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## Khawlan-Bani Hushaish clash claims lives

**Ahmed Dawood**

SANAA, Oct. 7 — One person died and two others were wounded Sunday in tribal confrontations that first broke out earlier this week between the Bani Hushaish and Khawlan tribes in Sana'a governorate.

Ahmed Muthana, a social figure in Khawlan, said more than 200 tribesmen from Khawlan laid siege on Bait Al-Hanami, a village in Bani Hushaish district, three days ago. The act was to retaliate against tribesmen affiliated with the Bani Hushaish tribe who are accused of killing four people from Al-Sahman, a village in Khawlan, last Friday.

The dead were members of the Bait Al-Qadi family in Khawlan. All four were in a qat market when they were attacked.

Among the dead are Ziyad Al-Qadi, the son of a well-known sheikh in Khawlan. Ziyad Al-Qadi is one of the leading figures of the General People's Congress in his hometown.

Following the incident, 22 villages in Khawlan became resentful.

Muthana said the Khawlan tribe demanded the alleged perpetrators face justice; however, Bani Hushaish turned down the call, triggering sporadic weapon confrontations until Sunday morning. The 22 tribes joined together in retaliation. One person from Khawlan died and two others sustained minor injuries.

Ali Faisal, a Khawlan resident, said Khawlan tribesmen raided Bait Al-Hanami with grenades, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades, taking 15 people captive. The Khawlan tribesmen then blew up houses in the village, in addition to setting the houses on fire after taking control of them, according to Faisal.

He said three Bani Hushaish

tribesmen died in the altercation, and the rest fled to nearby Nihm, leaving their villages and homes.

Fuad Saeed, a local from Khawlan, said the four dead family members were buried in the same area where they died.

Khawlan tribesmen will not return to their villages unless revenge is taken, Saeed said.

Saeed said a group of Arhab Sheikhs attempted to mediate with the feuding tribes to stop confrontations; however, mediation efforts have yet to see success.

Khawlan and Bani Hushaish are part of Sana'a governorate. These two areas have been noted for common insecurity, and people are known to carry small arms and other, larger weapons.

Brigadier General Yahya Ali Hameed, security manager of Sana'a governorate, said the security administration sent a number of military vehicles to help end the confrontations. However, the two sides did not accept the government interference, he said, adding



Heated confrontations between the two tribes broke out after Bani Hushaish tribesmen were accused of killing four people from a Khawlan village.

that he thinks the two tribes show no respect for the state.

## Ten wounded after leftover bomb explodes in Abyan

**Amal Al-Yarisi**

ABYAN, Oct. 7 — Ten people were wounded in a bomb explosion Saturday in Modia district of Abyan governorate, in the south of Yemen.

Aref Alwan, a media activist in Abyan, said a group of people found an explosive device, and Alwan said it is most likely leftover from bombs launched in a U.S. air raid in Al-Majala on Dec. 17, 2009. Alwan reported five of the 10

wounded are street cleaners, and the other five are residents. The wounded were taken to Zinjibar and to Aden for treatment for shrapnel wounds in their legs and arms.

Before they knew it was a live bomb, people tried dismantling the bomb to sell its metal parts. When Jalal Mohammed Al-Jaberi, one of the wounded, realized what it was, he threw it aside.

Mohammed Ahmed Salem, a representative of Abyan's Opera-

tion Center, said the bomb could be a remnant from the war on Al-Qaeda.

Abyan governorate has witnessed several strikes launched by the Yemeni military against Al-Qaeda.

Salem said people often find landmines and bombs but don't inform authorities, hurting themselves and other residents.

"Residents ought to inform the police before tampering with them (bombs)," he said.

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## Foreign Affairs employees strike on

Story and photo by Nadia Haddash

SANAA, Oct. 7 — After a temporary suspension of their strike, Ministry of Foreign Affairs employees resumed Sunday, saying the prime minister, the finance minister, the civil service minister and the foreign affairs minister have not met their legal demands.

Employees began striking Tuesday, closing the ministry using chains and padlocks. Health insurance and official hires were among their demands.

On Saturday, relevant ministers met to discuss the employees; however, there was no news, Ismail Al-Mabari, deputy head of the Information Unity at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said.

“We trust the wisdom of the political leadership in the country to respond to our demands because the longer the strike, the more problems people will have at the ministry,” Al-Mabari said. “We at the ministry cannot provide services for anyone coming to us unless the employees’ problems are solved.”

Mohammed Maooda, general



Ministry employees pose in front of a sign speaking about their strike.

secretary of the ministry’s employee syndicate, said they partially struck prior to the full strike.

Amjad Al-Kameemi, a ministry employee, said there has been rigging regarding posts at Yemen’s overseas embassies. Each year, new employees are given positions irrespective of eligibility while others wait years for jobs,

he said.

Ahlam Al-Mashiri, an employee at the diplomatic attaché at the ministry, expressed resentment about the apathy of leaders.

“We will not withdraw our demands, and we will continue our strike until we obtain what we want, just as leaders have what they desire,” she said.

## Sheikh’s anti-violence statement slammed

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANAA, Oct. 7 — Activists have widely panned anti-violence statements made by Sheikh Sadeq Al-Ahmer, head of Yemen’s Tribes Alliance, at a Saturday press conference. Al-Ahmer called on Houthis and Southern Movement members to set aside violence.

Ali Al-Bukhaiti, an activist and political writer, said Al-Ahmer’s statements are part of the current regime’s campaign against the Houthis and the Southern Movement. He said the present regime is emulating the former one.

The Southern Movement and the Houthis don’t provoke violence, Al-Bukhaiti said. Instead, they defend themselves, according to Al-Bukhaiti.

He said Al-Ahmer already apologized to Houthis and said the former president spearheaded the campaign against Hashid tribes

for fighting Houthis. Houthis have never fought Al-Ahmer or his tribes, said Al-Bukhaiti.

As a result of the immunity agreement and the power transition taking place in Yemen, Yemeni political and social figures as well as representatives of various international organizations will participate in the National Dialogue Conference later this year.

