

## Nine dead in Sana'a bombing

Ahmed Dawood

SANA'A, July 11 — In the early afternoon of Wednesday, a man dressed in civilian clothing exploded a bomb at the police academy in Sana'a.

Doctor Abdulwali Al-Marhabi, dean of the police academy, said nine died and nineteen were injured. According to him, the suspect "was hospitalized, yet he died in the hospital."

Al-Marhabi said the blast occurred using an explosive belt. He said it is possible that the explosive was remote-operated.

Investigations to determine the exact cause are ongoing.

Yahiya Al-Barawei, the gate guard at the police academy, said that prior to the blast, there was a car loitering near the college gate.

"Some individuals were in the vehicle," Al-Barawei said. "And then, a man came to ask when the students would leave the college compound. I told him I didn't know."

Al-Barawei said, "When the students came out of the college, it was 12 p.m. Out of the blue, there was a resounding explosion. I didn't know what happened later."

Tael Al-Riashi, an officer at the academy, said he saw the bomber before the bomber was taken to the hospital via taxi.

"He sustained injuries in his legs and hands while he was still alive," Al-Riashi said.

Al-Riashi didn't know what hospital the suicide bomber was taken to.

According to Al-Riashi, shrapnel



Shrapnel from the blast resembled ball bearings used in the Al-Sabeen bombing in May.

from the blast resembled ball bearings used in the May 21 Al-Sabeen suicide bombing, which occurred during a military parade. Nearly 100 people died in that explosion.

Residents and ambulances rushed to the scene, taking the wounded to various hospitals in Sana'a, including Al-Thwara and the Police Hospital.

Security forces, along with tens of riot police, deployed in the area, closed the main street that leads to the Police College. Armored vehicles were present on the scene,

and residents were cleared from the area by force.

Rezq Al-Jawfi, Sana'a's security chief, and other military leaders were at the bombing location in the immediate aftermath.

What appeared to be ball bearings from the explosion were present on the police academy door in addition to small pools of blood on the ground.

Several injured students were taken to the Police Hospital, near the Central Security building.

Waleed Zamam, a student, died at the Police Hospital. Moreover,

Hamza Al-Mashrahi, Akram Farea' and Mohammed Mahdi Al-Soraihi were injured. Blood were seen on Al-Soraihi's face and his left ear.

Abdulkareem Al-Khawlani, a doctor in Al-Thawra Hospital, said there were six injured and one dead at his hospital.

On Tuesday, the Yemeni Ministry of Interior increased security measures, including guard forces, at foreign embassies, diplomats' houses, vital facilities and oil companies in anticipation of suspected attacks, according to the ministry.

## Protests against old city crackdown

Ahlam Mohsen

SANA'A, July 11 — Yemeni military and security forces opened fire on street merchants in the Bab Al-Yemen section of the old city of Sana'a Saturday, according to merchants, residents and other eyewitnesses.

Security forces entered the area at 8p.m., and according to merchants, dozens were hospitalized and at least 100 people were arrested. When asked, Office of Public Works and Highways General Manager Hamzah Al-Ashwal did not deny the accusation.

Recently appointed Sana'a Secretary of the Capital General Abdul-Qader Hilal chose to mark his first few days in office with a new



People took to the streets after security forces fired upon merchants in Bab Al-Yemen on Saturday.

campaign to enforce zoning laws.

Since the fall of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, merchants without the means to rent stalls to sell their goods have expanded beyond their former sidewalk spaces and are taking over more and more street space.

Political insecurity has exacerbated what was an already severe unemployment, poverty and malnutrition crisis. Nearly half of the country is food insecure and one million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition.

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# Security bodies hinder release of political detainees imprisoned since 2011 uprising

Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA'A, July 11 — Horia Mashoor, Yemen's minister of human rights, said certain detainees, currently in Yemeni prisons, have not been released despite presidential and ministerial orders.

Mashoor said some security departments rejected these orders and refused to release the arrestees, particularly youth detained in relation to last year's unrest.

The Ministry of Interior gave orders Tuesday to release all those detained during 2011 and 2012 due to outspoken views.

Mashoor called upon the General Prosecutor to pay visits to all security departments to file cases against those accused of torturing and oppressing uncharged de-

tainees.

She said she conveyed the arrested people's case to the Yemeni Prime Minister and to the head of the military committee, a committee established to settle peace and security in Sana'a, but no final decision has yet been reached.

Activists in Change Square in Sana'a, along with human right activists from different civil society organizations, began to demand the release of arrestees several months ago.

Abdulrahman Barman, a prominent human rights lawyer, said most of the detained youth were arrested by National Security and Political Security.

According to Barman, 23 people are being tortured in a National Security prison established re-

cently in a building in Sana'a.

He said those arrestees aren't allowed to sleep for longer than a few minutes. Moreover, they are prevented from talking to each other; they receive one meal every three days and are given salt water to drink to increase their thirst.

Shawqi Al-Mekhlafi, head of the Youth Committee for Advocating the Arrested Revolutionary Youth, said the legal committee in Change Square has lists of hundreds of revolutionary detainees who were arrested during protests. He asserted that many arrestees were taken to undisclosed locations.

The Yemeni government has issued a decree that ordered the release of detainees as a matter of urgency.

# Streets of Yemen can breathe again

Amira Nasser

SANA'A, July 11 — Cleaning workers resumed their duties Wednesday after a six-day sit-in throughout Yemeni governorates, during which they demanded official employment rights as well as health and financial allowances.

Sana'a's streets were littered with garbage from the trash accumulation.

The workers ended the sit-ins after a series of meetings between newly appointed Secretary of the Capital Abdul-Qader Ali Helal and the chairmen relevant departments of the cleaning workers sit-in.

On Tuesday, the secretary of the capital and the head of the Cleaning Workers Syndicate agreed to lift the sit-in only for two weeks until the procedures of employing the workers executed.

"If the workers won't be officially employed within two weeks, we will continue our sit-in" Mohammed Al-Marzooki said.

On Monday, the secretary of the capital declared in a meeting that garbage would be taken out within two days.

Basheer Al-Radhi, the secretary general of the Workers Syndicate at the Environmental Improvement Fund said the result of the meetings was a promise to officially hire workers and to make specific com-



In Sana'a, trash accumulated on street corners for six days.

mittees to convince cleaning workers to lift the sit-in and return to work.

Al-Marzooki said workers rejected the new decisions and remain determined to be officially hired to improve standards of living.

"We demand that the cabinet decision of hiring all the workers to be fulfilled," he said.

