

Tribesmen block state-military shipment heading to Sana'a

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Aug. 21- Armed tribesmen in Raima governorate, 200 km west of the capital Sana'a blocked a military shipment in transit from Hodeida port to Sana'a on Saturday.

The military shipment was imported from Russia and contained 22 trucks carrying tanks, weapons and other military equipment, according to media sources close to the defected general Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar.

Sources in Hodeida close to the state to the local daily independent newspaper Akhbar Al-Youm, which is close to General Al-Ahmar, that the tribesmen were able to prevent the shipment from crossing into Sana'a.

They explained that this led to clashes between the tribesmen and soldiers who were protecting the shipment. One soldier was killed and others were wounded, while two of the armed men were shot dead and another one was injured.

"This military reinforcement is part of the Republican Guards' preparation for armed battles which may explode in the capital Sana'a with increasing international pressures on Saleh to sign the GCC brokered power transition proposal," according to the paper.

An official at the Russian Embassy in the capital Sana'a confirmed to the Yemen Times that this shipment was sold from Ukraine to President Saleh's son, Brigadier General Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh. Saleh is the commander of the Yemeni army's elite force, the Republican Guards.

He explained that the shipped tanks were not sold by the Russian government because they were a decommissioned model of the Soviet T80, which is only available on the black market.

A military source at the Yemeni Ministry of Defense stated to the mouthpiece of the ruling party, Almotamar.net, that "an armed group blocked a military convoy consisting of military equipment and machines while it was

on its way from Hodeida to Sana'a."

The source, who was not identified, accused the defected General Al-Ahmar, the commander of the First Armored Division, of instructing the armed group to attack the military convoy.

"Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, commander of the Republican Guards has turned from a military commander responsible for protecting the regime and the law into a bandit responsible for criminal and armed groups," the Defense Ministry source said.

In a similar incident, a Russian-made Ilyushin plane was destroyed on Saturday by a time bomb placed inside it at a military air-base close to Sana'a International Airport. Until Saturday Yemen had only two of these military transport aircraft, each of which carries around 40 tons of weapons.

This comes amidst six-month nationwide protests demanding an end to Saleh's 33-year rule. The protests have left hundreds dead and wounded coun-

trywide, including anti-regime protesters and Saleh's loyal security forces and army.

General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, who had been Saleh's right arm during his 33-year rule, quashing several rebellions against Saleh, defected after more than 56 anti-regime protesters were killed in the capital Sana'a on March 18.

State-owned media outlets have been waging increasingly intense media distortion campaigns against the defected army and opposition figures who sided with the revolution.

President Saleh, who is still recovering in Saudi Arabia from injuries he sustained in an assassination attempt in his palace on June 3, has refused to sign the GCC power transition proposal, which the opposition signed last May.

The Republican Guards are involved in fighting with the opposition in more than one front. They have been at war for over three months with tribesmen loyal to the Islah opposition party in



The military shipment which was imported from Russia and contains 22 trucks carrying tanks, other military equipment and weapons was sold to president's son Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Arhab, 30 km north the capital Sana'a. It is battling armed opposition in Al-Haima, 60 km west of the capital Sana'a, and has been engaged in a two-month street war with armed opposition in Taiz.

Strong reactions against national council continues

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Aug. 21—The National Council announced on August 17 by the

JMP as an alternative governance body for the Yemeni revolution held its first meeting this Saturday and formed four sub-committees to implement its man-

date. However, this step forward is one against a flood of backlash coming from both the regime and some of the opposition groups that felt the council did not represent them.

In response to establishing the council, Ahmed Al-Sofi, president Saleh's media secretary said to media outlets that "this council is a political joke and proves how the opposing Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) are politically bankrupt."

Al-Sofi said that the JMP's aim from this council is to avoid national dialogue, drag Yemen into confrontation and rebel against the constitutional legitimacy.

Tareq Al-Shami, head of media department at the ruling General People

Congress (GPC) said that the founders of the council imposed themselves as guardians of the youth's dreams.

He said that this council was established to add a new failure for the opposition parties, describing all JMP's councils as fake. "This isn't the first council by them; it's the fourth one."

"Forming this council means that the JMP refuse the gulf initiative," said Al-Shami.

Simultaneously, the national council met with considerable support from different revolutionary and political powers.

The Youth Revolution Council welcomed the council on the condition that this council will continue their revolu-

tionary struggle and endeavor to overthrow the regime.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Dhaheri, political analyst and professor of political science at Sana'a University said that the council has filled an important void.

"Ali Abdullah Saleh is politically finished and Yemenis sacrificed their lives for the revolution," said Al-Dhaheri.

Youth's press statement

More than 170 youth entities stated in a press conference Saturday their rejection of the council, considering it as a JMP's political coalition that does not represent them.

"Representatives of the council were chosen according to skewed standards. Rights of the revolution's youth were

confiscated and ignored by the council founders," said the statement.

The statement indicated that the council was formed by political powers that still believed in negotiating with the regime and is still remembered for its approval of the gulf initiative which was considered as betrayal of the revolution.

It added that this council includes names associated with the regime and supportive of Saleh and his family. The statement concluded by terming the council as another congregation of the JMP and represents them only. "We warn the council of speaking on our behalf or using our name in any decision making," it read.

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Government accuses two opposition figures of Saleh's assassination attempt



First televised appearance of president Saleh after he was targeted in his palace on June 3rd, the Yemeni-American inquiry team has not yet declared the findings of the incident.

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Aug. 20 — The Yemeni government has officially accused on Thursday two Yemeni opposition figures of standing behind Saleh's assassination attempt two months ago.

Hameed Al-Ahmar, the wealthy opposition leader and defected general Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar are the two suspects of the attack which targeted president Saleh and top government leaders in the presidential palace on June 3rd.

"We have a strong believe that Hameed Al-Ahmar and Ali Mohsen are standing behind the attack on the president Saleh and top officials of the government in the presidential palace," said Abdo Al-Janadi, deputy minister of information in a press conference on Thursday evening.

He explained that the ongoing investigations indicate that the two men are involved in this attack.

And this is not the first time that Al-Ahmar family being accused of this incident since Saleh himself held Al-Ahmar family accountable of the attack in his audio-tape speech during the same day of the attack.

But, this is the first time that this accusation is being confirmed by the government's spokesperson and specifically lists one opposition leader and outstanding defected military figure with their names.

Hameed Al-Ahmar said in an interview with the London-based Sharqalawast daily newspaper published on August 14th that "Saleh's sons and the presidential security are the top suspects of the assassination attempt." He added that "a neutral inquiry committee must be formed to answer the question of who attempted to assassinate Saleh."

Ahmed Al-Zurqa, a Yemeni political analyst told the Yemen Times that

"this is just political propaganda and there are no signs for this accusation particularly findings of the Yemeni-American inquiry team have not yet been declared."

He added that accusing some of the tribal and military bodies who sided with the anti-regime revolution will only generate violence.

Some Yemeni officials have hinted earlier that the defected general Al-Ahmar is involved, but it is the first time that he was officially accused by the ministry of information, according to Al-Zurqa.

"This incident was politicized by the regime by accusing more than one party. They [regime] once said it is Al-Qaeda to send a message to the world that if Saleh gone, Al-Qaeda will come. They also recruited it against political rivals to crack them down," Al-Zurqa said.

Al-Qaida regains control over coastal city in south Yemen: officials

ABYAN, Aug. 17 (Xinhua) — Militants of the Yemen-based al-Qaida wing Wednesday regained control of the country's strategic coastal city of Shaqra in southern Abyan province after days of fierce battles against government troops, a provincial security official said.

"Militants of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) reentered the coastal city of Shaqra following days of fighting with the government troops," security official Hameed Ali told Xinhua.

"The city was cleansed from the militants in July by the troops, who then set tighten siege around the militants' key stronghold of Zinjibar, the provincial capital of Abyan, which AQAP

took over late in May," he added. Difficulties of communication with the army in the nearby area obstructed information about casualties of the clashes, said the official.

The AQAP is known locally as "supporters of the Islamic Law." An intelligence official told Xinhua on condition of anonymity "the al-Qaida group has killed over 300 soldiers in the past two weeks and seized 40 petrol barrels provided by the stationed army."

Shaqra is the third town seized by al-Qaida in Abyan, some 480 km south of the capital Sanaa, after the terrorist group took control of Zinjibar and Jaar city of the province late in May.

A tribal official in the area told Xinhua

by phone the al-Qaida group is planning to take more cities in Abyan and Shabwa despite the fierce crackdown by the Yemeni army forces and U.S. continuing air strikes."

"We have also learned that the media of the AQAP is filming an interview with the wanted U.S.-born Yemeni cleric Anwar al-Awlaki in a village in Shabwa province, and will post it on internet next month," said the tribesman, who asked to remain unidentified.

Shabwa, some 458 km southeast of the capital Sanaa, is the homeland of the cleric al-Awlaki and a stronghold of hundreds of al-Qaida leaders.