“The political leadership and the National Dialogue Conference should open the door for participation without exception as long as the language of dialogue is distant from the gunpowder.”

Al-Ahmer said Houthis and the Southern Movement, in addition to Al-Qaeda, shouldn’t demand preconditions ahead of the dialogue. He said these factions should denounce violence and bloodshed. The groups should resort to seated dialogue, he said.

Yemen’s Tribes Alliance held a

press conference Saturday, attended by more than 600 figures, in addition to members of the Shura Council, political figures and civil society organizations.

Al-Ahmer said all Yemeni tribes must oppose negative occurrences such as tribal checkpoints and revenge killings. He said tribes should concentrate their efforts to bring fundamental development projects to their areas, which the former regime categorized as tribal and sectarian.

Ali Al-Suraihi, a journalist at Al-Thawra, questioned Al-Ahmer’s siding.

Abdullah Muthna, a Southern Movement activist, said the Southern Movement doesn’t approve of violence. He called on all northerners to peacefully let go of the south, saying unity ended with the war of 1994.

“Unity is not by violence or force.”

## Military and security fund made over

Samar Qaed

SANAA, Oct. 6 — The Studies and Economic Media Center and the Yemeni Parliament, in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, organized an evaluative symposium for the Military and Security Pension Fund on Saturday. The event focused on improving the social program.

Civil society organizations, social insurance experts and 80 members of parliament participated and presented evaluative studies to Defense and the Interior Ministries.

Yahia Al-Raie, the head of Parliament, asserted the importance of implementing legislative laws assisting retired military and civil employees.

Doctor Nasher Al-Absi, a con-

sultant for the Public Authority for Social Insurance, said social insurance and pensions are vital for low-income people when they stop working.

Nabeel Shamsan, the Civil Services’ Minister, said the government aims to provide the best services possible for security, military and civil facilities alike.

Several bodies of work were presented at the meeting. The first report, introduced by Doctor Ali Saif, discussed the advantages of investments for the pension funds, but also practical alternatives.

The second paper, presented by Doctor Fatima Mashhoor, discussed institutional management. Finally, Doctor Nasher Al-Absi, addressed the concluding report that tackled legal, technical and procedural solutions.

Mustafa Nassr, head of the Studies and Media Economic Center, said the human resources in the army and security forces are the best source for improving the social benefit.

Nassr recognized the importance of making all retired employees financially comfortable and stable, asserting that that all laborers have worked to protect the country.

A number of recommendations came from the symposium, including amending to improve institutional and technical performance.

The symposium-proposed changes are expected to be implemented sooner rather than later at as symposium participants are eager to continue to serve the retired population.

## Al-And air base security foil a terror attack

Amal Al-Yarisi

LAHJ, Oct. 7 — On Saturday, the Yemeni army foiled an attempted suicide attack at Al-And air base in Lahj governorate, in south Yemen.

Lahj Governor Ahmed Al-Majeedi said security offices were given notice of a Toyota Hilux bearing no registration number near the base.

He said inside the explosive-laden vehicle were grenades, missiles, anti-tanks mines, five gas cylinders and abayas—a clock commonly worn by women.

Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Qaed,

security commander of Brigade 90 at Al-And air base, said the operation was carefully masterminded by Al-Qaeda.

“Al-And air base includes a variety of military and war planes,” Al-Majeedi said, asserting this is the reason behind the alleged Al-Qaeda plan to attack the base.

Al-Majeedi said relentless efforts repel Al-Qaeda’s aims to destabilize the country and particularly to target military personnel.

According to a report by Al-Jazeera, the U.S. military uses the base to conduct military trainings

for local forces.

The farms in the vicinity of the base created a gap, facilitating the smuggling of the car, Qaed said.

Ali Haider, a journalist in Aden, said the vehicle penetrated many security checkpoints until its arrival at Al-And air base.

Haider said the ability of the vehicle to enter the area is an indicator that security figures are complicit in the incident.

“The terror members sensed the threat owing to the monitoring patrols; thus, they left their possessions and fled,” Qaed said

## Yemenis held captive may be released soon

Amira Nasser

SANAA, Oct. 7 — The HOOD Organization for Defending Human Rights (HOOD), a NGO with a branch in Yemen, announced yesterday that a Syrian army group promised via independent mediators to release five Yemeni soldiers held captive since last year.

Jabhat Al-Nosr’a, an armed Syrian group that is not a part of the Syrian Free Army, claimed

responsibility. They believed the captives, who were studying in Syria, to be supporters of the Syrian government.

Abdul-Rahman Barman, the executive manager of HOOD, said they have been in communication with the Syrian rebel group.

“They told they have moved them to a safer location, under the supervision of the Free Army in Syria” Barman said.

He said the soldiers are healthy

and unharmed.

HOOD delivered documentation proving the men are students.

The Yemen Ministry of Defense backed the claim that the five soldiers were not sent to Syria for any purpose other than study and have advocated for their release.

“We are hopeful the soldiers will be released in the coming days because we have presented all the evidence that they are students there,” Barman said.

## Eight million Euros to support health care

Nadia Haddash

SANAA, Oct. 7 — The German Development Bank and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) signed Saturday a pact to provide the Yemeni government with eight million Euros for reproductive health services.

Doctor Jameela Al-Raebi, undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, said

the agreement aims to increase opportunities to provide reproductive health services for mothers in rural areas.

Al-Raebi said the pact will provide emergency obstetric care equipment for 160 health centers in eight governorates.

The agreement means to improve the supply and funding system for family planning in 2013 and 2014 and to support providing services

to Internally Displaced Persons.

Marc Vandenberghe, a UNFPA representative in Yemen, said the agreement includes supporting health centers in the affected areas and purchasing and distributing needed equipment and medicine to provide reproductive health services as well as to support the Health Ministry to provide health services for the IDPs due to last year’s clashes.

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# Juveniles subject to death sentence

Ahmed Dawood

Seeing his fifteen-year-old son Mohammed facing capital punishment, Taher Samoom tries hard to hide his sorrow.

