

Sana'a University students fight for their right to education

Many Sana'a University students are determined to start their new academic term on Saturday despite threats by the protestors to block their entrance to the university which has to be through the revolution's Change Square in Sana'a.

By: Marwa Najmaldeen

SANA'A, Sept. 14 – A debate that started on the ground in the revolution's Change Square in Sana'a has made its way on facebook pages and other forms of social media. Most of the students want to resume their education by starting an additional academic term on Saturday September 17 to make up for the semester that was cancelled when Yemenis first took to the streets last February. However, political parties in the square and many of the teachers are working against the resumption of university studies.

Some of the Facebook pages angry commentators have been going back and forth on whether education should or should not start on time. The Yemeni Ministry of Education has announced Saturday as the start of the additional term through media and text messages.

Yet the overly politicized Yemeni University Students' Union issued a press statement calling for students not to attend classes in order to continue putting pressure on the regime.

"Those who demand that students return to classes are only the remnants of the falling regime and they are the same people who killed the students who demanded change," said head of the students' union Ridwan Al-Masoodi.

As it is, according to Al-Masoodi,

the educational environment is not supportive and there is no way the students will really benefit from their education especially since the university is in the middle of a revolution and likely to become a battle ground.

"If the students go to classes then Change Square will become empty as the majority of protestors are students. This may end the revolution," said an anxious Ahmed Ali, a student at the commerce college and an activist in Change Square.

"We paid a huge price for creating the protest grounds and anyone who will threaten our protests will pay dearly," he added

Manar Mohammed, an arts college student, is determined to go to class even if put herself at risk.

"I will go and I know that there are some students that will also be with me. Hopefully we will be able to make it to the lecture halls," she said.

"We have heard some of the protesting youth in the square warning anyone from trying to break through the protest as counterrevolutionary. I am worried but I will still go because if everyone is afraid and does not go we will never be able to continue our education."

Professors' vrs. students' demands

Simultaneously, Sana'a and Amran Universities teachers' syndicates is-

sued press releases demanding its members to boycott the academic term. However, their reasons behind this are different as professor Nadia Al-Kawkabani of the engineering faculty explained.

"The teachers want the university's management to improve their situation in terms of salaries and benefits. They understand that they can apply pressure since the university is affiliated with the government which wants to end the protests," she said. "But this is unethical because we are jeopardizing the education of those students for our own personal gains."

This is why she along with a few of the other teachers are going to start teaching on Saturday despite potential risks from the protesting students or other members of the teachers' syndicate.

"I know for sure that regular university classes will not affect the revolution which I support," added Al-Kawkabani. "However, seven months have passed and we may have to wait much longer without much progress. We have to put pressure on the real defining points for the revolution, not play with our students' education."

She argued that Yemenis have to be practical in the name of the revolution and build the country instead of destroying it.

Some of the students are saying that sacrificing one academic year is

worth it for the sake of the revolution.

"Victory is close. We must not lose heart now that we have done so much and our success in toppling the regime will not be achieved unless we, the youth, are one united front," said Ezat Muqbil one of the protesting students. "There are those who sacrificed their lives, so what if we lose one year?"

However, this attitude has enraged many other students who are worried that as the revolution approaches its ninth month there is really no progress and this is happening to their detriment.

Randa Al-Harazi, a first year student at the arts college, is hoping to start her education in January 2012 as scheduled. "We can start only if the students who lost a term are able to finish theirs before us." She is worried that if they don't start on time this will have negative consequences on her class as a whole.

"Education is more important than the revolution. Because I have lost faith in the revolution and believe that the square has lost its credibility and is only a place for wasting time," she added.

Similarly, Amjad Ali, an engineering college student, agrees, adding, "Politics is one thing and education is a totally different thing. Why not allow the students to have their education while still continuing the protests. We can work them together after all the revolution should not encourage ignorance and illiteracy."

He was also angry that other private universities have already started teaching and this means only students of Sana'a University are the ones who will be deprived because



The gates of Sana'a University. Will they be open for students on Saturday?

of the location of the university next to the Change Square.

Moreover, there is a concern that the university does not have any security on campus and this means that the students could be subjected to danger and there is no one there to protect them.

"The university campus is not our territory we are only responsible for the revolution square," said Mohammed Al-Haimi, a soldier with the First Armored Brigade responsible for protecting Change Square.

"If the students want to get into their colleges we will allow them peacefully as long as they don't carry any weapons," he added.

Professor Ahmed Qatran of the education college is an active member of the university teachers' syndicate and has a different approach to the teachers' strike saying that it is an administrative issue and has nothing to do with politics.

"We must not mix the revolution and the students' protests with our strike. Ours is like the one we did in

May last year which demands improving teacher's livelihood which should have happened a year ago," said Qatran. "When our demands are met we will go back to teaching whether the revolution is there or not."

In all cases the students' excitement to return to college is high and there is a great determination that Saturday will be the start of the new semester.

Nada Abdulrahman of the arts college hopes that the protesting students will understand and allow them to go back to school.

"If they demand that we stop our education until the revolution is successful then we will demand that mosques are closed until the revolution is successful because both are equally important in our religion."

She says that they are not betraying the revolution or the martyrs who gave their lives for it. They believe in change and understand that by continuing their education they are contributing to change.

UN releases report on Yemen human rights violations

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Sept. 14 – With the increase of water prices and the shortage of power and cooking gas, a recent report by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) mentioned that the deteriorating situation in Yemen is affecting its population, especially children, IDPs and refugees.

The report was made by a delegation that visited Yemen from June 28th to July 6th to assess the human right situation in Yemen. It met with consultants and representatives from the Government and civil society in Sana'a, Aden and Taiz governorates.

According to the report, at least 63 children were reported killed in violence surrounding protests in Yemen before July 6th. Other chil-

dren at the age of 15 were involved in the violence as they were seen in uniforms patrolling in the streets serving with both the government and the defected 1st Armored Brigade.

The delegation also met with children orphaned after their parents were killed in protest violence "Some of whom witnessed firsthand scenes of extreme violence. Moreover, as education also began to suffer, children cannot go to schools as their schools are fields of war or places lived by IDPs," said the report.

The report, which was released Tuesday, said Yemen now suffers from violations of human rights such as the isolated acts of sabotage and violence against unarmed protesters leaving hundreds killed and thousands injured.

Violence against protesters was used to suppress demonstrations and marches. In two different incidents in Sana'a and Taiz more than one hundred were killed.

One of the incidents mentioned in the report was the death Dr. Gyab Ali Al-Saadi, the son of a leading member of the Southern movement. He was reportedly targeted and shot in the chest in Aden on 24 June as he was attempting to persuade soldiers not to fire on participants in the funeral of Mr. Ahmed Al-Darwish.

The sites visited by the delegation included locations of demonstrations, places where violence had occurred, hospitals and places of detention. In addition, the mission reviewed a large number of human rights documentation, including over 6,000 pages of documents, 160 compact discs, 6,000 photographs,

and 1,800 videos.

Outside of the excessive force used against unarmed protesters by security forces, violence against protesters involved, "A different combinations of pro-and anti-government protesters, armed tribesmen and armed Islamists," according to the report.

Other human rights violations included arbitrary arrests, detention, torture and other forms of ill-treatment for detainees. The sources for these violations were the relatives' victims.

