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Houthi-Salafi confrontations renewed in Sa'ada

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, April 22 — Ten people were killed and two others wounded in bloody confrontations took place on Saturday between Houthi armed men and four students of Dar Al-Hadeeth Salafi School in the Dammaj area of Sa'ada.

The Salafis claimed that four of them were killed, along with six Houthis killed and two wounded, which the Houthis denied.

"Four students of Dar Al-Hadeeth School were stopped by the Houthis at checkpoint belong to the Houthis, approximately 500 meters away from the house of Faris Mana'a,

the governor of Sa'ada, in Rahban area in Sa'ada city," according to a prominent Salafi leader in Dar Al-Hadeeth, requesting anonymity.

"The four students were on their way to Sa'ada's court to sign a marriage contract involving Abdulnoor Al-Baidani, a Salafi student at Dar al-Hadeeth, who was married recently to a girl in Dammaj [a hometown for 25,000 Salafis in Sada]," he said.

"The Houthi armed men tried to take the students' rifles but they refused. So the Houthis shot at them. Though the students escaped to Sheikh Shwait's house, located nearby, no one helped them," he added.

"A Houthi-Salafi agreement led by Sheikh Hussein Al-Ahmar stated that no one would stop students from Dar Al-Hadeeth, check them, disturb them or take their guns, wherever they are," he said.

The Salafi leader in Dammaj accused the Houthis of breaking the truce agreement.

"However, the Houthis broke this agreement and took the students' guns. They collected 500 armed men of their supporters quickly to prevent any mediation to release the students before being killed," the sheikh continued.

"We didn't retaliate but instead we conveyed the issue to Sheikh Al-Ahmar and several other sheikhs, who asked us not to fight the Houthis and promised to arbitrate the matter," he said.

"The sheikhs will solve the matter according to Yemeni tribal customs. They demanded that we send the guns, according to Yemeni trib-



Armed men of the Houthis have their own security checkpoints throughout Sa'ada. They killed on Saturday four Salafi students at one of their checkpoints in Sa'ada city.

al traditions where both aggrieved parties have to send guns to the sheikhs as a sign of good will. They [the guns] are given back to each party after solving the problem," the sheikh concluded.

"Four of our men, who were protecting the Rahban area in Sa'ada, were killed and two others wounded," Sheikh Saleh Habra, a leader of the Houthis, told the Yemen Times. Habra for his part accused the Salafis in Dammaj of provoking the conflict again.

"Though we followed the terms of the agreement headed by Sheikh Hussein Al-Ahmar between us and people in the Dammaj area, some Salafis are still trying to bring us into conflict with them," he said.

The sectarian battles which erupted in November 2011 and continued until late December was ceased in line with truce agreement brokered by Sheikh, Hussein Al-Ahmar, an influential tribal leader in Amran, south Sa'ada.

"What is going on in the Dammaj area is a mere sectarian conflict and the continuing of such conflicts will cause a sectarian war nationwide, reported China's Xinhua News Agency, by way of Yemeni researchers.

There are mutual accusations between Houthis and Salafi leaders of Dammaj of instigating sectarian violence in Sa'ada governorate.

Dar Al-Hadeeth Quranic school in Dammaj was established in the

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Dr. Yahya Al-Shaibi to the Yemen Times:

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Read full interview on pages: 5 & 6



الدكتور يحيى الشعيبي في حوار مع اليمن تايمز "لاعتقد أن حكومة اليوم جادة بدليل البطء في اتخاذ القرارات رغم ضيق الوقت."

نص المقابلة كاملة باللغة العربية - الصفحة السادسة و السابعة

1980s by the religious leader Sheikh Moqbel Al-Wadie and is considered the biggest Salafi school in Yemen.

Now Sheikh Yahia Al-Hajoori is the head of Dar Al-Hadeeth. There are an estimated 7,000 students in Dar Al-Hadeeth of different nationalities and 2,500 families live around the school.

The Houthis are known for their relationship to Zaydism. Their former leader, Houssein Al-Houthi, was killed in 2004 during the first round of the war between the Houthis and the Yemeni army. They have been through six wars with the central government, the last one

ending in 2010.

The Houthis accuse Dar Al-Hadeeth's leaders of opposing Yemen's youth revolution.

According to Mohammed Abdulsalam, the Houthis' spokesman, there was no conflict between the Houthis and other religious groups prior to the Salafis creating conflict in Sa'ada governorate.

Yet, according to one of the Salafi leaders in Dar Al-Hadeeth school, what is happening in Sa'ada is a result of the grudge the Houthis bear the Salafis, enforced by their Shiite views along with their political ambitions to rule the country.

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Saudi and Iran exchange accusations over Somali military recruitment in Yemen

By: Muaad Al-Maqtari

SANA'A, April 22 – The flow of African refugees in Yemen, in particular Somalis, has sparked a wave of accusations between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Iranian and Saudi media outlets have accused each other's countries of recruiting Somalis who flow into Yemen as fighters.

The Iranian military-run Fars News Agency (FNA) said last Thursday that 1,300 Somali refugees were transferred to Saudi Arabia to be militarily trained. They claimed that this is part of a Saudi plan to train hundreds of Somalis to fight the Houthis in Sa'ada, north Yemen.

The Tehran based news agency also said that the US government is involved in preparations of a plan to counter the Shiite Islamists in Ye-

men.

"Saudi Arabia uses Somalis to fight the Houthis in north Yemen, and they are trained in Saudi military bases who take advantage of Somalis who infiltrate into Saudi Arabia through trafficking. They are trained to fight on behalf of them," FNA said.

The Saudi Al-Sharq, a Riyadh based newspaper posted a prolonged interview with a Saudi analyst, Ali Al-Twati, who spoke about the consequences of Yemen's turbulence on the Gulf's security.

Al-Twati affirmed that there are superpowers such as Iran that insist on provoking tensions in the region, in particular in Yemen, to have political and sectarian influence.

He said that Al-Qaeda in Yemen depends on military supplies that are provided via the Arabian Sea,

pointing out that Iran is involved in providing this support to ignite chaos in the Gulf.

He cited that Somalia is no less dangerous than Abyan, and that Al-Qaeda militants gathered there. He claimed that a number of Somali militants were captured while they were fighting with the Houthis in the latest war between the Yemeni government and the Houthis.

A Somali news website, Somalia Today, expressed concerns about the possible consequences for Somalis as a result of quasi-official accusations between Riyadh and Tehran.

In an analysis posted on the website on Thursday, Somalia Today expressed concerns about news recently posted by the Iranian military, indicating that innocent Somalis will be affected as a result of

the news.

