

Protestors vow to continue their 'peaceful struggle'

Story and photos by Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANAA, Sept. 5 — On Tuesday—one day after the defiant speech of ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh—tens of thousands of pro-democracy protestors staged a massive demonstration, calling for the prosecution of Saleh and his inner circle.

The demonstration came after months of deteriorating activities in Sana'a's Change Square.

"Today, the revolutionaries will convey a message that ousted President Saleh must be prosecuted, and his relatives must be forced from power," Ahmed Abdul-Moghni, one of the participants in the demonstration, said.

Redhwan Masood, a prominent leader of last years political activism, said revolutionaries will escalate their activities and continue with their struggle to achieve their political aims.

"We will achieve the aims of our revolution, and we're determined to bring Saleh to trial," he said, while marching in the mass rally. "There is no doubt that the revolution will go on."

Masood said the activists would maintain peaceful means to attain



Tens of thousands of protestors took to Sana'a's streets Tuesday in defiance to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his former regime.



their dreams.

"The peaceful struggle is our only way to succeed in uprooting Saleh's remaining regime."

However, some independent revolutionaries refuse the idea of staying in the change square, calling for nonstop marches.

After the recent presidential

election, which took place Feb. 22, Sana'a's Change Square is perceived to have lost momentum, and many protestors have folded their tents and left the square.

"If we keep staying in Change Square, the momentum of the revolution will never come back," Ali Abu Lohoom, an independent me-

dia activist, said.

Abu Lohoom used to participate in all the demonstrations at the beginning of the uprising, but he hasn't taken action in the recent demonstrations because, he said, he lost hope in the possibility of returning the momentum of the revolution.

"If we decide to escalate our action, we should keep staging massive demonstrations, crossing restricted areas and trying to march into Saleh's house to put pressure on him to leave the country," he said.

For his part, Fahd Abdu Saeed, an independent protestor, said he

seeks a new revolution without opportunists who want to take advantage of the revolution and gain power.

"From now, we will start a real revolution," Saeed said confidently. "Our upcoming escalation will dismay the remaining of the corrupt regime."

\$6.4 billion pledged to Yemen at Donors Conference

Amira Nasser

SANAA, Sept. 5 — A group of countries and international and regional donor organizations announced Tuesday at the Donors Conference in Riyadh that \$6.4 billion has been pledged to Yemen in order to support the transitional program for development and stability from 2012 to 2014.

This announcement comes ahead

of the Friends of Yemen Meeting this month in New York City, where other countries and international and regional donor organizations are expected to announce their donations in support of Yemen.

Mohammed Ayesh, a political analyst, said the Donors Conference is a huge source of aid for the current government, which he said clearly lacks the ability to provide necessary services to the country.

Ayesh said there are hidden technical conditions between Yemen and donor countries and organizations, which was the reason behind the numerous delays in holding the conference.

"The donor countries want to make sure that their donations will go to support its confederates, not to hang in a political situation" he said.

Mustaha Nasr, head of the Stud-

ies and Economic Media Center, said there are some bright signs to the news that the international community is interacting with Yemen given the current economic situation.

Nasr said there should be a clear strategy regarding how to use the donations in an effective way or else the donations will be lost, as previous donations received by Yemen in the past were lost.

Ayesh doubts the government will be unable to use the donations properly because this period of time is a transitional period for the current government, which is not focused on providing services to people.

Yemen is in dire need to quickly receive donations from donor countries, and the situation can't bear delay, especially in the present time, according to Nasr.

DPIC plans to sue, Yemen could owe \$30 million

Samar Qaed

ADEN, Sept. 5 — An official source at the Ministry of Transportation said the Dubai Ports International Company (DPIC) is planning to file a lawsuit against the Yemeni government because of the termination of their contract last month. The source said Yemen's government could compensate the company an estimated \$30 million if DPIC wins.

The source said the company's evidence and claims are unsub-

stantiated, considering the company did not keep pledges with regard to operating Aden Port, in addition to its neglect toward the port. The company was not alert to heed Yemeni government cautions, the source said, adding that Aden's port used to receive 160,000 ships annually under DPIC's operation of the port; however, the port received 800,000 ships in 2007, prior to the start of the government's contract with DPIC.

The source said the termination came after a team from the Minis-

try of Transportation travelled to Dubai in August to inform the company about upcoming procedures, but they didn't respond. So, the agreement was terminated.

Abdullah Al-Khawlani, director of the Arab and International Economic Department, said in an interview with Al-Thawra newspaper that Yemen should avoid getting involved in international trials with DPIC because trials usually take a long time. He said the cost of the trial could cause more losses than gains for Yemen.

Al-Khawlani said Yemen has to solve the problem amicably, particularly because it could cause a political crisis with the United Arab Emirates, the support of which Yemen needs.

Al-Khawlani said DPIC's argument could be stronger if they used the pretext of a lack of stability because of the political turmoil in Yemen at the time when they started to work in Aden.

He said DPIC has professional lawyers in maritime disputes, while Yemen doesn't, giving the company

an advantage should the issue require court involvement.

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Vital parts of Alamria castle in Rada'a collapse, cause still unclear

Nadia Haddash

RADA'A, Sept. 4 – Sheikh Sinan Jaraon, undersecretary of Beida'a governorate for Rada'a affairs, denied that heavy rains are behind the collapse of the historic Alamria Castle's outer walls Saturday, as reported by the media.

Jaraon told the Yemen Times that a committee specializing in discovering antiquities was formed to investigate the cause of the damages to Alamria.

