

## Houthis consider political involvement

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SA'ADA, Dec. 14 — In a meeting with United Nations envoy Jamal Benomar on Tuesday, Houthi leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi said that Sa'ada-based Houthis are willing to become involved in political discussions with the new government and engage in a national dialogue.

"I feel optimistic that within the coming weeks we will see more inclusiveness in national political dialogues, especially now that the presidential elections on February 21 will mark the beginning of constitutional and political discussions which matter to all," said Benomar, the UN Secretary General's Special Advisor on Yemen.

Benomar's visit to Sa'ada Governorate was the first of its kind by a high level UN official and was received very positively by politicians and locals alike.

"Sa'ada is peaceful; we want the world to know they can come to us and enjoy our area," said a shopkeeper in the central market of Sa'ada's old city.

Despite tentative signs of peace in the war-laden governorate, locals remain apprehensive about

violence that could potentially disrupt the current calm.

Even on Tuesday, sporadic shooting took place between minority Sunni Salafis and Shiite Houthis, who until three days ago had been surrounding and laying siege to a Salafi medical center in Dammaj.

Assalam Hospital in Sa'ada city has been receiving victims since this particular conflict started over three months ago.

"We don't distinguish between victims; we just treat them as they come in, without needing to know their political backgrounds or affiliations," said Dr. Ahmed Abu Hassa, director of the hospital.

Some of the wounded in the hospital could not be transferred to Sana'a for further treatment because they feared for their lives if they left the hospital's gates.

"Our men will definitely die if they are not transferred to Sana'a but no one can provide us with safe passage out from the hospital," said a relative of a Salafi patient.

According to locals, the conflict between Salafis and Houthis of the same Wadeca tribe started in October when a 13-year-old Houthi

boy carried a sign displaying the group's provocative slogan - "God is great; Death to America; Death to Israel; Damned be the Jews; Victory to Islam" - into a Salafi-controlled health center.

The boy was then physically assaulted by Salafis, triggering an armed conflict, which continued to sporadically halt and recommence despite eleven mediation attempts.

"I have been personally involved in six mediation attempts and I can tell you now that it is a dead end, as external powers support the two sides: Saudi Arabia supports the Salafis and Iran and Hezbollah support the Houthis," said Mohammed Abdulaziz, an activist from Al-Baidha who accompanied an eight-person delegation from the youth revolution to mediate between the conflicting parties.

Oppressed society traumatized by war

Houthi posters of all sizes featuring their uncompromising slogan are visible all over the underdeveloped governorate. Although 70 percent of the population is neither Houthi nor Salafi, the power is in the hands of the Houthis, who are very well-organized and maintain considerable influence over the governorate. Women are seldom seen in public, and black cloth is heavily draped over their faces when they do venture out.

Structural signs of damage from the sixth war between the state and Houthis in 2008 are particularly visible in several locations. More noticeable, though, are the 2000 men, women and children, handicapped as a result of the war. Bitter sentiments, reserved for all political parties involved in the violence, is also prevalent.

"I had to remove a picture I had as a background on my phone and I cannot listen to music in public," said Mohammed Abdulaziz, who had been in Sa'ada for over 20 days. "There is not one single music shop here because the Houthis will not allow it. They are in control of everything; they even



A damaged area in Sa'ada city, bombed by both state and Saudi forces in 2008. More than 2,000 died in the six Sa'ada wars.



Three children who lost limbs due to landmines and unexploded ruminants of war from the six Sa'ada wars between 2004 and 2008. The wars left more than 600 with disabilities.

spotted me the moment I set foot in Sa'ada and questioned me as to why I was here."

Houthi interest in power over the governorate is reflected in their tight control and in public statements.

"We want autonomic rule here. We have been excluded for so many years already," said Abdulmalik Al-Fashi, a leader in the Houthi movement. "Either that or we remain as a resistance like Hezbollah in Lebanon."

However, a majority of the public there desires state control, as opposed to rule by descendants of

Houthi founder Hussein Badreddin Al-Houthi, according to Ali Hiraf from Khowlan, who had been relocated to a displaced peoples camp in Sa'ada for the last three years.

There are over 200,000 displaced people from Sa'ada as a result of the six wars between the state and the Houthis between 2004 and 2008, and many homes have been destroyed.

"There is just so much to be done," said Adel Al-Jailani, director of the Sa'ada Reconstruction Fund. "We have to restore over 17,000 homes and public facilities and have managed to cover only

around 2500 since the fund was established in 2008."

Sa'ada remains relatively autonomous, although salaries and fuel do come from the central government in Sana'a.

The recent Salafi-Houthi armed conflict - which claimed the lives of over 60 men during the past two months, mostly from the Salafi side - is also managed largely outside the sphere of central state control and influence.

However, Naser Abdullah, Brigade Chief of Sa'ada's armed forces, insisted that the situation has stabilized.

## Military committee: between Saleh's control and opposition ambition

By Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A Dec. 14 — Many people from Taiz and Sana'a have indicated that quiet is gradually coming back to the two cities. Both were subjected to the most violent clashes in the past months between pro-Saleh troops and tribesmen coming from rural areas, and defected soldiers who have committed themselves to defending the revolution youths.

Sources said that as soon as the national government was announced and sworn in, calm returned; shelling was relatively much lighter and life started to go back to normal in the cities and their suburbs that had

been almost paralyzed due to the heavy shelling by Saleh's forces in the past weeks.

Sana'a in particular saw relative quietness and the bombing by Saleh's forces stopped except for limited attacks occurring early on Sunday in the Sufan area that contains houses belonging to the tribal sheikh Sadiq Abdullah Al-Ahmar and his brothers. Al-Ahmar denounced such actions and considered them "a stark violation of the declared truce and an attempt to hinder the work of the military committee".

He called upon vice-president Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi to step

up the implementation of article 16 of the Gulf initiative implementation mechanism and the prompt return of armed forces and other military formations to their barracks.

Yemenis started to see the fruits of the peace agreement as fragile calm hovered over the city that is divided into three portions by the pro and anti-Saleh factions.

Sana'a University also opened last Saturday for the first time since mass protests began in February. However, students say that many professors have not showed up even after defecting soldiers left the campus.

A student at the engineering college said that most students are back after the unity government was set up, "but," she added, "many teachers weren't present because some of them had obtained contracts in Saudi Arabia while others are just malingering."

In Riyadh Street, the main commercial hub in western Sana'a, many shops have opened after being closed since clashes erupted between Saleh's and dissident General Ali Mohsen's forces three months ago.

Shop owners expressed their worry at the absence of activity in the city despite their relief at the brittle peace situation. "We've

opened despite our worries that fighting may be resumed. But customers have no money to buy our commodities," said a shopkeeper.

The military committee, headed by Hadi and set up in accordance with the implementation mechanism of the Gulf initiative to settle the current crisis in Yemen, was considered by observers as a positive step that would surely lead to a ceasefire in Sana'a, Taiz and other areas in Yemen.

The acting president gave his strict instructions for a ceasefire last week in Taiz and ordered the setup of a security committee to follow up such directions.

The opposition indicated that the initiative demanded the formation of a military committee to establish security and stability and restructure the military and security forces "which haven't happened so far and may not in the near future," sources said.

They further said that the military committee has a hard mission and that it would succeed only by means of the continuity of international support.

They warned against intervention by honorary president Saleh into the actions of the committee.

The revolution youths in Taiz rallied, denouncing the violent attacks and destruction during the few past months. They demanded the regime be ousted and its members be prosecuted.

The military committee has been formed on 50/50 basis between the ruling party and the opposition, with seven military men from each side. Its responsibilities include ending all armed conflicts, returning the military to their camps, removing roadblocks and checkpoints and take any necessary measures to prevent further conflict.



