

Anti-regime demonstrations increase amid political deadlock

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Sept. 28 — Tens of thousands of pro-democracy Yemenis held two mass demonstrations last Wednesday in Sana'a demanding that Saleh step down. They called also for President's trial.

Male revolutionaries staged their demonstration in the morning while the female held their rally in the evening. The female protesters demanded that president Saleh step down and condemned the violence acts against the peaceful protesters. Their demonstration was heavily guarded by the dissident 1st Armored Division.

The female demonstrators chanted, "Female revolutionaries have the right to protest", "O international community look at terrorism... Ali [president] kills the youth", "Resolving the revolution is our demand... and weapon won't terrorize us". They also raised slogans saying, "People want to build a new Yemen,"

During the last week, tens of pro-

democracy protesters were killed and thousands wounded by Saleh's security. However, the crackdown against the protesters has increased their determination to overthrow the regime. They vowed to escalate their actions and hold daily rallies against the regime.

Fakhr Al-Azab, spokesman of the Organizing Committee of the Youth Revolution told the Yemen Times that the recent rallies were held as a program of escalation that aims to overthrow the regime.

He highly praised the determination of the revolutionaries, expressing his admiration for the female revolutionaries who "made an effective and vital contribution towards the revolution."

"We demanded during the rallies the trial of President Saleh with his inner circle for their crimes against peaceful protesters," he said.

The demonstrators also called for the international community to adopt a clear stance on the revolution.

"We called on the international community to hear us carefully.



The female protesters demanded that president Saleh step down and condemned the violence acts against the peaceful protesters.

They should respect our aspiration for the change," said Al-Azab. "Our demands are perfectly legitimate. We seek justice, freedom and building a new civil state. We want to assure the international

community that Yemen and regional security will be safer after Saleh's departure. We plan to build a strong relations with other countries based on cooperation and mutual interests,"

President Saleh Seeks fatwa to legalize crackdown of his opponents

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Sept. 28 — A few days after his return to Yemen, President Saleh has requested the issuing of a fatwa from his clerics against his opponents. He described his clerics as a reference.

Saleh said that what would be issued from clerics must be obeyed by Yemenis en masse, from all sides.

Last Tuesday, Saleh talked to the clerics and said that their role in solving the current crisis is vital and critical. He accused his opponents of igniting acts of sedition, attacks on military camps and private and public properties, practicing terrorism, planning a coup against constitutional legitimacy and refusing calls for dialogue.

Observers in Yemen interpreted this step by Saleh as an attempt to legalize his crackdown against anti-regime protesters and political opponents.

In last March, Saleh had made the same request from all Yemeni clerics. However, many of the clerics refused to obey him and stressed the importance of protecting protesters.

After the attack on the mosque of his presidential compound last June, Saleh appeared more devout. He always speaks angrily about the attack on the mosques and military camps by 'terrorists and bandits' but he fails to refer to the brutal killings among anti-regime protesters.

Opposing parliament Mohammed Al-Hajj Al-Salehi said that President

Saleh is drowning in frustration.

"He tries to rescue his regime," Al-Salehi told the Yemen Times. "He resorted to religious sheikhs after he has killed many innocents. He always resorts to his 'spare parts' to overcome obstacles he faces."

"Saleh has opted for precautions and has set up alternatives to use them when he is in trouble. He has created special clerics and tribesmen to help him during critical situations," he said. "Unfortunately, there are Yemeni clerics under the request. Those clerics don't represent the real clerics."

Al-Salehi urged Saleh quit his stubbornness and transfer power to Yemenis. "Yemen has many eligible and skilled people who can turn Yemen into a successful country,"

"Saleh has destroyed Yemen and can cause rifts between Yemenis. Yemen suffers from security, judicial, political and economic corruption because of Saleh's policy," said Al-Salehi.

For his part, a dissident General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmer, commander of 1st Armored Division said that President Saleh has returned to Yemen to take revenge and ignite war.

A journalist and pro-democracy protester Adnan Al-Rajehi told the Yemen Times that President Saleh is trying to use his final attempts.

"Peaceful protesters will continue their struggle and challenge this president who wants to kill us," said Al-Rajehi. "All his attempts to stay in power will fail because he will not be able to break our determination."

Assassination attempts on the rise

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Sept 28 — The assassination attempts attacks against both defected and loyal military generals have increased in the late four months in different areas particularly in the country's southern governorate.

The General Mohamed Naser Ahmed, Yemen's minister of defense in the care-taker government has escaped an assassination attempt targeted his convoy in Aden on Tuesday by a suicide bomb attack in which the government immediately

blamed Al-Qaeda for the attack.

This is the second time in which the defense minister targeted in less than a month. In late August Ahmed's vehicle was struck by RPG shells while he was on visit with other generals to some military units in Abyan south Yemen where Al-Qaeda took over its capital Zunjbar late May.

And last Thursday Sept 22nd, the general Abdullah Ali Aliwa, former minister of defense who defected against Saleh's 33-year rule has also survived an assassination attempt in the capital Sana'a where his



From left: Defense Minister General Mohamed Naser Ahmed, brigadier general Hameed Al-Qushibi, and colonel Mutea Al-Sayani

bodyguard was shot dead, and his driver and his son were wounded in the same attack.

Sources close to the defected army has accused snipers of the republican guards which is the elite of Yemen's army and commanded by president Saleh's son of committing the attack.

The brigadier general, Hameed Al-Qushibi, commander of the defected 310 armored brigade in Amran has experienced an assassination attempt on Aug 31 in an armed ambush set up by armed men said to be loyal to Saleh's regime. The same figure escaped an assassination attack by an explosive bomb planted in his vehicle on Aug 15th.

Continued on page 2

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African refugees still in pursuit of secure country

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Sept. 27 — Abdul Rahman Aman, 34, an Ethiopian refugee who fled the deadly conflict there ten years now faces a similar fate in Yemen.

"Since the situation escalated in Yemen and the war started in Al-Hasaba district [where Aman lives], I left my house to sit-in in front of the UN office in Yemen until they find a solution," said Aman.

Aman and other African refugees are in danger now not only because they are Yemeni citizens but also because of the color of their skin.

Recently, media outlets have made allegations that the Yemeni army recruited Somali snipers to target protesters, most recently in the fatal demonstrations in the capital, Sana'a, on September 22. Although this news has not been verified yet, the rumor was enough to be used as discrimination against residents of African origin, according to Musa Al-Nemrani, the spokesman of the Human Rights organization HOOD.

Al-Nemrani said that discrimination against the African refugees in Yemen has increased since the uprisings in Yemen began. The organization has received numerous claims from African women who were sexually harassed. African men have also increasingly been victims of rob-

bery.

