

Hadi's pro-drone comments garner negative response from Yemeni citizens

Ahmed Dawood

SANA'A, Sept. 29 — A considerable number of Yemenis said they resented recent comments made by President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi in the presence of American journalists and with respect to U.S. drone strikes in Yemen.

Hadi said he is not opposed to any American drone strikes in Yemen so long as these strikes target Al-Qaeda affiliates. He hailed the drone strikes as a technical miracle helping to curb any gains made in the region this past year by Al-Qaeda.

Ali Al-Falahi, a 33-year-old Yemeni, expressed his resentment about the president's statement, saying, "I didn't expect Hadi to

speak like that. I wished he would criticize the planes that break into our nation. I was extremely astonished to hear such a speech."

Abdullah Ismael, editor-in-chief of Al-Wahdawi newspaper, said he is against such a statement, adding that Hadi doesn't seem to take advantage of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's experience.

"Now, Hadi is repeating the same mistakes," Ismael said.

Ismael said Yemenis put their trust in Hadi, yet he is copying the ways of the former president, who was ousted in 2011 after a popular uprising calling for his removal from office.

Facing terrorism is an internal business, he said, and Hadi ought to only take advantage of Ameri-

can training, preparation and experience.

"However, to accept the killing of Yemenis goes against the law of the country," he said. "No Yemeni is to be killed without a fair trial."

For his part, Noor Al-Deen Al-Azazi, head of the Yemeni Center for Civil Rights, condemned Hadi's comments and said he hoped the president would withdraw his words.

"The American planes have become free to come and go in the Yemeni skies, striking many locations as if it is normal," he said. "This is a blatant violation of Yemenis' rights."

Al-Azazi said he questioned Hadi's acceptance of what he calls a violation of national sovereignty.

"It is true we are suffering from terrorism, but the American drones kill innocent Yemenis by mistake. I don't know how this can continue and how the American drones are accepted to storm Yemenis even though a huge revolution broke out against the former regime."

He went on to say, "This is unacceptable. We will not allow this to go on. We hope Hadi will withdraw his statement and not say such words once again."

In an interview with journalists from the Washington Post newspaper, Hadi said, "Every operation, before taking place, they take permission from the president."

In the same interview, Hadi also said, "The drone technologically

is more advanced than the human brain."

Hadi provided new details regarding the counterterrorism operation center located near Sana'a. He told the Post that the center helps monitor counterterrorism operations, and the center includes army and intelligence personnel from the United States, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

"You go to the operations center and see operations taking place step by step," Hadi said in the interview.

Mohammed Ali Hadi, a youth in Sana'a's Change Square, said Hadi's statement was provocative, indicating that the youth revolution was sparked to liberate Yemen from domination and submission.

"The American drone strikes prove undoubtedly that Yemen is not free from being submissive."

The youth revolutionaries will continue their struggle for the purpose of making Yemen a real civil state capable of defending its sovereignty by a powerful army and strong will, separate from foreign interference, Mohammed Ali Hadi said.

Approximately 50 civilians were killed in a drone strike in Al-Majala district in Abyan governorate in 2009. Additionally, an unidentified plane killed 11 civilians in Al-Baida governorate at the outset of this month. The American strikes have successfully targeted many Al-Qaeda members in several provinces of Yemen.

Students victim to political disputes

Story and photo by
Ashraf Al-Muraqab

SANA'A, Sept. 30 — On Saturday, Yemeni Prime Minister Mohammed Salem Basindawa directed the minister of higher education to appoint Dr. Majdi Mohammed Aqlan as acting rector of Sana'a University, replacing Dr. Ahmed Al-Shaer Basarda. Basindawa called it a temporary procedure.

The decision came following the eruption of students' calls for Basarda to resign Saturday, but Basarda's bodyguards opened fire on the student protestors, injuring five students.

"A group of Islah militants at-



Sana'a University has again been directed to halt studies, this time because of political disputes that have disrupted campus activity.

tempted to attack me," Basarda said to Yemen Times. "Instead of penalizing the law-breakers, they ordered my resignation."

He deemed Basindawa's decree as a violation of university law.

The Sana'a University Presidency declared a halt to studies at all colleges beginning Sunday because of repetitive violations of Islah party members against the teaching staff, the University Presidency, the employees and the students, he said.

"The university guards repelled the attacks according to the law."

The Teaching Staff Syndicate at Sana'a University has already called for a comprehensive strike at the university because of attacks

against a group of students and doctors who called for the replacement of the university rector and the deans of all the colleges. They called for new leadership to be appointed based on free elections.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Azazi, head of the Teaching Staff Syndicate, told the Yemen Times in a phone interview that the strike is comprehensive and will remain open until elections are held and the current administration is replaced.

Basarda accused some sides of interrupting studies, including the prime minister and Islah figures at the university such as Dr. Saleh Al-Sanabani, Radhwan Masoud and Al-Azazi. He holds them respon-

sible for the destructive acts that have recently taken place at the university.

Sana'a University students have lived in a state of a crisis since the breakout of the 2011 political uprising; studies were suspended for months, and now students endeavor to compensate for what they missed. Instead, they find themselves in front of a new strike.

"It is a crime to connect education with politics," Nasma Al-Wadaei, a student at the College of Commerce, said. "What is happening is only political calculations. The victims are the students who study in an unstable academic environment."

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القطاع الصناعي

Workshop launches 2014 Population, Housing and Establishment Census

Nadia Haddash

SANA'A, Sept. 30 – The Central Statistical Organization inaugurated on Sunday a workshop to discuss the Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2014 project document, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Doctor Hassan Thabit Farhan, head of the Central Statistical Organization and deputy of the Supreme Committee for Census, said the workshop aims to create a real partnership among the Yemeni government, the UNFPA, funders and supporting organizations and governments of friendly countries.

Farhan said the Yemeni government hopes these organizations will contribute in funding the implementation of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2014 in terms of all its activities and stages, expressing his hope to provide the draft with views and opinions to make it successful so that it can be resorted to in setting future development plans.

Abdulhakeem Al-Abeed, undersecretary of the Central Statistical Organization and deputy of the Census project, said the Population, Housing and Establishment Census draft project will be discussed in the workshop to

provide the necessary technical and logistic support because this project is essential for the Yemeni government as it will provide data to help decision-makers and data users, both governmental and nongovernmental.

Al-Abeed said this census is the third census since achieving Yemen's unity, and it is the fifth in Yemen's history. The population in the first census, from December 1994, reached 14.5 million. The second census, performed in December 2004, estimated the country's population to be 19.6 million.

Marc Vandenberghe, who is a representative of the UNFPA, and several experts and specialists men attended the workshop. They discussed several working papers, the draft of the upcoming census, its legal framework and the plans and programs to implement its estimated budget and the suggested promotion strategy.

The 2014 census will include three main parts: a population census, a building census and an establishment census.

The U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) provided \$1.6 million in support out of \$10 million to carry out the census, making it the main supporter of the Central Statistical Organization's activities.

