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Dramatic shift in state media coverage

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Jan. 8 — For more than three decades, the state-run newspapers, TV channels and radio stations were dedicated to promoting President Saleh and his regime.

erage began to change over the last few days. Salah Al-Asadi, a pro-democracy protester was surprised when he saw Saturday's issue of state-run Al-Thawra newspaper, which published a picture of anti-regime protesters on the front page.

changing the performance of public media, anonymous people threatened Minister of Information Ali Al-Amrani last week. From the beginning of the uprising in Yemen, state-run channels intensified their programs against the revolution and spread false rumors about the anti-regime protesters, depicting them as vandals. Dozens of journalists, broadcast-



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Prime Minister starts gulf tour to lobby for development support

Editorial: The opposition's search for fame and dragging the country into chaos

Parliament calls the cabinet for questioning

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Before

President: We value our people's lives

President congratulates Queen of Holland

President instructs follow-up of legal pending cases

JMP spokesperson reveals disputes with GPC

Streets reject amnesty for Saleh

After

Local authority suspends security chief due to human rights violations

Saleh amnesty illegal, says UN Human Rights

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Jan. 8 — The United Nations Human Rights chief declared on Friday that giving Saleh amnesty is a violation of Yemen's international Human Rights obligation.

The deal stated that Saleh — and those who worked with him — would be guaranteed amnesty by parliament. But what if the victims' families want to take Saleh to trial in the future, how can the parliamentarians prevent them? he asked.

acting president Abdu Rabo Mansour Hadi and honorary president Ali Abdullah Saleh disrupted implementation of the GCC deal. Media reports claimed that Hadi threatened to leave Sana'a if Saleh did not stop interfering. Cracks have also begun to show in the General People's Congress — the ruling party before the power sharing deal agreed in November. This follows the exodus of more than 60 members who quit last March to join the revolution.

Ahead of a scheduled amnesty vote by Yemen's parliament this week, Navi Pillay, UNHR chief, also said that anyone who has committed crimes during the long-running anti-government protests should face justice.

«International law and the UN policy are clear on the matter: amnesties are not permissible if they prevent the prosecution of individuals who may be criminally responsible for international crimes including war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and gross violations of human right,» said Pillay.

Following approval of the amnesty law by the National Unity Government last Wednesday, which

Another reason that the UNHR has rejected the amnesty is the fact that violence continued in Yemen after the deal was agreed.

Senan Al-Aji, an MP and a leading figure in the GPC, agreed that there had been disagreements between GPC members at recent meetings but denied a split in the party.

«Based on information we have gathered, there is reason to believe that some of these crimes were committed in Yemen during the period for which an amnesty is under consideration,» said Pillay, without naming any potential suspects.

«Such an amnesty would be in violation of Yemen's international human rights obligations,» she added.

Abdulwahab Al-Ansi, a leading figure of the Islah party told the Yemen Times that the amnesty as it was suggested in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) deal, signed on Nov. 23, 2011, is not helpful for Saleh or his regime.

UN envoy Jamal Benomar is to present this project, called the Justice Transitional, according to Al-Ansi.

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Street cleaners strike, streets left unclean



More than 2,000 street cleaners went on strike in Sana'a demanding paid vacation and medical insurance.

By Malak Shaher & Fuad Mused

Sana'a, Jan. 7 – More than 2,000 street cleaners went on a strike from last Tuesday to Thursday to demand their rights.

For more than sixteen years, Hanash Sa'eed, 30, has worked as a street cleaner without receiving a paid vacation or other employees' rights. The more than 4,000 street cleaners in Sana'a are paid just YR 25,000 or USD 110 a month.

According to Ali Al-Maghribi, a secretary for the General Cleaning Administration (GCA), street cleaners were promised that they would be officially hired and receive paid vacations and benefits like medical insurance after the strike.

Al-Maghribi said that Minister of Defense Mohammad Naser Ahmad urgently gave orders to the Logistics Department to provide the street cleaners with 2,000 sacks of sugar, 2,000 bottles of oil and 2,000 boxes of canned beans.

Past disappointments and new promises

In a GCA meeting held on Wednesday, it was decided that street cleaners will receive medical insurance and paid vacations after one month's time.

The street cleaners have, however, complained that they have received promises before and that this time

around they remain unsure whether such promises will be followed by action. "The most important thing is that they fulfill their promise this time. We only want our rights," said Sa'eed, who has a wife and a child who also work as street cleaners. Jabri Al-Jamal, a street cleaner, said that this is the sixth such promise they have received. "Their promises are like antibiotics that keep us silent for a while," said Al-Jamal, 34.

He said that although he owns a house - where he, his wife and six children live - the money he receives as a monthly salary is not enough to live on. Sana'a's street cleaners also went on strike two years ago to demand that they be officially employed and receive medical insurance and paid vacations.

In general, street cleaners work three shifts. The first is from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m., the second from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and the third from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Each street cleaner daily works two out of three shifts in areas specified by the municipality's cleaning administration. In addition to the street cleaners, the cleaning administration also has possesses vehicles to collect garbage from houses and shops. There are 17 districts in Sana'a. Each district has two supervisors who report on their area's cleanliness and who also monitor whether the cleaners are performing their duties or not, Abdulhakim Saber, a worker at

the administration, told the Yemen Times earlier.

An environmental problem

At least 10,000 tons of garbage is collected in Sana'a each day, according to Abbass Al-Sharafi, head of Operational Unit at the administration.

Al-Sharafi said the garbage is disposed of using an old method in which it is buried in the soil and covered with sand, leaving behind "huge mountains of garbage that aren't recycled at all."

In Aden, however, people have become concerned about the environmental consequences of burning garbage in residential areas.

Garbage has also piled up in Aden's streets after the city's street cleaners went on strike for the last two days. Shop owners in Aden's Crater District gathered all the garbage in their area and burned it near the Al-Za'faran Market.

"This forced us to close all our windows on Friday as the smoke was everywhere and did not allow us to breathe clean air," said Salem Mohammad, a resident of Aden.

Mohammed called on officials to respond to the street cleaners' demands and to give them their legal rights. Since last Thursday, garbage has been burned in other areas in Aden, leaving people afraid of falling ill following exposure to the suffocating smoke.

Qaed Rashed, head of Aden's



Garbage was burned in Aden, polluting the air on Friday.

Cleaning Fund, called on the Minister of Finance to officially increase the street cleaner's salaries.

He said that he is willing to consider resigning after striking street cleaners demanded that he leave his position. These problems came on the heels of environmental problems caused when Sanitation Administration employees went on strike.