He said that the Somalis, who were seen throughout Yemen in large trucks, were accused of being sent to participate in the uprisings. Al-Nemrani said that these trucks are used only to smuggle the Somalis into the country but not to participate in the demonstrations.

"These people fled their own countries to escape from conflicts. They would not be part of the conflict in Yemen," Al-Nemrani said.

The refugees, who have been sitting-in at the UN office in Yemen, were accused of using the current situation for their own favor.

According to Nabil Othman from the UNHCR, the African refugees who have been calling on the UN to find a solution for them actually want to go to countries outside Yemen. Othman said that these refugees "claim to be victims of the uprisings in order to push the international community to help them find a country to live in other than Yemen."

He said that the number of refugees in front of the UN office on Baghdad Street varies from 100 to 200. They arrive in the morning and leave at night.

According to Othman, the UNHCR has offered to them two new centers to live in, in Al-Rebat and on the 50 Meter Streets, but they insist on pressing for a new arrangement.



African refugees are still looking for a safe place after the clashes in Yemen broke out late in May. The UNHCR in Yemen, however, said that they claim that they are not safe in order to find a country other than Yemen.

Abdul Rahman Aman said that he and the other refugees now face greater pressure because it has become more dangerous now even in front of the UN office. Last week, several protesters were killed near the office.

Aman, who used to live in Al-Hasaba Street, has been staying on the streets until he can find a more "secure place to live."

The problem of accusing dark-skinned people of being used as snipers has accumulated to reach out Yemenis of African mothers.

Another dark-skinned Yemeni man, who preferred to remain anonymous, was forced by armed men to show his identification. His mother is Ethiopian. He said that he was "suspected to be one of those allegedly recruited by the regime as a sniper."

He works in a Hotel in Hadda street. He claimed that even the Somalis working in wiping cars were asked to show their IDs, as they were suspected of having been recruited to kill people.

HOOD spokesman Al-Nemrani said that the growing fear of dark-skinned people may have negative consequences in the long-run, creating the impression that Yemeni society does not tolerate foreigners and isolating the country even further from its regional neighbors.

Women around the world need more support

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 — A new report from the World Bank and IFC released on Sept. 26 finds that women still face legal and regulatory hurdles to fully participating in the economy. The report is a part of the Women, Business and the Law Project which measures how regulations and institutions differentiate between women and men in ways that may affect women's incentives or capacity to work or to set up and run a business.

Women, Business and the Law 2012: Removing Barriers to Economic Inclusion finds that while 36 economies reduced legal differences between men and women, 103 out of

141 economies studied still impose legal differences on the basis of gender in at least one of the report's key indicators. The report also identifies 41 law and regulatory reforms enacted between June 2009 and March 2011 that could enhance women's economic opportunities.

Globally, women represent 49.6 percent of the population but only 40.8 percent of the workforce in the formal sector. Legal differences between men and women may explain this gap. The report shows that economies with greater legal differentiation between men and women have, on average, lower female participation in the formal labor force.

"Competitiveness and productivity have much to do with the efficient allocation of resources, including human resources," said Augusto Lopez-Claros, Director, Global Indicators and Analysis, World Bank Group. "The economy suffers when half of the world's population is prevented from fully participating. It is certainly no surprise that the world's most competitive economies are those where the opportunity gap between women and men is the narrowest."

In the Middle East and North Africa region, all 14 economies covered have at least one legal differentiation both in accessing institutions and in

using property. And several economies in this region have more than one legal differentiation between men and women. However, governments are working towards more gender legal parity. For example, in Yemen the government eliminated minimum loan amount for inclusion in the credit bureau.

The report measures such things as a woman's ability to sign a contract, travel abroad, manage property, and interact with public authorities and the private sector. In all economies, married women face more legal differentiations than unmarried women. In 23 economies, married women cannot legally choose where to live, and in 29 they cannot be legally recognized as head of household. Women, Business and the Law objectively measures such legal differentiations on the basis of

gender in 141 economies around the world, covering six areas: accessing institutions, using property, getting a job, providing incentives to work, building credit, and going to court.

Every region includes economies with unequal rules for men and women, although the extent of the inequality varies widely. On average, high-income economies have fewer differences than middle- and low-income economies. The Middle East and North Africa have the most legal differences between men and women, followed by South Asia and Africa. In Africa, a notable exception is Kenya, which leads globally with the most gender-parity reforms during the past two years. Regionally, the most improvements in gender parity occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia.

Continued from page 1

Assassination attempts on the rise

The successful attacks against military figures were in Aden in which many colonels and officers were shot dead in various attacks.

On June 13, Colonel Mutea Al-Sayani, officer of supply department at the 31st Armored Brigade in Aden was assassinated in a car bomb.

And on June 20 an assassination attempt targeted the major general Mahdi Maqwla, military commander of the southern military area in a car bomb in front of his house.

On June 27, colonel, Khaled Al-Hibshi, commander of infantry team of the 31st Armored Brigade was also assassinated by a car bomb.

And late June, armed Islamists have attacked an artillery of tanks at Caltex round-about in Aden by a car bomb in which some soldiers were killed and others were wounded.

Saeed Ubaid Al-Jemhi, a Yemeni

expert on Al-Qaeda told the Yemen Times that not all assassination attacks against military leaders are of Al-Qaeda and only Al-Qaeda can be linked to such operations in areas where the organization in battles with the government such as Abyan.

"Al-Qaeda assassinations are only in conflict areas such as Abyan where several army leaders were prone to many attacks by the organization in which some operations were successful and killed leaders of the army," he said.

He added that in areas where Al-Qaeda is not in war with the government such as the capital Sana'a the assassination attempts against army generals are due to the present political conflict between Saleh's regime and the opposition demanding his oust.

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The Latest BuZZ

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

► A court in Aden issued Sunday a verdict for warrant of compulsory arrest against Brig. General Abdullah Qairan, Taiz security chief, and another soldier over the case of killing, Ahmed Derwish a young man from Aden last June.

► Sana'a and other cities witnessed massive demonstrations by youth and women Tuesday morning and evening to assert their determination to go forward with peaceful escalation and revolutionary resolve to oust the family regime and try its icons. The demonstrators also celebrated the positive change in regional and international position concerning Saleh's regime.

► Regulatory Committee of the Youth Revolution has called for rallies on Wednesday. The move came after Saleh's declaration that he would hand power over only through ballots. The youth said they are moving on with their revolution and continuing the revolutionary resolve until they overthrow the regime and try the president and his corrupt government.

► Yemen Journalists Syndicate (YJS) required on Tuesday foreign media agencies that have correspondents in Yemen to grant them comprehensive life insurance after a photographer working for al-Hurra channel was killed while covering a demonstration against Saleh.