Human rights film festival to run through this week

**Story and photo by
Amira Nasser**

SANA'A, Sept. 30 – The Cultural Development Programs Foundation (CDPF) is holding its Dignity Festival in Sana'a's Change Square this week. The celebration aims to increase human rights awareness.

The festival, which began Sept. 29 and run until Oct. 4, is screening one-hour documentary films everyday at 10 a.m. and holding one-hour discussion sessions for the audience afterward.

CDPF said the festival is open to everyone and at the same time to a number of civil society organizations.

Amani Abdul-Galil, a communication officer at CDPF, said he estimates that 15 documentary films will be shown in the festival throughout the week, and the discussions following the screenings will help to gauge people's opinions and to raise awareness about human rights issues.

She said one positive thing CDPF has already noticed is that there is much work to be done to increase awareness among the youth, and though it was not one of the festival's essential goals, it will become a main target for future activities.

"The level of human rights comprehension is very low, and there needs to be a lot of effort to increase it," she said.

Yehia Al-Sharqi, head of CDPF, said the festival is taking place in Sana'a's Change Square because most of the activities carried out



by civil society organizations are presented in the form of workshops and meetings within the same audience, who are the members of the same organizations or they are young activists.

"Normal people, citizens, soldiers and whoever believes in human rights are invited to participate in the festival," he said.

The festival aims to educate people on what their human rights are, as well as how to get their rights in a right way, according to Al-Sharqi.

He said he was surprised that audiences were mostly composed of ordinary citizens speaking out about their opinions and rights in a very simple and positive way,

while, at the same time, human rights activists understand their rights in a general and an unclear way.

"There was no big gap between what we found with simple people and human rights activists," he said.

Intesar Al-Shawafi, the head of the programs at CDPF, said the films are produced by foreign organizations working alongside CDPF to show these films to others and make an evaluation of the results after the festival.

Audiences highly interacted with the presented films, and there are demands from a number of them to have copies of the films to show others, she said.

Jaber Ali Mohammed, a Sana'a resident, attended the festival and said the most interesting thing he saw was the reality he notices in the streets every day being presented in a different way—through films and discussion.

Hassan Qaied, said he attended the festival because it shows how to view human rights in peacefully.

"Tribal and religious intolerance, social division—these are things that I see a lot of in society, which were presented in a good way in the films and discussions," he said.

Al-Shawafi said the most dangerous affect on Yemeni people is the social division, which spreads widely but without people's knowledge.

GPC members dead after Al-Jawf anubush

Samar Qaed

AL-JAWF, Sept. 29 – Sheikh Mansour Al-Iraqi, head of the General People Congress' (GPC) branch in Al-Jawf accused Islah militiamen of attacking leaders of the GPC,

leaving four dead and six others wounded.

The GPC affiliates were returning from the Al-Jawf governor's condolence in Nehm area, Sana'a-Marib Road, on Friday. Al-Iraqi said members affiliated with the

Islah Party colluded with members from Shawlan Tribe to attack the convoy, which included members from Hamdan Tribe—known to be out for revenge with Shawlan Tribe—after passing by Fardah.

"It is a politicized attack because we refused appointing a new governor linked to Islah," Al-Iraqi said. "Our friends knew about the collusion and came to help us, but the Islah militiamen prevented them."

Al-Iraqi said they tried to take the wounded to a nearby hospital in Marib, but the Islah armed men, positioned at different check-

points, prevented them from successfully transported the injured persons. Meanwhile, the governor didn't move a finger to help, he said, and Islah didn't issue a condemnation statement.

Al-Iraqi claimed the government bears responsibility because it didn't fulfill perform its duty.

"We are waiting to see what the government is going to do; otherwise we will refuse its presence in Al-Jawf and will protect ourselves by way of tribal and partisan procedures."

For his part, Abdulhameed Amir, head of the Islah Party in Al-Jawf,

denied the accusations made by the GPC. He told Yemen Times that armed men ambushed the convoy out of revenge for something that happened 30 years ago and Islah had nothing to do with it.

"These accusations are completely false because leaders of Islah were also in the convoy as well as independent sheikhs," Amir said. "Ahmed Ali Mohsen, who belongs to Islah, died, too."

Abdulmalik Al-Fohaidi, editor-in-chief of the pro-GPC website Almoatamar.net, called on security apparatuses to start investigating the matter and to arrest

perpetrators.

"This incident comes within several attacks against GPC leaders since the beginning of last year's political crisis," he said. "As many as 271 GPC leaders have been killed or wounded during this period."

"The Islah is accused because it is practicing violence against the GPC leaders in areas that suffer from a security vacuum, and it is important to start investigating the matter before the problem aggravates, leading to a tribal conflict which may affect the political compromise in Yemen."



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Minister pledges improved land, sea, air transportation

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANA'A, Sept. 30 – Doctor Waad Badheeb, Yemen's transportation minister, said he has future plans to improve the situation of air transportation in Yemen and to provide competing services to clients.

In a press conference held Saturday, Badheeb said Yemen Airlines plays a leading role in providing services for passengers, particularly during the past year. In spite of the obstacles and the difficult situation the airline has been facing, Yemen Airlines has managed to overcome all difficulties, he said.

Badheeb said plans include purchasing new Airbus planes, which were scheduled to be bought in 2010, and regaining what was looted from the company during the few past years.

Badheeb said the company is a large company that has a qualified and professional cadre, indicating that the company is competitive with other air transportation companies despite its unique difficul-

ties due to Yemen's political and economic situation.

Badheeb also said the ministry is taking intensive measures to solve all the problems at Sana'a, Taiz and Aden airports. He assured that the ministry is determined to finish the new Sana'a International Airport project because it is of strategic importance for improving air transportation and mounting its movement in Yemen.

Badheeb said the transportation section, including land, sea and air transportation, would soon witness a quantum leap to cope with the latest international developments.

In return, Ahmed Masood Al-Alwani, head of Yemen Airlines' board of directors, commended the efforts and the leadership exerted by the Ministry of Transportation to provide all facilitations, contributing to the company's improvements and ability to solve its problems.

Al-Alwani said the airline is currently working according to well-

organized plans to strengthen its place among other airlines, considering it as one of the most important national companies. He said the development strategy the company is following includes several

procedures such as obtaining the newest techniques for flying and implementing marketing policies by way of improving its relations with agents and providing the best services for clients.



Photo courtesy of Yemen Airlines

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Hadi's trip out West



Hadi briefly met with U.S. President Barack Obama during U.N. General Assembly meetings.

Mohammed Al-Samei

In the presence of President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, seven billion dollars was the total sum pledged by donors to support Yemen at the conclusion of the Friends of Yemen conference, which took place last week in New York City.

The Friends of Yemen meeting terminated its single-day session Thursday in New York City, with participation from 39 representatives of countries, regions and international organizations.

Prior to the conference, Hadi paid a visit to the United Kingdom on Sept. 23 before heading for the United States.

