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Houthis and Southern Movement to boycott February election

By: Ali Saeed & Mohamed Bin Sallam

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SANA'A, Jan. 29 - The Houthis in the north of Yemen and the secessionist Southern Movement in the south announced plans to boycott the presidential elections set for February 21.

"According to the present political situation, the Southern Movement will not participate in the coming presidential elections," Khaled Ba Madhaf, a leader of the Southern Movement in Aden, told the Yemen Times on Sunday.

"The regime in Sana'a has not yet recognized the southern cause. How can they want us to move a step forward while injured people of the peaceful Southern Movement are on beds at home without treatment," Ba Madhaf said.

"The situation tells us that unity is no longer in place and the 1994 war is still ongoing," he added.

"All the people of the south will boycott the elections," Ba Madhaf said.

The Houthis, who make up the second largest political group in Yemen and who have been running Sa'ada governorate on the border with Saudi Arabia since March, will also boycott the election.

Saleh Habra, Houthis spokesman, told the Yemen Times that his group has not recognized the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) deal between the JMP – the traditional opposition coalition - and outgoing president Saleh.

Since the popular uprising erupted in February last year, leaders and activists of the Southern Movement



A march in Al-Mukalla, Hadramout on January 13 demanding independence of the south and showing their complete rejection of the early presidential elections due on February 21.

unified stances.

them," he said.

in Aden have been visiting Sa'ada to meet with Houthi leaders, according to the Houthis' media office.

Both groups have taken similar positions, rejecting the GCC initiative and now boycotting the presidential elections, set to take place next month.

coordination between the Southern Movement and the Houthis on their instability.

"We sympathize with the Houthis, but there is no coordination with

Although the upcoming election only has one candidate, Vice Presi-However Ba Madhaf denied any dent Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, ear-

lier this month the GPC threatened to delay the vote, citing unrest and

But despite ongoing security issues, the election is still set to go ahead on February 21.

In the latest sign of opposition to next month's election, gunmen attacked the election committee office

Land disputes fuel Taiz clashes

By: Imad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, Jan. 29 – Repeated clashes erupted in Taiz between the Republican Guards and locals over land disputes.

ticularly in east of the city, over tinuing for different reasons."

"We have been living in war and are not able to come out of our homes and are not sure of our children's safety to go to schools," said Ahmed Abd Al-Rub, a local citizen in Al-Hawban. "We thought that Tensions have been rising, par- the war was over, but now it is con-

fired into the air to prevent the construction of the mall after being informed that the local authority had sold the land to an investor.

However, a security source argued that the security forces were only "doing their duty" by challenging the armed locals. "The land where the mall is being constructed is state property and it has been rented to the investor by the General Area Authority," the security source said. "If citizens have any right to this land, they must go to court.'

lution," said the organization.

Mohamed Al-Himyari, a member of the National Alliance, said the organization would escalate its peaceful activities if current military leaders in Taiz were not replaced.

He also demanded that the par-

in Aden, reported Reuters. Armed with machine guns and rocket propelled grenades, they injured two soldiers before fleeing.

In Sana'a, several blasts were reported on Saturday at the headquarters of the First Armored Division, in the northwest of the city.

A military source said that three shells were fired into the camp, though he added that there were no reported casualties.

An eyewitness said the shells came from the mountains in the southwest, where several Republican Guard camps are located. However, an officer of the First Armored

Division said the blasts were caused by explosive devices planted in the camp – including one at the leadership office of the defected General Ali Mohsen.

Battles also continued between the Houthis and Salafists in Sa'ada and Hajja, with local sources stating that dozens were killed and many others injured.

The renewed fighting pushed the number of displaced people in Hajja, to more than 1,000.

Relief workers said that the displaced people in Haradh, Hajja, are short of food and shelter, calling for urgent intervention by aid organiza-





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the last two weeks, with a number of clashes breaking out since last Monday.

Citizens of the city are in a land dispute with the local authority, which wants to build a large mall in Al-Hawban, east Taiz. It says the land is state property and claims that the four-storey mall would generate 3,000 job opportunities.

However, locals fired into the air to halt work on the mall, claiming that a large part of the 16,800 square meter plot belongs to them.

On Monday and Tuesday, Republican Guard forces attacked the house of Abd Al-Hameed Al-Batra', an MP who defected from Saleh's General People's Congress to side with locals.

He explained that the attack followed a quarrel between him and the leader of the Republican Guard in Taiz over his defection.

"When I went back home, his forces started firing into my house,' said Al-Batra'.

Al-Batra' claimed that locals only

A new local opposition coalition known as the National Alliance in Taiz, held a meeting over the attack on Al-Batra's house.

"This is part of the organized violence against Taiz and its people for their position supporting the revoliament protect its members.

Al-Himyari suggested a judiciary committee to resolve the land dispute yet still allow the project to continue. If the citizens can prove their right to the land, they should be compensated, he added.

The Taiz mall project is one of the biggest investments in the governorate with a cost of \$40 million. The conflict between the local authority and local citizens threatens its completion.

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AROUND THE NATION



Women seek one-third quota in government

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Jan. 29 – A two-day workshop intended to help women obtain their political rights during the nation's transitional period was held on Sunday in Sana'a.

The workshop was conducted by USAID through the Responsive Governance Project (RGP) in cooperation with the Ministry of Human Rights and the Women's Supreme Council.

RGP Party Chief Scott Thomas said that having women from across the political spectrum is "an extremely good thing and an example of the kind of democracy we all hope will grow and flourish in Yemen."

The objective of the workshop was to find common ground among women for the conference on March 8. "This is not to say that everyone must agree on everything. But a consensus on key elements on which the women at the workshop can agree will be found," said Thomas.

Minister of Human Rights Houria Mashhoor said, "The workshop includes not only people from different backgrounds, but also younger women. This indicates that the youth are part of the upcoming phase of change."

The Women's National Committee holds an annual celebration on National Women's Day. At the celebration, focus points are gathered from all around Yemen.

