

## Conflicting reports about ending Change Square sit-ins

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, June 6 — The Organizing Committee for the People's Revolution denied on Tuesday ending the fifteen-month-long sit-in in Sana'a's Change Square.

On Monday, some protesters began folding their tents and leaving Change Square, where protests have lost momentum. The step was followed by news that the protesters are gearing up to fold up the tents in the square.

"What happened (withdrawal of some protesters) aims to transform the revolution and spread it to other Yemeni governorates," the Organizing Committee for the People Revolution said in a statement issued May 29.

The statement called for the pro-democracy protesters to actively participate in "upcoming revolutionary activities."

Fakhr Al-Azab, a youth activist and anti-regime protester, said it's not reasonable for the real revolutionaries to leave the square without achieving their goals.

Asked about the benefit of the revolutionaries' presence in the square, he said, "The square is observing the performance of the government and are considered legal observers."

Al-Azab confirmed that the decision to end the sit-ins is very complicated, saying the Change Square protests will continue.

"Although I'm not satisfied with the performance of Change

Square, I refuse the idea of leaving it," he said. "If we end the sit-in, we will give a chance for the ousted regime to recover again."

Ali Mohsen, a new graduate from Sana'a University, was one of the protesters who took to the streets and participated in the revolution. Later, he withdrew due to what he called provocative action from some of the political entities in the square.

"It's no longer a square for freedom and revolution," he said. "The square used to be one of the inspirational places for me, but unfortunately it has become a boring place these days."

Sadeq Al-Awadhi, an independent student at Sana'a University, was highly critical of those

protesters who live in Change Square.

"They don't want to leave the street and they deal with these public streets as if they are their own," he said. "It's not a change square, but it's a place for spreading anger and conflict."

In February 2011, hundreds of thousands of Yemenis took part in the activities of Sana'a's Change Square. However, the monopoly of some political entities on the square led many revolutionaries to withdraw.

"Please fold your tents and destroy your temporarily built room in the square. We are fed-up with the square," posted Ghamdan Al-Yousifi, a prominent independent journalist, on his Facebook page.

Photo by Ridwan Sharief



Independent protesters and those affiliated with the Houthis in Change Square accuse the Islah Party of planning to remove protesting camps.

## Half of Yemeni public schools lack restrooms, ministry reports

Muaad Al-Maqtari

SANA'A, June, 5 — The Social Development Fund is trying to help shape trial projects aimed at improving the sanitation and environment in Yemeni schools.

Unfortunately, this project has been facing a lack of coordination between the health ministry and education ministry.

The workshop, held from May 28 to 29, showed considerable gaps in implementation between the partners of the fund. Their efforts are not well concentrated on address-

ing the sanitation problem in Yemeni schools.

Over the course of the workshop, there was controversy over whether the health ministry or Ministry of Education should head up the project. Currently, the Ministry of Education is in charge.

The program includes teaching on a number of hygienic practices, which aims to highlight the health of students and staff.

According to information obtained from the Ministry of Education, as of last year, half of Yemeni schools lacked restrooms. More-

over, 38 percent of those with access to bathrooms at school do not have access to them during study hours.

The information from the field survey indicated approximately 35,000 toilets are utilized out of a total 41,000, meaning almost 16 percent are not used.

The ideal number of bathrooms within schools is one bathroom for every 25 students. However, in Yemen the ratio is currently one bathroom for every 319 students.

A separate study conducted by the general health administration,

found that only 90 bathrooms out of 298 are used, putting the ratio at one bathroom for every 424 students. The study included 17 schools in Sana'a.

The study also found that there are 81 bathrooms used by teachers, giving an average of one bathroom for every 16 teachers.

Some possible consequences of not providing adequate bathroom facilities for students include kidney failure, urinal diseases, permanent deformities and bone fractures resulting from the lack of cleanliness.

The transmission of diseases

such as diarrhea and malaria is also often due to poor health within schools.

Abdulwahab Al-Majahd, a Water and Environmental Development Fund manager, said defecating in the open is a major cause for the large amounts of flies and other insects.

"Blocked pipes cause sewage leaks all over the school compound; they create a terrible stench as well," he said.

Mohammed Al-Sharafi, a school building designer at the Ministry of Education, said the poor quality

of bathrooms in schools is due to water shortages and a lack of electricity in addition to the absence of sanitation workers. There is very little allocated by school budgets to maintain and clean schools.

He went on to say that bathrooms in large school buildings often smell horrible and get shut down.

Al-Sharafi concluded by saying some studies and projects regarding adding additional water tanks have been conducted. However, many of these projects have failed due to stolen materials or neglect of sewage infrastructure.

## Belgian detainees accused of having links to Al-Qaeda to be released, deported on Friday

Ghaida Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, June 6 — Ibrahim Bali and Ezaldain Tahiry, two Belgian nationals, arrived in Sana'a in April to study Arabic. Political Security officers arrested them and held them in prison for two months without charge but have now decided to release them, according to Yasmin Zamroni, Bali's wife.

It is expected that the Belgians will be released Friday, after constant efforts by human rights organizations in Yemen to free them.

In a phone interview with Yemen Times, Zamroni said, "Since we arrived in Yemen, Political Security officers have kept an eye on us. We were annoyed with the treatment we received in the language institute and apartment. The manager of the institute advised us to leave Yemen but we couldn't because Bali and Tahiry were soon arrested."

"My husband Ibrahim and his friend Tahiry were never charged with any crime. They are going to be

released on Friday, June 8, and then we will be deported from Yemen," Zamroni said.

The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, also known as HOOD, said, "The Political Security officers paid no attention to Yemeni laws and prosecution procedures regarding the detention of the two Belgians. They failed to charge them with any crimes or to release them immediately, according to the law."

Zamroni confirmed Bali and Tahiry were poorly treated in prison and weren't allowed to take showers. Moreover, they were imprisoned underground, in solitary confinement, and officers allowed her to visit only once.

