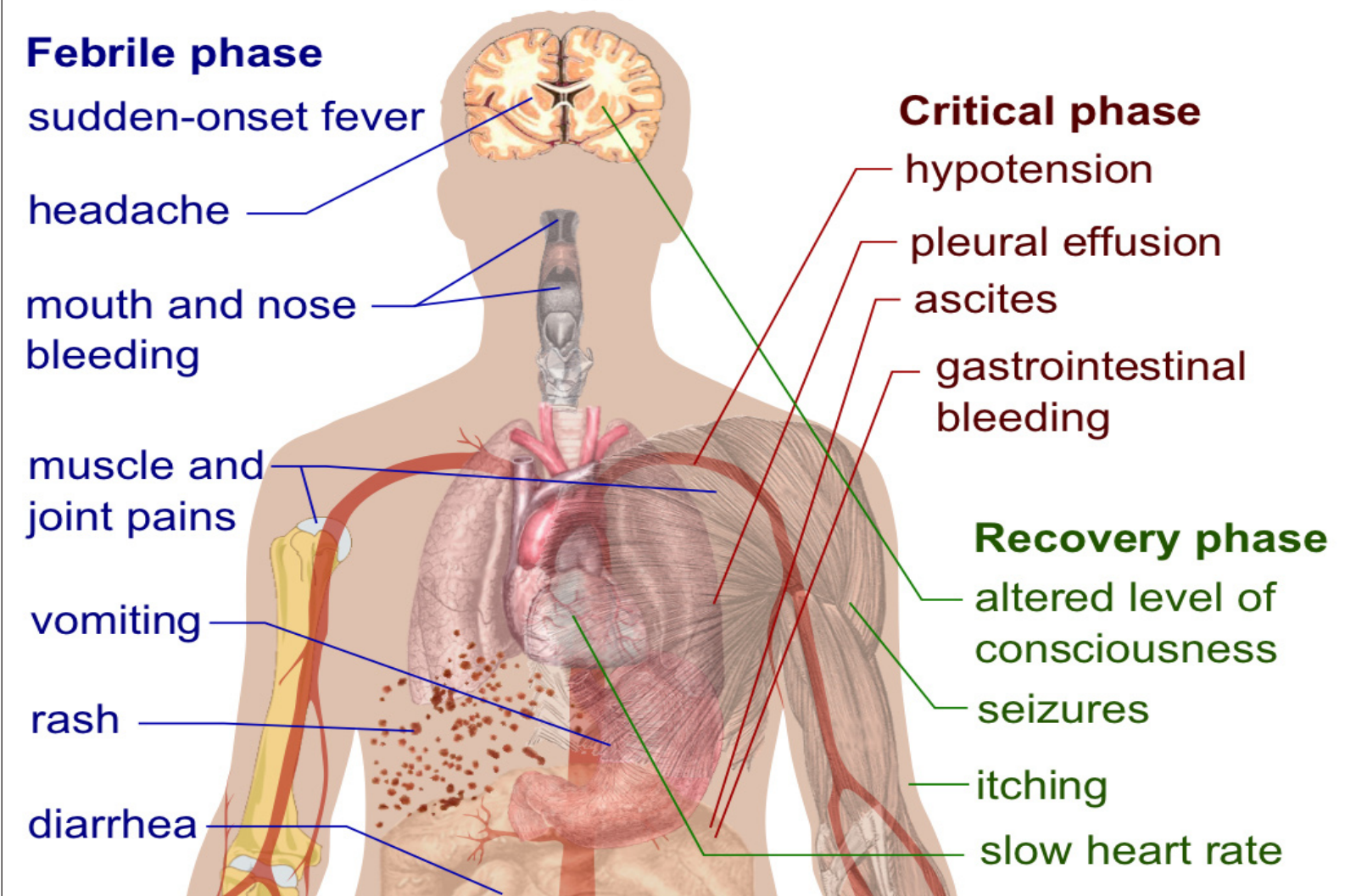


Dengue fever spreads again in Hodeida

Symptoms of Dengue fever



Four cases in Al-Lohaia district of Hodeidah were confirmed of infection with Dengue fever.

By: Maaad Al-Maqtari

HODEIDA, May 2— Dengue fever infection increased in Al-Lohaia district, overlooking the Red Sea, in the south-west of the coastal governorate of Hodeida.

Dengue fever is a virus which infects humans, causing high temperature, headache, and pain in the joints and muscles. Sometimes the virus can cause internal bleeding.

"We have to deal seriously with and find possible solutions to eradicate this [Dengue] epidemic in Hodeida. It is a coastal area, its climate is very hot in the summer, and the epidemic may spread to different areas from Hodeida," said Dr. Sultan Al-Maqtari, the director of the Epidemic Surveillance Center in Hodeida.

Around 67 people in the village of Deer Al-Dokhna in Al-Lohaia district complain symptoms of the

dengue fever, but it has not been confirmed yet whether they have the virus or not. Laboratory tests of 12 people from the village showed that only 4 people were dengue fever infected and no people died, according to Al-Maqtari.

"Most infected people suffer from a high temperature, 95 percent of them suffer headaches, 99 percent experience pain in the joints and muscles, and three percent suffer from internal bleeding," according to the report released by the Ministry of Public Health and Population in Hodeida.

The report mentioned the measures taken by the Ministry of Public Health and Population to decrease the number of infections, such as epidemic surveillance activities, treating infections, and sending teams of specialized doctors to Al-Lohaia district.

The report stressed that it is very important that doctors and nurses follow the usual procedures when

they discover a new infection and report it to the Epidemic Surveillance Center in Al-Lohaia district.

Dengue fever kills many people, particularly in the countryside, according to Ishaq Salah, from the Tehama People's Union.

Saleh accused the Public Health Center in Hodeida of paying little attention to villages in which the epidemic is highly spread.

"There are more than 1,000 infected people," claimed Saleh.

Dr. Ahmed Qasim Al-Ansi, the Minister of Public Health and Population, and Dr. Shaif Ezi, the Minister of State, held an urgent meeting last Wednesday in Hodeida with the governor of Hodeida to discuss the dangerous spread of Dengue fever in the city.

The urgent meeting was held by order issued by the Yemeni Cabinet last Tuesday. The cabinet instructed establishing special teams in order to control the spread of Dengue fever in Hodeida.

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Tribal leaders discuss transitional justice law

By: Yasser Ezzi

SANA'A, May 2 - The National Democratic Institute (NDI), in collaboration with Yemen's Legal Affairs Ministry, held a workshop in Sana'a to discuss the transitional justice draft law on April 25-26, 2012.

Transitional justice was applied in some countries such as Morocco, South Africa, and Indonesia in the wake of sectarian, ethnic or political conflicts. Through this law, it is hoped that conflicting sides will reach a settlement in a period of political shift.

With participation of four tribal alliances, the transitional justice law and its role in creating equity in Yemen were debated.

Sources from the NDI told the Yemen Times that more than 130 sheikhs from Yemen's Tribe Alliance, Yemen's Tribe Conference, Marib- Shabwa Tribe Alliance and other independent sheikhs participated in the workshop. They pointed out that other workshops will include high-ranking sheikhs and religious scholars will be held next month.

During the workshop, experiences of tribal sheikhs in cases of transitional justice were reviewed.

In the conclusion of the workshop, a committee comprised of 14 high-ranking sheikhs was formed to present suggestions from the workshop in meetings with international organizations, civil society and the Legal Affairs Ministry, with the aim of including them in the transitional justice draft law.

NDI held workshops in March for political parties and civil society organizations in which it discussed the experiences of five countries in transitional justice: South Africa, Chile, Morocco, Tunisia and Indonesia.

A workshop held for civil society organizations on March 11-12 was followed by a presidential decree that categorized all civilians who were killed in peaceful protests as martyrs, and salaries were appropriated to their families.

The Legal Affairs Ministry has prepared a transitional justice draft and national reconciliation law and called all the concerned parties to present their proposal observations

and opinions on the law.

Workshops witnessed heated debates among the participants due to the fact that the issue of transitional justice is still new in the Yemeni political arena.

