

Nine cells captured, planned attacks foiled

Amal Al-Yarisi

SANAA, July 4 – The General Administration for Combating Terrorism has captured nine extremist cells.

One of the cells is accused of executing the May 21 Al-Sabeen-bombing. Another cell was planning an attack targeting military, political and diplomatic figures as well as foreigners. The same cell also planned to storm Yemeni and foreign infrastructures in Sana'a, Al-Mukalla and Aden, according to the Defense Ministry-run 26 September news website.

The ministry reported that, of the combined cell members, nine are not Yemeni. Four are Egyptian, two are Jordanian, one is Somali and two are from Dagestan and Tunisia.

The ministry published the names of the cell members along with their roles within their organizations.

On Monday, Yemen's channel TV broadcast video footage of the Sabeen Suicide bomber, Haitham Mufrih. The video showed Mufrih preparing prior the bombing, and it broadcast the captured cell members. One was a soldier from the Central Security Forces whose role was to pave the way for Mufrih to infiltrate Al-Sabeen Square.

Some cell members, including Sameer Al-Sahib and Yahiya Sanoob, had laptops, hand weapons and a number of wills, including Mufrih's, on their person when arrested.

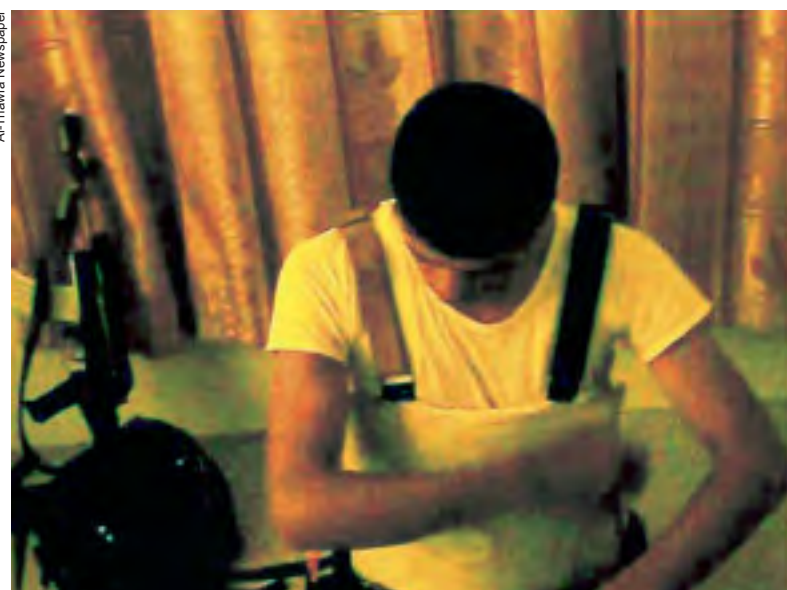
Cell in Taiz accused of murdering of an American teacher

Arif Abdu Hassen Abdullah Barook leads the cell captured in Taiz. This cell participated in the assassination of a political security officer and an American teacher, Joel Shurn. Cell members are as follows:

- Arif Abdu Hassen Abdullah Barook
- Yahya Ahmed Bin Ahmed Sa'ad Al-Sana'ani
- Noor Al-Deen Abdullah Mohamaed Hassen Al-Duba'ai
- Jameel Ahmed Mulhi Al-Kamil
- Mohsen Mohammed Mohsen Al-Askari
- Waleed Ali Abdu Qasim Al-Odaini
- Issa Mohammed Abulmalik Al-Masani
- Amir Qabid Mohammed Ghanim Al-Azab

Abyan cell members fought for Al-Qaeda in Abyan

Security forces also captured a cell spearheaded by Mohammed Ayid Al-Harazi that planned to target



Screenshot of the video showing the Al-Sabeen suicide bomber, Haitham Mufrih, saying he was fighting the democracy advocates and would win paradise.

political, security and western diplomatic figures. They took part in fighting for Al-Qaeda in Abyan. Members are:

- Mohammed Ayid Al-Harazi
- Nadir Al-Qubati
- Mohammed Muthna Al-Amari
- Isam Al-Badani
- Ibrahim Abdulkareem Salman
- Saba Abdullah Mohammed Hussein Al-Nomani
- Abdullah Nasser Salem Al-

- Maslami
- Abdullah Yayai Yayiah Al-Dai-lmi
- Ali Bin Ali ahmed Al-Ansi
- Ibrahim Ali Jameel Al-Matari
- Basheer Ahmed Hazam Al-Ya-heesi
- Abyan cell accused of recruiting new militants

Continued on page 2

Cell implicated in May 21 Al-Sabeen bombing



Majed Hizam Al-Qalisi, Isam Mohammed Khyran, Myad Mohammed Al-Hamadi, Raed Ateeq Saleh Al-Azani, Sameer Khalid Ali Al-Sahib, Jihad Yahiya Abdu Al-Sakkal, Bilal Ahmed Radman Al-Absi, Abduljaleel Ali Al-Matari

Bomber Mufrih used an explosive belt from two chemical materials TNT and C3, equaling four kilograms. This composed the main explosive content in the belt. Other metal materials were also added such as chips, a nine-volt battery and an electronic cycle working as a source of energy. The mechanical key of the explosive was fixed as well.

Majed Hizam Al-Qalisi
A major member in organizing and executing the terrorist operation
Date and place of birth: 1994, Sana'a's Al-Dairy district

Status: captured

Isam Mohammed Khyran
He was recruited in the terrorist cell as a coordinator between the terrorist cell members and their families.
Date and place of birth: 1987, Amran
Status: captured

Myad Mohammed Al-Hamadi
A major suicide member
Date and place of birth: 1987, Taiz- Bani Hamad
Status: captured

Raed Ateeq Saleh Al-Azani

A soldier in the Central Security Forces, his role was facilitating the entrance of the suicide bomber to Al-Sabeen Square on the day of the bombing.
Date and place of birth: 1990, Al-Baida-Rada
Status: captured

Sameer Khalid Ali Al-Sahib
He was in contact with the suicide bomber and was trained in Shabwa governorate. He was assigned with a fighting mission in Abyan. Shawqi Al-Ba'adani assigned him to target the U.S. embassy. He drew others to the terrorist cell.

Date and place of birth: 1995, Sana'a
Status: captured

Jihad Yahiya Abdu Al-Sakkal
He was recently recruited and acquainted with the May 21 operation.
Age: 25
Status: captured

Bilal Ahmed Radman
Date of birth: 1985
Status: captured

Abduljaleel Ali Al-Matari
Date of birth: 1985
Status: captured

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YEMEN: Landmines stall IDP returns to the south

IRIN

ADEN, June 27 — When Yemen's Defence Ministry announced in mid-June that militants of the Ansar al-Sharia group, which had controlled the southern governorate of Abyan since May 2011, had been routed, 40-year-old Saleh Salim Abu Khalil decided to go and check on his home in Al-Kood District.

Khalil's plan was to bring his six-member family home after they were displaced to Aden almost a year ago. Shortly after arriving in the district, however, he was killed by a landmine.

"On the second day of his visit, we were deeply concerned why he hadn't called us back as he promised," his wife Khadija told IRIN. "On the third day, we got the bad news that he was killed in a landmine explosion."

