

Hadi's presidential competitors

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANAA, Dec.17 — A number of activists have announced plans to run in the upcoming presidential election on February 21.

Vice president Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi set the date for the early election after honorary President Ali Abdullah Saleh signed a power transfer deal in Saudi Arabia on November 23. The election will mark the beginning of the second phase of the transitional period for Yemen.

February's election is also considered a "consensus election" with Hadi the sole candidate for both the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and the opposition JMP.

But only these two parties signed the Gulf deal, leaving out other powerful groups. The Yemeni constitution, which will be revised in the second phase of the transitional period, stated two conditions for presidential candidates. First, both parents must be Yemeni, and secondly, they must be at least 40 years old.

Article 108 of the constitution also states that the joint Shoura-parliament council, which oversees presidential elections, must present at least three candidates. To be accepted, any candidate must receive a minimum five percent endorsement from the council. At least two

must then run for presidency for any Yemeni election to be valid.

Ibtisam Al-Hamdi, an independent candidate, has begun preparations for her election campaign. Al-Hamdi is a Cairo University graduate and mother of three, in her 40s who currently works as an accountant in an engineering office.

Al-Hamdi told the Yemen Times that the idea of running for presidency is not new for her as she considered it back in 1999.

"I am not running for presidency out of a desire to show women's rights in this position," said Al-Hamdi. "I am running out of my rejection of the 'former regime'."

She indicated that Hadi and his government are part of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime, therefore Hadi does not deserve to lead the country for the coming two years, she added.

Al-Hamdi said that the Yemeni people in Freedom and Change Squares will vote for her, and that they have already assured her of their support.

While she rejects the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) agreement, she added: "There is nothing in the GCC deal states that I cannot run in the election. On the contrary, the deal mentioned at least five times that women should be represented in everything."

Al-Hamdi is the niece of former Yemeni president Ibrahim Al-Hamdi who was assassinated in October 1977 after two years in office. He is a well-loved Yemeni president, and his photos can be seen all across Change Squares. At the time of his assassination, Ibrahim Al-Hamdi's family accused president Saleh of killing him. His niece told the Yemen Times that she bets 50 percent on her family's history, and 50 percent on her own diplomatic skills to win the election.

Tawakul Karman, Nobel Peace Prize winner and activist, also announced her desire to run for presidential election, although she is not yet 40. She also happens to be a member of the Islah Party, which is a signatory the GCC deal.

Other independent candidates have also revealed presidential ambitions, even though they do not meet the constitutional conditions. Protester Alaa Al-Jarban, who is 22 years old, announced on his Facebook page "Alaa Jarban for presidency" that he has made the decision to run in the election.

"I know I'm way below the legal age," he explained. "Basically, I realize the danger and the almost impossibility of the campaign but the main goals of my campaign are to encourage more young people to enroll in policy-making, and help them realize it's not impossible to achieve their dreams and make changes," said Al-Jarban.

"I also want to put more pressure on the vice president," went on Al-Jarban. "He is not the only candidate and the youth are ready to monitor and challenge him and any coming leaders in Yemen."

The youth need to become more involved, both by nominating themselves for political positions and by exercising their right to vote, he added. "It's time for change," concluded Al-Jarban.

Slow but steady, demilitarization begins



Sandbags that once were used for military action are now a favorite relaxation spot for young Yemenis. Read story on page 2

The demilitarization roadmap

Starting from Saturday, December 17, the following should be completed within one week. Members of the military committee will be distributed across the various military and security bodies to ensure the effective implementation. Progress reports should be delivered regularly to the command control center at the Ministry of Defense.

- ✓ Military and central security units must return to their permanent camps and evacuate the streets of the main city, removing all signs of military presence, whether vehicles or arms.
- ✓ All armed tribal elements and militia must also retreat and evacuate their locations on the streets and in public buildings.
- ✓ All buildings, whether schools, hotels or private premises where armed men are stationed must be cleared and any checkpoints or barriers established since January 2011 must be permanently removed.
- ✓ If needed, the Ministry of Interior should be provided with backup from the armed forces as per the Minister's request to protect vital locations such as hospitals and government buildings.
- ✓ The security belt around Sana'a should remain as it was set up prior to January 2011 with checkpoints as the military committee sees fit to protect the capital.
- ✓ Sana'a's mayor and the Minister of Public Works should work to remove the built barriers and trenches from the streets and repave areas to facilitate public movement and restore any damages from the conflict.

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Slow but steady, demilitarization begins

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Dec. 18 — The roadmap for removing the military from urban centers is slowly being implemented by the new military committee. However, armed clashes in Hasaba north of Sana'a remain a challenge.

According to the plan, within one week starting Saturday December 17, signs of the military such as check points and security barriers will be gradually removed from Yemen's main cities as part of the Gulf initiative agreement to stabilize the country. Already some check points within the capital Sana'a have been removed.

"I feel happy to see that large tanks and military vehicles are going; it is a good sign," said Ahmed Ateeq a local from the city.

However, armed fighting continued on Friday night and Saturday morning in Hasaba between Al-Ahmar tribes and state security forces. Moreover, armed tribes in the area

built up the existing trenches and checkpoints despite the demilitarization agreement, according to locals.

Some of the checkpoints that were removed on Saturday also returned the same day, including the state security checkpoint on Hadda road and a defected First Armored Division checkpoint in Madhbah.

"The Interior Ministry will provide the military committee, headed by Vice President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi, with all the resources needed to carry out this plan and will do what it takes to make it happen," said Minister of Interior, Abdulqadir Qahtan.

In a press conference last Friday, UN special advisor on Yemen Jamal Benomar warned that progress will not be made without the agreement and political will of all stakeholders in Yemen. He added that Yemenis need to feel safe in their own streets without being intimidated by the presence of the military.

"It is a process that will not hap-

pen overnight but it requires the involvement of all political elements for it to happen. The key for Yemen's future and prosperity is inclusion," said Benomar.

The military committee is also responsible for reforming the army and military institutions at a later stage. The success of the demilitarizing of cities will build the foundation for future successes and credibility of the committee and its commitment to reform.

"Although some checkpoints were removed, there are still armed men from various parties and the barriers and trenches are still there," said Um Ahmed who lives on Hayel Street, which was a battle zone between the state and the First Armored Division in Sana'a.

The military presence and trenches behind Change Square, towards Al-Adel Street are still in place, added Um Hayat, a resident of the area. "We heard that they removed ones in other areas, so we hope our turn will come."

Taiz peace tainted by random violence

By: Emad Al-Saqaf

TAIZ, Dec. 18 — One police officer and two soldiers were killed while two civilians were injured in a Friday noon attack at Jamal Street, Taiz city center.

According to eyewitnesses, an armed gang opened fire on a group of men while they were getting into a Toyota pickup truck, killing three of them instantly.

"They were all wearing civilian clothes but when they were taken to hospital we realized they were from the security forces," said the eyewitness, who wished to remain anonymous.

"The explanation we were given is that those men were from the defected soldiers who are now siding by the revolution and this was a political assassination."

However, an official source from the state security accused pro-revolution protestors, who are unhappy with the Gulf initiative, of trying to sabotage the demilitarizing plan in Taiz.

"Just when we started seeing signs of calm and the removal of the military from the city, the Islah militia attacked our men after they finished Friday prayers," he said, adding that the attack was a breach of the initiative and the military com-



Part of the women's march on Saturday Dec. 17, 2011, marking one year since the start of the Arab Spring.

mittee's instructions. All political parties must stand together against any such acts that could derail the move to peace, he said.

At the same time, women demonstrating against the potential immunity given to President Saleh by the Gulf deal were prevented from continuing their march towards the city governor's office.

"The central security men fired in the air to break up our march and prevent us from going further," said one of the female protestors. "It was very intimidating — where is the

peace they are talking about?"

