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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 stated 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

"This military reinforcement is part on its way from Hodeida to Sana'a."

The source, who was not indentified, 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 twomonth 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

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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-

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-

Simultaniously, the national council met with considerable support from different revolutionary and political pow-

The Youth Revolution Council welcomed the council on the condition that this council will continue their revolutionary 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.

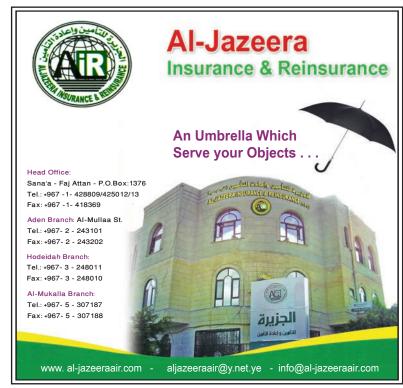
"Representatives of the council were chosen according to skewed standards. Rights of the revolution's youth were confiscated and ignored by the council founders," said the statement.

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.











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

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

"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

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

"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

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-Qeada and any other militant groups in the area. They said they would start with Lauder, Moudia and Jaa'r, 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 Abvan.

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-Qeada," 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,"

Political analyst Ahmed Al-Zurqa agrees that this is a dangerous escalation by Al-Qeada, 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 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

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

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 Shagra in southern Abyan province after days of fierce battles against government troops, a provincial security

"Militants of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) reseized 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

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 gov-

ernorates or seeking safer areas within

Abyan itself. The International Com-

Over the past few days, ICRC and

Yemen Red Crescent personnel have

been working together with people

soon as possible."

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 Xin-

from the local communities to distrib-

ute 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

Access to Abyan paves the way for aid

hua 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.

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➤ Ability to be flexible to adapt to changing working

> Previous experience preferred, but not mandatory

conditions, organized and capable to take initiative

> Willing to discuss medical issues with other medical staff.

➤ Interest in and commitment to MSF's humanitarian values

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- Willing to discuss medical issues with other medical staff. Interest in and commitment to MSF's humanitarian values 8

mittee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and have also been distributed to over the Yemen Red Crescent Society have 17,500 displaced people in the goverhad access to the governorate for the norate of Lahj. past two weeks and have distributed "Because civilians affected by the food rations to over 17,000 displaced armed confrontations must have acpeople and residents there. cess to health care, we have repeat-

"The southern parts of the country edly reminded those involved in the continue to be the scene of increasfighting that health-care facilities and ing instability," said Eric Marclay, people not participating in the fighting the head of the ICRC delegation in must be spared at all times," said Mr Yemen. "Now that we finally have access, our first priority is to make sure that people who need food receive it as

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-Naqeeb, al-Jumhouriya 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 prop-

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-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

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

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

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

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

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 needed 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

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

"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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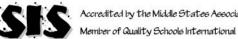
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Some of the long term outcomes of the conflict are the insecurity and physiological problems especially among children in the area and the loss of sources of income for many locals because of the road blocking and destruction of personal vehicles and other sources of income.

World Humanitarian Day 2011

t 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.

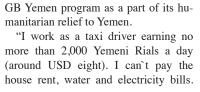
Yemeni Youth for Humanitarian Relief (YYHR) organized a small event to celebrate the World Humanitarian Day on Friday, 19th August 2011, at Coffee Corner. Interested individuals and Humanitarian workers were invited to attend through facebook event. The celebration aimed at sharing stories and lessons 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

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 eas-

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 discrimi-

"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 became 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

Abdulgader- Staff of Soul for Develop-

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

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 Suhail said.

Humanitarian Work for Sustainable

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

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

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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Sultan Al-Barakani to the Yemen Times:

The JMP's national council means an end to any dialogue

Sultan Al-Barakani is the assistant secretary general of the ruling party, the Sheikha Moza leads several chari-General People's Congress. He is a member of parliament on behalf of constituency number 64 of Taiz governorate where he comes from. He has been the head of the GPC block at the parliament since his first post as MP in 1997. Before joining the parliament he was head of the local council in 1985 in his home town of Al-Mawasit in Taiz. He is also a tribal leader in his own community and a well known social figure there.

Al-Barakani is known for his strict allegiance to the regime and his strong positions pro the government and specifically the president. He is one of the outspoken members of the ruling party and has been vocally accusing the opposition of various issues, the latest being the attempted assassination of the president in June 3, 2011. He was member of the GPC since early years and became the assistant secretary general through elections in 2005. He is married and has six sons and seven daughters.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf met with Al-Barakani in a candid interview to find out the latest political developments and where the country is heading next.

