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## Yemenis rejoice over Morsi's victory



Different Yemeni political entities, including Houthis and several other prominent figures, congratulated Morsi on his decisive victory.

**Sadeq Al-Wesabi**

SANA'A, June 24 — Yemenis expressed joy and excitement after the Muslim Brotherhood's Moham-

med Morsi was declared on Sunday as Egypt's president-elect with 13.2 million votes.

Before announcing the results, many Yemenis eagerly awaited the

poll results, saying Morsi's win will positively affect Yemen's future.

"I could die of joy," Alyan Al-Haysami, an independent youth activist, said. "He is the first



Elected President of Egypt, Mohamed Morsi.

Arab president to win after free elections."

Salah Al-Asadi, a journalist and independent pro-democracy protester, said Morsi's "victory will boost Yemen's revolution." He said the result sends a strong message to Yemen's ousted regime.

To celebrate the news, Al-Asadi distributed deserts and juice to neighbors, friends and family.

Positive messages about Morsi's victory have filled the pages of Yemenis using social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter.

"Eventually, the will of Egypt's people has won," Aref Al-Omari, an anti-regime protester, wrote on his Facebook page.

Hamood Hazza'a, a youth activist, said he never clapped or rejoiced in his life as he did when the results were announced.

"I'm overwhelmed with joy today," he said. "Before the declaration of the result, suspense was killing me."

Different political entities, including Houthis and several other prominent figures, congratulated Morsi on his decisive victory, hoping that the result would lead to an improvement of the situations in all Arab countries facing change and transitions.

## Oil spill near Bab Al-Mandab result of pirate attack



A committee of the General Authority of Maritime Affairs has been set up to investigate the sea contamination on the Yemeni water on Ras Al-Ara.

**Muad Al-Maqtari**

SANA'A, June 24 — An oil leak this week contaminated coastal areas near Ras Al-Ara, near the Bab Al-Mandab strait on the Red Sea.

According to Murad Al-Halimi, the deputy director of the General Authority of Maritime Affairs, the oil overflowed from a Somali ship's fuel tank as it traveled from Dubai to Somalia. A Somali businessman, he said, owns the ship.

Al-Halimi said the oil spill occurred following the ship's run-in with Somali pirates nine miles off Yemen's coast, near Ras Al-Ara and close to Bab Al-Mandab.

He said international forces rescued the ship after pirates attacked its fuel tank.

Yemeni Coast Guard forces in the Red Sea received a notice Friday from the Regional Center for Piracy Information Exchange, established to combat piracy and led by the Ministry of Transportation, that Ras Al-Ara district has been exposed to environmental contamination.

Yemeni Coast Guard forces discovered dead fish in Al-Hodeida from the oil spill.

After informing the General Authority of Maritime Affairs about the dead fish, a committee was established. The committee found that the fish flocked to the port basin and, unable to escape the ship rotations, they died.

An investigation of the oil spill is in progress.

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## Ansar Al-Sharia militants flee Azzan

By: Ali Saeed and Ahmed Dawood

SHABWA, June 24 — Militants of Ansar Al-Sharia, an Al-Qaeda-affiliated group, fled Saturday from Azzan, in Shabwa, to Al-Jawf, Mareb, and other areas of Shabwa, a military source told the Yemen Times.

"Some fled to Al-Hawta district in Shabwa, while others shaved their beards and traveled as normal citizens to Al-Jawf and Mareb," the military source said.

The Defense Ministry announced Saturday that the army recaptured Azzan after Al-Qaeda militants captured the city in early June 2011.

Azzan is the hometown of Anwar Al-Awlaki, who was killed in September 2011 by a U.S. drone strike. The city, which has been a hideout for militants with links to Al-Qaeda, has been subject to several air raids by Yemeni forces and by U.S. drones.

Militants fled Abyan to Azzan earlier this month after the Yemeni military achieved what they describe

as a victory over Ansar Al-Sharia in Abyan, in southern Yemen. The military claims most of the region is now militant-free.

President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi issued several decrees Friday, granting badges of courage to military units, the Peoples' Committees and civilian fighters for their part in battling Ansar Al-Sharia.

Residents were able to return to Zinjibar and Jaar this week.

Moreover, several officials have now visited Abyan governorate, included Ahmed Al-Ansi, the Yemen's Minister of Public Health, who arrived with a team of landmine specialists.

However, now that the military controls Abyan and Azzan, some say a new phase of war with Ansar Al-Sharia will begin.

Adel Ameen, a Yemeni columnist and a political analyst, said the military can't fully remove Al-Qaeda from Yemen. He considers recent events as a first phase of confrontations.

There will be a second phase of

battles between the military and Ansar Al-Sharia militants, and it will differ from the first phase, he said. Instead of confrontations, the militants will fight a guerrilla war, carrying out different attacks against the military and vital institutions.

Ameen said he expects battles to spread to Marib, Hadramout and Shabwa governorates. He said Beida'a is the probable governorate for future clashes between the military and Ansar Al-Sharia.

Ahmed Saleh Al-Faqih, a columnist and a political analyst said great victories will be achieved by the military if it continues pursuing militants. He said that if the military stops, the militants will reunite and control new areas.

Arafat Madabish, editor-in-chief of Al Tagheer Net News, said the remaining militants, be they leaders or fighters, will resort to hiding before renewing battles.

Madabish said the military and the Peoples' Committees won't stop fighting Ansar Al-Sharia. If the militants started fighting the

military in other governorates, then they will be digging their own grave, he said.

Security procedures increased in almost in all governorates following the military control in Abyan.

On Thursday, the ministry of interior said, "It is expected that Ansar Al-Sharia militants will resort to carrying out vindictive terrorist attacks."

The minister said security procedures are in effect to counter these threats. A security belt was imposed around Sana'a, and security guards were deployed around vital institutions, including embassies, foreigners' houses and foreign institutions.

It is reported that Ansar Al-Sharia carried out several surprise attacks against military checkpoints in different governorates last year, killing tens of soldiers. Ansar Al-Sharia also claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack that killed more than 100 soldiers during military drills in preparation for the May 22 National Unity Day celebration.

## Arhab tribes sign a truce, Military Committee removes tribal checkpoints

Ashraf Al-Muraqab & Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA'A, June 28 — The Military Committee has removed checkpoints on Saturday and Sunday set up by opposition armed tribesmen on the road to Arhab district, 30 km north of the capital Sana'a.

Local sources in Arhab told the Yemen Times that the Military Committee has removed the armed tribesmen's checkpoints in Tabti, Wasel and Bathan in Arhab.

The Ministry of Defense confirmed that the Military Committee has withdrawn military vehicles belonging to the Republican Guard in Arhab's Bani Jarmooz area. It added that three

Republican Guard checkpoints on the road to Arhab were replaced by the Capital Defense Security Forces, a unit formed in April by President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi.

The Military Committee officials added that they also opened the Sana'a-Mareb Road, which has been closed for over a year due to conflicts in the area between local opposition tribesmen and the Republican Guard.

Precipitating this, Arhab district's tribes signed a truce to stop fighting, open roads and solve tribal conflicts on Friday. Arhab, 30 kilometers to the north of Sana'a, has witnessed armed confrontations between tribesmen loyal to opposition parties and

troops of the Republican Guard, headed by the former president's son, Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh. These confrontations have forced hundreds of families to leave their homes.

Mohammed Al-Mohares, a tribal leader, told the Yemen Times that more than 200 sheikhs agreed on eight points, including putting an end to revenge killings, opening roads, solving social problems such as high costs and establishing a code of ethics regarding political work.

"Among the points is respecting public roads and never blocking them. In case tribesmen break the truce and block roads, they will pay YR 200,000 [approximately \$

1,000] and two cows," he added.

Abduljaleel Sinan, a tribal leader in Arhab, told the Yemen Times, "The sheikhs of Arhab decided to hold a meeting entitled 'The harmony and peace meeting' to resolve these issues. The meeting's name is meant to note a break from of the current situation in Yemen including the security vacuum in areas including Arhab, and also because of the serious conflicts that erupted in Arhab last year.

Sinan added that the meeting, which lasted for three months, aimed to bring peace and stability to the residents and solve the long-last problems, particularly the problems of revenge and blocking the roads.

## Yemeni students come out in great numbers to take final exams

Samar Qaed

SANA'A, June 24 — On Saturday, final exams for secondary and primary school students kicked off nationwide.

Mohammed Al-Ghaweizi, an educator, said that the exams this year are more basic than usual. This is because the Ministry of Education has taken into account the repeated and frequent power outages, which have made it difficult for students to study. He added that subjects requiring two testing sessions, like Arabic and English, have been given only one session.