Schools closed

The deteriorating situation in Yemen could affect education as well. Schools and Universities were closed, especially in the areas near-by conflicts such as Sana'a University, Arhab University and other

schools in Aden, Taiz and Abyan. Many schools in Aden are now occupied IDP's from Abyan who fled their homes after fighting between the Yemeni military and jihadists.

Some of the students were said to have abandoned their schools as they took part in demonstrations for and against the regime.

Women attacked

According to the report, women took part in demonstrations for and against the regime. It mentioned that "women activists and journalists were harassed, threatened, and arrested".

In addition, some women were subjected to verbal harassment and beatings in public places/sitings for their participation in either pro or anti-government protests. Their male relatives received phone

calls asking them to "control" their daughters or sisters. In a conservative country like Yemen, women's reputation is important for the family.

On 14 April, President Ali Abdullah Saleh spoke out against the mixing of unrelated men and women in protest squares, a statement that caused thousands of women to go out in demonstrations calling on him to retract his statement.

Some families prevented their women to participate in demonstrations as their "reputation" was defamed, said Amira Saleh, an activist in the Freedom Square.

Marginalized people are suffering

African migrants, called Al-Akhdan or servants in Yemen, were also affected by the current situation.

According to information received by the delegations, members of this community in Taiz were threatened with destruction of their homes and businesses if they did not participate in demonstrations.

Two boys from this community, a 17 year old and a 14 year old, were reportedly attacked and severely beaten, allegedly because their families supported the government. Two men and another boy from the community were allegedly abducted and beaten with electric cables.



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JMP rejects VP as Saleh's proxy in Yemen

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Sept. 14 — Yemen's opposition coalition, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) have rejected Ali Abdullah Saleh's announcement authorizing Vice President Abd Rabo Mansur Hadi to negotiate for a power transfer and the implementation of the Gulf initiative on his behalf.

The JMP dubbed the step as an evasion of the initiative that demands Saleh sign in his official capacity rather than his capacity as head of the General People's Congress. In the meantime, the ruling party described Saleh's action as a "significant step" on the way to resolving Yemen's political deadlock.

Mohammed Qahtan, JMP spokesman, said that the authorization of the vice president to function as Saleh's proxy in Yemen in order to negotiate the terms of the Gulf initiative was a form of trickery against the "spirit" and that Saleh should have transferred power to his deputy already as per the terms of the agreement.

Ahmed Ghanim, a leading figure at the ruling party, the General

people's Congress, said that Saleh's decision was a major political step forward to resolve the crisis that is threatening Yemen's stability.

He indicated that authorization means that, "The president would remain the legitimate head of the country until early presidential elections are held on a date to be agreed by the GPC and the JMP at a time deemed suitable by both."

The executive body of the National Council of the forces of peaceful revolution headed by Mr. Mohammed Salem Basendwah said that the presidential decree authorizing Hadi to talk to the parties that have signed the GCC Initiative on the situation in Yemen was an "internal matter".

The body added in its Tuesday meeting that the resolution was based on a political decision by the GPC which "indicates that it was meant to deal with an internal situation inside the GPC and the authority after their failure to handle positively their commitment towards the initiative and regional and international efforts to deal with the situation in Yemen".

The body affirmed that it consid-

ered the effort made by regional and international parties meritorious and "puts Yemen on the right course and spares it choices opted by the remnants of the regime that has landed Yemen in this situation, which had led the majority of Yemenis to revolt against it and that is not accepted any more as a disastrous option that would put Yemen on the course of war and disintegration".

The body added that the mechanism sponsored by the international envoy Jamal Omar contained six points in two stages. The first stage starts with the president issuing a decree calling for early presidential election by the end of 2011 and transferring power to his deputy. It also includes the restructuring of the armed forces, the formation of a new national government, and holding presidential elections.

Last Sunday the executive body of the National Council announced the formation of seven ad hoc committees in addition to teams of national experts inside Yemen and outside to help the committees in assuming their work competently.

The same body also announced

the setup of a leadership of 35 persons comprising secretary-generals, southern movement representatives and outstanding NGOs. Five of the leaders of members of the independent youth movement.

In its constituent meeting, the National Council renewed its call to the international community to refrain from dealing with the remnants of Saleh's regime. It announced that in its capacity as the representative of revolutionary and political forces, it reserves its right challenge any agreements or dealings made by the regime.

The NC called on all Yemenis harmed by "collective punishment" to defend their basic humanitarian rights using all legitimate means. It warned all who contributed to the policy of collective punishment that they would be held legally accountable.

The council warned the remnants of the regime of making any attempt against its members or the members of its general assembly affirming that it was monitoring such violations including harassments and direct and indirect threats.

The Latest

Buzz



- ▶ Deputy director of the protection department of the political security department in Aden was killed by a number of masked men on Monday, injuring one of his body guards in the process.
- ▶ Three civilians were found on Monday decapitated in northern Zinjibar in the Abyan Governorate. It is suggested that they were killed by extremists as retaliation for their defeat in the area.
- ▶ Security in the Al-Hasaba district of Sana'a, home to tribal leader Sadeq Al-Ahmar, has increased as new security checkpoints have been put in place throughout the area.
- ▶ Minister of defense announces that during the last three months more than 230 Yemeni soldiers were killed in clashes with Islamic extremists in Abyan.
- ▶ American intelligence warned on Tuesday that Al-Qaeda in Yemen is getting more dangerous despite the weakening of its management.
- ▶ Head of the executive unit for Abyan displaced persons Ahmed AL-Kahlani says that the 108 thousands refugees will return to their homes in Abyan soon after their area was cleared from Al-Qaeda members.
- ▶ Five people were killed and 36 injured of whom 24 are in critical conditions because of a terrible traffic accident in Taiz where a large truck collided into nine cars and 11 motorbikes in a crowded market area.
- ▶ Son of the member of the state-affiliated Shoura Council Mohammed Hussien Ashaal was shot down by unknown armed men in a motorbike on Tuesday evening. The deceased is also brother to the Ali Ashaal, member of parliament of the Islah opposition block.
- ▶ General Secretary of the ruling party Sultan Al-Barakani says the solution for Yemen is early elections indicating that the party's candidate will be Vice President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi.
- ▶ Defecting General Ali Muhsin Al-Ahmar says that the Republican Guards are continuously attacking his unit the latest attack being on Sunday.
- ▶ The general secretary of the GCC Abudllateef Al-Zaiani said that the gulf initiative aiming to solve Yemen's political crisis is still active.
- ▶ Prime Minister Dr. Ali Mujawar headed back to Riyadh for a second phase of medical treatment for injuries sustained from the attack against the president in his palace on June 3, 2011.
- ▶ Kuwaiti embassy has re-opened and is now operating normally providing its services to both Kuwaiti and Yemeni public.
- ▶ Director of the Yemeni Women's Union and general secretary of the Arab Women's Union Ramzya Al-Eryani was chosen as a member in the Supreme Experts Council at the World Bank in Washington.

Yemeni NGOs prepare for national conference

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Sept. 14 — Five Yemeni organizations are gearing up for a National Conference for Youth Dialogue in the coming days with the aim of bringing anti and pro-government youth together to make a clear vision for a future civil state.

The organizations include the Democratic School, the Youth Leadership Development Foundation, Yemen's Youth Union, Female Journalists Forum and Al-Noman Cultural Forum.