Access to Abyan paves the way for aid distributions

SANA'A, Aug. 20 (ICRC) — For the first time in several months, many people have been fleeing from the governorate of Abyan to nearby governorates or seeking safer areas within Abyan itself. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Yemen Red Crescent Society have had access to the governorate for the past two weeks and have distributed food rations to over 17,000 displaced people and residents there.

"The southern parts of the country continue to be the scene of increasing instability," said Eric Marclay, the head of the ICRC delegation in Yemen. "Now that we finally have access, our first priority is to make sure that people who need food receive it as soon as possible."

Over the past few days, ICRC and Yemen Red Crescent personnel have been working together with people

from the local communities to distribute food rations to displaced people and residents in the areas of Zinjibar, Ja'ar, al-Bateis and al-Husn in Abyan governorate. Since fighting erupted in May, food and household essentials have also been distributed to over 17,500 displaced people in the governorate of Lahj.

"Because civilians affected by the armed confrontations must have access to health care, we have repeatedly reminded those involved in the fighting that health-care facilities and people not participating in the fighting must be spared at all times," said Mr Marclay.

Within the past fortnight, the ICRC has supplied 10 first-aid kits to the Yemen Red Crescent branch in Abyan, where more than 70 people have been treated and transferred to health-care facilities. In addition, an ICRC surgi-

cal team has performed 23 operations on weapon-wounded patients and donated 22 medical kits and various other medical items, including intravenous fluids and anaesthetic drugs, to medical personnel in al-Naqeb, al-Jumhuriya and Ibn Khaldun hospitals to help them treat dozens of casualties. Yemen Red Crescent volunteers have transferred seven dead bodies to al-Razi hospital so that they can be handed over to their families for proper burial.

The situation in Abyan has changed drastically over the past few months. Armed confrontations have forced tens of thousands of people to hastily leave their homes in search of safer places. The ICRC will continue to closely monitor the situation in the south of the country. It stands ready to take further action in cooperation with the Yemen Red Crescent.

Al-Qeada in Abyan escalates by attacking tribesmen

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Aug. 21 — Rebel militant groups in Abyan believed to be close to Al-Qaeda escalated violence on Sunday morning by committing two simultaneous suicidal operations. This time the attacks targeted local tribes, rather than military forces.

The attacks took place in two of the central areas of Abyan, Moudia and Lauder. In Moudia three people were killed. In Lauder the attacks left 11 tribesmen dead and injured several others, who were taken to al-Baida Hospital.

Moudia's attack targeted Abu Bakr Al-Ashal, the head of the ruling party in Moudia. Al-Ashal was also a leading figure of Ashal's tribes and the brother-in-law of the governor. He was killed by a man wearing an explosive belt.

"The man who committed the suicidal attack came over to Al-Ashal where he was sitting with two others, chatting. The guy greeted them and sat for a bit and then pressed the button that ended him with the others," said Ahmed Yaslem, a freelance reporter in Abyan.

Yaslem said that targeting Al-Ashal was a big move for Al-Qaeda as Al-Ashal was an important political and social figure.

Moudia's attack occurred at 10:10 pm, at the same moment as the other attack in Lauder. The Lauder attack was on the main road from Moudia to Lauder at a tribal checkpoint controlled by the Al-Nakha'een tribes.

"Someone was distributing money in Al-Arkub — it might have been Zakat [donations made by Muslims during Ramadan] — when an explosive-laden

car leveled the area," tribal sources told the Yemen Times.

The same sources said that the attack against Al-Jada'een came in response to the killing of four Al-Qaeda members the day before.

More than 20 tribes held a meeting two months ago and vowed to expel Al-Qaeda and any other militant groups in the area. They said they would start with Lauder, Moudia and Jaar, the central areas of Abyan, before joining the war in Zinjibar, Abyan's capital.

"We [the tribes] decided to protect our lands from these militants groups, so we vowed to decontaminate Lauder first then Zinjibar," said Ahmed al-Aydaros from Al-Wadhe'a tribes in Abyan.

Al-Aydaros said that targeting tribesmen by suicidal attack is a very dangerous escalation, because the means available to protect against these types of attacks are weak.

"Now all the tribes should come together again to fight strongly. We will call another tribal meeting to decide how we should resist the militant groups," he added.

Al-Aydaros noted that there are one or two members of Al-Qaeda from each tribe in Abyan. "The tribes have started fighting their own members, those whom they know to be members of Al-Qaeda," he explained. "This is one of the best ways to beat them."

These attacks against the tribesmen have dangerous implications, according to the journalist Yaslem. "This is the first time Al-Qaeda or any other militant groups have directly target tribesmen instead of military forces. They are trying to send a message to the tribesmen to stop them from siding with the government against them,"

said Yaslem.

Political analyst Ahmed Al-Zurqa agrees that this is a dangerous escalation by Al-Qaeda, especially considering that it staged two attacks in different areas at the same time.

"These attacks wouldn't happen if the militant groups didn't have full information of the area. Because they are from the area, it is easier for them to make multiple plans of attack," said Al-Zurqa.

Al-Zurqa also believes that these attacks are a way to discourage the tribes from siding with the government and fighting against the militants.

The big fear now according to Al-Zurqa is that this suicidal style will create a pattern for others to follow in other cities and governorates such as Aden, if international actors do not condemn the attacks and help to stop them in the future.

It is important to mention that this was not the first time Yemeni tribesmen have been targeted. On July 30, 35 tribesmen near Zinjibar fell victim to government airstrikes, although they were fighting on the regime's side against the militant groups.

Suicidal attacks are hard to avoid because of their unpredictability. While Al-Aydaros expresses his fear of this fact, Al-Zurqa believes that this will strengthen the tribal role in expelling these militant groups. Even if they are unable to follow their plan of coordinated fighting, he explains, each tribe is likely to be successful in protecting its own area.

What will help the tribes in expelling the militant groups is their full awareness of the identities of those tribesmen who have aligned with the militant groups.



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Al-Hasaba locals receive water support



A local watching as a member of the youth volunteers team fills up his tank in Al-Hasaba area where around 200 poor families are getting emergency water supplies.

By: Shihab Al-Ezzi

SANA'A, Aug. 21 — For Ghazi Obad and his ten-member family water was a major problem especially since the clashes in his neighborhood of Al-Hasaba has left many families without source of income.

Now because of the work of twelve volunteers of the Yemeni Youth for Humanitarian Relief initiative, around 200

families in Al-Hasaba will be receiving several water deliveries in the next few weeks.

This project is implemented by the Yemen 21 Forum and funded by Oxfam-GB Yemen program as a part of its humanitarian relief to Yemen.

"I work as a taxi driver earning no more than 2,000 Yemeni Rials a day (around USD eight). I can't pay the house rent, water and electricity bills.

With this water support my family is able to enjoy life better," said Obad.

The volunteers of YYHR have surveyed Al-Hasaba area and discovered that there are very poor families who need urgent help especially in water supplies.

"I saw a woman collecting water from the drainpipes as she sat underneath the pipe coming from the roof," said Esam Al-Rawhani leader of the water distribution team. She leaves it for sometime at home so that the dirt settles down and then she uses the cleaner water for domestic purposes. This is how bad the situation is explained Al-Rawhani.

Adnan Ahmed is another local in the area has a family of 14 individuals. He complained that because of the high expenses of living they can't afford basic services such as paying for water or electricity bills.

"I send my kids to bring water from the nearby mosque or neighbors' house. This water distribution solves a lot of problems for my family. I hope they will continue to distribute water to the needy families," he said.

YYHR is a group of young Yemenis who dedicated a team from Al-Hasaba neighborhood to make a change. The project covers the cost of distribution of water deliveries to 200 families for five times during the period from July to September.

The area was divided to six parts and the team was responsible for simultaneously distributing the water to the families according to a predefined list resulting from the survey. The community reacted positively and many young men

from Al-Hasaba helped the volunteers in the distribution process.

"We did face some problems," said Nadia Al-Sakkaf director of the implementing partner Yemen 21 Forum. "For example at times we were not sure if it was safe enough to distribute the water especially since there had been some clashes recently."

Other problems included the resentment of some relatively better off families that they were excluded from the distribution.

"Sometimes some of the men in the area demanded that we fill their water tanks with water even though they were not poor. It disturbed the process but we got around it by talking reasonably to them and imploring their consciousness especially that it was Ramadan and a charitable spirit was in the air," said Yousef Soroor a member of the water distribution team.

Political tensions in the area are very clear and most of the residents have become insecure about any activities in their area. However, this project was a success because it involved youth from the very neighborhood and was about one very neutral issue which is water.

Al-Hasaba is home to Al-Hamar tribe leaders who are have opposed the government and their leader Sadeq Al-Ahmar was attacked by the state security. Al-Ahmar retaliated and violent clashes dominated the area for more than a week. The conflict which was the heaviest towards the end of May and beginning of June this year destroyed many houses caused many residents to leave their homes and claimed the lives of tens

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Some of the long term outcomes of the conflict are the insecurity and physical problems especially among chil-

dren in the area and the loss of sources of income for many locals because of the road blocking and destruction of personal vehicles and other sources of income.