Mousa Al-Namrani, HOOD's press officer, told Yemen Times, "Bali and Tahiry spent 20 days in Yemen before being arrested April 13. They were studying Arabic, but because of the currently difficult situation, they had decided to go back to Belgium. However, they were arrested

before they could leave.

"They were arrested for no reason. The officers violated the law and imprisoned them in a Political Security prison on the pretext that they were suspected of being linked to Al-Qaeda. Though Yemeni law stipulates that detainees must be charged within 24 hours of being arrested, the two Belgian nationals weren't ever charged."

"Khaled Al-Maweri, HOOD's lawyer, barely got permission to visit them last May. After that the Political Security officers didn't allow anyone to visit the detainees, even the representative of Belgium," he said.

"When Al-Maweri visited them, they were in very poor health because of a hunger strike they participated in and the torture they had suffered in prison. They were held in a small cell and bright lights were centered on them day and night to prevent them from sleeping."

The Belgians were tricked by Political Security agents who invited

them for a meeting, but then arrested them when the men were preparing to leave, according to Al-Namrani.

He added that the Political Security officers refused orders from the judiciary and prosecution officials to formally charge the men after arresting them. According to Al-Namrani, the Yemeni Political Security agency often violates human rights laws with impunity.

Foreign students of different nationalities have been arrested from time to time under the pretext of being linked to Al-Qaeda. Yemen has taken precautions against foreign students linked to Al-Qaeda after Umar Farouk Abdulmutallib, a Nigerian national recruited by Al-Qaeda, tried to set off an explosive device while onboard a plane en route from Amsterdam to Detroit, Mich., in the United States, on Dec. 25, 2009.

Abdulmutallib had studied Arabic in an institute in Sana'a and was accused of having links to Al-Qaeda.

**YEMEN TIMES**  
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## Yemeni Free Party searches for unconditional financial support

**Amira Nasser**

SANAA, June 3 – The Yemeni Free Party (YFP) this week called on Yemeni businessmen and any interested bodies to financially support the party so it can take the next step toward licensing.

YFP was created in February in Aden, with the aim of maintaining Yemen's unity amidst calls for separation in many parts of south Yemen. The party is the first southern party seeking to instill unity principles and opposing the idea of separating the south of Yemen from the north.

At the moment, party leadership struggles to establish an office in Sana'a because the Political Parties Affairs Committee, which is the legal authority responsible for licensing parties, requires all political parties to have an office in Sana'a, according to Awsan Mohammed Aqlan Hajeb, an engineer and the head of YFP.

"Our aim is to keep Yemen united because separation only serves external parties that want to create disorder in Yemen," Hajeb said in a conversation with the Yemen Times.

The party is composed of 5,000 members from 17 southern and northern Yemeni governorates, he said.

"Because the party is independent and doesn't follow any other parties, it seeks unconditional support from businessmen and tradesmen," Hajeb said.

According to Hajeb, officials linked to the former regime offered large sums of money if YFP agreed to be a part of the General People's Congress, the former ruling party in Yemen.

"We always look for unconditional support to achieve our aim of being an independent and a free party," he said.

Moreover, Hajeb pointed out that members of the party were to harassment and were dismissed from work after refusing the offer from former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's party.

He added that the members submitted letters of complaint to the minister of interior, to civil society organizations and to the Yemeni cabinet about the arbitrary dismissal, but they paid no attention.

The party aims to contribute to increasing the awareness of Yemenis about political issues; instilling the national unity principles; helping to combat corruption; decreasing rates of poverty; educating and supporting the development of youth and women, including providing equal investment opportunities among Yemeni youth



and involving women in the political decision-making process; and contributing to solving social problems such as revenge, high dowries and sectarianism. YFP also hopes to achieve sustainable development and party growth.

Hajeb added that the party carried out several development projects such as "Yemenis are Educated," a project sponsored by various charitable associations and aimed at providing training courses to students from low-income families to boost their level of education.

Hajeb said the party has several projects, most of which are radio broadcastings, to boost the level of awareness and to combat corruption.

Hajeb asserted that as an independent party, YFP has good relations with leaders of the Southern Movement.

## One injured in ministry blast

**Ahmed Dawood**

SANAA, June 6 — Minister of Transportation Waed Badeeb said he received phone threats just hours prior to an explosion in the cafeteria near his office at the Ministry of Transportation on Tuesday.

In a press release, the ministry's office said Badeeb received telephone threats Tuesday morning. The phone number was blocked, and the unknown caller threatened to assassinate the minister using explosives. The Ministry of Transportation has yet to make any accusations regarding who is behind the act.

A source at the ministry said that the explosion took place because of gas dispersion inside the cafeteria

on the fourth floor, indicating that cafeteria workers were using the cafeteria's oven as usual. When the oven was lit, a loud blast shook the fourth floor, creating confusion and panic among the staff.

The source said a cafeteria worker sustained burns to his face and head in addition to other parts of his body. He was immediately hospitalized. The source confirmed that the minister was not in the ministry compound when the blast happened and claimed the explosion resulted in only minor damage.

Ministry of Interior staff hurried to the scene of the blast to investigate, according to the source.

One month ago, the minister's vehicle was exposed to a planned



**Minister of Transportation  
Waed Badeeb**

"traffic accident" while he was on his way from Sana'a to Aden. Although the minister was among them at time of the incident, only his escorts were injured.

## Fighting intensifies in Abyan, plot against defense minister fails

**Ahmed Dawood  
& Sadeq Al-Faqih**

SANAA, June 6 — Ferocious confrontations continue intensifying between the Yemeni army and the Al-Qaeda militants in Abyan governorate.

On Monday, the commander of the Southern Military Region, General Salem Al-Qatn, said victory is coming, and Al-Qaeda will soon lose control of Zunjibar. A source at the Ministry of Defense said roughly 23 Al-Qaeda militants were killed Tuesday.

