

Power outages countrywide

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Dec. 7 — Continuing power outages in Sana'a and other governorates continue to arouse the anger of Yemeni citizens.

Power cuts have sharply increased this year, leaving many people to resort to buying generators. Those lacking the means to purchase a generator remain, for the most part, without power.

Abdul-Rahman Saif, a general manager of the gas-powered generation plant in Marib Governorate, told the Yemen Times that a team of engineers has been working hard to maintain damaged power supply lines in the war-torn Nageel bin Ghailan and Bait Dahran areas, 20km outside Sana'a.

"Our engineers have repeatedly stopped working after they hear gunfire in these areas."

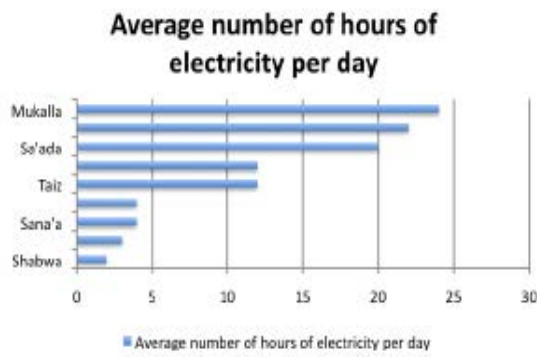
"If the situation improves, the power cuts will stop. We want guarantees that our team will be protected," he said. "Actually, the best guarantee would be an end to the conflicts and fighting."

Speaking about the difficulties he and his team have face this year, Saif said, "Bandits have stolen our equipment and kidnapped our teams. We have also suffered from an increase in the price of spare parts and transportation."

In other areas such as Aden and Hadramout governorates, residents don't suffer from power cuts at all.

"These governorates have isolated electricity networks and available fuel. There is no banditry taking place there," said Saif. "Northern governorates suffer from fuel shortages, fighting and banditry. All of these problems have affected electricity availability."

Last Tuesday, newly-married Amat Al-Khaleq Al-Haradhi, from Thula in Amran Governorate, died after inhaling gas in a bathroom.



"Because of power outages and the inability to use a water heater, she brought a cooker to the bathroom to heat water for a shower. She died soon after inhaling the gas as the bathroom was very narrow and closed," her cousin, Ibrahim Al-Ghubari, told the Yemen Times.

Al-Ghubari said that many residents in his area have been using the same method to be able to take showers with warm water. He added that the area averages 21 hours a day of power outages.

"Most of the people here are very poor and couldn't buy a generator. They resort to dangerous methods to heat water because they cannot take showers in such cold areas otherwise," he explained.

New cabinet announced

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Dec. 7 — A new republican decree released Wednesday evening Dec. 7, 2011 by the Prime Minister, Mohamed Salem Basundwa and Vice President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi revealed the structure of the new reconciliation government.

The new government, divided equally between the traditional

opposition coalition and former ruling party, the GPC, included only two women and around half of the GPC's former ministers.

Five ministers of the GPC remained in their relevant ministries and another two took up new ministries.

Similarly the Islah party, which is the strongest opposition party in the Joint Meeting Parties opposi-

tion coalition, held nearly one third of the opposition's share.

Moreover, independent and resigned politicians from the GPC held exactly one third of the opposition's share.

The youth of the country's revolution squares were not represented nor was the Southern Movement or the Houthis, who all had rejected the Gulf Initiative from the begin-

ning.

This national reconciliation government composed of the two signatories to the initiative; the GPC and the JMP is expected to run the country for the three-month transitional period until the presidential elections take place on Feb. 21, 2012, after which it may or may not remain depending on the new president.

Structure of the new Cabinet

Ministry	Previous minister	New minister	Affiliation of new minister
Defense	Gen Mohamed Naser Ahmed	No change	GPC
Oil and Mineral Resources	Amir Al-Aydaros	Hisham Sharaf	GPC
Telecommunication and IT	Eng. Kamal Al-Jabri	Ahmed Bin Daghr	GPC
Fisheries	Mohamed Saleh Shamlan	Awadh Al-Suqatri	GPC
Foreign Affairs	Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi	No change	GPC
Public Health and Population	Dr. Abdulkareem Rasa'	Dr. Ahmed Qasim Al-Ansi	GPC
Expatriate Affairs	Ahmed Musaed Hussien	Mujahed Al-Guhali	GPC
Social Affairs and Labor	Dr. Amat Razaq Humad	No change	GPC
Higher Education	Dr. Saleh Basura	Dr. Yahya Al-Shuaibi	GPC
Tourism	Nabeel Al-Faqih	Qasim Sallam	GPC
Public Works	Eng. Omer Al-Kurshumi	No change	GPC
Endowment	Hamoud Ubad	No change	GPC
Youth and Sport	Aref Al-Zooka	Muamar Al-Eryani	GPC
Insurance and Civil Services	Dr. Yahya Al-Shuaibi	Nabeel Shamsan	GPC
Agriculture	Dr. Mansour Al-Haushabi	Fareed Mujawar	GPC

Ministry	Previous minister	New minister	Affiliation of new minister
Interior	Mutahr Rashad Al-Masry	Brig-gen Abdul-qader Qahtan	Islah
Information	Hassan Allawzi	Ali Al-Amrani	Defected from GPC
Trade and Industry	Hisham Sharaf	Saad Aldin Ben Taleb	Independent
Education	Dr. Abdulsalm Al-Jawfi	Dr. Abdulrazag Al-Ashwal	Islah
Legal affairs	Dr. Rashad Al-Rasas	Dr. Mohamed Al-Mikhlafi	Socialist
Local Administration	Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi	Ali Alyazidi	Nasserite
Justice	Dr. Ghazi Al-Aghbari	Judge, Murshed Al-Arashani	Islah
Human Rights	Dr. Huda Al-Ban	Hoorya Mashhoor	Independent
Technical Education	Dr. Ibraheem Hujari	Abdulsalm Razaz	Popular Forces Union
Transportation	Khaled Al-Wazeer	Waed Batheeb	Socialist
Culture	Dr. Mohamed Al-Muflihi	Abdullah Awbi	Nasserite Unionist People's Organisation
Water and Environment	Eng. Abdurrahman Al-Eryani	Abdulhafidh Noman	Arab Socialist Rebirth Party
Finance	Noman Al-shuaibi	Sakhr Al-Wajeesh	Independent
Planning and Int'l Cooperation	Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi	Dr. Mohamed Al-Sa'di	Islah
Electricity	Awadh Al-Suqatri	Dr. Saleh Samea	Defected from GPC

The Arab Spring: an opportunity for women's rights

By: Yemen Times Staff

BEIRUT, Dec. 8 — Around half of Yemeni women get married at a very young age, with an average of just 15 years. Human Rights Watch issued a report on Yemen's child brides today Dec. 8, 2011; "How Come You Allow Little Girls to Get Married?: Child Marriage in Yemen."

