

Yemen Times person of the Year Jamal Benomar

Dr. Jamaladdin Benomar also known as Jamal Benomar was selected by majority of Yemen Times readers as Yemen Times Person of the Year 2011.

The selection was based on his intensive work to stabilize Yemen and reach an agreement between the conflicting parties in order to save Yemen from a civil war.

The readers agreed that although it was his job as a UN Secretary General Special Advisor on Yemen was to facilitate political agreements in the country, however, his commitment and holding Yemen's best interest in his heart was the driving force behind this success, which other regional and international mediators failed to have achieved.

Moreover, Benomar is known for his humility and desire to connect with all Yemenis which was the motivation between his visits to several cities around Yemen, which none of the other mediators or international players had done before.

Benomar was who was born in April 1957 in Morocco, was a revolutionary himself. He was arrested several times during his youth for the leading role he played in organizing a youth movement against King Hassan.

Because he demanded good



smuggled his way across the Mediterranean Sea risking his life in search for freedom. Through his contacts with human rights activists he managed to get political asylum in UK and worked with Amnesty International in London continuing by that his fight for freedom and human rights. Because of his hard work and intelligence, Jamal Benomar made his way up the ranks in Amnesty always campaigning against dictators who abuse their people.

In the early nineties he became the Director of the Carter center in the United States and worked closely with former President Carter mediating many conflicts around the world. Jamal joined the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva and again made his point when it came to Moroccan delegations to the UN which included oppressive figures.

Today he is settled in New York where he takes the position as the UN Secretary General Special Advisor, currently on Yemen. Benomar advised the UN on political and governance transition issues in more than 30 conflict countries and now Yemen.

governance, equal citizenship and respect for human rights he was imprisoned for more than eight harsh years at the notorious Kenitra Central Prison where he was abused and tortured. Yet he managed to complete his Master Degree through distance learning master degree in International Law from The Sorbonne University in Paris. Later on he also availed a PhD from University of London in Economics and Political Science.

When he got the chance Jamal

Four prisoners killed in mass escape attempt

By: Abdulkareem Al-Nahari

DHAMAR, Jan. 1 — Four prisoners were killed and five injured, two of which in critical conditions as the prisoners tried to break free from Dhamar Central Prison on Saturday afternoon Dec. 31, 2011. The prison security which is in charge of 755 prisoners in the overcrowded establishment managed to prevent the prisoners from fleeing despite them breaking through the internal prison gate.

Gunfire fighting took place on Saturday midnight and continued until Sunday early morning between security units backed with troops of the republican guards and armed tribesmen came from surrounding rural areas to break into the prison and free the prisoners.

One soldier of the republican guards was injured during the fighting with unknown armed men who fled the city after failing to break into the prison.

The prisoners had managed to take seven of the guards as hostages and confiscate their weapons before backup arrived. Most of the detainees who tried to escape were convicted felons of murder and dangerous crimes according to the prison security.

"When they took hold of our colleagues and we realized they had their weapons we had no choice but to fire on them and use tear gas so we regain control of the facility," said a source in the prison security.

The source said that back up was called from the anti-riot police, the central security and republican guards and all surrounded the prison and helped prevent the break-free operation.

Eye witnesses from the area said that they heard the loud noises, gun shots and later ambulance sirens in the evening heading from the prison towards Dhamar Public Hospital.

One of the prisoners told The Yemen Times that the leaders of this operation had planned Saturday afternoon as the best time to attempt escaping because most of the guards are busy chewing qat and some will be outside the prison for some personal errands," he said.

The guards only carry personal arms such as pistols and it was easy to overtake seven of them according to the prisoner who witnessed the operation. However, he said that sporadic gun shots were heard outside the prison and even in the yard until late in the night.

This is not the first attempt by the prisoners to escape, the most recent was in mid December which also failed. An investigation committee from the Parliament was said to be reviewing the prison's conditions. Alarm was raised regarding this issue when some locals accused the prison security of holding prisoners for political reasons relating to the assassination of Dhamar's deputy governor end of 2011. However, the results of this investigation has not been made public yet.

The prisoners complain of horrible insufficient meals saying that what used to be one person's share is now being divided on three inmates. They also complain that there are over 70 detainees who should have been released after completing their time but were not.

"Some of the inmates are here because of very silly crimes such as stealing a donkey. And even then they are placed with hardcore criminals and this is not fair and is dangerous. Also the juveniles are kept with us in the same prison and they learn from the more experienced criminals," said one of the prisoners to The Yemen Times. "They are also subjected to danger being with the adults."

The prison security is currently keeping the facility under strict surveillance as they fear armed tribal men will attack the prison and help free their relatives inside. Moreover, the two killed prisoners come from prominent families and their tribes might cause problems for the state over their sons' deaths.

A source from Dhamar local authority confirmed that the security's concerns are legitimate especially since some armed tribal men did try to break through the security siege surrounding the prison on Sunday morning.

Yemeni journalist still detained after over 16 months

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Jan. 1 — A Yemeni journalist accused of being a "media man" for Al-Qaeda, but whom human rights activists say was wrongly accused, remains in prison. He has been held behind bars longer than any other journalist in Yemen.

Kidnapped from his house on August 16, 2010, Abdulalah Haydr Shaye' has now been detained for over 16 months.

In January 2011, the State's Security Court said that "he was found guilty of participating in an armed gang, having links to Al Qaeda and for taking photographs of Yemen security bases and foreign embassies to be targeted by the terrorist organization." He was sentenced to five years in prison.

However, his volunteer lawyer Abdulrahman Barmaan said that the court hasn't presented any evidence for that.

Continued on page 2



Abdulalah Haydr Shaye' has been in jail since August 16, 2010

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Refugee organizations discuss violence against women

By: Ibtisam Al-Aseery

ADEN, Jan. 1 — To raise awareness about violence against women, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) held a 16-day campaign to combat violence against women in Basateen, Aden, South Yemen, last month.

Coinciding with the international days for HIV, the disabled, and human rights, the event brought together up to 250 participants. They discussed domestic violence and abuse against women and children in the community, notably during their crossover to Yemen fleeing armed conflict in the Horn of Africa, including beatings, starvation, or rape at the hand of smugglers.

The motto of the campaign of this year was "Peace, from the house to the world."

More than 30,000 refugees mainly Somalis live in the Basateen area in the southern port city, besides those in the camp of Kharaz, a home to refugees for 20 years. Difficult living

conditions have increased cases of domestic violence among the community, especially after residents fled to Aden from the neighbouring governorate of Abyan following clashes with armed Islamists affiliated to Al Qaeda there.

Refugees and members of organizations working with them discussed female genital mutilation, protection against HIV / Aids, domestic violence, violence against children, and human trafficking. The campaign included an open day for refugees to paint their dreams, and the screening of three documentary films on violence against children.

Participants put forward recommendations to reduce domestic violence in the refugee community specially in Basateen, including issuing the Refugees Law, supporting the local police station to help victims of violence, and giving as much care to refugees living in houses in the area as those in the local camps.

A performance was organized for the Somali Disabled Association.

Three plays called A Female Shout, Female Circumcision, and Family Planning closed the events, while a photography exhibition was shown throughout.

Up to 368 cases of violence and 142 cases of domestic violence were recorded this year, according to Aisha Saeed, UNHCR Community Service National Officer in Aden. She highlighted the importance of raising awareness to reduce domestic violence in the community.