It is hoped that the an office for the UN Security Council permanent members in Taiz to oversee the implementation of the Gulf agreement will facilitate the demilitarization of the city according to a diplomatic source. The source added that there efforts are being made to remove Abdullah Qiran, Taiz security chief, and Murad Al-Awbali, chief of the Republican Guards in Taiz, on grounds of committing mass crimes against the protestors since the uprising began in February.

Electricity to be restored 'within days'

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Dec. 18 — Yemen's Public Electricity Corporation has promised to solve prolonged electricity problems within 7-10 days.

A team of engineers have started work to fix damaged power supply towers in Bait Dehra and Naqeel bin Ghailan areas, 30km east of Sana'a.

Over the last ten months, Yemenis and local businesses have suffered from serious power cuts, affecting their lives and finances, with as little as two hours of electricity a day at times.

Some electricity supply towers were badly damaged by fierce fighting between government forces and armed tribesmen. Towers in Bait Dehra, Bani Jarmooz and Naqeel bin Ghailan were all damaged by heavy artillery.

Saleh Sumai, the new Minister of Electricity and Power has inaugu-

rated a new transformer with the capacity of 20 megavolt amperes in the transfer station of Dhahban, bringing more electricity to many areas of Sana'a.

The minister, along with a team of engineers, visited the damaged towers and ordered the team to fix them as soon as possible.

Abdul-Rahman Saif, a senior engineer at the Public Electricity Corporation and general manager of the gas-powered generation Station in Marib governorate, said that a team of engineers is still working in Bani Jarmooz area.

He said that engineers need three more days to finish fixing one damaged tower in Bani Jarmooz. However, Saif said that coordination with local tribesmen is needed in some areas like Naqeel bin Ghailan to let the engineers work safely.

"Kidnapping still happens in these areas," he said. "Unfortunately, we

cannot work without mediators who give us guarantees to work safely."

He stressed the importance of the role of military committee in providing engineers with protection to work in safe environment.

Saif also indicated that the gas-powered generation Station in Marib needs maintenance and testing to work efficiently.

However, the officials at the Public Electricity Corporation maintained that they have no guarantee that attacks on power supply lines and stations will be stopped, indicating that these attacks are out of their control.

Mohammed Al-Shaibani, a general manager of power supply lines in Yemen at the Public Electricity Corporation, expressed his fears of repeat attacks on the towers, pointing out that fixing damaged towers and lines costs the Public Electricity Corporation a lot of money.

Training for handling presidential elections

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Dec. 18 — Across Yemen, thirty-five female employees for the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum (SCER) have started training in preparation for the presidential elections on Feb. 21, 2012.

Democratic values will be a focus of the training, with a central goal of enabling the women to support voters — and especially female voters — engaged in the electoral process.

At the same time, the SCER employees should be prepared to remain politically neutral in their capacity as representatives of the committee.

Beyond the voting process, the female employees will be acquainted

with the principles and practices of good governance within the electoral framework.

"This is the first training I've received on women's political participation. I'm happy I came across this opportunity as it gave me a lot of information on women's rights and on international conventions.

"Many questions that I had in my mind regarding women's political rights were answered through this training," said Nabeelah Mohammed, a worker at SCER's Aden branch.

However, Philippe Jacques, Head of Cooperation at the EU delegation to Yemen, said that not only will this training translate into support for female voters, but also for female political candidates.

"Yemen is not short of female leaders, it has so many outstanding female role models who have bravely fought for their rights and who continue to inspire fellow Yemeni women," he said.

Mohammed Al-Hakimi, SCER Chairperson, said that the commission is committed to using the funds and resources raised for elections in an efficient and transparent fashion and that it will make certain that resources are spent on what they have been allocated for.

The training is comprised of a three-day course ending on Monday Dec. 19, 2011 and organized by The General Department of Women's Affairs at SCER and supported by the EC-UNDP Joint Electoral Assistance Project.

Armed men attempt to blow up Salafi center in Dhamar

By: Abdulkareem Al-Nahari & Ali Saeed

DHAMR, Dec. 18 — A group of unknown armed men blew up an improvised explosive device in Ma'br city, Dhamar governorate on Thursday morning.

The explosion took place just 20 meters from the entrance of Al-Noor mosque in the city — the second largest Salafi School in Yemen.

"The police in Jahran district have started investigating the background of the blast, which did not cause any damage except smashed glass as the window of a nearby surrounding house and a window of another car parked near the house," a security source told the Yemen Times.

"The blast during a critical time with ongoing blockade on Damaj in Sa'ada by the Houthis [Shiites]," said Mohamed Al-Jahrani, a Salafi supporter in Ma'br.

The School in Ma'br is one of the major Salafi teaching headquarters in Yemen where over 1,500 students come for Islamic-Salafi education from Yemen and other Arab countries, according to Al-Jahrani.

Sheikh Mohamed Bin Abdullah Al-Emam, who received his Islamic-Salafi studies in Damaj by the late Sheikh Moqbil Al-Wadee, first founder of Salafi-schools in Yemen is the Salafi leader who runs the school.

He added that the Al-Noor mosque also acts as a school and library and has a student hostel close to the mosque.

"The attack carries the markings of a group working to trap Yemen in sectarian conflict through bringing about a war between the Houthi movement and Salafis' followers in order to achieve political goals, which do support either the Salafis nor the Houthis," Al-Jahrani said.

Al-Jahrani denied that the Houthis may have carried out the attack saying "they have nothing to

do with the explosion".

The Salafi School in Ma'br of Dhamar was established in the 1980s. The mosque is about 4,000 square meters and can accommodate more than 10,000 Muslims for prayers.

In Damaj where Houthis have been clashing with Salafis, a ten-month baby girl was shot dead on Saturday by a Houthi sniper while in her father's arms, a Salafi student told the Yemen Times on Sunday.

However, the Houthis again denied Salafi allegations, claiming the accusations are part of a "media campaign against the Houthis".

"The situation is quiet in Damaj," said the Houthi's chief media officer. "The road is open and there are no problems except some breaching of the ceasefire."

The fighting between the two sides erupted two months ago and is still ongoing. Despite claims that a weeks-long blockade of the Salafi Damaj area had been somewhat lifted, locals complain of food and fuel shortages.

On Friday four Salafi students including one armed man were killed in gun-fire exchange over military positions in the surrounding mountains, according to the Salafi student.

Both sides are armed, but the Houthis are more military advanced according to an independent local source, who told the Yemen Times that the Houthis have tanks, artillery and mortars whereas the Salafis have mostly Kalashnikovs.

Each side — the Sunni-Salafis and the Shiite-Houthis — accuse the other of inciting sectarian war in Yemen.

"The conflict in Damaj will move nationwide and will extend out of the Arabian Peninsula if no action is taken immediately," said Yahya Al-Hajoori, a Salafi cleric and principal of Damaj Salafi School, in a statement published on Saturday.

Southern Movement pressured to join national dialogue

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

ADEN, Dec. 18 — A delegation of European Union diplomats met with representatives of the Southern Movement in Aden on Saturday to stress the need for involvement in the nation's political transition process.

"We need to stress three key messages: an inclusive national dialogue, discussions with the southern movement to address their grievances in the transitional period, and the uniting of their positions in a realistic manner that moves away from old disputes," said British Ambassador Jonathan Wilks at a press conference on Saturday evening.

The delegation insisted that while the movement has the right to abstain from participation in a national dialogue, such a stance would constitute a strategic error of judgment, as the entire world has been supportive of UN resolution 2014, which paved the way for the transition of power.

European Union Ambassador Michele Cervone d'Urso added that all political parties should actively participate in the presidential elections, to be held on Feb. 21, 2012. "The southern issue should be dealt with within the national dialogue and we anticipate important political changes in the weeks to come."

The EU members' visit is the second high-level delegation to visit Aden this month following UN Secretary General's Special Advisor on Yemen Jamal Benomar's visit to Aden on Sunday, December 11. Following his visit, Benomar said that the Southern Movement's is-

sue regarding the national dialogue presents a challenge because it is composed of many factions [each representing one of South Yemen's six governorates] and lacks a united front.