In nearby al-Mahfad District, a man called Salim Atef was killed on 24 June - with his wife and three children injured - in a blast at their home: It turned out that one of the children had inadvertently brought a UXO remnant into the house, local witnesses told IRIN.

According to local officials, landmines are a primary obstacle to the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Aden and Lahj governorates.

Jaar local council member Mohsen Bin Jameela, who has been displaced with his family in Aden since July 2011, said several dozen families whose homes are undamaged, have decided not to return after hearing that landmines are claiming lives on a daily basis.

Secretary-General of Zinjibar local council Ghassan Faraj said at least 42 people have been killed in landmine blasts in the governorate



Demining teams have started work in various places, including Jaar.

over the past two weeks.

"Twenty nine of them have been killed in Zinjibar, the provincial capital of Abyan Governorate, another nine in Jaar District and four in al-Kood Distirct," he told IRIN. "Dozens of others have been wounded. In Zinjibar town, traces of planted landmines are very visible in the main streets and suburbs. As a result, most of the town's inhabitants couldn't return home."

On May 12th, the army launched a large-scale offensive, driving Ansar Al-Sharia militants out of almost all areas previously under their control. Hundreds of militants and dozens of soldiers were killed, according to the Defense Ministry.

Official statistics indicate that more than 100,000 people were displaced from Abyan to neighboring Aden and Lahj governorates as a result of clashes between the army and Ansar al-Sharia militants.

Demining

Efforts are under way to demine the area. On June 13th the National Mine Action Programme (NMAP) began to clear landmines in Zinjibar, Jaar, Khanfar and Lawder districts. "A large number of anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines have been planted... Clearing the entire governorate of landmines may take more than three months," Mansour al-Azi, director of NMAP, told IRIN.

Engineering teams have removed more than 3,000 landmines and UXO remnants around Zinjibar and Jaar cities, according to a report by the Governor's Office in Abyan.

On June 19th Yemen's cabinet ordered NMAP to demine all districts which have been under the control of Ansar al-Sharia militants, according to Mohammed Al-Shaddadi, a member of parliament from Abyan who attended the meeting.

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Miscommunication

Ashraf Al-Murqab

Naji Al-Salehi's main goal in life is to be an anchor.

He expected to learn the skills needed to make his dream come true at the College of Mass Communication. He thought the college would lead him to his goal.

Since his first month of college, frustration overcame him. The college that he depended on to help him accomplish his ambition was inadequate, the curriculum as old as the study halls.

Al-Salehi said the curriculum dates back to the sixties. He said lessons are usually based on theoretical study and have no practical application.

Al-Salehi is not the only student dissatisfied with the program; his classmate, Sophomore Hanan Mohammed, sees many problems.

"I mostly do not understand what the professors say," Mohammed said. "Some professors assign the students with heavy tasks. We feel unable to think clearly."

She said that she wondered about how the college could lack sophisticated academic equipment that should be automatically available. There are no sufficient computer laboratories; there are no cameras or recording devices for students to practice using.

"For years, the College of Mass Communication has not changed," Mohammed said. "It is known by the government and private sector media outlets that the College of Mass Communication graduates are not qualified enough to work as reporters."

Mustafa Masha'a graduated



Students at the College of Mass Communication are unable to realize their ambitions



The curriculum is "as old as the study halls"

from the school in 2006. He said students at the school "experience an inability to shape news pieces and an inability to write reports of articles," even though these are skills journalism students learn in other countries.

"The only thing I blame myself for is studying at College of Mass Communication," he said. "I spent four years at the college, from which I gained nothing. It is criminal to be a media graduate and not know the fundamentals of journalism."

Ismael Al-Sadaee, a media graduate, thinks some of the curriculum is inappropriate because most of the syllabi have Egyptian curriculum stamps. For instance, examples in some curriculum do not represent Yemeni culture. Furthermore, titles and content are inconsistent, according to Al-Sadaee.

He said the halls are old and poorly equipped; there are no boards, nor microphones.

"The college needs a survey to highlight the academic situation," Al-Sadaee said.

Mohammed Hussein, a fourth-year student at the College of Computer Sciences, said, "There are many problems, including the lack of sophisticated laboratories. The programs cannot succeed with such old apparatuses. The overcrowded halls are a problem as well."

"The curriculum in the Physics Department is repetitive and unmodified. It has become old and not advanced; there is a shortage of Arabic references," Asma Al-Yazeedi, a student at College of Education, pointed out. "The references can be found in English."

Al-Yazeedi said scientific sec-

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tion students face many difficulties. Labs are inadequate and have mostly become unworkable environments. Students go to the College of Science to use their labs, which is a waste of time, according to Al-Yazeedi.

Dr. Adel Al-Sharjabi said the Sana'a University curriculum is old and doesn't fulfill the professors' and students' ambitions. The university is deteriorating in comparison with the Arabic universities.

Al-Sharjabi posed two questions: How do Yemeni universities compare to developed international universities, and have Yemeni universities contributed to development in accordance with local and regional market demands?

"I hope the government will consider the university administration and develop the staff in charge of managing the university in order to improve academic education," he said.

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20 days remain to close umra in light of the Saudi King's promises to reopen the Saudi embassy in Yemen

Nadia Haddash

Umra, a pilgrimage to Mecca, is one of the most important Islamic rituals that Islam encourages people to take anytime of the year. Similar to hajj, its purpose is to strengthen the relationship between Allah and Muslims.

To express resentment because of the Saudi embassy in Sana'a's closing, thus preventing those who want to perform umra from entering Saudi Arabia, thousands of umra-seekers, wearing umra attire, demonstrated on Sunday and Monday in front of President Abdu Rabu Mansur Hadi's house.

The peaceful protesters urged Hadi to increase efforts to convince Saudi authorities to provide Yemenis with visas to travel to Saudi Arabia and undertake umra.

The protesters lifted banners condemning the embassy's closure, calling it a mass punishment for the March abduction of Saudi Vice Consul Abdullah Al-Khaleidi. One of the banners read, "People want to perform umraat Ramadan."

Protesters also condemned Al-Khaleidi's abduction, saying the act doesn't belong to Islam or to the customs and hospitality of Yemenis.

"Closing the embassy isn't right because it hindered many Yemeni umra-seekers, students and people who live there from coming back," Ali Mohammed Ahmed Al-Qaderi,



80,000 people could be prevented from going to Saudi Arabia to perform umra if the embassy doesn't reopen.

a Yemeni, said. "There is another way to solve the problem of abducting Al-Khaleidi instead of solving it by denying visas for Yemeni umra-seekers."

The two demonstrations are in response to the Umra and Pilgrimage departments of the Yemen Tourism Union's calls for protests in public squares. The union condemned the kidnapping and called on Ansar Al-Sharia to release Al-Khaleidi.

Video shows the abducted Al-Khaleidi alive
On May 25, a video broadcast on

YouTube showed Al-Khaleidi begging the Saudi king to release him from the hands of Ansar Al-Sharia so that he could return to his family. The video had Ansar Al-Sharia's slogan. This was the first appearance since his abduction on March 28.

According to the state-run Saba News Agency, Hadi called the Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz on Sunday to discuss the embassy closure.