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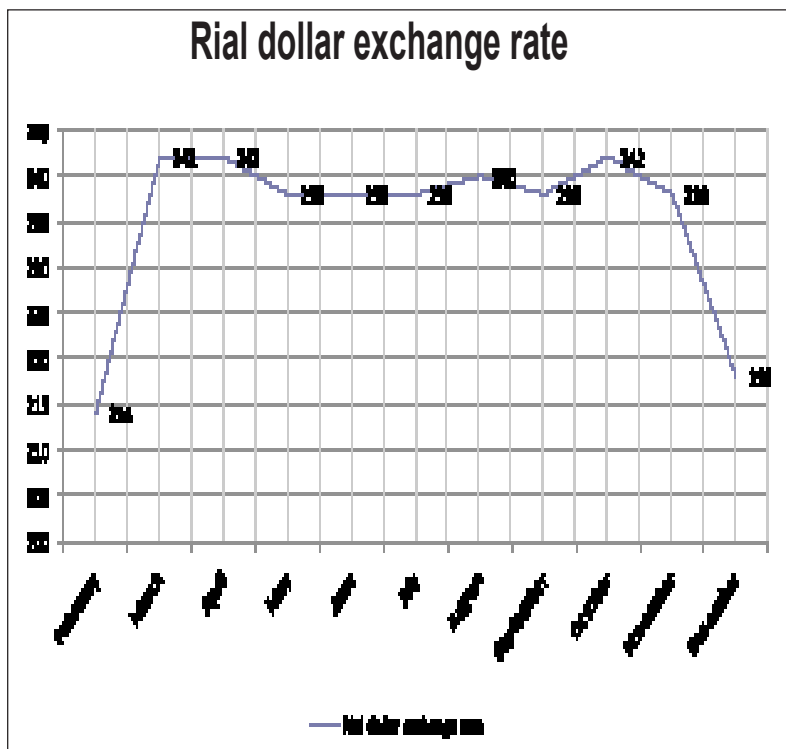


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## Stronger rial leaves questions over exchange



The Yemeni rial dropped sharply in March due to the conflict but began gaining value again a few days ago.

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Dec. 14 — The value of the Yemeni rial has rapidly increased in the last two days from 238 rials to 218 rials to the dollar, leaving some angry after losing thousands of rials in the exchange rate.

"I heard people saying that the value of the dollar was rapidly decreasing yesterday. I had a thousand dollars and I did not want to lose money," said Asma Abdulla, a teacher, who had to exchange her money in a rush. Abdulla exchanged her one thousand for 220,000 YR instead of YR 237,000 the previous day.

Demand and supply variables caused the rapid increase in the value of the Yemeni rial. People started to exchange their saved dollars into Yemeni rials in a bid to beat

any further losses. But the more people exchanged their dollars the more the value of the Yemeni rial increased.

In a press statement, the Studies & Economic Media Center said it had received complaints from people who tried taking dollars from their bank accounts, but their banks had not allow them to do so.

Local banks said that the Central Bank refused to provide them with hard currencies, especially dollars, during the last few days, according to the Marib2day website.

"The rapid increase of the Yemeni rial has made some people insecure and they want to exchange the dollars they have for rials at once," said Mohammad Jubran, an accounting teacher at Sana'a University.

## International lobbying for peace in Taiz



Abandoned sandbags serve as reminders of the conflict that overwhelmed Taiz for ten months.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf & Sadeq Al-Wesabi

TAIZ, Dec. 14 — A day after UN envoy Jamal Benomar's visit to Taiz on Monday, a high-level delegation of diplomats from the five permanent members of the Security Council, along with Gulf nation ambassadors, visited Taiz.

"We want to show solidarity and prove to the Yemenis, before the rest of the world, that we are committed both to resolving the conflict and endorsing peace in the

governorate," said Abdullah Badi, Oman's ambassador to Yemen.

The UN advisor and diplomats were received by the city's governor. The visits included meeting with involved parties in the conflict, which has tormented locals in Taiz since May.

Following international mediation, the armed opposition agreed to pull back their men and leave public institutions such as schools and hospitals starting from last Monday, December 12.

"It is up to Yemenis to ensure that peace is sustained," said Benomar. "The initial signs are good."

Since the beginning of Yemen's youth revolution in Taiz, conflicts have led to the deaths of nearly 70 people, with thousands more injured.

Hammond Abdul-Salem, a resident of Taiz, is optimistic about the return of calm to the city.

He said that many pro- and anti-regime gunmen have disappeared from the city. However, while many barricades and checkpoints have been removed, they remain in some areas.

"Locals are happy about the stable security situation but are afraid that conflicts will erupt again, especially because armed groups remain hidden in some areas," he said.

Abdul-Salem indicated that these groups suddenly vanish when international delegations come to Taiz.

Mohammed Said Al-Sharable, a journalist and anti-regime protester played down the significance of the visits by ambassadors and international delegations to the city, claiming they do nothing but stay in a five-star hotel, eat and depart.

"They didn't meet the martyrs' families and didn't visit Liberty Square or the makeshift hospital," he said. "Their recent visits to the city are meaningless."

Al-Sharable pointed out that during past months, the regime broke any truces or compromises that had been reached.

"I don't rule out that fierce fighting will again break out in the city," he said. "Unfortunately, the ceasefire in Taiz is linked to the mood of President Saleh and his inner circle."

## Six Al-Qaeda militants arrested after jailbreak

By: SABA & Xinhua News Agencies

ADEN, Dec. 14 — Six alleged Al Qaeda militants were arrested on Tuesday in Yemen a day after 12 Al-Qaeda members broke away from a prison in the southern port city of Aden, according to the state-run news agency, Saba.

A leading figure in the terrorist group was among the detainees, the agency said.

"Security services, backed by the local people, arrested Musa'ad Mohammad Al Barbari, Mohammad Hussain Musaib, Mohammad Abdul Kader Ahmad Al Shihri, Nader Ahmad Mohammad Al Qubati, Mohammad Muthana Ali Al Amari and Abdul Munaim Hamad Abu Ganem," a security source told the agency.

According to Saba, the alleged terrorist cell was planning to target high profile officials, vital government installations and foreign diplomats in the country. They also recruited young men to fight the army in Abyan and Shabwa.

Three escaped prisoners out of the 15 were arrested immediately and security forces in the city set up a security committee to investigate the incident, the source said.

The local security official said on

condition of anonymity that about 15 Al-Qaeda prisoners, including five prisoners who had been sentenced to death, fled the central jail in the Al-Mansoura district in Aden after digging a small underground tunnel.

Some other inmates fought their way out of the jail along with the Al-Qaeda prisoners, according to the official.

The escaping Al-Qaeda prisoners were convicted on terrorism charges, the official said, adding that the police have launched inquiries.

An opposition official, who claimed that the prison break was "orchestrated," accused local security forces and prison police of "supporting the Al-Qaeda prisoners' escape."

Earlier this year, more than 62 Al-Qaeda prisoners broke jail in Al-Mukalla, the provincial capital of the southeastern province of Hadramout.

Militants of the Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) are taking advantage of the 10 months of sweeping protests against Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh's rule to bolster their presence in the country's southern regions, including cities across the Abyan and Shabwa provinces they seized late in May.

## The Latest Buzz

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

► Tentative agreements between honorary President Saleh and Ali Mohsin have been reached to remove armed men, from both sides, to at least 200 kilometers outside the capital, Sana'a.

► Security authorities prevented two prisoners escaping from Rada'a prison and captured criminals who shot at the prison guards last Monday, killing one of the guards.

► Employees of the Saba News Agency branch in Aden announced a strike beginning on Saturday in protest against not receiving their wages or expenses for more than five months.

► The newly appointed Interior Minister ordered the release of all the detained Yemenis, estimated to be around 1,400, arrested because of their involvement in the uprising over the last ten months.

► UNDP's Hadramout and Al-Mahara reconstruction projects in coordination with the Ministry of Works are organizing a workshop on early warning systems in order to prepare for any natural disasters that might occur in the areas.

► Students and teachers of Al-Wazeer school in Shuob district in Sana'a continued their strike, which began on Tuesday in protest against the armed men they term "thugs". The men are camping near the school and have molested one of the female teachers.

► The chief executive of Canadian Nexen has travelled to Yemen to discuss the company's operations with the new government. The previous government refused to renew the contract on Nexen's main field in Yemen, which expires on December 17. Instead it said a newly-created, state-owned Petro-Masila would take over the declining field.

► Gen. Brigadier Ahmed Saleh, chief commander of the Republican Guards, and President Saleh's son, is said to have travelled to Paris for an unofficial visit.

► A seminar on the priorities of media in Yemen's coming phase has been organized by the Media Economic Center for Thursday at the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate. The seminar will talk about professional requirements and press freedom.

► A number of soldiers in the marine forces responsible for protecting liquid gas produced in Shabwa demanded an investigation into corruption, which they claim was widespread in the project.

► A protest by the revolutionary youth in Aden was organized on Tuesday in support of Taiz protesters. The Adani youth vowed to hold accountable those responsible for the killings of civilians in Taiz.