Legal Affairs Minister Mohammed Al-Mekhlafi said that a legal team has put the final touches on the transitional justice draft law. He pointed out that the draft law was referred to the concerned ministerial committee for approval, which will be submitted later to the cabinet, the state-run Saba news agency stated.

He said many political parties, civil society organizations, unions and youth took part in the discussions that led to the draft.

The main purpose of the transitional justice law, according to Al-Mekhlafi, is to end conflict between Yemenis by compensating the victims of local crises that occurred between 1994 and 2012, while maintaining the immunity clause included in the Gulf Cooperation Council power transfer initiative signed by parties in the interim government.



Sheikhs from several tribal alliances meet to hash out particulars of the transitional justice law.

Houthis reject dialogue

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, May 2- The Houthis said that they will not take part in the upcoming national dialogue set to kick off soon, as maintained in the GCC-initiated, Western-backed backed power transfer deal signed in the Saudi capital Riyadh last November.

Saleh Habra, a leading figure in the Shiite Houthis, asked the Yemen Times in a statement, "Why would we want a political dialogue as long as it was imposed on us by the US and other countries by force?"

"How is the dialogue going to succeed in this way? They should ask the Yemeni people first and then invite us for dialogue," Habra said.

He considered the upcoming national dialogue as a way of cheating the Yemeni people, as he feels that it only serves the interests of the US and other states, whose first priority is not what's best for Yemen.

"The revolution broke out in order to achieve a number of things for this country, but the so-called National Unity Government hijacked the revolution and marginalized its aims. That's why we don't see or feel any improvement in the situation," he said.

"We will not participate in any dialogue until we feel that the government's goal is to serve the people and to seek to achieve their aspirations for building a new modern Yemeni state based on partnership

and equal citizenship."

In this vein, the prominent political figure and the head of the Political Development Forum, Ali Saif Hassan, said that the only solution for the current situation in the country is the inclusive national dialogue.

He told the local news website Al-Taghyeer that there are two potential types of dialogue in Yemen. One inclusive is of all sides, especially the factions that did sign the GCC accord.

"This needs extra effort from the political leadership, especially by President Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi," he said.

According to Hassan, the second type is the dialogue only among the

sides which signed the GCC deal and their followers. He described this type of dialogue as an extension of the dialogue which was suspended in 2008 between Saleh's party and the opposition coalition known as the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP).

"If the Preparatory Committee for the National Dialogue is formed by only the two sides of the National Unity Government, then the dialogue will only involve these two sides," Hassan added.

In the meanwhile, attention is fixed on the comprehensive national dialogue which will take place soon, as stipulated in the GCC agreement.

However, there are many obstacles in its way. Several movements

and factions, such as the Southern Movement and the Houthis, refused to take part in the dialogue. Also, there are some sides, like the revolutionary youth, which demand tough conditions be put on the dialogue.

Early this week, a high-ranking official told London-based Al-Sharq Al-Awsat Newspaper that new decrees to form committees tasked with communicating with the various factions and paving the way for the dialogue will be issued soon.

The unidentified official noted that the communication committees will be tasked with communicating with the concerned local, regional and international parties. Speaking about the delay of the

dialogue, which had been due to take place in April, the official said, "The delay in issuing presidential decrees regarding the reorganizing of the armed and security forces was the reason behind the postponement of the dialogue."

"Some sides refused to obey the presidential decrees for over twenty days. If these sides had obeyed the decrees once they were issued, we would have held the dialogue on time. Only when the UN envoy to Yemen, Jamal Ben Omar, arrived in the country and held talks with these sides they listened to the decrees," he explained.

The official pointed out that the forthcoming national dialogue will take place in mid-May.



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO working with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering, has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancies for its programme:

Finance Manager
Contract Duration: Open ended
Location: Sana'a

The Role
You will be responsible for the effective financial management and monitoring of monthly financial spending of all Oxfam's offices, take a leading role with Country Management Team in financial planning and establishing funding needs, support programme teams during annual budgeting and associated phasing and ensure proper utilization of funds, and undertake monthly and quarterly consolidated reporting on finance for all Oxfam's offices. You will take a leading role in the preparation of donor financial reports, advise on the application of Oxfam Financial policies and procedures, ensure that all data and documents relating to financial operations are complete and kept in an organized and secure manner, monitor the financial procedures of partners, ensure that clear internal audit trails exist and supervise the preparation/maintenance of accounts for external audits, and liaise with the Regional Centre on all financial matters.

What we're looking for
We are looking for someone with comprehensive knowledge and experience of relevant areas of responsibility (financial and non-financial), knowledge of Oxfam's financial functions would be an advantage. You should have sound resource management skills, analytical skills, and computer skills. You should have experience of financial and people management in similar sized organization, ability to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing in Arabic and English. You should be responsible, flexible, adaptable, diplomatic and attentive to details, and have the ability to prioritize.

Accountant
Contract Duration: Eight months
Location: Sana'a

The role
You will establish, maintain and develop financial and accounting systems and procedures, ensure the office conforms to minimum financial standards, undertake financial and administrative matters, assist in monitoring programme management budgets, and prepare Top-up requests in coordination with other offices. You will be working alongside Country Finance Manager/ finance team to prepare high quality donor financial reports, undertaking and monitoring all payments, preparing monthly bank reconciliation, ensuring security of cash, carrying daily cash count and maintaining up to date float registers. You will prepare monthly salaries, taxes and social insurance for Sana'a, Harad, Amran, Aden, Hodeidah and Sa'ada office, conduct trainings on financial management issues to none finance staff, keep Assets Register up to date, ensure that all financial transactions (soft and hard copies) all filed properly, and perform other tasks requested by the Country Finance Manager.

What we're looking for
We are looking for someone with university degree in a finance related subject or professional accountancy qualification, and three years experience of financial and people management in similar sized organization. You will have the experience in using financial software package and other IT software (Microsoft Applications), ability to train and coach others, and ability to work under pressure. You will have experience working as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing in Arabic and English, ability to deal with people at all levels (partners, staff...etc) and willingness to travel.

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Female candidates are encouraged to apply

Selection of Consultants Request for Expression of Interest in

Providing Consultancy Services to prepare Tender documents and contracts, assist in negotiation and Supervise Execution of Deepening and widening the access channel in the Port of Aden

The Republic of Yemen has obtained a grant from Abu Dhabi Fund for development for the purpose of financing "deepening and widening the access channel in the Port of Aden" project with an amount of US \$ 30,000,000. The Ministry of Transport, represented by Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation (Project Implementation Unit) intends to utilize a portion of this assistance in consultancy services of the project mentioned above, for which this announcement was issued. The project aims to deepen and widen the access channel in the Port of Aden, which will enable the port to accommodate the new generation container vessels, and making the port a Hub port for transit cargo services in the region.

Hence, YGAPC (PIU) – Port of Aden invites the qualified consultants companies/firms to express their interest and wish in the participation of submitting the required consultancy services. The wishing companies /firms have to submit all the data and documents that confirm its competence. They may enter into coalition or alliance in order to improve their qualification opportunities. The consultant services include the following required phases:-

PHASE I:

1. Preparation the tender documents,
2. Preparation a contract model in accordance with established international commercial standards,

Period of phase I of the consultancy services is supposed to be estimated by consultant depending on their expertise.

PHASE II:

1. Assist in evaluation of bids and in subsequent negotiations with the winner till the conclusion of the contract.
2. Supervise the execution of the project.

The consultant shall include the following information:

1. Qualifications in the field of the task,
2. Financial, technical and advisory status,
3. Its major business, years of relevant experience,
4. Qualification of key staff of the firm /company.
5. Entities that may confirm and verifying the implementing of similar previous projects.

Expressions of Interest shall be made in three hard copies (one original copy + two copies) along with a soft copy (CD) to the address mentioned below.

The selection of the consultancy company/firm will be carried out according to the bases and criteria stipulate in the guide book of procurement and consultancy services issued by the Tenders High board effected in the Republic of Yemen, and also the instructions issued by the Abu Dhabi Fund, the concerned companies / firms may obtain additional data from the address below during the official working hours from **09:00 am up to 14:00 pm**

Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below by **3rd June 2012.**

**Project Implementation Unit
Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation
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Ministry of Transport – Republic of Yemen**
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Fax: 00967 - 02 - 200476
Email: piuaden@yahoo.com
Website: www.portofaden.com
Website: www.adfd.ae

Deadline for submission is 12:00 hours noon on 3rd June 2012. No submission after the date above will be considered.

Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Opening of applications will be at the Project Implementation Unit office of the headquarters –Port of Aden at the same time mentioned above with the presence of the consultant firms or their representatives.

اختيار استشاريين إعلان للتعبير عن الاهتمام إعداد وثيقة المناقصة والعقود والمشاركة في التفاوض والإشراف على التنفيذ لمشروع توسعة وتحسين القناة الملاحة في ميناء عدن

حصلت الحكومة اليمنية على منحة من صندوق أبو ظبي للتنمية وذلك لتمويل مشروع عميق وتوسعة القناة الملاحة لبناء عدد بمبلغ / 30,000,000 دولار أمريكي وتنوي وزارة النقل ممثلة بمؤسسة موانئ خليج عدن اليمنية الوحدة التنفيذية للمشروع (استخدام الطولية، وعلى الشركات الراغبة تقديم كافة المعلومات والوثائق التي تؤكد أهليتها لأداء الخدمات ويمكن للشركات الاستشارية الدخول في ائتلاف لتحسين فرص تأهيلها.. وتشمل الخدمات الاستشارية المراحل التالية:-

المرحلة الأولى:-

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2. إعداد نموذج للعقد وفقاً للمعايير المتفق عليها تجارياً على نطاق عالمي.

إن المدة المتوقعة لتنفيذ المرحلة الأولى من الخدمات الاستشارية (تقدر من قبل الشركة الاستشارية حسب خبرتها) .

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2. وضع الاستشاري الفني والمالي والإداري.
3. مجال العمل الرئيسي وسنوات الخبرة في مجال الدراسة المعنية.
4. مؤهلات الكادر الرئيسي بما في ذلك الكادر القانوني.
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وسيتم اختيار الشركة الاستشارية للقيام بالخدمات المطلوبة وفقاً للأسس والمعايير في الدليل الإرشادي للمشتريات والخدمات الاستشارية للجنة العليا للمناقصات والمزايدات المعمول به في الجمهورية اليمنية وإرشادات وإجراءات الجهة المانحة (صندوق أبوظبي للتنمية) ويمكن للشركات الراغبة الحصول على معلومات إضافية من العنوان أدناه وذلك خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي من الساعة (التاسعة صباحاً) حتى الساعة (الثانية ظهراً).

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وأخر موعد لاستلام الوثائق هو الساعة (الثانية عشر ظهراً) من يوم الأحد الموافق 3 يونيو 2012م، ولن تقبل الوثائق التي سوف تصل بعد هذا الموعد.

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وسيتم فتحظار في مكتب الوحدة التنفيذية بالمركز الرئيسي - ميناء عدن في نفس الموعد أعلاه بحضور ممثلي الشركات الاستشارية أو مندوبيهم.

Frenchman escapes abduction attempt in Hadramout



The failed abduction attempt took place in Seyoun of Hadramout. Two Yemeni security employees at Total died in the attack.

By: Ali Saeed & Maaad Al-Maqtari

HADRAMOUT, May 2 - A French Citizen working with Total French company was injured and two Yemeni soldiers killed on Tuesday evening when unknown masked men attempted to kidnap the French man in Hadramout, in eastern Yemen, a security source told the Yemen Times on Wednesday.

The gunfire exchange took place in the city of Seyoun while the Total French Security Official was on his way to the airport to return to Sana'a.

"The masked armed men attempted to kidnap him [the

French worker], but the exchange of gunfire between his escorts and the men foiled the kidnapping," another security source said.

The local news website, Al-Masdar Online, quoted a security source in Hadramout saying that the militants who attempted to kidnap the French citizen do not belong to Al-Qaeda, but were trying to abduct him and hand him over to Al-Qaeda for money.

Major Suhail Rizq Al-Jawfi, deputy security officer at Total Yemen Company, whose father is security chief of the capital Sana'a, passed away on Wednesday morning following the injuries he sustained in the gunmen's attack on the company's car in Seyoun, Total said in

a press release on Wednesday.

Ali Al-Abyad, a soldier working with Total security personnel died immediately at the scene of the attack, according to a security source in Hadramout.

The Frenchman, who survived the gunfire, was shot in the leg three times, the security source said. He added that his health is stable.

At the moment, the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Ansar Al-Sharia, which is based in Shabwa and Abyan, has held two foreign captives, including one Swiss woman and a Saudi diplomat for over one month.

The group is demanding a high ransom to be paid for them to release the hostages.

Six Yemeni children win third round of Iken Scientifica competition



The winners of the Iken Scientifica's third round are headed to Mumbai for the final round.

Muaad Al-Maqtari

SANA'A, May 2- The third round of the international Iken Scientifica competition for scientific inventions concluded last Thursday in Sana'a.

In the third round of the competition, sixty students from mostly private schools in Sana'a competed and six students won. The winners will now travel to Mumbai, India, to compete against 15 teams from different countries including Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait.

The six finalists are Mohammad Al-Kahaly, Hamza Mohi-

youddin, Abdullah Al-Sanabani, Mohammad Al-Sayedi, Hisham Al-Faqih and Amani Al-Ayni.

If these six students win the fourth round next month in Mumbai, they will win a trip to NASA.

National Geographic Channel (NGC) will provide special media coverage during the nine students' trip to NASA.

During the trip to NASA, the nine students will tour the agency to see how they operate.

They will also meet prominent leaders of the agency.

Al-Hamedi trading company brings in all the pieces needed by the competitors to assemble their mini-inventions, accord-

ing to Hatem Noor Al-Deen, director of Al-Hamedi Trading Company.

"The tools we bring in from Mexus Company come with detailed user instructions and a brainstorming map to help the students construct the samples they want," added Noor Al-Deen.

"It is a fact that school books are no longer enough to build students' creativity.

So, the Iken Scientifica competition is important because it uses workshops which are intended to bridge the gap between theory and practice and to boost curiosity about scientific inventions," he concluded.



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UNFPA representative to Yemen to the Yemen Times

“If couples realize the number of children they want, they will contribute to stabilizing the population growth”

Interview by: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) began working in Yemen in the early '70s with the aim of improving the welfare of Yemenis and alleviating poverty through better reproductive health, and including population and gender issues in development planning.

Although last year's turmoil forced many international organizations to close down, the UNFPA continued its programs and activities without suspension. In March, Vandenberghe signed the UNFPA's Country Program Action Plan (2012-2015) with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

Yemen Times interviewed Marc Vandenberghe about the action plan and several issues relating to population in Yemen.

Tell us first about your 2012-2015 action plan for Yemen. Is the budget for this plan enough to tackle the population problem in Yemen?

The main goal of UNFPA's Country Program Action Plan (2012-2015), which has been signed with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in March, is to improve sexual and reproductive health, in particular of women and youth, and to contribute to the reduction of maternal mortality. Therefore, our programme promotes reproductive rights, and aims at increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services.

To achieve this, we work at two levels. First, we aim at increasing the coverage of reproductive health services, and improving their quality, in particular to provide safe delivery services to women. Too many women in Yemen die while giving birth to a child, and we want to make sure that they have access to a well equipped health facility where a trained midwife helps them to deliver their baby, without a risk for their lives. This means that we will contribute to train health professionals and provide equipment to health facilities. But we also want to inform communities and women in particular, that these facilities are available for them and encourage them to use them.

This brings us to the second level of our plan, increasing awareness on the right of women to access safe delivery services and engage in communication with women to create the demand for sexual and reproductive health services.

We communicate not only with women, but also with men and with young people, because it is in the interest of the whole community that women have proper health care while they are pregnant and have a safe delivery. A special part of our programme is to provide treatment and care to women who suffer of obstetric fistula. This is a condition that is mainly caused by obstructed labour. Women who have a difficult delivery, often because in fact they are too young to deliver a baby and their body is not fully developed to give birth, may suffer serious internal injuries leading to incontinence or sterility. This is a major tragedy in the lives of these women, but also in the lives of their husbands, children and families. Therefore, we have set up two centers, one in Sana'a and one in Aden, where women suffering of obstetric fistula can receive surgical treatment and post surgical care. At the same time we communicate with women, men, and youth to encourage those young women to avoid giving birth at a young age, to remove the main causes of this condition.