Saba News Agency reported that Hadi asked the king to consider reopening the embassy because it is essential to provide visas. The king

promised to give orders to reopen the embassy again and provide services for Yemenis.

Hajj and Umra service agencies stop working

Agencies servicing Yemenis hoping to travel to Saudi Arabia have suffered heavy losses because much of their profits are from providing services for umra and hajjseekers.

Salah Al-Deen Al-Asdi, manager of Public Relations at Al-Sabeel Agency for Hajj and Umra Services, said, "The losses of the 95 agencies in Yemen totals about SR75,000,000, or about YR4,299,680,000."

He said people come daily to ask whether Saudi Arabia is going to reopen the embassy.

"We are waiting for Saturday to know," Al-Asdi said.

Nasser Al-Kaheli, manager of the public relations in the Hajj and Umra departments said, "The agencies and companies sustained heavy losses because they stopped working completely due to acts of sabotage, road blockings and kidnappings."

Al-Kaheli said 95 Yemeni agencies signed contracts with Saudi Arabia to provide visas for those who want to perform umra, but only 68 were able to finish these contracts before the Saudi consulate closed the embassy.

It is reported that each agency has the right to give visas for 1,000 to 2,000 people. It was expected that about 100,000 people with visas would perform umra this year.

Abdulkareem Abbas, vice director of the Hajj and Umra departments in the Yemen Tourism Union, said, "Protests are because the Yemeni authorities didn't exert considerable efforts to release the Saudi counsel."

Abass said that in 2012, before Al-Khaleidi's kidnapping, 17,000 Yemenis performed umra. He said about 80,000 people could be prevented from going to Saudi Arabia to perform umra if the embassy doesn't reopen.

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Foreign fighters for Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula



Aish Ali Awas

By foreign fighters, I mean non-Yemenis, not non-Arabs. Since its beginnings in the late 1990's, Al-Qaeda has been a global organization in terms of ambitions and affiliates.

It's not a surprise to those who fol-

low terror groups to find that there are several groups of foreign fighters among Al-Qaeda in Yemen, particularly because Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which is based in Yemen, was founded in 2009 by fusing Al-Qaeda affiliates in Yemen and Al-Qaeda affiliates in Saudi Arabia into one umbrella organization.

However, what is important when talking about this is the unprecedented increase of foreign fighters while Al-Qaeda controlled the governate of Abyan, declaring it an Islamic Emirate at the end of 2010.

The number of fighters may not be known exactly, but their presence is a fact that can't be denied. The increasing number of foreigners killed fighting for Al-Qaeda during confrontations with the Yemeni military in Abyan and other areas indicates that new fighters infiltrate Yemen from time to time. For instance, at the end of 2011,

apress reports indicated that about 300 Al-Qaeda affiliates in Somalia left for Yemen. Moreover, well-informed sources in the Yemeni government said that they continue to come today.

Anyone following the foreign fighters knows what an essential role they play in the organization by providing it with experienced fighters and money. For example, the second-highest ranked man and the press officer for AQAP are foreigners, as are the most important explosives and bomb-makers.

Unlike previous periods in which foreigners roles were only to give money, participate in protests and present speeches, now they participate in all activities including carrying out suicide bombings.

Saudi fighters were the first to participate in such operations when Turki Al-Shahrani attacked a group of soldiers in Aden using a car bomb on June 24th, 2011.

Recently, Somalis have followed a similar pattern by joining AQAP beginning in June, 2012. This is dangerous because foreigners are often unknown to the Yemeni authorities which enable them to carry out operations easier than Yemenis.

To confront these problems and reduce their effects, better surveillance on Yemeni sea borders, oversight of visas granted and cooperation and better coordination with the regional and international community must be implemented.

Aish Awas is Strategic Studies Program Manager at the Sheba Strategic Studies Center in the capital Sana'a.



Ansar Al-Sharia, the extremist organization following the Salafi ideology appeared in May 2011. The armed group which took control of Abyan last May has been battling the army on several fronts.

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OUR OPINION

Terrorism engulfing Yemeni youth

In the past two weeks, five terrorist operations have been foiled in Yemen. There are six security operation rooms based in the president's residence working day and night to catch up with the terrorism planning.

Details of one of the worst terrorist attacks this year, which happened in May at the Sabeen Square parade in Sana'a and claimed the lives of more than 60 Yemenis, revealed none of the executors were older than 22.

Intelligence found tapes of the terrorists documenting their plans and taking us step-by-step through their work. They were so young and yet so blinded, as if brainwashed. The operation's leader was only 18 years old, still on the loose while the mastermind, definitely much older, sits safely somewhere in a hideout, running the entire operation through remote control.

Now, there are frantic security personnel spread across the country checking cars and monitoring activities, trying to prevent another tragedy from happening. But how much can they really do? I am not underestimating them but being realistic about the threat we are facing as a nation.

These young men make up more than 60 percent of our population. The terrorists did not wear beards or look any different from the boy next door. It becomes the responsibility of their families more than anyone else to really report suspicious acts and prevent another attack from occurring.

But, would Yemeni families really report their own children? I don't think so. For one, they are not really aware of the risks they take by allowing their sons to engage in "religious" activities, and second, which is equally important, they don't really trust the state. These boys come from different areas around the country, many of which are impoverished and lack rule of law. Entire communities don't associate with the nation or feel the connection between the stability of the country and their own actions.

We need to educate our citizens so that they are more engaged and more responsible, otherwise no matter how many checkpoints, no matter how many security personnel patrol the streets, we will never win the war against terrorism. We need to rely on citizens and their interest in protecting their country, but before that happens, they need to feel loyal to their country and be interested in protecting it.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The drone blowback fallacy Strikes in Yemen aren't pushing people to Al-Qaeda

Christopher Swift
foreignaffairs.com
First published July 1

Recent revelations that the White House keeps a secret terrorist kill list, which it uses to target Al-Qaeda leaders, have spurred a debate over drone warfare. Progressive pundits excoriate the Obama administration for expanding the power of the executive branch. Senate Republicans, in turn, have demanded the appointment of a special counsel to probe the alleged leaks of classified information that brought the kill list to light. As the political drama unfolds in Washington, however, the United States is intensifying its drone campaign in the arid mountains and remote plateaus of Yemen.

With Al-Qaeda's center of gravity shifting from Pakistan to Yemen, the Central Intelligence Agency recently sought authority to conduct "signature strikes," in which drone pilots engage targets based on behavioral profiles rather than on positive identifications. The move marks a significant increase in the intensity and extensivity of the drone campaign -- in the first six months of 2012, the Obama administration conducted approximately 43 drone strikes in Yemen, nearly twice the total from the three preceding years.

Critics argue that drone strikes create new adversaries and drive Al-Qaeda's recruiting. As the Yemeni youth activist Ibrahim Mothana recently wrote in The New York Times, "Drone strikes are causing more and more Yemenis to hate America and join radical militants; they are not driven by ideology but rather by a sense of revenge and despair." The Washington Post concurs. In May, it reported that the "escalating

campaign of U.S. drone strikes [in Yemen] is stirring increasing sympathy for Al-Qaeda-linked militants and driving tribesmen to join a network linked to terrorist plots against the United States." The ranks of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) have tripled to 1,000 in the last three years, and the link between its burgeoning membership, U.S. drone strikes and local resentment seems obvious.

