

## A new chapter in Yemen's history



Uncertain of the future but jubilant that this day has finally come. Anti-government protesters in the Deaf and Dumb revolution tent celebrated in Change Square after 10 months of protests and sit-ins.



President Ali Abdullah Saleh signs the GCC initiative in Riyadh seven months after it was first issued ending by that Saleh's 33 year-long rule.

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Nov. 23 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh has signed the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) initiative, agreeing to hand over power after 33 years.

"I never wanted to keep power to myself," said Saleh. "It's the other parties that chose to become the opposition and now we are back to sharing power."

However, he added that what is happening in Yemen today is unconstitutional. "How can you say this is a peaceful transition of power after so many people have been killed. Why didn't we do this from the beginning?" he asked.

After three times refusing the Gulf deal, which was offered in April, and with many Yemenis loath to believe he would really sign, Saleh put his name to the GCC initiative at 7pm on Wednesday Nov. 23, 2011 in Riyadh.

"The signing per say is not what's important, rather its good intentions and serious work though a true partnership to rebuild Yemen," said Saleh after signing.

"We are relying on the support of the GCC, mainly the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia, and the UN to help us in the rebuilding process. We want them to supervise and be witness to the implementation of the initiative."

Members of both the ruling GPC and the opposition Joint Meeting Parties were present to sign the transfer mechanism, which will see power handed to Saleh's Vice President Abdu Rabo Mansour Hadi within 30 days and early elections within 90 days.

However, UN secretary general Ban Ki-Moon, said that Saleh would be flying to New York for medical treatment rather than returning directly to Yemen.

Jamal Benomar, UN special envoy to Yemen, who has been in the country since November 10, was also present. "This is a historical day for Yemen and a time for social cohesion and establishing security and stability in the country," he said.

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, added: "Now Yemenis have to put everything behind them and work for the future."

While there were celebrations in Change Square where anti-government protesters have been camped



Marches were held almost daily in cities around Yemen in the run-up to today's GCC deal.

since February, many still reject the GCC deal because of the immunity it offers Saleh and his regime.

"We did not go to the streets for 10 months and risk our lives for Saleh's regime to share power with the JMP [opposition coalition]," said Waleed Al-Amari a protestor in Sana'a's Change Square. "This signing is a political agreement between the ruling party and the opposition party and we will remain in the squares until our revolution is successful."

Other protesters are concerned by the lack of change in the military system. Bassam Al-Asbahi, also in Change Square, said that this agreement is not useful because "the military is still in the hands of his [Saleh's] relatives."

He added that he is worried because every time the president signs something a war follows.

Recent days have seen marches, online campaigns and even the burning of ID cards in protest of the Gulf deal. On the day of signing itself protests were seen across Yemen in cities such as Sana'a, Taiz, Aden and Hodeida, which were all affected by the uprising.

Taiseer Al-Samee a journalist

from Taiz feels optimistic about the signing and says this is a new chapter for Yemen. "This will save Yemen from collapse and will put an end to the bloodshed. With Saleh now gone the modern state building will begin."

### What this agreement really means

The signing of the Gulf initiative allows Saleh to remain as president albeit in an honorary role since his powers have been delegated to his deputy who did not attend the signing ceremony.

It also allows Saleh to leave power in a way that does not subject him to international prosecution. A tweet immediately after the signing mocked the agreement saying "Unlike Ben Ali, Saleh gets to travel around the world."

A presidential election is to take place within three months yet both the signing parties have already agreed on a common candidate, Vice President Hadi, who will oversee Yemen's transition.

The opposition will lead the new government, which will be formed with 50 percent coming from the ruling party and a suggestion of having a 20 percent quota for women.

The transition period, which could last between three months and two years, will deal with long standing issues such as the Southern Movement, constitutional reforms, the Houthi rebellion and a decentralized federal system.

The restructuring of the army, although an integral demand of the protesting youth, may not be a priority in the transition phase.



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## Kidnapped Red Cross staff to be released soon

By: **Nadia Al-Sakkaf & Ahmad Ibtes**

LAHJ, Nov. 23 — Omar Al-Zughbi, Director of Aden's Red Crescent branch, is optimistic that the delegation of local and international mediators set to visit Al-Musaimeer District in Lahj to negotiate with the kidnappers will be successful.

French International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegate Mariam Al-Husaini and two Yemeni Red Crescent workers were kidnapped while en-route to Lahj Province. They were traveling there to provide humanitarian services for internally displaced

people from Abyan Governorate on November 22 at noon.

The hostages are being held in the Al-Musaimeer District in the homes of the kidnappers.

"The people of Al-Musaimeer are not violent and we know that the RC staff and our volunteer are safe. It's just a matter of time and I would expect them all to be released very soon," said Al-Zughbi to the Yemen Times. He added that it started as a conflict over the distribution of aid to displaced Yemenis from Abyan who are now in Lahj. According to Al-Zughbi, the situation turned political when the kidnappers demanded the release of some political detainees.

The background of the kidnappers — whether they are political dissidents, extortionists, or from the secessionist Southern Movement — is as yet unknown. However, district director Hassan Ali has accused them of involvement in armed conflict with the state's army and of the theft of a vehicle from the National Cement Factory a few months ago.

Yet mediators working to release the hostages could be having problems reaching an agreement with the kidnappers, who have demanded the release of three detained men from their district.

Authorities had arrested the kidnapper Hamdi Hoaidar's fa-

ther to exert pressure on him to release the foreign hostage. However, Hoaidar responded that this act complicated the issue further rather than solved it.

"The authorities keep detaining us illegally based on personal vindictiveness. The district director, Hassan Ali, has a personal grudge against us," said the kidnapper to Aden's Al-Ghad news website.

According to district locals, the director had told security authorities to arrest three of Hoaidar's friends. When mediators from the district failed to negotiate their release, they resorted to kidnapping the Red Cross 'official', as well as two Yemenis who were accompa-

nying her while on their way to distribute aid in Lahj.

The kidnapping is unprecedented in the operational history of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) since it began in 1962, as this is its first incident of its kind in Yemen.

ICRC Communication Coordinator Rabab Al-Rifai told The Yemen Times that "the hostages are doing fine and that they are in contact with the group of individuals who are holding them captive. They are also in contact with concerned authorities and leaders in Lahj governorate in order to safeguard the release of the three hostages."



### Change of agent in Aden

The **Yemen Times** newspaper announces that it has a new agent and distribution officer in Aden. The new agent is **Abbas Salem Mohammed Abdulrahman Bin Shuaila**. If you wish to subscribe to the newspaper in Aden please contact him at 711904805 or (02) 371873.

This change indicates the termination of our contract with **Ridhwan Alawi Al-Sakkaf** who no longer represents the newspaper.