What is the latest in the political talk especially regarding rumored news of a coalition government with the opposition?

There are meetings happening these days to find a way out and a new shape for the gulf and UN initiatives. There was a previous agreement that once the new gulf initiative is out every party has a few days to study it and then meet to reach a concrete agreement. I don't know if the latest version of the initiative has arrived from Saudi yet but it should be here soon.

There is also talk about early presidential elections and I believe it is the best way out from this crisis because any other solutions will create a new legitimacy problem. The result of elections are made by voters who will elect their own president according to their free will. The elected president will also be free from any political pressure that comes with a post handed over to him through political agreement. Elections will also fulfill the objectives of the gulf initiative and the 30-60 days time limits set forth.

But having elections soon will not give time for preparations or any amend-

Usually in such exceptional cases the norm is to use the latest accepted laws and voters' lists without amendments. And yet if the leaders in the opposition want new lists and they it will need time but are also ready for that. If they want it early we will make it early, if they want it later we will make it later as long as we have a deadline.

I know of the compliant that the opposition accuses the GPC of using state resources for our candidates' benefit during elections which is a false accusation. But anyway, we welcome international agencies and countries not only as observers but also monitor the elections and oversee the entire process. What more do they want?

Where are the youth in the whole political equation?

The youth are outside the game to start with. Don't you see that they are not part of any of the political establishme agreements? They are just a card played to put pressure on the president and the ruling party. We met with some of them and we wished that they would organize themselves and wake up to make their own initiatives and we are ready to even share the power with them. But now they are under the custody of others. So don't ask me about them because they are made absent by the ones who are supposedly their guardians.

But the youth in your own governorate of Taiz are being terrorized and killed, is that their fault also?

There are problems Taiz but it is not like what you hear. The news of killing and terrorizing is an exaggeration. The main tensions are here in Sana'a because it is the capital and if falls the country will

Taizi people are smart and use their heads instead of stones and sticks. We respect the rights of all Yemeni citizens and even the soldiers who are part of the defected army units still receive their salaries from the state. We care for all our citizens. The simple solider needs to feed his family and it is not his fault that his commander has defected. He has to only obey orders.

How do you evaluate the recent tribal conference? I heard there was resentment that it turned from a national tribal council to a GPC pro-president conference?

The Yemeni tribes have their right to assemble especially when they saw that the political parties have not been able to take this country to the shore. They came from all around the country. They issued a statement of support for the national fundamentals such as the Yemeni Unity and agreed to create a body for

this council that will later meet with the

The political parties have failed and the political dialogue is stuck. Now the tribes are trying at what others have failed. I believe that Yemeni tribes will play an important role in really fixing the problems. Yemeni tribes have the ability to solve Yemen's problems.

As for the point of resentment, that is completely not true. The saying that people got up and left because they were angry at what is being said is just media rubbish. The ones who left did so because they just had to go. Since when do Yemenis anyway stay until the end of any convention? Why when it is this tribal conference you hear all these sorts of ridiculous explanations?

When the president addressed the conference he was angry at foreign elements' meddling with Yemen, what was that about?

There are people from Arab countries, or let's not beat around the bush I mean Oatar in specific. It is a small country that wants to be great and wants to get its position through creating instabilities in other places. A part of Qatar's

table initiatives and there is one for youth and employment...

I am not talking about Shiekha Moza I am talking about the Qatari government.. Let me just tell you that we just found 19 shipment of medicines sent from the Qatar government to Tawakul Karman. We caught them and since they were medicines we distributed them to the Yemeni hospitals. But you have got to ask yourself why now send medicines and why to Tawakul, this shows you

But don't you think the Qataris will know that you will find the shipments as they travel to Yemen?

They sent them under various charity names as a disguise.

Ok, let us go back to the traditional opposition and the issue of the National Council that was announced by the Joint Meeting Parties on August 17, what do you make of that?