Jamal Benomar, the U.N. special envoy to Yemen, said Saudi Arabia pledged approximately half of the donation, indicating that such a thing exceeded his expectations. He asserted the importance of the conference's results in helping Yemen overcome different challenges.

A final statement made at the meeting said the meeting embodies the continuity of international support for the democratic transitional process in Yemen, led by President Hadi and based on the Gulf Initiative and its scheduled timeframe for implementation.

The statement asserted that all group members agreed Yemenis should lead the National Dialogue Conference process themselves, without foreign interference. The United Nations should be responsible for providing technical, logistical and financial expertise essential for holding the conference as well as encouraging all Yemeni factions to effectively participate in the dialogue, the statement indicated.

The statement also mentioned the Yemeni government's efforts to reorganize the security and army institutions by the end of 2012 in conjunction with facing increasing threats by Al-Qaeda.

Badr Bin Aqeel, a political analyst, said Hadi's visit proves to the entire world that the country is recovering, dreams are starting to be realized and Yemen is step-by-step approaching a departure from the bottleneck it is currently stuck inside.

"It is really beautiful that the visit came in the depth of national celebrations of the jubilee anniversary of 26 of the September revolution," Bin Aqeel said. "This occasion bears various signs and meanings. It represents the sixth objective of the immortal Yemeni revolutions in line with the rest of the objectives so as to be implemented on the ground."

mented on the ground."

Hadi's visit to the United States and the United Kingdom is an indicator of appreciation for their efforts to assist Yemen overcome troubles and avoid wars, conflicts and polarization, according to Bin Akeel.

Hadi's presence at the Friends of Yemen meeting carries good news for the national economy and solving problems so as to pave the way for a successful transitional phase, he added.

Bin Akeel also said Hadi wants to fulfill his promise to the nation, made when he took office in late February: Yes to the reconciliatory president.

For the first time, President Hadi pays a visit to the U.S since he took office at the beginning of this year. In the visit, Hadi met with the U.S Vice President Joe Biden at the White House in Washington.

Also during his overseas trip, Hadi met U.S. President Barack Obama on Tuesday on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly's meetings. Obama joined Hadi and John Brennan, Obama's chief counterterrorism advisor.

The state-run Saba News Agency reported that, in a meeting with U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, Biden commended the exceptional

steps Hadi has made, particularly during a time of political crisis and while working to adopt the peaceful power transition.

The agency also reported that Biden described the steps Hadi made as "important and historical steps aimed to overcome the difficult circumstances and reach a compromise."

Biden assured Hadi of President Obama and the U.S. administration's commitment to supporting Yemen during its political transition to achieve the sought-after aims.

"The U.S. government will do what is necessary for the political process to have success in Yemen," Biden said.

Hadi said six million Yemeni youth are unemployed and need job opportunities to live an honorable life, so as not to deviate from the right way, pointing out that if Yemen slid into civil war, it would be a big problem on regional and international levels.

Abdullah Sabri, a leader of the Joint Meeting Parties, said Hadi's visit comes during a very sensitive time for Yemen within the transitional period because powerful countries are brokering for political compromise in Yemen at the same time as the Friends of Yemen conference was scheduled. The visit aims to get more political and financial support for Hadi, the reconciliation government and the National Dialogue Conference, which is scheduled for November.

"Looking at the announced results of Hadi's visit, it can be said that the visit serves Hadi's policies and the reconciliation government, supports some decrees concerning the military reorganizing, passes the Transitional Justice Law and establishes a committee to investigate the 2011 incidents," Sabri said.

Sabri said Hadi's visit is also negative indicator because it shows imbalance in Yemen's external relations, particularly after Hadi's refusal to meet with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. It also suggests that Hadi, who met with both the U.S. president and vice president, could have received orders from them, he said, implying that Yemen is now following the White House more than it was during the regime of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Sabri said Hadi is determined to improve relations with the U.S. because it is powerful in Yemen.

"Hadi may be supported by the U.S. in the 2014 presidential elections, who knows?"



Hadi spent time in Washington, D.C. meeting with various members of the U.S. government, including members of Congress.

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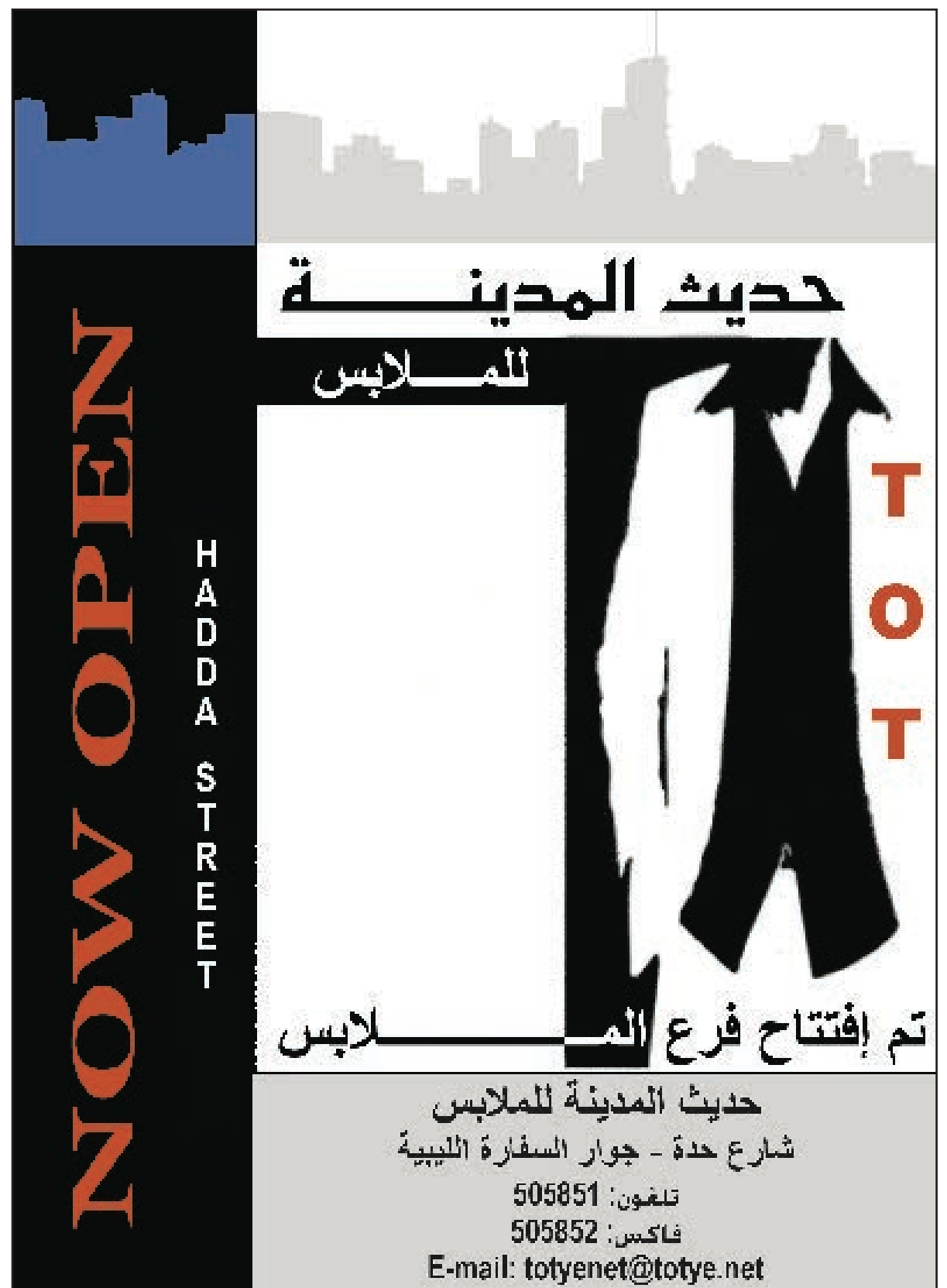
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Haseba strife haunts residents

