

Gulf initiative shows progress in spite of GPC infighting

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Sept. 7 — Yesterday's meeting of the ruling party - the General People's Congress - resulted a relative consensus on how to move forward with the new gulf initiative according to the President's media advisor Ahmed Al-Sofi.

"There is an agreement in principle to delegate some of the president's authorities to his vice president according to the constitution but the delegation must be done in a fixed time frame so that it never leaves the country in a constitutional void," said Al-Sofi.

He added that everyone within the GPC agrees that the opposition coalition's Joint Meeting Parties are only concerned with removing the president from power and not the gulf initiative. "They think that once the president is out of the picture they can deal with the vice president as they want."

This meeting was a continuation to one that lasted all of last Tuesday and continued to the next day after the first day failed to result in an agreement among the GPC members. The meeting was termed as exceptional because it also comes in reaction to the escalation plan of the revolutionary groups including the opposition coalition, the Joint Meeting Parties.

The first day according to reports from within the party was said to be full of tense negotiations and heated discussions. Vice President Abdu Rabo Hadi was pushing on one end for a political agreement that includes compromises on behalf of the GPC. However, figures of influence in the party whose interests are threatened by the compro-

mises were pushing back against such agreement with all their might.

The general committee of the ruling party held the meetings in order to further the gulf initiative with its new UN form. The meeting is a milestone in Yemen's political stability and one that will define the shape and identity of the new transitional government.

A high level source from the GPC accused the JMP of trying to take negotiations to a north African country which is unacceptable by the ruling party.

"The GPC's general committee demands the opposition to behave as political parties and stick to the letter of the gulf initiative instead of being puppets in the hands of General Ali Muhsin Al-Ahmar who controls the physical strength through his military unit; and the hands of Hameed Al-Ahmar who has the money," said the source.

Simultaneously the GPC is said to currently go through a reshuffle as there are rising voices from the GPC reformists who demand restructuring the party and redefining its image as a moderate constructive party instead of the current image which is tainted with corruption and special interests.

"There are those figures in the GPC who control everything and who are corrupt. They do not represent us and it is time for them to be sidelined and for the real GPC spirit to be revived," said a female member of the GPC's founding committee in Taiz who requested to remain anonymous.

Political Advisor to the president Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Eryani was reported through media to warn the GPC against stalling the agreement and that this may



Leading members of the JMP signing the gulf first initiative on May 21, 2011. The agreement is still waiting to be signed by the president since then.



President Saleh and Gulf initiative representative Abdulleatef Al-Zayani in meeting in May when issues were much less complicated.

lead to the United Nations deploying chapter 7 in Yemen. He was also said to be frustrated with the lack of progress and media reports said he threatened to leave the country if no progress takes place. In a phone conversation with him, Al-Eryani strongly denied both of these statements and accused them of being lies.

Until recently statements from the UN and member states denied this and considered it as far-fetched. However, the recent signs of potential violence and escalation threats by the opposition may change the situation.

In response to this issue, Aref Al-Zoka, member of the GPC's supreme committee, belittled the internal disagreements in the party and said, "There are no fundamental disagree-

ments and the disputes in the party are just differences of opinion. That happens in every party."

He added that this means there is discussion and this is a good thing for Yemen's political progress.

Similarly, the media secretary of the president Ahmed Al-Sofi denied the reports that Vice President Hadi is frustrated with the lack of progress in the GPC's discussions and what was reported in media that if the GPC will not agree he will simply leave the capital and head back to his hometown in south Yemen.

"VP Hadi did not say this or adopt such as position," said Al-Sofi.

He added that the GPC's general committee has agreed on the value the youth's revolution brings to Yemen but that it must be independent from the JMP's control.

Moreover, he said that the committee denounces "the vicious media campaign launched by the opposition against the US, Europe and Saudi Arabia."

It is worth mentioning that Minister of Foreign Affairs Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi met with a large number of the gulf and foreign diplomats a few days ago to brief them on the latest situation and progress in the initiative although he

did not allow them to ask questions according to one of the diplomats.

UN General Secretary's Envoy Jamal bin Omar is said to be waiting along with the gulf initiative envoy Abdul Lateef Al-Zayani for the GPC to agree with the JMP before returning back to Yemen to push the initiative forward. Currently the negotiations are within the GPC and no serious talks have yet commenced with the JMP.

According to Salem Basundowa leading figure in the JMP and head of the National Council created by the opposition on August 17, the council was meant as a preparation step for when the opposition becomes in charge of the country for real. This will only happen once President Saleh signs the initiative that dictates him surrendering his authority to his deputy.

Analysts fear further Yemen unrest

On a similar front, AbdulGhani Al-Iryani, a prominent Yemeni political analyst stated recently that Yemen may fall into a civil war while president Saleh remains defiant, refusing to agree to a power transfer deal.

"There is no one party who can be held accountable for the war preparation. For months, the country has been waiting for Saleh's approval on the transfer of power that he himself already agreed to. Now we see the country sliding into civil war and Saleh continuing to refuse a power transition," said Al-Iryani in a statement to the Saudi Elaf newspaper.

Yemen has been witnessing fierce clashes on more than one front between Saleh's loyalist forces and armed opposition fighters.

Hotspots for fighting include the capital, Sana'a, where the republican guards have been battling local tribesmen loyal to the opposition in Arhab, 30 km north of the capital for more

thanthree months.

In Taiz the government's forces have been fighting armed tribesmen sympathetic to anti-regime protests since late May.

"The military confrontations which took place in several areas of Yemen were only a test by one party in these operations to examine its strength and prepare for the next round of fighting," said Al-Iryani.

"Yemenis are now close to resorting to a military option; it is shameful that the Yemeni parties will expose the whole nation and its people to this major risk," Al-Iryani continued.

"The solution for Yemen is not in the capital Sana'a but in Al-Riyadh - and the Gulf Countries Cooperation (GCC) Initiative is the proper proposal for the Yemeni problem. If we lose this initiative, our only future will be fighting," he added

So far skirmishes have taken place in the capital Sana'a between the defected army commanded by major general Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar and Saleh's loyal forces led by the president's son, but if these clashes develop further it will spark a civil war.

A military source from the republican guards, Yemen's elite army, revealed to the local independent news website Almasdaronline on Saturday that the guards' leadership is preparing soldiers and recruiting new armed men for coming confrontation.

Another source from the defected first armored division told the Yemen Times that it has recently recruited and trained over 5,000 new soldiers in case the regime exploits its military option.

Saudi media sources also revealed on Saturday that the UN envoy to Yemen, Jamal Omer, and the secretary general of the GCC, Abdu Lateef Al-Zayani may soon visit Yemen together to prevent such a scenario erupting.



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Protester escalate amid political deadlock

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Sept. 7 — Seven months after the beginning of Yemen's revolution and the failure to find a political solution to the current crisis, the opposition Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) and the Organizing Committee of the Revolution announced their new escalation program that includes holding mass marches across the country.

Hundreds of thousands of pro-democracy protesters in different governorates started their escalation program this week, vowing to oust the regime soon.

This week, thousands of protesters have demonstrated against the regime and demanded the trial of President Saleh along with his corrupt inner circle.

However, the government considered the recent escalation by the protesters as an attempt to drag Yemen into violence and further unrest.

The Organizing Committee of the Revolution declared that next week will be witness to more mass demonstrations and marches all over the country, calling for Yemenis to enjoy and be impassioned in these demonstrations.

Mohammed Al-Emad, an anti-regime protester and one of the youth activists at Change Square in Sana'a said that the recent demonstrations and marches were effective and successful. "The regime rushed to close all entrances of Sana'a after the announcement of our demonstrations and our new program of escalation."

"These demonstrations send an important message to those who stay at their homes or those who think that our revolution is weak," said Al-Emad.

"I think the next days will be critical. We are eagerly waiting for the day



Thousands of protesters have demonstrated against the regime and demanded the trial of President Saleh

of victory," he said. "We have started a new and serious phase of escalation to bring down this corrupt regime."

Al-Emad said that the momentum of the revolution has been gathered again this week. "There have been many people and tribesmen joining the revolution during the last few days."

For his part, Zakaria Hassan, an independent pro-democracy protester, told the Yemen Times that the demonstrations were disappointing.

"We expected the protesters to make a strong revolutionary escalation but the movement of the protesters was limited and restricted by some opposition officials," he said. "If we really want a revolution we must sacrifice our lives for it. It's impossible to make a revolution without confrontations and clashes."

