

## No news on kidnapped protestors



Women mourn the death of one of twelve protestors killed on Tuesday, October 18.

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Oct. 19— At least eleven people have been killed and dozens wounded after Central Security and armed men loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh opened fire on pro-democracy protestors. The marching protestors were demanding the ouster of the current regime.

They were attacked on Tuesday while protesting against the regime in Al-Qa'a neighborhood, where many Saleh loyalists are stationed.

Witnesses said that hundreds of protestors were trapped by armed men and members of the Central Security Forces. One protester was reportedly stabbed to death.

On Wednesday afternoon, thousands of Yemenis carried the coffins of the slain protestors to the cemetery.

A statement from the Ministry of Interior claimed on Tuesday that the bodies do not belong to protestors killed during Tuesday's marches.

The statement went on to say that these bodies belong to supporters of the Al-Ahmar family, tribesmen killed in recent fierce clashes with government forces.

According to Yemen's National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD), five female protestors and dozens of protestors - including some who had been injured - were kidnapped by government security forces. Those were the group that was surrounded by a pro-regime rally who isolated them from the rest of the protestors.

HOOD condemned these actions, describing them as setting a dangerous precedent.

Lawyer and human rights activist Abdul-Rahman Barman told the Yemen Times that many protestors were arrested and detained in the Secretariat of the capital building and Municipality building near Al-Qa'a neighborhood.

He indicated that four female protestors were kidnapped by armed

men. "Their families are looking for them without success. They were transferred to an anonymous place."

According to Barman, about 35 detained protestors have been released, but not before their money, mobile phones and personal belongings were stolen. Until now, there is no new news of the remaining kidnapped protestors.

"Many detainees have been exposed to torture," said Barman.

However, none of the kidnapped women were released.

"Some protestors were beaten severely by thugs who had been hiding themselves behind trees. The thugs brutally beat the protestors, and used batons and daggers. They were a real gang," said student and protester Omar Al-Nehmi, 23, who was among the marching protestors trapped in the Al-Qa'a neighborhood.

Al-Nehmi revealed that some Central Security soldiers greeted the protestors as they marched on the Al-Qa'a neighborhood.

"They were greeting us, and at the same time a cameraman from the state-run Yemen channel was recording video to mislead public opinion," he explained. "After the cameraman left the area, we were immediately attacked."

"I found escape in a house during the attack. I witnessed shameful actions by the thugs and soldiers. They were beating protestors, robbing their mobiles and personal belongings," he angrily told the Yemen Times.

"I was deeply shocked by such disgraceful behavior," he added.

Mareb Al-Ward, a youth activist and one of the revolutionaries, told the Yemen Times that what happened in Al-Qa'a area was a crime of banditry committed by supporters of President Saleh.

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## Security Council battles over sanctions

Disagreements over sanctions and impunity delayed yesterday's expected vote by the UN Security Council for a resolution on Yemen. Meanwhile, Saleh called for international reassurances that he would not be prosecuted if he gave up power.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Oct. 19 — The UN resolution on Yemen, a draft of which was championed by Britain, alongside France and the US, was supposed to be put to vote this week at the Security Council's (SC) meeting in New York.

But although the Secretary General's (SG) advisor on Yemen, Jamal Benomar, said the UN is in agreement that Saleh must go, his immunity from prosecution remains a point of debate.

"There is general consensus that fighting must end at once and an immediate transfer of power must take place," said Benomar in a press statement from the UN head quarters on Tuesday.

Until last week, permanent SC state-members Russia and China had taken a more lenient stance towards Saleh - but they eventually came on board after it was agreed that the UN resolution should be almost entirely based on the Gulf Initiative that provides Saleh with immunity.

However, one clause focuses on the accountability of "all those responsible for human rights violations and abuses," which analysts believe could be delaying the final version of the resolution.

The capital Sana'a has seen a heightened security presence since early Wednesday morning as the ruling party's main committee conducted an emergency meeting



Tawakul Karman at the rally in New York in front of the UN's head quarters on Tuesday Oct. 18, 2011.

headed by the president.

The meeting was aimed at discussing the UN Security Council's resolution on Yemen as well as the latest developments in the Gulf Initiative - but resulted in the party blindly delegating decision-making powers, which could rescue Yemen, to the president.