World Humanitarian Day 2011

By: Yemen Times Staff

"It is an overwhelming feeling to see the happiness of people when they see you coming with humanitarian aid. Their prayers mean the world to me." Arafat, Youth Humanitarian Volunteer, explained.

The world celebrated for the first time the World Humanitarian Day on 19th August 2009. The day was designated by the UN to increase public understanding of humanitarian assistance activities worldwide. The Day also aims at honoring humanitarian workers who have lost their lives or been injured in the course of their work. This year the World Humanitarian Day theme is "People Helping People".

The day was set up to be on 19th of August because eight years ago, the United Nations Office in Iraq was bombed and 22 people lost their lives. Among them was Sergio Vieira de Mello, at that time the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iraq. While there have been many other fatal incidents involving humanitarian personnel the General Assembly decided to use the anniversary of this incident as World Humanitarian Day.

Yemeni Youth for Humanitarian Relief (YYHR) organized a small event to celebrate the World Humanitarian Day on Friday, 19th August 2011, at Coffee Corner. Interested individuals and Humanitarian workers were invited to attend through facebook event. The celebration aimed at sharing stories and lessons learned during provision of humanitarian aid in Yemen under these political circumstances.

"We have carried out humanitarian activities that we are proud of during the last six months, among them was provision of food aid, water, cloths, first aid kits, and medical supplies for Aden, Hasaba, and Abyan families and creating a child friendly space in Hasaba," Rasha Rasheed, YYHR volunteer stated.

Principles of Humanitarian Aid
 Humanitarian aid is based on a number of founding principles, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Humanitarian aid workers should be able to access those in need in order to provide vital assistance easily.

Rasha indicated "it is an amazing feeling to see the youth coming together to provide humanitarian relief for vulnerable families. The diversity of Yemeni Youth for Humanitarian Relief is remarkable, we have youth that belong to every political wave; GPC, Islah,



Yemeni Youth for Humanitarian Relief and guests lighting candles in honor of humanitarian workers.

Southern Movement, Huthis, Change Square, and independent youth who decided to put aside their differences and work together to relief the people."

Every year, disasters cause immense suffering for millions of people - usually the world's poorest, most marginalized and vulnerable individuals. Humanitarian aid workers strive to provide life-saving assistance and long term rehabilitation to disaster-affected communities, regardless of where they are in the world and without discrimination.

"When the strong fight, the vulnerable suffer." Mohammed illustrated. "We went into a neighborhood in Hasaba near Al-Ahmar area. I knew most of the people there, I was shocked to see that all the people have hit rock bottom, even the ones who were doing well have now become poor. They told us that we were the first relief group that ever approached them. We were able to provide them with water part of our project funded by Oxfam" he added.

Anyone can be Humanitarian
 People affected by disasters are the first to help their own communities following a disaster. Communities, local partner organizations, international organizations and the general public can build a chain of solidarity to support communities in responding to and recovering from disasters.

"There is a need for coordination between the youth and local NGOs to provide humanitarian relief. The youth are eager to offer their services to relief the people and in return the NGOs need the human resources and can provide the legal operational umbrella." Amal

Abdulqader- Staff of Soul for Development.

Khalid Al-Babeli explained "Humanitarian relief is not about volunteerism it is a duty and everyone's responsibility. If we oblige to the Prophet's teachings to take care of our neighbors to the 7th one, then we will be able to eradicate poverty and create social well-being."

Mofeed, YYHR volunteer, shared "I was so touched to see the women in a neighborhood of Hasaba collect rain water from under the rain hose outlet. One lady was washing clothes under the rain hose outlet. A woman is worth 100 men."

Mustafa, YYHR volunteer, expressed "all I did so far was cook some dishes to raise funds for the victim families. I was able to feed 5 families with the money raised. Humanitarian work have taught me gratitude and any effort counts."

"The first humanitarian work I did was cleaning and renovating Al-Ramah School in Hasaba, an initiative that was organized by Eyon Shabah (young eyes), it made me so eager to do more, and so I participated with Yemeni Youth for Humanitarian Relief to organize the open day for fund raising for Hasaba families." 14 years old Suhal said.

Humanitarian Work for Sustainable Peace
 Responding to emergencies is only one aspect of humanitarian work. Humanitarian workers also support communities to rebuild their lives after disasters, to become more resilient to future crises, to help their voices to be heard, and to build lasting and sustainable peace in areas of conflict.

"The people in Hasaba area are still suffering. There are families who live in horrible conditions. One family is living in a container placed in a land that is not theirs; they lack the basic necessities for a decent life. There are families with kids who are sick and cannot afford life saving medicines. Although it is so rewarding when we provide them with food aid and water supply, however, with limited resources are facing challenges and thinking of establishing a more sustainable resources." Arafat Soroor, YYHR volunteer.

Khaled added "We have created a child friendly space for Hasaba children with support from UNICEF. This is one of the most worthwhile activities that we have undertaken so far. Seeing the smiles on the children faces was so rewarding. The children lined up at the gate of the school one hour before the programme commenced every day. As we come to an end, one of the children asked if we are going to do the programme again next year."

Risks in Humanitarian Work
 Last year 242 humanitarian aid workers were either killed, injured, or kidnapped. Aid workers operate in places that are often remote, difficult and hostile. They risk their lives to help others. Over the past years humanitarian work has become more dangerous. The level of threats and number of deliberate attacks on aid organizations have risen during the last ten years by around 37%.

Yosef commented "we were once detained in the police station and on another occasion threatened to be shot at while we were distributing humani-

tarian aid. However, this didn't deter us from continuing our activities."

Essam Al-Rawhani illustrated "working in a post conflict area which is destructed possess many risks, from unexploded ordnance to being electrocuted by open wires, I should know I was electrocuted."

Humanitarian Lessons Learned:
 "It is important to coordinate humanitarian efforts even among the youth initiatives." Rasha concluded. He added "the coordination should include information sharing on beneficiaries, security issues, needs and situation assessments".

Osama suggested "the most vital thing in humanitarian work is to mobilize the local community itself, get volunteers from the same affected community, because they will provide you with good guidance and will anticipate risks." He added "we have to respect the culture of the community and attend to its priorities. In other words, don't start HIV and sexual education aware-

ness in a post conflict zone that is actually conservative and don't suffer from this kind of problem."

Amal, working in INGO "my advice goes to international donors. They should start considering new partners in humanitarian efforts apart from the classical counterparts, those are the youth. We were astonished with the amount of organization and professionalism provided by the youth in implementing humanitarian aid. They even made a humanitarian relief map for Hasaba."

4U

For more on World Humanitarian Day visit: <http://ochaonline.un.org/whd/>

For more information on Yemeni Youth for Humanitarian Relief: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/relief.yemen/>

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Women in Saudi Arabia demand their freedom and dignity

The kingdom's women are oppressed even by the standards of their region. But some are defying a ban on driving.

By: Mai Yamani

The unexpected visibility and assertiveness of women has helped propel what has become known as the Arab spring. Major changes have occurred in the minds and lives of women, helping them break the shackles of the past and demand their freedom and dignity.

Since January 2011, images of millions of women demonstrating alongside men have been beamed around the world. One saw women from all walks of life marching for a better future for themselves and their countries. They appeared prominently - eloquent and outspoken, chanting calls for democratic change. They walked, bused, telephoned, and tweeted, motivated partly by a desire for their own empowerment.

The contrast between this dynamic space for open protest and Saudi Arabia could hardly be starker. Saudi women find themselves living in a petrified system. Faces of the royal family are seen everywhere; the faces of women are shrouded, forcibly hidden.

Nowhere else in the world is modernity experienced as such a problem.

Skyscrapers rise out of the desert, yet women are not permitted to share elevators with men. Nor are they allowed to walk in the streets, drive cars, or leave the country without the permission of a male guardian.

Fatima, a young woman from Mecca, sent me an e-mail at the height of the Egyptian revolution: "Forget about the cries for freedom; I can't even give birth without being accompanied to hospital by a mihrim," or male guardian. She went on, "And the [religious police] have been given the right to humiliate us in public." Indeed, the religious police saw their broad powers further enhanced by King Abdullah in March, after they helped suppress protests in the kingdom.

Revolutionary drive

Yet globalization knows no limits, not even those set by the guardians of Islamic probity. Nine-year-old Saudi girls chat online, disregarding clerical fatwas that forbid them Internet access without male supervision. Many women remain secretly glued to satellite television, watching their peers in the public squares of Egypt or Yemen, beyond their reach but not their imagination.