She added that more than 167 countries and 3,700 organizations have participated in International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women since 1991 to combat all forms of violence against women, to push civil society to uphold security, peace, and human rights, and to enhance participation with government and civil society organizations working to better the lives of refugees.

Of the estimated over 300,000 refugees in Yemen, 200, 491 are Somalis and the rest are other na-



Refugee children paint their dreams of having peace at home and in their hosting country.

tionalities, including Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Iraqi.

Of the 84,656 refugees who arrived Yemen between January and

October 2011, 188 were returned home and 419 were resettled to third countries, according to the UNHCR.

The Latest BuZZ

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

► Citizens of Socotra Island demanded Yemenia Airlines recommence its flights to and from the island after a hiatus of over a year, claiming that it has affected their businesses.

► Yemenia Airlines is opening a new flight route from Aden to Amman-Jordan airport next week. The flight will operate weekly.

► Yemen Today, a private satellite channel, launched its broadcast with the New Year. The first item after the national anthem was a news report followed by a political debate.

► A 5-day training and awareness workshop on national reconciliation started in Sana'a for 100 scouts and girl guides. The training is organized by the Ministry of Endowment.

► The Minister of Finance said that the government would not be able to restore fuel prices to their cost before the uprising.

► The Teachers' Syndicate announced the start of a strike on Saturday Dec. 31, 2011. They said that the teachers will go on full strike for four days from Monday if the government did not redress their demands concerning wages.

► Thousands of Yemenis marched in protest from Aden towards Abyan, a city controlled by jihadis. They demanded an end to the armed conflict there and the reinstatement of state control.

► The Yemeni center for Human Rights Studies launched an awareness and monitoring project on human rights violations in Aden and Lahj governorates.

► Locals in the Hasaba district are happy that most of the armed men and barriers have been removed according to the Sana'a demilitarization plan.

► The Minister of Civil Services said that the government will endorse new jobs for 60,000 Yemenis who had been registered for public jobs since last year. They will be assigned to their new work places later this month.

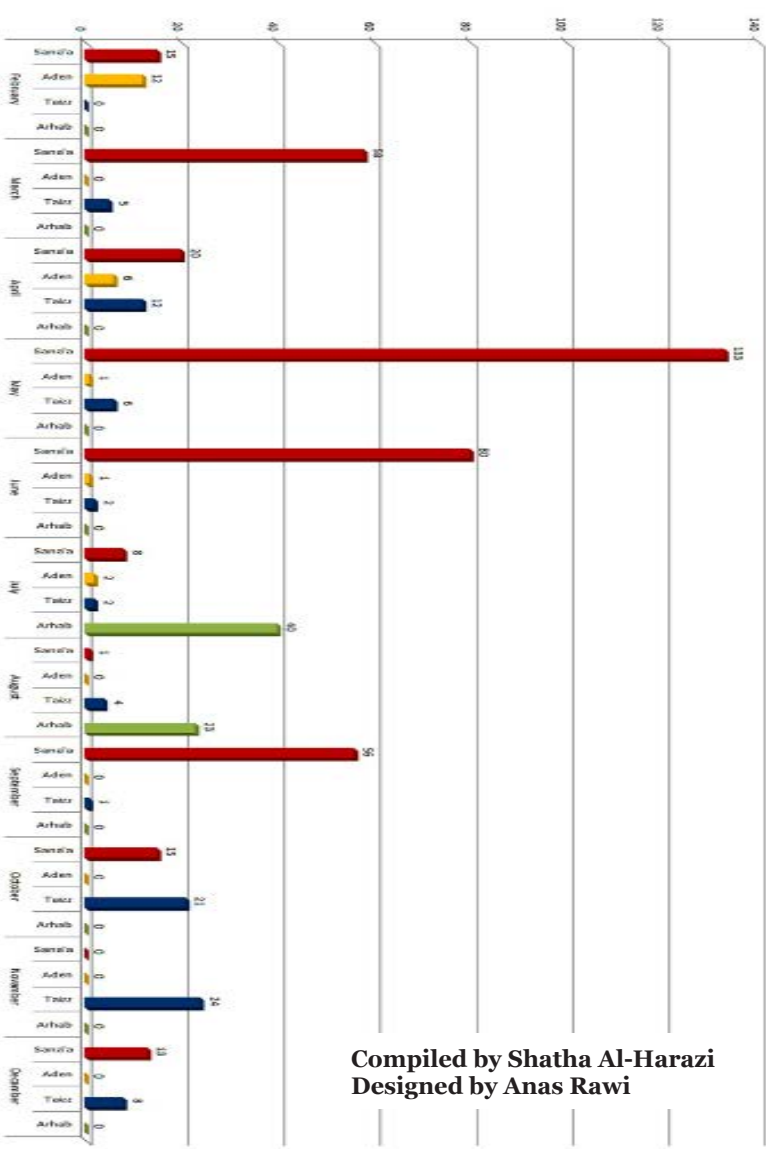
► A new political party under the name "Democratic Change Party" was announced on Saturday Dec. 31, 2011. It includes activists and politicians, and aims to establish democracy in the country.

► The Minister of Electricity said that his ministry is not able to recover from the damage to the power network and provide Yemenis with 24 hour electricity. He said this was due to tribal and financial reasons.

► The wedding of 320 grooms from the Republican Guards was sponsored by the chief commander of the guards, Ahmed Ali Saleh.

► Over three thousand tourists from Gulf countries entered Yemen through the border cities of Hajja and Al-Mahara, according to the immigration authorities.

Yemen's uprising death toll during 2011



Compiled by Shatha Al-Harazi
Designed by Anas Rawi

Activists launch revolution salvation front

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Jan. 1 — A group of activists and revolutionaries with different political affiliations established the Revolution Salvation Front last Thursday.

The front aims to protect the goals and cohesion of revolution movement, to boost peaceful efforts and to fight the monopolizing strength of political powers at Sana'a's Change Square.

The front stated that opposition political parties have dealt with the revolution as though it were a political crisis. It criticized concessions made by the opposition political parties and accused those parties of helping the regime.

In an official statement, the front said that the Gulf power transfer deal gave the regime an instrument of forgiveness and granted President Saleh and his inner circle immunity from prosecution.

The front called for Yemenis to be faithful to the martyrs' wishes and to defend the revolution by escalating activity.

Farooq Al-Hakimi, a member of the front's preparatory committee, told the Yemen Times that the aim of the front is to protect the revolution and to face monopolizing powers.

He said that the National Unity Government doesn't deal with the revolutionaries' demands seriously and that it has no intention to deal with this issue. "The current government doesn't respect any constitution or law," said Al-Hakimi.

Al-Hakimi said that the opposi-



Leaders of the front say they want to boost the revolution and protect it.

tion political parties asked the revolutionaries to break up the sit-in around Change Square and to abort the revolution.

He urged Yemenis to continue their struggle and to demand decent job opportunities, infrastructure, health services and a good education.

Al-Hakimi accused the Islah Party of monopolizing Change Square and its events. "Change Square needs dialogue and the participation of all parties. We must reinforce democracy and refuse the banishment of other people and entities," he said.

Criticizing the Islah party, he continued: "They prepare themselves to take power by any means. They will come with a 'big stick' under the name of Islam. They are arrogant and they don't accept other people."

Ahmed Saif Hashed, a member of the front, said that the front was established to unite the revolutionaries and break the monopoly on political representation.

Hashed stressed the importance of the front's aim to create a balance in Yemen's political scene and to face the Gulf Initiative that excluded powers such as the Southern Movement and Houthis.

