

## Tribal conference to find solutions for Yemen

By: Mohammed bin Sallam and Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Aug 17 — The largest tribal congregation of Yemen ever was held on Tuesday Aug. 16 in Sana'a with the aim of finding a tribal solution for Yemen's crises where politicians have failed.

Sheikh Sultan Al-Barakani assistant general secretary of the General People's Congress said that it is time for the tribes to take action and play their role in saving Yemen.

"Where political parties have failed the tribal structures of Yemen will make a difference, and the religious scholars and perhaps the independent youth if they chose to be emancipated from the control of the opposition parties," he said.

At the conference which was attended by more than 5,000 Sheikhs mostly loyal to the regime, President Saleh delivered a speech from Riyadh where he is receiving medical treatment. The president warned countries supposedly supporting opposition elements in Yemen and addressed the nation that he

will be coming soon and the only solution for Yemenis is early elections.

However, the tribal conference although resulted in the configuration of several sub groups and a recommendation for a roadmap that is yet to be detailed, seems to have disappointed many Yemenis. The disappointed was coupled with apprehension especially since the president's speech was aiming towards aggression than peace and reconciliation demanding the removal of all signs of protest before any reform can happen.

About 280 Yemeni lawyers criticized Saleh's speech, describing it as a declaration of war against Yemenis. Moreover, political analysts and observers said that the tribes' conference was held as a reaction of establishing national council by the opposition.

"Youth's revolution has been stolen by opportunists and bandits," said the president, adding that reaching power should be done through ballot boxes not through coups, insults or irresponsible speeches.

Saleh attacked opposing Islah Party,

saying: "There is a political party within so-called the Joint Meeting Parties claim that it is Islamic party but where is Islam from you and what have you done for Islam? You distort Islam and annoyed Yemenis through your actions."

He accused the Islah Party of inciting youth to attack on military camps, indicating that those attackers are belong to religious Sheikh Abdulmajeed Al-Zandani.

Saleh called for the opposition to hold early election instead of establishing new national council or transitional presidential council.

"When we talk about power transition peacefully and smoothly we are ready to transfer the power to vice president but the important thing is will you take the gun away? Will you take trenches away? Will you stop banditry? Will you stop revenges?" said Saleh.

Legal Committee in the change square in Sana'a stated that Saleh's speech is dangerous precedent, calling for international community, including UN Security Council and Supreme Council for

Human Rights to intervene urgently to stop Saleh's provocative speeches and prevent him from returning to Yemen to avoid war and agitation.

The statement said that establishing tribal entity in this time means that the regime wants to justify more crimes in the next days in the name of tribes and civilians.

### Angry reactions to the speech

In response to Saleh's speech, Sultan Al-Atwani from the opposing Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) said that president Saleh intended from his speech to drag Yemen into civil war.

"President lost the power and he is no longer part of political game," he said.

Al-Atwani wondered how Saudi Arabia allowed Saleh to deliver such speech from their land. "It's unacceptable for Saleh to talk and threaten Yemenis inside Saudi Arabia."

Shadi Yaseen, one of the anti-regime protesters told the Yemen Times that president declared his war against Yemenis through his provocative speech.

"He tried to be strong and tried to



The president appears healthy and determinant in his latest speech to the nation.

convince people that he is able to take power again," said Yaseen.

One of the pro-democracy protesters in Hodeida governorate was shot dead and about 22 were injured when so-called thugs and loyalists to president

Saleh attacked fired on protesters in the Hodeida's change square.

Witnesses said that those gunmen were also firing in the air after Saleh's speech to scare people and threaten peaceful protesters.

## JMP's National Council surrounded by confusion

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Aug 17 — Leaders of the opposition parties coalition: The Joint Meeting Parties, the National Dialogue Committee, National figures and Parliamentarians, held a conference on Wednesday afternoon to announce the formation of the National Council that would lead to the next stage of the peaceful revolution.

The announcement of the council comes one month after the announcement of the transitional council by activists defected from the Joint Meeting Parties. The announcement included 142 members include Major General Ali Mohsen al-Ahmer and three of Al-Ahmer sons (Sadeq, Hameed and Himar). It also includes some of those who rejected the council such as Tawakkol

Karman, who announced the Presidential Transitional Council a month ago.

