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Water: the challenge that faces Yemen

Emad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, May 30 — The Yemeni Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) held the "Regional Water Forum" in Taiz on Saturday morning. It was held in cooperation with the Responsive Governance Project (RGP), a USAID-funded project.

The forum was held under the slogan, "Water is a life story" and included the participation of researchers, specialists in civil and private sector organizations, and several officials from concerned municipalities in charge of water distribution in Taiz, Ibb, Dhamar, and Al-Baida.

Shawqi Ahmed Hayel An'am, the governor of Taiz, said that the water shortage is one of the biggest problems Yemen will face in the upcoming years. Therefore, cooperation among all experts and officials is needed to find effective solutions.

An'am added that desalination of Al-Mokha seawater is one of the best solutions because it is readily available, making it ideal and cheap, particularly if wind power is used to pump the water.

He pointed out that the construction to finish the project continue, in coordination with the MWE and the government of Saudi Arabia.

Next month, officials will visit Saudi Arabia and follow up on the status of money granted by the late Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz to fund pipelines to carry water to Taiz and Ibb from the port of Al-Mokha on the Red Sea.

He urged the concerned bodies to take action to stop the egregious depletion of water, particularly if the water is used to cultivate qat (a mild narcotic plant).

Most of the suggestions presented by the civil and private sector organizations focused on the importance of implementing laws concerning water conservation and distribution. They also recommended expanding the role of the General Water Authority, establishing reservoirs around heavy need areas and making maximum use of rainwater harvesting systems.

The participants said that depletion of the natural aquifers must stop, particularly when the water is used for qat. They called for elimination of the drug altogether and finding alternative crops to provide a stable income to farmers. They also called for creation of new job opportunities and increasing irrigation guidance campaigns among farmers and residents in rural and

urban areas.

The researchers also stressed the importance of the private sector's role in solving the water problem by establishing desalination stations and manufacturing modern irrigation pipes.

Studies presented by the forum reported that water scarcity in Yemen has a strong link with decreasing public health, increasing poverty and unemployment rates and is a central cause of low female education rates in the country girls.

The studies point out that Yemen is one of the few countries in the world that suffer from severe water shortages, with the country being among the top ten of those with severe water shortages.

The total ratio of water per person per year is 125 cubic meters, estimated to be about two percent of the world average of 7,500 cubic meters per year per person and ten percent of the number in the Middle East, which is estimated to be 1,250 cubic meters per year per person.

Taiz is considered the city in Yemen that most suffers from a lack of water, where water comes by pipeline only once a month, leaving many households with no access to water at all.



In Taiz water comes only once a month, leaving many households with no access to water. The government plans to carry out a desalination project in Al-Mokha port on the Red Sea to provide water access to three governorates including Taiz, Ibb, and Al-Baida.

Al-Qaeda's new technique to gain money

Ahmed Dawood

SANAA, May 30 — In addition to taking over cities and carrying out suicide bombings, Al-Qaeda has begun stepping up the kidnapping of foreigners in Yemen.

Over the course of the past four past months, Al-Qaeda has executed several abductions. The most significant cases are the kidnapping of Aden's Saudi consul, Abdullah Al-Khaledi, on March 28 and a Swiss teacher in Al-Hodeida in

March. There was also a failed attempt aimed at abducting the Portuguese ambassador to Yemen on May 12 while he walking to his car in the streets of Yemen's capital, Sana'a.

As a result of these terrorist operations, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia warned Saudi nationals against traveling to Yemen. According to an official at the Interior Ministry in Saudi Arabia, the situation in Yemen is unsafe and Saudis have been advised not to travel to Yemen until

the country stabilizes.

The Saudi warning comes one day after Al-Qaeda broadcast video footage showing the abducted Saudi consul, Abdulla Al-Khalidi, who appeared to urge King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz to help liberate him from Al-Qaeda's grip and cede to their demands.

In April, Al-Qaeda demanded the release of women detained in Saudi Arabia and to pay financial ransom in exchange for releasing the Saudi consul. However, the Saudis declined to negotiate with Al-Qaeda.

Yemeni journalist Mohammed Ghazwan said that Al-Qaeda's main aim is to extort money to fund its operations and build its emirate in Abyan, adding that terrorist activities have negatively impacted security in Yemen and sapped state resources.

For his part, Abdulsalam Mohammed of the Abaad Strategic center for Studies, said the current security deterioration is contributing to the growing Al-Qaeda movement, asserting that the military and security division are putting

the diplomats' lives at stake.

He added that security forces in Yemen are not working in line with the Interior Ministry. Neither are some military working with the Defense Ministry, thus helping Al-Qaeda grow stronger, he said.

Two weeks ago, the Interior Ministry declared that serious security procedures must be taken to prevent attacks on embassies, calling for all foreign diplomats to avoid insecure areas.

And the abduction process is not confined to Al-Qaeda's branch in Yemen. Al-Qaeda in Morocco, for the first time, has resorted to kidnapping to obtain huge monetary gains as well.

Members of Al-Qaeda abduct western locals for the purposes of gaining money or in order to demand the release of their members. They have also used the technique to demand the withdrawal of foreign forces in Afghanistan.

In Iraq, Al-Qaeda has abducted over 45 individuals for millions of dollars in exchange for returning them unharmed.



Abdullah Al-Khaledi, the Saudi diplomat hostage was appeared this week in a video clip posted by Al-Qaeda. Analysts say that Al-Qaeda aims by kidnapping foreigners to get money.

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Declaration of a new political party in Yemen



Head of the new party [Development and Building Organization], Mohammed Abu Lahoom said that the purpose of his party is to contribute in establishing a modern civil state based on justice, equality and state of law.

Khalid Al-Karimi

SANA'A, May 30- Under the slogan, "building a civil state based on justice, freedom and development," the preparatory committee of the Development and Building Organization (DBO) held an inauguration ceremony and press conference on May 28th in the capital Sana'a.

The head of the DBO, Mohammed Abu Lahoom, delivered a speech declaring that the purpose of the new party was to contribute in establishing a modern civil state based on justice, equality, and enforcement of law.

"Our vision is based on orders and laws taken from Islam and human values that esteem others thoughts, cultures, and atti-

tudes. All people are equal. There must be a partnership between politicians and citizens in order to make good political decisions. This will guarantee progress and stability," said Abu Lahoom.

In his speech, Lahoom commended the great efforts of the youth who exerted change during the peaceful revolution that gave Yemenis a chance to participate in building their civil state in order to end conflicts in the country.

Many high-ranking officials were in attendance for the opening ceremony, including the US ambassador to Yemen, ambassadors of neighboring and friendly countries, and Mohammed Salem Basindawa, the Prime Minister of Yemen.

Basindawa expressed his hap-

piness about the creation of the new party, saying that all political parties in Yemen have the right to exercise democracy in every sense of the word.

He added that, "The founders of the DBO are not strangers. Their roles in shaping this country are known to everyone. We appreciate and respect them for that."

Abdulwahab Al-Anisi, secretary general of the Islah Party delivered a speech on behalf of the already established political parties in Yemen, saying that the establishment of the DBO will be a valuable addition to political life in Yemen.

"We look forward to building a strong relationship with this new party," said Al-Anisi.

UNICEF: Urgent need for immediate action in Yemen

Muaad Al-Maqtari

SANA'A, May 27- "There is an urgent need for immediate action to aid 13 million children who make up more than half of Yemen's population," said UNICEF's Representative to Yemen Gert Kabileri in a press release issued last Wednesday.

"The international community should cooperate with the Yemeni government to determine the appropriate choices in the transitional period 2012-2014," he said.

Kabileri confirmed that priority has to be given to the malnourishment issue, particularly in the upcoming month of July which is considered the season of poverty and diarrhea.

UNICEF welcomed the results of the May 23 Friends of Yemen Meeting, which indicated that the chronic underdevelopment in Yemen had negatively affected a majority of Yemenis before the present humanitarian crisis erupted in the country.

UNICEF pointed out that Yemen is the most malnourished country in the world, with 85 percent of its population suffering from malnutrition.

Almost one million children under the age of five have been victims of acute malnutrition, which is deemed the primary reason behind children mortality.

"More than five million boys and girls do not have access to adequate drinking water and sanita-

tion, while an estimated 2.5 million children are estimated to be out of school, with girls missing out on education the most," the report said, adding that "almost every child in Yemen has been affected by widespread violence."

According to the press release, the past year's crisis further aggravated malnourishment in Yemen.

"The fight against malnutrition in Yemen requires urgent large-scale investments in almost all sectors to improve people's access to food, drinking water, sanitation, hygiene education, social protection, livelihoods and quality health services," the statement concluded.

Benomar warns of military threats against political transfer in Yemen

Khalid Al-Karimi

SANA'A, May 30- UN Special Envoy to Yemen, Jamal Benomar, warned in his report delivered to the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday that spoilers of the transitional period will be punished and that the patience of the international community is running thin.

He said that the power transfer deal is on the right path, indicating that President Hadi has exhibited strong leadership and determina-

tion in taking the helm in the transitional period.

However, he expressed concerns about attempts to derail the transfer deal. "The transitional period in Yemen coincides with unprecedented security dangers and humanitarian crises that are as yet unresolved. Thus, there is no time to waste," he said.

Regarding the current obstacles that Yemen is facing, Benomar said, "one of the major challenges the new government passes through is the difficulty of enforce-

ing the law, particularly in an environment where all opponents are struggling to take power, including Al-Qaeda."