This comes after Monday's attempt by members of Al-Qaeda to assassinate Defense Minister Mohammed Naser Ahmed while visiting military units in Abyan.

A source at the Ministry of Defense said information related to the minister's visit to Amaeen district in Abyan was leaked to Ansar Al-Shariah members. The source said a car full of explosives was waiting on the district's main road.

The source said two militants were in the Ansar Al-Shariah vehicle, one dressed in women's clothing. As the car awaited the minister's convoy, members of the

People's Committees' became suspicious and checked the vehicle.

After fighting broke out, the militants detonated the explosives, resulting in six deaths.

According to the Ministry of Defense website, the vehicle was detonated at a People's Committees' checkpoint in Umsarah in Lawdar district.

The ministry confirmed four People's Committees' members died and one was wounded. Both militants died.

Following the incident, the Southern Military Region leadership declared a curfew for seven roads in Abyan.

Assassination attempts aimed at targeting military commanders have been on the rise.

Last month, Ansar Al-Shariah pledged to assassinate the defense minister and carry out suicide assaults on the army in reaction to the army's increasing attacks against them in Abyan.

On May 21, one day before the National Unification Day anniversary, a suicide-bomber linked to Al-Qaeda killed a reported 100 people during a military drill parade in Sana'a.



**Defense Minister,  
Mohammed Naser Ahmed**

Al-Qaeda said the assassination attempt on Ahme is the start of more assassination attempts.

A leading Al-Qaeda figure last month revealed to the Qatari Sharq newspaper that the group sneaked into the Republican Guard forces and will continue planting terrorist cells inside military units.

Al-Qaeda promises to further its violent operations if the army continues pursuing its militants in Abyan, in south Yemen, stressing that Ahme is the group's number one target.

## Legal affairs minister accuses GPC ministers of blocking transitional justice law

**Mohammed Al-Samei**

SANAA, June 6 — Dr. Mohammed Al-Mikhlafi, minister of legal affairs in the reconciliation government, said cabinet ministers in the General People's Congress (GPC) are obstructing the passing of a transitional justice law.

The proposal was suggested by the interim government following former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's removal from the office in February. The law aims to compensate the families of victims of various political crises from 1994 to 2011 in return for amnesty granted to perpetrators.

Ministers were unable to pass the law because GPC ministers disagreed, according to Al-Mikhlafi.

Abdulmalik Al-Fahidi, editor-in-chief of Al-Motamaer news website, the mouthpiece of the GPC, denied Al-Mikhlafi's accusations.

"Al-Mikhlafi's statement in this regard is untrue, and he wanted to present himself as the man behind the accomplishment of this proposal," Al-Fahidi said.

"The unsuccessful passing of the law by the cabinet is due to disagreements among ministers of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP)," he said. "Each party of the JMP wants to have its issues included in the law. The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) wants to discuss the 1994 war and the bloody 1986 conflicts, whereas the Nasserite Organization insists on including the 1978 incidents."

"And the People's Forces Union wants to bring the 1968 issues into the law, whereas the Al-Haq party seeks to even include the 1948 [failed coup against the imamate's rule which ended in 1962]," Al-Fahidi said.

Al-Mikhlafi, one of the JMP ministers, said, "Those who hinder the



**The legal affairs minister has warned against the obstruction of passing the transitional justice law saying it is the core of the power transfer in Yemen.**

law of transitional justice are not aware of the risks behind that because it is the core of power transfer in Yemen that will pave the way for the National Dialogue Conference."

Al-Mikhlafi said the law seeks forgiveness for those who violated rights by compensating the victims of local crises. The law will achieve justice for the victims of the violations, he said.

Al-Mikhlafi added he doesn't know the reasons that made the GPC's ministers refuse the law. No one can predict the losses Yemen will sustain if the national reconciliation fails, he said.

In a conversation with Yemen Times, Al-Mikhlafi declined to comment on media reports claiming he received death threats calls from religious groups for his work pushing forward the law's passage.

Al-Sahwa.net and Al-Masdar Online reported Sunday that Al-Mikhlafi received death threats for if the law passed. The groups also threatened to carry out terrorist attacks against the reconciliation

government, according to reports.

On May 30, the cabinet authorized President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi and Prime Minister Mohammed Salem Basendwa to take action regarding the law of transitional justice.

The state-run Saba News Agency reported that the Yemeni Cabinet will discuss the results of the committee, headed by Al-Mikhlafi, which was formed to discuss the draft law with stakeholders.

"Because of disagreements between the committee members and ministers in the cabinet around some points in the law draft, the cabinet moved the law to President Hadi and the prime minister, in accordance with the 12th article of the Gulf initiative, which stipulates that laws are decided in reconciliation between members of the cabinet. If they don't agree, the president and the prime minister are the ones to decide."

Yemen Times attempted to contact GPC ministers, but their phones were off.

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSULTANCY SERVICES

#### DEVELOP AWARENESS STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND AWARENESS RAISING MATERIALS

**REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**  
**Pilot Program for Climate Resilience**  
**CONSULTING SERVICES**  
Grant No. **TF097544**  
Project ID No. **P122687**

#### Expressions of interest

This request for expression of interest follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this project that appeared in dgMarket on 10 November 2010.

Yemen is one of the pilot countries of the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR), under the Strategic Climate Fund (Climate Investment Funds). The PPCR is composed of two phases; phase I of the PPCR will allow the country to develop the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience. This preparatory phase will inform the design and ensure the development of key interventions under Phase II. One of the main activities of Phase I of the PPCR program is to develop awareness climate change strategy and to design and develop awareness materials aiming at enhancing and raising awareness of stakeholders and target groups at different levels in Yemen.

The request for expressions of interest is for consulting services to develop awareness strategy on climate change, to design, develop and produce awareness raising materials, and to conduct activities related to this assignment which include for example consultation meetings, visits and workshops at national and sub-national levels.

The Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) within The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of the Republic of Yemen now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (May 2004 Revised October 1, 2006 & May 1, 2010 edition).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 0900 to 1500 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the following address, no later than June 19, 2012.

**PPCR, Program Coordination Unit (PCU)**  
**Beside Yemen-German Hospital**  
**Hadda Street**  
**Sana'a**  
**Republic of Yemen**  
Telephone: **+967 1429 071**  
Facsimile: **+967 1 413 404**  
Email: **ppcr@yemen.net.ye** and cc to: **faidali2004@gmail.com**



# Students chew *qat* to improve exam performances



Students chew *qat* think it will enhance their memory during exams, but when doing exams, they hardly recall information.



Amal Al-Yarisi

**C**hewing *qat*, a mild narcotic plant, is not confined to adults in Yemen. Students chew *qat* as well, claiming it helps them study.

Yousif Ali, a high school student in Sana'a, said he chews daily from 1 to 4 a.m., when he starts his day job driving a taxi.

Ali said, "Qat gives me energy and helps me continue my work. Regardless, I cannot study without *qat*."

Another high school student, Akram Mubark, said he does not always chew. He uses it only on the day of final exams. "It helps me stay up at night, so I can study," Mubark said.

He also said that, while he is able to memorize very well during *qat* chewing sessions, the actual day of the exam he can't recall any of the information.

When Akram tried to quit chewing, his friends persuaded him just to chew during homework.

Chewing *qat* is not limited to male students. Female students choose to chew as well to help them study hard for exams.

Nawal Al-Humaidi, a high school student said, "I chew because it helps me stay focused and gives me energy while I study." Al-Humaidi has trouble sleeping at night, but she said *qat* helps her stay focused. She admitted, however, that she sometimes feels tired and lazy during class.

Amal Noaman is the opposite of Al-Humaidi. She has never put a leaf

into her mouth and said she scored very well on high school exams.

"Qat is one of the biggest hassles students face because it only helps you remember information temporarily," she said. "It has more disadvantages than advantages."

Chewing is a phenomenon that concerns educators, as they are dealing with the students in school. They say students find it difficult to pay attention and understand in their classes because of sleepiness, a common side effect.

A sociologist at Hael School, Najeeba Al-Bana, said she has made an effort to lessen the spread of its use among students. One way was through weekly disseminations of pamphlets throughout the school alerting students to the leaves' dangers.

Another avenue Al-Bana has tried

was hanging posters highlighting the potential hazards of chewing *qat*. Her colleagues helped post them around the school.

Bana pointed out that symptoms such as insomnia, anxiety, loss of memory and confusion are common side effects. Other issues such as migraines and gum and kidney diseases have also been linked to the drug.

Al-Bana said addicts sometimes resort to stealing if they have no money to fuel their addictions.

## Anti-Qat Campaigns

There have been many foundations in Yemen working to combat *qat* chewing. The Al-Naja Foundation has been working on disseminating information about the dangers to students.

Khatib Al-Himyari, the founda-

tion's spokesman, said the foundation hopes to educate students and encourage them not to chew through awareness of the risks.

"The best prevention is through education," he said.

He said there are many programs to educate students. One is by training groups to tell their classmates about the dangers, particularly during exam periods. The foundation has targeted students at Al-Hassen, Hael Saeed, and Al-Wahda Al-Arabia schools in Sana'a.

Al-Himyari concluded, saying, "There are safe alternatives that students can use instead of *qat*. The students can go to human development centers or language institutes, Reading for All Programs, drama or sports teams, and many other activities and programs hosted by private organizations."

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# First decorated egg exhibit in Yemen opens in Sana'a

Story & Photos by Samar Qaed

**E**ggs decorated and in-laid with precious stones blew away those who, for the first time, saw eggs turned into art pieces.

People could not believe the different beautiful shapes of eggs, coated with pearls, beads, crystals and ligament gold as their marvelous shapes made them wonder how the eggs were shaped into unique pieces.

Although the girls and the jewelry boxes equaled the beauty of the eggs, one egg surpassed them all, with its inscription of God's name.

Egg decorating dates back to ancient civilizations, when people painted the eggs and offered them as birthday presents because eggs symbolized the Renaissance and were associated with spring, dawn, creation and holiday such as Easter.

Faraha Saeed, wife of the Indian ambassador to Yemen, has been an expert in the art of egg decoration for more than 12 years. She imparts the Islamic Indian art in decorating eggs, using various techniques to decorate the eggshells such as cutting, engraving, sculpture and dyeing.

Saeed embosses each egg with her fingers and turns them into a masterpiece that impresses everyone who sees them.

"Turning an egg into a piece of art takes three to four weeks," she said.

But her passion for decorating eggs gives her the patience to come up with a unique design.

She said every egg is different from the next in shape and in color, and that's why she cannot repeat the same shape for more than one egg, but rather creates a new shape.

In addition to chicken eggs, Saeed uses a wide range of eggs such as geese, ostrich, emu, duck and turkey eggs.

"This art is very difficult as I deal with the egg which is a thin crust that can be easily broken. Therefore, I use strengthening materials, so I can deal with the egg with accuracy and versatility for me to be able to come up with a unique work of art," Saeed said.

Saeed is the only egg-decorating artist in the world. Her exhibition is



Faraha Saeed's decorated egg exhibition is the first of its kind to be displayed in Yemen. The exhibit will last for four days, in Sana'a.

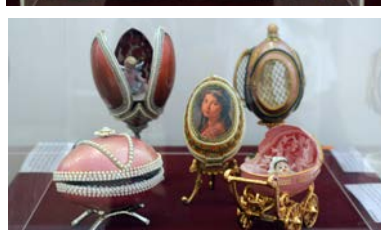
the first of its kind to be held in Yemen; however, she has held similar exhibitions in Saudi Arabia, India and Denmark.




"People's reactions toward the art of decorated eggs in my exhibitions is positive as they notice creativity and excellence in this art. Also, it's because I present a new kind of art," Saeed said.