This year's examinations are being held in exceptional circumstances, following one year of protests that led to the ejection of longtime president Ali Abdullah Saleh from office. Violence during the protests resulted in hundreds of deaths.

The Examinations General Manager, Shukri Al-Hamami, pointed out that the first day of exams went smoothly overall. "There were two cases of cheating in the capital, and two cases of rioting in Al-Mithak school in Amran governorate and 30 November school in Sana'a before distributing

the questions." Students sometimes resort to violence if they feel they are unable to pass the exams. This has become commonplace in rural tribal areas. "However, the situation is under control," said Al-Hamami.

He added that this year specific measures have been taken to stem any potential violence. For example, the number of security committees has increased, as well as the high number of supervisors of examination centers. These measures have been provided in the particular examination centers that witnessed chaos in previous

years, according to Al-Hamami.

He said that the ministry decided on alternative centers for students who are unable to take their exams in conflict-stricken areas such as Aden, Abyan and Al-Baydha.

Mahyoob Al-Kamali, an education expert, said that the students' preparation this year is better than last because of greater political stability in a number of governorates nationwide.

332,000 primary school students, in addition to 212,000 secondary school students nationwide came out to take their exams on Saturday

## Amidst calls for southern secession; security forces kill protesters

Eman Tuhama

ADEN, June 24 — There are many conflicting reports regarding the number of people killed in Aden on Friday while marching in a funeral and calling for separation. The funeral was for a man named Ahmed Jamal Haidrah, killed last Wednesday while he participated in a demonstration calling for re-erecting tents in Martyrs' Square in Al-Mansourah. Security forces cleared out the square mid-June.

After the funeral, the southern movement supporters headed to Martyrs Square demanding that the security personnel occupying the square leave. However, the Central Security Forces repelled them by opening fire and killing two. Other sources said three were killed; including a child taking part in the protest.

Nine of the protesters were injured, two of them seriously. Abdulrahman Al-Khadir was one of the injured. All the dead and wounded were taken to

Al-Nakeeb Hospital.

Mohammed Ali, a southern movement activist, said thousands of young people took part in the funeral march in preparation for a demonstration demanding that security forces leave the square, as well as calling for secession from the north. The southern movement supporters hold the local authority and security forces responsible for the attacks they have been subject to. They have called for President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Al-Hadi to intervene and resolve the issue.

Muath Khan, an activist, said security forces and armored vehicles surrounded Martyrs Square. The security forces burned the flag of the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, an independent country before unification. They also destroyed the southern martyrs' photo exhibition.

He went on to say that clashes in the last week have resulted in eight deaths and many more injured. He said that protests will carry on until



the southern issues are resolved. He also said that the killing will not deter them from their demands.

Waleed Al-Laseesi, head of the Fact Finding Committee, criticized the stance of the minister of the human rights for the violations

that occurred last year during the popular uprising.

Mohammed Ali, said that confrontations between security forces and the youth will continue as long as the former control Martyrs Square.

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## Absence of women teachers reflected in girls' dropout rates

Nadia Haddash

SANA'A, June 24 — A lack of female teachers has left girls in rural areas without access to school.

The low number of women teachers is related to absences and drop-out rates for girls in rural areas.

Dr. Abdulhakeem Al-Shamiri, Istijaba Project consultant, said Yemeni girls in rural areas are incapable of freely applying for seats in schools, according to law and the objectives of political programs compared to boys.

An absence of education for girls poses a huge challenge for Yemen's development, Al-Shamiri said.

The Mualimiti Project, which means "my teacher," is supported by Ibhara for Childhood and Innovation in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance. The project aims to increase the percentage of women teachers in Yemen to 30 percent. The project intends to support laws and stipulations that help make this percentage a reality, hopefully with the cooperation of decision-makers in ministries and in government.

Moreover, the project plans to launch enlightening campaigns and distribute pamphlets in addition to distributing research results

indicating the importance of education for girls.

Nabeel Al-Kkadr, an Ibhara Foundation manager, said the media campaign for the Mualimiti Project will start lobbying government, concerned authorities in the ministry of education and teachers' syndicates.

Fatima Akaba, Istijaba Project member, said the presence of women teachers in rural schools will increase girls' enrollment in classes.

"The more women teachers in schools, the more student girls will register," Akaba said. "Families feel secure sending their daughters to classes because of the conservative nature of society."

Many organizations and government bodies have participated in the Mualimiti Project, including the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance.

Now, efforts are underway in many governorates in different rural areas. Al-Jwf, Sana'a and Damar are the first governorates targeted because of the high shortage of women teachers and girls' dropout rates.

On the contrary, within urban cities such as the capital and Aden, there are 50 percent and 95 percent female teachers, respectively, according to Al-Shamiri.

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# Marib Power Station shuts down, army attempts to catch saboteurs

**Ashraf Al-Muraqab**

SANA'A, June 24 — An additional security detachment has been sent to Mareb, after combined army and security forces clashed with suspected power line saboteurs on Saturday in the Al-Jada'an area of Marib.

Saturday's clashes resulted in several deaths on both sides, eyewitnesses told the Yemen Times on Sunday.

The number of deaths is as of yet unconfirmed.

Local news website Al-Masdar online reported that two soldiers and one suspected saboteur were killed.

This came after the Ministry of Electricity decided on Thursday to temporarily shut down Marib Gas

Station, in Marib governorate east of the capital Sana'a, following twelve attacks on its infrastructure in the past few days.

The ministry said it is halting operations of the station out of fear it will be exposed to further damage due to repeated assaults. If the situation continues as it is, the generators will be destroyed. The station itself will also be destroyed, according to the ministry.

Ali Al-Hilali, the manager of the Rural Electricity Projects in Marib, told the Yemen Times on Saturday that two attacks on electricity towers had been carried out on Friday.

Specialized technical teams did their best to fix the damage resulting from the first attack.

Al-Hilali said that these attacks

are due to political rifts, and that those who stormed the station have no legitimate demands.

Meanwhile, military forces launched a campaign to pursue those accused of attacking power lines.

Eyewitnesses told the Yemen Times that army and security groups arrived in the Al-Jada'an area in Marib's Madghal district, accompanied by armored vehicles and tanks.

A source close to Marib's governor said that many leading tribal sheiks had approved the military campaign and tribes signed a petition criminalizing anyone who attacks power lines or oil pipelines.

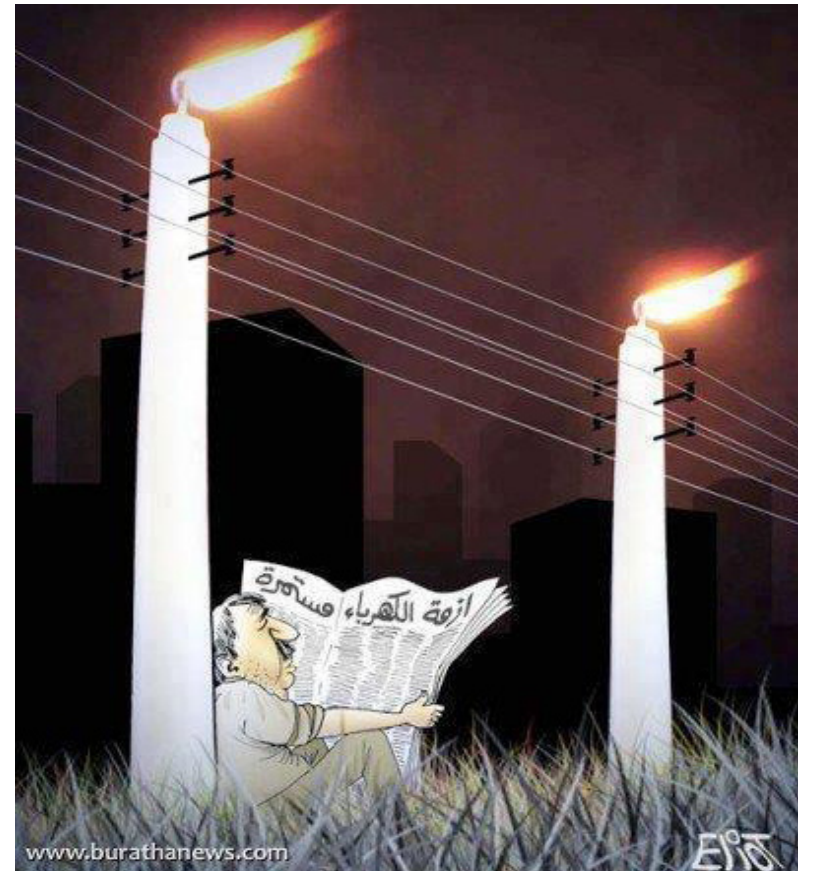
The Ministry of Interior accused the three men from the Al-Jada'an tribe in Marib of attacking tow-

ers 244 and 245 twice on Friday. Two hours after the specialized teams repaired the damages from the first attack, a second, more destructive attack came. Military personnel have since been pursuing the perpetrators, according to the ministry.