**Workers under attack**

Samir Hamza, head of the Agriculture Cleaning Workers Syndi-

cate, said security forces attacked them while they protested in front of the southern gate of the municipality compound in Sana'a.

He said committees threatened force if they didn't end the sit-in.

The secretary of the capital has promised to provide 21,000 jobs for the workers, while there are 30,000 total cleaners in Yemen, according to Al-Marzooki.

"The rest of the 9,000 cleaning workers will be hired according to the priority," he said.

Continued from page 1

# Protests against Old City crackdown

"We have families, children, responsibilities," Abdulrahman Abdulwasie, a 22-year-old street vendor at Bab Al-Yemen, said. "We have no other jobs, salaries—nothing. This is our only source of income. We can't steal, what can we do?"

"People never did this under Saleh's rule," Al-Ashwal said. "Yes, Saleh is gone, but what kind of change do we want? The streets are dirty, overcrowded, traffic is bad. We have to move forward, not backward."

**Government Accusations Against Merchants**

Military and security forces sent to enforce Halil's orders accused the merchants of keeping guns hidden beneath their goods, according to numerous vendors. "They didn't find any guns, but that didn't stop them from taking all of our merchandise," one seller said.

"We're not terrorists," Hamdan Al-Wasabi said. "We are regular Yemenis. The government made up these possession accusations so they would have an excuse to come in and enforce their new campaign. The security forces are accusing merchants of possessing weapons in order to appear as though we're the cause of disorder in this city, and Mayor Hilal is here to bring order."

"It's just not true," he said.

ter cannons and tear gas. The Public Works Office neither confirmed nor denied the accusations.

"I don't know; I wasn't there," Al-Ashwal said.

According to vendor Fadhel Ali, 35, soldiers confiscated all of his goods, attempted to extort him for YR 5,000 and beat him. He removed a bloodied bandage to reveal several fresh stitches.

"They can't just come here and use live ammunition," Ali said. "We're not refugees ... We are peaceful merchants trying to feed our families, and they attacked us without provocation."

Merchants said more than 100 of them were arrested without charges—each forced to pay YR 6,000 before release.

"They arrested us for nothing," said one demonstrator.

The Public Works Office manager was unaware of any arrests.

ing the month of Ramadan when, according to vendors, most of the year's profits are made. Ramadan profits are necessary to pay off the year's debts, several merchants said.

"It's an order from the government, not the public works office," Al-Ashwal said. "This campaign has nothing to do with Ramadan."

Demonstrators want the government to allow merchants to continue selling their goods throughout Ramadan. Afterwards, they say, it will be necessary for the government to set up permanent retail spaces so the merchants can earn a living.

**New Kid on the Weak**

"This is Hilal's first act as secretary of the capital?" asks Saleh.

The merchant said he thinks Hilal is trying to build a reputation for law and order but chooses to do it by picking on the poorest and most vulnerable members of society.

"We've been here a year and a half," he said. "Why the sudden urgency?"

The law is the law, according to the Public Works Office, but the vendors, several of whom participated in the 2011 political uprising, want the government to put institutional changes in place before enforcing laws that would throw more people below the poverty line.

"If he wants to make a name for himself, why not start by weeding out corruption in his office and other ministries around the city," Saleh said. "Is the man selling potato sandwiches on the street really his first priority?"

**Demands and Demonstrations**

"We will be outside of the secretary of the capital's office for demonstrations until they agree to work with us," Change Square activist and street merchant Nasser Saleh said.

Merchants said their goods were confiscated by soldiers without warning.

"They didn't give us any time; they didn't approach us and try to work with us to see what we could accomplish," Saleh said. "They came and just imposed these rules on us, without considering our situations."

While street sales have always been prohibited, the government allows people to sell goods dur-

**Excessive Force**

"They dragged me away, kicked me and beat me with the butt of their rifle," Abdulwasie said.

According to numerous eyewitness accounts, Yemeni security forces used live ammunition, wa-

# Charity pledges food support for Yemen

Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, July 10 — Mr. Juma'a Juma'a Khamees, head of the Khaalafa Bin Zayed Al-Nihian Foundation for Human Charity in Yemen, said the foundation has embarked on distributing food support for the poor in Aden and Abyan governorates. The work is now in full swing, and the foundation hopes to finalize the distribution process before the start of Ramadan.

"We endeavor to support all the needy nationwide without reliance on any Yemeni charitable associ-

ation or foundation so that those who really deserve will benefit," Khamees said.

Regarding allegations that a group of Yemenis and non-Yemenis collect monetary support from the United Arab Emirates to support people living in Yemen, Juma'a said raising money is the responsibility of the Red Cross and nobody is allowed under the name of any foundation to seek backup from the UAE to be given to Yemenis.

The foundation is responsible for distributing support to im-

poverished families irrespective of religion or gender. The backup involves Jewish people as well because of a need for this support, according to Khamees.

The food support includes rice, flour, oil, milk and nutrition cans.

Seven humanitarian organizations in May warned that Yemen is on the brink of a food crisis as ten millions of people who make up 44 percent of population don't find enough food to subsist. Yemen among the most impoverished countries in the Arabian Peninsula.

# Four smugglers dead following clashes with military

Ahmed Dawood

SANA'A, July 10 — Abdu Al-Matari, the security manager of Al-Madriba district in the governorate of Lahj, said security forces have captured dozens of Africans being smuggled into Yemen during the past two days.

Al-Matari said forces affiliated with the 17 Infantry Brigade in Al-Madriba district confronted the smugglers in the Al-Sakee area in Lahj. They were attempting to smuggle 34 Africans in one vehicle. The Interior Ministry released a statement Tuesday announcing that four Yemeni smugglers were killed in the confrontation, with four illegal aliens and two security personnel injured.

The Interior Ministry said the clashes were 100 km from the center of the coastal forces in Bakhor Ameera, located between Ra'as Al-Arah and Al-Azaf in Lahj governorate.

Security forces in Al-Shat district investigated the matter to learn the specifics of the

incident, according to the Interior Ministry.

It has been reported that dozens of Africans have been smuggled to Yemen in the past few months.

The ministry said that smuggler's

boats came ashore near Hodeida, Shabwa, Abyan and Taiz, carrying a number of illegal aliens.

Security forces intend to bring the illegal aliens to the refugee camp in the Khariz district of Lahj.



Fadhel Ali, a vendor, said soldiers took his goods, attempted to extort him and then beat him.

## Erratum

The Yemen Times conducted an interview with Aneesa Hussein Mohammed Othman, a Yemeni businesswoman, on page nine of issue no.1584, dated June 25, 2012. There was an inadvertent oversight in the last name. The correct name is Aneesa Hussein Mohammed Al-Dhabee.