The 54-page report documents the lifelong damage to girls who are forced to marry young. It seizes on the opportunity the Arab Springs brings to women's rights in Yemen and brings the law defining a legal age for marriage back to the table.

"Yemen's political crisis has left issues such as child marriage at the bottom of the political priority list," said Nadya Khalife, women's rights researcher for the Middle East and North Africa at Human Rights

Aisha's story

Aisha is a mother of seven. Today is she nearly 37 years old but remembers when she was first married off to her cousin at the age of 12.

"It was a family decision because we come from a wealthy family and they wanted to keep the money within," she said remembering her simple wedding a quarter of a century ago.

She remembers the music and the white dress they had to use pins to fit around her thin childlike body. Although her husband was not much older at 18, he

already knew what intercourse meant and decided to go all the way.

Barely 14 years old, Aisha had her first daughter; Najla. "I am so ashamed to say this but sometimes I feel I don't love her," she said while looking aimlessly at her hands. "Even today I feel that my motherhood came with my second-born child whom I had when I was 17."

Her biggest regret today is this guilty feeling that Najla is not her own, especially since her first-born was mostly raised and taken care of by the older women in the family, often her mother-in-law.

All her daughters and sons have now had the opportunity to grow into adulthood before they were married off. Even Najla

got the chance to complete her university education before she got married last year.

"I cannot turn back the time, and for me you can say that today I am happily married," said Aisha. "I was fortunate that my husband wasn't abusive as such although I feel that I was deprived of an important phase of my life. This is why I made sure does not happen to my children."

There are many women in Yemen who suffer what Aisha went through 25 years ago. She knows and hears of little girls still married off at vulnerable ages, some, like her, to keep the wealth in the family, and others because of poverty or cultural reasons.

Watch. "But now is the time to move on this issue, setting the minimum age for marriage at 18, to ensure that girls and women who played a major role in Yemen's protest movement will also contribute to shaping Yemen's future."

Over the past months, demonstrators called for a range of

reforms, including measures to guarantee equality between women and men. Banning child marriage – a major cause of discrimination and abuse against girls and women – should be a priority for reform, Human Rights Watch said.

Continued on page 2



From right: Nujood, 9, Reem, 12, and Arwa, 8, celebrate their freedom from unbalanced marriages at The Yemen Times Anti-Child Marriages campaign event in 2009.

ERRATUM

We would like to clarify that the picture published on the front page last issue (see above) is not from Taiz in Yemen but rather one of Gaza. We apologize for this serious mistake and any inconvenience caused by it.

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Dhamar farmers fight for food security

By: Salah Al-Mashriqi
& Yemen Times Staff

DHAMAR, Dec. 6 — Food insecurity is reaching alarming rates in Yemen. The 2011 Humanitarian Response Plan indicated that at least 2.7 million Yemenis are food insecure. While agriculture production is decreasing, according to state reports issued at the end of 2010, qat and tobacco farming have increased by 14 percent and 7 percent respectively.

The agriculture production slump was behind a European Union, French and German Red Crosses joint-funded project in 2010 to rehabilitate fertile land in Dhamar and encourage farmers to revive efficient, traditional production practices.

Mujahid al-Ansi, Secretary General of Dhamar's Local Council, said that results from this project are becoming visible in the ten villages in four of the governorate's districts of the governorate, in which more than 14,000 farmers are involved.

"The studies showed that only 18 percent of the country's cereal needs come from domestic production, and the rest we have to import," said Al-Ansi. "This is why such projects not only help the national economy,

but also create job opportunities."

Mohammed, a farmer from Dhamar and beneficiary of this project — having received enhanced seeds and water facilities — said that he now has a more stable income and is even able to employ others during the peak season. Before, Mohammed himself used to go to the city to look for jobs.

"You have this land, but working it is too much trouble; it's not beneficial, so we turn to the cities. Now we receive help in making our own lands profitable and we know this is making a dent in the nation's food insecurity, so all is well," said Mohammed.

Water sources and irrigation are also a large part of this project, especially since over 90 percent of farmers use underground water rather than harvest rainwater for their farms. Studies show that 99.8 percent of farmers in Dhamar have difficulty maintaining their agriculture terraces due to lacks of funds and the loss of traditional knowledge and methods.

The project has funded 16 water services, including tanks and reservoirs, which provide water for more than 100 hectares of farmed land (one hectare equaling 10,000 square meters).



Over 14,000 farmers in Dhamar governorate are now beneficiaries of a donor-lead food security project.

For the project, twelve local committees were created; from there, particular members received training. These members would form into support teams for the rest of

the farmers and were given nine tons of enhanced seeds for wheat, corn, lentils, peas and other crops to distribute. Through these committees an awareness campaign to

reduce qat farming was held. As a result, farmers involved with the project removed over two hectares of qat and instead planted alternative crops.

Yemen's would-be Gulf Star

By: Marwa Najmaldeen

SANA'A, Dec. 7 — Yemeni singer Najeeb Al-Mukbeli, 26, contesting at the third season of Gulf Star has qualified for finals of the Gulf top music talent music program after passing all previous stages with the highest votes as well as the decision of the contest judges.

With this, Najeeb is close to becoming be the second Yemeni singer to win the competition following Fuad Abdulwahid who did

that during the 2010 season.

Najeeb attracted attention as an exceptional talent early in the contest when he was chosen among other Arab singer to participate in the 13-week event that commenced on September 16 and will be concluded next Friday.

Gulf Star is the biggest TV program of its kind in the Arab world and it gives opportunity to Arab young hopefuls to show off their talents and ascend to stardom provided they sing in Gulf dialect.

The Gulf Star team visits Arab capitals in search of talents that perform Gulf's best singers' songs. The contest starts with 15 contenders who would succeed or fail by means of public votes.

The contest judges are Kuwaiti renowned singer Abdullah Al-Rwaished, UAE singer Fayez Al-Saeed and Lebanese singer Yara.

Najeeb was given some titles by fans on Facebook and Twitter during the competition including Jesmi Junior (Jesmi is a UAE megastar) and Yemen's star as de-



Najeeb Al-Mukbeli

scribed by the panel of judges.