The castle has long-been used as a military base. Jaraon said the grounds beneath the castle have been subject to high stress because of this, so the investigation will consider the castle's use by the military when determining the cause of the collapse.

Jaraon said he gave urgent orders to start renovating the castle and the surrounding fence

es, which threaten to collapse as well, and to focus on finishing the outer walls meant to protect the castle.

It is suggested that a bid be placed to renovate the castle in a professional way by specialized and qualified bodies.

Jaraon said there are mutual efforts between local authorities and the Yemeni Antiquities Authority to search for sources and donors to fund a project to renovate the castle. He called upon the Ministry of Culture and the General Authority for Antiquities to save money and to pay greater attention to other historical areas in Rada'a so they won't see the same destruction Alamria Castle has been exposed to.

For his part, Jameel Shamsan, a member of the General Authority to Protect Historical Cities, warned of the negative

consequences of ignoring antiquities and historical museums in Rada'a. He demanded a team of specialized engineers be sent to the area to evaluate the damages to the castle and also to protect it from further collapse.

He called upon the Ministry of Finance to set a budget to save the city and to take serious steps to protect this historical landmark and its distinguished architecture.

Rada'a is considered a famous historical site in Yemen. The castle was built as a protection for the city and is still a sample of ancient Yemeni military architecture.

The castle is located in the middle of Rada'a atop the highest place in the city. It is considered the second most important place there, behind the Ahram Mountain.

New attack on Sana'a's Change Square, three people injured



Armed individuals attacked tents located in Change Square, injuring three people and causing wide destruction.

Ministry releases test results, for a fee

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANA'A, Sept. 5 – Shukri Al-Hamami, the examinations general manager at the Ministry of Education, said the publication of secondary and primary school test results via mobile was due to technical defects on the ministry website.

The ministry prevented the publication of the results on the website this year. Students could learn their results by mobile phone, at a cost.

Al-Hamami said the ministry does not attempt to make money by publishing results by phone—receiving results by mobile costs 20 riyals. However, some Yemenis accuse the ministry of intentionally adopting this way for the purpose of gaining monetary benefits from students. Ninth graders this year numbered 311,714; the ministry reaped more than 12 million riyals from them.

In the past, the ministry has published the results of the primary and secondary school ex-

ams on its website.

Al-Hamami said publishing results by mobile is much better than by Internet because many areas in Yemen have no Internet access. If the Internet is available, then students are manipulated when they want to know their results, he said.

"The results publication costs 20 riyals by phone; the cost from the Internet is double."

Some Yemenis criticize the ministry for limiting the results to mobile access. Criticisms of the ministry are an exaggeration and are because the ministry is pro-revolution, Al-Hamami said.

Basim Al-Husseini, a student at Aden University, said the Ministry of Education suffers from huge corruption. "It was supposed the ministry would publish the results on the website. It published on the mobile phone to earn millions of riyals in cooperation with the telecommunication companies."

Al-Hamami said the Ministry of Education contacted the top students through its offices na-

tionwide, congratulating them on their excellence.

He said the ministry is willing to consider any complaints students make about their results. With regard to the top students, he said they made sure of their marks in the past two years. The ministry found that their marks were high except for one student.

On Tuesday, the Ministry of Education released the results for secondary school students, one week following the publication for ninth grade students.

The ministry said the percentage of success reached to 82.45 percent.

Azan Ghalib, a secondary school graduate, expressed his satisfaction about his results, 85 percent.

"I expected to obtain this mark before the publication of the results."

Minister of Education Dr. Abdurazaq Al-Ashwal said the number of secondary school students—both scientific and literary tracked—reached to 202,781; 154,400 passed.

Marib pipeline attacked yet again

Ahmed Dawood

SANA'A, Sept. 5 – An oil pipeline in Marib was again exposed to acts of sabotage Tuesday night due to an attack carried out by armed men belonging to the Abida tribe.

Nasser Mohtam, a public figure in Marib, said a person named Al-Aji Kalfoot, who is from the Al-Damasheqa district in Marib, carried out the attack. He said that a fire raged in the area, and large quantities of oil leaked out.

He also said the Eastern Region Leadership, troops charged with protecting oil facilities, launched four mortars on the attacker's village. From there, mediation intervened to find a solution and to facilitate repairing the pipeline.

For the past two months, oil exports from the Marib pipeline remained stable after the repairs

from exposure to acts of sabotage during the uprising. Moreover, tribesmen had recently stopped attacking these pipelines.

Ghaleb Al-Mo'ailli, oil director in Marib, said the attack happened in Abida Valley, pointing out that the pipe has yet to undergo repairs.

Al-Mo'ailli said oil production in the pipeline has now stopped. He said large quantities of oil stored in oil tanks would be enough for just three days.

Al-Mo'ailli confirmed that gas pipelines weren't exposed to acts of sabotage as the media has alleged.

Sheikh Sultan Al-Arada, Marib's governor, said he thinks the attack was politically motivated, since it coincided with the Donors Conference in Riyadh and also the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment the Gen-

eral People's Congress, the party of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and current President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi.

Al-Arada said there is mutual coordination between the governorate and the Ministry of Interior to arrest the perpetrators and to transfer them to be prosecuted.

He said the explosions affected the environment and the situation of residents.

This attack raised resentment among residents, who condemned all acts of sabotage in the governorate.

Mohammed Al-Jedasi, a journalist and an activist, said the governorate's executive council held a meeting Wednesday to call upon security apparatuses to detain the perpetrators and to distribute their photos at all checkpoints to easier arrest them.