Gunfire exchange injures three

By: Ali Saeed

SANAA, Jan. 8 – Three pedestrians were injured in gunfire exchange on Sunday afternoon in Hayel Street. One of the injured received a bullet in the chest and is reported to be in a critical condition.

The gunfire exchange happened at a checkpoint of the First Armored Division and armed men in a pickup car who refused to stop for security check. Although it only lasted for only half an hour between 12:30 and one p.m., locals say there had been enforced military presence in the conflict zone since Sunday morning.

The street where the incident took place is located on one of Sana'a city's notorious conflict zones between the Republican Guards and the defected First Armored Division.

"I heard the gunfire which lasted briefly although it injured three people who were passing by during that time," Abdulsattar Baggash a journalist living in that area told the

Yemen Times.

Only Kalashnikovs were reported to be used during the fire exchange despite the presence of heavy artillery on both sides of the conflict including tanks, machineguns and armored vehicles.

This incident creates a problem for the joint military committee that was formed on Dec. 4, 2011 to remove all military signs from the city. The committee had set a one week deadline for itself to achieve this task starting from Dec. 17, 2011, however, it failed to achieve this and has only been able to make slow progress in its mission.

This kind of armed confrontation between two entities of national army is caused by the political division among the army units' commanders especially since the Republican Guards is managed by the outgoing president Saleh's son while the First Armored Division is run by Ali Mohsin Al-Ahmar who defected in March and joined the uprising against the president.

Military protests continue

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANAA, Jan. 6 – Sana'a Police Patrolmen's demands to officially oust their director remain on hold as they were told by the Interior Minister on Wednesday that this change requires a presidential decree, not possible until after presidential elections in Feb. 21, 2012.

Patrol Director Colonel Abdu al-Ghani Al-Wajeeh as the protestors claim is corrupt and bias in his management decisions which affected their careers. Al-Wajeeh had held his position for more than 11 years despite having many complaints made against him during that span.

"Our demand is to remove him from his position and to hold him accountable...where did he get his money from?" said Saeed Saleh, one of the protesters.

On Jan 1, 2011, the colonel was suspended in an effort by the head of the Security Administration to calm the protesters. The Protest Committee raised its demands, asking for the change to be made final by the interi-

or minister. However, they were content to wait until February, putting an end to the protests had started on Dec. 28, 2011 in front of the Security Administration facility at Tahrir Square in Sana'a.

"The change was big' the temporary director is known to be an impartial person that would help to improve the facility," said the head of the committee, who asked to remain anonymous after members of the committee received death threats.

The timing of the patrolmen's actions is part of a larger institutional movement that has been taking place since December 2011. The atmosphere of change that came as a result of the Arab Spring provided inspiration for what may be the beginning of an institutional revolution in Yemen. "They are soldiers, we are soldiers too; they are armed, we are armed too. But we chose to make our demands peacefully," said Mohammed Sameer, a soldier.

The fact that soldiers from the Security Administration have started to protest also raises questions about

the performance of - and difficulties faced by - the Military Committee during the present time.

Protests at security institutions add further difficulties to the committee's work. The Yemen Times contacted Interior minister Abd al-Qader Qahtan to clarify the situation. "We are doing our best to heal the situation," he commented, adding that he can't issue any press statements before at least one month has passed.

"We will not be protesting for long, as we are a service facility, and the city would soon be in chaos if we did so," one of the organizers for the patrolmen's protest told the Yemen Times.

Those protesting told the Yemen Times that they were forced to protect the "thugs" in Tahrir Square for the past ten months. As on February 2 of 2011, when pro-regime protesters took over Tahrir Square as part of a bid to keep President Ali Abdullah Saleh in power. Orders to clash with anti-government protesters were also given.

Fresh fuel shortages, controversy

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANAA, Jan. 7 – Taxi drivers protested on Friday in front of the Yemeni Oil Company's main office on Sixty Meters Road. Their demand was twofold: that the market be provided with fuel, and for fuel prices to be reduced. The company told the Yemen Times that they do not have authority to control fuel prices, and that it is the responsibility of the cabinet. "Our job is to distribute fuel and has nothing to do with raising prices; the cabinet determines oil subsidies and the amount of imports, which the government has to cover.

Meanwhile, Yemenis have questioned the Minister of Oil and Minerals about a renewed fuel shortage in the Yemeni capital, present since mid-December.

The minister had promised to supply the capital city with fuel on December 27, but until the newspaper went to print there had been no improvement. The minister had said that the fuel shortage was due to road blocks. Eyewitnesses told the Yemen Times that the Republican Guards, commanded by outgoing president Saleh's son Ahmed Ali, were blocking the road from Hodeida to Sana'a and preventing fuel trucks from entering the Yemeni capital.

"I saw more than 200 fuel trucks inside and outside Ahmed Ali's petrol company in Subaha, 25 km from Sana'a," said Jamal Hadi who saw the scene on his way to Hodeida, and was one of several to relate the same story to the Yemen Times. "The trucks unloaded the fuel into large tanks inside the company that were at least a 20-meter high and 20-meter wide." "It is politics that keep Sana'a in need of fuel and electricity," said taxi driver Mohammed Rajab. "We know that the fuel is there



The fuel shortage has flourished the black market of the petrol in which the one-petrol-liter increased from YR 75 to YR 250-300.

but they divide it among the corrupt, the thieves, and deprive us." Saleh's regime is trying to make the National Unity Government fail by blocking the most important service which is fuel," Mustafa Naser, chairman of the Studies and Economic Media Center, told the Yemen Times. Tribesmen as well as the Republican Guard block the Hodeida - Sana'a road, he said. On December 31, Reuters quoted the Yemeni minister of oil and minerals as saying that Saudi Arabia would give Yemen fuel that would be enough for two months, the second time in six months that Saudi Arabia was to bail Yemen out with fuel during the political crisis.

"Fuel distribution by other countries should be fair this time," Naser said, explaining that the first donation did not help much in improving the life of ordinary citizens.

"The National Unity Government should prioritize fuel over any other issue right now," he said.

The parliament has called on armed forces and security members to uphold their legal responsibility to prevent road blocks or sabotage. It has

also demanded that the Ministry of Oil and Minerals provide fuel to citizens as well as regulate its price in all governorates. At the moment, in the Marib Governorate 20 liters of fuel cost YR 1,500, in Aden and Shabwa YR1,600, and in Sana'a YR 3,500.

Although it is said that the price of fuel is higher in the capital because its quality is better, many have complained that unleaded fuel burns faster than normal fuel. "I don't know what is wrong with this Super Unleaded fuel," said car owner Amani Ahmed. "On the same route that I take every day, this one ends really fast. I believe they cheat us on the quality."