Faris al-Imad, 23, said that it was not fair to introduce Najeeb in this season, not because he is not good enough, but because of the current situation in Yemen and the various crises including lack of power that limited his opportunities to be known and thus cheered by his countrymen, who have been ardent audience of the program from the very beginning. "Nevertheless," continued Faris, "Najeeb's abilities and talent will make him our second star after Fuad Abdulwahid and as Yemenis we have to find this a reason for us to rejoice and vote for Najeeb especially in this crisis that has burdened us for ten months."

Ms. Amal Tahir, 27, a clerk, said that last year, newspapers and

other media were following up, cheering and encouraging the public to vote for Yemeni contestants. "Najeeb is not less gifted than Fuad, but his luck is not as good," she said, "and there's also mobile companies late support. But now they have decided to do that and specified 13 to vote for him."

Aseel Abdul Hakim, 25, an electrician from Aden, said that people of Aden are staunch fans of Najeeb who is from the same city and that they are confident that he would win, "because the votes he's getting are not only from Yemen, but also from other Arab states. So Najeeb is not the star of Aden or Yemen alone, but the star of the Gulf. No doubt about it."

Continued from page 1

The Arab Spring: an opportunity for women's rights

The Yemeni government and United Nations data show that approximately 14 percent of girls in Yemen are married before age 15, and 52 percent are married before age 18. In some rural areas, girls as young as 8 are married. Girls are sometimes forced to marry much older men, while boys are seldom forced into child marriages.

Yemeni girls and women told Human Rights Watch that marrying early had cut short their education, and some said they had been subjected to marital rape and domestic abuse.

The report is based on field research in Yemen's capital, Sana'a, between August and September 2010, including interviews with more than 30 girls and women who were married as children, members of nongovernmental organizations, and staff mem-

bers at the Health and Education Ministries.

A Yemeni study found that many parents remove girls in rural areas from school at age nine to help in the house, raise their younger siblings, and sometimes to get married. Almost all of the girls and women interviewed said that once they were married, they were unable to continue or complete their education, and many had children soon after marriage.

Girls and women interviewed also said that they were often exposed to gender-based violence, including domestic abuse and sexual violence. Some girls and women told Human Rights Watch that their husbands, in-laws, and other members of the husband's household verbally or physically assaulted them. Married girls and women in Yemen often live with

their husband's extended family.

The Yemeni government actually has regressed in addressing the issue. In 1999 Yemen's parliament, citing religious grounds, abolished the legal minimum age for marriage for girls and boys, which was then 15. In 2009, a majority in parliament voted to set 17 as the minimum age. However, a group of lawmakers, contending that reinstating a minimum age would be contrary to Sharia [Islamic] law, used a parliamentary procedure to stall the draft law indefinitely.

"Girls should not be forced to be wives and mothers," Khalife said. "As Yemen undergoes political change, leaders should seize the opportunity to correct an injustice that does enormous harm and set the country on a new course of social justice, including equality for women and girls."

The Latest Buzz

By: Nadia Al-Saqqaf

► The electricity authority announced that it lost over YR 36 billion since the beginning of the revolution in February until end of October this year. The losses include a loss in sales of the Marib Gas Plant and debts to the Yemeni Oil Company as well as commitments to investors.

► Leading Yemeni footballer Ali Al-Nono is said to sign a contract with the Malaysian Birak Football Club while he is still part of the Yemeni Ahli Sana'a club.

► A three-day photography exhibition of 26 amateurs ended in Aden this week after displaying 55 pictures under the theme "Aden behind the lens." The exhibition is one of the first events Aden Photography Club organized to promote the city as a historical and tourist attraction.

► The head of Al-Haq opposition party Hassan Zaid said he was subjected to a kidnapping attempt on his way from Saudi Arabia by car. He said armed men eventually took one of his escorts Mohammed Al-Qahoom from his car and confiscated his phone while the Zaid was allowed to return home.

► A training course in management, secretary work and archiving for 21 women in Hodeida concluded today.

► A number of Sana'a University students announced they will soon launch the 17 September Movement as a reference block for the students at the university. The name comes from the date when students were not allowed to study in their colleges despite the announcement of the new academic term.

► The temporary leadership of the Southern Conference held its first meeting on Monday at Cairo headed by former president Ali Naser. The meeting aimed at finding an agreement by the opposition abroad on southern issues.

► Farmers in Lahj governorate blocked the intercity to Aden and sized a number of private trucks demanding fuel and subsidies after their work was stopped due to the lack of diesel.

USAID'S Yemen Monitoring and Evaluation Project (YMEP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the position below.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Title: Information Assistant
Duration of Assignment: Full-time Position
Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen with travel to other governorates

Duties and Responsibilities:

Assists the YMEP Communication Officer with the following functions:

- Developing news and features stories for the USAID Mission through site visits, interviews and attending public events and activities. This will require regular travel to Marib, Jawf, Shabwah, Abyan, Aden, Taiz, Ibb, Hodeidah, Dhale', Amran and other governorates as needed.
- Taking good photographs and videos of USAID activities.
- Building and maintaining relationship with the local media.
- Organizing public diplomacy events and activities as directed.
- Translation of key outreach materials, such as newsletters, brochures, fact sheets, and reports and support with production of these materials
- Media monitoring and analysis.
- Serve as an interpreter as needed.
- Perform other duties as necessary.

Qualifications:

- BA in journalism, English, political science, or a related field.
- Minimum 3 years experience in public relations and/or journalism.
- Former working experience with USAID or another international development organization is highly desirable.
- Proficient with MS Office and PowerPoint and has experience with desktop publishing.

Please send your cover letter, a detailed CV and 2-3 references by email to djose@ibtci.com. Response will only be made to shortlisted candidates. The deadline for receiving applications is December 17th, 2011 by 5 pm.

Hasaba after the GCC: Still bleeding

By: Shatha AL-Harazi

Crossing the road past what residents call "The Great Wall of Hasaba" – a mound of sandbags blocking the road and warning passersby they are entering a war zone, stand big buildings scarred by bullets, shells and the wounds inflicted over months of conflict.

Passing the wall into Hasaba, people on the "safe side" shout warnings to turn back – it just too dangerous. Once in Hasaba, you can barely find residents. Those that are walking in the streets are mostly armed tribes, wearing their long Zannas – now a dirty white – guns slung across their backs, or located behind the sandbags with their weapons ready.

Despite Ali Abdullah Saleh's signature on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) initiative last month, clashes continue in Hasaba, where tribal figures of the Hashid Confederation, the biggest tribal confederation in Yemen, have fought the state since late May. The first round of fighting lasted almost 16 days before a truce was agreed. However, it was not implemented by either side and the conflict has been ongoing since.