He stated that the new government cannot achieve the revolution's aims, and indicated that the Gulf Initiative is based on international and regional interests.

One day before the establishment of the front, the Change Square witnessed fighting between members of the Islah Party, Houthis and other revolutionaries.

Consumers warned against certain medicine, cosmetics

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Jan. 1 — The Yemeni Society for Consumer Protection (YSCP) has warned women from buying certain cosmetics that contain a high level of lead.

Fadhil Mansoor, head of the society, claimed that the three cosmetics are Jador, Miss Rose and Silky Shine. He said that the Saudi Food and Medication Association had warned consumers not to buy any of these products.

The society has also sent a letter to the Ministry of Agriculture about the use of banned chemical substances to improve the appearance of fruit.

The plant protection department at the ministry is now working on a proposal to present to parliament to confiscate all fruit and vegetables with traces of the chemical substance, according to Ali Junaid, head of the department.

"We have a laboratory to check that fruit and vegetables do not have any dangerous effect on people's lives," he told the Yemen Times.

The YSCP is an association working to stop expired or counterfeit medicine and contaminated food from being imported in to Yemen.

In December 2011, they published a statement saying that at least 30



Contaminated medication confiscated in 2010 in Sana'a

percent of medicine on the market in Yemen is fake and called on the government to impose stricter restrictions on the sale of medicine.

For example, Augmentin 1Gm, an antibiotic, was analyzed by a Saudi laboratory and found to contain no active ingredients, rendering it useless, according to the YSCP.

The society added that counterfeit versions of real medicine were also in circulation. A fake version of Levitra, used to treat erectile dysfunction, is on the market while counterfeits of Yasmin, a contraceptive pill used to prevent pregnancy, can also

be found.

Last year, the YSCP warned consumers against using the anti-fungal medication Nizoral, which had serious and direct side effects on the liver.

Mansoor said the society is to publish more warnings about medicine and cosmetics next week.

Just three months ago, at least four tons of medicine was also confiscated in the Safia district of Sana'a, according to Muhsen Mayas, the head of the district health office.

Around 37 types of medicine were destroyed, some of which had expired in 2007.

At least 4,000 boxes of powder milk for children, under the brand name Similac, had been confiscated, according to a report published in local newspaper Al-Wahda.

The YSCP also said that it had received claims from people that treated water "smelled and it has a different taste."

Continued from page 1 Yemeni journalist still detained after over 16 months

The journalist who specialized in Al Qaeda and Islamist militant groups and works at the state-run Saba News Agency, Shaye' had contributed with analysis to Al-Jazeera and BBC reports on US drone strikes in Yemen.

He was the first journalist to cover the death of 42 civilians in Al-Ma'jalla in Abyan, south Yemen, after a drone strike on Dec 17, 2009 on the area. The strike had allegedly targeted an Al Qaeda military training camp.

"Shaye' was arrested by US orders to the Yemeni government for his analysis on the American airstrikes against Abyan and Arhab," Samya Al-Aghbari, a Yemeni journalist and political activist told the Yemen Times. "He was the first reporter to expose facts about the serious human rights violations against Yemeni civilians caused by the airstrikes."

National Security has banned all reporters and human rights activists from visiting the detained journalist, according to Al-Aghbari, who spoke to his brother on the phone last week.

"We refuse the verdict against Shaye' by the State Security Court," Marwan Damaj, Secretary General of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate told the Yemen Times. "We demand his fair trial in a normal court."

Shaye' had no defense lawyer

present at his trial at the State Security Court, or Specialized Criminal Court, according to Damaj. The Global Post reported in January 2011 that Shaye's lawyer refused to attend his trial, saying that it wouldn't change anything and in protest at a judiciary system run by national and political security.

"Neither we nor the Yemeni Lawyers Union recognize this court as a legal judiciary institution," he said. "Our colleague Shaye' has been illegally detained and has not received a fair trial."

On February 1, 2011, outgoing president Saleh directed the release of Shaye', but sources inside the presidential office told a Yemeni journalist that the American President Barack Obama had sent a letter to Saleh to suspend the journalist's release.

"We condemn the US intervening in such a way," said Damaj.

"Some human rights organizations have neglected Shaye's case because they receive funding from the US, and are concerned that their financial support will be suspended," said Al-Aghbari.

The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate will hold a sit-in in protest at the journalist's continued detention outside its headquarters next Wednesday, said Damaj.

Dr. Mohammed al-Mikhlafla to the Yemen Times

“The current situation is an appropriate opportunity for transformation”

Dr. Mohammed Al-Mikhlafla was chosen by the traditional opposition to run the Ministry of Legal Affairs in the newly National Unity Government. Al-Mikhlafla has been contributing to the human rights advocacy in Yemen. Al-Mikhlafla was the chairman of the Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights (YOHR), is a member of the Yemen Socialist Party Political Office and a leading figure in the JMP.

Al-Mikhlafla talked to The Yemen Times' Mohammed bin Sallam about the situation in the country, the future of the political movement and other current issues. Here are some excerpts:

How are things going after the setup of the National Reconciliation Government?

The National Reconciliation Government believes that, so far, things are going smoothly without any differences or disagreements. We still uphold the goal of working as a team, whether we are representatives of the National Council or of the General People's Congress and their alliances. This is still the goal and we are moving towards it steadily. However, we face urgent tasks to enable the government to perform better, and these may require more effort.

The most important of these is the removal of the armed forces and security forces from the streets and squares; the same applies to gunmen. Any delay in doing this would only put the government in suspense. But the steps that we have been taking are good, and we wish to conclude such a mission as soon as possible.

The second thing which worries the new government is the people's urgent need for basic services, especially those considered necessities, such as power, fuel and water. Concerned ministers are making extra efforts to remedy the problem and we all work to overcome any direct or indirect difficulties that could come in the way. We hope to



Dr. Mohammed al-Mikhlafla

achieve this before winning confidence.

As for the government's priority, the first step is ensuring stability. We will then attend to the tasks of the transitional phase, including creating the atmosphere for the presidential elections, and reaching February 12, which is an important day that would introduce a different political and social atmosphere to Yemen.

Another task is preventing the deterioration of the national currency and restoring national economic competitiveness to a level that would avert further decline. In order to accomplish this, we need our supporting partners' assistance to make the transition. The second phase will be dedicated to accomplishing a democratic switch, achieving national reconciliation and bringing about change in the

political system, which may require transforming the structure of the state itself.

This will be followed by a national conference to discuss all these matters and set up a constitutional committee to develop a new constitution based on national reconciliation. This is an historic opportunity for Yemen to achieve democratic change, something that we have failed to do in the past.

The current situation may be worrying and risky, but at the same time it's an appropriate opportunity for transformation because we are standing before a national position that is in favor of change and a people that support this goal. There's also the international stance; the international community is committed, in accordance to the power transition mechanism, to support the power shift and democratic evolution in Yemen.

A number of regional and international countries have promised support. It was also said that a financial grant of USD 2 billion was promised during the first half of 2012. Is this true?

There is first the commitment regarding the transitional process mechanism, and then there is the international obligation to support Yemen and enable it to address existing problems during the phase of democratic transition. This commitment entails support for Yemen's economy, which neighboring countries have shown willingness to fully promote. However, determining the amount of such support would only happen when a delegation of the government headed by the prime minister meets the potential donors after the government wins confidence.

Are there obstacles that obstruct the government? If so, what are the most important of these?