Story and photos by
Ashraf Al-Muraqab

Al-Haseba district still languishes in a complex humanitarian situation. Although the bloody clashes of the last year have mostly drawn to a close, what those confrontations left behind is striking. Haseba, which used to be one of the liveliest districts in the capital city, is now quiet and empty.

Haseba residents are hurt and forgotten. Houses are uninhabited. Armed men are now commonplace features in the streets, and an awful stench has overtaken the neighborhood.

Abu Muataz Al-Wasabi has not forgotten all the damages his house in Haseba sustained due to the weapons confrontations between Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmer's sons, Central Security Forces and the Republican Guards. All the windows were destroyed. A considerable part of the house was subject to fractures because of heavy shelling in its vicinity. His shop was looted; all that was left behind the fridge, the television and various food items.

"We have never heard about the compensation committees following the war," Al-Wasabi said. "It is as if nothing happened to this district."

Sameer Al-Madhaji, a resident who resides near Al-Ahmer's house, said, "Although the ceasefire was agreed on by the two sides, the barricades have not been completely removed yet from the streets, par-



Although residents can still be seen in the streets during daylight hours, at night, people stay inside the safety of their homes.

ticularly those close to the house of Al-Ahmer. The armed men, loyal to Sheikh Al-Ahmer, are still spread."

"Haseba residents still pay the price," Al-Madhaji said. "We have nothing to do with this strife. We are still apprehensive about the war's renewal. There are no assuring signs from the government or Al-Ahmer's sons."

Mohammed Al-Emad, a cafeteria owner, said the conflicting sides

should have compensated Haseba residents because they were the reason behind the losses and the damages to property.

Street vendors and shopping center owners in Haseba said life has started again, albeit slowly. They said buying and selling momentum has improved during the daytime. However, they say, in the night, people disappear from the streets after 11 p.m. because they don't feel

safe.

Sadam Harith, another resident, said once the darkness approaches, pedestrians cannot be seen, even though it might only be 10 p.m. or earlier.

"The streets are free from pedestrians and cars in an intimidating and unprecedented way," Harith said.

He indicated that those who still live in Haseba remain scared, par-

ticularly at night.

"Who will compensate all the victims whose houses were destroyed?" Harith asked. "The two conflicting sides appear apathetic to what happened. They agreed on a ceasefire, yet they made no mention of the victims, ending barricades

and evacuating the armed men from the streets so that stability recovers and people go back their homes."

Mohammed Nasser, a Haseba resident, said the schools are empty of students because last year the schools became outposts for armed men to set up their operations.

He said the latest confrontations between the Reinforcement Forces and the First Armored Division influenced some Haseba residents to again leave their homes and relocate to different neighborhoods.

The continuous fighting in Haseba left a deep injury to the psyche of the people; such situation makes anyone sympathetic. Poverty seems to center on many families because the strife exacerbated the situations, leaving casualties of life, property and livelihood. The situation remains difficult—especially for those who opted to stay in Haseba—but it is harder still when nobody is ready to help them rebuild.

"We have nobody to speak on our behalf," Al-Emad said.



Constant shelling and other destruction that comes with fighting has left Haseba ridden with reasons to rebuild. The empty streets are littered with trash and buildings need repairs.



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Fifty years passed looking for the rule of law

Nasr Taha Mustafa

Fifty years have passed since the 1962 revolution, which is the most human revolution in Arab contemporary history. The 1962 revolution was mostly human. It sparked for human reasons in the first place and then for economic, cultural, social and educational reasons. It can be said that all these reasons and also other reasons formed the human side of the revolution.

It is known that revolutions happen because of political reasons and economic reasons, while other revolutions spark out because two or three reasons only. But revolutions that happened due to all these reasons, such as the 1962 revolution, which freed Yemenis from the state of political inertia, are rare ones.

Al-Salal's regime (1962-1967)

The free officers, who carried out the revolution, selected Marshal Abdullah Al-Salal to be a head of the Revolution's Leadership Council and then a president of Yemen Arab Republic. Although all leaders agreed on requesting the late leader Jamal Abdullnasser to send Egyptian troops to help in protecting the revolution, disagreements later arose between them regarding the political and military role of Egypt in the Yemeni revolution.

No doubt, these disagreements weakened the council and increased the power of the opposition, the imams, during the rule of Al-Salal, which lasted for five years. The sought-after Yemeni state wasn't built due to a lack of stability. Moreover, the constitution was changed several times and also government changes were made, indicating the great disagreements.

In spite of all political disagreements among the revolutionary council, the most important achievement during Al-Salal's rule was the republican regime's steadfastness. Moreover, during Al-Salal's five-year term, Yemenis became more aware about the importance of a revolution for their future, considering it the right beginning to construct a new, modern country based on the rule of law.

This concept of revolution was instilled among Yemenis due to a spread of health and educational services. Although these services were simple, they were considered great things compared to their inexistence at the time of the imams.

Year after year, the imams' hope to rule again gradually dissipated. Their last attempt to regain control was the siege they imposed around Sana'a for seventy days in 1967.

Al-Aryani's term (1967-1974)

On Nov. 5, 1967, Al-Salal's rule ended due to a peaceful coup by the republican alliance. Al-Salal was certain such a coup would happen sooner or later, so he preferred to leave Yemen and avoid bloodshed.

All national forces agreed to choose Judge Abdurrahman Al-Aryani to replace Al-Salal as the most prominent civil figure. At that time, military men could control everything, but they had no ambitions because they believed authority wasn't their right. Their noble values made them pay no attention to power.

After the 70-day siege ended in 1968, the republican regime was stronger, and Al-Aryani started reorganizing the revolutionary council. He succeeded in attracting many pro-imams and was able to convince them it was time to start constructing the modern Yemen.