### تغيير مندوب الصحيفة في عدن

تعلن صحيفة يمن تايمز بأنه قد تم تعيين موزع ومندوب جديد للصحيفة في محافظة عدن وهو الأخ/ عباس سالم محمد عبدالرحمن بن شعيلة. فعلى من يرغب الحصول على أعداد الصحيفة التواصل معه على هاتف: ٧١١٩٠٤٨٠٥، أرضي ٢٧١٨٧٣-٠٢.

علما بأنه تم إنهاء التعاقد مع الأخ/ رضوان علوي السكاف والذي لا يمثل الصحيفة من الآن فصاعداً.



**Oxfam**

### JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO working with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering, has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancy for its Humanitarian Programme

#### Communication Officer

Contract Duration: 4 Months with possible extension (Subject to funding)  
Location: Hodeida

#### The role

You will be developing and delivering a Communication Plan to support the impact of the Emergency and Food Security and Livelihood Project. You will be collecting and developing case studies to capture project progress and impact. You will be writing and disseminating press releases, articles...etc, producing visual content for the EFSL website and translating materials between Arabic and English. You will be developing a beneficiary communication plan and making sure communications are grounded in programme experience such as awareness of gender and race.

#### What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with proven experience of using MS Office applications; good knowledge of graphic design programmes is preferable. You should have the ability to gather information, collate and systemize for effective communication and networking. You should have the ability to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively, so you will need to be fluent in English and ideally in Arabic.

#### Monitoring and Evaluation Learning Officer

Contract Duration: 4 Months with possible extension (Subject to funding)  
Location: Hodeida

#### The role

You will be supporting staff to develop Monitoring and Evaluation Learning plan for Food security & Livelihood project, planning field activities and collecting information. You will assess and identify weakness and strengths of Field Officers, ensure beneficiary data is collected from the field and entered into the data base, and work with team and parties to maintain regular exchange of information. You will be participating in specific research studies related to food security and Livelihood, and preparing reports on the situation.

#### What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with very good analytical and assessment skills. You should have proven experience of using MS Office applications, good knowledge of graphic design programmes is preferable. You should have the ability to gather information, collate and systemize for effective communication and networking. You should be skilled in capacity building in Early- Warning- System (EWS). Your ability to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively is essential, so you will need to be fluent in English and ideally in Arabic.

#### To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in either of these positions, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job you are applying for, to [yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk) or send a fax to 01 450170

Closing date for applications is 05<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Please apply immediately as we will be interviewing suitable candidates before the closing date

## 11 killed as army battles Al-Qaeda in Abyan

By: **Ali Saeed**

ABYAN, Nov. 23 — Armed Islamists in Zunjbar, believed to be Al-Qaeda, have extended their clashes with the Yemeni army to Moudya district, west Abyan.

This came after 11 members of the armed Islamists were killed on Monday by the army, which shelled Al-Qaeda's positions around Zunjbar city, a tribal leader in the area told Reuters.

The battles in Zunjbar, Abyan, between the Yemeni army and armed Islamists believed to be Al-Qaeda will not be resolved as long as the regime and the opposition have not reached a common solution, Aysh Awas, a security analyst at the Sheba Strategic Studies Center told the Yemen Times on Wednesday.

This came after the armed Islamists who took control of Zunjbar in late May extended their operations this week, clashing with Yemeni security forces in Moudya district, south east Zunjbar, according to the Yemen's Defense Ministry website.

Two local people from the informal security committee in the district were killed and two more wounded in an explosion in the area, the ministry quoted a local source as saying on Monday.

Following the explosion, local informal security forces clashed with Al-Qaeda, killing three and injuring others, according to the ministry.

It added that Abd Al-Elah Al-

Dahiri, the commander of Al-Qaeda in the Moudya district, was arrested after clashes with his men near his house resulted in the killing of six members of his guard.

The heightened clashes with Al-Qaeda outside Zunjbar comes after six months of fierce battles between the armed group and the army in the capital of Abyan.

"This conflict in Abyan comes in the context of the political crisis in which both parties [regime and opposition] have focused on securing the main cities of Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Hadramout," said Awas. "And this has reduced the focus on Abyan and scattered the efforts [to confront Al-Qaeda]."

The crisis has also spurred both the government and the opposition to send more military units to Abyan, according to the security analyst.

The reduction of the foreign military assistance due to the uprising, both in terms of finance and military equipment, has also contributed to the prolonging of battles between the armed Islamists and the army, according to Awas.

"Because Al-Qaeda is in Zunjbar, which is a residential area, has made it difficult for the army to progress, resulting in a street war," said Awas.

Most of the army interactions with Al-Qaeda in Abyan have been via airstrikes, with no ground troops, but that is insufficient to take back the city, Awas noted.

## Republican Guards regain military camp

By: **Amira Al-Arasi & Ali Saeed**

ARHAB, Nov. 22 — Yemen's air force has been bombarding the Nihm area of Arhab, around 30 kilometers north of Sana'a, since Monday evening.

The warplanes targeted a mosque in Al-Gharbi village and a public health facility in Bani Jarmouz, Nihm, on Tuesday.

Using military jets and ground troops, the government managed to recover Republican Guard Division 63 camp, which was captured by tribes in Arhab on Monday.

Mohammed Mabkhout Al-Arashani, spokesman of the Arhab tribes, said that many locals had fled their homes and some are even living in caves.

"Over two days at least 13 people were killed and 30 injured. Since the beginning of the conflict between the Republican Guards and the tribes in May over 100 people were killed and 800 injured," said Al-Arashani.

However, the spokesman for the Republican Guards Major Gen. Abdulhakim Al-Safwani denied the use of military jets despite the fact they have been seen and heard over Sana'a city.

"The First Armored Division, the Muslim Brothers [Islah Party] and Al-Ahmar family had surrounded the Republican Guard Division 63 with heavy weapons including

Katyusha rockets and RGBs," he said. "In return there are tens of injured soldiers in the camp who did not receive any medical care when they really needed it."

The conflict in the area has been ongoing for six months, and although the government denies having ever used warplanes in the fighting, one soldier of the Republican Guards told the Yemen Times in August that they have been using the air force against their enemy in the area.

Tribal forces battling the Republican Guards, Yemen's elite army commanded by President Saleh's son, were able to shoot down a warplane in the area in late September, according to tribal sources.

The fighting between the opposition tribal forces and the Republican Guards in Nihm and Arhab, remote areas north of Sana'a, erupted late May after the tribes prevented the army from moving military units with tanks to the capital Sana'a. They believed that the forces were being positioned for use against anti-regime protesters or the defected army, according to a tribal leader of Saleh's ruling party in Arhab.

Saleh's regime has been also accusing the Islamic cleric Abd Al-Majeed Al-Zindani, an influential figure of the Islah opposition party, of being behind the tribal attacks against the Republican Guards in Arhab and Nihm.