► Three soldiers and four armed men were killed, while 18 were injured in armed conflict between state security and armed men from Al-Qaeda in Zunjubar, Abyan which is controlled by Al-Qaeda.

► A training course on implementing media campaigns for civil society organizations concluded on Tuesday. The course was funded by several donors.



## Call for Tender

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is a humanitarian, non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 1956 that works in more than 30 countries throughout the world. DRC fulfills its mandate by providing direct assistance to conflict-affected populations – refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities in the conflict areas of the world. In Yemen, DRC has been working with the IDPs from Saada displaced to Hajjah and Amran Governorates and with the IDPs from Abyan displaced to Aden.

In this context, DRC is inviting tenders from experienced research companies to conduct an IDP household survey in Hajjah, Amran and Aden. According to government figures there are approximately 20,000 IDP households in Hajjah, 7,000 IDP households in Amran and 15,000 IDP households in Aden respectively.

Further details on the terms of reference are available by email: [tender@drcyemen.org](mailto:tender@drcyemen.org)  
Closing date for submissions is 22 December 2011

# Tawakul for president?

Is Yemen ready for a female president? Is Tawakul Karman's influence on the revolution and the Noble Peace Prize good enough to convince Yemenis that she can be tomorrow's leader? Surprisingly Yemeni men say yes, but the ladies are more reluctant.

By: Marwa Najamaldeen

A Facebook group to ask the public whether they would vote for Tawakul Karman as head of government now has over 1,300 members. The group is flooded with comments for and against the notion of having a woman, and specifically Tawakul, leading the government.

Zahrat Al-Jabal posted saying that Tawakul is the "dove of peace"

that will soon knit a shroud for President Saleh.

Other comments include poetry singing the praises of a Yemeni woman who managed to bring pride to Yemen after decades of oppression and negative images.

Many comments also talked about the real meaning of the revolution and what it holds for Yemenis – especially women.

Soon after that another Facebook page was launched asking: "Would you vote Tawakul Karman as presi-

dent?" The question received many comments including one by Abdulkarim Al-Juhaifi, a Yemeni man who said yes in many languages.

However, when polling Yemeni youth offline there was a visible difference between what men thought about Karman, compared to women. Nuha Al-Buraihi, a medical student in Sana'a University, said she would not vote for Karman as president. "I believe a president should be a man not a woman because there are many responsibilities that come with the position which women cannot bear," she said.

Afrah Ali, another female university student, agreed, adding that only when women get their rights and are seen as real partners in society will Yemen be ready for a female president. As for now, "women will never be equal to men unless we are able to go to the streets and live equally."

However, others looked at Karman's credentials rather than simply her gender. Najat Hassan, who works in the education sector, said it depends on Karman's mandate. "I would not vote for her just because she is a Noble Peace Prize winner. I have to see if her program is better than others, then I would decide."

Hana Naser, a female teacher in Sana'a, said she would not vote for Karman, but had her own reasons. "I have a problem with Tawakul being a member of the Islah party and I have my suspicions regarding her receiving aid from Qatar or elsewhere," she explained. "I would not vote for a president whose reputation is full of rumors."



Tawakul proudly displays her Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo on December 10.



Another Yemeni woman, a housewife, voiced similar concerns. She said she feels that Tawakul Karman has not been honest about her sources of funding – especially that Qatar itself is not a democratic country so there is an issue of hypocrisy.

Surprisingly the men had a more welcoming attitude towards Karman.

Aridh Aidaroos, a 23-year-old commerce student, said he is a firm believer in a woman's right to be president and believed that Karman has what it takes. "There is no specific ruling in Islam that says a woman cannot be president. A president has to possess certain leadership qualities and values such as justice, equality, freedom and democracy," he said. "Anyone who implements

them should have the chance to be president."


Although he didn't have a problem with Karman specifically, Muneer Jabri a construction engineer has a problem with women ruling. He insisted that Islam forbids women from being leaders.

However, the majority of polled men instantly said "sure" when asked whether they would vote for Karman as president. Faris Al-Himyari, a journalist with the Chinese News Agency Xinhua, believed in her. "She said no to oppression and lead peaceful protests and was not afraid of the consequences. She is a Nobel Peace Prize winner, what more can we ask for in a president?" He added that it is time to return Yemen to its glory after so many years of oppression of bad publicity.

Hakim Mohammed who works in advertising was very enthusiastic about Tawakul Karman as president. "We tried men and look at where we are. It is time for a woman. In fact if you go to all the leading positions you will see that women are more committed and professional."

He also said that we are supposed to have a modern state with parliamentary system after this regime falls so this means that it will not be a one man show like it used to be, to help control any new president's power.

Mohammed Qadhi a bus driver wants to vote for Karman because he reflected on the past and saw that whenever a woman was leader such as Queen Bilqis or Arwa, Yemen was doing very well and thriving as a country.



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# Yemen's imperialist transition

By: James Gundun  
Washington, DC  
Palestine Chronicle

An ongoing international crime spree is being committed in Yemen, where casualties mount into the thousands, and millions of pro-democracy protesters have no one to turn to other than themselves. Rather than isolate Ali Abdullah Saleh's 33-year regime, international actors have pursued cooperation in order to maintain regional influence across the Arabian Peninsula and Horn of Africa.

Beyond its patronage of various tribal figures, Saudi Arabia operates an intelligence apparatus in conjunction with the CIA's expanding grid. Washington seeks to duplicate Pakistan's quasi-unilateral network inside Yemen.

Whom does one report to when national and international law has been corrupted?

On Yemen's political front, the Arab League never checked in as the Saudi-bankrolled Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) dipped into a non-member. Saleh's foreign allies – all five veto-wielding members in the United Nations – then ordered the Security Council to legitimize a "unity government" through resolution 2014. In the middle of these maneuvers sits the Obama administration, a stubborn defender of Saleh's regime. Roughly three weeks ago, after eight months of stalling, Yemen's strongman finally yielded to a "power transfer" organized by the GCC and Western capitals. Rejected by youth and civil protesters since its introduction in April, the GCC's initiative extends Saleh's rule by 90 days and grants his family immunity from a twisted legacy of hu-

man rights abuses.

After signing the GCC's initiative in Riyadh, an overt symbol of imperialism, Saleh promptly returned to Sana'a as President Barack Obama and UN officials praised his "decision."

Yemen's Coordinating Council of the Youth Revolution of Change (CCYRC) responded: "The people of Yemen, and revolutionary youth, have no illusion about the consequence of the internationally celebrated signing of the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism by President Ali Abdullah Saleh in the Saudi capital last week. The young Yemenis who voluntarily and peacefully took to the streets in pursuit of change and a better life have warned all those engaged in the GCC initiative negotiations that Saleh never keeps his word or honors agreements."

The GCC's proposal originally called for Saleh to transfer executive authority to his vice president of 17 years, Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi, until an election could be held within three months. This unrealistic time-line has since been superseded by the impending charade of a single-candidate "election" – starring Hadi. Not only does Yemen's vice president continue to take orders from Saleh, Western and Gulf powers expect him to lead a two-year transitional period and oversee a "unity" military council. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) has redundantly received a portfolio that includes the Foreign and Defense Ministries; his son, Ahmed, and numerous relatives remain at their security posts.

Although the oppositional Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) submitted a list of candidates to oversee a "restructuring" of Saleh's military command, sources with his GPC im-

mediately pushed back against these recommendations.

Conversely, Washington has decided to "move on" from Saleh because the Pentagon, according to The Wall Street Journal, expanded ties with "a wider range of military commanders who could remain in positions of influence after Mr. Saleh's exit." Apparently Ahmed, commander of Saleh's Republican Guard and a Pentagon liaison, has run out of uses. Trained and equipped by US Special Forces to battle Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), his "counter-terrorism" unit spent the majority of 2011 spear-heading a brutal crackdown against Yemen's peaceful protesters. This ongoing development partly explains why Washington facilitated Saleh's immunity through the GCC's initiative.

Meanwhile the youth and civil protesters demonstrating across Yemen's urban centers continue to vent their disapproval at the JMP. Widely viewed as self-interested "old politics," the JMP has leveraged the GCC's initiative to acquire Yemen's premiership and half of the government's cabinet. Subsequent outreach with the youth led to negligible cohesion; while some protesters reacted with cautious optimism after Riyadh's ceremony, many others automatically oppose the JMP's leadership as counterproductive. The Civic Coalition of Revolutionary Youth (CCYR) explained: "We reject any forces' attempt to impose the initiative terms on the revolutionary Youth in the squares, and we call these forces to lift its control and monopoly in representation of the revolution and responsibly deal with youth demands."