Last month, I traveled to Yemen to study how AQAP operates and whether the conventional understanding of the relationship between drones and recruitment is correct. While there, I conducted 40 interviews with tribal leaders, Islamist politicians, Salafist clerics and other sources. These subjects came from 14 of Yemen's 21 provinces, most from rural regions. Many faced insurgent infiltration in their own districts. Some of them were actively fighting AQAP. Two had recently visited terrorist strongholds in Jaar and Zinjibar as guests. I conducted each of these in-depth interviews using structured questions and a skilled interpreter. I have withheld my subjects' names to protect their safety -- a necessity occasioned by the fact that some of them had survived assassination attempts and that others had recently received death threats.

These men had little in common with the Yemeni youth activists who capture headlines and inspire international acclaim. As a group, they were older, more conservative and more skeptical of U.S. motives. They were less urban, less wealthy, and substantially less secular. But to my astonishment, none of the individuals I interviewed drew a causal relationship between U.S. drone strikes and Al-Qaeda recruiting. Indeed, of the 40 men in this cohort, only five believed that U.S. drone strikes were helping Al-Qaeda more than they were hurting it.

Al-Qaeda exploits U.S. errors, to be sure. As the Yemen scholar Gregory Johnsen correctly observes, the death of some 40 civilians in the December 2009 cruise missile strike on Majala infuriated ordinary Yemenis and gave AQAP an unexpected propaganda coup. But the fury produced by such tragedies is not systemic, not sustained and, ultimately, not sufficient. As much as Al-Qaeda might play up civilian casualties and U.S. intervention in its recruiting videos, the Yemeni tribal leaders I spoke to reported that the factors driving young men into the insurgency are overwhelmingly economic.

From Al-Hodeida in the west to Hadramaut in the east, AQAP is building complex webs of dependency within Yemen's rural population. It gives idle teenagers cars, qat, and rifles -- the symbols of Yemeni manhood. It pays salaries (up to \$400 per month) that lift families out of poverty. It supports weak and marginalized sheikhs by digging wells, distributing patronage to tribesmen and punishing local criminals. As the leader of one Yemeni tribal confederation

“No one resents a drone strike if the target was a terrorist,” a member of the Muslim Brotherhood told me. “What we resent is the fact that outsiders are involved.”

told me, "Al-Qaeda attracts those who can't afford to turn away."

Religious figures echoed these words. Although critical of the U.S. drone campaign, none of the Islamists and Salafists I interviewed believed that drone strikes explain Al-Qaeda's burgeoning numbers. "The driving issue is development," an Islamist parliamentarian from Hadramout province said. "Some districts are so poor that joining Al-Qaeda represents the best of several bad options." (Other options include criminality, migration and even starvation.) A Salafi scholar engaged in hostage negotiations with AQAP agreed. "Those who fight do so because of the injustice in this country," he explained. "A few in the north are driven by ideology, but in the south it is mostly about poverty and corruption."

Despite Yemenis' antipathy toward drones, my conversations also revealed a surprising degree of pragmatism. Those living in active conflict zones drew clear distinctions between earlier U.S. operations, such as the Majala bombing, and more recent strikes on senior Al-Qaeda figures. "Things were very bad in 2009," a tribal militia commander from Abyan province told me, "but now the drones are seen as helping us." He explained that Yemenis could "accept [drones] as long as there are no more civilian casualties." An Islamist member of the separatist al-Harak movement offered a similar assessment. "Ordinary people have become very practical about drones," he said. "If the United States focuses on the leaders and civilians aren't killed, then drone strikes will hurt Al-Qaeda more than they help them."

Some of the men I interviewed admitted that they had changed their minds about drone strikes. Separatists in Aden who openly derided AQAP as a proxy of Yemen's recently deposed president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, privately acknowledged the utility of the U.S. drone campaign. "Saleh created this crisis in order to steal from

America and stay in power," a former official from the now-defunct People's Democratic Republic of Yemen told me. "Now it is our crisis, and we need every tool to solve it."

Yemeni journalists, particularly those with firsthand exposure to AQAP, shared this view: "I opposed the drone campaign until I saw what Al-Qaeda was doing in Jaar and Zinjibar," an independent reporter in Aden said. "Al-Qaeda hates the drones, they're absolutely terrified of the drones ... and that is why we need them."

My interviewees also offered deeper insight into the sentiments described by Western journalists and Yemeni activists. In their view, public opposition to drones had little to do with a desire for revenge or increasing sympathy for Al-Qaeda. Instead, they argued, ordinary Yemenis see the drones as an affront to their national pride. "Drones remind us that we don't have the ability to solve our problems by ourselves," one member of the Yemeni Socialist Party said. "If these were Yemeni drones, rather than American drones, there would be no issue at all."

Surprisingly, Islamist politicians said much the same. "No one resents a drone strike if the target was a terrorist," a member of the Muslim Brotherhood told me. "What we resent is the fact that outsiders are involved." A leader from the Zaydi Shia community framed the sovereignty issue in even starker terms. "The problem is not killing people like [Anwar] al-Awlaki," he said, referring to the Yemeni-American Al-Qaeda propagandist killed in 2011 by a U.S. drone strike in Yemen. "The problem is when the U.S. ambassador goes on television and takes credit for it."

None of these reactions address the legal dimensions of drone warfare. Although drones don't drive Al-Qaeda recruiting, policymakers must still balance the tactical benefits of targeted, proportional force with the risks of rapid military escalation and broadening executive powers. As they weigh their options, they should consider two lessons. First, as long as drones target legitimate terrorists, Yemenis grudgingly acknowledge their utility. And second, the more Yemenis perceive the United States as a serious partner, the less drones will pique their national pride.

This research also offers another lesson. Despite deeper engagement and closer coordination, Americans and Yemenis are fighting the same war from different premises. The United States emphasizes radical ideology. Yemen emphasizes endemic poverty. Washington wants immediate results. Sana'a needs long-term development. Americans fear foreign attacks on their national security. Yemenis resent foreign affronts to their national pride. Washington's drone dramas are just one example of this self-defeating disconnect. The more policymakers read their domestic debates into Yemeni politics, the less they will appreciate vital voices from the field.

SKETCHED OPINION

By Rashad Al-Same'i

On the girl raped in Sana'a



YEMEN TIMES
www.yementimes.com

First Political English Newspaper
in Yemen. Founded in 1991 by
Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Exposed to war, Yemenis experience mental disorders

Mohammed Al-Samei

Eight years ago, during the war between the Yemeni government and the Houthis, Saleh Hassan, a 38-year-old Yemeni from Haidan, Sa'da governorate, experienced a psychological disorder.

During the war, Hassan's father was killed in a mortar attack by the Yemeni military, and his house was destroyed. Nashwan Oqba, Hassan's brother-in-law, said Hassan's psychological breakdown occurred when he lost his father and his house.

Hassan has eight children, the eldest of which is 11 years old, and an elderly, widowed mother.

To date, the state hasn't compensated him. He received 150,000 riyals from the Sa'da Reconstruction Fund.