Not only is it unconstitutional and useless, this council is against all reconciliation initiatives that came before. It is even against the initiative [gulf initiative] signed by the JMP themselves. How can you ask for dialogue and in the same time make a national council against the authority you are negotiating

Also mind you their council is nothing, it is not supported by anyone outside Yemen. In fact it should be the Islah council not the national council. Look at the recommendation by Hameed Al-Ahmar, he says two seats given to the Islah, two for their supporters and whom will they give the last seat to? The other JMP parties or the youth or the other opposition groups?? Tell me what will this council add? What will this council run? They don't have any jurisdiction or authority over anything.



meddling with Yemen is because of the dispute regarding the Gaza Arab League conference which created a rift between the Qatari Amir and President Saleh. But now they just want to feel powerful through their influence in toppling Arab regimes. It is a form of narcissism and even Aljazeera has lost its credibility because it was used in politics in a biased

The political parties have failed and the political dialogue is stuck. Now the tribes are trying at what others have failed. I believe that Yemeni tribes will play an important role in really fixing the problems. Yemeni tribes have the ability to solve Yemen's problems.

Let me tell you something about Qatar; even when we had very strong relations before when did you hear about any Qatari charity that was sent to Ye-

Qatar has supported Yemen immensely during the flood in Hadramout in

That was a natural disaster they felt obliged, forget that.. tell me when did But Abdulwahab Al-Anisi secretary general of the Islah party said that there has been a misunderstanding as to the purpose of this council and that it is for coordination rather than running the country like you say...

Abdulwahab Al-Anisi said there is a confusion about the purpose of the council and after the first two lines in his statement you find him talking again about running the country. He is repeating himself and clarifying nothing.

In all cases we don't care about this council.

It will be a still born just like the one before that. You already see other opposition groups such RAY [Yemeni opposition abroad group] and the Houthis

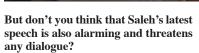
There have been disputes even among them, in Hodeida there were violent fights between the Islah party members themselves.

The political parties committee should raise a case against the Joint Meeting Parties and dissolve them. They should not be legal anymore because they violate and stand against the very legal framework they were created through.

But as for your council, it has created a setback in all dialogue. In fact it lead to an end in any dialogue with them.

Do you mean that any political agreement is over now because of the announcement of this council?

How else will you interpret this? How can you want dialogue and to reach an agreement with someone and then come up with an initiative that cancels the other and ignores their authority?



Of course not. The president's speech was not threatening at all. Where is it that you felt that? All he said was that we should end all military and presence of arms from the streets and clear the areas and allow for life to go on in its regular manner for peace to happen in

So you are saying there will be no act of violence in Yemen again?

Yes, I am optimistic that there are no further armed conflicts in Sana'a, unless Ali Mushin's armed unit asks for it.

What about the rest of the country, Arhab for example?

Arhab is a tragic story and it is sad that Al-Zindani and the extremists and Al-AQaeda are trying to take over Republican Guards Al-Sama camp. They think that if they take over this camp they will reach the airport and if they have control over it they have control over Sana'a. But they are delusional.

Our men are steadfast and until now what we are doing is fighting back in a defense position because like I told you to us Yemeni blood is precious.

What do you mean if Ali Mushin asks

I mean if they start any violent action or if they decide to threaten any of the state institutions.

Then what?

Then we will attack them and terminate them completely. Do you expect us to just sit and wait for them to take over the town? We have the military means to finish this, we just don't want to do it because all Yemeni blood is precious.

Don't believe any of the things Ali Muhsin says about how he still respects the president. He deceives his visitors by showing them the president's picture handing behind his desk. But how can you respect someone and then launch a coup against him and attempt to kill

Are you saying that Ali Muhsin Al-Ahmar is behind the president's attempted assassination?

I am not saying this, the evidence says it. Soon you will see the results from the investigations which by the way includes two American specialist investigation teams.

And I promise you soon you will see Hameed Al-Ahmar, Ali Muhsin and the Muslim Brothers behind bars.

This is not a joke and cannot go without trail. I don't rule out another assassination attempt once the president comes back. Those who don't care about human life might do it again and again because they thrive on blood.

All the Muslim brothers?

Well, their leaders who were involved in the attack.

Why Hameed Al-Ahmar, what is his involvement?

The investigations have shown that the sim cards used in the explosions were from Hameed's Sabafone company and belong to members of Ali Muhsin's unit and just an hour before the attack, the machine which we use by all telecom companies to monitor communication was blocked and only Sabafone can

There are explanations that the political tension is actually between Ali Mushin and Ahmed Ali, the president's son. How true are they?

Completely untrue. In his entire life Ahmed might have sat with Ali Muhsin only a handful of times. He did not interact with him that much why would he have a problem with him?

Because of Sa'ada war? Because the president wanted his son to lead in that war instead of Ali Mushin and give the glory of ending it to his son? Nonsense.. What glory? The glory of failing five times to end a war? I have heard this rumor also and heard what is being said about Ahmed. He is not the angry aggressive person being reported in yellow media. He is a gentle and kind professional.