It further said that Somalis were previously killed owing to rumors and reports that falsely stated that Somalis had fought on the side of the former president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

On the Yemeni side, a meeting was held last Saturday to discuss the flow of Somali refugees in Yemen.

The meeting was held in the headquarters of the Foreign Affairs Ministry in the capital Sana'a with the attendance of the Minister for Human Rights, Huria Mashoor, deputy minister of the Foreign Ministry for Refuge Affairs, Ali Muthna Hassan and the representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR in Yemen), Naveed Hussain.

It discussed the flow of Somalis who come to fight with Al-Qaeda as

well as the consequences of that on Yemen.

The Yemeni Interior Ministry said on its website that smuggling boats landed 234 Africans on the coast of Shabwa, on the Arabian Sea, and off the coast of Taiz on the Red Sea. The boats managed to escape, according to the Ministry of Interior.

The Yemeni security services said on Friday that among the African arrivals were 60 women and 34

children, and that 195 of the Africans were from Somalia with the remainder from Ethiopia.

They indicated that 158 of the Africans landed on the Dhubab coast of Taiz, and the other 76 landed on the coasts of Shabwa governorate.

The security services said that they sent the refugees coming from the Horn of Africa to the main camp of refugees located in the Kharaz area of Lahj governorate.

Yemeni fishing boat freed from pirates

By: Ali Saeed

AL-MAHRA, April 22 – Forces of the Yemeni Coast Guard, in coordination with Spanish Naval Forces in the Gulf of Aden, freed a Yemeni fishing boat from Somali pirates on Friday, 42 miles off the coast of Al-Mahra governorate, south of the port of Nashtun.

The boat, which was abducted by Somali pirates on March 26, has been returned to its owner in Al-Mahra, after being brought in to the port of Nashtun. Shuja'a Mahdi, commander of Yemeni Coast Guard Operations, told the Yemen Times on Saturday.

He explained that, "The Yemeni Coast Guard is preparing to attack pirates inside Yemen's regional and economic waters, who are primarily at large during this season, as the sea is quiet and fishermen are there in large numbers."

He added that the Somali pirates



Only one boat has been so far released of ten others still in abduction by the Somali pirates since January, 2012.

utilize the calm waters to attack Yemeni fishermen and commercial ships from all directions with small boats.

In the last four months, Somali pirates have hijacked approximately ten Yemeni fishing boats in differ-

ent locations, including the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea and around the island of Socotra, according to Yemeni Coast Guard officials.

"Only one of the hijacked boats has been rescued so far, and the others are still with the pirates,"

said Mahdi.

He indicated that Yemeni fishermen do not abide by safety measures, and often fish in Somali regional waters, which are some of the richest with fish, but are highly vulnerable to piracy.

"We educated Yemeni fishermen on security and safety measures and told them not to enter Somali regional waters," said Mahdi.

He added that Yemen's Coast Guard also exchanges information on piracy with international naval forces in the Gulf of Aden in order to reduce attacks against Yemeni fishermen and commercial ships.

The Yemeni Coast Guard, which was established in 2003 and is run by the Ministry of Interior, still lacks sophisticated ships that can sail beyond Yemen's economic and regional waters, in order to combat Somali pirates who mostly operate outside Yemen's home waters, according to Yemeni Coast Guard.

Al-Zandani calls on militant groups to renounce violence, engage in dialogue

By: Mohammed Al-Samei

SANA'A, April 22 – Abdulmajeed Al-Zandani, a prominent Yemeni cleric and a leading Islah party figure, called on militant groups on Friday to renounce violence and to participate in the upcoming national dialogue due to kick off before long, as maintained by the GCC-brokered power transfer deal.

In an interview with the daily newspaper Akhbar Al-Youm, Al-Zandani said "If these groups refuse to renounce violence, then the government and the Yemeni people should take decisive action against them in order to restore security and stability."

He denounced violent acts, killing of soldiers, and targeting of public services and foreign interests by armed groups, calling on the government to enter into dialogue with these groups on condition that the groups renounce violence.

He indicated that it's not permissible to fight Muslims, soldiers or civilians, citing words of the Prophet Mohammed: "Whoever trains the gun on us is not one of us."

Speaking about the newly-elected President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, he said that all Yemenis have willingly chosen Hadi, and now they are looking to him for reforms.

Al-Zandani stressed that the first step to solve the disputes with the militant groups starts with holding a national dialogue, which the government already announced in order to overcome the multiple challenges currently facing Yemen.

Regarding the attacks on foreign interests, he has pointed out that it's forbidden to target the interests

of foreigners whose countries have agreements and conventions with Muslim states.

Al-Zandani said that fighting Muslim soldiers or pulling guns on citizens or even attacking Western countries which have treaties and



Abdulmajeed Al-Zandani

conventions with Muslims is forbidden in Islam.

"What's the crime the peaceful Westerners have committed when they are killed inside Muslim states?" Al-Zandani asked.

He questioned the sense of terrorist groups, and said, "The government is chosen by the people. We complained about the former regime, but now we have a new government and a new President. What do these groups want?"

"You [terrorists] said that you did not intend to fight Muslims, but you do intend to fight other countries and attack their interests. The interests you attack will prompt these countries to ask our government to hand you over to them. If the state refuses to hand you over, these countries will wage a war

against us [Yemen]," he said.

Last month, the US ambassador to Sana'a, Gerald Feierstein, said in an interview with London-based Al-Hayat newspaper that Al-Zandani is a source of concern for the US and for the entire international community, considering him a terrorism supporter who poses a danger to the US as well as the entire world.

For its part, the Islah party, the main party in the opposition coalition known as the Joint Meeting Parties, to which al-Zandani belongs, has expressed regret over the US ambassador's comments about Al-Zandani.

Islah, which is a wing of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement in Yemen, said in a statement released last month that "the allegations of having links with terrorism against Al-Zandani have been brought up

by many US officials before and on different occasions, and the party has repeatedly showed willingness to open Al-Zandani's file, in which they found that all allegations against him are baseless." The party stressed that the accused is innocent until proven guilty.

The statement stressed that Al-Zandani himself has announced more than once and in more than one media outlet his willingness to stand for public trial in a national court on charges made by Americans, but no one responded to him.

"If the allegations were not fabricated by the former regime, they were invented by its media outlets in order to politically blackmail Al-Zandani and his party," read the Islah party statement.

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Ansar Al-Sharia threatens to attack YLNG

By: Mohammed Abdulaleem

SHABWA, April 22 — Security forces affiliated with the Yemeni 3rd Naval Brigade deployed extensively last Saturday around the Yemen Liquid Natural Gas Company on the harbor in Belhaf, Shabwa governorate, and imposed several blockades in anticipation of attacks from Ansar Al-Sharia, a militant group affiliated with Al-Qaeda.