Residents have repeatedly abandoned their homes and fled the fighting, only to return and be forced to leave again.

The children that remain in Hasaba have learned how to hide when the shooting starts, though they also collect the shells and bullets they find. A father told his eight-year-old son to bring the spent shells he had been playing with while his six-year-old daughter displayed the bullets she collects. "My children are like any others in this area, they have come to know the differences between the weapons since the clashes started. They are experts," he said, making fun of the situation.



Children in Hasaba collect bullets and spent shells.

Small steps

Small steps towards stability have been taken since the Gulf deal was signed in November 23, following ten months of protests and public calls for an end to Saleh's regime of more than three decades. Vice President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi is now the acting president according to the GCC initiative and has named the new prime minister as well as calling for early elections on February 21 – an election where he will be the sole candidate of both the ruling General People's Congress and the opposition Joint Meeting Parties coalition.

Since the GCC, a number of Hasaba residents, who had escaped to their villages or other safer areas in the capital returned to their homes.

"After the GCC deal was signed I thought things would improve, therefore I brought my family back, but now I realize it will never improve and I am taking them back to the rented house I sent them to before," said a resident, in the process of filling a taxi with his family and their belongings for the third time.

Mohammed Khalil, Frist Armored Division Brigadier General based in Hasaba, has his troops spread around the area to "protect public buildings", while the troops and tribesmen await orders to leave Hasaba. Some say they will go once the military committee, formed this week, begins removing arms and troops from cities, other say they will go after the elections in February.

Hasaba's residents are also waiting for those orders so that they can feel safe and return to their homes.

The war never seems to end or to have a reason to continue; no one seems to care about civilians, according to residents, Amal and Ahlam, who did not want to give their full names for security reasons. They live near the old headquarters of the General People's Congress, which was severely damaged during the first round of war. When the Yemen Times met them, Amal and Ahlam had only returned to get the rest of their belongings and were not moving back to their home, despite the GCC deal.

"Our house was shelled by both sides, both Al-Ahmers and the state shelled our house as they thought our neighbors were armed, but we were the least damaged," said Ahlam.

Some of their neighbor's homes had damage from RPGs (Rocket Propelled Grenades), and you can clearly see the bullets and blasts going from one side of the wall to the other.

In the house next door, a pregnant woman was lying, exhausted in a room also damaged by shelling, while her mother-in-law said: "This is how we live," indicating the hard life they lead in the damaged house that they only got. "We are four families and when they are shelling we all have to sleep downstairs in the same room to stay safe."

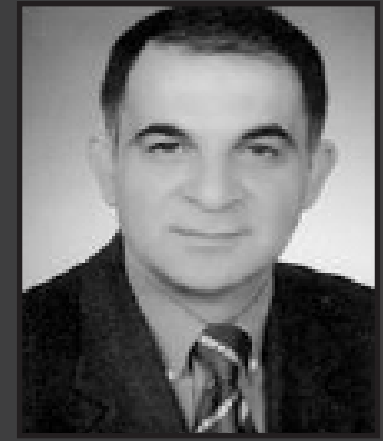
A glimpse of normality

Life seemed to resume to some extent in Hasaba after the Gulf deal was signed in Riyadh because people were optimistic they would be safer, even though Al-Ahmer tribes in the area did not sign the accord.

However, the militant tribesmen occupying buildings in Hasaba claimed that Shiekh Sadeq Al-Hamer pays rent to the building's owner so that his men can stay, giving an even more permanent air to the situation.

"We are not leaving the area until the new government is formed" said one of the tribesmen. "We came all the way to Sana'a from Amran a month ago, we are not leaving until we make sure the GCC is implemented."

CONDOLENCES



We would like to share your sorrow for the loss of the Co-founder and Chairman of the Management Board, Mr. Abdulkadir Teksan.

May Allah have mercy on him and offer condolences to his family.

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External Vacancy Announcement No. 33/2011

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

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

Under the supervision of Chief of Operations, the incumbent will assist in the management of all administrative services in a large office and shall perform the following main responsibilities:

- Contributes to strategic planning and monitoring of administrative matters at country/sub-country level as necessary. Provides practical input on implementation of administrative guidelines, in close coordination with the head of office, operation staff/supervisor.
- Supports supervisor and the head of the office, and updates staff on administrative policies, procedures rules and regulation. Implements the appropriate application and interpretation of administrative rules, regulations, policies and procedures. Briefs and assists arriving and departing staff on basic administrative procedures and requirements.
- Makes specific recommendations on the improvement of systems and internal controls, planning, restructuring and resolution of sensitive issues, taking into account the prevailing conditions in the locality.
- Keeps supervisor abreast of potential problem areas, and identifies and recommends solutions. Prepares reports on administrative matters as required.
- Provides administrative support and services to sub-country (zone) offices and out-postings, where applicable, including preparation and funding of service contracts, preparations of requisitions for all administrative supplies and guidance on administrative procedures.
- Undertakes missions to field locations to review administrative arrangements and makes appropriate recommendations where applicable.
- Recommends and prepares estimates on office premises, supplies and equipment requirements for budget preparation purposes. Assists zone offices in the establishment and maintenance of administrative services. Prepares, monitors and controls the administrative budget.
- Ensures the timely and cost-effective provision of basic office services including space management, equipment, communications and security to enhance staff safety and productivity.
- Supports the Inter-Agency Operations Management Team's approaches for enhancing UN common services to attain efficiencies and effectiveness.
- Supports property management of administrative supplies, office equipment and vehicles, updating inventory of items, serving as ex-officio member to the Property Survey Board where applicable. Assists supervisor in Property Survey Board submissions, preparing minutes of meetings. Assists supervisor in executing PSB recommendations approved by the Head of Office.
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- Ensures that all administrative transactions and arrangements of contracts are in compliance with the applicable policies, procedures, rules and regulations.
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- Collaborates on the development of training activities to ensure effective performance in administrative services management. Implements effective staff learning and development programme activities for capacity building. Helps organize workshops for staff's competency building, and staff learning and development.
- As required, under direction of the supervisor, collaborates with other agencies, local authorities and implementing partners on administrative matters including information exchange and harmonization

Minimum Qualifications and Job requirements:

Education: University degree in social science, Business management, administration, finance or any relevant field of discipline.

Work Experience :

Two years relevant professional work experience with both national and international work experience in office management and administration.

Language

Fluency in English and Arabic (Both written and Verbal) required.