## The Latest Buzz

By: **Mohammed bin Sallam**

- ▶ Yemen's Civil Services Ministry announced Saturday November 26 — the first day of the Islamic New Year — as a national holiday.
- ▶ The army's 131st Division in Sa'ada foiled an attack on its camp by armed groups, but not before both attackers and army soldiers sustained injuries. The attackers' identities are not yet known, although Houthis have received accusations.
- ▶ A Yemeni Olympics Committee official indicated on Wednesday that Yemen is intending to cancel its participation in the Doha Arab Olympics Championship due to political disagreements between Yemen and Qatar.
- ▶ Yemen's Minister of Trade praised China for its support of Yemen amid political and social instability this year. China is currently funding several billion-dollar infrastructural projects in Yemen, including a library, a hospital and a new parliament building.
- ▶ The coordinator of the Youth Media Assembly in Ibb's opposition-held Freedom Square, Amjad Khafasha, was reported missing under mysterious circumstances a week ago after traveling to Sana'a. He is feared dead.
- ▶ A man was killed in the early hours of Tuesday after being caught in the crossfire when unknown gunmen exchanged fire in Aden's Al-Mua'ala District. Such shootings have become common in Aden — especially those occurring at night between armed rivals.
- ▶ The British Council has launched English language education classes through radio and newspapers in Yemen. This latest move is an extension of the traditional English education the council provides in Yemen.
- ▶ Supreme National Anti-Corruption Committee member Ahmed Qarhash verbally attacked the current parliament, saying that it was unconstitutional and that its legitimacy ended in 2009. He did this in a session on Tuesday in which the parliament requested that SNACC members reveal their financial assets according to the Financial Disclosure Law.
- ▶ The Consumer Protection Authority denied issuing a warning for the contraceptive pill Yasmin. A warning in the name of the authority was published in Al-Thawra state newspaper stating that the pill causes blood clots. The Consumer Protection Authority denied issuing the statement, adding that the Yasmin pill is licensed by the American Food and Drug Administration.
- ▶ Jeddah Police arrested two Yemenis on Tuesday who have been accused of involvement in a series of burglaries at knife-point in the city.
- ▶ Gold prices have been steadily decreasing and on Wednesday, November 23, gold stood at around US 50 dollars per gram of 24-carat gold, while last week it was at US 52.5 dollars.
- ▶ The Yemeni army has commenced construction of a new Republican Guard-affiliated military base to the north of Sana'a in Bani Al-Hareth.
- ▶ Locals in Sana'a have witnessed an increase in electricity in recent days, with many receiving at least 12 hours a day, this compared with less than two hours a day during the last month.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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The decision on the voluntary liquidation and closing of Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank, Yemen Branch will be conducted in accordance with the applicable banking law in the Republic of Yemen No. (38)/ 1998 and the Central Bank of Yemen regulations with the aim of securing all legitimate rights of its customers.

Prior to the date of the voluntary liquidation period, the bank will conduct its banking activities with the objective to gradually wind down its operations.

Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank, Yemen Branch plans to close its Branches on the following dates:

- Mukalla on March 31, 2012
- Aden on March 31, 2012
- Taiz on April, 30 2012
- Hodeidah on April 30, 2012

The closure of our Branch and Head Office in Sana'a will be communicated later.

Considering the above, Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank, Yemen Branch invites all its customers to attend their respective Branches to withdraw their available balances and process with the closure of their accounts.

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## إعلان

عن التصفية الاختيارية  
لبنك كريدبي أجريكول للتمويل والإستثمار - فرع اليمن  
(ك-سيب فرع اليمن، كالين سابقاً)

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إستناداً لقرار بنك كريدبي أجريكول للتمويل والإستثمار في فرنسا، وموافقة البنك المركزي بتاريخ الأول من نوفمبر سنة ٢٠١١ م، يعلن بنك كريدبي أجريكول للتمويل والإستثمار - فرع اليمن عن قيام البنك بالتصفية الاختيارية لعملياته والإغلاق التدريجي لكافة فروع في اليمن وذلك ابتداءً من الأول من مارس سنة ٢٠١٢ م.

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إغلاق فرعنا والمركز الرئيسي في صنعاء سيتم الإعلان عنهما لاحقاً.

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- المركز الرئيسي وفرع صنعاء: شارع الزبيري - عصر، صندوق بريد ٦٥١، هاتف ٣٧١/٢/٣ ٢٧٤ (٩٦٧١)
- فرع عدن: الشارع الرئيسي - المعلا، صندوق بريد ٥٣٧١، هاتف ٤٠٢/٣/٤ ٢٤٧ (٩٦٧٢)
- فرع الحديدة: شارع ٢٦ سبتمبر - الحي التجاري، صندوق بريد ٣٥٧٧، هاتف ٥٠٦/٧ ٢١٩ (٩٦٧٣)
- فرع تعز: شارع المواصلات - أمام البريد، صندوق بريد ٥٦٨٦، هاتف ٧٠/٧٠ ٢١٠ (٩٦٧٤)
- فرع المكلا: الشارع الرئيسي - حي الديس، صندوق بريد ٥٠٢٢٧، هاتف ٣٠١/٢٨٨ ٣٠٦ (٩٦٧٥)

الإدارة العامة

بنك كريدبي أجريكول للتمويل والإستثمار  
فرع اليمن

# Yemen: The story of Al-Saleh Mosque

By: Chiara Onassis  
bikyamasr.com

**A**l-Saleh Mosque was inaugurated in 2008 after several years of construction and several dozens of millions of dollars and was immediately called an historical landmark by the President's loyalists, as they said that its architectural prowess were a tribute to the president's greatness.

For others, the Mosque symbolized everything that was twisted, wrong and corrupt in the nation; a Mosque built on stolen lands, using stolen money for the glory of corrupt men.

The Mosque, which the government alleged was built with the president's money, omitted to specify that several prominent businessmen, amongst them Hayel Said, were coerced into funding the project under threats of reprisals and cancellations of licenses or other administrative subtleties.

Built on an area that surpassed 27,300 square meters, Al-Saleh Mosque is the grandest building in Yemen, competing in beauty and craftsmanship with Al-Haram in Mecca.

With its six minarets towering over the city from their 100 meters, Al-Saleh Mosque has become the

focus point of the capital, a reminder for many of what they've lost for the president to live his folly.

## Beit Zhura

Beit Zuhra, an old family from Sana'a, owned until a few years ago a large piece of land on the very spot where President Saleh wanted to build his Mosque.

The President sent his men to approach the family, offering to buy out the lot for a ridiculously low amount of money. Beit Zuhra evidently refused, arguing that their land was worth much more than what the president was offering, adding that since he was so bent on building his Mosque he should be willing to pay a fair price.

Subsequently Beit Zuhra's eldest son was kidnapped by the government forces and returned to his family three months later, a shadow of his former self.

Upon the disappearance of their son, the family desperately went looking for clues, frantically questioning the neighbors and the authorities. A man then showed up on their doorstep warning them that if they wanted to see their son alive they'd better sign over the deeds of their land to the president.

Beit Zuhra gave up the fight, not willing to risk the life of their beloved son for the sake of land, however worthy it might be.

