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## One civilian killed by US drone strike in Shabwa

By: Mohamed Abdalalim

SHABWA, April 1 — One Yemeni civilian was killed and six others were injured in a US drone strike at 4pm on Friday in Azzan of Shabwa governorate, east Yemen, eyewitnesses told the Yemen Times.

The drone fired two missiles at a Hyundai vehicle thought to belong to militants with connections with Al-Qaeda. Locals who hurried to the scene of incident found the torn bodies of seven people scattered over the road.

Saleh Ali Ba Zyad, Saleh Abdulfatha Hamid, Abdullah Mohamed Hamid, Hamza Khaled Ba Zayad, Ali Hassan and another unidentified man were wounded during the strike after shrapnel showered the neighboring area.

Mohamed Saleh Al-Suna, 55 from Al-Hawta city in Shabwa died from injuries sustained from shrapnel in the strike.

Local security sources said that the strike attempted to target the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Naser Al-Wahishi.

Pakistani officials have previously said that Al-Wahishi was killed on Dec. 28 2010 when two American missiles were fired at a militant camp in North Waziristan in Pakistan. Al-Wahishi has also previously been reported killed by a drone strike in an area of Shabwa, Yemen.

Al-Qaeda has not confirmed the reported death of Al-Wahishi, and still publishes his articles and statements in their Sada Al-Malehim Magazine.

At 10:00 pm on Friday armed men from the group Ansar Al-Shariah blew up Yemen's liquefied natural gas pipeline in revenge for the US drone strike. The group took control of Azzan city in June 2011 and last week seized the Al-Rudum district in the governorate.

The sabotage has suspended gas production and export, according to the Yemen LNG company.

"Yemen LNG confirms the sabotage of the 38 inch gas pipeline that links block 18 to the Balhaf terminal on the Gulf of Aden," reads the statement posted on website of the



The US drone strike fired two missiles at Hyundai vehicle though to belong to militants of Al-Qaeda. Once civilian was killed and six others were injured.

followed by Hunt Oil and the Yemen Gas Company each owning 17 percent, the South Korean Company owning 10 percent, six percent for Korea Gas Corporation, about six percent for Hyundai Corporation and five percent for the General Authority for Social Insurance and Pensions.

A security officer in Abyan said in earlier statement to the Yemen Times that drone strikes often result in human casualties and panic local communities.

"We can arrest Al-Qaeda affiliated persons without committing crimes against civilians," the security officer assistant said.

US airstrikes in Yemen date back to Nov. 4th 2002, when they targeted Abu Ali Al-Harethi, a Yemeni jihadist accused of plotting the bombing of the destroyer USS Cole on Oct. 12, 2000.

A similar air-raid killed over 42 civilians including women and children on Dec. 17, 2009 in the village of Al-Ma'jala in Abyan, south Yemen.

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# Hadi changes heads of institutions

By: Mohamed Al-Samei

SANA'A, April 1 – After continued protests a number of directors of government institutions have been dismissed by republican decree over the past few days.

The Rector of Sana'a University, Khaled Al-Tumim, resigned on Saturday after increasingly popular protests organized by students calling for his immediate departure.

Sources at Sana'a University told the Yemen Times that Al-Tumim submitted his resignation letter to the Minister of Higher Education, Yahia Al-Shuaibi. His deputy Ahmed Basurda has been commissioned to be the acting rector.

Sana'a University has witnessed continued student rallies calling for the departure of Al-Tumim as well as other high-ranking administrative officials due to alleged corruption.

Students have expressed their happiness over the resignation, however the protests are continuing.

"The students' protests succeeded in removing Al-Tumim," said Khalil Al-Omari, a university student, who described Al-Tumim as the "agent of national security and police repression at the university." He said Al-Tumim had spoiled the educational process as well as students' minds.

Al-Omari asserted that the protests will continue until Al-Tumim stands trial on charges of corruption and for turning the university into an investment company.

Meanwhile, students at Dhamar University have continued their protests for a second week, demanding the dismissal of Rector Dr. Ahmed Al-Hadhrani, who they accuse of corruption.

New Manger for Al-Thawra Corporation

Last week, President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi issued a republican decree appointing Abdurrahman Bagash as the new manger of the state-owned Al-Thawra Corporation for Press and Publication.

Bagash was the editor-in-chief and general manager of Al-Thawra newspaper before he resigned on March 20, 2011 in protest against the killing of over 50 peaceful protesters in Sana'a by forces loyal to the former president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Also by republican decree, Abdullah Al-Safani was appointed deputy chairman of the board of directors and deputy of the editor-in-chief and Khaled Al-Haraji was appointed chairman of the board of directors for financial, legal, and human resource affairs.

The appointing of Bagash as chairman was a positive step according to Tawfiq Al-Shanwah, a journalist at the newspaper, because he enjoys the support of the majority of the staff.

## Restructuring of the Supreme Judiciary Council

President Hadi also passed a republican decree on Thursday ordering the restructure of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC). A new chief for the SJC was appointed and two members on the board of directors were replaced.

The former chief of the SJC, Mohammed Al-Gasham Ameen, resigned early last week in response to continuing protests calling for his removal. Ameen has been replaced in the position by Judge Hazza Al-Yousifi.

Judge Abdullah Ahmed Farwan was replaced by Judge Rashed Mohammed Hwidi as manager of judicial inspection and Judge Shafiq Ahmed Zawraqi replaced Judge Yahia Mohammed Al-Jarafi as a member of the SJC board of directors.

The protests over the judiciary had escalated over the past few days triggering a complete strike that had paralyzed the judicial system. Court sessions have been suspended across most courts in the country.

In a statement to Yemen Times, Hazza Al-Yousifi, the newly appointed chief of the SJC, said the shake-up was based on an agreement

between the heads of the judicial institutions. He affirmed that the current shakeup was just one demand of the protesters. He said that other demands including the security protection of courts and prosecutions, the provision of necessary funds for the judiciary, as well as legal and constitutional reforms will be implemented soon.

New draft laws that ensure the complete independence of the judicial system will be put in place according to Article 152 of Yemen's constitution, added Al-Yousifi.

He affirmed that if all the demands of the SJC employees are met Yemeni society will benefit greatly from the resulting judicial system. He stressed that justice cannot prevail unless judges' rights are ensured, and he fully expected that the judicial system would be independent in the near future.

Armed men surround the Yemeni Economic Corporation

Another republican decree addressing protester demands appointed Yasser Al-Harazi as the new general director of the Yemeni Economic Corporation (YEC). Al-Harazi replaced Hafeth Maed.

Maed, one of the closest aids of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, is accused by the revolutionary youth of spearheading the gunmen who attacked peaceful protesters at Change Square in Sana'a last year.

Armed men allegedly led by Maed have stormed the headquarters of the YEC and are still in control of the government institution.

Sadeq Al-Faqiah, an employee at the YEC, said that dozens of gunmen still surround the YEC building in an attempt to hamper the implementation of the republican decree that dismissed Maed. He alleged that Maed is paying the gunmen to play havoc in the hopes that he would be reinstated.

Another republican decree was issued whereby Yahia Abdullah was appointed as the head of the state owned 26 September newspaper and the Facility of Moral Direction.



Many directors were dismissed from office after workers or students set up protests demanding their removal.



# Al-Qaeda attempts to seize Lahj

By: Ahmed Dawood

LAHJ, April 1 – Al-Qaeda militants attacked a military position of Brigade 119 commanded by Faisal Rajab on Saturday in the area of Al-Haroor located between Abyan and Lahj governorates. Rajab had previously sided with the opposition against Saleh's regime.

A local journalist in Lahj, Ahmed Al-Amodi, said that Al-Qaeda operatives used light weapons and machine guns to attack the position. He said that several soldiers were killed and a tank was burnt in the battle.

Eyewitnesses said the militants seized control of some military equipment and then escaped.

Operatives of the Ansar Al-Shariah group said in a statement on Saturday that they had killed 30 soldiers and captured an unstated number of others. Al-Qaeda also affirmed that it had captured two tanks, three military vehicles and Kalashnikovs.

The media office of Ansar Al-Shariah (supporters of Islamic law) released a statement on Saturday saying that the organization had captured military positions in Al-Haroor on Saturday. The military position includes a military base located on the road linking Jaar, Batais and Al-Malah, within Abyan governorate.

After the incident, security forces reinforced their presence in the region. Al-Amodi said that an estimated 20 military personnel were at the military checkpoint, and that warplanes continued flying over the governorate to pursue Al-Qaeda operatives.

