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## Protesters bring bodies of murdered men to president's house

By: Mohammed Al-Samei & Mohmaed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, March 25 — Around 3,000 people from Taiz and Ibb are protesting for the second week in a row over disputed land in the capital Sana'a.

The protesters also gathered in front of President Hadi's house demanding the trial of those who killed five people from the Al-Eryani tribe of Ibb governorate on Sunday March 18th.

The protesters brought the bodies of the five dead to Hadi's house on the day they were killed, but after some hours removed them to Al-Thawra Hospital's morgue.

The conflict is over 100 plots of land equal to 4,400 square meters located in Iran Street, one of the most luxurious areas in the capital Sana'a.

The land belongs to Bilal Abdullah Al-Eryani from Ibb, a relative of Abdulkareem Al-Eryani, political advisor of former president Saleh. Al-Eryani has documents claiming



The protesters brought last Sunday the bodies of the five dead to Hadi's house demanding perpetrators be brought to justice.

his possession of the land.

On Sunday March 18th, the Deputy Minister of Interior, General Fadhl Abdullah Al-Qawsi, had the land stormed by 20 military vehicles from the central security forces leading to the death of five workers and injury of ten others, eyewitnesses told the

Yemen Times.

The protesters from Al-Eryani's hometown of Ibb gathered on Wednesday March 21 at Sam Hall in Sana'a to learn of the whereabouts of the killers of the five workers.

Sheikh Nasir Al-Shahiri, a tribal leader and chief of the alliance of

tribes from Yemen's central regions told the Yemen Times that "President Hadi clearly promised us on Tuesday to punish the killers."

However, to date no action has been taken, according to Al-Shahiri. "We are still waiting for their promises to be fulfilled," he said.

Sheikh Shahiri and the families of the dead men accuse the Deputy Minister of Interior, Fadhl Al-Gawsi,

of sending in the military vehicles and armed tribal elements led by his brother, Thu Yazan.

"Last Sunday, clashes occurred due to disagreement over plots of land in Iran Street in Sana'a," said a source close to the owner of the land.

He explained that clashes took place when armed men from Al-Hadda supported by soldiers and

Hadda Police Department attacked those on the land. Abdullah Al-Eryani said he has a verdict giving him possession of the land issued by the western court in the capital Sana'a.

According to Al-Shahiri, the workers killed were Ahmed Ghailan Ali Al-Jumae, Riyadh Rashad Al-Kowal, Mohammad M. Al-Mukbili, Bashir Nasir Al-Basha, and Saeed Ahmed Al-Shawri.

## Ansar Al-Shariah takes control of Al-Rudum in Shabwa

By: Mohmaed Abdalalim

SHABWA, March 24 — Armed militants from the Ansar Al-Shariah group, who have connections with Al-Qaeda, took control on Friday of the Al-Rudum district in Shabwa, southeast Yemen, local sources told the Yemen Times.

The 6,680 square km district has over 23,000 inhabitants and has a 220km coastline along the Arabian Sea. Yemen's largest liquid natural gas plant operates and exports gas to the global market from the city of Balhaf in the district.

Citizens in the district told the Yemen Times on Saturday that the group's activities began in the area in the form of public religious speeches. Their activities have developed significantly after security forces abandoned their

positions, and now the group practically runs the district.

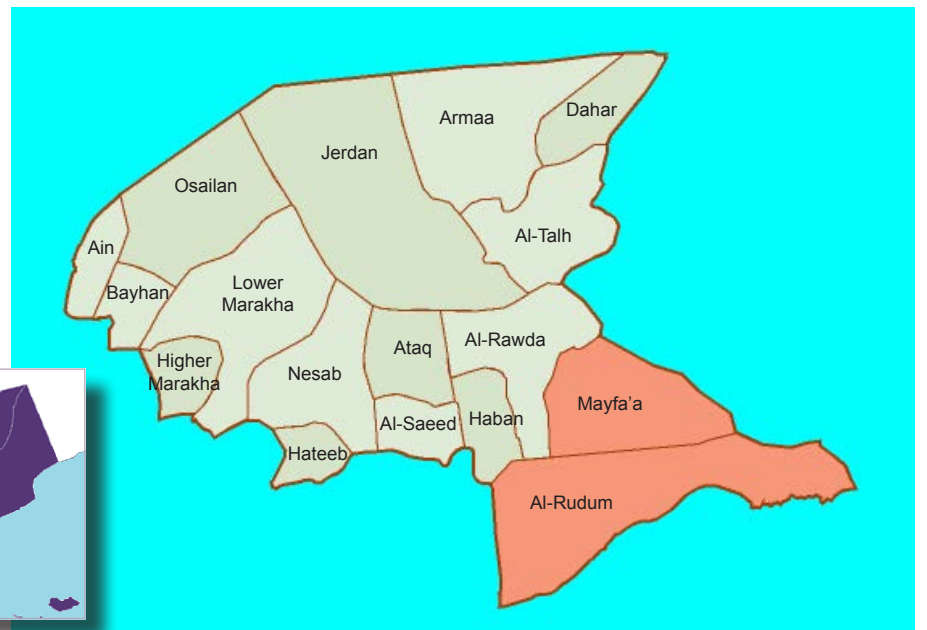
The armed militants came from Azzan, 30km northeast of Al-Rudum, which fell into the hands of the group in early June 2011. Citizens say that the militants have already started assuming their job in organizing public life, guarding commercial shops and establishing an Islamic emirate.

However, the local people are greatly concerned by US-Yemeni

airstrikes that sporadically hit the area.

The militant group also communicates with the local citizens through a local FM radio station that broadcasts from Azzan.

The Yemen's Joint Meeting Parties which includes the traditional opposition has accused former president Saleh and his allies of colluding with the armed groups to occupy towns, in order to sabotage the power transition deal.



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## New security plan for Taiz

By: Imad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, March 25 – Taiz Deputy Governor, Abdullah Amir, has denied rumors that he was involved in the killing of the US language teacher, Joel Shrum, who was shot dead on March 18 by unknown men.

Amir, who is also the head of the Writers and Poets Federation in Taiz, told the Yemen Times that, "No one has accused me formally of being involved in that atrocious incident. Rather it was rumors initiated by the Suhail TV channel."

Suhail TV is owned by Hamid Al-Ahmar, a tribal chief and prominent leader in the Islamic Islah party.

"This is one of lies that Suhail [TV] has been circulating in a way that serves its narrow partisan agenda," Amir said, adding that "I reserve my right to sue them."

The murder of the US English teacher Joel Shrum has triggered a wave of accusations between the local administration, with a majority from the former ruling General People's Congress Party (GPC) and the new security chief, who is a member of the Islah party.

According to a statement released by the local administration, the new security chief has stated on more than one occasion that the new security management is independent, does not recognize the local administration, and refuses to coordinate with it.

Governor of Taiz, Hamoud Khaled Al-Sufi, said "Shrum loved Yemenis, and his murder is an insult in the face of humanity." He further warned that there are concerns that Taiz might fall to the armed militants of Ansar Al-Shariah, indicating that there are already dozens of the militants in the city.

In a statement released by the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), the main opposition coalition in the



The Security Committee in Taiz has approved a plan to regulate the movement of motorbikes to ensure that they are no longer used in carrying out terrorist operations.

country, the JMP expressed its sorrow that the leadership of Taiz governorate was absent and did not assume its duties during such difficult circumstances.

Shrum's body was moved on Friday to the capital Sana'a, en route to the USA where funeral procedures are set to take place.

The incident triggered scenes of anger and dismay among Taiz residents, as it goes against their traditional and religious principles. Last week, daily protests were held in Taiz to express solidarity with Shrum's family and to demand that the authorities move quickly to arrest the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

As a result of the deterioration of security in Taiz, the local Security Committee has decided to put a new security plan into effect. Strict measures including the banning of carrying weapons in the central city, and dealing strongly and decisively with the militants are coming into effect.

The Security Committee has further approved a plan intended to regulate the movement of motorbikes, and curb the times their usage will be permitted in order to ensure that they are no longer used in carrying out terrorist operations. The gunman who killed Shrum staged their attack from a motorbike.

As of March 21, motorbikes can only be used between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm, according to Taiz Traffic Chief, Colonel Mohammed Al-Kawati.

Al-Kawati attributed the curfew on motorbikes to their increasing usage in carrying out several assassinations, including the killing of Shrum.

Militants believed to be linked with the Ansar Al-Sharia group, who are affiliated with Al-Qaeda, are believed responsible for shooting Shrum as he was driving to work.

Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attack, alleging that he was a missionary preacher.

## Debate over continued existence of change squares



Many protesters still live in change squares nation-wide despite Saleh's departure.

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Mar. 25— Even while Yemen's revolutionaries achieved their primary goal - the ouster of president Ali Abdullah Saleh - Change Squares in multiple governorates remain in existence.

Over the last few months, Sana'a's Change Square has witnessed several brawls and disagreements between islamists affiliated with the Islah political party and Houthis groups.

While many Yemenis say the continued presence of protesters in Change Squares is no longer useful, others insist that a continuation of the protests can help to guarantee the restructuring of the military and security services, as well as provide sites from which government actions can be observed and critiqued.

At the Change Square in Sana'a, many protesters withdrew after the signing of the Gulf initiative by Saleh.

According to many protesters, both the people and the location have lost momentum.

Last Thursday, the Cultural Media Center held a workshop on the future of the Change Squares following the recent presidential election.

Some youths present at the workshop called on protesters to leave the Change Squares. They said the formation of a unity government and the holding of an early presidential election represented considerable progress, while also indicating that the existence of the squares serves particular political parties.

For his part, Shadi Yaseen stressed the importance of the continued existence of the Change Squares as guarantee that the revolution's aims will be achieved.

"Unfortunately, relatives of ousted president Saleh still control the

military and security units," he said.