Although the National council succeeded in collecting an amalgamation of powerful groups it left out two of the main strategic players: the Houthis (who waged a six year war with regime) and the southern Movement (who initiated the Idea of peaceful demonstrations five years ago).

However, the JMP leaders announced them as part of the Council, the Houthis have confirmed to the Yemen Times that they have rejected their participation due to different reasons. "One of the reasons is that the positions that the representatives were chosen upon were not fair," said Ali al-Emad, the spokesman of Houthis at change Square and one of the Houthis that were mentioned in the National council's members. "There are

some forces at the square like the independent youth, Houthis and the southern movement that were not given the right percentage of representation," Al-Emad said. Further he stated that the representation of the National council was upon personal relationship and wealth and not based upon revolutionary credentials, such as giving more representation to the tribal allies. This in turn leads to a situation similar to that which was prevalent before the revolution.

Al-Emad also said that the council tasks are yet not clear; "would the council be the only framework for its member actions or can the JMP can still go ahead with their negotiations and initiative with Saleh?" asked Al-Emad.

This will be the second time the Houthis aren't represented in any revolutionary council; however they con-

tinued to work on gaining allies that have rejected the National Council such as some of the southern Movement Factions who demand 50% of the council's representation.

Activist Khalid al-Ansi is one member of the coalition that announced the Transitional council on July 16; he repeated his rejection of the National Council. He said that the problem with this council is that it is dominated by the Islah party and does not seem as a step forward.

"Is this council a revolutionary council or a political one?" asked Al-Ansi. "The JMP announced their solidarity to the revolution but it hasn't turned this into actions and therefore they are not a component of the revolution."

Moreover, eleven coalitions from change square came together as an al-

liance that has eight branches in other governorates. "We blessed this step of forming a National Council but we decline being a part of it," said Amen Dabwan, a member of the February Independent Revolutionaries Alliance. "We chose to be a monitor entity instead of participating one. Everything around it is mysterious," he added.

The JMP intentions of forming the National council is still a concern for many of the Change square protesters and even of the council members themselves. Intesar al-Qadhi, a member of the National Council representing the Mareb governorate women, told the Yemen Times that although she accepted membership to the Council, things are not clear for her; she considers this step a test. "So far nothing matches my ambitions, we as independent youth always

wanted to work as partners in making decisions with the JMP; if they formed this Council and give us representation to take advantage of us then we won't accept it, we will find our own way then," said Intesar al-Qadhi.

The conference was held at the Sana'a University, protected by dozens from the First armored Division forces; a few of their armored vehicles were stationed inside the university. The Division proved that they control the area starting from the northern Seteen.

The conference was a constituent meeting held to explain the components of the National Council. Earlier, these components were unclear even to the members. The council consists of three components: Firstly: the National Assembly of the public Revolution's Forces, contents of "all" the parties and components of the National coalition such as the Youth of the revolution, military leaders, chamber of commerce, Yemeni scientists association, Parliamentarian, Civil society organizations, the tribal allies, Southern Provinces' sons Forum.

The second being the National Council of Peaceful Revolution Forces. Finally, the third is the Executive Body of the National Council which contains of the head of the National council and 20 of its members that will be selected by the Council, and they will be the direct leaders of the revolution.

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# Solar cookers and grass roots education at the Barefoot College



By: Samantha Downing  
Pitch Fork Design

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since we visited the Barefoot College in Tiloniya, Rajasthan. Desperate to break off from the tourist trail, we travelled by bus from the Pushkar camel fair, onto a train from Ajmer to Kishangarh, then jumped into a jeep for the last leg to Tiloniya. Tiloniya is a tiny town, and the train stops only once a day. There is no problem finding the Barefoot College, especially if one of the residents has jumped off the jeep with you.

Set up in 1972 by Bunker Roy, the Barefoot College is a home-grown NGO with a beautiful philosophy and effective world-changing approaches. The barefoot concept was best summed up by resident, Ram Nivas, who told the story of the beginnings of the Barefoot College radio station. A local man,

Raju, had discovered upon rewiring his transistor, that it was able to pick up the signal from his cb radio. Experimentation led him to set up a local radio station, Raju Radio, which featured local news, reports of missing water buffalo and musical requests from the community. When the media bureaucracy got wind of Raju Radio, operating without a licence, they shut him down. Raju now works at the Barefoot College radio station, in a studio lined with recycled egg cartons for soundproofing. He is the classic example of a Barefoot engineer, with minimal schooling, a head for innovation, using what he has available to create useful tools for his community.