According to Saeed, she has turned

more than 102 eggs into pieces of art in her home country, and many have been sold. She donates 25 percent of the profits to charity.

Minister of Culture and Tourism Abdullah Awbal opened the exhibit Tuesday evening at the Indian embassy in Sana'a. The egg and sculpture exhibition will display more than 62 eggs were displayed and lasts four days.



**CHF INTERNATIONAL, YEMEN**  
CLP Education Sub Grant  
FUNDED BY  
**USAID Yemen**  
REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS (RFQs)  
PROVISION OF SUPPLY OF TAK FOR 40 SCHOOLS IN ADEN & LAHEJ GOVERNORATES:  
**LETTER OF INVITATION**

CHF International, Yemen, is implementing an Education Sub Grant in partnership with the Community Livelihood Project (CLP). The sub grant will focus on Basic Education schools in eight governorates, for a total of 558 schools. As part of the project activities, CHF will provide 480 set of TAK (teaching aid kits) for a total of 40 schools in the governorates of Aden and Lahej.

Interested vendors are therefore invited to submit their quotation for *Provision of 480 sets of TAK (teaching aid kits) printing jobs for schools in the Governorates of Aden and Lahej, CLP Education Sub Grant.*

**Interested vendors can collect the bid documents from the below mentioned address.**

**Required information & qualifications**

- 1) Printing and advertising experience, particularly in printing of teaching aids and other related printing jobs.
- 2) List of previously completed printing jobs supply with dollar value to schools or government or private sectors.
- 3) Company history (profile) and office location in Yemen.

**CHF reserves the right to visit any interested vendors offices and/or workshop to interview vendor's staff and to reject firms considered to be unqualified for the proposed request.**

Accompanying data, background information, Terms of Reference (TOR) and other requirements for the assignment is available on request. For further information about this RFQ, please contact:

**The Project Director,**  
CLP Education Sub Grant  
CHF International Yemen  
Hadda-Iran Street behind Korean restaurant, Sana'a  
Tel: +967 1 427425  
P.O. Box 18407  
Email: [rcontin@chfyemen.org](mailto:rcontin@chfyemen.org) [wadhah@chfyemen.org](mailto:wadhah@chfyemen.org)

Completed responses to the RFQs should be submitted not later than 3:00 p.m. on **16<sup>th</sup> of June 2012** to the above address.



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# Parallel system students: making legitimate demands or just seeking another thing to protest?



Parallel students at campuses nationwide protested last year, urging the government to cancel the yearly parallel system fees.



Public universities in Yemen do not need the parallel system because there are many private universities where students with lower grades and deeper pockets can apply.

By: Khalid Al-Karimi

**L**awmakers in Yemen endorsed the parallel system adopted by public universities in the 2004-2005 academic year in a bid to increase enrollment and to remove admissions obstacles. The move also aims to help increase financing of public university budgets.

The system adopted gives admittance to students with lower than acceptable grades by allowing them to enroll on the condition that they will study—often at a high cost—with private instructors until graduation.

“The purpose behind the adoption of the parallel system in Yemen was to increase universities income,” Taher Al-Ahdel, a professor of Education Foundations at the University of Sana'a, said. “However, an unintended consequence of this system has been a deterioration of academic and educational quality.”

He added, “Public universities in Yemen do not need the parallel system because there are many private universities where students with lower grades and deeper pockets can apply. Therefore, it's perfectly acceptable for students enrolled

in public institutions to demand a decrease in tuition costs, though calling for the complete abolition of fees is unrealistic.”

If the administration decides to end the parallel system, Al-Ahdel said there are many different alternatives, including increasing class capacities to accommodate more students. Or, it could reconsider school admission criteria, namely the grades required for enrollment. Another option is establishing institutes for vocational training.

In an interview with Editor-in-Chief of Yemen Times Nadia Al-Saqqaf, published April 23, Minister of Higher Education Dr. Yahya Al-Shaibi said, “The higher education ministry submitted a study on the parallel system to the High Council for Education on this issue. In turn, the council created a committee to look into the matter and to decide whether to shut down the system entirely, or to simply place tighter restrictions on enrollment.”

The Yemen Times contacted Dr. Ali Qasim, deputy of the minister of higher education, who said the committee is still studying the matter and will ultimately decide with regard to the parallel system.

Parallel students at campuses

nationwide protested last year, urging the government to cancel the yearly parallel system fees.

Ahmed Al-Sabahi, a sophomore at the Media College at Sana'a University, said the parallel system is not legal according to the Yemeni law, which stipulates that education is free for everyone. Article 54 of the Yemeni Constitution stipulates that education is accessible to all Yemenis, and it is guaranteed by the state.

Al-Sabahi said the parallel system is an example of corruption at public universities, and its adoption is an attempt to extort money from students under the pretext of augmenting university budgets.

“We (parallel system students) call for the end of this system and integration of the two systems, namely the regular and parallel,” Al-Sabahi said. “We want to know where the money that the students paid is. Has the university taken advantage of it?”

In the wake of last year's protests, the Students' Union in Yemen has staged demonstrations calling for the cancellation of the fees. They issued a statement to express their disapproval with the system.

According to the union, the money taken from students causes a

disruption in social peace because it triggers youth hostility toward the state.

Student fees could amount to millions of riyals per year, particularly in the medicine and dental colleges. For example, a parallel system university student enrolled at the College of Medicine pays about \$3,000 per year in tuition costs. However, a student enrolled in the College of Education pays less than \$300. The money received is controlled by the Univer-

sity Presidency, under the pretext it is used to develop the university infrastructure, according to the Students' Union.

Parallel system students whose grades resort them to this kind of education now feel discontent with the system's policies. However, they should take into consideration that sweeping changes do not happen in the blink of an eye. While it's always good to point out inherently corrupt or unworkable practices, it is unreasonable to

believe that the two systems absolutely have to be integrated at this particular moment.