Hassan indicated that it isn't logi-

cal and practical when the opposition parties order protesters not to march towards security forces.

Officials from the opposition parties said that they are determined to continue their struggle peacefully. They said that they want to avoid the frequent attempts of the regime to drag Yemen into the civil war.

Mohammed Saeed Al-Sharabi, a pro-democracy protester, said that the revolution will be resolved soon. "We will continue our revolution until the ouster of president Saleh."

Abdo Al-Janadi, deputy Minister of information has played down the significance of the recent opposition demonstrations.

"The opposition parties don't have a popular base as they pretend. Their recent demonstrations have shown how they are bankrupt," said Al-Janadi.

community in support of revolution.

"Al-Jazeera played a key role in Yemeni revolution as well as other revolution in the 'Arab spring' except it Bahrain. It [Al-Jazeera] was behind toppling of both former presidents in Tunisia and Egypt," said Ali Al-Arhabi, a Yemeni protester.

Fast moving changes and an increase of violence in Libya and Syria took western mainstream media's priority and left Yemen out of the news coverage, disappointing many Yemeni protesters in spite of their emotional attachment to other ongoing revolution in the Arab World.

"If the media focused more and dedicated their coverage to one revolution at time, the revolution will not take long, and would topple Arab dictatorships one after another," said Al-Arhabi.

The second point of view is that the Yemeni revolution has become too long and boring, forcing the media to lose interest as it has been going the same way for seven months so far. "The protesters should move forward and do some new actions to grape the media attention again towered the Yemeni revolution that has been taken so long," said Ala' al-Jarban, one of the protesters.

Journalist and analyst Abdulhakeem Hilal agreed that western mainstream

media focused on Yemen in the early days of the revolution but as the protesters haven't added much to what was reported they lost interest in covering more. One reason he added is that after June 3, President Ali Abdullah Saleh assassination attempt, the western media decided on a new angle for Yemen's stories.

"That incident showed Saleh as a victim therefore after the incident there was not much news on Yemen in western media," said Hilal.

Yemen's revolution is covered by Suhil TV which has a small viewership, most of them being the protesters themselves. Al-Jazeera Arabic sometimes dedicates more time to covering Yemen while other times not covering Yemen at all, depending on what else is happening in the region.

Moreover, the role of western mainstream media especially in covering Yemen is not objective and may force Yemen to become a new Bahrain, not being covered fairly in news. The fact that there are more foreign journalist in Yemen than there are in Syria leads protesters to believe that those mainstream media are only implementing or serving foreign agendas that mainly serve the US interests in the Middle East.

"The positive coverage toward the Yemeni revolution has changed, the militants groups and Al-Qaeda's news are in the top of the news coverage on Yemen," said Al-Jarban. "The news on Al-Qaeda is exaggerated as no journalists are reporting from the ground. When it comes to Al-Qaeda they rely on one side reports which are usually governmental," he explained. One way to avoid the media blackouts towards Yemen is to create new revolutionary media outlets according to Al-Jarban. Indeed, some activists are working on launching a broadcast channel in September and started their radio broadcast six weeks ago.

Al-Wazeer thinks that the solution will be by pushing independent media to disseminate information that's missing from mainstream media.

"If editors are refusing to publish deeper stories on Saudi's role in Yemen, the humanitarian situation of IDPs, or the impact of drones on ordinary citizens for example, journalists should still write the story. Don't wait until you find an editor who agrees, write the story and then find an independent source to publish it if needed," wrote Al-Wazeer.

No end in sight for Taiz violence

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

TAIZ, Sept. 9 - Clashes in Taiz resumed after a second truce between Tribal figures and the governor of the governorate failed two weeks ago. Last Tuesday and Wednesday, clashes took place in both Al-Jumhoria and Al-Siteen streets. According to sources in Taiz, 33 militants calling themselves the soldiers of Khalid bin Al-Walid spread over Siteen Street. Warplanes continue to fly over the city.

"The Military has declared war on people of Taiz by making the warplanes cover its sky, people fear what might happen suddenly because of that," said Mohammed Yousif, a reporter for the Suhail channel in Taiz.

Yousif alleged that the truce was signed by different groups of tribal leaders and Hamud Al-Sofi, the governor. Heads of security forces and the Republican Guard in Taiz refused to sign the ceasefire and remove their forces from the city.

"The tribes are not involved in these clashes as they signed the second truce with the governor in the last two weeks of Ramadan," Yousif told the Yemen Times. "But the Head of the Republican Guards and the Head of Taiz security refused the truce which means it's not valid," he added.

Unlike the daily attack, this Wednesday's attack was at daylight against an anti-government protest march, according to Yousif.

The shooting on the city and nearby villages continue at night. "Although some of the Republican Guards check points withdrew, still the danger is big at night as the Republican Guards bombards the city with Katusha rockets.

"The rockets usually hit empty areas to terrify the residents I guess, other than that shooting is usually in Al-Siteen street that's in the middle of both tribes Mikhlaf and Shara'ab," said Yousif. "Some clashes happened at the old airport area as well and one can find the militant's armored vehicle located on top of mountains close to the villages," Yousif explained.



Pro-democracy protesters in Taiz on the march.

Yousif described the shooting as random although no deaths were reported according to him.

Activists Salah Al-Dakak, human rights activist and anti-government protester told the Yemen Times that the Republican Guards did withdraw some of their check points at Al-Siteen street not due to the truce that, according to him, was never signed, but for other reasons, one of them being to support their colleagues in the capital.

"There were some targeted points in the city that's exactly where the Republican Guards are located, but some of them have withdrawn now," said Al-Dakak. "The Republican Guards withdrawal was not to bring peace to the city, it was only to support the Republican Guards in Sana'a. They were replaced by the Rescue Police here [in Taiz]," he added.

Al-Dakak confirmed to the Yemen Times that the truce was to be announced in a conference but it was canceled one day before that happened. Therefore,

he said the armed tribes are well spread everywhere in the city, especially in the north.

"The armed people are everywhere in the city, they are even in the protesters squares along with the youth since the city was first attacked in May," said Al-Dakak.

According to Al-Dakak the protesters Marsh everyday and that's why increases the clashes, Sunday's Marsh was one of the worst as there was a suggestion of creeping to the presidential palace in Sana'a, so the security procedures in both Sana'a and Taiz were "strong".

Taiz anti-government protesters used to have an organized plan to escalate; they had two days of civil obaidness but due to the latest violence against the residents and the protesters the situation changed.

"The stores are closed these days due to the security situation and Eid so we can't judge if the civil obaidness are still on," said al-Dakak.

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A different endgame

By: Nasser Arrabyee
Al-Ahram Weekly

Both sides in Yemen want an immediate solution for the eight-month long crisis which has had such a negative impact on political, economic and social aspects of their life.

The opposition want a fate for Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh like that of Muammar Gaddafi of Libya. However, Saleh's supporters are still calling for him to return from Saudi Arabia and finish his presidential term which would end only on 20 September 2013.

This week, each side called on their own supporters to stage million-man demonstrations to show their strength. Security measures were tightened and additional troops were deployed in the capital Sanaa.

On Wednesday, Saleh's supporters organised a big funeral for the chairman of Saleh's advisory council, Abdel-Aziz Abdel-Ghani, 72, who died Monday of injuries he sustained in the failed assassination attempt against Saleh early last June. A popular and official reception for the body was organised Tuesday at Sanaa airport for the "martyr of freedom and democracy", the official media said.

President Saleh was expected to return and attend the funeral of his friend and most obedient official during the 33 years of his rule. Earlier in the week offi-

cial sources said that Saleh had finished the recovery period required by doctors and he could return Wednesday. This date also marks the 27th anniversary of the establishment of Saleh's party, the ruling People's General Congress.

Vice President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, who is acting in Saleh's absence, said earlier this week the crisis is close to an end, after consultations with American and European officials.

Before the return of Saleh, opposition parties formed an umbrella council to use it to pressure Saleh while negotiating about power transfer. But the council was rejected by more than half of its chosen members especially by the separatist groups in the south and Al-Houthi Shia rebels in the north.

This rejection has shown big divisions among the opposition parties and independent young people protesting in the streets. All the groups and individuals who rejected it denied they had approved the "National Council" and were surprised why their names were included.

