

## Location of kidnapped Swiss woman still unknown

By: Maaadh Al-Maqtari & Mohamed Abdalalim

SHABWA, March 18 — Yemeni authorities continue to search for Sylvia Abrahat, a 32-year-old Swiss woman who was abducted last Tuesday from the 7th of July street in Hodeida governorate.

While media outlets have reported that the Swiss teacher is in the Baihan area of shabwa governorate, east Yemen, the Secretary General of the Baihan local council, Abdullah Al-Bahri, denied the veracity of the news, saying he expected that Abrahat would be in Haban or the Al-Saeed district near Ataq in Shabwa governorate.

He said that the Al-Saeed area is considered to be among the most important areas for Ansar Al-Shariah, and pointed out that the government is totally absent in these areas.

In this area, authorities released three French relief workers who were abducted in July 2011 and freed in November of the same

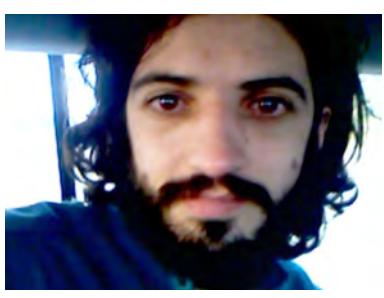


French relief workers who were released last year after being kidnapped for three months in Shabwa.

year. He said the release of the relief workers was mediated by a Yemeni businessman, Ahmed Bin Freed Al-Soraima, who managed their release without government intervention.

Al-Bahri quoted tribal sources as saying the abductors demanded the release of two prisoners, Ahmed Ali Marjan and Fayz Mohammad Mahdi Elaiwah, both detained in Hodeida's central jail.

Al-Bahri added that the former was imprisoned on charges of banditry, while the latter had been de-



tained on the orders of a commercial court. While sources said the abductors contacted a friend of Abrahat's in Hodeida on Thursday, telling the friend that Abrahat was in Baihan in Shabwah, Al-Bahri said that local suspects had been brought to the police and that they had denied having any involvement with the issue. Abrahat worked as a teacher at the International Education Center, a foreign language institute in Hodeida.

## US English Teacher Gunned down in Taiz

By: Emad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, March 18 — On Sunday morning unidentified men murdered an American teacher, Joel Shrun, head of the English department at a Swedish-run language center, while he was going to work in Al-Maassel valley, in the west of Taiz.

Security sources said that the armed assailants showered Shrun with bullets from a motorbike.

It is unprecedented incident against foreigners in Taiz, which has been known as Yemen's civilized city and a hometown for many Yemeni intellectuals and is a center of culture.

The murder is a part of the growing insecurity in Taiz. Over the past past year gangs and armed men walking around the city have become and increasingly familiar sight, with no one to stop them or disarm them, locals say.

The security source said that policemen in the city are still pursuing the murderers to bring them to justice.

He went on saying that, "there are parties in Taiz who are seeking to make Taiz similar to what is taking place in Abyan and Al-Baida, utilizing workers' strikes and protests at the state's institutions."

He called on all parties to work together in implementing the GCC Initiative to restore security and stability.



Joel Shrun

### Insecurity threatens businesses

The people of Taiz have been in a state of panic and fear as a result of deteriorating security conditions, and the spread of armed men and gangs that rob and plunder property at the street and neighborhood levels of the city. Meanwhile security services and local authorities appear to many to have turned a blind

eye to the growing insecurity. On Saturday, Taiz's Commerce and Industry Chamber issued a statement in which it warned against the impact of insecurity on commercial activities, and stressing that the turmoil will negatively affect investment in the governorate.

Continued on page 2

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## WFP: Five million Yemenis needs urgent food aid



Price hikes caused by political unrest has led to more people suffering from food insecurity.

By: Ahmed Dawood

SANAA, March 18 – A survey from the World Food Program (WFP) has revealed that about five million Yemenis are suffering from acute food insecurity.

WFP's Yemen representative, Lubna Alaman, said in a statement on Wednesday that "Hunger increases in Yemen owing to hiking prices of foodstuffs and political instability caused by recent conflicts Yemen witnessed last year," stressing that many Yemenis needed urgent food aid.

WFP said that it will provide humanitarian aid in 2012 to about three million people suffering hunger as a result of rising prices and mass displacements of people that hit several northern and southern areas in the country.

The survey which was conducted between November and December of 2011, interviewed 8,000 households in 19 Yemeni governorates. It further examined the nutritional and food consumption status of more than 11,000 children and around 10,000 mothers between the ages of 15 and 49.

The survey concluded that Ye-

men's acute malnutrition rate is alarming in many parts of the country. Rates of acute malnutrition are the worst in Hodeida estimated at 28 percent, which is almost double the WHO emergency threshold of 15 percent.

The survey said that the chronic malnutrition among children raises serious concerns, pointing out that 63.5 percent of the children in Al-Mahwit governorate are suffering from stunted growth.

UN agencies have said that Yemen is walking close to the line of Somalia, pointing out that four million Yemenis were affected by the economic and political crises that hit Yemen last year.

Dr. Ali Qaid, a professor of economics at Sana'a University told the Yemen Times that the reasons behind the spread of the poverty among Yemenis is the low income of most of its citizens, stressing that many simply could not afford access to basic essential needs.

He said that the poorest Yemenis are in rural areas, pointing to the low level of development projects, and the lack of job opportunities. He urged the government to launch major service projects to eliminate

unemployment, instead of relying upon foreign aid which is of advantage to only a relatively few people.

He affirmed that major projects would alleviate poverty more effectively and would create job opportunities for the unemployed.

He praised banking institutions that provide loans for small projects, explaining that they are providing a new source of development and are addressing social troubles such as unemployment and poverty.

Mohammad Al-Kamali, a medical specialist, said that malnutrition leads to malabsorption, that in turn causes problems in the digestive tract, notably diarrhea.

The WFP is considered among one of the world's most important humanitarian organizations, carrying out urgent development projects combating poverty and famine in 80 countries. It supports education, health and infrastructure projects for communities and help refugees return to their homes.

The organization depends entirely on long-term donations from governments, private companies and individuals, and has no permanent sources of funding.

portedly threw the grenade from a Hilux (pickup) truck. The incident has sparked resentment among citizens in Taiz, a number of whom proceeded to rally before Saeed's house to express solidarity with him.

In a remark to the Yemen Times, Zaid Al-Nahari, a spokesman from Hail Saeed's trading group, said that the "brutal assault" came as the result of insecurity in Taiz and the spread of chaos, adding that the blast shattered windows on the southern side of the house while Saeed was at home.

He further added that the event provoked panic and fear throughout the neighborhood.

Al-Nahari called on all security services and local authorities to assume their responsibilities to

maintain the city's security and stability and to arrest criminals and bring them to justice.

"How can we protect ourselves and our funds with such insecurity in the governorate?" wondered businessman Mohammad Al-Selwi, who went on to point out that a gang had kidnapped a young employee from his shop at Al-Rahida in Taiz.

"What happened to Mr. Saeed was a message to all people, as he bears no enmity towards any person and all the people of Taiz like and respect him," he said.

"What advantages have we taken from the GCC Initiative and the presidential elections except the insecurity which has spread through Abyan, Al-Baida and Taiz?" he asked.

## Detained doctor released after eight months in prison

By: Mohammed Al-Samei

SANAA, March 18 – The Supreme Criminal Court released on Saturday the Yemeni physician and eye specialist Tawfeeq Dhaeban, after about eight months in custody.

Ahmed Dhaeban, the doctor's brother, told Yemen Times that his brother was "supposed to be released last Wednesday, but the General Prosecution delayed his release under the pretext that the court had not sent a memo to the General Attorney."

Ahmed indicated that his brother was bailed by commercial warranties as the court refused to accept a hospital guarantee.

Dhaeban was arrested by elements of the national security force in July 2011 in Dar Salam, a superb of the Yemeni capital Sana'a, while he was taking his family to his hometown in Radda, some 170km southeast of Sana'a.

He and his family were forced out of their car by the national security agents, who confiscated their personal belongings. "They even took the children's milk," Ahmed said.

Dhaeban was imprisoned in a small cell for eight months and was subjected to physical and psychological torture, according to Ahmed.

Ahmed insisted that his brother had nothing to do with politics and that his only crime was administering first aid at the field hospital in Sana'a's 'Change Square'.

Yemen's revolutionary youth have



Dr. Tawfeeq Dhaeban

accused the National Security Agency and other security agencies of kidnapping and torturing hundreds of revolutionaries.

A preliminary survey compiled by the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) showed that 190 youth have been detained without charges, while hundreds of others are still missing with nobody knowing anything about their fate.

A statement from HOOD said that more than 35 detainees have been

languishing in Political Security jails.

Some of revolutionary youth met with the Prime Minister of the Interim Government, Mohammed Salem Basundwa, on March 11 and briefed him on some of their grievances, including the fate of their detained friends.