The conference was announced in conjunction with youth's calls to stop any dialogue with any party and continuing revolutionary escalation.

Muamar Al-Iryani, deputy minister of youth and sport and head of the Yemen's Youth Union said that this conference aims to bring all youth with different political affiliations together to unify their visions for a civil state and to ensure an effective mechanism for forming a vision such a state.

He said that establishing a civil state that guarantees justice and equality is an important demand for all Yemeni youth. "Establishing a modern civil state will be the safe exit from the current crisis," he said.

"The conference will be a real chance for gathering and unifying all the youth's ideas related to building the civil state," he added.

Gabool Al-Mutawakel, development activist and one of the organizers of the conference told the Yemen Times that the conference will make a clear youth vision for the civil state.

"Until now, there is no a clear vision about the upcoming civil state and that's why we decided to hold this conference," she said.

Anas Al-Kherbi, a youth activist, told the Yemen Times that the idea of the conference isn't new.

"I hope that this conference will make something new and revive stagnant situation in Yemen," he said.

Abduljabar Al-Suhili, an independent youth activist praised the idea but said that it is too early to talk

about a civil state. "We are still without democracy and without real political agreements between conflicting parties. It's important to make a dialogue among the political parties before talking about a civil state."

"We are witnessing the most critical moments in Yemen's history. Thus, all Yemenis believe in the importance of change but there are disagreements about the way of this change," said Al-Suhili.

"Unfortunately, Yemeni media outlets cause rifts between Yemenis. It's important to heal these rifts to talk about the civil state and all Yemenis should feel that they are all sons of one homeland," he said. "We should work for our country not for our political parties."

اعلان قضائي

عبد محمد صالح الجعدي

تعلم محكمة استئناف محافظة إب - الشعبة الشخصية بأن علي المذكور الحضور إلى الشعبة الشخصية خلال شهر من تاريخ هذا الإعلان للرد على الطعن المقدم ضده من المستأنف حزام مهدي علي القيفي في القضية الشخصية رقم (٢٥) لسنة ١٤٣٢ هـ وفي حالة عدم الحضور فسيتم التنصيب عنه والسير في إجراءات القضية وفقاً للشرع والقانون.

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Judicial Summons

Abdo Mohamed Saleh Al-Gaadi

Ibb Appeal Court, Personal Affairs Dept, announces that the aforementioned should appear before the Personal Affairs Dept within one month from the date of the publication of this announcement to reply of the appeal against him which submitted by the appealed Mr. Hizam Mahdi Ali Al-Kaifi regarding the Personal Case No. (25) for the Year 1432 Hijriah. In case of non-appearance an appointee on his behalf will be appointed and the court will go in the legal proceedings of the case pursuant to the law and Islamic law.

Best Regards

Chief of Personal Affairs Dept. At Ibb Appeal Court

Judge: Ayash Ahmed Ayash Alawi



Employment Vacancy CARE International Yemen

CARE International is currently seeking to fulfill two positions, Community Mobilizer and Assistant Project Manager for Conflict Prevention Pool Project in Aden

Location: Aden

1. Community Mobilizer

Duties: As part of the project team, the community mobilizer position will implement several activities which is relevant to most of the project interventions. Tasks that are related to this position are represented in official works such as (documentation, analysis, updating data, fields works such as trainings, work shops monitoring) .

Qualifications:

- BA degree in social studies or any related fields is required.
- Atleast 2-3 years community work experience.
- English language skills are required
- Computer skills are required

2. Assistant project manager

Duties: As part of the project team, the assistant project manager position will implement several activities which is relevant to most of the project interventions. Tasks that are related to this position are focusing on helping the project manager in (official works such as coordination, implementation, monitoring, planning, updating data, fields works such as trainings, work shops) .

Qualifications:

- BA degree in development or related fields.
- Experience in coordination and community mobilization
- experience on conducting trainings
- Experience in computer skills
- English language skills are required
- Good experience working in conflict management concerning local communities and refugees will be preferable

Application Procedure: Interested applicants provide a cover letter and CV (English) by September 21st 2011 by email to vacancy@careyemen.org with the position title. Please do not apply unless you meet minimum application requirements, otherwise you will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Yemen's male revolutionaries welcome female leaders

By: Amira Al-Arasi

When protesters first took to the streets in Yemen and established Change Square in Sana'a, the square itself soon became a catalyst for female activists. They were frustrated with their position in society and decided to be brave enough to join the men in making a change.

Women used to face harassment and teasing by men in public generally. The revolution with its seven months of simmering has created an unanticipated change in its men's mentality: they have become more gender balanced.

"I've lived in Change Square for four months. Something has happened here that we didn't expect. Women are not harassed by men. There are no dirty looks or inappropriate comments," said Asma Hamoud, a fourth year education student at Sana'a University. "When I first walked into the square, I was surprised that the men made room for me to move to the women's area without harassing me in the slightest."

It seems that the revolution has taught some young Yemeni men to appreciate and respect women as people with rights more than their environment had done before according to Mohammed Al-Asal, one of the male presenters who usually takes charge of the microphone at the podium.

"The presence of the security committee which is responsible for the order in the square ensured that men who misbehave are dealt with and punished. The committee also organized a number of awareness lectures in various sessions in order to educate the men and advise them on how to conduct themselves around women," said Al-Asal.

The Change Square has a security committee which is responsible for installing order in the area. If a woman complains of any harassment, members of the committee at once react to the complaint and ensure it is dealt with properly.

Ali Saleh Abusa'ad is a member of the security committee and admits that there have been complaints from women against some men who harassed them in one way or another, especially in the beginning of the revolution.

"The square is open to everyone and we have no control over who comes here and what their background is. But what we do have control over is how they behave



Two months ago the security committee erected a high steel barrier separating women's section from the rest of the square.

while being here," said Abusa'ad.

Nawal Taha, a nursing student working at the Change Square's field hospital agrees. "I come to the square every day with my family and we are never harassed. The men at Change Square treat us with respect, like sisters."

She added that ever since the revolution's inception, women have played a large role in Change Square and in other squares around the country.

"The mutual respect has enabled us to make our voices heard like we've never been able to do in the past," she added.

Moreover, according to the committee, if a certain man continues to misbehave he is somewhat black listed and taken to concerned groups that are more engaged in education and behavioral change.

Siham Shuja'a Al-Deen a fourth year student at the faculty of engineering also agrees and says that this has been the trend since day one. "There has been no change from the beginning of the revolution until now. I have lived in Change Square up to this day and I can see the acceptance and sense of partnership between men and women. I can see it in the eyes of the youth. For the first time in political life in this country, men and women are on equal footing, held together by mutual respect and interest."

However, there have been some harassing incidents against women. And although they are not as common as in general public life in Sana'a for example, their presence was noticed.

"I know some of the men who are from my own neighborhood and who are on the side of the regime. They just come here to waste time and harass women," she added.

Hamza Al-Qadhi a member of the Islah Party, agrees that the revolution has made an impact on men's behavior in the square, although he did mention that there are some men who can't change easily.

"I used to be a member of the security committee responsible for safety and I remember getting into fights with men who can't accept the presence of a woman in the square without annoying them," he said.

As to whether after the revolution he thinks the men will carry the newly acquired attitude back home with them, he was doubtful. "It depends on how you were raised as a child, sometimes you adopt practices because they are imposed on you but when you go back to your normal life without restrictions it depends on your values," said Al-Qadhi.