We also support the Ministry of Public Health and Population with improving the logistics system to distribute contraceptives to health facilities in the governorates to assist couples who want to space or limit the births of their children. Couples have the right to decide how many children they want and we want to help them realize their wish, by providing access to health facilities that can provide information, advice, and contraceptives. If couples realize the number of children they want, they will most likely have less children, or opt for spacing their births, which will reduce the number of children families have. This will improve the health of women, and reduce the risk that they die while giving birth. Besides, in the long term it will contribute to stabilizing the population growth.

Our budget of USD 25 million is limited, but we will focus on supporting the Ministry of Health with improving the logistics system for the purchase and distribution of reproductive health commodities (in par-

ticular contraceptives), at a national level, and furthermore focus on providing support to health facilities and communicating with communities to promote the reproductive health services in a limited number of governorates.

UNFPA will also assist people who are affected by the crisis in the country. Not only those who have to flee their homes, but also populations who remain in an area of conflict. Women living in a situation of crisis, especially if they are displaced, are very vulnerable. They may be pregnant and in need of antenatal health services, or a safe delivery, or protection against violence. Our main purpose is to make sure that even in those difficult circumstances women have access to reproductive health services and are protected against violence. For this we cooperate with public and private health services to provide the minimum services needed, or to help them detect and help women victims of violence.

While in the past a lot of progress has been made to bring the issue of reproductive health to the national agenda, and to improve the services, it is clear that still a lot of work should be done. Fortunately, many partners are involved in this process in the whole country, supporting reproductive health services either in the public or in the private sector, and all contribute to the implementation of the National Reproductive Health Strategy.

Despite your noticeable contribution in the UNFPA to stabilizing the population growth, Yemen still has one of the highest population growth rates in the world. Why?

Stabilizing the population growth contributes to a balance between the needs of the population and the capacity of government, private institutions, and families to cover these needs. It is the mandate of the UNFPA to raise awareness of the importance of the issue of population growth, and to advise the government and private organizations on ways to tackle this problem. Stabilization is a long term process.

In fact, one can say that stabilization of population growth is the responsibility of everybody. It starts with the perceptions of individuals about the life they want to lead and how many children they would like to have, and continues with the commitment of government and civil society organizations to provide appropriate services and care. It is obvious that access to and information on the correct use of contraceptives will help couples realize the number of children they want, but services in other sectors are important as well. For example, if girls receive a good education, preferable up to secondary school level, then they will most likely marry and have their first child at a later age. They tend also to have less children than women who did not have the same educational opportunities. Furthermore, if families have access to good adequate health services for their children and their living conditions make it that their children have higher chance to survive, couples may decide to have less children.

The government depends totally on international organizations to control the population explosion. How do you evaluate the performance of the government regarding population control? Have they dealt with the problem seriously?

The fourth Five Year Plan for Development and Poverty Alleviation 2011-2015, mentions reducing population growth as a major priority and as a condition for social and economic

development, and it aims at increasing the utilization of family planning methods from 19 percent to 40 percent. We hope that the government's two year plan for the transition period will continue working towards this objective. A lot of progress would be made if the two year plan would include measures to encourage the political participation of women in Yemeni society, to empower women economically, to include measures to improve access of women to reproductive health services, or access of girls to formal education. Such measures, if implemented, would have a positive effect on reducing population growth.

Nobody expects that the government should do all the work alone. It can count on many partners, including UNFPA, to help with policy development, and to provide technical support.

You always stress the importance of the role of youth in tackling the population explosion. What's their exact role in this matter?

Young people constitute the majority of the Yemeni population. They are literally the future of the country and the political developments in 2011 have shown that they are willing to assume their responsibilities.

It is important that youth are aware of the consequences of unabated population growth in terms of human development. They should be informed and educated and this includes raising awareness about what they can do at an individual level, as future young married couples.

If high fertility continues amongst the huge segment of the population that youth are, population growth will continue unabated and the population of Yemen will double in the coming 17 years! This will put a considerable strain on the country's limited basic resources, such as health infrastructure, water and schools. Therefore, we have to carefully focus on investing in young people, because they can contribute to reducing population growth.

Most of your activities are held in cities while about 70 percent of the population live in rural areas. Do you find it difficult to reach these areas?

In fact, we always work in the districts of our target governorates, as the majority of the population lives in these areas and access to health services is often difficult, in particular for women. For instance, during our previous programme cycle we implemented activities in Al-Mahabisha in Hajja, Sabra and Reef districts in Ibb, Al-Zayadia and Bait Al-Faqih in Hodeida, Al-Rujum and Al-Khabt in Al-Mahwit, etc. During the current programme cycle we will also implement activities in the districts of Hadramout and Ibb.

How can we empower Yemeni women to decide how many children they want to have?

Education is a major force in empowering women. Education has a big impact, not only on the capacity of women to participate socially and economically in society, but also on their health and as a consequence, on the health of their children and of other members of the family. Girls who go to school, preferably at least up to secondary level, are better equipped to share the burden of managing the household with their husbands and other family members. They can more easily express their views and contribute to solutions. Women who have benefitted from a good formal education tend to have less children than women who did not have this opportunity.

The ability of women to control

their own fertility further strengthens their empowerment and contributes to greater well-being of the family.

How does the UNFPA deal with the problem of young girls in Yemen being denied their education and being married off?

UNFPA is amongst the actors that work to enable girls and women to live with dignity and respect. Early marriage deprives girls from appropriate education. Even worse, it is a major factor of maternal mortality. Teenage girls are not physically fit for a pregnancy or to deliver a baby. Complications of pregnancy and/or delivery can be harmful and even fatal in many cases.

Therefore, UNFPA works with national and international partners on empowering women (including the most vulnerable) by helping them to acquire basic living skills, advocating for full access to formal education, and by supporting organizations who review and propose amendments to discriminatory laws, such as laws related to the age of marriage. Moreover, UNFPA works with men and boys, religious and community leaders to raise awareness of women's rights.

How does population growth rate negatively affect Yemen's economy and development?

High population growth is a serious obstacle in the fight against poverty and malnutrition. It stretches existing resources, such as the provision of adequate and good quality health services for mothers and newborns, education for children, or access to safe drinking water. Therefore, high population growth will continue to affect the whole development process in Yemen.

Are you satisfied with the level of reproductive health services in Yemen?

In the last few years, Yemen has



made a lot of progress with regard to improving their capacity to provide reproductive health services. The adoption and revision, last year, of the National Reproductive Health Strategy, under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, is definitely a major step forward. Unfortunately, the crisis has affected the implementation of the strategy, and has had a negative effect on the capacity of health providers to provide services to the population.

There are many actors in the field of reproductive health, who all contribute to increasing the coverage and improving the quality of the services. However, they face many challenges due to insecurity and instability.

We cannot be satisfied as long as Yemen has one of the highest maternal mortality ratios in the region. Every day six Yemeni women die during childbirth. There are women who cannot have access to health services and information. There are women who deliver without the help of skilled birth attendants. There are women who have unintended pregnancies. More lives of mothers could be saved if easy access to quality health services during pregnancy and childbirth are secured.

All women should have access to contraception to avoid unintended pregnancies; all pregnant women should have access to skilled care at the time of birth; all those with com-

lications should have timely access to quality emergency obstetric care. If this happens, we all would be satisfied with the level of reproductive health services in Yemen.

If we want to build a healthy society, we have to pay much care to women. Healthy women mean a healthy society.

HIV and AIDS poses a threat to Yemenis and there are no exact statistics about the number of cases in Yemen. How do you assess the danger of the disease in Yemen? What should we do to fight it?

While the prevalence rate in the general population is still low (about 0.2 percent), prevalence is increasing amongst groups at risk, such as sex workers. Fighting the spread of HIV is the responsibility of all actors in society and everybody has a role to play. UNFPA works with peer educators to increase youth awareness on the dangers of the spread of HIV so that they can protect themselves. In general, one should adopt a human rights approach, which means that everybody, whatever social or HIV status, has the right to information, health services, and care. It is important to talk openly about HIV and AIDS to avoid people living with HIV being stigmatized and refraining from seeking assistance, as this would only make the situation worse.