In 1969, a national council, headed by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, was established to set the permanent constitution of the country and make arrangements to choose the first parliament. Meanwhile, secret arrangements were held to achieve a national reconciliation with the imams, on the condition that Hamed Al-Din's family remove itself completely from the political scene. The Saudi King Faisal Bin Abdulaziz played a valuable role in this important achievement in 1970.

In 1970, the constitution was set and the Shura Council was elected,



A Yemeni soldier learns from his Egyptian instructor how to use a bayonet.

which at the beginning of the next year elected members of the Republican Council, usually not less than three and not more than five members.

During the remaining three years of his term, Al-Aryani couldn't continue building the state of law due to disagreements between sheikhs who had great social and military influence and believed Al-Aryani mustn't intervene in whatever they did.

Moreover, sheikhs disagreed with Al-Aryani because of the relations with the southern region. Al-Aryani believed there must be normal relations with the south so that the unity could be achieved one day, while the sheikhs considered the regime in Aden their enemy because of their Marxist ideologies.

From there, disagreement rose between the southern and northern regions, leading to war in September 1972 until Arab interference resulted in an end to the war and the signing the first two unity agreements.

The arrangements to replace Al-Aryani took a year and a half to find a replacement in a weird alliance between sheikhs and military men who were loyal to Saudi Arabia and Iraq until June 13, 1974.

Al-Hamdi's regime (1974-1977)

Al-Aryani's plotters didn't know that by choosing Al-Hamdi a president, they would end their military influence forever. They thought Al-Hamdi, who belonged neither to sheikh nor to military family, was a weak person, but he unprecedentedly eliminated their influence.

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When the Islah Party again started opposing Saleh, after the parliament elections in 1997, Saleh and the GPC started to dismiss Islah members from their positions, in preparation to have complete authority.

Although he joined the military, Al-Hamdi's civil nature remained. He was a very charismatic person. All Yemenis loved him because of his modesty, simplicity, vast knowledge, young age and excellent oratory skills—all of which led them to anticipate he would make great changes and achieve stability.

Because he was an educated and a cultured man, Al-Hamdi had a vision regarding the institutionalization of the state. He knew the powers that dominated during

Al-Aryani's term; he didn't give them the opportunity to dominate again and prevent the sought-after change.

A little more than one year later, Al-Hamdi dismissed all the sheikhs and military men, but the tension continued because they controlled several areas north of the capital Sana'a. The sheikhs were careful not to do anything wrong and to find suitable solutions to negotiate with Al-Hamdi, but he knew that the solutions would affect the rule of law.

The regional and international support Al-Hamdi's agendas received made it difficult for that alliance to continue. Saudi Arabia preferred to support Al-Hamdi because his plans would help the north to improve its abilities and also to achieve stability like the south so as to face the Soviet danger in the Arab Peninsula and the Gulf through the south, according to Al-Riyadh and the foreign countries.

Al-Hamdi was happy he was supported; however, he saw that lessening any danger from the south must be achieved by close alliances with the south instead of considering southerners enemies. He also knew having relations with the south would help him in building the state. Therefore, he exerted great efforts to make Al-Riyadh and Aden come together, convincing them to establish diplomatic ties and arranging for a visit for President Salem Robaie Bin Ali to Al-Riyadh in 1976.

However, the coup against Al-Hamdi on Oct. 11, 1977, was very tragic because the people who carried it out feared his popularity and weren't able to carry out a peaceful coup due to their narrow cultural and educational knowledge. Al-Hamdi paid dearly for trusting untrustworthy people.

All Yemenis were shocked to hear Al-Hamdi was assassinated in the coup because, for sure, there was no reason for the coup and also because they weren't used to such thing at a time when they started to experience stability and improvement.

Northern Yemen entered a difficult stage after death of Al-Hamdi. They were under the rule of Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Al-Ghashmi and Lieutenant Colonel Ali Abdullah Saleh. Al-Hamdi's death wrapped up institutional development plans, as proven by the regimes of Al-Ghashmi and Saleh.

Saleh's three-decade regime (1978-2012)

Nothing distinguished Al-Ghashmi's regime. It was a transit for who came after. Some politicians advised him to announce a new constitution and appoint a new parliament to bridge the constitutional gap when the time of the Shura Council ended.

Al-Ghashmi ruled for two months only and then was assassinated on June 24, 1978, via a suitcase bomb sent to him from the south, it's rumored.

The first period of Saleh (1978-1990)

On July 17, 1978, Ali Abdullah Saleh was appointed president and commander of the military forces.

All situations were suitable for Saleh to rule for many years, though politicians at that time expected him to rule only for few months due to the hard situation in the north.

All the expectations proved to be wrong because Saleh prevented himself from making the same mistakes as former presidents, particularly the ones during the six years before taking office.

He also learned many things being a military leader for three years in Taiz, which witnessed a great political movement at that time.

No doubt, in my opinion, the first ten years of Saleh's rule were the best, and they can be extended to include the two years before signing the unity. At that time, there were many figures meant to be appointed president, but Saleh was the chosen, and despite all his negative aspects, he was able to achieve stability in the north.

Although he lacked an institutional project, Saleh consulted all experienced people around him and took their good opinions—unless the opinions opposed his policy. His positive personal characteristics helped him meet the requirements of that period.

Saleh started a national dialogue, came close together with other political parties, avoided war with the south, opened new ways to start dialogue with southerners, adopted the national pact, established the General People Congress (GPC)—which was Al-Hamdi's plan—, signed oil extraction agreements,



From a cave, Imam Al-Badr speaks with others in Jabal Sheda.

codified laws based on the Islamic laws, held Shura Council elections in 1988 and continued to reduce the influence of sheikhs by meeting their demands and not by opposing them.

Therefore, it can be said the first twelve years of Saleh's rule were the best, particularly due to achieving unity with Ali Salem Al-Beidh, the general secretary of the Yemen Socialist Party.

But it is sure that Saleh went on to sign the unity agreement after twelve years of his rule without establishing the basic bases of a state based on rule of law, democracy state and independent authorities.

The second period of Saleh (1990-1997)

No need to suspect the good will of the two partners who achieved the unity. Rather, it can be said they couldn't look after it because disagreements soon rose between them, though people were very eager about that.

They started to suspect each other and preferred their personal interests to the national interest. Today, Saleh is gone, but it is difficult to blame him alone for the disagreements during the first seven years of unity, including the transitional period that lasted three years, the year of war and the three years characterized by the duo alliance with the Islah Party.

Paradoxically, people in the north were ambitious that the Socialist Party in the south would help construct the state because they had previous experience, but all their ambitions dissipated because the Socialist Party was busy defending its political presence.

Meanwhile, the southerners were

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And then, the Arab Spring erupted in several countries. Yemenis seized the opportunity and took to the streets to end Saleh's regime and wrap it up forever.

hopeful that Saleh would extract them from their dire economic situation. They thought better opportunities would come after the unity, but nothing happened.

The multilateral talks started after the constitutional amendment elections, but disagreements intensified because of terms concerning the presidency, resulting in a political impasse and then war.