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)



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# Protests for release of information on missing soldier

Ahmed Dawood

SANA'A, July 10 — For a year, soldier Isam Mohammed Yahya Al-Makaleh has been missing, and there remains no traces as to his whereabouts. He belongs to the 25 Mechanized Brigade.

Sadam Al-Jawfe, a relative of Al-Makaleh's, said Al-Makaleh was fighting with the Yemeni army against Al-Qaeda last year.

"Most of the time, Al-Makaleh was assigned reconnaissance tasks in order to spot the Al-Qaeda locations prior to confrontations with the militants," Al-Jawfe said.

In June 2011, Al-Jawfe said Al-Makaleh boarded a military vehicle for a reconnaissance mission with his comrades. Al-Makaleh's colleagues returned; but he was never seen again.

On Tuesday, Al-Makaleh's family and friends raised banners in front of the main gate of the cabinet of Sana'a, demanding to know his whereabouts and the reason

for his concealment.

"We have contacted the Defense Ministry and the leadership of the 25 Mechanized Brigade in order to know the fate the abducted soldier but to no avail," Al-Jawfe said.

He said that his first thought was that Al-Makaleh was kidnapped by Al-Qaeda; however, now they believe he was not.

"We want the government head to reveal where he really is."

Al-Makaleh, 26, from Ibb governorate, is unmarried. He financially supports his eight-member family. His monthly salary was YR 32,000, but after he disappeared, it was cut, said Al-Jawfe.

**Protests over doctors' rights** Meanwhile, Freedom Square in front of the cabinet witnessed demonstrations and protests against some government officials.

Dozens of female doctors assembled at Al-Thwara Hospital in front of the cabinet compound, demanding their salaries be fully



Protesters in front of the Cabinet of Sana'a; demanding information about missing soldier.

paid.

They held up banners calling for the Minister of Finance to stand by them and end injustice practiced against them by the hospital authority.

Amal Ajlan, a doctor participating in the protests, said graduates of the Al-Thwara Hospital's Higher Institute work based on contracts, and they are neither officially hired nor given full rights.

For his part, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Khawlan, manager of the Al-Thwara Hospital, said hospital administration was doing its best to officially recruit women graduates. Their names were sent to the Civil Service Ministry.

"They were approved and their files are now at the Ministry awaiting financial backing," Al-Khawlan said.

"We at the hospital are giving them all their rights and threatening none," he said. "To be officially hired is the responsibility of the Finance Ministry."

## Binomar meets with female activists

Ghayda Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, July 10 — Dr. Shafeeqa Saeed, head of the National Women's Committee, met Tuesday with U.N. envoy to Yemen Jamal Binomar, the delegation accompanying him and a group of Yemeni women representing different political parties and independent female activists.

In the meeting, held at the Sheba Hotel, women's issues and preparations for the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) were discussed.

Nabeela Al-Hakimi, a lawyer and a journalist, inquired, "Who is the woman supposed to be a member of the dialogue preparatory committee, and what is she supposed to do? As a representative of women, she must be given a good rate in the NDC."

Al-Hakimi also questioned

whether or not independent women and women in change squares across Yemen would be represented in the dialogue.

In a conversation with Binomar, Shafeeqa Morshed, a political activist, said, "The elements needed for the success of the dialogue are not available because each party is trying to defend its opinion. Many of us care only for their personal interests and don't pay attention to national interests."

"We must be aware of dialogue's importance and listen to other parties' opinions. We mustn't judge people in advance and have to accept their views. We must reach an agreement for the advantage of our country. This isn't found in the Yemeni government so far."

Salwa Zuhra, daughter of Ali Qanaf Zuhra, a political prisoner arrested by the former government,

said, "How can we have dialogue while our demands aren't seriously taken into consideration?"

During the meeting, Binomar spoke about key points of the National Dialogue.

"I hope we will reach an agreement regarding transitional justice law soon," he said. "Nowadays, we are waiting for the discussion of decision number 2151 regarding Yemen by the Security Council."

Regarding dialogue participation, Binomar said it is important to have a "logical number of participants" because too many would negatively impact the decision-making process.

"We ensure that women will effectively participate in the dialogue and participate in government and other departments that will be established during the transitional period," Binomar said.



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UNDP Office is seeking qualified Yemeni Nationals for the following vacant position with the **Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)**:

**Title:** National Humanitarian Affairs Officer  
**Duty Station:** Sa'ada  
**Grade:** NOB  
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# Increasing role of women in political parties

Ghayda Al-Ariqi

**T**he role of Yemeni women emerged more clearly after last year's uprising in Yemen. Women were present in some of the recently established parties but absent in others.

Mohammed Muftah, head of the political Zaidi Shi'ite Al-Omma party, formed in early January, said that "in the party, we follow the principles of efficiency and integrity, appointing positions and giving duties to members, whether men or women. We hope to find qualified women, and when we do, we will give them all their rights."

Amaal Al-Thawr, head of the Arab Spring Party, the first party in Yemen formed and headed by a woman, said that their party is composed of young men, women and independent youth in change squares throughout Yemen.

"Women and men cooperated to establish the party," Al-Thawr said. "There is the highest proportion of women from any party, which is 15 percent, and I hope it will increase in the future."

"The party is still new, but we are qualifying ourselves to be able to reach positions in the Yemeni parliament and ministries," she added.

Dr. Abdu Ghaleb Al-Odaini, spokesman of the Joint Meeting Parties, said nobody so far judge political parties and women's situation within these parties.

"I think some political parties, such as the Justice and Development Party, will be able to support women because they have positive ideas," Al-Odaini said. "Currently, Yemeni women have vital positions, participating in different sides in their parties because they are ambitious. They aren't as marginalized as they used to be in the past."

Mohammed Taha Ana'am, a member of the Yemeni Rashad Union, the first Yemeni Salafi party, said, "The party is still in its nascent stages and I expect women to be present in the party in the future. To date, there isn't a specific number for the seats of women in the party, but we will discuss that in the future."

"The Yemeni Rashad Union was established to take part in Yemeni politics, particularly after the Arab Spring in Yemen, which paved the way for political and cultural amelioration," he added.

Moneer Al-Bashiri, press secretary of the Al-Ahrar Organization, a political party composed of 60 members of parliament as well as others, said that the organization emerged after the revolution in response to demands for change and the construction of a civil state.

Al-Bashiri said women's participation is a key aim of the organiza-

tion. So far, 60 percent of the organization is comprised of women.

"We are supporting a quarter of the women in the organization to be among candidates for Yemen's presidential elections, as well as parliamentary and local council membership," Al-Bashiri said. "So far, Ibtisam Al-Hamdi, niece of former Yemeni president Ibraheem Al-Hamdi, is the only woman who has stepped forward to compete in the presidential elections."