The combative weeks following Saleh's meaningless signature have evaporated any hope lingering over

the GCC's current proposal. Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi recently declared: "Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime has not left Yemen and Saleh will not leave Yemen. He will remain a Yemeni citizen; he has the right to remain and play a political role through the General People's Congress."

In addition to the international community's apathy in Yemen, mainstream media and analysts have generally shut their eyes to Washington's tailspin. Most reports center around Saleh's notorious duplicity, defected General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, interplay within the JMP's Islah party, tribal divisions, the threat of civil war or AQAP. All of these factors deserve healthy doses of attention – particularly because two weighty blocs, the Houthis sect and Southern Movement, weren't consulted within the GCC's proposal – but not at the expense of Yemen's pro-democracy movement. Furthermore, these issues are burying the narrative of international suppression to the point that many Americans subconsciously approve of US policy.

The GCC's lopsided terms fail to capture the suffocating nature of the international community's injustice. Contrary to Yemen's reputation as a terrorist hub, many Yemenis differentiate between the American people and the actions of their government. The country prides itself on being accessible to Westerners and protesters expected Obama to aid their struggle. His ongoing silence turned him into a quasi villain – a puppet of King Abdullah. Yemenis continue to protest

under a thick veil of silence, reduced to the sidelines of America's major speeches and blurred out of international reporting.

The GCC's Western-backed initiative currently serves foreign powers as designed; far from supporting Yemen's people, they seek to divide and conquer protesters through half-concessions. Perhaps the best evidence is found in Russia's endorsement. Touting "the Yemeni model" as an alternative to Western and Arab pressure around Syria, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov pointed out: "All states, including those who have demanded to take some action against Syria, have taken a totally different approach towards Yemen, where negotiations on a peaceful plan proposed by the Gulf Cooperation Council have lasted for months."

Yet Saleh's long-term prospects are less favorable. The weak-willed Hadi nearly exhausted himself keeping a grip on the country during Saleh's summer absence, and ultimately lost a power struggle with his son. Forced to operate from his own home as Ahmed ruled from the presidential palace, a constant flow of reports described an exhausted Hadi with limited control of Saleh's personal security forces. On at least one occasion, rumors speculated that Hadi had resigned and was preparing to leave the country. He may not last 90 days as chairman of the GPC and JMP's "unity" government and Hadi will only survive if he obeys orders from above.

Instead of relieving Yemen's longstanding tensions, political divisions

and general instability will be further compounded by a sham election. The GCC initiative's likely outcome is continual fighting at the political and military levels, generating a potential collapse. Over 100 people have been killed since the passage of UN resolution 2017, including at least two dozen in Taiz's recent outbreak of violence. Mohammed Basundwa, the JMP's nominee for Prime Minister, denounced the government's assault as "an intentional act to wreck the agreement." The Obama administration has yet to respond.

Chairing his GPC meeting as usual, Saleh did take time over the last weekend to blame Taiz's bloodshed on the JMP.

Foreign powers will eventually scramble to patch Yemen's revolution again, once more boosting its downward spiral. This situation, dire from a political and humanitarian viewpoint, also marks an embarrassing episode of US diplomacy. The Obama administration's (and Europe's) response displays no evidence of the "smart power" espoused by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Yemen's improvement isn't guaranteed by removing Saleh from the equation, but the country cannot move forward so long as he remains an ally of America.

James Gundun is a political scientist and counterinsurgency analyst. His blog, *The Trench*, covers the underreported areas of US foreign policy. He contributed this article to *Palestine Chronicle.com*. Follow him on Twitter: @RealistChanel.

## A gap between US ideals and regional policy

By: National Editorial  
The National

As Arabs across the Middle East and North Africa became the champions of their own destiny this year, the paradox of relations with the West has been as stark as ever. The United States and other western democracies have long claimed to be advocates of political freedoms and human rights in the region, yet sometimes with obvious double standards.

Almost a year later, and Washington is still playing catch up. The Obama administration has talked tough on Bashar Al-Assad's regime in Syria, and backed the GCC plan to push Ali Abdullah Saleh from power, yet there are obvious tensions. The United States continues to sacrifice its own standing in the region in favor of its reflexive bias

towards Israel. And for all of the Obama administration's statements about human rights, no one doubts that many in Washington miss the warm, predictable relationships with dictators.

Throughout the region, there is more room for common ground than ever before, if only Washington could see it. Indeed, people in the Middle East seem to understand this historic opportunity better than leaders in the West. As The National reported yesterday, new data from the Abu Dhabi Gallup Center shows that in countries that have overthrown dictators, namely Tunisia and Egypt, people believe they are now respected more by western societies than ever before, and are "less focused on what divides" the Muslim world and the West. In short, the door for diplomacy is open.

Few in the region will forget the speech that US president Barack

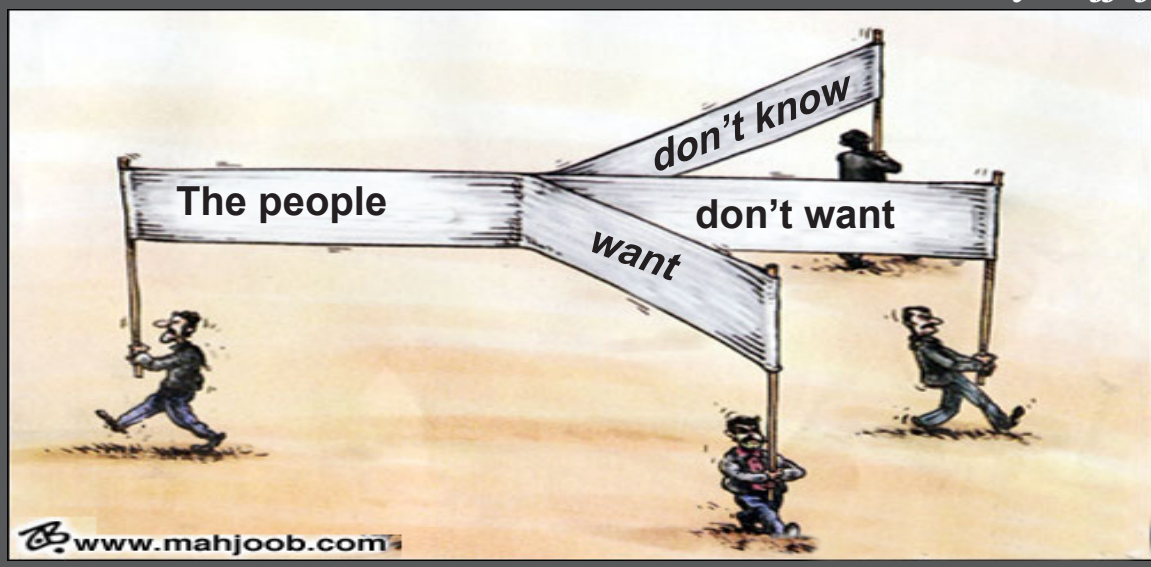
Obama delivered in Cairo in June 2009, when he called for regional governments to "reflect the will of the people". But as Egyptians went to the polls last month, it was Washington that agonized over who Egypt's people might choose.

Washington is not the only one to be wary of the rise of Islamists, and the Muslim Brotherhood's role moving forward in Egypt is still in question. But the will of the Egyptian people as expressed at the polls has to be respected, or every speech about democracy and political freedoms has been just empty words.

There is a history here, from the colonial era to western support for dictatorial regimes, which prevents any simple solution. Yet, as Gallup's data suggests, citizens of this region are willing to bridge the divide. If Washington, London and Paris are true to the ideals they espouse, now is the time to show it.

### SKETCHED OPINION

By Hajjaj



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# Strategies for children with special needs

Diena Murshed is a Yemeni education specialist who has just completed her masters in Special Education Needs with distinction from the University of Middlesex in the UK through distance learning. Her study complements her practical work with Yemeni children who are educationally challenged as full time Head of Haddah Valley Junior High and a volunteer with several special education programs.