The minister said that this wasn't the first time such a conference was held. However, participants regarded this conference as more important, with a focus placed on women's participation rights on the political stage during the two-year transitional period.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) initiative, which is one of the most important factors in the



At least one hundred women participated in the workshop meant to prepare for the Woemn National Conference to be held on March 8th.

framing of the constitution, included a 20 percent quota for women in one of its drafts. Before, in 2004's National Women's Development Strategy, Mashhoor said that they demanded the quota be set at 30 percent for women's participation in government.

The workshop was attended by nearly a hundred representatives with various political backgrounds, as well as deputy ministers and women's rights activists.

A committee of eight women will be formed in coordination with the RGP to prepare the national conference.

The women should be from different political, governmental and civil society organization (CSO) backgrounds.

The committee will start meeting on February 1, with its last session planned for March 15. It is to meet once a week to prepare to conduct activities in support of women, to coordinate with donors, and engage women with different social and political issues.

The workshop aims to gather
 women from throughout the politi cal spectrum and discuss common
 needs, regardless of individual po litical agendas. This is to help them
 attain a considerable quotain com mittees during the two-year transi tional period.

During the workshop, women occupying high positions in ministries presented their visions for their prospective roles in the transitional period.

Nabila Al-Mufti, a lawyer and member of the Watan Collation, gave a presentation analyzing how fair the GCC has been to women.

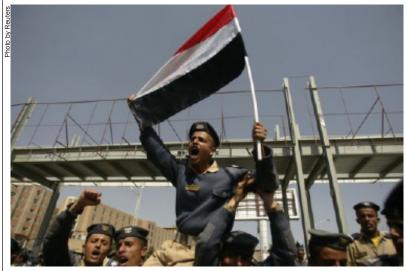
One draft for the initiative said women should participate in all committees formed during the transitional period. This means that there should even be women on the military committee, according to Al-Mufti.

USAID supported three workshops during the past year. The first was on April 25 and included 35 women from opposition party leadership roles and civil society organizations, as well as youth activists. The second workshop was held on May 23, in which 40 women from the government participated. The third workshop was held on October 26, in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

35 young female trainees from the training center of the Ministry of Youth and Sports participated in the workshop.

The main target of these workshops was to guarantee a 30 percent quota for women in all transitional councils and in the constitution formulation committee.

Strikes hit Political Security



Thousands of Yemen's Air Force soldiers are on strike, demanding the departure of their Commander.

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Jan. 29 – Dozens of Political Security Organization (PSO) soldiers and officers commenced a 4-hour strike on Sunday, with demands for administrative and economic reforms.

The protesters, who held their strike in front of the gate of the PSO building, threatened to demand the removal of the head of the PSO, General Ghaleb Al-Qamish, if he doesn't constructively respond to the protesters' demands

The Political Security Organization is understood to have a bad reputation among many Yemenis. Some of its officials have been accused of torturing detainees and arresting Yemeni citizens without cause.

Colonel Jamal Al-Shayef of the PSO, who was one of the protesters on Sunday, told the Yemen Times that all of the PSO soldiers' and officers' demands were fair and legal. "Unfortunately, our finances have been deducted from unjustly by influential, high-ranking officers here," he said. "Promotion is also a random matter, and minimum standards for employment are not set."

Al-Shayef stated that soldiers and officers may demand that the head of the PSO step down.

"It's unacceptable for any official to stay in his position for tens of years and deal with governmental positions as if they are property for themselves and their sons," he said. "We really need new faces that can change the performance of the PSO for the better."

According to Al-Shayef, other President Saleh.

PSO soldiers and officers in various governorates also started strikes, making the same demands.

At the same time, thousands of Yemen's Air Force soldiers have continued to strike, demanding the departure of Commander General Mohammed Saleh Al-Ahmar, the half-brother of outgoing President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Colonel Abdul-Wahab Al-Samie of Yemen's Air Force, said their demands remain unmet despite massive protests over the past couple weeks against Al-Ahmar.

Speaking to the Yemen Times, Al-Samie said, "We will escalate our actions if Al-Ahmar doesn't respond to our demands."

Al-Samie pointed out that the demonstrations against Al-Ahmar have gained momentum.

"Thousands of Air Force soldiers and students from the Military Aviation College joined us recently in different governorates," he said.

Al-Samie said that the vice president promised that their demands would be met, and asked them to be patient and return to work.

Mohammed Saleh Al-Ahmar resorted to his son to crack down on the protesters at the beginning of the strike.

"They were not able to weaken our determination," said Al-Samie. "We're determined to continue our struggle to make those arrogant people step down."

After President Saleh signed the Gulf initiative on November 23, 2012, several state institutions and ministries witnessed huge strikes against corrupt officials known for their close relations with outgoing President Saleh.

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- 4. Secure commitments from humanitarian actors responding to the emergency education response
- 5. Lead the strategic development of the Education Cluster including development of strategies, work plans, co-ordination of response activities and taking into account cross-cutting issues
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- 7. Ensure that information is shared amongst Cluster members and between sectors/clusters in order to improve planning, integration and implementation. This includes contributing to regular OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) situation reports, and taking an active part in OCHA co-ordination meetings
- 8. Support the capacity of sub-national Clusters and ensure that clear and effective communication occurs between sub-national Clusters and the national Cluster
- 9. Advocate and fundraise for education in emergencies as first wave response and ensure that education is explicitly included and prioritized in all multi-sector assessments, reports and appeals, such as the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) an integral component of the CAP process, and Flash Appeal, and report on progress and establish monitoring tools
- 10. Facilitate the joint development of relevant and contextualized minimum standards, policies and guidelines by Education Cluster members and build their capacity to apply these
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EU warns Saleh's relatives of creating obstacles to elections

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Jan. 28 – President Ali Abdullah Saleh finally arrived in the US for short-term private medical treatment on Saturday night, according to the Republic of Yemen Foreign Press Office. Saleh, along with a number of family members, left to Oman last Sunday, on route to the United States.

Meanwhile, preparations were ongoing for the coming one-man election, which will see Vice President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi officially sworn in as president for the coming two years. Saleh's absence will easy the election process according to political analysts.