Abdulaziz Jubari, spokesman of the Justice and Development Party, said the party is composed of a well-known cadre with national and partisan achievements, including "members who resigned from the People's General Congress to support the revolution."

Talking about women's roles in the party, Jubari said, "We are the only party that doesn't have a special section for women because we don't want to differentiate between

the sexes."

"We have no problem in women's participation," Jubari continued. "Moreover, we don't measure their presence in the party with a particular rate because it means that we are undermining their role. We believe that women must be given equal opportunities, provided that they are qualified enough. They have the right to be in higher positions even if women's rate of participation is 50 percent."

"We don't want to exaggerate because we are in the beginning stages," he added. "Many opportunities will be given to women in the party in the future."

Awsan Mohammed Aqlan, head of the Free Yemen political party, formed after last year's uprising, said that "women enjoy an essential role in the party and we intend to increase the number of women in the party to be equal to men. We have 27 administrative positions

and gave 15 of them to women."

Aqlan said the party holds many activities for women, including courses to enforce their political action, decision-making and conducting research to care for women.

Abdusalam Mohammed, a political analyst and head of the Abaad Research and Studies Center, said women are given their full rights neither in old political parties nor in new ones.

"Parties are exaggerating their support for women," Mohammed said. "If there are real opportunities for women in the upcoming phase, they will be able to be heads of parties and members of central committees."

"For me, these alleged 'new youth parties' talk about democracy and their priorities while they aim to weaken the youth and their religious beliefs," he said. "They direct their agenda to the government and not to the youth."

# Renewed clashes between security forces and Southern Movement activists in Aden districts

Samar Qaed

**C**lashes renewed in Al-Mansoura district in Aden resulting in six injuries, including two women and one child.

On Wednesday, a tank broke into Blook 25 in Al-Mansoura, killing Southern Movement leader Sharaf Mahfood.

The incident aroused anger among the supporters of Mahfood who flooded the streets to express their stance, burning car tires and removing electricity posts in addition to burning the local council compound.

Waheed Rasheed, Aden's governor, condemned the military confrontation in the city saying, "There were clashes between secessionists and security forces in Aden. We don't accept such destructive acts. Days ago, we gave them Al-Arood Square to express their opinions. However, they went to other critical places to spark chaos."

Rasheed said security forces work to hand over the wanted members in Blook 32 and 37 in order to bring stability back to the

district. Among the wanted was Mahfood, who was killed after three days of confrontations with government forces.

Rasheed said there was a meeting with the Al-Mansoura security manager and social dignitaries three months ago.

"We decided to capture any militant causing destabilization, and the public should cooperate with us and notify us of the saboteurs. Any saboteur must give himself up to the security forces, abandon their weapons and stand trial."

Bassam Al-Mansouri, a local

in Aden residing in the vicinity of Mahfood's home, expressed wonder at the governor's speech.

"Why wasn't Mahfood arrested at the airport upon his return from Lebanon two weeks ago?" Al-Mansouri said. "Are the directions only issued during the last hours of the night when people feel stable?"

Al-Mansouri rejected the governor's speech, saying security forces broke into the house of activist Jamal Saleh Al-Hassani and arrested him and Khaldoon Kozoo, shooting randomly, which left Al-Hassani's sister and her daughter

injured.

"The confrontations broke out between the locals and the security forces. Mahfood was killed."

Sultan Al-Atwani, a member in the Supreme Council of the Joint Meeting Parties, disapproved of the use of weapons by the authorities, indicating the situation must be resolved without delay; perpetrators should be held accountable and ought to be investigated.

Al-Atwani said a committee has been set up in Yemen to look into the violations committed not just recently but over the course of

2011.

"The forming of the committee came due to the recommendations by the International Council for Human Rights in the reconciliation government so that the transitional phase passes peacefully," Al-Atwani said.

In an online statement released Tuesday, the International Amnesty Organization called for immediate investigations into the confrontations between the security forces and the Southern Movement members. The statement demanded an end to clashes.



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# Athletes ignored in Yemen



Sami Yalma



Mohammed Al-Hwasali



Sadam Tuhama

## Ahmed Dawood

Mohammed Al-Hwasali, an Arab weight lifting champion, is determined to pursue sports, regardless of the financial difficulties he faces.

Al-Hwasali lives in Sana'a and hopes to establish a small weight lifting club to train young people.

He has previously participated in local and international competitions. He has won Yemen's weight lifting championship seven times.

"I was energetic and determined to win the first time I competed internationally," he said. "I am Yemeni and proud of it. I came home with the Weight Lifting Champion title in January 2010."

Al-Hwasali said he believed his achievement would make him a national hero, that the media would put him in the spotlight,

sports officials would flock to him and his success would be enthusiastically celebrated. Yet, nothing happened.

"I came back to Yemen as an ordinary citizen. No one received me. No government officials paid any attention to me," he said painfully. "The worst was that I came back before university examinations. I was in the training camp for three months, and although I missed a lot of classes, I still took the exams. Unfortunately, I failed. I had to repeat the whole year. That was the price I paid for the championship."

Al-Hwasali was six points short of passing his exams, but he said the dean of the College of Mass Communication wouldn't give him a pass.

"I told them that I'm the Arab Weight Lifting champion and an honor for Yemen, but they paid no attention. The only solution was to repeat the entire academic year."

**Marginalization and neglect**  
Al-Hwasali is not the only athlete who has been ignored by sports officials in Yemen. There are several others who win games and score victories but remain unknown.

Sadam Tuhama, the champion of Tae Kwon Do in Yemen, said he participated in local and international championships and has won thirteen medals, garnering the title of the best young Tae Kwon Do athlete.

"In March 2012, I took part in the Arab Tae Kwon Do championship that was held in the United Arab Emirates," Tuhama said. "I won the gold medal and returned to Yemen with a grand achievement."

Al-Hwasali and Tuhama suffered the same fate; officials at the Ministry of Youth and Sport did nothing to reward the two for their accomplishments.

In April in Sharm El Sheikh,

my coach had been there, I would have won."

Tuhama returned to Sana'a having placed fifth overall. He anticipated many would receive him, reward him and congratulate him on his performance, but no one did. He was left frustrated.

## Determined to succeed

This treatment is not limited just to Yemeni athletes. Foreign athletes living in Yemen encounter the same problem.

Sami Yalma, an Ethiopian runner, claimed asylum in Yemen because of difficult circumstances in Ethiopia. Considered a capable runner, he performed well in marathons in Ethiopia.