While Yaseen sees a continuation of the Change Squares as important, he also called on protesters to avoid disagreements and to organize themselves well.

However, he said that Sana'a's Change Square has become stagnant and added that many revolutionaries cannot fold up their tents and leave the square because of the power exerted by particular political parties.

Wedad Al-Badawi, a journalist and human rights activist, told the Yemen Times that the Change Squares must be reorganized.

"These squares are no longer useful," she said. "Political powers dominate them and limit the revolutionaries' freedom."

Al-Badawi is not satisfied with the current performance of protesters at the Change Squares, and indicated that the squares have no power or impact these days.

She said that some political entities speak under the banner of the Change Squares, but at the same time don't take the squares seriously.

"There is a big difference between the Change Squares at the present time and at the beginning of the revolution," she said. "Political powers should empower the revolutionaries at the Change Squares and give them freedom."

Dr. Fuad Al-Salahi, professor of political sociology at Sana'a University, said that Freedom and Change Squares have provided a wonderful model of social coherence and added that they have been the sites of unprecedented political expression.

However, he criticized some political parties that have exploited the Change Squares in efforts to gain positions in the country's new government.

## Hadi struggles to calm media war

By: Muaad Al-Maqtari

SANA'A, March 25- Interim President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi held an exceptional meeting on Saturday to alleviate the consequences of a heated media war between Saleh and the national unity government.

The meeting was held after ministers from Saleh's party in the interim government attempted on Tuesday, March 20 to boycott the cabinet's meeting in protest of a speech made on the previous day by prime minister Mohamed Salem Basindwa.

"The national unity government has a national, regional and international task in carrying out the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) initiative and United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution 2014," said Hadi during the government meeting at the Republican Palace in Sana'a.

"The government must address the aspirations of the Yemeni people and meet citizens' basic needs," said the president.

"This is a reconciliation government that has nothing to do with partisan work of any kind," he added.

Hadi's meeting came after GCC witnesses made a statement on Thursday, March 22 that warned parties against interfering with the initiative's implementation or of hindering the government's performance in any way.

"The Witnesses of the GCC Agreement, recalling the obligations of all parties under the GCC Agreement and UNSC resolution 2014, also recall that all parties are accountable for their actions," read the statement, which was posted on the website of the US Embassy in Yemen.

"It is not acceptable for any party to interfere in the GCC agreement's implementation. We call on all parties to calm the rhetoric in the media," witnesses of the GCC initiative said.

"We reaffirm our unequivocal commitment to the process and our support for President Hadi and the National Unity Government," the



The new president, Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi, used to be Saleh's deputy for 18 years.

statement concluded.

### Media war between Saleh and new regime

The threat of the former president Ali Abdullah Saleh to arrest Prime Minister Mohammad Salem Basindwa and throw him in jail, marks the latest climax in a media war raging between Saleh and the new Yemeni regime.

A member of the executive authority of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), Abdullah Ali Sabri, anticipated that the media war will continue to escalate until the reorganization of the military as stipulated under the GCC-mediated power transfer deal.

Sabri told the Yemen Times that the media war between Saleh along with the remnants of his old regime on one hand, and Basindwa and the JMP on the other, does not pose a real threat to the interim government. He suggested that both sides were merely seeking to improve their hands at the table when arriving at the up-coming national conference.

Sabri said that Saleh was seeking to convey a message to those who

will be involved in the dialogue conference, so as to hinder the debate about a military shake-up.

"The heat of the media confrontation between the remains of the old regime and the new regime affirms that political forces both inside and outside the government are heading towards the dialogue," he added.

Sabri said that Hadi has formed a high committee to form a unified political policy that suits the current stage of the transition and avoid any side effects on the dialogue. The committee included Yaseen Saeed Noaman, and Abdul-Wahab Al-Anisi from the JMP, and Abdul-Kareem Al-Eryani and Ahmed Bin Daghar from the General People Congress (GPC).

It is expected that this committee will ease tensions as its members have the experience and ability to deal with the crisis.

Fakhr Al-Azab, a spokesman for the organization committee at Change Square in Sana'a, said that the talk about the end of the sit-ins at the squares was "in a state of delirium," regarding the rhetoric from Saleh and his aides.

"Saleh tries to put conditions on

the military reorganization including the end of the sit-ins, but this contradicts UN Security Council Resolution No. 2014 that dealt with the change and 'Freedom Squares' as separate from the JMP and its partners or the GPC and its partners," Al-Azab told the Yemen Times.

CNN has quoted Yahya Al-Arasi, a spokesman for President Hadi, as saying that "Differences have increased between Saleh and the new regime since Hadi said he was planning to carry out major reforms.

"As a result, Saleh has threatened to put Prime Minister Basindwa in prison if he does not obey his orders," Al-Arasi said.

"Saleh does not seem to realize that he is no longer president, and that could push the country into turmoil," he added. "Saleh must leave the country if the global community wants to see a stable Yemen."

"The former president is attempting to make the situation more complicated and difficult for factions to carry out reforms in Yemen" he added.

Al-Arasi said that Hadi had taken precautionary measures and that he will announce the formation of a new unity government if Saleh orders his party officials to resign from their posts.

A senior official of the GPC told CNN that Saleh was angered by the positions taken by the president and the prime minister.

Media sources within the GPC have revealed that in the past few days, the GPC has threatened to withdraw all the members of its party from the national government in an attempt to hinder the political process and the performance of the interim government.

Ministers in the GPC arrived at cabinet one and half hours late on Tuesday due to disagreements amongst themselves. This came following threats by Saleh to withdraw GPC ministers from the interim government in response to Basindwa accusing Saleh of hindering the performance of the government.

## Students call for Sana'a University president's departure

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Mar. 25— Hundreds of Sana'a University's students protested on Saturday and Sunday to demand the resignation of university president Dr. Khaled Tamim.

The protesters also demanded the resignation of several other high-ranking officials from Sana'a University for their involvement in corruption. They also demanded that the university provide free educations.

The protesters held up banners calling for the immediate departure of Dr. Tamim and for student services at the university to be improved.

They described their rights as stolen and stressed the importance of students being dealt with respectfully.

"Where is the Ministry of Higher Education's concern for my current situation?" protesters chanted during the march. They also called for an expansion of the university's capacity, which would

allow more students to enroll.

Motasesm Thabet, a student in the Faculty of Mass Communications, told the Yemen Times that hundreds of students are determined to overthrow Dr. Tamim and all corrupt officials at the university.

"It's shameful to be silent about this farce," he said. "If Dr. Tamim refuses to step down, we will transfer our protests from the university to President Hadi's house and the cabinet."

Professors' demands Over the last few years, relations between Dr. Tamim and many professors have deteriorated, as the latter felt their demands had been neglected.

The professors repeatedly demanded that reforms be made in order to revive the university and its level of performance.

Dr. Musa Ghorab, a professor at Sana'a University, said about 600 professors had decided not to engage in any academic activities until their demands had been met.

# Landmines threaten lives of citizens in Hajja

Ahmed Dawood

HAJJA, March 25- Mohammad Al-Doaiss could hardly believe that the war between tribesmen in Hajja and Houthis had stopped earlier this month, and hastily returned to his village in Ahem district to learn of his losses and the damage done to his house.

Al-Doaiss was happy to see that his house was unharmed, and proceeded to check all the rooms. As he reached the bathroom, a landmine exploded and tore him to pieces.

As returnees increasingly wished to learn of the reasons behind the blast, another landmine exploded and wounded eight other persons on March 22. They were transferred to a hospital in nearby Jezan, in Saudi Arabia.

Hadi Wardan, a member of the local authority for Sharis in Hajja, said the situation in Ahem is very hazardous and that people were the victims of two devils, fighting Houthi tribesmen and landmines.

He said that they suffered when they fled their homes three months ago in response to battles between local Sunni tribesmen. When they returned to their homes in early

March, they discovered that landmines had been planted in their areas.

Wardan demanded that the government and President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi help the residents of Ahem by sending de-mining experts and protection for civilians.

According to Wardan, about 3,000 landmines were planted by Houthis in Ahem and Kushar. He emphasized that they were behind the deaths of 21 persons at different times in March 2012.

Last Friday, the Interior Ministry confirmed that the landmines had killed ten persons in Ahem and had wounded 15 others. The ministry also stated that three landmines had exploded inside returnees' homes.

The ministry added that 15 wounded persons had been taken to bordering Saudi hospitals.

Tribal leaders in Kushar accused Houthis of planting landmines in Ahem, including the three landmines that exploded in homes.

For his part, Abu Hashim, a member of the media office for the Houthi group in Sa'ada, said the war in Hajja was between the Houthi group and the Islah Party,



About 3,000 landmines were planted by Houthis in Ahem and Kushar of Hajja, according to a local official.

and affirmed their (the Houthis) right to use all types of weapons - including landmines.

«However, there have been exaggerations about the number of planted landmines; their number is fewer than was reported,» the Houthi media office member said.

He said that since the beginning of March, the war had come to a standstill, the result of efforts ex-

erted by a tribal mediation committee, and affirmed that at the present time, there is peace in Hajja.

The Yemen Times received a list containing the names of the people killed by landmines in Hajja in March.

However, no de-mining missions have yet been sent to the area, which may allow the number of casualties to rise in the coming days.

# Disabled Care and Rehabilitation Fund suspends operations, manager dismissed

By: Mohamed Al-Samei

SANAA, March 25 - The Disabled Care and Rehabilitation Fund (DCRF) suspended its operations on Saturday amid warnings of dire consequences to beneficiaries of the fund.

The fund offers services to more than 52,000 disabled people nationwide.

The government facility personnel and the beneficiaries of the fund held the management respon-

sible for the disruption of services, accusing it of corruption.

Najib Al-Qadasi, social researcher at the fund, told the Yemen Times that the fund had closed its doors because of the expiration of its contracts with other entities such as hospitals and pharmacies.

