

While the GCC stumbles, a ceasefire fails to end Taiz violence

By: Emad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, Dec 4 — A ceasefire agreement has failed to stop the bloody violence in Taiz as clashes and shelling continue and the body count carries on rising.

Some 30 people died between Thursday and Sunday, while 90 others were injured. Among them were civilians, including women and children, medical sources told the Yemen Times.

The truce committee announced on Saturday evening that they had agreed an immediate ceasefire and that it had been enforced on the ground, a member of the committee told the Yemen Times. However, the ceasefire has already failed.

The agreement stipulates the removal of military units and their heavy arms as well as the armed groups, the committee member explained.

"The existence of the armed men inside the city doesn't support the aims of the revolution. There is a third party who has hidden aims and pushes the armed men to increase the tension, which justifies

the government forces targeting of Taiz," the member, who wished to remain anonymous, warned.

Vice President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi directed on Friday evening the formation of a committee to withdraw the armed forces and militias from Taiz after the new Prime Minister, Mohammed Basundwa, threatened to leave the national unity government if shelling continued in Taiz.

This came after renewed clashes over the past days between the government's forces and armed men loyal to the revolution. In a bid to extend their territory, pro-revolutionaries had tried to take control of the political security, criminal investigation and migration offices on Thursday morning, all located in the west of Taiz.

Government forces, stationed in Cairo Castel, Al-Jara Mountain, reacted with a violent, random attack on many residential areas, shelling in the west of the city and in areas under the control of the anti-government armed men. Government forces used different kinds of heavy weapons in the fierce clashes, which

were ongoing Sunday morning.

A medical source at the field hospital told the Yemen Times that the shelling, which targeted areas including Al-Maroor, Wadi Al-Qadi, Al-Rawdha and Jamal Street, led to the deaths of 30 people. Among them were six civilians, two women and two children, while 90 others were injured.

The medical source said that the government forces also prevented the Red Crescent teams from accessing areas in the west of the city to provide assistance for injured people. The residents in the western areas live in a worsening humanitarian situation, unable to go out and unable to get basic food items, including water and wheat.

"If the government's forces justify the killing and the attacks because of the attempt by the armed men to take control of the political security, criminal investigation and the migration offices, why are they attacking civilians in homes in Wadi Al-Qadi, Al-Rawdha and Al-Masbah?" the medical source asked.



Continued on page 2 Government forces used tanks and artillery against residential areas in Taiz city, locals said.

GCC Implementation sees return of Saleh

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANAA, Dec 4 — The General People's Congress (GPC) has delegated both Honorary President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his deputy, Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi, to nominate

ministers for the General People's Congress' share of the National Unity Government. The new government should be formed within 14 days of Saleh's signing of the power transfer deal in Saudi Arabia on November 23.

To date, two formal steps in the deal were taken by Hadi on November 26, those of naming the opposition's prime minister and calling for an early election, to be held on February 21.

"One step at a time, we don't expect a miracle," said Michelle Cervone d'Urso, European Union ambassador and head of the European Union Delegation in Yemen.

The ruling party's return of some political power to Saleh provoked an angry response from youth protesters and was taken as being a manipulation of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) deal.

"Everyone knows by now that Saleh won't let go. He will play games until the last day of his life. That is why we rejected the deal in the first place," said Ahmed Al-Ma'mari from Sana'a's Change Square. He added that he wouldn't be surprised if Saleh names his son Ahmed as a minister.

Hadi was supposed to have formed a military committee within five days of the deal's signing. Continuing violence — most notably in Taiz — has only raised the need for the demilitarization of Yemen's major cities. Meanwhile, Hadi has yet to complete this aspect of the deal.

Though he had already been

granted to the power to order the military to withdrawal, Hadi instead merely issued a call for an end to the fighting in Taiz and for such a withdrawal.

"Saleh keeps his power as the Supreme Leader of the armed forces until the Election on February 21," said Ahmed Al-Sofi, Saleh's Information Secretary. "What I understand from the Gulf Cooperation Council deal is that it was signed in order to end the crisis — not to found a new state."

Cervone d'Urso said he had noticed some changes, including more hours of power (but, according to him, not enough), more available cooking gas and water, and less armed checkpoints. He also said that the government should prioritize retaking land lost to militants and opposition tribesmen en route to re-establishing a national-wide presence.

He added that youth protesters and other parties who were not included in the deal will be included later on.

"The youth is suspicious of the deal. They will need to see change before they agree to anything," he said.

"They are free to stay at and around the Freedom and Change Squares, or to leave."

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Houthis partially lift Damaj blockade

By: Ali Saeed

SADAA, Dec 4 — The Houthis in Sa'ada have partially lifted their 46-day blockade on Damaj, a local has told the Yemen Times.

Around 7,000 Salafi students, including women and children of Yemeni and foreign nationalities, live in Damaj and the area recently ran out of basic food items and medicine following the weeks-long blockade, according to a media and human rights team who visited the area.

The main Houthi security checkpoint out of Damaj, known as Khaneg, began allowing food aid, supplied by the Red Cross Society, into the area on Saturday. But a Salafi student told the Yemen Times accused the Houthis of only permitting two thirds of the aid and took the third for their own.

However, Mohamed Abd Al-Salam, a spokesperson for the Houthis in Sa'ada, denied the allegations. "It is untrue that the Houthis took one third of the Red Cross Society's

food aid or confiscated any food," he said. "And the road is open for anyone to go in or out."

The accusation came after a statement by the Houthis on Saturday saying they had lifted the blockade and agreed a ceasefire. However, fighting has continued on both sides.

"Nobody can get in or get out," the Salafi student said "so how are they [Houthis] saying that they lifted the blockade?"

The governor of Sa'ada has sent a copy of the Houthis' statement to the Salafis in Damaj, but the Salafis have not yet responded.

A delegation of the Yemeni opposition National Council, formed on August 17th to lead the youth revolution, visited Sa'ada on Saturday and took a tour of the Damaj area. They have remained in Sa'ada, but have not yet released any report on the situation there.

The delegation includes Mused Al-Radaee, general secretary of the Nasserite party as the head of the mission and MP Sakhr Al-Wajeeh.

A similar mission of anti-regime protesters from Sana'a's Change Square also arrived in Damaj on Friday to assess the situation from both sides, but they have not revealed their findings yet.

The violence in Sa'ada between the Shiite-Houthis and the Sunni-Salafis broke out 50 days ago after the Houthis received a leaked letter, allegedly from a Salafi cleric in Damaj, urging the commander of Yemen's security forces to fight the Houthis. The letter was denied by the cleric though he later called for Jihad [holy war] against the Houthis.

The Houthis, who took control of Sa'ada in March of this year, have gone through six rounds of war with the Yemeni army since 2004-2010. The Salafis were not involved in the fighting until the last round in 2009.

Both sides have been exchanging accusations that the other is inciting supporters to encourage sectarian conflict in Yemen.

Yemen's 18-month economic plan

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Dec 4 — The Ministry of Trade and Industry has come up with a program to deal with the economic crisis Yemen has gone through over the last ten months. According to Minister of Trade Hisham Sharaf, an Emergency Economic Recovery Program has been tentatively approved.

The Emergency Economic Recovery Program (EERP) aims to deal with the various makings of an economy, mainly divided into private sector activities on the one hand and the infrastructure and basic services provided by the government on the other.

"Our prime objective is to return the confidence of the private sector in Yemen through facilitating its work and providing it with the means to recover from its losses," said Sharaf.

The program's total budget is around USD four billion. Half goes to private sector facilitation and the rest to government economic institutions. Hoping to get the money from the regional and international community willing to help Yemen recover, the program is planned to commence in January 2012 and last throughout most of the transition period up to mid 2013.

The program will focus on providing the private sector with credits in cooperation with local banks

in order to recommence trade and export activities with foreign partners. The credits will cover importing foodstuffs, raw materials and other inputs for the local industry.

Simultaneously, easy loans with attractive grace periods and low interest rates will be provided for Yemeni businesses, especially those employing manpower or productive factories.

Moreover, training and rehabilitation projects will be available, especially for those businesses that were affected by the crisis, in order to help them get back into the market.

And finally, the project will provide free logistical and technical services and advice to the private sector across all fields.

"We understand that before everything we need to create an environment that allows businesses to run, for example electricity and a stable currency," said the minister.