"I came to Yemen with lots of concerns," Yalma said. "I hope to train young people in Yemen, and at the same time, I am ready to take part in any foreign competitions. I know I would win the gold

medal."

Yalma said he tried to meet with sports officials, but they provided him with nothing and didn't help him meet his goals.

According to Tuhama, before athletes in Yemen become well known, they become too old to be competitive.

"There are too many talented Yemeni athletes to count; such as Akram Al-Noor, who has won many Arabian and international medals," Tuhama said. "Once he

injured his knee, no one paid attention to him. He's no longer an athlete."

Al-Hwasali called on Yemeni sports officials to take action to support athletes so Yemen can improve in sports competitiveness.

But, in Yalma's opinion, financial support and moral support are the most important things athletes need.

"I am certain that Yemen will produce great athletes once people decide to care for them."

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## OUR OPINION

### What do we want from the National Dialogue?

**Y**emenis have been excited and apprehensive for the last months of the transition Yemen is going through. Everything is officially based on the Gulf Initiative and its implementation mechanism.

The catch is that hardly anyone among the public has read it even though it is available and accessible. In fact, even those claiming to be involved in politics and in the transition have not taken the time to read about it and to understand it.

Media gossip and conflicting political statements do not help either. Aggressive bias reporting has contributed to confusing the public about the National Dialogue and what it should expect from it.

As Yemenis, we learned during the last few years that demonstrations and street protests are a sure way to draw attention to our cause. This has been overused or misused at times, creating not only traffic problems and disturbances of peace but also the political complications and disheartening of the decision makers.

I had the opportunity to be in close contact with the president and high-level decision makers through my work with the National Dialogue Contact Committee. And I can tell that he and many officials are really working hard toward making a difference and carrying the country through a peaceful transition.

Yemenis need to put some effort into understanding what has been done, whether in terms of the transitional plan or in terms of the implementation mechanism, as well as what they want from the dialogue.

The Gulf Initiative implementation mechanism talks about democracy, inclusiveness, peaceful transition, security and the vision for a new Yemen. That is what we should focus on—not the disagreements of the past. We should not carry our historical baggage into the dialogue without even as much as understanding its objective and its structure.

By doing this much, we will help the decision makers do their job and keep them in line if and when they go astray—constructively—not through random protests or security incidents.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

# Is Yemen's new government doomed to fail?

Danya Greenfield  
Al-Monitor  
First published July 9

**E**ight months after the ouster of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, the streets of Yemen's capital, Sana'a, are quiet. But violence continues to rage elsewhere and there are serious doubts about whether the country's leadership can fulfill pledges to restructure the military, draft a new constitution and hold long-overdue parliamentary elections.

Time is not on Yemen's side given a growing food crisis, 40 percent unemployment among youth and thousands of people internally displaced by fighting in Abyan, Shabwa, Aden and Sa'ada. When asked if the government could achieve its objectives for the next six months, Abdulkarim Al Iryani, a former prime minister, told me earlier this month when I met him in Sana'a, "If we look into the future and work hard, it can happen." But wishing for success and even hard work will not be enough without tough political decisions and leadership, both of which are in short supply.

The Gulf Cooperation Council deal that removed Saleh did nothing to shift the structure of elite politics in Yemen and just shuffled the deck among the most powerful groups. President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who claimed his position through a non-competitive election on Feb. 21, is not viewed as a particularly strong leader and was selected because he was the one person both sides could accept.

He has performed better than most observers expected, but that is primarily a reflection of how low expectations were. He has taken some important first steps — replacing several key military commanders and regional governors, undertaking an aggressive and successful campaign against Al-Qaeda and standing up to former president Saleh's continuing efforts to manipulate from the sidelines. But

days often pass without any sighting of Hadi, attesting to his low-key approach. Most people I spoke with agreed that if he can oversee this two-year transitional phase without Yemen collapsing into civil war, he will have fulfilled his mandate.

However, the transitional government he appointed is less a coalition than a dysfunctional family, reflecting the divisions still gripping the country. The ministries are evenly divided between the former ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meetings Party (JMP) alliance that includes Al Islah (the Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated party) as well as Socialist, Baathist, Nasserist and independent figures.

Since the government was formed to demonstrate national unity, many of the ministers are not technocrats but political figures seeking to advance their own interests, not necessarily those of the country writ large. They often take direction from party leaders rather than the president or prime minister.

Recent criticism from within the pro-revolution alliance by the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) against Al Islah's attempts to dominate the ministries attests to inherent tension that is paralyzing decision making. According to one minister aligned with the pro-revolutionary coalition, at least four ministers maintain strong loyalty to the former president, thwarting Hadi's attempts to move the country into a post-Saleh era.

What is glaringly obvious — and widely acknowledged by all the Yemenis I spoke with during a visit to Yemen earlier this month — is a lack of vision from the president, prime minister and the cabinet.

Most Yemenis expect the transitional government to muddle along for the next two years. While this might be tolerable on the political front, with a National Dialogue process taking center stage to deal with the most pressing grievances, it will not be sustainable for the economy. UNICEF and OXFAM have been warning of a mounting humanitarian crisis. Nearly 10 million people lack sufficient food and 40% are under the poverty line. The only way to reverse this trend is to get people working and earning incomes. Al Iryani, the former prime minister, conceded that it is "all about the economy — everyone is suffering, in the north and the south."

The need for a clear economic vision is urgent. Some economic activity has started to resume, but unemployment remains debilitating and the cost of food and basic goods has skyrocketed. Inflation is at 23 percent overall; bread is nearly 120 percent its previous price. According to the IMF, the economy shrank by more than 10 percent last year and is predicted to contract another 0.9 percent this year. The government is unable to meet the most basic needs of electricity and water and the budget deficit has risen with declining oil revenue due to attacks on pipelines in Marib, low levels of tax collection and subsidies for fuel and food. Foreign reserves have declined substantially as the Central Bank has tried to prop up the currency and the government is running a \$2.5 billion deficit.

While international assistance has been promised, donors want to know how their funds will be used. During a Friends of Yemen meeting in Riyadh in May, donors

“

The power structures are still dominated by the same elites, and Saleh's family members still hold significant positions of military and political influence.

pledged \$4 million, including a commitment of \$3.2 billion from Saudi Arabia. However, none of this money has started to flow and apparently Saudi Arabia is hesitant to transfer funds until the Yemeni government submits a detailed economic plan.

The responsibility rests primarily with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation but the plan it presented at the Riyadh meeting was perceived to be lacking in depth and detail. More recently, the Minister of Industry and Trade has been given a mandate to develop a long-term economic plan. The government has started a new Dialogue Council as an avenue for partnership between the government and the business community, and two different coalitions of businessmen and private sector experts are developing economic visions and strategies.