Her recent academic accomplishment was an action enquiry, which means a hands-on approach to change and learning. Her study focused on Inclusive Education for SEN (Special Educational Needs) children that attend main-stream schools in Yemen.

"The study process was challenging as you are constantly measuring the current best practices in IE (inclusive education) for SEN in more advanced countries and comparing it to a more fledgling practice in Yemen," she explained about her thesis.

Interview by Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The neighbors were shocked when they saw the coffin of a teenage girl they never knew carried on the shoulders of the girl's male relatives.

Now that she is dead the family admitted that they had a disabled daughter amongst them whom they hid from the world. She had lived for nearly 18 years locked up inside the house never seeing the outside world.

"Many Yemeni families feel ashamed to have disabled children so they decide to ignore them and pretend they are not there," said Dienna Murshed.

Many Yemeni families shy away from disability thinking that having a disabled child would make others refuse to marry into the family. In some instances, families refer their children whom may be suffering from seizures to 'spiritual doctors' even before a medical doctor and thus often go without the required medication for sometime while under treatment by the 'spiritual doctor'.

Due to social stigma, the figures of how many Yemenis suffer from educational disability are not clear. However, international standards state that there is at least 10 percent disability in any country. Moreover, the Yemeni Ministry of Education reported in 2010 that at least 25 percent of Yemeni students suffer from dyslexia and other learning disabilities.

Today, there are over 200 inclusive education schools in the country that provide for SEN children.

"Although this is a great start, Yemen will not reach its Millennium Development Goal in education for all obligations before 2015," explained Murshed.

Moving towards full inclusive education has been a slow process as this concept was introduced officially in 1998 through technical assistance provided to the education ministry by Save the Children.

An Inclusive Education department with a dedicated team has been established within the ministry, however, its internal structure and by-laws still need to be approved to receive funding, according to Murshed.

"My concern is that if the department does not receive sufficient financial resources its sustainability and scalability will be in doubt," she said. "I am also concerned that many families are unaware of the opportunities that exist from the inclusive education policies in place



Diena Murshed with her youngest son Mohammed. She believes Yemeni children deserve more attention in education than they receive today.

which really suggest the needs to communicate this in Yemen."

Diena Murshed believes that some educational professionals and donors in Yemen may say SEN education is a luxury and the Yemeni educators should focus on education for the majority of children who are not SEN.

"This thinking is not inclusive, so to overcome these issues is a challenge," she said. "My study helped to explore these issues as well as others towards developing simple class strategies for more inclusive education and the key strategies that I have experimented with."

Some of those strategies include, peer tutoring to support SEN children through support provided by 'class peers', parent Involvement which focuses on providing parents with basic reading building skills to help their children at home, and structured reading sessions which focus on assisting resource room teachers (SEN teachers) on structuring classes for reading.

The third strategy was the basis of her thesis in which she believed a more structured approach to SEN teaching in resource rooms, which were typically unplanned sessions, would improve quality of education resulting in improved reading skills of the children involved.

### Structured reading and education quality

One of the main issues Murshed investigated is the link between structured reading and the quality

of learning. Her discoveries reveal that when teachers develop skills and are able to plan lessons they become more assured and empowered, or as said by one resource room teacher, "A better sense of mission."

"This has a rub-off effect on the child who has a better understanding of what the teacher is expecting or targeting so they are better able to respond," she said.

The practical nature of her study recommends simple strategies that cost very little yet with huge impact. Most donor attention to education has been on infrastructure (i.e. building schools), and government as well as donor indicators have focused on number of classrooms available and the number of teachers.

"I hope to meet with the Education Unit of the Social Fund for Development to present possible areas of intervention for them to invest in that may broaden the kind of practice we are now seeing in my research school to other schools across the country," she said.

### The crux of the issue

With small practical steps, Murshed believes huge differences can be made. As a consequence of her work, her research school is witnessing a paradigm shift in teaching practices. Children with special educational needs were previously referred to the resource room teacher to help them memorize a passage. Now the children are taught, in a structured way, skills for life.

"I have introduced popular children's literature such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears translated into Arabic by Ladybird into a resource room where children now love to read," she said. "The children in small groups share stories and discuss what is happening in their stories in an atmosphere of fun and learning."

She believes that now the seedlings of a reading culture are now in place. Before the reading exercise all children stated their various anxieties towards reading including fear.

Now they all state with full confidence that they love to read. One young girl proudly with a strong air of self-belief states she is now one of the better readers in her regular class.



Students with Special Education Needs receive additional courses at Um Salim Public School to help them keep up with other students.



## FULL TIME POSITIONS ANNOUNCEMENT – 3 Posts based in Aden

Mercy Corps (MC) is a non-profit, non-governmental (NGO) humanitarian relief and development organization, registered in the United States and Scotland with offices in more than 40 countries around the world.

**Position :** Community Services Officer

**Reference Number:** ADE\_CS02012

**Duration:** 1 year with possibility of extension

### GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY:

The Community Services Officer helps the project team in a wide range of humanitarian project activities, including monitoring of progress and management of field-based staff and helping define strategy to best tailor humanitarian program activities for better impact on communities. This is a field-based position, and the Community Services Officer should expect to spend maximum of his time in the field.

### REQUIREMENTS:

- University degree in a related field.
- Minimum of two years of work experience in project implementation.
- Technical knowledge for the specific job is required.
- Maintain good relation with the local communities and project beneficiaries.
- Literate in local languages. Basic math skills.
- Computer literate.

### ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

1. Prepare community development plan for the humanitarian needs of the target population.
2. Help implement the plan of action according to the guidelines and schedules set by the Project Manager;
3. Arrange, facilitate and conduct feasibility studies, surveys and need assessments, as and when required for the ongoing program or future project proposals;
4. Identify humanitarian needs, establish and maintain contacts with the communities' representative structures, Implementing partners, line government agencies and departments and other involved agencies on project affairs;
5. Prepare field trip and progress reports,
6. Keep detailed up to date records for every project and latrine sites as per the instructions and formats provided by the Project Officer.
7. Other duties as assigned.

**Position:** Monitor and Evaluation Officer

**Reference Number:** ADE\_M&E2012

**Duration:** 1 year with possibility of extension

**GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY:** The DME Officer will assist in the development of monitoring and evaluation strategies and tools. He/she will collect and analyze relevant data in order for the team to measure program impact.

### REQUIREMENTS:

- A university degree in relevant field is required.
- Two years' experience in program monitoring and evaluation within an international NGO is preferred.
- Practical and theoretical knowledge in program monitoring and data collection methods.
- Understanding of the social, political and economic context of Aden and I.adj.
- Advanced computer skills in MS Office programs. Excellent skills in statistics and SPSS.
- Prior management experience and strong organizational skills.
- Excellent oral and written English skills.

### ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

1. Lead efforts and collaborate closely with colleagues in developing and establishing Monitoring and Evaluation plans and systems.
2. Lead data collection process and ensure high-quality data is collected in accordance with the agreed time plan and data collection strategy.
3. Ensure monitoring and evaluation systems are well maintained and fully functioning throughout the program duration and adjusted when required by changing program needs
4. Build the capacity of all relevant team members to develop and maintain an excellent M&E system and enable them to develop excellent reports and other documents.
5. Conduct himself/herself both professionally and personally in such a manner as to bring credit to Mercy Corps and to not jeopardize its humanitarian mission.
6. Other duties as assigned.

**Position:** Finance Officer

**Reference Number:** ADE\_FIN2012

**Duration:** 1 year with possibility of extension

### GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY:

Working in the Finance Department under the direction of the Senior Finance Officer, the Finance Officer will assist in the accounting and documentation of all financial transactions in timely and accurate manner.

### REQUIREMENTS:

- Two or more years of accounting or bookkeeping experience, including experience with double-entry accounting
- A degree in accounting or a relevant business field
- Strong computer skills in MS Office programs, particularly Excel
- Familiarity with computerized, double-entry accounting software
- Strong organizational skills as well as attention to detail
- Excellent oral and written English skills

### ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

1. Responsible for all cash and bank payments and provide proper review of the same
2. Provide support to programs as needed on specific assigned tasks
3. Assist to Senior Finance Staff during the close up of the month .
4. Assist to Procurement and Logistic Department and provide any support as per need
5. Make sure that all supporting documentation is prepared and filed according to MC procedures.
6. Work closely with Senior Finance Officer on review of partners financial report, review all documents and conduct compliance visit as per schedule

### SUCCESS FACTORS FOR ALL POSITIONS:

- Demonstrated ability to multi-task, meet deadlines .
- Professional standard of accounting and financial ethics.
- Willingness and ability to work in difficult situations.
- Frequent travel to the field.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

### HOW TO APPLY:

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit a one page cover letter and their CV in English by email to [recruiting@ye.mercycorps.org](mailto:recruiting@ye.mercycorps.org) no later than December 26, 2011. All applications must include the vacancy reference number in the subject line of their e-mail message. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Mercy Corps is an equal opportunity organization and we encourage women to apply to these positions.