One more thing about the Sa'ada war, the explanation you gave is actually an insult not only to the Yemeni government and its army but also to all the families of the soldiers who died during the war as if their lives were worth nothing and as if the war was just a show-off game because of a personal conflict between two people.

What we need in Yemen is the UN envoy Jamal Omar to come as soon as possible and help us come out with a solution. We have used the hope. the enthusiasm and the patience of the Yemeni people and now it is high time for a breakthrough.

After all that has been said and done, and now the unrest enters its eighth vear, aren't vou tired?

We are tried especially since we at the GPC did not leave an opportunity for solving the crisis and reaching an agreement without taking it. We gave huge sacrifices and made enormous efforts to end the political tension. We were always serious to reach agreement.

But we can't give up. Moving forward is always a struggle but I am optimistic. I have to be otherwise how else will we take care of our country?

I also believe in the role of tribal leaders and even scholars although they [the scholars] failed in the past we will bring them back. I also believe in the youth and that they can make a difference if they want to. The youth must take action and not allow the JMP to control them. They must be their own boss and get into the dialogue under their own name.

As it is we need new faces and fresh attitudes for the dialogue.

But does that mean there will be new faces in your side? Where are the second and third lines of the GPC?

You can't expect the old leaders to just disappear? It will be a blend between the old and the new. Where do you want us to go? We will still be active and participate in the dialogue and the discus-

Then how do you expect to bring in fresh attitudes if the people on your side remain the same?

Well, the youth will bring in new attitudes and we will be sympatric to them and create common grounds and reach compromises for the sake of the coun-

Is the president coming back soon?

I can't tell when the president will come back this is a doctors decision. He is a human being not a machine which needs spare parts and then will be up and running again. There are the physical and there are the psychological injuries and all these take time.

What we need in Yemen is the UN envoy Jamal Omar to come as soon as possible and help us come out with a solution. We have used the hope, the enthusiasm and the patience of the Yemeni people and now it is high time for a breakthrough.

We obviously need the help of our Saudi brothers for this. They will be the ones to help Yemen stand on its own feet again especially financially. We don't rely on the west in this very issue for that matter, but we still believe they will

Our brothers in the GCC will help us in the recovery and rebuilding the coun-

We have learned a lot and now we know that any solution cannot be made without including all political stake holders such as the Houthis, the Southern Movement, opposition abroad and the youth because they all are there as real players and should be treated as

Yemenis are patient and have been good so far out of their care for their country which prevented them for getting into violence but we don't want to abuse this care and we want to relieve them of the pain. Now we are in the dark night and the daylight will come soon and will be the strongest daylight you will ever see.





"To make Yemen a good world citizen."

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



OUR OPINION

Jamal Omar wanted in Yemen

have been doing some digging here in Yemen among political parties on both sides, activists, revolutionaries and analysts and everyone without exception says they need UN General Secretary's envoy Jamal Omar back in the country as soon as possible.

Apparently he is the man for the job. I have met Jamal personally and he comes off as a gentle courteous and balanced person. But the most important quality he has it seems is being able to talk everyone's language and make them feel that he understands their point of view and will plead their case in front of others.

Apparently the gulf initiative is being reshaped through UN efforts and will appear soon as the president's initiative and the solution to Yemen's political dilemma. It will allow him to save face, give the political players maneuvering space and please both the Saudis and the Americans or the western community in general.

What I know so far about this initiative that two scenarios are being proposed and the debate currently is which scenario will be accepted by all. The first will allow Saleh to remain in power until 2013 yet in an honorary role, somewhat allowing him to remain in Saudi for his medical treatment. He delegates his tasks to his vice president and a coalition government headed by the JMP, most probably Yaseen Saeed Noman as Prime Minister will run the country. The coalition government will implement constitutional amendments and update the voters' lists etc, and by May 2013 or a little earlier we will have parliamentary elections and have a new Yemen with a parliamentary system rather than a presidential one.

The second scenario talks about early presidential elections without amendments of the constitution or even updating the voters lists. Here the president will be "forced" by his party to run as a candidate (which is his right as a Yemeni citizen), he will win and this will turn the table against the opposition because it will show their true popularity and will make Yemenis question whether they for real want to topple the regime or not. Especially since during the elections' time the power blackouts will disappear and fuel will be available, we might even see the prices going down and new jobs created in the public sector.