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Women drivers in Yemen: rare customers

By: Khalid Al-Karimi

In the distant past, there was no such thing as a woman driving in Yemen. These days, driving is a woman's legal right in Yemen. But does she have control over what kind of car to buy and when to buy it?

Sadam Al-Harasi, 30, the owner of Al-Rabat Car Gallery on Al-Ra-

bat Street in Sana'a, told the Yemen Times that there are very few female car customers. Al-Harasi indicated that on average, women buy only one car a month, and sometimes there are no female buyers.

Ali Ahmed Al-Jadabi, the proprietor of Al-Kheir Cars Gallery in Ma'een district in Sana'a, said it is very rare to sell cars to female clients. However, he confirmed that the percentage of women buying

cars has gone up compared to previous years. "In past decades, there were no women driving in Yemen. Yet nowadays there are many. As a result, we see that the number of women buying cars has increased too," Al-Jadabi said.

He added, "The woman who happens to purchase a car is often rich and old, or holds an important social position, such as a university professor."

Patriarchal Decision

Unlike the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in Yemen, a woman's right to drive is upheld by law. Moreover, Saudi Arabian women are not permitted to purchase a car. In Yemen, the responsibility of choosing a car usually lies with the man. This is due to the conservative nature of the society.

In Islamic tradition, a man is generally in charge of the family. His decisions are obeyed provided that these decisions are not negative or destructive.

Nabeel Muthna, the owner of Al-Muthna Gallery, also in Ma'een district, confirmed that the choice of what car to buy is a decision left to males. "Only a few families allow their female members to buy the cars that appeal to them, or well-off old widows are able to purchase the vehicles they desire," said Muthna.

For his part, Waleed Al-Harasi, who owns Al-Wadhah Gallery in Sana'a, indicated that some people feel that it's disgraceful and indecent to permit their wives or daughters to go haggling over cars with a car dealer. He proceeded by saying, "Yemen is a conservative community, and thus it's not odd that my customers are all men."

Female reactions

Women in Yemen differ on whether it is acceptable or not to be involved in choosing what car to buy.

Amani Mohammed, an English teacher in Sana'a, said that it would be unacceptable if she interfered in what car her husband decides to

Photo by Aseel N. Mohammed



Some women have to argue with their husbands or fathers to allow them to buy a car.

buy.

"Choosing a car is outright man's business, especially in Yemeni society. For me, I completely consented to my husband's first choice of a car," said Mohammed.

She added that, "I could consult with him [her husband], but it would not be fit to impose my own decision."

Abtisam Murad, 35, woman from Sana'a, claimed that a woman is able to influence the man's decision. She remembered that when her spouse bought his car, it did not appeal to her. Though she could have cajoled him into selling it in order to get another one, she remained silent.

"I could have rejected his choice of car. However, I refrained from opposing his will as a token of re-

spect," Murad said.

Um Nasr, 40, also in Sana'a, pointed out that if a woman interferes in choosing a car it indicates a weak character on the part of her husband. She continued that, "The man is the most powerful member in the family. Thus, the decision regarding the choice of car lies with him."

For her part, Sara Abdulkareem, a government employee, confessed that she convinced her spouse to take the car that she wanted. "I had the right to turn down his choice. We [spouses] are interdependent. Therefore, he must listen to me and I to him," Abdulkareem said.

She concluded, "It would be regressive to unwillingly accept his choice of a car."



Female cars customers in Yemen are often rich or hold an important social position.

Successful microfinance stories: Watch repairman struggles to save his forgotten profession

By: Amira Nasser

Abdullah Mohammed Salem, 55, a watch repairman, tells a story of the fierce battle he has waged against the tough economic conditions he has suffered as a Yemeni citizen in Aden governorate.

Salem, who is married with three daughters and one son, has been teaching his 14-year-old son how to repair watches.

Salem loves his profession. His father was a watch repairman, and taught Salem the business when he was a child. The same lessons he is teaching his son is what he was taught by his father.

"This profession is my passion and that's why I struggle for it," he said.

In 1980, his father supported him to work in a small watch repair shop and it was his first step to success. The situation was pretty good and as years passed, he bought a house, and in 1984 purchased the shop in which he now works.

Salem said that his income from the profession used to be much better than it is today. In the 1990s, he was a pioneer in the field of repairing valuable watches in Aden.

Before unification in 1990, he was earning one dinar (approximately

YR 26 to 30), but once the Yemeni currency changed he earned from YR 300 to YR 500.

Salem indicated that his situation was very good up until the sudden eruption of war in Sa'ada governorate in 2004.

"People who worked in repairing valuable watches lost their interests," he said, adding that the Yemeni markets started to fill with cheap Chinese watches. As more and more people started buying the Chinese watches, his profits decreased.

Salem decided to take out a loan from the Aden Microfinance Foundation (AMF) to rejuvenate his work as his business had become run down and he had many debts.

He obtained a YR500,000 (USD 2,500) loan from the AMF, and gave his home as the guarantee to pay back the loan.

He said that he was not afraid to start this adventure because he understood his profession well and was confident that he was not going to lose his home.

However, the situation did not work out as he planned. The shop stagnated and did not draw new customers. He had a monthly installment of YR 58,000 to pay back, and it was becoming increasingly hard for him to meet his repayments.

"I spend at least YR 2,000 to YR

3,000 every day to buy the basic needs for me and my family. I suffered from a financial deficit," he explained.

Salem's work deteriorated and he struggled to provide even half of the amount of his loan requirements. The only solution to Salem's financial problems was to borrow money from a merchant to pay off the rest of the amount owing to the AMF, thus saving his house.

Salem lived for years with the burden of his debt on his shoulders, but finally he was able to pay off his loan to the merchant. After this his brother Abdul-Karim asked him to be his guarantor for a loan from AMF, and again Salem could use his house as collateral.

Salem himself took a new loan of YR100,000 last year with monthly installments of YR 12,000. He said that he now pays each installment on time.

"I take my 14-year-old son with me to give him the lessons that my father gave," said Salem.

From the profits he earned, Salem has opened a small real estate agency and brought two of his friends to work with him.

"The AMF is a model of efficiency which helps Yemenis to overcome tough conditions and build themselves up gradually," he said.



Abdullah Mohammed Salem, watch repairman.

أنواع التأمين

- ♦ التأمين البحري . ♦ تأمين السيارات .
- ♦ التأمين الهندسي . ♦ تأمين الحوادث العامة .
- ♦ التأمين التكافلي (فردى - جماعى) .
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And to all Yemeni people and laborers on the occasion of
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Wishing the Republic of Yemen and its Wise leadership further achievements, progress and prosperity.
We also take this opportunity to congratulate the following outstanding employees honored this year 2012

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البتترول (بترومسيلة)

بأحر التمنيات القلبية إلى
فضيلة المشير ركن / عبدربه منصور هادي (حفظه الله)
رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

وإلى جميع أبناء الشعب اليمني وجميع عمال اليمن بمناسبة الإحتفال
بعيد العمال العالمي (الأول من مايو)

متمنين للجمهورية اليمنية وقيادتها الحكيمة المزيد من الإنجازات والتقدم والرخاء
كما نتنزه هذه المناسبة لتقدم بخالص التمنيات القلبية لموظفي الشركة المثاليين
والمكرمين للعام الحالي ٢٠١٢م وهم:



Amant Ahmed Al-Azazi
Sr Travel & Imm.
Coordinator
Sana'a



Ahmed Ahmed Hannido
Mechanical Foreman
CPF



Waseen Moh'd Abduh
Field Foreman
CPF



Ismail Ali Ismail
Military Liaison &
Sec Mgr
Sana'a



Saleh Ali Al-Bakri
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Khalid Nagi M.
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Luay Shaif Mukbel
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Abdulkader Hagi
Omer Baasem
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Ali Abdul-Aziz
Plant Foreman
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Khalid Ibrahim
Accounts Payable 2
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Abdullah Al-Kaf
Day Completion
Supervisor
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Saeed Abdul Hamid
Dubai Supply
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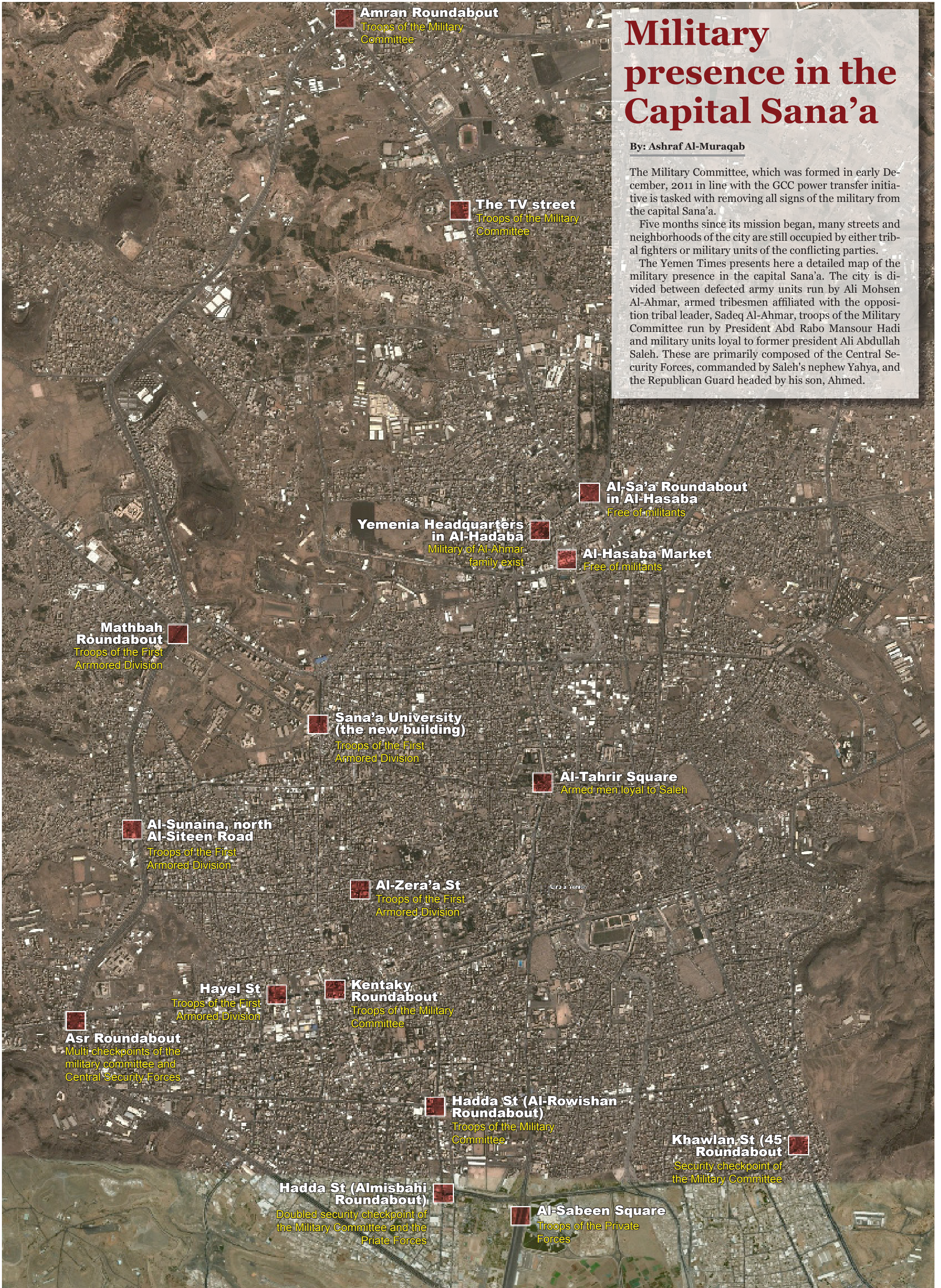
Military presence in the Capital Sana'a

By: Ashraf Al-Muraqab

The Military Committee, which was formed in early December, 2011 in line with the GCC power transfer initiative is tasked with removing all signs of the military from the capital Sana'a.

Five months since its mission began, many streets and neighborhoods of the city are still occupied by either tribal fighters or military units of the conflicting parties.

The Yemen Times presents here a detailed map of the military presence in the capital Sana'a. The city is divided between defected army units run by Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, armed tribesmen affiliated with the opposition tribal leader, Sadeq Al-Ahmar, troops of the Military Committee run by President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi and military units loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh. These are primarily composed of the Central Security Forces, commanded by Saleh's nephew Yahya, and the Republican Guard headed by his son, Ahmed.



Amran Roundabout
Troops of the Military Committee

The TV street
Troops of the Military Committee

Al-Sa'a Roundabout in Al-Hasaba
Free of militants

Yemenia Headquarters in Al-Hadaba
Military of Al-Ahmar family exist

Al-Hasaba Market
Free of militants

Mathbah Roundabout
Troops of the First Armored Division

Sana'a University (the new building)
Troops of the First Armored Division

Al-Tahrir Square
Armed men loyal to Saleh

Al-Sunaina, north Al-Siteen Road
Troops of the First Armored Division

Al-Zera'a St
Troops of the First Armored Division

Hayel St
Troops of the First Armored Division

Kentaky Roundabout
Troops of the Military Committee

Asr Roundabout
Multi-checkpoints of the military committee and Central Security Forces

Hadda St (Al-Rowishan Roundabout)
Troops of the Military Committee

Khawlan St (45 Roundabout)
Security checkpoint of the Military Committee

Hadda St (Almisbahi Roundabout)
Doubled security checkpoint of the Military Committee and the Private Forces

Al-Sabeen Square
Troops of the Private Forces

Looking beyond the veils of terror

Visiting Yemen these days takes courage - and the urge to see beyond the headlines. But doing so, you will find treasures: People passionately struggling for a new civil society.

By: Helene Aecherli

To be frank, for my nerves and above all for those of my family and friends it would have been much better if I had fallen in love with another country than Yemen. With Malaysia, perhaps, with Egypt or at least with Oman. "But why Yemen, for God's sake?", have I been asked innumerable times. And when I revealed a couple of weeks ago, that I would travel to Sana'a again, the tone of the question became almost desperate.

I bravely argued that I had fallen passionately in love with this country five years ago, when I visited Yemen for the first time to work on my Arabic language skills. I had been instantly mesmerized by its beauty and its people, whose warmth and hospitality moved me deeply, and I instinctively sensed, that there must be something in its soil, that is magic. That whispers about being the cradle of human civilization, the Arabia Felix, that has fascinated and influenced mankind ever since.

Sadly enough, Yemen is covered with a veil nowadays, that is so dark, that it is almost impossible to see through it, and even worse, makes any attempt to approach the country an act, that is considered suicidal. In Europe and Switzerland, Yemen has become synonymous with Al-Qaeda, US drones and fierce kidnappings. Even though the Yemeni uprising and the power transfer had been covered by the media, the events were largely overshadowed by those in Egypt, Libya and Syria. Clearly vis-

ible are just the headlines knitted by terror.

So it was time, I told myself, to start knitting different ones. That's why I boarded the plane to Sana'a again.

The first thing I noticed driving through the streets of the Yemeni capital was, that I didn't see as much change as I had expected: The traffic was as heavy as always, the piles of rubbish were still carelessly high, the women still in black, some buildings still bleak construction sites, the cheeks of men still swollen to the size of tennis balls in the afternoon, the Jebel Nugum still towering stoically over the city. Soon however, the layers of violence and chaos started to unfold to me. They exposed heavily armed soldiers, clustering with lethargic vigilance at street corners or below bridges; they exposed long rows of trucks, that were stuck due to lack of petrol, and flocks of hundreds of workers, who were desperately looking for jobs, that could feed their families for the day. They exposed the spreading of measles and malnutrition in the country and the stubbornly recurring cuts of electricity. And seeing that, I couldn't - and can't - help wondering, how and why this country, that could be so rich and prosperous, has managed to bring itself to the brink of ruin - being, so it seems, almost masochistically hooked up with never ending power games.