# Somali piracy

Since 2005, Somali pirates started to move around the Yemeni waters to hijack ships and kidnap crews, asking for millions of dollars as ransoms and causing an ever-increasing problem for Yemen. Somali piracy in the 20th century began with the collapse of the state in 1991. As the security situation deteriorated, the smuggling of illegal immigrants as well as the smuggling weapons began to flourish. The marine forces collapsed and tribal leaders used the lack of security and the spread of their forces over Somali lands to extort tributes from passing ships. Day by day, pirates were threatening ships in the waters off Somalia. The Gulf of Aden became a piracy hotspot with high-profile ships and tankers taken hostage.

By: Malak Shaher

It was 5pm on Mar. 8, 2005 when two sailing yachts, Mahdi and Gandalf were moving 30 miles off the coast of Aden to Oman. Suddenly, two motor-powered boats, about 25 and 30 feet long with four armed men in each "came very fast directly at us," Rodney Nowlin, a sailor of south Virginia told Noonsite, the global site for cruising sailors.

Before these two boats approached, Nowlin said another two boats were observing them, each with three men on board. These boats just watched as the bigger two approached them.

"The boats separated at about 200 yards, one boat ahead of the other, coming down Mahdi's port side, and firing into the cockpit. The other boat was firing an automatic weapon at both Gandalf and Mahdi from ahead. These guys were shooting directly at the cockpits, and obviously intended to kill us," Nowlin told Noonsite in May 2005.

That incident was the first piracy attack in Yemeni waters in 2005, marking the start of a reign of terror against ships and oil tankers in Somalia's surrounding waters.

Soon after this attempt, the Yemeni Coast Guard Authority and other operational offices in the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea increased their efforts in fighting piracy.

"In the beginning, pirates' operations were confined to stealing small equipment from small ships," said Shuja' Al-Deen Al-Mahdi, the head of the Operational Unit at the Yemeni Coast Guard Authority (YCG).

"But in 2005, their operations started to become increasing sophisticated; they were not satisfied with the small things they stole. Their op-

erations were more professional and they started equipping themselves with guns and night vision goggles – not to mention the bigger and stronger boats they now use," Al-Mahdi said.

When the owners of the hijacked ships fail to pay the ransom, the pirates eventually use the captured vessels as "mother ships" from which to launch further attacks.

According to the YCG records, piracy operations have grown year by year since 2005, with 2010 being their most active year. In 2010, 57 ships were hijacked in the Yemeni waters with 225 failed hijacking attempts.

So far this year, the YCG has arrested 12 Somali pirates in Yemeni waters – though this doesn't account for those picked up by international fleets more than 12 miles off the coast.

## An international problem

Worldwide, piracy began to increase in the early 1990s, peaking at roughly 350 to 450 reported attacks per year during the period 2000-2004, then declining by almost half by 2005. In 2007, almost half of the world's reported pirate attacks took place in African waters, mainly near Nigeria and Somalia.

However, the number of attacks in Somali waters doubled in 2008, according to a study by the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) mentioned in the Congressional Research Services.

In Yemen in 2007, 10 ships were hijacked with 20 failed attempts. 42 ships and boats were hijacked in 2008 and 46 ships and boats were hijacked in 2009.

The IMB study found that at least 219 attacks occurred in the Horn

of Africa in 2010, with 49 successful hijackings. Somali pirates have attacked ships in the Gulf of Aden, along Somalia's eastern coastline, and outwards into the Indian Ocean.

The situation in Somalia, and the piracy threat, was the subject of an open debate at the UN Security Council in March 2011, during which the Council stressed the need for a "comprehensive strategy to encourage the establishment of peace and stability in Somalia."

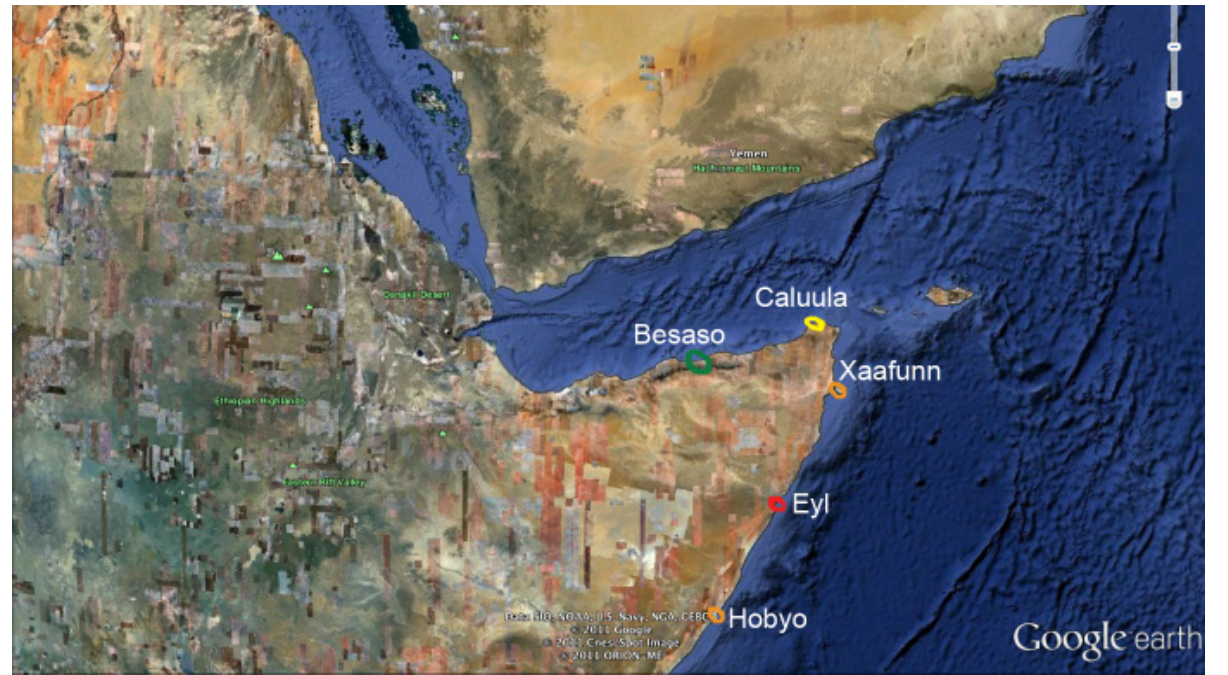
According to the IBM study, the increase in pirate attacks off the Horn of Africa is directly linked to continuing insecurity and the absence of the rule of law in war-torn Somalia.

Somalia's "pirate economy" has also grown substantially in the past two years, with ransoms now averaging more than \$5 million. These revenues may further exacerbate the ongoing conflict and undermine regional security. The annual cost of piracy to the global economy ranges between \$7 and \$12 billion.

## Piracy ports

There are four main Somali ports where the country's pirates receive support and where they can keep hijacked ships and boats, according to Al-Mahdi. The ports are providing pirates with fuel and other required equipment as well as keeping the ships and boats until their owners pay the ransoms.

The main ports are Eyl, Hoby, Caluula and Xaafuun. "From Eyl port in particular come the most dangerous pirates," said Al-Mahdi. Negotiations between pirates and ships' owners usually take place in Eyl, making it one of the most dangerous, he added.



Some of the key ports used by Somali pirates.

## Somali pirates in Yemen

Of the 752 pirates currently facing prosecution in 11 countries, Yemen has arrested 120 pirates since 2005. During 2008 and 2009, Yemen detained 62 pirates.

However, due to the high cost of keeping pirates in detention while they await prosecution, Yemen stopped detaining and trying Somali pirates submitted by international forces since 2009. These pirates were attacking ships in non-Yemeni regional waters, according to the CGA.

Aesh Awwas, from the Sheba Center for Strategic Studies in Saba'a, says there are no specific laws covering the trial of pirates caught outside of Yemen.