It can't be said the two partners didn't want to go to war because both prepared. Protecting the unity was the first party's excuse, while the second party's excuse was re-

gained complete control and decision with his GPC? For sure, no improvement marked this period. Instead, negative signs ran rife in everything to such an extent that Saleh pledged to uproot confusion when presenting his 1999 presidential documents to parliament.

But Saleh couldn't fulfill his pledge, and the result was that the situation worsened more year-by-year, and confusion and disorder was widely spread. It is well known that confusion and disorder are the opposite of order, state sovereignty and rule of law. Rather, it is a natural synonym for corruption and nepotism.

The reason behind all that was Saleh's lack of a serious and real vision to build an institutional state based on rule of law. Even had he had this vision, it would have opposed his project to give security and military reins to his relatives.

Saleh's project to pass the rule to his son, Brigadier General Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh, gradually appeared. Consequently, Yemen's opposition newspapers launched a counter-campaign against this plan, which was based on the imams' regime—toppled some 40 years earlier.

As a result, in 2004, conflict started in Sa'ada and lasted six years. It is considered the most anonymous war in Yemen's history because no one knew the reason behind it; why it started suddenly and who had power to sporadically stop it; why the military couldn't achieve a clear victory during the six years; and why the Houthis were in control of more area at the time of truce.

Signs of a weakness in Saleh's regime began appearing: the Sa'ada war, the appearance of the Southern Movement and at last, when the Joint Meeting Parties (JMPs) competed strongly against Saleh during the 2006 presidential elections.

Meanwhile, Saleh continued to look for support for his alleged battles against Al-Qaeda.

This was accompanied by a continuous deterioration in all government apparatuses—without any hope of improvement sooner or later.

And then, the Arab Spring erupted in several countries. Yemenis seized the opportunity and took to streets to end Saleh's regime and wrap it up forever. They discovered 30 years of their lives were spent under the rule of a person who covered the lack of a clear vision to improve the country by using his political skills, flexibility, patience, acceptance of his political enemies and exploitation of all abilities and sources to buy people's loyalty and to dismantle social and political organizations.

Current President Abdu Rabu Mansur Hadi's term

On Feb. 21, 2012, an unexpected number of Yemenis voted for Hadi to be Yemen's president. Approximately seven million people—most of them belonging to northern areas—voted, with love, for the first southern president to rule a unified Yemen.

They are all hopeful Hadi will find a way out of the non-nation they've experienced during the fifty past years, never finding a way for the rule of law. Yemeni youth carried out a peaceful revolution looking for a new hope after losing hope in Saleh's regime.

The youths' peaceful revolution came to retrieve the September 26 revolution on its fiftieth anniversary and bring back all its noble concepts and aims, giving Yemenis a new hope for the possibility of constructing a new Yemen.

Therefore, President Hadi has a historical responsibility to take all the necessary actions to achieve the aims of the revolution. Now, Yemenis can't wait to construct a state based on rule of law because they have been waiting fifty years to achieve it. They won't allow any attempts to waste this opportunity again after toppling the imams' regime fifty years ago and getting rid of the republican succession project.

Editor's Note: This article has been edited down from the original length.

Efforts continue to up number of rural area women teachers



Various organizations are working to improve on the number of women teachers in rural area schools.

Story by Nadia Haddash
Photo by Ashraf Al-Muraqab

Ibhar Childhood and Creativity Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development-funded Istijaba project, held the "My Teacher First Meeting" as a part of the My Teacher Project. In its current stage, the project is supporting a variety of activities to promote the increase in women teachers to reach 30 percent in ru-

ral Yemen.

The Life Makers Meeting conducted studies regarding employment policies and reviewed the opinions of offices at the helm of this business. The field study concentrated on employment policies and the techniques used to employ women teachers, in addition to viewing documentary films on the issue.

Nabeel Al-Khadir, the foundation's manager, said the My Teacher Project works to employ thirty percent of women teachers in Yemen

and provides education—particularly for girls—as well as bridging the employment gap between men and women.

"The My Teacher Project directly serves education issues," Al-Khadir said. "It is an interactive, qualitative, media program that supports women's rights to education."

He said the project offered a number of training courses to build up the abilities of project partners, in addition to workshops pertinent to the decision-making process and to

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Studies indicate the percentage of women teachers in Yemen's primary and secondary schools is 24 percent.

the augmentation of women teachers.

The percentage of women teachers in Yemen remains scant, according to a study conducted by Hana Al-Hiweidi, who works for the Life Makers Meeting. The study shed light on girls' education in light of the social traditions and customs, particularly in rural areas.

Studies indicate the percentage of women teachers in Yemen's primary and preparatory schools is 24 percent; male teachers make up 76 percent. The studies also found that the shortage of women teachers directly impacts girls' enrollment and dropout rates.

The majority of studies found that the inadequacy of women teaching staff members is one of the major reasons behind the problems with girls' education.

For her part, Sabria Al-Thawr, a supervisor and an examiner of one of the studies, said, "The situation creates a challenge. The challenge is the creation of a special policy in relation to employing the female staff in the education field. This is a new step toward solving the problem of

SOCOTRA: The World's Most Alien-looking Island is Calling You

Azra Detanac

The Island of Socotra is a renowned UNESCO site and is recognized by many of its visitors as the world's most alien-looking island. This unique archipelago, isolated from mainland Yemen, is now calling everyone to its shores to discover its hidden treasures. Socotra was once a legendary place that saw the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans all bask in its beauty. Centuries later, not many people are aware of the existence of Socotra and its rich biological diversity, nor do they know its location due to the lack of adequate promotion by the Yemeni Ministry of Tourism. The Island of Socotra is known for its rich history and being host to figures such as the Queen of Sheba and Alexander the Great. However, much has changed since then and as Socotra teetered off the radar throughout the years, it has now regained its place as a popular tourist destination. As the National Geographic has recognized, Socotra ranks as the world's most important center of biodiversity containing plant species found nowhere else in the world such as the magnificent dragon's blood trees and the unusual birds. Moreover, Socotra's spectacular, secluded beaches and high never-ending mountains make Socotra a favorite destination and for eco-tourism and adventure.



In the last several months, Yemen's Ministry of Tourism has placed a strong focus on Socotra. Mohammed Hareth, the tours manager at Falcon Travel Services – one of the largest travel agencies in Yemen – along with the help of the Union of Socotra Tour Guides, has launched an online campaign called 12.12.12 Socotra is Calling You on Facebook (www.fb.com/gosocotra) in an astounding effort to promote Socotra and its magical and distinctive nature that attracts tourists from around the world. The campaign's main aim is to provide a one of a kind opportunity for people who have been dreaming of the chance to escape and discover the majesty of Socotra to do so at a low cost.