All this is positive and worth encouraging — especially the public-private dialogue — but how the various plans, strategies and programs will fit together and who will take the lead, is unclear. Beyond a viable plan, the government will need to confront the issue of its limited capacity to implement its ideas. Exploring creative mechanisms for service delivery and building the capacity of government institutions is a long-term endeavor, but it cannot afford to wait until the end of the transitional period.

From one vantage point, much has changed in Yemen. Thirty-three years of divisive and repressive rule by the former president are firmly in the past. Yemenis of all political stripes acknowledge the importance of turning the page on this painful era of history. Yet, from another standpoint, very little has changed. The power structures are still dominated by the same elites, and Saleh's family members still hold significant positions of military and political influence. The primary parties — GPC and Al Islah — still control decision-making, and independent voices and youth have little, if any, real clout. Opening up the political and economic space beyond this narrow segment and providing real leadership for Yemen's short and long-term future will be essential for the government to sustain the gains made to date and to carry Yemen into the next stage of its transition.

Danya Greenfield is the deputy director of the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East at the Atlantic Council. She was previously with the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), where she managed projects in Yemen and traveled there frequently between 2007-2010.

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By Rashad Al-Same'i

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# Shoppers drawn in by enticing store names

Khalid Al-Karimi

On Jamal Street in Sana'a, Um Ahmed held her head up to have a look at the store sign and read its name.

"It's a habit of mine to consider the sign and the name of the store first," she said.

Zakria Al-Rajal, whose mobile phone and accessory shop is called Al-Anakah (Elegance), stressed that the store name helps tremendously in drawing customers.

"I chose the name 'Elegance' because I think all people admire elegance and fashion," he said.

Many customers confess to the power of a name on their interest in a store. Rabab Hussein, 30, said she often falls for eye-catching store names.

"Every now and then, I go to shopping malls to get some exercise while walking," Hussein said. "I run into flashy large billboards with tempting names, and I can't resist going into the shop."

A fourth-year student at Sana'a University, Arwa Ali said a primary motive behind visiting a store is its name and sign.

"Personally, the name of the shop can either persuade me to come in or make me overlook it," Ali said.

For his part, Akram Abdalhameed, a secondary school stu-

dent, said the name of the store stimulates his interest but doesn't decide whether he buys or not.

"The name of the shop is not the sole force behind the success of the business," Abdalhameed said. "Some shops have appealing names, but they are bankrupt or they may get shut down. That is, eye-catching names can broaden the reputation; they are not everything."

Naseem M. said that in Sana'a, a sign can cast a spell on shoppers.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that the storefront gives the customer an impression about the entire store," Naseem said. "I myself enter a shop based simply on its name and sign."

Yasmeen Qaed, 25, recalled an experience with a friend, Najwa, while shopping three months ago. While on Hael Street in Sana'a, her friend glanced at a well-designed store sign brandishing the name Al-Kimah (The Peak). Just because of the name, her friend insisted on going in the store.

"It was a captivating name," she said. "My friend was adamant to at least take a look at the shop. She convinced me to have a look inside, too."

## Significance of ads

Because advertisements play a powerful role in the boosting of trade, businessmen concentrate on advertisements to increase notori-

YT photo by Ashraf Al-Muragab



"It's a habit of mine to consider the sign and the name of the store first," said Um Ahmed.

ety and to gain clients.

Umr Al-Dubai, 24, the proprietor of Worood Paris perfume shop in the Al-Tahreer district of Sana'a, said signs and store names are fundamental to business.

"It is impossible to make a store

famous unless it has a striking sign and tempting name," Al-Dubai said. "The shop front represents the entire store, good or not."

There is an adage, Al-Dubai said, which goes that two-thirds of a store's capital should be allocated to ads and the rest to commodities.

"Therefore, the glib salesman and the display of goods cannot make the store prosperous on its own," he said. "Advertisements have a seismic impact on the success of the business."

## Shoppers decline

This past year, low- and middle-income Yemeni families have faced financial hardships due to the coun-

try's economic crisis.

Abdallah Ali, an elementary school teacher, said shopping was the least of his priorities.

"We [Ali's family] used to go sporadically to large shopping malls prior to the outbreak of the uprising," Ali said. "After that, I, as a breadwinner, started to focus on living expenditures, and how to guarantee my family's basic needs."

He went on to say, "Now, I feel that life is easy compared to last year. The economic standing of the country is improving."

Nabeel Hatem, a motorcycle driver, recalled the harsh financial troubles he experienced last year.

"We [people with limited income] went broke and shopping centers became like museums, where visitors look but take nothing," Hatem said with a deep sigh. "It was extremely difficult to eke out a living. It was the first ordeal of its kind for us."

Al-Rajal, a mobile phone shop owner, said he occasionally closes his store because of the lack of customers.

"I got tired of my work and was on the brink of shutting the store down," he said. "I reckon that all store keepers must have gotten into a similar predicaments. But thank god, the situation nowadays has improved dramatically."

# Sana'a's streets present travel and economic hassle



In Sana'a, speed bumps and pot holes are commonplace.

Samar Qaed

Speed bumps and pot holes have spread throughout Sana'a's streets. In addition to the inconvenience they cause, they also have economic effects on residents.

Sana'a's streets saw many excavations when the military dug trenches in Al-Hasaba, Sofan and other areas. Many speed bumps were also laid in front of houses in residential areas.

Essam Ahmed, a taxi driver, is angered by the large number of speed bumps in the streets.

"I spend more money than I make to fix my car because of speed bumps and pot holes," Ahmed said. "There are many speed bumps in neighborhoods which I don't slow down for because I don't see them when the electricity is off."

He said he takes his car to a mechanic every week to repair it because of generally poor street conditions.

Speed bumps negatively affect cars and cause traffic jams. They destroy streets as well as cars, according to Hamza Al-Ashwal, general manager of the Sana'a Public Works Office.

Abdulaziz Al-Hamadi, an ambulance driver, said he can't drive fast enough to the hospital during emergencies because of street conditions.

"I always have a difficult time driving sick people to the hospital because I have to slow down so many times," Al-Hamadi said. "A minute can be critical to save life."

Al-Hamdi wonders why authorities aren't concerned, as speed bumps destroy streets and incur economic losses. They also can cause death when people driving very fast suddenly encounter a speed bump.

Speed bumps are a problem that began cropping up a long time ago. In the past, only influential people used to build speed bumps in front of their houses and stores, but nowadays, many people build speed bumps in neighborhoods and consider them to be a good thing.