Competencies required:

- i) Core Values (Required)
- Commitment
 - Diversity and Inclusion
 - Integrity

ii) Core Competencies (Required)

- Communication [I]
- Working with People [I]
- Drive for Results [III]

iii) Functional Competencies (Required)

- Analyzing [I]
- Applying Technical Expertise [III]
- Following Instructions and Procedures [III]
- Planning and Organizing [III]

If you meet the requirements stated above, please write in confidence enclosing comprehensive curriculum vitae, duly completed United Nations Personal History form (which can be downloaded from www.unicef.org/employ) stating telephone number, email address and detailed contact address **quoting the vacancy number to: yemenhr@unicef.org not later than 17 December, 2011.** For additional information on UNICEF, please visit our website: www.unicef.org

UNICEF, a smoke-free environment, is an equal opportunity employer. **Qualified females are encouraged to apply.** Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Promoting stability

By: Dr Christian Koch
Khaleej Times

The Middle East as a whole is going through an unprecedented period with events that will undoubtedly change the political landscape of the region for decades to come and have far-reaching implications beyond its immediate borders.

As has been argued before, no one in the Middle East is immune from the current wave of change. This was underlined once again on November 23 when President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen became effectively the fourth head of state to be toppled after the demise of the regimes in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

Within the context of the political turmoil in the region, the general characterization of the Arab Gulf States has been one of being counter-revolutionary. Instead, the policies of the GCC states need to be seen as avoiding at all costs the uncontrolled descent into chaos that was witnessed in Iraq between 2005 and 2008, in Libya this year and most recently and happening at the moment in Syria. The difference between protecting the status quo on the one hand and promoting stability on the other is an important one. Recent developments in fact support the contention that the GCC states are not necessarily against reform.

In Libya, it was the GCC state of Qatar that stood at the forefront of organizing the opposition from the Arab side against the Gaddafi regime with a supporting role also played by the UAE. This clear support gave Arab legitimacy to the

operation, which ultimately sought and resulted in regime change. In Syria, it was King Abdullah from Saudi Arabia who called for end to the violence and bloodshed back in August 2011 and who recalled his ambassador due to the Syrian regime's intransigence. As conditions have further deteriorated, it was again the GCC that have taken the lead and that have pushed the rest of the Arab League to impose sanctions on Syria and isolate the Assad regime.

Two events in the Gulf in late November in Bahrain and Yemen further underscored the policies of the GCC states. In Yemen, it was the GCC initiative and persistence of having President Ali Abdullah Saleh step down from power which has at least opened the door for a possible solution to the political impasse in the country. Had the GCC not pushed for Saleh to relinquish his seat and power, Yemen would have surely been pushed further into a civil war with all its wide-ranging and devastating consequences. That this step alone does not solve Yemen's problems is clear but neither can be argued that it was the GCC states who for all intent and purposes insisted on the maintenance of the status quo by protecting the Saleh regime.

When it became clear that the conditions inside Yemen would not improve with President Saleh in power, the GCC pushed for change. They further persisted with their initiative despite President Saleh refusing numerous times to go along.

A similar case can even be made as far as Bahrain is concerned. The Peninsula Shield Forces that went into the country in March did not actively participate in the crack-

down by Bahraini security forces on the opposition as the recent report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry clearly points out. Rather, they stuck to their stated intention to help protect parts of Bahrain's critical infrastructure as a way to prevent widespread chaos in the country.

In addition, there is no evidence to suggest that the other GCC countries and particularly Saudi Arabia opposed the decision by the King of Bahrain to appoint an independent commission and to cooperate with its investigation. This was an unprecedented step that again has opened the door for a possible political dialogue to overcome the divide that currently exists. The report highlighted serious rights abuses and the pressure and public view is now on the Bahraini leadership to undertake necessary steps and corrections.

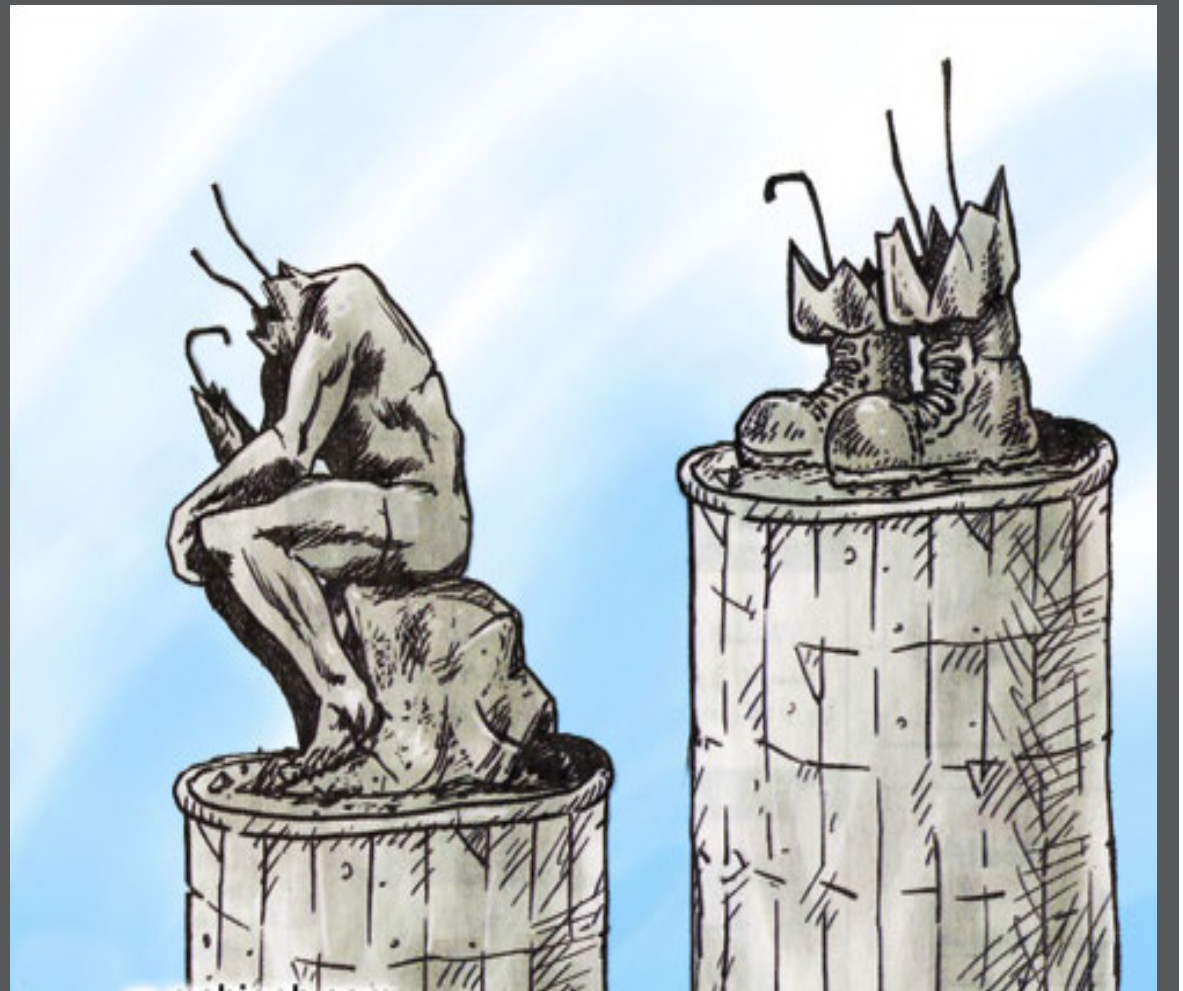
It is, however, incorrect to simply view the Arab Gulf monarchies as resisting change with all their might. Even within their own countries, reform measures have been implemented that acknowledge that the political ground under their feet is shifting, for example, the announcement of granting women political rights in Saudi Arabia or Qatar's decision to hold parliamentary elections in 2013.