Khalid Bamadhaf, a leading member of Aden's Southern Movement, acknowledged the efforts made by the international community. He did however also say that these efforts do not take into account all the secessionist movement's dimensions.

"They are not dealing with the movement as an issue of minorities, as they do in any other countries and thus leave us no choice but to make efforts within the national dialogue. We are not against all dialogue with the new reconciliation government," he said.

He added that the Southern Secessionist Movement has a shared objective of separating the south from north Yemen. "We have this transitional phase in which we can test the National Unity Government's commitment to our cause. After five years or so, a referendum can take place and the people of the south will be asked if they wish to continue as part of a united Yemen — or separate," said Bamadhaf.

He added that a recent meeting in Cairo — held in November 2011 for the Southern Movement abroad and which included representatives of the movement's six independent factions — yielded positive results as far as fostering unity for the movement and letting go of past feuds are concerned. However, none of the meeting's outcomes were recognized as binding.

The Latest Buzz

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

- ▶ The permanent members of the UN Security Council are going to open an office in Taiz to monitor the implementation of the Gulf Initiative.
- ▶ Offices of Ibb News, a Yemeni news website, were broken into and its editor received death threats by thugs last week on grounds that the site supports the revolution in Change Square.
- ▶ A mother of three in her thirties from Hodeida hanged herself on
- ▶ Friday. Her family said she had been depressed for some time. Hodeida governorate has the highest suicide rate in Yemen.
- ▶ 1,500 soldiers from the Sawad Republican Guards Camp, south of Sana'a claimed to be detained by their commander because they refused to obey orders to shoot tribesmen in Arabh.
- ▶ The Yemeni International Bank reopened its main branch on Zubairi Street this Saturday after closing down in September due to nearby armed conflict.
- ▶ UN special envoy to Yemen, Jamal Benomar left the country on Saturday to return to New York and present his report on the implementation of the Gulf Initiative. The briefing on Yemen will be held on Dec. 21, 2011.
- ▶ The Youth Development Foundation, with the support of the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives, started a four-day training workshop in human rights education for 16 young men and women from civil society organizations around the country.
- ▶ Forces from the 201 Army Division in Abyan fought back an attack by the AQAP militia on Thursday killing three Al-Qaeda members and injuring six.
- ▶ A protest was organized on Friday in Aden by the revolution's youth as a continuation of their demand for Saleh's prosecution and rejection of the Gulf initiative.
- ▶ Jaizan Police on the Saudi border district to Yemen reported arresting 474 Yemenis who had smuggled their way to work in KSA illegally. They are organizing their deportation back to Yemen soon.
- ▶ The National Football Team coach has almost completed his tour around the country to recruit potential players to join the national under-18 team.
- ▶ The Progress and Advanced political forum headed by Yahya Abdullah Saleh is considering becoming a political party in order to be more active in the transitional phase and future politics of Yemen.
- ▶ The French oil exploration company TOTAL announced its acceptance of applications for bachelor and masters degree scholarships for Yemenis. The last day to apply is Jan. 3, 2012.
- ▶ During the first half of December alone, 79 people were killed and 332 injured in 239 car accidents across the country, most of which were caused by speeding on highways, chewing qat and talking on the phone while driving.

Azzan: A town run by armed Islamists

By: Ali Saeed

Surrounded by mountains and valleys, the peaceful market town of Azzan, in the east of Yemen, is mostly populated by farmers and herders. It is also controlled by armed Islamists, affiliated with Al-Qaeda.

Far from central government or mainstream media coverage, the armed Islamists, thought to be Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) members, in Azzan are moving freely and gaining citizens' trust by bringing security and justice to the area after decades without a rule of law.

Azzan is a district in Shabwa, east of Yemen, where Al-Qaeda has been enjoying dominance due to a lack of state presence. The population of the area is estimated at 20,000 people who work mainly in agriculture and sheep herding or work abroad in the Gulf countries.

The area is 70km off the Arab sea and around 100km from Balhaf, where Yemen's largest gas plant operates and exports to the global market. The main districts of Azzan include Al-Rudum, Al-Huta, and Namater and all depend on the town's market where they do their daily shopping.

Seven months ago, armed Islamists, believed to be Al-Qaeda, took control of the area and now run the district, even deploying their own security, a citizen told the Yemen Times.

"They [the armed Islamists] have military vehicles equipped with machine guns," the citizen said. And members of the group are not from the area itself, but from different governorates of Yemen including Marib, Abyan, Al-Jawf, Al-Baida and Raima.

While this might seem threatening, the armed group was able to end some security problems in the area, including burglaries and theft, which have massively decreased in recent months.

"They really brought security back to the city. Many northern businessmen were vulnerable to repeated burglaries and banditry by local tribesmen, but after the armed group took over the city no similar incidents took place," a local, who wished to remain anonymous, said.

He explained that the Islamists have also resolved old, deep-rooted disputes among citizens that have festered for years.

In contrast to the situation in Zunjubar, Abyan, which was taken by similar group late May, the result in Zunjubar, was fierce fighting

between the Islamists and the government, forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes to neighboring Aden. Fighting has not occurred in Azzan however.

Ironically, locals even reported that the armed group has been guarding a branch of state-owned CAC Bank in Azzan for seven months after attempts by thieves to break in.

But it hasn't all been peaceful; on October 15, the same group sabotaged the liquid natural gas pipeline in Balhaf in revenge for the deaths of five members killed by a US drone strike.

The group, which battles the army in Zunjubar, also uses Azzan as a treatment town for their injured men.

And despite that relative peace in Azzan, the armed group has been vulnerable to several US drone strikes. The last, carried out late October killed seven people including Anwar Al-Awlaki's 16-year-old son as well as Ibraheem Al-Bana, an Egyptian.

The area is the ancestral village of US-born Al-Awlaki, an Al-Qaeda leader and prominent cleric, who was assassinated by a US drone strike in late September after several failed-attempts to kill him in his hometown.

Sharia supporters

The group calls itself "the supporters of the Islamic Sharia law" – the same as those who took over Zunjubar – according to Sheikh Hadi Al-Khirma, a local councilor of Al-Rudum district close to Azzan.

He confirmed that the group's influence is still contained to the city of Azzan and has not yet extended to surrounding areas.

Al-Khirma explained that there is coordination and cooperation between the armed Islamic group in Zunjubar and the one that runs Azzan.

In a bid to break the connection between the two groups, Yemeni forces cut off the main road connecting Shabwa to Aden through Abyan to prevent the Azzan group expanding towards Aden.

But the army action also deprived citizens of their main commercial thoroughfare, used to supply wheat, sugar, rice, fuel, cooking gas and other items from Aden seaport.

"Thousands of people have lost their jobs after hundreds of businesses shut down due to the shortage of fuel and the block of Shabwa-Aden Road," a citizen in Azzan told the Yemen Times.

Anees Mansour, a journalist based in Aden and Al-Qaeda specialist told the Yemen Times that Azzan, Mayfa'a and Al-Rawdha of Shabwa are all now run by the same group that governs Abyan.

They also use a different road to bring injured men to Azzan for treatment, according to Mansour. "They [the armed group in Zunjubar] move their injured people to Azzan hospital where they have a Chinese surgeon and an Egyptian doctor," he said "The road from Zunjubar to Azzan is open and parts of it is under their control where they have their own security checkpoints while the rest of the road is guarded by local tribesmen."

Mansour added that locals told him that leading commanders of Al-Qaeda in Yemen, including the leader of the organization, Naser Al-Wahishi and the military commander, Qasim Al-Raimi, are mov-

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Children will need years to recover from conflict

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Shawqiya Al-Absi is one of the most devoted child advocates in Hodeida. She dedicates her life to the protection of children and does her best to make their lives happier in the impoverished governorate.