Tears roll down his cheeks when telling Mohammed's story.

"Mohammed was playing with a Kalashnikov and unintentionally fired it, shooting his companion dead," Taher Samoom said.

Now, the father is worried because the judge who issued the verdict sentencing his son to death didn't take his age at the time of the crime into consideration.

Based on Article 31 of Yemeni law, a juvenile is less than the age to bear responsibility for a crime if he is not yet 15 years old at the time of the crime. However, juveniles between the ages of 15 and 18 could be imprisoned for three to 10 years.

Although the article is clear, some courts ignore it and issue illegal verdicts to children, Ahmed Al-Qershi, head of the Seyaj Organization for Childhood Protection (Seyaj), said.

He said that some judges commit huge violations when investigating



A press conference held by Seyaj addressed the use of capital punishment by Yemeni courts against juveniles.

juveniles and consequently sentence them to death without providing enough conditions for a fair trial.

Mohammed was sent to prison at age 10, and a death sentence was issued at age 13. However, today, he is still alive because Seyaj and several other civil society organizations intervened.

Seyaj defines itself as a nonprofit specializing in the defense of children's rights.

"Two years ago, Mohammed was ordered to prepare for the punishment and was taken to a square, but the person assigned to carry out the verdict suffered from severe illness and was taken to a hospital; consequently, the punishment was delayed," Al-Qershi said.

"On that day, we came to know about the 13-year-old Mohammed, and immediately, along with several civil society organizations, we contacted the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Judicial Council and were able to stop implementing the verdict."

Mohammed is 15 years old now and remains imprisoned in Ibb governorate. Al-Qershi said Mohammed could be sentenced to death

any moment now, pointing out that civil society organizations were able to stop implementing the verdict but couldn't drop it completely.

### A mutual fate

Mohammed isn't the only juvenile to face the possibility of capital punishment. There are many others.

According to Al-Qershi, as many as 170 juveniles imprisoned throughout Yemen, and they could be sentenced to death at any time.

Ibraheem Al-Omaisi's mother speaks painfully about the story of her 15-year-old son who was sentenced to death several months ago because he was found guilty of a murder two years ago.

She said her son is innocent, but he accompanied two people who carried out the murder. She said the two guilty persons are adults who were sentenced to death, but her son is a juvenile, and the verdict against him is illegal.

She said she hopes civil society organizations will intervene and save her son's life because she is poor and lacks money for lawyers.

Many juveniles are stuck in prisons nationwide, experiencing diffi-

cult living situations.

Akram Noman, a lawyer, said many of these children are subject to injustice in the courts and sentenced to death.

He said juveniles lose their lives because of injustice and the absence of the appropriate implementation of the law.

### Local and international solidarity

Al-Qershi said that since the establishment of the organization, it has worked to oppose capital punishment sentences for juveniles. He said the organization has been successful in terms of this issue. Deferring the sentences against Mohammed Tahir Samoom and Waleed Haikal are examples, he said.

"We strive to implement the law, and the organization is not one-sided," he said. "It is to side with truth and justice. Anyone proved to be over 18, the capital sentence must be executed. In case of suspicion about the age, it is in the favor of these juveniles."

Al-Qershi referred to the story of Haikal who was jailed in the Central Prison in Sana'a at the age of 16 and spent 12 years in prison. Now he is 28.

He said Haikal was subjected to torture and abuse until said he was 18.

"He then stood trial, and the case reached the High Court; the capital sentence was issued."

Al-Qershi said Seyaj obtained documents proving Haikal committed the crime when he was 16, which means he cannot be handed a death sentence. He said he sent many messages to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the former minister of justice. He was able to delay the execution.

"However, the problem is that Haikal still languishes in jail, and the verdict issued against him has not been revoked."

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Taher Samoom's son was sentenced to death two years ago after being accused of murder.

Opposing capital punishment for juveniles has not solely been the business of local Yemeni organizations; Human Rights Watch has played a role as well.

Lita Kiler, an HRW activist in Yemen, said the organization is concerned about the execution of juveniles in Yemen, indicating that she visited Yemen in March with two experts of the organization. She met with some relatives of the incriminated juveniles, asserting that she called on the government to stop

sentencing juveniles to death.

"The organization exercises some pressure on western governments to lobby the Yemeni government to quit issuing such verdicts."

She said she will continue promoting this issue by calling on the Yemeni government to make sure young people are at least 18 before sentencing them to death.

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# Aden's future uncertain now all tourists are gone

Story and photos by Ashraf Al-Muraqab

Nowadays, the streets and beaches of Aden are empty. Shops are closed; houses are empty; and trash is everywhere. Even restaurants—previously known for their busy, crowded atmospheres—are closed now. Hotels and beaches in Aden reflect the overwhelming disappointment in the city after years of prosperity.

Tourism in Yemen is quickly deteriorating. The internal tourism movement has decreased in Aden, a port city in the south of Yemen once controlled by the British. The slump is happening just ahead of the approaching Sacrifice Eid holiday due to the current shakey situation in the region and the country.

The difference between Aden three years ago and now is obvious, Ibrahim Al-Noairah, a taxi driver in Aden, said.

Yaseen Al-Tamimi, a consultant for the tourism minister, said this year hotel and furnished flats' reservations are down 60 percent from previous years. He said Aden is suffering from a real problem due to the sharp decline in tourism,



A beach in Aden once frequented by both foreign and domestic tourists now sees very little activity. Most blame the questionable security situation.

leaving many hotels unable to pay bills and forcing them to shutdown operations.

Al-Tamimi said based on a study conducted by the ministry, about one million national and international tourists visited Aden in 2008. They were unable to conduct a study for 2010, but based on current reservations, this number pales in comparison, largely due to the political impasse.

Najeeb Al-Ghail, a receptionist at a hotel in Aden, said hotels and furnished flats used to be booked far in advance of the Eid holidays, but this year, hotels are suffering as a result of the decrease.