He pointed out that the excessive expenditure by the fund's management was the key reason behind the operations' suspension, and the draining of the abundant financial resources of the DCRF.

The DCRF provides many services to people with disabilities, including covering the expenses of their treatment, surgical procedures, therapeutic travel abroad and medicine. It also provides financial and educational assistance for poor students as well as monthly aid for some distressed disabled persons.

Keeping the DCRF closed will be a disaster for thousands of Yemeni families, especially for those disabled or who are chronically ill on

medication.

The fund had similarly suspended its services in July 2011 also due to financial problems, although the budget of the fund amounts to YR 7 billion annually.

A ministerial committee, comprised of the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Jawhra Hamoud, Minister of Civil Service and Insurances, Nabil Shamsan, and Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Ama Al-Razaq Ahmed, was formed in order to look into the matter.

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The committee decided to dismiss Abdullah Al-Hamdani, the fund manager on the grounds of corruption after several protests demanding his removal. However, the dismissal has to be validated by the approval of the Prime Minister, Mohammed Salem Basindawa.



of the Cabinet on Monday to emphasize their demand for Al-Hamdani's removal.

Yemen has one of the highest rates of disabled people in the world as they account for about ten percent

of total population, according to a survey compiled by Ministry of Social Affairs released in January 2012.

It's expected that the staff and many of beneficiaries of the DCRF will organize a protest sit-in in front

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## Artist Fuad Al-Sharjabi to the Yemen Times: Music to be an “integral part of Yemen’s development”

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

In his efforts to support and preserve Yemen's musical heritage, Fuad Al-Sharjabi has proven to be one of the country's most involved – and productive – artists.

Fuad Al-Sharjabi is one of the most effective of Yemen's artists at supporting and preserving the country's musical heritage.

In 2007, Al-Sharjabi established the Yemen Music House (YMH) and committed his time to the project. He even put his work as a composer and musical distributor on hold to dedicate himself to YMH activities.

The Yemen Music House is a public association that was established with the aim of collecting and

documenting songs and recording them. The YMH is also working to collect and save traditional Yemeni musical instruments.

It's one of the few places that provides people with professional musical training in Yemen. Many parents have brought their children to the house to have them learn to play musical instruments. One of the children is only 4 years old.

Over the last few years, the Yemen Music House (YMH) has contributed to preparing many youths to become professional pianists, guitarists and lute players. In addition, it has helped many singers produce songs without their having to pay money.

"I'm proud that over 500 male and female students have gradu-

ated from YMH since 2007. They now are able to use musical notation well," he said.

When you visit the YMH in Sana'a, you can listen to the sounds of several kinds of instruments being played. Enthusiastic children and youths regularly attend, to sharpen their musical skills and to produce their own songs.

Al-Sharjabi has also taken many young artists under his wing, both training and providing support for them. He has launched campaigns to support Yemeni singers who represent their country in Arab musical competitions.

Al-Sharjabi has turned down generous offers to leave Yemen and work in other countries, but has always declined.

"I refuse to leave Yemen, as I can

make many things for my country," he said.

Al-Sharjabi is gearing up to launch a website to host a Yemeni musical library. With concerted effort, he has collected about 40,000 Yemeni songs.

According to Al-Sharjabi, artists are considered leaders in their societies and sees them as representing an integral part of Yemen's development efforts.

"Music reflects people's elegance, and helps them to be modest," he said. "It's the language of love, beauty and humanity."

Al-Sharjabi has aspired to expand the YMH's activities to other cities, but lacks the support he needs to do so. "Instead of thinking about expansion, I now fight for survival."

He criticized producers who support and promote unskilled singers, and opined that such singers contribute to a distortion of the public's taste.

"Unfortunately, some singers want to impose their poor voices on the audience," he said.

Speaking about the large number of singers who have recently appeared on the music scene, he said, "They will finish soon... it's only a temporary situation."

Al-Sharjabi stressed the importance of promoting an interest in music in the coming generation.

He aspires to have music educa-



Fuad Al-Sharjabi

tion included in the curricula of primary schools.


"We should work on the next generation," he said.



The Yemen Music House provides musical courses for children. Hundreds of have graduated from the house since 2007



The Yemen Music House encourages many youths who have musical skills to produce their own songs



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# Micro-finance success stories: Abdul-Rahaman Al-Sharabi, from waiter to restaurateur

By: Mohammad Al-Samei

**A**bdul-Rahman Al-Sharabi was first in his studies in Sharab, a rural area of Taiz. He studied until the ninth

grade, but then he was forced to work in the school as a dessert vendor.

He was determined to depend only on himself, so he took work as a motorbike driver besides his study and work at the school.

He wanted to propose to a woman, so he dropped out of his studies and went to work in Hodeida to earn the money for marriage.

At 32 years of age, Al-Sharabi became a waiter in a restaurant in Hodeida, and soon became known for his diligence. He worked incessantly for two years before returning to his village to get married.

After four years working in the restaurant he wanted to have his own business, so he bought the restaurant over the objections of his family.

After receiving a loan from

the Al-Kuraimi Company for Exchange, Al-Sharabi was able to enlarge his restaurant and add many services. He bought extra supplies and equipment for the restaurant.

He asked for a series of loans from the same company. At the start, he borrowed YR 200,000 (about USD 1,000), then YR 300,000 (USD 1,500) and finally YR 400,000 (USD 2,000). Each time he repaid them via monthly installments.

His first restaurant originally offered only two meals, breakfast and dinner. With the micro-loan, Al-Sharabi was able to extend to offering three meals a day.

Now his restaurant provides customers with several different delicious dishes including Masooba, which is Yemeni made bread mixed with bananas and honey. He also offers Arika, which is similar to the Masooba, but with almonds and raisins.

His restaurant represents a success of micro-financed businesses, that help reduce poverty and unemployment. Customers can enjoy the red meat dishes cooked in different Tahami Yemeni ways.

Al-Sharabi whose restaurant Al-Am Abdo is on Al-Nakhil Street in Hodeida, says that the loans improved his business and allowed him to enlarge its services.

He rents the restaurant for YR 55,000 (USD 250) a month. He now feels that his project has developed well, pointing out that his income from the restaurant has doubled and that he has now employs seven workers there.

Recently, Al-Sharabi opened a new restaurant in Hodeida which

employs nine workers.

Al-Sharabi, who has eight-family members, is now planning to buy a vehicle for the restaurant, hoping

that this will quickly advance his projects. To diversify his income, he also sometimes does carpentry work.



Sharaabi's restaurants represent a micro-finance success story



**Now his restaurant provides customers with several different delicious dishes including Masooba, which is Yemeni made bread mixed with bananas and honey. He also offers Arika, which is similar to the Masooba, but with almonds and raisins.**



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## JOB OFFER

### (1) Deputy Head of Food Security Programme

**Location:** Sana'a with regular travel to the field

**Duration:** One year (renewable) with three-month probation period

#### MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Animate and follow through the compilation and treatment of data** - Ensure that databases and data analysis as well as activity indicators are followed up and harmonized; Ensure a continuous evaluation of methods and follow-up of projects, and propose improvements; Participate in the analysis and drafting of activity reports and the evaluation of those responsible for projects; Propose and manage Food security assessments and reports; Ensure capitalisation of programmes documentation (including assessment reports, methodology, beneficiary selection and list, distribution reports, etc...)
- **Sustain internal and external coordination** - Ensure communication between the coordination and the food security teams; represent ACF at governorate, district and community level for the purposes of coordination, acceptance, and sensitization of authorities and collection of key secondary data; Participate in internal and external coordination meetings; Ensure the reporting to authorities or external partners when necessary;
- **Support staff members** - Participate in recruitment of food security programme staff; Inform the Head of programme of training needs; Assist in implementing training courses; Explain and ensure the application of food security methodologies
- **Ensure supervision** of project objectives and stimulate the teams in the absence of the Head of programme.

#### QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS:

Relevant degree plus two (2) years minimum professional experience; Good computer knowledge (Word and Excel); Knowledge of humanitarian crises; Training experience; Analytical capacity; Good knowledge of English language; Proficiency in written and spoken Arabic; Good organisational Skills; and flexible in travel to the field projects when required.

### (2) Team Leader: Surveyors and Monitors

**Location:** Hodeida and Hajjah

**Duration:** Two months

#### MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Communicate the Organization's activities and objectives to the partners** - Explain the project's activities and objectives to the

partners and the population; Represent the Organization in meetings with the beneficiaries.

- **Organize field surveys and supervise activities** - Participate in preparing appropriate questionnaires together with the head of project; Apply these methodologies to the surveys and monitoring; Responsible for the planning of survey and monitoring activities; Responsible for the progress of activities; Responsible for checking the quality of completed questionnaires and correcting possible errors with the surveyors/monitors; Write a summary report of the activities; Propose possible improvements.
- **Represent the Organization when liaising with partners** - Represent ACF with different stakeholders at field level; Represent the project and act as a link between the different local partners; Maintain good relations between the team and the target population.
- **Supervise a team of surveyors and monitors** - Plan the team's work; Train and supervise the team; Provide technical support to the team.
- **Support analysis** of the information collected in a report including WASH/FSL needs and gaps as requested

#### QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS:

Relevant degree plus professional experience; Good analytical mind; Capacity to supervise a team and plan the activities ; Drafting ability; Good team spirit; Good knowledge of the intervention area and local customs; and flexible in travel to the field projects.

### (3) Data Entry Officer

**Location:** Hodeida and Hajjah

**Duration:** Two months

#### MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Data entry** - Check the quality of the data to be entered and inform your immediate supervisor of any problems; Respect a schedule of data entry, ensuring minimal time lapse between collection and entry Calculate the time needed for data entry and keep your immediate supervisor informed of its progress; Input the data taken from questionnaires in a similar format; Check and clean the entered data; Summarize the entered data in the form of a report.