The Island of Socotra is considered the jewel of the Arabian Peninsula and in 2008; it was given the honor of being recognized as a UNESCO world heritage natural site. Following that year, it was also a candidate lined up to become one of the new Seven Wonders of the World. Annually, approximately two thousand tourists brave this adventurous and stunning island. However, according to Mr. Hareth, over the past year this number has dropped significantly due to the completely isolated political situation in Yemen. Mr. Hareth added that due to such unforeseen circumstances Socotra's beauty is being ignored and that to cater to this, Felix Airways has implemented direct flights departing from Sharjah to the island of Socotra in a strong initiative to support tourism to this jewel of Arabia.

female teachers' inadequacy."

The study targeted Shabwa, Sana'a and Hodeida, owing to the fact that rural areas in these governorates suffer from a sharp shortage of women teachers and a high dropout rate for girls. On the contrary, there is redundancy of women teachers in urban areas of these governorates. For example, women teachers city make up 50 percent of teachers in Sana'a and 95 percent of teachers in Aden, according to a study conducted by Abdulhakeem Al-Shamiri, a

consultant for the Istijaba Project.

During the course of the My Teacher First Meeting, project participants were rewarded, in addition to their exposure to case studies and a viewing of a documentary film. Government staff as well as representatives of civil society organizations were in attendance.

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Children and adolescents speak up about sexual and reproductive health

Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Children and adolescents in Aden and Lahj governorates have been empowered to organize campaigns, plans and activities about sexual and reproductive health.

For more than two years, approximately 10,000 children and teenagers in these governorates have received training courses in reproductive health by Save the Children, an independent, international nongovernmental organization focused on children's rights in developing countries.

The courses were taught as part of a three-year regional project, "Children and Adolescents Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights."

The project, implemented by Save the Children and funded by the European Union, aims to raise awareness of the significance of sexual and reproductive education rights for children and adolescents and to give the necessary information to boost the sexual and reproductive health of children and adolescents.

On Tuesday, Save the Children, with participation by the Health Office in Lahj governorate and



A student shows off her interpretation of reproductive and sexual health

the Yemen Women Union and Special Needs Association, held a press conference in Lahj titled, "School curricula... the surest way to receiving information about reproductive health."

Officials, interested students, teachers and parents attended the press conference. Children

and adolescents broke their silence during the conference by talking about sexual and reproductive issues that considered "embarrassing" by society.

Ahmed Mohammed Abdulla, a 15-year-old student in Al-Mahsinia school in Lahj, said studying sexual and reproductive health issues in

school is very important.

"It's better to learn these matters in school instead of learning them from the Internet or immature friends who give us mistaken information," he said.

"Even parents have no correct information about these topics and that makes children go to their friends to take the wrong information. Teachers as well skip lessons that talk about such topics," he added.

The project distributed tens of thousands of brochures, pamphlets and posters promoting the rights of children and adolescents in obtaining information about reproductive health.

Students aged 13 to 15 expressed their views about reproductive and sexual health through art. The walls of Asma'a School in Lahj were covered with posters and drawings made by children, illustrating their views on the "sensitive" subject.

Hundreds of students at Asma'a School were armed with information about sexual health, enabling them to protect themselves from abuse.

Qadriya Saleh, the principal of Asma'a School, said approximately 20 percent of female students didn't accept the idea of receiving information about reproductive health. Furthermore, some teachers, she said, considered the topic embarrassing.

"Unfortunately, if female students tell their mothers that they receive lessons about this matter, they may be deprived from going to school again," Saleh said.

According to a recent study carried out by Save the Children, 20 percent of health workers in Lahj have noticed that symptoms of sexual exploitation are apparent among children. The study showed that health supervisors were not able to properly respond to or assist the needs of those children.

Azzam Ali Saleh, 14, is an enthusiastic student in Al-Mahsinia school in Lahj, and he is an effective member of the school's student council. He said he is determined to be a staunch advocate for children and students who might be exposed to sexual abuse.

"As a child, I learned how to protect myself via this project," he said. "I will not have to resort to inexperienced people to provide me with erroneous information about these topics. We demand to include these topics in our school curricula."

Student Safiya Ahmed Monassar has participated in different training courses on reproductive



Student council members said they were ready to arm their schoolmates with accurate information about the subject.

health, and she represented Yemen in Lebanon, where she learned how to make simple cartoon clips about reproductive health.

"Now, I consider myself as a sexual health advocate," she said publicly during the conference. "I have many rights. I have the right to a decent life, education and health care."

The project was not exclusive to students and teachers. Parents of students were able to participate in training sessions about reproductive health as well.

Ebtisam Salem, a mother who took part in the project, said she was able to raise awareness about reproductive health among dozens of women through her field visits.

"Although difficult, I could deliver lectures on reproductive health in different houses," she said. "The women I've met have no information about reproductive

health."

For his part, Mohammed Yahya, the father of a female student, criticized the Ministry of Education for not including these topics in school curricula.

"Reproductive and sexual issues must be included as a main subject," he said.

Fatima Al-Ajel, the policy and advocacy manager of Save the Children, called for the Ministries of Education and Health as well as officials in civil society organizations to make the right of knowledge about reproductive health a real fact. She stressed the importance of including reproductive health rights in curricula of schools.

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A classroom of girls show off their artwork.



Three-dimensional artwork by the students illustrates their interpretations of violence against women (left) and early marriage.





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Mujeeb Al-Fatesh to the Yemen Times:

“Youth initiatives and institutions shoulder a big responsibility given we are living in a transitional phase, which we hope to be a gate to a new Yemen that everyone calls for.”

Youth initiatives in Yemen have recently played important developmental roles and could attract a lot of Yemeni youth who appear to be very enthusiastic about involvement in such initiatives.

Although initiatives have been spreading during the last period, there are several problems and challenges encountering such initiatives. Yemen Times conducted the following interview with Mujeeb Al-Fatesh, the general coordinator of youth initiatives, institutions and the civil society organizations in the capital city. Many issues were talked over during the interview.

Interview and photos by Ashraf Al-Muraqab

The capital city has witnessed a surge of youth initiatives. Why is this so at this particular time?

Initiatives have been established to provide services for society. Consequently, I think the increase of initiatives in the community helps contribute to activating the role of youth and spot their skills so as to be utilized well for the sake of society and the nation. The spread of initiatives at this particular time is an indicator of youth and their social awareness about being responsible for national and community problems.

How do the initiatives contribute to serving Yemeni society?

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Everyone has the right to stand out or be outstanding as long as they are the best example of Yemeni youth caring for national and community concerns. In my opinion, the media outlets have not done enough to promote these initiatives.

“

The initiatives are the safety valves of society and the country. They give youth one goal and (they) work as one team, separate from racism and extremism. They help direct youth to serve their nation and take advantage of their potential, energy and abilities.

ciety?

Initiatives play a paramount role in society. The initiatives perform their roles gradually. For instance, they contribute to spreading social solidarity and combating poverty by means of distributing food rations for the needy. They also help activate the role of youth and integrate them in community development work as well as consolidating positive change and providing youth with an opportunity to realize their ambitions. Moreover, the initiatives help create competent young community leaders capable of advancing the country.