On 17 August, the opposition parties chose 143 members allegedly representing all groups and individuals of Yemen. A total of 23 politicians and activists from the southern separatist movement denied their approval of the council. The 23 persons include two former presidents of the south, Ali Nasser Mohamed and Haidar Abu Bakr Al-Atas, who are living abroad but inspiring and leading the southern separatist movement. "We were surprised to

see our names in the list of the council without our knowledge and approval," said the politicians in a statement sent to local media. "The council reproduced the dominance of the traditional tribal and military forces which were the essence of the tyranny of the regime."

Earlier, three top officials of the opposition party Ray denied their approval of the council. Two members of parliament, Abdel-Wasee Hayel Said and Abdullah Hussein Khairat, also denied they had agreed to give their names to be members of the council, as did writer Huda Al-Atas and tribal Sheikh Naji Al-Shayef and Amal Basha, chairwoman of the Arab Sisters Forum for human rights.

A group of the independent youth in the squares, calling themselves the national council of the independent, revolutionary and peaceful youth, issued a statement rejecting the council. "The council of the opposition is only a response to the desire of Hamid Al-Ahmar, who wants to co-opt the youth, social figures and soldiers working with him to achieve his ambitions to rule Yemen."

Hamid Al-Ahmar, the Islamist billionaire who has been grooming himself for the presidency since 2006, is widely viewed in Yemen as the main rival of President Saleh and his son Ahmed. Critics claim he has been orchestrating the anti-Saleh protests, and he is widely viewed as the most important politician behind this second opposition council. So is Tawakul Karman, who was



An elderly anti-government protester sits on the ground during a demonstration demanding the resignation of Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in Sanaa.

behind the first council which was declared on 17 July but failed to achieve any approval or recognition.

Meanwhile, government troops are battling with Al-Qaeda operatives in the southern province of Abyan, and with armed tribesmen supporting the anti-Saleh protesters around the capital Sanaa and in the central province of Taiz.

Dozens of people have been killed and injured in the almost daily clashes and battles taking place in these areas. Two suicide bombings by Al-Qaeda members killed more than 14 tribesmen in the southern province of Abyan. The tribesmen in the south recently sided

with the government troops to get rid of Al-Qaeda.

A total of 80 Al-Qaeda operatives were killed in the fighting in the southern province of Abyan, said the chairman of Yemen's intelligence on Monday. Ali Al-Ansi, head of the National Security Agency, told Al-Methaq, mouthpiece of the ruling party, that those killed were both Yemeni and non-Yemeni operatives and have been identified by name.

The fighting has been ongoing between government troops and Al-Qaeda since the latter declared the city of Zinjubar an Islamic emirate on 29 May. Al-Ansi said that Al-Qaeda operatives

are also fighting alongside opposition tribesmen in Arhab and Taiz with support from ex-general Ali Mohsen.

The intelligence official said some Al-Qaeda elements are hiding among protesters in squares and inside the opposition First Armored Division of Ali Mohsen. "The opposition has made it difficult for us to arrest them," said Al-Ansi.

He said that 80 per cent of the investigations over the failed assassination attempt against President Saleh and senior officials have been carried out. "The results will be announced very soon in public trials of those involved," said Al-Ansi.

Amazing determination of the Yemeni People

By: Mohamed El Mokhtar
palestinechronicle.com

The current stalemate in Yemen is not politically sustainable. The intransigence of the incumbent president/autocrat, Abdallah Saleh, is causing an unprecedented political standstill. Such paralysis is sucking up the energy of the whole country and creating an atmosphere of near-anarchy. And the responsibility of this mayhem lies squarely in the hands of the president given his lack of predisposition to seriously compromise or step-down.

Now the public administration is in shambles throughout the country. In effect, the already structurally fragile civil institutions are working far below their potential capacity, hence the limited access everywhere to public services or lack thereof. These constraining limitations in the delivery of vital services, deliberately engineered by the ruling regime, are exacting a high cost on ordinary citizens as evidenced by the scarcity of fuel, water, electricity and other basic commodities.

In spite of all this, the Yemeni people have shown a rare determination, in recent months, in continuing the peaceful fight for their human rights. Indeed, they have been able, owing to their courage, to show the whole world how they truly stand for their dignity. Their extraordinary poise and stunning patience have turned upside-down many deep-seated stereotypes and ill-conceived ideas about Arabs and Muslims.

In fact, the peaceful nature of their protest underscores, despite the many provocations of the government, the strong resolve of Yemenis to recover their legitimate civil rights without resorting to indiscriminate violence or illegal means. As epitomized in the slogan Silmeeya Ila Neehaya (peaceful till the end!), such attitude is meaningful in many respects. This collective sense of self-control is all the more admirable that Yemen is probably per-

capita the most heavily-armed country in the world. The incident involving the reaction of the tribal leader El Ahmar remains a parenthesis in the broader scale of things.

Thus, the Yemeni general revolt has taught us an invaluable lesson about the inaccuracy of anthropological presumptions and empirically unfounded sociological extrapolations of complacent scholarship. It is a good epistemological example revealing the limitations and lack of rigor of certain supposedly scientific tools of normative evaluation prevailing in many Western academic circles and think-tanks.

The Yemeni awakening clearly showed that even in a land riven with sectarianism, tribalism and regionalism, people can still unite for a common ground; they are predisposed to transcend their narrow sense of identity provided they can identify with a common ideal. Therefore, when a national ideal is clearly defined or seems coherent to the majority, the solidarity of esprit de corps (El Assabiya) becomes ipso facto secondary. These circumstances, those parochial sensitivities become more or less irrelevant; in other words, they don't constitute anymore an obstacle to democratic transformation.

Furthermore, this ongoing popular revolution proves once again that the murderous ideology advocated by Al Qaeda and its like, contrary to certain Orientalist assumptions, doesn't even remotely attract or inspire the majority of young Arabs. On the contrary, such deviationism, with the exception of few suicidal desperados bent on wreaking havoc, was and still is fortunately a repugnant cult to the eyes of the overwhelming majority. And that is what really matters to debunk prejudice and stereotypes.

Without downplaying the importance of an educated urban middle class to the anchorage of democracy, it is important to draw the following lesson from the citizen revolt in Yemen: the absence of a large middle class, or the prevalence of

poverty, isn't necessarily a major hurdle to political awakening. Indeed, if in a poverty-stricken country like Yemen people are so keen in exercising their political rights, this proves well that political consciousness isn't the exclusive prerogative of a given social class.

Over the course of many decades, Abdellah Saleh has transformed what could have been a model of success in the Middle East into a near failed state. Under his prolonged reign the country became the very prototype of an Arab basket case.

Yet Yemen does not suffer from a shortage of resources or lack of manpower. Unlike the other countries of the Gulf, the country does have a potential other than oil. First of all Yemen has an important human capital in an otherwise under-populated region; it's an ancient land endowed with a traditionally entrepreneurial merchant class; it has a rich cultural heritage, an old and successful diaspora; and enjoys a central geographic position in a major geostrategic zone.

But rather than utilizing those assets to build a functioning modern state, Abdellah Saleh has instead subverted the process of nation-building to fit his desire to stay in power. To do so he didn't hesitate to pit regions against regions or cynically exploit sectarian tension or profiteering from the US and other Western nations in their fight against radical Muslims by over-blowing the threat of Al Qaeda in Yemen. Worse, he cultivated corruption to unparalleled levels. To get a sense of the depth of nepotism under his ruling, these are few illustrative, albeit partial, examples:

- The Republican Guard is headed by Colonel Ahmed Ali Abdallah Saleh, the eldest son of the president.
- The deputy Chairman of the National Security Organization is Colonel Amar Mohamed Abdallah Saleh (a nephew)
- The Commander of the Security Central Forces is Colonel Yahaya Mohamed Abdellah Saleh (another nephew) and an important stakeholder in Almas

Company for Petroleum Services and a Chinese cable company: Huaiwai.

• The president half brother Ali Saleh El Ahmar commands the Air force and is a stakeholder in the Hashdi Petroleum Company.

These are just few samples, for the domain of the president's relatives spans all sorts of activities. From high offices in public sectors to important stakes in the private (oil companies, agriculture, telecommunications...), their monopolistic hegemony has no limit. But Saleh's grip in power couldn't have lasted so long without outside help.

The attitude of the Saudis has seldom been helpful toward their neighbors. With the exception of Qatar perhaps, the GCC's investments have been until recently almost nonexistent. They speak now of the need of a stable and united Yemen but have lobbied major oil companies not so long ago to prevent them from exploring or exploiting the country's oil fields. They currently impose a draconian regime of visas entry to Yemeni citizens in dire need of work.