The Ministry of Electricity mentioned that electricity lines have been exposed to 33 attacks in 2012 alone.

Last year, the number of attacks on electricity lines mounted to 93, 52 of them on the 400-kilowatt Marib-Sana'a Power Line. In 2010, the same line was subject to six attacks.

People in Sana'a and other governorates are subject to frequent blackouts from the repetitive attacks on electricity infrastructure.



# Security guards in Balhaf go on strike

**Ghaida Al-Ariqi**

SHABWA, June 24 — Employees of the Al-Sharq Masood Security Company, who guard the Liquid Natural Gas Company's (LNG) facilities in Balhaf, Shabwa, east of Yemen announced a strike for an hour per day starting on Friday, June 22nd.

The personnel threatened to increase their strike to three hours on Sunday because the security company didn't pay attention to their demands three months ago, according to Saleh Al-Madhaji, head of the company laborers' union.

"The strike started for an hour a day. After June 24, it will increase to two hours, after that three hours, continuing until it reaches five hours at the end of the month, unless the company pays attention to our demands," Al-Madhaji said.

"There is injustice against the workers in terms of work hours and wages. We demand that the company increase wages to pay us like workers in similar companies," Al-Madhaji said.

Al-Madhaji said, "The YLNG Company pays bonuses to workers who guard its oil fields in desert areas, we demand our company pay us the same thing."

Al-Madhaji also said the personnel demand health insurance, transportation to and from work, bonuses for working Fridays, national holidays and overtime at night, paid sick leave and an additional bonus during Ramadan.

They also demanded that work hours be decreased from 16 to 8 and that the company stop illegally taking between YR 2,500 to 5,600 from their paychecks.

Majdi Ba Shadi, secretary general of the company workers' union, said, "Clauses of the work contract the workers sign are unfair and should be rewritten according to Yemeni law."

"We met with representatives of the company several times and then we met with a committee, com-

posed of the Ministry of Oil's representative in Shabwa, the director of Labor Office, the Labor Office representative in Balhaf and the Labor Office representative in Shabwa to solve the matter between the workers and the company but the meetings didn't produce anything," Ba Shadi said.

Ba Shadi said, "We, as a union representing the workers, believe company policies are unfair and they should reconsider them. The workers will continue their strike until the company pays attention to their demands."

Ahmed Al-Qaini, the general manager of the company, said, "We are negotiating with the workers demands. The strike is only for an hour a day, it's not a full strike. We formed a committee to look into the matter and there is nothing new to say now."

Shawqi Al-Saqqaf, director of the company's operations in Balhaf, said, "We can't do anything because we are committed to contracts signed with the YNLG. We can't agree to the demands of the workers unless the YNLG agrees. The matter will be arranged but not quickly."

Regarding work hours, Al-Saqqaf said, "They work on a rotation of eight hours one day and 16 hours the next. They work for one month and then have a month off. They only work six months a year."

The Al-Sharq Masood Security Company workers' union in Balhaf issued the escalating strike plans and sent copies to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, the Ministry of Oil and Minerals, the Minister of Human Rights, the governor of Shabwa, the head of the Yemeni Workers Unions, the director of the Labor Office in Shabwa, Al-Sharq Masood Company administration and the YNLG administration.

The liquid gas project in Balhaf is the largest gas project the Yemeni government operates. It exports gas to the world market from the harbor.



Security guards work with the Al-Sharq Masood Security Company have been on one-hour strike every day since Friday.

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# Young people leave Al-Lohaia to work in Jazan



In the village of Al-Hareb, in Al-Lohaia, families live in houses built of soft clay bricks. The houses often have no ceiling.

Story and pictures by Muaad Al-Maqtari

About 175 km northwest of Hodeida is the town of Al-Lohaia, straddling the road that leads

straight to Jazan, Saudi Arabia. The road forks at Al-Zohra. One fork leads to Al-Lohia and the other leads to Jazan. Although Al-Lohaia is a harbor overlooking the Red Sea, it doesn't suit fishermen, farmers,

camel raisers or even high school students. Anyone seeking work looks elsewhere. They go to Jazan.

### Insufficient Wages

In a clay house with no ceiling, Ali Mohsen Al-Hareb drinks tea, inhaling the scents of acacia and mangroves.

He works as a woodcutter, getting up early to gather logs to sell to villagers who cook with wood, a cheaper alternative to gas.

Al-Hareb travels eight miles to sell the logs.

He sells much of it for YR 700, not enough to feed his family of six and his mother. He can't even afford school tuition for his children.

Children barely 10 years old go to Jazan for work.

Al-Hareb's children are among them. He said they see how hard it is to make a living by watching their father, so they want to leave for Jazan to search for more significant earnings and support.

### Youth leave for Jazan

Several high schools were closed due to the lack of students, so youths take the road to Jazan, seeking work.

On June 14, when Hassan Al-Hareb, 13, finished his final exams, he immediately started looking for a car to take him to Jazan.

He said goodbye to his friends,

and he left. He was sure that he could easily enter Saudi Arabia because he heard some border guards were from the same area as him.

There are 130 residential areas in Al-Lohaia, according to a 2004 census. About 100,000 people live there raising camels, farming, fishing and building traditional boats.

Hassan is one of many to leave for Jazan.

Poverty is what encourages Hassan and other young people to leave Al-Lohaia.

There is no electricity, and many people don't have ready ac-

cess to water.

Women carry water from wells on a daily basis.

Mohammed Al-Haser, a public figure in Al-Lohaia, said he's the only one in the village who owns a lantern with batteries.

He said he got his lantern from Jazan.

He said many young people

go to Jazan to work there even though it's harder to get in than it used to be.

Saudi Arabia replaced a border guard who used to help Yemeni youth get into the country after confrontations between Houthi and Saudi troops. Al-Haser used to work in Jazan without a visa; however, now he needs one.



Only old men and children stay in the villages. Young people go to Jazan, Saudi Arabia, for work.

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## Debating the Failed States Index

Was this year's ranking of the world's most fragile states on target? Five countries respond.

**Mohammed Al-Basha**  
foreignpolicy.com  
First published June 22

Calling Yemen a failing state was a safe bet during the turbulent and bloody events of 2011. Thousands of youths marched to protest their legitimate grievances while Yemen's factionalized military forces were at odds. In the south, Al-Qaeda affiliates capitalized on the turmoil and expanded their footprint. The turmoil amplified Yemen's troubles and catapulted the nation into the international spotlight.

More than a year later, however, much has changed for the better in Yemen. The security situation is slowly stabilizing, the government is restructuring its forces, and the country is no longer teetering on the edge of a civil war. Yemen has also intensified the fight against Al-Qaeda, pushing out militants from territories they controlled. Most important of all, the fabric of Yemen's resilient society remains intact.

Not long after being sworn into office on Feb. 25, President Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi launched an effort to convene an inclusive and transparent National Dialogue Conference, to be held in the coming months. Prominent southern activists and leaders of the northern Houthis movement have signaled

their interest in participating, and youth groups, women's groups, NGOs and other stakeholders will be able to take part in the dialogue as well. Reforming the political structure and amending the constitution in a Yemeni-led process will cement the steps necessary to implement urgent reforms. The decentralization of power, for example, can embrace the challenges of Yemeni diversity and tribal autonomy but still hold local leaders accountable. Building institutions, implementing good governance, and enforcing accountability will also help combat corrupt practices.

Despite these early successes, Yemen remains a troubled nation and faces an extraordinarily volatile mix of economic, political, security and socio-developmental challenges. It is struggling with an endemic culture of corruption and the mismanagement of dwindling natural resources. A nationwide addiction to the qat plant is diverting water resources away from agriculture and adversely affecting national wealth. Terrorism and tribal unrest have damaged Yemen's oil and gas infrastructure, leaving the economy floundering. One-third of adults are unemployed, and half a million Yemenis have been internally displaced by an indigenous rebellion in the north and an Al-Qaeda insurgency in the south. Humanitarian agencies are now warning of a loom-

ing hunger crisis.