"Due to the prices difference, some Sana'a residents actually travel go to other governorates to fill their cars. "I went all the way to Marib to fill my car," one driver told the Yemen Times. "I bought six 60-liter tanks for my friends as well."

The price differences also encourage black market dealers to sell in the streets. The government must clamp down on fuel smugglers, said Naser.



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Minister of Youth and Sport to the Yemen Times:

“We should be unified to rebuild the country.”

Head of the Yemeni Youth Union, Muammar Al-Eryani has been appointed as Yemen's new Minister of Youth and Sport. Despite limited resources, he has started to tackle his mission to encourage sport and support youth to rebuild a new 'post-revolution' Yemen. The Yemen Times spoke to the new minister about the challenges that lie ahead.



Muammar Al-Eryani

Interviewed by: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

You have become a minister of youth and sport at a crucial time. What's your agenda for the coming days?

These are critical times, but I expect that the national unity government will greatly contribute towards getting the country out of the current crisis.

The Ministry of Youth and Sport needs a change in its performance and the way that it deals with Yemeni youth. Our work will focus on involving youth from different political affiliations in decision-making sure that no one is excluded.

We will form an advisory committee to formulate, implement, and control projects, and involve society in these.

You have big ambitions, but with limited resources.

All the ministry's staff are keen to improve the ministry, but they need training and skills. We aspire to improve our performance through new relations with international organizations and other ministries. We will also follow the experiences of other countries to benefit from their experience.

“

Protesters should establish political groups or civil society organizations to organize themselves well

What are your priorities?

Our priority is to support the youth. We are looking for experts to help us improve the National Childhood and Youth Strategy. Imagine that this strategy, despite having been approved in 2006, still hasn't been implemented properly, because we couldn't work well from the beginning! We need international experts to activate this strategy.

Is it reasonable that Yemen doesn't have good experts in this field?

One of our plans is to train our staff and restructure the ministry's staff.

How can you change the poor performance of the ministry?

We have prepared a plan to improve the performance of the ministry through qualifying staff and activating the role of women in different activities and events.

We have also agreed with the Minister of Education to provide schools with sports teachers and sports activities.

We plan to improve the financial situation of our players, make football a professional game, and improve the level of performance in the different kinds of sports.

The ministry also has a plan to build 50 small playgrounds in different governorates to create good places for the youth.

Some people say that it's not the time to build playgrounds, but rather to develop the economy and provide security...

The idea is to build small sports facilities as a first step – good places for Yemenis to spend their time. The youth need such places to forget their problems. We want to create a viable alternative to qat to better invest the youth's time.

Where were these good ideas in the ministry's agenda over the last few years?

I was not the decision maker, although I suggested different ideas

when I was the deputy minister.

Unfortunately, there are no small playgrounds in Yemen, but rather random playgrounds. And in some governorates the playgrounds are totally absent. A lack of such places has pushed youth to qat or even to terrorism.

You have called for the first sports conference. What is its aim?

It will discuss the reasons behind deterioration of sport in Yemen and present recommendations to the government to implement them.

The ministry depends on the Child and Youth Care Fund. What's the importance of this fund?

This fund is the backbone of the ministry, and without it the ministry cannot hold activities. For more than 15 years, the budget of the ministry hasn't changed [about USD 13 million] and this budget is nothing. There is no budget for activities, sport clubs, or the youth. Even the staff allowances at the ministry are very weak.

You were one of the active members of the scout movement in Yemen. Why has the movement deteriorated in recent years?

Because of the intervention of politics in this voluntary movement, it is no longer based on the principles of altruism, honesty and patriotism. But we plan to reactivate the movement's activities in the near future.

“

We plan to improve the financial situation of our players, make football a professional game,

Throughout your positions as Deputy Minister of Youth and Sport and now Minister of Youth and Sport, you have remained head of the Yemeni Youth Union. Why?

I built this union brick by brick. The work here is different from the ministry and there is no bureaucracy. At the union, I forget that I am a minister. I am a normal youth.

The union has stagnated in recent times. What is your plan to enhance its performance?

The aim of the union in the coming months is to spread the culture of theatre in our society, a field in which we have previous experience.

But during recent years, how did the union contribute to supporting Yemeni youth?

We have made several festivals. We contributed towards showcasing youth talents and improving their abilities through our festivals and different events.

But many youths say that your activities are biased in favor of the regime and President Saleh.

People in Yemen always personal-

ize our activities. Our activities aim to raise awareness about different issues and to promote patriotism among the youth. We were the first union to warn about terrorism and unemployment, among other issues, in different governorates.

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Unfortunately, there are no small playgrounds in Yemen, but rather random playgrounds.

You talk about limited resources, yet many young Yemenis insist that you are provided with financial support from President Saleh.

Unfortunately, some people resent President Saleh's presence at our celebrations and claim that they have a political agenda but this is not true. Our president supports all activities and youth events without conditions. We shouldn't accuse people unfairly.

These accusations have been made because the union has held considerable activities on a small budget although people think that they would require huge support. At the union, we have different departments that audit our finances.

You urge Yemeni youth to love their country, but what they really need is to be empowered economically and politically.

If I love my country, I will become a volunteer for the sake of my country, and reject bad behavior that adversely affects Yemen's reputation. It means that I represent my country well, welcome tourists, and reject terrorism.

You recently called for a national conference for youth dialogue. Why?

This conference aims to bring about 500 youths [from different affiliations] together to discuss the idea of the civil state, but we have delayed it due to a lack of security.

What is the benefit of such conferences after the Gulf initiative and the formation of the unity government?

It's very important to hold such conferences now so that the youth can freely express their opinions about a civil state.

What is your message for anti-regime protesters in “change squares” all over the country?

Despite some mistakes, the youth have significantly contributed towards the country. They want a better country, but now we must think of different ways to do this, and focus on rebuilding Yemen. We must forget any disagreements between us, and we should be unified to rebuild the country.

As minister of youth, do you feel that you have a responsibility to meet these young Yemenis to help them to achieve their demands?

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We are in touch with many youths, but most have withdrawn from the squares.

“

We are looking for experts to help us improve the National Childhood and Youth Strategy.

Do you think that it is important that some stay in Change Square?

I think their role now is to build and develop their country. They should establish political groups or civil society organizations to organize themselves well and express themselves in a different way.

Have the protesters achieved their goals?

A lot of their demands have been realized. At our different events in the last year, we have repeatedly called on the government to respond to the youth's legal demands.

During the new unity government sessions, have you felt that there is a harmony between ministers?

From the first meeting, I was optimistic. All ministers have the serious intention of building Yemen. We are confident that the prime minister will succeed.

You established the Shabab FM radio. What is the message of this station?