The problem with the second scenario is that it does not appeal to the Saudis who pay our bills or to the Americans who have lost faith that Saleh can control the country. Yet they don't have a clear convincing alternative so probably when push comes to shove they might accept this option grudgingly. But here we will have a problem with the JMP and in a smaller extent with the independent youth. Both say no elections should be even thought about unless and until Saleh leaves power completely. But then again he might just surprise us all and say ok, I quit but run in the elections.. then what? The JMP will lose their edge and legally speaking they have no case anymore.

This is why the JMP are horrified by the notion of possible early presidential elections and want to push for the first scenario. The problem with this is that although the JMP will have time to sort themselves for the parliamentary elections and also get a taste of power being head of the coalition government, is that Saleh will still be president. And if they accept that deal they would appear as betraying everything they stood for and most importantly betraying the revolution's youth. So they want the president out and to be part of a coalition government which they head. It's like having the cake and eating it too. And here is the bottle neck of the negotiations that our man from the UN is supposedly working on.

What matters to Yemenis now is to have things sorted soon because later is very costly. The longer we wait the more we as citizens have to pay. This is why we need Jamal back and as soon as possible.. if not for anything, at least to sustain the electric power as the common joke says: as long as the UN are in town we have electricity.

In all cases, Jamal, you are wanted in Yemen asap... no pressure.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Yemen's youth: The best hope for democracy

For over six months, young Yemenis have used nonviolent tactics to protest for democratic reforms.

By: Tik Root Al-Jazeera

cross the Middle East and North Africa, youth have used their newfound sense of dignity to create change that previous generations only dreamed about. But as the so-called Arab Spring progresses, the youth voice often gets buried under individual interests and political posturing.

Nowhere is this truer than in Yemen, where the youth face both a resilient autocrat and stubborn allies. Yet still, their determination to change the status quo through peaceful, democratic and selfless tactics has become one of the few constants in a decidedly unstable country. Over the past six months the younger generation has made it clear that if Yemenis hope to realise their revolutionary aims, the solution must include a prominent role for youth.

The uprising began even before Tunisia revolted with a handful of young activists endearingly known as the "pioneers". Every week, they would hold demonstrations against the regime. Soon after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak fell, more people joined. At its height, the popular movement drew hundreds of thousands, if not millions, to the streets, demanding President Saleh's ouster. Change Square in Yemen became a symbol of resistance, just as Tahrir Square had in Egypt.

By the middle of May the situation was deteriorating rapidly. The plan brokered by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to transfer President Saleh from power had collapsed three times, tribal violence was escalating, and the opposition was beginning to see its own internal splits. From the Youth's per-

spective, they were being pushed to the side of their own revolution.

At first the Youth expected figures aligned with the traditional opposition party (the Joint Meeting Party or JMP) - including, among others, tribal leader Sheikh al-Ahmar and General Ali Muhsin (the defected officer whose forces joined the revolt) - to cooperate and unite. However, many of these latecomer revolutionaries ended up undermining the movement's principles in order to promote their own agenda.

The JMP, which is dominated by the religious Islah faction, frequently takes a hypocritical and manipulative stance towards the youth. The JMP relies on them to take Saleh's blows on the front lines and organise logistics, but when it comes to more "adult" issues such as security and political platforms, the youth are rarely taken seriously.

One glaring example is the development of the committees in Change Square. All the committees began committed to the ideals of the movement, but unlike less influential groups such as the cleaning crew, the security committee eventual became a wing of the JMP. Ultimately, members ended up beating and dispersing the very activists they were supposed to protect.

Sheikh al-Ahmar's greatest offense was helping turn a remarkably peaceful revolution into violent chaos. As other, mostly younger, tribesmen were laying their weapons aside, al-Ahmar immediately abandoned non-violence after Saleh attacked his compound in late May. This transformed a peaceful movement into a conflict within the Hashid tribal confederation, of which both al-Ahmar and Saleh are members

In the press conference announcing his defection, General Muhsin declared his "peaceful support of the youth revolution", which sounds nice, but was not his true motive. He joined the uprising in large part due to a per-

sonal rift between himself and President Saleh. He knew that his time as the top military leader was coming to an end regardless. Not surprisingly, he has now positioned himself and his troops ambivalently between the revolutionaries and Vice-President Hadi, refusing to support any particular plan or endorse youth demands.