The GCC states pride themselves in the relative stability they have been able to provide their populations over the past decades. It is the stability that they want to protect not necessarily the status quo by all means.

Christian Koch is the Director of the Gulf Research Center Foundation in Geneva, Switzerland

SKETCHED OPINION

By Hajjaj



Saleh's surprise comeback!

By: Osama Al Sharif
Arab News

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh is finally out after he stepped down and handed over power to his deputy. Or is he? A few days after he flew to Saudi Arabia to sign a GCC brokered plan to end 10 months of protests calling for his ouster, the 69-year-old was back in Sana'a where he issued a general amnesty and chaired a meeting of his ruling party.

Initially he was supposed to leave to New York from Riyadh to undergo further treatment for burns he had sustained in June when a rocket tumbled a mosque in the presidential compound where Saleh and aides were gathering. His unexpected return to Yemen has raised questions about his true intentions and whether the plan that he and the opposition had agreed to was still valid.

Meanwhile, Vice President Abdo Rabo Mansour Hadi appointed veteran politician and opposition leader Mohammed BaSundwa as prime minister and asked him to form a unity government as part of a power sharing deal. But protesters across the country continued to demonstrate against Saleh and the deal he had signed. They accused the opposition of betraying their uprising by granting Saleh and a number of his relatives immunity from prosecution.

There is confusion over what will happen next in Yemen, now that Saleh has stepped down but continues to call the shots. He said in Riyadh that he was always ready to share power with the opposition, giving the impression that his role in the future of the country has not ended. By heading a meeting of the ruling party, the General People

Congress, Saleh, who remains honorary president until the elections under the Gulf deal, has underlined the fact that while he may have resigned as president he remains politically active.

In fact some have predicted that he may even decide to run as candidate in the presidential elections, which will be held in February. The opposition, working under the umbrella of the Joint Meeting Parties (Common Forum), has agreed that Vice President Hadi will be the only candidate. But it is doubtful that the power sharing deal will hold especially that the majority of Yemeni youth, who make up the backbone of the uprising, reject it.

Moreover, the Riyadh deal has yet to bring peace across the country. Sectarian violence claimed the lives of more than 20 people earlier in the week in the northern province of Sa'ada. And one day after the Gulf sponsored agreement was signed in the Saudi capital, forces loyal to Saleh shot dead five protesters in Sana'a. The security situation in this vast country of 24 million people remains precarious. Al-Qaeda is believed to be active in remote areas in the southeast, while separatist sentiments are at an all time high in the south.

Saleh's resignation will not terminate his influence on the country's future. He still has loyalists and supporters especially in the army and elite security force, which are led by his son. The task before the interim prime minister will not be easy, especially as protests continue.

The gulf separating the youth and opposition parties is widening. Saleh's deputy, Hadi, will find it difficult to achieve reconciliation, or even bow to public demands, in the coming few weeks so long as the president stays close.

Like Saleh, the Common Forum

may have underestimated the resolve of the country's young who want sweeping political changes and a clean-cut departure from the 33-year-rule of President Saleh. The latter is proving to be audacious and confrontational. He refuses to leave the political stage and is planning for a comeback that may involve his son.

The opposition, which managed to stay united during the uprising, may unravel as protesters maintain their occupation of public squares in Sana'a, Taiz and other towns. Some in the opposition have criticized Saleh's sudden return and warned that he cannot be trusted and that he is bent on taking revenge against his opponents. The power sharing deal may have bought him some time to regroup and divide his opponents.

Saleh's true intentions will keep his opponents guessing, but they should also concern the Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia, who have negotiated the deal and supported it. A peaceful transfer of power and an end to political turmoil are a priority for Yemen's neighbors. But if the protests continue and the opposition is divided, then Saleh and his supporters may steer the country toward a different outcome.

So far Saleh has been able to survive and avoid a humiliating end similar to that of the leaders of Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. He has secured immunity from prosecution and kept one foot in power through his deputy and as leader of the ruling party - at least for a few more months. His shrewdness has undercut his opponents but it has also infuriated the protesters who appear ready to keep their uprising alive.

Osama Al Sharif is a journalist and political commentator based in Amman.



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.

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Fax: +967-1-448892
E - Mail: hasan.alsakkaf@undp.org

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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>

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Why is it difficult to take pictures in Yemen?

Yemen is a challenging place to take pictures. Despite its unique beauty and interesting culture, photographers have to deal with an array of issues from people refusing to have their photos taken or just being too eager to getting in the shot, to insecurity and violence.

By: Malak Shaher

Amira Al-Sharif, a freelance photographer who studied at the International Center of Photography, said that because Yemen is a conservative society, people usually do not accept photographers. Yemenis are often suspicious about "what you are going to do with the photos," she said.

Al-Sharif said that even when some allow her to take their picture they don't hang around long enough to get a good shot. "Once they hear your camera shutter they assume you have finished taking photographs and leave," she explained.

"So you need to keep convincing

Taking a natural shot

Even aside from controversial photos of conflict and the current crisis, most Yemeni photographers agree that it is very difficult to take a natural picture of people here.

Sami Al-Ansi, a Yemeni photographer with Agence France Press (AFP) said that he struggles to take natural pictures.