Last year, protests and activities organized in Aden by the Southern Movement (Harak) dissuaded tourists from vacationing in the beach town. Therefore, visitors deviate from visiting Aden and instead are traveling to other governorates such as Hodeida, Al-Mahweet, Hadramout and Al-Mahra.

As a result of this loss in business,

hotels and furnished flat owners complain about the heavy losses they sustained due to the exorbitant bills they pay to the state even as tourism is remarkably declining. They call on the government to reconsider the taxes they pay so that they meet the losses they sustained the security vacuum has created.

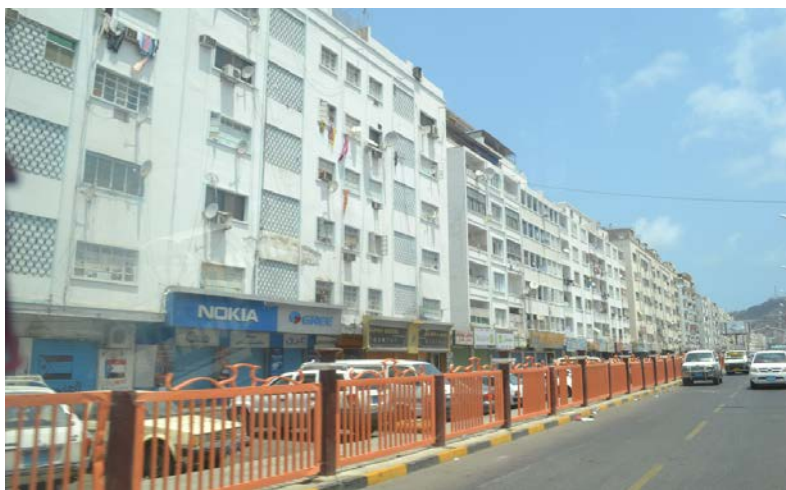
Tawfeeq Al-Khameri, head of the Arab Tourism Company, said Yemen's tourism was affected negatively due to the deteriorating political situation since the uprisings began in 2010.

Al-Khameri said — via his website — the tourism sector sustained more than \$1 billion in losses since 2009. He also said Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti investors stopped implementing new investment projects, estimated at \$700 million, until further notice.

Al-Khameri criticized the government for not paying attention to the obstacles investors have faced since 2010, causing substantial losses in Yemen's economy.



A nearly empty water tank, tourist attraction is indicative of the few visitors who find their way to one of Yemen's former vacation hotspots.



The one-time bustling hotel scene in Aden has lost an estimated 60 percent of its clientele.



Aden remains in a state of recovery following two years of political unrest that began with protests in 2010.

## SANA'A BRITISH SCHOOL



"Education is the Window to the World"

### Sana'a British School joins global community of Cambridge schools

Sana'a British School, SBS, has been awarded Cambridge International School status by University of Cambridge International Examinations and is now approved to offer Cambridge programmes and qualifications, including:

1. Cambridge Primary Checkpoint,
2. Cambridge Secondary Checkpoint,
3. Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge O Level
4. Cambridge International AS and A Level.

University of Cambridge International Examinations is the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5 to 19 year olds. It is part of the University of Cambridge, one of the world's top universities and trusted for excellence in education. Cambridge programmes and qualifications are taught in more than 9000 schools in over 160 countries.

Ann Pantis, Chief Executive of University of Cambridge International Examinations, said: "We are delighted to announce that Sana'a British School has joined our global community of Cambridge schools. We look forward to a long and productive relationship which will be of great benefit to learners throughout the region."

Cambridge programmes and qualifications are recognised and valued by universities and employers around the world. Cambridge helps schools deliver the best education possible by providing comprehensive support, including teacher training, classroom resources and membership of a global learning community.



A sharp decline in tourism-related revenue has left local residents questioning the area's economic future.

A recent study conducted by Yemeni Economics professor, Yusef Saeed agrees the tourism sector in Yemen has sustained heavy losses the past few years. This forced many travel agencies into bankruptcy and led to lay-offs across the board.

The same study reported that the tourism sector lost approximately \$10 billion in the last decade, leading to the loss of 700,000 jobs and reducing the annual profit of hotels and the transportation companies to 50 percent.

"The presence of youth protestors in squares in three main districts blocked several main roads, caused traffic jams in streets and increased our suffering," Al-Noairah said. "Many taxi drivers turned to do other things, particularly due to oil prices hikes." "Some people, originally from

Sana'a, were working as taxi drivers in Aden, but the incidents that happened in Aden during the few past months forced them to leave Aden to look for other work in Sana'a," he added.

Mansour Al-Magharem, a cafeteria owner on the Abyan's Coast, said, "Work stopped entirely here. The money we make nowadays doesn't meet what we spent. In the past, the income was ten times the money we spend."

He went on to say, "Many people lost their jobs while many restaurants closed down due to the lack of the dire services such as electricity and also due to the low number of customers and visitors."

88.8 FM



## For Sale: Nissan Murano V-6 3.5L

Year: 2005  
Color: White  
Mileage: 64733 KM  
Seats: 5 Leather  
Air Conditioner – SRS  
Full options  
One only Owner from the agent  
In a Good Condition

❖ The Vehicle was imported Customs and Duty-free. The winning bidder shall be responsible for any customs or official fees.



Please Submit your bids in sealed envelopes to the World Bank Interim Office in Sana'a Movenpick Hotel – Room#722, P O Box: 18152. Attn. Office Manager

Deadline: Bids to be submitted by close of October 30, 2012 at 4:00pm.  
For inspection of the car and more information contact Mr. Yazid Al-Eryani  
Mobile : 736600480 (Saturday – Wednesday ) between 2:00pm – 4:00pm only

## TENDER NOTICE



The office of the Norwegian Refugee Council Yemen invites qualified companies to submit firm offers for the following.