Hugues Mingarelli, Deputy Director-General for External Relations at the European Union, said that in order to complete preparations for the coming presidential elections the Yemeni government would establish a "communication committee" to liaise with those groups left out of the power transition deal signed in November.

"We are focusing on the next election, the most important thing now is that the election is held on time and for this election to succeed, all the segments in Yemen have to be included, all Yemenis, not only the Joint Meeting Party and the Gen-

eral People's Congress," said Mingarelli. In accordance w

The Southern movement, the Houthis and Youth movements were not included in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) agreement, despite being considered as powerful players in Yemen's political sphere. He also stressed the importance of a united Yemen.

Mingarelli pointed out the important role the media has to play in the run up to elections by highlighting the efforts made to make it happen and also by encouraging Yemeni people to vote for Hadi and give him the "acceptable legitimacy" that will ease his work in the transitional period.

The Gulf agreement stated that a new draft constitution should be written by the end of the two year transitional period. Mingarelli said that in order to write the new constitution, a national dialogue should be established to pave the way for truly democratic, free and impartial elections after those two years.

While he added that would be obstacles, he said that the first step was to elect Hadi on February 21.

Commenting on the widely condemned immunity law, granting Saleh freedom from prosecution, Mingarelli said it was necessary and the price to pay in order to reach In accordance with the GCC agreement, a military committee was formed in December, tasked with unifying the armed forces, removing tanks and sandbags from the streets and returning soldiers to their camps. While this was successful in some areas, parts of Yemen's major cities that saw the most fighting, such as Hasaba in Sana'a, have seen little change.

Mingarelli stressed the need for security reforms in order to stabilize the country, adding that economic issues also needed to be resolved. He also said that if Saleh's relatives create any obstacles to next month's elections, that it would be necessary to remove them from positions of power.

Moreover, Mingarelli commented on the worker strikes, or "institutional revolution" against corruption in institutions, saying that it is a positive move.

"It is not a surprise that the workers are striking; working conditions are difficult and salaries are low so going on strike is not a crime," he said. However, he pointed out that Yemen was already the poorest country in the Arab region before last year's political crisis so people should not expect change overnight.

TIMES

FEATURE

Extremism in the home



Anti-regime youth protesters campaign to encourage participation in the February elections.

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

hile the Yemeni revolution has its squares, marches and protest camps, it also has many unseen supporters who pray for success but are unable to actively participate in the revolution.

On the other side, Ali Abdullah Saleh still has his regime supports – despite the fact that he has handed over power to vice president, and soon-to-be-president, Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi. Like those seeking the downfall of the regime, Saleh has men who march in his name and those who support him from their homes.

Often those who "participate" from home are more fanatical about their beliefs than those who actually go out onto the streets and give voice to their views.

Friends have even fallen out over their political views. The extent of some people's extremism has seen some call their friends killers for supporting Saleh's regime. In another case, a mother threatened to disown her daughter if she stood by the revolutionaries and against Saleh's

regime.

Two brothers were once watching TV and fighting over which news channel to watch. One was pro-government and wanted to watch state TV while the other supported the revolution and wanted to watch Suhail – in the end they broke the television.

Professor Salah Al-Jumai, professor of psychology and social services, commented that such extreme acts are a normal reaction to suppression and disorganization.

"The main reason behind rejecting another's point of view and taking extreme action against your loved ones is suppression. There are many reasons that prevent some people from participating in the squares, even though they strongly believe in the cause and this makes them frustrated and often more extremist," said Al-Jumai.

"When one is disorganized he is not mature enough to have a healthy political conversation; so they try to force others to think like them, making them even more extremist in their opinions," he added.

The reasons why some people cannot participate also affects their views, he added. "Many are governmental employees, and if they join the protests their salaries will be cut. Others are those who cannot afford to join as they are busy trying to earn a living."

Youth involvement

Despite popular rejection of a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) power transfer deal, it was finally signed by Saleh in Riyadh on Nov. 23, 2011. However, the agreement was made between the regime and the opposition coalition, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) – leaving out the youth, who at that time had spent 10 months camped out in protests squares across Yemen.

Since then, youth groups have started to come to terms with the reality of Yemen's situation – that the GCC deal has been signed and that they need to use the opportunities offered by the International community to involve themselves in the transitional process.

While the youth in the squares have begun to get more involved in a bid to influence Yemen's future, those who support the revolution from their homes continue to reject the GCC.

Some youth groups have begun

campaigns to encourage public participation in the coming presidential election, despite the fact that it is a one-man race, with Hadi as the sole candidate.

Other activists are using social media to call on the parliament to simply announce Hadi as the president, rather than spend huge amounts of money on a pre-decided election.

Khalid Rajah, one of the first antigovernment protesters on the streets, lost one of his brothers in clashes between thugs and protesters, while another was shot in the knee.

"I announce my participation in the next elections, not as a betrayal to my martyred brother's blood, but to demand that the new president prosecute those who killed him," he said. "And to see Yemen headed by a new president. My brother gave his soul to build a new Yemen and I promise that we will build the new Yemen"

However, Amal Al-Himiary, 24, says the youth should not be supporting the election. "I know I am too taken by the revolution and that I take any word against those in the squares or the revolution as a personal offensive," she said. "But the Gulf Cooperation Council deal is a game to stop the revolution; the youth should not give up the squares until their demands are met, with the first being the prosecution of Saleh." Although the parliament voted to

Although the parliament voted to grantee Saleh immunity from prosecution in Yemen – something that has been widely rejected by people on the streets and in squares – many youth groups are now trying to be realistic, while less active supporters simply reject the law.

Reem Ali supports the revolution, and says she gets almost fanatical about it – despite the fact she has not had the chance to participate in person, as her family did not allow her to protest. She says that because of this, she feels she was not able to contribute as much as the protesters, so she keeps talking about how the revolution will continue and denying that anything could be wrong – including the fact that squabbling sides sometimes fight each other in the squares.

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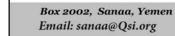
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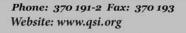
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"When someone is in his house and does not have the chance to experience the thing he supports, he thinks of it in ideals to keep his spirit high," she said.