How do you explain the sudden increase followed by the abrupt disappearance of youth initiatives?

That happens due to some problems the initiatives encounter. Such problems could be technical, managerial or financial. What I mean by technical problems is the lack of a clear objective, planning, vision and message, in addition to lacking in particular plans. Thus, they (the youth) work arbitrarily, resulting in a stop.

There are still problems related to planning, management, marketing and leadership skills. This triggers internal problems in the team.

There are financial problems. Some of the initiatives' organizers spend their own money, and they have no plan to look for a budget from organizations and institutions. In the end, the initiative loses ground.

Some people criticize certain initiatives, saying youth initiatives aim only to draw attention without providing genuine community services.

Everyone has the right to stand out or be outstanding as long as they are the best example of Yemeni youth caring for national and community concerns. In my opinion, the media outlets have not done enough to promote these initiatives.

Therefore, I send a message to the media to care for the youth initiatives because these initiatives help spread culture essential for society and the nation. I also want to point out that we are in need of promoting youth leadership so as to be real models for youth. We are fed up with the present leadership. We need new, brilliant models.

Seeking celebrity for the purpose of self-interest will make anyone gradually lose ground, without doubt.

In your opinion, what do these initiatives lack?

The initiatives, in my viewpoint, lack a lot of things. They firstly need spiritual support and social appreciation. They need to concentrate on one field and be specific. They lack continuous training and preparation. They require financial backup from international, local and private organizations.



“Initiatives play a paramount role in society,” Al-Fatesh said.

cal and private organizations.

Cultural youth initiatives remain absent from Yemeni society. Why?

A culture of volunteerism has become fundamental in building society and spreading social solidarity among all individuals. Volunteerism is charitable work done by all humans since the distant past, but there are differences in terms of the size, the type and the motives from one period to another. As for the size, volunteerism during stability is scant; it augments during the course of catastrophes, aftermaths and wars. The type of volunteerism can be physical, professional or monetary grants. Regarding motives, they can be personal, social or political.

What is the importance of youth initiatives at this hard time the country is witnessing?

Youth initiatives and institutions shoulder a big responsibility given we are living in a transitional phase, which we hope to be a gate to a new Yemen that everyone calls for. The initiatives are the safety valves of society and the country. They give youth one goal and (they) work as one team, separate from racism and extremism. They help direct youth to serve their nation and take advantage of their potential, energy and abilities.

Now, the development-related projects have stood out. The initiatives have started to tackle some problems in the capital city, including roads and cleaning. They started to focus on these fields in order to effectively contribute to advancing society and building a new Yemen.

You were appointed the general coordinator of youth initiatives and organizations in Sana'a. What role will you play?

First, I would like to give a vote of thanks to Abdulqadir Ali Helal, the secretary of the capital city. I am proud of his trust to appoint me the general coordinator for youth initiatives and institutions in the capital city.

I deem this appointment a task, not an honor. It is a big responsibility, and I wish I would perform as others envisioned I would. I am proud to work with Helal. He is one of the few officials who appreciates the importance of youth volunteer work and its role in the country's progress. Due to his sense of responsibility, his serious keenness and his grand attention to youth, he appointed me for this position. We are confident of the future.

Does the state consider these initiatives important?

In the past period, the state showed no interest in these initiatives. Recently, however, the government shows a positive reaction that increases day-by-day. I think this has been noticeable through the interaction of some officials with the youth at many events. Nowadays, the capital city is witnessing a large momentum of youth activities under the auspices of Helal.

Himat Shabab is one of the few institutional initiatives. Why do you think a lot of initiatives lack institutional work?

Himat Shabab is an example of many others. It was an initiative at the beginning. Then it became an institution. We hope we will continue institutional work and build the institution as well as transferring the experience to others. There are still many other examples such as Badir W Ather.

In regard to the absence of the institutional work, I think this takes place because the initiative organizers are not in harmony. Hence, personal differences arise; everyone remains detached from institutional work. They feel they will lose personal gains that make them accomplish their personal objectives. This is one reason among many others.

In addition, the culture of institutional work has not been founded or spread in Arabian societies,

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I deem this appointment a task, not an honor. It is a big responsibility, and I wish I would perform it as others envisioned I would. I am proud to work with Helal. He is one of the few officials who appreciates the importance of youth volunteer work and its role in the country's progress.

let alone the Yemeni community.

I think living examples of leading institutions should appear in order to be exemplary models for the rest.

Some popular cleaning initiatives were established in neighborhoods recently. How do you assess such a step?

It was an awesome step. We will keep providing them with spiritual and official support through the offices in the districts of the capital city. We urge the continuity of such initiatives in order to keep cooperation between the state and society.

What projects are the focus for the days to come?

There are many axes we are focusing on in the capital city, including cleaning, afforestation, lighting and health. Youth initiatives will join in order to achieve our objectives. We work together to accomplish that.

What is your message to youth initiatives?

My message to youth is that they ought to be responsible for contributing to change. I call on the youth to be as one hand to build the new Yemen.

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New AIO ideas for Yemen

Amal Al-Yarisi

The Amnesty International Organization reported there is a possibility Yemen will face further crises pertinent to human rights unless the government immediately acts to curb continuous violations in the country.

AIO called on the Yemeni government to end illegitimate killings and breaches in the context of the military dispute. The government should not condone the violators, AIO said.

The organization called for respecting the freedom of expression, peaceful protests, respecting women, defending the rights of immigrants and refugees, ending capital punishment and protecting the rights of asylum seekers, among other basic human rights.

Raja Al-Masabi, manager of the Arabian Foundation for Human Rights, said the new items suggested by AIO add nothing new to the conversation.

It is difficult for Yemen to provide asylum seekers with food, clothes and drink because Yemen itself is suffering from a deteriorated economy, Al-Masabi said.

She said human rights in Yemen will not improve in line with common insecurity and internal crises in addition to the partisan political problems that stand as the number-one reason behind the rampant troubles in Yemen.

For his part, Abdulrahman Barman, a lawyer for the HOOD Organization, said the pause in Yemen's development process is because of disrespect for human rights. He said the points suggested by AIO are perfect and comprehensive to protect rights. However, it is difficult in Yemen to accept an abolishment of capital punishment because it contradicts Islamic jurisprudence, Barman said.

Barman said development and stability cannot be realized in a country where killing, violence and detention are exercised against

peaceful protests. He affirmed the importance of issuing stipulations by the government that respect the law and apply order.

"We want a just judiciary that all people resort to without fear."

Abdulrasheed Al-Faqeh, a human rights activist, said the items proposed by AIO are easy and applicable anywhere in the world.

"If there is strong government will to put these items in effect, the government will succeed."

Political parties are supposed to defend human rights, he said. Al-Faqeh held President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi responsible for keeping abreast of the situation of human rights in the country.

The military and political disputes of last year had a major impact on the deterioration of human rights, according Al-Faqeh.

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