Situated in the Rajasthan desert, Tiloniya receives an average of 400mm of rainfall annually, all of which falls in a period of four days. In the last few years they have received little more than 200mm annual rainfall. Across Rajasthan water issues are at crisis point. With years of drought, well water

is increasingly brackish and the water table is rapidly sinking. Barefoot College is working on this in a number of capacities. The entire college is situated on underground water tanks which collect thousands of litres of water annually. This was the only place in India in which we drank the water directly from the well, with no further purification required. They are implementing education programs on rainwater harvesting in villages through puppet shows and theatre. The puppet workshop was a sight to be seen. There were puppets of animals, political figures, there was even a puppet of the founder, Bunker Roy in the mix.

One of the most impressive of their projects is the solar barefoot engineer program. While we visited, a group of women from African villages without electricity were spending six months training as solar engineers. They would return home to set up solar electricity workshops to run solar lanterns for their

villages, with the capacity to wire and repair any part of the system that broke down. This is all funded and run by a home-grown NGO in India and it works. It works because the people setting up and maintaining the systems have both the skills and the interest to keep it going. Impressed yet? There are a number of other programs running across the College. A recycling workshop uses paper and other recycled materials to create toys, tools and bags for the Barefoot College gift shop. I particularly liked this simple maths tool that was used in one of the evening school programs.

My favourite program by far at the Barefoot College was the manufacture of solar cookers. Three times a day I sampled the meals cooked with the solar cookers, experiencing the joy they created through sight, smell and taste along with an appreciation of their engineering. The solar cookers are constructed from materials that are readily available at the local marketplace. The

mirrors are individually cut from glass and painted with reflective paint before being wired onto the frame. Recycled bike cogs are used to create a clock-work system that allows the cooker to follow the path of the sun from morning to night.

The parabolic shape of the cooker focuses the sun's energy onto the cooktop for cooking rice and stews in pots or frying in a pan. Every now and again I'd walk across the path of the focused rays, forgetting their power. Ouch, hot! Sensibly, the specifications for building these cookers was written to scale on the floor of the workshop.

These cookers are manufactured for sale by women at the Barefoot College, creating both livelihood and an alternative to cooking using wood-burning stoves.

Not much food is grown locally, due to the diminishing rainfall in this area. All grey water at the Barefoot College is put into groundwater recharge, and the

overflow from the well is channeled to a small pond for water buffalo. A local tree, Babul, which I later identified as Babul Acacia Nilotica also has medicinal properties. A very spiky tree, I saw the branches wrapped around trees in the college to protect them from grazing goats.

The Barefoot College also runs a small hospital which places great value in preventative homeopathic medicine and a shop selling handicrafts by local artisans. We heard a lot about Neem and its medicinal and dental uses. The Barefoot College provide accommodation and three meals a day, along with chai in the evening. There is a comprehensive library on site which is the perfect place to laze around on those hot Rajasthan afternoons. They'll show you around all their workshops and there is much cricket and fun to be had in the evenings if you seek it out. For 2000 rupees per person per night. See more at their website.

# Jordanian King promises reform to skeptical public

Constitutional amendments not enough to quell popular mistrust in regime, analysts and politicians say

By: David E. Miller  
The Media Line

Jordan's King Abdullah said he would adopt a series of constitutional amendments that will decrease his power and make government more accountable to the people. But local politicians and experts say the reforms may be too little and too late.

"The wall of fear has fallen," Basel Burgan, an Amman pharmacist and social activist told The Media Line. "People are no longer scared to speak their minds. If His Majesty the King does not speed up the reform process, more and more people will take to the

streets." On Sunday, a Constitutional Review Committee established by the King in April ceremonially submitted a document containing 42 revisions to the constitution of 1952. The proposed changes call for increasing Jordan's balance of power and widening civil liberties.

One amendment will empower the parliament to appoint the prime minister, rather than have him personally chosen by the King. At present, elections may be postponed indefinitely after a parliament is dissolved by the King. A constitutional amendment will limit the interim period to four months.