Although the party reiterated its support for the Gulf Initiative, Saleh said he wanted international guarantees of impunity - rather than promises from only Gulf countries - before giving up power.

The ruling party also said that if no political agreements could be reached soon, the president would create a new government within days.

"The outcomes of this meeting is just another random move, if he [Saleh] is serious all he needs to do is sign," said Saleh Samee', Professor of Political Sciences at Sana'a University. "This is another maneuver to escape the Gulf Initiative which is not internationally recognized."

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### Why are the Security Council resolutions important?

The Security Council is composed of five permanent members: China, France, Russia, the UK and USA. Only these members have the right to block any resolution - even if the majority had accepted it.

The other 10 members in the current term which concludes by the end of the year in brackets respectively, are:

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2011), Brazil (2011), Colombia (2012), Gabon (2011), Germany (2012), India (2012), Lebanon (2011), Nigeria (2011), Portugal (2012) and South Africa (2012).

For any resolution to be passed, it has to be accepted by the five permanent members and at least four of the non-permanent countries.

Under the UN Charter, all members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations can make recommendations to governments, only Council has the power to make binding decisions.

## Yemenis question the killing of 16-year-old Al-Awlaki's son

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Oct. 19 — The news of the killing of an America teenager - purported to have links with Al-Qaeda - in a US drone strike on October 14 has provoked the anger and con-

demnation of human rights and child protection organizations.

At least five Facebook pages and groups have been created for the purpose of condemning the killing of the 16-year-old boy by drone, seen by many as a violation of a teenager's human rights. With no proof that he is a militant, a group called "Abdulrahman Anwar Al-Awlaki, Locked In Our Hearts" is among those recently started.

A statement on the Facebook page reads, "A 16-year-old Yemeni-American boy was murdered on Yemeni soil by an American drone strike on Friday 10/14/2011 with the help of the Yemeni government. This page has been created to show the world the truth about these so-called democratic nations and the misleading information they are widely spreading!"

Such pages provide portraits of Abdulrahman, portraying him as a fun and modest youngster who spent time with his friends and enjoyed himself like any teenager. The groups say his favorite books were Twilight and Harry Potter, and his favorite musician was Shakira.

Another page describes the slain teenager as follows: "Abdulrahman Anwar Al-Awlaki was a typical teenage high school student. He liked swimming and was into rap and hip hop. We are angry and we will never forget. End the killing of civilians, bring the murderers to justice, and



His favorite books included Twilight and Harry Potter titles.

join the cause."

Abdulrahman was born in Denver, Colorado in the United States on 26 August 1995. In 2002, he moved with his family to Yemen after his father became recognized by the US as one of its most-wanted terrorists. On September 30 of this year, the world received the news that the U.S had managed to kill his father. Two weeks later, Abdulrahman himself was among the latest victims of US drone strikes in Yemen.

"Abdulrahman traveled to Shabwa a week before his father's murder and left a letter for his mother in which he told her of his intention to search for his father.

Continued on page 2

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# Mahatma Gandhi's historic sojourn in Aden

By: Dr. Ausaf Sayeed

India has a long association with Aden going back to the historic times. Aden was a flourishing port, trading centre and an important gateway for India at that time. It attracted a large number of Indians, mainly from Gujarat and Maharashtra, who were engaged in whole-sale and retail trading. After Aden became part of the British Empire in 1839 and began to be administered by the Bombay Presidency, the population of the city as well as that of the expatriates began to increase. It was estimated that the Indian Diaspora in Aden numbered 8,563 in 1856 and increased to around 15,000 by mid-1950s. The Hassan Ali Street in the Crater region of Aden still shows traces of the old glory of the 'Cloth Market', which was primarily managed by the Indian merchants.

Apart from their astute business acumen, the Indians resident in Aden displayed a high degree of political consciousness and took a keen interest in the events relating to the Freedom struggle back home. The Indian community in Aden was staunchly opposed to the proposal of the British government to separate Aden from India and govern it as a protectorate even after India's eventual independence.

The British government in India considered Aden as a safe heaven to incarcerate Indian freedom fighters, on the same lines as they used the Andaman & Nicobar Islands as the infamous "Kala Pani", far away from the sight and minds of people.