Saleh supporters

At the same time, pro-government "advocaters" provoke the opposing side by refusing to listen to their point of view and by glorifying Saleh after any new step he takes.

Some of his supporters even go as far as to claim that Saleh has the right to kill protesters because they disobey him; some say that Yemen is worth nothing without Saleh.

"He should have killed all the

protesters but he is too democratic. That's what led the country to this chaos," said a 60-year-old woman in support of Saleh.

The media also plays a role in fostering extremist opinions. "When people get their information from the biased media without trying to get another point of view, they become extremist," claimed Nabeel Ahmed, who fell out with her mother because of their opposing political opinions.

"My mother is a Saleh supporter – even though he left the country, she is still passionately defending him. Her information comes from the state media and it is hard to convince her that these are lies."

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OPINION



YT vision statement



"To make Yemen a good world citizen."

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

OUR

OPINION

The importance of a strong opposition

he year 1990, when South Yemen and North Yemen united, marked an extraordinary democratic stage for Yemen because the country was ruled by a coalition of two parties; that of the north - the General Peoples Congress and of the south - the Yemeni Socialists Party.

The elections in 1993 brought an additional party into rule; the strongest opposition party at the time, Islah. For a few years, the Yemeni government was made up of three parties – almost as it is today.

However, the euphoria came to an end in 1997, with Islah no longer approving of how things were managed. The party of the north, the GPC, was still holding majority of parliamentary seats and indirectly dominating the scene by maintaining control of key military institutions and ministries.

Islah decided that it was better off as an opposition party because sharing power - without really sharing it - was not useful. So it boycotted the parliamentary elections in 1997, and Yemen went back to a two-party rule, governed by the GPC and the YSP.

In the 2003 parliamentary elections, Islah competed viciously and after the GPC, won majority of seats. In so doing, it kicked the YSP out of the power zone. However, in order to build a stronger powerbase and a more influential opposition, the YSP joined hands with Islah and another three opposition parties. This was the start of what is known today as the Joint Meeting Parties, which competed for presidential and local elections in 2006 creating a dent in both the GPC's ego and popularity.

However, throughout the years, direct elections did not provide the opposition with the winning vote, but Yemen's uprising finally gave them the upper hand. Islah, the YSP and other opposition parties could not have dreamed of a better opportunity to win power in Yemen today. If it had not been for the youth in the squares, the scales might never have been tipped in favor of the opposition.

Today the JMP is again sharing power with the GPC. However the opposition is leading the government, with a prime minister from the opposition coalition. While this allows the country to move on from last year's political stalemate, it leaves no strong opposition parties to keep a check on those.

This is a problem. I predict that unless Yemenis – in the squares and elsewhere - create functional opposition parties, there is a risk that citizens will be ignored in favor of power.

Yemen is going through transition now. But this transition and the fruits of the revolution will not materialize unless there is a strong civil society to keep the politicians in check - and that includes opposition parties. There is no better time for creating and encouraging the creation of a strong civil society if we want real democracy and real change.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Yemen needs an insurgent democracy

By: Stefan Wolff Reuters

fter months of uncertainty around whether Ali Abdullah Saleh has been sincere about stepping down from his post as Yemen's president, Sunday brought confirmation that he has left the country to seek medical treatment in the United States. Under a deal brokered by the Gulf Cooperation Council with United Nations, United States and United Kingdom assistance, Saleh is barred from partaking in the February 21 elections for an interim president. In exchange, he received immunity in an unamendable law both nationally and internationally highly controversial - passed by Yemen's parliament the day before his departure.

And yet Saleh made it immediately clear that he intended to return to Yemen before the elections to lead his General People's Congress party, which holds a majority of seats in parliament. This is, of course, somewhat reminiscent of the last time Saleh left Yemen for medical treatment in June 2011. Following a bomb attack on the presidential palace which left several senior government officials dead and Saleh and others seriously injured, he sought treatment in Saudi Arabia amid hopes he would step down from office. He returned to Sana'a as president at the end of September. While Saleh will not be able to hold this office again, his intention of continuing to play a major role in the future of Yemen taints the otherwise good news of his departure. But now what? We've seen leaders

who had desperately tried to hold of two failed international terrorist on forced from power in Arab countries before. Zine Al-Abidine Ben Ali was run out of Tunisia. Hosni Mubarak, under withering domestic and international pressure, stepped down from Egypt's presidency. And Muammar Gaddafi wouldn't leave and was finally killed.

Yemen, though, is different. Its crisis goes much deeper than socioeconomic and political dissatisfaction. It has insurgencies to worry about.

There are two: the Houthi uprising in the north since 2004 and the increasingly secessionist rebellion in the south that, while tracing its origins back to the brief 1994 northsouth civil war, has gained violent momentum from 2007 onwards. Both insurgencies are reactions to political marginalization and economic neglect by Sana'a.

But these insurgencies have telling differences. The situation in the north has been destabilized by past military operations against a Shiite rebellion that allegedly received support from Iran (doubtful as it may be in its significance). For years on-and-off fighting had seen little gain for either side until the government launched operation "Scorched Earth" in 2009. That push involved Saudi forces, but the insurgency, although reduced in strength, continued. To date, a number of ceasefire agreements have been signed, and broken, most recently in 2010.

In the south, meanwhile, a battle with secessionist forces is complicated by the significant and growing presence of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). This fight has garnered significant international attention, not least because

plots that originated in Yemen - the attempt to bring down airplanes with explosives hidden in printer toner cartridges in October 2010 and the Christmas Day bombing plot in 2009. The alliance between AQAP and the southern secessionists, however, is one of convenience above all else. The southern movement is deeply divided among different factions and has limited military capabilities. It thus relies to an extent on AQAP to challenge the regime without sharing the terrorist network's religious fundamentalism or anti-Western agenda. For the regime, southern secession is unacceptable given that most of Yemen's dwindling oil resources are located there. Internationally, too, there is broad support for Yemen's unity and a fear that instability in the south will further enable and embolden AQAP.