Last month, a brave woman named Manal al-Sharif broke the silence and apathy, daring to defy the ban on women's driving. For the next week, she sat in a Saudi prison. But within two days of her detention, 500,000

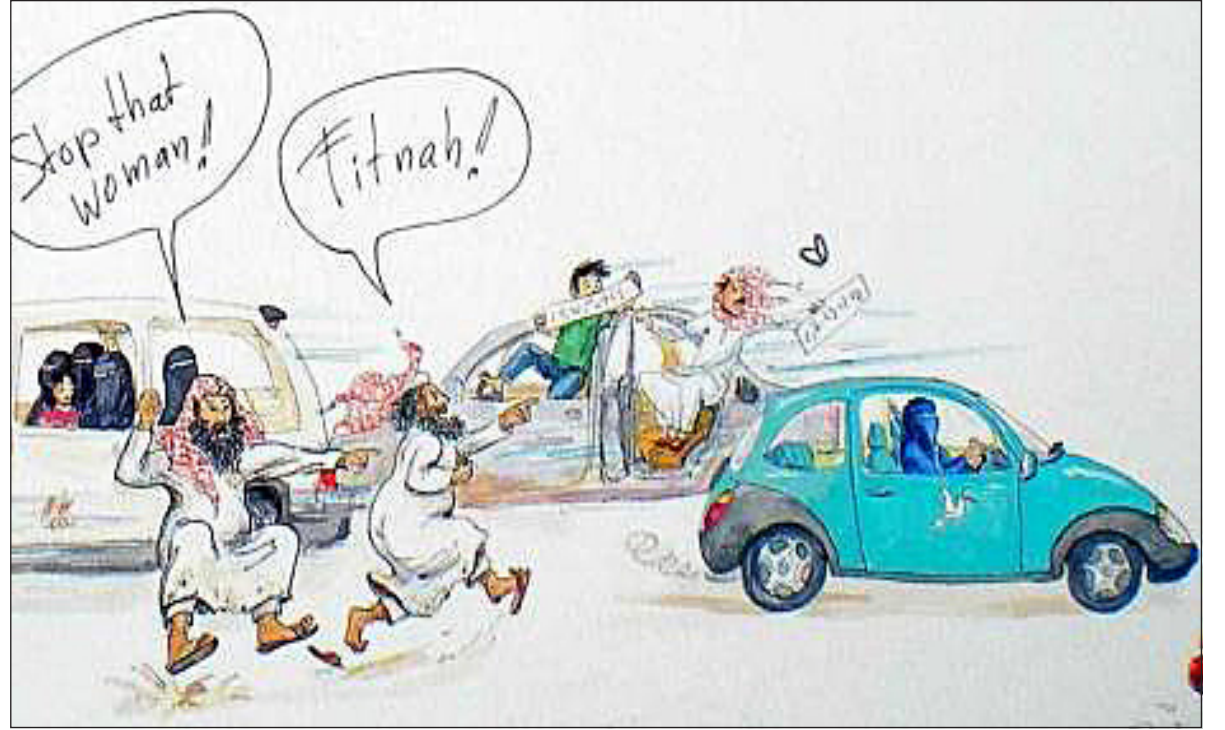
people had watched the YouTube video of her excursion. Thousands of Saudi women, frustrated and humiliated by the ban, have vowed to stage a "driving day" today.

Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world that forbids women to drive. The system of confinement that the ban represents is justified neither by Islamic texts nor by the nature of the diverse society that the Al Saud and their Wahhabi Muslim partners rule. Indeed, it is far removed even from the rest of the Arab world - which has become glaringly obvious in the context of massive social upheaval almost everywhere else in the region.

Institutional misogyny

Enforced segregation is mirrored in every aspect of Saudi life. Religious education constitutes up to 50 percent of the curriculum. As a result, Wahhabi dogma penetrates every home in the country. Textbooks - pink for girls, blue for boys, each with different contents - emphasize the rules prescribed by Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab, an 18th-century cleric and the founder of Wahhabism.

The Saudi judicial system is one of the most formidable obstacles to women's aspirations, relying on Islamic interpretations that protect a patriarchal system. Indeed, not only do judges' decisions support the system, but patriarchy has become the driving force of the law.



Thus, Saudi women are barred from the legal profession on the basis of a Wahhabi stricture that "a woman is lacking in mind and religion." In other words, the rule of law in Saudi Arabia is the rule of misogyny - the comprehensive legal exclusion of women from the public sphere.

Saudi rulers have announced that demonstrations are haram - sins punishable by jail and flogging. Now some clerics have pronounced driv-

ing by women to be foreign-inspired haram, punishable in the same way.

Despite such threats, thousands of Saudi women joined the "We are all Manal al-Sharif" page on Facebook, and countless other videos of women driving have appeared on YouTube since her arrest. Like Manal, they have been detained, and the government appears determined to prosecute them. But they are nonetheless eloquently demanding an end to women's

dependency.

Rosa Parks' refusal to move to the back of a bus helped spark the American civil rights movement. We shall soon find out whether Manal al-Sharif's defiance of the Saudi regime's driving ban produces a similar effect.

Mai Yamani is the author, most recently, of "Cradle of Islam." This was distributed by Project Syndicate.

After the Massacre in Norway: Critics of Islam Face a Dilemma



Thilo Sarrazin, a former director of the Bundesbank and former finance minister in the city-state of Berlin, annoyed many people - and not just immigrants - with his book "Germany Does Away with Itself" and with statements about the inherited stupidity of immigrants

The massacre in Norway reveals just how wrong critics of Islam have been: it wasn't a Muslim who went to war against the West - it was one of their own, someone who shared many of their views. That has made it clear: the true enemies of the anti-Islam movement are not the Muslims, but its own supporters.

By Stefan Weidner

If it weren't linked to such a terrible event, one could see it as an irony of history: the critics of Islam are suddenly being forced to justify themselves just as they have been trying to force Muslims. After the Norwegian mass murderer Anders Breivik referred so unambiguously to their view of the world as the justification for his actions, critics of Islam are having to demand that others make the same distinction between radical and moderate - between those who espouse violence and those who engage in intellectual discussion - which they have always refused to allow in the case of their enemy, the allegedly monolithic Islam.

But those who have so far justifiably attacked the Islam critics for their failure to differentiate in their approach to the religion and its adherents would now be well advised not to refuse them the same right - even if they are engaged in loud denials of responsibility and even if they refuse to rethink their own position and their own relationship to radical tendencies.

In other words, it doesn't matter what critics of Islam themselves say on the matter, we have to admit it: they didn't intend this - not even their most crackpot representatives. But then, what did they want? Perhaps Breivik's actions can provide us with a clue.

Clear-headed observers have often noted that there are certain similarities between Islamist fundamentalists and their ideological opponents in the European anti-Islam movement.

At the same time, no-one will have expected that the anti-Islam movement would have brought forth a similar kind of operation, with a similar level of brutalisation, as the Islamists have so often undertaken.

It was also unexpected that, when someone did decide to imitate the level of violence, he did not choose to imitate the actual operations carried out in New York, Madrid or London.

Had it been Breivik's aim to mirror those operations, or to take revenge for them, he might have taken his bomb to the government quarter in Riyadh, or set fire to Scandinavian refugee hostels, or, like the Malmö sniper of 2010, hunted down black people.

Islamist terror is not mainly directed against the West

Such actions, however terrible they would have been, would not have shocked us to anything like the same extent as Breivik's actions did. And the events would have as little effect on the critics of Islam as they the killing of a Muslim woman in a Dresden courtroom in July 2009.



Hatred against Islam and paranoid fear of an Islamic subversion of Europe did not lead Breivik to declare war on the Muslims, says Weidner. They led him to carry out a brutal strike against his own society

That was carried out by a man whose motives were just as anti-Islamic and right-wing extremist as Breivik's. But, astonishingly, there were no calls for a rethink of anti-Islamic positions back then - perhaps because the victim wasn't one of "us."

What has so disturbed us about the massacre in Norway, and what has proved so embarrassing for critics of Islam, is that the attacker - and he was probably himself scarcely aware of it - didn't take as his model the Islamist terrorists who attacked the West; he followed the example of the Muslims who attack other Muslims.

In the perfection of its planning and operation, Breivik's act can be compared to that of Mohammed Atta on 11th September 2001. But in its choice of target, it is more like that of the many hundreds of nameless attackers who blow themselves up in the markets of Peshawar, Kabul or Baghdad, and take as many of their fellow-believers (and fellow-sufferers) as they can with them.

Critics of Islam have always been blind towards the fact that Islamist terror has not been primarily directed against the West, but against those who have different opinions within their own world, among the Muslims. Attacks there are daily occurrences, whereas they are still the rare exception here - and not just because of our watchful security services, but mainly because the real front in the war does not in fact run where the Islam critics think it does. The front is not here.

We are the "others"

"The War in Our Cities" is the title of a book which was published in Germany 2003 and which is typical of the paranoid end of Islam criticism. The author, Udo Ulfkotte, calls for the ramping up of the German GSG9 and other anti-terror police units, to help us protect ourselves from the attacks he expects to be carried out by Muslims from within our own societies.