Basundwa said he had ordered the immediate release of all imprisoned youth, however, he noted that his orders had not been carried out by the concerned authorities.

### ADVERTORIAL

## National Conference for women launches media activities

By: Marwa Najmuddin

The preparatory committee for the National Conference for Women – to be held on March 19 and 20 - held a press conference on Thursday morning to outline their demands and hopes for increased female participation in Yemen's public life.

The Conference is being organized by the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Federation for Women, with cooperation from international organizations.

The conference aims to safeguard Yemeni women's rights and to have them reflected in the constitution and in laws, in a way that ensures they are implemented and taken into account in the upcoming national comprehensive dialogue.

The conference committee has also outlined sub-goals: to unite women's vision, to bring their demands to the public decision-making level, to find constitutional and legal grounds for demands so that they may be more easily applied,



and to gain a greater amount of support for women's issues.

Further aims include raising female representation up to 30 percent in all decision-making processes and leadership posts, including in the upcoming national dialogue's committees and in the second phase of the nation's transitional stage.

It's expected that there will be a call for the protection of women rights, for the right to compulsory education to be approved, and for the creation of effective partner-

ships with media outlets, which can play a major role in supporting women's issues and in raising awareness of women's rights.

The importance attached to the National Conference for Women comes as the result of efforts to move it beyond the traditional framework of previous conferences.

Unlike previous conferences, this conference is designed to deal with all challenges that Yemeni women face, at political, social, and cultural levels.

### Continued from page 1

#### US English Teacher Gunned down in Taiz

The statement demanded that local authorities, the interim government, and President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi promptly put an end to the deteriorating security situation.

Businessmen who are members of the chamber of commerce have warned that major investors and merchants in the governorate will suspend their trading activities because of concern about security risks in Taiz.

The statement was issued after unknown assailants threw a hand grenade which exploded in front of a house belonging to businessman Shawqi Hail Saeed on Saturday.

The unidentified assailants re-



Unknown men blew up a hand grenade on Saturday in front of a house belongs to a prominent businessman in Taiz.

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# Social accountability: a new step towards fighting corruption

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

RABAT, March 16 – The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability – Arab World (ANSA-AW) was launched last Thursday in Rabat, with the presence of seven Arab countries' representatives including Yemen.

The ANSA is a global initiative, sponsored by the World Bank, aimed at promoting and sustaining concepts and activities of social accountability in many countries. In 2006, the network was established in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and East Asia Pacific.

Recently, the initiative has widened its activities to include seven Arab Countries. It currently plans to urge other Arab countries to take part in the initiative.

Yemen's team contributed effec-

tively in establishing the network in Rabat. The team represented CSOs, government officials, the media and the private sector.

Nuha Al-Eryani, the program manager at the Humanitarian Forum Yemen, told the Yemen Times that establishing the network will contribute greatly into highlighting the principles of transparency and accountability.

"It will also urge the workers of NGOs to disseminate the concept of social accountability amongst people," she said.

An independent MP, Abdulmoiez Dabwan, said that the network in the current situation in Yemen is very important.

"Establishing the network at this time is a good step towards strengthening the aims of the revolutions in some Arab countries," he said. "It

will definitely reinforce good governance in these countries."

Mostafa Nasr, head of the Studies and Economic Media Center said that the network of social accountability is a necessary step to turn the citizens from passive people into active ones.

"It will help citizens to be participants in observation and planning with the aim of obtaining better basic services," he said.

Nasr indicated also that the network is an appropriate mechanism to achieve social justice and improve the use of resources.

"Social accountability is a basic right for citizens to be able to disclose manipulation and ask officials about their shortcomings," he said.

Tawfiq Al-Budhaji, executive manager of the Human Rights and Information Training Center, said

that implementing social accountability these days is crucial to improving the kind of services provided by the government and put pressure on officials to provide better services.

Najla'a Asda, program coordinator at the Yemeni Women's Union, said that social accountability is a fundamental base for fighting corruption and enabling citizens to observe the performance of their government.

Olayan Al-Haisami of the All Girls Association for Development stressed the importance of social accountability, especially at this critical time.

He said that the All Girls Association for Development has adopted strategy for supporting good governance and empowering Yemenis to participate effectively in society.

# Airstrikes continue in south Yemen

By: Fuad Mussed

ADEN, March 18 – Military aircraft continued to target and bomb al-Qaeda locations in the southern governorate of Abyan on Sunday, local sources told the Yemen Times.

Fierce airstrikes carried out yesterday afternoon targeted militant hideouts in Ja'a'r, an al-Qaeda stronghold and the second-largest town in Abyan, according to local sources.

The number of resulting casualties has not yet been revealed.

Local media outlets reported on Thursday that a US warship, stationed off the coast of Abyan, bombarded a post held by Ansar al-Shariah, the local offshoot of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization.

Meanwhile, local farmers told the

Yemen Times that heavy shelling had targeted agricultural lands and that it had badly damaged their crops.

"We are not sure whether Yemeni aircraft or US unmanned drones are responsible for the airstrikes," said one farmer.

He added that he questioned the sense in shelling cultivated farms, and added that such acts leave the locals dismayed.

Local sources said that massive explosions had rocked Jaar over the past couple days, and that the explosions occurred the day after the US warship had launched an attack on militant posts.

According to local residents, the shelling targeted al-Musaimeer, located nearby Zinjubar, and areas in and around Ja'a'r.

# Al-Thawra newspaper halts publishing

By: Marwa Najmaldin

SANA'A, March 18 – Starting last Wednesday, the state-run Al-Thawra daily newspaper disappeared from newsstands. The paper's editorial board has decided to suspend its publication for financial reasons.

Until this year, the paper had never stopped publishing since September 28, 1962. The paper's management had failed to pay workers their fees, which led to the current suspension, according to Eyad Al-Mawsimi, a journalist at the paper.

Nabil Haydr, a reporter for Al-Thawra, told the Yemen Times that employee salaries had not been paid for three months.



A ministry source told Al-Hale local newspaper that Al-Thawra paper has run into accumulated problems caused by the previous government administration, which left the paper with huge amounts of debt.

In February of this year, operations at the paper were also suspended after armed men affiliated with former president Saleh stormed the paper's headquarters in Sana'a in protest against the removal of Saleh's picture from Al-Thawra's front page.

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**IFB Title: Procurement of Conveyance Pipes and Fittings for 2000 ha in Sana'a Basin (Batch 2)**

**IFB Number: 15/G/ICB/IRR/WSSP/11**

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project posted on-line on August 19, 2009 Notice Number WB3500-758/09 and that appeared in UN Development Business No758 of September 16,2009 and updated on September 21, 2010.
2. The Republic of Yemen has received a Grant from the International Development Association and the governments of the Netherlands and Germany toward the cost of implementation of the National Irrigation Program (NIP) under the Water Sector Support Program (WSSP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the Contract for Procurement of Conveyance Pipes and Fittings for 2000 ha in Sana'a Basin (Batch 2) Bid No. 15/G/ICB/IRR/WSSP/11.
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#### GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY: Reference Number: TAI\_PO2012

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- Technical knowledge and experience for the specific job

#### Positions: Project Assistants-Voucher and Vendor

#### GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY: Reference Number: TAI\_PA2012

The Project Assistants will support Project Managers and Officers in implementing a food security voucher program with vulnerable households in rural Taiz..

- Voucher Project Assistants will focus on conducting a targeting exercise to identify beneficiaries and will then sensitize the beneficiary households on using vouchers. They will be responsible for monthly voucher distributions.
- Vendor project assistants will work closely with vendors to train them on the redemption process, assist them with planning, stock/cash flow projections, addresses quality of commodity issues, and spot check that vendors are complying with terms of the program.

All Project Assistants will 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 are in place, properly completed and well-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

#### Position: Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

#### GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY: Reference Number: TAI\_M&E2012

The M & E Officer will assist in the development of monitoring and evaluation strategies and tools. He/she will be responsible for developing and maintaining databases and generating beneficiary lists and will collect and analyze relevant data in order for the team to measure project impact. He/She will supervise all M&E Assistants and Data Entry Clerk and train them on all relevant monitoring tools.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- A university degree in relevant field is required.
- Two years' experience in program monitoring and evaluation within an international NGO
- Practical and theoretical knowledge in program monitoring and data collection methods.
- Understanding of the social, political and economic context of Taiz.
- Advanced computer skills in MS Office programs. Excellent skills in statistics and SPSS.

#### Position: Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant

#### GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY: Reference Number: TAI\_FIN2012

The M & E Assistant will implement the M&E monitoring plan for the program through conducting surveys in local markets, with project vendors and at beneficiary households. 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.
- Practical and theoretical knowledge in program monitoring and data collection methods.