► Saba News Agency and maritime sources said Tuesday that an oil pipeline in Marib connecting the governorate to the Red Sea was blown up causing the 125,000 barrel oil flow to decrease by 25,000 barrels. The burst pipeline was feeding the main line since Monday.

► Canada asked Saleh to step down. Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird urged President Saleh to step down and for him and his supporters to allow a peaceful democratic transition to take place, one that respects freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to refrain from using excessive force against protesters.

► Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said that had China urged Yemen to resolve differences through dialogue and other peaceful means, and to promote an inclusive, peaceful, orderly and Yemeni-led process of political transition. It also called for all sides to take the interests of the nation and people first and keep rational and calm, so as to avoid more bloodshed and conflict.

► According to a military officer and eyewitnesses, tribal militants managed to shoot down an Su-22M fighter in Bait Athar, middle of Arhab north Sana'a by anti-craft gun after the craft attacked the area.

► A powerful explosion, thought to be of a mortar shell, occurred Tuesday evening inside the Central Security camp in Sana'a that is run by Saleh's nephew Yahia. A security source said the incident might be planned by defecting Brig. Ali Mohsen.

► Abu Bakr al-Kirbi, Yemeni foreign minister accused the opposition of threatening to launch a destructive civil war in the country. Al-Kirbi said in a speech before the UN General Assembly on Tuesday that the opposition in Yemen is carrying out sabotage attacks to assume power. He stated that the anti-president demonstrations have cost Yemen \$2 billion with damages to roads, oil pipelines and other infrastructure since January.

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وكافة موظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز

Dreamy Taiz: Customs and traditions

By Amira al-Arasi

Yemen's topography and diverse geographical nature have largely contributed to the variety of customs. Although social customs in particular are generally similar, Taiz governorate has its own unique traditions for each occasion in life; from birth to engagements, weddings and death.

Engagement

Before an engagement is made official, the hopeful suitor sends an intermediary to the would-be bride's family to propose - and brief them about the potential groom, giving them the opportunity to inquire about him, his family and lineage.

They will ask the middleman to come back in a week or two once the

family has concluded its investigation. Then the middleman contacts them and arranges an appointment for the groom and his family to come and propose officially.

The hopeful suitor will come to the girl's house bringing with him enough qat for him and the other men as well as 15-20 packets of sweets and juice, and a bag with the engagement ring and some clothes for the would-be bride. He will also bring a portion of the agreed YR200,000 and up to YR20,000 for the engagement party and costs.

The aspiring groom's father will propose the wedding to the bride's father - and when the proposal is accepted, the first sura (chapter) of the Quran, al-Fatiha, is read to bless the agreement. Upon this, the parties agree on YR700,000 as a dowry and on the wedding date.

Arrangements

Two to three months before the marriage, the engaged young woman will reserve the wedding hall and the band before shopping for wedding clothes - usually dru'a (loose, light and flimsy colorful gowns) that are suitable for hot weather. She will also buy clothes for various occasions but will not care much for gold or excessive clothes. Wedding invitations are printed and sent around a week before the wedding.

At the groom's house, his family prepare the couple's bedroom because most of the time, the bride is expected to live with her husband's family. They also install speakers on the groom's house to play merry wedding songs by Yemeni singer Ayob Tareh Absi - especially omma al-arousa (Bride's Mother), rushou al-otour al-kathia (Spray Sweet Perfumes), sabaia milah yeqtefin li al-mashaqer (Beautiful Girls Pick Me Basils).

The bride will visit a Turkish bath one day with her bridesmaids during the wedding week. The bath consists of three rooms: The first is the change room, which is lukewarm. The second, middle room is rather cool followed by the innermost room at the hottest temperature, where the bride and her friends sit to enjoy their bath. She puts henna (turmeric) on her skin, then henna, before the final wash, which makes her skin clearer and softer.

The bride goes to the tattoo lady to draw beautiful designs and patterns on her hands, feet, chest and back using an aromatic black temporary dye mixed with water and salt, or more recently, perfume. The designer uses a small bowl and a tiny wood stick. The bride should keep away from wind to avoid any harm to her skin and keep the designs intact until the dye dries completely. But she should not have these designs done if she suffers from skin allergies to such materials.



This is what the ladies of Jabal Saber in Taiz wear traditionally.

Then comes the shower day on which the bride wears a green gown embroidered with golden threads. She also wears all her jewelry and puts a veil made of gold or Arabian jasmine. Women meet that evening to celebrate the bride by singing, dancing and distributing juice and cakes that are usually made at the bride's home. The evening ends by packing the prospective bride's clothes in preparation for the "big night" and her move to her husband's house.

On the wedding day, she wears her white gown and waits at her parents' house until her husband's family come to collect her. When they do, she bids her relatives goodbye while wedding music plays. The bride goes out on foot and people shoot guns and fireworks in the air and an all-woman band accompanies her to the wedding car followed by several cars full of family and friends that sound their horns until she reaches her new home.

When she arrives, a sheep is slain at the door as a token of respect, over which she should walk. She then stays surrounded by women to eat lunch. After lunch, her makeup is renewed and she goes to her room to receive her husband.

The bride's family stay at the groom's house until their daughter's "honor" or virginity is confirmed. As soon as they are told the good news and given the cloth that contains the blood, it is given to the female band leader who takes the fabric to show all the village inhabitants - or the cloth may be hung on her parents' house.

The newlywed woman stays home for a whole month not doing anything out of indulgence before she assumes her full responsibilities as a wife - and daughter and sister-in-law if she lives with her husband's family.

Pregnancy and birth

In her last months of pregnancy, a woman shops for her child's clothes and when she gives birth a midwife comes to her home. If the delivery should prove to be difficult, she is taken to the medical center. Once her child is born, the new mother is given the choice to either move to her parents' home or stay with her husband's for 30 days following the birth.

Death

The shroud, a white cloth that is given to all dead people without

discrimination, is bought after taking the dead person's measures. The body is washed using plants like cactus and herbals such as henna leaves.

The cloth is roughly tailored; a man has three pieces while a woman has five (a shirt, a pair of trousers, two head scarves and two sleeves). After that the body is perfumed and enshrouded in one large cloth that is tied once pieces of cotton are put in the deceased's mouth, nose and ears to prevent secretions.

After the body is enshrouded their friends and relatives come to bid their last farewells before the dead person's face is covered and the body is put on a bed-like wood bier that is carried by men to the nearest mosque. The Quran is read and prayers are said for lay the dead man or woman at rest.