Zainab Al-Ward a senior in the languages college at Sana'a University says that there is a world of a difference between inside and outside the square when it comes to women's freedom.

"I lived near the square and before the revolution I used to be harassed whenever I walked the streets. Now I feel the men have become more mature and respectful. As if this experience has made them grow up and leave their childish ways for a manlier mission," said Zaniab. "The people at Change Square have accepted the important role women play in society and we've broken out of our traditional roles as revolutionaries."

The great wall of separation

However, this rosy picture is incomplete. Although there have been changes in the mentality of most of the men in Change Square



Women participating in a mixed event at Sana'a Change Square.

in Sana'a, the domination of the religious conservative Islah party of the square has imposed certain segregation measures between men and women.

According to representatives from the square's management, the complaints by women against men's misconduct had created a need for physical separation between the men and the women, especially during the peak time which is when there were announcements or presentations on the stage.

In general, there was only a string demarking the women's area while allowing them access to the stage. During peak times members from the security committee would hold hands creating a human barrier between the men and the women.

Two months ago the security committee erected a high steel barrier separating women's section from the rest of the square.

"We have also embedded in the square some of our members without a badge so that they can provide additional protection for the women and in general," said Abusa'ad of the security committee.

Also, the committee has created women's units so that they can be present and attend to women's complaints in a better way.

However, it seems the euphoria of the revolution's "white" values are fading off gradually as the revolution enters its eighth month.

"Maybe the men are tired of behaving," said Aya Mohammed. "Today on my way to the square I got harassed physically by hand and verbally several times."

She remembers the early months of the revolution when it was like a safe haven for women who walked freely without being harassed. In fact she says they used to make

space for me and used to readily accept if a woman wanted to be publically active such as speak on the mic and so on.

"I felt cared for and some of the young men whom I did not know at all would make it their job to ensure that I was ok and arrive safely at my destination within the square or its exits," she said.

Dr. Salah Al-Jama'y professor of sociology and psychology at Sana'a University says that behavioral change is very difficult to achieve in a short duration even if it is months.

"The changes in the men's attitude towards women could be seen as a surface level adopted behavior which is temporary or just a show for political reasons," he said.

This explains the separation measures between men and women which is fundamental to the more religious political party; Islah.

This attitude responds to the President's accusations in May against the opposition but mainly the Islah Party of having double standards. The president in a public speech said that men and women mixing in protests camps the way they did is against the principles of a conservative society and Islamic values, which are mainly the Islah.

The president's speech angered liberal female activists in the square who demanded to hold a mixed protest. The protest was frowned upon by the conservatives in the square who used force to stop it and some women were hurt in the process. Although later the perpetrators apologized for this publically.

The mixed protest eventually did take place but the impact was shadowed by the previous incident against some of the liberal female activists.

Sana'a University Change Square

A group of students marched from the University of Sana'a to the Tunisian Embassy in solidarity with the people of Tunisia for their revolution against Ben Ali's 33-year rule. It was not the first time that demonstrators marched from the university campus. Many demonstrations have been going out of the university due to any action taken by the university administration against any student, so students revolt against that and condemn any oppression against them.

On February 11th, around 500 protesters in front of Sana'a University decided to spark the Yemen's revolution and set up a camp outside the university gates. The area was called "the change square," and eventually tents were set up and people moved into them.

Then on February 21st, media, security and organizing teams were established. The function of the security teams was to provide a number of youth and two women to stand at each entrance leading to the change square. At the beginning of the protest movement the space between Al-Adl [justice] Street and the square was only around 10 meters, today it is 250 meters. Also, the space between the square and Al-Hasaba Street was 20-25 meters, today it is around 300 meters. The distance between Al-Dayri Street and the square stage was 15 meters, now it is one Kilometer.

The same thing applies to other streets that lead to the square stage, including the freedom square which is now 50 meters far from the stage, Mathbh Street which was at the beginning of the protest 150 meters distant from the stage, now 250 and Al-Rabat Street which is now 150 meters distant from the stage.

The massing of people increased due to attacks against protesters. The first attack on the change square of Sana'a was on Feb 22nd. It motivated many youth to leave home to join the protesters, and their numbers increased from 500 demonstrators to around 50,000-80,000. The number also rose sharply after the 'Day of Dignity' on March 18th, when around 57 protesters were killed. The number of tents also increased, and at the time of writing it reached 3,000 tents.

Security forces and Saleh's armed thugs repeatedly targeted the area with the aim of terminating the protest square, which now extends some kilometers and divides the capital into two camps. The eastern area of Sana'a is under the control of Saleh's loyal forces and the western area is under the defected army members who supported the peaceful revolution against Saleh's rule.

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Who's watching Yemen

By: Gregory Johnsen
Big Think

It seems I wasn't the only one who took a month off. With the brutal crackdowns in Syria and the stunning events in Libya, Yemen has largely dropped out of the international news. But that doesn't mean things aren't happening.

For instance, did you know that Naji al-Zayadi, the governor of Marib, who five months ago survived being stabbed in the neck, today evaded what one newspaper called an "assassination attempt" (Ar.) by tribes in his home governorate. For the record, I don't think it was an assassination attempt as much as it was a fight at which the governor was present.

But still things are happening, and so I thought it would be useful if Waq al-waq did a brief rundown of where things stand today in Yemen. Stepping back, the big piece of

news seems to be that Salih's strategy is working. He is dragging the hoped for transition out, and the creaky alliance of anti-Salih actors is starting to break-down. This is particularly true when it comes to the north-south division.

This is both sad and predictable. Salih has been doing this for the past 33 years, and while the alliance held for several months, it now looks, at least from the outside, as if there are serious fissures that Salih can easily exploit, even from medical exile in Saudi Arabia.

This is why myself and other wanted to see the US lead - lead from the front not from behind, or wherever else it thinks it can lead from - and put much more pressure on Salih than it did, and do a much better job of convincing Saudi Arabia that its interests would be better served if Salih were eased out. But neither of those things happened, and instead the US let the GCC take the lead, and then was made to look foolish

not once, not twice, but three times when Salih promised to sign the deal removing himself from power, and then at the 11th hour refused to do so.

I talked myself blue in the face (and I'm sure lost some friends) telling everyone how bad of an idea the GCC plan was and, in fact, continues to be - so it makes me a bit squeamish to see people still talking about it.

So in Yemen that leaves us with the military split between two factions.

1. Ahmad Ali: President Salih's eldest son, he is effectively, through threat of force, controlling the Yemeni government. He commands the Republic Guard and Yemen's Special Forces. His cousins, primarily Yahya and Ammar, who have both benefited significantly from massive amounts of US aid in recent years, are also backing him with their men from the Central Security Forces and National Security Bureau, res-

spectively.

2. Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar, the elderly general and head of the 1st Armored division, he was Salih's iron fist for most of the past three decades, until suddenly he wasn't. Now he is the general largely in control of the defeated soldiers. It should be noted that while he claims to support the popular uprising, few trust him, and no one save some Saudi princes wants to see him replace Salih.

This brings us the the key issue for the US: AQAP.

The US is continuing to use missiles and drone strikes in an attempt to keep AQAP off balance in southern Yemen. But I desperately hope that no one in the administration thinks air power alone will defeat this branch of al-Qaeda - and if they do they are sadly mistaken.