This is why, from the very beginning the program will aim at rebuilding the damaged government institutions such as the Marib Power Plant and its pipelines, get the Aden Refinery functioning again and restore any central government buildings that were affected by the conflict such as the Ministries of Electricity, Planning and Education.

"We can't promise miracles," said the Minister of Trade. "But with this

program we will recover between 50 to 75 percent of the pre-February 2011 operational structure. We are also working to improve the national currency between 15 to 30 percent by mid 2012."

In addition to stabilizing the currency to reduce inflation, the program also is going to facilitate the importing of basic goods, whether through the private sector or directly through government imports so that supplies are available in the market.

The availability of foreign credits will reduce the foreign currency drain and also help stabilize local currency and prices, according to the program. Private companies will be given up to one year to repay the foreign credits.

Aid in the form of basic goods will also be coming from Gulf countries, the European Union and the USA in order to support the poorer segments of society, who have suffered most due to the rising prices over the last ten months.

A fund in which Gulf countries, mainly Saudi Arabia, will contribute, will be created to cover the national budget deficit and hence the payment balance. Moreover, according to the minister, donor countries are willing to remove around USD two billion of the USD 6.29 billion external debt, while postponing and creating new payment installments for the remaining amount.

Yemen slides down the corruption scale

By: Garnet Roach

SANA'A Dec 4 — Yemen has taken a dip on Transparency International's corruption scale, going from 146 to 164th place on the organization's annual list.

The report ranks countries from zero to ten, with the lower end of the scale representing the highest levels of corruption. Yemen scored just 2.1 on the index.

"Most Arab Spring countries rank in the lower half of the index, scoring below four," said Transparency International. "Before the Arab Spring, a Transparency International report on the region warned that nepotism, bribery and patronage were so deeply ingrained in daily life that even existing anti-corruption

laws had little impact."

Of the Arab countries that have seen protests and popular uprisings in 2011, only Libya ranked lower than Yemen, coming in at number 168.

Tunisia and Egypt came in at 73 and 112 respectively out of the 182 countries included in this year's index. Last year, the organization ranked 178 countries, so there were 32 that fared worse than Yemen — compared to 18 this year.

Haiti, Iraq and Sudan were among the countries with more corruption than Yemen, while Somalia stayed at the bottom for the sixth year in a row.

At the other end of the scale, New Zealand ranked first, followed by Finland and Denmark. "2011 saw

the movement for greater transparency take on irresistible momentum, as citizens around the world demand accountability from their governments.

"High-scoring countries show that over time efforts to improve transparency can, if sustained, be successful and benefit their people," said Transparency International managing director, Cobus de Swardt. Two-thirds of rated countries scored less than five points.

"This year we have seen corruption on protesters' banners be they rich or poor. Whether in a Europe hit by debt crisis or an Arab world starting a new political era, leaders must heed the demands for better government," said Huguette Labelle, chair of Transparency International.

Somalia: Yemen returnee numbers soar

By: IRIN

HARGEISA, Dec. 1 — Continuing unrest and xenophobia in Yemen have prompted an upsurge in the number of migrants and refugees returning to Somalia, with up to 6,000 reported to have travelled back across the Red Sea since the beginning of October.

"About 400 Somaliland families

and 600 Somali families have returned to Somaliland in the last two months," said Abdillahi Hussein Egeh, director-general of the Interior Ministry in Somaliland, which unilaterally declared its independence from the rest of Somalia in 1991.

"Somalilanders stay in this country, while the Somalis continue their journey to Somalia," he said.

Despite the unrest in there, thousands of Africans continue to make the perilous crossing in the other direction, to Yemen. Many of them fleeing not only conflict but a widespread food crisis in south-central Somalia.

"Most of those fleeing [Yemen] are afraid of being the target of the two sides, due to their concern that [both] have accused Somalis of supporting their rival," said Mohamed Ahmed, a father of three who arrived in Hargeisa, Somalia, in late October.

"I have been captured twice, once

by the government forces and again by the opposition. Electricity, water and other basic services are erratic due to the crisis," he said. The final straw that had pushed him to return to Somalia was the bombing of the university in Yemen where he used to live.

"My wife and children are still in Yemen, because I was unable able to pay for their transport," he said, explaining that boat fares have risen significantly.

Somaliland used to export about 15,000 heads of livestock every month to Yemen but now only exports a third of that figure, according to local businessmen.

"This is because the livestock can't reach the remote places of Yemen," said Abdi Said, a livestock exporter in Somaliland.

"Our income has decreased. For example, one person used to send 500 heads of cattle per month," he said. "This has gone down to 100 per month."

Continued from page 1

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For his part, a security official in Taiz denied that government forces have targeted civilians.

"We are doing our duty in protecting the public security and defending the state's establishments," the security official said in a statement to the Yemen Times.

"The militias of the Muslim Brotherhood [Islah party] and some elements of the first armored division attempted on Thursday morning to storm the migration office, the traffic administration and the criminal investigation. They destroyed the buildings using heavy weapons," the official said. "Eight soldiers were killed and 15 others wounded due to this attack."

"These militias have also burned the house of the secretary general assistant of the [ruling] General people Congress and stole its con-

tents," he added.

"These militias have been attempting to storm the 33rd Division of the Republican Guards [run by Saleh's son] since last Monday by using all kinds of weapons," he said.

He claimed that defected leaders of the First Armored Division and some of the Islah party were trying to encourage violence in order to derail the GCC agreement.

He accused the armed group of working on carrying out assassination attempts against security leaders and blaming the government.

He also warned citizens against "untrue" pamphlets distributed by the JMP advising citizens to evacuate their houses.

The Human Rights Information and Training Center, a human rights NGO in Taiz, condemned the

"organized military attack against the city by all kinds of weapons, the targeting of several residential areas and banning people from going out of their homes."

The center called on all human rights organizations and the international community to work on the immediate suspension of the revenge campaign carried out by the regime against Taiz.

"The continuation of escalated violence in Taiz rather than other governorates is adopted by some parties refusing the GCC initiative and who were not included in the political settlement," said Fuad Mohamed Abdo, a political analyst in Taiz.

"These parties have chosen Taiz because they expect revenge actions from government forces, which will lead to more bloodshed. This will provoke the youth, which

in the end will create agitation and a wider rejection of the GCC initiative in all protest squares in all governorates as the people of Taiz have a big presence and influence in all squares," said Abdo.

Taiz is a hub of protest activity with a high awareness among its youth, he explained. In addition to this, the city's strategic position with a large population, close to the south and sea ports, has made it more of a target.

"So the opposition doesn't want to withdraw from its positions and sees any withdrawal from Taiz, even according to a ceasefire, as an end to their bet in case the GCC initiative fails."

"The opposition calls Taiz the capital of the revolution while the government thinks that if Taiz falls it will also be the collapse of the regime," Abdo concluded.

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UAE National day celebrated

The United Arab Emirates celebrated its national day on December 2, commemorating its fortieth year as a state.

In that time, the UAE's economy has blossomed. With the world's fourth largest reserves of oil and a production rate of 2.5 million barrels a day — in addition to the fifth largest gas reserves in the world — the UAE developed the capability to diversify its economy.

The diversification process included investing in tourism, which currently accounts for 10 percent of its Gross National Product and which represents a rapidly-growing sector. With over twelve million visitors a year, the country's national airline is stimulating economic growth. The Fujairah sea port is now the second-largest bunkering port in the world.

While oil and gas revenues ac-

count for only 30 percent of its GDP, the UAE has set itself up as a progressive and forward-moving country, determined to compete in the world's free market economy.

With its economic growth, the UAE has taken the opportunity to be a player in the development of the peaceful use of nuclear energy and is emerging as a leader in research into sustainable energy. The world's first carbon-neutral city is currently being built there.

The UAE has also played a leading role in the recent Arab Spring, participating in the UN-sanctioned aerial campaign to protect civilians in Libya, as well as providing humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, through the Arab League it has called for an end to bloodshed in Syria voting for economic sanctions against Bashar Al-Assad's regime.