ITEM	REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION
Lot 1	NRC/YE/ERF/10/12/001	Supply of 2,140 Kits - Non Food Items
Lot 2	NRC/YE/NMFA/10/12/001	Supply of 1,500 Kits - Non Food Items

1. Complete tender documents may be collected by interested eligible suppliers from the office of Norwegian Refugee Council Yemen located at Hadda Road, near Al – Fakher Restaurant: Sana'a from **8th to 19th October 2012**. The tender documents shall be issued during the normal working hours.
2. The tenderers will be required to provide evidence of having executed **at least three contracts of similar magnitude** for supply of NFI Kits within the period of **last three years**. The tenderer will also be required to provide evidence of their capability to stockpile NFIs.
3. Completed tender documents shall be sealed and marked as stated in the particular tender Lot reference and in separate envelopes for each of the Lots and be hand delivered to NRC office before **20th October 2012 between 8.30AM - 4.00PM**.

Enquiries can be sent to email: [tendernrc@gmail.com](mailto:tendernrc@gmail.com)  
Tel: + 967 (01) 413 616



Sheikh Abu Lohom to the Yemen Times:

# “We are in a new Yemen, with new challenges and new ambitions.”

**Sheikh Mohammed Abu Lohom, head of the Justice and Building Party and member of the Technical Committee for the National Dialogue, said he senses there is a need for seriousness and credibility to help establish dialogue between Yemeni political parties.**

**In an interview with the Yemen Times, he said he most looks forward to seeing the Joint Meetings Parties (JMPs), the General People's Congress (GPC), Houthis and the youth working together as one team.**

**Lohom said Southerners have been oppressed and suffered enough, adding that they enthusiastically and honestly participated in the unity with the aim of building a real state.**

Interview by Mohammed Al-Samei

**What has the National Dialogue Committee achieved so far?**

We started working two months ago, and new things have happened. The composition of the committee created optimism and enabled us to work harmoniously. On the first day, there was disagreement, but it is natural.

**Do you mean harmony between the committee members?**

There was disharmony at the beginning, but then the committee members started working as a team. The most important achievement of the committee is the 20 Points that aim to pave a way for dialogue.

Doctor Yaseen Saeed Noman suggested the idea of creating the 20 Points, but several members had comments on them so a committee composed of members from the General People Congress (GPC), the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), the Sa'ada governorate and the youth was established and everything was ready in a day. When parties meet together, they agree on many things and disagreements vanish.

**But, why have the 20 Points not been implemented yet?**

I think the 20 points are the most important challenge for the committee, the President and the government because they are what will make dialogue possible. I hope some points will be implemented soon so as to pass on a positive message to all essential participants in the Dialogue. We want them to take part in it as well so the youth and people in general are assured that the committee is serious and taking effective steps. I'm hopeful that these points will be implemented soon.

**Some points don't need much time to be implemented such as releasing the detainees and apologizing to the southerners. Do they only need good will?**

We studied the 20 Points carefully. Therefore, we didn't demand they be implemented at the same time. Some points can be implemented in a few days, where others need months or even years. What residents are concerned about is that we start to implement some of them so that they see the credibility of the committee, the government

and the political leadership.

**No point has been achieved so far?**

Unfortunately not, but we pledged to start implementing them in the near future.

**Is it expected that the Dialogue will face obstacles because none of the 20 Points have been achieved?**

I don't think there will be obstacles as expected because what is important is the dialogue itself. Political parties and ordinary people deem the National Dialogue a way out of the current situation. I feel the parties are honest and serious about starting the dialogue. The good thing is seeing members of the GPC, the JMPs, the youth and the people of Sa'ada working together.

We discussed the points with President Hadi, and he promised to take effective measures, and I hope he will coordinate with the government to start implementing these points and facilitate the dialogue.

**Why did you oppose adding members to the National Dialogue Committee?**

Some people misunderstand our intentions. For me, I didn't oppose President Hadi's decree to add members to the committee. The declaration can't be refused because the committee was formed based on President Hadi's judgment. The committee members are qualified, patriotic and nothing can be said about them. I didn't oppose the decree. Rather, I said we want participants that aren't involved in the dialogue such as the Southern Movement members.

**Do you mean the Southern Movement that calls for separation?**

Let's not pass judgment in advance. I want those who call for separation to join the Dialogue. The Dialogue aims to bring together those who disagree and talk to each other. We insisted the Southern Movement representatives join the Dialogue. Even Southerners, who are members of the committee, said they don't represent the Southern movement but rather, represent factions in the South. The main goal is that the Southern Movement take part in the dialogue, otherwise nothing will be achieved.

**President Hadi said that he personally contacted Southern Movement leaders to convince them join the Dialogue, but they say they won't negotiate without a separation.**

President Hadi told us that, and we hope that we can help the President fulfill his duties. He specified a day for the Southerners to participate in the Dialogue.

Everyone has the right to make demands, and when we meet together, we will resign to some of those demands.

Calling for separation must not affect us, but we should to listen



**A tribesman from Bakil, the well-known Sheikh has recently asserted his commitment to engaging the South in the National Dialogue.**

to them. The Dialogue's purpose is to create face-to-face meetings instead of depending on media. There can never be mediation without dialogue - meeting together is the only solution, and I'm sure then many disagreements will disappear.

This has happened in the National Dialogue Committee - no one expected Islah members to meet and discuss with people from Sa'ada and the GPC.

**So the Dialogue is expected to succeed to a great extent due to the harmony between committee members?**

The members are harmoniously discussing how change can happen and everyone is in favor of it. Everyone presents their ideas, and everyone is working for the success of the Dialogue, so we have faced no obstacles so far.

**It is said that the committee members are only interested in fame, how to dominate the dialogue, and how to present theories.**

I feel no ill will towards any of the members. All of them present goodwill even though, they are members of different parties. Let's not forget that Yemen was about to slide into a civil war, so everyone should present their ideas so the Dialogue can succeed. I'm so optimistic sometimes, but I think the disagreements among the committee members are exaggerated.

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**I think that the 20 Points are the most important challenge for the committee, the President and the government because they are what will make dialogue possible.**

partisanship led to nothing but constant opposition. Sometimes, the two accepted the concessions of one another. Today, we exercise a true democratic life. I hope to see new coalitions. We should have a peaceful transfer of power. If this is missing, democracy is absent. This is our aspiration - a peaceful transfer of power - and it will be realized soon.