At best (and this is a default approach I strongly disagree with, and believe will have serious negative long-term consequences for the US) the idea of using air and drone strikes can only keep AQAP wrong-footed until the Yemeni military can move in and clean them up. But this isn't happening.

And the reason it isn't happening is because the Yemeni military is split.

One question I would like US policy makers to ask themselves is this: what incentive does either Ahmad Ali or Ali Muhsin have to take the fight to AQAP right now?

I'll save you the suspense. The

answer is not a lot. Why lose men, munitions and machines fighting AQAP, at a time when you need to be conserving all three for a civil war you are worried is just over the horizon?

Better to lose a province or two, goes the thinking, than the entire state.

And this is why I have such a problem with the US approach in Yemen. It is looking at the problem

backwards. The AQAP problem isn't going to get better until there is a political solution, and the longer this drags out the worse off Yemen will become.

But the US seems to think, or at least it acts, as if it can deal with AQAP independently of everything else in Yemen - and it can't. I mean it can try, and apparently it is trying to do just that, but the US is not going to like the results.

Panetta: al-Qaida weakened, but still poses threat

By: Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

The terrorist attacks of a decade ago have in some ways strengthened the United States, and operations against al-Qaida have left it much less capable, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said today.

"As tragic as 9/11 was, we have drawn tremendous inspiration [from it]," the secretary told reporters after touring the National September 11 Memorial and Museum site here.

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, brought the nation together in a commitment that such horror "will never happen again," Panetta said.

"Since 9/11, we have achieved significant success going after al-Qaida and ... [its] leadership," he said.

Of the top four al-Qaida leaders, three are dead, he said, and many lower-level leaders have been killed or captured.

"I think that has significantly undermined the command and con-

trol of al-Qaida, and their ability to plan the kind of 9/11 attacks that occurred here," he said.

The nation's domestic security is also stronger than it was 10 years ago, he said, crediting cooperation among intelligence organizations, the Department of Homeland Security and "a number of other agencies" with that improvement.

"Having said that, it's very important for us to also pledge, not only to the families of those that died but to all Americans, that we will forever remain vigilant," the secretary said.

The main threats emerging from al-Qaida now emanate from nodes such as those in Yemen and Somalia, he said.

"They continue to plan attacks, and I don't think we can take anything for granted," he said.

Yemen "has risen to the top of the list" of al-Qaida threats, and remains an important counter-terrorism focus for the United States, the secretary said.

The leader of al-Qaida in Yemen, Anwar al-Awlaki, "has continued to urge individuals to attack this country, and continues, himself, to

represent a threat to this country," Panetta said.

On another front, Pakistani forces yesterday announced the capture of Younis al-Mauritani and two other senior al-Qaida operatives in Pakistan.

"This is ... particularly encouraging, because we thought [Mauritani] was someone who was a real threat," the secretary said.

Panetta said he is also encouraged by Pakistan's role in the capture.

"We have had that kind of cooperation [from Pakistan] in the past," he said. "We've had kind of a rocky relationship of late, but we have continued to urge the Pakistanis to work with us ... [against] terrorist targets, and this is an indication that they are cooperating with us in that effort."

Despite gains made over the past decade, jihadist ideology remains an attraction to potential terrorists, and al-Qaida is still a threat to U.S. security, Panetta said.

"We have to continue the pressure on al-Qaida, but there is no question ... [on] the tenth anniversary of 9/11, that we have made significant progress," he said.

SKETCHED OPINION

By: Mahjoob



وظيفة شاغرة
محاسب
يمني الجنسية، حاصل على شهادة
جامعية، خبرة لا تقل عن
5 سنوات، يجيد اللغة الانجليزية
كتابة ونطقا اجادة انظمة المحاسبة
للتواصل على الرقم ٢٢٥١٢٢٢٢٢

INTER SOS

INTER SOS is an independent non-profit humanitarian organization committed to assisting the survivors of natural disasters and armed conflicts. It is active in Yemen in Aden area, Sanaa and Harad. Because of expansion of activities, INTER SOS is currently looking to recruit local staff to fill the following positions:

IDPs Community Centre Manager	Psycho Social Counsellor	Legal Counsellor
<p>Duty Station: Aden with frequent movements in the city.</p> <p>Duration: 4 months with possibility of extension depending on availability of funds.</p> <p>Overall Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervise the daily activity of the community centre. Ensure proper coordination among field work and counsellors team. Supervise the work of counsellors. Assist the Emergency coordinator in reports preparation. Monitor and follow up the outcomes of assistance provided to IDPs. <p>Qualifications & experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University Degree in Social sciences, administration or related field. Minimum of five years of experience in NGOs work in a managerial position. Good understanding of protection issues. Proficiency in English and Arabic Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to establish effective and working relations with local and international stakeholders. Good computer skills. <p>Start date: ASAP</p>	<p>Duty Station: 2 positions in Aden with frequent movements in the city and 2 positions in Harad.</p> <p>Duration: 4 months with possibility of extension depending on availability of funds.</p> <p>Overall Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate to vulnerability assessment of people of concern. Provide Vulnerable people of concern with psychosocial counselling. Monitor of the cases assisted and counselled through home visits. Preparation of reports about assisted cases. <p>Qualifications & experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University Degree in psychology. At least three years of work experience in counselling. Experience with children and adolescents is an asset. Good computer skills For Harad knowledge of Oromo language is an asset. <p>Start date: ASAP</p>	<p>Duty Station: Aden with frequent movements in other governorates.</p> <p>Duration: 4 months with possibility of extension depending on availability of funds.</p> <p>Overall Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide individual counseling on legal issues [Yemeni Personal Law, Yemeni Criminal Law and International Human Rights]. When necessary and upon consent, provide legal guidance to people who are in need for urgent and legal protection and under the direction of UNHCR, prosecution and legal representation within the Yemeni court system. Undertake regular follow up visits to the case. Write report of the awareness session. <p>Qualifications & experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master degree in law. Strong knowledge of Yemeni Family Law and Yemeni Criminal Law as well as International refugees Law Ability and motivation to work well with local authorities, local leaders and communities. Good computer skills. Good knowledge of English. <p>Start date: ASAP</p>

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with their C.V to "emergency.yemen@intersos.org"

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Dr. Faker Al-Qubati, associate professor of respiratory diseases at the University of Sana'a to the Yemen Times

“Population increase causes more disease which exhausts the national income.”

By: Ali Saeed

Al-Qubati was born in 1961 in Al-Qabita district, which was located at the time on the border between the former Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen in the south and the northern Arab Republic of Yemen. The people of remote areas between the two former states were able to send their children for education to Aden.

This enabled him to receive his primary education in Aden. He would often return to his village during summer vacations to help work on his family farm, particularly in sheep herding.

After that he moved to Sana'a and completed secondary school, working in a grocery store to earn a living while he studied. He then went on to earn a bachelor's degree in medicine. He received a scholarship from the University of Qasr Al-Aini in Cairo to complete his master's degree and then work towards a Ph.D.

Now, many respiratory patients nationwide come to his private clinic in the capital Sana'a in Taiz St for treatment and consultation.

To understand more about his background and respiratory issues in Yemen, Ali Saeed of the Yemen Times met Al-Qubati and conducted the following interview:

Why did you choose to study respiratory diseases?