"There is an overwhelming consensus in Jordan that this move is historically significant, strengthening the separation of power and reducing the King's prerogatives," Assaf David, an

expert on Jordan at Jerusalem's Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, told The Media Line. "The question is will it be enough. Three months ago it may have been, but today there's a predominant sense of nihilism and mistrust."

Weekly demonstrations demanding political reform erupted in Jordan in January, but were milder than protest movements elsewhere in the Arab world which demanded regime change. A sluggish response by the King to the reform demands coupled by police violence against protesters has pushed many Jordanians to mistrust any government initiative.

"The amendments are a positive step, but are void of real change that could have been included," Hamza Mansour, Secretary General of the Islamic Action Front, the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, told The

Media Line. "In all modern states, the Senate is elected by the people and not appointed from above."

Ten Jordanians were injured in a pro-reform protest in the southern city of Karak on August 12. The unarmed youth demonstrators blamed the government for unleashing pro-regime thugs who attacked them with sticks and knives, independent news agency Amman News reported.

"People have lost faith in the entire political system," Fatima Smadi, a journalism professor and political columnist with the independent daily Al-Arab Al-Yawm, told The Media Line. "The regime talks about reforms and then sends thugs to disperse protesters."

Smadi said that deliberations on the constitutional amendments should have included representatives of the Jordanian public and not held "behind

closed doors." She added that many in Jordan believe the amendments should be voted on in a national referendum rather than ratified by parliament alone, since the public completely mistrusts the current parliament.

"These amendments are important enough to be put to a public vote," she said.

The parliament is expected to endorse the amendments within one month, and the King has promised to implement the recommendations by the end of the year.

Some of the amendments strengthen the civil nature of the political and electoral processes. A new constitutional court will be created to replace the weaker Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution, as well as an independent commission to oversee elections. Civilians will only be tried before civil, not military courts

and provisional laws will only be enacted in extreme cases.

But the tribal public that demonstrated in Karak on Friday, formerly the linchpin of King Abdullah's political stability, went as far as attacking the King personally; a red line in a Kingdom where criticism of the royal family is punishable by up to three years in prison. Two Jordanian students were arrested in July 2010 for criticizing the King online.

"In Karak protesters mentioned the King's gambling problem," David, the Jordan expert, said. "This is something unheard of in Jordan's tribal periphery."

Interior Minister Mazen A-Saket criticized the Karak demonstrators' slogans against the King on Monday, but said they would not be arrested.

"We have laws and civil courts," he told Al-Arab Al-Yawm daily.

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# Yemenis unhappy with Ramadan programs

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Every Ramadan, Yemen's TV channels compete to present a different and distinguished programs schedule.

But this year, seven Yemeni channels failed to satisfy viewers who were "depressed" about the poor programs on offer; they said the announcers were not skilled enough to do their jobs.

Viewers told the Yemen Times that this Ramadan programs have focused on settling accounts between the regime and opposition - serious programs were absent this year.

In the past, Ramadan programs and series were more interesting and effective, complained viewers.

Actor and artistic producer Nader Al-Madh'haji expressed his dissatisfaction with the series and programs on all seven Yemeni channels.

Al-Madh'haji didn't participate in any productions this year because of an absence of good content and artistic programs.

He said that while the Arabic channels compete during Ramadan to present new and creative programs, Yemen's channels simply present silly shows.

"This year programs and series on Yemen's channels have provoked Yemenis and depressed them. Repeated power cuts became the rescuer of Yemenis from these provocative programs," he said. "A blessing in disguise."

"It makes me nervous when I watch Ramadan programs this year. Unfor-



tunately, we are getting worse in our drama and our production in general," he said.

Regarding TV series on the seven channels, Al-Madh'haji criticized the absence of interesting scenarios and skilled actors and actresses, pointing out that the events of some TV series are fragmented.

"The actors and actresses were not successful this year and they were acting without must professionalism," he said.

"There are few programs that deserve watching. But even those programs need some changes and development," he added.

Mostafa Al-Abdali, 29, a citizen in

Sana'a said there are no worthy programs this Ramadan.

"During Ramadan I have time to watch TV and I want to see something different every Ramadan. Unfortunately, the programs this year were the worst," he said.

"These channels could have benefited from the uprising in Yemen to make extraordinary programs and series. They really let us down."

"It's better for me to watch other Arabic channels," he said.