Radio channels in Yemen are all traditional. We wanted to set up a station to support the youth and avoid political conflicts. We hired youths to run the radio and we gave them freedom to express their dreams and ambitions, with only one condition: to avoid politics.

Do you think that Yemen's youth can overcome the current crises?

Give our youth freedom and support, and they will be creative in overcoming all difficulties.

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OUR
OPINION

Cultural change but...

It is undeniable that Yemenis have now found their voice. Or at least have realized that by speaking out against injustices something can happen. In the past, there was a dominant sense of passiveness and dependency whereby everyone threw the blame around and no one wanted to take responsibility for taking a stand.

When the uprising succeeded in creating a change in Yemen's politics, smaller groups decided to follow suit and held demonstrations and strikes demanding change.

This is good, because it took the power from the bosses back to the people. But I am worried.

I am worried that this could be seen as a fashion and employees of organizations could start protests for no rhyme or reason. It is true that there is a lot of injustice in Yemen, but in the same time there is a huge gap in professionalism among the workers. I am worried that people will resort to protests whenever they have demands, without thinking of their personal responsibility.

This is a legitimate concern because the professionalism or business culture in Yemen is not mature. Simple issues like being on time, completing jobs or perfecting tasks are almost non-existent – especially in public facilities where many of the protests are taking place.

There is a lot of masked employment where hundreds of staff are hired to do the job of a dozen and yet still the job is not done well.

Sometimes we have to be careful what we wish for. We all want reform and equal opportunities but the catch is that we as employees have to deserve it. What I am saying is that many of the protestors complain of nepotism and that their bosses favor some and don't allow all to grow equally in their careers.

They demand reform, which is brilliant, but reform also means getting rid of the lazy, unqualified and inefficient. Reform means competition and only those who are able will move forward. It also means that while the qualified employees who have been discriminated against will rise, some of the less qualified will be fired.

A national trend of rebelling is happening in Yemen today. This is good because it shakes things up and forces those who held power for so long to let go. But we really want a deeper cultural change that has to do with performance and quality of work.

I dream of a day when the excellent reputation Yemenis abroad as skilled, hard workers becomes that of Yemenis within Yemen. Why not? Our country deserves our collective professionalism, and needs it desperately more than any other country in the world.

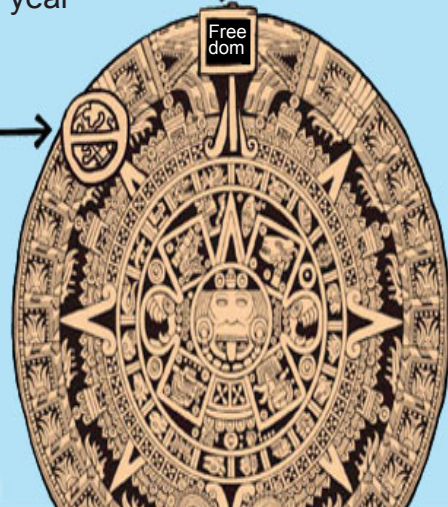
Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SKETCHED OPINION By Hajjaj

According to the
Mayan calendar

2011: Arab
Spring year

2012: The end
of the world



www.mahjoob.com

America's war in Yemen

The US is interested in Yemen solely for its strategic location. Its oil reserves are due to run out in approximately five years.

By: Richard Walker
America Free Press

While much of the media focus has been elsewhere, two secret wars are being fought in Yemen by the US, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

For several years, US Special Forces and the CIA, with the support of Yemen's president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, have launched hundreds of drone attacks against alleged Islamists. At the same time, the Saudis have fought against Shiite tribesmen in the north, claiming they are financed by Iran and will link up with Shiites in Saudi Arabia to attack its oil fields. In 2009, the Saudis sent an invasion force into Yemen, killing hundreds of tribes-

men.

To understand why Yemen, a nation of 24 million people, is strategically vital, one has to look at its location. The nation's small oil reserves are due to run out in approximately five years. Yemen faces Djibouti and Eritrea, across the narrowest part of the Red Sea, where it enters the 20-mile-wide Mandab Strait, known in Arabic as the Bab-el-Mandab ("Gate of Grief.")

If the Mandab were to be closed, much like the Strait of Hormuz in the same region, the price of oil would skyrocket. Closure would lock down all traffic from the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal to the Red Sea, where it makes its way to the Mandab before reaching the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. Much of

Saudi Arabia's oil is shipped through the Red Sea; so too are Israel's imports and exports.

The vulnerability of the Mandab is well known. In 2002, for example, suicide bombers in a small boat rammed a French tanker, releasing a large quantity of oil. The subsequent closure of the Mandab for a cleanup was short but costly.

The Israelis, in conjunction with the Saudis and other Arabs in the region, have persuaded the Obama White House and Washington hawks that Yemen is an important prize. The Israelis have also provided intelligence to the Saudis about Shiite tribesmen in the north of the country and have helped the US identify targets for drone strikes. The Saudis are worried that Yemen, whose population is equally divided between Shiites and Sunnis, could split apart, creating a Shiite-led part of the country located close to its border and oil fields.

The secret wars have all taken place against a bizarre political backdrop, with Washington and Riyadh supporting the corrupt president of the country, who tortured and killed opponents of the regime.

Students of history know Washington savagely cut aid to Yemen following the Cold War. It was only after Obama and his predecessor, George W. Bush, took the advice of the Saudis and Israelis to make Yemen a military priority that massive aid flowed into Yemen's government coffers. That will not have been lost on the Yemeni opposition, who heard nothing from Obama throughout most of 2011. Many young Yemeni protesters will not forget how Obama ignored their "Arab spring" as he and the Saudis backed a corrupt president and a vicious military regime.

Richard Walker is the pen name of a former N.Y. news producer.

Yemen rises up against its mini-dictators

In a 'parallel revolution', Yemenis are challenging President Saleh's henchmen, who run institutions as personal fiefdoms

By: Abubakr Al-Shamahi
guardian.co.uk

In the current state of confusion in Yemen, with the president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, and his family attempting to retain control behind the scenes even though he is officially due to leave office in February, Yemeni protesters have a new tactic.

A "parallel revolution" of anti-corruption protests and strikes is seeking to remove the mini-dictators – Saleh's lieutenants who are in charge of the various state institutions and the bloated state bureaucracy.

Ten months after the start of anti-government protests, and with the country's future steeped in uncertainty, Yemenis are determined to ensure that real change is the fruit of their sacrifices. A dictator's power comes from having the ability to surround himself with a loyal group of henchmen, the faithful minions who will ensure that power remains in the hands of the leader. Without such followers it is impossible to rule dictatorially.