When I was a student at the faculty of medicine at the University of Sana'a, I used to see respiratory and tuberculosis patients suffer more severely than others. I then decided to study in this field since it was a rare specialization, avoided by many students because it is “the specialization of poor people” which means that the TB patients are always suffering and may in turn infect you. TB patients are often from the poorest parts of society.

This motivated me more to help these poor people through selecting this major which includes the most important respiratory diseases: TB, bronchial asthma and the pneumonia. Then I found that my decision was good because it is still a rare field in Yemen as no more students study it, thinking it is the specialization of the poor.

Many students prefer to study for instance cardiac diseases believing that it is lucrative when they go to the market. But for us we feel that our capital is these patients and if you are helping others, Allah will expand your income.

What would you say to students

who are interested in studying respiratory diseases?

I advise them first to feel responsible, take care of their patients, be kind hearted toward the patients and try their best to provide the TB patient with early examination and treatment.

Through your contact with respiratory patients, do you feel that these diseases are on the rise in Yemen?

I see that they are highly increasing for many different reasons. First because of an unhealthy environment, now many poisons are polluting the air such as diesel, dust and trash burning in the streets.

So all these practices are harming the environment and negatively impacting respiratory health.

Is Yemen more prone to risk of respiratory diseases?

Yemen is more prone to risk of respiratory disease because poverty and malnutrition are rampant. Plus the bad environment leads to complications of cases more so than in countries that are polluted but are not malnourished. There are industrial zones in Europe that are polluted but living standards and nutrition of the population are good.

In Yemen, there are some bad social habits such as Qat sessions where the crowd mixes their chewing with collective smoking in closed rooms. How does this affect the respiratory health?

This is the worst habit and this can negatively impact either TB patients or asthma patients. We always advise patients to take care of this and not sit in such crowds. People with infectious diseases in such environments, especially TB, can infect others quickly in crowded places.

We advise TB patients not to mix with crowds for at least one month and half during treatment in order not to infect others. For asthma patients they must avoid cigarette smoke, dust, diesel, gas, heavy perfumes, cold water and sudden weather change. These are the tips which I always tell respiratory patients and I always tell them that 30 percent is treatment and 70 percent is prevention.

How do you assess services of hospitals and clinics which provide treatment to respiratory patients?

In fact our health situation is very bad because the level of service is very poor regarding technology and treatment. Since we started working



in Yemen in 2001, hospital technology is still underdeveloped.

We work endlessly to bring some devices such as the device of lungs' functions which measures the lung's work. But in most cases it is difficult to bring expensive devices.

Due to the diesel shortages and power outages, people have begun to run their generators with kerosene or cooking gas. How will this affect both our health and environment?

Diesel and cooking gas are the two main substances which highly inflame the bronchial tubes. When the person starts inhaling diesel fumes, his bronchial tubes immediately constrict. The effect is more drastic in asthma patients.

Many patients come to my clinic especially those who often travel through the Dhamar - Sana'a Road complaining of breathing difficulty or suffocation which is respiratory failure because on his way from Dhamar to Sana'a he or she inhaled diesel fumes. So I give him or her something quick to open the upper respiratory tract and if that does not work, I sometimes send the patient to the intensive care unit.

So we always tell people not to inhale diesel, kerosene or cooking gas because it provokes the respiratory tract which may lead to suffocation and respiratory failure.

What do you recommend national health leaders to do to make Yemen free of respiratory infections?

The effort must start with securing a healthy environment. If we removed and stopped bad practices which harm the environment, we will save billions of dollars being spent for respiratory treatment since it is needed only when the environment is bad.

In some places people burn trash and in other places there are heavy diesel fumes, so we should search for

ways to end these practices or move it outside populated areas. The increasing number of respiratory patients has to do with a increasing pollution. And whenever we work hard to slow population growth, we are saving money and national income from spending it for diseases.

What role does the media play in maintaining a respiratory health and a healthy environment?

The role of the media is crucial for this issue, but until now the media has not worked positively to promote a healthy environment such as showing citizens how to respect the environment, how TB patients should be careful not to infect others, how asthma patients should treat himself and the early examination of the TB to prevent infection.

So the media can correct bad behavior and raise awareness among communities to minimize the infection and victims. For instance if there is a TB patient in a military camp and we isolated him and treated him, we will prevent the whole camp from infection, but if we left him living with his colleagues, other 50 soldiers of the camp will be infected. And the same thing applies with schools where one single case can spread the infections to other people and groups.

Are there specific Yemeni regions where respiratory diseases are more common?

Yes I have a statistic on Yareem and Dhamar whose populations are suffering from asthma and many patients from these areas come to my clinic due to sudden weather changes.

Coastal areas such as Hodeida and Hajja and some areas of Taiz also are areas where the populations are vulnerable to the TB and these areas are very poor which increases the infection.

HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



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

Health matters

Answers for some health related questions...

My feet smell like stinky cheese after workouts or in summer. What can I do?

Foot odor is caused by harmless bacteria that live on our skin. When conditions are warm, dark, and damp (like the insides of sweaty sneakers), the germs multiply and break down your perspiration into foul-smelling by-products. In addition to causing odor, the bacteria, if they overgrow, can infect your skin and cause blisters, cracking, and sores in between your toes and on the bottoms of your feet. To keep your feet smelling fresh, follow these tips:

- Wash your feet as soon as you finish working out. Keeping your feet clean and dry will inhibit the growth of bacteria. If you can't shower right away, rub your feet with antibacterial soaps or cloths containing tea tree oil, which is a natural antiseptic and astringent.
- Keep toenails short, because bacteria can collect underneath.
- If your feet are excessively sweaty, try using an antiperspirant on your soles.
- Air out your shoes for at least a day before you wear them again, especially if they're sneakers or boots. Smell your shoes. It sounds gross, but it might not be your feet but your shoes that stink. If it's your sneakers, get them cleaned.
- For patients with persistent foot odor, clindamycin infiltrated pads can control the odor-causing bacteria. These can be inserted in your shoes daily, as needed, until the problem is brought under control.

When cola companies claim 'Diet' and 'Lite', what do they mean? Are these really low in calories? And are they safe for consumption on a regular and daily basis?

Conventional aerated drinks are sugar-laden carbonated beverages. Their 'diet' counterparts are the carbonated waters without the 'empty sugar calories' rest of the remaining ingredients being the same. Yes, diet colas are low in calories (because the chief contributor sugar is missing). But they are not a dieter's dream! They may not have as many calories but do have artificial sweetener aspartame as the main sweetening agent. Aspartame has a long list of harmful effects. Enamel erosion, bone loss, kidney damage, weight gain, frequent headaches and brain cell damage being the feared ones. Diet sodas are not 'safe' for daily consumption.

Supermarkets in several cities in Yemen are selling palm jaggery as a safer alternative to sugar. Is this so? Can palm jaggery be substituted everywhere for sugar?

Palm jaggery is collected as sap from date palm trees. It's a natural sugar substitute, with a lot of health benefits. It has natural cleansing properties that aid digestion and help remove toxins from the body relieving constipation. Jaggery is used as home remedy to help alleviate dry cold coughs, hiccups, migraines and more. Because of its mineral content, it also helps reduce water retention, bloating and lower blood pressure. It can replace sugar in most Indian recipes. Although jaggery has many medicinal properties versus refined white sugar, it does have the same number of calories (source parent is same) thus for those on weight loss programs, keeping consumption to a minimal should be considered.