- **Analyse the data** - Elaborate statistics tables; Sort and cross the data; write a report on the results; Detect missing or redundant data and propose improvements.
- **File the data** - File the questionnaires and computer data; Code the questionnaires ; Save the data entries regularly as well as the statistical results; Backup database files to a data storage device on a daily basis

#### QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS:

Professional computer experience; Knowledge of spread sheets (Excel); Capacity to take on board new software; Organizing capacity; Rigour and autonomy; Knowledge of English and Arabic; and flexible in travel to the field projects when required.

### (4) Monitor/Interviewer

**Location:** Hodeida and Hajjah

**Duration:** Two months

#### MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Collect information and data on food security** - Participate actively in initial training sessions, pilot surveys and debriefing ; Carry out household surveys; Ensure coherence of collected information; Ensure that the assigned number and type of interviews are completed each day; Report any problems and constraints ; Propose possible improvements.
- **Conduct focus group and key informant interviews according to survey procedures** - establish local contacts and arrange interviews; collect, organize and review interview guides; and ensure that assigned number and types of interviews are completed.
- **Represent the Organization when liaising with its partners** - Explain the project's activities and objectives to partners and the population; Act as a link between the Organization and the beneficiaries

#### QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS:

Lower High School Leaving Certificate or equivalent; Capacity to communicate with people; Good team spirit; Good human relationships; Good knowledge of the survey area and local Customs; Flexible in travel to the field projects when required.

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OPINION

## Conditional dialogue

The process has finally started. Initiatives from several sides are happening and political players are gradually reaching out to others in order to start the dialogue process which should end with resolving Yemen's problems.

There are some pending issues though. For example, many groups mostly in the opposition are making any dialogue conditional on restructuring the army. The argument is that the army as it is today, does not allow a fair power balance in the dialogue process and intimidates the weaker players.

This is very logical, but at the same time considering the dynamics of this country and its power structure, it could be a problem if we make dialogue conditional on such a difficult demand.

There was the same problem prior to the signing of the Gulf Initiative, when protestors demanded no less than the resignation or ousting of Saleh and his regime. The bar was set too high and it could have turned bloody, but political compromise allowed for a way out by removing Saleh from power through early presidential elections.

This was a face-saving solution for Saleh while allowing the transition to start. Now with this new problem we need to find a compromise so that the restructuring of the army does not create a bottle neck for the dialogue process.

There is also another problem considering the conditions set on the table. Today's government is making any dialogue with the Southern Movement conditional on accepting national unity as the foundation for any discussion. This is not agreeable with at least two factions of the Southern Movement who are calling for separation because they feel disadvantaged with the system of central government as it is today.

There has to be some sort of compromise on this front as well. Otherwise the dialogue with the Southern Movement as a whole will falter.

Finally there is the Ansar Al-Sharia group who has increasingly shown its influence and power. Many have a problem in talking with the group considering their fanatical background and extreme agenda. However, it is unrealistic to think that ignoring the group or only engaging them via military combat is the best way in dealing with them.

As it is there are theories that Ansar Al-Sharia is a creation of either former president Saleh or of Ali Muhsin Al-Ahmar.

As it is we are having dialogue or had at one time with both of these men, then it should not be farfetched to dialogue with their creation.

In all cases, let's have dialogue with the group and find out what they are really about.

The dialogue process is what will make the transition or break it. We have to work above our differences if we are to make it to a better future.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## The unknown Yemen

By: Hind Al-Eryani

If you're a Yemeni that travels outside of Yemen, you have probably suffered from having strange questions asked about Yemen. You might even have suffered from other Arabs, who are supposed to know more about us than the West.

I will give you a simple example. One of my colleagues was surprised that I got my bachelor's degree in Yemen. She asked with a surprised look in her eyes - "Really? I didn't know you have universities in Yemen!"

Another example was an Iraqi girl who once asked me "Do you live in huts in Yemen?" That day I

was surprised to find out that Yemen, whose architecture is taught in universities worldwide, was a mystery to this girl who is supposed to be educated.

How is it possible that these two girls - assumed to be educated - know nothing about us? Maybe it's because of our media. Maybe it's also our own fault, and sadly it's not just these two girls who have misleading information about Yemen, but even statistics about Yemen are so incorrect about us!

A shocking statistic published by The Daily Beast, states that the participation of women in Yemeni politics is zero percent, while for some strange reason, puts the participation of Saudi women at five

percent.

Comparing the two countries, we will find that in Yemen there are three female ministers, two women on the Shura Council and one in the House of Representatives. This is in addition to the presence of female ambassadors and other officers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It goes without saying that Yemeni women played a strong role during the recent revolution, and lastly, that the first Arab woman to ever win a Nobel Prize is Yemeni! How can it then be that the participation of women in politics is zero?

In Saudi Arabia, there aren't any women ministers or ambassadors or members of the House of Repre-

sentatives. On what grounds then do they put the Saudi participation of women in politics at five percent? In another newspaper, The Independent, they put Yemen among the countries in which women have no participation in the parliament whatsoever.

Here I raise the question, are these statistics accurate and real? Or do they depend on economic factors to determine the status of women in Yemen? When will the world begin to recognize Yemen for what it is? When are the numbers going to reflect reality? When will Yemen stop being the country that nobody knows anything about? Even the numbers don't know anything about us!

## Al-Qaeda threat grows in Yemen

By: Catherine Shakdam  
First published March 11 in  
Foreign Policy Blogs

Al-Qaeda, the terrorist group that seeks to establish the return of the Islamic Caliphate over the Muslim world is believed to have grown way beyond "containment security parameters," posing a very real threat to Yemen's national hegemony within its own territories.

As Yemenis rose against President Ali Abdullah Saleh in the wake of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's resignation, hoping that they would also be able to facilitate a change in regime by the sheer will of the people, the Islamic terrorist group saw in the unrest that followed a perfect opportunity. Aware that the regime was concentrating its efforts on quelling the brewing rebellion, as it recalled most of its military forces back to the capital, Sana'a, where massive protests were being staged, the armed militants moved into position, ready to pounce on Yemen.

A few months into the revolution, Al-Qaeda militants traveled along the country's southern provinces, knowing that the terrain and somewhat lawlessness would favor their advances. Yemen's southern territories are largely controlled on tribal grounds, which prevents to some extent the central government from fully establishing its authority in the region. The

provinces therefore also serve as a breeding ground for groups like Al-Qaeda.

The most infamous defector from the regime, General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, who was once an ally of President Saleh, accused the incumbent of allowing the Islamic militants to roam the land in order to prove a point: to establish once and for all that only he could keep Al-Qaeda at bay. President Saleh actually warned last year that with his departure, Al-Qaeda would soon move to the offensive, seize several provinces and jeopardize the nation's unity. Regardless of one's belief, his foretelling of Yemen's fall into darkness is materializing, striking fear at the heart of Yemenis.

## The Caliphates

Seemingly, the elections that appointed Abdu Rabbo Mansour as Yemen's new President signaled the beginning of Al-Qaeda's widespread military campaign across the country's southern regions, with a surge in attacks on military bases and bombings against government buildings and officials. In a matter of weeks the group had declared two Caliphates in Yemen, claiming the southern provinces of Abyan and Shabwa.

Sources within the military and Yemen's Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) have told the press that the militants are now moving dangerously close to controlling the south-eastern province of Hadramout, one of Yemen's largest and natural resource rich regions. According to tribal leaders and local officials in Al-Mukalla, Al-Qaeda has already spread out an impressive support network, warning that if the regional capital was to fall, nothing and no one would stop the militants from taking over and claiming control over the province.

Last week, pamphlets were posted all over Mukalla city warning that whoever sides with the regime would be considered a traitor to Islam and therefore killed, a campaign that underscores the far reach of the group and its new daring approach. The Central Security Forces say an estimated 300 Jihadists are present on the ground and are currently training in the Azzan and Maifa'a directorates of Shabwa governorate in preparation for an assault against Mukalla. If one bears in mind that 100 Al-Qaeda fighters managed to slaughter their way through a reported 185 soldiers in Abyan last week, one can only imagine what tragedy could unfold if 300 were allowed to rain death on Mukalla.

## Popular outcry

Tens of thousands of Yemenis across the nation came out this Friday to denounce Al-Qaeda's attacks and massacres in Dofes and Al-Qud, urging President Abdu Rabbo Mansour Hadi to execute the people's revenge. Yemen is mourning its braves, waking up to the harsh reality of terrorism, which so far seemed to be a mere political tool, a myth without substance.

Wounded in its flesh, Yemen is now calling for a national strike against the group, with Yemenis across the political spectrum expressing their outrage and disgust. "We are very sad about what happened in the Dofes massacre," said Mohamed Mohsen, a government employee. "Al-Qaeda has gone way beyond the red line, taking advantage of [Yemen's current] military and political divide. The time has come for the state to take revenge for its men and restore stability to these areas, especially since there are thousands of displaced people from Abyan who are enduring hardship because of Al-Qaeda's presence there."

Hamoud Al-Hattar, former minister of endowments and guidance, told the press that terrorist acts are contrary to Islamic law. "We condemn all terrorist acts that occurred after February 21st, including Al-Qaeda's attack on the presidential palace in Mukalla and Sunday's incident in Dofes," he said. "We called for the formation of a neutral commission of inquiry to investigate what happened, especially if there was dereliction on the part of members of the army."

## Political manipulation

The Joint Meeting Parties, an umbrella group comprised of all political factions opposed to the incumbent General People's Congress, interestingly expressed their condemnation of Al-Qaeda's attack on Yemeni soil after Saleh's loyalists advanced the possibility of a proxy war with Al-Islah, Yemen's Islamic party, who they say would attempt "to raise hell and finish off the Republic" in order to attain power. The theory is that Al-Islah's most radical militants would disguise themselves as Al-Qaeda agents or possibly would have infiltrated Al-Qaeda ranks to draw the regime into an armed conflict, weaken the central government and pounce on the presidential seat asserting Al-Ahmar's rise to ultimate domination.