Inexperience: both weakness and strength

The Youth are not without their flaws. Most notably, they lack political experience, and routinely disagree among themselves about specifics. However, ironically, it is through these imperfections that the youth commitment to democracy shines through.

One worry is that the youth have not designated spokesmen or leaders. But what they have done is organise themselves into a number of smaller groups and committees. According to activist Atiaf al-Wazir, representatives from each of the main groups (one per group) meet regularly to discuss issues and share ideas. There is also a more fluid network of collaboration built upon mobile phones, text messages and the internet. Overall, the youth appear to understand and are implementing at least the beginnings of a solid democratic process.

Another example of their use of the democratic process actually originated as a controversy. On July 16, youth activist and member of the religious Islah party Tawakul Karman announced a detailed transition plan. It named a 15-member preparatory committee that would run the country for no more than nine months. The plan was highly controversial because members of the committee were picked through an undemocratic process, in which a few of those named did not even know they were selected. Instead of becoming polarised, the youth voiced their opinions, worked together and solved the problem. By the third draft, the representatives were, to the extent possible, democratically chosen.

On July 17, taking the youth lead, the JMP announced the formation of the "National Council for the Forces of the Revolution", which aims to become the body overseeing the revolution. Although all sides (the Youth, JMP, Islah, etc.) viewed one another's proposals skeptically, they have since been working together to come to an agreement.

Earlier this week the opposition announced that an umbrella council is set to elect its members on August 17. They will be chosen from a pool of 700 remarkably diverse candidates. Even though this proposal is bound to have critics, it marks an incredibly important step towards establishing the credible transition plan that has been sought by the international community.

The key to these recent political developments was the youth movement, which acted as both a spark for the initiative and a role model for success through compromise.

In the end, it is naive to believe that the youth alone have the skills necessary to lead Yemen, but they have proven their ability to play a substantive role. Vice-President Hadi, General Mushin, the JMP, the newly formed "Alliance of Yemeni Tribes" (headed by Sheikh al-Ahmar) and others would be wise to respect them as equals, rather than pawns in a political game.

With the looming prospect of a humanitarian crisis and civil war, Yemen's future is far from clear. What is certain is that if the youth's commitment, determination, and talent are not fully used, the prospects of the country ever becoming a stable, liberal democracy will be considerably slimmer.

Tik Root is director of Mideast Reports, a site dedicated to spreading news and ideas from and about the region.

US-Arab disconnect: Revolutions reset region's priorities

By: Ramzy Baroud Arab News

ith the help of dictators, America's unclear, misguided policies have brought untold harm

As the Arab Spring continues to challenge dictators, demolish old structures and plan road maps for a better future, the US remains committed to its failed policies, misconceptions and self-ish interests.

Arabs may disagree on many things, but few disagree on the fact that there is now no turning back. The age of the dictator, the Mubaraks and Bin Alis is fading. A new dawn with a whole new set of challenges is upon us. Debates in the region are now concerned with democracy, civil society and citizenship. The only Arab intellectuals who still speak of terrorism and nuclear weapons are those commissioned by Washington-based think tanks or a few desperate to appear on Fox News.

Put simply, Arab priorities are no longer American priorities, as they may have been when Hosni Mubarak was still President of Egypt. Leading a group of "Arab moderates," Mubarak's main responsibility was portraying US foreign policy as if it was at the core of Egypt's national interest as well. Meanwhile, in Syria, Bashar Assad was caught in the realm of contradiction. While desperate to receive high marks on his performance in the so-called war on terror, he still sold himself as a guardian of Arab resistance.

When the US took on Afghanistan in late 2001, the term "War on Terror" became a staple in Arab culture. Ordinary

Arabs were forced to take stances on issues that mattered little to them, but which served as the backbone of US military and political strategy in the region. The Arab man and woman — both denied rights, dignity and even a semblance of hope — were mere subjects of opinion polls concerning Osama Bin Laden, Al-Qaeda and other issues that hardly registered on their daily radar of suffering and humiliation.

The Arab dictator exploited America's obsession with its security. Yemen's Ali Abdullah Saleh had to choose between a hostile takeover by the US to "defeat Al-Qaeda" or carrying out the dirty war himself. He opted for the latter, soon to discover the perks of such a role. When the Yemeni people took to the streets demanding freedom and democracy, Saleh sent a loyal army and republican guards units to kill Al-Qaeda fighters (whose numbers suddenly exploded) and also to kill unarmed democracy protesters. The straightforward but shrewd act was the equivalent of an unspoken bargain with the United States: I will fight your bad guys, as long as I am allowed to destroy mine.