This deployment came as a reaction to known Ansar Al-Sharia plans to attack YLNG Company and its petrol stations in Belhaf using cars bombs, according to secu-

rity sources in Shabwa.

Ansar Al-Sharia, based in the Azzan area of southern Shabwa, prepared six cars bombs last Thursday with the aim of attacking the company in Belhaf, where large numbers of foreigners gather, according to the Ministry of Interior.

The Minister of Interior ordered Shabwa's security office to deal with the threats seriously in order to find ways to prevent Ansar Al-Sharia attacks on the company, according to the Ministry of Interior.

Moreover, the Ministry expressed its confidence in Shabwa's

security services to stop Ansar Al-Sharia attacks.

Ansar Al-Sharia's plans to attack the YLNG Company using car bombs shows the diminishing scale and elaborateness of their operations due to the major attacks against them in Abyan, Shabwa and Al Bayda', according to the Ministry of Interior.

Ansar Al-Sharia, still controls many parts of Shabwa governorate, in the south east of Yemen, particularly Azzan, which lies between Maifa'a and Al-Radoom districts.

US drone aircraft recommenced flying missions again last Friday,

along with Yemeni military planes, above the Al-Rawdah and Azzan areas in Shabwa to track Ansar Al-Sharia operatives.

The US drones and the Yemeni military planes broke the sound barrier in the skies above Al-Rawdah and Maifa'a districts. As a result of the sonic boom, residents feared a military attack on their area, according to eyewitnesses in Al-Rawdah district.

A drone, thought to be under American control, made an exploratory flight over these districts, along with low-flying Yemeni military planes.

Military officer suspended for smuggling weapons to Ansar Al-Sharia

By: Ali Saeed

SANAA, April 22 — On Friday, the new commander of the Southern Military Region, General Salem Qatn, who replaced former president Saleh's aide, General Mahdi Maqwala, suspended a military officer accused of smuggling weapons to Ansar Al-Sharia, an Al-Qaeda affiliated militant group, reported state-run newspaper Al-Jomhoriyah on Saturday.

It explained that the officer was rendered to the Political Security Headquarters in Aden to investigate his withdrawal of 410 artillery shells from the region's armory and handing them to units of Ansar Al-Sharia in Abyan governorate, south Yemen.

Ansar Al-Sharia, which took control of Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan, in late May 2011 after security forces abandoned their positions, is said to have links with the former president's loyal military officials, who colluded with the group to take over parts of Abyan and



Military officers accuse former leader of the Southern Military Region of providing weapons to Ansar Al-Sharia in Abyan.

Shabwa governorate. This is thought to have been done with the aim of terrorizing the West, so it would see Saleh's departure as synonymous with insecurity in Yemen, according to Mohamed Ghazwan, a journalist who was recently in Abyan.

"Through my visits to Al-Qaeda positions in Abyan, their weapons hint that some military officials are indeed colluding with them," Ghazwan said.

"It is unbelievable that their [Al-Qaeda] tanks continue firing and do not run out of shells. There must be people who supply them with ammunition," he said.

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Mohamed Naser Ahmed, formed military assets counting committees in early March to keep track of all Yemeni army hardware and human assets, to prevent the transfer of weapons to terrorist organizations.

"If they [Yemeni military leaders] have real intentions of controlling weapons leakage, it is in their hands and can be achieved easily by counting all ammunition," Ghazwan said.

Ansar Al-Sharia attacked the 31st Armored Division on the same day when Maqwala left the office to his successor, Qatn, on March

3rd. The militant group then attacked and killed over 150 troops, captured 72, and took over heavy weapons, including tanks.

Officers and soldiers of the 31st Armored Division accused the former leader of the Southern Military Region Maqwala of providing weapons to Al-Qaeda one day ahead of leaving office.

Other military sources said that the new leadership of the Southern Military Region is still searching for lost military equipment, which disappeared from the region's armory just 24 hours before Maqwala departed from office.

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Dr. Yahya Al-Shaibi to the Yemen Times:

“Its slow indecisive actions show that the government is not taking its job seriously.”

Interview by Nadia Al-Sakkaf

With over 30 years of public service, Dr. Yahya Al-Shaibi was one of the few men who has held his ground and reputation since he started his career as a chemistry professor at Sana'a University in the seventies.

Today he is known for being one of the political movers and shakers on behalf of the General People's Congress (GPC), as a member of its general committee, and one of the moderate politicians of the former regime who were instrumental in making the Gulf Initiative happen. Prior to his post today as the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the reconciliation government, he was the Minister of Civil Services. Previously he has been Mayor of Sana'a and Governor of Aden, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education.

In addition to his official posts, Al-Shaibi co-founded the “Yemen First” organization which aims at strengthening national identity and a culture of tolerance. He was recently appointed as a member of the ministerial committee to negotiate with protestors to clear the squares.

The Yemen Times met with Al-Shaibi to talk about higher education, the GPC and other current issues.

State universities are going through tough financial, academic and even political crises which are affecting students' education. As Minister of Higher Education, what are you doing about that?

During the last year, because of the overall sentiments around the country, many problems in state universities have surfaced. The accumulation of political, financial and academic problems blew up together and complaints of corruption, illegal appointments, nepotism, shortages in lab equipment, buildings and so on, sped up the deterioration of the universities affecting mostly the students.

Another major problem the universities are suffering from is the

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President Hadi needs to remember that he is a reconciliation president and hence does not need to flex his muscles through confrontation. Instead, he should reach compromises and arrive at solutions with the least losses possible.

heavy politicizing of the educational environment. This has caused conflicts between the teachers, between the students, and between teachers and students. This is why, for example, I am against any sort of elections for university president vacancies at several universities, because I know it will turn into a political campaign rather than a choice to elect the best person for the job. The university law stipulates a specific mechanism for this through the forming of the universities' boards of trustees. I expect

the cabinet to form them by the end of this week.

I used to teach at Sana'a University for many years in the past. We took so much pride in our job, and when we as professors travelled, we could not wait to come back to give to our students. Upon my appointment as the Minister of Higher Education, I paid visits to all the universities and was very depressed at what has become of the higher education system in Yemen.

The way things were managed at the universities was chaotic and irresponsible. There was no planning, budgeting, vision or whatever. There is redundancy in teachers of some disciplines and shortages in others. The parallel system outside the competitive mainstream enrollment is a problem. It started at a five percent of admissions, which was intended to create a supplementary source of income for the university. However, because of greed it has increased up to 100 percent of the official admission, which creates a huge burden on the educational capacity of the universities, and at the same time the financial returns are not utilized for the improvement of the education system.