#### Position: Data Entry Clerk

#### GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY: Reference Number: TAI\_DE2012

He/she will be responsible for the data entry of the different surveys conducted with beneficiary households and vendors and management of beneficiary database.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- Degree in Information Technology is desired as well as fast and accurate typing skills

#### Position: Compliance Assistant

#### GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY: Reference Number: TAI\_CA2012

He/she will reports directly to the Finance Officer and will be responsible for investigating complaints and cross checking vouchers redeemed against store inventory records. **REQUIREMENTS:**

- Degree in accounting or relevant field is desired
- A demonstrated ability to multi-task so as to not delay program activities.

#### Position: Driver

#### GENERAL POSITION SUMMARY: Reference Number: TAI\_DR2012

The driver will provide safe, transport services for MC program and will adhere to all traffic and MC safety rules.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- Valid drivers license and experience driving professionally
- Knowledge of routes throughout Taiz governate

#### SUCCESS FACTORS FOR ALL POSITIONS:

- Demonstrated ability to multi-task, meet deadlines
- Strong organizational skills
- Ability to interact effectively with international and national personnel.
- 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 oral and written English skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Understanding of the social, political and economic context of Taiz

#### HOW TO APPLY:

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit a one page cover letter and their CV in English by email to [recruiting@ye.mercycorps.org](mailto:recruiting@ye.mercycorps.org) no later than March 23, 2012. **All applications must include the vacancy reference number in the subject line of their e-mail message.** Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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

## YT vision statement



**"To make Yemen a good world citizen."**

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



## OUR OPINION

### Conferences for or about Yemen?

Now that Yemen is seemingly stepping in the right direction of stability, the world is gathering around to talk about it. There are endless conferences, think tank sessions, seminars, research papers and blog posts about Yemen, and what it needs or does not need.

It has become sort of fashionable in a way, and even those who have never been to Yemen are somehow overnight becoming experts talking about the complicated details of this country and its problems.

Many times a Yemeni representative is invited to participate in these events. Since most of the events need an English speaker, usually the same faces go in and out of the country talking to foreign audiences, enlightening them about the country.

There are also meetings at the highest levels where heads of states and ministers are meeting to discuss Yemen and what should be done about it. Yemeni ministers have become scarce in the country, since they are most of the time attending those conferences abroad. These days Riyadh is the place to be, and almost every minister or high level official that I know or know of is already warming his or her (mostly his) seat.

I don't deny the need for such conferences to take place, but it just feels a bit too much, especially that Yemen needs more than talk at this stage. How much strategizing do we need to do before action kicks in?

Also, imagine how much benefit would come to Yemen if such conferences and events take place in the country? How many service oriented businesses would benefit and how many people will find a job, even if temporary, if such events were to take place in Yemen?

If the question is security, then many foreign ministers and Western parliamentarians as well as Gulf diplomats have already been in and out of Yemen.

If the question is time, well, considering the proximity of Riyadh to Sana'a, it should not make that much difference. In fact, instead of taking Yemen's entire government out of Yemen, it would be more economical and convenient to bring the others in.

It can't be the cost, because we know that the costs are covered by the host country. After all, we are a poor forsaken country with a huge budget deficit.

These events need to be for Yemen instead of about it. And for God's sake, enough meetings and let's get the ball rolling.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## SKETCHED OPINION

By Hilal Al-Muraqqb



First anniversary of the Day of Dignity's massacre on March 18

# The drone war on journalists

By: Scott Horton  
Harper's Magazine  
March 14

Yesterday I wrote about how the Obama Administration has insisted that its deal with Yemen's dictatorship concerning the use of drones there is a secret, and how it has been wielding that specious claim to justify withholding publication of a controversial Justice Department memo that outlines the president's supposed authority to order the assassination of an American citizen abroad. Now Jeremy Scahill has published an important study of what the Obama Administration is prepared to do to journalists who expose its hit operations in Yemen:

"On February 2, 2011, President Obama called Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The two discussed counterterrorism cooperation and the battle against Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. At the end of the call, according to a White House read-out, Obama 'expressed concern' over the release of a man named Abdullah Haider Shaye, whom Obama said 'had been sentenced to five years in prison for his association with AQAP.' It turned

out that Shaye had not yet been released at the time of the call, but Saleh did have a pardon for him prepared and was ready to sign it. It would not have been unusual for the White House to express concern about Yemen's allowing AQAP suspects to go free. Suspicious prison breaks of Islamist militants in Yemen had been a regular occurrence over the past decade, and Saleh has been known to exploit the threat of terrorism to leverage counterterrorism dollars from the United States. But this case was different. Abdullah Haider Shaye is not an Islamist militant or an Al-Qaeda operative. He is a journalist."

"Unlike most journalists covering Al-Qaeda, Shaye risked his life to travel to areas controlled by Al-Qaeda and to interview its leaders. He also conducted several interviews with the radical cleric Anwar Al-Awlaki. Shaye did the last known interview with Awlaki just before it was revealed that Awlaki, a US citizen, was on a CIA/JSOC hit list. 'We were only exposed to Western media and Arab media funded by the West, which depicts only one image of Al-Qaeda,' recalls his best friend Kamal Sharaf, a well-known dissident Yemeni political cartoonist. 'But Abdullah brought a differ-

ent viewpoint."

Indeed, a reporter covering hostilities is subject to special risks. Much of what a journalist does - photographing or videotaping battles, identifying and interviewing key actors in a conflict - can easily be confused with espionage or hostile military conduct. These risks are heightened in an unconventional-war setting in which forces do not wear uniforms and often hide their weapons. But this distinction is vital: a journalist does not actually participate in the conflict; he seeks information so that his readers will have a better understanding of what's going on. Indeed, a really good journalist is particularly committed to ferreting out and exposing precisely those facts someone most wants to keep secret. Lord Northcliffe, the great British press baron, put it well when he said, "News is what somebody, somewhere wants to suppress; all the rest is advertising."

The United States historically has made a careful practice of offering journalists the protection to which they are entitled under what international humanitarian law calls the principle of distinction. But this practice fell to the wayside during the years in which Donald Rums-

feld held sway over the Pentagon. The US military's seizure and mistreatment of my clients, Pulitzer Prize-winning AP photographer Bilal Hussain and CBS cameraman Abdul Ameer Younis Hussein, as well as numerous others during the Iraq conflict demonstrated a new, cruel, and unprofessional attitude toward journalists who offered battlefield coverage the Pentagon didn't like.

Shaye had been systematically documenting the US presence in Yemen and the fact that US officials, starting with the ambassador in Sana'a, were lying about the targeted-killing operations. No doubt his activities presented a legitimate security threat to Americans operating on the ground in Yemen, and no doubt his work meant heartburn for the CIA, then struggling to keep the cover on a program which was essentially too large in scope ever to be plausibly covert. However, the essence of his work was legitimate, indeed highly important journalism. This case points to more shameless misconduct by an intelligence community committed to using the heavy hand of the state in order to battle truth. And it points to a White House seemingly unable to understand how it is being spun.

# Threshold of the great Yemeni dream

By: Galal Al-Mohammed

It is absolutely unfair and misguided to view the Yemeni Youth Popular Revolution as merely a vocal claim for bread and butter, or as a political conflict for power.

This is a very superficial and deceptive appraisal compared to the reality, which is so much deeper and more complex. It is a historic moment in which we are witnessing a rebirth of a great nation. It is a rising from humiliation, a reclaiming of dignity and a demanding of respect.

It is a reemerging of the national consciousness, narrative and a reflection of the Yemeni dream that was buried for so long.

Economic and political corruption was only the trigger for the eruption of a huge volcano of congested frustrations that had accumulated for decades, leading to undefeated upheavals.

Frequent Yemeni political regimes have failed miserably to achieve any genuine accomplishment for Yemen, or offer the most basic requirements of life for people and guarantee them a dignified life.

Power has been to them no more than a privilege in which they consider only their personal interests, while Yemeni people were a just surplus staff. That is, forgotten for a long time and not recalled except before elections and formal manifestations.

These foolish, reckless, and shortsighted policies have been closely intertwined and entangled with the regional and international agendas in the fabric of Yemenis' everyday life.

These calamitous policies have

led to submission, fear and loss of confidence and national pride, and consequently to a loss of dignity, needless to mention poverty, unemployment and deteriorating living conditions, which were another aspect of our grievance.

The great Yemeni people have shown lots of wisdom and endurance, controlling and suppressing their anger.

Simply, concentrating on how to manage their life affairs peacefully, and looking for ways to ease the consequences of such merciless policies.

Unfortunately this nobility was misunderstood and considered wrongly as stupidity and senselessness which tempts politicians to go even beyond that extent.

This course of action has been unconstructive in shaping the Yemeni character, that was stereotypically depicted as indifferent, random, aimless, illiterate and subhuman.

The ideas of inferiority, inadequacy, and incapability have been deeply rooted in the Yemeni psyche.