#### Sharp criticism on Facebook

The poor performance of Yemen's channels this year led many Yemenis to make critical comments, while many

even called for a boycott of some programs and presenters.

Ahlam Al-Bosata'a (the poor dreams) is one of the programs that angered many Yemenis who said it humiliated poor people.

The presenter gives a little money from Al-Saleh Charity to poor people, one of the charities belonging to president Saleh.

But many viewers said the aim of program is to promote Al-Saleh charity, which was established using Yemenis' money.

"The program exploits poor people and depicts them as beggars," said journalist Saddam Al-Kamali. "They trade in the poor's dreams."

"It's unacceptable to insult Yemenis in this way."

#### Clowning around?

The series on state-run channels depicts the opposing people as awful whereas those on the opposition channel Suhail focus on issues of injustice and repression by the regime and its officials.

Ahmed Abdurrahman, one of the local TV critics slammed some series, describing certain actors as clowns.

Hammy Hammak-3 (My concern is yours) is the most popular series on opposition Al-Saeeda channel, depicting injustice and inequality in one of the villages in Tihama.

"It's the best series because it focuses on real issues without fear," said Muadh Thabet a local from Sana'a. "We need programs and series that focus on our problems. We don't want clowning or series that support corrupt regimes."

## HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



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

## Health problems of air travel

Air travel is one of the safest and most convenient modes of transport. Millions of passengers around the world choose this mode. The availability of cheap airline tickets has further increased the affordability of air travel. Earlier considered to be a vanity, air travel is becoming more and more commonplace these days.

Millions of people travel by air each year and majority of them do not complain about any sort of side effects. However, some of them do experience the "wrath" of air travel. Reduced atmospheric pressure, minimum oxygen levels, noise, vibration, and proximity to sub zero temperatures can create havoc to health. Let's check out what an air travel can cause to you:



**1. Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT):** Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is a condition in which blood clots (thrombus) form in deep veins, such as those in the legs. It can sometime occur during long flights due to inactivity. Long periods of immobility can cause blood clotting in the legs. The lungs can be affected in the same way and this can lead to arterial blockage.

**Prevention:** It's important to move around the cabin, especially on long flights, as this squeezes the blood vessels and prevents the formation of blood clots. This will also keep your blood circulation up. If it is difficult to move around then curl or press your toes down often throughout your trip. Crossing the legs should definitely be avoided.

**2. Jet Lag:** While traveling through multiple time zones, your body clock gets disrupted, causing an acute problem called jet lag. These changes in time zones confuse your body's inner clock and produce biochemical changes. The effect increases with the number of time zones crossed. The symptoms of jet lag can vary but may include fatigue, irritability, headaches, upset stomach, diarrhea and sleep disturbance (such as daytime drowsiness, insomnia or waking early).

**Prevention:** Change your time table few days before leaving to suit the destination. Consider going to bed earlier than usual if you are traveling east; if traveling west, go to bed later than usual. While at the destination, soak up natural sunlight to cue your body that it is time to be awake, or spend your first day in well-lighted places. It has been shown that bright light can help to reset circadian rhythms.

**3. Airplane Ear:** Barotrauma or airplane ear occurs when the air pressure in your middle ear (more specifically, the Eustachian tube) and the air pressure in your environment are out of balance. This specially happens when the airplane climbs sharply or descends for a landing.

**Prevention:** Chewing a piece of gum or sucking a candy during takeoff and landing can help with the problem by activating the muscle that opens the Eustachian tube. Yawning is even better since it's a strong activator of that muscle. Also, drink plenty of water to remain hydrated, and avoid caffeine and alcohol.

**4. Motion Sickness:** Motion sickness can occur when the airplane turns sharply. The inner ear fluid mechanisms can be affected, producing the unpleasant symptoms of increased salivation, dizziness, nausea, sweating and vomiting.

**Prevention:** Choose an aisle seat over the wings as this will reduce the motion felt. Turn the air vent flow toward your face. Eat light meals or snacks before and during your flight. Also, avoid reading as reading will have your eyes fixed on a stationary object, yet your body feels the motions. This can trigger confusion and a sudden onset of motion sickness.

**5. Breathing Problems:** The cabin pressure is significantly lower than the atmospheric pressure, and so, you breathe less oxygen compared to what you inhale while you are on the ground. This can lead to a drop in your oxygen saturation and can eventually lead to breathing problems.