He expressed confidence in Hadi's efforts in fighting Al-Qaeda, saying that the efforts have yielded fruit.

Hinting at the continuous intervention of former President Saleh, he said, "In spite of the fact that the transitional period in Yemen is heading in the right direction, it cannot continue in the face of ongoing military threats."

Islamic clerics demand Hadi to quicken army reorganizing



The stand of the Islamic clerics with Hadi represents a more support to his legitimacy in the religious Yemen.

Muaad Al-Maqtari

SANA'A May 30- in their first meeting with the new President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi on Tuesday May 29th, a group of Sunni Islamic clerics have demanded that he hasten the army reorganization and purge it of any partisan or personal loyalties.

Islamic clerics have a large influence in forming public opinion in Yemen and they played a significant role in the 2011 uprising.

The clerics, who were headed by Abdulmajid Al-Zandani, an influential member of the Islah party who is also on the US most-wanted list for alleged connections to Al-Qaeda, demanded improved living standards for members of the military and security personnel, as well as taking care of the families of soldiers killed and injured while on duty.

The clerics are expected to sup-

port Hadi, who enjoys popular regional and international support for his stance on the war on terror in southern Yemen against the Al-Qaeda affiliated group Ansar Al-Sharia and against the Shiite Houthi rebels in the north of the country.

They also called for Islamic law to be implemented against anyone found to be destabilizing security or endangering people's properties or lives. Within the context of these demands, they also demanded that Hadi replace leaders of governorates witnessing insecurity and instability.

"It is illegal in Islam to rebel against the state and it is also unacceptable to kill any citizen outside of the jurisdiction of the court," the clerics said in their concluding statement.

The meeting between the clerics and President Hadi may serve to boost support for the new regime

since they asked him to work on practical issues such as increased security and stability and to more evenly enforce the rule of law nationwide.

Another of the key demands brought to Hadi was the forming of a committee tasked with visiting detention facilities nationwide to set innocent prisoners free and bring criminals to justice.

A four member committee of Islamic clerics was formed to follow up on progress of their demands. The committee included Aref Al-Sabri, Hamoud Al-Tharhi, Mohamed Al-Hazmi and Abdulmalik Al-Taj.

They encouraged the completion of the peaceful power transfer and more open dialogue with all Yemenis. The clerics concluded their meeting by expressing their disapproval of any foreign military intervention in the country.

Tribal leader in Ibb threatens to stage demonstrations

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANA'A, May 30 - On Tuesday a coalition of tribal leaders in Ibb governorate decided to allow one more week before the final deadline to hand over personnel from the security forces. The personnel are alleged to have killed five people and wounded four from Ibb's Al-Kafr district in March in the capital Sana'a.

The killing resulted from a land-ownership dispute between Abdullah Al-Eryani of Ibb and Ahmed Galala of Dhamar in the Hadda neighborhood of Sana'a. General Fadhl Al-Qawsi, the then-deputy Minister of Interior, also from Dhamar, supported Galala in the issue out of regional loyalty. To support Galala's claims to the land, he sent military forces in a campaign against Al-Eryani associates in Sana'a.

On March 18, a convoy of 24 military vehicles sent by Al-Qawsi opened fire on and killed five people from Ibb affiliated with the Al-Eryani family on the disputed land plot in Sana'a.

According to Nasr Al-Shahiri, a prominent tribal leader from Ibb, the military vehicles fired directly

at the property's guard, killing him. Locals affiliated with Al-Eryani attempted to hospitalize the guard, but military vehicles surrounded them and shot at them. Five people were killed.

During a press conference held in Sana'a on Tuesday, Al-Shahiri said that the perpetrators who fired on the victims have not yet been brought to justice. After the killings, families of the victims brought the bodies in front of the house of President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi, demanding that the perpetrators be brought to court. Hadi then ordered an investigation of the issue and that the perpetrators be brought to court.

Al-Shahiri threatened to hold demonstrations in Ibb if the government delays the investigation and handing the criminals over to court. He indicated that demonstrations could cause an evacuation of security forces from the governorate of Ibb and would include a comprehensive civil strike.

According to Al-Shahiri, the disputed land plot rightly belonged to the Al-Eryani family.

He said, "I met with President Hadi, the minister of interior, and the attorney general, but they've

done nothing to punish the criminals."

Yemen Times attempted to communicate with the press office of the Ministry of Interior, but they had no further information on the issue.

Al-Shahiri emphasized that the official response to the crime is unacceptable, and that the interior ministry and prosecutors showed dismissive attitudes towards the issue.

"We cannot be patient anymore with uncontrolled tribes," Al-Shahiri said. He indicated that popular committees, community self-defense groups, are willing to take control of the whole governorate and cut it off from the government until the criminals are handed over.

He denied that demonstrations in Ibb would aim to derail the transitional period and the reconciliation government. He said he is serious about keeping the public peace, but that the perpetrators must be punished.

He criticized all major powers in Yemen for not condemning the offense, and accused the perpetrators of being affiliated with the former regime.

Yemeni youth mark anniversary of Al-Sabeen deadly bombing

Nadia Haddash

SANA'A, May 30- A week after more than 100 soldiers were killed in a terrorist attack in Al-Sabeen Square in Sana'a, Yemeni youth organized a gathering at the site to distribute invitations to commemorate the event in person and through Facebook.

Men and women, young and old, assembled at the site of the suicide blast. The atmosphere was dominated by grief, somberness and sadness as the participants looked at pictures of the victims killed in the heinous attack.



Participants organized a march with candles to mark the deadly bombing that took place in Al-Sabeen Monday 21.

The participants placed roses on the martyrs' posters, which were plastered to a wooden wall colored with blood. They then read the sura al-Fatiha chapter of the Holy Quran and observed a minute of silence. When darkness fell, they organized a march with candles to mark the special anniversary.

"We held this anniversary to condemn terrorism and voice support for all of the martyrs' families. We are showing our solidarity with those who lost their loved ones," a Yemeni cartoonist Kamal Sharaf, who was among the participants, told Yemen Times.

"Youth in their prime have been killed for no reason. We call on the authorities to take the investigation in this crime seriously and bring those responsible, who kill people in the name of religion, to justice. We also demand that the authorities take necessary measures to ensure that such crimes are not repeated," said Sharaf.

Sahar Abdullah, a young female activist who was present at the anniversary, said, "We came here to mark the anniversary of the atrocious crime because we want the whole world to know that we will not forget this terrorist attack in which our sons, who came to this square to serve their nation, were killed for no reason. We will raise our voices until such crimes are put to an end."

On Monday, May 21, an Al-Qaeda-linked bomber blew up himself in the midst of soldiers performing rehearsals in Al-Sabeen Square near the Presidential Palace, killing more than 100 soldiers and wounding more than 200. The blast occurred a day before National Unity Day, transforming what was supposed to be a large-scale celebration into an occasion for grief.



The participants placed roses on the martyrs' posters, which were plastered to a wooden wall colored with blood.

Electricity outages double the spread of Dengue fever in Hodeida

Mohammed Al-Samei

HODEIDA, May 30 - "Ongoing power outages have doubled the spread of pandemics such as Dengue fever in Hodeida," Abdulrahman Jar Allah, director of the Public Health Office in Hodeida, told the Yemen Times.

He said that the governorate suffers from severe shortages of medicine used to treat the disease because money used for Dengue fever eradication campaigns has not been paid yet to them.

He pointed out that by Wednesday the death toll of Dengue fever had risen to 15. As of one month ago, 750 were infected in different districts throughout Hodeida.

"Among the deaths are women and children, most of whom died while receiving treatment in hospitals," he added.

Jar Allah called for the Ministry of Public Health and Doctors Syndicate to take responsibility in combating the disease that has spread widely throughout the governorate.

"So far we aren't certain that all cases of the disease outbreak are Dengue fever," he cautioned, stating that "It may be a viral fever that spread from open swamps and sewers."

"The Health Office in Hodeida is establishing a centre to follow up on the spread of the disease and medical and media campaigns will be launched in several districts in the governorate. Affected people will be checked and medicine will be given to them," he said.

"The Public Health Office and residents are worried that the ongoing spread of the disease will affect other districts," he concluded.

Mohammed Al-Haj is a 29-year-old man who was infected with the disease a few weeks ago but has since recovered after staying in Al-Amal Private Hospital for a week.

He told the Yemen Times that "the disease has spread significantly, stating that most deaths are in rural areas. Dust and uncovered sewers are the causes of this disease," he added.

Sources in the Public Health Office asserted previously that 10 people from different districts in the governorate died from Dengue fever, in addition to hundreds infected. The infected are in critical condition.

Dr. Ahmed Qasim Al-Ansi, Yemeni Minister of Public Health, headed an urgent meeting to discuss the growing spread of the disease in Hodeida districts.

Al-Ansi said that Hodeida is

the main center of Dengue fever outbreak. The disease, as well as others that may show up, he said, must be totally eradicated to prevent further problems.

A report issued by a fact-finding

medical team assembled by the Ministry of Public Health pointed out that those infected by Dengue fever suffer high temperature; 95 percent suffer headache; 99 percent suffer joint and muscle

pain; and 3 percent suffer internal bleeding.

Dengue fever spread to Taiz, Shabwa, Lahj, Sana'a and Abyan governorates in 2010, killing thousands of Yemenis.

Saleh media loyalist defies orders to step down

Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA'A, May 30 - Asqander Al-Asbahi has been unable to fulfill his duties as general manager of the state-run Television and Radio Corporation since his appointment by Information Minister Ali Al-Amrani last Monday.