Instead of mediating between the government and the Houthis during their recent insurrection, they one-sidedly chose to support Saleh's ill-advised strategy and hence helped entice sectarian tensions and the potential for instability. Because of the popular opposition to the first Gulf war, they financially squeezed Yemen for years halting almost all types of investments in the country; and that was in addition to expelling hundreds of thousands of Yemeni citizens from the Kingdom as a cynical retribution to the position of their government. Sudanese, Palestinians and Mauritians suffered the same ordeal as did countless others Arabs.

Today the Saudis play an ambiguous ambivalence in the Yemeni crisis: on the one hand they call for a political smooth transition and on the other hand they wittingly encourage President Saleh to persist in his stubborn intransigence by providing him with the financial and military means to suppress the ongoing

large scale citizen revolt.

Assuredly, the last thing the Al Saud royal dynasty wants to see at its doorstep is an Arab people capable of freely expressing its will through the democratic mechanism of self-determination. In fact, there is no greater threat for a divinely-inspired monarchy than the sovereign power of the vox populi.

The security aid provided to Saleh by the US has also boosted his resilience and is now being used to delay political transition in Yemen.

Although the president Saleh has been supposedly helpful in providing the US with a launching base for its war against AQAP (Al Qaeda in the Arabic Peninsula), such support comes with a price; it is a double-edged sword used by the autocratic regime of Sana'a to crack down on political opponents or rivals. By over-blowing the threat of Al Qaeda, he was able to divert the aid provided to supposedly fight terrorism to achieve personal political goals.

Thus, he relied on the US support to suppress the Houthi insurrection, fight the Southern movement or settle old score with rival tribal factions. And that in turn helped exacerbate the problems at the source of the current instability.

The very timid appeals from Washington for Saleh to step down lacked

the determination and forcefulness of the White house's demands for allies like Ben Ali or Mubarak to step down following the popular revolts in Tunisia and Egypt.

Moreover, the over-reliance on security cooperation through the use of warplanes and drones attacks has greatly alienated popular support and hence made matters a lot worse. The duplication of the failed strategy employed in Pakistan will only inflame the situation and make the ground more fertile for extremism and radicalization. In the light of the recent changes taken place in the Arab World, a review of Washington's policy toward the region is urgently needed. Such change is in the interest of Americans and the region as a whole.

The most important step the US can take, in this regard, is to support the advent of an independent and viable Palestinian state. There is no doubt that this will do more for the long term geostrategic interests and national security of the US than all the drone attacks in Pakistan and the Middle East and all the expensive CIA covert operations around the world.

Mohamed El Mokhtar Sidi Haiba is a political analyst. He contributed this article to PalestineChronicle.com.

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Turkey: Statehood is the Palestinian people's national right

By: Suzan Fraser

Turkey deepened its rift with Israel on Monday by vowing to work for the recognition of a Palestinian state at the United Nations and by saying it has notified high-level Israeli diplomats they have two days to leave the country.

Late last week, Turkey expelled the Israeli ambassador after Israel refused to apologize for the botched Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound protest flotilla that killed nine pro-Palestinian activists last year. Israel has expressed regret for the loss of lives.

A U.N. report released last week called the Israeli raid "excessive and unreasonable," but also said Turkey and flotilla organizers contributed to the deaths.

The dispute has brought relations between the once-close allies to the verge

of collapse, and injected a new element of instability into an already volatile region.

Turkey said Monday it has notified Ella Apek, the Israeli Embassy's deputy head of mission, that she and other senior Israeli diplomats must leave by Wednesday now that Turkey has decided to downgrade its diplomatic ties with Israel to the level of second secretary.

Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Monday that Turkey will work to lobby other nations "until we obtain the highest number of votes" for a plan by Palestinians to seek recognition as a state at annual meeting of world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly beginning on Sept. 20.

On Saturday, Davutoglu said Turkey would start procedures to challenge Israel's naval blockade of Gaza at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands.

The United States has indicated it will veto any Palestinian statehood vote in the absence of a negotiated Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

Palestinians hope a U.N. vote in their favor would isolate Israel and put heavy pressure on the Israelis to withdraw from captured territories.

"Recognition of a Palestinian state is not a favor for the Palestinians, it is the Palestinian people's most natural right and our debt to them," Davutoglu told a news conference with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' adviser, Nabil Shaath. "It is time to pay the debt."

Also Monday, the fallout from the Israeli-Turkish rift sparked a spat over airport security, with Israeli air passengers complaining they were harassed and intimidated Monday at Istanbul airport and Turkish air passengers making similar claims about their treatment in Tel Aviv.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry official

said that Turks flying back to Turkey from Tel Aviv complained about being mistreated in Israel, prompting Turkish customs police to "retaliate" with more stringent security measures against Israeli passengers.

The official said police "searched the Israelis' passports more rigorously and delayed the procedures as much as possible." He said police acted on their own initiative.

The Turkish official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with ministry regulations that bar officials from speaking to journalists without prior authorization.

Reports of airport harassment first emanated from Turkey, where media reported that Turkish passengers on a Turkish Airlines flight from Tel Aviv to Istanbul said they were singled out for particularly thorough searches and questioning.

Eyup Ensar Ugur, a Turkish tour guide

on the flight, told The Associated Press that media reports about harassment were exaggerated.

"They questioned us repeatedly and searched our bags and bodies in detail but any harassment is out of question," Ugur said in an interview. "I was asked to remove my top, my pants were on but had to unzip them. One official searched my body by hand and a detector," Ugur said.

The plane made an emergency landing in the Mediterranean city of Antalya to remove a passenger who felt sick, he said. There, one Muslim Turk and another Turkish Jew argued with some other Turks about the necessity of the strict security check, Ugur said. That led to a scuffle in the airport that Turkish police quelled, he said.

Later Monday, dozens of Israeli passengers on flights between Tel Aviv and Istanbul reported that Turkish security

officials at Ataturk International Airport briefly took their passports and questioned them, a passenger and the Israeli Foreign Ministry said.

A woman who identified herself as a newlywed named Alina told Israel Army Radio her passport was taken away and she was taken to a dark room by security officers who spoke only Turkish. There, she was forced to strip to her underpants to be searched by a female officer. After being allowed to redress, she was directed to a corner where all the Israelis were told to sit, allowed to board only moments before the doors closed.

Ahmet Aydin, the director of Ataturk International Airport, denied any passengers had been mistreated. He added it has long been the practice to subject Israeli passengers to the same close scrutiny Turkish passengers experience in Israel under what he called "the principle of reciprocity."

Kurds unite amid onslaught

But Syrian Kurdish leadership is still hesitant to join rebellion against Al-Assad

By: Arieh O'Sullivan
For the Media Line

Assaulted by Turkish and Iranian forces, Kurdish rebels are starting to unite, but Syrian Kurds remain reluctant to move for the autonomy that their Iraqi brothers have obtained.

Over the weekend, Syrian Kurds met in Stockholm to hammer out a roadmap of action against the Syrian regime of President Bashar Al-Assad. Virtually all

of the 50-odd participants were Diaspora Syrian Kurds and their goal was to prod the Kurds back at home to be show more defiance against Al-Assad's regime.

"We want to provide a clear vision and practical projects to activate the Kurdish role inside Syria and abroad in toppling the regime of Bashar Al-Assad and realize the peaceful transition of power to the people," conference organizer Massoud Akko, a Kurdish human rights activist living in Norway, told The Media Line.

Until now, the estimated 1.7 million-strong ethnic Kurdish minority in Syria has not openly challenged the Syrian regime, which has been struggling to quell anti-government protests for the past six

months. While they are more organized than other opposition groups, they have been reluctant to take action, not just out of fear of Damascus's heavy hand, but out of uncertainty that a new regime would be any better.

"If Syrian Kurds would rise up against Al-Assad's regime Damascus would be much more harsh and brutal and that has been on the minds of every Kurd," Jawad Qadir, executive editor of the Kurdish Globe, told The Media Line.

Based in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region of northern Iraq, which was set up in the wake of the 1991 Gulf War, Qadir explained that Syrian Kurds are waiting to see whether the risk of defying Al-Assad would be worth the gains.

Al-Assad's regime has suppressed Kurdish culture and language, expropriated their land and deprived many of them of full citizenship. But in early April the regime moved to placate the Kurds, who make up some 10% of Syria's population, by offering hundreds of thousands citizenship, a move yet to be implemented.