One of the earliest and well-known cases of confinement of Indian revolutionaries in Aden pertains to that of Vasudeo Balwant Phadke, who was the first freedom fighter to conceive 'swaraj' or an Indian Republic, as the only answer to rid India of its foreign occupation. He gathered several tribes comprising of Ramoshis, Bhils and others and launched an armed struggle against the British and even managed to take control briefly over the city of Pune. He was, however, captured in July, 1879 and sentenced to life imprisonment and later

shipped to Aden in January, 1880. Phade managed a daring escape from the Aden jail in October, 1880 but was re-arrested soon after. He died in Aden on February 17, 1883 after a hunger strike.

As Aden was the first port of call from India on the international sailing route, it was a favourite destination for many Indian national leaders and revolutionaries for stopping-by on their way to or from Europe and other destinations.

**The British government in India considered Aden as a safe heaven to incarcerate Indian freedom fighters**

One of the earliest Indian leaders to visit Aden was Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, first in 1919 and later on 13th January 1935. Netaji wrote extensively about his second visit to Aden, which was on his way to Europe from Bombay on board the ship 'MN Victoria' on the Italian Lloyd Triestino Line. He mentioned in his account that the Indian settlers in Aden were primarily from Kathiawar and were engaged in businesses. He referred to the strong presence of the Royal Air Force and a contingent of British troops numbering about 2000 stationed at Aden. He was impressed by the city's picturesque location, nice buildings, roads, tunnels built through some of the hills and the stony water reservoirs. Netaji addressed the Indian community in Aden and talked about the constructive programme adopted at the Bombay Congress and the Khadi movement in India.

No other visit, by an Indian or world leader, generated as much enthusiasm and interest among the local Arabs as that of Mahatma Gandhi to Aden in 1931. Gandhi's use of the instruments of non-cooperation, passive resistance, civil disobedience, self-reliance and communal harmony in his peaceful struggle against the British created a deep impact in the

Arab world, which was itself suffering from the ignominy of the colonial rule in large parts. Gandhi's clear views on the Palestinian issue that "Palestine is for Arab as the Britain is for the British and France is for the French" had already gained him great admiration in the Middle East.

No wonder when Gandhiji arrived at the Al-Tawahi port in Aden on the morning of September 2, 1931 on board the British Ship 'SS Rajputana', en route to London to participate in the Second Round Table Conference, he was warmly received by the people of Aden, both Indian and the locals. Gandhi was accompanied on the voyage by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Sarojini Naidu, the "Nightingale of India", his youngest son Devdas, his British disciple Madeleine Slade ("Mira Behn") and his assistant Mahadev Desai.

The first person to go on board to greet khadi-clad Mahatma Gandhi was Mohammed Ali Luqman, a renowned Arab journalist and editor of the Aden Chronicle newspaper. Mr Luqman recalls, "I stood silently in front of a man who has been sent by god to change the face of Asia." He introduced himself to Gandhiji as the President of 'Arab Reform Club', whose branches existed at Al-Tawahi and Sheikh Othman areas of Aden, and later accompanied him in the city.

Mohammed Ali Luqman, who was privileged to interview Gandhiji, gave a succinct account of Gandhiji's sojourn in Aden, which is being regularly published in Arabic and English newspapers in the Middle East, the last being in the 'Aden News' on 27th December, 2010. Dr Farooq Luqman, the illustrious son of Mohammed Luqman, who is a renowned journalist based currently in Jeddah and a great friend of India, has been instrumental in refreshing the memories of the Arab readers to this historic visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Aden.

Mohammed Luqman mentioned that the British authorities were initially reluctant to allow Gandhiji to disembark from the ship, and address a public gathering at Al-Faris Park in the Sheikh Othman area. The British even tried to dissuade people

from gathering at the park but relented later and allowed the meeting to be organised. They also agreed to Gandhi's request for hoisting of the Indian flag at the venue. Gandhiji was greeted enthusiastically by cheering crowds, who offered a purse of several thousand rupees towards the cause of the freedom struggle.

On the way to the venue, Mr Luqman enquired with Gandhiji on the possibility of the Arab world getting their freedom from the shackles of colonialism to which Gandhiji replied "this is an iron castle, and you should move ahead patiently and cautiously as the imperialism is still powerful, but certainly it would not last long".