Story and photo by Ashraf Al-Muraqab

SANA'A, Sept. 3 – Three people were injured in Sana'a's Change Square on Monday in an attack by armed men on tents located on Al-Ribat Street.

Fathi A-Shaibani, head of the Peaceful Youth Coalition's Organizing Department, said approximately 35 people, armed and carrying sticks, attacked ten tents Monday and blocked the street.

He said the perpetrators de-

molished five tents and looted everything inside the Media Center, located in a tent on the street.

Al-Shaibani said a welder summoned people to attack the tents. They burned them, looting everything inside. This raised anger among the youth, who made an attempt to fight back against those attacking them.

Ahmed Nashwan, an owner of a destroyed tent, accused the welder and an owner of a food store for the attack.

He said the attack happened at 10 p.m. Monday, and he said these attempts won't discourage the independent youth from continuing their revolution until all their aims are achieved.

This incident came hours after former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's speech—delivered before his loyalists on the thirtieth anniversary of establishment of the General People's Congress. Consequently, the youth accused Saleh loyalists for being behind the attack.

Health insurance plan approved, nears implementation after 20 years

Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA'A, Sept. 5 – The Ministry of Public Health and Population has embarked on completing the procedures to form the new health insurance law prepared, discussed and agreed upon by the cabinet.

Ahmed Al-Kharasani, a member of the preparatory committee for implementing the health insurance law, said the health insurance system would effectively provide health insurance for insured government employees. He said the law would help protect locals against the dangers of disease.

Al-Kharasani said the health plan was supposed to be implemented long ago.

"The preparation of the health insurance system was directed in 1991," Al-Kharasani said. "Since that time, the government has been making an effort to continue to make this a reality."

The Ministry of Public Health and Population endeavors to finalize the finishing touches to

ready the law and make it effective on the ground, Al-Kharasani said.

"The ministry prepared an executive draft of this law, and it was discussed with the cabinet. The cabinet approved of the law; nothing remains but the republican decree."

Al-Kharasani said the name of the Social Health Insurance was carefully selected, indicating that this name requires the participation of insured employees and the government.

This system is obligatory to include all government employees, according to Al-Kharasani; in another stage, it will cover all Yemenis.

He said the insurance system will be managed through two authorities: the Public Authority for Health Insurance and the Health Insurance Fund.

"The country will be in charge of supervising this system with absolute neutrality."

For his part, Dr. Adel Al-Emad, head of a company specializing in health insurance, said this law would misfire before it starts.

Al-Emad said there are studies indicating that the financial sums will be insufficient to provide medicine for all those the bill encompasses. An individual's income must be high, he said.

"This law requires great trust in government institutions; the trust is non-existent. If we were in a country accountable for all its deeds, the government would not take such a risk that could cause losses."

The ministry set up a committee to assess health facilities. The committee will start working in the days to come. The committee will determine the shortcomings of the facilities, ordering them to remedy their downsides, said Al-Kharasani, adding that tackling the shortcomings will give the facilities a chance to have contracts with the insurance system.

"Among the problems hindering the health insurance law is the unqualified hospitals."

Al-Kharasani said contracts would not be made with unqualified hospitals. Al-Emad said the health insurance law will improve health services.

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Rotta Development Association endeavors to empower those youth, women left marginalized



The association works with Akhdam youth to provide an educational experience they would otherwise be unable to have.

Story and photos by Amal Al-Yarisi

High numbers of marginalized people in Yemen are unable to pursue their educations. This inability is attributed to the harsh living situation they find themselves in. Some dedicate their time to find ways to earn money and to seek a living. Among them are the orphans who are unable to attend school.

In a bid to improve the lives of these orphans and to change their circumstances, a group of marginalized youth established the Rotta Development Association four months ago as a way to help marginalized people—particularly women and children—to continue their educations.

Mona Al-Jamali, a founding member of Rotta, said the idea to establish this association came because of an orphan named Sadam Mossa. He told Al-Jamali and a few

others about his hope to study and his inability to do so because there was nobody to support him with his wish.

Early on, the association concentrated on educating marginalized orphans only. The founders came to understand that marginalized people truly suffered because of the lack of access to culture and to education. There are many women and children who are illiterate, Al-Jamali said.

The association began educat-

ing and rehabilitating children and women alike.

"Women are being trained in some crafts like sewing in addition to us introducing them to the problems of early marriages and the importance of family planning," Al-Jamali said.

The marginalized said they are almost entirely alienated from a society that doesn't accept them. They are considered an ineffective faction in the community.

Rami Ibrahim, the head of the association, said Rotta attempts as much as possible to provide several cultural, developmental and social activities that aim at developing the most impoverished faction in society.

"We will do our utmost to make this faction involved with the rest of society's individuals," Ibrahim said.

Many children and women come to this three-room association; it has many young people working to educate those who come and see them.

Fareed Shawqi, a teacher at the association, said once his job is over for the day, he goes to the association to teach. He said he doesn't want the coming generation to be distant from science and culture.

"Many are deprived from education; we don't want our children to suffer from this," Shawqi said.

He said the association seeks to find a way to improve the lives of those marginalized.

"We will wait for nobody to snatch us from our suffering. If we wait for the state or anybody else, we will not benefit. We want to be respected and appreciated by society."

Children's aspirations

Many children in the association have diverse dreams. One aspires to be a doctor. Another dreams of being a pilot. A third wants to be a teacher.

Hatim Ali, 10, does not have the opportunity to pursue an education as a result of the tough circumstances his family experiences. Thus, he goes to the association every day to learn whatever he can.