Even without Saleh, these insurgencies will continue - and so will all of Yemen's other ills. Economically, the country has struggled for years with declining oil reserves and serious water shortages, high unemployment, and the consequences of immigration, emigration, and transmigration. Social tensions between different segments of Yemen's society overlap and cut across existing political, religious, geographical, tribal, and cultural divides, and are unlikely to decrease amid further political instability and economic decline. One also shouldn't dismiss the danger that an already volatile security situation will escalate. Fears of an imminent civil war may be overstated, but the multiple threats from northern and southern insurgents and from AQAP must not be underestimated.

You try reaching an agreement on a new constitution with all that swirling around.

The key priorities for international engagement in support of Yemen, then, are threefold:

1. Work with all political forces in Yemen to prevent an outbreak of major violence as they compete for power and influence in the country.

2. Contain the threat of AQAP.

3. Initiate a process of economic stabilization and recovery.

Yemen's prospects after Saleh's departure from the presidency may have improved, but they are still far from good. The domestic and international management of Yemen's crises needs to be realistic. Preventing further crisis escalation would already be a significant achievement. Yet such realism must not make us lose sight of the fact that it was the pro-democracy movement across an economically and politically disillusioned young generation in Yemen that forced Saleh from power.

Democracy is the best chance Yemen has to accommodate the demands of the insurgencies in the north and south of the country. This will require true leadership on the part of the new government, a readiness on all sides, including the insurgencies, to make serious compromises, and international support to stabilize the country and improve people's lives. Democracy may not be a panacea for Yemen's multiple crises, but a Yemen without democracy in its future will be no different than the Yemen of the recent past.

Yemen crisis: Is Al-Qaeda gaining ground?

By: Frank Gardner BBC security correspondent

l-Qaeda in Yemen is on the move. In the last few days, militants linked to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) have stormed a town less than 100 miles (160km) south of the capital, Sana'a.

They kidnapped soldiers, looted weapons, bust open the prison and reportedly raised the black flag of their movement over the citadel in Rada', in the province of Al-Baida.

It comes on the back of apparent gains in territory made in the last year by AQAP in the southern prov-

Should the world be worried? After all, Yemen already has so many problems that appear to dwarf this latest development.

Multiple crises

There is a paralysis of power at the top with the outgoing President Ali Abdullah Saleh still negotiating the terms of his departure, his supporters demanding his immunity from prosecution, and his opponents demanding that he and his relatives relinquish power and face trial.

Oil and water reserves are dwindling, there is a simmering Shia rebellion in the north, a separatist movement in the south and a power struggle as rival groups jockey for

men's embassy in London. "Al-Qaeda is only one of them".

But counter-terrorism analysts are deeply worried about AQAP's opportunistic success in taking advantage of the ongoing chaos and confusion in Yemen to take ground, seize weapons and win recruits. Its master bombmaker, Ibrahim Al-Asiri, is still at large.

One of several Saudi militants to sneak across the border, Asiri is believed to have designed sophisticated bombs concealed in the wearer's underpants, such as the one carried by the Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab on a flight bound for Detroit in 2009, and devices disguised in printer ink toner

than a few hundred militants in its ranks, of whom only a hardcore fraction are capable of planning and conducting international operations.

It has come under pressure from both Yemeni offensives on the ground and CIA aerial drone strikes, one of which last year controversially killed Anwar Al-Awlaki, a media-savvy jihadist who encouraged others to carry out attacks in the West.

And yet it remains resilient.

"AQAP is quickly emerging as the largest franchise in the Al-Qaeda chain," says Sajjan Gohel from the Asia Pacific Foundation.

"It's gaining infrastructure and

SKETCHED OPINION By Hajjaj



ince of Abyan where parts of the provincial capital, Zunjubar, have been flattened in fighting between Islamist militants and government troops.

control in a Yemen without the strongman ruler it has known for bound for the US. 33 years.

"There are so many problems," says Walid Al-Rawshan from Ye-

Still resilient

AQAP is not thought to have more

cartridges placed on cargo flights resources to spread out beyond Yemen. They have been strengthening their hand because of a lack of governance in Yemen. They are a group on the move."

صحيفة «يمن تايمز» تبحث عن مراسلين وصحفيين بالقطعة باللغة العربية لإستكتابهم بشكل مستمر. إذا وجدت في نفسك القدرة والرغبة، تواصل مع علي سعيد – مدير التحرير على الإيميل alisaeed.yt@gmail.com مع كتابة رقم تلفونك للتواصل المداشر

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HEALTH

Warning over iron water tanks

By: Anas Rawi

octors have warned of the heath risks of iron water tanks, especially if they are not cleaned regularly. Yemen's rooftops are dotted with large water tanks, many of which

are made of rusty, old iron. Dr. Rami Al-Maqtari, a specialist in public health, said that the danger posed by the tanks depends on the condition they're in.

Bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms are able to breed in tanks that are exposed to the air for periods of time, causing a number of health problems, including dysentery. Al-Maqtari added that children are especially vulnerable.

According to the doctor, as iron tanks age, the metal begins to react with the water, causing rust deposits. These deposits can be carcinogenic, he added, as well as causing damage to the kidneys. In less serious cases it may cause fungal infections or rashes. "Boiling the water can kill the microbes but it cannot get rid of deposits and

sand," Al-Maqtari explained. "Fiberglass tanks are the best



bought a plastic tank after she

the water pure," she said. "I can

In one of the many buildings

in Sana'a that has iron tanks, the

guard explained that like Um Adel,

people there bought the metal

tanks because fiberglass was not

replacing them unless they break

"Now there is no intention of

In Sana'a, the government

provides water, but when there

is no electricity to pump the

water - as often happens these

days - residents resort to private

suppliers, paying to fill their tank

Like the majority of old water

Ali Alazani, who owns a water

truck, explained that he gets water

from wells outside the city or in the

suburbs like Bait Baws. However,

he stressed that he has his truck

cleaned every two weeks to ensure

tanks on the city's roofs, these

trucks are also made of metal -

available at the that time.

down completely," he said.

from a water truck.

usually iron.

the water is safe.

tank."

replacement," he added.

Um Adel, 47, bought an iron tank heard that it's healthier and better made. "It's really different. It keeps 22 years ago, which is now in a very bad condition, lined with dirt and deposits. The water coming from now cook using water from my new the tank is yellowish and grimy.