At the mosque, people perform the prayer of the dead that comprises four takbirat (saying Allah is the Great) without kneeling or prostration. After the first takbira, the fatha (or opening sura) is read, after the second, praying of the Prophet, after the third, praying for the dead and after the last comes salam or saying "may peace be upon you" - once to the right then to left.

Soon after that, the dead man or woman is carried to the graveyard and any children following the funeral receive some sweets. After the burial rites, people attending the funeral go back to have lunch in the deceased's house and a ceremony is held in their memory with prayers and songs chanted by a religious chanter.

A man's service lasts for three days while a woman's is longer, lasting 10 days. During this time bitter coffee and dates are given to women who have come dressed in black to convey their condolences. No food is cooked in the dead person's house and relatives take care of catering for the close family.

The last day for mourning women is called Ashora'a in which a sheep is killed and all relatives gather for lunch to mark the last moment of grieving.



Traditional clothes for women from Wadi Al-Dhabab in Taiz.

The wedding



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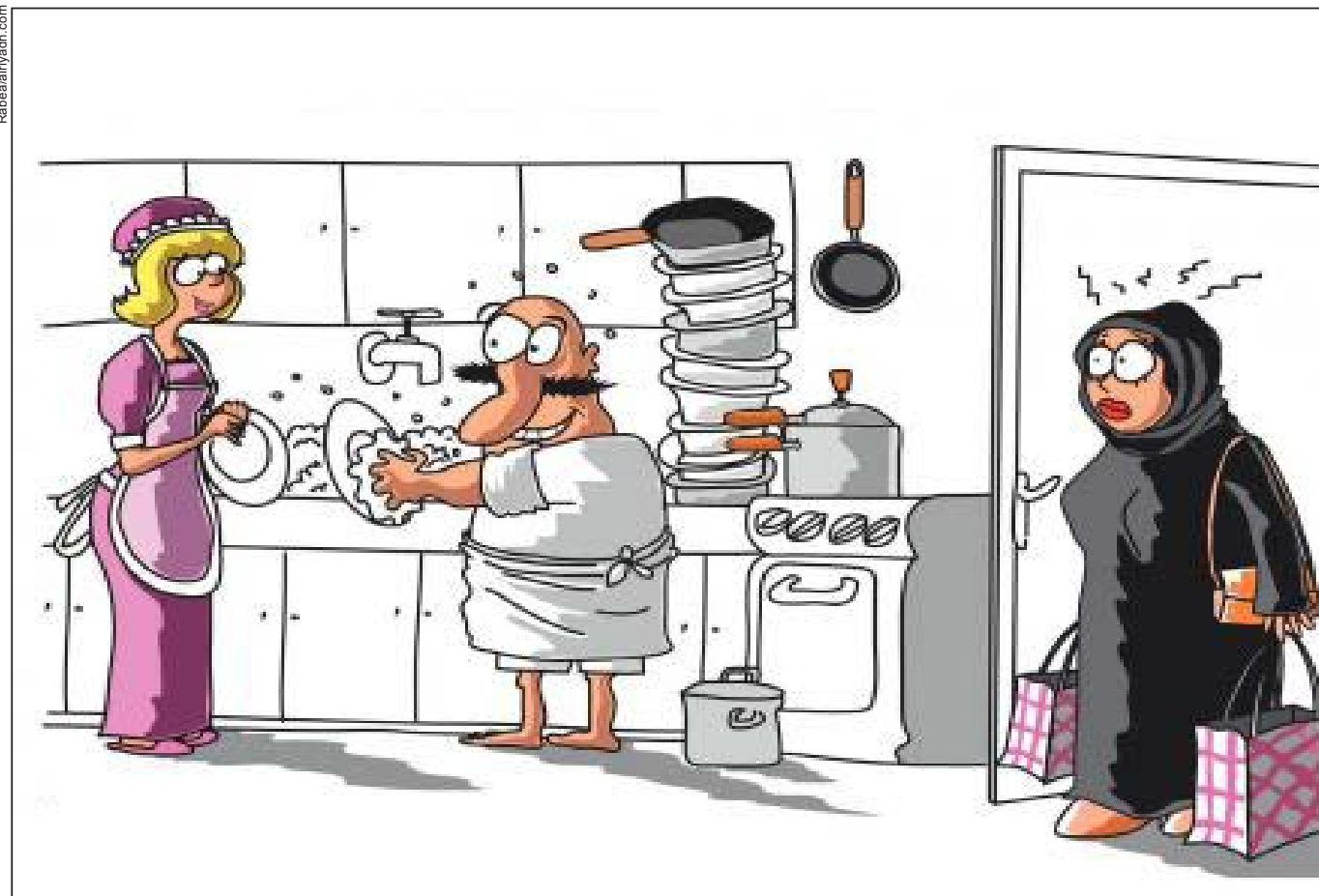
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Saudi Arabia to recruit Yemeni house-workers



Saudi Arabia employs maids from East Europe

By: Ali Saeed

The Saudi Ministry of Labor announced on September 17 that it will open up new immigration channels for foreign house-workers, including housekeepers and drivers from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Yemen.

The Saudi News Agency quoted the Deputy Minister of Labor, Mafrij Al-Haqbani, who said that his ministry has taken this action after it suspended hiring house-workers from other countries for "laying difficult terms affecting the Saudi

citizens' privacy."

He added that the ministry is working on procedures which guarantee the rights of the employer, employee and recruitment offices.

However, this action by the Saudis has created commotion and debate among Yemenis. They are divided between those who support the decision and those who oppose it on the grounds that it clashes with the Yemeni cultural tradition that bans women from working as housekeepers.

"Sorry, Saudi people, but Yemen does not produce and export housekeepers," said Adnan, a Yemeni commentator. "Yemen is a land of

civilization, pride and dignity, wisdom and faith. Yemen is the root and the origin of the Arabs, so how can a country with such credit accept this insult of its women? No, and thousand times, no," he added at the end of a story published on the online Saudi newspaper, Al-Watan.

Another commentator wrote on the same paper's website, "Oh idiots, in Yemen itself there are no Yemeni housekeepers at rich households because they consider it a shame, so they recruit Ethiopians or Somalis."

Huda, a married Yemeni woman who is working secretly as a house-

keeper in a rich Yemeni household, was happy when the Yemen Times called her and told her this news.

"Migration is hard, but when I find nothing to eat, I feel that if there a job somewhere else in the world, I will go," she said.

Huda explained that she has been working in this profession without her family's knowledge and receives only YR 20,000 (less than US\$100) per month. By contrast, Ethiopian and Somali housekeepers who are working in Yemen typically receive double this amount.

"I live with my husband and my kids in one room. If I had the chance to take this job in Saudi Arabia, I would travel with my husband," Huda said.