This awful scene has led so many Yemenis to lay down their arms of hope and surrender submissively to frustration and disability. Others looked for a sort of solace in the great history of Yemen when people did talk proudly about their country's accomplishments for humanity, whilst turning a blind eye to Yemen's miserable present.

It was scary when we were not sure what to do. When and where to start? All doors seemed closed against us! Till the sun of the Youth Popular Revolution was raised so high and sent its rays of dream all over Yemen's soil, bringing to life buried self-confidence, and letting the Yemeni dream be free from the

prison of history books, making it for the first time ever applicable and in hand.

It came as a great beacon light of hope to Yemenis who had been seared in the flames of corruption, backwardness, and injustice for decades. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of pain, suffering and melancholy.

Despite all the huge fuss, remarks and criticism of some of the practices associated with the revolution, as well as its outcomes and accomplishments that up to now were below our expectations, what the revolution has achieved is miraculous.

And once the dust of the revolution subsides, and the political scene becomes clearer, Yemenis will realize that with this revolution, they have achieved an astounding triumph and has travelled a long distance in the journey of freedom, put themselves proudly in an equal footing with other peoples, and granted an honorable position for Yemen in this world.

We should bear in mind that what has been fulfilled so far is not enough, and the disappearance of the ex-president does not necessarily mean the end of his regime and culture.

On the contrary, the coming phase of the revolution is even more difficult and complicated. It is crucial, highly sensitive and full of great challenges, that requires daring, instant and strategic decisions.

This is no time for political manipulations. No time to engage in personal or denominational conflicts. It is rather the time to lift our country from the quicksands of dispute and conflict to the solid rock of brotherhood.

It is time to put Yemen first and urgently take care of it before it vanishes into so many country-like territories, and sinks into endless internal conflicts.

There will be neither rest nor tranquility in Yemen unless all Yemeni citizens are granted their equal citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of the coming ruling regime until the bright day of justice emerges for all Yemenis.

The oppression of our brothers in the south, Sa'ada and all over Yemen has been so immense that it needs to be solved correctly.

We all have strived against Saleh and his stupid and retarded system. So the legacy of the past must not lead us to distrust each other, for all of us, as evidenced by the Youth Popular Revolution, have come to realize that our destiny is tied up together, and our freedom is inextricably bound to each other.

We cannot walk alone. We are much like angels with one wing, we can only fly by embracing each other.

And as we walk together, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back. It is the time to build the real civil state we dreamt about in which Yemenis are not judged by their geographical or social titles, but by the content of their character.

We have a huge opportunity that is drawn with our own blood to create the Yemen we really want, so we must not let it slip through our fingers. The initial signals of the current scene in Yemen are encouraging and extremely promising.

I am convinced and quite certain that we are on the threshold of the great Yemeni dream.

## YEMEN TIMES

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## Mohammed Muftah, head of the Omma Party:

# “We don’t mind dealing with unfair, and we have pre-coordination

Interview by Ahmed Dawod

Mohammed Muftah has recently become known as one of the scholars for the Zaidi sect in Yemen. In addition to being a religious scholar, he is also a brilliant speaker and an influential politician.

He was arrested in 2005 when he led a demonstration demanding an end to the war in Sa’ada. In the same year, he and his colleague Yahia Al-Dailami were put on trial, largely perceived to be unfair, and Muftah was sentenced to eight years imprisonment on charges of spying for Iran. In 2006, however, former president Saleh ordered that Muftah and Al-Dailami be released.

Muftah had previously joined the Al-Haq political party, and was head of the party’s Shura Council, however, two years ago he quit. On Jan. 1, 2012, he and a group of friends set up the Omma, or Nation, political party. Ahmed Dawod from the Yemen Times sat with Muftah to find out more about this new party.

### What is the Al-Omma Party and what are its objectives?

As far as I’m concerned, the Omma Party is the first patriotic party in Yemen. This is because it is national in origin, thought and association. It had not been cloned from any experience outside of Yemen. Its advantages are that it is not possessed by any other political party, since it was not formed by authority as is the case with the General People’s Congress, and it came after a massive popular revolution, thus it was inspired by Yemeni people’s expectations and the high spirits of the youth of the revolution. It’s a party that considers institutionalism as its best structural asset in order to work for an institutional state, because those who don’t have organized institutions within their parties, will not be able to do so when assuming leadership of the state.

It’s a patriotic party and when we say patriotic, we mean an Arab and Islamic party. This is because the Yemeni people are Arabs and Yemen is a Muslim nation.

As for the party’s objectives, we can sum these up by saying we wish to build Yemen into a powerful, fair and institutional state, that respects the human rights and dignity of Yemenis, provides freedom and dignity to all, and preserves the interests of the Yemeni people both inside and outside of Yemen.

### Four days after the party was announced, your house was attacked with two grenades. Whom do you accuse of this act?

I accuse those who are loyal to foreign hegemony, because we want to free political decision making from supremacy and dependency. There’s no doubt that people of subordination are the parties that bother us. Thank Allah that the two bombs did not go



**We will deal with Mr. Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi and the fait accompli government as an observer who thoroughly follows their performance. We warn them – you have put yourselves in a difficult situation, so you either prove that you are with the Yemeni people, or that you are only an instrument to foreigners.**

off, not by the culprit’s will, but by that of Allah’s. Explosive experts who came to my house were surprised that the grenades did not explode. So far, the security forces have not come forth with further details, although we have informed them about the incident, and despite the fact that the police station officer from nearby came with the explosive experts. Unfortunately, we have not achieved any results so far.

### Have you received any threats?

Yes. The matter didn’t end at that. Another incident followed when one of our staff, who was standing in the party building’s yard, was shot by a sniper. A bullet from an unknown source hit him out of the blue. It was a lethal shot by any standards, but Allah saved his life and the bullet didn’t hit the heart or lungs, but somewhere between. Thanks to all, a successful operation was conducted and now he’s back at work.

### Does Mohammed Muftah have any enemies?

Mohammed Muftah? No.

### And the Al-Omma party?

Anyone who works with a foreign agenda will undoubtedly show hostility towards the Al-Omma party and its staff.

### Some believe that the Al-Omma Party represents the Houthis.

We have heard that many times. But I wish to affirm that Al-Omma represents all Yemenis, and is responsible for reflecting their grievances wherever they are. So if our brothers in Sa’ada have been oppressed, killed, injured, have been disabled by the thousands, been displaced by the hundreds of thousands, had their houses demolished, then unquestionably, the Al-Omma Party will take it upon itself to lift such oppression from their backs and adopt their cause. It will do the same for our brothers in the south as well as all areas in Yemen.

### Do your positions correspond a great degree with those of the Houthis?

If our positions are identical, then this means that our stance is not abnormal and that we have partners who share it with us. This is a blessing and an additional credit – we have others who share the same viewpoints.

The Gulf Initiative is rejected because it has wasted the sacrifices made by Yemenis, put Yemen under absolute foreign dominion, and brought together political powers that used to represent the former regime with its two branches – the authority and the opposition – in the same cast. It brings subordination to foreign hegemony and the forming of a single authority and the sharing posts and power, while leaving behind the Yemeni people to suffer from injustice and oppression.

### Where do you get your financing?

We have only the funds provided by those who are convinced by our ideas. These are a group that believes in the



Yemen Times reporter Ahmed Dawod (left) with Mohammed Muftah

party’s views and principles. Every one of us have shared a part in the responsibility of bringing some money to establish the party. So far, we still suffer from a shortage in resources. This includes the party’s head office furniture, a part of which was borrowed until a week ago, and some which was bought on credit. However, we believe that free Yemenis, men and women, will not give up their pride and dignity, which our party supports, and that they will pay money and make even greater sacrifices.

### Some say that Iran is the main supporter of your party.

Yes. Some say that, but only to cover up their subordination to foreign powers. We challenge them to declare the enormous funds they have had to establish huge companies, banks, hospitals, universities and schools across Yemen. Where did they get such finances? I can even claim that some of them still wear the clothes they had from outside Yemen. They are known to all, and when they hear that we wish to set Yemeni politics free from foreign subjection, they feel butterflies in their stomach and see others as if they are seeing themselves. They’re asking for alms from foreign countries and wish to convince people that we are the same. Praise be to Allah that we’re of the Yemeni people, and that we’re not reaching out our hands to Iran, Saudi Arabia, America or any other country. We will depend on Allah, on the will of Yemenis, and on what we can accomplish.

### You boycotted the presidential election. Why?

Because there was no election. What happened was that Yemeni people

were tricked into voting on the Gulf Initiative under the pretext of voting in the election, when there was none, because there were no candidates. There should have been more than one candidate in order for us to elect one. Also, there was no registration of candidates including the only nominee. His file was not submitted as a candidate to the parliament, nor did he come forth with an electoral program or anything else. There was only the so-called election that persuaded Yemenis to adopt the Gulf Initiative because it gives immunity to those who have corrupted the country, looted its resources, and shed blood. They have exercised a large-scale deception over the Yemeni people to vote on the initiative.