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As I said before, the government still has the initial tasks of preparing its program, following up security situation naturalization and attending to the people's fundamental services. The difficulties are mainly in the security aspect and the organization of basic essentials to the capital and other cities. We rely on the Military Committee to help us achieve stability and security, and we hope that all would support its mission.

There may be some people with personal interests to throw the country into chaos and become warlords; they may not be able to show themselves now. I think we can conquer such difficulties very soon. In fact, interests that were based on illegal means and methods have become threatened, in view of the new situation. These interests are enough for the stakeholders to fight back. Let's not forget the regional conflicts, of which some of the aforesaid interests are a part.

In your opinion, how long would it take to restore utilities such as electricity, fuel and so on?

I believe that we can restore the situation, at least to its previous state, soon. Electricity has

been substandard and irregular for years. As for other utilities, especially fuel, concerned ministers have told us that it is possible to return them very soon provided that we control the security situation and secure roads. We estimate this to take about two weeks.

Do you see harmony between the new government members in terms of seeking solutions for the country's outstanding issues?

It's too early to judge the extent of harmony achieved among the government members. Until now there have been no significant differences that could obstruct our work; rather, we are still working on a basis of mutual understanding.

We heard that some ministries were stripped down by former ministers. What about yours?

Not much attention was given to our ministry because consideration of law in a 'pre-law' country was low. So its assets were simple. Nevertheless, I can't say whether there are missing things or funds until an inventory of the ministry assets and properties is conducted. We will form a committee for this purpose.



Gender Project Evaluation Consultant

Oxfam (GB)- Yemen Programme, is planning to conduct a mid-term review (formative evaluation) for the Integrated Action on the Safe Age of Marriage and Women's Economic Empowerment phase 2 in Hadhramout and Hodeida governorates in order to assess achievements with reference to purpose, outcomes, impact and learning. This review will also help undertaking evidence-based decisions to maintain the project relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability given the changing context of Yemen.

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OUR
OPINION

New beginnings

Here comes 2012, the much awaited year worldwide not just in Yemen. It is much anticipated in Yemen because 2011 was very difficult and took its toll on us despite the positivism of change and the Arab Spring.

2012 is not only a new year it is also a new beginning. One where we can reconcile, mend our broken pieces and work together for the sake of a better Yemen. It is also a chance to let go of old feuds even if it means allowing criminals to get away with murder.

I know this contradicts human rights and justice but sometimes the rights of an individual have to be sacrificed against the rights of a nation. This is actually the emergency status condition which I would argue applies on Yemen's transition today.

We need to understand transitional justice in a way which allows us not to lose ourselves in our search for justice. We must not forget that we still have to take care of the future while correcting the past.

The notion of letting go of the past pains is not new. Nelson Mandela, who is recognized globally as a hero and freedom fighter, talked about this. Close review of his leadership for when he became president after being imprisoned for 27 years, will show how he preached nothing but forgiveness.

The "terrible past must be left behind" he would say. He tried to unify South Africans and he was creative enough to even use sports; the 1995 Rugby World Cup; to do so.

The Preamble of the 1996 South African Constitution reads like this:

We, the people of South Africa, Recognize the injustices of our past;

Honor those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land; Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and

Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic so as to

- Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;
- Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law;
- Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and
- Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

I think we should learn from the South African experience when we embark on the transitional reforms of Yemen due soon. We need to build on the future without bringing baggage into the table. Only this way will Yemen be able to rise again.

Happy new year to all...

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Yemen's torturous travail

By: Nasser Arrabyee
Al-Ahram Weekly online

Yemen witnessed unprecedented events during 2011 much like other Arab countries which were swept by the so-called Arab Spring. The events changed almost every thing traditional in terms of thinking of the social and political life of people.

Generally speaking, almost everyone wanted a new Yemen, a new state, and new life with freedom, justice and dignity.

Though very little of this has been achieved, the way of realising dreams has become at least clearer and smoother than ever before.

The determination and desire of people to keep going in the same way until all goals and objectives are achieved is still alive after one year of arguments and conflicts at all levels of life.

On 23 November, almost all conflicting parties agreed to end the long standing political crisis and they immediately started a long and difficult road to build the new Yemen where all dreams and ambitions of a better life can come true.

It's been more than one month now since they started implement-

ing a step-by-step two-year road map for reaching the promised modern and civil state that almost every Yemeni is talking about, though with different views.

The road map, locally called the scheduled implementation plan, was based on an internationally supported deal initiated by the Saudi-led six gulf nations, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and the UN resolution 2014 on solving the Yemeni crisis.

But different people look differently to what happened during 2011, and what was achieved so far and what might happen and might be achieved during 2012 and after that.

Al-Ahram Weekly interviewed many Yemenis in the Yemeni capital Sanaa on what happened so far and what might come from the year long protests.

Adel Arrabaei, a leading protester and political activist, said that the year 2011 divided the recent history into before and after this date. "2011 was the year of the birth of our historic change movement," said Arrabaei. "It was the year during which we faced major challenges and we achieved major achievements including overthrowing the regime," he added. The 2012 will be the year of planting and sowing the seeds of

the modern and civil state, the long standing dream of Yemenis, Arrabaei expected.

Activist Naif Al-Buraiki disagreed, saying the political solution will not work and the conflicts will continue. "The GCC initiative will fail and more conflicts and more violence and blood shed will happen," said Al-Buraiki.

Political analyst Abdel-Khaleq Alwan said two things might happen during the 2012 in the Arab world in general. If the Arab Spring was made by the Arab themselves, not dictated to them, Alwan expected a stage of genuine democracy and human rights after removing the rest of the Arab rulers during 2012. "But if the Arab Spring was not made by the Arab will, and Arab were only actors, then the year 2012 will be the end of hope that Arabs can do something," Alwan said.

Baleek Mohamed, political activist, said what happened in Yemen during 2011 was an unprecedented uprising against poverty and financial, administrative and political corruption. Mohammed expected that Islamists in Yemen would dominate because they have more organised members than the other parties.

However, spokesmen of the Yemen ruling semi-secular party

Abdel-Hafeez Al-Nehari excluded any domination of the Islamists in Yemen saying they are not like their counterparts in the other Arab countries like Tunisia and Egypt. "I do not think the Islamists here in Yemen will dominate because they already tried but failed," said Al-Nehari.

The main groups of Islamists in Yemen, especially the Muslim Brotherhood, have always been participating in all political and democratic processes and never been directly banned like Tunisia or partially banned like Egypt. "The people tried the Islamists in two coalition governments in the past," said Al-Nehari. "During this crisis, the Islamists were not democratic enough with other forces like liberals and leftists, so Islamists lost a lot."

Almost every day, Islamists from the Islah Party, which leads the opposition coalition, fight with others over who would speak on the stage and who would say what in the public squares of protests especially in Sanaa. They also fight with others on women activities and their clothes.

On Sunday, for instance, about 15 people were injured in a big fight with sticks and knives on the stage of Change Square in Sanaa.

Analysis: U.S. trip gives Saleh neither immunity nor exile

By: Joseph Logan
Reuters

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh's request to be let into the United States shows he may now be resigned to surrendering power after months of protests, but gives him no guarantee of the immunity from prosecution that he seeks in exchange for stepping down.

Washington, which is weighing granting a visa for medical treatment, neither wants to nor can shield Saleh on its soil for long.

There is a growing belief among experts that a future Yemeni government may eventually find the pledge of amnesty divisive enough for it to violate that condition of the pact that his disgruntled Saudi and U.S. patrons want to use to ease

Saleh from power.