**Prevention:** Keep the air vent open and try taking deep breaths. Avoid wearing tight fitting outfits during long flights. If you are having trouble breathing, use the oxygen mask.

**6. Cough:** Allergens, dry air, fumes and ozone in the cabin air may cause coughing problems during an air travel.

**Prevention:** Try to suck on a candy or keep a sugar cube in your mouth. Also, stay hydrated by drinking a lot of water.

#### 7. Dehydration

The air inside the plane is dry and the cabin air conditioners further remove moisture from the cabin air (the humidity level is generally below 25%). This causes your mouth, throat, eyes and skin to become extremely dehydrated.

**Prevention:** Make sure you drink plenty of water or fruit juice regularly. Also, avoid alcohol and caffeine.

**8. Headaches:** Dry air, low humidity levels, extreme fatigue and odors lead to the risk of migraine and other types of headaches.

**Prevention:** Get up and move around the cabin to increase blood circulation. As dehydration can set in headache, keep yourself well hydrated, and avoid alcohol and caffeine. In severe cases, some mild painkillers can be taken for temporary relief.

**9. Infection:** You spend long hours with other passengers in an enclosed environment and this way, you increase your chances of getting infected with contagious diseases.

**Prevention:** Start boosting your immune system three days before your trip by eating vitamin C rich food such as oranges, guava etc. You can also take proper vaccination before traveling. If you want to be extra protective, wear a mask to cover your nose and mouth to avoid inhaling disease causing bacteria.

**10. Radiation:** In most international flights, your body is exposed to some degrees of radiation from cosmic rays from space. Flight personnel are exposed to a greater risk of development of breast cancer in comparison to the general population.

**Prevention:** Wear an outfit which covers most of the skin and body.

Air travel is not without its risks, but there's no need to hang up your wings! The more you travel, the more your body gets adjusted to the problems. If you are facing some acute problems after a flight, make no delay in getting yourself checked.

# Power sharing most applicable solution to Yemen crisis



Government supporters holding the portraits of President Ali Abdullah Saleh gather near the Presidential Palace in Sanaa, Yemen, on July 29, 2011. Hundreds of thousands of anti-government and pro-government demonstrators staged demonstrations respectively in Sanaa on Friday.

By: Fuad Rajeh  
Wang Qiuyun

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh is facing mounting external pressure to sign a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)-brokered power transition deal and has been warned not to return to his country.

Observers argued that Saleh's political career has ended and his return is of no significance, saying that a national unity government has become the most applicable solution to the Yemeni crisis.

Saleh, convalescing in Saudi Arabia after surgeries for burns he suffered in an assassination attempt inside his compound in Sanaa on June 3, was reported to have decided not to come back home,

with some reports saying he was persuaded by Saudi and U.S. officials.

"The return of Saleh is no longer important as if he has been working over the past years to enable his son to stay after he leaves," said Abdul Ghani-al-Maweri, a political analyst in Sanaa.

The government dismissed the reports that Saleh would not return to Yemen and insists that he will come back after recuperation. Only the Yemeni people can decide who rules them and the international community is only pushing the Yemeni parties to hold a constructive dialogue, not holding back the president, ruling party officials said.

"Saleh's departure for treatment in Saudi Arabia after the June bomb was a secure, political exit for him. His return will explode the situation in Yemen," said Faris al-Saqqaf, head of the Future

Studies Center, adding that the health and security status of Saleh will not help him rule again.

"Recent pressure on Saleh to sign the GCC-brokered power transition deal and warnings not to return home meant one thing: the international community has decided to pull Saleh out of politics to start an immediate power transfer in his country and reconcile all parties including the ruling party," al-Saqqaf said.

"Hence, any agreement in the future will be based on the reconciliation among all political forces in Yemen," he said.

Meanwhile, talk about the GCC plan has reemerged in Riyadh mediated by the Saudi government and UN envoy.

Opposition officials affirmed that their demands have not changed: a power transfer and an army and secu-

re restructuring first and then dialogue and the ballot boxes.

"We need a national army to protect our agreement, because we can't rely on the international community or external guarantees to do that," said Muhammad Abdul Malik al-Mutawakil, a senior leader of the Yemeni opposition coalition Joint Meeting Parties.