The governor of Lahj, Ahmed Al-Majeedi said that Al-Qaeda militants attacked the military position in the Al-Haroor area on Saturday, but denied that the militants had taken over any position. "The army managed to kick the

armed men out of the area," Al-Majeedi said in a conversation with the Yemen Times on Sunday.

He affirmed that some soldiers were killed, but said that the number was less than the 30 reported by Ansar Al-Shariah. Al-Majeedi said he had no strict numbers on casualties, nor any information about the soldiers claimed captured by Al-Qaeda.

He explained that Lahj has been witnessing growing insecurity and this has enabled the attempts by

Ansar Al-Shariah to take over the governorate. He ruled out that the group would be successful.

Al-Majeedi reiterated that measures have been taken to enhance security in the governorate, pointing out that the former security chiefs have been replaced by new ones to restore security.

## Deterioration in security

Peace and calm returned to Lahj on Tuesday and Wednesday following four days of insecurity and

instability over the entire governorate.

It was claimed that unknown armed men seized control of Al-Hamra village located close to Al-Hota city, the capital of Lahj.

On Saturday March 24, instability escalated in Al-Huta and neighboring areas after security forces fired upon a minibus carrying 16 passengers that refused to stop at a checkpoint.

A child, Mohammad Hamid, was killed in the attack, and his

mother was wounded and taken to hospital. Another person was shot in the leg.

A lawyer, Abdullah Al-Awjari, says security forces were deployed extensively following the event and clashes erupted between security forces and unidentified armed men.

He said that security forces prevented people from entering or leaving the city from Saturday until Monday. Clashes have ceased and the situation has remained

calm since Tuesday.

According to Al-Awjari, residents of Al-Hamra, Thalab and Haram neighboring Al-Huta, could not use the main streets due to the security problems.

"Now, security and stability has returned to Lahj, but security forces are still largely deployed," he added. Abdu Al-Radfani, who owns a vehicle he uses to sell stone, said the situation has become better, and that he can travel to areas outside the governorate without any obstacles.

He said that there were only three checkpoints manned by central security and the police force positioned on the road, and that there were military personnel and tanks near the checkpoints.

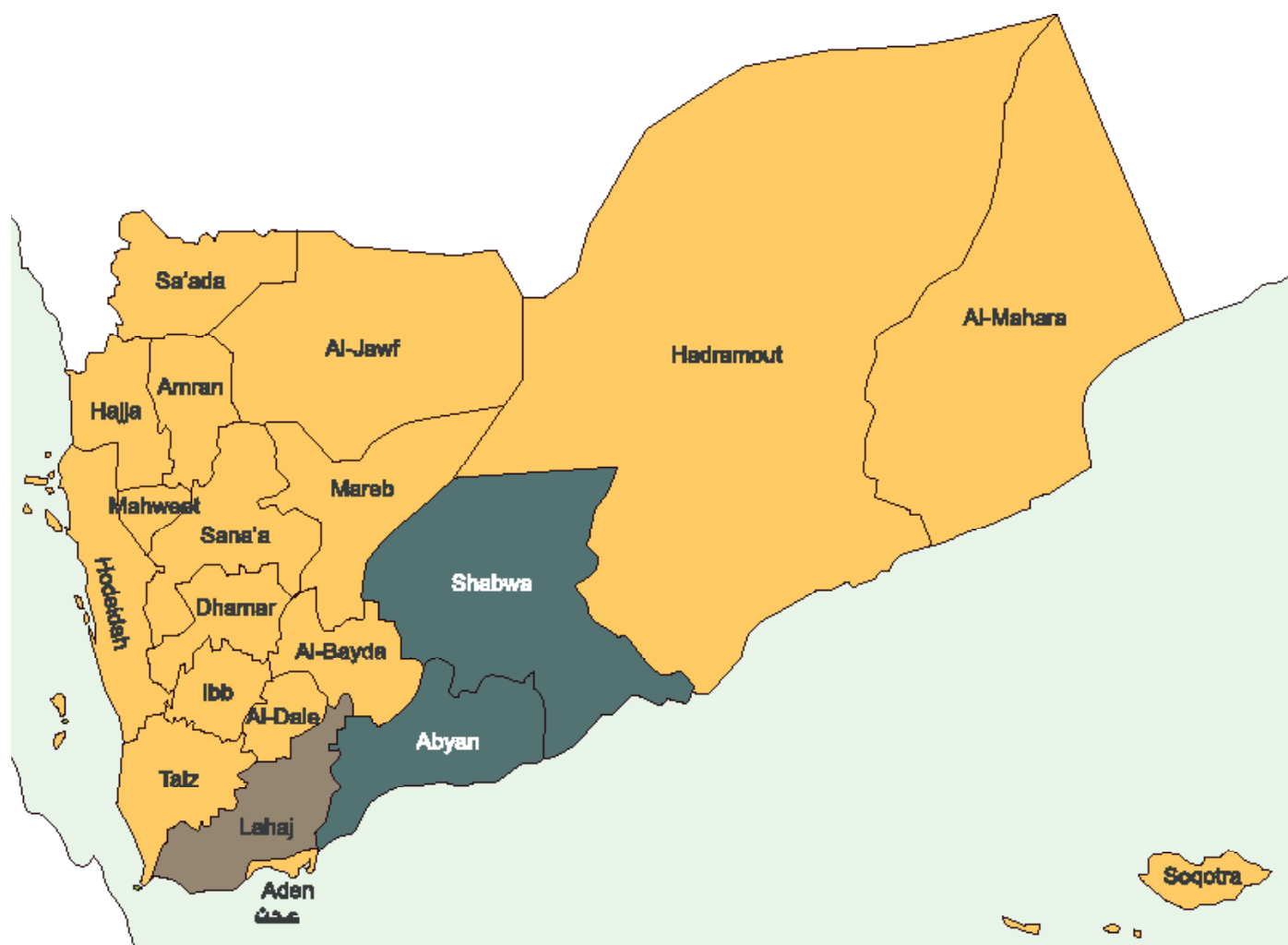
Some media outlets close to the former regime, in particular the Al-Aqeeq satellite TV channel, have claimed that Al-Qaeda operatives have seized control of Al-Hamra in Lahj, but Al-Radfani denied the existence of Al-Qaeda in that area.

A lawyer residing in Lahj, Abdul-Naser Al-Arabi, ruled out the presence of Al-Qaeda in Al-Hamra, affirming that the people there have traditions and customs that hinder the presence of Ansar Al-Sharia.

He accused security officials loyal to Saleh of provoking unrest in Lahj with the aim of hampering the political transition. He affirmed that many areas where activists of the Southern Movement were active have become calm after reaching a political settlement.

Al-Arabi claimed that the former regime is attempting to foment chaos nationwide.

On Tuesday, the Prime Minister Mohammed Basindawa, issued decrees changing the security officials of the governorate, including the appointment of a new security chief for Lahj, Abdul-Hakeem Ahmed Shaif.



# Saudi cement flows to Yemeni market

By: Maaad Al-Maqtari & hmed Dawood

SANA'A, April 1- Huge quantities of Saudi cement are being smuggled to Yemeni markets at competitive prices due to the decline of the local supply and the increase of the demand in the Yemen.

Head of the financial sector of the Public Cement Corp., Abdul-Malik Al-Qirshi, told the Yemen Times that trucks that transfer Al-Saleef salt to the Saudi town of Jazan, return to Hodeida carrying Saudi cement.

He explained that Saudi cement increasingly flows to Yemeni markets due to the suspension of production at some Yemeni factories, including Amran Cement Factory (is this the official name?), which is the main provider of cement to the capital Sana'a and its surrounding areas.

Al-Qirshi made it clear that the Saudi cement is largely purchased in Hodeida and on the Yemeni-Saudi borders, pointing out that quantities of cement have lately been transferred to Sana'a.

He went on to say that Saudi cement is sold at near-double prices in Yemen, pointing out that the 50-kg cement sack that is sold for SR 25 (YR 15,00) is sold in Yemen for YR 2,300 (SR 38). It is expected that the increase of cement prices is due to the increase of the demand and decline in supply.

"Despite the fact that Saudi cement is smuggled to the Yemeni markets, there is impure cement of unknown-origin that is packed in Saudi-made bags" he added. "This occurs due to weak control on the Yemeni market."

With the exception of Amran and Al-Watania cement factories, all the other five cement factories

stopped production. Al-Qirshi says that the production of Al-Watania's production was suspended due to roadblocks in Lahj.

The Saudi Ministry of Commerce and Industry made decisions in the middle of last February to suspend the export of cement to meet the demands of local markets and to stabilize its prices, after the Saudi markets witnessed a big rise in cement prices due to the increased demand and declining supply.