In his first public speech delivered outside the Indian sub-continent since 1914, Gandhiji declared that India did not stand for isolated independence and added that «one-fifth of the human race, becoming free through non-violence and truth can be a great force of service to the whole of mankind». Quoting extensively from the Holy Quran, the Bible and the Gita, which he was carrying

with him, Gandhiji praised Prophet Mohammad and Caliph Omar Bin Al-Khattab and urged the Indians to live in harmony and brotherhood with their Arab brothers and establish permanent bonds of friendship with them. He expressed regret at the widespread sale of alcohol in Aden. He concluded his speech by declaring that he would not accept anything short of independence during the Round Table Conference.

On his way back from London, Gandhiji once again passed by Aden but was not allowed to disembark. The first question he asked upon reaching Aden was "where is my friend Luqman?"

To mark the historic visit of Gandhiji to Aden, a 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hall' was constructed and later a bust of Gandhiji, donated by the Government of India was unveiled by the then Governor of Aden, Mr. Taha Ahmed Ghanim. A limited edition of hundred covers commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's arrival in Aden was issued by the government of Yemen.



Gandhiji on the deck of P&O S.S. Rajputana, September 1931

A 'Mahatma Gandhi School' also runs in this place and over ninety per cent of its students are Yemeni. Every year, Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated with great vigour and passion in the school. Mahatma's legacy lives on!

The author is the Ambassador of India in Sana'a



## EMBASSY OF INDIA

To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, Embassy of India presents an exhibition «Tagore in Kantha» under the auspices of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and under the patronage of Ministry of Culture, Government of the Republic of Yemen.

**Venue:** Embassy of India, near Y company, off Hadda, street No. 24, Sana'a  
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# The Pinochet Standard

By: **Stephan Sonnenberg**  
The Stanford Daily

Over the weekend, I listened to a radio retrospective marking the 35th anniversary of Orlando Letelier's assassination in Washington, D.C. Letelier had been a minister of the government of elected socialist Salvador Allende who later fled to the United States to become a leader of the international opposition movement to Pinochet. Letelier and his American assistant, Ronni Moffitt, were killed by a car bomb planted under their car on Sept. 21, 1976, allegedly by assassins acting on the direct orders of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet. How despicable is the commentary that an abusive foreign government would be so bold as to track down one of its own nationals to a foreign state and then collude with paid killers to eliminate him.

How terribly ironic, then, to listen to our own president barely a week later praise the operation in which U.S. authorities did exactly that: track down U.S. national Anwar al-Awlaki and collude with Yemeni security forces to eliminate him in Yemen. Ironic indeed, because President Obama's praise was directed not only at the Amer-

ican covert operatives involved in the attack but also at the Yemeni government and its security forces who had been working closely with the United States to carry out the mission.

Yes, those Yemeni security forces: the same ones who also stand accused of gross human rights violations in their desperate efforts to snuff out their own edition of the ...Arab Spring protests working their way across the region.

Just like Pinochet, Obama apparently believes it is permissible to mark his own citizens for death once he defines them as a threat to the nation. And just like Pinochet, he apparently has no trouble allying himself with actors who openly flaunt human rights in their quest for power. Breaking with the analogy, however, not even Pinochet had the audacity to proudly claim credit for his decision to order an assassination. Not so with Obama, who seems to take great pride in his use of drones to kill al-Qaeda operatives regardless of their citizenship.

Of course, historically, the U.S. government saw things very differently. In the case of Letelier and Moffitt's assassination, the United States insisted that amnesty not be granted to those involved in the killing, resulting in a 17-year process to bring those responsible for

the crime to justice in a Chilean courtroom.

For someone who started his tenure as president of the United States by accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Obama has a surprising comfort level with the tools of tyrants: praising Yemeni security forces while overlooking their mass killing, using the law of war to justify the killing of a U.S. citizen even though we are not at war with Yemen and denying American citizens their basic right to a fair trial when accused of terrorism.