But still: There is something about Yemen, that keeps me optimistic. That makes me believe, that there is a self-healing power, which is strong enough to prevent the country from falling apart. This

power emerges from the courage and passion of its people, who strive to build a civil society - against all odds.

The more I sat down and discussed during daylight and dark, and the more tea I drank, the more I realized, that change in Yemen is not yet to be found in external

“

The first thing I noticed driving through the streets of the Yemeni capital was, that I didn't see as much change as I had expected: The traffic was as heavy as always, the piles of rubbish were still carelessly high, the women still in black, some buildings still bleak construction sites, the cheeks of men still swollen to the size of tennis balls in the afternoon, the Jebel Nugum still towering stoically over the city.

developments, but in a change of awareness. "We have been asleep for 33 years. Now we see, what is going on in the country", said Antelak Almutawakel, the co-founder of the Youth Leadership Development Foundation in Sana'a. "It's like a collective awakening." And this releases a lot of energy and

creativity.

When I visited Antelak in her institute, she introduced me to Hana, a brilliant young woman, who presented a project to me, that has been launched as a competition among eight Arab countries. She did this in excellent English and with an enthusiasm, that instantly got hold of me. The project aims at making schoolchildren reflect on the role of the civil society. It asks them to define a problem, they consider to be crucial in their society, to name the institutions, which are supposed to deal with it, to come up with ideas and solutions of how to solve this problem and more over: to present way of implementing these tasks. Hana has managed to make 40 classes in Sana'a participate, they dealt with social problems such as child labour, dependency on Qat and early marriages. I was deeply impressed and figured, it would be great to input such a project also to teachers in Switzerland.

Some days later I met Najla, one of the cousins of my friends, whom I had the honour to stay with. They had organized a women's session for me and invited sisters, relatives and neighbours, so that I would get a good chance of talking and exchanging till I drop. Najla and I got along instantly. She is 17 years old and dreams of opening up an institute, where children could enhance their talents under the supervision of professional artists. "I want to make their talents visible", she said energetically, "and at the same time show the community, that good things come out, if girls and boys work together." Now she is looking for a book on how to start one's own business, a sponsor and a suitable building for her institute. She knows, that she is heading for a difficult task. But the revolution has taught her one thing: "If you want to do something, do it now!"

Almost the same words I heard



Helene Aecherli in wadi Dahr.

from Murad Sobay, one of the very first Yemeni artists, who uses graffiti as an art form. After I had cruised by his bright work on the walls on Kentucky-Street, I wanted to meet him. Murad painted his first graffiti this year in March, one day after his graduation. First, he was on his own, people wondered, what he did and shouted at him. But just one week later they joined him. "We have a foggy future", he said, "but I do, what I can: I paint. I want to show, that there are a lot of colours in this country and a change is going on. I paint, because I don't believe in weapons. Using weapons will only lead to more weapons. Using colours, however, will lead to more colours."

Following the path of colours will finally lead you to Arwa Othman, the founder of the House of Folklore (that unfortunately is closed for the time being). She researches about the colourful past of the country, to

make people remember the colours in the clothes, the dances, the stories, the unveiled faces and in the voices of women, that had started to fade away, when the colours turned black. Arwa Othman is one of the few women in Sana'a, who doesn't veil herself at all. It's her right as a Yemeni citizen, she says, to have a face. It's an act of self-determination and personal freedom for which people admire her deeply - and for which she also is heavily harassed. But she just goes on, driven by her courage and the love she feels for her country.

It's because of people like Antelak, Hana, Najla, Murad and Arwa that I am optimistic for Yemen. Their individual initiatives will make a difference. It will take time, but it's time to start.

And to be frank: I am very glad, I boarded that plane to Sana'a. As a visitor in the City I felt relaxed - dangerously relaxed.

اختيار شركات الشحن والتخليص - برنامج الاغذية العالمي للأمم المتحدة



يقوم برنامج الاغذية العالمي التابع للأمم المتحدة في اليمن بمراجعة وتحديث قائمة الشركات التي تعمل في مجال الشحن والتخليص المحتملة.

وعلى الشركات المهتمة والمؤهلة والراغبة، تقديم طلب إستمارة الأستبيان الخاصة بالشحن والتخليص، لتعبئته وإرفاق جميع وثائق وبيانات الشركة والتراخيص ذات الصلة لمزاولة المهنة، خلال فترة أقصاها نهاية دوام يوم السبت الموافق 12 مايو 2012، ويطلب من الشركات المعتمدة لدى برنامج الاغذية العالمي للأمم المتحدة، تعبئة إستبيان الشحن والتخليص، وتقديم جميع الوثائق والتراخيص ذات العلاقة خلال الفترة الموضحة أعلاه، علماً بأن الطلب الوارد من قبل الشركات بعد هذا الموعد لن يأخذ بعين الاعتبار، وينبغي تقديم الطلب إلى مكتب البرنامج في صنعاء على العنوان التالي، مع كتابة "قائمة شركات الشحن والتخليص"، علماً بأن الشركات التي سيتم قبولها في القائمة هي فقط التي سيتم دعوتها للمشاركة في المناقصات.

برنامج الاغذية العالمي
فيلا رقم 22، شارع نواكشوط
ت رقم 01 - 214100
المكتب الرئيسي - صنعاء

على الشركات الراغبة سحب إستمارة إستبيان الشحن والتخليص الخاص بالبرنامج وتعبئتها، وإرفاق جميع المستندات المطلوبة في الإستبيان.

للاستفسار، يرجى التواصل على الأرقام التالية: 737507841 أو 733223303

"United Nations World Food Programme - Selection of Potential Clearing & Forwarding Companies"

The United Nation Word Food Programme, Republic of YEMEN is currently reviewing its shortlist of potential clearing & forwarding companies.

Interested and qualified companies are requested to fill the WFP Transport Questionnaire, and submit it together with a letter of interest, a company profile and supporting documents such as references, copy of company registration/licenses for clearing & forwarding from the relevant authority. The deadline is Saturday May 12, 2012. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Companies who are already short listed by The United Nation World Food Programme are requested to fill the Questionnaire and submit it again along with the supporting documents. Applications should be submitted to the following address, with reference "Clearing & Forwarding Shortlist". Please note that only short listed companies will be notified and receive request for offers.

The World Food Programme
Villa no. 22 Nouakchott Street,
Tel. 01 214100/1
Sana'a office

Interested companies are requested to collect Questionnaire at the WFP office located at the above indicated address. The questionnaire is expected to be submitted together with other supporting documents.

For more information, please contact on the phone no.: 737507841 or 733223303.

إختيار مقاولي النقل - برنامج الاغذية العالمي للأمم المتحدة



يقوم برنامج الاغذية العالمي التابع للأمم المتحدة في اليمن بمراجعة وتحديث قائمة شركات النقل المحتملة، وعلى الشركات المهتمة والمؤهلة والراغبة، تقديم طلب إستمارة الأستبيان الخاصة بالنقل، لتعبئته وإرفاق جميع وثائق وبيانات الشركة والتراخيص ذات الصلة، خلال فترة أقصاها نهاية دوام يوم السبت الموافق 12 مايو 2012، ويطلب من الشركات المعتمدة لدى برنامج الاغذية العالمي للأمم المتحدة، تعبئة إستبيان النقل والتراخيص ذات العلاقة خلال الفترة الموضحة أعلاه، علماً بأن الطلب الوارد من قبل الشركات بعد هذا الموعد لن يأخذ بعين الاعتبار، وينبغي تقديم الطلب إلى مكتب البرنامج في صنعاء على العنوان التالي، مع كتابة "قائمة الشركات"، علماً بأن الشركات التي سيتم قبولها في القائمة هي فقط التي سيتم دعوتها للمشاركة في المناقصات.

برنامج الاغذية العالمي
فيلا رقم 22، شارع نواكشوط
ت رقم 01 - 214100
المكتب الرئيسي - صنعاء

على الشركات الراغبة سحب إستمارة إستبيان النقل الخاص بالبرنامج وتعبئته، وإرفاق جميع المستندات المطلوبة في الإستبيان.