**It is well-known that you are a social, tribal figure and a founder of a political organization. Will this be reflected in the JBO's performance?**

I am surprised. Why do we attempt to not accept these fractions even though such diversities complement each other? These are parts of the Yemeni community that we cannot ignore. The purpose of the different parties is to transform the state into a civil one that includes all fractions of society, which will result in the building of a new Yemen.

**How do you evaluate the performance of the reconciliation government?**

Now we should look at matters from different angles compared to the pre-revolution reflection. When certain people comment about the performance of the government, the government should not be affected. It is difficult to watch [their performance] and not have comments. The government and the President are here to serve the nation. Yemen needs to correct a lot of misconceptions.

Personally, I have witnessed the government doing such, but it has to make further efforts particularly in the field of services so it can recover the meaning of statehood.

**Has the government made any tangible achievements on the ground?**

The government has achieved a little, to some extent. Though, I hope to see more accomplishments. We have time and will see further achievements in the coming days. There are donors, but we should not solely focus on them. Investment must be increased rather than just a dependence on donations.

**I have followed your previous interviews and statements and believe that you support the Southern issue.**

With regard to the South, it has suffered enough. The Southerners were the ones who enthusiastically accepted unity. They were honest and eager to build a real state. Regrettably, the situation deteriorated. The Summer War of 1994 left us all as victims. I left Yemen following that war and remained away about ten years. We should look at the Southern issue realistically and honestly. We should not be narrow-minded.

**Why did not you speak out about such issues during the**

“

**If our brothers in the South are absent from the dialogue table, the dialogue is going to be futile. With whom will we hold discussions?**

**former regime?**

When you trace the Southern Movement back to 2007, you find the Southerners were the first to question the situation in Yemen before the advent of the Arab Spring. They were the first to start a peaceful movement. Their demands initially were balanced, fair and reasonable. However, when they found themselves ignored, they started protesting and continue to fight the current situation.

Today we should think about the Southern issue in a different way, it is the cornerstone for resolving all Yemeni issues. No issue will be resolved unless we transparently and honestly deal with the Southern issue.

**Did you adopt the Southern issue during the former regime because you were a leading figure in the GPC?**

I used to raise the issue, and if you look at my statements, you will see my clear opinion about the Southern issue. I had an opinion not only about the South, but also many other issues in different areas. However, the situation in the South is unique. This is what we should heed. If our brothers in the South are absent from the dialogue table, the dialogue is going to be futile. With whom will we hold discussions? And for what? Thus, the Southern issue is fundamental to progress.

**Some in the Southern Movement still refuse to participate in the Dialogue even though it's an opportunity to speak.**

Even if they have reservation about the Dialogue, we should continue to contact them. I think there is inaction, but we should not feel impatient. We should believe that once we embark on dialogue, the Southern brothers will come. The country belongs to everyone. I am optimistic that the National Dialogue Conference will go ahead.

**You have invited the Southerners to the Dialogue, but to date, there is no response to some of the points proposed by the Southern Committee. How will you hold the dialogue?**

I understand your point, and this is what we will try to change. We talked with the President, and he promised certain steps will be taken soon. The Dialogue table is incomplete unless the Southern brothers are there.

**"Certain steps will be taken soon." When exactly?**

We believe that to mean, weeks.

**What can be done to help the secessionists accept the Dialogue? Could international pressure or other attractive means work?**

There is nothing called international pressure. It is all the local will and desire that will help. We have to listen to the proposals of many, no matter what they say. Otherwise, what does dialogue mean? We should be patient, open-minded and confident that this will bring Yemen prosperity. The type of ruling will be discussed during the dialogue. Personally, whatever our brothers in the South decide, I will side with them.

**What type of state you think is suitable for Yemen, unity or federalism?**

I think federalism is for the good of Yemen. It doesn't mean alienation from unity. It is meant to bring unity and help boost the Dialogue participation, the sharing of interest and development of everything.

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**The purpose of the different parties is to transform the state into a civil one that includes all fractions of society, which will result in the building of a new Yemen.**



الشيخ محمد أبو لحوم ليمن تايمز..

# إذا لم نتعامل مع القضية الجنوبية بوضوح ومصداقية، فلن نتعامل مع أي قضية ولا يمكن لنا أن نحل أي قضية في اليمن

قال رئيس تنظيم العدالة والبناء وعضو لجنة الحوار الوطني الشيخ محمد أبو لحوم، إنه يلمس الجديدة والمصداقية للتحاور فيما بين الأطراف في اليمن، وأشار في حوار مع يمن تايمز إلى أن الشيء الطيب هو عندما تنظر إلى المشترك والمؤتمر والأخوة في صعدة والشباب وهم يعملون بعقلية الفريق الواحد وهذا ما يدعو للاطمئنان.

وقال إن الجنوب مظلوم، وإن الجنوبيين عانوا بما فيه الكفاية «فهم الذين أتوا للوحدة بحماس غير معقول وكانوا صادقين ومنذ فحين لبناء الدولة الحقيقية».

أبولحوم تحدث في هذا الحوار حول العديد من القضايا ذات الصلة بالوضع السياسي اليمني الحالي...

حاوره: محمد السامحي



الشيخ محمد أبو لحوم

ما الذي أنجز حتى اللحظة في لجنة الحوار؟

منذ بدأنا العمل قبل شهرين هناك أشياء جيدة، فالشيء الذي يدعو للتفاؤل هو تركيبة اللجنة، حيث هناك تنافس في العمل، فمُنذ اليوم الأول من عمل اللجنة كان هناك نوع من التوتر الذي يبدو طبيعياً.