"Kurds have been tricked and fooled in the past by many leaders in all the areas where they have been living -- Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria," Qadir said. "Even if Assad is removed, the fear is that someone will come to power who is as undemocratic as he was, just like it was in Iraq."

Numbering some 38 million dispersed among four main countries, the Kurds speak their own language and most practice Sunni Islam. When the allies carved up the Middle East into states after the First World War, the Kurds didn't get a state and attempts to form one unilaterally were put down by Turkey, Iraq and Iran.

So far, the Syrian regime has been cautious about antagonizing the Kurdish minority.

"The regime wants to maintain quiet and has a vested interest in the modus

vivendi," Peter Harling, project director for the Middle East Program of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group, told The Media Line.

"The Kurds have been reluctant to be at the forefront of the confrontation against the [Al-Assad] regime. They would like to see this regime fold, but if they take a too proactive stance, it will turn into a confrontation and they will pay a high price," Harling said. "The secret ambition of all Kurds, I think, is to have a Kurdish state of their own. But I'm not sure that is feasible."

While Syrian Kurds remain hesitant about joining the fight against the regime, the onslaught has brought the Kurds in northern Iraq together. Over the weekend, the PKK, the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party fighting Turkey, announced it would join forces with the PJAK, the Iranian Party for Free Life in Kurdistan.

Both groups have been hammered recently by Turkish and Iranian forces. Iran has said it has killed over 30 of the Kurdish rebels along the Iraqi border and Turkey had killed twice that many in air strikes against the rebels. In August Turkey said it killed over 150 PKK rebels.

"From now on we will fight on the side of the fighters of PJAK against the Iranian attacks that are trying to enter the Kurdistan region of [northern] Iraq, especially in the Kandil [Mountains] area," said PKK spokesman Dozdar Hammo.

"There have been clashes that are continuing until now, and we see the goal of Iran is eliminating the Kurdish people, and not the PJAK party, and these are the reasons that led us to make this decision," Hammo was quoted as saying by the Agence France-Presse (AFP).

"Theoretically, you can carve up Syria in to different tribal nations like the Kurds in the northeast who have a lot in common with other Kurds in Turkey

and Iran and obviously in Iraq," said Aluf Benn, editor of the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

"Even if Syria is not carved up, if Al-Assad falls we will see more and more demands for ethnic or tribal autonomies. And why not? I don't see the counter force," he told The Media Line.

While Syrian Kurds may be looking at their Iraqi brethren in Iraqi Kurdistan as a model, the leadership and media in quasi-state of Kurdistan have been careful not to voice support for the revolt against Al-Assad due to the sensitive ties with Damascus.

"The fact that Iraqi Kurdistan doesn't incite people to participate actively doesn't mean that they are satisfied with

Damascus politics," Qadir said.

He added that the Syrian Kurds have yet to push for their own enclave, but should they eventually chose that path, they would be a formidable foe for the Syrian military. They had close links with the PKK and could become heavily armed, which would have regional ramifications.

"Turkey fears that Syrian Kurdish participation would immediately affect the Kurds in Turkey and there would be Kurdish uprisings in two countries," Qadir said. "If the Syrian Kurds ever declared independence, Al-Assad wouldn't be the first to invade, but the Turks because that would spark a revolt by the 17 million Turkish Kurds."

Job Vacancy

International Institution in Sana'a is looking for a competent Security Guard. Details is as follows :

Job Title : Bodyguard

Qualifications :

- Two years of experience as bodyguard or security service
- University diploma
- Fluent speaker in both English and Arabic
- Good personality, with loyalty

Office Hours : 08:30 - 17:30

- When necessary, obliged to staff's instruction anytime.

Payment : Upon personal capability (negotiable)

Interested applicants are required to submit a resume personal introduction letter, and scanned passport photo through the e-mail (yemen@mofat.go.kr) no later than **Sep 15, 2011**

Applications are accepted in English and Arabic.

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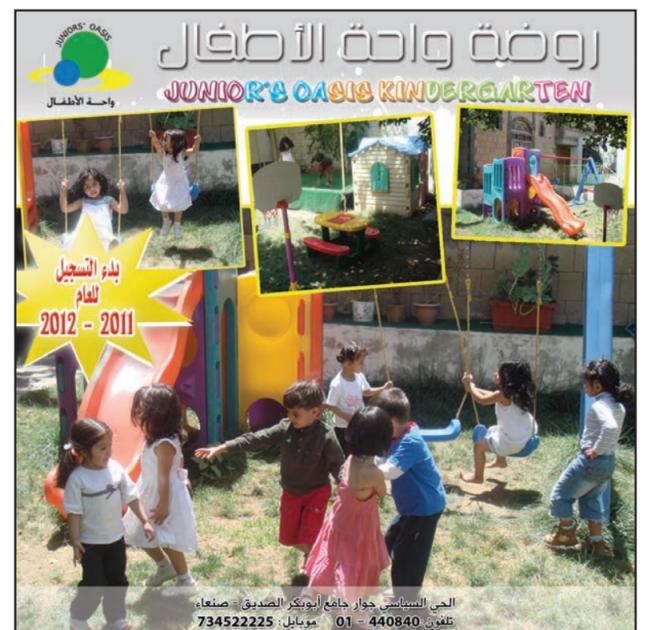
Qualification :

- Bachelor degree in Business Administration
- Minimum 5 years of Management level experience in a manufacturing company.

Job Responsibilities

- Analyze market and delivery systems in order to assess present and future material availability.
- Control purchasing and inter department budgets. Develop and implement purchasing and contract management instructions, policies, and procedures. Direct and coordinate activities of personnel engaged in buying, storing materials, equipment, machinery, and supplies.
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- Resolve vendor or contractor grievances, and claims against suppliers.
- Review purchase order claims and contracts for conformance to company policy.
- Review, evaluate, and approve specifications for issuing and awarding bids.
- Administer on-line purchasing system.
- Arrange for disposal of surplus materials.
- Locate vendors of materials, equipment or supplies, and interview them to order to determine product availability and terms of sales.
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Vacancies Announcement

Internal and External Vacancy Announcement No. 19/2011

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites application from qualified Yemeni nationals for the following position:-

Title: ICT Assistant
Level: GS.6
Type of Contract: Fixed Term
Duty Station: Sana'a
Duration: One Year

Under the supervision of the ICT Officer, the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

1. Assist in administering the office multi-user network and other data and telecommunication facilities including messaging applications. This involves administering user access to the network, data security of the network, and troubleshooting ad-hoc hardware or software problems experienced on the network. Provide complete documentation of configurations and settings for major LAN components (severs, workstations, switches), and access rights to applications. Reviewing installed network throughput on a continuous basis and recommending enhancement proposals including hardware, cabling standards and software upgrade taking full advantage of current technology. Maintain and document regular backup for all network applications, ensuring that in the event of disaster, disruption would be minimal.
2. Assist with the introduction and technical operation of organisational computer applications. This involves overall understanding of the functioning of the system and the interaction of data between sections within the office and with HQ divisions. Assist to install new versions of systems (ProMS, UNICEF USP, Lotus Notes etc), and troubleshoot ad-hoc user problems in its functioning. Keep a software inventory, ensuring copyright compliance for all installed software. Harmonise software versions to eliminate unnecessary conversions.
3. Assure the Developing and implementing local office computer applications (e.g. TA Db, BB, Resource Db, access control applications). This involves analysis, design, programming, testing and documentation processes.
4. Assure the Developing and implementing local office computer applications (e.g. Citrix, Cognos-BI reports and access applications). This involves analysis, design, programming, testing and documentation processes. Interface existing systems with locally developed systems where such requirements are established.
5. Assure the introduction of specific computer hardware and software. This involves assisting in interpretation of NYHQ guidelines for local office relevance and preparation of PO with vendor interaction on specifications. Installation of new hardware is scheduled with users. Advise users on appropriate use of software packages.
6. Assist in Administering and maintaining of computer equipment. This involves interaction with vendors to prepare and administer equipment maintenance agreements and to co-ordinate the arrangements within the office for reporting problems and placing service calls for repairs as necessary.

Minimum Qualifications and Job requirements:
Education: Completion of a secondary education. A university degree/diploma in in Computer Science, Information Systems and Telecommunications supplemented by Windows (NT/Win2003/XP/2000/98), and Cisco training an asset.

Work Experience:
 Minimum six years progressively responsible experience in Computer Information Management work, including data processing applications, use and evaluation of programme packages, database management, multi-user network and telecommunications, network analysis and design, hardware/software installation and management, user assistance, end-user documentation and local office computer applications programming, in support of office computerization

Language: Fluency in written and oral English and Arabic.