When she bought the tank, she said she had no choice but to opt for an iron one. "All people had to buy such tanks," she said, because there were no plastic tanks 22 years ago. Seven months ago, Um Adel



When there is no electricity to pump water to homes, locals purchase water from trucks, transported in iron tanks.

SOUL for Development Job Vacancies

Project Officer

Job Description

The role of the Project Officer is to plan, execute, and finalize projects according to strict deadlines and within budget. This includes acquiring resources and coordinating the efforts of team members and thirdparty contractors or consultants in order to deliver projects according to plan. The Project Officer will also define the project's objectives and oversee quality control throughout its life cycle.

Qualifications and Required Skills:





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.

Simple steps to a healthier, stronger you

hen you hear the term "strength training," perhaps you envision a bodybuilder with bulging biceps and rippling abdominal muscles. However, strength and power training can benefit people of all ages and athletic abilities - whether you are 40 or 85, well toned or unable to rise from a wheelchair without assistance. And while strength training can leave your body looking leaner and fitter, it need not make you look muscle-bound.

Studies attest that strength training, as well as aerobic exercise, can help you manage and sometimes prevent conditions as varied as heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, and osteoporosis. But chief among its health benefits is its ability to protect vitality and make everyday tasks more manageable. Over the years, muscle tissue, bone density, and strength dwindle. So, too, does muscle power.

These changes can make once-simple tasks like climbing a flight of stairs or carrying a bag of groceries difficult. By focusing on strengthening muscles you actually use to walk up stairs, rise from a chair, or lift laundry or groceries, the following exercises can help you target the specific muscles and moves needed for the tasks of daily life (or a sport) rather than just building up muscles in general.

The exercises

Before beginning the workout, complete a five- to 10-minute warm-up, such as walking briskly. As you perform each of these exercises, breathe out when you are lifting or pushing and breathe in as you release the muscle. Rest for one to two minutes between sets, and aim to complete two to three sets of each exercise.

1. Standing calf raise *Exercises the calf muscles*



12

2. Chair stand

Exercises the muscles of the abdomen, hips, front thighs, and buttocks

> Place a small pillow at the back of your chair and position the chair so that the back of it is resting against a wall. Sit at the front of the chair,

knees bent, feet flat on the floor and slightly apart. Lean back on the pillow in a half-reclining position with your arms crossed and your hands on your shoulders. Keeping your back and shoulders straight, raise your upper body forward until you are sitting upright. Stand up slowly, using your hands as little as

with your left leg. Rest and repeat the sets.

5. Seated bridge

Exercises the muscles of the back thighs, back, and buttocks Sit

slightly forward in a chair with your hands on the armrests. Your feet should be flat on the floor and slightly apart, and your upper body should be (don't upright lean forward). Using your arms for balance only,

Sit in a chair.

Hold weights

down at your

sides with your

palms inward.

bend elbow,

the

toward

upper

Slowly

lifting

weight

your

one

slowly raise your buttocks off the chair until you are nearly standing, with your knees bent. Pause. Slowly sit back down. Aim for eight to 12 repetitions. Rest and repeat the set.

6. Biceps curl Exercises the front upper arm muscles



chest. As you lift, keep your elbow close to your side and rotate your palm so it faces your shoulder. Pause. Slowly lower your arm, rotating it back again so you finish with your palm facing your thighs. Aim for eight to 12 repetitions. Repeat with your other arm. Rest and repeat the sets.

7. Triceps dip

Exercises the muscles of the

up against a wall. Sit in the chair and put vour together flat on the floor. Lean forward a bit while keeping your shoulders and

back straight. Bend your elbows and place your hands on the armrests of the chair, so they are in line with your torso. Pressing downward on your hands, try to lift yourself up a few inches by straightening out your arms. Raise your upper body and thighs, but keep your feet in contact with the floor. Pause. Slowly release until you're sitting back down again. Aim for eight to 12 repetitions. Rest and repeat the set.

back upper arms, chest, and

Put a chair

with armrests

feet

8. Curl-up Exercises the central abdominal muscles



Lie on your back on a mat. Put your hands beneath the small of your back and bend both knees to help stabilize your spine. Slowly raise your head and shoulders just a few inches off the floor. Pause. Slowly lower your head and shoulders. Aim for eight to 12 repetitions. Rest and repeat the set.

If you have osteoporosis, talk to your doctor before trying this exercise. He or she may recommend that you avoid it.



shoulders

- Planning, Project Management, and Budgeting experience
- Leadership, problem solving and collaboration skills.
- Strong command of both Arabic and English languages. .
- B.Sc. as minimal academic requirement
- Proficiency with MS Office applications.

What you Can Expect at SOUL

- An opportunity to positively impact the lives of millions of people throughout Yemen.
- A work environment comparable to the best organizations working in-country.
- Strict adherence to our values, ethics, and the laws of our country. .
- An opportunity to continuously learn and apply cutting edge skills and knowledge. ٠
- The ability to grow personally and professionally.
- National, Regional and International Experience.

Financial and Administration Unit Manager

Job Description

The role of the financial and administration Unit Manager is to provide all the finance, accounting documents, manage and implement the organization's strategy and property which includes establishing the annual budgets, providing adequate reporting formats, establishing administrative, and financial procedures. The Financial and Administrative Unit Manager will also develop and update projects procurement, and implement all policies and procedures related to all the procurement activities. This includes drafting and reviewing bidding documents, preparing call for Expressions of Interest/advertisement, TORs and Request for Proposals, Request for Quotations.

Qualifications and Required Skills:

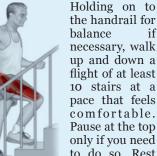
- The candidate should have at least B.c. Degree in Business Administration, Accountancy, Management, Economics or related field.
- A minimum of 3 years professional experience;
- Excellent computer skills, including proficiency in the Microsoft Office Suite;
- Fluent English and Arabic verbal and writing skills; .
- Demonstrated skills in coaching, planning and communication;
- Ability to work independently and self-motivate;
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision.