Now the Higher Education Ministry presented a study on the parallel system to the High Council for Education on this issue. In turn the council has created a committee to look into the matter and decide on whether to shut down the system entirely or allow it to exist according to strict conditions.

We have also created other committees to review the problems in the higher education system especially quality of education. The Higher Council for Education has already decided on several reform measures which the ministry will implement soon.

We will also appoint a chief of academic accreditation and quality control who will evaluate the curriculums and educational structure in all colleges in both public and private universities.

Accordingly we will take some decisions even if it means shutting down some colleges or universities all together and reforming the educational system.

We will also launch a number of creative discipline diplomas of one or two years, such as in graphics, 3D design, radio production, e-commerce, etc. I believe that students graduating from these courses will have the required skills to start their own businesses and become entrepreneurs rather than wait for a job.

There are current steps being taking for this starting with 12 disciplines funded by the World Bank and will be under the sponsorship of the quality control project in the ministry for the academic years 2012-2013.

The annual budget has recently been approved and we will use whatever funds we have to reform the system. One of the measures I have taken is to stop state sponsored scholarships, which cost us over YR 11 billion. We are sticking with the cultural exchange programs, which include around 300 Yemeni students in various disciplines as well as state sponsored students on rare specializations.

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It is completely up to Saleh himself to decide whether he is interested and capable of playing a significant political role in the future. As for his son Ahmed, I believe it is far-fetched that he plays a political role in the party today or in the near future. As for his son Ahmed, I believe it is far-fetched that he plays a political role in the party today or in the near future.



Dr. Yahya Al-Shaibi

I am under a lot of pressure to bend the rules and follow the old way of running things, but I am a man of order and believe that the rules were meant to be implemented and this is my personal source of strength.

Why instead of direct appointment did you open to competition the cultural attaché vacancies in our embassies abroad? Also what's new in the Top-100 qualified government leaders project that you championed a couple of years ago?

Many were surprised at my decision to open the doors to competition instead of direct appointment for the 13 cultural attaché vacancies in our consulates abroad. Unfortunately those who criticized this decision were not used to transparency and selection by merit for government posts. Through this decision we received 1,100 applications and I am sure that we will be able to choose the best qualified men and women which will positively affect our image abroad and their performance.

This notion of choosing the best was also the driving force behind the Top-100 project I suggested along with a group of others. The point was to recruit 100 highly qualified Yemenis, offer them encouraging compensation and appoint them in high decision making positions so that they positively contributed to the development of the country.

We had successfully experiment-

ed with this project during my work as Minister of Civil Services as we advertised for deputy ministers and general manager's positions. We have a highly qualified team now at that ministry.

The suggestion is to have them run the economic and financial institutions of the country, of which there are over 50, as well as form-

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The way things were managed at the universities was chaotic and irresponsible. There was no planning, budgeting, vision or whatever. There is redundancy in teachers of some disciplines and shortages in others.

ing advisory groups at both the president's and prime minister's offices.

Having those men and women in high decision making positions in economic institutions would create new sources of income for the country, and would also help top decision makers make the right

decisions. Having them at the top of the institutions they would be working in and giving them full authority would save them from being sabotaged by their bosses and colleagues who would be receiving less than one quarter of their salaries.

The project is put forward again today and was presented to the Ministry of Planning which is the concern authority as well as the Prime Minister. I hope that it will be discussed in the donors meeting to come.

Between 2003 and 2006 you were governor of Aden, which today is witnessing extreme security and political conflicts. How can we save Aden?

During the three years I was governor of Aden I came to understand and appreciate the governorate, and it saddens me to see what has become of it today. It is a situation that is not far from what the entire country is going through.

Previously Aden was an especially civil refuge. Today it is a hub of criminals, armed gangs and Islamic militia, etc.

The conflict in Aden is not only a political one but an armed one, and this is caused by the absence of the rule of law and the weak security apparatus.

Enforcing security in Aden should be a national priority and could be easily achieved within three or four months if the needed funds were there supported by political will. We just need strong security and enough numbers to ensure control over unruly gangs and enforce the rule of law.

Having a strong security hold over the governorate does not mean there is no space for political disagreement. It means that within the law anyone can exercise their right to political affiliation and freedom of expression, they can hold protests, seminars or whatever, as long as they don't vandalize property or terrorize the people.

In your view, what are the real reasons that prevent political solutions today?

The main political problem in Yemen is a trust issue between the various political opponents, which explains the slow progress in the transitional steps according to the Gulf Initiative. The lack of trust should be overcome by the moderate personalities on both sides to reach compromises.

There are many Yemenis who put the country's best interest before their personal gains. However, they are hesitating because they are faced with political tensions and bias. They need to be welcomed and provided with a friendly environment that would make use of their expertise for the sake of Yemen.

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الدكتور يحيى الشيعبي ليمن تا يمز:

«لا أعتقد أن حكومة اليوم جادة بدليل البطء في اتخاذ القرارات برغم ضيق الوقت»

لقاء ناديا السقاف



الدكتور يحيى الشيعبي

تقلد الدكتور يحيى الشيعبي العديد من المناصب الحكومية وغير الحكومية خلال مسيرته المستمرة منذ أكثر من ٢٠ عام. ويعد الشيعبي أحد المحركين السياسيين الفاعلين والذين كان لهم دور في المبادرة الخليجية وتحقيق النواقي بين الخصوم السياسيين من منطلق موقعه كعضو في اللجنة العامة في المؤتمر الشعبي العام، وموقعه الاجتماعي والسياسي كوزير سابقاً للتربية والتعليم والتعليم العالي ومحافظ سابق لمدينة عدن، ووزيراً للدولة أميناً للعاصمة ووزيراً للخدمة المدنية والتأمينات.

بالإضافة إلى المناصب الحكومية يترأس الدكتور الشيعبي منظمة اليمن أولاً التي تهدف إلى تعميق الهوية الوطنية لليمنيين وتواصل ثقافة التسامح. تسلم الدكتور يحيى منصب وزير التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي في حكومة الوفاق الوطني الحالية بالإضافة إلى تعيينه مؤخراً عضواً في اللجنة الوزارية للحوار مع شباب الساحات. يمتاز الدكتور الشيعبي بالحديث عن وضع التعليم العالي والمؤتمر الشعبي العام وغيرها من قضايا الساحة.

والحلل ورفعت نتائج اللجان إلى المجلس الأعلى للتعليم العالي والذي أقر العديد من القرارات للمعالجة، وسنقوم بتنفيذها في القريب العاجل.