Sources at the corporation said that the former manager, Mukbil Ghuthaim, who is reportedly a Saleh loyalist, refused the minister's decision to remove him.

The sources added that Ghuthaim brought armed groups to the corporation compound to signal his rejection of the minister's decree.

An official source at the Ministry of Information told the Yemen Times that the reason behind Ghuthaim's disobedience is his loyalty to former President Saleh, saying, "It is an insurgency against President Hadi's constitutional legitimacy."

The source indicated that Ghuthaim has recently committed numerous crimes, including looting Yemen television tapes and using them to the advantage of Yemen



Left: Mukbil Ghuthaim, right: Asqander Al-Asbahi

Today Television, owned by Saleh's family.

He added that a transport vehicle at National TV channel had been taken to Yemen Today channel. Ghuthaim allegedly ordered his employees to copy the audio, document and art archive in addition to selling photography instruments estimated at YR 50 million (\$ 232,550).

The source said that employees at the corporation are mostly from

Ghuthaim's clan, adding that the Information Ministry is attempting to contact Ghuthaim in order to convince him step aside so as to avoid clashes between the army and his armed allies.

"I did not turn down the minister's decree," Ghuthaim said in a phone conversation with the Yemen Times. "It is the employees who refuse the minister's decree because such decisions are the president's business; not the minister's."

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JMP parties between partnership and withdrawal

Ahmed Dawood

Disagreements were voiced by the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) recently after President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi's decree forming the Outreach Committee for the comprehensive National Dialogue.

The disagreements arose because the Outreach Committee, composed of eight members, included only two members from the JMP, Dr. Yasseen Saeed Noman, secretary general of the Socialist Party, and Abdul Wahab Al-Anesi, head of the Islah party. The other six members include one from Saleh's GPC and five independents.

Consequently, the Nasserite Unionist People's Organization (NUPO), a member of the JMP, announced a refusal of Hadi's decree in statement. In the statement, the party stated that it feels big parties in the JMP are excluding the participation of small ones.

From JMP's establishment in 2001, disputes arose between coalition parties. Usually, these disputes settled down quickly, leaving little effect on the coalition.

The question is now: will the disputes between the parties of the JMP affect the coalition's integrity or not?

Sharing is essential

Nasr Taha Mustafa, a Yemeni columnist and a political analyst, believes that all political indicators point to the importance of partnership between the prominent political parties in the coming phase.

He believes that sharing between political parties is essential to

maintain stability in Yemen and to find a way out of the ongoing political deterioration which Saleh's rule left behind.

Mustafa pointed out that JMP parties have overcome many obstacles before, particularly after signing the Gulf Initiative. They overcame the problems of how to divide seats in the Unity Government, weather to pass the immunity clause for ousted president Saleh, arranging the last presidential elections and how to vote on the state budget.

For his part, Rafeeq Al-Dhaibani, a member of the Islah Party and an activist in Sana'a's Change Square, said the upcoming political phase requires all people to cooperate and work together. He added that if any party tries to dominate the others, it will lose everything.

However, Abdullah Ismail, a leader in the NUPO, breaks from the party line in his belief that there are no major disagreements between the JMP parties on the National Dialogue itself. It is the NUPO's views on the composition of the Communication Committee that is a source of debate, he feels.

Ismail pointed out that the NUPO's position regarding the Communication Committee is very

clear. It believes that, including only members of the two largest JMP parties in the Communication Committee, they have taken power from smaller JMP parties.

Moreover, he added that previously there was no disagreement between the JMP parties, but that disagreements did eventually arise regarding the power transition process, implementation of the Gulf Initiative and the national partnership between parties.

Positive signs

Rajeh Badi, the editor in chief of Al-Sahwa newspaper, the Islah party's official newspaper, asserted that there is no policy disagreement between the JMP parties, but that they differ in opinion, which happens often.

Badi thinks that such variant opinions are positive, as the JMP is the biggest coalition in Yemen, and it's healthy that parties within it have different views.

Mohammed Al-Daheri, professor of political science in Sana'a University, said that before the establishment of the JMP coalition, there were disputes between the member parties, but after the establishment of the coalition, they made peace and rose to power. The



“The upcoming political phase requires all people to cooperate and work together... if any party tries to dominate the others, it will lose everything.”

“Transparency is needed in the JMP... all issues must be discussed frankly and directly.”

signs of their stability are that each party has peacefully recognized other ruling groups in the coalition, that a president and spokesman from each party takes charge of the coalition for six months at a time, and that they stood united against Saleh's rule.

Views toward the future

In spite of differing opinions, the JMP parties are still strong, with some observers and political analysts offering suggestions to keep them that way.

According to Badi, transparency is needed in the JMP. He asserted that all issues must be discussed frankly and directly. Moreover, all opinions must be taken into consideration. He pointed out that Dr. Yaseen Noaman said membership in the JMP is voluntarily and that anyone has the right to withdraw at any time.

Badi added, "I'm sure no party in the JMP will leave the coalition due to such simple disagreements."

Ismail thinks that there is no political coalition in the world that can last forever. However, he pointed out that there are two conditions that make a coalition endure: adherence to the coalition's stated aims, and taking into account the interests of all parties in the coalition.

He affirmed that unless the JMP parties adhere to the two conditions above, they will fall apart.

Al-Daheri believes that the JMP will carry on, because in a coalition arrangement weak parties have the advantage of protection and power sharing with strong ones, and thus will not threaten the coalition's integrity.

“Membership in the JMP is voluntarily and anyone has the right to withdraw at any time.”

“The NUPO believes that, including only members of the two largest JMP parties in the Communication Committee, they have taken power from smaller JMP parties.”

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Identification No.: 02/CW/ICB/IRR/WSSP/11-Lot (1)

Lot No.1: Rehabilitation of Hanad Left Main Canal & Associated Works

Identification No.: 02/CW/ICB/IRR/WSSP/11-Lot (2)

- The Government of Republic of Yemen has received a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of implementation of the National Irrigation Program (NIP) activities under Part D of the Water Sector Support Program (WSSP), and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for the Reconstruction of Hanad Weir and Hanad Left Main Canal and Associated Works in Wadi Ahwar, Abyan Governorate (Bid No. 02/CW/ICB/IRR/WSSP/11).
- The National Irrigation Program now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for implementation of Reconstruction of Hanad Weir and Hanad Left Main Canal and Associated Works in Wadi Ahwar under the above mentioned bid.
- Bidders may apply for one lot or both lots as further defined in the bidding document.
- A complete set of bidding documents prepared in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the NIP office and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$ 200 or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the NIP office at the address mentioned below. Bidders may have access to the electronic version of bidding documents in the High Tender Board (HTB) web site "HYPERLINK "http://www.htb.gov.ye" www.htb.gov.ye".
- Interested bidders must fill all required information in the bidding documents and stamp them and put their signature down as requested and by using the bidding forms, qualification forms, and bid security form included in the bid documents.
- NIP also invites the interested bidders to attend a pre bid meeting which will be held -for any clarifications on the bid documents - at its office at the address below on Saturday 23rd June, 2012, at 11:00 A.M.
- 8-Bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days from date of bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security valid for a period of 150 days for the amounts of US\$ 180,000 for lot (1) and US\$ 170,000 for lot (2). The bid security shall be delivered within the envelope of the bid to be delivered to the NIP office at the address mentioned below on or before 11:00 A.M, 9th July, 2012. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend at 11:00 A.M on Monday 9th July, 2012.

The Address:

National Irrigation Program (NIP)
MAI Office for irrigation and Land Reclamation Sector
Al-Mithak Street, Near Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation,
Sana'a Republic of Yemen
Tel 967(1) 228594 Fax (967)1 228626
e-mail: wssp-nip@yemen.net.ye or wssp-nip@hotmail.com

الجمهورية اليمنية

وزارة الزراعة والري

قطاع الري واستصلاح الأراضي

برنامج دعم قطاع المياه (WSSP)

البرنامج الوطني للري

منحة هيئة التنمية الريفية رقم: H449-RY

دعوة لتقديم عطاءات

إعادة تشييد السد التحويلي حناد وأعمال القناة الرئيسية اليسرى والأعمال الملحقة بوادي أحور م/ أبين
مناقصة رقم: CW/ICB/IRR/WSSP/11/02