Ali said he comes to the association to be educated just like the rest of the children. He studies mathematics, Holy Quran, science and

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other subjects.

Al-Jamali said he hopes Rotta will further grow and develop in order to spread awareness among the marginalized and make them—on one day—an important component

of society. She said that she aspired to see the doctor, the journalist and the teacher arise from this group.

"In this association, these marginalized people sow their dreams that could be a reality one day."

Journalists reject old media bill, embark on building new media bill

Muaad Al-Maqtari

On Tuesday, Yemeni journalists canceled the visual and audio media project bill, deeming it a provocative paper that cannot fulfill the demands of Yemeni media given recent developments.

The bill, prepared by Parliamentarians Against Corruption and the Journalists Syndicate, comprises of 57 items organizing the broadcast of material and programs through electromagnetic currents, radio currents or any other technology that enables the audience to receive signals.

During a panel discussion at the Journalists Syndicate compound, TV and radio station representatives were in attendance. The bill was unanimously canceled based on a suggestion presented by journalist Hamoud Munasar, the Sana'a

bureau chief for Al-Arabia.

It was agreed that a new committee be established in order to word a new bill that takes into account the country's new constitution, slated to be written in the coming months.

Many items of the bill roused broad anger.

Article 21 of the rejected bill stipulates that the programs that have patronage should be determined; this patronage should not affect the content of the programs.

"Reports and news bulletins should not be under patronage," Dr. Hamid Al-Shamiri said.

He said he considered such an item as a confiscation of the investment rights in the field of media.

Article 44, which caused much dispute, stipulates that news outlets are banned from broadcasting seditious, provocative, doctrinal or racial speeches.

This item is generalized and could be subject to a judge's interpreta-

tion, journalists argued.

Panel discussion participants said the articles in the bill have too many loopholes that expose media outlets to unjust punishments.

Journalist Jamila Ali Raja focused on the importance of issuing television and radio laws in line with the political developments Yemen has been witnessing.

Raja said the significance of establishing local, community radio stations are vital, particularly in case the country adopts the federal system.

The committee, tasked with wording a new bill, included reporters from news outlets such as BBC, Al-Arabia and Al-Jazeera, let alone local reporters, jurists and representatives of civil society organizations.

The committee decided to hold its first meeting to write a new bill on Saturday at the Journalists Syndicate compound.

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Ambassador Adel Al-Bukaili to the Yemen Times:

“The OIC was able to deal with Al-Shabab in Somalia, and I think we can deal with Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen, too.”

Interview and photo by Muaad Al-Maqtari

Adel Al-Bukaili, coordinator of the International Humanitarian Committee, a committee formed in April to help Yemen, said humanitarian aid given to Yemen is just basic aid aimed to urgently lighten the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and to keep the country at the subsistence level.

Al-Bukaili, responsible for the Humanitarian Hope (Amal Al-insaniah) Campaign in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jeddah, asserted, in an interview with the Yemen Times, the importance of the government's role in observing the work of international organizations to evaluate them and to cooperate with them on future strategic projects.

What is the International Humanitarian Committee, and what has it achieved so far?

The committee is composed of six organizations—the U.N. Humanitarian Department, the U.E. Humanitarian Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the League of Arab States, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which I represent as a coordinator of the campaign.

We collected \$210 million, which will be spent in six fields such as establishing houses for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), food and water. We dedicated between \$8 and \$10 million for digging wells in far away areas suffering from drought.

What are the motives behind holding this campaign?

Humanitarian crises aggravated in Yemen due to last year's political uprising. Many reports indicated that about 11 million Yemenis live below the poverty line. The crises aggravated because of a political impasse, which caused transportation price hikes. If Saudi Arabia hadn't intervened and provided three million barrels of oil, the situation would have become worse.

What has changed this year in comparison with last year?

The situation today is better in comparison with last year, but there are still one million children who suffer from malnutrition. We are working in leaps and bounds

to increase the level of projects, which will bring back money so that it can always be used for the Humanitarian Fund.

What about investing in microfinance?

As for investment, we dedicated about \$10 million for the sustainable and vital projects we run. These projects are being implemented by civil society organizations in Yemen, the most important of which are the Islah Association and the Al-Saleh Association. These two associations are appreciated for the humanitarian work they do, but I hope they will avoid being involved in politics.

It is said that people don't trust these two associations mentioned above.

We haven't dealt with civil society organizations in Yemen yet. However, through our experience in Somalia, some organizations succeeded while some others failed. I hope the Yemeni civil society organizations with which we are going to work can find new ways of working instead of distributing aid only.

Yemeni civil society organizations need several technical, organizing and moral qualifications to succeed. They must distribute all aid provided without taking any. What is important for us is that these organizations study the situation and give solutions and projects through which we can meet the needs of people and improve Yemen's economy.

Have you ever thought of opening a coordination office to manage aid delivered to Yemen?

We have signed an agreement with the Ministry of Planning to open an OIC office in Yemen to coordinate with all other organizations. We required the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to give dissemination for all diplomatic missions to facilitate the work of the campaign's team.

We also requested the Minister of Expatriates to send a letter to Yemeni communities abroad to help us collect money in addition to the money given by donor countries.

How is your relation with official departments in Yemen?

We met President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, who told us frankly that we can specify the implementation mechanism as long as we respect the priorities of the government in development projects.

How do you evaluate the work of humanitarian organizations in Yemen?

Some use humanitarian work to serve their interests, and this distorted humanitarian work in Yemen.

Currently, there is a slight improvement in security stability, and this stability will enable people to start looking for something to be able to make money.