Pre-packaged salads with short shelf lives are being sold in food courts of supermarkets and departmental stores. Are these safe to consume?

With the much created awareness about importance of fresh fruits and vegetables, but always falling short in time to procure them; prepackaged salads and salad bars are mushrooming all over. Remember that fresh produce always has a short shelf life, thus the best before date must be carefully observed before purchasing these items. In the quest to gain healthy fibre rich snacks, we should not contract unhealthy bacteria laden diseases. The salad should be ideally packaged and refrigerated immediately after cutting vegetables and must be consumed within a day for best nutrient availability.

Is it harmful to have the yolk of egg? If I mix one yolk with the whites of five eggs in my breakfast omelets, would that be okay or am I still asking for cholesterol problems?

No, consuming the yolk is not totally harmful, especially if not eaten daily. Yes, the yolk contains most of the fat (99 per cent) of the egg, but it also contains a chunk of the nutrients, including 90 per cent of the calcium, iron, Vitamin B6 + B12, zinc, and folate content. Majority of the protein (100 per cent complete in all essential amino acids) content is in the egg white, and since it has just 1 per cent of the fat; it contributes very little calories to the daily intake. Thus egg whites can be had in multiple numbers daily.

Many youngsters and adults want to switch from sugar to honey for health reasons. Is honey really any healthier than sugar?

People began to use honey as a sweetener long before cane and beet sugar came into use. Despite this long history, it's not clear if honey has particular health benefits.

Honey is composed mainly of water (17%) and two simple sugars, fructose (38%) and glucose (31%). Minor ingredients include various complex sugars, minerals, vitamins, and proteins. Some of these ingredients have antioxidant properties, but the amounts are so small that they may not affect health. A tablespoon of honey contains about 64 calories; in comparison, a level tablespoon of table sugar contains 45 calories.

Bakers like honey because it absorbs and retains moisture, helping to keep cakes and breads moist. Dentists, though, would probably advise you to brush after either honey or sugar to cut down on dental plaque and tooth decay. Most physicians would stay neutral - but pediatricians caution against feeding honey to children under one year because it may contain spores that can cause infant botulism.

Request for Proposal



Procurement of Security Guard for UNDP Premises

The United Nations Development Programme in Yemen is seeking a professional security guard service to be provided to the UNDP premises located in Sana'a. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Yemen is willing to invite the interested professional companies to submit a proposal for the security guard services, as per the Terms of Reference (TOR).

The deadline for submission is Saturday 1st October 2011, 4.00 p.m. (Yemen Time). Your offer comprising of technical proposal and financial proposal, in separate sealed envelopes, should reach the following address

United Nations Development Programme
P.O. Box 551
Off sixty road, near Alawqaf complex
Sana'a, Yemen.

For further details on the RFP and downloading of the documents (RFP), please visit our website at:

<http://www.unqm.org/Notices/Item.aspx?id=16686>

The deadline for receiving RFPs (Request for Proposal) is on the 01st October 2011

بِقَلُوبِ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدَرِهِ
نَتَقَدَّمُ بِأَحْرِ التَّعَازِي وَأُصَدِّقُ الْمَوَاسَاةَ الْقَلْبِيَّةَ إِلَى

الأستاذ / شريف ثابت محمد

لوفاة المغفور لها بإذن الله تعالى /

والدته

سائلين الله العلي العظيم أن يتغمدهم بوسع رحمته وأن يسكنهم فسيح جناته، وأن يلهم أهلها وذوئها الصبر والسلوان...

المعزون

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with its **"Early Recovery Project"**



Title: Land Use Specialist

Duration of Assignment: 3 months – with possibility of extension

Duty Station: Seiyun, Hadramout, Yemen

Duties & Responsibilities:

The land use specialist will perform the following duties:

- Responsibility for the overall coordination, management & implementation of land use component in the Early Recovery Project.
- Provide technical expertise to the government in land use issues.
- Provide technical support to enhance the capacity of national authorities to restore and maintain official records and statistics especially land registration.
- Facilitate the establishment community based supporting system for monitoring, reporting and following up on beneficiary's status during the resettlement process.
- Facilitate community-based methodology for establishing land & property boundaries, if accurate records are not available.
- Support and facilitate an inclusive decision-making process particularly focusing on land dispute in the flood affected communities.
- Facilitate and conduct a base line study on the land use issues, community mapping exercise, and traditional land-rights mechanisms for dispute resolution.
- Facilitate the ongoing planning process, supported by priority action programs in key sectors and integrate land use planning to reduce vulnerabilities.
- Facilitate trainings and workshops for the stakeholder on alternative dispute resolution, and land use in the Early Recovery Project.
- Prepare a monthly progress report detailing the activities performed during the month, highlighting achievements and providing recommendations for future activities.
- Ensure the key lessons and best practices from the project are shared with all key stakeholders.
- Establish and update land use data system for project.
- Attend and update the governorate level early recovery coordination mechanism with land use related information and findings .

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in law or land use planning with at least 5 years of professional experience in a relevant field.
- Proven record of holding training courses.

Only Online Applications will be accepted

For further details on the job description and online application, please visit our website at <http://jobs.undp.org>

Response will only be made to short listed candidates
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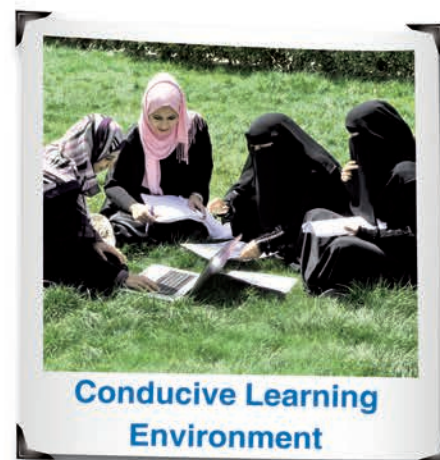
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Gabool Al-Mutawakel

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Gabool Al-Mutawakel is one of the most prominent development activists and trainers in Yemen.

For many years, Gabool has worked hard to make a positive change among Yemeni youth. She had worked as a general manager at Youth Leadership Development Foundation (YLDF), one of the most reputable foundations in Yemen. Later, she became a senior organizational consultant at the foundation.

In October 2008, she earned master's degree in NGOs and development from the London School of Economics (LSE). She also has received training in every aspect of human rights and development.

Gabool, along with her sisters, established the YLDF with the aim of improving Yemeni youth's abilities and skills, boosting their leadership qualities and support young women to achieve their ambitions.

Since 2004, Gabool contributed effectively towards the development and education of Yemen's youth. She has trained many youth, including girls, in the fields of leadership, community par-



YT photo by Sadeq Al-Wesabi

ticipation and volunteerism, civil society and development, general management skills and human rights.

During her childhood, Gabool was under the influence of the principles of her father Dr. Mohammed Al-Mutawakel, a renowned opposition politician in Yemen.

"My father taught me the importance of thinking about other people. He urged me to think carefully about development and change for the better," she said. "He taught me also how to be optimistic and how to be patriotic. He advised me to put the public interest above my own."

Since the beginning of the revolution, Gabool was impressed with the momentum of Change Square in Sana'a and the successful participation of the youth in the revolution. "I admired the way the revolution brought people together with the aim of change and I immediately joined them."