"I think Saleh realizes it's done for him personally, and he's working on leaving," said Ibrahim Sharqieh, a conflict resolution expert with the Brookings Doha Center, of Saleh's announcement that he would seek to go the United States.

"They don't want to deal with the ramifications of this, having him on their soil, and they do realize the problems of the amnesty," he said. "Whatever the arrangements now, there will be a view toward demanding the prosecution of Saleh."

Saleh announced his plan for a U.S. visit last week after forces loyal to him killed nine protesters demanding he face trial for killing their counterparts during nearly a year of mass demonstrations aimed at toppling him after three decades in power.

The demand of the protesters - hundreds of whom have been killed by units led by Saleh's son and nephews since the uprising against him began last January - runs up against the main element of the pact Yemen's richer neighbors crafted to ease him from office.

Under the terms of that deal, echoed by a U.N. Security Council resolution and backed by Washington, which long funded Saleh as a key client in its "counter-terrorism" campaign in Yemen, Saleh has formally ceded powers to his deputy.

He retains the title of "head of state" until an election to choose his successor set for February 21.

"Parallel revolution"

The latest bloodshed came as units of the Republican Guards and Central Security - commanded by Saleh's son and nephew respectively - opened fire on tens of thousands of protesters who approached his presidential compound at the end of a days-long march from Taiz demanding he be tried.

That move on Saleh's fortress coincided with the start of what some Yemenis are calling a "parallel revolution," in which labor militancy directed at Saleh's relatives and loyalists in key state institutions has further eroded his grasp on power.

The interim government, divided between Saleh loyalists and opposition parties, last week formed an emergency administration to run the state airline Yemeniyya, in response to a strike by workers demanding the sacking of its top executive, Abdul Khaleq al-Qadi, who is Saleh's son-in-law.

In subsequent days, Saleh appointees have faced uprisings in the coast guard, naval academy, flight school, traffic police, a military training division, the state news agency and a Sanaa security headquarters whose commander called in plainclothes gunmen to shoot subordinates who demanded his sacking.

Saleh's request for a U.S. visa first emerged last month as he signed the power transfer deal, but the recent challenges to his network of influence in state institutions may have made the trip more urgent, argued one defector from Saleh's regime.

"There is now a revolution within different institutions of the state," said Abdullah Alsaedi, who quit his post as Yemen's U.N. ambassador in March after the killing of dozens of protesters in a single incident.

"Workers are rebelling against the administrators appointed by Saleh. You now have military formations rebelling against... the information sector. A revolution is spreading to these institutions and taking over peacefully."

Accountability

The visa request has sparked an outcry in Washington policy circles and among opinion formers, in-

cluding the editorial board of the Washington Post.

It noted the anger that U.S. ambassador Gerald Feierstein sparked by calling the Taiz march a provocative act, shortly before troops opened fire on protesters, and said a visa would imply refuge for Saleh, inflaming the situation "just as Iranian students were enraged when the Shah of Iran was admitted to the United States for medical treatment in 1979."

Observers say, however, that legal considerations, apart from U.S. distaste for its former ally, make it unlikely Saleh would remain on U.S. soil for long. A Yemeni newspaper citing unidentified officials has said he and a large number of relatives will settle in Abu Dhabi. Those constraints leave Washington facing more tarnishing of its image - already tainted among Yemenis due to its use of drones and missiles to kill alleged al Qaeda members - over the question of impunity for Saleh, without his final destination being resolved.

Mohammed Albasha, spokesman for the Yemeni embassy in Washington, in response to questions via Twitter, declined to specify how many visas Saleh's entourage would want, but emphasized he would visit as a head of state.

"He didn't surrender 'all' his executive powers," Albasha wrote. "The full transition will be after February 21."

Michael Hanna, a fellow with The Century Foundation and expert in criminal law and transitional justice, said that status would likely shield Saleh from any legal action while in the United States, but not once his current status ended.

"His coming to the U.S. or not doesn't foreclose any future processes of accountability," he said. "His record is his record, and that stands."

SKETCHED OPINION

By Hajjaj

The Arab Spring continues



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Infectious diseases spreading in Mahwit

YT photo by Al-Sanaed



Children are the victims of infectious diseases made worse by low winter temperatures. The majority of people in Melhan live below the poverty line and cannot afford needed medications.

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Locals in Melhan, a district in Mahwit Governorate in northwest Yemen, have been complaining about the breakout of new and strange diseases this year.

Abbas Abdullah, a resident and health worker in Melhan District

said that he has seen ten cases of Graves' disease (locally known as 'Korfos'), an auto-immune disease where the thyroid is overactive, leading to excessive production of thyroid hormones.

Area locals have attributed the cause for the upsurge in this and other diseases to this year's unusually cold weather.

Fares Al-Rawdha, Melhan's Health Office Manager, has appealed to the government and relevant organizations for help.

He said that there has been about 15 recent cases of mumps, an infectious illness that causes the neck to swell, with children having been affected most.

Al-Rawdha added that other dis-

eases have unexpectedly and suddenly broken out in the area, such as malaria, dengue fever, and respiratory infections. He added that many infected people are suffering from persistent coughs and vomiting.

A person who arrived in Melhan one month ago after traveling from Tehama carried the infection and caused the spread of mumps, according to Al-Rawdha.

He called on the Ministry of Health to conduct a campaign to prevent the further spread of such diseases.

"We suffer from a lack of medicine and staff," he said, indicating that people in the area are impoverished and require urgent help.

If the situation continues without any action being taken, the diseases will become widespread, he warned.

Khaled Al-Shareef, a teacher in Melhan, said that such diseases usually break out in the winter season. He added that cases have been more rampant this year, though.

He explained, however, that symptoms this year are more serious and that some people cannot get up from bed because of terrible joint pains.

Al-Shareef also said that malaria patients are not able to move without experiencing acute pain.

Al-Shareef pointed out that the majority of people live in poor conditions and cannot afford the cost of medications.

"Most of them earn a living as shepherds or construction workers. Unfortunately, children and women are also the victims of these diseases," he said.

Melhan has a population of more than 100,000 people. It has around sixteen health centers, but most of them are unequipped and understaffed. Most of the population lives below the poverty line.

The district is not connected to the national power grid, and only one percent of citizens there have regular access to water.

Re-advertisement

Republic of Yemen
Minister's Cabinet
Economic Opportunity Fund (EOP)
Request of Expressions of Interest for Consulting Services
Assessment of Existing
Fisher's Cooperatives

The Government of Yemen represented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation has received a Grant from (IFAD) and co-finance from Islamic bank for Development and European union for Economic Opportunities Fund. EOF was created by Presidential decree # 183-2010 dated 25/09/2010 as a public-private partnership working to improve the economic status of poor women and men in rural areas. Currently, the (EOF) seeks to assess all Existing Fishier Cooperatives with a view of partnership with the most successful of them in specific fisheries investments. **This announcement supersedes the announcements published in Al Thawra newspaper in November 2010.**

The EOF now invites eligible firms to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services through (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, general qualifications and number of key staff, and so forth.

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

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Economic Opportunities Fund (EOF), Sana'a.
Hadda Street, Previous Building of TOTAL company.
Near German Embassy
Tele: 00 967 433919 / 18
E-mail: eofyemen@yahoo.com.uk

The deadline for submitting applications is **January 25, 2012, 3:00pm.**

HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



This weekly column disseminates health information to readers in Yemen and beyond. Dr. Siva currently works at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Lifestyle diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and naturopathy are his passions.