In 2007, she launched the Me For My Country initiative in Hodeida with the aim of activating the role of the youth and children in development, raising awareness among them, encouraging voluntary work and protecting children. Later, the initiative turned into a foundation.

Children mean a lot to Al-Absi and cases of child abuse make her animated and angry. She believes in the importance of empowering youth and children to be able to contribute towards the development of Yemen, rather than being exploited.

Over the past five years, thousands of Hodeida's children and youth took part in the Me For My Country events, workshops and festivals. Despite the modest means of the foundation, its young, eager members have decided to work hard to achieve the foundation's goals.

What motivates Al-Absi to support children in Hodeida? "I love children and I believe that they are the base of development in Yemen," she said.

"Our children need protection because they are vulnerable to abuse. They need our encouragement and support."

According to Al-Absi, 2011 was the worst year for the children. "Children were the victims of the year's crisis. The crisis caused the disintegration of many families, which made children more violent."

Speaking about the impact of the crisis on Hodeida's locals and children, she said: "Even adults and



Shawqiya Al-Absi, children's rights activist.

children who were used to eating food from garbage couldn't find food any more. The rich get poor but the poor get even poorer."

Al-Absi highly criticized the involvement of children in political issues. "Children have forgotten their studies and focused on political issues instead. Nowadays, they are suffering from emotional and mental disturbances due to political conflicts.

"Regardless of political affiliations, we should think carefully about the crisis' impact on Yemenis. The unemployment rate has increased and many people have been sacked from their jobs – all of these factors affect children," she said.

Some children, according to Al-Absi, have been beaten up because of their family's political affiliations. "They couldn't even watch cartoons and had to watch bad and horrible news," she said. "They couldn't eat well because their families have been arguing angrily about political issues during lunch," she said.

Al-Absi added: "Violations against those children made them more aggressive. Even their words have become a little bit offensive."

A festival for Hodeida

This year, Al-Absi held a 16-day festival for Hodeida's children to help them forget their suffering through singing, drawing, playing and meeting new friends.

Trying to organize the festival, held in July, Al-Absi faced many difficulties, with partisan members of the community approaching her to ask her about the aim of the festival and her own political affiliations.

She explained that she doesn't want to involve children in political conflicts and wants to keep them away of these meaningless fights.

Day by day, the festival received about 1,000 children who were keen to take part in the fun they had been missing out on for so long.

However, Al-Absi said that children in Hodeida will need years to recover from the psychological trauma they have faced. "Actually, all Yemenis could benefit from counseling after the tension of this crisis," she said.

"Unfortunately, the crisis has created social, economic, psychological and health problems," she explained, holding Yemeni society responsible for this deterioration.

"Some children have lost their friends and become introverted. A five-year-old child said that he wants to die because he has lost many of his friends. He was known for his kindness but the current crisis led him to be violent."

"Children were not able to say whether they were anti or pro-regime to avoid being attacked," she explained.

Al-Absi condemned the recruitment of children in fighting, indicating that those who had seen combat are more likely to be violent against their society, families and their government in the future.

Aspirations for the New Year
Despite the conflict, deaths and widespread poverty of 2011, Al-Absi said that the New Year should be the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of Yemenis.


She is preparing for a number of projects and events in 2012, gearing up for the "Read" project that aims to reinforce a love of reading among children.

She also plans to launch an "Independent School" project to teach marginalized children who are unable to study because of their poor circumstances.

She said: "We should start a new life. Our children must not hear sounds of bullets anymore. They should study, sing, play and live normally and safely."



Me For My Country Foundation brings Hodeida's children together during Eid.




Way of Life!


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YT vision statement



"To make Yemen a good world citizen."

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

OUR
OPINIONSa'ada between
two extremes

I have just been to Sa'ada city in northern Yemen, which lived through six wars between 2004 and 2008 and where the Shiite Houthi group is today in control today after winning its wars against the state.

Houthis originate from Badraldeen Al-Houthi, founder of the religious group turned political entity, which is today led by Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, son of Badraldeen. The Houthis are armed and organized and have installed their principles all around the governorate and neighboring areas. Their slogan reads: "God is great; Death to America; Death to Israel; Damned be the Jews; Victory to Islam."

The Houthis have also joined the revolution against the state, their old enemy, and until recently were resistant to accepting the Gulf agreement between the former ruling party and the traditional opposition parties.

In Sa'ada there is a minority Sunni Salafi religious group of around 4,000 inhabitants who have been living in area for the last 25 years or more. The Salafis have a religious center called the Damaj Center, home to more than 120 nationalities including British, American, Malaysian, Indonesian and Algerian, to name a few. They are Salafi Muslims from all over the world who have gone to learn about Islam the Wadecay way in this center established by Salafi leader Muqbil Al-Wadecay over three decades ago.

Another interesting fact is that Sa'ada contributes – or at least did until the beginning of this century – over 30 percent of the national agriculture produce in Yemen. It is also a gateway to Saudi Arabia for legitimate imports and exports but also for the smuggling of both goods and people.

However, there were hardly any paved roads. The airport is just a flat, asphalted piece of land and the locals are only just learning how to use the internet. Newspapers and books are heavily censored by those in power and music is forbidden. Sa'ada has only one truly functional hospital with a capacity of 40 beds, and which is 100 percent funded by the Saudi government. The presence of the state, whether in development projects and services or in security, is nonexistent.

The situation of Sa'ada, in terms of how much the governorate offers to Yemen and how much it receives in return, may be the same in other underdeveloped areas such as Marib, where Yemen gets more than half of its fuel, or Taiz whose tax-generated income makes more than one third of the national figure.

However, there is one more shocking fact that really saddened me. The governorate is home to around 750,000 Yemenis, only ten percent of whom are hardcore Houthis, 20 percent are Houthi supporters and the remaining 70 percent are regular Muslim citizens. The Salafi minority, making up around 0.5 percent of the population, is also trying to create some sort of ideological/political control over the governorate.

In the eighties the Salafis were the only organized ideological entity in the area and they literary terrorized the locals in terms of what they could and could not do in the name of Islam. Now the Houthis are doing it. And this leaves the locals stuck between two extremes with very little space for personal freedom.

After talking to many people and going around Sa'ada city I am beginning to worry that although there is relative calm in the area, we are looking at an imminent social disaster.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The role of women in Arab post-revolutionary regimes

By Raghida Dergham
Alarabia

The subjection of Arab women will be inevitable if Islamist political parties seize power in the countries of change, where coups or uprisings took place this year.

Women have played significant roles within political organizations, liberationist or Islamist, yet they have most of the time been excluded as soon as the revolutionaries or the Islamists came to power.

It may be said that a crisis and a confrontation could arise between the women of modernity and the women of tradition – especially religious tradition – in view of their different aspirations. Well then, so be it. Just as there is acceptance of the struggle between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafis for power, or between Leftists and Islamists, let the difference between the women of modernity and the women of tradition be accepted and be democratic.

A workshop for Arab women must adopt a new political discourse, based on women leading, not following, or demanding to be granted a right here or to have a restriction removed there. The wom-

en of Iran have hesitated, they have been patient, they have waited and they have dreamed. And when they awoke to their bitter reality, it was too late.

Even the execution of some of them went by without any international notice. Their situation today is tragic, and they are warning Arab women, as if to say: beware of committing the same mistakes. If you do not rise up now, it will be too late.

The Arab youths, who are waging the battle for change in their respective countries, have not yet risen to recognizing the right of young women to freedom, liberalism and the right to express themselves. Most of them fell between chivalry and tradition, as they watched the Islamists in Tahrir Square in Egypt expelling young women by "pushing" them and pulling their hair, to punish them for violating tradition. Some of them have overlooked harassment, and even rape. As long as they keep this mentality, they will not rise to the level of being able to cause the required radical change in Arab societies, not just because this is a fundamental part of freedom and liberalism, but also because it will not be possible to develop Arab societies without women.