## Cursed?

As construction started on the site, strange occurrences started to take place, triggering rumors and whispers of a curse on the Mosque.

Each time that a minaret was raised on Beit Zuhra's stolen land the tower collapsed on itself, burying workers under the rubble.

The first time, the site manager was blamed as the team of architects accused him of carelessness and poor managing skills, saying he failed to carry out the required security checks.

The second time it happened, constructions workers were at a loss, not understanding why the building kept collapsing.

In Sana'a, people murmured that since the president had dared use Haram money and Haram land to build the "house of God" God himself had put a curse on the building.

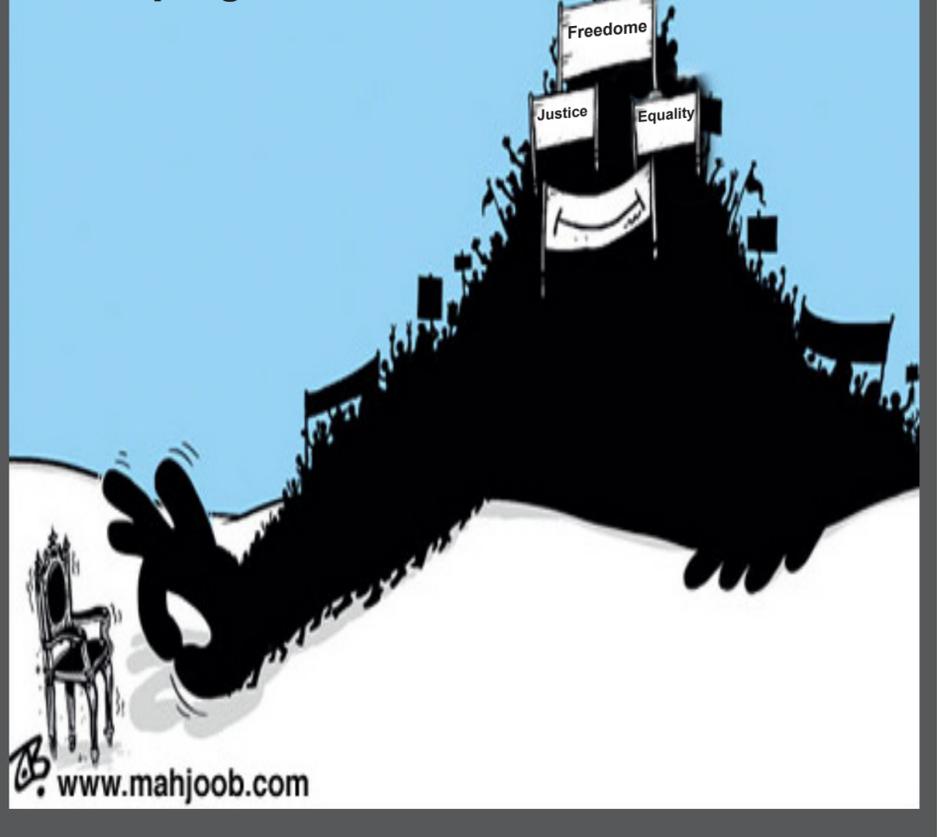
After the third attempt failed, the architects decided to change their plans and use the land as a garden and an annex of the Islamic University, where they hoped it would be safe.

To this day, the family has received no compensation, or apology; only contempt from the authorities as the president and his coterie shamelessly kneel before God on stolen ground.

## SKETCHED OPINION

By Hajjaj

### Arab Spring continues



تتقدم مؤسسة يمن تايمز  
بخالص العزاء والمواساة إلى الاستاذ

**عبدالله محمد الكبسي**

مدير التسويق في الخطوط الجوية اليمنية

وذلك لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى

**والده**

نسأل الله العلي القدير أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع  
رحمته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته  
وأن يلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان

{ إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون }

الأسيفون:

خير الدين النسور  
المدير العام التنفيذي

نادية السقاف  
الناشر - رئيس التحرير

مشروع المفوضية الأوروبية وبرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي للدعم الانتخابي في اليمن (مشروع الدعم الانتخابي)

**EC-UNDP Joint Electoral Assistance Project (JEAP)**

**Vacancy for Consultancy Firm to Conduct  
Baseline Impact assessment of advocacy activities**

**Background:**  
EC UNDP Joint Electoral Assistance Project in Yemen (JEAP) works closely with the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum (SCER). JEAP aims at strengthening Yemen's electoral and legislative systems, empower Yemeni women, support legal reforms and build the capacity of national stakeholders. JEAP also supports activities in the context of preparations for elections and supporting the creation of an electoral framework in conformity with the principles of transparency, fairness, and democracy.

**JEAP in partnership with SCER are inviting qualified NGOs, Research and Studies centers, and firms to submit a proposal to conduct a baseline impact assessment of advocacy activities to measure the impacts and assess the effectiveness of advocacy activities during the last five years in promoting women's political participation in 5 – 10 target governorates, provided they meet the following conditions:**

- Possess a license to operate from relevant authority.
- Possess experienced in all aspects of conducting baseline impact assessment in development situations.
- Knowledge of gender, electoral and political issues.
- Have qualified and specialized staff in conducting assessment studies. The team must have strong computer spreadsheet/word processing/database/SPSS skills required.

**How to Apply: a complete Application must include:**

- Cover letter clarifying reasons for applying should list all attachments which provide information requested in this advertisement.
- Organization Profile
- Proposal on how the baseline will be conducted including the proposed approach, budget and implementation timeframe.
- One sample of a previous study report conducted and written by consultants/ firm
- CV of the study working team.
- A recommendation or reference letter from organization received similar services.

JEAP welcomes proposals from organizations with "Proposal – Baseline Impact assessment of advocacy activities in promoting women's political participation in Yemen" in subject line by Close of Business, on December 26, 2011. All applications materials and attachments should contain name of applicant organization and page numbers on each page. Applications must be submitted to:

United Nations Development Programme  
Attention: Ms. Samia Mohammed  
P.O. Box 551  
off sixty road, near Alawqaf complex  
Sana'a, Yemen.

For further details on the RFP and to download the relevant documents, please visit our website at:  
<http://www.ungm.org/Notices/Item.aspx?Id=17916>

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# Yemen's children mimic real life conflict

By: Marwa Najmaldeen

“I am the president and you are the protestors in the square. Beware I am coming to kill you!” shouts Abdullah the four year old boy from Sana'a, playing make-believe with his friends.

He, like many other Yemeni children have been forced to invent new games as they can't watch TV because of the frequent power cuts. However, the trend of children's games has turned violent as they mimic their environment.

The most common game is having the children divide themselves into two groups – instead of the traditional game of cops and robbers, after 10 months of popular uprising, they have become pro and anti-regime protestors; the first group being the more violent.

Several Yemeni governorates have been subjected to armed conflict, disturbing the regularity of locals' lives. News coverage and adult conversation also contributes to creating new ideas among children and they use their playtime to express themselves.