"After his house was destroyed, he decided to move to Al-Malaheedh area in Sa'da," Oqba said. "He received food aid from the World Food Program. But the program stopped

providing aid; therefore, he decided to go back with his wife to their destroyed house. So far, they live in a bad situation, and Hassan's health is deteriorating day by day."

Oqba said Hassan traveled from Sa'da to Sana'a to receive treatment at the Social Center for Displaced People, a center related to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Yemen. But Hussein Radman, the center director, said the center stopped activities.

Hassan said his father's name wasn't included on the lists of people killed in Sa'da. In order to receive a monthly payment, his father's name needed to be on the list. Hassan said nobody helps him receive treatment or food for his family.

A few weeks ago, Houthis imprisoned Hassan, Oqba said, because he isn't affiliated with them and because he suffers a psychological disorder. He was eventually released.

Fatima, Hassan's sister, said, "Hassan's situation is very bad. Sometimes, his children sleep without dinner because they don't have

a breadwinner. They depend on some people to give them food."

Dr. Fatin Abdo Mohammed, a professor of psychology at Sana'a University, said, "There are several negative effects on those who live in war areas. War affects their relations with other people and causes them sadness and distress.

"War has great effects on children because it causes them stress that affects their future life. War means killing and shedding blood," she said.

A 2008 study by SEYAJ Organization for Childhood Protection found that 45.5 percent of children in Sa'da experience fear because of war and armed confrontations in their schools and villages. In addition, 63.1 percent experience nightmares. And, 21.6 percent experience bedwetting when sleeping while 7 percent experience bedwetting when awake.

The study reported 21.5 percent of Sa'da children are introverted, a high percentage compared to children not exposed to sensitive environments. The study also found



Saleh Hassan, 38, experience a psychological breakdown because of fighting in his hometown.



that 35.3 percent of children became aggressive toward companions and relatives.

The League of Arab States warned last month that the humanitarian situation in Yemen is deteriorating

because of a worsening food shortage, which is attributed to worsening psychological health.

The situation in Yemen continues deteriorating because of security dangers and the negative effects

of armed conflicts, Sima Bahooth, general secretary assistant of social affairs of the League of Arab States' "Cooperation and Communication to Save Yemen," said.

University students complain about healthcare

Mohammed Al-Samei

If you ask a Sana'a University student about the available health services, the most likely response will be, "There are health services?"

A lot of students affirm that the provision of health services at the university is close to nothing. The rooms and medicines that apparently are available are just for show, they say.

Three years ago, Nashwan Musafir, who worked at one of the departments in the College of Mass Communication, died at the college; no health service was provided.

This aroused complaints among students about the absence of the health services.

Adnan Hashim, a student at the College of Mass Communication, said, "There is no real health service at college. There is a clinic, but it is useless."

A girl at the same college died two years ago from food poisoning. No medical help was provided, so she was transferred to a nearby hospital and later died.

Omar Saleh, another student at the College of Mass Communication, said, "We have not received any health services for four years. Although there is a college clinic, it is ineffective. ... There is a budget

allocated for health services by the university, but students don't benefit at all. Even if the student is only slightly sick, they must go to an external clinic."

Students accused the University Presidency of financial and administrative corruption. Once students are enrolled at the university, they pay YR 500 in medical fees; in addition, students who live in dormitories must pay another YR 200 as fees for AIDS and other tests in the Central Clinic.

The students pay the fees; health services don't exist.

When asked, Mahir Al-Maswari, a student at College of Languages, said, "I have not seen any clinic at

the university except at the University Presidency, where I saw an empty one.

"There are no student services at the College of Languages," he continued. "How can the health services be available?"

He said a number of his classmates became ill during college. Those students were taken to Kuwait and Al-Manar Hospitals due to the lack of proper health services at the university.

Ali Al-Awadhi, manager of the office of the rector, said there are clinics at the university which provide medical help for students. The apparent shortage is due to the economic circumstances through

which the university is passing, according to Al-Awadhi.

"The university has two buses designated for health services," he said. "In each clinic, there is a doctor and a medical team."

A recent report by a fact-finding committee focused on health services available in the university found that some colleges do not pay the allocated money for medical clinics, including the College of Education in Arhab, Khawlan, Marib and, occasionally, Al-Mahweet.

The committee decided all medical clinics at all colleges must have adequate medical services and equipment. The report was published by the state-run Al-Jamhou-

ria newspaper last April.

The report said the Faculty of Education in Khawlan took the money provided for the Medical Health General Administration. It also found a sharp shortage of specialized doctors. Moreover, in many cases, nurses administer medicine, conduct medical tests and write reports, which contravenes fundamental rules, according to the report.

Only one adequate medical clinic was found, located at the College of Dentistry and the College of Medicine. There are no clinics at the College of Languages, College of Sport Education, or Colleges of Education in Marib and Mahwit.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَبَشِّرِ الصَّالِحِينَ إِذْ قَالَوا لِلَّهِ ائْتِنَا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَاِنَّا لَيَجْعَلُونَ

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الأسفيون:

Government efforts ineffective

Piracy threatens fishery business



Yemeni fishermen were exposed to 379 cases of piracy from 2004 until 2011, according to Yemen's Deputy Minister of Fishery Wealth.

Samar Qaed

Piracy in the coastal areas in Yemen has resulted in a decrease of fish production. The price of fish has increased and, according to Dr. Waed Ba Dheeb, the Minister of Transportation, Yemeni fishermen lost an estimated \$150 million in 2009-2010 due to piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

Although the Yemeni government considers the fishing industry to be a vital source of income, the increasing number of Somali and Eritrean attacks on Yemeni ships in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea has fomented anxiety amongst fishermen. The government is also concerned due to Yemen's proximity to one of the busiest sites of piratical activity in the world; apprehensions focus on the impacts of such activities on Yemen's security and economy.

Akram Ahmed, a fisherman from Al-Hodeida governorate, told the story of his encounter with pirates. "We were attacked by pirates while fishing in the waters to the east of the Hanish Islands [in the Red Sea]. They drove us to Eritrea. We were gathered together in one big boat in which there were already arrested fishermen. We didn't object when they captured us for fear of punishment. Thirty people were forced into a space designed to accommodate ten. They took us to the

coastal district of Al-Khawkhah in south west Hodeida as a penalty."

Ahmed added that "There were six of us on the boat, which we used to provide for ourselves and our families. We lost the boat which was worth over three million rials. Our situation became worse. Now we rely on others for work; sometimes we find none at all."

Despite his best efforts, Ahmed did not manage to regain his boat. He said, "We notified the Ministry of Fishery Wealth and the Fishermen's Union. We suffered a lot. Those in charge took no action to resolve our problem. I have been following this problem for four years."

Economic impacts

The Eritrean-Somali piracy has heavily and negatively impacted on thousands of fishermen as well as maritime movement. The revenue that Yemen receives from maritime trade arriving at the country's ports has continued to decrease due to the sharp decline of the amount of incoming vessels. According to Abdullah Ba-Sonbol, Deputy Minister of Fishery Wealth, the movement of Yemeni fisherman has also been severely restricted.