## Cement prices subside, construction work resumes

Five days ago, Muhammad Abdullah Al-Sahmi resumed building his house in Sana'a's Al-Huthaili district following a week-plus work stoppage in response to cement price hikes.

Al-Sahmi told the Yemen Times that twenty days ago, he had bought ten bags of cement, priced at YR1,200 per bag, but that last week the price for one bag had reached YR 2,500.

He said, "I stopped building my house because I could not afford to buy cement at that price."

Muhammad was not the only one to stop building his house; meanwhile, construction projects were also halted in response to the cement price increase. Following the 28 percent price decrease two days ago, most such work has recommenced.

Abdul Fatah Ismail, a cement mining engineer at the Amran Cement Factory, stated that the reason for the sudden price hikes was a suspension of production at the plant that lasted for half a month.

He pointed out that the Amran Factory suspended production on March 9 as a result of a shortage of diesel, which is needed to run the factory. However, diesel is cur-



The price of 50 kg cement bag increased one week ago in Yemen by over 100 percent.

rently available, which has allowed the factory to resume operations. The factory is again supplying the domestic market with cement.

He also said that traders have tried to exploit the stoppage. The price of cement was raised despite accumulations of cement bags in stores.

Ismail also explained that the factory has been operating since March 26 and that it then began selling bags of cement to traders for YR1,600. He gave assurances that prices will return to YR1,200 soon.

Al-Sahmi said that cement prices have already begun to decline and that he bought five bags on Tuesday, priced at YR1,800 per bag. He added that his concern has disappeared.

A side effect of the cement price hikes was an increase in the price of bricks. The price of a single brick reached YR140 last week, while they had previously been sold for YR 90.

Abdullah Al-Nowm, owner of a brick plant in Sana'a's Al-Huthaili district, says that he had to raise

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the price of bricks last week because the industry largely depends on cement to produce bricks.

"If I continued selling bricks at the previous price of YR 90, it would cause me great losses," he said.

He emphasized, though, that the decline in cement prices have translated into lower brick prices, and pointed out that he started selling bricks for YR120 over the last two days.

The cement price hikes have greatly affected Yemen's workers. Many, particularly in the construction industry, have stopped working because the building of residen-

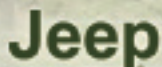
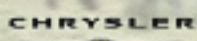
tial structures has been suspended.

Since the beginning of February 2011, Sana'a's citizens have been entirely dependent on the Amran Cement Factory, it being the only provider for the Sana'a market.

Ismail, the cement mining engineer, said this dependence is the result of factories in the south of Yemen having closed in response to wider states of political and social insecurity.

The demand for cement has declined because several development and construction projects were stopped in 2011, which in turn had a negative impact on cement production and sales.

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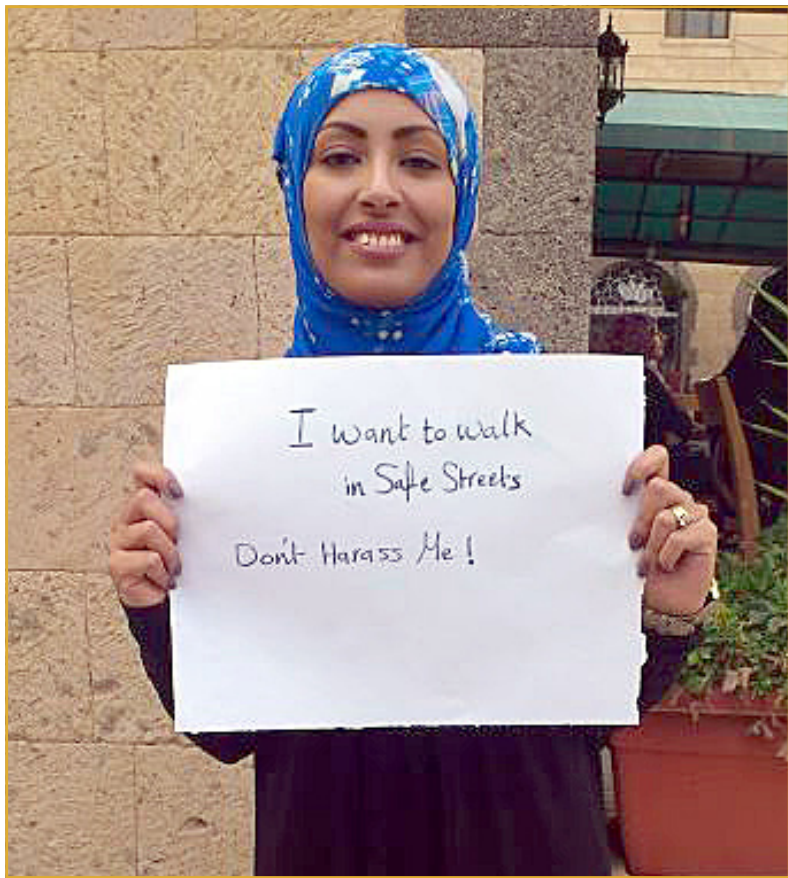
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# Anti-Street Harassment Week



A Yemeni woman demanding "I want to walk in safe streets"

One of the women who support the Stop Harassment Week

Harassment pushing women to wish no one could see them

By: Nadia Haddash

During International Anti-Street Harassment Week, held from March 18-20 under the banner of the local initiative "Aad Shi Akhlaq" ('Are There Still Any Manners?'), a number of symposiums on harassment were held in Sana'a.

A seminar and debate concerning the psychological effects of harassment on victims - as well as a symposium headed by lawyer Ahmed al-Wadi'ee on relevant legal questions - were held. The three-day event was concluded with a forum entitled "The Society We Seek - Democratic Rights and Freedoms" and was led by Najla'a Al-Omari.

The event had a considerable youth turnout, with about 180 such participants. The forums were held at both the Cognitive Cultural Forum and the al-Afif Cultural center.

The main objective of the forums was to

raise societal awareness of the dangers of harassment, as well as ways to confront the problem. Workshops and posters were also used to help promote these goals.

**'Aad Shi Akhlaq**

"Aad Shi Akhlaq" is a national initiative that was started in December 2011 by five young women: Amani Abdul Qader, Shahba'a Al-Kibsi, Luna Al-Wadi'ee, Ghufraan Jamal and Arbeil Nasr. The five women started the initiative in response to bitter, personal encounters with on-campus harassment at Sana'a University.

Their main drive was to free streets and neighborhoods from verbal and physical harassment, and to establish in such places a sense of security and respect for women.

Shahba'a Al-Kibsi presented a speech at last week's event in which she said, "I hope that we can join hands in curbing this phenomenon before it spins out of control. Harassment is a crime that is punishable by law in many countries because it has negative psychological effects on the harassed.

Therefore, it is everybody's obligation to put a stop to this behavior, something which has become a daily practice in our Yemen, a civilized country with manners and values."

"Harassment and molestation have taken a serious turn for the worse," said Amani Abdul Qader.

"Its practice is no longer limited to young men, but has also crossed over to young women; meanwhile, there's no specific law to deter this trend. It is our role, as en-



the official logo for Kefia Initiative and the Development house on the international week for Harassment

lightened and educated youth, to make a change in this, a period of political change. I hope that a shift in attitude will be the initial change, one that we can work on, so that coming generations will have a better atmosphere than our current one."

The forum and the initiative aim to spread the idea that harassment is neither justifiable nor excusable. They also aim to attract and recruit as many youths as possible for the campaign, while also providing support for youths affected by harassment.

**Kefia and International Anti-Street Harassment Week**

Kefia ('Enough') is another initiative working towards the same purpose. It joined the Development House media organization in launching an e-campaign that utilized articles and videos on Facebook and Twitter to call for volunteer work.

The Development House is the first media organization in Yemen to specialize in online social networking. In a speech, a senior consultant for the Development House

said the campaign had been planned and implemented online and that it had been received spectacularly well by young men and women who had broken the silence and committed themselves to curtailing harassment in Yemeni society.

Ghaida'a Al-Absi, campaign manager of the Kefia initiative said "our initiative is concerned about the women's issues, and street harassment is one of the most important women's issues that we take care of. The problem of harassment in the streets is a global problem and exists in every country. The international harassment week includes more than 70 organizations and the campaign is worldwide, with Yemen a part of it."

"We all demand with one voice : street safety and an enforced law that punishes those who practice harassment".

Anti-Street Harassment Week lasted from March 18-24, and the list of involved countries included Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, India and Great Britain.



Together to stop harassment for a safe street - "Aad Shi Akhlaq" Initiative



A group of youth participants conversing at a seminar on the International Anti-Street Harassment Week campaign - "Aad Shi Akhlaq" Initiative

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## YT vision statement



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

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

OUR  
OPINIONThe challenges  
of transition

Things are falling apart. The situation is getting dramatically out of hand as various political players are becoming increasingly rigid in their positions.