المجموعة الأولى: إعادة تشييد سد حناد التحويلي وأعمال الحماية بالضفة اليسرى

الرقم التعريفي (1) 02/CW/ICB/IRR/WSSP/11-Lot

المجموعة الثانية: إعادة تأهيل القناة الرئيسية اليسرى لسد حناد والأعمال الملحقة

الرقم التعريفي (2) 02/CW/ICB/IRR/WSSP/11-Lot

- حصلت الحكومة اليمنية على منحة من هيئة التنمية الدولية (IDA) لتمويل تنفيذ أعمال البرنامج الوطني للري التابع لبرنامج دعم قطاع المياه، ونوى إنفاق جزء من مخصصات هذه المنحة لتغطية المدفوعات لإعادة تشييد السد التحويلي حناد وأعمال القناة الرئيسية اليسرى والأعمال الملحقة بوادي أحور م/ أبين (مناقصة رقم: CW/ICB/IRR/WSSP/11/02).
- يدعو البرنامج الوطني للري المتناقصين من المقاولين المؤهلين التقدم بعطاءاتهم في مظاريف مغلقة ومختومة بالشمع الأحمر لتنفيذ أعمال إعادة تشييد السد التحويلي حناد وأعمال القناة الرئيسية اليسرى والأعمال الملحقة بوادي أحور للمناقصة المذكورة أعلاه.
- بإمكان المتناقصين التقدم لمجموعة واحدة أو للمجموعتين كما هو محدد بالتفصيل بوثيقة المناقصة.
- يمكن شراء نسخة كاملة من وثائق المناقصة المعدة باللغة الإنجليزية من إدارة البرنامج الوطني للري بموجب طلب خطي (كتابي) مقابل رسوم قدرها 200 دولار - غير قابلة للرد - أو ما يعادلها من أي عملات قابلة للتحويل.
- بإمكان المتناقصين المؤهلين المهتمين الحصول على المزيد من المعلومات والإطلاع على وثائق المناقصة بكتب إدارة البرنامج على العنوان المذكور أدناه كما أنه بالإمكان زيارة الموقع الإلكتروني www.htb.gov.ye التابع للجنة العليا للمناقصات للإطلاع على وثائق المناقصة.
- على المقاولين الراغبين في التقدم بعطاءاتهم تعبئة الوثائق وختمها والتوقيع عليها كما يلزم القيام باستخدام صيغ الضمانات المرخصة بالوثائق وكذلك التأهيل ورسالة العطاء والختم على الشروط والمواصفات والرسومات.
- كما يدعو البرنامج كافة المقاولين المتقدمين لشراء هذه المناقصة والراغبين الحضور إلى إدارة البرنامج على العنوان المذكور أدناه في تمام الساعة الحادية عشر من يوم السبت الموافق 23 يونيو 2012م وذلك للمشاركة في الاجتماع المسبق مع المختصين بالبرنامج لإيضاح آية استفسارات حول وثائق هذه المناقصة.
- يجب أن تكون العطاءات صالحة لفترة 120 يوماً بعد تاريخ فتح المظاريف. ويجب أن يصحب العطاء ضمان بنكي غير مشروط وو المبالغ المحددة كما يلي:

المجموعة الأولى: بمبلغ (180.000 دولار أمريكي).

المجموعة الثانية: بمبلغ (170.000 دولار أمريكي).

ويجب أن يكون التأمين الابتدائي صالحاً لمدة لا تقل عن 150 يوماً، ويسلم الضمان ضمن منظروف العطاء إلى إدارة البرنامج الوطني للري قبل أو في الساعة 11:00 من صباح يوم الاثنين الموافق 9 يوليو 2012 م. وعلى العنوان المذكور أدناه، وسيتم فتح المظاريف بحضور من يرغب من المتناقصين أو ممثلهم، وذلك في تمام الساعة الحادية عشر من صباح يوم الاثنين الموافق 9 يوليو 2012 م.

العنوان:

البرنامج الوطني للري

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شارع الميثاق - بجوار وزارة التخطيط والتعاون الدولي - صنعاء

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YT vision statement



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

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

OUR
OPINIONWould Yemen's transition
take longer than two years?

Seeing how slow the implementation of the Gulf Initiative mechanism is, I can't help but wonder if we are really going to pull it off in due time.

Many Yemenis don't even know that there is a timetable with fixed milestones for the transition, which is intended to end in Feb 2014 with presidential elections. This is the fault of the ones working on the transition, including myself, who have not been transparent enough with the public.

However, looking at the dates now, I am thinking we have one of two alternatives: Either rush into matters and squeeze some activities to fit the schedule, or extend the transition period by up to one year.

This means that there is a strong chance that we have our presidential elections in February 2015. It does not necessarily mean that we won't have parliamentary elections before that, although I personally equally doubt we can pull that off because we still have to amend the constitution to see what sort of governing system we want and hence what sort of electoral system; we also need to update the voter lists and the real process for this has not even started yet.

In any case, the most important point in the transition is transparency and inclusiveness. If we do not involve the public and engage all stakeholders, prolonging the transition is going to look very bad. President Hadi will be perceived as stalling and trying to hang on to power for a little longer, while the two main political entities, the General People's Congress and Joint Meeting Parties, will be seen as trying to extend the chaotic situation for personal gains.

However, if we have a transparent and comprehensive process, then everyone looking in who wishes to be involved will be able to follow our work, not only to understand it but also to expect and accept any delay if one occurs for one reason or another.

I am personally very worried that excluding the public and other political players at this stage is going to blow up in our faces soon, and any achievements we had in the past regarding a peaceful transfer of power will be turned to dust.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Saving Yemen from disaster

Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed
Alarabiya.net
First published on May 25

Yemen's exports are not much. They consist of about 200,000 barrels of oil daily, a little natural gas, few coffee beans and salted fish. For this reason, the annual government budget is less than \$ 6 billion. Yemen has a population of a little over 24 million, of whom 45 percent are under the poverty line according to international statistics.

What can we understand from this data about the country's economic condition?

Ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh left power a rich man, leaving behind a country poorer than when he first came to power more than

30 years ago.

"The new regime and the friends and brothers of Yemen should refer the project of saving Yemen economically to international bodies who are capable of giving advice on how to help the country come out of the ditch in which it is now lying."

“

The Yemeni people have a great opportunity to build their present and future after they have achieved a great change with little losses.

30 years ago.

Anyway, it is not wise to blame the past for everything. The Yemeni people have a great opportunity to build their present and future after they have achieved a great change with little losses. Who could have believed that Saleh would quit and transfer power peacefully without a civil war as many people were fearing?

In a Riyadh meeting on Wednesday, the "Friends of Yemen" pledged aid to the tune of \$ 4 billion to Yemen, the bulk of which would be met by Saudi Arabia. Two months later another conference of donor countries will be held on Yemen. Everybody agrees that aid to the Yemeni people is coming at the right time and before the arrival of the social disaster that economists have recently warned about. They said Yemen was on the brink of serious famine and that its resources, including surface water, were depleting.

“

Ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh left power a rich man, leaving behind a country poorer than when he first came to power more than 30 years ago.

In the midst of this wreck, the future is not that bad if the new government in Yemen was able to restructure the country and made use of the internal forces who were willing to cooperate in order to overcome this predicament. Even al-Qaeda, which has spread in Yemen like cancer, will not succeed in a country that is tribally coherent and religiously moderate. In such a country, al-Qaeda will ultimately be defeated.

In my opinion, the new regime and the friends and brothers of Yemen should refer the project of saving Yemen economically to international bodies who are capable of giving advice on how to help the country come out of the ditch in which it is now lying.

During the 1990s Yemen used to produce about 500,000 barrels of oil daily. Now it is only producing about 200,000 bpd and production is dwindling. With the discovery of natural gas and the correct

“

With the discovery of natural gas and the correct utilization of its human resources, Yemen can build a better economy. It can be a center for the production of manpower that is now being exported by other countries to the Gulf region

utilization of its human resources, Yemen can build a better economy. It can be a center for the production of manpower that is now being exported by other countries to the Gulf region, thus exhausting their economies.

There is much that Yemen can do under the umbrella of a real cooperation. This was not possible during the time of former President Saleh who ignored the process of development and was known for his anarchic policies.

Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed is the General Manager of Al Arabiya

SKETCHED OPINION

By Nizar Al-Sanafani

A rare look inside
Al-Qaeda's Yemen operations

David Ignatius
washingtonpost.com
First published on May 28

Osama bin Laden wrote before he died that Yemen was the place where al-Qaeda had its best chance of establishing its own state — if it acted carefully and avoided alienating the local population. I suspect that bin Laden, who was something of a TV news junkie, would be encouraged and also worried by a new PBS documentary from inside the terror group's Yemeni operations.

The unusual documentary, "Al Qaeda in Yemen," airs Tuesday night on PBS's "Frontline." It is reported by Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, an Iraqi-born journalist for the Guardian newspaper and one brave dude: As he says at the beginning of the show, "This is an organization known for kidnapping journalists, detaining them for a long time, sometimes beheading them." So kudos to Abdul-Ahad and "Frontline" for taking viewers on a gutsy trip inside Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, as the Yemeni branch is known.

What struck me, as I watched a preview of the show, was that Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula is adopting some of the harsh tactics that bin Laden warned his affiliates against, since they alienated other Muslims. The documentary includes examples of these brutal methods, and also some evidence that they are indeed turning off the very people that Al-Qaeda needs as

allies.

In three locations, Abdul-Ahad found examples of aggressive tactics that have helped al-Qaeda gain territory in Yemen but that also seem to be upsetting local tribesmen. To me, these vignettes seemed almost a replay of Al-Qaeda's cycle in western Iraq, where it proclaimed an emirate but burned so hot that it ended up triggering a tribal revolt:

— In Jaar, a southwestern town that Al-Qaeda captured after a fierce battle with the Yemeni military, the group has reduced the crime rate by cutting off the hands of three thieves. Abdul-Ahad reports from one dusty street: "It's almost a surreal scene in this part of town: All the shops are empty and open, no people inside, yet no one stealing. ... I don't know if it says much about the honesty of the town or the fear."

Al-Qaeda's use of horrifying punishments includes even crucifixion, the penalty for someone accused of spying. The terror group posted a grisly video of the man hanging on a makeshift cross. When Abdul-Ahad asked one Yemeni townsman about the crucifixion, he responded: "What kinds of people do this?"