If young Arabs stay in the Tah-

rir-style squares of Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Syria in such a state of want, their battle for power against the Islamists will be a losing one. They will surely fail without the participation of young Arab women, who have truly begun work that is organized, bold and qualitatively new. They are active in Tunisia, Syria, Morocco, Libya and Egypt as well.

The burden of the fate of Yemeni women, meanwhile, falls on the shoulders of Tawakul Karman, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, amid the West's zeal to accept the Muslim Brotherhood, to which Tawakul is affiliated – considering them to represent moderate Islam, as per their own definition. It is not clear whether Tawakul Karman intends to make use of the standing given to her by such a prize in defending the rights and the role of Arab women in a secular state that separates religion and state. Tawakul Karman has the right to take on the role of an activist for the overthrow of Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime, but she does not have the right to take on that of a supporter of Arab women, as long as she does not clarify her position within the context of the Muslim Brotherhood being in power.

It is time to clarify one's identity,

particularly by the women of the Muslim Brotherhood. We know that Salafi women have neither a say nor a role, but only exclusion and submission, as admitted and clearly declared by the Salafis themselves. We know that the worst thing that could happen to Arab women would be for the Salafis to come to power. They have made this unequivocally clear. What is unclear is the women's program within Muslim Brotherhood organizations, which pay lip service to modernity as a tactic, so as to reach power then monopolize it.

Most importantly, Arab women must begin to work for local change while coordinating or at least communicating with the feminist work being done in other Arab countries. The challenges are many, benefiting from the lessons of others is necessary, and adopting a new methodology based on political discourse and on establishing political parties has become urgent. The time for serious work is now, because the Arab Awakening will end in the Slumber of the Dark Ages if Arab women fail to take the initiative and to lead the way forward.

The writer is a columnist at Dar Al Hayat, where this article was first published on Dec. 9, 2011.

Not ignorance, but feigned ignorance

By: Mshari Al-Zaydi
Asharq Alawsat

Amidst the clamor of the so-called "Arab Spring", it would be incredibly naive to deny the existence of a significant overlap between the internal and the external, the international and the regional, the sectarian and the nationalist, the secular and the religious, and the imaginary and the real.

Iran, with the "resistance" camp alongside it, has its own calculations and interpretations on these events. Iran wants to direct matters along its desired path. Thus, it considers what is happening in Syria to be an American-Zionist-Gulf conspiracy against the "hero" Bashar Al-Assad and his regime. Meanwhile, it regarded what occurred in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen and Libya as pure and virtuous revolutions inspired by Imam Khomeini.

Iran, together with the supporters of politicized Shiite religious parties across the world, deemed what happened in Bahrain to be a legitimate revolution seeking to topple the regime and establish an Islamic republic, under the guise of

the Arab Spring, which has become a new pretext for any old agenda. We saw the national flag of Bahrain being hoisted in the Iraqi cities of Najaf and Karbala during the recent religious festival of Ashoura, attended by millions of Shiite followers.

To rule out this external dimension, represented primarily by Iran and its exploitation of the Shiite card in the Gulf region, is not out of ignorance, but rather feigned ignorance.

As the pressure on the Syrian regime intensified, we saw a member of the regime's militia (the Shabiha) appearing on Addounia TV, the mouthpiece of Al-Assad's supporters, calling upon Iran to mobilize the Shiites in Saudi Arabia against the state.

After the recent events in Al-Qatif, Iranian cleric Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, during a Friday sermon in his capacity as temporary Imam at Tehran University, addressed the royal Saudi family saying: "You have to relinquish power, leave it to the people and let them decide on a popular government," according to Iranian state radio.

Iranian instigation has not exclusively targeted the Saudi arena, but it has also extended to Bah-

rain and Kuwait, and to anywhere a Shiite presence exists. However, even when a Shiite presence is not in place, Iran has tried to invent it, as was the case with Egypt.

Iran wants to play the Shiite card for its own benefit in its regional battle. It does not hesitate to exploit the country-specific demands of the Shiite citizens, regardless of how legitimate or lawful they might be. Iran has even gone as far as drafting Shiite citizens into terrorist operations, in order to serve the interests of the Iranian regime. The most recent such operations included the killing of the Saudi consul in Karachi, the failed attempt to blow up the Saudi embassy and the Bahrain Bridge, as uncovered by Qatar, and the targeting of the Saudi ambassador in Washington. In previous years, we can cite the blasts at the Khobar Towers in 1996, the hijacking of Kuwaiti planes in the 1980s, the bombing of the Sadaf Company in 1988, and the events during the 1987 Hajj, alongside many other incidents. Thus we can only be amazed at the total ignorance displayed in a recently issued statement, signed by some Saudi citizens. The statement relates to the Qatif incidents, and denies the existence of external interference there. It also condemns the act of blaming foreign influences and connections, and questioning people's allegiance to the country under regional or international banners.

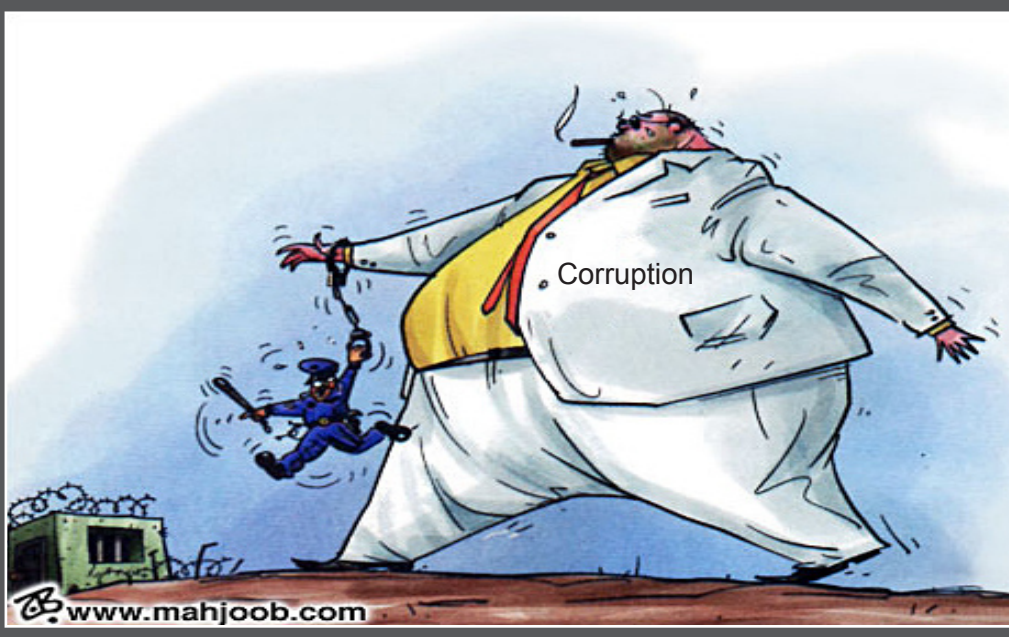
To be frank, Iranian foreign intervention is crystal clear, and such rhetoric does nothing to hide this. The following question remains: Is there a need to establish and consolidate the principle of true citizenship, and abolish sectarian discrimination?

The answer is a decisive "yes". In this context, I hope that Gulf Shura Councils and parliaments, especially the Saudi Shura Council, issue a draft law punishing the incitement of hatred, whether sectarian or non-sectarian.

No sane and loyal person would argue against the importance of such a step. However, turning a blind eye to the Iranian threat and the outrageous exploitation of the national demands of the Gulf's Shiite communities leaves us facing one of two interpretations: Either we have become immersed in Iranian propaganda under the pretext that everything is permissible in the Arab Spring, or we have returned to the theories of resistance and opposition that have poisoned the media atmosphere over the past decade, thanks to Mohammed Hassanein Heikal and his disciples across the region.

SKETCHED OPINION

By Hajjaj



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Youth Talk

In this section we talk to young people about their concerns, hopes and dreams. Every week we hit the streets and share what young people have to say right here.