تقصد عدم الانسجام بين الأعضاء؟ عدم الانسجام. ولكن ذلك التوتر ذاب في الاجتماع الثاني، فبدأت اللجنة تعمل بروح الفريق الواحد، وأهم إنجازاتها هي العشرون النقطة التي تعتبر كتهيئة لأرضية الحوار، وهذه النقاط عندما أتت كانت الفكرة مقترحة من الدكتور ياسين سعيد نعمان وبمجرد ما طرحت كانت هناك بعض الملاحظات لكن شكلت لجنة من المؤتمر والمشاركين والأخوة في صعدة وبعض الشباب ولم تأخذ تقريباً أكثر من ٢٤ ساعة وإذا بها جاهزة، لهذا عندما يلتقي الفرقاء الكثير من العقيدات تذوب. هناك روح الوفاق أكثر من أي شيء آخر.

الحراك الجنوبي المطالب بالانفصال؟

نحن لا نستيق الأمور. أنا بالنسبة لي أريد أن يجلس على الطاولة الذي يطالب بالانفصال. هذا هو الغرض من الحوار، أنك تتحاور مع من تختلف معه، وليس مع من تتفق معه، فنحن كنا مصريين أن يمثل في الحوار ممثلين عن الحراك. حتى الأخوة الجنوبيين الذين في اللجنة هم قالوا نحن لا نمثل الحراك ولكنهم في نفس الوقت يمثلون فصائل أساسية موجودة داخل الساحة الجنوبية، ونحن نرغب بهذا الشيء، ولكن كان المطالب الأساسي أن يكون الحراك موجود في الحوار، ومن غير وجود الحراك أعتقد أنه من الصعب أن ننجز شيئاً في الحوار..

وكان من بين الأشياء التي طرحناها أنه لا بد من اتخاذ خطوات من أجل تنفيذ النقاط العشرين..

الرئيس هادي قال أنه يتواصل بنفسه مع قيادات في الحراك الجنوبي من أجل الحوار، ونحن نسمع لقيادات في الحراك أنهم لن يتحاوروا إلا على أساس الانفصال؟

هذا يعنى روح الأمل، ونحن نعين الرئيس ونكمل للرئيس ما يحتاج، لكن طالما يقوم بهذا الجانب أعتقد أنه قد حدد لنا يوم معين سيكون للتواصل معه من قبله كي يأتي الأخوة في الحراك للحوار.

ومن حق أي أحد أن يرفع سقف الحوار إلى ما يريد، من حقه أن يرفع سقفك، وعندما نلتقي هنا يأتي التنازل لبعضنا البعض، لا نكون متأثر عندما يطرح البعض أنه يريد الانفصال، أو دولة بدولة، فلنستمع إليهم. الغرض من الحوار هو أن نقعد على الطاولة ولا يمكن أن نجعل الإعلام أو الأشخاص هم الوسيط في الحوار، لا يمكن أن يكون هناك وسيط للحوار إلا أن نقعد على طاولة الحوار ونستمع لبعضنا البعض، وأنا على ثقة إنه عندما نقعد على طاولة الحوار كثير من هذه الأشياء ستذوب وتتلاشى وهذا ما لمسناه من لجنة الحوار، ومن كان يتخيل أنه سيقعد الأخوة في الإصلاح بجانب الأخوة في صعدة، بجانب المؤتمر.

هل هذا يدل أن نسبة نجاح الحوار عالية في ظل هذا الانسجام بين

الشيخ محمد أبو لحوم ليمن تايمز..

تحدثنا عن النقاط مع الرئيس وقال انه سيتم اتخاذ الخطوات فيما يتعلق بهذه

وكانت هناك بعض التنازلات أحياناً لبعضهم البعض. لكن اليوم علينا أن نمارس الحياة الديمقراطية الحقيقية. أتمنى أن نرى تحالفات جديدة وانتلافات جديدة. علينا أن نرى تداول سلمي للسلطة فبدون التداول السلمي للسلطة لا توجد ديمقراطية وهذا هو الأساس الذي نطمح له ونراه في القريب العاجل.

من المعروف أن محمد أبو لحوم شخصية مدنية وقبليّة ومؤسس حزب سياسي هل سينعكس هذا على أداء حزب العدالة والبناء؟

أنا أستغرب عندما نحاول أن نوجد التناقضات بين هذه المسميات التي يجب أن تكمل بعضها البعض، هذه هي تكوينات المجتمع اليمني، لا يمكن أن نخرج من المجتمع اليمني، والغرض من هذا كله كيف نحول الدولة إلى دولة مدنية تميز هذه المسميات والفئات كلها ونخرج بحصيلة بناء يمن جديد يتحمل الجميع.

كيف تنظر الى أداء حكومة الوفاق؟

علينا أن ننظر إلى الأمور من زوايا مختلفة قبل الثورة وبعدها. عندما يطرح البعض ملاحظات على أداء الحكومة يجب أن لا تتأثر. لا يمكن لك أن تشاهد أي شيء ولا تبدي رأيك، الحكومة والرئيس وجدوا الخدمة الشعب. اليمن بحاجة لتصبح الكثير من المفاهيم.

أنا شخصياً أقول إلى حد ما الحكومة تحاول أن تعمل الكثير ولكن ما زال يجب عليها أن تعمل أكثر من ذلك وتنجز بالذات في المجالات الخدمية وتعيد مفهوم الدولة والحكومة.

عليها أن تنجز، لكن هل أنجزت شيئاً على أرض الواقع؟

إلى حد ما أنجزت بعض الشيء، ولو كنت أتمنى أن أرى إنجازات أكثر وما زال لدينا وقت وسرور ذلك في الفترة القادمة. هناك مانحين، ولكن لا ينبغي أن تركز على المانحين، بل ينبغي تفعيل الاستثمار وليس الاعتماد على المانحين والصدقات.

تأجبت لك تصريحات وحوارات سابقة وجدت أنك مهتم بشكل كبير بالقضية الجنوبية ماذا؟

بالنسبة للجنوب عانوا ما فيه الكفاية، هم الذين أتوا للوحدة بحماس غير معقول وكانوا صادقين ومنذ فحين لبناء الدولة الحقيقية، وأد بالأمال تخب للأسف الشديد. أتت حرب ٩٤، ونحن كلنا ضحايا تلك الحرب وأنا غادرت اليمن تقريباً أكثر من عشر سنوات من بعد هذه الحرب... علينا النظر إلى الجنوب نظرة واقعية صادقة، وأن لا تكون نظرة ضيقة.