— In Azzan, the mountain stronghold in southern Yemen where Anwar al-Awlaki was killed last year in a drone attack, Abdul-Ahad finds an Al-Qaeda official who seems to understand the danger of alienating the local tribes. The reporter explains: "They are very keen not to go into the same confrontations they had in Iraq, when the tribes turned

against al-Qaeda and pushed them out of the towns and cities."

But even in this stronghold, Abdul-Ahad finds, "It's more sinister than Jaar. The town is more desolate, more empty, heavily guarded. They [are] very, very paranoid." And you can understand why: A local official indicates that if Abdul-Ahad comes back to Azzan, he can interview a senior leader named Fahd Al-Quso, who helped plot the attack on the USS Cole in 2000. On May 6, Al-Quso was killed in a drone attack.

— In the southern town of Lawder, the tribes are rebelling against Al-Qaeda in precisely the way bin Laden feared. Abdul-Ahad asks a local tribesman about the fighting, and he responds: "We destroyed them, okay. We blew them away! ... We kicked the al-Qaeda dogs of hell out of Lawder."

The PBS reporter concludes: "If the millions of tribesmen decide collectively one day that they would like to kick out Al-Qaeda, it will just disappear."

Al-Qaeda's defeat in Yemen is hardly assured. The government there is fragile, and it is battling al-Qaeda for control of key areas of the south.

Bin Laden understood that, in places like Yemen, Al-Qaeda can be its own worst enemy. Yet despite repeated warnings to his lieutenants, he was never able to stop the self-destructive behavior. If this fascinating documentary is accurate, the mistakes continue.

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Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

Fax: +967 (1) 268-276

P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

Letters: ytreaders.view@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS:

Tel: +967 (1) 510306

Email: adsyemen@yahoo.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

Senior Reporter
Mohammed bin Sallam

Editorial Staff

Sadeq Al-Wesabi
sadeqalwesabi@hotmail.com

Ali Ajlan
aliajlan.yt@gmail.com

Khalid Al-Karimi
khalidmohamada@yahoo.com

CEO
Khair Aldin Al Nsour

Managing Editor
Ali Saeed

Sam Kimball
sam.r.kimball@gmail.com

Ahmed Ali Dawood
daod2009@gmail.com

Bassam Al-Khamiri

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Offices

Taiz Bureau:

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

Subscriptions

For subscription rates and related information please contact Majdi Al-Saqqaf, Subscription and Distribution Manager, on 268661/2 ext 204 or mobile: 711998995, email: majdi_saqqaf@yahoo.com

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Sana'a freedom square women: Substantial presence in the face of conservative culture



The ex-president's regime tried to use the public's inclination toward conservatism to drive a wedge between the revolutionaries and the people who have chosen not to take part in demonstrations.

Ibrahim Al-Ansi

From the very beginning of Yemen's uprising, women have stood at the forefront of revolutionary crowds, their presence an extension of struggles waged by male peers to advance the call for change. Yet some have opposed women's participation in these demonstrations, charging that women could be subject to harm either inside or outside the squares due to Yemen's prevalent social conservative customs forbidding close contact between men and women.

Indeed, Sana'a's square was under semi-siege to the point that it made it hard for demonstrators to move freely. So the question is, can revolutionary women continue their contribution to the revolt a year and a half later, after having been exposed to attacks by regime forces just like their brother demonstrators?

Why were women targeted?

The ex-president's regime tried to

use the public's inclination toward conservatism to drive a wedge between the revolutionaries and the people who have chosen not to take part in demonstrations. The pro-regime media and propagandists, in their attempt to defame the revolution, and thus isolate it from the public, focused on the matter of men and women being mixed in the square and women's staying at the square for days on end. The regime's bet was that such publicity would cause damage to the revolution and undermine the revolutionaries' sacrifices. But they lost their bet and women's efforts were rewarded when one of them, Tawakul Karman, became a Nobel Peace Laureate. Suddenly, Yemen women have been catapulted to the foreground despite the slander-driven messages of the former regime.

A family and their tent in the square

Raja'a Yaseen, an activist at Sana'a change square, says that the ex-president's offenses and provocations against women were an incentive for them to increase their

participation: "Such action by the former head of the state opened many family's eyes to the importance of women supporting the revolution. They have realized that the square is more like a big cultural forum in which people exchange and discuss freely their ideas for a better tomorrow."

Yaseen adds that some of the women revolutionaries she knows come to the square with their children, brothers and husbands, and that sleeping at the square was not as the regime had depicted it. "I know a family consisting of the father and mother and their children who had a tent at the square in which they all slept. And the field hospital has space for women where women doctors and nurses sleep, even though most of them return home at night with their male relatives. Furthermore, the revolution has people, from both sexes, who are scholars, politicians, journalists, doctors, engineers, teachers and so on, so it is hard for any one to slight it."

She goes on to say that even the tribe that used to be depicted by

the former regime as a bunch of barbarians, has shown maturity and disowned inflexibility and bigotry. "Such tribal participants would not have turned a blind eye to bad practices if any were done at the square."

Harassment and kidnapping of women revolutionaries

"Because change square is a wide and open area, it is only normal for revolutionaries including women to face some problems," says Mr. Ammar al-Shami, a lawyer and an activist at HOOD Organization. "However, we did not receive any complaints, which means that such acts were both individual and insignificant. As for incidents outside the square, nine cases were recorded concerning harassment and kidnapping, the most important of which was the kidnapping of women doctors during the Assir roundabout rally. However, the identities of women kidnapped at the al-Qa'a demonstration were not disclosed at the request of the seized women's families, who feared for the reputation and future of their girls."

As for the abuse, harassment and dismissal of women working in the public sector, there were tens of cases. There were also attacks against some women journalists and writers like Huda al-Attas, Mrs. Arwa Othman and Wedad al-Badawi inside change square.

Far reaching presence

Places allocated for women at the square were surrounded by ropes that were later replaced by tents as a consequence of the growing media campaigns by the regime against women demonstrators. The restrictive measures were encouraged further by the square's most powerful component, the Islah Islamist party that insisted on giving women separate tents, much to the irritation of liberal women. Nevertheless, women's active participation has gone beyond the small place assigned to them at the square. "Women's presence in change square," says rights activist Nada al-Faqih, "couldn't have been limited to that small area given to them because so many of them have a substantial contribution within the square's medical,

regulatory and security committees. They worked for nine months frisking fellow women at the entrances of the square in their 'unofficial' role as women police. They also helped greatly by providing first aid to injured demonstrators, handing out food to women revolutionaries, etc."

According to Mayada Shamhan, professor of journalism at al-Mustaqbal University, the magnitude of women's contribution is shown by their input in square various activities such as training courses, volunteer medical service and outside the square in rallies throughout Sana'a's streets.

Islah women, the strongest link

According to activist and journalist Samia Al-Aghbari, such rallies represent the partisan face of the Joint Meeting Parties, especially the Islah party which has been mobilizing thousands of its women members for protest marches, while its role in the square has receded as the revolution enters its second year. "The political parties have settled for symbolic women participation, but focused on their male protesters," Al-Aghbari says.

Political forces including Islah have imposed their domination on the square's activities by forming revolutionary committees. "The work of these committees," explains Nada al-Faqih, "was not limited to men. Islah women also have engaged in forming and running such committees and although they have not shut other participants out, their domination was clear."

Mobile workshop

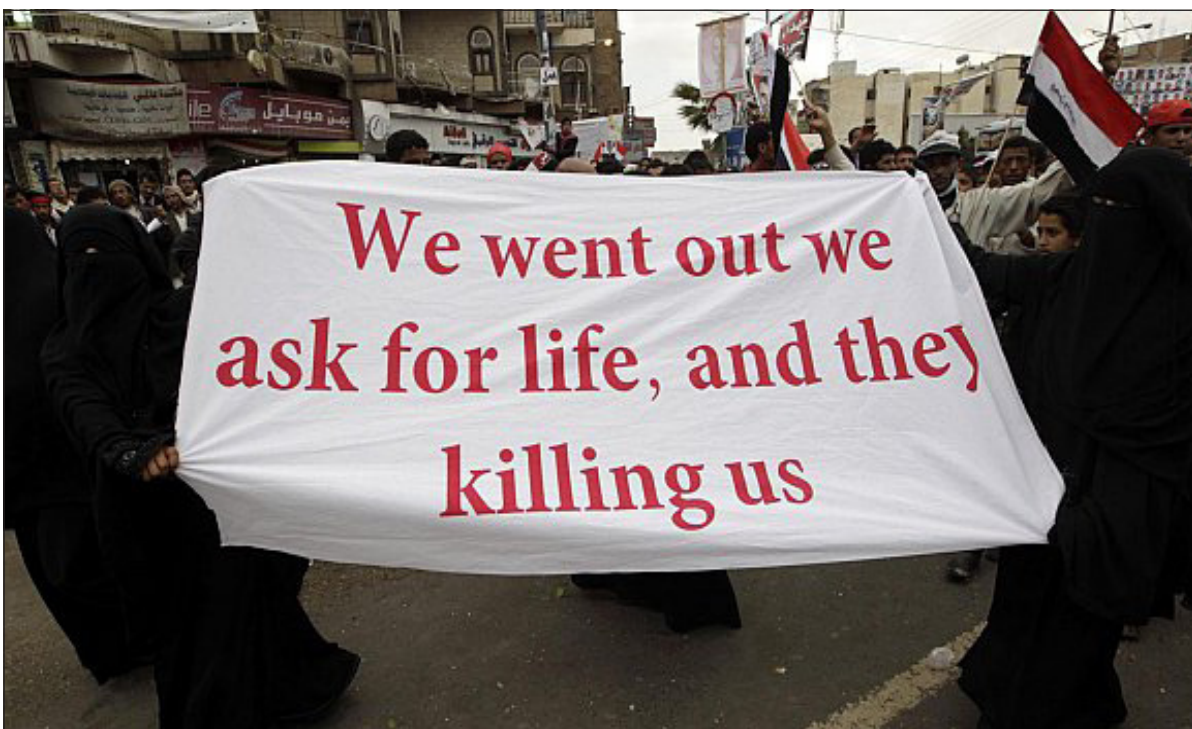
After more than a year since the start of the revolution, Nada al-Faqih believes that work and efforts should continue and be stepped up in order to spread the revolution beyond the square, as suggested by Dr. Yassin Sa'ed Nu'man, secretary general of Yemen Socialist Party. She mentioned the tent that was set up by Sana'a University's Pioneer Female Students, where the founders were conducting celebrations and other revolutionary activities with the aim of laying the foundations for the civil society

and the state of institutions. After the former president was forced out of office, the work of the tent was moved outside the square. "For three weeks now, we have been conducting symposiums outside the square on transitional justice and the phase of building the civil state. The last seminar was on what's after the transitional term," says Al-Faqih, adding that conducting such outside activities does not mean leaving the square which remains the "source of inspiration for accomplishing the revolution's objectives".