What motivated Gabool to work hard towards the revolution? "We want to break the barrier of fear put in place the regime among Yemenis. We seek a civil state where a law is enforced and obeyed."

Unlike other revolutionaries, Gabool was annoyed when some of figures of the regime joined the revolution. "My enthusiasm for

Change Squares was dampened after their joining," she said.

She sent a message to the revolutionaries, saying, "The revolution isn't in Change Squares only. The revolution requires strategic planning and constant actions."

"The youth of the revolution should hold more marches and demonstrations rather than staying in the Square," she added.

Gabool emphasized that Yemen's revolutionaries are at a crossroads. "They should take a defining and strong decision towards the revolution – unless the revolution will fail."

However, she still thinks that the Gulf initiative will be one of the possible solutions.

Recalling her happy and nice moments during the revolution, she said, "I still remember the moment when I erected a tent in the Change Square and brought some male and female revolutionaries together to exchange their ideas and visions. They were discussing in harmony and enthusiastically. It was one of the happiest moments for me during the revolution."

On the other hand, Gabool was unsatisfied with some events during the revolution. "I was upset about attacking some female activists in one of the marches by some extremists. I was also unhappy with joining of some of the regime's figures to the revolution," she said.

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Speaking about the ability of Yemeni youth, she said, "They are great but need to improve their abilities and work harder."

Gabool is very optimistic about the coming days of the revolution and she expects that the uncertainty and fear surrounding the revolution will disappear soon. "I think that Yemen will witness a short skirmish but I'm sure that the crisis will be solved," she said.

Currently, Gabool is busy with the National Conference for Youth Dialogue that will be held soon by the five Yemeni organizations, including the YLDF.

According to Gabool, The conference aims to bring youth together and establish a dialogue with them to make a clear vision for the upcoming civil state. The conference will include pro and

anti-government youth from different governorates.

"I'm enthusiastic about this conference because I think we will make a clear youth vision for a civil state. Crafting this vision systematically is very important for the youth," she said.

Gabool has a different way of thinking. She always believes in 'constructive dialogue' with others and she is known for staying calm even if the situation is difficult.

"I always say that any kind dialogue will lead to a great result," she said confidently.

Gabool hopes to fulfill her ambition to make a wide positive change among Yemeni youth. "I aspire to expand my development activities and widen the YLDF's programs to change Yemen's youth for the better," she said.

Not the Yemen I left behind

By: Malak Shaher

Just a few days before I came back to Yemen after spending five months in the US, people have been telling me of the reverse cultural shock that would happen to me when I would come back. I never believed in that because when I was there. I have never done anything against my principles and religion. So I came back and the so-called reverse cultural shock never happened. But my situation was different and the shock that happened to me had nothing to do with culture. I was in a shock to see the destruction and the deteriorating situation of my country.

Before I describe what happened to me when I came back home, I would describe my life outside Yemen. My life was easy there. I used to put my dirty clothes in the washing machine and take them home clean and dry without a care. Everything there was easy.

Nevertheless, I was promoting Yemen in the US. Many people

have changed their ideas about Yemen as they had never met any Yemeni before. Some even said that they would like to visit Yemen soon and get to know it more. The easy life there was not able to make me forget my country and I have never wanted to live the easy life. I was homesick and I assumed I would come back and find the same Yemen I have left behind in March.

So, as September was approaching, my fellowship was coming to an end. I arrived home last week. On the way from the airport to my house, I passed by Al-Hasaba. The building of the Yemen Airways, Yemenia, was the first notable thing from a distance. The glassy building which once reflected the shiny sun has become now a black skeleton. I still remember when I was telling my



Yemenia Airline building in ruins after being hit in the armed conflict of Al-Hasaba in May and June.

friends that this was the only modern building that we could be proud of. I have learned that a great deal of people have not come back to their houses in the aftermath. What can they do with houses cover by random pock marks of bullets and another possible war.

When I first saw Change Square in front of Sana'a University where protesters have been living for months calling for the president to step down, the place was not packed with tents. The number of the tents there did not exceed fifty and traffic moved freely through the area.

But now I found out that a line of tents stretches until the old University of Sana'a which means more than five kilometers long, not to mention the small branches of this line along the smaller surface roads. Whenever I turned my head I found a pile of garbage not to mention qat spit. The smell is not pleasant and no means

of transportation can be found there.

After raining, the place is even worse as the water makes a paste spread on the ground. While I was trying to find my way to the nearest bus, I could not be more careful as I did not want to step on the disgusting green qat paste.

For someone who spent five months in the US, this was by no means a real shock. Sometimes while walking there, I would have flashes from Pittsburgh and I would become choked up, unable even to talk to the person walking with me.

Last week, I was walking with my brother when I saw a row of four soldiers chewing qat. As they were sitting in the sidewalk and throwing the qat leaves, a street cleaner was sweeping the leaves from the ground. They did not even stop whole he was cleaning and after he finished sweeping, the leaves were still there. I felt pity for him.

During my five months in the US, I never saw anyone throwing anything into the street. But here, people spontaneously throw whatever they do not want on the ground and when you tell them that it is their duty to keep the street clean, they would simply point to the street cleaners.

I was in a shock not because of the huge difference between Pittsburgh and Sana'a but because the city was by no means beautiful. I do not dream of Sana'a to be like Pittsburgh but I just want to see the Yemen I left behind.

Turkey rejects the Palmer report



By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

In a meeting with a selective number of Yemeni journalists Turkish ambassador to Yemen Mehmet Donmez addressed the Turkish humanitarian aid ship which was attacked by Israel in international waters on its way to Gaza in May 2010.

On board of the ship there were more than 30 nationalities among which were Israelis and three Yemeni members of parliament. Even though the ship was attacked by the Israeli navy and eight of the nine Turkish citizens were killed.

"We have two main simple demands: a formal clear apology from Israel and compensation for the families whose relatives were killed in the attack," said the ambassador. "Naturally we also demand the lifting of the siege on Gaza as well."

Although the Palmer's Committee created to investigate this attack was created long ago, no official report came out. In fact, Israel leaked a to the media report that was not either approved by the committee members or announced officially.

"The report is null to us. It did not do right by our demands and was not approved by the committee's members," said ambassador Donmez.

Today the Turkish Israeli relations are going through the lowest level of diplomacy representation

which is second secretary. Turkish officials at various levels have expressed their dismay at how Israel has been handling the issue and already all economic and even military relations with Israel have been suspended until this issue is resolved.

Moreover, the Turkish government has the intention of bringing the matter to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. To this end, Turkey will start working on a UN General Assembly resolution to task the International Court of Justice accordingly.

As a reaction from the Israeli side to this escalation the very hardliner Lieberman retaliated by saying that this way Israel may consider supporting the PKK, which is a Kurdish rebellious organization in Turkey. "That statement was unfortunate and unacceptable," said ambassador Donmez.

Turkish ambassador did thank Yemenis for their compassion and kind support for Turkey in this issue. He reflected on the visits of Yemeni and Palestinian youth to the embassy immediately after the incident and how they requested the Turkish flag and protested in Sabeen Square in May 2010.

"We received condolences from officials and MPs, from youth and from women. It was heartening the level of support we felt in Yemen," said the ambassador.



Ten-year-old Osama Hadi, standing in his family's destroyed house in Al-Hasaba late in May.