The children living near Change Square and Al-Hasaba, which witnesses regular armed conflict between tribal leaders and the state security, are some of the worst affected.

## Playing with bullets

Um Ayman described how her youngest son Ayman returned home with a bunch of spent bullets he had collected from their neighborhood in Al-Hasaba.

“Instead of playing with pebbles or rocks like my other two used to when they were young, Ayman plays with bullets,” said Um Ayman in dismay. “There is a competition who collects the most and who finds other ammunition. I fear they might also find unexploded

ones and get hurt.”

According to psychological expert and child specialist Dr. Bilqis Jubari, the problem is not the panic or shock alone. “It becomes worse when children adapt and violence becomes the norm,” she said.

“There are easy ways to detect signs of trauma in children, starting from aggressive behavior, a tendency to stay alone, loss of appetite or even forgetfulness and bed wetting,” said Dr. Jubari. “The good news is that it all can be helped if the parents are aware enough and they seek professional assistance.”

Apparently it affects their psyche and twists children's perception as to what is a normal life and what isn't, and this has an impact on their decisions and behaviors in the future.

Sa'ad Mohammed, a family man living in Sana'a, explained how one day he was returning home during a children's pretend protest.

“I had to make my way home through lines of children who accused me of being a bultaji [thug] for breaking their protest and threw stones at me,” he said. The children enjoyed his reaction and decided to create a sit-in in their street, not allowing anyone to “break their protest.”

The words repeated on the news and in the streets have also been adopted by children. Mohammed Hassan remembered how his daughter Amal, who is only four years old, gathered some of her stuff in a plastic bag and headed for the door in a moment of rage.

“When we asked her what she was doing she said ‘ana sa arhal’ [leaving] and she said ‘I wish that when I go out a stray bullet will hit me and kill me’,” he said, adding that her words shocked him and he regretted that without him or his wife realizing, Amal had perhaps been watching the news – especially the channels that show blood and people being killed.

Photo by Shantha Al-Harazi



Children have begun to mimic their surroundings with pro and anti-government games, pretend protests and sit-ins.

Even children as young as two and three years old have been affected by the conflict. Nurseen is only three years old and her mother has a problem; they live near an area where there is armed conflict and whenever the little girl heard the gunshots or shelling she got scared and started crying.

“Whenever we heard those sounds we started clapping and cheering and making all sorts of noise to distract her. Now when she hears it she does this. Maybe it is morally wrong to make her cheer whenever there is shelling but what else can I do?” asked her mother in desperation.

## Teachers know

Teachers also witness these changes in the children. Liza Ali, who attends to children in a kindergarten in Sana'a, said that we as adults think that the younger ones are not paying attention or do not compre-

hend what is going on but they do.

“They [the kindergarten kids] see and understand more than we give them credit for. I see the impacts in their choice of games and toys as well as in their questions.”

Um Mahmoud, a teacher in a primary school, agreed and added that it is important to answer their questions as honestly as possible otherwise they will find answers in the wrong places.

“A student in the third grade went to the head mistress' office and when he saw the picture of the president hanging on the wall he complained: ‘why are you hanging his picture when he kills people and is the reason why we don't have electricity?’” she said. Eventually she managed to calm him and convinced him that it was because he is still the president today but when he leaves they will take down his picture and hang a photo of the

new president.

According to SIYAJ, a child protection organization in Yemen, a child's tendency to reflect conflict in their play is only natural – especially since children are the most observant group in society and the most vulnerable.

“It is also a consequence of the lack of adequate adult management of the tension,” said Ahmed Al-Qurashi, director of SIYAJ. “The grown-ups are often too busy worrying and coping with problems and they forget to pay attention to the little ones.”

A 2008 study by the organization on the children of conflict in the Sa'ada war, in the north of Yemen, revealed that many children were suffering from phobias, solitary behavior and sometimes wetting their beds after having nightmares.

The study showed cases of changed behavior, especially in

boys, who became more aggressive towards their siblings and peers.

“It is also important to note that unless they receive some sort of treatment their suffering today will accompany them to adulthood and they are likely to be aggressive, violent adults in the future,” said Al-Qurashi. He added that history has given us so many examples of war generations in Vietnam, Palestine and Iraq and so parents and the concerned authorities should mitigate this risk as much as possible.

## 4U

If you noticed signs of trauma in your children you can call the Family Counselling and Development Foundation from 4-7pm at 01-209032, or contact Dr. Bilqis Jubari the director at 77725045 email: [jbilqis@yahoo.com](mailto:jbilqis@yahoo.com)

## Republic of Yemen

Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation  
Economic Opportunities Fund (EOF)

## Vacancies Announcement

### FIELD MOBILIZATION OFFICERS

The Government of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and several co-financiers for the Economic Opportunities Programme (EOP). The Programme aims to improve the economic status of rural women and men through the creation of sustainable private sector-led economic opportunities. The EOP, as well as several future investments, will be managed by a new Economic Opportunities Fund (EOF) which is created as a public-private partnership. It is expected that the EOF will manage investments valued in the range of USD 150 million over the next six years. The EOF now seeks qualified Yemeni candidates for the following positions:

### FIELD MOBILIZATION OFFICERS

Number of positions:	6 male and 6 female
Duration:	30 months
Working conditions:	Long-term consultancy, should be available for training outside of contract period if necessary.

### Introduction

The MTs primary responsibility will be to ensure that programme activities are implemented smoothly and effectively in the field, that target group members are fully aware of the possibilities which are offered by the programme, that participants are members of the target group and ‘elite capture’ is minimized, and that target group members get maximum long-term economic benefit from their involvement with the programme. In particular the FMOs will:

- When contracted, undertake information campaigns in their area of operation, providing detailed information to male and female target group members of the possibilities offered by the programme and the mechanisms and procedures for participating;
- Coordinate with the communities, helping them establish formal associations (one per settlement) as necessary and ensuring their full involvement in the design and management of the improved water supply system. Later they will ensure that a sufficient number of individuals are

involved in the installation of any irrigation equipment and trained in its use and maintenance (by the Supply Chain Manager);