Internal and External Vacancy Announcement No. 22/2011

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites application from qualified Yemeni nationals for the following position:-

Title: Administrative Officer
Level: NOB
Type of Contract: Fixed Term
Duty Station: Sana'a
Duration: One Year

Under the supervision of Chief of Operations, the incumbent will assist in the management of all administrative services in a large office and shall perform the following main responsibilities:

1. Contributes to strategic planning and monitoring of administrative matters at country/sub-country level as necessary. Provides practical input on implementation of administrative guidelines, in close coordination with the head of office, operation staff/ supervisor.
2. Supports supervisor and the head of the office, and updates staff on administrative policies, procedures rules and regulation. Implements the appropriate application and interpretation of administrative rules, regulations, policies and procedures. Briefs and assists arriving and departing staff on basic administrative procedures and requirements.

3. Makes specific recommendations on the improvement of systems and internal controls, planning, restructuring and resolution of sensitive issues, taking into account the prevailing conditions in the locality.
4. Keeps supervisor abreast of potential problem areas, and identifies and recommends solutions. Prepares reports on administrative matters as required.
5. Provides administrative support and services to sub-country (zone) offices and out-postings, where applicable, including preparation and funding of service contracts, preparations of requisitions for all administrative supplies and guidance on administrative procedures.
6. Undertakes missions to field locations to review administrative arrangements and makes appropriate recommendations where applicable.
7. Recommends and prepares estimates on office premises, supplies and equipment requirements for budget preparation purposes. Assists zone offices in the establishment and maintenance of administrative services. Prepares, monitors and controls the administrative budget.
8. Ensures the timely and cost-effective provision of basic office services including space management, equipment, communications and security to enhance staff safety and productivity.
9. Supports the Inter-Agency Operations Management Team's approaches for enhancing UN common services to attain efficiencies and effectiveness.
10. Supports property management of administrative supplies, office equipment and vehicles, updating inventory of items, serving as ex-officio member to the Property Survey Board where applicable. Assists supervisor in Property Survey Board submissions, preparing minutes of meetings. Assists supervisor in executing PSB recommendations approved by the Head of Office.
11. Monitors and supervises adequate and appropriate use of supplies. Ensures that services and maintenance of premises are in accordance with organizational standards.
12. Ensures that all administrative transactions and arrangements of contracts are in compliance with the applicable policies, procedures, rules and regulations.
13. Participates in the reviews of the contractual arrangements related to administrative support (i.e. courier, premises maintenance, ancillary administrative support, vehicle maintenance, equipment maintenance etc.) to ensure that the terms and conditions of all contracts are being adhered to by providers of services. Proposes to supervisor any changes that may be required. Monitors payments against contractual
14. Collaborates on the development of training activities to ensure effective performance in administrative services management. Implements effective staff learning and development programme activities for capacity building. Helps organize workshops for staff's competency building, and staff learning and development.
15. As required, under direction of the supervisor, collaborates with other agencies, local authorities and implementing partners on administrative matters including information exchange and harmonization

Minimum Qualifications and Job requirements:
Education: University degree in social science, Business management, administration, finance or any relevant field of discipline.

Work Experience:
 Two years relevant professional work experience with both national and international work experience in office management and administration.

Language: Fluency in English and Arabic (Both written and Verbal) required.

Internal and External Vacancy Announcement No. 24/2011

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites application from qualified Yemeni nationals for the following position:-

Title: Social Policy Specialist
Level: NOC
Type of Contract: Fixed Term
Duty Station: Sana'a
Duration: One Year

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Chief of Social Policy & Planning Monitoring & Evaluation, the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

1. Monitor social and fiscal policies of the government on an ongoing basis by maintaining regular contacts with concerned ministries, departments and academic institutions, national banks and central statistics organization.
2. Update the CMT on donor policies, especially that of locally represented ones, on Yemen and financing of social sector development projects with a view to maintaining regular dialogue on social sector development and emergency assistance by maintaining close cooperation with bilateral and multilateral organizations.
3. Regularly represent UNICEF in relevant forums such as DPPR planning and implementation working groups, MDG related discussions and Millennium Project with a view to benefit from and contributing to such initiatives.
4. Provide technical support to all programme/project officers by providing relevant data and analysis of social sector investments related to children especially in education, health, nutrition, water & sanitation to help in prioritization of budget allocation.
5. Provide technical support to all sectoral programme/project officers and counterparts including implementing NGO partners in strengthening monitoring of key social

- and financial indicators through available techniques such as budget allocation and expenditure data.
6. In collaboration with Monitoring & Evaluation Officer and sectoral programme staff, government counterparts and NGOs design and manage action research and evaluation activities in social sector financing, to provide scientific information required for decision making for social sector investment.
7. Provide technical support to the management in preparation of necessary documentation and reports on related issues as and when required such as periodic programme review, annual review and mid term review.
8. Coordinate with M&E section in updating of Common Country Assessment and United Nations Development Framework for country programme preparation taking into account realities of national social and fiscal policies and their implementation.

Minimum Qualifications and Job requirements:
Education: Advanced University degree in Social Sciences or related technical field

Work Experience:
 At least five years of progressive professional responsibility in social sector programming and fiscal works and experience in administration, monitoring and evaluation

Language: Fluency in Arabic and English

Internal and External Vacancy Announcement No. 27/2011

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites application from qualified Yemeni nationals for the following position:-

Title: Education Officer
Level: NOB
Type of Contract: Fixed Term
Duty Station: Sana'a
Duration: One Year

Under the supervision of the Chief of Education the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

1. Contributes to the design, implements, monitor and evaluates the education program. Analyses and evaluates data to ensure achievement of objectives and/or takes corrective action when necessary to meet programme objectives with emphasis on equity. In close consultation and technical support of WASH team in Sana'a, review and amend technical terms and bills of quantities regarding activities related to WASH and school environment; contributes to the development and/or introduction of new approaches, methods and practices in project management and evaluation.
2. Plan and supervise implementation of research, assessments on specific areas related to the program produce evidence based reports and advocacy materials necessary to influence policies and attitudes. Prepare technical project proposals for training activities; construction/rehabilitation works etc. in schools, through visits to project sites and intensive coordination with counterparts.
3. Participates in intersectoral collaboration with other programme colleagues. Assists in development of appropriate communication and information strategy to support and/or advocate programme development.
4. Undertake visits to programme sites as well as conducts periodic programme reviews with government counterparts and other partners to assess and analyse local conditions and resources from a technical perspective aiming at the definition of suitable programme interventions. Compile data and information resulting from field surveys. Contributes towards the preparation of the Situation Analysis and writing of the Analysis. Actively participate and contribute to the development of country program and the Annual Work Plans.
5. Regularly meet with national and international agencies implementing programmes in education, water and sanitation and related field to ensure coordination of activities and maximize the impact of our inputs to the program. Participates in meetings with responsible authorities for programme review, and follows up on implementation of recommendations and agreements. Provides technical advice and assistance to government officials, NGOs and other partners in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programme/project(s).
6. Assists government authorities in planning and organizing training programmes for teachers, school principals and supervisors, community education committees, etc. Identifies training needs and objectives of various categories for the purpose of capacity building, programme sustainability, as well as promotion and advocacy.
7. Ensure proper interfacing between government counterparts and UNICEF through proper coordination and consequent two-directional flow of information between both entities. Provide guidance to UNICEF officers in a manner that clarifies the situation on the ground based on field information and to government counterparts to ensure that their requests correspond to UNICEF nature of assistance.
8. Meets with national and international agencies implementing programmes in education and related field to ensure coordination of activities and maximize the impact of our inputs to the program. Participates in meetings with entities responsible for programmer review, and follows up on implementation of recommendations and agreements.
9. Assists government authorities in planning and organizing training programmes. Identifies training needs and

- objectives for the purpose of capacity building, programme sustainability, as well as promotion and advocacy.
10. Coordinates with the Operations/Supply staff on supply and non-supply assistance activities ensuring proper and timely UNICEF and government accountability. Certifies disbursements of funds, monitors and submits financial status reports to the Deputy Representative or Representative, as required.

Minimum Qualifications and Job requirements:
 University degree in one of the disciplines relevant to the following areas: Education; Primary Education, Economics, Social Sciences, or a field(s) relevant to international development assistance.

Experience :
 Two years of professional work experience at national and international levels relevant to Education programmes. Experience working in the UN or other international development organization an asset. Background in Emergency programme an asset.

