuring the appropriate number and gender representation within the health workforce.

The capacity of the emergency department, OTs and ICUs of the referral hospital should also be further developed. Additional funding would also allow for the expansion of the ambulance services.



طلب إستئجار لمستودعات في صنعاء لتخزين المعونات الإنسانية التابعة لبرنامج الأغذية

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يرغب برنامج الأغذية العالمي التابع للأمم المتحدة - اليمن في استئجار مخازن/مستودعات في صنعاء. وذلك لتخزين المعونات والمنح الغذائية الوالصة إليه.

وهنا يود البرنامج دعوة ملاك المستودعات أو الشركات. بما في ذلك مكاتب العقارات الراغبة في تأجير تلك المستودعات/المخازن. إرسال نبذة تعريفية عنهم مع تحديد عناوين ومواقع ومساحات مستودعاتهم/مخازنهم القابلة للإيجار. وإرفاق جميع وثائق إثبات الملكية. شريطة أن تكون هذه المستودعات ملائمة لتخزين المواد الغذائية. وذلك إلى عنوان البرنامج المذكور أدناه خلال فترة أقصاها الساعة الرابعة عصراً من يوم الأربعاء الموافق 15 يونيو 2011.

وسيقوم برنامج الأغذية العالمي بتقييم ومراجعة الوثائق المستلمة. والتواصل لاحقاً مع كل الملاك أو الشركات - مكاتب العقارات المتقدمين بطلبات التأجير إلى البرنامج. حيث سيتم الفرز بحسب معايير البرنامج ملائمة المستودعات/المخازن تلك لتخزين المواد الغذائية.

ولن تأخذ أي طلبات بعين الاعتبار ما لم تكون مستوفية الشروط بما في ذلك إرفاق إثبات ملكية العقار. على أن تقدم الطلبات إلى عنوان مكتب البرنامج في صنعاء وكما هو مبين أدناه. مع ذكر الموضوع التالي في الطلب "مستودعات / مخازن للإيجار".

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NB: Requests coming from others than Landlords of Companies owning storage places will not be taken into account for the above request.

Please submit the documentation to :
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Sana'a office

Continuation from page 1

Arrant gunfire during pro-Saleh celebrations kills six

Rashad Al-Sulhi, a local in Sana'a who lives in Khawaln St said that his 9-month child was very shocked by the firing and Wednesday and was just crying.

"My baby did not let me to touch him during the firing and just was sticking himself to his mum and crying," said Al-Sulhi.

The professor explained that hazards of firing on the air are dangerous on adults and children. But more on children as they grow with anxiety and fear due to the high sounds.

He also blamed the ministry of information for not notifying the people

before the incident to have an idea in order not to be terrified.

"Anyone has the right to express his opinion, but he is not allowed to scare others," he said "The north of Sana'a lives on clashes, and when people just hear a high sound of explosion, they think that the war area has been extended."

Protesters condemn US stance

"Today is one event that will make more event's until the youth establish the civil state they are seeking t, the US is playing an important role to make the GCC initiative happen, they should first start listening to the Youth, the initiative might be useful on po-

litical level but we "the youth" are no politicians, we revolt for many different reasons and our demands must be heard "said Amani Zaid, one of the protesters.

The Youth became more aware on what role the US should play in this stage, the reject of its strong role that it played during the past is one way to show that Yemenis are able to rule themselves the best way without any foreign interfere in the Yemeni affairs.

"We don't direct our demands to the US, we are totally able to achieve these demands by our own, all what we are asking the US for is to stop interfering negatively "she added.

Al-Hasaba – the aftermath

The Yemen Times's Ali Saeed and Sadeq Al-Wesabi trudge into the war torn Al-Hasaba district to bring you a firsthand look at the aftermath of almost two weeks of carnage.



Story and pictures by Ali Saeed & Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANAA, June 12- We finally found out way into Al-Hasaba. Despite of being very interested to see the war-torn area, we were also anxious in case the clashes broke out again, how we could manage to avoid the risk of being targeted. However we took the adventure and went to the area by a mini-bus watching every single detail surrounding us. Through our way to Al-Hasaba, we did not noticed anything unusual except for some armed men in civilian clothes around their houses or a group of armed men in cars without license plates. The first effect of the war we have seen was the burned tower of the Yemenia Airways Company which is very close to the home of Sadeq Al-Ahmar's attacked. The fire has blackened the tower and the windows were completely

bombed out. When we jumped out of the minibus and walked some meters adjacent to the Al-Sayyla water passage, we suddenly saw a pile of soil which has been set up on the middle of the road to prevent cars from moving forward. There was no security checkpoint manned by any of the warring parties next to the pile of dirt, but cars were coming to the point and turning back. We continued walking until we approached the old house of the president Saleh in a small neighborhood called Al-Dajaj village (the chicken village) overlooking the Sayyla road from the right side.