However, the humanitarian crisis is obvious in areas that witnessed war during the uprising.



Ambassador Adel Al-Bukaili

Yemen is undergoing gradual stability.

How does the work of OIC in Yemen progress?

So far nothing has been achieved, but the comparative calmness Yemen is witnessing resulted in decreasing the signs of the humanitarian crisis.

The OIC is accepted by all parties, even by extremists in Somalia. The OIC was able to deal with

Al-Shabab in Somalia, and I think we can deal with Ansar Al-Sharia in Yemen, too. Therefore, the OIC has never faced obstacles in providing aid.

How can humanitarian aid improve Yemen's economy?

Currently, we depend on the state in Yemen to specify its economic infrastructure. We soften pressure on the state and the government by providing urgent humanitarian

aid. I assure that observing the work of all international organizations in Yemen, including the OIC, is very important to know the organizations Yemen benefits from in order to deal with them in upcoming projects.

We can't depend on humanitarian aid because they are basic aid to bridge the gap and help the government establish new projects to eliminate the crisis.

Future of GPC ambiguous

Ahmed Dawood

For the first time, the General People's Congress (GPC) celebrated the anniversary of its establishment in a state of extensive security procedures and the absence of coverage by government media outlets.

The celebration came following the popular 2011 revolution that resulted in the ouster of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who remains the head of the GPC. After the revolution, Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, the former vice president, was elected Yemen's newest leader. Hadi is now the president of the country and the deputy head of the GPC.

Saleh was an active voice during the celebration, lashing out at the reconciliation government, saying, "What have you realized thus far? Have you controlled the electricity saboteurs or those bombing the oil pipes? Or do you hold others responsible for your failure?"

Saleh questioned the reconciliation government, asking, "Why have you not captured the bandits and the electricity towers' attackers? Why do they not stand a trial? Where have you been in the course of the last eight months?"

He displayed his resentment toward declarations that hold the former regime responsible for the difficulties Yemen currently faces.

"If a tornado occurs in America, they will say the former regime is the reason," he said.

A hard number

More than 5,000 people, including leading party figures, attended the celebration. Tareq Al-Shami, a spokesman for the GPC, said the gathering intended to send a powerful message to people that the party is still a strong, hard number in the political arena that none can surpass. It is a political party that holds an honorable national history, he said.

"Another message is the GPC has an evolving thought."

However, Al-Shami did add that the party remains a partner of the coalition parties; it embodies itself strongly in front of society. The party is keen to adopt the concerns of people and to resolve their problems; thus, the party rejects any unlawful actions such as banditry and assaulting government facilities, Al-Shami said.

Although Hadi belongs to the GPC, he was not in attendance. Al-Shami said the party planned ahead and was fully aware that the president would be unable to attend the event.

Al-Shami said the GPC now strives to prepare for the eighth conference, during which new leadership will be elected for all branches nationwide, in addition to electing the party's Permanent Commission.

Futility and chaos

By contrast, some political analysts affiliated with opposition groups deemed this celebration as futile

and a means to squander the resources of the nation.

Saleh Al-Soreimi, editor-in-chief of Al-Sahafa newspaper, said Saleh spent his own money on this celebration, and most of the attendees came for the sake of material gains, not to represent the party.

He said Saleh's goal for the celebration was to let Yemen and other countries know that he is still a player in the political arena; he is able to move his party anytime he wants and in any way he chooses.

Al-Soreimi said the GPC is not an organized party; it simply attempts to attract people by means of money and by taking advantage of its power when it is at the helm of the country. He called for the GPC to adopt another more valid strategy than just collecting money.

With regard to Hadi's absence from the celebration, Al-Soreimi said Hadi wants to prove himself as the only president of Yemen; he doesn't want Saleh to be perceived as his boss in the GPC.

The former president, on his last stand, thought the celebration would make him a future because he has nothing of what he did in the past, Ali Al-Sirari, the political advisor of the prime minister, said.

"It is supposed that Saleh quit politics based on the immunity given by the Gulf Initiative. Otherwise, the immunity should be lifted and he ought to stand trial, for he still continues misusing the nation and standing against the will of the Yemeni people."



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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Sheikh Saleh Bin Shaje to the Yemen Times:

“The situation in Yemen is risky, and it could slide into strife and comprehensive turmoil.”

Saleh Mohammed Bin Shaje, a leading sheikh in Waela tribe, which borders Saudi Arabia, said Yemen cannot endure any further grievances and sufferings. He called on all political parties and other powerful factions in the country to provide an opportunity for independents to participate in the decision-making process.

Mohammed bin Sallam of the Yemen Times met with Shaje to talk over many issues in the Yemeni arena.

In your opinion, where is Yemen headed?

The situation is politically and economically very dangerous. The security situation is risky as well. There are some sides in Yemen who likely desire to incite civil strife; however, none will benefit from war. All will endure the loss of public and private interests. It is supposed that a neutral side, respected by all, is granted an opportunity so as to save the security

and stability of Yemen and stop deterioration. Conflicts will neither benefit the nation nor the people.

In your opinion, who is the most acceptable group for all Yemenis?

The independents. Although the coordination between them is fragile, it is fundamental they coordinate and hold broad meetings. They should unify their efforts, visions and stances for the purpose

of creating political balance in the country.

If all independents gather under one leadership, they will resolve national issues and find ways to satisfy all political sides.

What is your vision for Yemen to overcome these hard situations?