Language: Fluency in English and Arabic (both written and verbal) is required

Internal and External Vacancy Announcement No. 28/2011

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites application from qualified Yemeni nationals for the following position:-

Title: Child Protection Officer
Level: NOB
Type of Contract: Fixed Term
Duty Station: Sana'a
Duration: One Year

Under the supervision of a Chief, Child Protection, the incumbent will contribute towards the planning, administration, implementation, monitoring and the evaluation of child protection programme/project activities of the evidence and knowledge based management pillar, including teamwork and capacity building

1. Collects and analyzes data for the Situation Analysis, programme/project planning, management, monitoring and evaluation purposes related to enhancing evidence and knowledge management on child protection in Yemen. Analyzes programme implementation reports and evaluates against established programme recommendations and plans of action. Prepares tables, graphs and other statistical data. Reports outcome of analysis and proposes corrective actions.
2. Undertakes ongoing visits to UNICEF project sites related to enhancing evidence and knowledge management on child protection in Yemen, assesses local conditions and resources, and monitors UNICEF inputs. Communicates with local counterpart authorities on project feasibility and effectiveness including monitoring the flow of supply and non-supply assistance.
3. Undertakes follow-up action on programme implementation activities related to enhancing evidence and knowledge management on child protection in Yemen and ensure linkages with other pillars... Contributes to teamwork building, and prepares relevant reports. Drafts changes in programme work plans as required.
4. Selects and compiles training and orientation materials for those involved in enhancing evidence and knowledge management on child protection programme implementation, including donor and media visits. Attends technical cooperation meetings, prepares notes and undertakes follow-up action and coordination related to enhancing evidence on child protection programme implementation and monitoring.
5. Assists in identification and selection of technical supplies and equipment related to programme on enhancing evidence and knowledge management on child protection in Yemen.
6. Assists in the preparation of the country programme recommendation related to enhancing evidence and knowledge management on child protection in Yemen by drafting CPSS, PSS and other relevant documentation ensuring accuracy and consistency with established rules and regulations. Maintains the computerized programme system database and submits relevant reports.
7. Assist and participate in the planning and response to ensure the protection of children in any emergency situation if arisen during the assignment period within the framework of UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies
8. Evaluates and analyzes financial and supply reports related to enhancing evidence on child protection programme to ensure appropriateness of documentation, expenditures are within allotments, data is consistent with PIDB. Reports to the Supervisor and/or Head of Office the outcome of reviews.
9. Drafts relevant sections of reports related to enhancing evidence and knowledge management on child protection in Yemen (required for donors, management, annual reports, etc.)

Minimum Qualifications and Job requirements:
Education: University degree in Social Sciences, law, child development or related technical field.

Work Experience :
 Two years progressively responsible professional experience in the field of child protection. Background/familiarity with Emergency an asset.

Language: Fluency in English and Arabic/local working language of the duty station.

Competencies required (for all posts above):

Core Values (Required)
 Commitment
 Diversity and Inclusion
 Integrity

ii) Core Competencies (Required)
 Communication [I]
 Working with People [II]
 Drive for Results [III]

Functional Competencies (Required)
 Formulating Strategies and Concepts [II]
 Analyzing [II]
 Analyzing [I]
 Applying Technical Expertise [I]
 Learning and Researching [II]
 Planning and Organizing [II]

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 19 September, 2011.

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Al-Hasaba child friendly spaces concludes with a bang

By: Amira Al-Arasi
Translated by Shihab Al-Ezzi

For around two weeks the residents of Al-Hasaba area were distraught as they went through a violent phase of armed conflict between the state security and tribal men. Bullets were everywhere and the conflict claimed the lives of hundreds from both sides. The most affected though were the children whose childhood was scared and whose education for the high school students was disrupted. At the end of the summer camp which ended in the last week of August the participants received encouragement awards and the volunteers were awarded certificates.

"I couldn't get out and play with my friend because of the cannon sound," said Osama Hussein a seven year old boy from Al-Hasaba. He was among the 200 children and more who benefitted from the two week summer camp implemented by Yemen 21 Forum and Yemeni Youth for Humanitarian Relief.

The activities were funded by UNICEF as a part of its emergency projects. Ghada Al-Wadee UNICEF Emergency Education Consultant attended the closing ceremony, "I am convinced with the success of this project which is reflected in the happy faces of the children. I am also impressed with the youth working on this project and the organization," she said.

She mentioned that UNICEF supports communities to recover from conflict in Aden, Abyan, Sana'a and Saada. The focus of this project was to empower children through pro-



viding child friendly spaces to learn recreational, psychological and social support, educational, sports and remnants of war and landmines activities, the materials for which were contributed by Save the Children organization in Yemen. The Yemeni Youth for Humanitarian Relief has members from Al-Hasaba area who realized that the children in their community need help.

"We did a field survey and selected Al-Ertiga school for the location of the summer camp because it's far away from the conflict area and yet in the center of the community which is accessible to all," said Khaled Al-

Babili team leader of the volunteering youth.

The volunteers received training for three days on how to deal with children and about literacy and recreation activities at Yemen 21 Forum before they embarked on the children's activities.

"I feel we the whole event was a success because of the reaction of the students and their families," said Esam Al-Rawhani one of the volunteers.

The curriculum was finalized through coordination with Yemen 21 Forum and UNICEF and in a way that benefitted the children as well as was accepted by the community. The volunteers were selected from YYHR and the locals in the area as well as five female teachers from the school itself.

"I work in an oil company but because of the situation we were given leave. When I heard about the camp I immediately wanted to join," said Mohammed Al-Rada'ei who is a volunteer from the area.

The children's excitement

"I heard from one of my friends that there is camp so I rushed to register. I wanted to have fun and learn. The camp was different from anything I had ever experienced because it was different as we learned by playing and community work. The war deprived us from playing with our friends this

camp brought us together in a safe environment," said one of the female students Riham Ahmed who is 14 years old.

There were seven classrooms that divided the children into two age groups from 10 to 15 and from 6 to 9 years old. There were three classrooms for girls and four for boys. The camp was announced through word of mouth, leaflets distributed in the area and through the community leaders.

"I registered in this summer camp although it was the first time it was in Ramadan. We thought it would be difficult but it was fun," said Marwan Al-Absi a 13 year old boy from the area. "It was chance to learn the basics of drawing, handwriting and other stuff. We even learned how to become entrepreneurs and take initiatives in our lives and how to respect others."

There were sessions for the parents to educate them and include them in their children's activities in the camp.

"We felt so happy when this camp started our children suffered from the conflict and now they get to learn and play in a safe environment," said Mother of Naser Ismail who is a 13 year old boy. "My son was nervous and used to hit his younger siblings before. Now he is much happier. It is amazing how much change could be done in two weeks. Now he comes and kisses my head and is easy to deal with."



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HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



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

What your hands say about your health

Hands are one of the most important parts of our body when it comes to day-to-day activities; without them we couldn't cut vegetables, grip pliers, or text our friends. They're revealing, too.

Your hands could say more about you. Looking down at your palms and the five digits attached to them, you could discover early signs of dangerous diseases you didn't yet know you had. It used to be common for doctors to look at the hands for important clues to overall health. Hands can tell you a great deal about circulation, hormones, and thyroid function."

Here are some important clues your hands can reveal about your overall health.



1. Blotchy red palms: If your palms remain reddened over a long period of time, this may be a condition called *palmar erythema*, which is a sign of liver disease, particularly of cirrhosis and nonalcoholic fatty liver. (One exception: If you're pregnant, red palms are normal, because increased blood flow causes redness in more than half of expecting women.)

Why? Inflammation of the liver gradually begins to impair its function, so it's no longer able to flush waste products out of the body as efficiently. The result is an excess of circulating hormones, which in turn cause the blood vessels in the hands and feet to dilate, making them visible through the skin.

What to do: Get evaluated for other symptoms of liver disease, which include swollen legs and abdomen, prominent veins on the upper torso and abdomen, and fatigue. The most common tests for liver function are a bilirubin count and a liver enzyme count.