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Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
Economic Opportunity Fund (EOF)
Request of Expressions of Interest for due diligence exercise
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The Republic of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation has received a grant no.(DSF-8061-YE) from IFAD and co-finances from ISDB and EU for the Economic Opportunity Fund and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this finance to payment under the contract for carrying out a due diligence exercise for Al-Amal Microfinance Bank. **This announcement supersedes the announcements published in Al Thawra and Yemen Observer news papers in December 2010.**

The aim of the due diligence is to confirm the validity and integrity of the financial and accounting documents of Al-Amal microfinance bank and to provide a reasonable evaluation of the AMB as the date of the due diligence. Therefore, EOF invites eligible qualified and experienced consultancy firms to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested firm must provide information to support that they are qualified to perform the services using (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar tasks, general qualifications and number of key staff, and so forth.

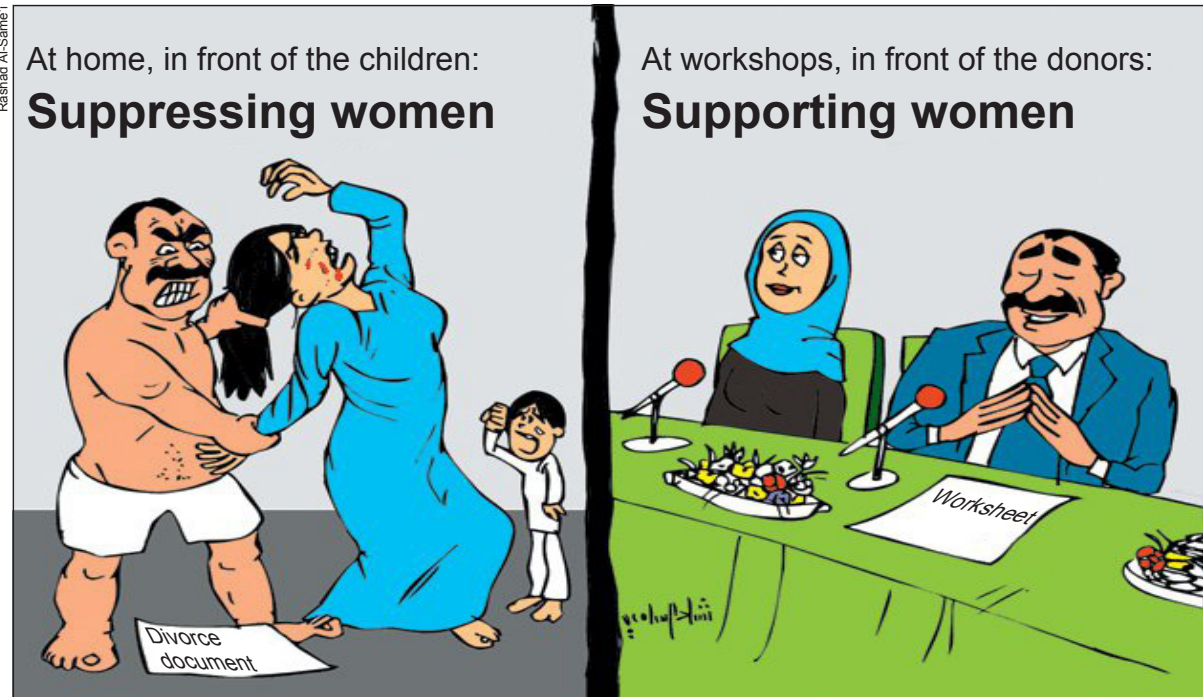
A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the IFAD's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by IFAD Guidelines, dated September 2010.

Interested firms may obtain further information at the address below from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

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The deadline for submitting applications is by the
31 December 2011.

Conflict puts women at risk



By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Yemen's ongoing political conflict and the huge numbers of internally displaced people, is putting women and girls at a higher risk of violence, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has warned.

The UNFPA called on Yemeni communities to band together and fight violence against women.

Marc Vandenberghe, UNFPA representative in Yemen, warned that women "suffer violence in all its forms, starting from the family through community and political life".

"We have seen that displaced women are more vulnerable to abuse," he said.

"We can, in the UNFPA, contribute to creating an environment that helps protect women. We have engaged in a campaign to put the issue of violence against women in our agenda."

On Tuesday, the Fund launched a 16-day campaign to raise aware-

ness of violence against women, which takes many forms said the UNFPA.

The UNFPA, in collaboration with the Yemen's National Women Committee, is running different events to raise awareness of violence against women, urge NGOs to play a bigger role in defending human rights and strengthen the partnership with the government.

According to Amnesty International, women in Yemen face systemic discrimination and endemic violence with devastating consequences for their lives.

Amnesty International stated that women's rights are routinely violated because Yemeni laws as well as tribal and customary practices treat them as second class citizens, indicating that women are not free to marry who they want and some are forced to marry when they are children.

Wedad Al-Badawi, a human rights activist, said that violence against women has sharply increased since the uprising began earlier this year.

"The international NGOs that believe that violence against women has decreased don't have concise information because they depend on governmental statistics," she explained.

Al-Badawi indicated that there are many untold rape and early marriage crimes against women in Yemen. "Yemeni women are oppressed."

According to Al-Badawi, women have experienced many new problems during the conflict, which has added an intolerable burden. "Unfortunately, Yemeni women are exposed to violence from both of the regime and the opposition."

She continued: "Both of them have used women in their protests as if they are products. They have violated their rights and lost their dignity."

Speaking to the Yemen Times about the violation against Yemeni women during the year's events, she said angrily: "Women were exposed to tear gas, detention, beatings and brutal killings."

"Even killing men is considered

a violation against women because this killing negatively affect wives, mother, sisters and daughters."

Al-Badawi is one of the women activists who decided to take part in the 16 day campaign. "This campaign -ill contribute greatly towards raising awareness among Yemenis about this crucial issue."

Fahmia Al-Fotih, communication officer at the UNFPA said that the media should play a crucial role in fighting violence against women.

"Media people should develop strong relations with NGO activists to change the women's situation into something better, reveal facts about this issue and encourage women to break the silence if they have been exposed to any forms of violence," she said.

Al-Fotih indicated that the role of the media, especially radio and TV, should be improved to be able to show Yemenis the forms of violence women face. She called for the establishment of a Yemeni media committee with the aim of fighting violence against women.

The campaign will focus on broadcasting radio and TV programs and issuing newspaper supplements about the issue, according to Hana'a Al-Mutawakel, public relations officer at the National Women's Committee.

Al-Mutawakel said that the committee has prepared short films and dramatic programs about violence against women.

"Unfortunately, we have witnessed new forms of violence against women this year," she said.

Women as victims

Samiya Al-Aghbari, a journalist and human rights activist, said that women are always the victims in any conflict.

"Yemeni women have been arrested, beaten up, threatened and killed. The regime has broken the principles of ethics during its dealing with peaceful women," she said. "Even female medics were exposed to kidnappings and violence," she said.

"Yemeni women have proved

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that they are great. Nobody expected that those women would take part in political and social events in a conservative country," she said. "Those women have shown how they are steadfast, patient heroines."

Al-Aghbari experienced violence at the hands of a soldier while she was protesting against the regime earlier this year.

"A masked soldier from the Central Security tried to kidnap me during the protest but some protesters heard my cry and came to help me," she said. "The soldier threw me violently to the ground and I fainted."

However, this isn't the only violation against Al-Aghbari. She told the Yemen Times that she was exposed to several attempts of kidnappings and beatings. "The youth were protecting us from the violators."

"I have received many threats from unknown men. I was also verbally abused by them," she said. "I've been slandered in many websites and newspapers."

But the violence she has faced has not made her give up. "All of these violations will not depress me," she said. "These violations have made me more determined to continue my aims without fear."

Republic of Yemen Yemeni Cabinet Economic Opportunities Fund

Call for Expression of Interest for Coffee Processors/Exporters

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 co-financing from Islamic Development Bank and European Union toward 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 the Economic Opportunities Fund (EOF) which is created as a public-private partnership based on the republican decree no. (183 for the year 2010). The EOF will manage investments valued in the range of USD 150 million over the next six years.

The Economic Opportunities Fund (EOF) is managing a national initiative to upgrade the coffee, honey and horticulture value chains and increase the incomes of farmers, processors and exporters. The first part of the programme will provide support to the coffee value chain and as part of this initiative the EOF is seeking to identify a number of established coffee processors and exporters interested in collaboration.

The selected processors and exporters will be supported technically and financially to lead the process of value chain upgrading, beginning in the communities where the selected processors and exporters are already sourcing coffee. A Memorandum of Understanding will be agreed between each selected coffee processor or exporter and the EOF in this respect following agreement on target settlements.