This week's question:

If you had the opportunity to study or work abroad, would you go? And would you come back? Why

NOTE:

After receiving many responses to last week's question, we decided to extend last week's edition of Youth Talk.

Abdualkarim Obyan,
a recent graduate

27,
Unemployment, corruption, nepotism and so many other obstacles have caused frustration for many Yemenis, particularly the youth. Therefore, having an opportunity to go abroad seems promising and ominous. In my opinion, it is hard to come back to a previously struggling life even if there is a sense of nostalgia. However, it is down to the condition in Yemen; if it improves, coming back to one's homeland is possible.

Wala'a Almaktari,
English teacher

30,
If I were a man, I would catch the opportunity to leave Yemen with my hands and teeth. I would regret wasting such worthy options as opportunities come once in the life.
Coming back or not is a hard question I can't answer right now, it depends on many factors; I really love my country, but the life here has been miserable and unbearable. So sometimes we find ourselves forced to abandon things we like.

Hana Al-Showafi,
university graduate

23
I would not hesitate for a second about going abroad to study since education in Yemen is really bad. But I would come back in order to contribute to my country's development, which Yemen will need desperately in the coming few years.
The youth of Yemen need to show the true face of this country, which has been hidden and lost in the last three decades.

Haitham Al-Shamiri,
university student

21,
Certainly, I would go and come back for one reason; to bring to Yemen the development other countries have reached. I would go to learn how to improve my country's conditions and take it higher.
And I would definitely come back with the great expectations my people are waiting for. I am Yemeni and I am proud of it, and would come back to serve my country so as to make it the best country in the world.

Mohammed Aish Hejash,
English teacher,

27
If I ever had the opportunity to travel abroad, I would certainly take it and never come back to Yemen. Most Yemenis never get the chance to prove their abilities in Yemen and so desire most eagerly to go abroad and reach their potential.

I am not materialistic, but my voice is that of the oppressed and unheard. In fact, I've met a lot of people who went abroad and wished they'd never returned to Yemen. Also, I don't want to believe that "east or west, home is best." Homesickness for Yemenis is mixed with such realities as: illiteracy, poverty, starvation and bitterness.

Next Week's Question:

If you had the opportunity to study or work abroad, would you go? And would you come back? Why

Send us an e-mail with your name, age, occupation or university course to ytyouth@gmail.com. This is your chance to share your humorous stories, poems or opinions with other young readers!

Picture of the Week



Alleyways in the old city of Sa'ada where armed Houthi jihadis took refuge from the 2008 Yemeni/Saudi government shelling.

YT Photo by Nadia Al-Sakkaf

A conscience conflict

By: Shamsan Dabwan Saeed

Humans by nature are different. This is the wisdom of almighty God. So as a human characterized by having a mind to think, we should know the right or wrong of every action and behavior. Islam and other religions called for tolerance, brotherliness, forgiveness, love and social conformity. These are the traits of having a happy and respectable personality. Someone acquires and adopts his behavior from his family or social norms. Here in this article, I would like to shed some light on some ideas and behavior that some people use to deal with each other.

Before we discuss such a topic, we should remember the saying that satisfying all people is a very hard task. But we will try to discuss ideas and behaviors that some people use to conduct themselves with others. These actions and behaviors are available in different environments such as schools, universities and the workplace. One should look at these ideas as points of view, whether right or wrong. Someone should know the individual differences of humankind. So we should not think that all people are the same. Some people do not accept fun and humor while others do not understand gestures; some people are suffering from diseases that sometimes make them lose the control of themselves. In other words, your dealing with other people depends on their personality. We should respond and obey to parents' instructions, should respect the teacher, help the old men and make sure that you are the only one who makes others respect or detest you. So do as you would be done by.

Spitefulness and envy and arden- cy are different faces of the same coin. Acquiring such traits destruct the personality and lead some to lose their sense of right and logic. A spiteful personality judges the situations around him as wrong. The good deeds, according to him, are faults. He always looks for those who misapprehend, misinterpret him to deform their personality. An envious person wants to live alone; he does not want anyone better than him or more successful than him.

Doubt is a very dangerous disease that destructs thinking. Doubt means to believe of something untrue. So do not believe of something you do not have to prove to support it. Be informed that bad news transfers fast. There is a saying "smoke does not appear without fire". It is not necessary to believe that smoke is a clear proof of fire. So we should take care not to hurt the feelings of anyone innocent. Remember that belief is the enemy of doubt; try to get the truth in a logical way. So overcoming doubt is very easy if you don't doubt it. Try to get the

truth form its real origin and be sure of your friends.

Be flexible in your dealings with others. Some friends have desired to make tracks for each other, so be careful of such actions. Some friends prefer to criticize in an away that annoys others but their hearts are white. Be careful of breaking the friendship by being frank in your speech, talk to your friend face to face whether bad or good, learn and train yourself to say no where you cannot help, because frankness is a trait of a noble personality. Don't waste time in criticizing others, nor giving so much time to talk about

the importance of yourself – instead make your own mistakes and try to correct them to develop your personality skills. In other words, try to be modest.

Being reserved indicates your noble personality. To be modest means to sit properly, wear formal clothes, talk politely and conduct yourself in an acceptable manner. These terms differ from one society to another and from one environment to another. So you must dress, conduct yourself, talk and behave within your religious and social rules and morals. That is what I mean by modest.

The sixth way for a sober consciousness is to avoid molestation. Molestation does not necessary means talking badly to girls – it has another meaning that you should not rush in judging people by their appearance; not all that glitters is gold, whether man or woman.

Anyway, I think these tips are not new, but you should reevaluate yourself to deal better with and enlighten others to behave well for the sake of a society clear of misunderstandings. So you could overcome such conscience conflict. This is very easy if you consider these tips as part of your daily routine.





مشروع المفوضية الأوروبية وبرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي لدعم الانتخابي في اليمن (مشروع الدعم الانتخابي)
EC-UNDP Joint Electoral Assistance Project (JEAP)

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

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

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

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

How to Apply: a complete Application must include:

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

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

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

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

The Yemen Times' Arabic supplement

By Khalid Al-Karimi

The announcement, made weeks ago, that the Yemen Times is going to bring forth an Arabic supplement has had? us waiting on tenterhooks. Presently, YT fans don't have copies of this constructive supplement in Arabic.

Some may pose these questions: "Why do we cherish this paper?" and "Why is this newspaper compulsory?"

Simply put, the YT has a mission, an unbiased one. This is its

secret. In the course of the past ten months, with chaos sweeping across the nation, several newspapers have related either to the regime or the opposition, putting professionalism, neutrality and the pursuit of facts on halt.

The YT is, however, one of the few papers which hasn't allowed its objectives to be perverted. Moreover, the new Arabic supplement will only cause past, present, future tense? its readership's trust and interest in this outstanding paper to grow.

This is, in brief, my standpoint concerning the YT.



Bridging the Gap

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Yemen Microfinance Network (YMN)

The Social Fund for Development (SFD) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) jointly initiated a project to establish the first member based National Microfinance Network in country. The network, an entity in its own is called the Yemen Microfinance Network (YMN). YMN will act as a secretariat for the Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in Yemen, creating a platform for member institutions to strengthen themselves as capable and viable institutions enabling them to reach the poor of the Republic of Yemen in the most effective and efficient manner. YMN will focus on training, capacity building, information exchange and transparency.

YMN is looking for capable individuals, who are resident of Yemen (Yemeni nationals), to fill up the following position, based in Sana'a.

Position: Administrative Assistant

Duration: Temporary

To successfully achieve the objectives of capacity building and increasing transparency in the sector, under the overall leadership of the Managing Director of the Network, Administrative Assistant will be responsible for:

◇ **Human resource:**

- Ensure implementation of human resource policies and procedures;
- Training and orientation of new staff;
- Ensure periodic performance evaluation of staff;
- Maintain personal files of all staff of the Network;
- Maintain record of leaves and benefits of all staff;
- Assist management in recruitment of staff;
- Assist the management in development and implementation of strategies and systems to ensure the placement of right human resources at right places and maximum efficiency and productivity of staff;
- Ensure compliance of HR policies and labor laws of Republic of Yemen.