### If there were other candidates beside President Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi, would you have participated in the election?

If it was a real election, yes. At any elections that have proper standards, we will be the first to participate. Rather, we are calling for genuine elections in the future; elections that respect the will of the Yemeni people, because this will was confiscated by all means including extension for the bygone President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and the bygone parliament that still claims legitimacy that it does not have, which is another deception against Yemenis.

### Some parties say that those who boycotted the election had no political or popular weight. How do you respond to that?

If we have not had weight, why did they resort to the largest rigging process in the history of Yemen? They

have taken fingerprints of people who did not participate in the election. They even used children and non-Yemenis and some people who were not registered in voter records. At some centers, where only 200 people showed up, there were fingerprints for 1,370. So this is the largest manipulation of an election in Yemeni history. This is evidence of our existence and influence.

### Were there any talks between you, the Joint Meeting Parties or the GPC to persuade you to take part in the presidential elections?

Regrettably, no. But foreigners did. The parties here are merely instruments. The ones who talked to us were the EU, the American embassy, the German ambassador and others. As for the local parties, they have submitted themselves entirely to foreign countries.

### How will you deal with president Hadi and the reconciliation government?

We will deal with Mr. Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi and the fait accompli government as an observer who thoroughly follows their performance. We warn them – you have put yourselves in a difficult situation, so you either prove that you are with the Yemeni people, or that you are only an instrument to foreigners. If they do well, we will praise them as a de facto authority. But if they bungle, the revolution is still alive and they will have no choice but to leave.

### There are currently preparations underway for a national dialogue conference. How do

### you see such a step?

We don’t know what this so-called national dialogue is, who is preparing for it or who will run it. We, at the Al-Omma Party, are calling for a dialogue that would include all national powers and all influential players. We also call for the opportunity to be given to Yemeni people to have their say on their future, instead of conducting talks between political parties that have confiscated the will of the Yemeni people. The parties that have divided power, posts and money among themselves, and paved the way for future foreign hegemony in Yemen.

### The government says that the dialogue will not exclude anyone, including the Houthis and the Southern Movement.

If you browse websites, you’ll see pictures of Mr. Yassin Saeed Nu’man and Mr. Abdul Wahab Al-Anesi, along with Mr. Yahia Badruaddin Al-Hothi, who’s abroad (I don’t know in what country). Anyway, I saw the picture with captions to the effect that the first two went abroad to persuade the Houthis to participate in the dialogue, which is a good initiative. I wish that a dialogue would be conducted with the Houthi leaders here in Yemen. I wish also that someone from the de facto government would have given us an idea about the dialogue, but so far, nothing has happened.

### What if you are asked to mediate to persuade the Houthis to participate in the national dialogue conference?

It seems that the government needs the Houthis to mediate and persuade us to participate. Our demand is to prepare a solid ground for the dialogue. Such ground hasn’t been prepared yet and as soon as it is, we will go everywhere to encourage Yemenis to engage in the dialogue. But with the case as it is now, this is out of the question.

### In your opinion, how can the Southern and Sa’ada issues be settled?

First of all, grievances should be recognized. Wronged people should be rehabilitated and compensated. Yemeni society’s real freedom should be guaranteed, and their demands be fulfilled as a means to have credibility so that people would begin to solve their problems including foreign dominion over political resolution. When this hegemony ends, we will reconcile and start building the Yemeni state, otherwise things will only get worse and new issues will emerge.

### Islah party has not welcomed the Al-Omma Party yet.

We don’t need welcome from anyone. But they should have done that out of courtesy for any new component in the political arena.

### How do you evaluate your relations with the JMP?

Our relations with all political entities in Yemen will be that of cooperation and dialogue as a means to serve national interests. We do not have hostility and we only have the demands of the Yemeni people and those who stand in the way of such demands will only antagonize Yemenis.

### How do you read the conflict in Sa’ada and Hajja between Islahis and Houthis on one hand, and Houthis and Salafists on the other?

We consider such events with great sorrow because the blood shed is Yemeni blood and because it’s shed in vain. Why should there be such suffering and so many victims? We call upon our brothers in Islah and the Houthis as well as the Salafists, who are clearly funded by the Saudis, to respect Yemenis’ blood and to work for the interests of the Yemeni people instead of fighting. We also request them to resort to dialogue and solve



### Your meeting with the American ambassador irked the Houthis.

Our meeting was with the third secretary. They called several times asking to see us. Because our decisions are collective, we convened, deliberated and agreed to meet any diplomat who is in the diplomatic corps in Yemen to show that we don’t mind dealing with the diplomatic corps in Yemen. We



received the secretary and expressed our views including those on American interventions in Yemen, and the American policies that have led to insecurity and instability in Yemen and the region, and that we rejected such policies. We also told him that Yemeni people had a right for revenge for the blood shed in Abyan and other areas by American aircraft, and that Yemeni people will not forget such crimes.

# American diplomacy, n with the Houthis.”



**Finally, how does the Al-Omma Party see what is happening in Syria?**

What's happening in Syria is similar to what is happening in Yemen. It's even more serious there. There's an international plot to destroy the Syrian state that is standing in the way of foreign domination of the Arab World considering its position on supporting resistance movements. There is an

attempt to retaliate against the Syrian regime. So as long as the Syrian government bows to its people's demands, pressure should be exerted towards continuing political reforms to adopt political multiplicity and democracy. But those who don't want to see a strong Syrian state work to oust it there, more than they wish to overthrow the regime itself.

their conflicts peacefully. We are ready to mediate once there is good faith on their part.

**Have you made any efforts to curb such conflicts?**

We've done our utmost. Unfortunately, arguments have reached their highest point yet and media delusion

has prevented us from containing the conflict. We have contacted all sides that seek to defuse the problem and we have succeeded in some aspects and failed in others.

**How about what is happening in Abyan?**

What is happening in Abyan and

other governorates is an appalling tragedy. Yesterday, March 9, 2012, we received information that a car loaded with arms and heading to Hajja to add to fighting between Is-lahis and Salafists on one side, and the Houthis on the other, caused the death of an innocent citizen. The car ran to the central prison and high-

ranking mediations were launched to persuade the victim's family to accept a settlement. The car with its Salafi-leaning men was then released with its load including some rockets. And on the same day, I was informed that American aircraft bombed areas in Al-Baida and destroyed some houses. This will only stir up people's emotions and lead the youth to join Al-Qaeda.

**From your point of view, how can we solve all these problems?**

We need to free our political decisions from foreign influence, reject any foreign interference, work to solve our problems ourselves, and the existing authority should start seeking reconciliation instead of using scarecrows, sacrificing Yemeni soldiers and settling personal accounts.

**Do you intend to make an alliance with the Houthis like that of the JMP?**

We have pre-coordination with Houthis and we agreed to adopt what we see is in the interest of the nation. We seek to coordinate with other powers including the Southern Movement as a means to free political resolution from foreign influence.

**What are the political parties that you have coordinated with?**

The coordination is still going on and we don't want to declare anything until it is concluded. But we are seeking to coordinate with emerging parties



*The Gulf Initiative is rejected because it has wasted the sacrifices made by Yemenis, put Yemen under absolute foreign dominion, and brought together political powers that used to represent the former regime with its two branches – the authority and the opposition – in the same cast*

like that of Justice and Development Party, the Free Patriots Bloc and others.

**Where's the revolution standing now?**

It has reached a very high level of success. For this reason there are conspiracies against it, especially from those receiving money from other

countries, after they realized that it is about to achieve its most important goals – the ousting of the family regime and building an institutional state.

**Revolutionaries in freedom squares demand military restructuring. What are the criteria that should be applied in this process?**

The army should be restructured on a patriotic basis where there is no influence by individuals, powerful people or sheikhs. Powerful people should be pensioned off, including Brigadier Ali Mohsen and officers who are loyal to him or his partner Ali Abdullah Saleh. Also officers from the south who were dismissed in the wake of the 1994 war in addition to other officers with the same problem from all over Yemen should be reinstated.

**The so-called presidential election was a means to trick people into voting on the Gulf Initiative.**

We are calling for real elections in the future that respects the will of the Yemeni people.

Our relations with all political entities in Yemen will be that of cooperation and dialogue.

We have pre-coordination with Houthis and we agreed to adopt what we see is in the interest of the nation.

Those who don't want to see a strong Syrian state work to oust it there, more than they wish to overthrow the regime itself.



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9. Ensure order and cleanliness of the reception area
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# Micro-financing helps a grocery store make the big time



Al-Mahwiti's grocery begun as a zinc shop with a capital of YR5,000, now his capital is more than YR1,000,000.