A soldier in the compound of Saleh's house holding a Kalashnikov signaled with his hand for us to keep out distance and asked, "Where are you going?" We did not reveal our identity as journalists and shouted, "We are going to the Al-Hasaba public market of."

He instructed us to go from the left side of the Al-Sayyla road in order not to cross onto the grounds of Saleh's house which has turned into a security forces barracks to fight the opposition tribal leader who stood with nationwide protests demanding an end to Saleh's 33-year rule.

We crossed the Al-Sayyla road and kept walking but from the left side. After that, several houses and governmental buildings appeared with hundreds of bullet holes and other weapons.

Some shabby houses for locals were completely destroyed and the Yemeni moon-like glasses of others have been demolished due to the two weeks of continuous fighting between Saleh's forces and Al-Ahmar's backers.

A few minutes later we moved toward the Yemen's ministry of tourism building which has been severely damaged during the clashes in which Al-Ahmar's supporters took control of it. However, later on Saleh's forces retook the building with intensive shelling that caused serious damage.

In front of the building, we found only one soldier with his Kalashnikov. The soldier said that he is from the military college. They took over the governmental buildings according to instructions from the acting president Abd Raboo Mansour Hadi to evacuate Saleh's forces and Al-Ahmar's armed backers from government departments and replace them with independent forces of the military college.

Pieces of the fallen cement-bricks were scattered around the door of the ministry and the military college soldier explained that most of the severe damage to the building was caused by Saleh's forces who were using heavy arms.

Just a few meters opposite the tourism ministry, the building of the state-owned Saba news agency stands injured with hundred of scratches and holes from all directions.

And the same damage was seen inflicted upon ministry of industry and trade which is opposite the news agency.

We tried to move on, but a sound of fire exchanged interrupted us and armed men in civilian clothes came out.

We attempted to get into an informal public market for vegetables and other food staff, but they did not allow us. "It is prohibited" they said.

They were Al-Hmar's supporters and

just close to them from the back of the market we found other men of the same group who eventually allowed us to get into the market and take photos of the destructed market.

The very large vegetable market was attacked and owners and retailers in the market seemed to flee the scene to save their lives and left the commodities as they were.

Huge quantities of the vegetable have been rotted and some other contents of the market were burned.

All the shops in the area were closed and you could rarely find someone walking on the street. Houses also were closed very tightly and the area was quite from everything except the sound of bullets.

Thousands of citizens were displaced from the area to their villages in the countryside and others shifted to their relatives in the south of the capital Sana'a where the clashes started moving there as if they were being pursued.

And we tried to get inside the area where Al-Ahmar's house is, but the sound of bullets stopped us.

Then we found a boy on the street urging us to come to see his family's destroyed house. A 12-year-old Osama Al-Mahaqri was describing his family's devastated house as we were walking to it.

When we reached the burned house Osama shouted: "My mom, there are journalists who want to see the house."

Amat Al-Rahman Hadi, Osama's mother, desperately showed us the damages in her house that

located in the center of the clashes. The second floor of the house was completely burned and the smell of the place was ac-

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rid. There is nothing in the place except the charred remains of furniture.

As the clashes broke out in Hasaba district Amat Al-Rahman was forced to evacuate the house but she came back to her house after two weeks to make sure that it's in a good condition.

"I was shocked when I saw my house in ruins. I'm going crazy - I cannot believe that my only place to call home is burned and damaged," Amat Al-Rahman wailed. "My house was fully furnished and now it's totally destroyed."

"I built this house brick by brick from my own modest salary to guarantee adequate shelter for my daughters after my death," she said with a deep sigh.

Now, Amat Al-Rahman lives tempo-

rarily in her son-in-law's small house with her five daughters. "I'm embarrassed of the current situation. I cannot even rent a house because of my financial situation,"

Amat Al-Rahman used to take advantage of rental shops in her house but now she barely live with her salary.

"Regardless who destroyed my house, I need a new house urgently otherwise I'll lose my mind," she said angrily and burst into tears.

After our meeting with Amat Al-Rahman and her lovely boy Osama we left Hasaba district carefully and hastily.

We left the place that was vital and full of the people before the recent clashes that turned this place into a ghost town.