These challenges threaten the nation's recent gains and may cause Yemen to collapse if they are not adequately addressed. This is a key moment, and if it is missed it may not come around again. Yemen needs the international community to speak and, more importantly, to act as one.

U.S. President Barack Obama and the U.N. Security Council recently adopted resolutions supporting President Hadi's unwavering resolve to move Yemen forward. Yemen hails the ongoing efforts of the "Friends of Yemen" group to confront the country's web of entangled and deeply rooted challenges by promoting investment, developing feasible aid policies, encouraging entrepreneurship, and strengthening educational programs. Additionally, millions of Yemenis will be anticipating the outcome of an upcoming donor conference in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Yemen looks to its global partners as it transitions to a strong, unified, democratic, and prosperous nation. But first and foremost, Yemen needs to continue getting its house in order. For reforms to be effective, the government must continue to improve security and stability.

*Mohammed Albasha is a spokesperson for the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in Washington, D.C.*

## The glue of Yemeni society; unified women

**Sama'a Al-Hamdani**

Today, a local conference for women named, "The active participation of women in building a modern civil state," was held in Aden; however, the only noteworthy subject, according to almasdaronline, was that Salim Basindawah, the Yemen's prime minister, encouraged southern immigrants to return to Yemen. Like every other "women" event, an official recognized and praised Yemeni women's contribution to society and encouragement for further women's participation in the public sector is championed. These events have been taking place in Yemen for years now: workshops where a handful of selected females are chosen to participate. Unfortunately, the results always lead to yet another event about "women," while nothing concrete is actually established or done. This is not to critique any efforts made by Yemeni women; they are hard-working, as Yemen has the only interim government in the Middle East that after the Arab uprisings selected three women as ministers.

Usually, women are less likely to receive aid and are far less educated than men, but during the Yemeni revolution, women displayed their strength by standing shoulder-to-shoulder with their male counter-

parts to support the future of their nation. Overall, Yemenis are fed up with deteriorating conditions in the country. We didn't want to be the next Somalia or Afghanistan. But now, the situation is unstable and while the entire nation will suffer, women will bear the brunt of the burden. In the South, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula is forcing women to comply with their rules, and disturbing reports are appearing about gang rape. The increase of female harassment and society's negligence is not only upsetting, but it is foreshadowing harder times to come. While many events recognize and analyze the many challenges facing women, the female Yemeni political agenda needs a more tailored approach and innovated strategy.

On Sunday, a group of female journalists and other activists brought a lawsuit against Hamid Al-Ahmar for libel and defamation, a crime in Islam. During the uprising of last year, Al-Ahmar questioned the virtue of female demonstrators in an interview with The New York Times. In countries such as Yemen, it is easy to use the female body against her and similar tactics are often utilized by men to restrain female public participation. While these women put their trust in the Yemeni judicial system, it is more likely that this lawsuit will take a long time before their demands are realized. Al-Ahmar

denies these charges. These women are attempting to defend their pride and reputation, but in the grander scheme of things, Yemeni women do not need a lawsuit against an individual man. Yemeni feminists need to work collectively against more pressing issues such as famine, political participation, female education or amending rights within the constitution. Thankfully, Yemen always has had strong individual women, but now more than ever, we need great women working together cooperatively. Foreign Policy (FP) magazine recently announced that Yemen ranks eighth on the Failed State Index, something many experts have been predicting for years. According to FP, "The new edition of the index draws on some 130,000 publicly available sources to analyze 177 countries and rate them on 12 indicators of pressure on the state during the year 2011 -- from refugee flows to poverty, public services to security threats. Taken together, a country's performance on this battery of indicators tells us how stable -- or unstable -- it is." Thus, Yemeni women face hard challenges, but their focus needs to shift. While the majority of the nation remains divided over political ideology and tribal alliances, women can be the only social group to function as the glue that is capable of creating a unified vision within the community.

# Next step to defeating Al-Qaeda is in Yemen

**Christopher Swift**  
Bloomberg News  
First published June 23

Yemen, we are told, is the next Afghanistan. Yet with some relatively minor and inexpensive initiatives, the United States may be able to keep it from becoming Al-Qaeda's next haven.

From the bombing of the U.S. Navy destroyer Cole in 2000 to the failed Christmas Day attack on an airliner over Detroit in 2009, Al-Qaeda has used the arid, mountainous country as a sanctuary and stag-

ing ground for attacks against the West. Even the 2009 shootings at Fort Hood, Texas, track back to Yemen and the American-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki inciting jihad over the Internet.

As drone strikes have debilitated Al-Qaeda's leadership in Pakistan, its Yemeni affiliate—Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)—has emerged as the next vanguard of global jihad. But the group has a second, more tangible objective: Yemen itself.

Emboldened by political turmoil and eager to hijack the Arab Spring, AQAP began a Taliban-style insur-

gency in the spring of 2011. Operating under the name Ansar al-Sharia ("Supporters of Islamic Law") and enforced by foreign fighters from Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Somalia, the movement seized two provinces and infiltrated 10 more.

Not surprisingly, a suicide bombing May 21 in Yemen's capital, Sana'a, bore all the hallmarks of an Al-Qaeda operation. Clad in a Yemeni army uniform, the perpetrator infiltrated long columns of marching soldiers and set off an explosion tearing through their ranks like fire through a stand of birch trees. As soldiers lay dying in Sana'a's

Sabeen Square, a second assailant rushed forward to attack Yemeni officials on a reviewing stand with a rocket-propelled grenade. More than 90 troops were killed. Another suicide attack this week killed the army's top commander.

I recently returned from a week of fieldwork in Yemen examining the insurgency from a local perspective. My goal was to evaluate AQAP's attempts to recruit, indoctrinate and control the Yemeni population.

I hoped to identify instances where tribal and religious leaders successfully resisted Al-Qaeda's advance. After 40 lengthy interviews with Islamists, Salafists and tribal leaders from 14 of Yemen's 21 provinces, I distinguished three troubling trends.

Although Western analysts typically describe AQAP's influence in religious terms, I found that Yemenis overwhelmingly emphasize economic factors. Tribal leaders from Abyan, al-Jawf, Hadramout, Lahj and Marib provinces all described how insurgents lure idle young men with the promise of a rifle, a car and a salary of \$400 a month—a veritable fortune in a country where nearly half the population lives on less than \$2 a day. Although tribal elders in some drought-stricken districts help AQAP recruit in exchange for new wells and food, the terrorists typically target disaffected individuals rather than tribes as a whole.

Tribal and religious leaders also describe how AQAP establishes territorial control: bolstering weak sheikhs by providing the manpower, money and weapons necessary to reassert their tribal authority. AQAP also governs some areas, using armed militias and Shariah courts to prosecute criminals, protect private property and establish a brutal yet orderly society. In doing so, the movement exhibits a pragmatic approach that has more in common with the Taliban's operations in Afghanistan than it does

with Osama bin Laden's globalized, decentralized jihad.

Most significant, AQAP deftly manipulates tribal customs to divide the indigenous population. Fighters recruited from one tribe are frequently dispatched to another tribe's territory. If these forces are attacked, then their entire tribe is likely to retaliate. This approach discourages the sort of local uprisings against Al-Qaeda witnessed in Iraq's so-called Sunni Awakening. It also separates recruits from their own tribal authorities, thus strengthening AQAP's control.

Each of these trends cements AQAP's home-field advantage. Unlike in Afghanistan, Pakistan and other locations on Islam's geographic periphery, AQAP's fighters speak the local language, understand the local culture and are grounded in the local society. Even the movement's Saudi members are marrying the daughters of sympathetic tribesmen, in a manner recalling the bonds bin Laden forged with his Taliban hosts. The group is the first Al-Qaeda franchise to successfully blend the ideological dictates of global jihad with the practical requirements of local insurgency.

This adaptation presents challenges that cannot be resolved by drone attacks or military force alone. The U.S. and its Yemeni allies must erode AQAP's influence from the ground up, rather than striking from the top down. This means engaging the tribes in a manner that isolates AQAP's supporters, attracts neutral sheikhs, and establishes a functional equilibrium between Yemen's tribes and the transitional government that has been in power since former President Ali Abdullah Saleh stepped down in February.

This strategy would involve three essential steps. First, the U.S. should finance Yemeni efforts to mediate tribal disputes through local religious and nongovernmental organizations. Mediation would limit Al-Qaeda's ability to exploit

local grievances while reducing the prospect of inter-tribal conflict. It could also encourage sheikhs to deny customary protections for tribesmen who join AQAP, allowing other tribes to attack and expel them without fear of retaliation.