Over his 33 years at the helm, Saleh has managed to build an effective network of partisans, people who aid him in controlling the various branches of the state, and yet also know that they are only in their position because of their loyalty to Saleh. In turn, Saleh allows these men to get rich and to run their institutions as personal fiefdoms. These corrupt officials have siphoned off millions, most likely billions, in a country that is ranked as the poorest in the Arab world. This nouveau riche group are busy building villas and mansions on the edge of Sana'a, Yemen's capital. In the meantime, the city is running out of water because of mismanagement and poor infrastructure. Weak state institutions mean that officials can get away with many illegitimate practices. Contracts are given out to friends and family, or simply the person willing to grease officials' hands with the most money. Yemen's oil and natural resources industry – its main (but dwindling) source of income – is notoriously corrupt, with oil revenues under-reported and educational scholarships from oil money going to the children of high officials.

The Yemeni mini-dictators abuse their power in other ways. There have been reports of military officers running "personal prisons" and taking money from officers' salaries.

One protester at a government office in the city of Taiz said his boss had put a gun to his head only the week before. The boss, at first confused, and then angry, was barred from entering the building by the protester and his colleagues. Such scenes have been replicated across the country, and across a wide array of government institutions – any success giving encouragement

to other workers tired of their overlords. And they have met with success in many cases now.

One video shows Abubakr Al-Amoodi, a military man who heads the Civil Status Office, being hounded out of the building. The employees line the path cheering his exit.

Saleh has realized the seriousness of this situation, and has cancelled his planned trip to the US. He has appar-

ently been hoping to negate the impact of the forthcoming handover of power to his vice-president by retaining control over military and government institutions. That plan now appears to be in serious danger of falling to pieces. It is no accident that the bosses under the most pressure now are Saleh's men. The protests and strikes also expose the fact most Yemenis do not believe that any real change will come out of the "transition" deal negotiated by the Gulf Cooperation Council. The deal has brought about very little that

could be claimed as a real success for the revolution. The Saleh family remain in their positions and are not barred from any future entry into politics. The latest round of protests should send a signal to Washington, and Riyadh, that Yemeni protesters cannot be quietened so easily. Instead, it seems that the impending removal of Saleh from the presidency has given Yemenis a taste for removing others that they do not like from positions of authority. They will be looking for their next corrupt target very soon.



CONSULTANCY POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Mercy Corps (MC) is a non-profit, non-governmental (NGO) humanitarian relief and development organization, registered in the United States and Scotland with offices in more than 40 countries around the world. Mercy Corps opened offices in Yemen in 2010 and is currently carrying out programs in Aden and Lahj

Mercy Corps is currently recruiting a short-term consultant to support the elaboration of business plan as part of the Engaging Youth for a Stable Yemen.

Position: Business Development Consultant

Reference Number: ADE_BDC

Duration: 8 months

GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY:

REQUIREMENTS:

- Proven experience supporting the development of business plan (minimum 3 years)
- Extensive experience in microfinance (minimum 5 years)
- Ability to work independently and deliver on time results under pressure
- Relevant education and computer literate.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

- Plan, prepare, and deliver a series of awareness-raising workshops for youth, government officials, the private sector NGOs, mass organizations and other stakeholders to promote a new conflict mitigating microfinance models and microfinance best practices.
- Provide individual training and day-to-day support catered to youth, including on-the-job mentoring, revision of business plans and support in all aspects of microfinance operation, as necessary;
- Assist in the preparation of guidelines, manuals, procedures, as required;
- Write a project impact evaluation report for publication;
- Identify a target youth for the EYSY business development activity;
- Deliverables: development of 100 Business Plan proposals. Technical support for the finalization of the 50 business plan proposals.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit a one page cover letter and their CV in English by email to recruiting@ye.mercycorps.org or bring it in person to the Mercy Corps Office no later than January 11, 2012.

All applications must include the vacancy reference number in the subject line of their e-mail message.

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In Sana'a, incense and Vaseline to tackle the cold

By: Amira Al-Arasi

Families with little means have improvised to withstand a new wave of cold in the Yemeni capital. While they stock up on incense and petroleum jelly, warm clothes and electric heaters are too expensive for many. For those able to buy an electric heater, continuous power cuts require the additional investment of a generator.

"This year is way colder than previous years," says Um Mohammed Saleh. "Because we're not well off and can't afford expensive blankets, we buy Vaseline petroleum jelly and rub it on our hands and feet before putting on gloves and socks."

"We also use charcoal and incense in the house every two days to keep it as warm as possible. We wear a lot of clothes before we go to bed. Some of my children have a cold they've caught on their way to school."

This winter, temperatures dropped down to 1 degree Celsius on December 28 and 30, according to Rasheed Al-Ariqi, the head of the Weather Forecast Unit at Yemen's National Meteorological Center in the capital Sana'a. The coldest winter ever was in 1987, when temperatures dropped to 8 degrees Celsius below zero. This winter, minimum temperatures averaged at 3 degrees Celsius, according to Al-Ariqi.

Marzouq Al-Jawfi is a salesman at a winter clothes store. He says that the cold this year is more bitter than usual. Fearing that his family would become ill, he bought an electric heater, and a generator to power it, as well as warm clothes suitable for such weather.

"It's good that school hours have been set back to eight instead of seven in the morning," he says. "It was a relief for us. However, my wife doesn't believe this is enough, so she perfumes our house with incense every day and applies petro-

leum jelly to our children's hands and feet to make them feel warm."

Al-Jawfi adds that most of their customers are senior citizens and that they buy warm pajamas for YR 8,000 (around USD 45) each.

"This year, our store profits are up to 99 percent compared to the 75 percent of last year because of the severity of the cold," he said.

"Every year, I import about 7,000 blankets from both China and Saudi Arabia," says Abdullah Jubran, a businessman and owner of the Assr Trade Company. "They always sell out in wholesale to retailers and in retail to ordinary customers. But due to the current crisis in Yemen, I couldn't travel abroad so my stores had only 500 blankets and they were all sold. This has caused me a loss of about 75 percent."

"My name is well-known in the market and my customers trust my commodities. Profits this year were expected to be greater than the years before because of the biting cold, which means that we have missed this year's profit because of the slowdown. However, I consider myself lucky in comparison to many others who have closed down. I own my stores, otherwise I would have had to pay about USD 10,000 a month in rent because my stores are on Hadda."

Marwan Al-Qadasi is a salesman who works in an electronics store. He says that although this is the most severe cold Sana'a has witnessed in a while, they could not sell a single heater due to the continual electricity blackouts.

"What's the point of buying a heater when there's no power except for one to two hours a day?" he asks. "This has cost us heavily and prevented us from buying such appliances wholesale."