Because of the discontent vocalized by some Yemenis regarding the decision, the Saudi Minister of Labor, Adel Al-Faqih, explained on September 18 via the social networking site Facebook that the terms of the house-workers decision permit the recruiting only of Yemeni men.

He also said that "the definition of house-workers is not confined only to the housekeeper, but it also includes other professions such as private nurse, house-guard, property guard, house cook, gardener, driver and any other occupations granted by the government to the

head of the family."

"What the ministry means in the context of recruiting house-workers from Yemen particularly is men's jobs, specifically drivers, farmers and cooks," Al-Faqih explained.

"We in Saudi Arabia respect Yemeni traditions and consider them as part of the social traditions and customs of the Arabian Peninsula, which we also share," he said.

Mohamed Ali, representative of Al-Ashtal recruitment office in Sana'a said, "This decision from Saudi Arabia is good since it will provide job opportunities for some Yemenis. Employment offices will be able to promote new occupa-

tions for Yemenis in Saudi Arabia as well."

The unemployment rate in Yemen is already high but has increased with the uprisings of the past eight months, in which thousands of Yemenis have lost their jobs. Because of power outages, which last for 20 hours per day, and fuel shortages, hundreds of companies and plants shut down or suspended their activities.

A new report released this month by Yemen's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation said that the unemployment rate in the country has increased to around 52 percent.

Reactions to the decision

By: Amira Al-Arasi

Many Yemenis especially women did not appreciate the job opportunities made available by this decision. Some even considered it an insult considering that Yemen is a conservative society.

"It is true that we are living in difficult economic conditions but it is not fair that our people are humiliated and our women are shamed into working as servants in other countries," said Mohammed Ra'afat a 20 year old Yemeni student.

"We also hear that some Saudi men abuse their female servants and even rape them. So how can I sacrifice my mother or sister to work in a place where I don't trust its men. I am also sure that if our women are hurt our government would not even lift a finger," he added.

On the contrary Hani Ali who has a PhD in the oil sector does not agree and thinks there is no problem with this decision and that it is up to the family and their circumstances. "Where is the harm in Saudi hiring maids from Yemen? We can recruit maids from Saudi, US or Britain and it does not mean anything about any people or humiliate them because eventually it is a job," he said.

Adding that Yemeni women should believe themselves as equal and so you should not say that women from Aden or Taiz accept to work as maids while those from Sana'a don't because they have more pride. "It is a matter of safety and job requirement and every person should not be responsible for their decision."

Um Hakim a mother of five and a government employee in the educational sector rejected this opportunity altogether and was upset. "As Yemeni women don't accept to work in our own country as servants how about in another country where our lives and honor is at risk." She added that in Yemen the women themselves don't have their rights so outside their country they will be subjected to harm even more.

unite for children unicef Vacancies Announcement

Internal and External Vacancy Announcement No. 31/2011

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

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

Under the supervision of Chief of Operations, the ICT Specialist is responsible for the formulation and implementation of an office IT plan, utilizing available resources, to maintain/provide efficient computerized information systems and services and to improve work effectiveness and productivity, consistent with the goals, objectives and strategies of the office and the organization.

1. Install and administer the office multi-user computer network. Upgrade Desktop software as required by IT standards. This involves establishing the multi-user network and procedures for user access and data security and supervising the administration of such
2. Coordinate the introduction and technical operation of organizational computer applications, particularly ProMs/VISION. This involves overall understanding of the functioning of system and the interaction of data between sections within the office and with HQ divisions. This will require the upgrading of all equipment as necessary, the establishment of replication procedures, and the maintenance of all systems administration procedures required to run ProMs. In addition, assist to install new versions of the systems and troubleshoot ad-hoc user problems in their functioning.
3. Establish and maintain the electronic mail connections required for ProMs/VISION, E-Mail, Internet/Intranet access and cost-effective telecommunications, using SITA and other recommended options, including Radio where necessary.
4. Plan the acquisition of specific computer hardware and software, coordinate its deployment and introduction into the office, and manage its maintenance. This requires interpretation of IT guidelines to suit local requirements and recommend equipment and software packages and guide their introduction and maintenance.
5. Coordinate computer training and support. This requires identification of IT training requirements and arranging for external training or formulating in-house training courses. It also involves arrangements for ad-hoc user support whether on hardware or software problems.
6. Manage the required local database capacity, using standard IT Database.

7. Provide support to staff using Lotus Notes and establish Notes replication capacity where required.
7. Coordinate an IT plan and budget for computerization, telecommunications and records management, based on a review of IT-related status and needs of management in the office. This should be consistent with global IT strategies and guidelines.
8. Coordinate office records management through establishment of a records management regime and system for the office in accordance with organizational guidelines and policies.
9. Any other duties as required by the Supervisor

Minimum Qualifications and Job requirements:

Education: First university degree in computer science or related fields.

Work Experience:

One year progressively responsible professional experience in computer information management work, including data processing applications, use and evaluation of PC software, database management, multi-user network (LAN), telecommunications and electronic mail systems (in particular, Microsoft Exchange), 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 English and Arabic (Both written and Verbal) required.

Internal and External Vacancy Announcement No. 32/2011

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

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

Under the supervision of ICT Specialist the incumbent will provide technical, operational and procedural support and end-user services in the implementation and support of information management (systems, procedures and activities) of the Office. Also, the incumbent will perform in-house preventive maintenance.

1. Assist in administering the office multi-user network and other data and telecommunication facilities. 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.
2. Assist in office IT training and support for computerization. Outside training may need to be arranged or in-house training courses formulated and given. Ad-hoc support to users experiencing difficulties will involve analyzing the source of the problem and solving it, whether hardware or software related.
3. Assist with the introduction and technical operation of organizational 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 the systems and troubleshoot ad-hoc user problems in its functioning.
4. Ensure the installation of all radios, supervise repair and maintenance of HF stations, mobile HF stations and VHF hand-held radios in Sana'a and all UNICEF zone offices and outposts including follow up with concerned government counterparts on policy issues related to radio clearance and permits from the concerned Government authorities. Ensure the installation and maintenance of HF and VHF radios in all UNICEF vehicles and ensure that they are functional through close monitoring and follow up.
5. Administer the reporting of equipment problems, the diagnosis of source of problem, fix the problem if possible or place service call to vendor for maintenance and follow up as necessary.
6. Assist with the introduction of specific computer hardware and software. This involves installation of new hardware and software schedule with users.
7. Any other duties assigned by the supervisor.

Minimum Qualifications and Job requirements:

Education: First university degree in computer science or related fields.