Foods that will lower cancer risk

Let food be your medicine and your medicine be your food.

— Hippocrates

Food can be one's blessing or curse with regard to the development of cancer. The following anti-cancer diet greatly lowers risk nearly all other types of cancers. It can also prevent cardiovascular disease. For people with a genetic tendency toward cancers, it is not just an option, it's a lifesaving necessity.

- Be watchful about fats:** Unsaturated fats found in plant foods, such as legumes olive oil, seafood, flaxseed, pumpkin seed, canola, soybean, sunflower, sesame, and virgin olive oils and fish oils are not only the heart-healthiest fats, but they may have anticancer properties. Avoid oils high in saturated fats, such as palm, palm kernel, and cottonseed oils. Hydrogenated fats are potentially carcinogenic.
- Increase Your Fiber Intake:** Fiber moves potential carcinogens through the intestines faster, decreasing the contact time between carcinogens and the intestinal wall. The less exposure to carcinogens, the less chance of colon cancer. A high fiber diet seems particularly protective against many cancers. Best sources of fiber are wheat bran, kidney beans, garbanzo beans, navy beans, whole wheat, whole grains, legumes, whole grain bread, and prunes. Eat beans regularly. Have a big bowl of high fiber bran cereal for breakfast. Eat at least 25 grams of fiber a day.
- Eat lots of raw fruits and vegetables:** Eating more fruits and vegetables reduces the risk of all types of cancers. Plants also contain phytochemicals that may help your body fight cancer. Broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, mustard greens, kale, and cauliflower contain cancer-protective biochemicals. They also nourish the cells of the intestinal lining, making them more resistant to becoming cancerous. Best salad sources of anti-cancer nutrients are dark green leafy spinach (sabanah) broccoli, tomatoes, red peppers, kidney beans, and garbanzo beans.
- Switch from red meat to seafood:** Eating meat, especially processed meats, is highly associated with increased risk of colon cancer. Some processed meats contain nitrosamines, which can be carcinogenic to the colon. Grilling under high can release carcinogens into the meat called heterocyclic amines, which can damage cellular DNA.
- Consume plant-based diet:** People who have primarily plant-based diets have a much, lower risk of cancer.
- Eat more soy products:** Soy is a more healthful source of protein than meat. Soy seems to protect against the most common types of cancer, including lung, rectal, colon, stomach, prostate, and breast.
- Change your oils:** Oils that are rich in omega-3 fatty acids (i.e., fish and flax oils) have anti-cancer properties. Omega 3 fatty acids, such as those found in oily fish and flax seeds, help produce cancer-fighting phytochemicals. Monounsaturated oils, such as olive oil, also play a role in cancer prevention.
- Eat foods containing calcium:** To lower your risk of colorectal cancer, consider taking between 500 and 1,000 milligrams of calcium carbonate or calcium citrate daily. Best sources of calcium are dairy products, such as yogurt, and bony fish.
- Eat a diet high in antioxidants:** While there are many unsubstantiated claims about the benefits of antioxidants, there is reliable scientific evidence that beta carotene, vitamin C and vitamin E definitely lower the risk of colorectal cancer. Fruits and vegetables are the main sources of these naturally occurring antioxidants.
- Beta carotene:** Beta carotene fights against cancer by both boosting the immune system and releasing a specific chemical called tumor necrosis factor. Beta carotene can block the growth of potentially cancerous cells. Best sources of beta carotene are sweet potatoes, carrots, cantaloupe, pumpkins, butternut and other types of squash (koosa), spinach (sabanah), broccoli, mango, and papaya. Eating pink grapefruit gives you a beta carotene boost. Tomatoes contain lycopene, which enhances the absorption and utilization of beta carotene, so eating tomatoes with beta carotene-rich foods provides an added boost. Carrots and tomatoes are a good combination.
- Vitamin C:** Studies have shown that persons with the highest intake of vitamin C have the lowest incidence of intestinal cancers. Vitamin C also boosts the immune system by increasing the production of lymphocytes. Best sources of vitamin C are fresh fruits and vegetables. Taking 1,000 to 2,000 milligrams of vitamin C daily may have anticancer benefits.
- Vitamin D:** Vitamin D, which you get from exposure to sunshine (around 10 to 15 minutes a day) and from vitamin D-fortified milk and other foods, has anticancer properties. It suppresses angiogenesis, the formation of new blood vessels that nourish the growth of tumors. Low levels of vitamin D have been found in some people with colon cancer. Women whose diets are high in vitamin D have a lower risk of breast cancer.
- Vitamin E:** The anti-cancer properties in vitamin E are similar to vitamin C. Vitamin E and selenium had ten times the risk of breast cancer in one study.
- Flax seeds:** Flaxseeds (yelsee) contain two cancer-preventive compounds: omega 3 fatty acids and lignans, which may reduce the risk of breast cancer and colon cancer. Ground flaxseeds and sprinkle on oats, salads or yogurt and eat.
- No to alcohol:** Alcohol consumption slightly increases the risk of colorectal cancer, and the alcoholic beverage with the strongest link to colon cancer is beer. Beer is thought to contain nitrosamines, a carcinogen or pre-carcinogen that is activated in the intestines.
- Selenium:** Selenium is most effective when taken along with foods or supplements that are high in vitamin E. Best sources of selenium in food are fish (especially red snapper) lobster, shrimp, whole grains, and vegetables, brown rice, cottage cheese, chicken, sunflower seeds, and garlic.
- Acidophilus:** Studies have shown that consuming dietary supplements of lactobacillus acidophilus greatly diminishes the level of colon enzymes that produce carcinogenic decomposition products from food.
- Garlic and Ginger:** Garlic has health-promoting and anticancer properties. Ginger fights stomach cancer by eliminating H. Pylori bacteria from our stomach.
- Green tea:** Green tea has been shown to inhibit the growth of cancer cells, possibly because of a chemical it contains called "catechins."

4U

Tips for Avoiding Winter Bugs:

- Get vaccinated against flu
- Wash your hands often
- Limit exposure to infected people
- Keep stress in check
- Eat right
- Sleep right
- Exercise

Source: www.fda.gov/consumer



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:

Do you approve of friendship between men and women? What should the boundaries be in your opinion?

Mustafa Khadar

Yes, I approve of friendship between men and women because there isn't anything preventing this - unless they dominate each other. If this happens, it means that they don't respect each other. They also have to know what Islam has taught us, because both genders have rights.

Adeeb Abdulgabbbar Ibrahim Saba Islamic bank Aden, age 38

The idea or concept of friendship is generally understood to concern mutual relationships, either between at least two people of the same gender or of different genders. Most of us have built many friendships during our lifetimes since true friendship allows a person to find someone to share his own dreams, secrets and even problems with, and in a way that is apart from family.

In my opinion, a man and woman can establish and share a respectful friendship if this relationship is based on a respect for the feelings, attitudes, behaviors and manners of each other, and on helping and assisting each other. Women always seek trustworthy, honest men to share their points of view with; however, most friendships of this type end quickly when a man has hidden aims. Moreover, in Muslim countries, friendship between a man and woman will be difficult as long as we remain restricted by our religious rules and principles, and bound by traditions and customs.

Wathik Al Samawi

I think men and women can form friendships as long as there are limitations; we are Muslims and our culture, society, and religion has put limitations on such relationships. Plus, it's noticeable that most of our society's youth make it a habit, even while they know very well that they won't continue with it in earnest. In Western countries, when men and women form friendships, such friendships end with marriage because frankness and loyalty are important elements of such relationships.