- With the support of the Lead Construction/Design Engineer, be closely involved in the organisation of the water management systems in project settlements: identify and analyse in detail existing water management mechanisms and, with support from senior project staff or consultants, identify any changes required by the improved system, either for technical reasons or to increase the equity of the system. Evaluate in-kind contribution from settlements households. Discuss and agree necessary changes with the water users and ensure that they are implemented. Attempt to solve any conflicts arising in water management; Facilitate the negotiation among PA's members with regards to pricing of water and measures to ensure payments and recovery;
- Implement the programme's targeting strategy and ensure that prime beneficiaries of honey and micro enterprise investments are among the poorer entrepreneurial inhabitants. MTs should also systematically monitor participants' socio-economic status and address any issues of ‘elite capture’, if necessary calling on senior project staff;
- Implement the programme's gender mainstreaming approach and actively work towards increasing participants' understanding and appreciation of women's role in the economy; ensure that as many women as possible are included in producers' groups, that women are trained and actively participate in the management bodies of producer organizations; that micro enterprises suitable for women are given adequate support to ensure that they become commercially viable and real profit-making market-led institutions. They should work to ensure that women's participation is effective and not merely ‘token’;
- Organise and partly implement training for the producers' groups (coffee, vegetable, honey, and other crop producers) as well as for individual micro- and small entrepreneurs. Training in basic financial management, business planning and marketing will be given by senior programme staff specialised in these subjects. They will be supplemented by external consultants as necessary. MTs will organise the logistics of this training and provide follow up support in these subjects and refer queries to the value chain managers as necessary. FMOs will themselves provide training in group organisation (organising and managing meetings, keeping minutes, planning activities etc.) in group activities and management [water management, collective marketing etc.] as well as in conflict resolution and any technical subject in which they have good knowledge and experience;
- Provide regular follow up with the producers' groups, answering their queries and referring them to experts as necessary; provide any support needed to develop the groups and assist them in becoming self-sufficient and sustainable;
- Identify suitable individuals and groups for micro- and small enterprise activities; support the formation of groups (particularly for loan guarantees) and ensure that beneficiaries and participants have the entrepreneurial and technical skills and talent necessary to give their enterprises a good likelihood of success;
- Closely support potential micro-entrepreneurs in the preparation of feasibility studies and business plans;
- Identify the technical training needs of micro-entrepreneurs and organise appropriate high quality training either through apprenticeships (as locally as possible) or through formal training (to be organised for groups by the capacity building and micro finance managers);
- Ensure that micro-entrepreneurs participate in the business development, basic financial management and other relevant organisational and business training skills alongside the producers' groups members in their

area;

- Follow up regularly on all project participants in their area of operation and provide them with the necessary support, or ensure that this support is made available from other programme sources when they are unable to provide solutions themselves;
- Follow up the performance of project related institutions [field presence of the value chain and other processor representatives, visits of the micro- finance institutions and other finance service providers and any other institution working in the project area on behalf of the project] and report to senior project management;
- Organise annual participatory evaluation meetings at the level of each project area;
- Provide substantive reports on their work biannually, to fulfil the requirements of the M&E system.

### Participation in the settlements selection process

The objective of this operation is to provide the Economic Opportunities Fund management team with the detailed and accurate data needed to ensure that programme benefits reach poor settlements. However, given the objectives of the programme, poverty cannot be the sole criterion of selection of a project area, as other factors are also extremely relevant, including current or potential water availability, the amount of cultivated area under coffee, the current and potential role of honey and micro enterprises, and the price of any infrastructure investment. The data provided will allow programme management to approach processors and other concerned parties with information allowing the best possible targeting to ensure both an empowerment of the poor and satisfactory results with respect to supplying the value chain with good produce. This will provide traders and processors with the data needed to assess the suitability of these settlements for their interventions.

### Qualifications Required

FMOs agents will be required to carry out a multiplicity of tasks. Their formal qualifications might be in any suitable topic (agronomy with specialisation in coffee or honey, irrigation and water management, business management, social development, rural development etc.); they should either have a BA + a minimum of 7 years' work experience in similar activities, or an MA + 5 years' experience. They should be mature and willing and able to work long hours in remote locations.

They will be selected primarily on their skills and good record of previous experience in the following activities: formation and support to productive and other associations in difficult rural areas, ability to establish good working relations with rural people living in stressful conditions and to solve conflicts, technical competence in any one of the project's activities. Ability to use computers and good communications skills would be an advantage. Ability to work in English would be an advantage.

### How to apply

Interested candidates are invited to send their applications (comprising a CV and a cover letter), with the title of the concerned job in the subject heading, to the following email address: [eofyemen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eofyemen@yahoo.co.uk). The deadline for receiving applications is two weeks from announcement publication.

# Crude oil shortage renders Aden refinery useless



Aden refinery has ceased operations for the first time since its establishment by the British Petroleum Company in 1954.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Over 4,000 Yemeni employees at the Aden Refinery Company are worried they will lose their jobs after refinery management announced it would close down soon. The refinery ceased operations on Nov. 17, 2011 due to a lack of crude oil from the Marib oil fields, the refinery's

main source. If the situation is not resolved, jobs will certainly be terminated.

"It is not just an economic catastrophe – this being the largest single national petroleum institution in Yemen – but an emotional catastrophe also," said the refinery's public relations officer, Omar Al-Sheikh.

"I have been working with the refinery since 1980, and even as a kid I took pride in seeing the refinery's

flame on my way to school. It is as if a part of me died when operations stopped and the flame extinguished," he said.

Pipelines carrying crude oil from Marib's exploration fields were again attacked just after being repaired on October 19. The latest was the third attack in less than three months and the refinery had already cut down from 150,000 barrels per day to around 40,000.



The refinery has carried many social service and community development projects such as renovating hospitals and schools, constructing parks, sponsoring sports clubs and repairing roads.

The refinery's closure will lead to a further hike in the price of fuel, the cost of which has already increased five-fold in the last nine months.

In a November 15 cabinet meeting, Yemen's Minister of Oil informed the government that the refinery would close down unless the Marib oil pipelines were repaired and oil extractions recommenced at a regular rate.

He urged the government to import crude oil so that the refinery could continue to function and supply the Yemeni market with fuel, diesel, cooking gas and mazut (low-quality fuel oil), which some power generating stations, including Aden's, operate on. Yemen already owes more than USD 1.3 billion for crude oil imported between January and May this year.

Over 70 percent of national revenues come from the oil sector, which has already received a strong blow

due to ongoing instability throughout the country.

Deputy Minister of Finance Ahmed Hajar said that the Yemeni government has been suffering from a deficiency in domestic fuel and subsidies after the nation's oil production has, relative to last year, decreased by one-third.

The refinery has been operating consistently since its establishment by the British Petroleum (BP) oil company in 1954. In 1977, ownership of the refinery was transferred from BP to the Yemeni government and renamed the Aden Refinery Company.

The refinery's initial production capacity was 120,000 barrels per day (Kuwaiti Crude) before expanding in the 1960s to a production rate of 150,000 barrels per day. Until recently, production continued at that rate.

"The refinery represents the larg-

est industrial establishment in the Republic of Yemen with respect to annual income and the vital part it plays in the supply of the whole country's need of petroleum products, household cooking gas and road asphalt," said the refinery's executive director, Dr. Najeeb Al-Awuj. "It could have played a significant role in improving the economy as a producer and supplier of bunker fuels to ships calling at the Port of Aden en route to various destinations around the world."

This week Canadian Nexen, the largest oil company operating in Yemen, announced that it would cease its main operations in the country. Its major contract, accounting for 38 percent of its production, expires on December 17, but will not be renewed. The Yemeni government announced it would create a new national company, PetroMasila, to replace Nexen.