Work Experience:

One year progressively responsible professional experience in computer information management work, including data processing applications, use and evaluation of PC software, database management, multi-user network (LAN), telecommunications and electronic mail systems (in particular, Microsoft Exchange), 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 English and Arabic (Both written and Verbal) required.

Competencies required (for all posts above):

Core Values (Required)

Commitment
Diversity and Inclusion
Integrity

ii) Core Competencies (Required)

Communication [II]
Working with People [II]
Drive for Results [II]

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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Yemen's hijacked revolution

By Letta Tayler
Foreign Affairs

Initially inspired by revolts in Tunisia and Egypt, students and other protesters began taking to the streets in cities across Yemen in January. They demanded greater democratic freedoms, an end to corruption and poverty, and the resignation of Saleh, who has ruled Yemen for 33 years. They are the public faces of the movement – and they are also the primary victims of the violence the government has unleashed in response. State security forces and pro-government assailants have killed at least 225 protesters and bystanders during largely peaceful demonstrations, with dozens left dead in recent days alone.

Had influential governments such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Saudi Arabia moved swiftly, they might have pressured Saleh to heed the protesters' calls. Instead, the international community dithered as Saleh feigned in-

terest in a deal to step down from power. By June, when Saleh was badly wounded by an assassination attempt and fled to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment, the world's attention was already turning to uprisings in Libya, Syria, Bahrain, and elsewhere. Yemen's pro-democracy protests became overshadowed by a power play among the three top contenders to run the country: General Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar, a renegade army commander who was once the president's confidant; Hamid al-Ahmar (no relation), a billionaire entrepreneur from the prominent Hashid tribe; and Saleh's eldest son, Ahmed, who leads the elite Republican Guard.

General al-Ahmar and Hamid al-Ahmar threw their weight behind the protest movement early on: the general with his soldiers, and the businessman, by many media accounts, with his wallet. Yet it should be said that both men are entrenched in the very power structure that the protesters hope to uproot. Fending them off during

the president's nearly four-month convalescence in Riyadh was Ahmed Saleh, whose Republican Guard has led many of the attacks on largely peaceful protesters. The onetime heir apparent to his father, Ahmed Saleh is an old rival of General al-Ahmar.

This internecine battle of the elites has not just displaced the grassroots coalition of young people and activists whose demonstrations first put pressure on Saleh; it has also sidelined Yemen's weak but functional political parties and parliament, as well as its resilient civil-society movement – all of which are potential building blocks for a new, democratic Yemen. And the infighting has further challenged central authority in a country where the writ of law already runs shallow and al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has found safe haven.

General al-Ahmar defected to the anti-Saleh movement with his powerful First Armored Division in March, after pro-government snipers fired on a peaceful protest

in Sanaa, killing at least 49 people. The general said he left to protest the bloodbath, but critics viewed the move as opportunistic. Since then, his soldiers have ringed the demonstrators' camp at "Change Square" outside Sanaa university to protect the protesters from attacks by the Republican Guard and Central Security, a paramilitary force led by the president's nephew, General Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh.

Saleh was able to keep the rivalry with Hamid al-Ahmar in check until the 2007 death of Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar, the clan's patriarch. Sheikh Abdullah was Yemen's paramount sheikh in a country where tribes are integral to the power structure; he also was speaker of Parliament and head of Islah, the largest opposition party. Islah espouses an Islamist ideology but includes an array of tribes, businessmen, and political moderates. Sheikh Abdullah developed a complex power-sharing arrangement with Saleh, brokering deals

between the president and sheikhs within the Hashid confederation, of which the president's Sanhan tribe is a part. But the sheikh's ten sons had their own agendas.

There is no quick fix to Yemen's crisis. But events of the last week suggest that only firm and sustained international attention, coupled with the prospect of targeted sanctions, will persuade the country's warring factions to swap arms for dialogue and to include the street protesters in the talks.

To that end, the United States, the European Union, and Gulf states including Saudi Arabia should freeze the foreign assets of President Saleh and his top security offi-

cial and officially suspend all security assistance until the authorities stop attacks on protesters and start bringing those responsible to justice. They also should press Yemen to stop resisting the presence of UN human rights monitors. At the same time, the UN Security Council should make it clear to all clashing factions in Yemen that it will not tolerate disregard for restraint. And would-be dealmakers, including Saudi Arabia, should pull any immunity offer for international crimes off the table.

Letta Tayler is the Yemen and Counterterrorism Researcher at Human Rights Watch

King Yahya's ghost

By: Raza Naem

Yemen is boiling, and unhappy. And like the previous two upheavals in northern Yemen – in 1948 and 1962 – the injured despot who has just ended his welcome exile in Riyadh and returned to the country, is at the center of the crisis, ably helped by his Saudi and American backers. This week already, at the time of my writing, 95 protesters have been killed by Ali Abdullah Saleh's enforcers in various parts of the country. And with yet another attempt by Saleh's backers in Riyadh and Washington to preserve his 33-year old dictatorship, over and above the wishes and hopes of the country's brave insurgents – in both north and south – the killing seems certain to go on indefinitely.

Yemen was one of the countries which were immediately infected with the revolutionary enthusiasm generated across the Arab world by the overthrow of the despot in Tunis and Cairo. Yet unlike the rest of the Mashreq countries – Saudi Arabia

and the imperial petrol stations – as well as the occupied Arab countries of Iraq and now Libya, Yemen does not have natural resources or a central position in the Arab world like Syria and Egypt to warrant the type of concern in the West that followed the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak or the speed with which NATO effected regime change in Tripoli.

This is a legacy of the ugly compromises the Saleh kleptocracy made with the religious Islah Party in order to keep the YSP out of the power structure. What is really happening in Yemen today is the unfolding of the unfinished historical baggage from Yemeni unification. The Houthi uprising in the north is led by former allies of Saleh who were used as mercenaries in the reconquest of the south in 1994 and have now fallen out with the ruling elite.

Far from being a religious revolt, the rebellion in the north is not aimed at the establishment of a Zaidi/Islamic heavenly kingdom on earth as the alarmist media would have us believe; in fact, what started as an old-fashioned

bar-room brawl over resources and political influence has now taken on greater proportions because of Saleh's vicious military campaigns against the rebels, midwived since last year by the U.S. and now by its chief proxy in the peninsula, Saudi Arabia, whose interventions in the country (as everywhere else) have always been self-serving and expansionist.

The revolt in the south mainly involves former socialist military officers who have seen what little revolutionary gains they fought for dismantled by the grotesque combination of military officers and clerics imported from the north (and quite possibly Riyadh)."