Ali Al-Amrani, a father of seven, encourages building speed bumps in neighborhoods. He built two speed bumps at the entrance to his neighborhood.

"We built speed bumps to protect our children against the accidents that spread widely last year," he said. "Cars and motorcycles don't slow down in neighborhoods and

don't pay attention to children. They cause many accidents; however, when there is a speed bump, they are forced to slow down."

Al-Amrani doesn't deny that speed bumps are bad for cars, but, he says, when there's better enforcement of traffic laws, then people will stop building them.

The Public Works Office was working to remove speed bumps, but the unrest of the past two years forced them to focus on other issues, said Hamza Al-Ashwal.

"We are unable to do anything because the people who built these speed bumps are influential, such as sheikhs and military leaders," Al-Ashwal said. "Even ordinary people are building speed bumps nowadays, and we can't stop them."

Al-Ashwal called upon all residents to follow the local laws and to stop building speed bumps.

"Security forces have to coordinate with the appropriate authorities to find a suitable solution to this problem," he added.

Yahia Al-Ma'khadi, a member of the Sana'a Local Council, said whoever wants to build a speed bump must receive permission from the Public Works Office. If the speed bumps are for the public good—for instance, in front of schools or hospitals, then they are built according to certain specifications.

Al-Ma'khadi said the Traffic Administration is working on a solution to the problem, but it is difficult because of last year's uprising, which made people dig trenches. The government needs to repave the destroyed streets.

"We are working to keep traffic on the main streets as much as possible," Qais Al-Aryani, Sana'a's general traffic manager, said. "Drivers must know that the city is where we all live, and they need to cooperate with us to organize traffic and to implement driving rules."

Al-Aryani said Sana'a's traffic administration and public works office has started working to repave pot holes and to remove speed bumps and concrete barricades.

Al-Ma'khadi said it has been discussed in meetings to remove speed bumps. "Orders were given to the Sana'a Police Office to cooperate in removing them if needed."

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# Prospects slim for languishing refugees



Using a smuggled camera handed through prison bars, the prisoners took a group photo

Ahlam Mohsen

**“W**e are not being treated like human beings,” says an Oromo-Ethiopian refugee at a prison on the sprawling grounds of Yemen’s immigration center compound.

The U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR) estimates that 120 Africans are currently held at the center. The prisoners, who keep meticulous notes and ready copies of important documents, report 114 inmates, and provide a breakdown based on gender, age and ethnicity.

UNHCR says all prisoners at the immigration prison are “self-detained.” They are free to leave when they please but choose to stay until their demands are met, the refugee agency claims. Current prisoners deny this claim.

“Oromo prisoners and our representatives are in a government prison. It’s news to us that prisoners are free to enter and leave prison at their

own will.”

Although UNHCR Public Information Associate Jamal Al-Najjar says most of the Ethiopian and Eritrean prisoners are migrants, not refugees. Prisoners at the detention center provided Yemen Times with copies of their UNHCR letters of recognition of their refugee status.

## Government Policy on Refugees

Yemen, the only country in the Arabian Peninsula that is a signatory to the U.N.’s 1951 Refugee Convention, does not recognize Ethiopians and Eritreans escaping political persecution in their respective countries as refugees. While granting prima facie refugee status to all Somalis who survive the dangerous voyage to Yemen, government policy toward Ethiopians and Eritreans is to “track them down, arrest them and deport them,” according to Human Rights Watch (HRW).

The HRW considers the Yemeni government’s refusal to grant refugee status to Ethiopians and Eritreans as “discriminatory policy that

violates international law.” UNHCR Associate Protection Officer Gamal Al-Jabi defended the government’s position.

“It is not a matter of discrimination,” Al-Jabi says. “Somalia has been at war for two decades. You can’t compare the situation there to Ethiopia or Eritrea.”

## Demands Denied

During the height of 2011’s political uprising, as Yemenis demanded the ouster of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Ethiopians and Eritreans faced increased violence from Yemeni security forces.

Demanding a permanent solution—resettlement outside Yemen as opposed to financial assistance in Yemen—refugees set up tents outside the UNHCR building in Sana’a and began an 11-month demonstration that forced the temporary closing of the UNHCR office.

UNHCR confirms that after repeatedly asking the refugees and asylum-seekers to leave, it called the Yemeni security forces—the same security forces that shot and killed unarmed protesters in Change Square—to move them off the property. Yemeni security forces arrived with buses paid for by UNHCR to move the demonstrators. Security forces told the refugees and asylum-seekers that they would be taken to Al Kharaz refugee camp in Aden.

“We gathered all of our things to take with us,” says 26-year-old Fatima, a former prisoner at the immigration prison who spent 11 months in a tent outside the UNHCR building with her two children, currently ages two and four.

“We were told we were going to Al-Kharaz; they took us to prison instead,” she says.

## Dreams Deferred

Fatima, an Ethiopian national, was happily married and settled in Eritrea to an Eritrean husband prior to her arrival in Yemen.

“Things in Eritrea were good,” she says. “My husband was a fisherman; I was comfortable there. The next thing I knew, he was dead. They said he was part of the political opposition; they searched our home and found a gun. I was arrested and released. They came back to re-arrest me the next day. I snuck out a back window with my one-year-old son and left for Djibouti the next day.”

## Prison Conditions

According to Fatima, prisoners at the immigration prison in Sana’a were given one piece of bread per day, and if they had children, they had to share. There were no mattresses, and there was only one blanket per adult. Fatima had her children sleep on it, while she slept on the concrete floor.

Four hundred people were originally taken from outside the UNHCR building to the immigration



Refugees behind bars said they are not provided with enough food or water

prison, according to UNHCR.

“We were 40 women and 54 children in one room,” Fatima says. “The entire month I was in jail, they gave us no water. We had someone from the Ethiopian community bring water to the prison everyday. It was never enough. My son was sick and going to die. It took a month before they let me leave so I could take him to a hospital.”

## Limited Options

Despite the described substandard conditions of the prison, fifteen days

after her son was released from the hospital, Fatima tried to return there with her children. They had no food, no water and the few belongings they packed for Al Kharaz refugee camp were at the prison. The prison refused to take them; Fatima and her children were on the streets until an Ethiopian woman took them in.

## Haunting Images

Passing the cell door of the room holding women and children, a discreet camera snaps a quick photo, while curious looks and words are

briefly exchanged before the cat-chewing prison guard reappears and ushers the women away from the door. Most prisoners look underfed, and all complain they don’t receive enough food. Prospects for resettlement—the permanent solution refugees are seeking—are grim. Of UNHCR’s resettlement target of 1,300 individuals for 2011, 389 people departed. The security restrictions on UNHCR staff and committees from host countries are expected to severely affect this year’s resettlement target as well.