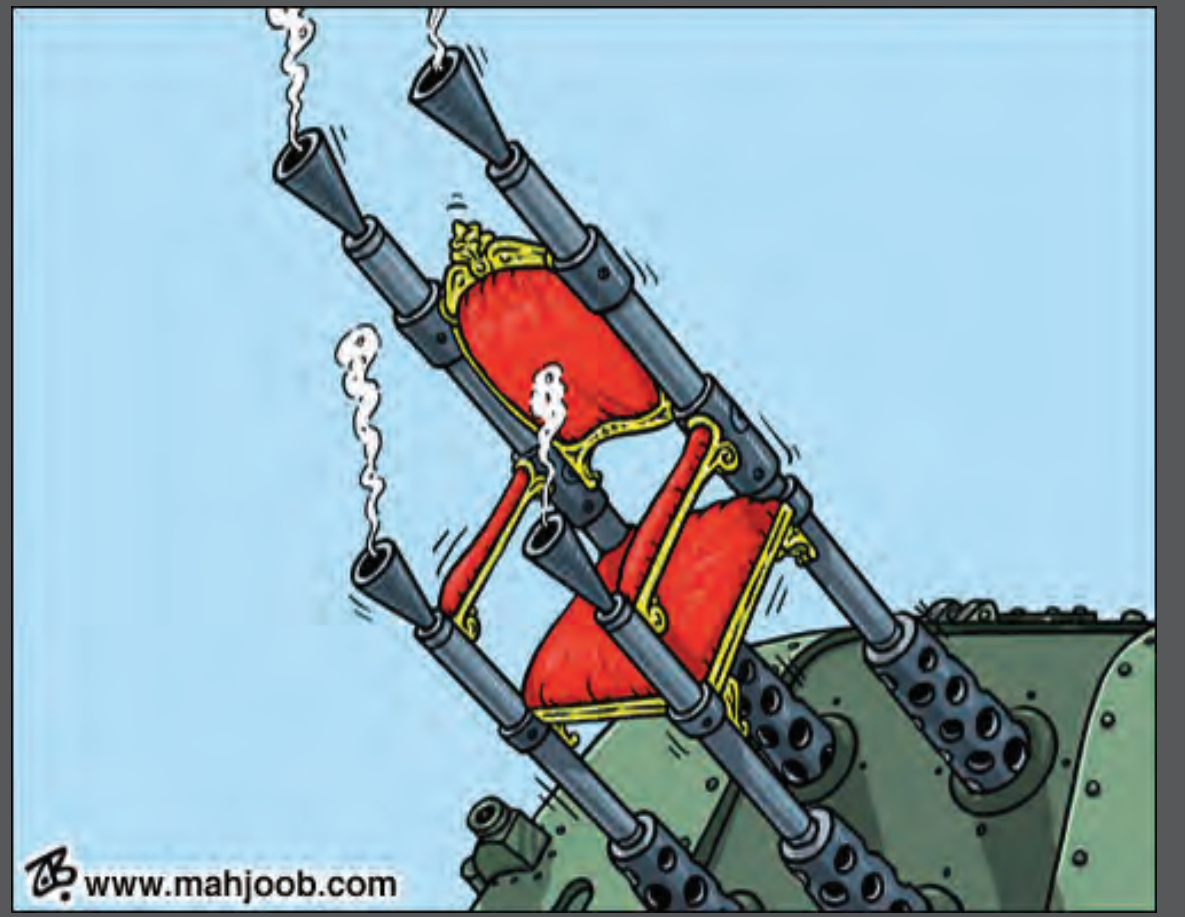
Of course, Obama and other government officials routinely justify the killing of Al-Awlaki and other al-Qaeda operatives by highlighting the despicable and illegal acts that Al-Awlaki and his followers allegedly have committed. Pinochet, of course, also justified the attack on Orlando Letelier because of the former minister's supposed ties to international communism. Whatever the merits of these claims, we must demand more of democratic states and democratic leaders than ...The Pinochet Standard.

*Stephan Sonnenberg is a Clinical Lecturer, International Human Rights & Conflict Resolution Clinic*

*Stanford Law School*

## SKETCHED OPINION

By Hajjaj



## Where is Yemen headed as Saleh tries to reassert power?

**President Ali Abdullah Saleh's recent return to Yemen has emboldened Saleh loyalists and angered protesters further. A civil war in Yemen could have repercussions for global trade.**

By **Michael Horton**,  
The Christian Science Monitor

As Yemen enters its ninth month of widespread antigovernment protests, President Ali Abdullah Saleh's attempt to reassert control rather than negotiate with the opposition is pushing the country toward civil war.