By: Mohammed Al-Samei

Al-Mahwiti from Hodeida was a recipient of a micro-finance business loan. His small business started from a humble YR 5,000 investment, but after a number of loans he was able to expand his business to have capital of over YR 1 million. Al-Mahwiti, an owner of a grocery store in Hodeida, is one of those who has benefited from micro-financing. He received initial funding of YR 150,000 from the

Al-Kuraimi Exchange company, to be paid back in monthly installments.

Micro-financed business projects and micro-finance institutions have recently been flourishing through loans provided by banks and exchange companies.

The Yemeni economist, Ali Al-Wafi told the Yemen Times that micro-finance for small business is an effective economic strategy, which creates job opportunities and reduces poverty and unemployment.

"It is considered a key finance stream for large, medium and small

businesses to increase their production," he said.

"Where the public and private sector are not able to provide new career opportunities, micro-finance for small business projects are part of the solution to unemployment and poverty," Al-Wafi added.

After the first loan, Al-Mahwiti saw the improvement in his grocery business and decided to borrow another YR 200,000. This he invested in buying new products to sell in his store. The final loan was for YR 300,000, which he paid back over eight months in monthly installments. The total interest he paid on the final loan was YR 40,000, which equates to a rate of interest of under 14 percent.

Al-Mahwiti's business began as a small shop made of zinc his father started near their house with an initial outlay of YR 5,000. It was successful, and its capital grew to over YR 200,000. He decided to visit the Al-Kuraimi micro-finance company to finance the development of the store and purchase a lot of equipment. With the financing to expand, he was able to grow his store to a value of YR 1,200,000.

"I thank God that Al-Kuraimi company was able to assist us. The income and capital of the grocery store have been improving. The customers used to come to buy supplies, however, the store didn't always have those supplies in stock," Al-Mahwiti said to the Yemen Times. This is what prompted him to approach the Al-Kuraimi company on an ongoing basis.

Al-Mahwiti obtained a diploma in micro-finance business projects five months ago, coming first in his class. "This study helped me a lot and I learned many practical skills through it," he said.

The Hodeida branch of the Al-Kuraimi Exchange company has funded several small business projects in the governorate. A large number of people who otherwise had no financial support have benefited from these business projects. For many it has allowed them to establish their own projects and fulfill

dreams they would not have been able to achieve without this financial backing.

The director of the Al-Kuraimi Exchange company in Hodeida, Hamdi Al-Shamiri, says that the company has funded a lot of commercial and industrial micro-finance projects such as restaurants, groceries, internet cafes, and other shops. Fixed assets are purchased for shops such as refrigerators, computers, and foodstuffs. The recipient provides a quotation for items they would like to purchase.

After doing a feasibility study of the potential recipient, gaining a guarantee and making sure the recipient understands the repayment schedule, the company then purchases the items for the business, whilst making a small profit for granting the finance.

Al-Mahwiti expressed to the Yemen Times his satisfaction with the great improvement in his income that has been able to help him support his father and three brothers. He hopes that he will be able to expand his small business into

a much larger business in the future. He pointed out that the interest Al-Kuraimi charged him is less than other companies that offer to finance small businesses.

"Now my income has started to improve, I'm planning to get married soon," he said.

Apart from the much needed financing, Al-Mahwiti puts the success of his grocery store down to the special care he takes of his customers. "I do not want to lose a single client. I help customers and even provide them free home delivery."

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# Professional acceptance for Yemeni women

By: Marwa Najmaldin

For a young woman looking to study, before she can attend to what suits her own desires or interests, she must first discover what the surrounding community sees as permissible for her to study. A young man must do the same, yet simply because of her gender, a woman is under a much greater pressure to do so. Not to do so may bring the condemnation of her parents, colleagues and even the whole community.

The Department of Civil Engineering is a bastion of masculinity. It produces engineers - nearly all of them men - who are expected to work long hours and late nights. They are required to stay at their workplace, and must continually interact with the workers and contractors who supervise and are employed with their projects.

“

*A woman studying civil engineering must face great challenges and deal with large amounts of criticism from a variety of people. Knowing the challenges ahead of time does not necessarily make them any easier to face.*

While a woman may enroll in engineering, there are other departments that are usually seen as more suitable for women - for instance, electrical or architectural engineering. Ayman Abdul Hakeem, a senior student of civil engineering, says women do not usually enroll in the course, "because civil engineering is not socially acceptable, as students are required to travel to work sites, directly interact with workers, and make more of an effort."

"However, a woman can enroll in this department because there are two kinds of work. One mostly requires office work, figuring out amounts of iron and concrete, and dealing with numbers, spaces, and schemes. The other requires going to worksites and communicating with the workers at the sites," he added.

A woman studying civil engineering must face great challenges and deal with large amounts of criticism from a variety of people. Knowing the challenges ahead of time does not necessarily make them any easier to face.

“

*"I remember the advice of one who said, 'How can you lose three years to be a tailor at the end? Practice this with any tailor for only three months and you will be learn how to do it,*

Amani Abdulgader, began her major in the civil engineering in the faculty of engineering. She described studying in this department as "an adventure of standing on high buildings, and eagerly overseeing the birth of buildings from the beginning. It was the ability to change

for the better the construction, without addressing details of architecture, but through volumetric details, through the logic of numbers. It was a way of life if I engaged in it."

She added that she had expected such challenges when she enrolled in this difficult discipline, but that the encouragement of her family was her main motivation to pursue her studies, despite they all being well-versed in the hurdles she may encounter. "I was well-versed in all aspects of this discipline. Indeed, it was these very aspects that inculcated in me a deep desire to enroll in this field. I believed that during my five years of study, society's acceptance and awareness of women joining this discipline would grow, even though it is considered less socially acceptable for women," she said.

"The first day in the department of civil engineering was very hard. I was the only woman among 180 students coming from all parts of Yemen. Some of my classmates used to strongly attack me and some of them bothered me by using bad words. Very few tried to help me, while the teachers in the department resented my presence and considered me to be in the wrong place. However, some of them encouraged me and called me 'the iron lady,' she added.

Amani, who studied for one year in the department, finally realized that she should change departments, after realizing that moving to the architecture department would double her productivity in the future. It was not a surrender to the rejection of others or their condemnation for her presence in the department.

Even medicine in Yemen includes men and women in some disciplines. Women doctors are preferred in gynecology and dentistry in particular, according to Sami Al-Maqtari, a doctor.

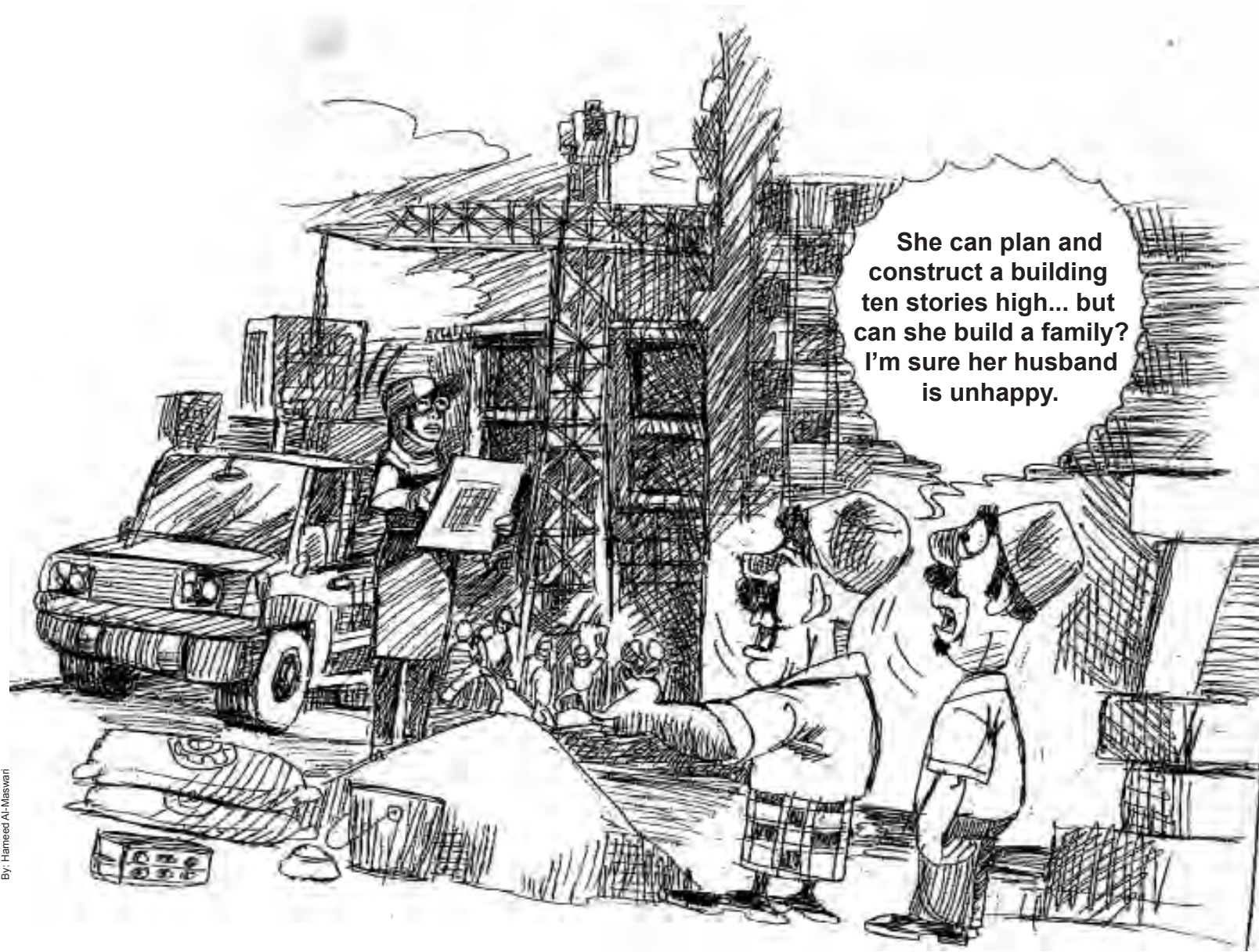
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*There are differences between men and women in terms of their capacities and potential, but the desire to be good at their work seems to be what drives creativity and talent in any discipline, not sex.*