2. Finger length: Comparative finger length can tell you a surprising amount about your likelihood of having certain conditions. Typically, men's ring fingers tend to be longer than their index fingers, while in women it's the opposite. Women who have a "masculinized" pattern, with ring fingers longer than their index fingers, are twice as likely to suffer from osteoarthritis, according to a 2008 study published in *Arthritis and Rheumatism*. The study found osteoarthritis of the knees to be more common in both men and women with longer ring fingers, but the effect was most pronounced in women. Longer index fingers, on the other hand, are associated with a higher risk of breast cancer in women and with a lower risk of prostate cancer in men. A 2010 study found that men whose index fingers were noticeably longer than their ring fingers were 33 percent less likely to develop prostate cancer.

Why? Scientists believe finger length is affected by exposure to varying amounts of the hormones testosterone and estrogen in the womb. Longer ring fingers indicate greater prenatal exposure to testosterone, while longer index fingers suggest higher estrogen exposure. Since breast cancer is estrogen-fueled, longer index fingers correlate with higher breast cancer. In men, more testosterone is linked to a higher incidence of prostate cancer, since one fuels the other. As for the osteoarthritis connection, scientists don't have a clear explanation yet but think it may have something to do with the way hormones affect early bone growth.

What to do: Women who have longer ring fingers may want to be on the alert for weak or sore joints, particularly knees, and get injuries or soreness evaluated. Men who may be at higher risk for prostate cancer should be proactive about PSA testing and talk to their doctors about additional testing as well. All women should have regular mammograms for breast cancer screening.

Some researchers believe that finger length should be used as a criterion for more comprehensive cancer screening, but this is controversial.

3. Swollen fingers: If your fingers feel thick and stiff or your rings still won't fit after several days of drinking plenty of fluids and cutting back on salt, the swelling could suggest hypothyroidism.

Why? When the thyroid is underactive, it produces less of the important hormones that regulate your metabolism and keep your body functioning properly. And when metabolism slows, the result is typically weight gain and water accumulation.

What to do: Ask your doctor for a routine thyroid check, which is a blood test that measures the level of thyroid-stimulating hormone, or TSH. Make sure your doctor is aware of new screening guidelines, which state that TSH level should be between 0.3 and 3.0.

4. Pale nails

Under normal circumstances, if you press gently on your fingernails they turn white, and then when you release the pressure they turn pink again. If your nails stay white more than a minute after you press on them or look pale all the time, this can be a sign of anemia.

Why? Anemia, or iron deficiency, causes pale nails when there aren't enough red blood cells circulating in the bloodstream. If uncorrected over time, severe iron deficiency can also cause the nails to have a slightly concave shape.

What to do: Increase your dietary intake of iron-rich foods, like such as red meat, spinach and other dark greens, and nuts, and an iron supplement too. And remember to take vitamin C at the same time, as it helps iron absorption.

5. Tiny red stripes under the nails: Called splinter hemorrhages because they look like tiny red or brownish splinters under the nails, these are minute areas of bleeding that can signal infection in the heart or blood.

Why? Splinter hemorrhages happen when tiny blood clots block blood flow in the capillaries beneath the nails. They most often occur with an infection of the heart valves called subacute bacterial endocarditis.

What to do: Consult a doctor and if your heart's been given a clean bill of health, you can wait to see if the red spots clear up on their own.

6. Thick, rounded fingertips: Known as "clubbing," thickened fingertips that angle out above the last knuckle like miniature clubs can be a sign of heart or lung disease.

Why? If the circulatory systems of the heart or lungs are impaired, oxygen levels in the blood are likely to drop. Over time, this causes the soft tissues of the fingertip pads to grow, so fingertips (and the ends of toes) appear to bulge outward.

What to do: See your doctor for a full heart and lung evaluation.

7. Blue fingertips: Fingertips that are blue-tinged or feel numb can be a sign of a circulatory disorder known as Raynaud's disease.

Why? Raynaud's syndrome causes sudden temporary spasms in the blood vessels and arteries. Symptoms include cold hands and numb fingertips, in addition to a bluish tinge.

What to do: Sudden changes in temperature, such as taking ice cubes out of the freezer, can bring on a Raynaud's attack. Wear gloves when you go outside in cold weather.

Quit smoking and cut down on coffee, tea, and cola. Boost your aerobic exercise to raise your heart rate and get your blood pumping.

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Rwadhwan Masuod

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

Rwadhwan Masuod is the head of the students union of Sana'a University. He is in his early thirties and the head of Islah Party's student sector. He is one of the first people that began marching in solidarity with Tunisia and has always been a leader for protests and marches, even before revolutions began sweeping the Arab world earlier this year. In the past, he led university students in solidarity marches with Gaza and protests against the American occupation of Iraq. As a student, he also led university protests against the presence of political security officers that were stationed inside Sana'a University. In one of those protests, a guard shot and killed a student.

As a well-known activist, Rwadhwan has received several death threats and demands to stop his work in Yemen's revolutions.

Radhwan not only opposes the regime but also experienced a period of disagreement between him and the human rights activists Tawakkol Karaman who shined after the revolution and was the



first activist to support the youth protesting against the regime. The disagreement between both activists makes headlines as they both are members of the Islah Party.

The fact that he has always demonstrated for human rights and better education kept him in the same position when the anti-government protests took place in front of Sana'a University last February.

Although Radhwan is known for being an extremist Islah mem-

ber, he always encourages female students to participate in his demonstrations. He also looks after those women working with him the square.

"For some time I was scared that I was being followed leaving Change Square and going to my home. At that time there were rumors that the National security had certain names to be kidnapped, mostly journalists and activists from the square," said Amira Ali, an activist who worked with Redh-

wan. "Redhwan then offered to find me a ride home to make sure of my safety although he didn't have to."

According to him, the threats he received were by phone calls, Facebook messages and personally by chasing him to his house on motorcycles, forcing him to employ three bodyguards since then.

One of the difficulties Radhwan faced for participating in the revolution was the suspension of his salary last March.

It's worth mentioning that Radhwan was assigned by the Islah party to follow up on the detainees of the revolution, also to follow up the treatment of the revolution wounded in different hospitals.

Radhwan has always been aware of the role the media plays and has been invited to Al-Jazeera's show "The Arab Spring Speaking Channel".

Radhwan has always been a face of the Yemeni revolution and has appeared on Al-Jazeera as an activist and revolutionary. He played a large role in starting coalitions and planning escalations, cooperating with other groups in Change Square. Redhwan is more like a generator in the square working on making daily reports, collecting all published news on the revolution and republishes it on facebook groups.

Radhwan has a good connection

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with the Al-Ahmer family, head of the Hashid tribal confederation, the tribes that fought the state in Al-Hasaba neighborhood in May, although Radhwan is a believer in peaceful means to topple the regime, he agreed on using one using weapons if necessity to defend himself when needed, justifying turning the peaceful revolution to an armed one.

Radhwan is one of those hidden leaders who makes decisions behind the scenes in Change Square, for example he is one of those who plans the names of each Friday.

Although he is a member of the Islah party, Redhwan did not wait until the party orders their mem-

bers to join the revolution; he was there from the beginning.

Radhwan was a reason behind many Islahi youth joining the revolution, he has strong power on some of the university students as he has been always their when they needed his help as the head of the students union, he is also represented the student in the Preparation Committee of the National Dialogue.

Still some describe Radhwan as a person with no tolerance with his opponents, as problem appeared in the square between the Islahis and the independent youth, Radhwan stood against the youth, supporting his party's power of Change Square.

Enjoying Eid at the Kamaran Dam

One of the most visited tourist sites in Sana'a, especially during Eid, is the area of Kamaran Dam in Bait Bos about seven kilometers south west of the Sana'a's city center.

Photos and text by:
 Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Following the monsoon season in the summer, Kamaran Dam is rich with water and fish for those interested in fishing. The green landscape around the area becomes an attractive site for picnics especially since it provides qat chewers a favorite location to sit and chew while enjoying the view.

Some children have no problem jumping into the water for a quick swim while others try to catch some fish either to sell to others or take home. The majority of visitors to the dam bring snacks with them and enjoy a barbecue lunch or light snacks with tea.

The area is not polluted yet, although there are some signs of plastic bags and other garbage here and there left by careless visitors.

Kamarn Dam is located near another amazing tourist attraction in Bait Bos known as the Jewish Village. This is a historical place where Yemeni Jews lived in a village on the mountain top over three hundred years ago. Today the village is deserted except for a few poor Yemeni families who restored some of the houses and are living there today.



Kamaran Dam around seven kilometers south west of Sana'a.



Some people enjoy talking and watching the view...



...while others enjoy their qat chew in the pockets of the surrounding mountain.



Some kids are eager enough to experience a good swim...



...while others are content to try catching some fish.



"Look at the fish I caught!"