Libya's Muammar Qaddafi exploited America's priorities as well. His regime's constant emphasis on the presence of Al-Qaeda fighters in the rank of the opposition received a fair amount of validation in the Western media. Qaddafi went for the jugular in his desperate attempts at wowing the West, even suggesting that his war against the opposition was no different to Israel's war against Palestinian "extremists."

The strange thing is that the language spoken by the US and that by Arab dictators is largely absent from the lexicon

of oppressed, ordinary Arabs aspiring for their long-denied basic rights.

Arabs are not unified by the narratives of Al-Qaeda or the US. They are united by other factors that often escape Western commentators and officials. Aside from shared histories, religions, language and a collective sense of belonging, they also have in common their experiences of oppression, alienation, injustice and inequality. The third UN Arab Development Report published in 2005 surmised that in a modern Arab state, "the executive apparatus resembles a black hole which converts its surrounding social environment into a setting in which nothing moves and from which nothing escapes." Things didn't fare much better for Arab states in 2009, when the fifth volume in the series stated: "While the state is expected to guarantee human security, it has been, in several Arab countries, a source of threat undermining both international charters and national constitutional provisions.

A Time magazine story published in May was entitled "How the Arab Spring Made Bin Laden an Afterthought." It seemed to celebrate the collective, secular nature of Arab revolutions when it reminded readers that: "There were no banners hailing Osama Bin Laden in Egypt's Tahrir Square; no photos of his deputy Ayman Al-Zawahiri at antigovernment protests in Tunisia, Libya or even Yemen." The truthful depiction, reproduced in hundreds of reports throughout Western media, is still deceitful at best. The fact is, the Al-Qaeda model never captured the imagination of mainstream Arab society. Arab revolutions didn't challenge Arab society's perception of Al-Qaeda, for the latter had barely occupied even a tiny space of the collective Arab imagination. However, these revolutions are yet to truly challenge the official American perception of the Arabs.

An "Arab Attitudes, 2011" survey was published last July by Zogby International. It communicated unsurprising views of six Arab nations, including the fact that Barak Obama's popularity among Arabs had sunk to a new low of 10 percent. When Obama delivered his famous Cairo University speech in 2009, many Arabs saw that US-Arab priorities were finally meeting at some points. But the fact that US policy didn't go on to shift an iota in any favorable direction made Arabs realize that US policies were adamant. The US continued with its wars, its support of Israel, and its old alliance with the most corrupt Arab elites. Arabs discovered (or rediscovered) than not only were there no meeting points between their aspirations and US policy, the two were actually on a clash course.

It is normal for the US to conduct its policies in an oil-rich region like the Middle East based on a set of clear interests and objectives. But what has in fact been taking place is the complete hijacking of Arab aspirations and the national interests of most Arab countries to fit US priorities. With the help of Arab dictators, the US' unclear, misguided policies brought untold harm to Arab nations. Now millions of ordinary Arabs, whose priorities and expectations were so completely discounted, are showing they are no longer willing to accept that reality.

Ramzy Baroud (www.ramzybaroud. net) is an internationally-syndicated columnist and the editor of Palestine-Chronicle.com.

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Women in Saudi Arabia demand their freedom and dignity

oppressed even by the standards of their region. But some are defying a ban on driving.

By: Mai Yamani

he 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.

The kingdom's women are 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

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 driving 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 Hatred against Islam and paranoid fear of an Islamic subversion of Europe minister in the city-state of Berlin, annoyed many people - and not just did not lead Breivik to declare war on the Muslims, says Weidner. They led immigrants - with his book "Germany Does Away with Itself" and with him to carry out a brutal strike against his own society 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

f 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 Breivig 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 Breivig'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

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.

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

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 antiterror 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 argu-

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 The author is a specialist on Islam, a 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 criticism 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'

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

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 Welt zwischen 9/11 und den arabischen 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

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

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

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 con-

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

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

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 benefiters 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 terror-

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

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Nutrition Information system consultant External Vacancy No. 14/2011

UNICEF Yemen Country Office, Sana'a seeks highly qualified Yemeni candidates to strengthen the nutrition information and monitoring system in Sa'ada.