But now we can see that it was actually someone with Ulfkotte's worldview who wanted to start "the war in our cities". If you look at Ulfkotte's call to ramp up of the anti-terror units in hindsight, it is almost as if he wanted to protect us against the radicalisation of his own ideas.

Hatred against Islam and paranoid fear of an Islamic subversion of Europe did not lead Breivik to declare war on the Muslims (even if though there were Muslim immigrants and their children among the victims). They led him to carry out a brutal strike against his own society. Against this background, the real trauma for the critics of Islam is not that Breivik quoted their ideas and used them to justify his "licence to kill"; it is that his act reveals the real target of the movement, which is their own society as it really is: Europe, the West.

July 22nd, 2011, has shown that the main effect of the anti-Islam movement so far has not been to force Islam back, but that the society for which the critics of Islam claim to speak - which they claim to want to protect and strengthen - has been split. The "other" - we now learn - is actually "us". The anti-Islam

movement has not successfully encouraged hatred against Islam, but hatred against the Europe of today, against those citizens who have so far failed to succumb to the movement's arguments.

No-one, not even the most convinced critics of the anti-Islam movement, could have guessed the extent of this self-harming potential. On the contrary, we have allowed ourselves to be led astray by the rhetoric of the anti-Islam movement, and even by the term "criticism of Islam". In reality, Islam is merely the (somewhat overloaded) vehicle, by means of which society itself can be subjected to criticism. The critics of Islam criticise Islam, but they're aiming at their own society, because it hasn't turned out the way they'd like.

Thilo Sarrazin's book "Deutschland schafft sich ab" ("Germany Does Away with Itself") was a perfect example: it offered helpful, when not always welcome criticism of various aspects of German life, such as a social system which cannot be funded, a collapse in values, failures of the education system, and so on.

But it turned it into a fruitless and unpleasant discussion about Islam, and thus in the end undermined itself. Sarrazin was a good government official, who did good work, and who certainly would have had something useful to say to us, but he let himself run into the trap into which critics of Islam always run when they claim that the real problem is not "us" but "them".

Many contradictory social visions

Against this background, it seems naive to say that the main fault of Islam criti-

cism is its distorted and ignorant picture of Islam, which is often based on racist stereotypes. In doing that, one is merely swallowing the anti-Islamists' bait.

It would be better to insist that the Islam critics tell us what their ideal actually is for their own society. The closer one looks, the clearer it becomes: behind the common enemy Islam, there are hidden often highly contradictory social visions. The critics agree on their rejection of current conditions, but they differ widely on their aims.

If one wants to take a differentiated approach to the anti-Islam movement (as one must after July 22nd), one needs to get rid of the word "Islam", and ask its adherents as they then stand naked before us: What do you really want? It will then be easier to divide the sheep from the goats, to distinguish between what is worthy of discussion and what is not.

The author is a specialist on Islam, a writer and translator, and editor of the Arabic journal "Fikrun wa Fann" (Art and Thought) published by the Goethe Institute. His book "Aufbruch in die Vernunft. Islamdebatten und Islamische Revolutionen" ("The dawn of reason: debates about Islam and the Islamic world from 9/11 to the Arab revolutions") will shortly be published by Dietz publishers in Germany.

Translated from the German by Michael Lawton
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Deepest sympathy: more than one week after the Norway attacks, the country is still in deep mourning

Zakarya Al-Sada, Bin Laden's brother-in-law, is 24 years old and a pro-change protester

There have been many reports that his sister, Bin Laden's widow, will be brought back to her family in Yemen. Although Al-Sada says the family is optimistic the Pakistani government will let his sister come home, "unidentified parties" are trying to impede her return.

Interview by: Shatha Al-Harazi

What's Amal situation in the light of the political crises in Yemen; how is it affecting her return?

After we discovered that Amal was in Pakistan I went to the Pakistani embassy in Sana'a - I visited them several times to get information about Amal's situation there and also contacted the foreign affairs ministry who expressed their willingness in demanding Amal's return, since she is a Yemeni citizen.

The ministry urged us to contact the Yemeni Ambassador in Islam Abad as the Pakistani government had previously vowed to send Bin Laden's wives back to their countries.

But the current situation in Yemen makes us worry even more. Terrorism is a term that became a stereotype of Yemenis, and since the ruler and his opponents are trying to stick that name to each other, each of them have decided to be silent against our issue - though they know that we have nothing to do with Bin Laden's group aside from this marriage.

I used to be one of the peaceful youth protesters, calling for change and democracy and to establish a civil society but after the news of Bin Laden's death I decided not to attend the protest.

We are in country where making up an accusation against someone is the easiest thing to do and my biggest fear was that someone might accuse me of terrorism to defame the revolution by using the fact that I am Bin Laden's brother-in-law and a protester.

I want human rights organizations to



Zakarya Al-Sada

get involved, for sure, but it's difficult to find neutral human right organizations nowadays.

I have to make it clear to them that the case of my sister Amal and her children is purely humanitarian - it shouldn't be used by any of the parties against the other. It should be looked at by all the human rights NGOs and all political parties as a human rights case so they can help us to get her back.

What's your next step to get her back?

The best way to get her back is via diplomatic demands from the Yemeni embassy in Islam Abad, as well as some individual initiative by me to speak to the Pakistani prime minister to get him to follow up on my sister's situation.

I was about to travel to Pakistan myself to search for her - and I started the travel procedure - but the Pakistani ambassador advised me not to go as I would be wasting my time. He said I

couldn't do more than they are already doing. He also vowed to meet the head of the investigation committee that the Pakistani government has assigned to follow up on Bin Laden's family.

I'm also focusing on cooperating with local and international NGOs, especially those international NGOs that do work in seeking human rights. We really hope they won't let us down.

So you have not spoken to her by phone yet, how do you get news on her then?

We haven't spoken to her since she had her first baby "Safia" before the war against Afghanistan.

We used to follow up her news through asking wives of deceased fighters' wives who returned to Yemen after their husbands were killed. For many years now no one gave us any useful information that could lead us to my sister.

Even now that Bin Laden has been

killed we still haven't spoken to her, although we often ask to reduce our family's fear over what might have happened to her.

I have demanded that the Yemeni ambassador in Islam Abad talks with her - he told me the Pakistani authorities promised him he could, but until this very moment this promise hasn't happened.

All the information we have comes from the Yemenis and the Pakistanis assuring us that her health is in good condition.

What are the Yemeni embassy's efforts so far regarding Amal Al-Sada?

The Yemeni embassy is doing good work and we really appreciate it, especially that the ambassador demanded Amal's return to her country and treated her case honestly - as a Yemeni citizen and didn't link it to terrorism.

He called me and vowed that Amal and her children will be back, so we are waiting.

Although his effort is good, we condemn the fact that they couldn't let us talk to her and the mystery around her situation. We have no details, only promises.

In a statement you warned the press of dealing with a person who appears as a relative of Amal, would you tell us more about that?

Yes I warned against some people who appear on TV and in newspapers claiming that they are family members so I released a statement to clarify the political situation in Yemen, which might make it easy for some people to take advantage and use our name to defame our situation.

This defamation will only ruin any deal to get us back our sister. I think that these people are paid by suspicious parties to use our cause to serve political aims and show the world that Yemen is dangerous.

One of these characters is Waleed al-Sadah. This man has tried to get fame using his surname, which is same as ours. He says obvious things about us that anyone would know, and he said that we are sympathetic to Bin Laden and that Amal would prefer to die now.

Some big TV channels have bought him tickets and given him money to be on their shows even though we made it clear that he isn't related to us. What makes us scared is that he will go on TV and lie the way he does.

Have you ever faced any troubles because of your sister's marriage?

There were some failed attempts to recruit me by suspicious parties, who might even be related to security. They even created false information about me and made up stories that my father fled to Afghanistan as he refused to turn himself in to the Yemeni government; others

said that we had armed clashes for days with security forces in our city Ibb.

Who would benefit from creating obstacles to Amal's return to Yemen?

As I said, the only beneficiaries are those trying to use us in the name of terrorism. But that will be difficult as everybody in Yemen knows our beliefs and thoughts - and that this marriage was a normal thing.

How optimistic are you that Amal will be back?

We are so optimistic that Amal and her children will return as women and children have nothing to do with terrorism.

And because we believe that our cause is humanitarian; the world shouldn't look at Muslims, Arabs or Yemenis as terrorists but as people who believe in peace.

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3. Finalise the monthly reports (specific statistical indicators) and share the findings on monthly bases with the Nutrition cluster working group in Saada, Governorate Health Office (GHO) and UNICEF on utilisation of Community management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) services including statistics on availability of supplies and other needs.
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unite for children



Consultancy for Health & Nutrition in Emergency External Vacancy No. 15/2011

UNICEF Yemen Country Office, Sana'a seeks highly qualified Yemeni candidates to provide technical support on implementation of Nutrition and Health Emergency Response in Abyan, (Aden & Lahj) and in Saada governorates.