Emad Algabali Civil Engineer 25 years old

I approve of friendship between a man and woman; the relationship must however be kept within limits. I mean that limit which agrees with Islamic recommendations. For example, they must talk and meet in front of people, and not do so alone. That which connects them together can outline the features of their relationship; it must, however, remain within boundaries.

Tammam Al-Barmaky Physician under training 24 years old

I think social habits are the major contributing factors for forming friendships. We need more civilization to form such friendships.

Taha Al-Azab, student at Faculty of Languages, Level 4 24

It is a very sensitive and important issue, leaving me moderate in my opinion towards relationships between boys and girls. Some people think we should isolate women from male society, and that they should be covered and kept far away. I don't accept this view, and not because it's inconvenient to do so. On the other hand, boys and girls form relationships that go beyond all kinds of limits - including laws, traditions and beliefs - and in the name of freedom!! It's good to be cooperative, but the only solution

for any lovers is marriage. Islam doesn't clash with freedom, which itself shouldn't translate into animal behavior.

Khaled Al-Nahmi

I don't think there are any problems with friendship between men and women. Why not? As long as we are aware of what we are doing, this can motivate or encourage us - both men and women - to face life confidently and to learn more about the other sex, because life is a partnership.

Abdulnasser Al-Abdali English teacher 28

First of all, friendship is a priceless asset that plays the same role of brotherhood in our lives. Therefore, I approve of friendship between men and women if it functions as a brotherhood. As for me, I work in a school and my co-workers are from both sides, males and female. We all work together as one big family and share everything together. Really, I feel that it is as though all of them have been friends since childhood.

Khalid Al-Karimi English Student 23

I think it is unreasonable to suggest that friendship between a woman and man is an offense. Bonds between the two can be indispensable, yet there ought to be restrictions. Once, during a spoken lecture delivered by an English phonetics professor at college, this business was discussed. The male students couldn't break the barriers of shyness and converse with the female classmates and vice versa. Consequently, the professor opined that to talk to a girl is not shameful as long as one is serious. That is, solemn friendship is not disgraceful. Indeed, I cannot say that women-men relationships are always safe. Friends, particularly false ones, may cause one's life to become bitter. There must be an understanding of the acceptable scope of befriending. It is worth mentioning that some people absolutely forbid talking to the opposite sex in any situation. I dislike this bigoted attitude. One must be moderate.

Nabil Taha Al-Ahmadi 20 years old Level 2, University of science and technology

This question hits upon an aching wound - it's a good question with which to discuss our social life. I'm more than certain that we have many types of friendship, such as work, study, those in our public life, etc. I agree with friendship when it remains in the field of politeness, and I have no comment because we can't do without women, and enough has been said in this respect. But for many reasons I refuse such connections. People will say, what is wrong with that?

It isn't easy to change engrained habits, because we are in Yemen. The habits of the tribe never change. Second, a woman is easily worked upon through her pity, gratitude or love and therefore permits the bad thing. Whenever a man meets a woman, the devil is the third. And there are no warrants or excuses for some types of behavior. Third, if you are strong enough to have a friendship without making mistakes, have it in the field of brotherhood. Relationships between men and women are in the field of love - that won't fill the bill, except in marriage. Finally, we mustn't burn the candle at both ends. What I'm not satisfied with for my sisters, I can't be satisfied with for my Yemeni sisters.

Picture of the Week



A view into coffee fields of Haraz mountains.

Photo by SMEPS

Creative teamwork leads to success

By: Khaleel Al-Samomi
khaleel336@yahoo.com

Teamwork builds life. If you read Islamic history, you will see that the Prophet and his companions worked together. The proverb "One hand cannot clap" is right. With cooperation for the sake of Islam, he built the greatest civilization that we will ever see.

A team is important in many fields including economy and politics. A good leader forms a working group to unite efforts and save time. Even bees do this!

Ants also stick together, and help each other to face the enemy when their kingdom is attacked. Look around you. Human beings, birds, and insects all take part in creative

teamwork.

Let's take an example from modern history: Japan. In a few years, they have become one of the richest countries in the world. Why? If you look closely, you will see that all Japanese work in groups. They do not thank each other, but simply care that they are helping to better their country.

If management believes in people's talents and exploits them, results will be great.

What are the necessary factors to act as an effective team?

The first is that trust. The leader should hold trust in those that he works with. In a successful team, members trust each other, and believe that this trust will help them to achieve their own goals as part of the group.

The second reason is commit-

ment. Team members should motivate each other to progress together step by step.

The third is the choice of the team members. A good leader will put the team's goals and interests above everything else.

Communication among members is also important to go forward. Team members need to be trained and educated.

Finally, leaders should not personalize success but must say that it is the success of the whole team. This in turn enhances their own trust.

To be a famous, creative and thoughtful leader, read, try to discover your own mistakes, and avoid making them again. Follow up on your day's activities, and manage your time well.

Lead your team to success.



Announcement Of Office Relocation

We are pleased to announce that we have been moved from the temporary office in Haddah into our main office effective from January 2nd 2012 .

Our main office located in Al - Saeed Building, 6th floor, Al - Zubairy Street, Sana'a.

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

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Fax: 01 - 212895

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con.attache@royalnorcon.com

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

in emergency cases:

Mobile : 737777744 . 737777722



Next Week's Question:

What are your aspirations and dreams for the year 2012, personally and for Yemen?

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!

Yemen in 2011

Compiled by:
Yemen Times Staff

JANUARY

January 11: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton holds three meetings with the government and opposition in Sana'a during a short unplanned visit to Yemen that lasts only a few hours.
January 14: Turkish President Abdullah Gul visits Yemen on a one-and-half day visit.
January 18: Yemeni journalist Abdulelah Shaey is sentenced to five years in prison after being accused of being the "media man" for Al-Qaeda. He had been in jail since his arrest in August 2010.
January 22: Female journalist and activist Tawakul Karman is arrested, and a group of 30 journalists and human rights activists go to the General Prosecutor to appeal for her release. They are arrested too.

Photo by Yousef Aljinn



Three pro-democracy demonstrators that were killed on Friday March 18 violence. All three were killed by highly accurate shots to the head by snipers.

FEBRUARY

February 3: A "Day of Anger" is staged and thousands of Yemeni opposition supporters take to the streets of Sana'a, Aden and Taiz.
February 10: Thousands of Southern Movement supporters march in several parts of the south in protest at a military siege imposed by the government.
February 12: Thousands in Sana'a celebrate Mubarak's downfall, call for Saleh's ouster.
February 15: A telecommunications bill allowing for wiretaps on telephones is rejected by MPs.
February 18: Four are killed and another 11 injured when the authorities attempt to disperse thousands of protesters in Aden.
February 18: At least three are killed and another 87 injured when a grenade is thrown at tens of thousands of protesters in Taiz's Freedom Square.
February 21: The death toll in Aden increases to nine after a week of violent confrontations between security forces and protesters. A local authority building is set on fire along with security patrol cars and citizens' vehicles in the Mansoura and Sheikh Othman districts of Aden.
February 21: A new initiative called "Tribes for Change" joins the anti-government protests in the capital. The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), an opposition coalition, and Houthi followers in the north declare their support for the young protesters demanding Saleh's ouster.
February 23: Ten MPs resign from ruling General People's Congress in protest at the government's crackdown on protesters. Two protesters killed and 23 injured in Sana'a.
February 27: Eight are killed, 36 injured in Aden's protests, raising the death toll since 2 February to 26.