My subsequent travels across the north and south of the country alerted me to the tragic history of this unique Arab country which had been touched both by the wave of 'orthodox' Arab nationalism as well as the more radical revolutionary wave in the north, radical colonels inspired by Gamal Abdel Nasser toppled the medieval imam-ate in 1962 while radical communists drove out the British from the

south in 1967 and proclaimed the Arab world's only Marxist state.

So Saleh has ruled Yemen since 1978 in a fashion similar to the imams of old, relying to tribal potage as well as the goodwill of his Saudi and American patrons on the dubious assertion that if he isn't allowed to continue until he obviously dies in office, the country will fall prey to al-Qaeda. There is no substance to back up this fictitious claim, both in the turbulent history of the country and from my own impressions of my visit there. Far from an al-Qaeda presence, what is indeed present is a deep and abiding memory of the struggles which helped in getting rid of first, a repressive ruler and later his entire dynasty in the north, aided by a revolutionary upheaval in the south. These struggles have in turn produced another upheaval in 2011, and has united north and south once again, in a way opportunistic imams and colonels never could. There is at the moment a lot of mistrust on the streets of Sana'a about Saudi and American intentions to strangle Yemen's nascent uprising at birth. Not without reason. After every revolutionary upheaval in the country, it is the counter-revolution that has been victorious, backed by the reactionary and moribund old order in the East led by Saudi Arabia. But Yemen is also not Bahrain: it is a real country having a proud history of democratic resistance. As the killing goes on. It is the ghost of old Imam Yahya, assassinated in Yemen's first democratic uprising in 1948, that beckons Saleh for his comeuppance as he makes his way back to Sana'a having nursed his injuries in Riyadh. But for how long? Imam Yahya was not so lucky, while his son Ahmad survived two serious assassination attempts. If Yemen's past is any guide, a people's victory in Sana'a would be a tremendous inspiration to the hopes dashed by the bloody Saudi crushing of the Bahraini uprising, and a huge step forward towards an Arabia hopefully without sultans and emirs.

Raza Naem teaches Political Economy and Middle Eastern History and is completing a book on the legacy of revolutionary Yemen post-Saleh. He can be reached at razanaem@hotmail.com

Tribal obstinacy will ruin Yemen

By: Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Arab Times

After eight months of political and military conflicts, Yemen remains the hostage of warring parties, which want to have the cake and eat it too. In other words, none of these parties is willing to give room for reconciliation to save the country from further collapse. The security situation continues to deteriorate because both sides have refused to shift ground. This is an alarming situation, especially if the Joint Meeting Parties and the General People's Congress fail to realize the misery and risks that await the security, economic and political sectors in Yemen. None of these groups can bear these risks if they don't agree on protecting the country from these problems. This has prompted the presentation of the GCC initiative, which remains the best way to overcome the crisis, because it guarantees peaceful transition of power through elections that will be overseen by the international community.

This solution will prepare the ground for President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who fully abides by the Constitution, to transfer power in a peaceful manner. He does not want to push the country into civil war or put it under the control of agents tasked to implement foreign agendas to divide Yemen and pull it backwards. He does not want the recurrence of a scenario when the English 'submitted' Aden to the popular Qattan that divided it into two and pushed it towards long years of suffering, crisis and war.

Unfortunately, the opposition has failed to reach a consensus over the

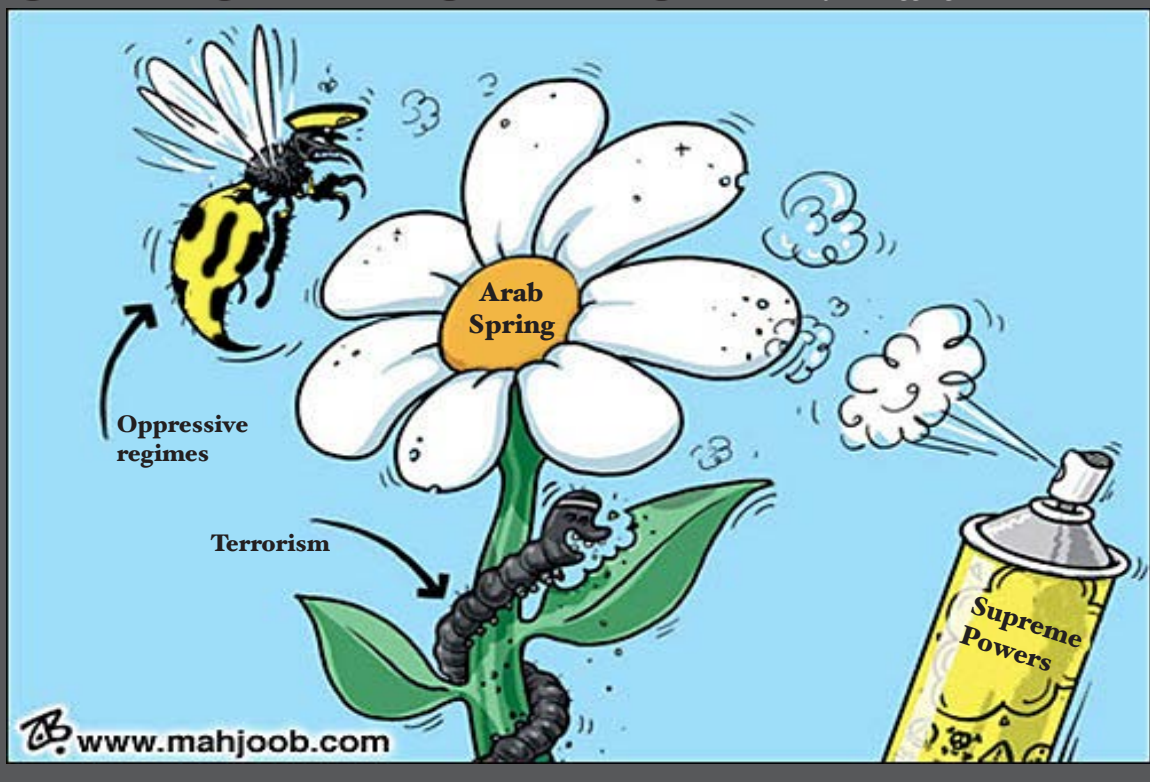
last eight months. It has rejected any solution and failed to use reason in their stances. It has refused to shift ground on who should sign the GCC initiative; thereby, pushing the country into the pit of civil war, which is unacceptable to the Yemenis.

The warring sides have not spared any ammunition in fighting each other, up to the extent of terrorizing and trying to assassinate the legitimate leader of the country. However, all their efforts have amounted to nothing and they have not reached a compromise. Under such circumstances, the opposition must admit its inability to solve the problem; hence, the need to end its tribal obstinacy and accept the initiative, regardless of who signs it - the president or his deputy. At the end of the day, what matters is that the initiative can stop the bloody conflict, take people off the streets and put everything back to normal in Yemen, in addition to reactivating the national and constitutional institutions.