"In Yemen people gather in front of the camera and when I finish, they follow me from location to location just to see what I'm doing or to be in my shots one more time," said Al-Ansi.

Al-Ansi was in Cairo last month and he found "a big difference compared to Yemen. People there never ask why I am taking pictures and

Once men notice her, they gather in front of the camera asking her to take pictures for them. Al-Awami said they even follow her around until she shows them her pictures.

On the contrary, she finds great difficulty when shooting women or even places where women accidentally walk into shot.

"One day I was shooting in the Old City of Sana'a and as I took a picture of a building, a woman walked in front of me. She stopped and asked that I delete the picture even though she was covered from head to toe," Al-Awami said.

"One day, I was with working with foreigners and we were in front of a girl's school where we were taking pictures of little children. But very soon their parents came out and started shouting at us." She said.

"They wanted to take the cameras but we spent a lot of time convincing them that we would not use the pictures."

The female photographer said that, nevertheless, Yemenis are more likely to allow foreign photographers to take pictures of them. Al-Awami said that when she is with foreigners, "people are nicer".

A photogenic Yemen

"On top of being the friendliest country I've ever visited, Yemen is the most photogenic," said Carl Conraldi of Canada. "The portraits I've taken there are easily the best I've taken anywhere in the world."

He said that people are so enthusiastic about being photographed. He could only recall one man refusing to have his photo taken – "out of literally hundreds".

Conraldi added that it is really easy to take pictures of anti-Saleh protesters. The only time he felt the least bit afraid of taking photos was when he was approached by a "shady-looking young man" at Tahrir Square, where pro-government tents are pitched. The man told Conraldi that government thugs were watching him and that he should leave as soon as possible.

Conraldi had his camera temporarily confiscated by government soldiers while making for Change Square to listen to prominent cleric and Islah party leader Al-Zindani speak – but says that was just routine and not scary.

For Giulio Petrocco, a photographer from Italy, the people of Yemen are welcoming. He said that a lot of people were posing and that taking pictures of protesters against the government was easier.

"Yemenis in general are amongst the nicest people I ever met," he said. "Whether pro or against Saleh, that did not matter. I was always treated well."

Afraid of Photoshop

Salah Al-Deen Al-Juma'e, a psychology professor at Dhamar University, said that the reason why Yemenis welcome foreign photographers more than natives is that they feel afraid of the society itself.

There have been cases when some people in Yemen use peoples' pictures in a bad way "like using Photoshop and making people naked," said Al-Juma'e. In a conservative society like the Yemen, this is considered a scandal that might escalate as far as violence and even killings, he explained.

"However, Yemenis believe that foreigners simply take pictures and do not misuse them," Al-Juma'e said, adding that educated people are more likely to allow someone to take their picture.

However, some people, Al-Juma'e said, believe that photography is forbidden in terms of religion and that's why they refuse, believing that it is a sin for which they might go to hell.



Mohammad Al-Sayaghi, a freelance videographer and journalist, said that photojournalism in Yemen difficult and dangerous, needing a lot of focus and an ability to accommodate people.



Eric Lafforgue, a photographer from France, likes taking portraits. For him Yemenis some of the best subjects.

them that it is not enough that you still need to take more shots," she said.

Shooting women is a more difficult as she has to "get prior permission from their relatives, fathers, brothers or husbands – otherwise it could create problems between tribes."

However, she said that Yemen is changing and people are slowly become more open to photographers and photos – partly because of the revolution. "I can tell you that a lot of Yemeni youth tried to protect me in the demonstration marches so that I could document the truth," said Al-Sharif. "It was also a really nice feeling to find myself surrounded by men who took each others hands to make a circle around me so that nothing would happened to me."

A Psychological problem

Al-Sharif said that the most serious problem her fellow photographers might face is a "lack of confidence". Al-Sharif, who conducted a workshop for 26 photographers in Sana'a's Change Square, said that many felt encouraged to take natural pictures.

Because of the country's security situation, many photographers face psychological stress trying to take pictures in Yemen, according to Al-Sharif. She said that most of the 26 photographers she trained felt they could not take good pictures during protests because they were too busy worrying about their safety.

"In protests, photographers feel afraid because of snipers," she explained. "Photographers are threatened with death yet nobody admits their importance here."

"They do not feel confident and are not comfortable in the field. Intimidation, beatings, kidnappings and arrests have become commonplace for journalists and photographers covering the protests against President Ali Abdullah Saleh."

very few looked into the camera or gathered around each other with big smiles for a photo like Yemenis do. They act normally as if nobody's taking a picture for them."

Al-Ansi said that he always finds "funny people ruining his work" with silly behavior in front of the camera while he is reporting live.

"I was asking people's point of view on something in the street and suddenly one of those funny people stood in my shot and shouted the name of another journalist 'Hammoud Munasser, Al-Arabya, Sana'a!' he yelled."

Posing for females

Gender and nationality also play a role in the types of shots you get or the reaction from Yemenis. Iman Al-Awami, also a freelance photographer, said that it is easier for her to work as a photographer as people, especially men, pose for pictures, saying cheese with a big grin.

“

"On top of being the friendliest country I've ever visited, Yemen is the most photogenic, the portraits I've taken there are easily the best I've taken anywhere in the world,"

Throwing stones

Eric Lafforgue, a photographer from France and a member of the European Agency for Photography, has been to Yemen six times.

Lafforgue agrees that Yemenis are welcoming. He said that had so many great places to visit, from the coast to hills and mountains, and such a rich cultural country. His specialty is portraits.

"Something I noticed in remote areas is that someone will stop and pose and few seconds later you have 20 people around him," he said. "I like to take posed portraits and Yemenis are good models," he said.

Lafforgue first visited Yemen in 1973 but he and his father had a bad experience.

"I remember my father running away as locals threw stones," he said, though he hasn't had any similar experiences since.

Photographing conflict

Things have always been difficult but Al-Ansi explained that the political crisis has made it even harder to work. Now many people completely refuse to be on camera, while others stop him from filming until they know who he is working for.

Al-Ansi has been attacked by pro-government forces twice. But his friend, Hassan Al-Wadhaf, 25, a cameraman for the Arabic Media Agency, was not lucky enough to get away with his life. He died after being shot in the face by a sniper loyal to the government in September leaving behind a pregnant wife and baby daughter.

"I cannot carry a big camera anymore. Sometimes, I do not know whether I am going to get back home safe or if my wife will receive bad news about me one day," he said.

People's reactions to photographers depends both on their political affiliations and who you are working for, according to Salah Al-Hitar, a freelance Yemeni photographer who worked for both Suhail and Al-Aqeeq channels, one with the regime and the other with the opposition.