In return the processor/exporter will receive financial support for marketing and export promotion including cost-sharing of market studies, quality testing, certification (incl. Global GAP, HACCP, ISO 17025, 9000, 22000), participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, and trial shipments. Support will also be available for the establishment of coffee nurseries and for testing of new coffee varieties and production and processing practices.

Most importantly, the processor/exporter will benefit from a more reliable supply of larger quantities of higher quality coffee, meet-

ing their required standards and specifications. To achieve this, the EOF will cost-share the salary of a Supply Chain Manager for each of the participating processors and exporters for up to 5 years. The Supply Chain Managers will provide technical advisory services to coffee producers to improve their productivity and meet the technical production requirements of the processor or exporter. A contractual agreement will be established between the coffee producers' association and the selected processor or exporter.

Small-scale coffee producers in the targeted communities will also receive financial and technical support to construct water harvesting and storage infrastructure; invest in drip irrigation systems; and strengthen the capacity of their producers' associations;

The key criteria for selection of processors/exporters will be:

1. Complete set of official registration documents for both processors and exporters of relevant crops and agriculture productions.
2. Experience: experience of: (i) processing and export of coffee, particularly experience in meeting national and international quality and process standards; and (ii) experience of working with contracted farmers;
3. Transparency: transparency in pricing and transactions procedures;
4. Fair Contracting: willingness to enter into contracts with producers' associations;
5. Staff: willingness to recruit and pay for a supply-chain manager, initially cost-shared with the EOF.
6. Location: the settlements from which coffee is produced should be located within the programme area (Abyan, Amran, Dhamar, Hodeidah, Lahej, Ibb, Taiz, Sana'a); sufficient water must be available to support coffee production; and the processors/exporters should be able to provide long list of settlements selected from the above mentioned areas considering the proportion of smallholders and poor households among the coffee producers.

The EOF invites interested processors/exporters to submit expressions of interest to participate in this initiative. Expressions of interest should provide general information regarding the business activities of the processor/exporter, such as location, years of operation, approximate annual throughput of coffee, and provide evidence of compliance with the above criteria. All information received will be considered fully confidential and will not be shared with any third party without the agreement of the processor/exporter.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by 30th of Dec. 2011

and the EOF will notify short-listed businesses by 15th of Jan. 2012; the selection will be finalized by 30th of Jan. 2012. Submissions can be made by email or in hard copy to the address indicated below.

Programme activities will begin as soon as possible following selection of the processors/exporters; support is expected to continue until December 2016.

A workshop for prospective bidders and other concerned parties will be held at the EOF Headquarters in Sana'a on 10th of Dec. 2011. This will provide an opportunity to discuss the initiative and share ideas and suggestions prior to the submission of expressions of interest.

Further information on this initiative and the call for expressions of interest can be obtained by contacting the EOF on contact details as follow: TOTAL Street which branched from Haddah Street, TOTAL previous headquarters, opposite to Al-Noar Mosque, near to German Embassy. Telephone numbers (415177 - 415399), Email: (eofyemen@yahoo.co.uk), Sana'a, Yemen.

Terms and Conditions

The EOF reserves the right not to select any expression of interest for inclusion in the shortlist. Expressions of interest will be evaluated by the EOF at its sole discretion, taking into account the key criteria outlined above.

The EOF may request applicants to submit complementary information. Any possible requests to submit complementary information and/or to submit a more detailed proposal, as well as any discussions ensuing therefrom, will be exploratory only, and do not mean that the institution(s) concerned will actually be selected and/or receive any support from the EOF.

Incomplete applications submitted after the deadline will, in principle, be disregarded (unless the EOF, in its sole discretion, decides otherwise in respect of any such incomplete or late application).

The EOF will not be held to offer applicants any explanation or justification as to why their expression of interest has been rejected and/or why they have not been selected for inclusion in the shortlist. The shortlist will not be made public and the outcome of the selection process will not be open to appeal. Each applicant will be notified by the EOF in writing (or by email) whether or not it has been selected for inclusion in the shortlist.

Any and all costs and expenses incurred in relation to, or ensuing from, the submission of an expression of interest (including the possible complementary information and/or more detailed proposal, if so requested by the EOF) will exclusively be borne by the applicant. The application and selection process set forth in this document will not be subject to claims for financial compensation of any kind whatsoever.

YT vision statement



"To make Yemen a good world citizen."

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
(1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times

OUR
OPINION

The new president's boss

Now that there will be a new president in less than three months, Yemen can celebrate the change it has achieved. Well not a 100 percent change since we are not sure how different the new president is going to be, or rather how independent he will be.

Just a few days ago, President Saleh of 33 years, agreed to let go of power and hand over to his deputy Abdo Rabo Mansour Hadi through the GCC initiative and actual presidential elections within 90 days, where Hadi is the only candidate promoted by both the regime and opposition.

The Gulf Initiative talks did not touch upon the solid issues such as the constitution, decentralization, army restructuring, Houthis and the Southern Movement, problems that will not be dealt with until the new president is elected through a ready-made process.

However, the new president remains a member of today's ruling party, the General People's Congress, which is headed by Saleh. This means politically speaking, Saleh will remain Hadi's boss even if the latter becomes president. How ironic!

Being a powerful figure and used to authority, it will be nearly impossible for Saleh to simply let go of power even though he signed the GCC initiative. Indications of this reluctance have already been witnessed when soon after his signing, Saleh chaired a party meeting issuing a decree to pardon those who made "errors" during the uprising.

Another issue that may affect the Gulf Initiative's smooth implementation is Tawakul Karman, and the rest of the angry protestors who did not approve the deal. Karman, the woman who symbolically started the revolution, is today at The Hague trying to persuade the International Criminal Court (ICC) to take up the case against Saleh as a war criminal. She made a promise to the families of the killed protestors that she would not return to Yemen until his case was accepted by the ICC for investigation.

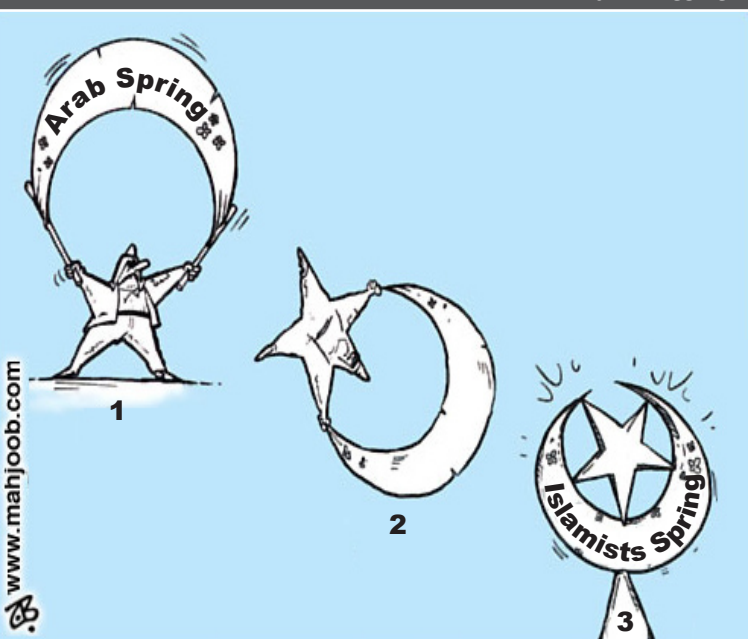
But now Saleh has tricked her and signed. The agreement he signed says he shall not be prosecuted. The agreement is endorsed by the UN and world powers who have more say in the ICC than Karman will ever have, Nobel Peace Prize or not.

People are still being killed in Yemen but we can't really understand why. Most of the people are happy that the agreement was signed because it is a transition that saves face for the ousted president and at the same time allows for change. But this change has to be genuine and has to be given a chance to blossom whether by Saleh who needs to keep his power hunger in check, or by the angry protestors who need to think beyond revenge. At least for the sake of Yemen and its young children who are traumatized by conflict and dying of malnutrition. Those children who will curse us in the future, blaming us for the devastating irreparable state they will be in if we continue this madness.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SKETCHED OPINION

By Hajjaj



Arab and western hypocrisy on Syria

By: Kourosh Ziabari
Teheran Times

The Arab League's suspension of Syria amid increasing Western pressure, the Egyptian junta's crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, Bahrain's excessive use of force against its own people, and Yemeni regime's massacre of its citizens have once again underlined the prevailing double standards in the world.