Saleh returned to Sanaa after three months of treatment in Saudi Arabia. Although some of the opposition groups celebrated his departure and announced that he will never return, he came back with a stronger and wider support base. Despite the declining trust in his leadership, he continues to prove his readiness to peacefully transfer power and protect the institutions. He knows the power vacuum might turn Yemen into another Iraq or Somalia and this is unacceptable to the Gulf and international communities. It is disheartening to see Yemen remain in its current situation due to the obstinacy of some political blocs that want to have the cake and eat it too. May God save us!

SKETCHED OPINION

By Hajjaj



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Final selection of the scholarships recipients will be based on passing the DELF B1/B2 exam, receiving university admission, field of study, and the secondary school results.

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The below should be included in the application for the scholarship program:

1. Completed scholarship application form (apply for one major only)
2. A copy of the DELF/DALF certificate (if available)
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The students should further:

4. Meet the university/institution's admission requirements
5. Commit to return to work in Yemen after completion of the program

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 - ▶ Quality
 - ▶ Telecommunication
- ▶ Transportation
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- ▶ Law

Eligibility

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4. Must have at least one year work experience in Yemen
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The below should be included in the application for the scholarship program:

1. Completed scholarship application form (apply for one major only)
2. A copy of the DELF/DALF certificate (if available)
3. A copy of your CV
4. A copy of the university degree and transcript

The students should further:

5. Meet the university/institution's admission requirements
6. Commit to return to work in Yemen after completion of the program

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Moatasem Thabet

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

A student and revolutionary, Moatasem Thabet, 21, has a dogged determination to continue his struggle against the regime.

For months, Thabet has been spending his time in Change Square in Sana'a, seeking justice, dignity and freedom, writing many essays about the revolution, taking pictures and short films of the events of the revolution and participating in all rallies and demonstrations.

Thabet is an independent revolutionary and a student at the Faculty of Mass Communication at Sana'a University. From the beginning of the uprising in Yemen, he was eager to play a vital role in the revolution and he did so.

What prompted Thabet to join the revolution? "Unfortunately, we are controlled by a group of corrupt soldiers so we joined the revolution to build a new civil state without more corrupts."

Thabet, along with his colleagues, were keen to make a significant contribution to the revolution. They participated effectively in the events of the revolution. They also have been issuing a four-page revolutionary newspaper to raise awareness about the importance of the revolution among Yemenis.

According to Thabet, the revolution started to gather momentum recently, especially after President Saleh's return. "Our revolution will



not lose its momentum any more. We are determined to escalate our action and continue our struggle peacefully."

Thabet is very confident that embattled President Saleh will be tried sooner or later. He said that Saleh and his regime are dying and have no choice except to use military force against peaceful protesters.

"We started our revolution and we achieved many of our aims although Saleh was all-powerful. Now Saleh is dying and his regime losing power gradually," he said.

He criticized the international community's weak stances on the 'regime's crimes', calling for them to adopt a positive and tough stance

on these crimes.

Expressing his dissatisfaction with the Gulf initiative, Thabet said: "The GCC initiative is a conspiracy against our revolution. It's just a salvation for President Saleh and his corrupt inner circle."

He slammed President Saleh for his recent 'provocative speech'. "Saleh described the honest revolutionaries as robbers, bandits and terrorists. He wanted from his meaningless speech to ignite violence and cause rifts among Yemenis."

Thabet indicated that many tribesmen and soldiers from the Republican Guard and Central Security have been joining the

revolution. "If the regime continues his crimes against us we will not be silent anymore and we will resort to using force."

Although he is optimistic about the success of the revolution, Thabet expects that the regime will cause a short skirmish between Yemenis. "But the regime will not be able to continue its crackdown against us", he said.

During the beginning of the revolution, Thabet still remembers his happy moments in Change Square. "It was a joyful moments when I heard about the departure of President Saleh to Saudi Arabia after he was hit at his palace."

The sad moments were also strongly present in Thabet's memory. Many of his friends were killed in front of his eyes. "I won't forget the massacres of the regime in Sana'a and Taiz. I cannot forget when the regime set fire to Liberty Square in Taiz, killing many people. My memory is riddled with unpleasant moments during the last months."

However, these bad moments make Thabet more confident and more determined to continue his struggle against the regime.

Disputes between the revolutionaries annoy Thabet who advises them to avoid their disagreements and achieve the aim of toppling the regime. "The revolutionaries shouldn't talk about their problems publicly."

Thabet conveyed a message to those who have doubts about the intention of pro-democracy protest-

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ers, saying: "We are peaceful and forward-looking protesters who demand freedom and better life. We took to the street to create a decent life and eliminate the rampant corruption in our country."

He added, "The revolution was not ignited for the sake of a political party or a person. Our revolution is for the sake of Yemen and Yemenis."

Describing his dream of the civil state he seeks, Thabet said: "We really want to build a new civil state where Yemenis have the same rights and chances. We want a country where marginalized Ye-

menis can achieve their aspirations without being oppressed."

Asked his opinion about the closure of Sana'a University by some revolutionaries, he said: "How can we study in such circumstances. The rector of the University and the deans of the colleges are corrupt and they are supporter of the regime. We cannot study well while this regime kills us in cold blood."

Thabet urged all 'reluctant youth' to join the revolution to accelerate the fall of the regime.

"Our revolution must be resolved soon," he said. "Yemen cannot afford more crises and more delay."



Hidden gems of Yemen

By: Tim Winstanley
archdaily.com

Yemen is a country rich with history. Its cities are full of architectural monuments that are constructed with a craft that often goes overlooked. These cities merge seamlessly with the surrounding landscape, contextually complementing each

other.

Al Hajjara is one such village that warrants a closer look. Built on the precipice of a mountain, the architecture clings to the sides of the cliffs. Multi-story buildings rise up out of the ground and step their way to the top. It is quite amazing given the fact that these buildings were constructed hundreds of years ago, and are still standing.

Al Tawila is another such town

that is located on the peripheries of a mountain. Situated on the edges of nearly depleted oil fields, its future remains uncertain. However, this gem of a town would garner any architectural enthusiasts' attention.

Finally, the capital Sana'a is another destination worthy of exploration. The history and culture within this Yemeni city are enough to keep any prospective tourist

busy. The propensity for multi-storied buildings with intricate masonry detailing has made the streets of Sana'a a dense labyrinth yet exciting to explore. The mild climate ensures that this city remains a year round destination.

While this portion of the Arabian Peninsula has experienced its fair share of negative exposure, its architecture, rich history, and culture are deserving of exploration.