Dr. Al-Ahdel emphasized that the government should take into account the demands of the parallel system students.

“However, there is an obvious difference between the regular and parallel students,” he said. “The latter ought to heed that fact instead of sparking demonstrations and protests which create chaos on campuses.”

## High Prices affect driver safety options

Ghaida Al-Ariqi

**D**river in Yemen are trapped choosing between high prices of genuine spare parts sold in certified agencies and counterfeit ones sold in ordinary shops.

Some drivers prefer fake spare parts to genuine ones because they are cheaper. Sometimes, they use parts used for other brands of cars, which could cause accidents.

People have different opinions regarding genuine and fake spare parts. Some prefer buying spare parts from agencies to guarantee that they are genuine.

Ahmed Ghanem, a freelance mechanic, has many customers. He said people don't like to get spare parts from ordinary shops because they are not regulated, and stores can bring in badly

made parts. Therefore, people prefer to get parts from agencies, even if they are expensive.

Sharaf Al-Hababi, a spare parts shopkeeper, said the reason spare parts shops exist is that they are less expensive and that agencies lack some essentials parts.

“If you need a part that isn't available in Yemen, we can get it faster and cheaper than the agencies from China or any country,” he said.

“Only about three percent of shopkeepers bring badly made parts,” he said.

“Because of the current bad economic situation, people buy any part available, and they pay no attention to whether it's genuine or not,” he said. They only care about the price.”

However, some prefer agencies to ordinary shops because the parts in shops are not necessarily genuine, which could put them in

danger, particularly the essential parts such as brakes, according to Moneer Bahobaishi, the commercial manager of Mercedes Agency.

Customers said spare parts from agencies are very expensive. However, Al-Hobaishi said, “The difference in prices between agencies and ordinary shops is about 20 percent to 30 percent, and they are guaranteed.”

“The genuine parts are a little bit expensive because they are guaranteed, and you can change them for free if they break down within six months, whereas the parts in the shops aren't,” he said.

Al-Hababi pointed out that in spite of the competition between the agencies and the shops, they don't complain about each other.

Instead, spare parts agencies and shops try to present better services for customers and provide genuine parts to keep drivers safe, he said.



**Dr. Jamela Saleh Al-Raiby**  
Deputy minister of Population Sector

Our sincere congratulations to you and your team for receiving an honorable Resolve Award for the Global Leaders Council for Reproductive Health-ASPEN global health and development with WHO Department of reproductive health and Research. The Resolve Award is competitive, non-monetary award designed to honor innovative and scalable approaches in accelerating progress towards universal access to reproductive health.

While many candidates nominated for this reward, you and your team at the ministry of public Health and Population (MOPH&P) stood out for your strong dedication to reproductive health. Despite of challenges and scarce resources you and your team demonstrated clear vision, working both to increase access to reproductive health services and to raise awareness about these services.

We wish you all the best and successes for moving forward the agenda of reproductive Health in Yemen

**WHO Representative and staff**



## YT vision statement



**“To make Yemen  
a good world  
citizen.”**

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

OUR  
OPINIONDialogue; but for whom  
and for what?

Everyone wants to be part of the national dialogue. This is promising, and it sounds like the way toward a positive future is already being paved. However, the tragedy is that everyone believes he or she has to be part of the structural committees responsible for organizing the dialogue. People fear that if they are not part of the logistical decision-making process, then their voice will not be heard.

The historical baggage of a pseudo democracy has left almost every Yemeni citizen with a chip on their shoulder full of distrust. So, they all want to be the ones in the kitchen making sure the ingredients they like are there in the meal. They don't trust the waiters or the chefs, and they especially don't trust the restaurant manager.

Almost everyone wants to part of the committees responsible for creating the dialogue process, but this is not logical or even possible. Moreover, the committees are not where everyone needs to be present it is the dialogue. The committees should be up to the task to make sure all stakeholders and their issues are represented and respected in the dialogue.

This is why we have to remember two points if we wish to make this dialogue a success; the first is that there is no specific body or patron governing this dialogue. Its process and success is the responsibility of all the stakeholders involved.

The second issue is that the various committees working on the dialogue process have to leave their political baggage behind while they work on the national dialogue's structure and mechanism. Ideally the responsible committees should be made up of neutral bodies; however, Yemen's situation has not necessarily allowed full impartiality, so it remains the responsibility of the individuals in the various committees to make sure their technical work is not affected by their backgrounds or their views.

**Nadia Al-Sakkaf**

## Yemen can't do it alone

**Ibrahim Sharqieh  
nytimes.com  
First published on June 1**

During a recent visit to Yemen, I was sitting in a cafe in Sana'a when we suddenly experienced a power outage. I asked the waiter what happened, and he replied: "Saleh's men keep attacking the main power plant in Mareb to disrupt life in Sana'a. Saleh is still working against the revolution. He won't give up."

Regardless of the real causes of the outage, the waiter's explanation reflected a general sense that the uprising against former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his aides is far from over.

Officially, the uprising, which was inspired by the Arab Spring and led to hundreds of deaths, ended last February when the former vice president, Abed Rabbu Mansour Hadi, was installed as president. But many Yemenis do not believe that Saleh has entirely exited the political scene after 33 years of authoritarian rule over the poor, deeply divided country.

Some progress has been made under the new president. By and large, change and uprising in Yemen are proceeding on parallel tracks, and unless the international community provides Yemen with serious support these tracks may collide — with dire domestic and regional consequences.

Some Yemenis have blamed the opposition for signing the power transfer deal that removed Saleh from power without insisting on making his immunity conditional on his retirement from political activity. The terms of immunity allow Saleh to exercise politics in any capacity he wishes other than the presidency, while also completely shielding him from prosecution. Saleh still serves as president of his General People's Congress party, which makes many Yemenis nervous about his plans.

"He is like a ghost," my waiter said. "You don't see him but you certainly feel his presence."