◇ **Procurement and logistics:**

- Perform all day-to-day procurement and ensure compliance of procurement policies and procedures;

- Ensure transparency and quality during all procurement processes;
- Maintain the office building in workable condition and ensure timely repair and maintenance;
- Responsible for repair and maintenance of all office equipments including vehicle;
- Ensure smooth supply of utilities, internet, network and phone to office;
- Responsible for safety and security of office premises and all office equipments and other assets;
- Responsible for boarding and lodging arrangements of participants of conferences, workshops and trainings including consultants and service providers;
- Responsible for all national and international travel arrangements including visas, work permits etc. for both local and foreign nationals working for the network;
- Responsible for facilitating/maintaining all marketing and promotional activities of the network
- Maintain inventory of all equipments and facilities of the network, keeping them operational and up-to-date.

◇ **Secretarial/Receptionist**

- Facilitate and keep record of all internal and external appointments of the Network management.
- Coordinate with network members and other stakeholders for necessary appointments.
- Maintain attendance of participants of all events;
- Respond to information queries and provide basic necessary information about network and microfinance industry;
- Maintain dispatch register and ensure smooth incoming and outgoing letters and couriers;
- Maintain record of all incoming and outgoing facsimile communication;
- Maintain files of incoming and outgoing letters and communication;
- Ensure the translation of written materials provided by the management.
- Translation of communications during meetings from English to Arabic and vice versa;
- Minute taking in important network meetings.

- Upload all data and material on the website;
- Keep the website updated on daily basis, English and Arabic

Qualifications/Skills/Experience:

- Bachelor Degree in Human resource, business administration or social sciences;
- At least 2 – 3 years experience of human resource, administration and logistics.
- Experience in managing events and procurement of supplies;
- Experience of secretarial/receptionist duties.
- Experience/ability to translate from Arabic to English and vice versa
- Knowledge/ability to manage public relations/marketing events
- Excellent writing and speaking communication skills in English and Arabic;
- Excellent computer skills including MS Office. High proficiency in MS Excel required;
- Ability to work independently within tasks assigned, and as part of a team in terms of collaborative climate and dedication to deliver results;
- Demonstrated high professional and ethical standards;
- Ability to manage multiple projects within a dynamic environment with a high level of urgency without compromising productivity;

Submission guideline:

The application should comprise of a **one page cover letter clearly stating the position applying for and explaining the applicants' interest and suitability for the position**, indicating earliest joining date if selected, and a CV.

Interested candidates should submit their application by email to hr@yemennetwork.org before the deadline of 29 December 2011. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

Other information:

The position will be subject to a comprehensive term of reference and this document will serve as the official task and duties for the above mentioned position.

For the **fourth** consecutive year Yemen Commercial Bank wins International Award "THE BANKER" for the best bank in Yemen, in 2011,



2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011

The outstanding successes and marvelous achievements in the banking industry that the Yemen Commercial Bank have achieved over the years, had allowed it to win the award of the best bank in Yemen in 2011.

In presence of distinct representatives and groups of giants of the banking world around the world, who annually attend this global celebration which is held to honour the best banks in their countries, Yemen Commercial Bank has received for the fourth consecutive year the award for best bank in 2011 "THE BANKER".

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Yahia al-Rowaishan The Chairman received the award. The selection of the Yemen Commercial Bank for the famous award "THE BANKER," in 2011, has come for fourth consecutive time.

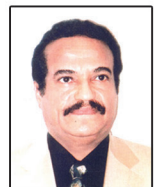
The award was granted by the Financial Times journal which is globally known as a major financial source that is specialized in the assessment of the international banking performance. The assessment had depended on the bank's performance, the development of its strategies and its distinct achievements in the banking activity in Yemen.

This award is an important annual event in the banking industry, where the award is offered to the best bank that becomes the representative of the state to which it belongs.

Granting THE BANKER award is based on the evaluation of the results of the banks' performance which is reviewed by the specialized international judging panel that conducts the selection.

400 banks from all over the world competed for this award and only 147 of them have succeeded in winning it

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Yahia AlRowaishan,
The chairman has commented on this occasion :



"We have a deep rooted belief that growth, development and success are expressions that are evaluated according to quality and not quantity, and Yemen Commercial Bank has taken up this rule in achieving its position in leadership and superiority and won THE BANKER award for the four consecutive years of (2008,2009, 2010 and 2011.)"

"The award came as a recognition to the Bank's global position in the Yemeni banking sector and its strong financial position, in terms of the full range of diversified products and services for individuals, institutions and companies working in Yemen, as well as its provision of intelligent banking solutions with a variety of its unique products and services." Al-Rowaishan added.

Ayed Naseem AlMashni
The General Manager and CEO
also spoke of the event, saying



"We are proud today and every day to the duly diversification of rewards that the bank has obtained for the fourth consecutive year."

He also added "The bank will remain to be the leading figure in the Yemeni banking market, in terms of the flow of banking products and services for companies, institutions and individuals. "I am sure that the bank will continue incorporating what helps it to be the top bank in innovation and embracing the best tools and mechanisms to provide the best services to our customers and to boost our position in the banking sector. We present this international award to our customers, shareholders and the bank's staff at all levels because of their contribution to this success which the bank achieves."



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.. أن تصومكم

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Job Seekers

- Educational qualifications Diploma in accountancy - National institute, Experience in the field for 4 Years, To connect: 700536832 - 734729434
- Bachelor of English, diploma of secretary, experienced ad tourist guide, administrator, documentation, photoshop, business correspondence, teaching. 712577448
- BA degree in Arabic, very good in both English/French, looking for a job in French family/teaching English at home, private school, institutes. 735404162, 734750811
- All Ai-Kadas, translator E/A-A/E with good French and excellent computer skills. 777770471
- Riyadh Hammadi, English and computer teacher and translator. 13 years experience as an English

Job Vacancy

- teacher especially 3rd secondary. 734882907, 772255235
- Bachelore of accountancy, diploma of secretary, excellent computer skill, good spoken and written English, store keeper, inventory control, site administrator. 733409652
- Abduljaleel Faisal, 22 years, teacher of English, media and business translator, business correspondant, good communication skills. 735042383
- An experienced English teacher, want to give private lessons for any level. 700258937
- Mohammed, bachelor of English, diploma in computer, worked as a translator, business correspondant officer and teacher. Seeks part time job. Hodeidah city 770742901
- Khalid, 10 years experience in administration, documentation, secretariate. Fluent in English,

Job Vacancy

- A student advisor is required. Excellent speaking and writing skill both in Arabic and English, computer skills. For more detailed job descriptions mail: jobsys3@gmail.com
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For Lease

- Aden, Al-Tawahi 4th floor apartment, contains 4 bedrooms, hall, big balcon, seaway. Jabar 771433757, 734201785
- New offices are available for rent at Aman Tower - Zubairy street . 735870015
- We have apartement for rent consists of three rooms, one kitchen, two bathrooms and a hall. Location in Mujahad street. Contact: 711140184

For Lease

- Aden, Al-Tawahi 4th floor apartment, contains 4 bedrooms, hall, big balcon, seaway. Jabar 771433757, 734201785
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- We have apartement for rent consists of three rooms, one kitchen, two bathrooms and a hall. Location in Mujahad street. Contact: 711140184

For Sale

- Appartment without furniture. contains 3 bedroom, hall, 2bathrooms, kitchen. Abo Ali: 777448617
- Used Kama Diesel Generator for sales at very ood price. Model KDE 10TA3, 400v. 711172805, 77080917
- Second-hand vehicles of all sizes and brands, in a good shape, used by embassies and foreign companies. 714700805
- Mitsubishi - Pajero year 2003, Mileage 170 000km Engine ia in excellent consition. Tel: 733174993