MARCH

March 4: Two are killed and six injured when the army attacks an anti-government protest in the war-torn district of Harf Sufyan, Amran Governorate.
March 6: After days of delay, President Ali Abdullah Saleh officially rejects a proposal to step down in 2011 and reiterates that he will remain in

power until his term ends in 2013.
March 8: Some 70 to 80 students are injured and one killed after government troops fire at protesters in front of Sana'a University. Doctors say that troops are using nerve gas against protesters.
March 14: Four foreign journalists are deported from Yemen. The ministry of information's spokesman said they have been deported due to their "illegal" stay in Yemen and "violation" of visa regulations.
March 18: More than 60 people are killed on Friday by gunmen firing from the roofs of nearby houses. Most of the victims were shot directly in the head or the chest. Doctors say at least 617 are injured, and 347 suffered from inhaling tear gas.
March 20: More members of the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) have resigned.
March 21: Senior military leaders, mainly Ali Mohsen Saleh Al-Ahmar, a key general and leader of the First Armored Division, announce their

solidarity with the protesters and the "peaceful revolution."
March 23: Yemen's parliament endorses emergency law after President Saleh.
March 27: Talks between President Saleh and the JMP, the coalition of the opposition parties, failed to produce an agreement.
March 30: Armed groups in the jihadi-laden governorate of Abyan in south Yemen have taken over the local radio station, the presidential palace, and an ammunition factory, while the violent clashes between the army and armed rebels continue in the area.

APRIL

April 1: The US and Britain urge their citizens to leave Yemen due to the deterioration of security in the country.
April 2: The JMP, the traditional political opposition, propose their solution to end the political crisis. The opposition's suggestion includes that Saleh announce his resignation and transfer his authority to the vice president.
April 3: Amid civil disobedience in Taiz and Aden, two persons are killed in Taiz as security forces use tear gas against protesters. Up to 1,700 protesters were affected by the gas.
April 6: The Qatari foreign minister, Hamad Bin Jassem Al Thani announces that Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have sent



Tens of thousands of anti-government protesters rallied across Yemen on Day of Anger to decry the deaths of demonstrators in Sana'a.

a copy of their initiative to resolve the Yemeni crisis to the Yemeni president and the opposition. This is the first version of the initiative and includes that Saleh should step down and transfer powers to the vice president.
April 8: In his Friday speech, Saleh calls on non-Arab and Arab countries to respect the feelings of millions of Yemenis, and refuses the "coup against his rule" referring to the Gulf initiative.
April 9: Yemen's foreign ministry calls home its ambassador in Qatar.
April 10: GCC ministers of foreign affairs meet in Riyadh to discuss mediation to solve the Yemeni crisis, during which they approve Saleh's ouster in exchange for immunity from prosecution for himself, his relatives, and his regime.
April 14: The opposition gives two weeks for Saleh to step down and refuses a Saudi invitation to talks in Riyadh with Saleh.
April 23: The GPC announces Saleh's acceptance of the GCC power transfer deal. The opposition also accepts, but refuses to join a "National Unity" government.

MAY

May 21: Saleh warns that if he leaves office, Al-Qaeda will take control of Yemen.
May 22: Saleh refuses to sign the GCC initiative, although he has promised to do so on this anniversary of Yemen's 1994 unification.
May 23: In Hasaba, in the north of Sana'a, fresh violence erupts between tribal opposition leader Sadeq Al-Ahmar and security forces in Al-Hasaba.
May 29: Security forces storm the protest camp in Taiz and burn disabled protesters alive in tents, killing an unknown number of protesters and injuring others. Local tribesmen react violently and vow to protect anti-regime protesters.
May 29: Al-Qaeda takes control of Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan in south Yemen after security forces abandon their offices, leaving advanced military weapons behind.

JUNE

June 3: An assassination attempt targets Saleh in the presidential palace, killing over 12 and injuring over 80 others.
June 7: Armed Islamists affiliated to Al-Qaeda also take control of Azzan in Shabwa, east Yemen.
June 8: A US FBI forensics team arrived in Yemen to investigate the attack on the compound of President Ali Abdullah Saleh that seriously injured the president.
June 21: At least 65 prisoner's some of whom are Al-Qaeda members escaped from Al-Mukalla Central Prison.
June 29: Many protestors, especially tribal ones and independent youth left Change Square or created their own expansion of the square fleeing Islah Party's control.

JULY

July 2: Clashes in Taiz between the Republican Guards and tribesmen broke out, leaving five soldiers dead.
July 7: President Saleh, with signs of severe burns on his face, appears

on television for the first time since the assassination attempt on June 3. Live ammunition shot in the air by Saleh's supporters kill at least 16. At least 10 soldiers are killed in an attack of an army base in Zinjibar, south Yemen.
July 23: A car bomb kills nine soldiers in Aden.
July 30: About 90 people are killed in clashes between government security and armed men in the Abyan governorate.
July 31: Clashes break out between the Republican Guard and armed men in Arhab, 30km northeastern of Sana'a, as the latter attempt to take control of some strategic military camps in the area.

AUGUST

August 1: Five people are killed and 11 injured in clashes between the Republican Guard and opposition armed men in Taiz governorate.
August 6: President Saleh leaves the military hospital in Riyadh.
August 10: Opposition parties declare that they will form a national council within a week, and the deputy minister of information describes this step as tantamount to declaring war.
August 17: Opposition parties elect the 143 members of the National Council for the Peaceful Revolution.
August 21: Militants in Abyan attack tribesmen.

SEPTEMBER

September 20: Violence breaks out in Taiz again. Four protesters are killed and 35 injured.
September 23: President Saleh returns to Yemen.
September 25: President Saleh calls for presidential, parliamentary, and



A woman in her family's destroyed house in Al-Hasaba area where fierce clashes took place between Saleh's forces and armed supporters of Al-Ahmar family.

local elections. AUN Security Council calls for end to Yemen's violence.
September 30: The US born of Yemeni origin Anwar Al-Awlaqi, Al-Qaeda's prominent leader was killed in Yemen by a US drone strike.

OCTOBER

October 7: Political activist Tawakul Karman jointly wins the Nobel Peace Prize with Liberian women Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Leymah Gbowee.
October 14: The 16-year-old son of Anwar Al-Awlaqi, a prominent Yemeni-American figure in Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, is killed in a American drone in the Shabwa governorate.
October 27: Stray shells kill three in the old city of Sana'a, an act condemned not only because of the killings but also because of the historical value of the old buildings in a UNESCO World Heritage site.

NOVEMBER

November 13: Fifteen civilians killed in Taiz and over 100 were injured in

random attack and shelling by the Republican Guards.
November 19: 400 troops of the Republican Guards and Special Forces abandon Saleh.
November 23: President Ali Abdulla Saleh signs the GCC initiative agreeing to hand over power after ruling Yemen for 33 years.

DECEMBER

December 7: The National Unity Government was announced.
December 20: At least 2,000 protesters arrive in Sana'a, after marching 260 km from Taiz to Sana'a in four-day "Life March" to protest Saleh and his followers immunity from prosecution as set out by the GCC deal. Security forces fire live ammunition and tear gas at protesters, killing 13 and injuring others.
December 28: The shoes of a slain "Life March" protester are sold for USD 15,000 in an auction. He was wearing them when he died after marching 250 kilometers to the capital. The shoes hold the Guinness record for the most expensive pair of used shoes.

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