There are at least three bottle necks preventing a proper dialogue from occurring. The first is the restructuring of the army, which was supposed to have started already, but considering the circumstances has been delayed indefinitely.

The other is the southern issue and the extreme position of some of the players there demanding to be treated as separate state rather than political players in a single country.

The third is the assessment of military assets and expenditure, including what has already been spent before signing the Gulf Initiative in November last year. The purpose of this assessment is to identify the existing ammunition and military equipment and where previous stock has gone. Former president Saleh and the GPC are saying let go of the past and don't ask where the artillery and guns went over the previous year.

There are other issues, including what to do about Ansar Al-Sharia who are considered in league with AQAP. And also whether the Houthis are really interested in the dialogue process. Then there are the revolutionary youth who remain in the squares. What do they want so as to leave the squares and feel that their work is done?

The youth camped out in the squares remain the only local guarantee for maintaining the youth's demands. Yet there is a huge question mark over their continued presence in the squares, mainly in Sana'a and Taiz, as it is creating a problem for local communities, and also for decision makers when it comes to reinstating order in the cities.

We can learn from the experience of the Tunisian youth. They transformed their structure into the 'Committee to Protect the Revolution' which is respected and recognized by all political players in Tunisia. They have the right to talk to any authority and negotiate on behalf of the revolution. They can even hold protests whenever they want.

Therefore, both decision makers and protestors in Yemen need to know what they want from the revolution and what guarantees are needed to clear the squares.

There are so many challenges that need to be dealt with before we can really move on. The critical issue now is how to bring heads together for the sake of Yemen.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Analysis: US focus on Al-Qaeda may  
slow Yemen army reform

By: Joseph Logan  
Reuters  
First published March 31st

**B**y prodding Yemen's army to take on Islamist militants, the United States may entrench a split within its ranks and risks undermining the shaky political accord devised to stave off a descent into all-out civil war.

Four months after Washington and its Saudi-led Gulf Arab allies cajoled President Ali Abdullah Saleh into ceding power, Yemen's military command remains divided between his friends and foes. The former include a son and nephew who lead units that have received US aid to fight a Yemen-based wing of Al-Qaeda.

The US focus on those militants may brake a drive to restructure the military as part of a transition that sidelines Saleh and, its sponsors hope, will keep Yemen from sliding into chaos that empowers Al-Qaeda, some analysts and diplomats say.

Reforming the military – key to a deal Saudi Arabia brokered and America blessed to replace Saleh with his deputy – appears at most a longer-term priority for a US administration whose top negotiator with Yemen is its counter-terrorism chief.

"The deal created expectations of restructuring as a first step, a condition, for an overall political solution," said a Sana'a diplomat of the pact Saleh signed in November, intended to prevent renewed fighting between rival military units and tribal militias that followed a mass anti-Saleh uprising last year.

"But there is resistance to changing things quickly or in a single step. They (the Americans) understand this as a process which eventually reaches restructuring, so that their 'war-on-terrorism' objectives are not compromised."

Those objectives centre on Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), a force that includes members of cells who fled Saudi Arabia's 2003-2006 campaign against its own militant Islamists.

The United States accuses AQAP of plotting attacks abroad on Saudi and US targets. Last year a US drone strike killed Anwar Al-Awla-

“

**Officials in Hadi's office said in March that Saleh had demanded that the prime minister, Mohammed Basindawa, who represents opposition parties in the government, resign or face arrest for saying Saleh played a role in continuing violence. Officials in Hadi's office said in March that Saleh had demanded that the prime minister, Mohammed Basindawa, who represents opposition parties in the government, resign or face arrest for saying Saleh played a role in continuing violence.**

ki, a US citizen who American officials say directed a failed attempt to blow up a US airliner in 2009.

## Al-Qaeda peril

AQAP is seen as a potential menace to neighboring Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, and to sea lanes off Yemen used to supply large amounts of crude to Western markets.

For the United States, a united Yemeni military, free of the divisive political in-fighting seen during the struggle to oust Saleh, is regarded as crucial to the campaign against Al-Qaeda.

But while the transition plan's over-arching goal is a cohesive military under professional command answering to legitimate political leaders, its terms are crucially silent on the immediate fate of individuals, notably Saleh's relatives.

Saleh had granted the United States freedom to carry out attacks on suspected Al-Qaeda targets in Yemen, including a 2009 missile strike that killed dozens of civilians.

As Saleh's crackdown on protests intensified last year, his longtime ally General Ali Mohsen mutinied, taking with him the First Armoured Division, and Islamists calling themselves Ansar Al-Sharia took the first of a series of towns in south Yemen.

The ease of their advance led Saleh's foes to accuse him of secretly colluding with them, the better to convince Washington of a looming Al-Qaeda threat which only he could help counter.

As the United States is painfully aware, such murky dealings are not new in Yemen's complex politics nor unique to Saleh.

US counter-terrorism chief John Brennan has vowed US materiel will not be used for "internal political purposes" in a land where the ex-president seems keen to retain influence.

Brennan did not refer explicitly to Saleh's son and nephew, who command units that formerly received US backing and who complained during the uprising of a decline in such aid.

"Commanders have to understand that their mission is not to fight other military commanders, it's to fight the terrorists," Brennan told reporters in Sana'a before the one-candidate vote last month that replaced Saleh with Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

"Our advice, assistance and equipment is not going to those units that are not fighting Al-Qaeda."

That focus on counter-terrorism may have blinded US policymakers to its effects on the political transition that they, along with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a bloc of Yemen's richer neighbors, have sponsored, some analysts say.

## "No Yemen policy"

"This country (the United States) has a counter-terrorism policy and a Saudi policy, but no Yemen policy: Yemen is a theatre of counter-terrorism operations in the kingdom's backyard, not a place where a potentially democratic transition... might be occurring," said Sheila Carapico, a Yemen expert at the University of Richmond.

"This is why we sent Brennan to do a diplomat's job on the GCC plan. The American move... seems calibrated to keep the GCC happy and secure while escalating counter-terrorism in Yemen, not on any internal Yemeni dynamics," she said.

Asked for comment, a US State Department official in Washington said it was "critically important" to revamp the Yemeni armed forces if AQAP were to be neutralized.

"We are already helping the mili-

“

**The US focus on those militants may brake a drive to restructure the military as part of a transition that sidelines Saleh and, its sponsors hope, will keep Yemen from sliding into chaos that empowers Al-Qaeda, some analysts and diplomats say.**

tary undertake this task, but it is a difficult process that must be carefully planned."

"AQAP remains a dangerous terrorist organization and is a significant and continuing threat to Yemen, the region, and the United States. We continue to work closely with President Hadi and the Yemeni government to confront this mutual threat."

US officials renewed such pledg-

es of support after Hadi's inauguration, when an Al-Qaeda-linked group said it had carried out attacks in the south which more than 100 Yemeni troops were killed and their heavy weapons were captured.

But some Saleh loyalists read the US stance as keeping faith with military and security units where the former leader still enjoys influence that could survive any pro-

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**US counter-terrorism chief John Brennan has vowed US materiel will not be used for "internal political purposes" in a land where the ex-president seems keen to retain influence.**

posed shake-up.

"Whatever is done against the terrorists unites the armed forces," said Mohammed Shayaa, a retired general and director of Yemen's military academy during Saleh's rule. "As it succeeds, it restores credibility to the army."

## "Private citizen"

At the time of the vote, Brennan dismissed fears Saleh would exert power behind the scenes through relatives in the military and intelligence apparatus or his political party, which under the transition plan has joined opponents in a unity government meant to stabilize Yemen before elections in two years' time.

He described Saleh, who still heads his General People's Congress party, as a "private citizen" who "has been very supportive of this political transition."

Subsequent events have seemed at odds with his view.

Officials in Hadi's office said in March that Saleh had demanded that the prime minister, Mohammed Basindawa, who represents opposition parties in the government, resign or face arrest for saying Saleh played a role in continuing violence.

They said Hadi had threatened in turn to dissolve the government, in which Saleh's party holds half the ministries, in favor of one made up solely of opposition parties.

The opposition bloc – which agreed to grant Saleh immunity from prosecution under the power transfer plan – demands he give up his party leadership and that his relatives be stripped of their commanding roles in the military and security apparatus.

On March 25, Brennan called on "all Yemeni actors, especially those from the previous government", to support the transition, expressing "concern over recent reports that some former government officials are being disruptive."