Altogether, this has resulted in an increase in insurance overheads on ships coming to Yemen which contributes to higher prices of goods in the market, according to Ahmed Saeed Shamakh, a Yemeni economist. "The losses resulting

from piracy reach to the level of the family. Lots of fishermen have lost their jobs," he said.

Fishy business

Shamakh added that "piracy causes the loss of a means of living for many people. It has also slashed fishery exports in spite of the diversity of the sea life in Yemen, which is estimated at 350 kinds of fish. Only 50 kinds have been exploited. The Yemeni exports of fish roughly made up over \$300 million until 2009."

Abdullah Ba-Sonbol has stated that cost of piracy cost to the global economy is more than \$12 billion annually. Yemen is considered to be one of the most badly affected countries by piracy, with Yemeni fishermen exposed to 379 piracy cases from 2004 until 2011.

Yemen is currently experiencing an economic recession in the fishing industry. This has been particularly noticeable following the close of the Saudi embassy in Yemen, and the deprivation of visas from the drivers who transport fish to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is the single largest market to receive Yemeni fish.

Qasim Al-Khudari from the Fishermen's Union said "we have statistics indicating that only five percent of applicants were issued visas. Consequently, the market will witness recession, and the fisherman will gain no profit. The Saudi market functions as a re-

source of income for the national economy."

Somali pirates in the Yemeni waters

The governorate of Al-Mahra is considered full of fish. 90 percent of its locals depend on fishing to eke out a living. Its shoreline is an estimated 550 kilometers, a third of all of Yemen's coasts. Ali Saeed, head of the Fishermen's Union in Al-Mahra, said that the fishermen from Hawf region in Al-Mahra were subject to Somali piracy.

"Traditional fishing, particularly tuna, has expanded over 90 miles of coast," said Saeed. "However, the spread of piracy has forced the intimidated fisherman to withdraw over a distance of five miles. Fish production has decreased in over 24 fish locations in the coastal areas."

Asood Mussa, the head of Hajoor Fish Association in Al-Mahra, said that his region "lies close to a very popular part of the sea for fishermen; they are liable to Somali piracy. The coastal areas in Al-Mahra were safe. Yet a month ago, there were three attacks on fishermen. The fishermen are unsafe and their source of income is unstable. If no government efforts are implemented, the situation will worsen."

Saeed explained the number of assaults on fishermen in Al-Mahra. "Two fishermen from Al-Shahir district are currently detained. In May, the pirates occupied over two miles of coast Ras Barja district. The fishermen were out in their boats when they were randomly fired upon."

He denounced the silence of the authorities, saying "this indicates the clear lack of security in the coastal areas and the ineffective job done by the coastal forces."

The residents of coastal Hadramout governorate also rely on the sea to earn a living. Omar Salem Qambit, head of the Fishermen's Union in Hadramout, talked about the suffering of the governorate because of Somali piracy. "We suffer from two kinds of piracy: we are disturbed by both Somali piracy and marine international forces. There were 64 acts of piracy from 2010 to 2011 that cost the governorate an estimated YR 72 million."

Eritrean attacks in Al-Hodeida

Statistics conducted by the Fish-

ermen's Union indicate that 826 boats have been detained by Eritrea between 2006 and 2012. The engines and equipment were confiscated as well. The Yemeni fishermen detained by Eritrea reached to 24 since the outset of 2012.

Approximately 230 Eritrean boats arrive each month to different ports in Yemen.

Yemen has signed an international agreement stipulating that the Republic of Yemen must provide the Eritrean fishermen with ice, fuel and food stuffs in addition to allowing them to sell their products in the Yemeni markets. Al-Khudiri said that this agreement is implemented unilaterally; Yemeni fishermen cannot go beyond Socotra Island.

The number of jobless of fishermen has risen to over 7,500 because of the daily difficulties they face in their work. He added that the Eritreans intentionally enter Yemeni waters without permission from the Yemeni government. He condemned the coastal forces saying "seemingly, they don't know what is happening in the Yemeni waters. They don't do their job."

Al-Khudari went on to assert that there is solid evidence that Eritrea carries out attacks on Yemeni fishermen through the process of systematic piracy. "Eritrea sends Marine soldiers to our islands using a number of boats taken from Yemeni fishermen. It's organized piracy," he claimed. "Their government distributes hijacked boats to unemployed men in Eritrea."

The Embassy of Eritrea in Sana'a declined to comment on Eritrean attacks against Yemeni fishermen.

International forces offensive

There is a large international marine force stationed in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea, in order to combat piracy and terrorism. Fishermen were initially happy about its presence, with its promises of protection them from pirates. However, just the opposite takes place, according to the Yemeni Fish Association.

Al-Khudari stated that the marine international forces attack fishermen. "They usually do not make sure whether the boats are fishermen's or pirates' before they attack," he said.

Qambit has the same opinion. He said the marine international

forces attack, assault and torture the fishermen. The resulting losses have reached to over YR 62 million, he indicated.

Saeed pointed out that the marine international forces intimidate the fishermen and sometimes disallow them from approaching particular fishing areas; the authorities in charge were notified but without result. He said that Al-Mahra locals are ready to be recruited to back the coastal forces protect the shores.

The ineffective absence of the coastal forces

All denounce the insufficient efforts of the Yemeni coastal forces. Some even describe it as an agency controlled by the Eritreans and Somalis with no government sponsorship.

Shuja'a Mahdi, manager of the Coastal Forces Authority, justified the inefficiency of the Authority saying that it was established in 2002. "We have not been effective in the coasts of the Red Sea, the Arab Sea and the Gulf of Aden," he admitted. "It is difficult to protect the sea borders while our resources are limited. There must be qualified staff and equipment. We need government support because we shoulder the responsibility of protecting national security."

Simple government solutions

Ba-Sonbol said that the Ministry of Fishery Wealth is conducting studies to acquire accurate statistics about attacks on fishermen and detentions. He added that the ministry compensated some fishermen with money; however, only few people have benefited from this scheme due to Yemen's current political crisis.

Mahdi explained "the coastal forces plan to launch a campaign of information directed at fishermen, such as distinguishing themselves by flying Yemeni flags, carrying English identification cards and so on. The fishermen should have fishing licenses with them."

These procedures could help counter the destructive operations of the international maritime forces and reduce the numbers of deaths and injuries. The project is called Marine Security Education in which the Ministry of Fishery Wealth, the Coastal Forces and the Fishermen's Associations will all participate.



The revenue that Yemen receives from maritime trade arriving at the country's ports has continued to decrease due to the sharp decline of the amount of incoming vessels.

Ethiopian refugee builds new life for self, others

Ahlam Mohsen

With a record number of Ethiopian refugees entering Yemen last year, aid groups scramble to meet the needs of those fleeing war, political persecution, famine and drought. Lost in the statistics are the personal stories of the people who make the arduous journey to Yemen. Kirubel Lemma, 32, left his native Ethiopia in 2001, and he shares his story with the Yemen Times.

From the Beginning

The son of a mechanic, Lemma was born in Addis Ababa, the middle child in a family of eight. In high school, he was accused of participating in the 2000-2001 student protests against the Ethiopian government. The students were demonstrating for academic freedom.

According to Human Rights Watch, Ethiopian security forces responded with "excessive force," and at least 47 students died. Eyewitnesses reported that security forces fired live ammunition at unarmed students and beat women and children.