وقريباً سيتم تعيين رئيساً لمجلس الاعتماد الأكاديمي وضمان الجودة والذي بدوره سيقوم بتقييم البرامج التدريسية والأقسام والكليات والجامعات الحكومية والأهلية على ضوء الدراسات ستتخذ القرارات المناسبة بالإبقاء أو إلغاء العديد من البرامج أو الأقسام أو الكليات أو حتى الجامعات، والعمل على تطوير العملية التعليمية وتحسين جودتها في مؤسساتنا التعليمية العليا.

كما أن لدينا خطة لافتتاح برامج تقنية لتخصصات إبداعية وتقديم دبلوم مدة سنة أو سنتين بحيث يتخرج الطالب ولديه المهارة التي تمكنه من أن يفتح مشروعاً بنفسه، بالذات المهارات التي لا تحتاج إلى رأس مال كبير مثل تخصصات الجرافيك أو التي تعتمد على البرمجة الإلكترونية وغيرها. وهناك الآن اجراءات لتطبيق برامج متطورة في الجامعات الحكومية عدد (١٢) برنامج ممول من البنك الدولي يشرف عليها مشروع تحسين الجودة في الوزارة في العام الجامعي ٢٠١٢ - ٢٠١٣.

نظامي وأحترم القانون وأطبقه في كل الحالات لأن هذا ما تعودت عليه ونفس الوقت هذا مصدر قوتي وثقتي بنفسي.

ما هي الفكرة من وراء فتح باب التنافس على منصب المحقق الثقافي في سفارتنا في الخارج؟ وماذا حدث بمشروع قائمة أفضل مائة والتي تهدف إلى تزويد الأجهزة الحكومية بكفاءات يمنية متميزة. أين وصل المشروع اليوم؟

استغرب الكثيرون قرار فتح باب التنافس على منصب المحقق الثقافي في ١٣ دولة لأنهم لم يتعودوا على الشفافية والمعايير التي تساعد في اختيار الأفضل دون محسوبية. تقدم لهذا المنصب ١١٠٠ شخص وأنا أعلم أننا سنستطيع أن نفرز الأفضل منهم من أجل ملء المقاعد الشاغرة في ملحقاتنا وهذا ما يجب عمله في كل المجالات المختلفة.

وهذه هي ذات المنهجية خلف برنامج «أفضل مائة» وكانت الفكرة أن يتم استخدام كفاءات يمنية في مجالات متخصصة وإعطائهم مرتبات عالية حتى يساهموا من خلال مهاراتهم في تنمية الجهات المختلفة التي سيعملون بها. وعلى أن تكون عملية الاختيار وفق الإعلان والمنافسة وشفافية كاملة. وقد تم تجربة هذه الفكرة في وزارة الخدمة المدنية والتأمينات عندما كنت وزيراً لها وذلك من خلال الاعلان عن المنافسة لشغل وظائف الوكلاء والمدراء العموم وتم التنفيذ بشفافية، وتم استقطاب أفضل الكفاءات للعمل في الوزارة.

وفي إطار هذا المشروع أيضاً كانت فكرتي أن يكون هؤلاء المختصين على رأس المؤسسات الاقتصادية في شتى أنحاء اليمن الذي يفوق عددها عن (٥٠) مؤسسة وهيئة وكذلك في مكاتب رئيس الجمهورية ورئاسة الوزراء لما يشكله هذان المكتبان من أهمية قصوى في تشكيل رأي متخذي القرار الأعلى في هرم الدولة. بهذه الطريقة سيكونوا

تتمر الجامعات الحكومية اليمنية بأزمة مالية، أكاديمية وحتى سياسية مما أدى إلى تدهور الوضع التعليمي واستمرار الإضرابات. ما هو وضع التعليم العالي في اليمن اليوم؟

خلال العام الماضي وبسبب الأحداث ظهرت على السطح المشكلات العميقة التي تعاني منها الجامعات اليمنية. فقد عانى الطلاب والموظفين والأساتذة والجميع بشكل عام من تراكمات للعديد من القضايا وصادف أن تفجرت كلها في وقت واحد مما أدى إلى الأزمة التي تعانيها الجامعات في الوقت الراهن.

هناك مشكلة فساد وتغييب للأئمة والقوانين الإدارية بسبب المحسوبية والتعيينات المخالفة للقانون بالإضافة إلى عدم توافر الكادر المتخصص والأجهزة الضرورية في المعامل وعدم توفر الباني الجامعية وقلة الاعتمادات والموارد المالية والكثافة الطلابية وغيرها من المشاكل والتي يكون الطالب الجامعي هو المتضرر الأكبر منها.

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الطريقة التي كانت تدار فيها العملية التعليمية في كثير من الكليات لم تعتمد على رؤية وبرامج واضحة ولا مناهج ملائمة لاحتياجات السوق. كما أن النظام الموازي يعد مشكلة رئيسية لأنه شكل ضغط على قدرات الجامعات من دون أن تعود إيراداته المادية على الجامعة ذاتها وتطويرها.

كان الأساس من النظام الموازي أن يشكل رافد مادي صغير للجامعات والاقتراح المبدئي كان تخصص ٥% من المقاعد من خلال هذا النظام ولكن بسبب تحوله إلى نظام تجاري وصلت إلى ١٠% في بعض الكليات وهذا غير عادل. ولا أهمية الموضوع فقد قدمت الوزارة دراسة عن وضع التعليم الموازي للمجلس الأعلى للتعليم العالي وقد أقر المجلس تشكيل لجنة من أعضائه للنظر في إمكانية إلغاء أو الإبقاء عليه وفق ضوابط صارمة تخدم العملية التعليمية في بداية تعييني كوزير للتعليم العالي قمت بزيارات لكل الجامعات وأصبت بإحباط شديد بعدها ليست هذه المؤسسات الأكاديمية التي أعرفها والتي قضيت فيها سنوات من عمري كاستاذ جامعي. كنا عندما نسافر إلى الخارج لا نستطيع الانتظار حتى نعود إلى جامعاتنا وكلنا شوق للعطاء وبذل المزيد من الجهد للعملية التعليمية، أما الآن فالوضع يرثى له.

لقد شكلنا لجان عديدة نزلت إلى الجامعات واستعرضت كل المشاكل التي عرضت أثناء زيارتنا لها وناقشت مع كل الجهات في الجامعات سبل المعالجة

والضالع وفي نفس الوقت اللاجئ من القرن الأفريقي ولا ننسى الجامعات المسلحة من بعض فصائل الحراك الجنوبي وبعض الانتهازيين البلاطجة الذين استغلوا غياب الأمن لفرض سيطرتهم في مناطق عدة.