The UN Security Council on Thursday said it was concerned about "the recent deterioration in cooperation among political actors and the risks this poses to the transition" in Yemen.

## SKETCHED OPINION

By Kamal Sharf



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## Aden's Marginalized Community (PART 3)

## Al-Shaibani Café: a platform for the black-skinned people

The Yemen Times presents the third part of a feature on the marginalized community in Aden known as the black-skinned people. The first two parts were published in issues no 1554 and 1555.

By: Muaad Al-Maqtari

The associations of black-skinned people in Aden do not have any offices in which to meet, or infrastructure to run their groups. They meet in Al-Shaibani café in the Al-Sheikh Othman district to hold a forum for their people, and hold discussions on the issues that affect them.

Last January, several activists from the community gathered at the uncovered café in the middle of the day to discuss the events in their neighborhoods and to provide updates on on-going issues.

"Powerful people looted the huts of the marginalized people in Al-Sharqia neighborhood in Dar Saad," said Yusuf Mohammad, who lives in Al-Mamdarh.

Discussions of criminal and environmental issues are always raised at the tables of the cafe. The marginalized people have several associations willing to adopt their cases. In most of the slums there is at least one association.

Among the most important associations are Shabab Al-Ahya Al-Shabia (Popular Neighborhoods) from the Al-Mimdarah neighborhood of Al-Sheikh Othman, Abna Al-Sharqia in Dar Saad, Al-Thalof in Crater, as well as other special-

ized associations such as the Al-Biah Shabab Club (Club of Environment Youth).

These associations work towards combating violence and terrorism, increasing the culture of human rights, and promoting development and charity activities. Their leaders admit that their work amid the marginalized people face many challenges.

Aseel Hasel, a fourth-year student at the department of social science and head of the Yemeni Youth Forum for Development, says that the lack of basic rights and awareness of volunteering activities limited what these associations could achieve.

He said that poverty and unemployment pose the largest challenges for the marginalized communities. To the extent that government authorities engage with the districts of Al-Sheikh Othman and Dar Saad, it is with a sense of contempt as most of their populations are from the marginalized community.

#### International ignorance

Chairman of Shabab Al-Ahya Al-Shabia Salah Association, Sami Dabwan, says that international organizations do not pay attention to the NGOs of marginalized people. He said that these local NGOs require help to perform their work. They are in need of training pro-



Black-skinned people in Aden meet in Al-Shaibani cafe in Al-Sheikh Othman district to hold a forum for their people.

grams and infrastructure to assist in supporting their people.

He added that these associations, that work to raise the issues

of black-skinned communities, face difficulty in preparing proposals in line with the standards required by international organizations. Dab-

wan said they lack qualified personnel, and that the culture of civil society work was not yet strong in the communities.

The collection of marginalized associations attempt to represent the social, economic and development needs of the black-skinned communities. However, international organizations such as the World Bank, UNICEF, Save the Children, UNFPA and UNDP pay no attention to the projects of these associations, and instead support organizations that have no connection to the marginalized communities, according to Dabwan.

"Racism and discrimination against the black-skinned people has moved from Yemeni communities and the government to the international organizations," said Saleh Hasel, a member of the Youth Forum for Development.

Every year the government is required to provide an official report about the condition of human rights in Yemen to the United Nations, in particular to the Human Rights Council. Civil society organizations prepare a shadow report about the same issues.

However, the shadow reports prepared by civil society organizations neglect the issues of the marginalized communities, who are particularly vulnerable to violations of their human rights, said Dabwan. The violations cover every aspect of decent living, including employment, accommodation, education, health and children's rights.

Salah Dabwan and Aseel both affirmed that the human rights organizations led by marginalized activists are excluded from participating in the creation of the shadow reports.



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# Yemen's lost opportunities in the carbon market

By: Muaad Al-Maqtari

The Yemen National Climate Change Forum (YNCCF) is the only interactive platform for climate change activists in Yemen, but it may save Yemen's lost opportunities in the world carbon market.

The YNCCF was announced on February 13, 2012 on the internet as a part of Yemen's endeavors to obtain financial assistance which the industrial countries are supposed to provide Yemen with in order to reduce greenhouse gases produced by human activities. The forum has a website which includes documents and studies that have been conducted to assess the impact of climate change on development in Yemen. In addition, the website contains some reports and national policies on the topic of climate change.

According to Walid Ahmed, a climate change specialist at the Poverty and Sustainable Development Unit of the UNDP, the YNCCF serves as a communication network for climate change-oriented parties including ministries, local communities, civil society organizations (CSOs), the media and academic circles that can engage in dialogue and exchange knowledge.

While the Yemen Environment Protection Authority's library is stacked with studies that reflect the world's escalating fears concerning global warming, the first and second national statements that calculated greenhouse gases in Yemen are the only Yemeni achievement in the field of climate change.

"The fact that information on climate," says Walid, "are being scattered and splintered among sectors like the water authority, the Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (CAMA), and agricultural information centers, was the reason behind setting up the YNCCF as a

joint endeavor between the UNDP and the climate unit at EPA."

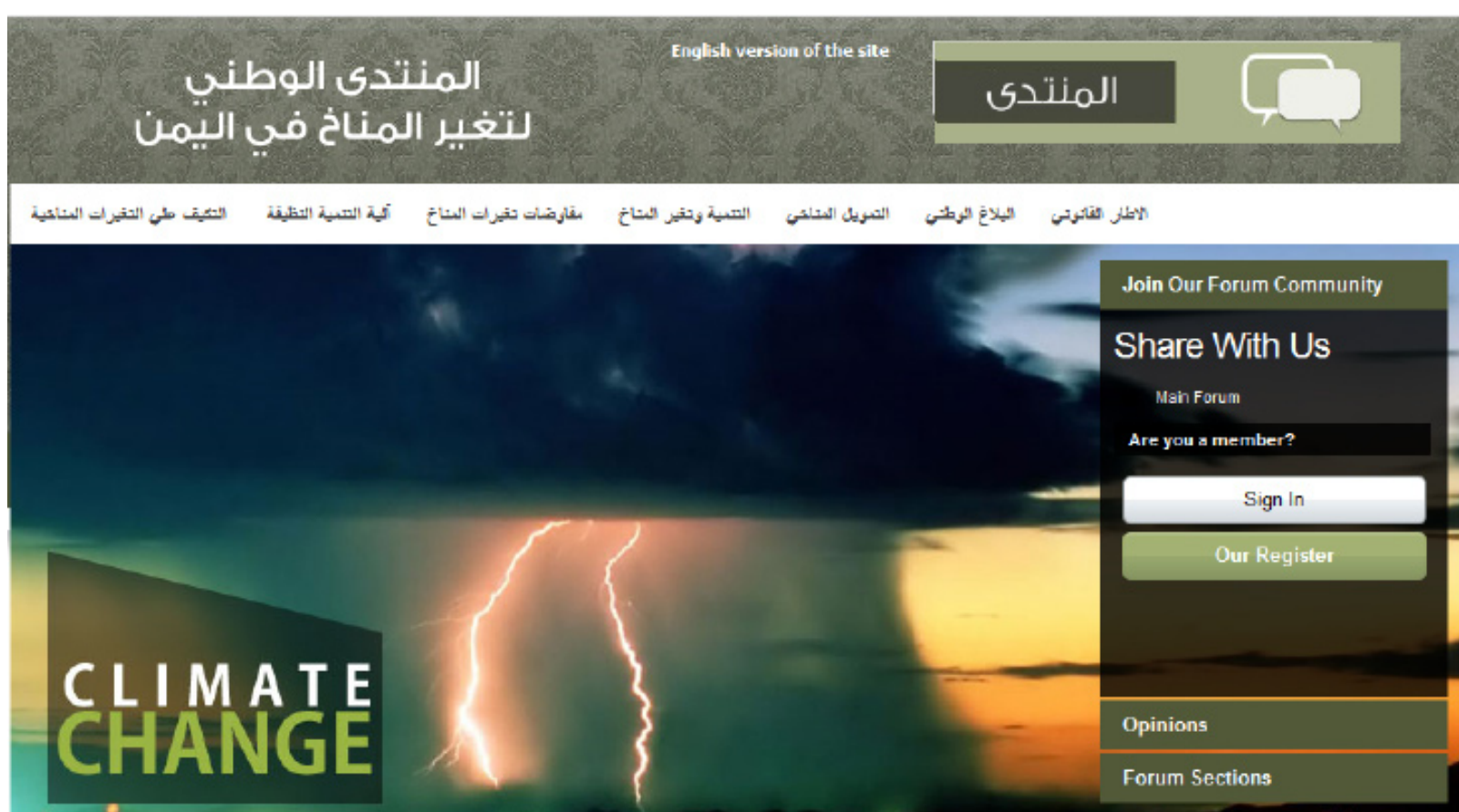
Walid expects the forum to increase chances for an extensive national dialogue among parties concerned with climate change.