Young revolutionaries fear their uprising has not yet achieved its goals. Six months since the signing of the power transfer deal, there are still thousands of tents in Sana'a's Change Square. Protesters continue pressing their demands as they have for months.

A revolutionary culture permeates the area, with political slogans, leaflets, music and youths discussing politics around the clock. Almost all political parties are represented at information centers in the square — liberals, Islamists, socialists and secularists. Even the Houthis, a militant rebel group that has fought six wars against the central government, still operate an information center tent called "Shabab Al-Somoud" (Steadfast Youth).

Preparing for what seems to be a long stay in Change Square, the Nobel Prize laureate Tawakkol Karman upgraded her tent to accommodate her family, a secretary and a space to meet visitors. The "Nobel Tent" makes a blunt statement: The Yemeni uprising is no longer a fully domestic affair but has a global dimension and will continue until the uprising's objectives have been fully met.

Yemen's transition, unlike others in the region, was met with unanimous support from the international community, which has positioned Hadi strongly to deal with the multiple challenges he faces. Indeed, President Obama's recent threat to freeze the assets of "those trying to disrupt the political transition" sent a clear message to Hadi's rivals about the strong American stance on Yemen.

Hadi has used this robust interna-

tional support to change the balance of power in his country. He succeeded in sidelining General Mohammed Saleh Al-Ahmar, the air force chief and Saleh's half brother, as well as Tareq Saleh, a commander of a powerful brigade in Sana and Saleh's nephew, significantly boosting the president's power and popularity.

The partnership between Hadi and the U.S. administration undoubtedly extends to the fight against Al-Qaeda. For Hadi, defeating the group is crucial for several reasons. He needs to distance himself from his predecessor by proving his sincerity about routing Al-Qaeda.

This will earn him the trust of the international community. Furthermore, winning the war against Al-Qaeda will pave the way for restoring security and stability in Yemen.

Hadi has thus far been successful in restoring order in the city of Louder, and the army says it now controls most of Zinjibar, a known Al-Qaeda stronghold. But the suicide bombing at a military parade rehearsal in Sana'a on May 21, which killed nearly 100 soldiers, highlights Al-Qaeda's effort to shift the battleground from the south to Sana'a.

Although these successes are important, they will not transform Yemen into a stable, functioning nation. It will take more than defeating Al-Qaeda and sidelining Saleh's allies for Hadi to win the hearts and minds of Yemenis.

Above all, Hadi must quickly de-

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**Hadi has thus far been successful in restoring order in the city of Louder, and the army says it now controls most of Zinjibar, a known Al-Qaeda stronghold. But the suicide bombing at a military parade rehearsal in Sana'a on May 21, which killed nearly 100 soldiers, highlights Al-Qaeda's effort to shift the battleground from the south to Sana'a.**

liver desperately needed services to the people. Yemen is on the verge of a humanitarian crisis, exacerbated by recent clashes, and aid must be delivered before it is too late. In my discussions with tribal members, "looming starvation" was mentioned several times.

In addition, power outages happen many times a day, complicating attempts at economic recovery and stalling efforts to resume normal daily life. Frustrated by the frequency of power outages, it is no surprise that the waiter I spoke to believes that Saleh's men are behind

these disruptions. Although it is not required under the power transfer agreement, Saleh's departure to another country could restore some needed credibility to the political process in Yemen.

Yemen's problems can be solved, but the international aid community must step in immediately if the country is to stave off a looming disaster.

*Ibrahim Sharqieh is a foreign policy fellow at the Brookings Institution and deputy director of the Brookings Doha Center.*

**Ministry of Education (MoE)  
Basic Education Development Project (BEDP)  
Project Administration Unit (PAU)**

**(Credit No. 3988-Yem & Grant No. TF-053721 & KFW2004 66 268)**

## Request for Expressions of Interest

MoE Organizational Structure Reform  
and Modernization at different levels

This request for Expression of Interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in the UN Development Business and Dg Market dated of Feb 2, 2005. The Ministry of Education (MOE), Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), Multi Donor Grant and KFW Grant and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the above consulting service.

The Project Administration Unit now invites Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services of "MoE Organizational Structure Reform and Modernization at different levels."

The services include: Develop and improve structural and organizational means and Bridge the gap among the MoE authorities, organizations, sectors and general departments at different levels.

Interested individual consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (detailed CVs including qualifications, experience in similar assignments, and in similar environment etc).

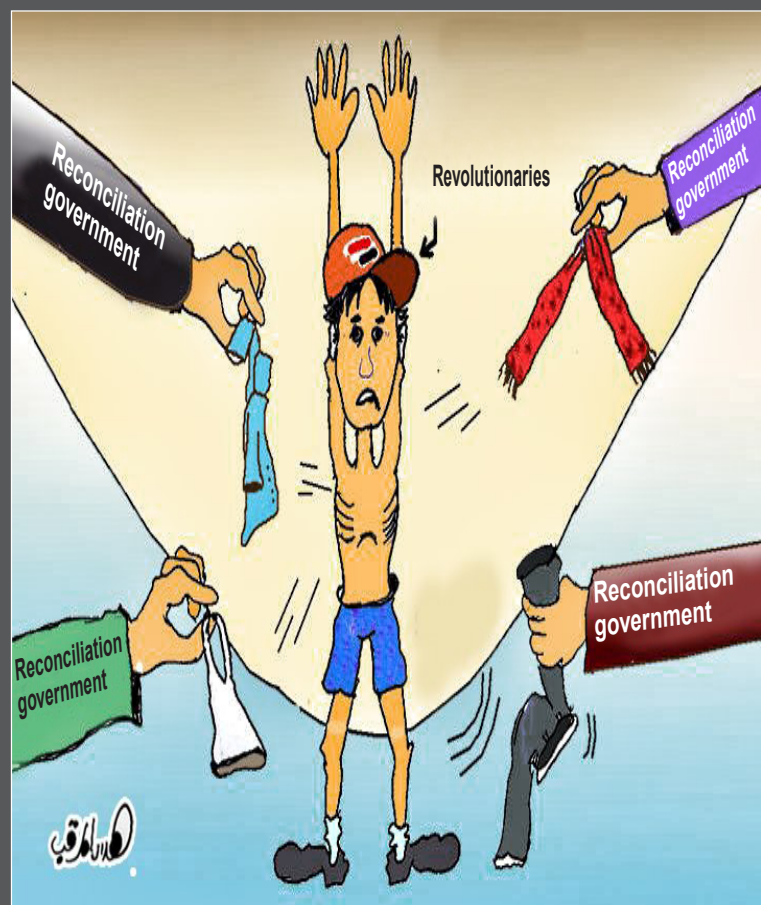
The selection of the individual consultants will be made in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004". Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat to Wed from 08:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the address below.