In 2011, protestors outside the UNHCR building in Sana’a sought a permanent solution



Suspected Oromo Liberation Front members are separated from the rest of the refugees at the prison



# World Population Day celebrated

Nadia Haddash

Under the slogan “Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services”, Yemen celebrated the World Population Day (WPD) along with all countries around the world on July 11th.

The celebration, organized by the National Population Council, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), focused on providing reproductive health services and boosting awareness among residents about it.

The National Population Council said that reproductive health and family planning are the most important things to combat population growth and reduce maternal mortality.

According to UNFPA, the maternal mortality rate in Yemen is the highest in the region. Every day, about six women die while giving birth to children in Yemen. The main reasons behind this figure are the lack of services, health information and midwives.

Some women die because of unplanned pregnancy. Moreover, some of them face complications during childbirth and others suffer from fistula which affects their health negatively.

Marc Vandenberghe, a representative of



UNFPA, said “we contact women as well as men because when women get health care it is for the advantage of the entire society.”

“We focus on young men because they are able to reduce population growth,” he said. “The regional program plan lasts from 2012 to 2015, has a \$25 billion bud-

get and aims to improve sexual health and reproductive health and reduce maternal mortality in order to achieve balance in population growth, which undoubtedly contributes in achieving balance between residents’ growth and needs.”

Mutahar Zabarah, assistant secretary-general of the UNFPA in Yemen asserted that WPD is simply to remind Yemen that it is still suffering population growth. He stated that the population in Yemen has increased significantly during the last few years due to high fertility rates among mothers. Population growth has caused a significant increase in the rate of unemployment among the youth.

Zabarah stressed the importance of spreading awareness among society to decrease maternal mortality rates. He asserted that education in reproductive health lies at the crux of the issue.

# Divorcees disrespected

Amal Al-Yarisi

“On my wedding night, I dreamed of a happy new world and a stable marriage.”

Sitting in the corner of her room, Abeer Mohammed narrates the story of a marriage that became a divorce.

She recollects six years of repression, abuse and instability, which ultimately led her to seriously consider separating from her husband. Despite her pain, she remained hesitant, fearful of losing her home, her son and her daughter.

She says she had two choices: divorce her husband or endure her husband’s abuse.

She thought divorce would bring misery to her and to her children.

“I was afraid of how society would look at me, that they would judge me as a failure,” she says. “I was fearful of the unknown, yet I decided divorce was the way to end my suffering. I went to my father’s house asking for a divorce. I needed to do it.”

But her request was not the end of her suffering. She experienced a new kind of pain: being considered a disgrace among relatives.

“They have not been kind to me,” she said. “I was subject to threats and warnings. I found myself alone in a merciless society.”

Abdulrahman Mohammed, Abeer’s eldest brother, says he wished his sister had not divorced because two of his sis-

ters remain unmarried.

Mohammed says he worries about how the community treats his sister, saying, “People will point fingers at my family and call us ‘the family of the divorcee,’ saying we don’t hold marriage in high esteem.”

Mohammed is the only one in her family concerned about Abeer’s reputation.

She says she’s looked down on in her family now, even though she was respected before her divorce.

“Following divorce, I was crying out for my family’s support and sympathy. I could not stand such mistreatment.”

Najat Saem, a professor of Psychology at Sana’a University, says attitudes toward divorced women reflect general societal attitudes toward.

“Women divorced or seeking divorce are disrespected by the community under the pretext that they didn’t keep their marriage intact,” Saem says. “Although the divorcee is wronged, society blames the woman and says she’s unfit for marriage.”

A 2010 study conducted by Sana’a University found most women divorcees are subjected to social mistreatment. Saem says it’s especially the case within the women’s family, such as from a mother or sister.

**The psychological effects of divorce on women**

Bodoor Al-Sa’adi says that after her divorce, she distanced herself from her sons so as not to cast a negative light on them.

She said the suffering of divorcees is aggravated when they return to their families’ homes. Comments and criticisms from her father and brothers impacted Al-Sa’adi psychologically.

“This mistreatment caused me psychological shock,” Bodoor says. “I meet no one anymore. I have locked myself in my room to hide my grief.”

According to Saem, “Once divorce is finalized, immediate psychological comfort is felt. However, the situation turns upside down in the course of her living with the family.”

The situation is exacerbated if children are involved, as she will be fully responsible for their upbringing. This is a big burden on the mother, especially if the family cannot afford to finance them.

“Social and family pressures may drive divorced women to accept anyone asking for her hand, to try to end the ordeal,” Saem says.

Saem mentioned that, in particular, women who divorce more than once and lack the support of their family.

“The divorcee is likely to experience stress and restlessness, in addition to physical diseases such as ulcers and migraines,” she says.

In Saem’s opinion, women have the right to determine their own lives, and educating society about the roles of women could help to curb derogatory views.

“Respecting women in general will bring about respect for divorcees,” she said.



الثقة

مبدؤ وك

بإرتياح بالغ تلقينا نبأ تعيين الأستاذ/

**عبدالقادر علي هلال**

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**YemenTimes Est. for Press, Printing & Publication**







**Story and photos by  
Ashraf Al-Muraqab**

The Amerha and Sarkat Shabab initiatives have commenced the Kalbonian Project, an endeavor to collect secondhand clothes to distribute to the needy.

Project organizers determined dropoff location for clothing, and

donated items will be categorized based on age and gender. Clothing will then be laundered and distributed.

Khawla Al-Ariqi, the project's coordinator, said clothing won't be distributed until the group decides exactly who will receive the items.

“Visits will be paid to their residence, and the poor will be short-listed to be given cards in order

to receive the clothes," Al-Ariqi said.

Ilham Noman, the project's manager, said 300 families in Al-Sawad village were targeted in 2010, the project's first year.

“The main purpose of this project is a charity to alleviate the suffering of impoverished families in Sana’a; the secondary aim is to encourage youth to launch projects of this kind to combat pov-

erty," Noman said.

Al-Arqi said this year's project would be implemented in Aden and Hodeida governorates, adding that many youth have enthusiastically volunteered to join the coordinating team because they believe in such charitable projects.

Donations can be dropped off in Sana'a at the Bader Foundation building on Hadda Street.



**Cards must be presented during delivery**



## The initiatives focus on the most impoverished people

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**Clothes are ironed and cleaned prior to distribution in special bags.**



### Participants receive the second-hand clothes



**The work commenced early in the morning, distributing clothes for the poor families**