"If you are working with a pro-regime organization and take pictures for people with the regime, no one will say anything. But if you are trying to take pictures of the president's supporters while working with the opposition, you might have problems," said Al-Hitar.

One day Al-Hitar was doing a documentary on the damage caused by heavy shelling in Al-Hasaba when he was caught by Al-Ahmar

tribesmen who interrogated him, asking him why he was filming in the area.

"When they realized that I was doing a documentary on the damage in Al-Hasaba [where clashes between the tribesmen and regime forces took place], they released me," he said.

But sometimes he might get into trouble before anyone even asks who he's working for or what he's doing.

Outside Sana'a airport, Al-Hitar was hit by a man, who then ran off before he was able to do anything, though he was not seriously injured.

Even before the political uprising against Saleh's regime began in February, photographers and filmmakers faced problems getting the shots they needed.

"Two years ago I was making a documentary on pesticides when people gathered around me and questioned me on why I was making the video," he said.

"I had to argue instead of filming," he added. "They wanted to take my camera."

Al-Hitar recalled a day he was taking pictures of the long lines of cars waiting to fill up with petrol when "the owner of the petrol station came out with a machine gun threatening that if we did not leave he would open fire."

"They consider cameras fatal weapons."

There is clearly a significant difference in terms of the experiences of people taking pictures of the Arab and West, between Yemen and other Arab countries. But

there are many reasons for this; culture and education both play a role while Yemen's traditional, conservative society plays a big role, as Mohammad Al-Sayaghi, a photog-

“

"It was also a really nice feeling to find myself surrounded by men who took each others hands to make a circle around me so that nothing would happened to me."

rapher with the state news agency, Saba, explained.

Being a photojournalist in Yemen is a difficult and dangerous profession that needs a lot of focus and the ability to accommodate people with different perspectives and views – but in a country with a photo opportunity on every corner, Yemen is also one of the most rewarding places to work.



Sami Al-Anisi, a camera man with AFP, said he often has to repeat clips as people gather behind him while reporting. They sometimes ruin the footage shouting and messing around.

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Faces from Yemen's revolution

By: Amira Al-Arasi

Afrah Al-Twetee: No going back after "Friday of Dignity"

Afrah is a nurse who works for a government hospital. She admits that she didn't attend the revolution from the beginning.

"On the 'Friday of Dignity' [March 18], I saw the slain and injured on TV. What I saw made me decide to go to the square to help the protesters, even while my family opposed my decision, feeling that it would not be safe for me."

She went and she witnessed protesters suffocating because of tear gas, and stayed at the square from 2pm until 10pm that day.

Every Friday, Afrah – accompanied by one of her sisters – attends the protesters' Friday prayer sessions on

Sana'a's Sixtieth Street. She always takes part in female demonstrations and attends youth celebrations at Change Square, in addition to staying at the ready so that she may respond to any further attacks.

When it has come time to receive martyred protesters, she has felt immense sorrow and says that this feeling came as a result of the cruel and brutal violence used against peaceful demonstrators. Afrah was particularly angry and sad when the body of a soldier from the defected First Armored Division arrived. Also, the death of a 10-month-old baby named Anas, who received a fatal gunshot to the head, deeply affected her and, she feels, the whole world.

Dr. Mohammed AL-Qabati: Founding a field hospital

Dr. Mohammed Al-Qabati is a physician who has dedicated much of his time to the field hospital in Sana'a's Change Square, both managing and supervising the vital work at the hospital.

Al-Qabati said his work "began in a medical tent before the idea of establishing the field hospital."

He added: "After that we started thinking and prepared the courtyard of the mosque to receive cases. We also started using the neighboring club of the mosque as an emergency room for treating the injured." The space they had turned out not to be enough for the large numbers of wounded protesters they needed to treat, so they eventually moved inside the mosque too.

At first this plan was met with resistance by the elders at the mosque, "but after they toured the

field hospital and saw the wounded cases, they sympathized with us and agreed to change the mosque into a field hospital," said Al-Qabati.

He also helped to find voluntary physicians, nurses and technicians willing to give their time to the field hospital.

"We found physicians and doctor's assistants who like to come out of the field hospital on the ambulances to accompany the marches so that if anyone is shot, we can treat them straight away and have more chance of saving them," he added.

Although he and other doctors have faced threats for their work at the hospital, Al-Qabati has even expanded his work and now actively supplies equipment and medicine to Taiz and Aden governorates. He even turned down a visa to work in the UAE – believing that Yemen is still the best place to work, "it just needs some wise leadership".

Abdelsalam Fath: Injustice on a daily basis

"I see injustice and corruption on a daily basis and that's why I joined the revolution," says Abdelsalam.

It was attacks by Saleh supporters, he says, that prompted the establishment of a makeshift medical facility in the square.

Abdelsalam first joined the demonstrations for political reasons, but when faced with the many who

were injured, he could not help but put his nursing skills to good use.

"The private hospitals in the area were seeking out volunteers because they couldn't handle the volume of casualties coming in," he says.

As a result of his work in the field hospital, Abdelsalam has faced the scorn and intimidation of his government hospital co-workers as well as indirect attempts to stop him volunteering in the square.



Mercure Hotel celebrates



Mercure Hotel in Aden, member of the international Accor Group held its annual dinner party to recognize its distinguished clients.

"This is our annual tribute our distinguished clients from the diplomatic, business and government sectors," said Mercure Aden Hotel General Manager Mr. Fadel Al Hilali.

Acting governor of Aden Mr. Abdulkarim Shaef also attended the event as well as deputy governor Mr. Ahmed Al-Dalaie and Mr. Abdullah Bakadada Manager of culture office in Aden.

During this event the General Manager of the hotel distributed certificates of merit to the top 20 clients of the hotel including The Yemen Times establishment.

The event included a festive dinner and a musical program including traditional Yemeni songs.



Help us decide!

YT Person of the Year

Every year The Yemen Times selects a person whom we recognize as being constructively active during 2011 for the benefit of Yemen. This person does not have to be a prominent figure, it could be a simple man or woman who gave to his community and helped development on a local or a national scale. The Yemen Times Person of the Year needs to have a good reputation and respect of the community. Help us decide.. Cast your nomination to ytreaders.view@gmail.com telling us whom you have chosen and why. Don't forget to tell us about how you came to know this person and your contacts so that we reach you to know more. Don't forget, this is your contribution and recognition of this person. Last date to send nominees is Friday Dec. 30, 2011.



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