Awareness of climate change impact on development in Yemen has improved. There are now studies that require investigation of all aspects of climate issues in Yemen such as an obligatory study on the impact of climate change on public health, issues of deforestation, land deterioration, etc. Such studies also require completion of the above issues that have not been entirely covered during the previous phase of climate change over the last fifteen years.

The statements mentioned above indicate that the greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, nitrous oxide) in the Republic of Yemen emitted by all sectors are about 18,709 equivalent gigagrams. Because about 10,513 equivalent Gg of these gases are absorbed by forests and vegetation, only 8,195 equivalent Gg are left as the net greenhouse emissions in Yemen. This amount is relatively insignificant compared to the total warming emissions produced by human activities in the whole world.

Over the fifty past years, climate scientists came to realize that the high levels of greenhouse gases emitted as a result of human activities were beginning to cause climate change. Climatic monitoring has shown that temperature has risen by 60C in the last century.

Predicted climatic scenarios indicate that global temperature will rise by 1.4-5.80C in the coming century should the warm gas emissions stay at the rate they have kept for thousands of years (this doesn't make sense). Such an increase will be much larger than any climate change occurring in the past ten thousand years. However, humans



The YNCCF is the only interactive platform for climate change activists in Yemen

have had their impact on the levels of emissions by creating new sources of gases and by tampering with their natural sources.

Studies issued by EPA (Environmental Protection Agency?) expect that sea levels in Aden, Hodeidah and Mukalla will increase by 88-100 centimeters by 2100 as a result of a rise in temperature. This will result in flooding in lowlands and the disappearance of many islands and low coastal areas.

#### Yemen in the carbon market

Yemen has participated in all international efforts and is party to conventions relating to climate change. Nevertheless, it has stopped short of

joining the carbon market, which is the great revelation of international endeavors and obligations towards climate change. In this market, the countries that have managed to reduce their emissions in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol should sell their "reduction cards" to industrial countries that are the main source of global warming.

In 2010 Yemen shifted from diesel to liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a means to produce power, the same year Yemen led the G-77 (a loose coalition of developing nations, designed to promote its members' collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations - Wikipedia) and China during the annual meeting of countries that are parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

Although Yemen has succeeded in reducing its gas emissions by moving from diesel to natural gas, it could not sell its emission reduction card to any major industrial countries.

Meanwhile, Safer Gas Company plans to inject gaseous emissions into the ground to prevent their rising up as warming emissions. According to Walid Ahmed, EPA has persuaded Safer to register with an international company that specializes in measuring the reduction of warming gases resulting from the gas injection process.

The purpose of any company intending to register with such an international emission measuring

company is to have a carbon certificate recognized by the climate change framework countries. This is the same certificate that is later sold on the carbon market.

For instance, Yemen has man-

tial dollars by stalling in joining the carbon market.

Anwar Abdul Aziz, chairman of the climate unit at EPA, says that limiting or reducing emissions is an obligation of all concerned parties



Walid Ahmed

aged to reduce its emissions by 10,000 Gg, which is the same quantity that the Netherlands needs to reduce according to its obligations to the countries that are party to climate conventions. In this case, the Netherlands should buy Yemen's reduction share as a part of the former's obligation fulfillment. This is known as the carbon market.

Walid Ahmed believes that Yemen has wasted billions of poten-

rather than its being the responsibility of any single agency.

"If we fail to pull this off," continues Anwar, "our country will not only be deprived of the financial benefits, but may also face questioning and payment of fines for emissions." He adds that the YNCCF is a significant interactive platform that can draw the world's attention to the necessity of supporting Yemen in this field in addition to its being a database of what has been achieved so far.

#### Climate treaties

In 1997 a number of countries signed the Kyoto Protocol as an executive procedure to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or FCCC. The latter is an international environmental convention that was first introduced during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro from June 3-14, 1992.

The Kyoto Protocol also includes one of the most important clauses for Yemen, the Clean Development Mechanism. This clause requires the transfer of environmentally friendly industrial development technology from major industrialized countries to smaller developing countries, with the aim of keeping their greenhouse gas emission levels low as they grow.

According to Walid Ahmed, the Yemen National Climate Change Forum actively seeks cooperation with Yemen's authorities in the hope of calling major industrial countries to implement the Kyoto Protocol's requirements that they transfer clean development technology to Yemen.

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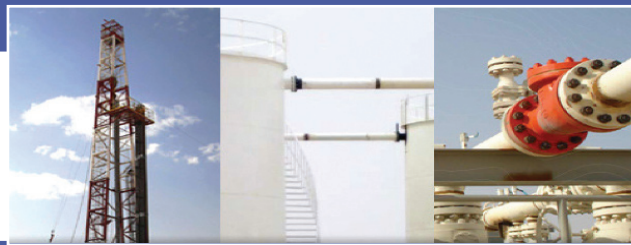
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- Perform general clerical duties to include, but not limited to, bookkeeping, copying, faxing, mailing and filing.
- May conduct research, compile data and prepare papers for consideration and presentation to the General Manger and staff.
- Set up and coordinate meetings and conferences.
- Prepare agendas and make arrangements for committee, Board or other meetings.
- Attend Board, committee meetings or other meetings as requested in order to record minutes.
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- Support staff in assigned projects-based work.
- Other duties as assigned by the General Manger.

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- At least five (5) years experience in general office responsibilities and procedures.
- Must be computer literate.
- Knowledge of principles and practice of basic office management and organization.
- Knowledge of the basic principles and practices of bookkeeping.
- Ability to work well either alone or as a part of a team.

## HR Assistant

**Location:** Sana'a Main Office

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Process, verify, and maintain personnel related documentation, including staffing, recruitment, training, grievances, performance evaluations, classifications, sick leave and employee leaves of absence.
- Examine employee files to answer inquiries and provide information for personnel actions.
- Arrange for advertising or posting of job vacancies, and notify eligible workers of position availability
- Review time sheets, work charts, wage computation, and other information to detect and reconcile
- Payroll discrepancies.
- Process paperwork for new employees and enter employee information into the HRM software system.
- Verify attendance, hours worked, and pay adjustments, and post information onto designated records.

### EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

- B.A in related subject or 3 years experience in administration positions
- Well developed communication and interpersonal skills, strong organizational.
- Ability to work in a flexible team environment
- Strong computer skills using Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Ability to communicate in both English and Arabic

## Operator

**Location:** Field Based  
**Department:** Production Operations  
**Years of Experience:** 2-5

### GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:

As an operator you will be responsible for various areas of Oil and Gas production operations as directed by your direct supervisor. These operations could range from being an operator's assistant to being responsible for the operations of the Central Production Facility. Duties and responsibilities are expected to increase with level of experience, training received and proficiencies demonstrated at the work site.

### SPECIFIC JOB DUTIES:

- All the duties of a Junior Operator with further emphasis being placed on facility operations under the supervision of the production facility supervisor.
- In cooperation with field operations, carry out well testing and reporting.
- Record and report facility operation parameters as required.
- Monitor and manage tank farm operations.
- Carry out truck loading and unloading operations including all required documentation.
- Monitor and adjust parameters as required for the proper operation of all production separators, pumps, compressors and tanks within the production facility.
- Daily checks and minor maintenance of power generation and utilities within the production facility.
- Preparation of preliminary daily production reports for facility supervisor review.
- Assist the facility supervisor with the mentoring and training of junior operators.
- Ensure all operations are carried out in compliance with existing HSE and Corporate Policies.

### EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND PRE-REQUISITES:

- Bachelor's Degree in Petroleum Engineering, Geology or Mechanical Engineering.
- Other Bachelor degrees may be considered in conjunction with appropriate work experience.

- High School plus 2 years of formal training leading to a diploma in Oil Production Operations or equivalent.
- Should have a basic knowledge of Safety in the Petroleum Industry.
- Should have the ability to use a computer. Skills in the Microsoft Office Suite are an asset.
- Must be able to read and write in English and be willing to take further training in English skills.
- Must have a valid driver's license.

### WORKING CONDITIONS:

- These positions are based in Hadramout Governorate and employees will stay in a camp located on either Block 9 or Block 51.
- These positions are worked on a rotational schedule of 35 days on and 35 days off.
- These positions are both day and night shift.