Yemen cannot undergo any further grievances and suffering. All political parties and other power-

ful factions in the country ought to provide an opportunity for independents to take part in the decision-making process. The political parties should honestly support them (independents) in order to get Yemen out of this crisis. This cannot be realized unless the public interest is preferred to selfish personal interests. They (political parties) should know that history has no mercy for those who instigate destruction and wrong the people.

What are the reasons for the continuity of the political crisis between the conflicting parties? What hinders the solutions?

The lack of consistency between them is one reason, in addition to marginalizing the wise, the experienced, the neutral and the selfless.

How do you evaluate the performance of the reconciliation government?

They are competent people to shoulder the responsibility. But the partisan inconsistency negatively impacts their performance. I think it would be better if the government were independent. The government would have been committed to the leadership of their president.

What do you think about foreign intervention in Yemen?

I call on political parties and the



Sheikh Saleh Bin Shaje

independent sides in the country to curb foreign intervention in Yemeni affairs.

What advice would you give to social dignitaries, tribal sheikhs and scholars with regard to this crisis?

They should stop being silent. They ought to quit remaining idle toward the destruction and the civil strife in the country.

What is your advice to conflicting political parties?

The conflicting parties in the country have to grab the opportunity in order to lead Yemen out of its crisis

and its awful situation before the situation gets out of control and none can be resolved. There is still a plenty of time. It is still possible that all parties could reach solutions pleasing all Yemenis.

Do you think Yemen could break down in the course of the current situation?

We fear the country could plunge into a comprehensive commotion, hitting everything, which serves nobody. The country and the incoming generation will pay the price. This will negatively reflect on the stability in the region, without exception.

Extending an invitation to expression of interest

The local corporation of Water and Sanitation in the capital city announces the expansion of the expression of interest time with regard to providing counseling services for implementing the training program for the corporation staff until September, 8, 2012.

JOB VACANCY

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- Researching options and requesting quotes for outsourced components of projects or custom products.
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Drone presence increases, civilians die in recent strike

Ahlam Mohsen

An air strike in Rada'a, Yemen, killed 12 civilians Sunday, including three women, according to a source at the Ministry of Defense who is not authorized to speak with the press. The source did not know whether the attack was carried out by a U.S. drone strike or by Yemeni warplanes. This latest strike is part of a trend of increasing U.S. drone strikes in Yemen over the past year.

The strike hit two vehicles mistakenly believed to be carrying Al-Qaeda members. The civilians were returning to their village.

Yemeni officials have sent tribal representatives to investigate, Agence France-Presse reported. Yemeni President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi ordered the establishment of a fact-finding committee to investigate the strike, according to a statement by the Supreme Security Committee. The committee will review the findings and take the necessary legal procedures, the statement said.

"We have been sent by the government to establish the reasons for the error," delegation member Tawfic Al-Jahmi said to AFP.

Whose strikes?

Abdulsalam Mohammed, head of the Abad Center for Strategic Studies, said the strike was likely carried out by the U.S. using a drone. While the Yemeni government has claimed responsibility for similar strikes in the past, their capabilities are limited, he said.

"These strikes are carried out by U.S. drones," Mohammed said. "The Yemeni Air Forces can carry out strikes only if they have MiG-29s, but they're likely using MiG-21s and Sukhoi-23s, he said, refer-

ring to the Soviet-made aircraft. The MiG-21s and Sukhoi-23s are popular makes still in use by many countries today. MiG-29s come with the avionics necessary to carry out precision attacks on AQAP."

The Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) released a report earlier this year calling the Yemeni Air Force "barely functional" and pointing to U.S. involvement in the strikes. Widespread corruption means the air force is without basic navigation instruments that would allow aircrafts to function at night, ruling out the possibility that night strikes were carried out by Yemeni security forces. Yemeni security forces continue claiming responsibility for a number of attacks, though Mohammed said he thinks the U.S. carries out the bulk of them.

A U.S. diplomatic cable released two years ago by WikiLeaks revealed that former President Ali Abdullah Saleh told then-commander of United States Central Command General David Petraeus—now director of central intelligence—that Yemen would "continue saying the bombs are ours, not yours."

Yemeni anger

U.S. drone strikes in Yemen are not only a threat to Yemeni sovereignty, but arouse resentment and hostility toward the U.S. and Yemeni governments when civilians are killed, according to Mohammed.

"These strikes are supposed to be carried out by Yemeni warplanes based on accurate information," Mohammed said. "Otherwise, they will obstruct peaceful transition of power in Yemen and will make victims' relatives angry—they could resort to supporting or even joining Al-Qaeda and its affiliates."

Sheikh Khaled Al-Dhahab, a tribal leader from Rada'a, said

residents and prominent leaders in Rada'a highly condemn such attacks, which lead many to seek revenge.

Various wire stories have reported that protestors blocked the main road out of Rada'a, and relatives of the dead tried to bring the bodies to President Hadi's residence in Sana'a, but they were blocked by security forces.

"Everyone here sympathizes with those who were unfairly killed," he said. "What were they doing to be killed in this horrifying way? It's not the first time these drones have killed our innocent people."

Al-Dhahab said such attacks cannot stop Al-Qaeda activities.

"On the contrary, these attacks help strengthen Al-Qaeda activities over through the area."

The National Authority for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) said in a statement Monday that the Yemeni government must value the life of its citizens and work on protecting the dignity of its people and the sovereignty of the country.

HOOD said the Yemeni government is "colluding with these horrible offenses and not valuing the blood of Yemenis. These crimes arouse the feelings of Yemenis and encourage them to retaliate—no one will be safe from its consequences."