"My loss until now is USD 2,200 compared to the USD 7,000 profit I made last year. The average price of a heater is YR 35,000 (about USD

154), which is rather high for ordinary people who have resorted to conventional means such as charcoal, petroleum jelly, and wearing a lot of warm clothes."

Ibrahim Hamoud lives in Mathbah, a neighbourhood on the outskirts of Sana'a, where he says that it is even colder than in the middle of the city.

"But I'm lucky because my house is made of red bricks that retain some of the sun's heat until nighttime so it's warmer than other houses," he says. "My wife also takes further precautions to keep our children warm by dressing them in warm clothes and rubbing Vaseline on their hands and feet. She's against using charcoal because it's hazardous. We don't have an electric heater because there is never any power."

But some want the cold season to continue. On a roundabout where many street vendors do business, Majid, 20, from Al-Mahweet governorate explained how the cold has benefited him.

"Every day I go to a wholesaler in Bab Al-Salam and buy many socks and sweaters and sell them. My daily profit is around YR4,000 (about USD 20) which is good. In the afternoon, I sell what's left of my commodity on the pavement in the area of Tahrir. I wish that winter would last longer so that I could continue to work actively because I'm the only breadwinner for my family who live in the village."

Wafa Sharhan, a deputy headmistress the Oroba School says that due to the biting cold, they have been forced to set back the time by half an hour in order for the students to be able to come to school and avoid catching a cold.

"We couldn't delay it further," she says, "because our female teachers say it isn't possible for them to go home later than one in the afternoon."



Many Yemeni families burn incense to keep warm and leave a good smell in the home.




COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM (CLP)

Tender Invitation
Procurement and delivery of Water Filters

The Community Livelihood Program (CLP) is a USAID-funded program in Yemen managed by Creative Associates International.

In coordination with Ministry of agriculture and irrigation, CLP is responsible for the purchase and delivery of:

1. Water Filters

CLP is inviting qualified Companies specializing in the area of procurement and delivery of water filters to submit best offer quotations.

Interested suppliers are invited to contact CLP via email at the address below to request a copy of the RFQ during the period January 9, 2012 thru January 15, 2012 to receive the complete Tender Documents.

CLP email: proc@clp-yemen.com

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من جامعة العلوم والتكنولوجيا

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2012



Happy New Year

Statement on Al-Jazeera manipulation

By: Ammar Al Ashmouri
Secretary General of Yemen
Youth Forum
yfyj2011@gmail.com

We call on Al-Jazeera channel to stop the media campaign targeting the President of the Republic Ali Abdulla Saleh and his relatives depending on resources from a particular party who have goals of doing so.

That campaign has issued the name "Saleh" as one of the most titles repeated in the year 2011 in the all Al-Jazeera channels and Al-Jazeera Net website.

We also call the channel to allow the members of the Forum to participate in their talk shows and the coverage of the events in Yemen in a positive and rational manner.

Unlike some party members who appear in an indecent way, where they do not provide any ideas or opinions that help address the problems of Yemen, they are satisfied to spread a culture of hatred and marginalizing everything else to serve the parties to which they belong.

Where some participants of the youth forum to communicated with the channels office in Yemen, but with no response from the office.

We also condemn how Al-Jazeera in Yemen manages events in Yemen, to serve some parties that are known to all Yemenis rather than the truth from several angles and not from one bias angle and the transfer of all opinions in a transparent manner.

We also condemn Al-Jazeera channels policy presented in Yemen that harness the capacity of the channel in supporting the political parties that participate in the same political orientation.

We hope that the new Director-General of the channel "Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim Al Thani" to work on re-Professionalizing Al-Jazeera channel to its original form "Truth be told" as a leader of the Arab media, that respects all opinions.

And we strongly condemn some leaders of the JMP on the incitement of media, after signing the agreement, and also the financial support of the suspicious activities from some young enthusiasts that aim to stop the Gulf intentions and their mechanisms to spread hatred

and carelessness.

Where the JMP accepted the complete initiative and therefore must abide to its articles and to stop being double faced and without delay.

Oone face accepts and plays an essential role in the current political process, while the other face to support some young people financially, and by media to incite sectarian strife and creating chaos.

And disrupt and corruption of the political process and dragging the country into war and destruction that has dire consequences.

We also deplore some young people of doing provocative actions that were paid in advance by the JMP leaders in order to provoke security to the cycle of violence to use them in media in ways that affect badly in the interests of Yemen's strategy.

We hope that those young people form a political organization to save their political rights and to stop the manipulation of their precious lives and communicating their ideas in a civilized manner that suites the reputation of young civilized Yemeni's to preserve the unity and stability, and the democracy of our beloved and precious Yemen.

Yemen and telecommunications since 1985

By: Mohamed Ali
mohamedali2009@maktoob.com

In an interview in the eighties, the minister of telecommunications Al-Ansi said Yemen was like France and the US. Why? Because Yemen had no telecommunications at all to destroy or replace, so the country would leap forward immediately to the latest technology. A French company would be setting

up networks like the latest ones in France and in the US.

What he said became true. I was staying at a hotel in Frankfurt in 1989 with many other people of other nationalities. They were having trouble ringing home and it was taking time, but when I dialed, I was speaking to Yemen within seconds. Then came computers, internet, mobile phones. After 1990, a cable through the sea from Singapore brought us internet. We have been proud of our country's development,

and we are thankful to the efforts of those responsible.

But still there are stories. I was in telecommunications center one day, and there was an old man shouting, "Your computer is a liar!" He had his phone with him in his bag, and was complaining that he paid too much money monthly. But employees confirmed to him that a computer cannot lie like a human. They called him but he refused to answer because, he said, his phone was in his bag.

Picture of the Week



New mothers vaccinating their children at a reproductive health center in Sana'a.
YT photo by Amira Al-Sharif

Sana'a slowly recovers

By: Saleem Shaker
saleeloverreal2020@gmail.com

Many months ago, Sana'a was horrible. There were armed men in the streets, and many roads were closed. In most of the capital, you would encounter central security units, militia, armored vehicles, weapons, and sandbag barriers. This was the case of Hael street, Sitteen street, Hasaba street, and Qa street. People lived in fear, and could not come or go. Garbage piled up in Sana'a, creating a horrible smell. Visitors walking on

Sana'a streets would never know that they were in a country famed for its faith and wisdom.

But now Sana'a is slowly recovering after a long period wasted in darkness and trouble.

Yesterday, I was getting on the bus in Hael street and I saw many people cleaning the road. A giant shovel was removing the sand from the street. Hael street started to shine again. The shops opened. People actually came to Hael street to go shopping.