Although some might categorize the conspiracy as borderline delusional, it cannot be ignored that certain figures amongst Al-

Islah have undeniable ties with the terrorist group. Names such as Sheikh Abdel-Mageed Al-Zindani and Sheikh Al-Dhahab are all high ranking leaders of Al-Islah and alleged terrorists according to the US.

Saleh's loyalists also supported their allegations by pointing out that only the Republican Guards and the Central Security Forces, both under the control of Saleh's family members, had been targeted so far, proof that Al-Islah was trying to get rid of the competition.

## Who can save Yemen?

But beyond political manipulation is the fate of a nation, with people looking towards Sana'a for a strong military leader. With its armed forces in tatters and little to no unity, Yemen faces its toughest challenge yet. And while politicians from the opposition are clamoring for an immediate military restructuring, urging President Hadi to fulfill the terms of the power-transfer, the people are starting to wonder whether it would be wise to remove the very figures who could save the country from utter disaster.

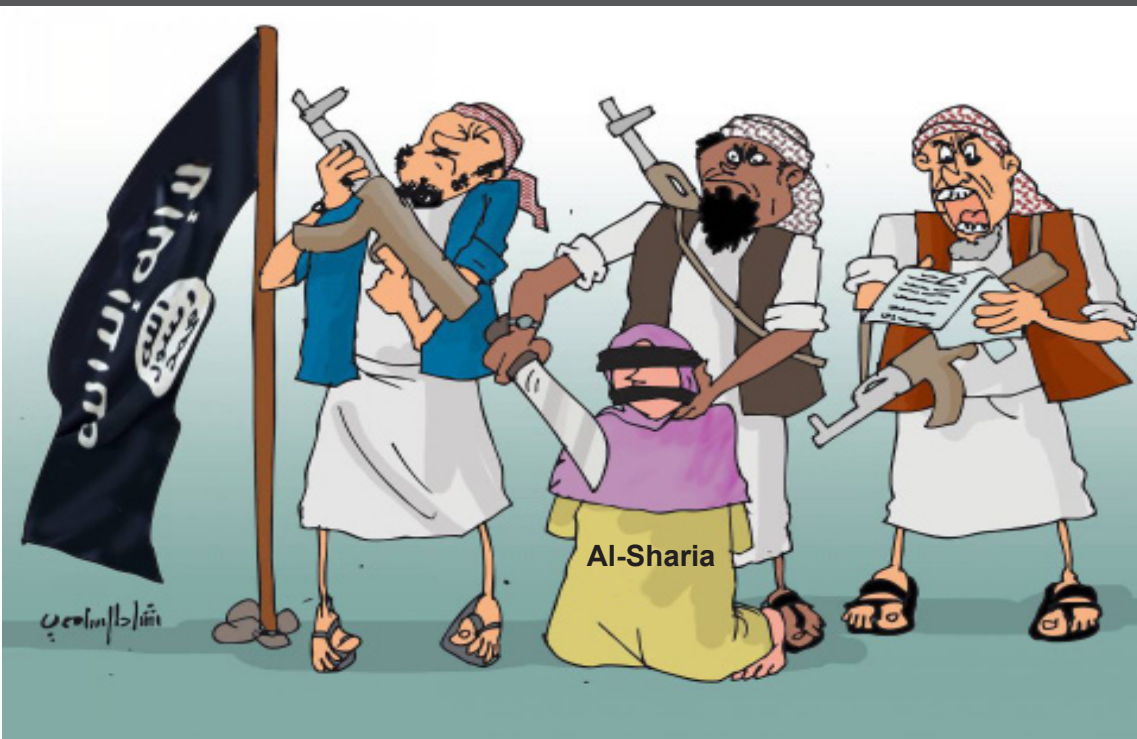
"Not that I necessarily agree with them or even know what they stand for politically, I would rather keep Ahmed Saleh [the Head of the Republican Guards and Saleh's eldest son] and Yehia Mohamed Saleh [the Head of the Central Security Forces and Saleh's nephew] than put Yemen's fate into the hands of others. At least they have been trained and are fully in control of their men. Who's to say that the soldiers would follow another leader? We don't need more problems. Hadi should postpone the restructuring until after Al-Qaeda is destroyed," said a university professor, Mohamed Al-Ansi.

So far the Americans and the Saudis have been in favor of keeping those two main figures of the regime as they represent strategic allies, directly going against the JMP's wishes as the latter seeks to appoint their own loyalists. With alarming reports warning against Al-Qaeda's plans to strike at the very heart of the Yemeni capital by targeting the US embassy and other state institutions, the government has raised the alarm to a maximum.

Sources said that Al-Qaeda cells in the areas of Zindan and Arhab have trained for operations involving the storming of fortified sites, attacking fixed and mobile targets while aboard vehicles and motorbikes, and that Al-Qaeda militants have entered Sana'a in preparation for carrying out their attacks in the coming few days.

## SKETCHED OPINION

By Rashad Al-Sameci



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**Publisher & Editor-in-Chief**  
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## Editorial Staff

Sadeq Al-Wesabi  
sadeqalwesabi@hotmail.com

Shatha Al-Harazi  
shatha.yt@gmail.com

Ali Ajan  
aliajan.yt@gmail.com

**CEO**  
Khair Aldin Al Nsour

**Managing Editor**  
Ali Saeed

Garnet Roach  
garnet.yt@gmail.com

Ahmed Ali Daood  
daod2009@gmail.com

Mohammed Al-Samei  
alsamei77@gmail.com

**Head of Design Dept.**  
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Yasser Ezzi  
newyasser@hotmail.com

Muad Al-Maqdari  
muadznagi@gmail.com

Marwa Najmuddin  
marwanajm@yahoo.com

## Offices

**Taiz Bureau:**  
Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf  
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156  
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157  
P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz  
Email: ytaiz@y.net.ye

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# Yemen's IDPs caught between harsh conditions and scant aid

By: Ahmed Dawood  
Photos by: Jamal Hussein

Asmahan Nasib had never thought of leaving her home in the Al-Kawd area of the restive southern governorate of Abyan, but the violence that broke out last year in her hometown between Al-Qaeda militants and army troops forced her to flee her home.

Nasib was married to an old, feeble man, who suffered from multiple diseases, including diabetes and high blood pressure. The couple has 12 children, four boys and eight girls.

When the war in Abyan erupted, Asmahan's family left their hometown of Zinjuar, the provincial capital of Abyan, as did thousands of others, seeking shelter in the neighboring port city of Aden.

On their way to Aden, Mohammed, Nasib's husband, suffered a severe rise in blood pressure. She tried to rush him to the nearest

“

*“They [WFP and the UNCHR] deal with the government Executive Unit, which suffers from rampant corruption.*

hospital or medical center, but unfortunately he passed away before they could make it.

Nasib continued on the trip to Aden with her children, her heart filled with grief over the loss of her husband and the pain of leaving her home. Worry about what was awaiting her in Aden added to her misery.

When they arrived in Aden, they took shelter in Saeed Naji High School in Al-Mansoura district. She along with her children are still there, looking forward to the day they can return home once the war ends.

Nasib says she gets a ration of two bags of flour, 10kg of sugar, and 10kg of rice on an irregular basis, indicating that the ration is not enough to feed her 12 children.

Like Asmahan, there are thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) facing hunger, cold, and potential diseases as they don't have even the basic necessities of life.

Most of Abyan IDPs, estimated at 160,000, have taken shelter in makeshift camps and public schools in the bordering governor-

ates of Aden and Lahj. They are in desperate need of emergency aid.

## Bitter experience

The recent fighting between government forces and militant groups in Zunjuar and Ja'ar, the two biggest towns of Abyan, has displaced an estimated extra 8,000 families, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said on Wednesday, March 21.

While 4,000 thousand families fled to neighboring areas of the same governorate, another 4,000 families have sought refuge in the bordering governorates of Aden and Lahj.

Naveed Hussein, the UNHCR country representative, said that “displacement of people either due to armed conflicts, or to natural disasters is a bitter experience in every sense of the word as the IDPs lost everything they have.”

Hussein assured that the UNHCR is working with the Yemeni government and other humanitarian organizations in the country to provide the required assistance to those who left their homes due to the recent wave of violence.

He stressed the importance of accommodating the displaced people, and providing them with basic assistance such as blankets, food, and mattresses. He affirmed that the UNHCR is obliged to help the government in meeting the needs of the internal refugees.

The IDPs complain about not directly receiving relief aid provided by the UN humanitarian agencies on a regular basis.

Nabil Al-Amoudi, the spokesperson for Abyan's displaced people, said that most of the donated aid had not reached the internal refugees in Aden and Lahj, stressing that such aid goes to the IDPs Executive Unit, a government body that was established to help Abyan IDPs.

He accused the Executive Unit of not distributing the aid directly to the refugees, and of making inaccurate statistics of displaced persons.

“While the actual number of internal refugees does not exceed

“

*The displaced community [in Hajja] still lack tents and the UN agencies and international humanitarian organizations have not yet assumed their role.*



Thousands of the displaced people from Abyan still live in public schools in Lahj and Aden without sufficient food or shelter.



A spokesperson for Abyan's displaced people said the governmental executive unit responsible for distributing aid to the internal refugees in Aden and Lahj doesn't give out regular food rations. He demanded that international aid organizations be allowed to perform directly.



80,000, the Executive Unit estimated it at 168,000,” he said, adding that the unit sells a large amount of the donated aid on the black market, rather than distributing it to the IDPs.

He explained that the World Food Program (WFP) and UNHCR don't distribute the aid directly to the IDPs.