While most Yemenis have shown great restraint and persist in their calls for a peaceful transition of power, the recent return of Mr. Saleh after convalescing abroad from a June assassination attempt has emboldened both Saleh loyalists and protesters opposed to his regime.

"Saleh won't quit until the whole country is on fire," declares Aklan Faris, who has defected from the elite Republican Guard run by the president's son. "But by God he has gone too far. It is ayb [shame] to kill women and children. God willing, Saleh and his family will be forced out."

But neither Saleh's government nor the opposition is a diverse movement of tribal leaders, military defectors including Maj. Gen. Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar, and disillusioned youths is appears to have the support or military assets to triumph decisively over the other.

"None of the key protagonists is President Saleh and his family, Ali Mohsen, and the al-Ahmar family are showing signs that they are either willing to back down or able to achieve an unambiguous political or military victory," says Sarah Phillips, a Yemen specialist at the

University of Sydney in Australia.

A civil war in Yemen would not be one in which a single group challenges another. It would be multi-dimensional, and it could have repercussions for the region is most notably Saudi Arabia, which shares a 1,100-mile border with Yemen.

Saudi Arabia is ill-equipped to deal with the kind of humanitarian crisis that would result from a civil war in Yemen, and the conflict could spread to the Saudi provinces of Jizan, Asir, and Najran, which are home to both ethnic Yemenis and religious minorities is some of whom clashed with the Saudi authorities in 2000.

Such a conflict could also heighten the threat of piracy along the Bab al-Mandeb, a strategic strait that is critical to international oil and cargo shipments.

### Divided military, divided country

The Republican Guard, the Central Security Service, and the Air Force, all commanded by relatives of the president, have played key roles in maintaining Saleh's tenuous grip on power.

Despite the thousands of antigovernment demonstrators who continue to fill Yemen's streets, Saleh still has a substantial number of supporters both within the military and among the general populace is likely influenced by his extensive patronage networks through which he has long bought support in exchange for cash, jobs, and influence.

However, the increasing level of violence against civilians threatens to erode the cohesiveness of even those military units that remain loyal to the government. Saleh's return to Yemen and the continued resolve of the protesters are driving many of these units to take ever more desperate measures.

While much of the media coverage has focused on Sanaa and northern Yemen, South Yemen is

an independent state until Saleh imposed an unpopular reunification in 1990 is also experiencing widespread unrest.

Even before the outbreak of protests in late January, residents of South Yemen frequently took to the streets to protest what many of them view as Saleh's discriminatory policies. While the country's limited oil and gas wealth is located in the south, the government is dominated by Yemenis from the north.

Many southerners view the current weakness of the Yemeni regime as an opportunity to press their claims for secession is a movement that is now of critical importance to the stability of Yemen.

Al Qaeda: not the only radical Islamists The elevated levels of instability and the deterioration of the already limited authority of the central government in Yemen have almost certainly benefited a range of radical groups. Elements of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and other radical Islamist groups have been most active in the restive south. For example, the southern governorate of Abyan has seen intense fighting between the Yemeni Army and a group calling itself "Ansar al-Shariah."

The United States and Yemen have stepped up cooperation against alleged terrorists in recent months, and on Sept. 30 trumpeted the killing by US drone attack of Yemeni-American cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, blamed for inspiring English-speaking Muslims to engage in terrorism. His tribe has disputed that he is dead, however, saying the remains found at the attack site were not his.

Some say the Saleh government is conflating the threat of AQAP with that of rebellious southerners, who actually are often opposed to radical Islamist ideologies.

*Mr. Horton has frequently traveled to and written from Yemen over the past decade.*



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## Mohammed Al-Jaradi

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

**M**ohammed Al-Jaradi is a dynamic and ambitious revolutionary, striving for change, freedom and democracy.

At Age 21, he was one of the few students and youth who marched on the Tunisian Embassy after the success of the country's own revolution earlier this year.

His bravery led to him being repeatedly beaten up, threatened and attacked by the security forces and groups loyal to President Saleh.