Despite the cleaning, some sandbags and barriers remained near the Sana'a University Faculty of Art building.

But on the street, most people are still not satisfied by the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative.

"I can't figure out what they want to do," said Mohammed Ali. "Everyone has their own opinion that they want to implement."

"I hope that they focus on building the country, not personal interests," said Marwan. "They haven't responded properly to the initiative, they took the vehicles and then reorganised them."

But still not all of Sana'a is calm. According to witnesses, sandbags remain in Hasabah street, connected streets are closed, and there is still some shooting.



Oxfam

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO working with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering, has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancies for its development programme:

Project Manager; 'Promoting Women's Leadership, Security and Gender Justice' Project

Contract Duration: One year – Fixed term, renewable upon satisfactory performance
Location: Sana'a with extensive travel to the field.

The role

In this key role you will have proven experience of leading a team, proven experience and/or contribution to advocacy and policy development for gender injustice related aspects. You will have strong project management skills, and will be able to develop and deliver quality programmes. You will be able to demonstrate a high level of coordination with civil society partner organizations and staff in the country and region within a dynamic and changing context, and will be capable of managing all elements of the project, from planning, monitoring, and evaluation through to learning. You will oversee budget preparation and project monitoring, and will assist in fundraising and proposal writing for new initiatives.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with a minimum of 5 years progressive experience managing and implementing development projects, with preferably a post graduate degree in social sciences or related discipline including law and gender & development. You will have proven knowledge of project management, and experience of working in the development sector, ideally with knowledge of gender injustice and gender inequality and its relevance to poverty and vulnerability. You will be able to demonstrate outstanding analysis skills and will show excellent organisational skills. You will be able to translate strategies into actions that make a difference on the ground. Equally important will be your creative approach to problem solving and your influential communication skills in both Arabic and English, and your ability to gain the confidence, trust, and respect of everyone around you.

Finance Officer; 'Promoting Women's Leadership, Security and Gender Justice' Project

Contract Duration: One year – Fixed term, renewable upon satisfactory performance
Location: Sana'a

The Role

You will undertake financial and administrative matters in accordance with established procedures, monitor partner grants, project budget and update forecast. Maintain close donor contract administration. Undertake and monitor all payments including transfers to partner organizations and prepare for internal and external audits. Strengthen capacity of staff and partners by training and supporting them in financial management issues at different stages of the project cycle and providing written financial feedback.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least degree in finance related subject or professional accountancy qualification, and three years experience of financial and people management in similar size organization, as well as ability to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing in Arabic and English, sound computer skills and ability to travel extensively in country.

Project Officer; 'Promoting Women's Leadership, Security and Gender Justices' (2 Positions)

Contract Duration: One year – Fixed term, renewable upon satisfactory performance
Location: Hadramout and Hodeida

The role

You will have a proven track record of contributing to overall project development by emphasising appropriate approaches to mainstreaming gender in all project activities. You will be able to provide intensive gender-focused and needs-based technical support to project partners, as well as an ability to monitor project activities, both technically and financially. You will undertake project budget preparation and monitoring, and will assist in fundraising and proposal writing for new initiatives.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with 3 years of experience working in gender programmes, with a degree in social sciences or a related discipline including law and gender. You will have an understanding of the country context, including the political context and implication on women, and experience of working in the development sector. You will show sensitivity to gender and equity issues. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated communication skills, willingness and fitness to travel for sustained periods of time, and the ability to work well with others and as part of a team. You will have excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic, and will possess good computer skills.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer; 'Promoting Women's Leadership, Security and Gender Justices' Project

Contract Duration: One year – Fixed term, renewable upon satisfactory performance
Location: Sana'a

The role

You will be participating in the development of the project's participatory monitoring and evaluation system, training project partners on Oxfam's MEAL concepts and tools, including the report writing. You will assess the Manager in the creation of the project with necessary updates on the system, conduct monitoring visits to field locations and meet partners and beneficiaries. You will be participating in specific research studies related to project components, supporting in the collection and documentation of the case studies, in coordination with Communication and Media Officer.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with 2 years intensive experience of working in gender or women centered projects, with a university degree in Social Sciences. You should have sound knowledge and experience in monitoring, evaluation and learning (Data analyses methods, assessment methods and tools). You should have proven experience of using MS Office applications, good knowledge of graphic design programmes is preferable. You should have the ability to gather information, collate and systemize for effective communication and networking. Your ability to be a self starter who can work with some support and at the same time to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively is essential, so you will need to be fluent in English and ideally in Arabic.

To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in either of these positions, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job you are applying for, to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk or send a fax to 01 450170. W

Closing date for applications is 19th January 2012

Please apply immediately as we will be interviewing suitable candidates before the closing date

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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
- Ali Al-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 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 yrs, teacher of English, media and business translator, business correspondent, 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 correspondent officer and teacher. Seeks part time job. Hodeidah city 770742901
- Khalid, 10 years experiece in

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

Job Vacancies

The Danish Refugee Council is seeking applications for the position of Mixed Migration Task Force Coordinator. For job responsibilities, requirements and application details, please go to

www.zidney.net or www.yemen-jobs.com

Job Seekers

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Coffee Break

Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6		
							8
7							
9					10		
11					12		
13	14			15	16		
18			19		20	21	
22					23		

Sudoku Easy

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

Sudoku Intermediate

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

Sudoku Difficult

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

ACROSS

- Domineering (11)
- Stalemate (7)
- Divine (5)
- Equine animal (5)
- Fast stream (7)
- Garland (6)
- Profession (6)
- Feed (7)
- Face protector (5)
- Finished (5)
- Discharge from service (7)
- Honest (11)

Down

- Adder (5)
- Esteem (7)
- Expels (6)
- Jockey (5)
- In no place (7)
- Conservative (5-6)
- Method of printing (11)
- S. Americancountry (7)
- Mentor (7)
- Dark image (6)
- Asian river (5)
- Metalworker (5)

Chess

White plays and wins in the 4th move

Solutions

16 Adviser; 17 Shadow; 19 Indus; 21 Smith.
 Down: 2 Viper; 3 Respect; 4 Eject; 5 Rider; 6 Nowhere; 7 Right-winger; 8 Letterpress; 14 Ecuador.
 Nouns: 20 Visitor; 22 Ended; 23 Dismiss; 24 Trustworthy.
 Across: 1 Overbearing; 9 Impasse; 10 Drowse; 11 Horse; 12 Torrent; 13 Wreath; 15 Career; 18

Cross Words:

Chess: Rf5+

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

Flat or dorm? Student accommodation in Yemen

By: Anas Rawi & Muaath Badeeb

You are a single male undergraduate in Yemen moving to the big city for the first time. Where should you live? The Yemen Times spoke to students and graduates about accommodation during university.