Staying until goals are fulfilled

Like other revolutionaries, Salwa Mukhtar thinks that there are objectives that should be achieved in order for them to go home. "Women and men are partners in the revolution," she declares, "and we will remain so in the post-revolution time. The revolution should realize the rest of its goals and the way should be paved to build state institutions. All remnants of Saleh's family, relatives in military and security agencies, as well as traditional powerful forces known for their non-patriotic agendas, should also go. The military should be restructured on patriotic bases." She continues to say that the revolutionaries will stay in the squares because it is too early to leave. "Considering the manipulation and deception we see in responding to the demands from the former regime, our steadfastness is the only guarantee we have to force the corrupt to bow to our demands. I'm sure that President Hadi realizes that our persistence in the square is a card he can use against the powers that care only for their private interests and agendas."

Women have been in change squares for a year and a half and things have already changed dramatically in terms of participation and decision-making. It is now normal for women to lead demonstrations and face arrest and even death and eventually have the Nobel prize to be in the spotlight of national and international media while living in a conservative society. By doing this, women have broken the harness and shown the world the stuff they are made of.



Women have been in change squares for a year and a half, things have already changed dramatically in terms of female political participation and decision-making. It is now normal for women to lead demonstrations and face arrest and even death.

Transport companies maintain fragile existence despite reduced foreign tourism

Khalid Al-Karimi

Transport companies in Yemen have adjusted to face the obstacles the country has experienced since the outset of 2011. Domestic travel has helped tourism and transportation companies in Yemen weather the economic crisis experienced since last year.

A 25-year old employee at Al-Nimer Transport Company in Sana'a, Ahmed Mohammed Esa, told Yemen Times that the transportation and tourism industries have been active in spite of rare foreign visitors and often insecure roads.

"We mainly depend on domestic travelers. We haven't been adversely affected by the lack of foreign tourists," said Esa.

“Travelers were intimidated by the military conflicts and the increasing spread of checkpoints along roads.

At Al-Burak Transport Company, an employee who declined to be named had this to say concerning travel and transport companies in Yemen. "Three years ago, transport companies in Yemen stopped counting on foreign tourists after the rise in terrorist assaults on travelers."

"Domestic travel is our company's fundamental business," he added.

Aeda Al-Assar, an employee at Al-Noor Transport Company, said that all of their clients are Yemenis traveling to different governorates nationwide. "Some are tourists, while others move to find jobs or commute to work," stated Al-Assar.

Problems in the past year

Amid the turmoil of the past year, the tourism industry saw a significant decrease in business and many companies were forced to close, or drastically reduce their operations. These transport companies are a perfect example:

"Last year absolutely had a negative impact on transport companies, due to blocked roads and rampant insecurity," said Esa.

He pointed out that security was not the only concern the unprecedented cost of fuel was a considerable difficulty as well.

"The hardest thing was the extreme lack of fuel, it could have crippled transport companies," he recalled.

To cope with these fuel costs, many transportation fees have doubled. The new costs have proved difficult for travelers to adjust to. Esa gave an example saying that a bus ticket from Sana'a to Sayun used to cost YR 2000. "Now it is YR 4000."

Al-Assar said that the previous year was hard for the industry because of the social and political turmoil it witnessed.

"We went through a difficult time that affected the whole nation, not just the travel industry," said Al-Assar. "Roads were blocked, travelers were traumatized, property was vandalized, and people no longer felt safe," he concluded.

An accountant at Infinity Tourism Agency, Mansour Hammed Mohammed, told the paper that the past year was a severe blow to tourism and transportation.

"Travelers were intimidated by the military conflicts and the increasing spread of checkpoints along roads. This negatively impacted the flow of tourists, both foreign and domestic," he told Yemen Times.

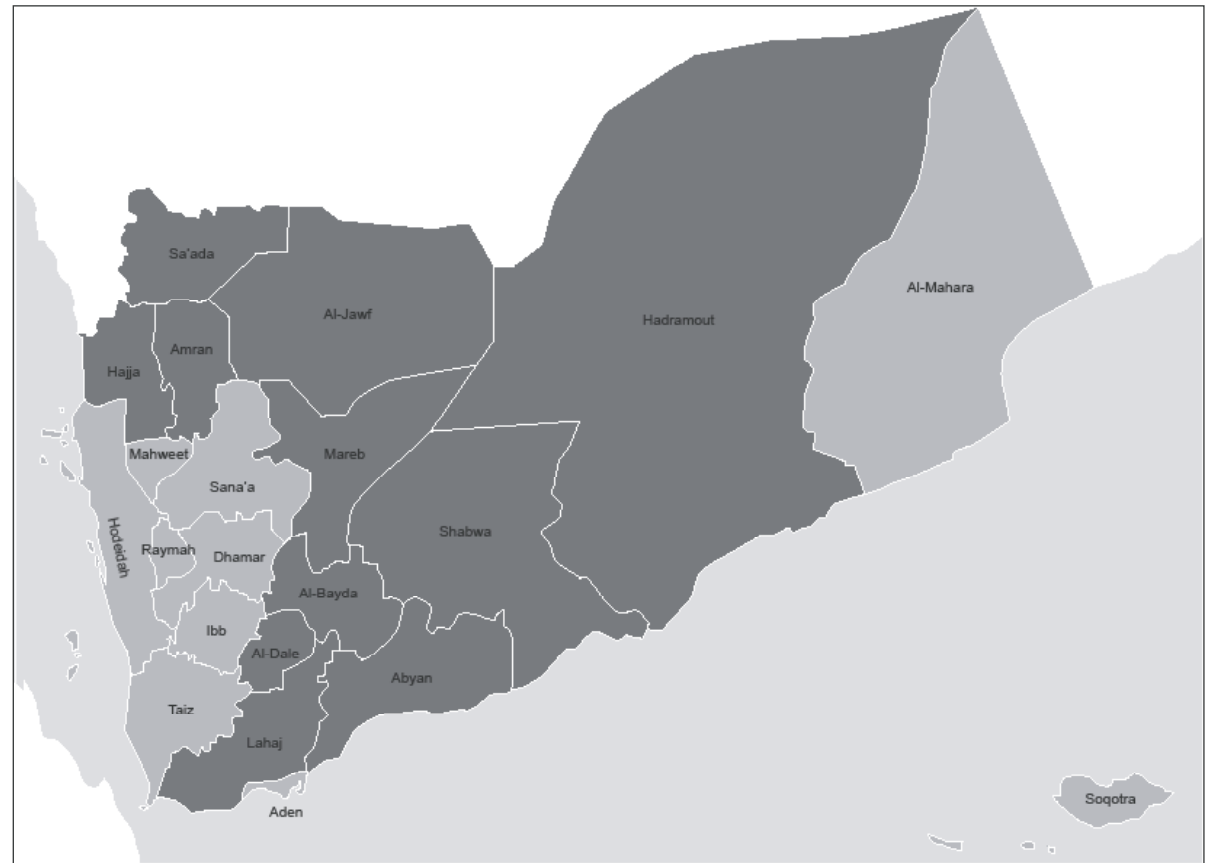
He proceeded to say, "many people changed their travel plans due to the lack of security and the ubiquity of chaos across the country. Some found themselves unable to get to work."

Crippled internal tourism

Due to the security situation in Yemen, many people have abandoned the idea of domestic tourism, especially for vacations and annual holidays. Ahmed Al-Yareemi, a government employee in Sana'a, expressed regret the instability several governorates have been experiencing.

He told Yemen Times, "it is really risky to travel overland for distant tourism destinations in the country. Security forces are unable to secure the roads from crime."

"I used to visit Aden every year before last year's political chaos.



Light grey represents areas safe for tourists. Dark grey represents areas with high risk or danger for tourists, according to Dr. Mussed Al-Daheri, directory of the Tourist Police.

Since then, I stopped taking my family outside Sana'a," he added.

Ali Naji, in Sana'a, confirmed that fragile security in addition to price hikes have led to a decrease of domestic tourism. "Domestic tourists won't leave for other governorates due to both the lack of security and high cost of tickets. Clearly many people have seen their incomes decline, this also negatively impacts the industry. It's now pretty difficult for a family to afford to journey

to tourist destinations like Socotra island," Naji added.