According to official figures released by the "Bahrain Center for Human Rights" website, at least 44 Bahraini citizens were killed at the hands of mercenaries of Al-Khalifa regime. The Bahraini martyrs include the six-year-old Mohammed Farhan, 14-year-old Ali Jawad Al-Shaikh and 15-year-old Sayed Ahmad Saeed Shams. The Bahraini organization has reported that many of the civilians were killed while in custody. The Center has also published documents indicating that more than 1,500 Bahrainis including about 100 women were incarcerated since the eruption of turmoil in the Persian Gulf country on Feb. 14, 2011 and that more than 90 journalist's faced life threats.

The report also said that the Bahraini government has blocked the citizens' access to more than 1,000 opposition websites, which are mainly used to organize and plan protests.

The Bahraini regime commits all these crimes with direct support from Saudi Arabia and with the implicit backing of NATO and the United States. The author of the "Hidden Harmonies China" blog in a Mar. 14, 2011 post referred to the abuses of human rights in Bahrain with the flagrant, duplicitous support of the White House; "the entry of Saudi security forces to crack down on the protesters with deadly force is a

complication for US policies, to say the least, since the US is reluctant to criticize its oil ally dictators in the region."

He also called Bahrain the "Las Vegas" of the Middle East, host to the US 5th Fleet and a haunt for the rich Saudis who are forbidden by Islamic laws at home from indulging in alcohol and other immoral enjoyments, "but who often vacation in Bahrain for these reasons."

Bahraini citizens have uploaded several videos on the internet, showing the Manama authorities torturing protesters. These videos also show the Bahraini forces targeting the protesters with toxic tear gas and rubber bullets. In addition, some of these videos show the regime vehicles running over children and women.

The US-Saudi-backed crackdown on the Bahraini people was also backed by some European powers. In July 2011, Germany sold a set of 200 62-ton Leopard tanks to Saudi Arabia, which sparked a huge controversy among German parliamentarians and anti-war activists. According to the Daily Telegraph, Wolfgang Gerhardt, the former leader of the Free Democrats, the junior coalition member to Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats, said it was "unacceptable" the deal went through without the knowledge of his party's MPs. However, the agreement, worth around USD 1,252 million, was concluded and the Saudi government dispatched many of these newly-bought tanks to Bahrain to accelerate and facilitate the bloody clampdown on the protesters.

The situation in Yemen, however, is far more deplorable. Allvoices.com has reported that as of 25 September, 1,870 Yemenis were killed during the revolution and the majority of the dead were unarmed civilians taking part in anti-government

demonstrations.

The Yemeni dictator, who has remained defiant in the face of frequent calls by the tribal leaders, opposition groups and demonstrators to step down and give up power, has turned his country into a bloodbath, making the Yemeni uprising the longest and most devastating revolution in the wave of protests in the Middle East. The protests in Yemen started on Feb. 3, 2011 and have continued so far. The only reaction of the international community to the brutality in this country has been an indecisive and faltering resolution by the UNSC, which has called for "an end to violence" and asked President Ali Abdullah Saleh to accept a peace deal brokered by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council. However, Saleh, who is tacitly supported by the US, has kept up with the brutalities and according to Sana'a-based newspaper Yemen Times, 94 protesters have been killed after the Security Council adopted the resolution 2014.

A report published in the Yemen Times on November 17 revealed that "94 Yemenis were killed and over 800 injured since UN Resolution 2014 was issued on October 21".

"Tentative reports show that over the last three weeks in Yemen, 124 homes, seven mosques, six public institutions including one hospital, two community wells, and 17 vehicles were effectively destroyed," the Yemen Times reported.

In the days leading to the detainment and death of Muammar Gaddafi, the Western mainstream media were only broadcasting news about the Libyan civil war, and the reason was clear, NATO had secured a UN Security Council resolution to enact a no-fly zone over Libya and it was in the interest of the US and its European partners to cover the tumultuous situation in the North African country. However, the reports and news regarding the carnage in Bah-

rain and Yemen were predominantly shunned and boycotted, simply because these two despotic regimes are the close allies of the US in the Middle East.

In a report published in the Independent Australia, Zaid Jiani alluded to the violent crackdown on the protesters in Bahrain and Yemen and posed the question that "is the media downplaying these events because the two dictatorships are firm allies of the West?"

"A Think Progress analysis of press coverage by the three major US cable news networks - CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News - from March 14 to March 18 finds that Bahrain received only slightly more than ten percent as many mentions as Libya and that Yemen received only six percent as many mentions as Libya."

Now what concerns the independent thinkers, scholars, university professors, journalists and peace activists is that Syria has become the target of international pressure, simply because it has strong ties with Iran and resistant groups in Lebanon and Palestine, while the regimes of Bahrain and Yemen are getting away with the crimes they have committed by the virtue of their alliance with the United States.

The Arab League has hypocritically suspended the participation of Syria while it has taken no practical step to normalize the situation in Yemen and Bahrain in which innocent people are being killed on a daily basis by their tyrannical rulers.

Furthermore, the Arab League and the West are ignoring the worsening situation in Yemen and Bahrain but exaggerating the unrest in Syria that is mainly caused because of their intervention. They are slamming Damascus but paying no attention towards the oppressed people of Yemen and Bahrain. This is an exercise in double standards and an outstanding example of stark hypocrisy.

Is it a crime for an American to support Jihad?

By: Rick Holmes
Herald News

Ahmed Mehanna was worried, aggravated and fearful for his son. He worried about the websites young Tarek had been visiting, the books he'd been reading. Tarek had taken a trip to Yemen his father thought might look suspicious to the authorities.

Then word got back to Ahmed that Tarek had been giving radical sermons at the Islamic Center in Sharon. "If we didn't know he was your son," a friend told him, "we would say he was a member of Al-Qaeda."

Like many young people, Tarek thought his father's fears weren't justified.

"I think my dad thinks I'm part of a group," he told a friend. "If I was actually doing something, I'd understand, but come on, man."

Mehanna was right to be concerned. While the family was on vacation in 2006, the feds, using "sneak and peak" powers granted under the USA Patriot Act, broke into their Sudbury home, searched for incriminating evidence and planted surveillance devices.

In 2008, Tarek, now 29 years old, was arrested. Since then he has been in solitary confinement. In a Boston courtroom, prosecutors are now trying to prove to a jury that he actually did something worthy of life in prison.

Daniel Spaulding, who testified Tuesday, was a prosecution witness,

but he didn't seem to help their cause.

Spaulding, a friend of Tarek's who shared - for a while at least - Tarek's religious and political beliefs, had agreed to testify under a grant of immunity. He confirmed on the witness stand what other evidence had made clear: Tarek and some of his friends had embraced some of the concepts of radical Islam, had cheered the 9/11 attacks, goofing for pictures at Ground Zero. Tarek had been enraged about the US invasion of Iraq, and spoke of the holy obligation to oppose those who killed fellow Muslims. He shared his views in person and in online chat rooms. He translated Arabic documents, including "39 Ways to Serve and Participate in Jihad," and shared them with friends.

But did young Tarek actually do something that broke a law?

In Tarek's indictment, prosecutors alleged he conspired with friends to attack Americans at a shopping mall. Spaulding testified that the idea had come up in conversation, but that Tarek thought it was "stupid and impractical".

Under cross-examination, Spaulding said Tarek never mentioned Al-Qaeda, and, for religious reasons, opposed the idea of attacking civilians in the US.

Prosecutors say Tarek went to Yemen for training as a terrorist, though they admit he never found any. Spaulding said Tarek was "disillusioned by Yemen," and that his father talked him into coming home.

Prosecutors say Tarek, an American citizen, graduate of Lincoln-Sudbury High School and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, who lived with his parents, returned to the US to be part of Al-Qaeda's "media wing". The term certainly implies Tarek was taking orders from Al-Qaeda or coordinating his propaganda efforts with the terrorist organization. But while the prosecution hasn't finished presenting its case, it has yet to prove there were any specific contacts between Tarek and anyone in Al-Qaeda.

Absent some kind of smoking gun, jurors in Tarek's federal court trial face a decision about the limits of dissent in post-9/11 America.

Tarek's defenders inside and outside of court concede he disagreed strongly with US policies in Iraq and sympathized with some Islamist radicals. They know he hung out with young men his age who wanted to put those beliefs in action. One of his friends fled after being questioned by the FBI, and is now believed to be in Syria. Another ended up going to Somalia for training, and is now serving a 10-year prison sentence.