## Indian Ocean Rim ignores Yemen's internal conflict

By: Ali Saeed

The 18-nation Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), which launched in 1997 and of which Yemen is an active member, concluded its 11th ministerial meeting on Tuesday 15 November in Bangalore, India. But the meeting paid no attention to the 10-month Yemeni uprising, which has resulted in businesses coming to a standstill and caused economic and humanitarian deterioration.

"It is outside the meeting agendas since it is merely an internal affair," the Indian Minister of External Affairs, S.M. Krishna told the Yemen Times. "The meeting is more about economic relations and security issues."

However Yemen's internal problems have paralyzed the country's business environment as thousands of Yemenis were laid off from their jobs after hundreds of plants and small-medium businesses were shut down due to deliberate electricity cuts and diesel shortages.

Even farms, which depend on diesel to pump water for irrigation, were damaged because of the lack of fuel – now often only found on the black market with a 10-fold price increase.

The political unrest has also been driving more Yemenis into hunger and displacement after the violent clashes expanded across Yemen leading to hundreds of human deaths and injuries particularly in Taiz, Sana'a, Abyan and Sa'ada.

Despite this worsening situation, Yemen's Foreign Minister, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi who chaired the IOR-ARC for the last two years and handed over to India last week, said during the meeting that "Yemen is ready to do whatever it can do to strengthen the association and to improve the level of its cooperation in spite of the recent internal situation that hindered economic development."

During the 10th meeting, which was held in Sana'a last year, the association members succeeded in establishing a Special Fund – a regional financial instrument for financing projects and studies of common interests for the Indian

Ocean countries' coalition.

And on the first day of taking the chair of the association for the two coming years, India pledged to provide the fund with USD one million.

Being among the countries experiencing piracy threats, Krishna stressed the "need of building upon existing national, regional and multilateral measures to enhance coordination to combat piracy".

"We [IOR-ARC countries] expressed our shared concern on the prevailing situation regarding maritime security in the Indian Ocean, particularly at the growing level of piracy off the Horn of Africa which poses a threat to international and regional navigation, maritime commerce and the safety of seafarers," read the Bangalore concluding statement.

The association members have undertaken to fully support the international efforts at the UN and regional level as well as sharing information and technical assistance to combat this menace.

The ministerial meeting of the IOR-ARC also focused on fisheries and marine resources, which occupy an important place in the economies and livelihoods of the IOR-ARC member countries.

"We [IOR-ARC countries] underscored the importance of deepening cooperation among IOR-ARC members including in the management and sustainable harvesting of fish stocks and combating illegal fishing and damaging fishing techniques," read the ministerial report.

The association member countries last year set up a fisheries support unit under the protection of Oman, which is also an IOR-ARC member.

Maritime security, disaster management, scientific research and information technology cooperation were identified as the key areas to cooperate and work on together.

The 14-year association has not yet achieved much when compared to other regional councils such as the Gulf Cooperation Council or the European Union, but it may work better after India assumed the chair of the association.

"It has not been progressing in the past period due to clear competition among influential members

on who can be more controlling of the association – Iran for instance attempts to be the leading power in the association while other powers do the same," a Yemeni diplomat told the Yemen Times.

### The Indian economic model

The significant and promising economy in the IOR-ARC, which other members can learn from, is the Indian economic force and includes diversified elements including industry, agriculture, workforce and the Information Technology industry.

The Indian External Affairs ministry has arranged a tour and economic trip for journalists who attended the 11th meeting of the IOR-ARC to the fastest growing economic sectors including the medicine industry, tourism and software industries.

In a short visit to Biocon biopharmaceuticals company in Bangalore, journalists were briefed on the progress of the Indian medicine industry and how it is now being exported to the global market including the Middle East, Africa, USA and Asia with more focus on drugs to combat chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and TB.

Indian biopharmaceutical revenues in 2010-2011 passed USD four billion and the industry is expected to reach USD 15 billion in 2015, according to officials at the Biocon Company.

As for the automotive industry in India, no matter where you look, you won't find any foreign-made vehicles. You will see Toyota, Hyundai and other brands, but all made in India.

The same also goes for the electronics industry, including cell phones and computers. In a huge board on the main street of Bangalore, a phrase written in English reads: "Buy by foreigners, buy by unfair prices".

And in the software industry, a large company in Bangalore called Infosys has 25,000 workers on campus and trains 800 workers every day in IT skills, earning USD 4.6 billion in 2010.

The software company has also an IT educational training center in Mysore, which has 40,000 students every day.



## Request for Proposal Implementing the Social Cohesion Project Activities

The United Nations Development Programme in Yemen is seeking a professional NGO to implement the ISCD project activities in Lahj governorate, and hereby invites the interested NGOs to submit a proposal for the implementation of Social Cohesion Project activities, as per the Terms of Reference (TOR).

The deadline for submission is **Saturday 24th December 2011, 2.00 PM. (Yemen Time)**. The offers must comprise a technical proposal as well as a financial proposal, in separate sealed envelopes. Offers should be sent to the following address:

**United Nations Development Programme**  
Attention: **Ms. Samia Mohammed**  
P.O. Box **551**  
Off sixty road, near Alawqaf complex  
Sana'a, Yemen.

For further details on the RFP and to download the relevant documents, please visit our website at:

<http://www.ungm.org/Notices/Item.aspx?id=17894>

The deadline for receiving RFPs (Request for Proposal) is on the **20th December, 2011**

UNDP is welcoming interested NGOs to come to the office in **14 Dec at 12 PM** to get more acquainted with the request for proposal hereby called for. Attendance confirmations should be sent by email to Ms. Samia Mohammed;

[Samia.mohammed@undp.org](mailto:Samia.mohammed@undp.org)

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سيارة دودج 2009 بيضاء اللون، قطعت 800 كم. السعر 15.000 دولار قابل للتفاوض. فايز العمراني 771651345، 771166162

الانجليزية واستخدام الحاسب. مستشفى ابن الهيثم الدولي. 771100749، 242241

مطلوب مسوق ومستول دعاية وإعلان للتسويق لخدمة جديدة. للتواصل 733455645

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سيارة دودج 2009 بيضاء اللون، قطعت 800 كم. السعر 15.000 دولار قابل للتفاوض. فايز العمراني 771651345، 771166162

مرسيدس ML320 موديل 2000-99 فتحه

خبرة سنتين في ادارة الشبكات ومسؤول غرفة التحكم. 711439595

مدرس خصوصي يرغب في اعطاء دروس خصوصية في الانجليزية كمبيوتر وبعض المواد العلمية للمرحلة الاعدادية والثانوية فترة مسائية. عند المنصورة 734950427

١٦ سنة خبرة في المقالات العامة، مدرس لغة انجليزية معتمد، مترجم قانوني، خبرة في مجال المحاسبة. ٧٧٤٥٦١٦٧

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خبرة طويلة في الترجمة من وإلى اللغات الانجليزية-الفرنسية-العربية. خبرة طويلة في مجال الادارة والاعمال اللوجستية. 777565320