"Piracy in international waters has created a problem for Yemen as the country is not responsible for Somali pirates hijacking ships outside its waters," said Awwas.

Last month, ten pirates were sentenced to ten years each by the Criminal Court in Al-Mukalla after being in jail and awaiting prosecution for more than 11 months.

And last December, the Penal Court in Al-Mukalla sentenced twelve Somali pirates to thirteen years in jail for conducting piracy attacks in Yemeni and international

waters.

Some face even harsher sentences when caught; last year a Yemeni court sentenced six Somali pirates to death and jailed six others for the hijacking of an oil tanker they seized in April 2009. The pirates were captured by the CGA and found guilty of killing two of the oil tanker's crew.

## A growing problem for Yemeni fishermen

As the international navy has been fighting piracy in the Gulf of Aden, Yemeni fishermen have also been caught up in the process. There have been at least three cases where Yemeni fishermen were assumed to be Somali pirates because of their dark-skinned color.

"Some Yemenis are looking to piracy themselves, or even just 'facilitating' the piracy of others, be they Yemeni or Somali or of other nationalities," Michael Frodl, head of US consultancy firm C-Level Maritime Risks, told the Financial Times last month. He blamed the situation on the ongoing political crisis in Yemen.

The Yemeni Coastal Guard Authority denied the accusation against Yemenis becoming involved in piracy, saying that 15 Yemeni fishermen were arrested and beaten after they

were accused of piracy. Just a week before the incident in October, seven other men were beaten and their belongings taken, Umar Salim, the head of the Fishermen Association in Hadramout said.

At present, five Yemeni fishermen from Mukala, Hadramout, remain in jail in India after the authorities assumed they were Somali pirates in May. Two months ago another boat in Yemeni waters was attacked by an Indian ship – the fishermen's belongings, along with their fish, were thrown overboard. The men were also beaten according to Al-Mahdi.

"Piracy has brought us problems that we have no connection with," said Al-Mahdi, adding that with the passage of time, pirates keep using more sophisticated tactics, making it even harder to tackle the problem.

While the CGA tries to catch the pirates within the allowed Yemeni waters – up to 12 miles off the Yemeni coast – the pirates are using mother ships further out to provide smaller piracy boats with equipment and fuel.

Al-Mahdi concluded: "The more we try to catch them and control piracy, the further away they go, hijacking ships from waters we cannot protect."

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خبرة سنتين في إدارة الشبكات ومسؤول غرفة
التحكم. 711439595
مدرس خصوصي يرغب في إعطاء دروس
خصوصية في التيليزي كمبيوتر وبعض المواد
العلمية المرحلة الاعدادي والثانوية فترة مسانبة.
عن المنصورة 734950427

باحثون عن وظيفة
مصلح فارغ خريج ثانوية عامة بمعدل 83%
القسم العلمي جيد اللغة الإنجليزية وحاصل على
دبلوم لغة إنجليزية ودبلوم كمبيوتر يرغب في
العمل في أي مجال، للتواصل: 777546476 -
musleh-farea99@hotmail.com
يعقوب الجند، خبرة في القيادة لمدة 10 سنوات،
عندي رخصة سارية المفعول أرغب في العمل
كاسائق لدى شركة أو مصنع أو مؤسسة
للتواصل: 771607140
دبلوم في اللغة الإنجليزية، دبلوم سكرتارية خبرة
في مجال العلاقات العامة والتسويق، أرغب في
أي عمل مناسب

كيبين للأزمات الشخصية (كل الاملاك الشخصية بدون أي مقابل)
بيع
شراء
إيجار
استئجار
طب ووظيفة
وظائف شاغرة
غير ذلك
نفاصل الاعلان
عنوان التواصل
نص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة بين تايلز عبر فاكس 13١٧١1 او على صندوق بريد 2٥٧٩ - صنعاء
لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (ت 2 21٨١١1/٢ - ٠١)

DANISH DRU REFUGEE COUNCIL
DANISH DEMINING GROUP
Job Vacancies
The Danish Refugee Council/Danish Demining Group
currently has several job vacancies in south Yemen. For job
responsibilities, requirements and application details, please
go to www.zidney.net and www.yemen-jobs.com

مدرس خصوصي يرغب في إعطاء دروس
خصوصية في التيليزي كمبيوتر وبعض المواد
العلمية المرحلة الاعدادي والثانوية فترة مسانبة.
عن المنصورة 734950427
١٦ سنة خبرة في المقالات العامة، مدرس لغة
إنجليزية معتمد، مترجم قانوني، خبرة في مجال
المحاسبة. ٧٧٧٤٥٦١٧٧
محمد حسن العبيسي ، دبلوم عالي دعاية وإعلان
& تسويق جامعة أريتا - الهند، لغة إنجليزية
متأثرة - خبرة في المبيعات والتسويق خمس
سنوات، العام تام بأغلب برامج التصميم.
735073010
خبرة طويلة في الترجمة من وإلى اللغات
الانجليزية-الفرنسية-العربية. خبرة طويلة في
مجال الادارة والاعمال اللوجستية. 777565320

712482908 - 734375277
رياض الحمادي ، مدرس لغة إنجليزية+ ترجمة
+ كمبيوتر، خبرة 13 سنة تدريس أغلبها في
تدريس الثانوية العامة.
734882907 - 772255235
جامعي لديه مهارات تواصل ، مترجم تجاري
واعلامي ، خبرة في المراسلات التجارية، يرغب
في العمل في معهد لغة أو مدرسة أهلية أو شركة.
735042383
بكالوريوس ادارة وسياحة، خبرة في مجال الادارة.
733042144
بكالوريوس محاسبة، دورات في اللغة الانجليزية،
خبرة في مجال السكرتارية والاعمال الادارية،
دبلوم كمبيوتر. 770041715

Table with 2 columns: Service/Institution, Contact Information. Includes sections for 'معاهد' (Institutes) like معهد يالي, 'شركات التأمين' (Insurance Companies) like المتحدة للتأمين, 'مدارس' (Schools) like روضة واحة الأطفال, 'مدراس' (Schools) like تفلكس, 'سفرات' (Travel) like قدس فلاي, 'مطاعم' (Restaurants) like مطعم ومخيزة الشيباني.

Table with 2 columns: Service/Institution, Contact Information. Includes sections for 'مستشفيات' (Hospitals) like مستشفى الثورة, 'شركات طيران' (Airlines) like طيران اليمنية, 'فنادق' (Hotels) like فندق ميركور صنعاء.

Table with 2 columns: Service/Institution, Contact Information. Includes sections for 'تأجير سيارات' (Car Rental) like زاوية (Budget), 'مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر' (Computer Training Centers) like NIIT, 'البريد السريع' (Express Mail) like FedEx, 'شحن وتوصيل' (Shipping & Delivery) like UPS, DHL.

Table with 2 columns: Bank/Institution, Contact Information. Lists various banks like بنك القطري الدولي, بنك اليمن والخليج, بنك التضامن الإسلامي, مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل, بنك اليمن الدولي, البنك العربي الزراعي, البنك المركزي.

Table with 2 columns: Government Ministry, Contact Information. Lists ministries like وزارة الشؤون القانونية, وزارة الصحة العامة والسكان, وزارة الشباب والرياضة, وزارة الصناعة والتجارة, وزارة العدل, وزارة السياحة, وزارة المعتربين, وزارة النفط والمعادن, وزارة شئون الداخلية, وزارة النقل, وزارة حقوق الانسان, وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات, وزارة الادارة المحلية, وزارة الاعلام, وزارة التخطيط والتعاون الدولي, وزارة التربية والتعليم, وزارة الخارجية, وزارة الداخلية, وزارة المالية, وزارة المواصلات, وزارة المياه والبيئة, وزارة الكهرباء. Includes a section 'الوزارات' (Ministries) with contact numbers.

كلمات متقاطعة
15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-15 in the top row and 1-15 in the left column.

الكلمة المفقودة
ح ج ز ا ت
A word search puzzle with the letters 'ح', 'ج', 'ز', 'ا', 'ت' scattered in a grid. Below the grid is a table for missing words.