Second, the U.S. and the Yemen government should embrace the tribal and community-based militias that have recently gained strength in several southern provinces. For example, in Lahj's Radfan district, tribal leaders are rallying forces and expelling AQAP fighters. Such partnerships provide a hedge against AQAP's efforts to infiltrate the Yemeni security services because tribal leaders are intimately familiar with their communities and can identify and purge hostile outsiders.

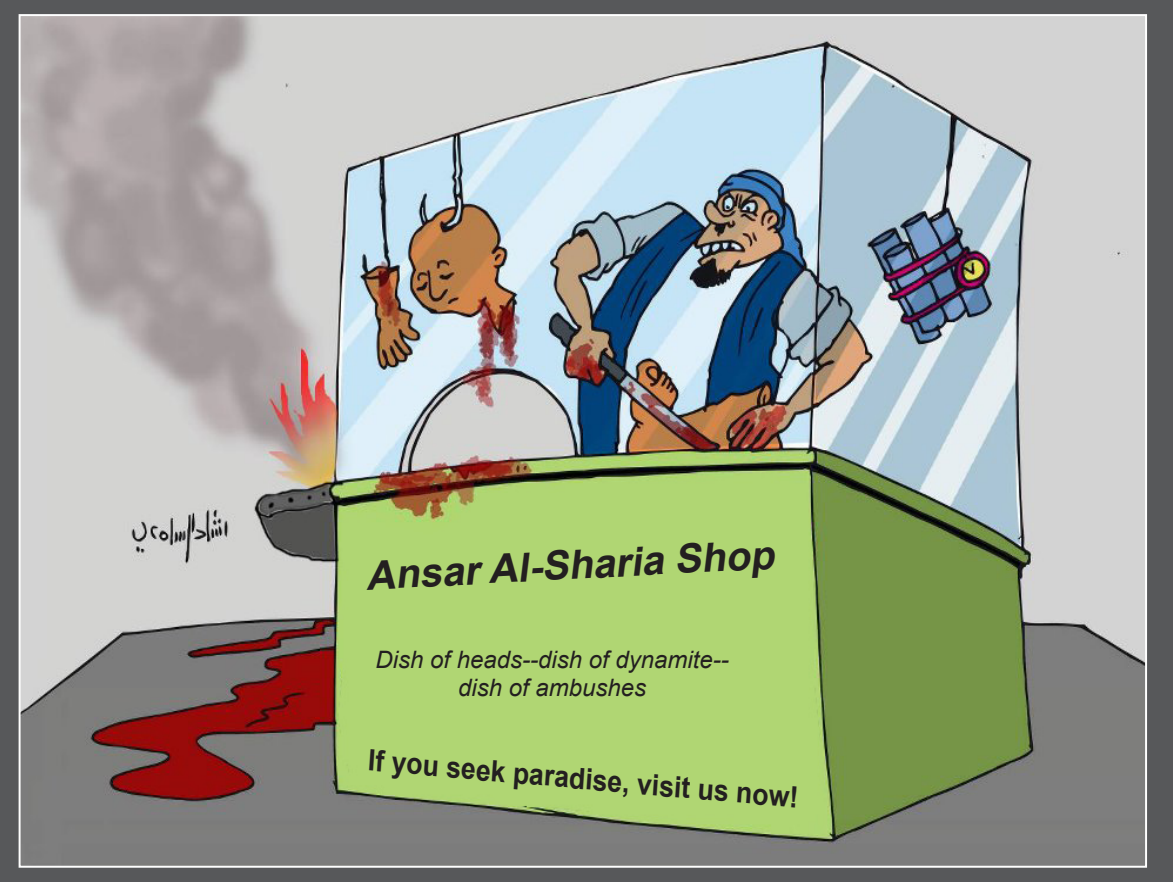
Finally, we need to give local decision-makers a stake in Yemen's political transition. For diplomats, this means facilitating dialogue between the national unity government and Islamists, secessionists and tribal leaders. Development specialists should work through tribal leaders to address hunger, water and infrastructure challenges. On the military side, the Yemeni armed forces need help establishing better communications with local militias.

None of these steps requires the prolonged deployments or huge investments made in Iraq and Afghanistan. To the contrary, the U.S. will ultimately accomplish more in Yemen by adopting a light footprint, empowering local allies and allowing Yemenis to take credit for U.S.-backed initiatives. If Washington can approach these challenges with nuance and local insight, Yemen's struggle against terrorism may offer a unique opportunity to defeat Al-Qaeda while laying a stronger foundation for national reconciliation.

*Christopher Swift is a fellow at the University of Virginia's Center for National Security Law.*

## SKETCHED OPINION

By Rashad Al-Samei



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**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  
bassam.alkhamiri@gmail.com

**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  
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# The artist of the revolution

Story and photos by Ahlam Mohsen

“These aren’t for sale, these are for the revolution,” Mohamed Al-Ansi, one of Change Square’s best-known revolutionary artists, explains. Over coffee and cigarettes, he discusses his childhood, finding art, leaving home and joining the revolution.

### An Artist’s Journey

Orphaned as a young child, revolutionary artist Mohamed Al-Ansi found comfort and refuge in art. Born in the small farmers village of Al-Shirr, outside Ibb, Al-Ansi was inspired by the village’s greenery and surrounding mountains.

“I remember being mesmerized by the beauty of my village; all I wanted was to capture it,” he says. “In school, I spent all my time doodling in my books. One of my teachers encouraged me to keep at it, and this is the path life has taken me on.”

After dropping out of school in seventh grade, he left his village for Sana’a, where he supported himself by doing various cleaning jobs in hotels, schools and homes.

Reserved and somber, Al-Ansi describes the impact art has had on his life.

“Art is my life now, art and revolution. I don’t think you can really talk about one without the other.”

There’s a palpable sadness in the room, and Al-Ansi looks away as he talks about the family he no longer has relations with, an ex-wife and the small child they have together.

“Life here is hard and bitter. Everywhere people are in chains, plagued by poverty and repression. But when I paint, I feel free. Before the revolution, there was darkness, and now there is light. We have not succeeded yet, but after tasting freedom, we cannot go back



Before the revolution there was darkness; now there is light, Al-Ansi says.

to where we were. The revolution gives us hope—lets us dream.”

### The people’s artist

When the revolution started, Al-Ansi quit his job cleaning houses and moved to Change Square, where he lives in a tent made of tarp, rope and a few concrete blocks. His mattress lines one side of the tent. A strong breeze against the tarp distracts him from work. He has trouble sleeping and is

known to paint for two or three days at a time.

Demonstrators and street vendors knowingly point to Al-Ansi’s tent.

“He drinks coffee with me every day,” a proud coffee vendor says.

Al-Ansi does not receive a salary for his contributions to the revolution; he lives off donations from revolutionary comrades and art supplies donated by friends and demonstrators.

He is a visionary, according to one young demonstrator.

“Life in Change Square is different than I imagined,” Abdullah Ahmed Owsabi says. “Yes, there are demonstrations and meetings of the revolutionary committee, but a lot of our time is spent building connections with other people, discussing what kind of country we want, what sort of future we envision. These, too, are revolutionary activities. Al-Ansi’s art helps us to do this. His art is beautiful.”

### Art as Revolution

Asserting popular control over public spaces is what made revolutionary spaces such as Change Square possible by mirroring the larger goal of democratic control of government, public institutions

and resources.

Publicly displayed art makes claims; it signals that an area is in control of the people and not regulated by the government or corporate owners of private property, says Al-Ansi.

Posters of martyrs and revolutionaries such as Che Guevara are ubiquitous in the square. Al-Ansi displays several portraits of martyrs in his tent. He says he painted or drew most of them while he wept.

“I’m always very affected by the martyrs’ drawings. I cannot help but cry when I work. These young people are gone forever. We must make sure that we accomplish what they gave their lives for: a free Yemen.”

According to Al-Ansi, art is a universal language, a means of communication the world’s people can understand without the filters of pundits, media corporations or political leaders.

“Art not only bears witness and tells our stories, but it can help us imagine what kind of world we want to build; it helps us picture what a beautiful life could be like,” he says.

### Work interpreted

Al-Ansi’s work varies from serene portraits of young children in front of famous landmarks, such as the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, to dark and symbolic portraits revealing the former regime’s brutality or the power dynamics between Yemen and various countries.