SOUL for Development only accepts candidates fulfilling the above criteria. To apply for this position, please send a cover letter and CV to the following email: SOUL-Yemen@y.net.ye by 11 February 2012, applications received after this date will not be considered. Please note that only application by email will be accepted. Only short listed applicants will be contacted.

possible. Slowly sit back down. Aim for eight to 12 repetitions. Rest and repeat the set.

3. Stair climbing

Exercises the muscles of the front thighs and buttocks



Repeat four times.

4. Hip extension



bottom.

the

Exercises the muscles of the

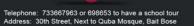
مدرسة منارات صنعاء الدولية arat Sana'a International Schoo

- * American Curriculum
- "Child First"
- Excellence, creativity and innovative methods
- Science Lab, Robot Lab, and Computer Lab
- Modern technology
- Safe Environment

Adopting Innovation

buttocks and back thighs While wearing ankle weights, stand inches 12 behind a sturdy chair. Holding on to the back of the chair for balance, bend

your trunk forward 45 degrees. Slowly raise your right leg straight out behind you. Lift it as high as possible without bending your knee. Pause. Slowly lower the leg. Aim for eight to 12 repetitions. Repeat



تسحيا

مستما

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READERS VIEW



Picture of the Week



Drilling for a new well in the Old City goes wrong, stranding workmen and trucks in a sea of bubbles. Photo by Garnet Roach



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 believe in the law of attraction, where you bring into your life whatever you think about? Have you ever thought something will happen and it does? Or remembered someone and then they call?

Khalid Al-Karimi, 23, student

The so-called the law of attraction has recently come to be celebrated. Personally, I happened to read about it while surfing the net. Absolutely, it drew my attention because the title involved the word "attraction".

Seemingly, the law of attraction bears a sense, but it is not a solid reality. There are certain qualms in relation to its predictions. I may find my head busy thinking about someone. Instantly, an SMS surprises my mobile phone. Even if I'm fully convinced, the law of attraction can neither bring me what God has not destined for me nor can it circumvent the good or evil that God inevitably has in store for me.

Omalkhair Asker, 23, student

The law of attraction is something that everyone needs to believe in because we have it in our religion. I do believe in this law and I follow it by attracting good things to my mind and my life.

For example, I was always believe that someday I will be something big and by the end of 2011 I received a call from the UN telling me that I had been selected as the most successful refugee of the year.

It's like our prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) said; be optimistic and you will find goodness. I believe in the law of attraction and use it to achieve what I want in life.

Jadel Ahmed, 24, student

I read about the law of attraction before and it really changed my thinking. When I was a first year student I really hated one of my subjects; I considered it too difficult and thought that I would never pass it. When I read about this law I tried to convince myself that it was easy and told myself that I could pass. I was surprised when I passed it with high marks. It's all about controlling your thoughts so you attract what you want to your reality.

Hashim Hamood Hashim, 27, employee

For me the law of attraction is a way of living my life. I believe in it and that it can make dreams come true. If I think strongly about something I want, I believe I can attract it to me. Through this thinking I came first in my class as a computer science engineer, a team leader, and a filmmaker and director just because I kept thinking positively and attracted good things to my life.

MercyCorps

FULL TIME POSITIONS ANNOUNCEMENT Numerous posts based in Taiz

Mercy Corps (MC) is an International non-profit, non-governmental (NGO) humanitarian relief and development organization working in more than 40 countries around the world.

Positions:	Program Officer- Water and Sanitation Engineer
	Program Officer- Health and Hygiene Promotion
	Senior Project Officer- Agriculture/ Animal Science
	Site Engineer
	Program Officer- Cash for Work
	Project Officer- Agriculture/ Animal Science
Reference Nu	mber: TAL PO2012

Duration: 1 year with possibility of extension

GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY:

These Officers will lead the project team in specific technical areas for a range of humanitarian project activities. They will be responsible for developing work plans, monitoring of project implementation and management of field-based staff, ensuring quality of technical work, building positive and cooperative relationships with local partners and beneficiaries and helping define strategy to best tailor humanitarian program activities for better impact on communities. This is a field-based position, and Officers should expect to spend maximum of his time in the field.

REQUIREMENTS:

- University degree in a relevant field.
- · Minimum of three years of work experience in project implementation preferably
- with an international organization
- · Technical knowledge and experience for the specific job
- Excellent oral and written English skills
- Understanding of the social, political and economic context of Taiz
- · Strong leadership, organizational and management skills

Positions: Community Mobilizers and Project Assistants

 Reference Number: TAI_CM2012

 Duration:
 1 year with possibility of extension

GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY:

The Community Mobilizers and Project Assistants supports Project Managers and Officers in implementing a wide range of humanitarian project activities. They work closely with communities in a collaborative manner. This includes organizing and facilitating meetings and trainings in an honest, clear and transparent fashion. Ensure systems of project documentation, including monitoring of progress, are in place, properly completed and welll-organized. He/she will have a strong commitment to teamwork, accountability and the principles of participatory community-oriented development. This is a field-based position, and he/she should expect to spend maximum of his time in the field.

REQUIREMENTS:

- · University degree in a related field.
- · Build and maintain trust and good relations with the local communities and project beneficiaries.
- Strong communication and organization skills.

Position: Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Reference Number: TAI_M&E2012

Duration: 1 year with possibility of extension

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

REQUIREMENTS:

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

Position: Finance Officer

 Reference Number: TAI_FIN2012

 Duration:
 1 year with possibility of extension

Gamal Alghazaly, 30, computer engineer

I believe in such a law because many things have happened to me to prove it. One day I was thinking of my classmate Osama and suddenly he passed in front of me, and when he saw me, he was surprised he told me that he was thinking of me at the same time.

Saadiah Hassan Shoaee', 30, employee

I totally believe in the law of attraction because it spiritually connects people. When I face problems, my late father comes in my dreams and gives advice. Also I've been in a relationship with someone for three years and we faced many problems but we believed sincerely that we would get married and now it's happening.