Al-Maqtari said that the customs and traditions of society do not accept men in some medical disciplines, especially for gynecology and childbirth. Women are generally preferred for such disciplines, especially for clinical examinations. In some cases, women walk away from a clinic or hospital if they find that the doctor is a man. He said that there should be an awareness of the doctor's role, whether they be male or female.

"I think that it is a matter of modesty and shame on the part of female patients, despite the fact that the doctor is there to help and save lives. This is what everybody should understand", said gynecologist and midwife, Majid Radfan. He said that when he started his job at the hospital, female patients did not accept him, however, if they found that they had no other options, they would they would see him. Eventually, women who were ill would seek assistance, no matter the sex of the doctor. Humane treatment by a doctor, whether male or female, is the most important thing in the end.

There are differences between men and women in terms of their capacities and potential, but the desire to be good at their work seems to be what drives creativity and talent in any discipline, not sex. However,



it is the potential in a person that finally governs a woman or man's choice of work.

Amani Abdullah, 27, is a doctor currently seeking a specialty that fits her potential and capacities. She has passed through several medical departments over the course of a year. She said that she initially found the specialty of osteology very interesting. However, when she experienced her first surgical amputation with a specialist osteologist, she found the operating room more like a carpenter's workshop. The doctor like a carpenter was working very hard. It is the blessing of God that allows a doctor to break the patient's bone, but when he required help in making the break, Amani could not assist. "Of course, I might be a good doctor in this area, but I cannot conduct an operation to amputate an arm or a leg. It requires more effort than I can muster. So, I have the mental capacity but my potential in this discipline is limited," she added.

#### Fashion Design

The department of fashion design is one that is shunned by most men. When the faculty of community opened the department, it initially had no more than ten students. In spite of current admissions being more than thirty students a year, the department has had only three male graduates in the last eight years.

Zaid Ali, teaching assistant at the department of fashion design, was the only male student among seven women. He graduated after receiving high grades throughout his years of study, which qualified him to become a teaching assistant in the department.

"My enrollment in the department from the beginning was not from a desire or tendency towards fashion design. My real problem was that I wasn't good at mathematics, like many others who suffer from this subject in the other departments of the faculty," said Ali.

He remembers the reactions of his colleagues, who did not expect to find his name in the list of students for fashion design. They started making comments to him, despite the fact that his family was satisfied with his unusual choice of study.

"I remember the advice of one who said, 'How can you lose three years to be a tailor at the end? Practice this with any tailor for only three months and you will be learn how to do it,

instead of losing three years at your age in such a specialty. When some passed through our sewing labs and I was working on the sewing machine, they would compare me with their mothers, compare our performance in using the sewing machine. And there were comments such as call-

ing me 'Al-Haj Mutawali', one of the most dramatic characters in a well known Arabic series who worked with fabrics and most of whose customers are women," said Ali.

He described that the work in the department of fashion design is not only about sewing clothes. The

designer of fashion needs to help in coordination of colors, and to identify what is appropriate on the body to hide flaws and highlight beauty. They also need to be attuned to what is appropriate fashion for the time dependent on what is happening in the fashion world.

## REPUBLIC OF YEMEN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION HEALTH POPULATION PROJECT (HPP) PROJECT ADMINISTRATION UNIT (PAU) Announcing Vacancy for the Independent Financial Auditor

The Health and Population Project, seeks applicants for the position of **Independent Financial Auditor** at the Project Administration Unit (PAU) who will work under the direct supervision of the Project Manager. The Independent Financial Auditor will report and be accountable to the Project Manager, and will work closely with other PAU staff, relevant departments of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, and all other relevant/ related parties or organizations as necessary.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

- To independently review the financial invoices received at the PAU as a result of conducting the campaigns and outreach rounds activities, that they are of acceptable level and reliable according to disbursements instructions of IDA funds from the World Bank.
- To provide the necessary project monitoring financial progress reports

#### SCOPE OF SERVICES OF THE ASSIGNMENT (As Per TOR)

##### Independent Verification of Invoices for Disbursements

- On a periodic basis and after the implementation of each campaign and outreach round, the Consultant will verify and review the consistency and the eligibility of the quarterly invoicing documents sent by the HPP in accordance with the project financial management guidelines for campaign and outreach rounds at centralized and decentralized levels. Based on the disbursement of the invoices for campaign and outreach round. This review will ensure that:
  - The campaign and outreach rounds implemented by the HPP are in compliance with the financial management guidelines.
  - The costs of campaign and outreach rounds implemented and invoiced by the HPP are in compliance with budget and cost breakdown of the project implementation plan.
- Based on this review and verification, the consultant will report to the PAU Manager that:
  - Invoices submitted are in compliance with the above mentioned guidelines.
  - Invoices submitted are in accordance to the budget proposed for implementing these rounds specified in the project implementation plan.
  - Invoices submitted are for eligible expenditures.

The verification and review should be provided no later than 10 working days after the receipt of the HPP complete invoices to the Project Manager.

#### REPORTING

- Quarterly Progress reports including Campaign and Outreach Rounds in Compliance to Financial Management guidelines.
- Invoices Verification and review Reports should be submitted in English, with a duly signed (One original and three copies).
- Annual Progress Reports, at the end of the consultancy services period.

The reports corresponding to each of the specified reporting period shall be submitted no later than 15 days after the closing of every specified time unless otherwise specified.

#### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- The individual financial auditor should have the following qualifications as minimum requirements:
- Have a bachelor degree in Accounting/Finance and is a licensed Certified Public Accounts(CPA)
  - Experience in auditing externally funded projects especially health projects.
  - Experience with input and outputs verification methodology.
  - Experience with multilateral-supported projects.
  - Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic is mandatory.

Applications with CV's, and copies of supporting documents should be submitted to the Project Administration Unit by 12th May 2012 to the address below.

Ministry of Public Health and Population – Program's Building  
Attn: Dr. Ali Jahhaf, Project Manager – Project Administration Unit  
Al-Hasabah – Mazda Street – Sana'a – Republic of Yemen  
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E-mail: fadhlm@hotmail.com



## Youth Talk

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

### This week's question:

**The National Dialogue Conference will take place by the end of March, according to the GCC Initiative and its implementation mechanism. What topics would you most like to be discussed and highlighted during this conference?**

#### Khalid Al-Karimi, 23

The security situation ranks first in terms of urgency. Security is the key to multiple political and economic feats. Operative resolutions to restructure the military and security forces can help defuse the ongoing tensions.

In fact, this matter cries out for sagacity due to its intense gravity. Consequently, the success of the military restructuring process may result in the evacuation of the squares which is a sought-after achievement.

Additionally, we want to hear from the Houthi insurgents. What do they aspire to do in Yemen? Do they have specific demands? What are they? The southern issue is also worth highlighting. It is of great weight, and it must be seriously addressed.

These are the crucial topics and national dialogue stakeholders ought to end up with actions, not just rhetoric. There are still many ills that plague the country like the electricity outage, the soaring unemployment rate, etc. However, these troubles will be resolved once Yemen is free of the insecurity sparked by the northern insurgents and southern separatists.

#### Adnan Almuhan, 27

I think that the restructuring of the army and the economic challenges are the most important topics to be put on the table at the national dialogue.

#### Jamal Abdu Yousef Al-Hattami, 24

According to my own perspective, I think the first topic that must be taken into consideration in the conference according to the GCC Initiative is the issue of the south. There is a real threat to the unity of Yemen. The people there feel that they are marginalized.