He believes that the revolutionaries have put pressure on the regime and ended the Saleh's plan to bequeath power his son.

"We need a little more time to overthrow the remainder of the corrupt regime," he said. "This regime resorts to its arsenal of weapons to protect itself.

"The biggest challenge that the revolutionaries face is the 'family army' that fights for the sake of President Saleh not for the sake for Yemeni people," he added.

"We have faced all challenges and difficulties and the regime's provocations patiently," said Al-Jaradi.

In addition to his contribution towards the revolution, Al-Jaradi works as a journalist at independent weekly Al-Ahali newspaper. He is also an active student at Faculty of Mass Communication, Sana'a University.

He has written many stories about the revolutionaries, the regime's crackdown against protest-



ers, detention of protesters and the torturing of detainees.

Despite the frequent attacks on protesters by the security forces, Al-Jaradi insists on a peaceful solution to the revolution. "We are determined to continue our struggle peacefully even if the regime tries to drag us to violence.

"Unfortunately, the regime has deployed thugs and gangs on the rooftops of some buildings in Sana'a to kill peaceful protesters," he said.

Asked about the role of opposition parties in the revolution, Al-Jaradi said: "There is no doubt that the opposition political parties have played a vital role in supporting the revolution regarding political process.

"Although they have made some

mistakes, we have a mutual goal," he said.

Al-Jaradi called for the revolutionaries to avoid disagreements and focus on the aim of ousting the regime.

He believes in the importance of social media in promoting the aims of the revolution; his activity on Facebook is noticeable.

"I try my best to mobilize Yemenis to join the revolution," he said.

Al-Jaradi dreams of a government that respects the minds of Yemenis and encourages a culture of creativity.

"We are seeking a new country based on democracy, freedom of speech and justice. We need a new state that keeps Yemenis' dignity and grants an equal citizenship for them," he said.

## Shadi Yaseen

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

**S**hadi Yaseen is a young student and revolutionary who remains at Change Square in Sana'a - despite the frequent attacks on it.

Shadi, 20, is known among revolutionaries as a kind and obliging person. He is also one of the very active students at the Faculty of Mass Communication at Sana'a University.

Despite his young age, Shadi has written many stories and essays about the revolution, which can be found on several well-known websites and newspapers.

Some famous, well-established Yemeni journalists expect that Shadi will also become a successful journalist himself.

"The revolutionaries prove every day that they are strong and have a passionate belief that their revolution will achieve its aims," he said confidently.

Shadi believes that, except for some areas of Sana'a, the revolution has won in all Yemen's governorates.

"Revolutionaries in Sana'a have faced a crackdown by the regime courageously and without resorting to weapons."

Shadi is disturbed by the "daily killings" of peaceful protesters and innocent Yemenis by the regime.

"I've lost many of my close friends," he said. "They had been killed brutally by Saleh's ruthless security forces because they demanded change and freedom."

But these bitter experiences made



Shadi more determined to continue his struggle. "The crackdown by the regime will not impede the progress of the revolution.

"On the contrary, it will maximize our desire to overthrow the regime."

It was a painful memory for Shadi to remember the "crimes of the regime" against the city's marches and demonstrations.

Describing the difficulties he and his friends have faced since the start of the revolution, Shadi said: "We got used to living in harsh circumstances such as torrential rains and financial difficulties.

"Our firm belief in the aims of

the revolution made us determined to face all difficulties enthusiastically."

Shadi criticized the repeated attacks of the Republican Guard on protesters and tribesmen.

"The Republican Guard wants to destroy the power of pro-revolution tribesmen because of their support of the youth revolution," he explained.

But Shadi is worried about the revolution in light of the stubbornness of President Saleh. "We expect insane decisions from Saleh so we must be patient to avoid the actions of this crazy man."

However, while he believes that the revolution will eventually be resolved militarily, he is against foreign intervention in Yemen as happened in Libya.

Shadi listed the reasons behind the delay of Yemen's revolution: "A disappointing response from the international community, the negative stance of Saudi Arabia and its attempts to hinder the revolution, coupled with the regime's use of force have contributed to delays in the revolution," he said.

Shadi is keen to build the coming civil state. He dreams about providing Yemenis with their needs and achieving their goals.