استتباب الأمن في المحافظة يجب أن يحتل أولوية وطنية ويمكن بالتمويل الكافي أن يتم بسهولة بل في غضون ثلاثة إلى أربعة أشهر إذا وجدت الإرادة الجادة وتم تزويد الأجهزة الأمنية في المنطقة بالعدة والعتاد الكافي بإمكانهم أن يثبتوا الأمن بقوة القانون ويردعوا المخربين.

أحكام سلطة القانون لا يعني عدم وجود مساحة للإختلاف وحتى النزاع السياسي. في إطار القانون يمكن لأي مجموعة أو حزب سياسي أن يعلن موافقه وحتى يقيم مسيرات أو احتجاجات طالما ليس هناك أي تخريب أو ترويع للمواطنين.

لدينا أقل من سنتين لكي نصلح أمورنا كلها وعلى اليمنيين جميعاً أن يدركوا هذا خاصة متخذي القرار وإلا سندخل في فراغ دستوري إذا لم تقام الانتخابات البرلمانية في ٢٠١٤.

وبالرغم من أن هذا ليس بالوقت الكافي إلا أنه المتوفر علينا أن نتعامل مع الواقع ونكتف الجهود لكي نقوم بالإجراءات اللازمة لتحقيق المراد بالمرحلة الانتقالية. وللأسف أعتقد بأن الحكومة غير جادة بشكل كاف في التعامل مع التحديات وبالتالي التأخير في عمل الإجراءات اللازمة والتي في أولها عمل خطة مزممة لمراحل المرحلة الانتقالية.

وماذا عن إعادة هيكلة الجيش؟ والحوار الوطني؟

مسألة توحيد الجيش هي مسألة ضرورية وستأخذ وقتاً طويلاً ربما أطول من سنتين ولكن هناك مراحل أولية له لا بد أن تبدأ من الآن. وأعتقد أن الحوار الوطني في حد ذاته قد يكون أكثر صعوبة من توحيد الجيش بسبب التيارات السياسية المتعددة والاختلافات الكبيرة.

هناك هواجس وتخوفات بين الجهات المسؤولة على عمل هذه الخطة وأزمة الثقة تعرقل التخطيط والتنفيذ. نحتاج إلى آلية مزممة واضحة المعالم تشرح كل مرحلة وتنقل من مرحلة إلى أخرى في وقت محدد لكي ننجح في نقل اليمن إلى بر الأمان وهذا للأسف غير حاصل الآن بسبب النزاعات السياسية على التفاصيل الإجرائية التي تشتت تركيز قادة البلد عن القضية الرئيسية.

على الرئيس عبد ربه منصور هادي كونه رئيس توافقي سرعة تشكيل

المرجعية الأولى وبالتالي قراراتهم لن تتعرقل بسبب وكيل أو وزير يستلم أقل من ربع مرتباتهم وبالتالي تدفعه الغيرة أو الشعور بالاضطهاد إلى عرقلة عملهم. بل إن وجودهم على رأس مؤسسات اقتصادية سوف يعود بالنفع بطريقة مباشرة بسبب الإيرادات التي سيدرونها على خزينة الدولة وبالتالي سيساهمون بشكل كبير في التخفيف من عجز الموازنة وفي التنمية الاقتصادية المستدامة. كما أن وجود مثل هذه الخبرات في مكتب رئيس الوزراء ورئيس الجمهورية سيساعد المعنيين باتخاذ القرارات الأفضل لما من شأنه أن يساعد في حل القضايا ورفع مستوى البلد بشكل عام. اليوم يتم إعادة طرح المشروع مجدداً وهو موجود لدى وزارة التخطيط المعنية بالأمر، وكذلك رئاسة الوزراء وكذلك امتنى طرحه في مؤتمر المانحين القادم.

كنت محافظ لعدين من ٢٠٠٢ حتى ٢٠٠٦، واليوم تشهد المحافظة قلقاً واضطرابات أمنية وسياسية كبيرة لم تعهدها من قبل. ما هو تحليلك لما يجري في عدن وكيف يمكن حل المشكلة؟

خلال الثلاث سنوات التي كنت فيها محافظاً لعدين تعرفت فيها بشكل أكبر على المحافظة ويؤسفني الوضع الذي وصلت إليه اليوم، وهو حال غير بعيد عن الوضع الذي تعانيه اليمن ككل. عدن كانت ملاذاً هادئاً ومدنياً في الماضي، أما اليوم فأصبحت مرتعاً للبلاطجة والقاعدة والجماعات المسلحة وأصبح الصراع فيها صراعاً مسلحاً وليس سياسياً فقط.

المشكلة الرئيسية في نظري في محافظة عدن هو غياب الأمن وانعدام سلطة القانون. وهو الأمر الذي سمح لكل من هب ودب أن يفرض سيطرته بالقوة ويعتدي على الآخرين. وأصبحت المحافظة عرضة لأنصار الشريعة والقاعدة والنازحين من أبين ولحج

أعتقد أن الأهم التفاوض مع الشباب المستقلين الذين شكلوا ائتلافات متعددة والذين كانوا هم من بدأ المطالبة بالتغيير ثم تم تهميشهم من قبل الأحزاب الأخرى.

صحيح أن اليمن بحاجة ماسة وفورية إلى الدعم بالذات الدعم المالي من أصدقائها ولكن موقفهم واضح وقد جسده الملك عبد الله من خلال قوله: «ساعدوا أنفسكم لكي نساعدكم».

الوطن على مصالتها الشخصية والتي بإمكانها أن تساعد في نقل اليمن إلى المستقبل ولكنها مترددة بسبب التشاحن السياسي والضغط وغياب الإرادة السياسية والجديّة التي تجعلهم يقتنعون بأن هناك مجالاً وترحيباً بمساهماتهم من أجل الوطن.

لدينا أقل من سنتين لكي نصلح أمورنا كلها وعلى اليمنيين جميعاً أن يدركوا هذا خاصة متخذي القرار وإلا سندخل في فراغ دستوري إذا لم تقام الانتخابات البرلمانية في ٢٠١٤.

وبالرغم من أن هذا ليس بالوقت الكافي إلا أنه المتوفر علينا أن نتعامل مع الواقع ونكتف الجهود لكي نقوم بالإجراءات اللازمة لتحقيق المراد بالمرحلة الانتقالية. وللأسف أعتقد بأن الحكومة غير جادة بشكل كاف في التعامل مع التحديات وبالتالي التأخير في عمل الإجراءات اللازمة والتي في أولها عمل خطة مزممة لمراحل المرحلة الانتقالية.