“They [WFP and the UNCHR] deal with the government Executive Unit, which suffers from rampant corruption,” said Al-Amoudi.

“The Sultanate of Oman and China donated large amounts of humanitarian aid six months ago, however, the unit started giving that out only this month after the IDPs protested their demands,” he said.

The governor of Abyan, Saleh Al-

Zarawain, was commissioned with a team in March to investigate the problem.

“The team found that the stores of the unit are full of food aid,” Al-Amoudi said.

Abdullah Al-Dahimi, manager of Executive Unit, has admitted that assistance rations are not being distributed regularly. However, he has put that down to several obstacles that have impeded the distribution process including road blocks, particularly on the main road between Abyan and Aden.

He affirmed that Oman, China, and some UN agencies such as WFP, UNICEF, and UNHCR have donated large amounts of aid for the IDPs.

He said that the unit had distributed most of the aid received and

“

*displacement of people either due to armed conflicts, or to natural disasters is a bitter experience in every sense of the word as the IDPs lost everything they have.*

that aid that had not yet been given out would reach the internal refugees in the coming months.

## Desperate situation

In the northern governorate of Hajja, violent clashes have recently erupted between the Shiite Houthis and Sunni tribesmen in the areas of Kushar, Mustaba, and Ahem, displacing at least as many as 5,500 families according to the UNHCR.

Hajja already had tens of thousands of IDPs who were displaced as far back as 2004 by the Sa'ada conflict between the government and the Houthi rebels.

The displaced families are living in extremely harsh conditions due to the lack of tents, food, blankets, mattresses and other basic needs.

The UNHCR said it began coordinating with the Yemeni government to offer aid and respond to the newly-displaced persons.

It has already provided 1,300 displaced families with some of the emergency aid required, including tents, blankets, mattresses, and cooking utensils.

Hadi Wardan, a member of the local council in the Sheras district of Hajjah, said the real number of IDPs is more than has been estimated.

He put the number at 15,000 IDPs, noting that they suffer from extremely harsh conditions, and that diseases have begun spreading among the refugees, especially the children, due to the unsanitary, unhygienic environment they live in.

Most of the inhabitants from the war-hit areas in Hajja sought shelter in the Wadi Al-Aridh area. Some took refuge in Sana'a and other places.

“Almost all the inhabitants of the Ahem district – the biggest district in the governorate which is the scene of the most deadly clashes since the outbreak of violence six months ago – have left their homes and that district now is almost empty,” Wardan said.

So far the IDPs of Hajja have only received 1,700 tents, and insufficient amounts of flour, and sugar that were donated by the local Is-lah Charitable Organization, and the Qatari Charity Organization.

“The displaced community still lack tents and the UN agencies and international humanitarian organizations have not yet assumed their role,” said Fuad Al-Alwi, a journalist and human right activist working with HOOD. Al-Alwi visited the area one week ago to inspect the humanitarian conditions.



Naveed Hussein, representative of the UN refugee agency in Yemen gave assurances that the agency is working with the Yemeni government and other humanitarian organizations to provide more assistance to the displaced people.

# Alzheimer patients in Yemen confined at home with no treatment

By: Marwa Najmaldin

"I cried and laughed together after my mum began weeping about my death while I was sitting in front of her. She did not recognize me and thought that I had drowned in a flood... Which flood? I didn't know. But I had long session that day in consolation and joking," said Um Ashraf Abdullah, 52.

Abdullah explained that she had heard a lot about Alzheimer's disease, but did not expect that a member of her family would suffer it until her 72-year-old mother was diagnosed.

She said that having all the family

suffering from Alzheimer's is insane.

Mohammad Shamiri, 50, still remembers when his mother started to forget many things around her, even the members of his small family.

"She began treating my children as if they were strangers, especially my oldest sons. She was covering her hair and face," said Al-Shamiri.

He blames himself because he wasn't aware that his mother had Alzheimer's and not dementia or madness as he thought.

"I moved to another home and left my mother and father alone. I couldn't endure my mum's behavior anymore," said Al-Shamiri.

"Alzheimer's is a type of dementia that causes problems to the memory, thinking and behavior. Symptoms usually develop slowly and get worse over time, becoming severe enough to interfere with daily tasks, according to the Alzheimer's Association's website.

It is common among elderly people, particularly among those over 65. It may also appear at an early age in some rare genetic cases, according to Ayd Talha, a psychologist at Al-Amal Hospital in Sana'a.

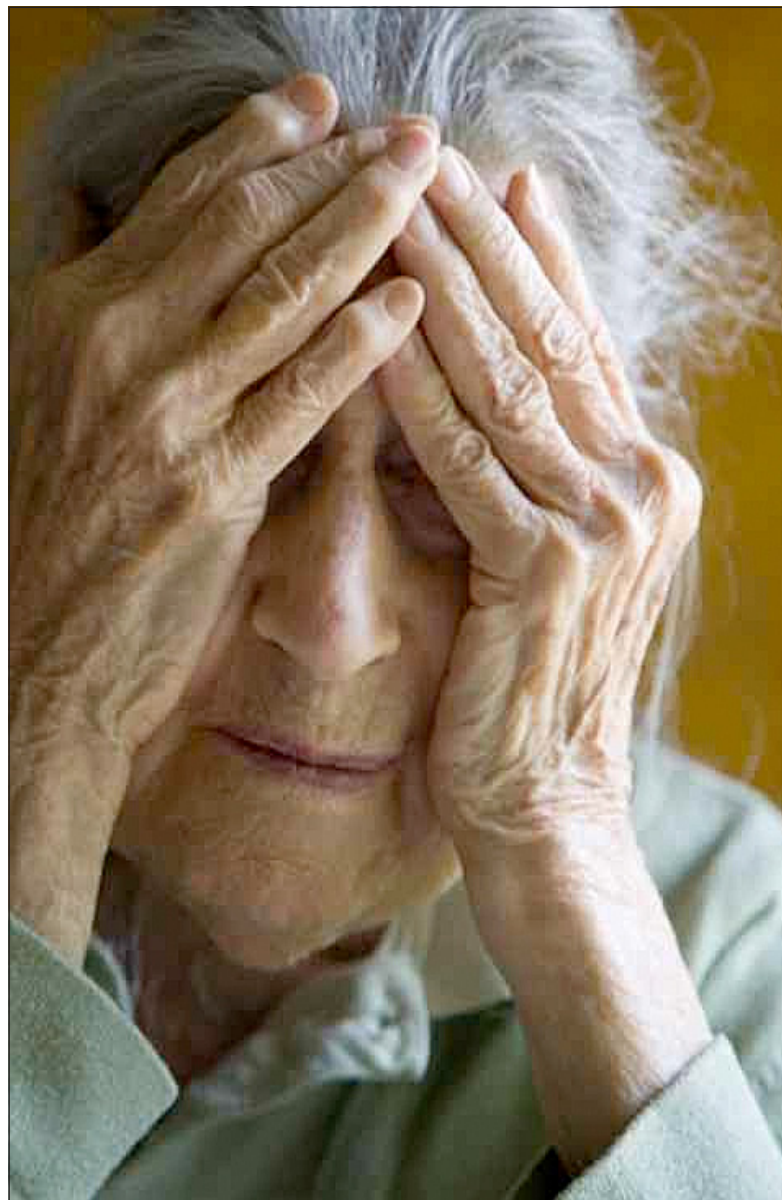
There are currently no statistics on how many people in Yemen have Alzheimer's, because many households keep their patients at home and do not seek appropriate medical advice, according to Talha.

He explained the probability of developing Alzheimer's is about ten percent in people over 80 years old.

About 26.6 million people worldwide suffered from Alzheimer's in 2006, and this number is expected to increase fourfold by 2050, according to the association.

Most people know of Alzheimer's as an advanced type of forgetfulness. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia.

Its symptoms range from general forgetfulness up to forgetting family members and where home is. The



condition hinders the patient in many aspects of their life including driving, cooking and how to wear clothes.

In some cases, patients forget the names of relatives, cannot recognize them in photos, and may become careless with their hygiene.

"There is no medicine to cure Alzheimer's, because it is not caused by a virus, but it is atrophy of the brain cells that may be associated with getting older, strokes, abdominal problems, blood pressure and family history,"

said Dr. Mohamed Al-Ashwal, a psychological consultant.

"There are some drugs that reduce the effects of the disease and compensate the brain with fluids which are being lost with getting older. These drugs are costly since only a limited number of European drug companies monopolize their manufacture," he added.

The price of the medicine may exceed YR 20,000 (USD 100) which is generally unaffordable in Yemen with its low wages, according to Al-Ashwal.



**There are currently no statistics on how many people in Yemen have Alzheimer's, because many households keep their patients at home and do not seek appropriate medical advice**

cooperate and being educated about the disease can help in alleviating it and in making sure the patient takes their medicine.

Health education in general is poor in Yemeni society, particularly about this mental health problem. This ignorance often leads family members to think that a person

## Loan success stories in time of crisis

By: Ahmed Daood

As with other exchange sectors and micro-finance institutions in Yemen, Al-Amal Bank offers wide-ranging exchange services by way of loan provisions for owners of small businesses with the aim of alleviating poverty and creating new job opportunities for unemployed persons.

Al-Amal Bank for micro-finance was formally launched in 2009. The bank funded more than 25 projects until 2011, and the bank's services have reached 125,000 people nationwide.

Al-Amal Bank in Taiz received about 150 clients in 2011 who requested micro-financing and loans for their businesses, according to Taiz branch manager Hilal Al-Sabaee.

Daood Al-Selwi is among the clients who have taken advantage of the loans. He is a welding shop in Taiz's Al-Hoban area, which he relies on to support his family of eight.

"I totally depend on the shop for living, and would ask Allah to preserve it for me," he told the Yemen Times.