Mohammed Omer, 23, student

I don't believe in it as it's too hard to make your brain practice happy thoughts all the time and think they will happen. I believe that we must insist on having what we want and working for it, although sometimes fate does its work against all plans.

Ali Mohammed Bamatraf, 25, final year student

I do believe in the law of attraction but not 100 percent. I think it happens when you think deeply about something you want to have but it doesn't work for everyone because it needs a strong will. Sometimes it happens in a negative way like I faced in a subject I was afraid I would fail. I kept thinking it and even though I studied hard, in the end I failed that subject.

Muhannad Abdulllah, 25, final year student

Next Week's Question:

Do you think there's any positive side to the power cuts? How do you invest or spend your time while the electricity is off?

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!

Ahlam Abdulmallik, 22, student

Personally I started to believe in this law after I watched a documentary film called "The Secret" three years ago, which talks about the law of attraction. It really changed my thinking and showed me how to bring things to my life. The law of attraction already exists in Islam but we don't use it in the right way. I always gain what I think about. For example, I was thinking to travel but I didn't have enough money; I kept thinking about the place that I wanted to go to and I was surprised when my aunt brought me some money allowing me to do so.

Rasheed Kandash, graduate

I don't entirely believe in the law of attraction but according to our ancestors' beliefs, if someone talks about somebody else in a positive or negative way, it will cause them a cough or an itchy hand.

Sometimes, a sore throat is caused by someone who remembers someone else badly. In addition, an itch on the left hand means that you will get money that day; on the right hand it means that you will pay money according to our old thoughts and believes.

But frankly, these things take place by chance and these beliefs aren't scientifically proven.

Wala'a Almaktari

The law of attraction is a controversial topic, as some people believe in it while others don't. Personally, I do believe in it for it allows us to control our circumstances. This law can work for or against you; whatever you focus on you're going to get. To take advantage of this law, set some goals you want to achieve, focus on them you'll find yourself automatically working and getting them, God willing.

GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY:

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

REQUIREMENTS:

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

Position: Operations Assistant

Reference Number: TAI_OPS2012

Duration: 1 year with possibility of extension

GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY:

Working in the Operations Department, he/she is responsible for coordinating the day to day functioning of Mercy Corps' procurement, administrative, logistics and management functions according to the agency and donors policies, procedures and ethics.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Degree in a relevant business field is desired
- · Minimum of 1 year experience in supply chain management; international business or related field.
- · Strong organizational skills; ability to interact effectively with international and national personnel.
- · A demonstrated ability to multi-task so as to not delay program activities.
- · Excellent oral and written English skills

SUCCESS FACTORS FOR ALL POSITIONS:

- Demonstrated ability to multi-task, meet deadlines .
- Professional standard of accounting and financial ethics.
- Willingness and ability to work in difficult situations.
- Strong computer skills in MS Office programs, particularly Excel
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit a one page cover letter and their CV in English by email to recruiting@ye.mercycorps.org no later than February 7, 2012.<u>All applications must include the</u> vacancy reference number in the subject line of their e-mail message. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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

Classifieds

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counts Assistant. For job responsibilities, and application details, please go .net

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- ree in accounting, aluation with honors, uditing, financial nting system, lish, computer skills.
- ualifications Diploma y - National institute, the field for 4 Years, 00536832 -
- nglish, diploma of perienced ad tourist strator. n, photoshop, spondance, . 577448
- Arabic, very good in French, looking for a family/teaching me, private school 404162, 734750811
- translator E/A-A/E nch and excellent s. 777770471

Riyadh Hammadi, English and computer teacher and translator. 13 years experience as an English teacher especially 3rd secondary. 734882907, 772255235

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secretariate. Fluent in English,

BA degree in French, computer

secretariate and administration,

Bachelore in accountancy from

courses in English, good written

and spoken, store keeper for 3

purchasing followup for 6 years,

site administtrator for one year.

Sana'a university, diploma of

secretary, Excel (computer),

years, inventory control and

diploma, have an experince for 5

sales and marketing, logistics and

computer skill. 711239117

years in the following field:

teaching. 777565320.

733409652

- Bachelore of accountancy, diploma of secretary, excellent computer skill, good spoken and written English, store keeper, inventory control, site administrator. 733409652
- Abduljaleel Faisal, 22 yars, • teacher of English, media and business translator, business correspondant, good communication skills. 735042383
- An experienced English teacher, ► want to give private lessons for any level. 700258937 Mohammed, bachelor of English,
- diploma in computer, worked as a translator, business correspondant officer and teacher. Seeks part time job. Hodeidah city

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

7

Marketing and publicity person required for a campaign for a new school. Call 733455645 rainbows@y.net.ye



- Aden, Al-Tawahi 4thfloor appartment, contains 4 bedrooms, hall, big balcon, seaview. Jabar 771433757, 734201785
- New offices are available for rent

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Tunin'-up Thulla



'm always torn between authenticity and modernization. When I travel to traditional, ancient locations (which I unequivocally prefer to glitzy and modern places) I hope to see life the way it was. I want donkeys, not motorcycles. I ing in the streets, not in video game remain in the stone ages for my enthe right to a better life should they Several years ago, a bustling tourknock-off Gucci handbag that these

That is, except, for the one in Hababah. The incredibly photogenic pool of water beautifully reflects the traditional buildings teetering along it's edge. But the real treat comes as you sit quietly near the water awaiting the villagers who will enviably come to fill their buckets. A truly special experience.

Thulla is safe and easy to get to. Shared taxis leave San'a when full (there are no buses) for a mere 250 YR/seat or 1,500 for a "complete". Transport to other villages is also by shared taxi, with no schedules, usually costing 50-100 YR/seat. Alternatively, hotels in Sana'a offer trips to the area, including Shibam and Kawkaban, as a rather pricey daytrip. \$75, and up, will include an English speaking guide and transport in a comfy 4X4 for the day.

Without question the "modern" standards that Thulla is able to offer will appeal to many travelers. Cafes



with English menus, hotels with en-suite bathrooms and a relatively high level of English. Even with my usual aversion to completely made

over towns, I quite liked Thulla. If combined with Hababah, you can get comfort with tradition. Certainly a worthwhile excursion.



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