IMPORTANT Numbers

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AIRLINES

Continental Airline 278668/283082
Egypt Air 273452/275061
Qatar Air ways Fax: 506038, Tel: 506030/5
Royal Jordanian 01 446064/5/8

BANKS

Yemen Gulf Bank Tel: 967-1-260823 Fax: 260824
02 - 270347 fax 02 - 237824

Shamil Bank of Yemen & Bahrain
Tel: 264775 264702. Fax: 264703, 503350

Yemen Bank:
Central Bank 274314/1
Yemen Commercial Bank Tel: 01 277224
Fax: 277291
01 407030
International Bank of Yemen
Arab Bank 01 276583/2

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Sheraton 01-441036
Horizon 01-448573

FedEx Express
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Hodish 03 226 975 Taiz 04 205 780

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Fax: 01240958
Europe Car Tel: 01 270751
Fax: 01 270804
Hertz Sana'a: 01 440309
Aden: 02 245625

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Sana'a: 400269
203075
02 - 346000
445362/3

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SUZUKI
TOYOTA

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Infinit Education 01-444553
NIIT Quality Computer Education 207025/26
British Institute for languages & Computer 266222 - Fax: 514755
YALI 01-448039
ALIT 01-274221

FREIGHT FORWARDERS

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World Link 01 444550/441935
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Mas Freight International 01-429671
Mareh Travel and Tourism - Cargo Division 01-441126
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HOSPITALS

Modern German Hospital 600000/602008
Fax: 601889
E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

Al-Jumhuri Hospital 01 274286/87
Hadda Hospital 01 412981
Al-Thawra Hospital 01 246967/66
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HOTELS

L'AZURDE suites hotel 01-432020/30/40

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- Second-hand vehicles of all sizes and brands, in a good shape, used by embassies and foreign companies. 714700805
- Mitsubishi - Pajero year 2003, Mileage 170 000km Engine ia in excellent consition. Tel: 733174993

INSURANCE COMPANIES

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Taiz 250029 Hodeidah 219941/46
Marib Insurance Sana'a: 206129/8/13
Aden: 255668
Taiz: 240927/34
Hodeidah: 219545/8

Yemen Islamic Insurance Co. Sana'a 284193,
5 lines, Taiz: 258881, Aden: 244280

Yemen Insurance company Sana'a: 272806/ 272962/43,
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01 266375
Fax: 01 267619

SCHOOLS

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Juniors' Oasis kindergarten

TRANSLATIONS

Urwa Wautqa Int. Auth. Trans. Arabic-English-French
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Turkish-Eriterea-Amharic. Tel: 01-240515

TRAVEL

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02-221270
Al-Nasim Travel 270750
Universal Business Travel Center 441158/9/60
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UNIVERSITIES

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Sana'a: 412442 Fax: 412441
Aden: 234533 / 234960
Tel: 449971/2
Tel: 250553/4/5
Tel: 675567
Fax: 675885

Queen Arwa University
Sana'a University
Alandalus University

MINISTRIES

Presidency 01-290200
Prime Minister 01-490 800
Ministry of Public Works and Highways 01-545132
Ministry of Awqaf and Guidance 01-274439
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research 01-535031
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Ministry of Water and Environment 01-418289
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To have your number listed please contact: 268661 - Fax: 268276

Coffee Break

Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8						
		9				
10						
14					15	
		16			17	
18		19			20	
		21		22		
		23			24	
25						
					26	
27						

ACROSS

- Set of columns (9)
- Nobleman (4)
- Carry (9)
- Core (6)
- Galas (5)
- Metal strands (5)
- Glance over (4)
- N. American lake (5)
- Peruse (4)
- Avoid (5)
- Lament (5)
- Frisk (6)
- Lead or zinc, e.g. (4,5)
- Urban settlement (4)
- Objector (9)

Down

- Timepiece mechanism (9)
- Main street (5-4)
- Monster (4)
- Unit of weight (5)
- Italian city (6)
- Woman's name (4)
- Rubbish (5)
- Power (5)
- Cuttings album (5-4)
- Emphasize (9)
- Asian kingdom (5)
- Straight (6)
- Whitish horses (5)
- Just (4)
- Strong wind (4)

Sudoku Easy

	5	4		1	9	2		
6		4		9				5
7				2		8		
	9		2	3				4
3	6	5			8	1		
5				9			6	
1		9				7		
7			1		2			
6	2	8			5	9		

Sudoku Intermediate

	3	2			9			
	8	3			2	4		
	7	1				6		
6				7	9		1	
4		5					7	
8		4					2	
2				3	5			
3	9			2	6			
1				4	7			

Sudoku Difficult

			8				7	
6		3				8		
		2		6			9	
			5	9			3	
		8		7		1		
9			1	6				
	5			1			2	
		2				9		1
				5				

Chess

White plays and wins in the 2nd move

Solutions

Sudoku

3	8	5	4	7	1	9	2	6
6	2	4	3	9	8	1	7	5
9	7	1	6	5	2	4	8	3
1	9	8	2	6	3	7	5	4
2	3	6	5	4	7	8	1	9
5	4	7	1	8	9	3	6	2
8	1	3	9	2	5	6	4	7
4	5	9	7	1	6	2	3	8
7	6	2	8	3	4	5	9	1

Chess: Rg2+

Cross Words: Across: 3 Colonnade; 8 Lord; 9 Transport; 10 Centre; 11 Fetes; 14 Wires 15 Scan; 16 Huron; 18 Read; 20 Evade; 21 Dirge; 24 Gambol; 25 Base metal; 26 Town; 27 Protester.
Down: 1 Clockwork; 2 Trunk-road; 4 Ogre; 5 Ounce; 6 Naples; 7 Dora; 9 Trash; 11 Force; 12 Scrap-book; 13 Underline; 17 Nepal; 19 Direct; 22 Greys; 23 Fair; 24 Gale.

I Love My Book: Inspiring children to read

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

For four years, the Global Changemakers team in Yemen has been working hard to instill the love of reading and spread knowledge among children and young students.

The team, supported by the British Council, launched the I Love My Book campaign in 2008. The campaign aims to raise awareness about reading among young students through public libraries for children in schools as well as fun activities and festivals about the importance of reading.

On Saturday and Sunday the team organized a competition between 18 students from six schools. Students were given a number of books to read before the competition, covering topics from ethics to Shakespeare, and were then quizzed on the texts.

Al-Forat School won the compe-



The I Love My Book campaign has provided six schools in Sana'a and Aden with libraries.

dition and was awarded three laptops for the students. Runners up won three digital cameras.

Students, aged 10-15, held banners that read: "Nation that don't read; don't develop", "Reading is the secret of my success" and "Reading is the key to knowledge and the way to advancement".

Edhah Al-Maqhafi, a member of the Global Changemakers team said that the message of the I Love My Book campaign is clear: "We must implant the love of reading into our children. Reading must be an essential part of our children's personality," she said.

Afrah Al-Tafaf, a teacher at Al-Fadhaila School said that the campaign has actively encouraged students to read enthusiastically.

The campaign team provided the school with a library in 2010. "The new library has made students keener to visit it regularly," said Al-Tafaf, who added that around 70

students now use the library every day.

Ghadeer Obad, 14, a student from Al-Forat School, aspires to be a cardiologist in the future took part in the competition. She has read dozens of books provided by the campaign, including many science and history books.

"I love reading because it's a symbol of civilization and culture," she said. "This campaign has motivated me to read a lot and choose my books well." She added: "Reading makes me more confident and more determined to achieve my goals."

Elham Al-Quhali, project assistant at the British Council, said that reading is one of the important factors in building a civilization.

"It is the ideal method for community development, especially

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.



Children bore banners to the competition. This one says: "Reading is the secret of my success".

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في اصلاح القلوب

د بامشوموس،
المياه البيضاء
في عيون الاطفال

اليقطين
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الوقاية من تكون حصوات الكلى

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