Observers also said that the stay of Saleh in Saudi Arabia is part of his victory against the people calling for his ouster, as others argued that Saleh has been and will continue to be a card in the hands of the Saudis.

"A national unity government according to the GCC plan seems to be the best solution to lifting Yemen out of its problems, though I believe that Saleh will continue to rule Yemen from Saudi Arabia after he leaves," said Anis Mansour, an Aden-based political analyst.

إعلانات مبوبة



خبرة طويلة في الترجمة من وإلى اللغات الإنجليزية-الفرنسية-العربية...

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بكالوريوس محاسبة، دبلوم دراسات عليا، دبلوم لغة انجليزية، اجازة محاسب قانوني...

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## Mohsen Al-Aghbari



By: Shatha Al-Harazi

**K**halid Rajeh, one of the first noticeable faces at Change Square, witnessed violence against the anti-government protesters since January, even prior to the protesters campus.

Although Rajeh is a member of the Islamist Party, Islah, the largest opposition party, he stands on

the side of the Independent youth whenever they disagree with the party.

Khalid's is the tired voice shouting, chanting, "people want to withdraw the Regime". The gathered crowd used to enquire; who is this guy dying on the stage shouting with his exhausted voice?

His entire family supports him in what he is doing at Change Square; in fact one of his brothers was one of "Friday of dignity, March 18" injured. He has now

recovered from the bullet that was once in his leg.

Khalid is known for his courage at the square. He once received a threatening phone call; that his head would be cut off if he did not stop "inciting people on the Square's stage", Khalid reacted to it by simply marching on to the stage and sharing the details of the call. He then said, "I prefer to cutting off my head if I left this stage"

He used to work as a cameraman for a private film producing company, but he left his job to dedicate his time to the peaceful revolution. It is for this very reason he missed his final exams at a Medical institute where he is a third grade student in pharmacy.

Khalid can now recognize the thugs after the many clashes with them. This stretches back to al-Tahreer Square when the ex-Egyptian president stepped down and Yemenis proceeded to Tahreer to celebrate the revolution with Egypt.

But what has been achieved thus far? "At the beginning we used to march without even obtaining the party's permission. But then

when we had two clashes with the regime's thugs," said Khalid.

The first Friday before the sit-in at the campus started Khalid and his friend had big clashes with thugs; these were followed by another set of clashes on Saturday that left some of their friends injured. These were the biggest scuffles since they started their marches and that's when it was decided that the Yemeni Revolution needs a sit-in campus.

"Before the political parties ordered their followers to join the protest we started to organize things down there," said Khalid. "Back then we were just five young people who came together and tried to put to operation the benefits from the Egyptian revolution. That is how we organized the square. The five of us are members of political parties, so we used our organizing skills to organize the protest," he said. Khalid elaborated, "we blocked two roads and left two open for cars. We started to collect money and pay for simple food at night. More people joined in and we contacted our friends and told them we were organized."

After that night the protesters just grew and the number reached more than 2000. The five members emerged with five committees to organize: financial, security and media amongst other things. Khalid became well-known at the square although he lost his job. But he had a better one now as he works as a cameraman for Suhil, the main opposition channel. It is this channel that dedicated their time to cover events from Change Square. He also freelances for CNN, Al-Arabia and an Iranian channel.

Khalid documents the Yemeni

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revolution by videos and he makes sure he has the best view for any march or event the protesters are intending. He went as far as renting a room at the fifth floor of a hotel; his rationale was that should the march come under attack he would have the best angle to cover the events. "Some thugs saw me holding the camera from the window so they shot at the window but I managed to escape. But many bullets were found in the hotel," Khalid explained.

Khalid believes that the Yemeni revolution is not only against the regime it's also against ignorance that most Yemenis suffer from. For example, if one tribal sheikh announced his support to the

regime, his fellows will be counted with him even if they support the revolution deep inside. "Only by spreading peace and knowledge will we counter ignorance" said Khaled.

Khaled said no matter how events change, the protesters will remain peaceful. "March 18th is evidence, he says. Nothing can be harder than that day, but we only replied with rocks and nothing else," he said.

"The youth and the party have come to one decision but earlier on the party tried to control the youth. That tactic was indeed wrong," said Khalid whilst speaking of his own party, the Islah party.

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