Since the outbreak of anti-regime protests last year, the state was plunged into a severe economic crisis which led to the rising cost of oil derivatives, constant power outages and a suspension of activity at factories and workshops. Al-Selwi was among those hit hard by the crisis.

"My workshop was totally shut down for three months because of constant power outages. I was lent about YR 200,000 to provide my family with foodstuffs and to secure its essential needs," he said.

"I reconsidered reopening my workshop as it represents my sole source of income. The recovery of my workshop required a small generator to cope with the power outages," he said.

"I was informed by a friend of mine about Al-Amal Bank, so I went there and asked them to purchase an electricity generator for me. They agreed and bought it for me for YR 250,000 (\$1,163).

They told me that I must pay it back in monthly installments over ten months. The bank took YR 50,000 over its real price, as the interest was at 25 percent.

"After receiving the generator, activities at the workshop began to revive. Over those ten months, I was able to pay off all my debt, including the cost of the generator," he said.

"The workshop has earned good profits. Al-Amal Bank really did me a big favor in enabling me to reopen my workshop. Now the workshop operates well and I can successfully overcome the crisis," said Al-Selwi.

Hamdi Saeed Othman, a member of the local council in the Al-Taizia area of Taiz, affirmed that the small loan projects contribute significantly to the creation of new job opportunities.

About 118 persons in Al-Huban

alone took advantage of loan projects provided by Al-Amal and other banks.

According to Othman, some

opened specialty shops, grocery shops, gas stations, construction material shops, while other stalled projects have been revived.

## Job announcement

One of the major companies in the power & engines industries is looking for those who enjoy a challenge and team work to apply for the position below:

### Sales Person

**Job Station:** Sana'a, might require frequent travel to other governorates.

#### Qualifications:

- 1- BA. In Marketing.
- 2- Fluent in Arabic & English (Writing & Speaking).
- 3- Minimum intermediate level in application programs (Word, Excell, Powerpoint, Internet).
- 4- Minimum experience in sales and marketing for two years in machinery, mechanical & much more familiar with power generators & machinery products)

Please send your CV to this E-mail:

**carrier\_wanted@yahoo.com**  
or **carrier\_wanted@hotmail.com**

## HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



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

### Eating Out

My Romanian friend living in Aden is fond of eating out frequently. Chinese foods are his passion and he visits his favourite Chinese restaurant any time there's an excuse to do so. Kalamaris and Jingas should be there as starters. He can give an elaborate discourse on the additives in food and the dangers caused by them, but when it comes to his Chinese delicacies, nothing can stop him.

You can eat healthy when dining out, if you know how. The occasional slice of pizza won't do you any harm. It is important to remember your average food intake over a few days, not just in a single meal. So if you eat a not-so-healthy meal once in a while, you can balance it out with healthier foods the rest of that day and week.

So, if you're treating yourself to a meal out, here are some tips to help make it a dining experience that is both tasty and good for you.

**Choose Restaurants that have Health Friendly Practices:** Check with the restaurant if they do the following:

- Accommodate requests on cooking instructions and ingredients.
- Use lean cuts of meat and trim visible fat from poultry or meats.
- Offer margarine instead of butter, and low fat milk instead of cream.
- As far as possible, avoid fast food chains and all-you-can-eat buffets as they promote overeating.

**Order Take Away:** Studies show that people tend to consume more food at tables other than their own kitchen tables. By taking the food home, you also have the option of balancing out your restaurant food with healthier side dishes such as fruit or vegetables.

**Read the Menu Carefully:** Many restaurants indicate healthy choices on their menus, and some places will even prepare menu items as per your request. Few points can be kept in mind like:

- Start your meal with salads & veggies to fill yourself up with fiber. Salads with plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables and lighter dressings will be better than salads with cheeses, meats and heavy dressings.
- Always go for steamed, boiled, poached, roasted and broiled dishes instead of fried and sautéed ones.
- While ordering sandwiches, ask for whole wheat bread.
- Stick with a glass of water, lemon juice, unsweetened tea or other drinks without sugars instead of drinking a high-calorie soft drink.
- For desserts, fresh fruit salad or sorbets are the best alternative.

**Feel Free to Special Order:** Try to modify the menu. Never hesitate to request for the food to be prepared in a more diet friendly manner. For example:

- Ask for your veggies and main dishes to be served without the sauces.
- Ask if things are fried or cooked in oil or butter – if they are, see if you can order them in a more healthy way.

**Keep an Eye on Portion Size:** Portion sizes at restaurants are usually double or triple the quantity that a person would normally eat, so it is important to keep that in mind when ordering. Some ways to do this include:

- Choose a "small" or "medium" portion for main dishes.
- Skip fries altogether and choose a salad and a bottle of water.
- Always ask for a large serve of steamed or stir-fry vegetables or salad as part of your meal.

**Replace High Saturated and Trans Fat Foods:** Foods high in saturated and trans fat can contribute to obesity, high blood cholesterol levels and heart disease. Restaurant meals are likely to include fried foods including hot chips and fried fish or chicken, hamburgers, pizza, pies, pastries and pasta with creamy pasta sauces. Following are a few suggested meal substitutions to reduce saturated and trans fat:

- Replace fried beef or chicken and fried rice, with a non-veg/vegetable stir-fry dish with steamed rice.
- Choose salads with a wide variety of vegetables and grains. Examples include taboula or greek salad with lots of added vegetables.
- Cut down creamy and very oily salad dressings.
- Other healthy choices of food include:
- Lentil, tomato or vegetable based soups.
- Lean meat salads without creamy dressings.
- Lentil or vegetable curries.
- Pasta with tomato based sauces.
- Skinless or tandoori style chicken (without the skin).

**Remember the Big Picture:** Cut back on your earlier meals that day. Moderation is always key, but planning ahead can help you relax and enjoy your dining experience without losing out on good nutrition or diet control.

#### Food Items Which can be Ordered and Avoided at Different Types of Restaurant

Here is a list of food items which can be ordered and avoided at different types of restaurant:

**Chinese Restaurant:** Wonton or hot & sour soup, stir-fried vegetable dishes, white or brown rice, chow mien dishes, and most vegetable-based dishes.

**Avoid:** Anything bread or fried, especially egg rolls, sweet-and-sour dishes (very high calorie), and any dish sautéed in large amounts of oil.

**North Indian Restaurant:** Roti/naan, different varieties of dal (without ghee), paneer tikka, grilled veg & non-veg, variety of kababs, salted lassi, chach.

**Avoid:** Thick gravies, white gravies, deep fried foods, kofta curries.

**South Indian Restaurant:** Paper, plain & set Dosa, rawa idli, upma, vermicelli baath, rasam, sambhar, tomato & green chutney, buttermilk, iddiappam, kesri baath, payassam.

**Avoid:** Coconut based gravies, coconut chutney.

**Italian Restaurant:** Minestrone, any grilled lean meat or seafood, vegetable dishes without cream, pasta with marinara sauce.

**Avoid:** Cheese dressings and fondues.

**Mexican Restaurant:** Corn-tortilla soup, bean-and-rice dishes without cheese, chicken fajitas without cheese, corn tortilla, or tacos.

**Avoid:** Flour tortillas and chips, cheese sauces, guacamole, beef dishes and burritos. cream sauces, dishes topped with cheeses, breaded and fried foods.

**Fast Food Restaurant:** Scrambled eggs, English muffin with no butter, orange juice, small burger with no cheese or sauce, grilled chicken sandwiches without sauce, salad with low-cal dressing, small single layer cheese pizza with vegetable toppings.

**Avoid:** Everything else.

Ref: Lifemojo





Within the framework its partnership with civil society organizations and in cooperation with the National Organization for Developing society NODS

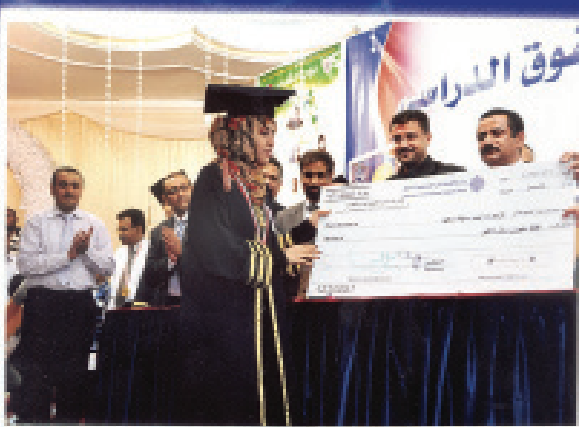


Abu Walad Sandwich Biscuits

of Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce (YCIC) Sponsors the excellence Prize and grants winner YR millions



The Winners



Many have been impatiently waiting for this date (15/02/2012) along with its moments of overwhelming joy inside Aden Mall Big Hall. It's the appointment of awarding outstanding students in the presence of a large rally of social figures and civil society organizations and a host of educational leaders and school students, parents, business men and women, and the press



Al Zahra Ahmed

This year the number of students to be awarded has been raised to ten winners instead of seven, and that gratitude was expressed to Aden province, which accounted for all the ten deserved honorees to receive this award



HebaAlla Ahmed



In the midst of joy on this occasion, Mr. Abdul Fattah Al-Aswadi, deputy General Manager of Yemeni Company for Industry and Commerce (Abu Walad Butter Biscuit Producer) delivered a speech in which he expressed the company pride and honor to sponsor such an educational, great event through the company's leading product Abu Walad Biscuit. The company is seeking to perpetuate its potential for community development and services, and the award is gaining importance of the dimensions of development on the present and future of the nation and the role of this award in the promotion of sustainable ambitions in the field of education, which represents the backbone of development and the axis of advancement toward a bright and prosperous future, Al-Aswadi confirmed