In one particular painting, Al-Ansi denounces former president Ali Abdullah Saleh’s regime along with the U.S. and Gulf countries. Shadowy figures in the background represent Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states. These background figures are always present and threatening to force their agendas on the Yemeni people, he says.

The devilish figure symbolizes the U.S., which Al-Ansi says supported Saleh for decades—propping up his regime and supporting him until the very end—only to offer him immunity for his “decades of crimes against the Yemeni people.”

The eye in the center represents the eye of the people. It sheds blood and tears “for our martyrs, for our situation, for our children and their futures.”

### Revolutionary Determination

Al-Ansi has lived at Change Square for 17 months, and he’s not leaving until the revolution achieves its goals.

“I’m not afraid of death anymore; that doesn’t scare me. I’m afraid of things staying as they are. We must change things. We will be here until we succeed, or until we die.”



In this photo, the artist depicts a child killed by a stray bullet during the revolution.



Yemen’s former president Hadi inspires Al-Ansi. His first drawings and paintings as a child were of Hadi.



The satanic figure in the artwork represents the former regime. His necklace is made of human skulls, his bones are made of explosives.



Street art has swept the city since the start of the revolution.



The revolution’s martyrs: more than 2,000 people were killed during the uprising, and 22,000 were wounded, according to the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

## Environment Protection Authority Pilot Program for Climate Resilience Individual Consultant Information Technology Consultant

The Republic of Yemen has received a Grant from the International Development (IDA) toward the cost of the **Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR)** and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Grant to payments for the services of an Information Technology Consultant in its PCU office in Sana'a.

### The Consultant's key responsibilities would include, but not limited to the following:

- Assist in analyzing, evaluating and reviewing the climate information systems documents (specifications & outputs) (databases, networks, software, hardware) plus data gathering.
- Assist in analyzing and checking technical specifications for computers and information systems tenders.
- Monitor and Supervise PCU main and secondary servers and databases.(startup, backup, clients connections, database connections ).
- Co-ordinate, collect, identify, analyze and exchange data with relevant stakeholders.
- Supervise, monitor and maintain LAN/WAN Networks at PCU.
- Responsible for internet connectivity for all staff of PPCR.
- Manage daily update and maintain the PPCR Website (English and Arabic) and design the new proper interfaces.
- Upload and display the outputs of other PPCR consultant's works as required.
- Maintain computers, printers and systems (software and hardware) in PCU.
- Electronic documents archiving for PPCR inputs and outputs.
- Support PPCR staff with helpful programs as required.
- Design databases and layouts as required.
- Assist in training and prepare training materials, related to information technology.
- Contribute and support the preparation of workshops and meetings with technology aspects.
- Participate in other program activities related to the IT as assigned by the Project Manager.

### The Consultant should have the following qualifications and personal skills:

- Bachelor degree in computer science or any related field.
- Minimum five years of experience in network administration, programming, designing websites and databases (oracle).
- Oracle certification is preferred.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- To be fluent in English language.

### Interested consultant must have the following conditions:

- Yemeni Nationality
- Any consultant if selected should take leave of absence without pay during the period of the contract in case the consultant is a government employee.
- Interested consultants may submit their applications with CVs and supporting documents to the address mentioned below within 14 days from the date of this announcement. Applications sent by fax will be ignored.

**PPCR, Program Coordination Unit (PCU)  
Beside Yemen-German Hospital  
Hadda Street, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
Telephone: +967 1 429 071  
Facsimile: +967 1 413 404  
Email: ppcr@yemen.net.ye**

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES CLIMATE INFORMATION SYSTEM

**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 components of the Phase I of the PPCR program is to develop and enhance the climate information systems in Yemen. This system will ensure Yemen's ability to anticipate, predict and respond to the climate variability and change.

The request for expressions of interest is for consulting services that include: (i) Data gap analysis for special temporal and quality of data (ii) Institutional information related capacity and gap analysis, including tech. software and hardware of main national and local institutions to be engaged in the collection, analysis and dissemination of climate related data and information systems.

The Environment Protection Authority, Republic of Yemen has received a grant from the Climate Investment Funds and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this to payments under the contract for the above consulting service.

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.).

A Consultant 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* (Revised May 1, 2010).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during working days Saturday – Wednesday from 0900 to 1500 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the following address, **by July 14, 2012**

PPCR, Program Coordination Unit (PCU)  
Attention Mr Anwar Abdulaziz Noaman  
Beside Yemen-German Hospital  
Hadda Street  
Sana'a  
Republic of Yemen  
Telephone: +967 1 429 071  
Facsimile: +967 1 413 404  
Email: ppcr@yemen.net.ye and cc to: faidali2004@gmail.com



# OXFAM

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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

### Finance Assistant – (1 position)

**Location: Abyan  
Contract Duration: 6 months**

#### The role

You will be responsible for the overall aspects of cash management including monthly cash forecasting, verifying all payment requests, ensuring completeness and accuracy of supporting documents and releasing payments on a timely manner. You will input transactions in cashbooks and upload them into Oxfam's financial system on a weekly basis and ensure a proper filling system is in place.

#### What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least a degree in a finance related subject area or professional accountancy qualification, and three years financial and accounting experience in a similar role. Any additional experience in emergency relief would be an advantage, proving your resilience and ability to maintain teamwork under pressure. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated communication skills and the ability to work well with others and as part of a team. You will have excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic and sound computer skills.

### Finance Officer – (1 position)

**Location: Aden  
Contract Duration: 6 months**

#### The role

You will undertake financial and administrative responsibilities in accordance with established procedures, monitor grants and programme budgets and update expenditure forecasts. Maintain float register and close donor contract administration. Undertake and monitor all disbursements payments to partner organizations and prepare for internal and external audits.

#### What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least a degree in a finance related subject area or professional accountancy qualification, and four years experience with financial and people management in similar size organization, as well as ability to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing in Arabic and English, sound computer skills and ability to travel extensively in country. Any additional experience in emergency relief would obviously be an advantage, proving your resilience and ability to maintain teamwork under pressure.

### Logistics Officer – (1 position)

**Location: Aden  
Contract Duration: 6 months**

#### The Role

You will be responsible for organizing all logistical processes, including purchasing, warehousing, communications and transport, as well as the administrative procedures related to the job. You will supervise and support the staff reporting to this post, ensure that security guidelines are in place and followed by all staff members, instruct and supervise logistics staff under your line management, and report on all activities as necessary to the Project Manager.

#### What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least four years experience in purchasing, warehousing, and vehicle management. Any additional experience in emergency relief would obviously be an advantage, proving your resilience and ability to maintain teamwork under pressure. You will have excellent diplomatic, tact and negotiating skills, as well as oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic, and will possess good computer skills.

### Admin Assistant/Receptionist – (1 position)

**Location: Aden  
Contract Duration: 6 months**

#### The role

You will ensure the necessary admin systems and practices are in place, support programme needs as arising with photocopying, faxing, and translation; ensure proper maintenance of contact lists of staff, NGOs, partners in Aden and Abyan; provide efficient administrative support to all members of staff. You will

organize meetings, workshops for the programme; provide records of the meeting; support all hotel accommodation and travel arrangements for Oxfam staff and visitors; maintain files of all the administrative documents.

#### What we are looking for

We are looking for someone with experience in administration and ability to demonstrate adaptability and flexibility; as well as excellent spoken and written communication and writing skills in English and Arabic, and knowledge and skills in computer usage. Any additional experience in emergency relief would be an advantage, demonstrating resilience and ability to maintain team work under pressure. You will have proven experience in handling administrative tasks and maintaining effective communication and filing systems in the office, responsible for office telephone switchboard.

### Public Health Engineer Assistant – (2 positions)

**Location: Abyan  
Contract Duration: 6 months**

#### The role

You will be working closely with Public Health Engineer Team to assist in identifying, designing and constructing water and sanitation facilities that meet community needs. Moreover, you will supervise local contractors, masons, carpenters, skilled and unskilled labors within the community. You will supervise construction of water infrastructure and undertake regular water quality test at the main water points and households.

#### What we're looking for

We are looking for people who are qualified in Public Health Engineering related discipline; you should also have worked with water and sanitation systems. Any additional experience in emergency relief would be an advantage, proving your resilience and ability to maintain team work under pressure. You will be diplomatic and tactful; be sensitive and excellent communicator; keep a calm head and reassure those around you. You will have influential communication skills in both Arabic and English; be able to gain the confidence, trust, and respect of everyone around you.