وماذا عن إعادة هيكلة الجيش؟ والحوار الوطني؟

مسألة توحيد الجيش هي مسألة ضرورية وستأخذ وقتاً طويلاً ربما أطول من سنتين ولكن هناك مراحل أولية له لا بد أن تبدأ من الآن. وأعتقد أن الحوار الوطني في حد ذاته قد يكون أكثر صعوبة من توحيد الجيش بسبب التيارات السياسية المتعددة والاختلافات الكبيرة.

هناك هواجس وتخوفات بين الجهات المسؤولة على عمل هذه الخطة وأزمة الثقة تعرقل التخطيط والتنفيذ. نحتاج إلى آلية مزممة واضحة المعالم تشرح كل مرحلة وتنقل من مرحلة إلى أخرى في وقت محدد لكي ننجح في نقل اليمن إلى بر الأمان وهذا للأسف غير حاصل الآن بسبب النزاعات السياسية على التفاصيل الإجرائية التي تشتت تركيز قادة البلد عن القضية الرئيسية.

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OUR
OPINION

Next stop: Gulf Land

Despite the dramatic deterioration in the circumstances of Yemenis working and living in Gulf countries, mainly Saudi Arabia, working in the Gulf countries still is a dream for many Yemenis.

The attraction of the difference in currencies, which would allow savings and could potentially pull families out of poverty, is stronger than the many hardships Yemeni workers face in the region. What makes the Gulf more attractive than Europe for the majority of Yemenis is the language and cultural similarities, and of course the relative proximity.

Moreover, there is the back door of human smuggling which at times can be very dangerous, but still worth the risk for many. Hence the estimated 2,500 illegal immigrants who find their way to Gulf countries every month.

The unemployment rate in Yemen has risen over the last year to more than 50 percent. Moreover, there is a difference of at least eight million Yemenis between the number of individuals that are at working age (around 13 million) and those who are included in the economic workforce (around five million).

Additionally, according to official data the local demand for labor (public and private sectors) can absorb between 60,000 to 80,000 new arrivals annually, while the annual supply is estimated at over 200,000 new job seekers.

While we work on long term sustainable economic measures, we should also consider immediate short term ones such as promoting Yemeni labor in the Gulf region.

Other measures include promoting labor intensive activities within the country, and redirecting the performance of operating funds to focus more on poverty and employment.

However, because of the effect of having hard currency flowing into the country, the anticipated economic return of having thousands of Yemenis working in the Gulf could be potentially more effective in the short term than having hundreds of thousands working within in the country.

This was evident from the significant economic impact in 1990 when 1.5 million Yemenis suddenly returned home during the first Gulf crisis. There are several recommendations to promote Yemeni employment in gulf markets:

Creation of well organized and specialized Yemeni employment organizations with networks in the Gulf, activating existing official and unofficial commitments by Gulf countries, and improving the quality of, and customizing Yemeni labor towards, Gulf market needs.

Experience has shown that although this might sound straight forward, there will be challenges from Gulf countries as they think, 'what is in it for them'. In 2006, Saudi Arabia sponsored the establishment of 19 vocational training centers, but they have still not been implemented.

However, if there is political will in Yemen and the Gulf countries, this proposal could be easily implemented. It's a win-win project for both Yemen and its neighbors and could take Yemen's economy a long way in a short time.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Sunrise over Yemen

By: Khaled Bahah
Diplomat and International
Canada
April 12

In recent years, rumblings of discontent mounted against Saleh, with a strengthening of opposition parties, primarily the Joint Meeting Parties – a coalition which includes the Southern Socialist Party and the powerful but fragmented northern Islah Party.

Prior to January 2012, Saleh had proposed constitutional amendments, relinquishing both his right to be president in perpetuity and the inferred inheritance of the title by his son. Once rioting broke out, he chose to withdraw these proposals. When this had no effect to bring calm, the regime manufactured pro-Saleh demonstrations outside the presidential palace. However, the demand for Saleh's resignation continued, joined by many tribal people.

Tragedy struck March 18, as troops massacred more than 56 civilians in Change Square, Sana'a. A state of emergency was declared, and the following day, nine Yemeni ambassadors, including myself in Ottawa, wrote to the president condemning the massacres. International outrage was sparked, and by March 23, Brigadier Ali Mohsen al Ahmar declared support for the revolution, representing a serious high-level military rupture, while several Yemeni governorates split from government control.

In response to increasing violence, Yemen's Foreign Minister Abubakr Al-Qirbi was dispatched to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), to hint that Saleh would sign an initiative outlining a roadmap to peaceful resolution, including power transfer, conditional upon immunity from prosecution. The GCC acted accordingly but, despite four promises to endorse the initiative, he reneged on his own proposal. The document remained unsigned and Yemen deteriorated.

Abruptly, on Sept. 23, Saleh returned to Yemen. The violence escalated and UN Security Council Resolution 2014 was issued in October, expressing grave concern over the bloodshed and calling for an immediate adoption of the GCC Initiative to end the crisis. Amid the chaos, the winners of the Nobel Peace Prize were announced on Oct. 7. Among them was Yemeni female activist Tawakkul Karman, whose

non-violent protest garnered her international acclaim. In accepting this honour, she dedicated it to the people of Yemen.

Following an absurd number of promises and subsequent refusals, Saleh finally signed the GCC Initiative Nov. 23. Much credit is due to the herculean persistence and patience of Jamal Benomar, UN envoy to Yemen, and Secretary General Al Ziani of the GCC, in implementing the initiative and putting the Operational Mechanism in place. Accordingly, on Dec. 7, a coalition of current and opposition parties, known as the National Reconciliation Government, was established and interim elections were confirmed for February 2012.

January 2012 signified the end of unrestrained revolution and the beginning of inner transformation – the objective was to establish an environment of security, unity and reform prior to multi-party elections in 2014. This process began Feb. 21 with the people formally electing to remove Saleh and appoint acting vice-president Hadi as transitional president for two years. Saleh's agreement to relinquish power was attained upon the condition of his full immunity from prosecution. While immunity continues to be a sore point for Yemenis, it was

“

**Yemen's problems
are largely
systemic, emanating
from a leader who
played the rifts
within the country
as a political chess
game.**

the only means to an end.

In Northern Yemen, voter turnout was significant and the election was peaceful. The south called for rejection of the election and, as a result, voter turnout was low, consisting almost entirely of northern troops stationed there. Although this underscores the massive efforts required to create future co-operation and trust, it's important to note that only a few months ago, it would have been inconceivable that on Feb. 25, 2012, a new president would be sworn in after 33 years, seven months and four days of oppression. Equally remarkable, on Feb. 27, the first presidential ceremony in Yemen's history was held,

attended by the new leader and the former president, whose presence, strategically orchestrated by loyalists, was fiercely unappreciated by the prime minister, opposition parties and youth.