Duration of work: 3 months (Renewable) **Location**: Sa'ada, Yemen

Specific Tasks:

- Build the capacity of health workers in Out patient Therapeutic programme (OTP) and therapeutic Feeding Centre (TFC) to report on monthly bases and to provide on-the -job training to the focal persons in the districts and
- Ensuring availability of monthly statistics of nutrition data and timely flow of the statistical forms from the Community Health Volunteers (CHV) to the Out patient Therapeutic programme (OTP) and therapeutic Feeding Centre (TFC) to the Governorate Health Office Focal (GHO) person and UNICEF.
- 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
- Identify and report on gaps in assistance and areas of in-effective service delivery.

Education and Qualifications:

- Yemeni National
- University Degree in health, nutrition, social science and / or related field. At least 3 years of relevant experience in the health and / or nutrition field.
- Work experience with datasets, data management and analysis.
- Knowledge of using monitoring tools and related systems.
- Ability to work well in difficult environment with different people.
- Techniques of data organization and management. Good organizational and planning skills.
- Good spoken and written English.

Professional experience and technical skills:

- Prior experience in the field of nutrition in Yemen (Outpatient therapeutic care and or Therapeutic Feeding centres and / or data management.
- Prior experience in CMAM training will be an asset.

Language skills required:

Working level in English.

Other skills and attributes required:

- Communication and facilitation skills.
- Ability to relate well to people and to work in difficult environment.

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 guoting 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

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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)

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.
- Assess the health and nutrition needs of IDPs and identify implementation structures and potential
- Monitor UNICEF inputs, appropriate utilization and report back to the technical officers in Aden and Sana'a (supply and non-supply assistance).
- Provide direct/ day to day follow up on programme implementation with partners, local counterparts and beneficiaries in the affected areas.
- 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.
- Follow up on implementation of H&N activities delivered by UNICEF partners. Follow up and report on immunization coverage and monitor on vaccine preventable outbreaks.
- Monitor and report back on availability of essential medicines and ensure appropriate distribution.
- 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

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Violence threatens children's health

By: IRIN

ontinuing 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

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

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

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 undernour-ishment. 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 governmentrun hospitals - Wahda Hospital in Aden, and Ibn Khaldoon Hospital in

Lahj [governorate adjacent to Abyan] - to treat malnourished child IDPs," Mohammed al-Ebbi, 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.

② Oxfam

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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.

<u>Finance Officer – (1 position)</u>

Contract Duration: 6 months

Location: Hodeida

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.

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.

<u>Logistics Officer- (1 position)</u>

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.

<u>Human Resources Officer – (1 position) Officer</u>

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 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.

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.





A broadcasting executive woman at the production studio of Sana'a Radio Station on August 13th.Radio journalism in Yemen is still monopolize 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

azizkhalid@gmail.com

imone 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

Syria and Yemen

By: Shaukat Naeem Ghumman

Syria and Yemen is fraught with An outright victory for the opposition or the regimes appears doubtful - at least in the near future. So there can be violence and bloodshed without either side winning. In Syria, the security forces have had no qualms over slaying the regime's opponents. The result is that, while the people are dying, Assad's opponents do not appear to be in a position to dislodge him.

n my opinion the stalemate in

The same holds true for Yemen. The situation is especially dingy in Syria, where President Assad is in no mood to resign in spite of mounting international calls. Even China and Russia, backed the Security Council resolution disapproving of his tactics and at least three Arab countries — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait — have recalled their ambassadors from Damascus.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh's political adversaries in Yemen comprise well-armed tribesmen. This has empowered them to fight pitched battles. The country may descend into a devastating civil war, with every likelihood of a break up.

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

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

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

t 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 Banghazi in Libya under air raids. This is a very close call, very personal and very dangerous!

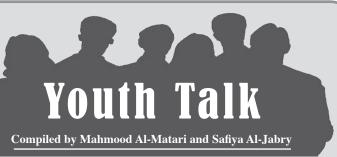
The situation is difficult, our phones are tabbed, we are being harassed at work (if we still have work left) we wake up everyday with all the possibilities of our lives to be shattered by a single wrong move! Activists in the middle east are doing the Arab spring without expeirence, no support, with 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 partys 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

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'sgoing 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 wont 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 infront of the whole world.. from president to prisoner. I thought of president Saleh and thought how embarassing 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!

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Noon Arabia



By Shatha Al-Harazi

become one of the main sources for information on currents events sprouting out in Yemen in the world of Twitter. Her up-todate 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

"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 Yemini 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

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 time 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

happening in Yemen, through

Her anonymity online has 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

the outside world what is really

the blogs, Facebook pages, You-Tube videos and mainly twitter." proved to be a shield against threats or reprisals attacks "I

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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