Abductions on the rise

In spite of harsh penalties for kidnapping, the number of these cases is increasing. A government report released by the Ministry of the Interior in March stated that there were 133 separate instances of kidnapping in 2011, a sharp increase over the previous year. Yemeni law stipulates that anyone convicted of

using a hostage to extort the government is subject to a minimum 10 year prison sentence, with the death penalty mandatory if the hostage is killed.

There were a total of 17,620 foreign tourists in 2011 according to statistics from the Tourism Police in Yemen. The destinations that most appeal to tourists are Sana'a, Al-Hodeida, Aden, Al-Mahweet, Socotra, Taiz, Ibb and the Al-Mahara governorate.

OPEN CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

An international humanitarian organization in Yemen

Announces an Open Call for Expression of Interest

For potential national and local contractors in Sana'a, Aden, Hudeida, Ibb or Taz, interested to procure the following items or provide the following work as described below.

Our international humanitarian organization has recently launched two emergency projects in the country, aimed at improving food security, water & sanitation in poor rural areas of the Central southern areas of the country, for the benefit of vulnerable local populations.

In this context, we are seeking potential contractors with proven experience, reputation and capacity to deliver one or several of the requested materials and work tasks as listed below. The objective of this call will be therefore to pre-select local contractors with the above-mentioned specifications.

List of items & materials required:

N° Ref	Project Ref	Materials	Quantity	Comments
1.1	Project 1	Procurement of national certified crop seeds (red sorghum, white sorghum, maize)	100 MT	Adapted to central southern areas (low and high altitude)
1.2	Project 2	Procurement of local crop seeds (red sorghum, white sorghum, maize)	30 MT	Adapted to central southern areas (low and high altitude) (not necessary certified, but following standard criteria of quality)
1.3	Project 1 & 2	Procurement of vegetable seeds	520 kits	Adapted to central southern areas (low and high altitude). Each kit weighs max 500g and can include several vegetables
2.1	Project 1	Rehabilitation of rural roads (non asphalted)	10km	High intensive labor / cash for work (8,000 mandays)
2.2	Project 1	Installation of gabions	640 linear meters	High intensive labor / cash for work (6,000 mandays)
2.3	Project 2	Rehabilitation of small scale field terracing, and small scale earth-made irrigation perimeters	3 units	High intensive labor / cash for work (7,000 mandays)
3.1	Project 2	Rehabilitation / construction of school water systems	8 schools	Latrines, handwashing facilities and connection to local water sources
3.2	Project 1	Rehabilitation / construction of family underground water cisterns	64 cisterns	High intensive labor / cash for work
3.3	Project 1 & 2	Rehabilitation / construction of shallow wells	52 wells	High intensive labor / cash for work
3.5	Project 1 & 2	Procurement of emergency kits (basic hygiene items, chlorine, family water tanks, family filters)	972 units	Family kits
Place of delivery		Crop seeds shall be directly delivered to pre-selected rural villages in Ibb and Raymah governorates Other items and materials shall be delivered in Ibb and Raymah governorates Rehabilitation and construction work will take place in rural areas of Ibb and Raymah governorates		

Please send your letter of expression of interest by email to the following address: ongyemen.procurement@gmail.com. Deadline for receipt of letters: 06 June 2012.

Only short-listed applicants will be contacted and will receive detailed technical applications.



World Food Programme

Programme Alimentaire Mondial

Programa Mundial de Alimentos

برنامج الأغذية العالمي

Subject: Newspaper announcement for potential Suppliers which are interested to be included on WFP suppliers list.

Announcement:

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Yemen seeks Expressions of Interest (EOI) from established national companies for the provision of goods, Services and food commodities.

Founded in 1963, the World Food Programme (WFP) is the United Nations frontline agency in the fight against hunger. WFP pursues a vision of the world in which every woman, man and child has access at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life.

In 2011 WFP food purchases went up to US\$1.25 billion (3.2 million tons of food). Food aid was delivered to 102 million people in 78 countries.

WFP staff work in 92 countries (72 countries receive food assistance; 10 countries have WFP operational presence and 10 have WFP HQs and liaison offices). WFP has been present in Yemen since 1967.

Interested Suppliers are encouraged to collect and fill in the Supplier's Registration Form & the Questionnaire which are available at the address indicated below.

Reception at WFP-Sana'a, from 08:00 – 16:00 hours, or request by email from Musa.Osman@wfp.org or Shadi.Aksalri@wfp.org. The completed Supplier's Registration Form and Questionnaire including all supporting documentation should be returned to WFP by Tuesday 03rd July 2012, at 14:00 hrs. Submissions after this deadline will not be considered. This process may be followed up by interviews and inspection of offices, financial accounts, facilities and equipment prior to final short-listing.

Interested Suppliers which have already registered with WFP are also requested to complete and re-submit the Supplier's Registration Form and the Questionnaire.

Completed Supplier Registration Form & Questionnaire with supporting documentation should be returned to the following address:

WFP-Sana'a, Attn.: Shadi Aksalri
World Food Programme
Procurement Unit
Nowakhot St.
P.O. Box: 7181
Sana'a, Yemen

Or by mail to musa.osman@wfp.org, shadi.aksalri@wfp.org

Any enquiries to be addressed to the above address



TOTAL E&P YEMEN is HIRING

TOTAL E&P Yemen is an affiliate of TOTAL Group, the fourth largest integrated international Group in oil and gas industry. Present in Yemen for more than 20 years, TOTAL E&P Yemen is the operator of producing Block 10 in Hadramout, exploration Block 70 in Shabwa, and exploration Block 72 in Hadramout. The Company has also other operatorship and participation assets in Yemen, namely in producing Block 5 and exploration Blocks 69 and 71. TOTAL is also the technical leader of the Yemen LNG project with a participation of 39.6%.

In line with corporate policies, TOTAL E&P Yemen believes in making positive contributions to the communities where we operate. This approach is defined by TOTAL Group where corporate social responsibility and accountability are central to our operations and activities.



ELECTRICAL TECHNICIANS - Site

The Job Holder is to:

- Performs all Electrical maintenance activities.
- Ensures that all maintenance and repairs to plant and equipment are carried out in a safe and efficient manner and in strict compliance with company operating procedures and any relevant Company Rules in order to maintain all such equipment in sound and safe operating condition.
- Performs daily work activities, in accordance with his individual job/task procedures, checking that the quality of work is acceptable before the equipment is returned to service.
- Ensures that all equipment are restarted and running efficiently after being repaired.
- Ensures a high standard of housekeeping is maintained on the plant and equipment on his designated work area.
- Analyse failures and suggest solution to or correct the problem associated with failures.
- Provide reports to Discipline Supervisor on the status of job tasks.

Qualification and Experience Required:

- Minimum of 2 years practical experience in Maintenance activities having completed technical studies and/or apprenticeship.
- Have a good knowledge of the Company rules, policies and procedures.
- Minimum electrical certification for Electrical technician L1 – L1V – LR - LC
- Valid Driving Licence
- Minimum English Level (Total to advise) ie. Fluent written and spoken with good technical English knowledge.
- Be rigorous and methodical, and have the physical ability to work outdoors in desert conditions.

PLANT OPERATORS - Site

The Job Holder is to:

- Troubleshoots all problems related to oil production on the facilities under his responsibility, organizes and follows-up corrective actions where needed.
- Ensures that operating procedures are properly followed.
- Suggests possible improvement regarding facilities and procedures to the Production Supervisor.
- Prepares all production reports related to the facilities under his responsibility and makes sure all production logbooks are properly filled.
- Prepare the PDMS report on daily basis at night shift and all other reports such but not limited to safety dossier, LO/LC, watch keeping list.
- Assists production supervisor during the start up, planned and un planned shutdown.
- Train new plant operators.
- Ensures fully awareness of the new procedures and suggests to revise the existing procedures on the facilities under his responsibility for improvement.
- Enter the data in the water injection file on daily basis at night shift.
- Follow any specific data collection required for method or for special operation like capacity follow up, DRA follow up,.....etc.
- Ensures the handling the top up of the plant chemicals
- Perform visually and verbally hand over to the oncoming shift operators, make sure all ESD overrides are fully aware by the oncoming shift.

Qualification and Experience Required:

- 3 years practical experience in production facilities operation.
- 2 years technical diploma after high school
- Minimum English Level of 3/5 (fluently written and spoken with good technical English knowledge)

MECHANICAL TECHNICIANS - Site

The Job Holder is to:

- Monitor, check operations, diagnosis, repair, overhaul and perform maintenance on diesel engines, all types of pumps, valves, air compressors and other type of equipment related to the Field and processing Facilities.
- Performs daily work activities, in accordance with his individual job/task procedures, checking that the quality of work is acceptable before the equipment is returned to service.
- Ensures that all maintenance and repairs to plant and equipment are carried out in a safe and efficient manner and in strict compliance with company operating procedures and any relevant statutory legislation in order to maintain all such equipment in sound and safe operating condition.
- Ensures that all equipment are restarted and running efficiently after being repaired.
- Ensures a high standard of housekeeping is maintained on the plant and equipment on his designated work area.
- Analyse failures and suggest solution to or correct the problem associated with failures.
- Forwards to Discipline Supervisor all maintenance intervention requests.