Duration of work: 3 months (subjected to renewal based on needs and performance)

Location:

Specific Tasks:

1. Undertake regular field visits to emergency affected areas in Abyan, Lahj, Aden and Saada districts and other neighboring governorates/ districts (if needed), to assess the Nutrition and Health status of U5 children and the local capacity to deliver the required humanitarian response.
2. Assess the health and nutrition needs of IDPs and identify implementation structures and potential partners.
3. Monitor UNICEF inputs, appropriate utilization and report back to the technical officers in Aden and Sana'a (supply and non-supply assistance).
4. Provide direct/ day to day follow up on programme implementation with partners, local counterparts and beneficiaries in the affected areas.
5. Contribute to capacity development of counterparts on H&N programme implementation through facilitation of training sessions and on the job training through direct supervision of service providers.
6. Follow up on implementation of H&N activities delivered by UNICEF partners.
7. Follow up and report on immunization coverage and monitor on vaccine preventable outbreaks.
8. Monitor and report back on availability of essential medicines and ensure appropriate distribution.
9. Follow up on implementation of UNICEF supported child and maternal health (EPI, IMCI, RH).
10. Provide a monthly and quarterly report on implemented activities, monitor the progress made and draft appropriate recommendations.

Technical Background and Experience

- University degree in medical sciences and/ or postgraduate degree in public health.
- Minimum two years' experience in H&N field. Working in emergency sites or community-based experience is an asset.
- Computer skills using MS applications.
- Fluency in both English and Arabic languages written and spoken.

If you meet the requirements stated above, please write in confidence enclosing comprehensive curriculum vitae, duly completed United Nations Personal History form (which can be downloaded from www.unicef.org/employ) stating telephone number, email address and detailed contact address **quoting the vacancy number to: yemenhr@unicef.org not later than 10 days from the date of this publication.** For additional information on UNICEF, please visit our website: www.unicef.org

UNICEF, a smoke-free environment, is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified females are encouraged to apply. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Violence threatens children's health

By: IRIN

Continuing fighting in various parts of Yemen, which has recently displaced thousands of people especially in Abyan Governorate and the Arhab District of Sana'a, could compromise the nutritional status of those affected, especially children, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) warns.

This, it said, could potentially increase morbidity and mortality rates, especially among children under five.

"Yemen could become the next Somalia as child malnutrition is as big as it is in the Horn of Africa," said Geert Cappelaere, a UNICEF representative in Yemen. While malnutrition was widespread in Yemen, the condition of many children had been worsened by displacement, he added.

A recent survey by aid agencies in the Haradh, Bakeel Al Meer and Mustaba districts of Hajjah Governorate found global acute malnutrition (GAM) among children under five at 39 percent, of which 8.5 percent were severe cases. GAM is the percentage of children over six months and under five



The protests against the government have continued in recent months.

years old who have moderate or severe acute malnutrition. Prevalence among boys was higher at 44.9 percent compared to 32.7 among girls.

The survey, which covered displaced households residing in and

outside camps and host communities, also found higher GAM levels among displaced children (39.7 percent) compared to those from host communities and surrounding areas (34.7 percent).

"The preliminary levels of reported

Governorate (adjacent to Abyan).

"He also suffers from dehydration, vomiting and loss of appetite," she told IRIN. "The only thing he asks me to give him is water, as his throat is often

GAM are concerning and exceed the emergency threshold, which is indicative that the situation is deteriorating despite existing interventions in Haradh since December 2009," according to a situation report issued on 16 August by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Little food for children

Local families who have fled Abyan Governorate said feeding the children has become tough.

"My two-year-old son, Zaid, has been losing weight by the day since he went down with diarrhoea two weeks ago," said Amatalim Saleh, 31, who was sheltering in a school in Mansoura District, Aden

dry," Saleh, who lost her three-year-old baby girl last month, added.

The family is one of several hundred who have fled Abyan Governorate - a battleground in ongoing fighting between government troops and Islamic militants since 28 May. A report on Yemen's official news agency puts the total number of people displaced from Abyan so far at 100,000.

Shaima Khalid, a volunteer nurse at the school now being used to house internally displaced persons (IDPs), told IRIN that Zaid has chronic malnutrition.

"Their mother is underweight and has anaemia as a result of undernourishment. How can an undernourished mother have a healthy child?" she asked, adding that through her voluntary work in the school, she had come across several undernourished mothers with malnourished children.

Response

Aid workers say they are trying to help.

"We have established two therapeutic feeding centres in two government-run hospitals - Wahda Hospital in Aden, and Ibn Khaldoun Hospital in

Lahj [governorate adjacent to Abyan] - to treat malnourished child IDPs," Mohammed al-Ebby, director of UNICEF's Aden office, told IRIN. "Severe cases are given Plumpy'nut following proper diagnosis."

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) reported in December 2010 that Yemen had the highest prevalence of child malnutrition among all Middle East and North African countries.

Yemen also has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, with official statistics suggesting that 365 out of every 100,000 mothers of reproductive age die during childbirth.

The situation is exacerbated by traditional beliefs. For example, it is customary to reserve the best food portions for the father, while women and children make do with items of lower nutritional value, or are the last in line to get food.

"This, coupled with poverty and illiteracy, is responsible for the prevalence of undernourishment among women and children," said Halima al-Maqtari, a nutrition specialist working with the local NGO Charitable Society for Social Welfare in Aden.



Oxfam

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO, works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering. Oxfam has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancy for its Humanitarian/ Emergency & Food Security Programmes.

Finance Assistant – (1 position)

Location: Sa'ada
Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

You will be responsible for the overall aspects of cash management including monthly cash forecast and verify all payment requests and ensure completeness and accurateness of supporting documents and release payments on timely manner. You will input transaction in cashbooks and upload them into Oxfam's financial system on weekly basis and ensure proper filling system is in place.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least degree in finance related subject or professional accountancy qualification, and two years financial and accounting experience in a similar role.

The ideal candidate will have demonstrated communication skills and the ability to work well with others and as part of a team. You will have excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic and sound computer skills.

Finance Officer – (1 position)

Location: Hodeida
Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

You will undertake financial and administrative matters in accordance with established procedures, monitor grants and programme management budget and update forecast. Maintain float register and close donor contract administration. Undertake and monitor all payments including partner organizations and prepare for internal and external audits.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least degree in finance related subject or professional accountancy qualification, and three years experience of financial and people management in similar size organization.

As well as ability to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing in Arabic and English, sound computer skills and ability to travel extensively in country.

To apply

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

Emergency Food Security and Livelihood Project Officer – (8 positions)

Location: Hodeida
Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

You will provide support and mentor livelihoods programme activities at the community level, work with the WASH team to ensure the EFSL and WASH programmes are integrated, facilitate building organizational capacity of partners within the formal and informal sector, and ensure monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of livelihood programme.

What we're looking for

We are looking for people with at least a 3 years experience in Livelihoods programmes and proven understanding of small business development; understanding of gender equity, development and poverty context in Yemen, ability to network and link widely with CSOs and government bodies, strong understanding of local socio-economic development issues, institutions and communities, considerable experience of training and capacity building, excellent written and verbal communication (in both English and Arabic) including representation skills, and report writing skills.

Logistics Officer – (1 position)

Location: Hodeida
Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

You will be responsible to organize all logistic processes, including purchasing, warehousing, communications and transport, as well as the related administrative procedures related to the job. You will report all logistic activities to the Project Manager.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least 2 years experience in purchasing, warehousing, and vehicle management administration are required. You will have excellent diplomacy, tact and negotiating skills, as well as oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic, and will possess good computer skills.

Human Resources Officer – (1 position) Officer

Location: Hodeida
Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

In this role you will have proven experience in Human Resources and proven knowledge of day-to-day HR business processes. You will be responsible to maintain HR system, collate information and draw from a variety of information and sources.

We are looking for someone with at least 2 years of demonstrable progressive experience in HR. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated communication skills and the ability to work well with others and as part of a team.

You will have excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic, and will possess good computer skills.

Cash Transfer Officer – (8 positions)

Location: Hodeida
Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

You will work with partner EFSL Finance, provide technical support and capacity building for partner EFSL Finance in the governorate, provide complete, timely and accurate financial data for Oxfam's EFSL programme, develop a good understanding of donor requirements and prepares any relevant financial reports, monitor grants and programme management budget and update forecast. Maintain float register and close donor contract administration. Undertake and monitor all payments including partner organizations and prepare for internal and external audits.

What we're looking for

We are looking for people with at least degree in finance related subject or professional accountancy qualification, and three years experience of financial and people management in similar size organization, as well as ability to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing in Arabic and English, sound computer skills and ability to travel extensively in country.



A broadcasting executive woman at the production studio of Sana'a Radio Station on August 13th. Radio journalism in Yemen is still monopolized by the state influencing the public opinion in Yemen's rural area which forms 75 percent of Yemen's 25 million population.