Sara Jamal, a prominent activist and sociologist living in Sana'a, laid out several objections to U.S. drone strikes in Yemen. Drone strikes are an invasion of Yemen's authority and sovereignty, she said.

"I feel like I live under occupation, with all these foreign aircrafts in the sky."

Jamal is opposed to the civilian deaths that result from drone strikes.

"I have a problem with killing AQAP (Al-Qaeda in the Arabian

Peninsula) without trial, let alone civilians," she said. "You don't solve this [problem] by killing innocent people, you solve it with development. This was another ugly attack, and sadly, no one will be speaking about it."

Hundreds of people protested in Hadramout on Monday, demanding the government take action against the strikes, Xinhua news agency reported. Demonstrators, including four tribal leaders, chanted and held signs, displaying their anger at the strike. They chanted, "No for killing innocent people" and "End alliance with the U.S. government," witnesses told Xinhua.

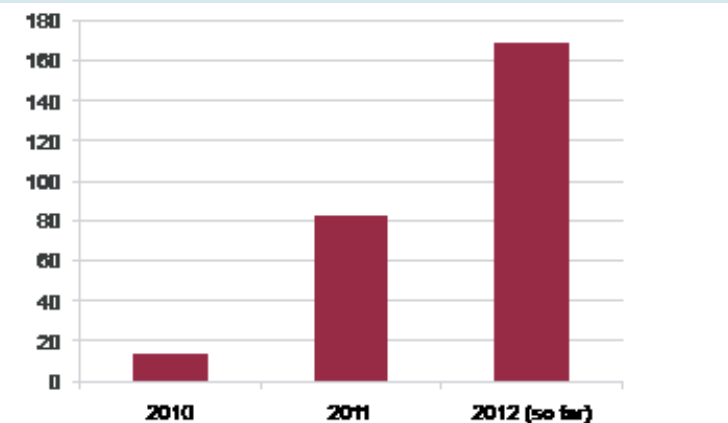
Pattern of increased drone strikes

TBIJ reports five confirmed drone strikes for the month of August and two drone strikes during the first two days of September. There have been 31 confirmed airstrikes since the beginning of this year, according to the Long War Journal, which also reported that increased drone strikes are a result of the U.S. combatting AQAP's control of territory in southern Yemen. The minimum number of people killed in strikes since 2002 is 207 people, with 168 of them killed in 2012, according to TBIJ.

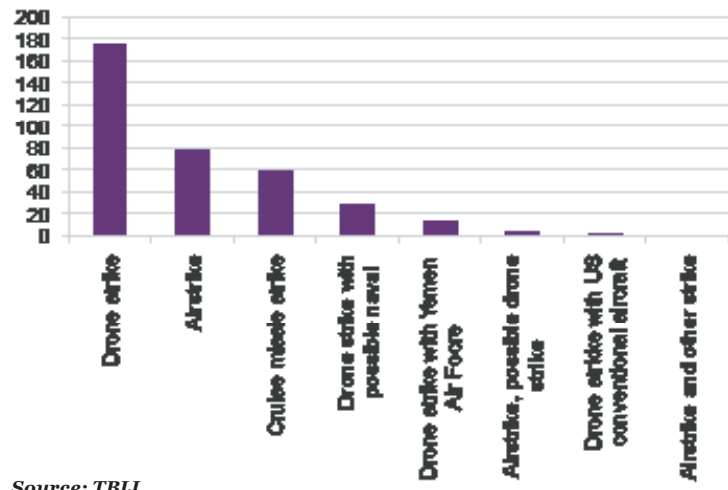
The U.S. has increased military aid to and cooperation with Yemen as part of the war on terror. Since Saleh's removal from power following 2011's political uprising, the U.S. has further increased aid in hopes of helping Hadi stabilize the country. Following Saleh's departure, the U.S. feared AQAP would take advantage of the security and power vacuum. The U.S. has more than doubled aid to Yemen this year, reaching an estimated \$345 million according to a statement by Rajiv Shah, administrator of the



The minimum people The Bureau of Investigative Journalism can confirm killed in Yemen since 2010



The minimum confirmed killed by operation type in Yemen



Source: TBIJ

U.S. Agency for International Development, at this week's Donors Conference in Riyadh.

Another contributor to increased drone strikes is the Obama administration's new policy, outlined earlier this year, allowing the U.S. to target individuals believed to be plotting against Americans in the U.S., even if the identities of

the accused individuals cannot be verified.

"What this means in practice is there are times when counterterrorism professionals can assess with high confidence someone is an AQAP leader, even if they can't tell us by name who that individual is," one official told the Associated Press.

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سامر ماجد موسى (سوري الجنسية) يريد العمل في مجال الهندسة الطبية، خريج جامعة دمشق. 737264518

أنس نبيل السمان (سوري الجنسية) يرغب في العمل في مجال الدعاية والتسويق، خريج بكالوريوس محاسبة، دمشق. 733034602

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بكالوريوس محاسبه دورات انجليزي دورات كمبيوتر دورات في الرقابه والتخطيط والتكاليف والتسويق في الشركة الوطنية للاسفنج والبلاستيك - دوره في النظام المحاسبي-دوره تقدير الذات. للتواصل: 770599659

مترجم ومراسل تجاري عشرة سنوات خبرة للتواصل: حسين مختار - 733707416

باسام ناجي، اداب لغة انجليزية، مراسلات تجارية باللغتين، دبلوم تسويق، اجادة استخدام الكمبيوتر. 773278107