رياض الحمادي، بكالوريوس محاسبة، تربية انجليزي، 12 سنة خبرة تدريس الانجليزية (خصوصا الثالث ثانوي)، اجادة استخدام الكمبيوتر، يرغب العمل في أي هيئة أجنبية أو محلية. 734882907

بكالوريوس محاسبة، دبلوم دراسات عليا، دبلوم لغة انجليزية، اجازة محاسب قانوني، خبرة لمدة 15 سنة في المحاسبة والمراجعة. 734304250

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رياض الحمادي، مدرس لغة إنجليزية + ترجمة + كمبيوتر، خبرة 13 سنة تدريس أغلبها في تدريس الثانوية العامة. 772255235-734882907

جامعي لديه مهارات تواصل، مترجم تجاري وإعلامي، خبرة في المراسلات التجارية، يرغب في العمل في معهد لغة أو مدرسة أهلية أو شركة. 735042383

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بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية يود إعطاء دروس خصوصية مكثفة، خبرة في مجال التدريس لجميع المستويات. للتواصل: 700258937

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حاصل على دبلوم برمجة، شبكات سيسكو ومايكروسوفت، دبلوم تسويق وعلاقات عامة،

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معهد التبي
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الصليب الاحمر
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مطاعم
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تلفون: ٠١٠٥٧٣٦٢٢ - ١٠٠٩٣٥٠٥ - فاكس: ٩١٦٧٦٢

مستشفيات
مستشفى الثورة
مستشفى الجمهوري
المستشفى الألماني الحديث
المستشفى الاهلي الحديث
مستشفى العلوم والتكنولوجيا
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## Faces from Yemen's revolution

### Walla Al-Janeed: From Change Square Activist to Change Square Nurse

By: Amira Al-Arasi

**W**alla is a volunteer nurse at the pro-democracy protesters' makeshift hospital in Sana'a. She has studied nursing, but didn't complete the final year of her studies after changing her major to business administration. Walla says that she loves her work these days and wants to know about everything in life.

"I didn't have enough experience to treat injured people at the makeshift hospital. But I decided to visit and help the protesters. I was educated by my father, who always advised me to never stop helping needy people in times when you have the ability to do so."

"I joined Change Square as an activist before commencing my voluntary work there. I gathered many blankets from neighbors



in my building and handed them out to protesters. Then I started volunteering in medical tents to help those wounded as a result of attacks involving tear gas and live ammunition.

"All the medical volunteer work occurred under the supervision of a physician, and everyone in my family has encouraged me to attend and stay at the square. One of my brothers works as an activist at Change Square. My father was a

pilot and was killed during one of the Sa'ada wars. Today, I feel that nursing is a very important profession, one in which you save the lives of people."

### Ibrahim Dapoan: Lessons Learned

By: Amira Al-Arasi

**I**brahim Dapoan is married and lives in a neighborhood that has many supporters of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The only resident in his neighborhood to join the revolution, he has felt neglected and has even received numerous death threats by telephone.

In addition to working at a government hospital, Ibrahim also volunteers at the pro-democracy protesters' makeshift hospital.

"I was one of the protesters who came from the university campus demanding reforms. After the square had been changed into a permanent home for the protest-



ers, I loved so much to be among the youths protesting to topple the regime. I joined one of the medical treatment tents to treat the injured protesters when the area around Change Square was being attacked

by government security forces. When attacks were not only made against protesters, but also against our medical treatment tents, we were forced to choose the mosque near the university's main gate as a makeshift hospital for treating the injured.

"The situation that psychologically affected me the most was a scene in which one of the youths who had been seriously injured by a bullet asked me to treat him so that he could continue taking part in a march. He would have sacrificed his soul for the interests of his homeland. This is one of the lessons I learned during my work at Change Square."

## Lessons learned in civil society empowerment

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

**N**ineteen local civil society organizations in the remote and disadvantaged tribal areas of Marib, Shabwa, Al-Baidha and Ibb have come together on Monday November 21, in Sana'a to share success stories and lessons

**A two-year civil society empowerment project has come to an end. The final event was a 'lessons learnt' conference to share the experience.**

learned.

The organization's empowerment work comes within The Yemen Civil Society Strengthening and Particip-

ation Program (YCSP), managed by Partners Yemen and funded by the Dutch Embassy for two years between Aug. 2009 and Nov. 2011.

"The aim of this event is to share experiences and lessons learned from program implementation as well as provide opportunity for YCSP local partners and beneficiaries to network amongst them as well as to connect with key donors and development organizations that are based in Sana'a," said Nadwa Al-Dawsari, director of Partners Yemen organization.

The two-year program aimed to develop and build the skills of local cadre in community mobilization, participatory processes, cooperative planning and project and finance management.

Through training, mentoring and small grants, the program seeks to increase the engagement of civil society in their local communities and coordinate with local councils and government to help increase public participation in development.

Mona Al-Awkaby is a 23-years old midwife working for Humrah Health Center in a remote area in Al-Taffah District. It takes about three hours by car, and costs about YR 20,000, to travel rough roads to reach to the nearest health center in Al-Baidha'a Governorate Center, where you can find Family Planning Services.

Al-Awkaby used to provide only first-aid services for women in her community. She was not able to provide Reproductive Health Services for families because she was not qualified and didn't have the required equipment. Therefore, she used to advise women to go to the Governorate Health Center to get Family Planning Services such as pregnancy and obstetric services or fixing IUDs.

The problem was that midwives in this area didn't get the required training or equipment needed to provide such services in traditional communities where women find it very difficult to express their pains or problems regarding pregnancy



The Partners Yemen team discusses a proposal with local NGO Almeethaq Association, in Marib, along with some community members.

and delivery outside their local communities. This problem is caused by the lack of trained midwives and absence of public health services.

Al-Awkaby, like other nine-team midwives, has joined the Yemeni Midwives Association in Al-Baidha'a, which got a USD 5,500 grant from Partners Yemen for their proposal "Family Reproductive Health Service Improvement" submitted to the YCSP Program. Al-Awkaby, and her teammates, has been selected for a training course on "Home Obstetric Care Service and IUD fixing". The midwives have been equipped with Full Midwifery Kits as well.

During the training course, Mona said: "I could fix two IUDs and remove three. I checked another two sets as well. Now, I can use my Midwifery Kit to provide Home Services

for women in my local society and women don't need to travel any more," she added.

YCSP worked with 20 champions representing 19 local NGOs and enrolled them in an intensive training-of-trainers (ToT) program in community mobilization, cooperative planning, participatory development and project management. The champions then trained about 400 local leaders and reached out to hundreds of local community members in organizing forums to discuss development needs and priorities.

The NGOs then organized community forums reaching out to about 900 local community members to discuss development issues and priorities. Based on that, NGOs submitted proposals and received grants to implement small projects in their local communities.

## Coming Soon

Arabic supplement with the Yemen Times features

# قريباً

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من يمن تايمز الانجليزية