Hundreds were arrested and held in secret prisons. Lemma, who says he was not political at that time, was rounded up and taken to a secret prison on the border of Ethiopia and Somalia, where he was beaten and tortured regularly.

"One of the guards, Nasser, would make us walk on our knees, on the hot desert sand in 38 degree Celsius weather. I was interrogated every three days. He was always drunk and took out his frustrations on us."

Lemma shared a cell with other political prisoners. There was little food—a piece of bread and plate of rice is all they ate each day. Denied mattresses, they slept on concrete floors.

Despite all this, Lemma says he was "the luckiest one." While some languished for years in secret prisons, with the help of a policewoman he'd befriended, Lemma was released after three months.

Fearing another arbitrary arrest, he fled to Somalia, where he could finally contact his family. Because prisons holding student protesters were secret, police denied Lemma was in their custody. With dozens of students massacred by the security forces, his family had feared the worst.

A Difficult Journey

From Somalia, Lemma went to Djibouti and worked on a cargo dock for seven months so he could afford the journey to Aden, Yemen.

Human Rights Watch reports that, since 2008, "more than 100,000 people have set off to Yemen in boats from Djibouti or the Somali port city of Bosaso. More than 99 percent of them are Somalis and Ethiopians, and many are fleeing war or persecution at home. Some have fled seeking protection as refugees, some are looking for work and hope to pass through Yemen to Saudi Arabia and other wealthy countries, and some have left for a combination of reasons."

Lemma remembers the night of his voyage to Yemen vividly. There were 55 people on his boat, each with their own stories, with loved ones left behind, with dreams for a new life. Only 35 would survive the tumultuous trip; 20 people drowned that first night. Lemma was nearly one of them.

About 4km from shore, the smugglers forced all the passengers to jump off the boat and swim, fearing they would be caught if they came any closer.

"It's dark, the waves beat you, and it's raining. It's a horrible night I'll never forget in my life. When I remember it, I feel like I'm a child; I feel frightened. We didn't even know what direction to swim in."

Lemma said one passenger,

about 20 years old, didn't know how to swim and grabbed onto him. Lemma's friend managed to separate the two, and Lemma was able to make it to shore with the help of Yemeni's who threw him and his friend a rope attached to flotation devices.

"He's dead now," says Lemma of the boy who held on to him.

When he reached shore, a middle-aged man carried Lemma on his back.

"I was crying. They gave me sugar and water, and it helped with the vomiting. I had some money in a plastic bag attached to my belt loops, but they wouldn't accept it. They said they did it for Allah."

In the morning, he awoke to a limitless desert in front of him.

"Where did they come from?" he says, referring to the Yemeni men who had saved his life. "Where did they get sugar and water in the middle of the desert?"

They walked 4 hours in the hot sun before spotting a camel. Soon, they met a farmer who gave them bread and invited them to rest. He told Lemma he looked as though he had risen from the dead.

Prison Revisited

On their way to the nearest city and desperate for water, Lemma and his friend flagged down a police car. Unlike Somalis, who are granted automatic refugee status by the Yemeni government, Ethiopians are not recognized as asylum seekers, a "discriminatory policy that violates international law," according to Human Rights Watch.

They were taken to Taiz Central Prison, where Lemma spent the next 6 months. He was visited by the Ethiopian embassy, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Red Cross. The Ethiopian embassy told him to go back home, but UNHCR documented his story.

After teaching English to the children of the prison's chairman, he was released with the Somalis. Other Ethiopians were deported. Lemma then hitchhiked to Aden to retrieve his protection papers from UNHCR. Although the U.N. officially recognized him as a refugee, the Yemeni government, whose policy toward Ethiopians is to "track them down, arrest them and deport them," says Human Rights Watch, did not.

Al Kharaz Refugee Camp

Lemma spent only two days in Al Kharaz refugee camp. It's a "hopeless place," he says. There was little food, little water and long waits. After speaking with people who'd lived there for 3 to 5 years, Lemma left the camp with the clothes on his back, less than 48 hours after arriving.

"I didn't see a future in the camp," he says. "People had been waiting for a long time, and all they could do there was to keep waiting and hope that the world would start caring about them."

A New Life

After arriving in Aden, the Ethiopian community took him in, and he found work as a receptionist in a hotel, thanks to his English language skills. Lemma taught himself English as a teenager, listening to hip-hop, reggae and country music. His favorite musician is country singer Don Williams. He starts to sing a few verses from his favorite song, "Come Early Morning":

*I been walking, walking in the moonlight
Tripping in the starlight, Lord
and I'm feeling down
Walking in the shadows,
sneaking down a side road
Come early morning I'll be
there on the edge of town*

In 2003, with \$4,000 in savings and family loans, Lemma opened Ethiopique, a music shop. He fo-



"I love music more than anything," said Kirubel. "It was the only medicine for me, it made me feel human again."



Kirubel Lemma with his 14 month old French-Ethiopian daughter.

used on international music and found a large customer base amongst the expat community in Sana'a.

"They were not only my customers, they became my friends," Lemma says.

Lemma met his wife, a French woman, at a party he DJ'd, and she became a regular customer at his store. They fell in love and married, moving to Paris for a short while before returning to Yemen.

"She was reluctant to come back because she thought it would be too painful for me to return here. But I love Yemen. I spent my 20s here, I fell in love here, I married here ... my destiny is to be here."

Fighting for Justice

Lemma works to ensure that refugees—all people—can lead a life of dignity. He made a short documentary, "Young and Invisible," and he wrote a booklet in partnership with the United Nations Development for Women (UNIFEM), called "Wake Up! A Guidebook for Domestic Workers in Yemen."

He created a support group, United for the Improvement of Domestic Works (UNIDOM), with UNHCR, the Red Cross, UNDP and ILO. The group opened a safe house for women escaping abuse. It is the first safe house in Sana'a, according to Lemma.

UNIDOM also opened a school to educate workers about their rights and teach skills such as cooking western food—domestic workers had complained that their lack of skills resulted in abuse from employers. The school taught 360 students and employed mostly Iraqi and Ethiopian refugees.

Forging Connections

Lemma now runs the News@Cafe in Hadda, where students, musicians, refugees and qat-chewers gather. He's preparing to open an Ethiopian cafe and art gallery called Sheger Café.

The cafe will display borrowed art from a collective in Ethiopia. All the artists are from the Diaspora, and their works have been featured in exhibitions in New York, Norway and Paris.

The cafe will be a place for people to learn about Ethiopian culture and life and to introduce people to modern Ethiopian painting. The restaurant will have shisha, various drinks, burgers and, on Thursday evenings, Ethiopian food. Lemma will work with the Ethio-

pian community to make sure they have access to the space to discuss Diaspora issues, the plight of Ethiopian refugees, current events and life in Yemen.

Lemma is most excited when he lists the music his cafe will play: Bob Marley, Teddy Afro, Kenny Rodgers, Michael Jackson and

plenty of Don Williams.

Music as Medicine

Despite all the difficulties and injustices Lemma has faced, he becomes most emotional when talks about the recent loss of his mother.

"She was my other anchor in life. When I lost her, I felt like I was lost

at sea again ... I felt disappointed in being a human. Why I am alive? Why did my mother die at 49? You don't know the logic of this life."