للاستفسار، يرجى التواصل على الأرقام التالية: 737507841 أو 733223303

"United Nations World Food Programme - Selection of Potential Transporters"

The United Nation Word Food Programme, Republic of YEMEN is currently reviewing its shortlist of potential transport companies.

Interested and qualified companies are requested to fill the WFP Transport Questionnaire, and submit it together with a letter of interest, a company profile and supporting documents such as references, copy of company registration or relevant authorization. The deadline is Saturday May 12, 2012. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Companies who are already short listed by The United Nation World Food Programme are requested to fill the Questionnaire and submit it again along with the supporting documents. Applications should be submitted to the following address, with reference "Logistics Shortlist". Please note that only short listed companies will be notified and receive request for offers.

The World Food Programme
Villa no. 22 Nouakchott Street,
Tel. 01 214100/1
Sana'a office

Interested companies are requested to collect Transport Questionnaire at the WFP office located at the above indicated address. The questionnaire is expected to be submitted together with other supporting documents.

For more information, please contact on the phone no.: 737507841 or 733223303.

“Hidden Fences” from Yemen awarded in fifth Gulf Film Festival

By: Samar Qaed

The fifth Gulf Film Festival (GFF) concluded on Monday, April 16, 2012 in Dubai. The final award ceremony honored the best in filmmaking talent in the Middle East and around the world.

The GFF started five years ago, and this year for the first time three Yemeni films competed in the festival. One of them, Hidden Fences (Aswar Khafia), won second place in this year's GFF.

The other two Yemeni films were “My Father is Sleeping” (Abuy Naaim), and “The Easiest Way to Suicide” (Ashal Tareeqa Lil Intihar).

The cast of Hidden Fences includes director Sameer Al-Nemri, producer Kamal Al-Hetari, camera assistants Jamal Al-Nemri and Mohammed Yusof, and translators Radhia Khairan and Ammar Al-Qadhi.

The film explores the lives of marginalized people, black-skinned people who face social discrimination and are victims of violence, known by most Yemenis as Akhdam. Their plight, often unknown to the world and seldom discussed in any developmental forums, is presented from the perspective of a Yemeni writer, who portrays their lives in his novel.

Further, it portrays the details of their lives and discusses their problems, which were discussed in a Yemeni novel entitled “Black Taste and Black Smell”, written by Ali Al-Moqri, a Yemeni author.

“I'm very happy that my short film was awarded in the fifth GFF,” said Al-Nemri, the film's director.

Al-Nemri works as a cameraman for Al-Jazeera's channel office (JCO) in Yemen. He also worked as a cameraman and director for Suhail Channel since its founding a few



Director of Hidden Fences, Sameer Al-Nemri.



Screenshot from Hidden Fences, which won second place in the fifth Gulf Film Festival in Dubai.

years ago.

Furthermore, he has taught numerous courses in television production and new media.

Al-Nemri studied at the College of Fine Arts in the University of Hodeida and received a bachelor's degree in fine arts. In addition, he took special film and production courses at the JCO in Doha, Qatar.

Many observers said that Hidden Fences is a good film that deserves to be awarded the fifth GFF prize.

“Hidden Fences deserves the award because it mainly tackles a very important issue, that of marginalized people. This issue is often considered by the international community,” said Sameer Al-Afeef, a Yemeni director.

“It is a real success to be accepted to participate in an international festival like the GFF, even if you don't win, because the jury committee

admits films according to very high standards. I know this because I presented my short film You and Me in the fourth GFF,” he added.

“There are many cultural and historical issues in Yemen to write about because Yemen has an ancient civilization. This will help Yemenis to produce many films in the future,” said Mohammed Ghawth, a producer.

“In my opinion, the success of Hidden Fences should encourage other talented Yemenis to participate in such competitions,” he added.

Obstacles to filmmaking in Yemen

Yemeni directors often depend on themselves to sponsor their films.

Al-Nemri and Mohammed Al-Hobaishi, a Yemeni director and screenwriter, faced such a problem.

“A film costs about \$70,000 to

produce. When we show our ideas to the sponsors, they only think of the profit they will get in return, saying that we have to take some scenes, photos and comments to produce a film in a week's time,” said Al-Hobaishi.

“I produced a film entitled Soqatra: a Land Beyond the Limits of Imagination and it was translated to English and French. Yet with all the efforts I exerted I got only Y.R 40,000 in return,” said Ghawth.

In Yemen, it's so easy to find something to write about and anyone can find a theme which they can base films on. Foreigners come to Yemen and produce films about Yemen because they are given the time and money, according to Al-Hobaishi.

“We make films about the achievements in a particular organization or a ministry, but they aren't considered films that bring the director fame, whether inside or outside Yemen because there is no creativity in them,” said Al-Hobaishi.

Paying no attention to films

“It's a tragic situation for filmmaking in Yemen because no one pays attention to short films,” said Al-Afeef.

“There are special cinemas for films in the world but in Yemen, because people aren't aware of the importance of films, we have only a few channels where we can show films,” added Al-Afeef.

One reason of little attention to short films is that filmmaking in Yemen is still in its developmental stage. There are no films and dramatic works but some talented and hardworking individuals use the available sources to produce simple short films like Al-Nemri, according to Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Shami, a lecturer in the Faculty of Mass Media at the University of Sana'a.

“There are no special institutes to develop filmmaking and directors. We only have the Department

of Radio and Television in the College of Fine Arts at the University of Hodeida,” said Al-Shami.

“However, this department has changed its goals to become like the departments of radio in the Faculty of Mass Media,” he added.

“The youth want to try to make films, but they aren't able to do so because they aren't taught how to make films at college. Those who make films in Yemen are only amateurs. There are many ideas which need to be brought to light,” said Al-Shami.

“We hope that officials will pay attention to filmmaking and hope also that special institutions will be established to sponsor short films in Yemen,” Al-Hobaishi added.

Art is important to the country because it develops the individual's emotions and society's as well, according to Al-Afeef.

“The previous governments and the current one pay no attention to art. All they care about are the army and the military barracks. They are critical of cinemas and films in general,” he concluded.

An interview with Al-Nemri

Can you tell us about the idea behind Hidden Fences?

Al-Nemri: I came up with the idea after the great success of the novel “Black Taste and Black Smell”. Hidden Fences is a 025-minutes HDV film that reflects the plight of marginalized people and why Yemenis refuse to live with them.

They [marginalized people] are forced to live far away in the outskirts of cities and they find no work but sweeping and sewer fixing. This is evidence of the societal discrimination against them.

Where was this film recorded?

Al-Nemri: The film was videotaped in Ta'iz. It shows a demonstration of marginalized people demanding retribution for the killing of one of their own by an influential public figure.

Marginalized people are being killed in cold blood, but the murderers aren't punished because of Yemeni social customs which posit that whoever kills a marginalized person isn't punished, but pays blood money instead.

At the end of the film, possible solutions are given by some marginalized people to prevent acts of violence against them and help them integrate into Yemeni society.

How was the film evaluated by the jury committee?

Al-Nemri: They judge films according to particular criteria, but the theme and message of the film are taken into consideration too.

Why do you think Hidden Fences was awarded fifth place in the GFF?

Al-Nemri: Actually, the film spreads a message to the entire society that marginalized people are all human beings and for that reason no one should look down upon them due to their black skin.

Could you tell us how you participated in the GFF and how the competition was?

Al-Nemri: I found out about the competition and followed the registration procedures, and finally participated.

As for the competition, it was very difficult to compete with the numerous talented film makers from the Gulf countries and Iraq.

Why did you concentrate on the issue of marginalized people in your film?

Al-Nemri: The marginalized people are considered low class and only work jobs which others despise. So, they take priority in my work.

What were the difficulties you faced?

Al-Nemri: I faced lots of problems, because I depended only on myself to produce and direct the film, since I had no sponsors.

What do you think of filmmaking in Yemen?

Al-Nemri: Filmmaking in Yemen has been monopolized by government sectors for many decades. This hindered many directors from making their own original documentary and dramatic films.

Yemeni viewers get used to watching films that others make, without being able to contribute to making such films themselves.

There is no filmmaking in Yemen except for a few films made by some hardworking and creative Yemenis.

Have you participated in other international festivals before?

Al-Nemri: No. This is the first time.



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