## ELECTRICIAN

**Location:** Field Based  
**Department:** Maintenance and Construction  
**Years of Experience:** 2

### GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:

As an industrial level electrician you will report to the maintenance supervisor and be responsible for carrying out and required maintenance work on the existing electrical systems which includes, single phase residential, 3 phase industrial, diesel powered generators, transformers, power distribution, variable frequency drives, electric motors and air conditioning systems.

### SPECIFIC JOB DUTIES:

- Be able to read and write electrical drawings and blue prints.
- Maintain and troubleshoot three phase low and medium voltage electrical power generation and distribution systems.
- Maintain and troubleshoot air conditioning systems.
- Repair and Maintenance of street lights.
- Repair and Maintenance of residential type power systems.
- Repair and Maintenance of existing ground beds.
- Maintain and troubleshoot a cathodic protection system.
- Repair and maintenance of single phase and three phase electrical motors in explosion proof industrial applications.
- Regular maintenance on cables, cable tray, junction boxes etc...
- Maintain and troubleshoot variable speed drives and motor starters.
- Assist with and carry out new electrical system installations as required.
- Generate reports outlining maintenance and construction activities as required by your supervisor.
- Must be willing to work as a team member to achieve team targets and objectives.
- Ensure all operations are carried out in compliance with existing HSE and Corporate Policies.

### EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND PRE-REQUISITES:

- Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering or equivalent program.
- Minimum 2 years experience working in an industrial or oil and gas operation.
- Should have a basic knowledge of Safety in the Petroleum Industry.
- Should have the ability to use a computer. Skills in the Microsoft Office Suite are an asset.
- Must be able to read and write in English and be willing to take further training in English skills.
- Must have a valid driver's license.

### WORKING CONDITIONS:

- These positions are based in Hadramout Governorate and employees will stay in a camp located on either Block 9 or Block 51.
- These positions are worked on a rotational schedule of 35 days on and 35 days off.

## Completion Supervisor

**Location:** Field Based  
**Department:** Drilling

### JOB DESCRIPTION

- The Wellsite Completion Supervisor should have a BSc engineering degree, with at least 10 years of completion supervision experience, preferably in multidiscipline operations in upper completion, sandface completion, stimulation and workover experience.
- Self starter, who can work independently with little or no supervision
- Familiar with well stimulation (ACID), familiar with Down hole Tools but not limited to e.g. inflate packers – Mechanical & Hydraulic inflate / E.S.P's Permanent & Retrievable Bridge Plugs. Casing Perforating
- Hold a Valid Completion Supervisor's Well Control Certificate.

### GENERAL

- The Wellsite Completion Supervisor has overall completion equipment QA/QC and installation responsibilities (including upper completion, and sandface completion). Provides QHSE and operations leadership in the execution of completion program.
- Reports directly to the Well Supervisor on the rig; reports to Well Superintendent and Senior Completion Engineer on equipment QA/QC and inspection in segment base.
- May have Wellsite Engineers and Well Operation Specialists reporting to him/her and acts as a mentor at the wellsite.
- Interacts with client wellsite representative, client Geologist and Reservoir Engineer, Drilling Contractor Supervisors, Service Company Engineers, and Material Coordinator.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsible for completion equipment QA/QC.
- Conducts completion equipment inspection.
- Leader of the wellsite completion operation with overall responsibility for conducting well completion operations in a safe and efficient manner.
- Ensures compliance with Company Policies and standards.
- Participates in safety meetings.
- Leads service company completion pre-job safety meetings to ensure good communication.
- Identifies high risk situations, document them, and adopts risk mitigation using tools such as HARC, JSA
- Implements the application of the Permit-To-Work System at the rig site
- Assures the issuing and dissemination among the rigsite personnel of all Emergency Response Plans to handle unscheduled events should they occur
- Participates in completion related HSE and SQ event investigations and reporting as required.

### PLANNING AND OPERATIONS

- Coordinates well completion operations with Drilling Contractor, Company Segments and Third Parties to ensure compliance with work programs, standards, project procedures and contract requirements.
- Participates in CWOP (Complete Well on Paper), DWOP (Drilling Well on Paper) and DTL (Drilling The Limit) workshops and meetings
- Prepares 24-hour look ahead document with Wellsite Supervisors.
- Attends Daily planning meeting with Wellsite Supervisors and the Rig Supervisors.
- Help Wellsite Supervisor in issuing Written Instructions to Drillers for each tour based on well program highlighting potential risks such as perforation operation, losses and kicks after perforation.
- Prepares detailed procedures for specific well completion operations (running sand control, upper completion, etc.).
- Witnesses and ensures all depth correlations are correct.
- Attends the rig floor to superviscritical activities such as (but not limited to) landing, packer setting, tubing testing and pumping, etc
- Verifies adherence to instructions and procedures.
- Organizes completion pre-job meeting (Operations and safety).
- Maintains "7 day planner" to anticipate resource requirements to meet well demands and provide optimum efficiency of services including contingency plans.
- Prepares Standard Equipment Lists (if applicable) in a timely manner for each phase of the well.
- Ensures Material Requests are issued in a timely manner to avoid disruption of operation.
- Responsible for checking equipment on site to ensure readiness (QA/QC)
- Manages proper inventory of completion equipment and materials.
- Updates log book. Ensures adequate handover to his relief.

### COMMUNICATION:

- Prepares/approves accurate Daily Completion Report with input from rig contractor and service company personnel in a timely manner
- Prepares/approves daily completion cost estimate
- Discusses Company morning report with Wellsite Supervisors and Rig Supervisors.
- Discusses Material Requests with Material Coordinator daily
- Documents within 24 hours any failure or incident report (in QUEST where access possible)
- Discusses program changes with project team being proactive in improvement suggestions
- Initiates the Management of Change (MOC) process when required and communicates the issue to the Drilling Superintendent and /or Senior Completion Engineer.
- Ensures implementation and proper use of knowledge management tools and systems i.e. InTouch.

### TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Mentors junior staff at the wellsite
- Other drills e.g. emergency response as required

### SKILLS

- Leadership
- Team Development
- Task Oriented
- Mentorship
- Forward Looking Problem Solving
- Communication skills
- Deductive Reasoning
- Energy Level and Stress Management
- skills in the Microsoft Office Suite of programs
- Current references and work history outlining the types of rigs and wells worked on must be submitted with your CV.
- This position is worked on a rotational schedule of 35 days on and 35 days off.

## Warehouse Technician

**Location:** Field Based  
**Department:** Logistics  
**Years of Experience:** 0

### GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:

As a warehouse technician you will be responsible for movement of materials in and out of the warehouse and storage yard as directed by the warehouse supervisor.

### SPECIFIC JOB DUTIES:

- Load and unload trucks as required for the movement of materials in and out of the warehouse or storage yards.
- Fill out required paperwork for the tracking of material movements to be submitted to the warehouse supervisor.
- Take part in inventory process and cycle counts to ensure accuracy of inventory levels.
- General housekeeping of the warehouse and storage yards.
- Potential operation of a forklift as part of the warehouse operations.
- Must be willing to work as a team member to achieve team targets and objectives.
- Ensure all operations are carried out in compliance with existing HSE and Corporate Policies.

### EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND PRE-REQUISITES:

- Completion of Secondary School.
- Physically fit as this job will require the ability to lift and place materials within the warehouse.
- Any training as a Forklift operator would be an asset.
- Should have a basic knowledge of Safety in the Petroleum Industry.
- Should have the ability to use a computer. Skills in the Microsoft Office Suite are an asset.
- Must be able to read and write in English and be willing to take further training in English skills.
- Must have a valid driver's license.

### WORKING CONDITIONS:

- These positions are based in Hadramout Governorate and employees will stay in a camp located on either Block 9 or Block 51.
- These positions are worked on a rotational schedule of 35 days on and 35 days off.

Interested applicants should send their CV's with a covering letter to the following email address [jobs@calvalleyyemen.com](mailto:jobs@calvalleyyemen.com) (Please write the title of the post you are applying for in the subject box). The closing date for all positions is April. 15th, 2012. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

# Anisa Tarboosh: Battling Women's Poverty in Aden



Tarboosh trains hundreds of poor women in sewing, and provides them with raw materials to make creative handicrafts.

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Anisa Tarboosh is one of the most prominent women in Aden governorate, renowned for playing a vital role in the fight against poverty and supporting deprived women in her city.

Over the last 40 years, Mrs. Tarboosh has been tireless in her ef-

forts to improve the economic situation in her home city.

In 1974, she started working in Aden's Textile Factory, where she held different positions, but in 1990, the factory closed.

"We had to stay at home without salaries for years," she said, in reference to laid-off workers from the Textile Factory.