"May Allah reward you, dude," Tarek told the friend in a call tapped by the FBI.

The slogan at the top of the website run by Tarek's defenders (freetarek.com) says "Nothing to hide." His defence attorneys take the same position. Tarek didn't do anything. He talked with his friends about maybe doing something. He expressed, in

conversation and in writing, ideas that are unpopular with most Americans.

Yes, Tarek translated some documents from Arabic to English, apparently of his own volition. There may be authoritarian countries where translating documents into your native tongue is a crime, but is it a crime in America?

Unpopular speech is a right protected by the First Amendment, the defence says, a principle confirmed by the Supreme Court just this year, when it upheld the right of members of the Westboro Baptist Church to protest at military funerals.

The charges against Tarek sound serious: providing and conspiring to provide material support to terrorists, conspiracy to kill in a foreign country, misleading investigators.

But Tarek's defenders raise a higher standard. Does America put people in prison because of what they think, what they believe, what they talk to their friends about doing, what they post online, what they maybe intend to do but never get around to doing?

Tarek was surely immature, naive and wrong about a lot of things, including when he shrugged off his father's warnings. "If I was actually doing something," he told his friend, "I'd understand, but come on, man."

It will be up to jurors in Boston, and perhaps judges hearing the case on appeal, to decide whether what Tarek did was enough to punish him with life in prison.

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Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

Fax: +967 (1) 268-276

P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

Letters: ytreaders.view@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS:

Tel: +967 (1) 510306

Email: adsyemen@yahoo.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

CEO
Khair Aldin Al Nsour

Interns

Amira Al-Arasi

amira_new20@yahoo.com

Marwa Najmaldeen

marwaNajm@yahoo.com

Senior Reporter
Mohammed bin Sallam

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff

Garnet Roach

garnet.yt@gmail.com

Ali Saeed

alisaeed.yt@gmail.com

Malak Shaher

malakshaher@gmail.com

Sadeq Al-Wesabi

sadeqalwesabi@hotmail.com

Shatha Al-Harazi

shatha.yt@gmail.com

Offices

Taiz Bureau:

Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,

Telefax: +967 (4) 217157

P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz

Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

Subscriptions

For subscription rates and related information please contact Majdi Al-Saqqaf, Subscription and Distribution Manager, on 268661/2 ext 204 or mobile: 711998995 Email: majdi_saqqaf@yahoo.com

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- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.
- For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices



Announcement of the Royal Norwegian Consulate General Relocation

Royal Norwegian Consulate General has been relocated from Al - Saeed Building in Al - Zubairy Street to the temporarily office in Haddah effective from Nov.16, 2011.

The new office locates near the Yemeni Kuwait Company for Real Estate Development in front of the branch of International Bank of Yemen, in the same building of United Insurance Co., Haddah.

We will continue using the present telephone numbers and email which are:

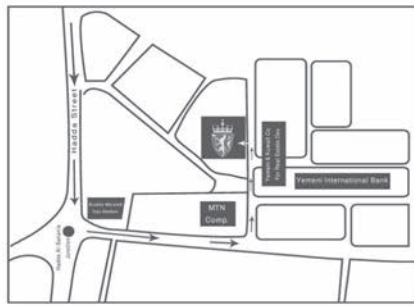
Tel:01 - 212895

Fax:01 -212895

Email: congeneral@royalnorcon.com
con.attache@royalnorcon.com

We apologize for any inconvenience caused and please feel free to contact us on the following numbers in emergency cases:

Mobile :737777744 _ 737777722



الف مبروك

نتقدم بالتهاني و التبريكات إلى الأخوات والإخوة رئيس وأعضاء التحالف الوطني للأمم المتحدة ومن خلالهم إلى

د. جميلة صالح الراعي

عضو المجلس التنفيذي للتحالف الوطني بمناسبة فوزها بعضوية

مجلس إدارة التحالف العالمي للأمم المتحدة



المهنيون
جمعية رعاية الأسرة اليمنية
عنهم / نبيل محمد العماري - المدير التنفيذي



UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

UNHCR
UNICEF
WFP
UNDP
UNFPF
UNODC
ILO
UNESCO
WHO
WORLD BANK



Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths.



Ban Ki - moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
1 December 2011



1 December 2011
Michel Sidibé
Executive Director of UNAIDS
Under Secretary-General of the United Nations

2011 WORLD AIDS DAY MESSAGES

Heading into the fourth decade of AIDS, we are finally in a position to end the epidemic.

The progress we have made so far is proof that we can realize our vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.

The number of new HIV infections has fallen by more than 20 per cent since 1997. New infections are continuing to decline in most parts of the world. In sub-Saharan Africa, the region most affected by the AIDS epidemic, HIV incidence has decreased in 22 countries.

Among populations at risk, the tide is shifting. Access to HIV prevention services are helping young people, sex workers and their clients, people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, and transgender people to take control of their health for greater well-being.

Treatment has averted 2.5 million AIDS-related deaths since 1985. Last year alone, 700,000 lives were saved. Some 6.6 million people, nearly half those who need treatment in low- and middle-income countries, are now receiving it.

Synergies between prevention and treatment are speeding up progress. But to end AIDS, we need to deliver even greater results.

This year in June, the United Nations General Assembly's High-Level Meeting on AIDS adopted bold targets for 2015: reduce the sexual transmission of HIV by half, eliminate new infections in children, provide treatment for 15 million people living with HIV, end stigma and discrimination, and close the AIDS funding gap.

With strong political will, reasonable financial resources and a firm human rights-based approach, we can achieve all of these targets.

Financing will be critical to success. I urge all concerned to act on the investment framework put forward by UNAIDS and to fully fund the global investment target of up to \$24 billion annually. The results would offset the upfront costs in less than one generation.

We must build on the political commitments, investments, energy, activism and determination that have brought us to this turning point.

Momentum is on our side. Let us use it to end AIDS – once and for all.

Game Changing Year

Never before in the history of AIDS have we reached a moment where we are able to stand up and say with conviction the end of AIDS is in sight.

It has been a year of achievements, of collective action, of resilience and of courage. In spite of the economic downturn that has stretched the AIDS response to its limits, millions of lives have been saved, as HIV treatment and prevention efforts continue to show results.

World leaders have made new promises—bold, tangible and realistic. These promises now must be delivered in every country, every community and to every person in need.

Fortunately, leaders are standing up to say that an AIDS-free generation is possible and that no child should be born with HIV and no mother should die of AIDS.

The gulf between treatment and prevention has ended. Treatment is prevention.

The divide between health and AIDS has narrowed, as AIDS comes out of isolation and into integrated and holistic health services. The AIDS response has paved the path for a people-centred health delivery system, one that values and restores the respect and dignity of every individual.

The road before us is clear and we can accelerate ahead with smart investments, capitalizing on scientific advancements and evidence and respecting human rights. It is why world leaders must fully fund the AIDS response. The global investment target of US\$ 22-24 billion is a shared responsibility—of all countries, donors and others. Only together can we secure the future and provide greater and long-term dividends.

Today, on this World AIDS Day, I call upon leaders, communities, parents, people living with HIV and young people to look forward and work towards a world with Zero new HIV infections, Zero discrimination and Zero AIDS-related deaths.

UNAIDS 2011 World AIDS Day Report

♦ The Global Epidemic:-

	2001	2005	2008	2009	2010
People living with HIV New	28.6 million [26.7-30.9 million]	31.0 million [29.2-32.7 million]	32.3 million [30.4-33.8 million]	32.9 million [31.0-34.4 million]	34 million [31.6-35.2 million]
New HIV infections	3.15 million [2.96-3.33 million]	2.81 million [2.63-2.97 million]	2.74 million [2.52-2.93million]	2.72 million [2.48-2.93 million]	2.67 million [2.46-2.90 million]
AIDS-related deaths	1.85 million [1.67-2.16 million]	2.22 million [2.07-2.48 million]	2.74 million [1.87-2.21 million]	1.89 million [1.72-2.05 million]	1.7 million [1.59-1.91 million]
infections in children	550 000 [490 000-620 000]	540 000 [480 000-600 000]	460 000 [400 000-510 000]	430 000 [370 000-490 000]	390 000 [340 000-450 000]

♦ Middle East and North Africa Epidemic:-

- The estimated number of adults and children living with HIV increased from 320 000 [190 000-450 000] in 2001 to 470 000 [350 000-570 000] in 2010.
- The estimated number of adults and children newly infected with HIV grew from 43 000 [31 000-57 000] in 2001 to 59 000 [40 000-73 000] in 2010.
- AIDS-related deaths among adults and children in the region rose from an estimated 22 000 [9700-38 000] in 2001 to 35 000 [25 000-42 000] in 2010.
- HIV prevalence in the region, estimated at 0.2% in 2010, remains low—except in Djibouti and South Sudan where the epidemic is becoming generalized (national HIV prevalence exceeds 1%).