3	بي	قيده
عرس	موز	موز
4	الوهمي	الوهمي
تيتو	خاله	خاله
زاهي	ساحل	ساحل
5	الربا	السلة
اليوم	اليوم	اليوم
3	شريف منير	شريف منير
قوافل	ملازم اول	ملازم اول
6	المساعدات	المساعدات
الدنيا	الوهمي	الوهمي
10	اليعمين	اليعمين
ساعات قيلول	ساعات قيلول	ساعات قيلول
سنبله ذهبية	سنبله ذهبية	سنبله ذهبية
11	الحيط الازرق	الحيط الازرق
7	البحيرة	البحيرة
الحصوله	الحصوله	الحصوله
8	العالم الابيض	العالم الابيض

استراحة العدد
أعواد الثقاب
حرك عود ثقاب واحد تصبح المعادلة الرياضية صحيحة
63+95=96
عجائب وغرائب
أزهار نبات دوام الشمس تتحرك في اتجاه الشمس من مشرقها إلى مغربها رغم عدم وجود جهاز عصبي للنبات
حكمة العدد
كلمة السر التي تفتح جميع الخزائن هي كلمة الحب
نكتة العدد
طياره فيها محشش ومجانين ومسوين ازعاج
قال الطيار للمحشش حاول تسكتهم معرف اركز
بعد شوي خف الازعاج قال الطيار للمحشش ويش سويت
الحلول بالمقلوب
8١+٥4=٧٦
الخروج الى الخارج
لغز العدد
عاملن سقما في مدخته ، وعندما خرجا كان وجه أحدهما قد صار أسود جراء حرق الدخان ، ووجه الآخر ظل نظيفاً ، لماذا ذهب ذو الوجه النظيف لغسل وجهه، ولم يذهب ذو الوجه المتسخ لغسل وجهه ؟
هل تعلم
ان صوت البوم يسمى نعيقاً ؟

## Yemen: Fauna on the brink of extinction

By: Tarim C. Kennedy

The word "Yemen" evokes a vast array of mental images in the minds of those who hear it. There's the odd anthropologist, who upon hearing its name floats off into fantasies of Yemen's diverse ethnic make up or the average Yemeni's unequivocal sense of hospitality. There's the photographer, who automatically pictures the breathtaking scenery from the mountainous landscape, or the artist who visualizes the near-mystical alleyways of the old city of Sana'a. There's the avid naturalist who, like myself, instantly falls into reveries of the vibrant blue Agamas, perched on the walls of houses, the almost psychedelic looking Veiled Chameleon as it stealthily glides from branch to branch or the jaw dropping majesty of the Griffon Vulture as it soars merely meters from your face on the cliffs of Mahweet. Lastly, and also most unfortunately, there's the average person, who, upon hearing that peculiar country's name sneers at the thought of a hostile terrorist haven, void of all moral values. Sadly the latter has become the most prevalent, and as a result, much like the trajectories of its many magnificent animal species, the more optimistic perspectives of Yemen in the eyes of the world have slowly begun to fade away.

Home to Socotra or "the Galapagos of the Indian Ocean", Yemen plays an important role in the region's biodiversity. Home to 51 endemic and 22 endangered animal species, steps must be taken rather quickly to ensure that their presence in Yemen doesn't become history. Although Yemen is unique in so many ways, the outer forces that are plaguing its animal species are similar to those affecting the fauna of any other country. The chief

menace to Yemen's pristine natural habitat lies in the social spectrum. The mixture of poverty, lack of education, lack of law enforcement and a rapidly growing population, large amounts of once untouched land are being developed and wild, and often-endangered, wildlife is being unscrupulously traded both domestically and internationally.

With this encroachment into animal habitat, encounters between humans and animals become increasingly common, usually ending in a similar fashion: the animal losing its life. A few years ago I witnessed this very act in its crudest form. While searching for Yemeni Veiled Chameleons, a regional endemic and a popular item on the international pet trade, I was invited by the sheikh of a village to search his qat fields for chameleons, his reason being "these chameleons break all my qat, they can change colors you know? They are evil spirits!" Upon my trying to explain that the chameleons did not break his qat but rather benefitted it by eating the insects that did break it, the sheikh readily accepted my opinion and told all the children of the village to stop killing chameleons. After witnessing how quickly and compliantly the sheikh changed his mind from evil spirits to welcomed, all natural pesticides, I was struck with idea of why these horrible practices are still taking place if it is so easy to combat them?

Yet like most everything else in the field of science it's simply more complicated than that. Firstly, and mainly for political reasons, Yemen is not the prime destination for animal rights activists. Secondly, it's not always the case that animal and human interactions are symbiotic like that of the chameleon and the qat farmer. An example would lie in the Arabian Leopard.

Only recently, hard working individuals on behalf of the Foundation



for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen established and documented live Arabian Leopards on Yemeni territory. Being more susceptible to extinction in the wild than the Bengal Tiger, this was a big step. Arabian Leopards are an example of species that do not cooperate too well with farmers and angry villagers. As infrastructural development reduces the number of the leopard's natural prey, such as ibex and rock hyrax, the leopard looks to the easier and more readily available alternative; domestic

livestock. In response, when the chance arises leopards are killed without qualms.

As anyone who has been to Suq Nuqom in Sana'a knows, Yemen's exotic animal trade flourishes with the lack of law enforcement. An average trip to Suq Nuqom, or one of the many exotic animal suqs around Yemen, can reveal such animal species as baby striped hyenas kept in cardboard boxes, Barbary Falcons with feet eaten away by cellular necrosis due to tight leg braces, newborn Hamadryas Baboons chained around the neck being sold for roughly \$30 and on rare occasions foreign species such as cheetahs or lions brought over the Red Sea for sale to the many wealthy "animal lovers" in Yemen and the rest of the Arabian Peninsula. In 1997 Yemen became part of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Yemen has a government funded Environmental Protection Authority and yet nothing is done to halt the unethical imprisonment of endemic and potentially endangered animal species.

In fact, the government-run national zoo is just as bad. Emaciated lions greet you upon entry, followed by hyenas kept in cages barely large enough to walk in, native snakes dying of cold because of the lack of electricity to artificially heat their enclosures and a large and well built aviary dedicated solely to pigeons simply because the resident veterinarian has a personal love for pigeons while the globally endangered Egyptian Vulture is kept in an enclosure three times its wing span.

After my three years of volunteer work at the Sana'a Zoo I gathered some interesting observations on how such institutions work in Yemen. One of these observations presented me with a great irony; overall, Yemenis love the zoo! On an average month in 2009, the zoo would make around YR two million (approximately \$4,690) in ticket sales, each ticket being only YR 50. Approximately 20,000 visitors flood the relatively small zoo every month, which got me to thinking once again, how is it that none



of them are doing anything about the animals? This, in turn, led me to my next observation: most of the zoo's visitors love the zoo in the wrong way. They love the fact that for about \$1 a "keeper" will go into the lion cage and beat the lions with a stick just so they move, they love that they can give balls, popcorn, or most anything else to the baboons and see what they will do with it, they don't love the zoo for the beauty of its animals.

I went back home that day, sat

corporations to improve the general standards of the zoo, I could inform international organizations focused on animal rights about the immoral conditions of animal trade in Yemen or I could dedicate time and resources to one of the few organizations that already focus on the issue. The list within my head went on. And that's the beauty of it; it is really easier than one thinks to help such a cause. Behind the political turmoil, poverty and the futile government bureaucracy lies



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**As anyone who has been to Suq Nuqom in Sana'a knows, Yemen's exotic animal trade flourishes with the lack of law enforcement.**



down and thought to myself: what can I do to help the animals of this country? Eventually, the thinking led me to a number of different ideas. I could try and get some funding from NGOs, embassies and

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**Home to Socotra or "the Galapagos of the Indian Ocean", Yemen plays an important role in the region's biodiversity. Home to 51 endemic and 22 endangered animal species.**

a population of people that when guided properly could accomplish the incredible. Like the humble sheikh that quickly changed his mind about the chameleon imposters, so can the general population of Yemen towards the animals it encounters and the general population of the world towards the country of Yemen.

Like the spotty coat of the regal Arabian Leopard, the future of Yemen's fauna will pass through periods of both dark and light. Yet measures can be and must be taken to ensure that the ancestors of the neonate Caracal kept in a birdcage in Suq Nuqom, will continue to enjoy their innate freedom.

Tarim C. Kennedy is an American-Italian that has grown up in Yemen. Living in such a diverse country, at a young age he developed a passion for the vast array of animals found in it. His email is tarimck@hotmail.com

### 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](mailto: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.