When he moves from his home town to another city for university, the first thing that comes to a Yemeni freshman's mind is accommodation. Finding somewhere nice and quiet where he can study becomes a chief concern.

Rent can be steep so he usually lives with other students to share the rent. Flat sharing is called *ozba* because most of the students are usually single or *ozzab*. The other type of student accommodation is the ordinary university dormitory.

Sadiq Al-Amin, an employed graduate, says that he found it hard to find accommodation when he first arrived in Sana'a for university.

"I had to search for a long time before I found a flat shared by other students," he says.

And life as a single man was not without its tensions. Students were thrown together and expected to share cleaning and cooking, if they cooked at all.

"But despite everything," says Sadiq, "those were my most cherished memories."

There were also problems with the landlord.

"There were often problems between us and the building owner because we were behind schedule with payment," he says. "Other troubles were caused by families in other apartments who complained about the single students living in their building." At one point the landlord threatened to kick them out because they were so behind with rent: "But we were able eventually persuade him to give us extra time to pay, and we paid."

Sadiq moved in and out of four apartments during his studies in Sana'a.

Wajdi Mahazem's story stands in stark contrast to Sadiq's.

Wajdi came to Sana'a to live with other single students, but they were his relatives. In their final year, he and his friends rented another flat for the sole purpose of studying. Although they were eleven altogether, this was not an issue because the flat was for studying only and they never lived there.

In university accommodation, students stay in rooms or apartments, according to each university's system. There are two types of dormitories: those run by private universities and let out to their students at low cost outside the university's premises, and those that are not managed by a specific university and that accept all college students.

Whereas in flats students have to pay for everything from rent, electricity and water bills, to furniture and kitchenware, in dormitories students have to pay only a fixed amount to live there for a whole academic year. According to the residence's management, there are different services on offer. Some residencies have electricity 24 hours a day thanks to generators so they also have water all day round. Others offer only certain meals.

Rules are also different. Some houses have strict curfews as well as a schedule for getting up in the morning and going to bed. In other dormitories, students are not allowed to listen to music or watch television for example.

Unsurprisingly, students generally prefer dormitories with more flexible rules that allow them a few liberties.

Um Al-Qura is an independent student dormitory that is distinguished for the services it provides all its residents, including lunch and a gym with billiards and table tennis.

The dorm also holds football matches and other tournaments.



Students must choose to rent a flat or a university dorm.

They also run cultural, religious, and academic programs, as well as general contests. It organizes study groups, in which students studying for the same degree in the same year meet every week to revise and discuss what they are studying. Internet is available on demand for a nominal monthly fee paid by the subscribing students, and human development instructors and psychologists regularly visit, holding courses for students who receive accredited certificates when they participate. The dorm holds annual celebrations, develops an annual calendar of activities to be held all year long, and celebrates students' graduations.

Despite all these advantages, some students do not like Um Al-Qura because of some of the rigid rules, such as the curfew imposed at 11:30 pm and the fixed time for going to bed.

Al-Momayaz is another private dormitory. It does not impose a specific system and students are free to come and go as they wish. Management cares only about its residents' safety and comfort.

Marwan Zuhair, 20, a Palestinian student in Yemen studying medical equipment at Sciences and Technology University, says he knew about the dorm from a relative of his who had lived there three years earlier.

He liked the place for many reasons including its vicinity to the university, it being on the main street with electricity 24 hours a day, the rent being reasonable, and students not having to pay for electricity or water.

"I would never think about moving out to another dormitory because Al-Momayaz is very cozy and I like it so much!" he says.

As for activities conducted at the residency, Marwan says that there are some events that are organized by the students themselves like a



Living with other students can help you make new friends.

weekly football match on the Sana'a University sports pitch.

Ahmed Rajab, 21, is another Palestinian who is studying pharmacy at Queen Arwa University in Sana'a. He came to live in the dormitory through a friend who lives in the same building.

"The place is good, especially my room which has beds, a study table, curtains, and a private bathroom with a water heater," he says. "There's also electricity and water all the time because the building is connected to more than one electric source and has a generator."

"I used to live in an apartment before moving here," adds Ahmed, who actively participates in the sports events held by students every week at the Sana'a University sports pitch. "There's a big difference in

every way."

Ahmed says that Al-Momayaz is different to other neighboring dormitories, because it offers internet and daily meals.

All the students we asked agreed on one advantage that makes Al-Momayaz different from other student houses: the absolute freedom and the non-existence of restrictions on students either inside or outside the dorms, unlike other residences in the area.

The Sciences and Technology University's dormitories are known for being new and clean and located near the university, but they are tough when it comes to curfews.

Many complain about the hygiene of the dorms of Sana'a University, the main public university in Yemen.

Disabled students seek care

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Disabled students in Yemen's public schools suffer from a lack of facilities to assist them in effectively carrying out their studies.

The British Council and the Yemen Forum for Persons with Disabilities have held a workshop concerned with removing physical barriers that hamper the integration of disabled students into public schools.

Fionna Gibb, Britain's Deputy Ambassador to Yemen, said that it's unfortunate that we consider the disabled to be second-class citizens but made clear that they can effectively contribute to building

their society.

Gibb also stressed the importance of dealing with the disabled cheerfully.

Nawaf Shamsan, manager for the British Council in Yemen, said that assisting disabled students is something that every institution - and not just the British Council - has an ability to do.

Shamsan added he and his co-workers learn of new success stories concerning disabled people every day.

The British Council remains dedicated to continuing its work in Yemen and has led a variety of activities and workshops during the challenging past year.

Mohammed Tawaf, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Education, promised that the Ministry will remain loyal to the disabled and said that his ministry has employed about 3,700 disabled people during recent years.

He called on NGOs and the government-run Disabled Care and Rehabilitation Fund to better support the disabled.

Determined disabled student

16-year-old disabled student Mabrook Mosleh complained about mistreatment that he has received from teachers.

Although some students mock him at school, Mosleh appears to be confident.



16-year-old disabled student Mabrook Mosleh hasn't allowed himself to become depressed and says the ridicule of his peers makes him stronger.

He hasn't allowed himself to become depressed and says the ridicule of his peers makes him stronger.

Over recent years, Mosleh has traveled to a number of schools to speak with groups of students, raising awareness about such topics as early marriage and the rights of disabled people.

He called on the government to provide facilities for the disabled not only in schools, but in all ministries and public institutions, and to help the disabled who "find it difficult to enter these places."

He said proudly: "I don't consider myself a disabled person. I'm a normal and effective man."



Although their disablement, they are determined to overcome difficulties and effectively contribute to building society

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