"I hope to see stability and love in my country. I hope that the new state will give all Yemenis equal opportunities and maintain their dignity," he said.

"Yemen's reputation has been destroyed by Saleh and his corrupt regime. We want to build that reputation."

## Yemen's online community: fun, business and revolution

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

**T**he illiteracy rate in Yemen is over 60%. Even more striking is that almost 99% of people in Yemen are 'internet illiterate'. Still, tracking the one percent of Yemen's internet users - a percentage that is sure to grow - can tell you much about general traditions and changes in Yemeni society. Also, the activity of this one percent shows that these users are on the internet for a wide variety of different purposes, many of them unexpected.

Some check the daily news online nowadays rather than wait for the news to appear on television. Newspapers care more about updating their websites than before, and those newspapers that have online editions are the most read newspapers in Yemen, prime examples being the Mareb Press and Al-Masdar.

"The first thing I do when I arrive at my office is go to a website that collects news from all news websites. It lays out what was written on each news topic and makes the news policies of the different websites clear, and the editors' political affiliation clear" said Ahmed Alam.

The new version of the "Cold War" After the Yemeni revolution started in February, the nature of citizens' usage changed, with more engaged with social media such as Facebook and Twitter due to such sites' roles in the Arab Spring. As a result, students, activists and journalists are using social media to mobilize protests, while government supporters and intelligence services are using social media to promote their own views.



Internet access inside protesters' tents help them organise marches.

"They are launching a Cold War campaign against us [activists] that makes it difficult for the reader to differentiate who is telling the truth," said activist Waleed Al-Qadasi from Change Square.

Some people are paid by the hour by different parties to promote political ideas online using Facebook groups or Twitter.

"Due to continuous power cuts, the state rents a hole in this hotel [Taj sheba hotel] for internet users" said a pro-government journalist. Some protesters believe that this service is for those who follow what activists post on social media websites.

### Online business

One of the best ways to check Job vacancies is online, as most companies have their own websites to introduce and share their work. Using social

media to advertise goods is a cost-efficient alternative.

"Instead of buying a newspaper every day, I go and check a vacancies website, as it offers the best jobs available," said Alia'a Ahmed, a job seeker.

"My friends have a group on facebook to advertise their homemade goods. They sell it to each other or some users tell others about it. They business is doing well," said Nuha Jamal.

### Getting married online

Yemen is a conservative country, a place where traditions are very important. The majority of people get married in traditional ways. However, the internet offers an easy way for people to find their match.

"My Friend found her partner online. She used to spend a few hours

every day participating in different online forums. A guy from Jordan was also on the same forum and became interested in her after following her posts. That's how they got to know each other," said Ahlam Al-Dhibani.

Many young ladies and men enroll in different marriage websites for the fun of it.

"Lots of my friends registered on marriage websites. It's a good way to find your perfect match...but you don't necessarily believe in doing it this way," said Al-Dhibani.

### Studying online

Yemeni schools do not teach their students how to best benefit from the internet. While in other countries, students may submit their homework by e-mail, this is not the case in Yemen. Internet usage and access are perceived as something of a luxury and, except for a few private schools, the subject is not taught. If computer-related subjects are taught in schools, it will tend to be theory-based, about the introduction of the computer, or simple Microsoft software lessons.

"I failed twice in computer subjects at university, when in real life I use the internet all the time. I only failed back then because the subjects they taught us were boring and unnecessary," said Nada Ali, a university student. At Sana'a University, there is a department called "Studying from a distance." It is a new department, and since studies at the university were postponed due to recent political unrest, it too remains at a standstill.

In general, students use the in-

ternet for basic research. "I used to teach myself by googling whatever I wanted to learn about. When I see how my friends depend more on the school curriculum, I feel sorry for them. They're studying using old books when they can simply update their knowledge online," said Rasha Abdullah, a University student.

"I would love to study online, but the internet speed and continuous power cuts make it impossible for me to do so. I guess studying online in Yemen is not an option," said Sal-

man Ahmed, a business management student.

Yemenis usage of the internet is changing nowadays, different generations use it for the same reasons sometimes, more people are learning on how to benefit from it every day, which indicate that the mentality is also changing, anti-government students demands to stop blocking internet websites in order to have good access to the information, fathers are interested to learn on what is happening on social media networks.

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