Later in 2001, Tarboosh decided to take out a loan from Aden Micro-

finance Foundation (AMF) to start her small business venture. Though she received only YR 20,000 (less than US\$ 100), yet this soft loan has paved the way for her unexpected yet considerable success.

She took maximum advantage of the small amount of money and bought mirrors, hair dryers, and chairs to start a hairdressing salon in her home.

"Because I was renowned as a skilled hairdresser, I was easily able to collect money and expand my

business projects," said Mrs. Tarboosh.

One year later, Tarboosh received YR 60,000 from the AMF as a second loan to expand her project. She bought more chairs and equipment to develop her hairdressing business.

The Aden Microfinance Foundation was amazed by Mrs. Tarboosh's honesty and ambition and granted her YR 80,000 as a third loan.

"I bought sewing machines and more cosmetics to improve my business's capacity. I also rented wedding dresses during the wedding seasons and began sewing children's clothes," she recalled.

After the success of her projects, she obtained more loans from the AMF and her profits multiplied.

She has since built a workshop and hired dozens of people, including those with disabilities.

As a result of her reputable workshops, she has won several contract bids with clothing companies that helped her expand her projects and hire more poor and disenfranchised people.

"I even urged my sons and daughters to take out loans to start their own projects," she said.

In 2011, Mrs. Tarboosh established Sewing and Development Services Association, and over the course of one year, she has trained more than 300 poor women in sewing. Moreover, she provided those trainees with sewing machines to begin their own small projects.

Mrs. Tarboosh has expanded her activities to include using recycled plastic and metal containers to make accessories and handicrafts.

Four months ago, Mrs. Tarboosh received YR 500,000 (US\$ 2,400) from the AMF to upgrade her business activities further still.

"The AMF is my home. It enabled me to go from zero to a successful business woman and social activist," she said.

"Unfortunately, after 35 years of hard work with the government, they haven't given me even a certificate of appreciation, while the AMF transformed me into a thriving woman, honored me several times, and provided me with dif-

ferent training courses over the last few years," she said.

Mrs. Tarboosh stressed the importance of establishing microfinance foundations to help poor people establish businesses, praising the Aden Microfinance Foundation for supporting her.

In addition to her economic activism in Aden, Mrs. Tarboosh is considered a legal, political and union activist. What's more, she was named a pioneer in the field of occupational safety and honored by World Health Organization's regional office in Alexandria. She has received trainings in the field of occupational safety in Russia, China, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Egypt and Syria.

Currently, Mrs. Tarboosh brings street children together to play in a playground called Safe Spaces, while she provides their mothers with sewing training.

Over the last few years, she has provided hundreds of deprived women with raw materials and trained them how to use the materials to make creative handicrafts. Furthermore, she has helped them sell their finished products.

"She doesn't think only about expansion of her own projects but she considers other poor people who have no chance to work or build small projects," said Rana Al-Salami, executive manager of the Aden Microfinance Foundation.

Al-Salami told the Yemen Times that Tarboosh is a model of efficiency and commitment.

"Her determination and ambition have enabled her to expand her ventures," said Al-Salami. "The government and donors should support such aspiring women who have a serious intention to end poverty and build their country's economy."



## Invitation for Expression of Interest

The World Bank Office in Sana'a is inviting **qualified travel agents** to express their interest in providing the following services: international and domestic ticketing, car rent, travel insurance when needed, hotel booking, visa processing on need basis, arrangement of chartered flights in exceptional situations.

Travel agencies are requested to submit their Expression of Interest in **sealed envelopes clearly marked "Travel Services"** no later than April 30, 2012:

**Office Manager  
World Bank Office**  
Moevenpick Hotel, Room 722  
Berlin Street, Dhahr Hemiar  
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

The package should include: (i) agency profile, (ii) copy of commercial license (iii) three verifiable references from corporate clients.

**Applications not complying with the above requirements or applications received by fax/e-mail will not be considered. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.**



Tarboosh instructs women in a sewing and handicraft workshop



Tarboosh works in her Sewing and Development Services Association cooperative shop

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Coffee Break... A banner for the puzzle section featuring a coffee cup and the text 'Coffee Break'.

Crossword... A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 22 indicating starting positions for clues.

ACROSS... 6. Report (7) 7. Sacred book of Islam (5) 9. Serious (5) 10. By means of (7) 12. Refuse to give up (5,3,3) 14. End of a close race (5-6) 18. W. Indian dance (7) 19. Thread (5) 21. Fringed plants (5) 22. Erased (7)

Sudoku Easy... A 9x9 grid for an easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers pre-filled.

Sudoku Intermediate... A 9x9 grid for an intermediate Sudoku puzzle with some numbers pre-filled.

Sudoku Difficult... A 9x9 grid for a difficult Sudoku puzzle with some numbers pre-filled.

Chess... A chessboard with pieces in their starting positions, labeled with algebraic notation (a-h, 1-8).

Solutions... Chess: Rg7+... Sudok... A grid of numbers representing the solutions for the Sudoku puzzles.

## Arab Idol star arrives to a red carpet reception in hometown Cairo

By: Rehab Mohse & Sami Khalifa  
First Published 29 March

Fans and journalists flocked to Cairo Airport to welcome the winner of the first season of MBC Arab Idol talent show, Egyptian singer Carmen Suleiman.

Suleiman, who beat Moroccan singer Donia Batma in the semi-finals, won first place after reaping the largest number of viewers' votes.

She was also received by her family and close friends who came to congratulate her on a much awaited victory.

After a three-month absence, Suleiman burst into tears as she saw the warm reception awaiting her upon her arrival in Cairo.

"I did not expect to get such an amazing reception and the Egyptian flag is the best gift I received at the airport," she told Al-Arabiya.

She also expressed how honored



she is to win the title Arab Idol, yet admitted that her victory was quite a surprise.

"Even though I trusted my fans and all Egyptians, I did not expect to win."

When asked about her future plans, Suleiman said she is planning to focus on her high school studies so that she can go to college.

"I will join the Music Institute in order to support my singing career with academic studies. This was my father's advice."

Suleiman said she hoped that she would be a singer for life and that she could one day become as successful as her role model, Egyptian singer Sherine Abdel Wahab.

"I hope to sing my first duet with her; she is my favorite."

Suleiman said that though she likes acting and loves being in front of the camera, she prefers singing.

"However, I would rather postpone decisions related to acting, but I do believe you can be successful in both acting and singing like

many famous Egyptian stars."

Suleiman said she was also touched by the numerous congratulatory messages she received from Egyptian and Arab audiences as well as from famous Egyptian singers on the social networking website Facebook.

She thanked all the people who supported her from Egypt and the Arab world.

"I am especially grateful for the campaign Egyptians launched to support me and for the encouraging feedback I got when I was in Lebanon from Egyptian and Arab journalists."

Suleiman said she signed a contract with Platinum Records, which she said she trusts a lot with her career, to produce her music albums.

"I promise my listeners the best music and to live up to their expectations as soon as I finish high school," she said.

Source: Alarabiya.net

## British judge tells Muslim juror 'remove your veil'

By: Eman El-Shenawi

A British judge barred a Muslim woman from serving on a jury in London on Monday after she refused to remove her face veil, or niqab.

Judge Aidan Marron QC said he needed to see her facial expressions and could not sit on an attempted murder trial unless she removed it, the Daily Mail reported.

Before the woman was about to take the oath in the case, Judge Marron said: "I wonder whether I can address the lady who is veiled. Would you prefer not to remove your veil in this particular case?"

The woman, who was wearing western clothing including a fitted grey jacket according to the newspaper, replied: "Yes."

Judge Marron then said: "I entirely understand that, but in this particular case it is desirable that your face is exposed, so I'm going to invite you to stand down. I hope you understand."

The report claims that a white male member of the jury pool was then sworn in in the woman's place



A Muslim woman was barred from her jury duty after refusing to take off her face veil.

clude someone on the basis of the way that they dress... It's very worrying that a judge is being prejudiced against women wearing a veil."

The Daily Mail notes that UK guidelines state that "veils can be worn in court although senior judges should decide

after she was told to stand down.

But the ruling, which was the first of its kind, drew criticism from a Muslim UK-based rights group.

"This is totally unacceptable. I really can't understand why facial expressions could have any impact on the judge, the judgment or anyone else in a trial. It has no relevance," Massoud Shadjareh, chairman of the Islamic Human Rights Commission, told the newspaper.

"I'm speechless that you can ex-

on a case-by-case basis."

The incident reminded many of when a Muslim female juror in Britain in 2007 was accused of listening to a hidden stereo under her headscarf.

But she was cleared of a contempt of court charge when the Attorney General's office ruled there was insufficient evidence.

Source: Alarabiya.net

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