### Cleaner – (1 position)

**Location: Sana'a  
Contract Duration: 6 months**

#### The role

You will ensure Oxfam office and premises' cleanliness; assist Oxfam staff with catering services during Oxfam business hours, events and meetings; liaise with administrator/ Logistics to purchase cleaning materials. Provide administrative support to staff, and perform other tasks requested by the Office Manager to ensure smooth running of the programme.

#### What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with a willingness to actively participate in office activities, and contribute to general office work. You will have flexibility and adaptability, attention to detail, and ability to demonstrate sensitivity to gender equality and equity issues in work practices.

### Human Resources Assistant – (1 position)

**Location: Sana'a  
Contract Duration: 6 months**

#### The role

You will represent HR in Sana'a in coordination within HR management; make arrangements for recruitment and induction as they arise; follow and gather the hard copies of PRs, Objectives, and IPRs; maintain / update HR People Soft. You will ensure employees' personal files, annual leave balances, R&R and sick records are up to date; issue contracts for national staff, casual worker, local consultants and service providers, in coordination with HRM. You will be a Health and safety focal person in the Sana'a Office; make monthly payroll and social security sheets.

#### What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least 2 years of demonstrable progressive experience in HR. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated communication skills and the ability to work well with others and as part of a team. You will have excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic, and will possess good computer skills.

#### To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in any of these positions, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job you are applying for in the email subject, to [yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk).

**Closing date for applications is 1st July 2012**

**Please apply immediately as we will be interviewing suitable candidates before the closing date**



# Yemeni businesswoman breaks stereotypes

**Yemen Times Staff**

Yemeni businesswoman Aneesa Hussein Mohammed Othman is Yemeni breaking stereotypes. She recently became the manager of a four-star hotel in Sana'a, a job many Yemenis think is exclusively for men.

Othman was born in Aden. In 1999, she obtained a bachelor's in accounting, continuing to participate in many workshops and training courses on auditing and management throughout the next decade.

She started working at the Petroleum Exploration and Authority (PEPA) in 1993, and she was promoted to head of the Controlling and Inspection Department in May 2000, where she worked for more than eight years before being appointed as a consultant for the director of financial affairs in October 2008.

In April, Othman was appointed as general manager of controlling and inspection at the Public Land Transportation Authority.

In the private sector, Othman became the financial and administrative director of Lamar Hotel, and later became the general manager in July 2011.

**Are you happy to be one of the first women to manage a four-star hotel?**

Absolutely, I am happy to be one of the first Yemeni women to have such a leadership role, especially the management of such a high-end hotel. Mr. Ali Mohammed Al-Matari gave me the chance to have such a position. He has encouraged, trusted and helped me gain experience through work and daily application. Without a doubt, my successful work in the past three past at this hotel has shown the Yemeni women's ability to be successful and creative in any field as long as she is encouraged and trusted.

**Why did you leave your government position?**

Leaving PEPA was a personal choice. I was promoted to head of the Control and Inspection Department; however, I was relegated to financial consulting for the head of PEPA without justification. They deprived me of my rights. I decided to leave for the private sector to pursue other goals.

I will not forget the encouragement of Saleh Al-Wali, head of the Land Transportation Public Authority. He gave women exceptional opportunities to hold high-ranking

positions. I would also like to say "thank you" to the minister of transportation, Dr. Wa'ed Abdallah Batheeb.

I hope President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Al-Hadi and the new government will enable Yemeni women to participate in leading the country.

**What do think of the saying, "A great man has a great woman?"**

This saying is true. A woman is great just like a man. She has characteristics that make her innovative and creative.

**Is a successful working woman a successful housewife? Does her work negatively affect her private life?**

A successful woman is among the distinguished in society. A working woman should enjoy her work. She can mix her work and social life by allocating her time well. Of course, this cannot be realized without the support of society. A woman's success in work reflects on her social success. Her professional success is an indication of her personal success and her strong personality. In my opinion, the success of a woman in her work affects all the

aspects of her life. A woman cannot be a success unless she is confident of herself.

Some husbands obstruct the success of their wives under the pretext that a woman's success will negatively impact family relationships. They deprive them of work opportunities.

**What do you think?**

It is true that some husbands behave this way. This is due to traditional eastern social norms that play a major role in how men treat women. Men think they are stronger, more intelligent and more productive. They try to hinder women from working so they can continue to dominant society. But, thanks be to God, many men have changed their attitude toward women. They have come to consider women an important part of society; they help women succeed. Successful work entails the participation of the whole family. Collective efforts must be made to serve family and society.

**What type of man helps a woman realize success?**

A man confident of his own abilities helps a woman achieve success. He's proud of the achievements of his female relatives and considers their successes part of the whole family. In order to lead a successful life, we must all take part in supporting each other's goals. A successful woman needs a man's constant support. It will not be forgotten.

**A woman's success: luck or intelligence?**

There is no place for luck in a woman's success. It is intelligence, proficiency and hard work.

**Who supported you?**

Thanks be to God, my family and my husband supported and encouraged me to elevate myself educationally and professionally.

**Is there a relationship between geography and tourism? What is the importance of tourism in the nation's economy?**



Aneesa Hussein Mohammed Othman

Without doubt, there is a powerful relationship between geography and tourism. Geography is the main reason behind tourism here. The diverse climates of Yemen, its geography, its historical landmarks and its beautiful coasts are the prime attractions foreign tourists look for all over the world.

Currently, tourism is a very important industry. Many nations prioritize its development. It plays a major role in international trade and the national budget. Tourism helps create jobs. It introduces nations and cultures to one another. It builds relationships among people.

**What is the relationship**

**between hotels and tourism?**

Hotels are the heart of tourism in the developing world. Tourism doesn't exist without hotels, restaurants and other amenities to provide comfort and stability. The hotel serves as a temporary residence and means of comfort. Therefore, hotels should be well-prepared to make tourists feel comfortable by providing hospitality, cleanliness and quality services. If tourists find all these things, they will come back in the future.

**Do you think hotels in Yemen accommodate tourists with all their needs?**

I can't definitively say yes or no;

however, I can say there are few hotels that provide the level of service four and five star branches of international hotels do. The rest are suitable for domestic tourists.

**Do you think the political situation in Yemen has impacted the tourism sector?**

Yes, it has negatively impacted tourism in Yemen. The situation has not only affected tourism; huge financial losses have been experienced in other sectors as well. Yemen's reputation has also been tarnished from the turmoil, the government and people ought to further efforts to regain tourists' trust.

# Donating blood 'humanitarian' act

Amal Al-Yarisi

Ayman Al-Samadi, 11, needs occasional blood transfusions to help treat his thalassemia, an inherited blood disorder.

One of Ayman's brothers also suffers from the disease. They receive transfusions once a month, sometimes twice.

Ali Al-Samadi, Ayman's father, said his sons receive treatment at the Yemeni Association for Thalassemia.

He also praised the National Center for Blood Transfusion and Research (NCBTR).

There, a specialized doctor tests his sons' blood to see how much needs to be transfused, if any. If blood is needed, they go to the National Center for Blood Transfusion and Research, where all all blood types are available.

"NCBTR is an important blood provider for thalassemia patients," Al-Samadi said. "I thank all the blood donors who help these patients."

Ayman and his brother are the center's only patients who need the blood to survive.

NCBTR Manager Dr. Fawzi Baraheem said blood donations are a humanitarian action that helps prevent deteriorated health.

Baraheem said the center does its best to provide services for health and cancer centers, the thalassemia association and emergency centers delivering immediate treatment for injury accidents and women with blood loss while giving birth.

A lack of blood donors means a short blood supply, and some patients have critical health conditions making it hazardous to wait long for a transfusion, according to Baraheem.

NCBTR's Dr. Buhianah Ali said donating blood could help

lower class families who find it difficult to look for or to buy blood. Al-Samadi also said blood donations can stop some blood donors from manipulating the sick.

## Concerns regarding blood donation

Many Yemenis have concerns about transfusions, thinking it transmits diseases.

"There is no need to worry about blood transfusions because blood renews itself every three months," Ali said. "The blood portion given to the patient is less than one liter of the entire amount in a body."

Dr. Amani Al-Asbahi, an NCBTR employee, said viruses can't be transmitted to the blood donor because medical tools are sterilized and never re-used.

Al-Asbahi said the blood donor is usually in good health, so there aren't side effects. The center cares for the donor's health just as it does the patient, she said.

Some blood donors think blood donating is the least they can do.

Suha Al-Hamadi, a blood donor, said that blood donation is a humanitarian duty; many patients need this blood for their survival.