YT photo by Ali Saeed

Bin Laden's last laugh

By: Khalid Aziz
azizkhalid@gmail.com

Simone de Beauvoir, the French existentialist writer, was on the dot when she remarked, "If you live long enough, you'll see that every victory turns into a defeat."

With that in mind, one must inquire now what happened to the euphoria of the US 'victory' when the Taliban surrendered Kandahar on Dec 7, 2001. In 2004 and then again in 2007, Osama bin Laden said that he would bleed the US into bankruptcy, as he had done earlier with the Soviet Union. Today, it is quite clear that the military situation in Afghanistan is chaotic and appears to be failing.

Even when the neo-cons were at their peak under the Cheney-Rumsfeld team, there were warnings that "attacking Pashtuns, renowned for xenophobia, warlike spirits, and the love of independence, is a fool's mission", in the words of columnist Eric Margolis in 2006. "Pashtuns are Afghanistan's ethnic majority. Taliban is an offshoot of the Pashtun people. Long-term national stability is impossible without their representation and cooperation."

In hindsight, we can see that the war in Afghanistan was poorly conducted

and led against one of the most backward and ill-equipped of adversaries. It would appear that modern warfare cannot succeed over an ideologically driven opponent in an under-developed nation. Furthermore, once the US military began running the national agenda of the war in Afghanistan and Iraq, all dissent evaporated and even the media in the US became slavish, thus allowing mistakes to go unchallenged.

The curtailment of liberty and the criticism of government policies by harsh new homeland security legislation took away the US's edge in honest intellectual analysis. Today, it is possible to clearly see that this method of managing war almost brought a superpower to the verge of financial disaster. It is astonishing to note that after remaining engaged in Afghanistan for a decade, the US has not succeeded in subduing a medieval force — the Taliban.

In the process, the US created a huge financial black hole for itself. With its debt at an astronomical level of \$14.6tr, it will make \$600bn a year in interest payments. This is equal to its defence budget for one year. Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of

the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, told businessmen in Detroit that "the national debt is the single biggest threat to national security."

Yet one could ask that as a military man, did he not have a hand in creating it?

The US failed in its strategy in Afghanistan because its military was so sure of success that it lost touch with the harsh Afghan reality. On a number of occasions, potentially more sound policy advice for stabilising the situation was suggested, such as by the British and Dutch in 2007, but it went unheard.

President Hamid Karzai's woes have multiplied with the killings of his close

confidants. The assassination of his half-brother Ahmad Wali, followed by that of the former governor of Uruzgan, Jan Mohammed, and later the mayor of Kandahar, have deprived him both of influence and advice regarding peace talks with the Taliban.

It is clear that without a successful peace deal with the Taliban, President Karzai's relevance in an ordered withdrawal of troops will be diminished. If there is no peace deal by December 2014, when the majority of the US troops will be withdrawn, then the US will still be in Afghanistan implementing a containment plan based on a counter-terrorism ring of fire in bases bordering the Pakhtun belt in Southern and Eastern Afghanistan. Will this be a de-facto partition of Afghanistan? Whether so or not, this will usher in another period of blood-letting that will continue to destabilise the region — particularly Pakistan.

Why can't Afghanistan be stabilised after the expenditure of so much money and the concerted efforts of countless minds?

There are a number of reasons behind this failure and I highlight just a few.

The first failing was the absence of an exit strategy at the start of the US intervention in November, 2001. A review of the US objectives shows that from the initial, limited aim of removing the Taliban government, the US took over the job of redesigning the Afghan state. This, obviously, was a formidable task. Recreating a tribal nation is impossible. That mission was bound to fail.

Afghanistan has always been a loosely-run nation where a king retained control by balancing the tribes and strongmen as well as shaping the ethnic dynamics. He often used the military to bring about change when other methods of persuasion failed. As long as the king could provide patronage and kept

the resources flowing to the strongmen in the countryside, peace was ensured. Afghanistan remains the same today and patronage trumps policy. To expect otherwise was unrealistic.

When the Taliban were ousted in December 2001, President Karzai began rebuilding the state by relying on strongmen who can be considered the nouveau riche created by the drug trade rather than being traditional leaders of their tribes as in former times. For example, Gul Agha Sherzai, a drug entrepreneur, emerged to lead Kandahar, Jan Mohammed became the governor of Uruzgan and Sher Mohammed Akhundzada the governor of Helmand. The same sort of leaders emerged in other parts of the country. Such an administration compromised the very justification for the invasion. Meanwhile, Pakistan's role in fanning the flames to neutralise growing Indian influence was yet another cause of Afghan instability.

Secondly, in a country composed of various ethnicities of whom the Pakhtuns constitute 45 per cent of the population, the Tajiks 22 per cent, the Uzbeks 6.4 per cent and the Hazaras and Aimaks 5.6 per cent and 5.4 per cent respectively, the new structure denied the Pakhtuns their share. Furthermore, no space was kept in the Bonn design for reconciled Taliban, thus declaring hostility to a political compromise with them.

These ethnic imbalances are now reflected in the rebuilt Afghan army and police. These groups will lose coherence as soon as their mentors, who belong to foreign countries, are withdrawn. When this happens insecurity will return to Afghanistan after the 2014 withdrawal deadline.

The unpromising situation leads one to conclude that Afghanistan may after all constitute Bin Laden's last laugh.

Dont just stand there and whine!

By: Hamza Alshargabi
<http://latenightsurgery.blogspot.com>

It is absurd how many people are dealing with the revolutions in their countries as they are watching a tennis match on TV! they advice Nadal through the screen shouting Go left .. faster,, no no right you idiot!

Revolutions, ladies and Gentlemen, is not a show on TV ending up by a tyrant going home.. Today in Syria 80 people died in one incident, I lost a childhood friend in Syria, and some got imprisoned, I lost several people I know in Yemen as well, I know an Egyptian blogger who was stripped in public when the central security caught him in

Jan 25th, and doctors who were trapped in the hospitals in Benghazi in Libya under air raids. This is a very close call, very personal and very dangerous!

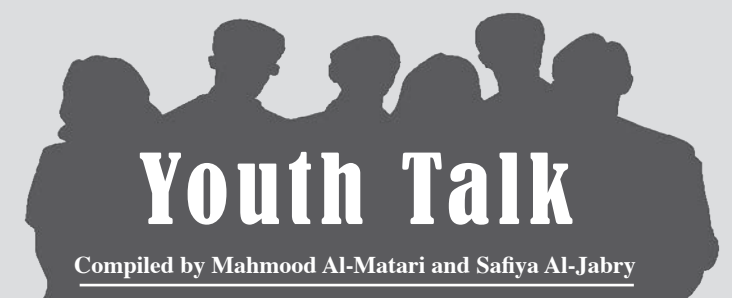
The situation is difficult, our phones are tabbed, we are being harassed at work (if we still have work left) we wake up everyday with all the possibilities of our lives to be shattered by a single wrong move! Activists in the middle east are doing the Arab spring without experience, no support, with everything to lose and nothing to win but the dignity that our regimes are trying to break since ever. Then we find all sorts of people lecturing us on what to or not to do without real knowledge on the ground!

I had a call today from someone in

Alhasba saying they had rotten bodies on the street and they dont know how to deliver them out! Because the parties can't agree on what is a neutral car to pass in.. News about a possible outbreak of cholera in Abyan, and a devastating situation of IDPs in Aden scattered in schools! About 20,000 ppl are there now with no real support systems to catch them!

As of course impotent local NGOs fight over how to suck their donors and how to find routes to build a sustainable capacity bu.. blah blah blah barf!

People are dying on the streets because of Tyrants, and what everybody is lending is another lecture on what to do.. I will tell you what to do SHUT UP AND DO SOMETHING!



In this section we talk to young people about their concerns, hopes and dreams. Every week we hit the streets and share what young people have to say right here.

This week's question:

Do you think the president will come back to Yemen before the end of Ramadhan, and why?

Taha Al-Azab

My expectation depends on the situation. If what happened to the president is real, he will never come back to Yemen during or after Ramadan. The problem is that we are used to hearing a large number of black lies which have created some kind of distrust towards the news coming to us. What can we say about the bombs that passed heavy security to reach the president? How and where can he protect himself after that? So, if what happened is a fabricated story, he is going to return at any time and without any obstacle.

Nabila Al-Hubaishi

A lot of propaganda and politics going on we have no idea what's going on plus half of the news are just lies... I think he will not come back because so many people don't want him and if he comes back he will cause chaos in the country.

Abdulnasser Al-Abdali

I think the president Saleh will return to Yemen soon. In my opinion, he will come back for two reasons. First, I think he has missed the presidential palace; the place where he lives with his family and rules the country the main reason shy he isn't stepping down easily. The second reason is he thinks that he will win the final match as he recovered from his bad injuries and has been exercising in Saudi Arabia to get ready for this match. Therefore, let's see the result and who the winner will be.