There are voices being raised calling for the division of Yemen again. I hope that this issue will get solved before anything else.

#### Abdullah Al-Zourek, 26, final year student

First of all they must decide what will be the shape of this new government. Will it be federal, parliamentary, or presidential rule? Then, restructuring the army would be the second topic they must talk about, and this step cannot be taken without the engagement of Al-Herak and the Houthis.

So how is it going to be? How is the new constitution to be formed and who will do it? Is it by the Committee on the Constitution? I think this issue is a sensitive one because it's all about the country's future.

#### Hussein Al-Hakimi

The conference must talk about the role of women. My point of view wants the recognition of the great national struggle by Yemeni women and their appreciated participation in the revolution and their contribution to public life politically, economically, socially, and culturally.

Women must be fairly represented in the institutions of political decision making. The coming government must widely expand women's opportunities in a real partnership to establish a "civil" modern democratic state.

#### Maha Nagi, graduate

I think this conference should address the topics of health and education in particular. They should start mainly with these two points as our country is failing in these two areas.

The people are suffering from the deprivation of these basic services that can improve our people lives. And then issues like restructuring of the army and the amendment of the constitution. I hope they will not forget to prosecute those who led our country to corruption.

### Next week's question:

**The Friends of Yemen Conference is scheduled to be held in Al-Riyadh next month to financially help Yemen get over its challenges. Do you think this donors' conference will be successful, or a failure like the 2006 conference in London? Why?**

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



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## Picture of the week



The trash accumulation in Taiz caused by the cleaners' strike has been piled up in every corner of the city with no initiatives from the citizens to solve the problem.

Photo by Shawqi Al-Saqqaf

## Memories

By: Rame Sharaf

It doesn't make sense to me...

The fact that I'm still in Yemen while it's at the verge of war, but all I can say is that I'm not scared. I actually panic when the distant bombs, war planes and guns go silent. The thuds and booms literally became the sound track to my and so many others' life. I have to admit though that I do get a bit worried because I know that a relative or friend is closer to them than I, and I know that unlike me, they must be very scared, even terrified.

At the beginning it was said that it'll end fast, but two months into these violent events I knew this wasn't going to end, or not that fast at least. Some people would joke and say I should be used to it – after all I was born in the war of 1994. I'd laugh and joke along, but in the back of all our heads we all know that it's not funny at all. It's sad, very sad.

"BOOM!" I jumped out of bed, startled. I was about to scream at whoever knocked so hard on my door, when I heard gun fire, lots of it, then I realized it wasn't a knock at all. I clumsily got off my bed, and tripped over a few of my sisters' toys whilst cursing silently. I rushed downstairs, and sure enough aunty Salwa was awake. Obviously she had heard what I heard.

"Auntie, what was the sound?" I asked in my sleepy voice, already knowing the answer, but asking anyway, hoping she'd dismiss it and say it's just a car back firing. I could see she was worried, but she said in a loud and calming voice "It's just those bastards sweetie. Go wake up your mum and brothers and tell them to come and sleep downstairs." I ran as fast as I could and knocked on my mom's door. She already had sheets and was heading downstairs. An hour later we were all downstairs in the little hall with our sheets and pillows. The kids seemed exited but anxious, not fully understanding what was happening.

"Slumber party!" my sister, Jenna, shrieked when she saw her cousin's already tucked in right beside the little corner where her sheets lay. I smiled, wishing we all could be as excited about this little gathering as Jenna. Eight days of constant bombings, shooting and battles between the Ahmar clan and Ali Salah's army. Eight days of slumber parties downstairs. Eight days of innocent people dying. Eight days!

It felt like a whole year. We weren't allowed outside. A neighbor of ours got hit by a cannon, and others got a few bullets through their windows. A close friend of the family died along with his entire family while trying to flee. A shell landed right on their car. As if the deaths of so many loved ones wasn't enough, gas was hard to find. Propane and water were even harder to get. Electricity was off for days. If we were lucky it would come on for an hour or two. Even internet and phone connections were awful. The more fortunate had generators, but it still was hard. Prices soared to ridiculous levels. We managed, but many didn't. The poor started going back to their villages. The richer started leaving to nearby Arab countries, like Dubai and Saudi Arabia. Diplomats went back to their safe and peaceful countries.

Despite all that, there were some positives to this situation. I realized that the lack of electricity, television, internet and phones made our family closer than ever. We would sit in the dark all night long and talk about everything and anything. We would laugh and joke, play board games under candle light and listen to the adults' childhood adventures. We asked them about history, and politics, even cursed together at the sometimes too close cannon shell that landed. And then one of us would change the subject quickly before the kids noticed. In the afternoons, we women would all drink tea with biscuits and mostly talk about politics, while the men were in the other room chewing qat.

Not to mention the fact that half my school year was lost, which for me was pretty awesome, until I started getting sick of being

home. And soon enough I started missing my friends, and to my surprise even the teachers. But before I could laugh at my unexpected feelings, all I could see were red flames, screaming and crying was all I could hear. Then everything went blank, and all I can remember is hoping that this was a dream.

I suddenly open my eyes, confused and scared. I feel my bed is being pushed. As I look up I realize I am not on my bed or at my house. I'm in the hospital. I can feel my arm flooding with a warm sticky liquid. I can hear my mother crying, and voices of panicking doctors. I can see a beautiful face floating over me. The face smiled at me as he leaned in to hold my hand. Everything went blank, and hand-in-hand he led me to a better peaceful place. That is the how I ended up here... In the land of the dead, young with unfinished life.



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**Coffee Break**

**Crossword**

**Sudoku**

**Chess**

**Solutions**

**Cross Words:** Across: 1 Garb; 8 Retraction; 9 Relegate; 10 Road; 12 Edited; 14 Piers; 15 Indeed; 17 Pigeon; 18 Reap; 19 Veracity; 21 Close shave; 22 Fast.  
 Down: 2 Attendance; 3 Bre; 4 Strand; 5 Made up; 6 Starting; 7 End; 11 Air hostess; 13 Trespass; 16 Diver; 17 Pariah; 18 Rock; 20 Chef.

**Chess:** Bf7+

**Sudoku:**

White plays and wins in the 3rd move

## First anniversary of "Day of Dignity"

By: Marwa Najmuddin

With participation by the families of slain protesters and rights groups, the Council of Revolution Martyrs held a ceremony in Sana'a on Saturday. At the ceremony, it was revealed that four lawsuits had been filed against former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, in addition to many more against individuals seen as criminals in the context of the past year's uprising.

The ceremony was held one day before the anniversary of last year's Juma'at al-Karama ("Friday of Dignity"), when 75 pro-democracy protesters were killed, and 400 others were left wounded, according to the Organizing Committee for Yemen's Revolution.

A source at the office for public prosecution said that 79 persons had been charged with the killing and injuring of a number of citizens near the square that adjoins Sana'a University.

The families of martyrs refused to attend the trial sessions and rejected any political settlement under the framework of the GCC initiative that would grant former president Ali Abdullah Saleh and members of his regime with immunity from prosecution.

Minister of Human Rights Horeya Mashhoor has stated that about 2,000 people positioned against the former regime had been killed, including 143 children, 20 women; another 22,000 persons had been wounded. Mashhoor said the figures had been included in the sixth national report for human rights in Yemen that were presented to the UN Human Rights Commission in a meeting held three days ago in New York.

During the ceremony, chairman of the Hood Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms Mohammad Naji Alaw said, "UN Security Council Resolution 2014 on Yemen made clear that crimes against humanity would not be tolerated and that killers would be pursued; the UN Security Council resolution is effectively the law of the nation now, and the transitional justice law doesn't allow for the killers of protesters in the past year to be prosecuted."

"Those who investigate the Al-Karama Friday are themselves an extension of the security forces involved in the Al-Karama massacre," said Alaw, before adding that witnesses were presented as defendants in court cases.

On Saturday, president Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi issued a decree stating that all civilians who were killed in 2011 in peaceful protests were national "martyrs".

The decree came one day before the first annual Juma'at al-Karama anniversary, and came with the provision that appropriate salaries would be provided for slain protesters' families, and for persons who had been left completely disabled.

Hadi also stated that wounded persons would be provided with health care and treatment either inside or outside Yemen, according to the nature of their injuries.

Juma'at al-Karama occurred on March 18, 2011, when snipers loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh ascended to rooftops overlooking Sana'a's Change Square area, where tens of thousands of Ye-



In memory of the Day of Dignity which marks March 18, a newly established council called For The Rejection of The Immunity Law has demanded Saleh's prosecution.

menis were protesting to demand the ouster of Saleh and his regime. After the Friday prayer, protesters had begun to chant "The people want to oust the regime," when snipers fired live ammunition at them, leaving dozens of people killed and hundreds others wounded. The majority of injuries were head, neck and chest wounds.



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