"Blood donation is an easy process, and it poses no dangers," Al-Hamadi said. "Juice and water can compensate the donor for the blood drawn."

In her opinion, donating blood improves a blood donor's health as well as the blood recipient's, she said.

Isam Al-Idaroos, a blood donor, said he donated blood and felt normal after.

"Donating blood gives a broad grin to a human on the brink of his demise; therefore, blood donation is important," Al-Idaroos said.



Blood donors often feel as if they are helping humankind.

# Initiative encourages donations to improve growing food crisis

Ahmed Dawood

For several years, Abass Mohammed, a 40-year-old Sana'a resident, has been tried buying land in Dhabwa, located on Sana'a's outskirts, but he can't.

"I can't save money at all because I'm a soldier and the salary I receive doesn't suffice me and my family of four boys and a girl," Abass said.

"Thank Allah, I'm better than many others who find nothing to eat," he said.

Many Yemenis, like Abass, live in poverty. International reports indicate millions in Yemen suffer from poverty and malnutrition.

There are more than 170,000 internally displaced persons from Abyan and 314,000 homeless because of the conflict in north Yemen, according to a recent U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR) report.

The Yemeni government is seeking financial support from several countries to manage the crisis.

Several countries have provided aid to help stem the growing food crisis and to support finding a solution. A March conference in Saudi Arabia dealt with ways to effectively support Yemen.

A group of journalists from the Gulf headed by Ali Al-Dhafiri launched an initiative to support poverty stricken Yemenis.

On Twitter, he said the initiative aims to shed light on humanitarian conditions.

The initiative, "For the Sake of Yemen," is not related to any political party, Al-Dhafiri said, and it doesn't directly collect money but instead encourages people and institutions to donate to trusted people working to improve the situation.

Authorities know the initiative's volunteers, he said.

Al-Dhafiri said the initiative focuses on encouraging the media what's happening in Yemen.

"We need a maximum of 100 elites, religious men, youths, famous actors, journalists, politicians

and political activists" to make a difference, he said.

Several Yemeni activists and journalists have praised the initiative.

Faris Al-Hemari, a Xinhua correspondent, said the initiative includes new ways of providing support. He said Yemen overcame several political problems, but the most important challenge now is to overcome the humanitarian problems, and this is the core of the initiative.

Al-Hemari said he hopes the government would facilitate the initiative's work and wishes that educated and famous local figures will cooperate to make it successful.

# Child accidentally killed by celebratory gunfire

Samar Qaed

Tareq Mohammed Al-Kohali, a 14-year-old boy from the Al-Safia area of Sana'a, died last week after being struck by a bullet fired during a nearby wedding.

The bullet ricocheted and went through Mohammed's brain. His body was kept in the Al-Thawra Hospital morgue while police and forensic specialists investigated the incident.

The case was filed as involuntary manslaughter. The perpetrator is unknown.

The incident comes one week after

the interior minister's order banning the firing of live ammunition and fireworks at weddings. He said it disturbs the peace.

The Ministry of the Interior reported that about 89 weddings were held in Sana'a on June 14.

The ministry is relying on the Sana'a Security Administration to enforce the ban. The ministry reported 42 military vehicles participated in enforcement and 15 people were arrested June 14. Those detained have been formally charged.

Abdulkhaleem Al-Absi, a resident of Hael Street, expressed his irritation with the noise made by bullets and fireworks at weddings.

"It [firing a gun] became a way for young men to show off," he said. "Effective actions must be taken to prevent shooting. Nowadays, it has become unsafe to walk in the streets because a bullet may ricochet and hit you, leaving you dead at any moment."

Yahia Al-Ma'khadi, a member of a local council in Sana'a, said, "Police, local councils and community leaders are committed to order. Firing guns at weddings was banned, but because of the security vacuum which resulted from last year's uprising, people began using guns again."

"We met with community leaders in neighborhoods in Sana'a

and agreed that everyone must be responsible for the people in the neighborhood and must take the needed measures to prevent shooting," he said.

"We need time [to resolve this issue] because many Yemenis own weapons, and fathers encourage their sons to carry them because it represents manhood and pride in Yemeni culture."

Yemeni law stipulates that whoever fires a weapon publicly must pay a fine of YR 100,000 and could face three days imprisonment. Anyone launching fireworks could be subject to a fine of YR 50,000 in addition to two or three days imprisonment.

## HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



This weekly column disseminates health information to readers in Yemen and beyond. Dr. Siva currently works at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Lifestyle diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and naturopathy are his passions.

## Have a doubt? Ask the specialists (Part 1)

Everyone needs a specialist to address their wellness needs. A few best experts have developed specific tips to combat common and not-so-common ailments. Let them tell you how to keep heart trouble at bay, curb diabetes, manage asthma, resolve infertility, fight infections, keep your skin healthy and even stop headaches.

These tips go beyond the usual advice about drinking more water, exercising regularly, eating fruits and veggies and slathering on sunscreen. They are designed to help you make specific changes to your lifestyle and emerge healthier and wiser.



### Keep diabetes at bay

- Follow scientifically proven diets for diabetes prevention. Several meal plans promise to balance sugar levels forever, but only a few have been scientifically shown to succeed. Keep your doctor informed when changing your diet.
- Maintain your weight in normal limits of body mass index (BMI) and abdominal circumference. Excess weight makes it harder for the body to use insulin for controlling blood sugar. If you are overweight, shedding even a few kilograms can improve the body's ability to use insulin and prevent the rise of blood sugar.
- Body Mass Index (the ratio, in square meters, of how large you are with respect to your height) must be kept between 19 and 23. Waist circumference should be less than 90 cm in men and 80 cm in women.
- Exercise every day for 45 to 60 minutes. Get physically active and strengthen your body to handle blood glucose. This is the key to diabetes prevention.
- A total of 60 minutes of exercise is optimal: 30 minutes of scheduled exercise such as walking, light sports, dancing or swimming; 15 minutes of walking or a similar activity at the workplace; and 15 minutes of resistance exercise with small weights weighing between 1 and 5 kg.
- Even a 10-minute walk before dinner can help maintain the liver's glucose outpouring at night.

### Anti-diabetes foods

- Eat high fiber foods such as raw fruits, vegetables, whole grains and cereals. Include at least five to six servings of fruits and vegetables every day.
- Consume Omega-3 fatty acids such as fish, salmon, sardines; fish oil or cod liver oil; flaxseeds; walnuts; soybeans or tofu; canola or mustard oil.
- Choose monounsaturated fatty acids such as walnuts, peanuts, sesame seeds, olive oil, canola or mustard oil.
- Take powdered cinnamon every day but not more than a quarter or a half teaspoon since it causes stomach irritation. Fenugreek seeds can be consumed as powder or whole seeds, in consultation with a doctor (not recommended during pregnancy).

### How to prevent heart disease

Young people are dying of heart attacks these days, largely because of unhealthy lifestyles.

- Quit smoking. You shouldn't smoke. If you do, quit as soon as possible. Over time, it can cut back your risk of a heart attack by as much as 50 percent.
- Exercise for at least 40 minutes every day. Combine aerobic exercises such as walking—at least four km/hour—along with some yoga and weight training. The level of activity should be vigorous enough for you to become slightly breathless.
- Eat healthy, including more vegetables, fruit, fish and legumes, and less dairy and meat.
- Keep your blood pressure below 130/80 mmHg. For those older than 50, systolic blood pressure—the higher number of the BP reading—of more than 140 mmHg is a much more important heart disease risk factor than diastolic, the lower number. A systolic BP of 120 to 139 mmHg or a diastolic BP of 80 to 89 mmHg is pre-hypertension. It should be managed with lifestyle changes or medicines.
- Control cholesterol. Low-density lipoprotein—LDL or bad cholesterol—should be less than 100 mg/dl. High-density lipoprotein (HDL or good cholesterol) should be more than 45 mg/dl for men and 55 mg/dl for women. If your LDL is still too high after about 12 weeks of diet and exercise, consider taking medication. For most people, the first choice is cholesterol-lowering statin drugs that reduce LDL by 18 to 55 percent, trim triglycerides by 7 to 30 percent, and push up HDL by 5 to 15 percent. Those with a metabolic syndrome—beer belly, high triglycerides and low HDL—are better off with vitamin B3 or fibric acids.
- Control weight. Aim to have a body mass index less than 24, irrespective of your age. Extra weight means your heart has to work harder to supply blood to your body. A weight loss of 10 percent or more lowers blood pressure and triglycerides in the blood. In children, excess weight makes them three to five times more likely to have a heart attack or stroke before they reach 65.





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