Azal Massa'od

Student Zahra Ahmed Saif, placed first in winning the award (YR one million) delivered a word expressing, on behalf of the rest of the winners, her happiness with gaining this award, and expressed deep gratitude and thanks to the Yemen Company for industry and commerce (Abu Walad biscuits Producer) for this generous support which gives more encouragement and incentive to students to continue the journey of excellence and brilliance. These awards will empower us with even more strong motivation to face the obstacles that may encounter on their way to excellence, Zahra added



Rida Morshed



Dr. Abdullah Al-Nehari, director of the Education Office in Aden, expressed his pleasure to attend the Party. He thanked the Yemeni Company for Industry and Commerce and the NODS for such excellent achievement, which contributes to supporting and encouraging outstanding students and those with the highest tuition rates to pursue their journey



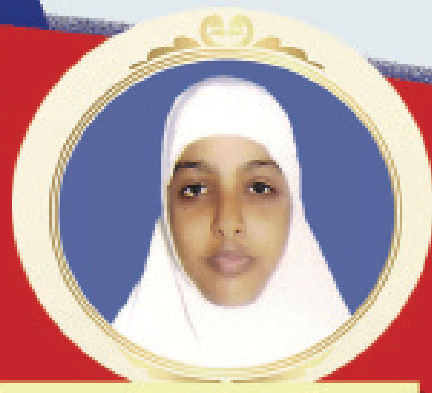
Ahmed Mohammed

Following this, winners were granted the awards granted by Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce. Student Zahra Ahmed Saif winning first place was granted YR one million, student Hebat Allah Ahmed Ali (second place winner) half a million YR, student Azal Masood Saeed winning the third place got half a million YR as well. Students winning the fourth to tenth places got YR quarter a million each. They were: Rida Murshid Salah (the winning fourth place), and Ahmed Mohamed Fadl (winner of fifth place) and the student / Monthir Munir Anwar (winner in sixth place), Dalal Thabet Nasser (winner of the seventh place), Akram Nabil Abdel-Majid (winner of eighth place), Shatha Mohammed bin Mohammed (the winning ninth place), and (the student / Majd Ishfaq Hassan (tenth place winner

Involved in the festival, cultural competitions with awards and gifts provided by the Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce, widely impressed the audience



Magd Eshfaq



Shatha Mohammed




Akram Nabeel



Dalal Thabet



Monther Moncer



## Tender Notice for conducting an evaluation for midwives' training on IUD

**Project:** Social Marketing for Reproductive Health (RH) Services: Phase II in Yemen

**Contract no.:** BMZ Project No. 2007 65 230

The Government of Yemen through the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP), has received funding from Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) for implementing of social marketing of contraceptives through the private sector.

**Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development (YF):** The MoPHP awarded the YF with a three year social marketing project as, the Project Executing agency (PEA). YF invites interested local NGOs and institutions working in the field of family planning (FP) and HIV/AIDS to apply for the tender as per the below Terms of Reference:

**Background:** 800 MWs from 14 governorates were trained on IUD insertion and removal. The trainings were conducted in Sana'a, Hajjah, Amran, Mareb, Hodeida, Dammar, Ibb, Taiz, Lahj, Abyan, Hadramaut, Aden, Mahwit and Addali governorates.

**Overall objective:** to evaluate the quality and the impact of the IUD training

**Sub-objectives:** i) Technical evaluation ii) Evaluation of the client flow & client satisfaction

**The assignment:**  
The consultant/Agency will conduct the study and prepare the study report. The consultant's main tasks are to:

- Design the study.
- Define the sampling frame and the inclusion and exclusion criteria.
- Design the tools, pre-test and finalization.
- Define the data entry, management and analysis plan.
- Recruit and be responsible for investigators, and conduct their training.
- Conduct data collection while ensuring complete quality control.
- Lead the data entry and analysis, basic data tables and cross tabs(using SPSS).
- Draft and submit the study report with tables, graphs and charts.
- Submit a power point with main study findings.
- Incorporate the feedback on the draft study report and submit it for final approval.

**Scope:** The consultant/agency will lead this as an independent evaluation, in consultation with and approvals from YF. The geographic coverage of the evaluation will be the project area. Thematic areas of coverage will be IUD insertion and removal, and infection control. It is expected that the study report should also cover the following issues: relevance and the sustainability of the trainings, implementation process, efficiency and cost-effectiveness, lessons learned and recommendations.

**Deliverables**

**Initial Proposal:** A proposal (in English) for designing and conducting the study should be submitted to YF for review and approval. This plan should include the proposed budget as well as plan for data collection in the study sites.

**Study Report:** The Consultant/Agency will present the findings and submit the draft study report (in English) on which feedback will be provided. A final report (in English) should be submitted to YF after incorporating the feedback for final review and approval.

**Data tables:** all data- raw data, data tables and cross tabs, should be submitted to YF.

**The needed information under this call is:** (i) Consultant/agency's background (ii) initial proposal (iii) proposed budget, (iv) data collection plan

**Interested parties may apply by 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012 to:**  
Social Marketing Project; Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development  
Next to AL-Deewan Restaurant, Sana'a  
**E-mail :** mohammed.alzurqa@yamaan.org

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## SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN YEMEN

### UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, Sana'a, is looking to fill the Posts of: Two Program / Finance Associates - Post Level: ICS 6 (G-6)

**Program Unit:**

Under the overall guidance of the Representative and direct supervision of the Assistant Representative, the Program / Finance Associate supports the design, planning and management of UNFPA's country programme ensuring effective functioning of financial operations and systems in support of the programme delivery and office management.

He/she is instrumental in facilitating programme/project implementation using appropriate mechanisms and systems and ensuring compliance with established procedures. The Program / Finance Associate maintains collaborative relationships with all project staff providing financial monitoring and analysis of projects and advising program Officers on expenditure trends and implementation rates. The Program / Finance Associate is also a member of the Country Office management services team managing financial aspects of Country Office operations.

**Results-Oriented Functional Statements**

- Supports the monitoring of programme financial performance for all core and non-core resources by providing necessary financial information and analysis, including implementation rate against indicators/results. Detects potential over-under expenditure problems and suggests remedial action.
- Utilizes UNFPA Atlas and Cognos Reports and other tools and mechanisms for effective and efficient monitoring of programme and project budgets, coordinates compilation of financial data and provides accurate and up-dated financial information to program Officers, IPs, and HQ on a continuous basis.
- Apply financial policies and procedures particularly relating to NEX and provides support, guidance and training to project staff on national execution and programme policies and procedures.
- Ensures effective financial recording and reporting system, internal control and NEX audit process.
- Follow-up and processes financial transactions through UNFPA financial system in an accurate and timely way.
- Reviews procurement requests and support procurement process for office and project equipment, supplies and services in a transparent and cost-effective manner.
- Support timely provision of services and supplies, and maintain up-to-date project inventory records.
- Provides logistical support to projects by support coordination of review meetings and other project related workshops and events.

**Functional Competencies:**

- Business acumen
- Client orientation
- Implementing management systems

**Corporate Competencies:**  
Values:

- Integrity/Commitment to mandate
- Knowledge sharing/Continuous learning
- Valuing diversity
- Managing Relationships
- Working in teams

**Job Requirements:**

- Academic Requirements:** Bachelor's degree in business administration, public administration, finance, information technology, economics or related field is preferable.
- Experience:** 5-7 years of relevant experience in the public or private sector.
- Languages:** Fluency in oral and written English and Arabic.
- Computer skills:** Proficiency in current office software applications. Knowledge of ATLAS system is an added value.

UNFPA offers an attractive compensation package commensurate with experience.

Please send your application with a covering letter to: UNFPA, P.O. Box 7272, Sana'a  
Or to [vacancies.yemen@unfpa.org](mailto:vacancies.yemen@unfpa.org)

**Note:** Any application sent to a different UNFPA email account other than the above will not be considered.  
Deadline for application: 9 April 2012  
Please note that only candidates who fulfil the above requirements will be considered and notified.





## Young students motivated to conduct research

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Student Taghrid Al-Matari, 16, from Rabiya Al-Adawiya School in Sana'a was pleasantly surprised when she was named as best young researcher in a competition funded by the British Council and carried out by Global Change Makers, Yemen's Life Makers Forum and the I Love My Book Campaign.

The competition aimed at encouraging young students from 20 schools in Sana'a to conduct simple research projects about different topics.

Al-Matari was surrounded by her relatives and friends who patted her on the back for her achievement. Her eyes sparkled with excitement as she said: "This prize will encourage me to read more and more."

Al-Matari's research was about change and building Yemen's future. She wrote about the stages of change in Yemen over the last few

years.

"I wanted to convey a message about the importance of changing ourselves before we ask others to change," she told the Yemen Times.

Al-Matari, who aspires to be a surgeon in the future, said that the prize will highly motivate her to help build her country.

"I will also convince other friends and people to read a lot and to contribute to building our country," she said enthusiastically.

The I Love My Book campaign has contributed greatly towards inspiring thousands of children and students to love reading.

Samira Abdul-Wadood, a librarian at Khawla School in Sana'a, where there is an amazing library provided by the campaign, said that turnout of students to the library has increased in recent days.

She indicated that such libraries help create awareness and skill generation. "We should work together to instill a love of reading

into students and all people."

Adrian Chadwick, director of British Council in Yemen urged students to read a lot, saying "Arabic is one of the most beautiful languages."

### Encouraging research skills

"I was impressed by the enthusiasm of students who were willing to participate in the competition," said Elham Al-Gohali, projects assistant at the British Council and one of the most effective education activists who promote the love of reading among young students.

Al-Gohali stressed the importance of having such competitions in Yemen's schools to provide students with the concept of research and to enable them to write their own research later on.

"Unfortunately, some students in universities find it difficult to conduct research because they didn't learn this important skill as it was not taught to them in school," she said.



Dozens of students have been encouraged to conduct research projects to improve their learning skills.

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