مدرسة خريجة كلية التربية جامعة صنعاء، عملت للتواصل: 700541634

لدى المدارس التركية لمدة 4 سنوات، عدة دورات في التنمية البشرية، اجادة استخدام الحاسوب، تبحث عن عمل اداري، 711274750

محمد قاسم العودي، ماجستير ادارة عامة من الولايات الامريكية المتحدة. 7703252447

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بلغة انجليزية، دبلوم كمبيوتر، خبرة مراسلات تجارية للتواصل: 770166950

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طلال عبدالواسع، حاصل على بكالوريوس محاسبة، دبلوم سكرتارية، دروة يمن سوفت، خبرة في مجال كهرياء الريف، اجادة اللغة الانجليزية. 770166950

استراحة العدد

كلمات متقاطعة

الكلمة المفقودة

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الحلول بالمقلوب

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Vendors profit from Change Square

Story and photos by Ashraf Al-Muraqab

In early 2011, now-ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh's loyalists occupied Sana'a's Al-Tahreer Square to prevent the protesters from going, as happened in the Egyptian revolution. Because of this, Yemeni youth chose the square—dubbed Change Square—to sit-in and protest Saleh's regime.

The youth built small tents in the square, and they stretched to reach

Sana'a University to the west, Al-Adel Street to the east and Al-Dairi Street to the south.

The area around the square has a high population density due to its location in front of Sana'a University and to the surrounding trade centers. But the square itself is small.

Despite the square's small size, many people went there, built wooden shacks and began selling various items. Street vendor incomes have now increased as a result. Some tents—overlooking crowded main streets—turned to popular mar-

kets selling everything people there need.

Ahmed Al-Salamani, owner of a mobile accessories shack, said the square provided him with an opportunity to sell his goods because there are many people and visitors. Consequently, he has been earning more money.

"Change Square provided work for many youth to make money because only a tent is needed. People don't have to rent stores," Al-Salamani said.

Street vendors spread across the

square. They regularly move between tents. They sell drinking water, cucumbers, snacks, ice cream, tea, coffee, power drinks and qat.

A number of people stay and visit the square, which encouraged qat sellers to move their businesses to the square—to where the people were. Furthermore, many unemployed people seized the opportunity and began selling qat in the square.

Naji Al-Hubaishi, a qat seller, said, "Many people are present in the square, which made us move and start selling here. Several friends of mine sell qat here, and they gain great profits."

Al-Hubaishi said many qat sellers moved from far-out qat markets to the square.

"A majority of customers here are tribesmen," Al-Hubaishi said. "They buy qat at different times during the day, so we have to work late because most of the youth and the organizing committees stay late into the night."

Sellers in the square don't pay taxes or market fees, which are taken by private citizens and don't go to the government. This attracted many people.

"No one bothers us here, and we don't have to pay taxes," Al-Hubaishi said.

Qat sessions are very popular in the square. Even people who don't participate in the sit-in go to the square to chew. There, they discuss Yemeni politics and chant slogans demanding an end to the regime.

"Many people here sell soda and water in the day, and at night, children collect the empty cans to sell," Atif Maoda said.

Residents' complaints

Homeowners near the square complain about the disturbance caused by protesters and the lack of cleanliness in the square.

Mohammed Al-Qohm, an area resident, said, "Qat sellers moved from their markets to the square. The problem is that no one shows solidarity with us to solve this problem, which bothers us and our families."

"When I go to prominent figures in the square to complain about qat sellers in front of my house, they accuse me of being loyal to the former regime, of being a thug," he added.

The increased business isn't restricted to qat. Even vendors selling snacks, telecommunication centers and Internet cafes have seen profit gains.

"We work 24 hours a day, and our profits have increased by 300 percent compared to the previous period," Maik Al-Hammadi, a telecommunication center owner, said.

"I go to Internet cafes to know what is new and connect with my friends via Facebook," Ali Al-Ajaz, a youth in the square, said. "I usually spend four hours each night surfing the net."

However, some shops closed because of the turmoil. Moreover, shop owners, who sell and rent cars near

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Vendors set up tents lining the square, selling various goods and food.

the square, moved elsewhere, leaving their shops behind, according to a furniture storeowner.

Mohammed Al-Otmi came from his village to work in the capital, but he couldn't find a job. Therefore, he joined the sit-in.

"I stay in the square until 10 p.m. I belong to a poor family and have no one to support me financially, so I collect and sell empty cans in order to get money."

Mahmoud Al-Otmi closed his tea-shop and moved to the square to sell tea. His set up a one-meter long tent and started to sell tea.

"I sell ten times what I used to sell in my shop," he said. "My brother and I are selling tea for people here all day."

A few tents in the square have been removed from the main street, which is between Madbah Round and Eagle Hotel, and three side

streets—Al-Zira'a, Al-Adl, and Al-Horia streets. Now, the square is between Al-Dairi Main Street and Sam Gas Station.

Those who used to stay in the removed tents were people summoned to escalate the revolution. They left Sana'a after, returning to their governorates. The tents are now gone, too, and people drive through the streets where they once stood.

The Organizing Committee, in a statement, denied the removal of tents in order to evacuate the square, saying the removal was for the residents' convenience.

The committee said the revolution would continue until all aims are achieved, pointing out that the square is the only thing that guarantees achieving the revolution aims.

Until that time, storeowners—tent owners—will continue to sell from the square.



Profits increased significantly for Maik Al-Hammadi, a store owner, after people began moving into Change Square.



Some business owners moved and set up shop in the square after realizing it would be a good business opportunity.



The area around Change Square has a high population density, but the square itself is small and overcrowded.

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