Yasmin Mohammed

I don't think he will come back ever because it's not up to him. I think he is being controlled by the USA and Saudi Arabia and they know if he comes back, their interest will not be met. They know Yemen is geographically important to them so if Salah's come back means that their interests will be jeopardized, then they won't let him come back.

Ohail Al-Rubaidi

I think president Saleh will not come back to Yemen at least for the next two months because of two reasons; one is that he is now aware of how bad the situation is in Yemen because of him. Second reason is from his last speech in Riyadh in which he appears to advise the next government and warned his (old friends) those how destroyed the country during his regime and talked to youth in change squares. I hope and pray to Allah to protect Yemen, and to Yemen Times staff and readers I pray to Allah to bless you throughout the year.

Faiza Yahya

I think he will come back because he fears shame, he feels as if people are chasing him away by force. It is the typical Arab mentality, they all want to leave with dignity but they don't know what it means. He doesn't want to be chased away, he wants to resign. Dignity right now means never come back President Saleh, pass the presidency to someone else.

Wathik Al-Samawi

I don't think president will come any time as he is smart enough to know that the majority of people nationwide don't like him anymore. Despite the current difficulties people are facing nowadays such as electricity cut-offs, oil, gas, and water shortages, people are still happy that Ali Saleh and his entourage and thugs are out of country and they pray none of them will come back which is something that president knows very well.

Ahmed Ali

No I don't think he will come back. He will be a fool to do so because his return means blood shed. So many people don't want him back and so many people have suffered since the start of the revolution, if he is smart he should never come back.

Mohammed Saleh

When I saw Hosni Mubarak, I felt sorry for him for being degraded like that in front of the whole world.. from president to prisoner. I thought of president Saleh and thought how embarrassing and hurtful it would be for him to reach such a level that's why, I think he will not come back. He should just pass on the power and live else where peacefully. If he wants to come back, then he should come back as an ordinary citizen not as the president then no problems will be caused.

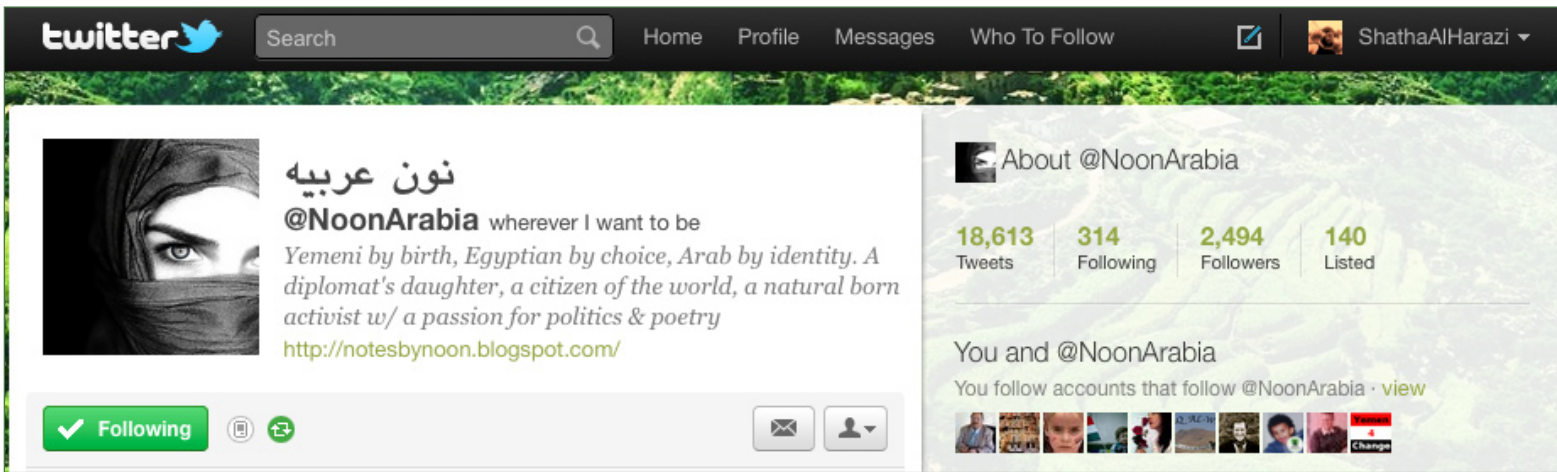
Next Week's Question:

How has your sleeping pattern changed in Ramadan? Are there any funny incidents about this you want to share?

Follow this section for a new question every week and feel free to reply with your answers or feedback by sending an e-mail to ytyouth@gmail.com. So this is your chance to share your humorous stories, poems or opinions with other young readers!



Noon Arabia



By Shatha Al-Harazi

Noon Arabia has become one of the main sources for information on current events sprouting out in Yemen in the world of Twitter. Her up-to-date page usually receives 'Top Tweets' which has earned her 2496 followers. Noon advocates for the success of the Youth Revolution in Yemen – her news tweets is written in both Arabic and English which has earned her a wider audience across the web. Noon Arabia also keeps her identity anonymous due to security reasons; however this has not been a set-back as people seem more readily to trust the information she tweets.

Her twitter sub-heading is simple yet lyrical 'Yemeni by birth, Egyptian by choice, Arab by identity, A diplomat's daughter, a citizen of the world, a natural born activist with a passion for politics and poetry'. Not a soul knows the location of Noon Arabia except that she's tweeting from outside Yemen nevertheless she tweets a great deal of information in relation to the Youth Revolution protests which has gone on for over 6 months in Yemen. Therefore Yemen Times newspaper has obtained an interview with the mysterious activist. When asked why she doesn't reveal her true identity, she explained quite resolutely

"My father was a prominent and known statesman and Ambassador and I keep my name mysterious not out of fear but because I don't want to jeopardize my family." Noon explained.

Noon is not a stranger to travelling, while her father was an ambassador she travelled to many places across the world; Canada, Italy and Iran to name a few. And due to her Egyptian husband's job, she's travelled further afield. Conclusively she's lived in Yemen only for a few years, she further said "I lived in Yemen a total of 7 years yet I have a strong sense of pride and belonging, thanks mainly to my father who made sure every year that we spent most of our summer holiday in Yemen". A mother of four children and her new line of work is an online activist, championing for the Revolution across the Arab world to blossom and thrive. An educated Yemeni with a B.A in Political Science with a minor in Economics and thus she explains her passion for politics.

With various skills and tools at her disposal, most notably her expertise in languages, she has contributed immensely to the cause of the Yemeni Revolution with up to-date information on the humanitarian crisis and changes occurring on the ground.

She became politically active during the Egyptian revolution using Facebook as her vehicle

of choice. And as the revolution spread to Yemen she readily switched her platform to Twitter because as she pointed out it has a more dynamic feel and she can reach more people. She exclaims "I had no idea I would have so many followers, what mattered to me the most is for people to know what was going on in Yemen, since there was minimal news coverage about the revolution in Western and Regional media-outlets who all seemed to support President Saleh". She further added "I am also an admin on one of the Facebook pages that covers the news of the revolution and I have been hosted on BBC Arabic and English radio stations a couple of times to express my views."

Noon believes that social media is an important tool to be used and utilized for the Yemeni revolution because it formulates interaction between the youth in Yemen and those abroad and among activist in other Arab countries. Social media has helped the flow of information to be available among different regions of Yemen, conversely one would think that due to the high level of illiteracy in Yemen and the increasingly power outages across the country, social media would have been sidelined and not used as a mobilizing force as we've seen in other Arab countries but even through these set-backs are severe, Noon mentions "it served to expose to

the outside world what is really happening in Yemen, through the blogs, Facebook pages, YouTube videos and mainly twitter."

Her anonymity online has proved to be a shield against threats or reprisals attacks "I am sure I would've otherwise [been attacked]. Many people I know whose names are public have been and a close family friend was shot at and survived

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an assassination attempt." Noon remarked.

Posts on Noon Arabia are updated almost continuously throughout the day, her research takes her to websites bearing the support of the State, oppositional websites, Yemeni Facebook pages, and YouTube videos, tweets and International news sources, and she asserted "Before I publish anything I usually verify the information with more than one source. I think my [real] name wouldn't make a difference to my credibility, my followers know that I am a Yemeni who cares a lot about my country and want to make it a better place."

At this critical juncture in Yemeni politics, she explains the best strategy is for the opposi-

tion, the Youth and all the factions in Yemen who are playing a part in the revolution to set aside their differences, political ideologies, principles and agenda's and unify under one umbrella to coordinate their efforts efficiently to topple President Saleh's regime, she exclaims "The National Council [which was recently formed -Editors note] is a good step, yet what is needed is better organization and coordination among its members, an equal representation of South Yemeni's and more members from the civil society. The old political figures need to step aside and empower the youth to play a bigger role and bring about the change Yemen needs, after all this is a Youth's Revolution".

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