Yemen's problems are largely systemic, emanating from a leader who played the rifts within the country as a political chess game. However, though Saleh may be gone, his ghost remains through the continued presence of military control by his family and former allies such as General Ali Mosen al Ahmar and the backward tribal contingent still loyal to the late Abdulla al Ahmar. It is essential that these individuals relinquish their power immediately or they will find themselves the new target of the revolution. They must step aside in order to show the people that they are part of the cure rather than symptoms of the disease.

Yemen is a work in progress, but its victory over oppression has inspired a spirit of optimism not felt for more than three decades. While much remains to be done, genuine hope springs that on the horizon, a brilliant new sunrise is about to shine over Yemen.

Khaled Bahah is Yemen's Ambassador to Canada



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SKETCHED OPINION

By Hilal Al-Muraqib

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Traditional Sana'ani dress still in fashion

By: Nadia Haddash

Although fashion trends come and go, many Yemeni women continue to wear the Sana'ani curtain-style dress.

Women who wear this popular style customarily adorn the dress by wrapping a piece of brightly colored cloth, called the Al-Masoon around their bodies. It was the lead up to the appearance of "curtain" in the Yemeni home, a piece of square-shaped, cotton cloth with white lines, and decorated with a black and red geometric designs. The cloth is also marked with a unique decoration that occurs in the middle of the curtain.

The dress described above is typical of the original style known as the Radi Curtain, and is currently worn most often by women in regions like Radaa. Due to Sana'a and its surrounding regions sen-



The Appearance of the Sana'ani dress on the revolution events.



still the Sana'ani dress used in the fashion show events as a Yemeni women sample.



Young Yemeni ladies at old sana'a city used the sana'ani dress for sort visit places.

sitivity to international development, fashion there often reflects current trends. However, you can easily spot many Sana'a women in the curtain dress, especially in the old city and in neighborhoods like: Bani-Hashish, Sanhan, Hbabh and Khawlan.

The unique relationship between Yemeni women and the Sana'ani curtain is associated with a cloth that covers the head. The Al-Momq, a face cover made of silk or cotton, is dominated by black and inscriptions colored white and red, the colors ranging from the outside to the inside, forming a black circular center point. Most women wear the Al-Momq, but those who are married and older women also wear an additional head piece called the Amomq, a piece of cloth embroidered with silver or coral colors.

Um said, a women from Old Sana'a, said, "We found our mothers and grandmothers wearing it and so on it goes from generation to generation till our day, although it's not used today as it was in the past due to changes in society. But we cannot deny the Sana'ani curtain remains a treasure and heritage that represents Yemeni women."

The appearance of the curtain dress changed slightly after the 1970's, when fabric factories in Yemen stopped production and traders began bringing materials from India. This new material added green, yellow and blue colors, as well as some plant decorations.

The beginning of the Sana'ani dress

The history of the "curtain" in

Sana'a and in Yemen is a bit unclear, but people say it began when Imam Yahya bin Al-Hussein Al-Rasi came from Sa'ada to Sana'a, and ordered women to wrap their bodies with a cloth found in their homes. This marked the beginning of the curtain dress, but its popularity began to waver with the introduction of the black abaya.

The Yemeni novelist and poet Ali Al-Muqri said, "The Sana'ani curtain was styled originally by the Yemeni people themselves, there's no specific historical date. It started with the appearance of colored dress painting at that time and it was related to the decoration and ornamentation of the old Yemeni houses."

"What proves to us that the curtain dress is originally from Yemen is that there's no place in the world

with such a dress with its beauty, until our days," added Al-Muqri.

The sharshaf, a wide black body cover brought over by the Turks, was worn briefly, only to be replaced by the modern abaya (coat). Despite the spread of the abaya, married, single and widowed women of all different ages continued to wear the curtain dress. It is also popular amongst sellers at the market in the old city.

Wafaa Mohamed, 38, originally from Aden but who has lived in old Sana'a for 13 years with her husband said, "I've worn the Sana'ani curtain since I came here and it became the comfortable dress that I wear wherever I go to places close by. Still the curtain is the most used in old Sana'a for short visits, but when it comes to long visits, we wear the abaya or the sharshaf."

Um Tariq, a 20-year-old woman who was wearing the Sana'ani curtain on her way to a nearby grocery said, "I wear the Sana'ani curtain only for short neighborhood visits." She added that, "My mother, my sisters and I wear the Sana'ani curtain only in the neighborhood, as do most of the women here."

Despite the curtain dress' deep-rooted tradition, Amani Al-Soof, a 21-year-old woman from old Sana'a is not hopeful about the future of the curtain. "I didn't wear the Sana'ani curtain before, but I always keep thinking if we could wear it in a modern way instead of the abaya. Unfortunately, it cannot be useful in the current community. Most of the young girls wear it on some occasions as a tradition, or just to have a photo as a sample of traditional Yemeni dress."

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Previous achievements

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- (2006) - Gold medal in the International Environment Project Olympiads - (INEPO) - among 38 countries in Istanbul.
- Second position in the national computer competition in Sana'a.
- Silver medal in the International Chemistry Project Olympiads - (ICPO) - among 45 countries - Turkey.

The success story

Previous achievements

- (2008) First position in Grade 12 ministry exams (student - Salahuddin Dawod Al-Misbah).
- (2010) 2 Gold medals in and a Silver medal in the International Turkish Language Competition (ITLC) - Turkey.
- (2011) Third position in the International engineering Olympiads (ISWEEP) - in USA.

H E The Turkish ambassador receiving the superior students.

H E Mr. Abdulrazzak Al-Ashwal, Minister of Education has received the superior students of Turkish International Schools (Aden branch) who claimed the Golden medal in the International Environment Projects Olympiads (INEPO) held in Azerbaijan among more than (42) participated countries from all over the world. The superiors were honored by Mr. Al-Ashwal and they have been rewarded appreciation certificates.

TIS students rising the Yemeni Flag during the Olympiads.

Memorial pictures wit the Minister of Education

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Principal of TIS (Aden branch) receiving an appreciation certificate by the Minister of Education.

The Minister of Education honoring the superior students

A plan of the new campus of Turkish International Schools built in Asser area in Sana'a which includes several buildings (separated sections for senior students, boys and girls, in addition to the junior section) with three separated sports fields for each section. The new buildings contains classes highly equipped for the purpose of education (Data show, Smart Boards, Multimedia), in addition to the modern scientific laboratories (Physics - Chemistry - Biology - Computer) supplied with the latest standard educational tools. The Conference and dining halls are designed to fit more than (500) people.

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