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of the Management and Employees of Credit Agricole Corporate & Investment Bank in Yemen, we would like to express our sincere sadness and sympathies for

Alain Javelle
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For the death of his mother

Our sincere and heartfelt condolences on the sudden death of his mother, may he and his family find the strength and courage to get through these difficult days

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المنظمة الدولية للهجرة

In the wake of misleading information alleging that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was involved in the transportation of armed combatants from the northern region of Haradh to the capital Sana'a, IOM wishes to issue the following statement:

IOM deplores the misrepresentation of its humanitarian evacuation programme for stranded Ethiopian migrants from the Haradh region. This crucial humanitarian operation is a collaborative effort among the Governments of Yemen, Ethiopia and IOM.

Prior to their departure from Yemen, undocumented Ethiopian migrants are interviewed by Ethiopian consular officials in the presence of Yemeni immigration officials.

They are then issued with a laissez-passer from the Ethiopian Embassy in Yemen and a personal exit visa from the Yemeni immigration authorities.

Based on those documents, IOM establishes a passenger manifest to transport the migrants from Haradh to Sana'a and then onto Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

On the eve of departure, the authorities in Haradh issue a ground movement pass and provide two police escorts for the seven hour bus journey to Sana'a.

IOM staff members also accompany the migrants to Sana'a, where they board Yemenia Airlines and Ethiopian Airlines flights to Addis Ababa.

The operation has received funding from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the Government of Switzerland, the Rapid Response Transportation Fund and the UN's Humanitarian Response Fund in Ethiopia. Since January 2011, IOM has assisted more than 2,300 stranded migrants to return to their homes in Ethiopia.

'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.'

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
article 1

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The human cost of the conflict



A funeral held for protesters killed after the March 10th massacre

Political violence has displaced thousands in Yemen, while a threefold increase in the cost of food and water, combined with fuel shortages, is straining the ability of families to cope, aid workers warn.

In the capital, Sana'a, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has reported that about 4,000 residents are seeking protection as a result of fighting late last month in the northern Al-Hasaba district of the city between security forces loyal to President Ali Saleh and the armed opposition.

The target for government loyalists was the Al-Hasaba home of Sheikh Sadeq Al-Ahmar, head of the politically key Al-Ahmar family, who has emerged as a champion of those demanding Saleh's resignation.

Humanitarian agencies are also aware

of other smaller groups of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sana'a.

Joint International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Yemen Red Crescent teams working in and around Sana'a have retrieved some 20 dead bodies since 4 June. On 7 June, seven bodies were recovered from Al-Hassaba, ICRC said in a statement.

The southern city of Zinjibar has reportedly virtually emptied since its takeover by anti-government militia, but ongoing insecurity has prevented aid workers from accessing the area.

According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), there could be as many as 35,000-40,000 IDPs in need in the coastal city of Aden, and the southern governorate of Abyan.

"Nearly 10,000 IDPs from Abyan, southern Yemen, are living in relocation

centres in public schools in and around [Yemen's second city] Aden," said Pete Mansfield, OCHA deputy head in Yemen. A further 4,700 IDPs have been registered in Lahj.

Families in Aden are taking in many of those who have fled the violence in the south, but several of these households are already close to the poverty line and will need support, aid workers said.

At least 15 humanitarian organizations are working in Aden to provide water, shelter, food, health services and other assistance. "Coordination is progressing well but the needs are large," Mansfield told IRIN.

NGOs are reporting that food and water prices have increased up to threefold in some urban towns, including Sana'a. A national fuel shortage is also continuing to disrupt markets, hamper the ability to pump and distribute water, and keep cars off the streets.

Celebratory gunfire

A tense ceasefire has held in Sana'a, but on the night of 8 June there were hours of celebratory gunfire by pro-government forces greeting the news that Saleh was out of intensive care after successful surgery in Saudi Arabia for wounds received in a rocket attack on the presidential compound.

"The intent was clear from government forces to remind everyone that they are still there," a diplomatic source told IRIN. "Although the ceasefire is just about holding, tensions are very high."

Yemen's opposition and pro-democracy protesters are demanding that Saleh step down after 33 years in power, accusing him of corruption, cronyism and mismanagement. He has responded with violence. Since the start of the civil unrest in February, an estimated 225 people have been killed and 3,125 injured.

On 8 June protesters demanded that Vice-President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi agree to the formation of a transitional presidential council drawn from a broad base of Yemeni groups to run the country until elections. Both the protest movement and opposition parties want Hadi to renounce Saleh and block his return from Saudi Arabia.

"We ask Hadi to be wise to save the country," Adil Al-Aswar, a member of a committee coordinating the protest

movement, told IRIN. "If Saleh returns we will see the situation turn more violent."



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