Top key messages:-

- HIV treatment is having a dramatic impact on saving lives and advancing HIV prevention efforts.**
 - Nearly 50% of all people eligible for HIV treatment now have access.
- Eliminating new HIV infections in children is within our grasp.**
 - Nearly 50% of pregnant women living with HIV received antiretroviral therapy to prevent transmitting the virus to their child.
- New HIV infections are at their lowest levels since 1997.**
 - Five more countries have reported declines in HIV prevalence among young people. A total of 21 countries out of 24 reporting are now seeing declines.
- New UNAIDS investment framework will enable countries to reach 2015 targets.**
 - New strategic approach to spending would achieve extraordinary results.

Third gender thoughts

By: Irena Knehtl

I wish to offer some thoughts to your interesting article "The Third Gender" published on Nov. 10, 2011 in the Yemen Times, which I read with much interest.

Let me go back to the 80s, when Yemen (Arab Republic) society was more innocent and less complicated in the way it approached the question of gender mixing in public places. Women were everywhere, in the fields, in the suq and in the majlis. People were more spontaneous; they would appeal to their common sense when going about their life affairs.

Traveling to areas outside Sana'a was easy, picnicking over weekends in nearby wadis a norm, as were popular outings. I remember, how the late Dr. Selma Al Radi, who is credited with restoring the Amariya mosque in Rada'a, traveled in her old Land Rover all over Yemen and stayed with Yemenis.

Sana'a used to be much smaller and several Yemenis would return from their studies abroad with a foreign wife. Weather one covered or not,

fasted or not, observed festivals or not was beside the point. Many foreign and single women worked and resided in Sana'a. The neighbors knew where they worked, from which country they were, how much their salary was etc. There was a constant and lively exchange of visits and intermingling.

Weather a foreign woman was single or married was not of much relevance as long as she was professional and knew her job.

The (North) Yemeni society consisted of few wealthy upper class families, and a large, flourishing land-owning middle class, and the poorer class.

These attitudes begun to change during the 90s with the decline of the labor market in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf war and the sudden return of a million Yemenis – and the subsequent rise of so called political Islam. Or as Hissa Hillal, a Saudi poet, calls it "a particular idea of Islam which has come to dominate the society".

In the process of Yemen's unification, it attracted substantial capital investments, in particular, oil and gas sectors. Capital also brought undesired effects; inequality, corruption,

prostitution. As a consequence role models changed, employment models changed. Sana'a, for example, became a big, almost unmanageable city.

For example, mainly foreign women are being contracted for advertising purposes. As result "the third gender" came to symbolize something easy, available, which can be used if needed and in due course also thrown away.

One such example is Jennifer Steil's book "The Woman Who Fell From the Sky", which is a disturbing document for its lack of perspective.

The lively bridge, or exchange between Yemenis and the foreign community no longer exists, or is very limited, or confined to certain areas. In this context, the "third gender" or foreign woman has a limited or no role to play.

Amir Khan, the award winning Indian filmmaker sums it up this way "it does not matter who sits in the parliament as much. But it is much more important how we as individuals are to ourselves. Our attitudes to ourselves."

Having said that, if we follow Amir's advise even the Yemeni revolution can succeed at its best.

Constructive criticism for our so-called politicians

For the president, the ruling party, the opposition coalition, and the youth revolutionaries.

By: Mohammed Shatpi

Starting with the president: In your speech from two weeks ago, you said there were many capable people within your party who could run this country. If you and your party members are full of confidence, why didn't you make arrangements quickly and pass over power instead of waiting for more bloodshed? Existing problems would have been avoided until the general election was to take place.

Why didn't you dismiss the defected military Major General from his position by decree, describing all his past and present bad deeds? What made this difficult for you? Or is it forbidden to dismiss a general who

has been appointed by you by law?

Just dismiss him and assign another, and call on the entire army to be loyal to its country and its people; if you do this, his remaining followers will likely amount to a low number.

I don't think this is the right time to accuse or blame the opposition parties – this goes for yourself and your party members. When you say that the opposition parties are enemies of the nation, that they are with the terrorists, etc., you must keep in mind that they are and were party to coalitions with you and, when it comes down to it, have many followers from the nation's population.

As everybody is calling for democracy, let the democratic way sort things out.

As for yourself, Mr. Saleh, many

people believe that you did many good things for this country. Don't spoil your reputation – just step down with honor.

You and your party members must avoid selfishness and empty pride and think about the country and the next generation's future. As for the many politicians who believe that Saleh is the only person who can save this country from further problems: you are saying that the GPC equals Ali Abdullah Saleh, inferring that there is nobody except him and that all other members are useless, which in the end means that the party itself has no confidence.

Leaders of the opposition coalition parties: Be strong enough to be accepted by your followers.

When I say strong I don't mean

What obstacles remain to hinder success for Yemen's Revolution?

By: Maged Ahmed Alqutami

It has been ten months since the youth pitched their tents around Change and Freedom Squares, defying heat, rain, cold, and even flames, part of a consolidated vow to not go home until Salah stepped down. The youth, who have great ambitions, dreamt of building a new civil state in which justice, equality, and law would spread throughout Yemen. People want to live in a country where everyone, without exception, feels that he or she is an honored citizen both inside and outside the country.

Perhaps this period of time – longer than that experienced by revolutionaries in Tunisia and Egypt – is by all means understandable, due to the fragile fabric of the ruling Yemeni regime along with several other factors internally, regionally and internationally. The regime lacks true institutions. The army, judiciary and essential services are used as mere cards from time to time or are exploited by those in power or the rich.

Moreover, the complex composition of our society plays a key role, with tribes and regions interlacing with political affairs. The low level of education and political awareness also influences the revolution, with Yemen possessing the highest rate of

illiteracy among Arab Spring nations. The revolution aims to change these sore realities and unbind the nation from falsity and corruption.

The opposition, as represented by the Joint Meeting Parties, played a passive role in the first days of the revolution. On March 21, it rode the tide of the revolution, along with huge numbers of soldiers, parliamentarians, diplomats, and tribal sheikhs – many of whom had been recently acting on behalf of the ruling GPC party. They rushed as usual towards the corridors of negotiations and initiatives. They won some battles but lost many because they passed over the revolution, the youth, and their own party base as well. So they lost. Sustaining the regime turned out to be a great opportunity to rearrange its papers and play with time through mean tricks and dodges.

The Gulf countries are irresolute in their responses to events in Yemen. Regionally, Saudi Arabia deals with the matter from an ignoble perspective suited to serve its own interests. Furthermore, it is afraid of breaking those controversial deals and agreements already concluded with Saleh's regime. It wants guarantees that related files will never be opened again. Deals that permitted Saudi Arabia to intervene in Yemen's affairs for a long time on the one hand, while on

the other, there are real fears that Yemen's revolution will spread to their own monarchical countries. Further anxieties are related to Yemen's long borderline.

In addition, the international community does not deal with Yemen's revolutionary cause honestly. Because it is busy with many other issues around the world, it sees regional intervention as a commendable step. Besides, this will give countries more time to observe Yemen's situation and arrange tactical plans against Al-Qaeda in Yemen. From such countries' perspectives, the terrorist organization perceives Yemen as the weakest link in the Arabian Peninsula, and as a strategic center for carrying out operations against foreign interests in the Middle East and throughout the world.

Thus, all these factors have hindered success for Yemen's revolution. But the youth have set strong examples in persistent struggle, peaceful protest and sacrifice. They have refused to drift into the whirl of war and violence.