Qualification and Experience Required:

- Minimum of 2 years practical experience in Maintenance activities having completed technical studies and/or apprenticeship.
- Have a good knowledge of the Company rules, policies and procedures.
- Minimal Electrical Certification Level of Ho – Bo
- Minimum English Level of 3/5 (Fluently written and spoken with good technical English knowledge)
- Be rigorous and methodical, and have the physical ability to work outdoors in desert conditions.

INSTRUMENT TECHNICIANS - Site

The Job Holder is to:

- Operate Instrument systems, maintain all Instrument equipment, calibrate and repair pneumatic and electronic Control, ESD instruments, maintain control panels. Performs daily work activities, in accordance with his individual job/task procedures, checking that the quality of work is acceptable before the equipment is returned to service.
- Ensures that all maintenance and repairs to plant and equipment are carried out in a safe and efficient manner and in strict compliance with company operating procedures and any relevant Company Rules in order to maintain all such equipment in sound and safe operating condition.
- Ensure maintenance at anytime during day and night as soon it is required and only with Instrument Supervisor or Superintendent orders.
- Ensures that all equipment are restarted and running efficiently after being repaired.
- Ensures a high standard of housekeeping is maintained on the plant and equipment on his designated work area.
- Analyse failures and suggest solution to or correct the problem associated with failures.
- Report to Supervisor status of job given.

Qualification and Experience Required:

- Minimum of 2 years practical experience in Maintenance activities having completed technical studies and/or apprenticeship.
- Have a good knowledge of the Company rules, policies and procedures.
- Valid Driving Licence.
- Minimum English Level (Total to advise) ie. Fluent written and spoken with good technical English knowledge.
- Be rigorous and methodical, and have the physical ability to work outdoors in desert conditions.

To apply, please visit www.total-ep-yemen.com and register your application no later than **June 14th, 2012**.

Faxed or handed-in applications are **not** considered.

Demand for the repatriation of looted assets



Ahmed Dawood

Since the first spark of last year's revolution in Yemen against ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh, no official body has demanded that the money Saleh, his relatives, previous leaders, officials in government and military leaders stole from the country and placed in foreign bank accounts be returned.

So far, the location of large sums of money stolen from the government isn't known.

On May 16th, US President Barack Obama issued an executive order giving the Treasury Department authority to freeze the assets of anyone obstructing implementation of the political transition in Yemen.

The White House issued a copy of the order but it didn't include a list of names or organizations already determined to be in violation.

Some people took the order to be a confession from the US administration that some influential Yemeni figures have large amounts of money in American banks.

The people take action

Consequently, a popular initiative was announced last week in Sana'a to demand retrieval of the looted cash.

The initiative, headed by Ghasan Abu Lohom, a human rights activist, includes society activists, parliamentarians, lawyers, and other public figures.

Abu Lohom asserted that Saleh, his relatives, and other prominent leaders' assets in foreign banks are valued at more than 170 billion USD. This is especially troubling considering that more than ten million Yemenis currently suffer from severe poverty and malnutrition.

Although the initiative was announced, no names were mentioned except for Abu Lohom and an executive member. No parliament, academic or civil organizations involved in the initiative were mentioned.

Abu Lohom affirmed that the names of participants in the initiative will be announced next month, when the number of members is finalized.

“**Saleh, his relatives, and other prominent leaders' assets in foreign banks are valued at more than 170 billion USD.**”

“**Freezing them [looted assets] is an important first step to having the money returned to Yemen.**”

The initiative aims to put pressure on the government to start demanding foreign countries freeze the assets and looted money of Saleh and his relatives and return them to the country. It also aims to entrench principles of transparency and integrity in public and private institutions in addition to implementing regulations imposed by the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

The movement also demands that whoever has looted money, regardless of whether they're in the government or not, must give it back.

Initiative mechanisms

The initiative plans to take immediate steps achieve its goals. Members will start by collecting information about the location of the looted money, according to a statement distributed in the opening ceremony of the initiative. They then plan to interface with international organizations and the officials of countries where the assets are currently located. Revealing and freezing them is an important first step to having the money returned to Yemen.

A team of lawyers will also be established to coordinate with lawyers in the countries where the assets are located in order to file legal requests demanding the freezing of such funds and their repatriation to Yemen.

There will be active representation of the initiative in every country Saleh and his relatives are believed to keep their looted assets, as well as coordination between the initiative's team and Yemeni communities in these countries to spread public support for the initiative.

But the question is: Will the steps the members of the initiative take be legal?

Legality

Dr. Ali Al-A'wag, a professor of international law at Sana'a University, believes the work of the initiative to be legal, not only based on Yemeni law, but also on laws of countries where the assets are being kept.

Al-A'wag said that Yemen had signed several international agreements such as combating corruption and organized crime. Therefore, the team of the initiative will use these agreements as a basis for their initiative if the legality of their actions are challenged.

He pointed out that Yemen had also committed to implementing an agreement that prevents money laundering, and considers such laundering to be a criminal act.

"If we looked into the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption laws, we find that they oblige the authorities to work with the other government institutions to combat corruption, punish those corrupted people and pursue the looted money abroad," said Al-A'wag.

The initiative depends on cooperation with civil organizations and the Transparency International Organization. Tawfeeq Al-Budaigi, head of the Transparency International Organization in Yemen, affirmed that the organization is ready to support this initiative in order to get the looted money returned.

"We will support the initiative with experts and lawyers. We will also boost the role of different civil groups in order to get the money returned as soon as possible," he added.

"The looted money of Yemenis in foreign banks will be taken back as long as we pursue it," said Abu-Lohom confidently.



First Conference
for Youth Initiatives
and Foundations

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الرعاة الذهبيون



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الرعاة الفضيون



بالتعاون مع

Yemeni men feel shy to hold a rose in public



YT Photo by Fatima Al-Azami



Supplied by Naim Al-Qoudi

Some Yemeni men feel awkward about holding a rose in public, so they cover the rose in a bag so no one sees it.

Rose buyers in Yemen are mostly women who buy them for weddings and birthdays.

Mohammed Al-Samei

Flowers are barely noticed among most in Yemeni society. Yemeni people live in a warlike environment, with increased instances of violence and terrorism, according to Abdulaziz Mohamed, a university student in Sana'a.

"Some Yemeni people find holding roses or offering flowers to someone to be foreign to their culture [and that it should not be practiced in an Arab or Islamic country]," Mohamed said.

"In fact we really want to overcome this false perception and to replace blood with roses, gunpowder with arabian jasmine and bullets with flowers," he said. "But we haven't been able to achieve this goal. Guns and bullets remain the trend and violence dominates."

This is because manhood in Yemen is measured by the his affirmation of guns and violence. Peace, roses and love are seen to be almost feminine according to Mohamed.

"Roses have a beautiful meaning. They express love and purity. People's anger is often appeased and pacified by roses since they represent calm and tranquility," said Tawfeeq Ali.

Ali, who is from the governate of Shabwa in eastern Yemen, said that when he wanted to give a rose to his fiancée, he had to cover it with a bag to make sure that no one would see it.

Ali complained about how giving roses wasn't seen as acceptable in society. He calls on all Yemenis to change this, to spread a culture of peace and beauty instead of violence.

Samar Ahmed, a woman from the governate of Aden, located in the south of the country, says, "Yemenis care more about giving things with a more lasting value than roses."

"For me, roses are romantic because the colors of roses reflect the character of a person," said Ahmed.

She added that in her community roses are presented during weddings, birthdays, graduations and other occasions.

Differing from the response of the woman from Aden, Aisha Rajih, from the capital Sana'a, said roses mean nothing to her, but she sees her female friends interested in roses and they use them for different occasions.

Slow, but growing demand for roses

Despite the fact that Yemenis are largely not interested in roses, the

“**Roses have a beautiful meaning. They express love and purity. People's anger is often appeased and pacified by roses since they represent calm and tranquility.**”

“**We really want to overcome this false perception and to replace blood with roses, gunpowder with arabian jasmine and bullets with flowers.**”

“**The lack of understanding has made Yemenis look at roses as thorns. We Yemenis use roses only for close relationships, this is a mistake. We should make our lives full of roses.**”

demand is on rise according to Amar Al-Sabri, an owner of a rose shop in the capital Sana'a. "Compared with the past few years, demand for roses has been getting better in the last three months, particularly because of women and girls who are buying them for birthdays, weddings and other occasions," said Al-Sabri.

He expects the demand to increase this summer as it gets further into marriage and graduation season.

Al-Sabri believes that the cultural acceptance of roses in Yemen should change. He pointed out that if men buy a rose, they cover it up with a plastic bag so no one will see it, yet they will carry qat (a mild narcotic plant) everywhere without a second thought.

"Things are being mixed up and confused due to the perception of some things as being only for men or women," said Mohammed Ghazi, from Lahj, in southern Yemen. He went on to say, "for instance many people think it's not good for a man to hold or give roses and he can be insulted if he buys one."

Roses: the best gifts

"I always carry roses when visiting sick friends, on valentines day or for any important occasion, it's a must," Akram Al-Fahad said.

"You must give roses, when anyone asks me what to give me I tell them to bring me a bouquet of roses. It's always great when I receive one from a woman I love," said Al-

Fahd.

"The lack of understanding has made Yemenis look at roses as thorns. We Yemenis use roses only for close relationships, this is a mistake. We should make our lives full of roses," he said.

Al-Fahd concluded that the low demand for flowers in general has caused Yemeni farmers to not grow very many of them, as they fear a loss of profit would result from planting large fields.

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