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## SKETCHED OPINION

By Hilal Al-Marqqab



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## ADVERTORIAL



# Medical Tourism Trip



techniques, Dr. Ali Al-A-Shoal said. He added that the center has a sophisticated device for treating, called "Troim." This device has only previously been seen in the United States, and it costs \$12 million USD.

### Yemeni opinions of the trip

"We have seen the latest medical techniques and advancement of the healthcare sector in Turkey, on top of the very efficient administration of their hospitals," Dr. Abdulkhaleg Al Nono, cardiovascular consultant, said.

"Yemeni patients should make Turkey their primary destination for medical treatment instead of other states in the region such as Egypt and Jordan," Dr. Athmar Hussien Ali, general secretary of the Yemeni Council, said. "The Turkish healthcare sector is among the best in the world, and it is comparatively cheaper than that of Europe and the United States."

Dr. Abdul Rahaman stressed the importance of creating a coordination office for Yemeni patients who seek medical treatment in Turkey, in order to guarantee proper medical treatment and to protect Yemeni patients from being exposed to extortion, blackmail and various forms of corruption.

Dr. Wejdan Taha Monassar, an X-ray specialist, praised the highly qualified Turkish doctors coming to Yemen to oversee complicated medical procedures. Such visits facilitate the process of cooperation between the two countries, he said, which could lead to Turkish doctors running medical workshops within Yemen to help train.

"The true outcome of this trip depends on how the Turkish doctors respond to the needs of the two countries, Dr. Abdulelah Ghailan, a urinary tract specialist, said. "If they just want us to send our patients to them for medical treatment it will not be as effective as teaching new techniques and procedures to us to help us care for our own patients."

"We are in dire need of more training and teaching to increase our knowledge in various medical fields. We will endeavor to more closely associate with highly qualified Turkish doctors," Dr. Ali Al Asoal, a cancer specialist, said.

### Impressions from Turkish doctors

Dr. Ameen Shamak, the head of THTDC, confirmed the trip came after the first medical conference between Yemen and Turkey, held in January in Sana'a. Dr. Ameen said that after Dr. Ahamd Al Ansi, the minister of health, reviewed the trip program, he decided to send a medical team of qualified doctors to get an idea about the Turkish medical experience and to meet

Turkish doctors in the context of a medical cooperation program. All these steps served as motivation for both sides to create a coordination office.

"We guarantee high quality medical services to all Yemeni patients who seek treatment in Turkey, in addition to providing them with affordable pricing options for all Yemeni people, whether they're poor or rich," Jokhan, coordinating director of the medical park group, said.

Visits to famous historical monuments in Istanbul were intertwined with program activities. The Ye-

meni medical team visited "Galat Albab Al Ali" (atop Kapeh) in addition to "The Blue Mosque" and popular market areas. They also enjoyed a boat ride on the Albasfor River. The team toured Istanbul's airport and saw the large fleet of Turkish Airlines.

Other trip highlights included glimpsing the scenery and ancient Islamic civilization directly beside awe-inspiring modern architecture.

Hasan Ba Shamakh, senior sales executive at Turkish Airlines in Sana'a, outlined packages the airline will make available to Yemeni

patients, including discounted airfare and the free treatment of a number of injured protesters. They also plan to continue the funding of serious cases in need of advanced operations.

Shamakh further stressed that the trip's objective, organized by Turkish Airlines, was to strengthen relations between the two countries, as Turkish Airlines serves as an ambassador of Turkey to Yemen. There are three flights weekly between Yemen and Turkey, he said, and the airline's Yemen offices plan to remain open for customer service.



Turkish Airlines, in cooperation with the Turkish Healthcare Tourism Development Council (THTDC) in Yemen, recently organized a five-day trip for a team of Yemeni doctors aiming to strengthen relations between the two nations. The trip's objective was to share information about recent medical developments in the Turkish healthcare sector and to boost medical cooperation between Yemen and Turkey. The Yemeni medical team visited facilities in a medical park, or a group of healthcare facilities that are part of the THTDC.

During their five days in Istanbul, the medical team visited several medical park facilities to get an idea of the latest developments in the healthcare sector and to become more familiar with Turkey's latest healthcare advances. Later, a conference was held between the Yemeni medical team and the doctors of the Turkish hospitals, including Emin Cakmak, chairman

and founder of THTDC, the medical park's general director and Jokhan, head of marketing and foreign affairs for the medical park group of hospitals.

At the conference's conclusion, the Yemeni medical team impressed upon their Turkish colleagues the importance of having services available in Turkey for treatment of patients with needs beyond Yemen's capacity. The team also stressed the value of academic and training cooperation, as well as exchange visits to augment learning and relationships.

For their part, the Turkish side affirmed their strong desire to help both sides overcome all obstacles that might obstruct cooperation between the two countries, keeping in mind the historic relations between Turkey and Yemen, and ensuring respect for the Yemeni people.

The Yemeni medical team also visited the "new life" cancer center. Equipped with the latest technology in cancer treatment, the center uses the newest, most advanced





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