They decided that the wheel of change had started and that it will never stop, and that the battle to purge on the one hand and develop on the other will continue even if it costs them their souls, bared with open chests.

force, but rather political direction. Don't try to climb the political ladder by stepping on the backs of others. Show us your political abilities – not your urban guerilla fighting system. Think of the people who you claimed to stand for and show and teach the others how democratic you are. Your future aims and plans shouldn't be concerned with taking revenge. Of course, this advice is also for the ruling party and its leaders. You should show what democracy really means in practice.

Revolutionary activists: Why did your peaceful revolution and demonstrations start to be accompanied by seen and unseen carriers of weapons? And what are the reasons why your peaceful demonstrations end in

bloodshed? Did you ask yourselves or discuss such events with each other? I am sure you did, but have been unable to avoid or solve it.

Many people were happy about your start and are still happy about it, but feel sad and nervous for what is going on. It seems to me that you are in a cage, occupied both from inside and outside by poisonous snakes. So start with cleaning out the ones inside; then, stay where you are and show everyone your peaceful revolution. You will be followed by many true nationalists and receive support from all lovers of peace.

Democracy cannot be achieved under military rule. Don't be ladders for other dictators or narrow-minded nationalists.

Finally, I advise all our nation's so-called politicians: our country and its people don't deserve what you are doing and have been doing. A day will come when all of you will be blamed and cursed if you don't start thinking for your nation and the generation to come. Don't imagine that democracy is a cake to be distributed by the spoonful. Aristotelian theory says that democracy is from the people, by the people, and for the people. And history teaches us that no dictators, strong military, or bearers of heavy weapons won. The people always were and always are the winners.

Let the mighty and merciful creator of all save this country from any bad events.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position.



Title: Procurement Clerk

Duration of Assignment: 3months – with possibility of extension

Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen

Duties & Responsibilities:

1. Ensures implementation of operational strategies, focusing on achievement of the following results:

- Full compliance of procurement activities with UN/UNDP rules, regulations, policies and strategies.
- Provision of inputs to preparation of procurement team results-oriented workplans.

2. Supports procurement processes for CO, NEX/DEX projects, UN House and at the request of other Agencies focusing on achievement of the following results:

- Support to implementation of procurement processes including preparation of RFQ, ITB or RFP documents, receipt of quotations, bids or proposals.
- Maintenance of the filing system in the procurement unit.
- Assistance in prioritizing procurement requisitions in terms of urgency for appropriate action to be taken by the Procurement Associate/Assistant. Tracking of all procurement processes up to delivery, acceptance and payment. Follow-up with requesting units on their procurement requisitions, ensuring that all requirements are met. Vendor creation in Atlas.
- Preparation of routine correspondence, faxes, memoranda and reports on procurement in accordance with CO SOP.
- Extracting, inputting, copying and filing data from various sources.
- Compilation of information for preparation of cost-recovery bills for procurement services

3. Contributes to the implementation of sourcing strategy focusing on achievement of the following result:

- Input of information to the roster of suppliers

5. Supports knowledge building and knowledge sharing in the CO focusing on achievement of the following results:

- Participation in the training courses for the operations/projects staff on Procurement.
- Sound contributions to knowledge networks and communities of practice.

Qualifications:

- Secondary School Education and University Degree is an asset.
- Minimum 2 years of relevant administrative experience is required. Former working experience with the UN is an asset.

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

Response will only be made to short listed candidates
The deadline for receiving applications is August 14th, 2010



Invitation to Bid

Procurement of Dry and Fresh Food

UNDP office in Yemen is inviting interested Firms/Agencies to submit a proposal to supply fresh and dry food for 1000 field personnel in the Yemen Executive Mine Action Center, its branches fixed locations in Sana'a, Aden and Mukalla and unfixed mine clearance locations in various governorates including, but not limited to, Sana'a, Hadhramout, Al-Mahrah, Al – Dhalea, Ibb, Shabwah, Al – Baidha, Amran, Abyan, Sa'dah, Lahej, Al – Mahweet, Hajjah, Al – Jowf, Mareb, Dhamar and Taiz.

The Humanitarian Demining Program and the United Nations Development Programme invite Interested eligible bidders to Submit their bids to the below address

United Nations Development Programme

P.O. Box 551

Off sixty road, near Alawqaf complex

Sana'a, Yemen.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information at the following address:

Contact person: Hasan Al - Sakkaf
Telephone: +967-1- 448605/ 8
Fax: +967-1-448892
E – Mail: hasan.alsakkaf@undp.org

Bids must be delivered to the above office on or before **12:00 PM on Saturday 24th December, 2011**. Late bids will be rejected.

Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' Representatives, who choose to attend at the Address, date and time indicated in the Bidding Documents (on 11:00AM, Monday 26th December, 2011).

For further details on the ITB and downloading of the documents (ITB), Please visit our website at: <http://www.ungm.org/Notices/Item.aspx?Id=18041>



Yemen revolution's civil society



In a time of unprecedented popular movements, Yemen's civil society has its share of the excitement creating a new branch of civil society organizations through networks, coalitions, alliances and initiatives.

SupportYemen: calling on the world to stand with Yemen

By: Ali Saeed

It started as the hash tag #SupportYemen on Twitter and developed into an international campaign. Now SupportYemen is a vehicle for Yemenis around the world to tell the globe about the new face of their country. A Yemen without terrorism; with people who long for justice, freedom and the rule of law.

The campaign has so far produced an evocative video of Yemeni youths explaining the core demands of the popular revolution, which erupted in February, and the crackdown against protesters across Yemen. The video has so far gained almost 15,000 YouTube hits as well as being featured on CNN. A new video is due to be released soon.

The main objective of the campaign is to send a powerful message to the international community that Yemenis are not giving up on their demands, according to one of the founders of the campaign, activist and blogger NoonArabia, a Yemeni woman living abroad, who wants to remain anonymous for security reasons.

Despite Saleh's signature on a GCC brokered document to transfer power to his deputy in exchange for immunity against prosecution, NoonArabia told the Yemen Times that she does not see "any possible democracy as long as the current regime remains in power".

So far, the three-month campaign has worked in unifying Yemenis' voices and aims for the favor of the revolution since there are many Yemeni activists in this group from around the world, according to NoonArabia. The group uses social media including Twitter, Facebook and YouTube to promote its campaign and gain support.

#SUPPORT
#YEMEN
BREAK THE SILENCE

Coming Soon



ter, Facebook and YouTube to promote its campaign and gain support.

The group contains Yemeni political activists, bloggers, writers, photographers and videographers "who care deeply about Yemen," said NoonArabia.

Sara Jamal, a political activist and co-founder of SupportYemen added that the group "aims to help the world understand the nature of Yemen's peaceful struggle and to reject any sort of violence against protesters".

And professionally the group is "looking for chances to train and recruit teams to document the violations and crimes committed by any side, in order to be able to present transparent information," said Jamal.

The door is open for anyone to

join the group simply by filling the voluntary form posted on the homepage of the campaign's website which will be launched soon, she added.

"All the Yemeni communities abroad have played a significant role in the campaign and this was evident in the worldwide SupportYemen - Break the Silence campaign, which was launched in October.

"But the main contribution came from areas where there are a large Yemeni communities such as the US, Egypt, UK and Germany," said NoonArabia. She explained that SupportYemen rallied support for the country and made it clear to the world that the revolution was a legitimate call for justice, freedom, democracy and a dignified life.

"It sends a humanitarian message to the world to stand by Yemen and its revolution," said NoonArabia.

SupportYemen hosts Karman in Michigan

In coordination with the Yemeni community in Michigan, US, SupportYemen hosted Tawakul Karman, Yemen's Nobel Peace Prize winner on November 11 in Dearborn city.

Over 2,000 Yemenis, including men, women and children, originally from all over Yemen, came together to see and greet Karman and to hear her talk.

A number of American academics, officials and researchers also attended the ceremony, where both the US and Yemeni national anthems were performed. Some

not hold their emotions, breaking into tears during this unique moment.

Jack O'Reilly, Mayor of Dearborn, expressed his appreciation for Karman's visit saying: "Karman is not a pride only for the Yemeni community, but for all the international community as she came from a society where the woman's role remained marginalized for a long period."

Karman's visit inspired members of the Yemeni community in Dearborn to be proud of their home, inspiring them to work hard and work together for the future of their country, according to the Yemeni-Americans supporting the youth revolution in Yemen.

"Without the Yemenis and their keen values to save their country, the world would have seen another Somalia four years ago," said Karman during her speech to the Yemeni community in Michigan.

Hello New Baby

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