Music helped heal Lemma, helped save him, he said.

"I love music more than anything. It was the only medicine for me; it made me feel human again."

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Working, not learning, the norm for women in rural villages



Illiteracy rates are high among women in rural areas, where they lack proper access to schools.



Women and girls have to fetch water and other household necessities on a daily basis.

Amal Al-Yarisi

Taqia Abdullah wakes at dawn to begin her arduous day in Bani Hushiash, a village in Arhab district, of Sana'a. The rest of the women in her village do the same.

"Rural girls never feel comfortable," Abdullah said. "Early in the morning, they prepare breakfast for their families. This is not the only work. There is a lot to do. Daily, they fetch water from the wells, 300 meters from home."

After traveling from the well to home with the water, Abdullah goes to the valley and stays there until night. She gains YR 500 from harvesting tomatoes. Before returning home, she carries wood on her curved back.

She paused before continuing, sadly, "One day, I lifted a bucket up to the roof of the house. I broke my back. I am now handicapped. This is the sense of suffering in rural areas, where power, gas and water

are difficult to find." Hana Hadi, who lives in Malhan, Al-Mahweet governorate, experiences the same suffering.

"Our village has been out of the coverage," she said. "This is a real suffering."

Hadi said there is no water, electricity, clinics or doctors, which negatively impacts women's health in the village.

"We are deprived from health education in our village," Hadi said. "There are no medical health centers or clinics. In case of being sick, we head toward a veterinarian to give us a dose of medicine we know nothing about it."

Hadi said she is the only one to finish secondary school because her family is educated, unlike the uneducated families who, Hadi said, deprive their daughters of schooling. The locals said the lack of private schools for girls hinders female education in Malhan. There is only one school for both girls and boys, according to Hadi.

Hadi said she cannot complete

a university education; there is no university in the village.

Educating girls in rural areas Abdullah said she was denied education because "locals in the village disapprove of co-education. So they prevent girls from going to schools."

Hadi said in her village, women cannot study due to the other responsibilities they shoulder such as fetching wood from the mountain and water or grass from the valley. The worst, she said, is the early marriages, which deny women their basic rights.

There is a maxim in the village that says for a mature girl, there is marriage or there is a tomb, Hadi recalled.

Ramzia Al-Eryani, general-secretary of the Arab Women Union and head of Yemeni Women Union, said rural women make up 80 percent of the Yemeni women population.

Al-Eryani said the Yemeni Women Union Organization conducted programs from 2004 to 2010 to increase the number of educated girls in some villages in Sana'a, Al-Hodeida, Lahj, Al-Mahweet and Hajja governorates.

"The locals there reacted positively," Al-Eryani said.

In an attempt to solve the school infrastructure shortage, boys attended morning classes, and girls attended evening classes.

"The reason behind rural illiteracy is the lack of female schools that should be built in suitable places close to the villages," Al-Eryani said.

Al-Eryani said a study was conducted following the programs, and it was found that girls' enrollment increased in the targeted districts from 1 percent to 15 percent. In some areas, enrollment increased from 30 percent to 70 percent.

She said a parents committee emphasized the importance of girls' education. Families were encouraged and motivated to push their daughters into schools. Prizes were distributed.

She said illiteracy prevents women from realizing the negative impacts of early marriage. For this reason, Al-Eryani said, the organization provided marriage and reproductive health programs.

"A medical team paid field visits in cooperation with the family organization to display the health problems through projectors, in addition to conducting medical tests and contraceptive distribution," she said.

Political participation More than fifty percent of women in rural areas are affiliated with

political parties, but they know nothing about their partisan affiliations, according to Al-Eryani.

Rukia Abdullah, who lives in-Sahman, a village in Khawlan, said, "We (women) work inside and outside houses, but we know nothing about politics. Women in Sahman do not take part in politics or elections. On election day, they just select the candidates recommended by their fathers and husbands, even if the man elected is unfit."

Similarly, Hadi said women in

Malhan vote for candidates based on the sheikh's orders because he gives money in exchange for votes.

"Women in the village are mostly uneducated, and educating programs help them know about politics," Hadi said.

Al-Eryani said it is not reasonable for illiterate women to take part in politics. She said they should be supported to receive education and then social awareness about women's involvement in the decision-making process can be

raised. She said courses aim to explain how women can participate in local council elections.

"Thirty-eight women succeeded in the local council elections," Al-Eryani said. "Six of them are from rural areas in Bajil, Otama, Sana'a and Ibb, though they only own primary school certificates."

Al-Eryani said the government should support cooperative associations in rural areas to rehabilitate and train women in villages.



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FIVE STAR LOGISTICS CO LTD advertisement for international freight forwarding services.

Advertisement for a company with a tiger logo, offering services in Arabic.

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Table listing various airlines and their flight routes.

Table listing car rental services and agencies.

Table listing computer training and IT courses.

Table listing insurance companies and services.

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Table listing travel agencies and services.

Table listing restaurants and dining establishments.

Table listing various banks and financial institutions.

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Table listing medical services and hospitals.

Table listing medical services and hospitals.

Table listing medical services and hospitals.

Advertisement for a training center offering various courses.

Word search puzzle section with a grid and a list of words to find.

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Yemeni student wins a trip to NASA in Iken Scientifica Competition

Eman Tuhama

Abdullah Qais Al-Sanabani, a Yemeni student from the private Al-Jazeera School in the capital Sana'a, won the first prize in Iken Scientifica, an international competition for small inventions, on Monday.

Al-Sanabani was one of nine students from different Arab and foreign countries in to reach the last round of the competition. It was organized in Yemen by the Al-Hamedi Company, exclusive agent of the Mexus Education Company which hosts the competition. The nine students won a one week trip to NASA.

Al-Sanabani, as well as five other Yemeni students from different schools in Sana'a, made it through the fourth round of the competition with students from 15 different countries.

Radia Al-Sha'oor, principal of Al-Jazeera School said, "We expected that Al-Sanabani would win the trip to NASA; he is very creative." She pointed out that the school takes care of creative students enrolling in the school.

"Al-Sanabani won the prize, but that is not all. The Yemeni government and the Ministry of Education now have to create plans and future programs to support talented Yemeni students and boost their skills so that more students will be able to compete with other students and win," she added.

Kawkab Al-Harazi, a member of the team that held the competition between students said, "I sat with all students before they travelled and asked them about their ambition. I was amazed because they had similar ambition which is to

improve education in Yemen so that students can enhance their talents."

She added that Al-Sanabani was confident that he would win the trip to NASA.

Al-Harazi mentioned that the Indian Ambassador told her that the Yemeni students were more creative than the other participants, and so he expected that one of them would win the prize.

Abdullah Al-Zaidy, director of television and radio in the Minis-

Photo courtesy of Iken Scientifica



Third from right: Abdullah Qais Al-Sanabani, Yemeni student winner of a trip to NASA.

try of Education, said, "the government, represented by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education, paid attention to this competition and followed the students and their achievements. Moreover, representatives from the Ministry of Education attended all the rounds of the competition and supported the participants."

The competition aimed to boost the skills and talents of students of different ages, as well as connecting the curricula with real life.

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