لماذا لم تغيروا مثل هذه المواضيع وقت

أعضاء لجنة الحوار مشهود لهم بالكفاءة والوطنية ولا يمكن لنا أن نزيد عليهم

ما زالت الساحة بحاجة إلى أحزاب يعبر كل كيف ما يريد والواقع والتجربة والتعامل هو الذي سيفرض نفسه بعد المعاناة السابقة. وأنت تنظر إلى ثورات الربيع العربي كانت في هذه الدول أربعة إلى خمسة أحزاب. الآن عندما تنظر إلى مصر هناك حوالي ستين حزباً من رحم الثورة فاليمن ما زالت بحاجة إلى تأسيس أحزاب، ونحن كتنظيم العدالة والبناء أتت الفكرة من رحم الثورة والذين بدأوا في تأسيس التنظيم مجموعة كانت في المؤتمر الشعبي العام وكانت الفكرة تراودنا قبل الثورة وبعدها وصلنا إلى قناعة أن عطارنا من المؤتمر ليس مجدداً ولا مفيداً وليس هناك من يستمع له فكانت الأفكار متطابقة مع كثير من الأخوة والمرحلة الفاصلة التي جعلتنا نمضي قدماً هي مجزرة جمعة الكرامة التي أعلن خلالها خروجنا من المؤتمر وانضمامنا إلى الثورة وبدأنا بتأسيس التنظيم.

المؤسسون للحزب هل هم من المؤتمر فقط أم أن هناك جهات أخرى؟

نحن قلة من الذين كانوا في المؤتمر الشعبي العام ولكن الغالبية الآن من شباب الثورة ومن الأخوات ومن مختلف الأطياف وهناك قرار اتخذناه في التنظيم أنه في مراحل الثورة لا يجب أن ننضم إلى تنظيم العدالة والبناء بقدر ما كان إنجاح الثورة للوصول إلى ما نحن فيه وبعد ما ترسخت الثورة وتم انتخاب الرئيس هادي بدأ التنظيم يتفرغ بطريقة أكثر للعمل التنظيمي داخل الحزب في مختلف المناطق.

هل يمكن أن نقول أنه حدث انشقاق داخل المؤتمر وتم تأسيس هذا الحزب؟

هو ليس انشقاقاً بقدر ما هو قناعة عند الكثير من أنه لا يوجد شيء يمكن أن نقدمه في المؤتمر أو المؤتمر يسمع منا.

البعض يقول إن التيار المعتدل في المؤتمر انشق عنه وقاموا بتأسيس العدالة والبناء والأحرار؟

وما المانع من ذلك؟ من حقهم أن يؤسسوا حزب أو منظمة مجتمع مدني من حقه أن يعمل الآن. أنت أمام يمن جديد وتحديات جديدة وطموح جديد والآن المواطن اليمني لا يمكن أن يقيم الأحزاب كما كان عليه في الماضي. كانت الحزبية في الماضي قائمة على معارضة دائمة وحزب حاكم دائم

أعضاء اللجنة؟

هناك انسجام وتفاؤل، وكلنا في اللجنة نتحدث عن التغيير، لا تجد شخصاً يدافع ضد التغيير، بل كلنا نتحدث كيف نصل للتغيير الأفضل، والكل يطرح ما عنده، فروح العمل الواحد موجود ولم نلمس أي عراقيل من أعضاء اللجنة، فهناك رغبة في إنجاح العمل.

هناك من يقول إن بعض أعضاء لجنة الحوار لا يهتموا سوى بالتنظيرات والشهرة والاستغثار بالنقاش؟

أنا لم ألمس أي نوايا سيئة، فهناك نوايا حسنة من قبل الأعضاء، أنت تدخل بين فرقاء، خصوم، لا تنسى أن اليمن كانت على شفا الانهيار أو الفتنة أو الحرب الأهلية، فالغرض من الحوار أن تطرح كل ما لديك على الطاولة فالأمور تسير على ما يرام بالنسبة للتهيئة من أجل الحوار الوطني، أنا رجل متفائل أكثر من اللازم في بعض الأحيان لكن هناك نوع من المبالغة بأن هناك اختلافات أو انقسامات داخل اللجنة.

لو انتقلنا إلى حزب العدالة والبناء... ما الذي جعلكم تقرررون تأسيس الحزب رغم أن يقول إن اليمن ليست بحاجة إلى أحزاب في الوقت الحالي؟

من غير وجود الحراك أعتقد أنه من الصعب أن ننجز شيئاً في الحوار..

النظام السابق؟ عندما تنظر للحراك الجنوبي منذ ٢٠٠٧ تجد أنهم هم من بدأوا بالحراك قبل ثورات الربيع العربي، فهم الذين بدأوا الحراك السلمي وهم الذين بدأوا بالمطالب وكان طرحهم في البداية منطقياً وعقلانياً ومترزناً، ولكن عندما لم يتجاوب أحد لهم بدأ التصعيد واليوم انظر إلى ما نحن فيه.

اليوم علينا النظر إلى القضية الجنوبية من مفهوم آخر ومختلف تماماً، فهي حجر الزاوية لمعالجة كل قضايا اليمن فإذا لم نتعامل مع القضية الجنوبية بوضوح ومصداقية، فلن نتعامل مع أي قضية ولا يمكن لنا أن نحل أي قضية في اليمن.

هل كنت تتبنى القضية الجنوبية وقت النظام السابق سيما أنك من قيادات المؤتمر سابقاً؟

كنت أطرحها عندما كنت في المؤتمر الشعبي العام وإذا عدت للكثير من تصريحاتي كان رأيي واضح وصريح بالنسبة للجنوب. ليس في الجنوب بل في معظم المناطق لكن الجنوب له وضعية خاصة وهذا ما يجب أن ندرسه، فإذا لم يكن الأخوة في الجنوب والحراك الجنوبي موجودين في طاولة الحوار، فما جدوى الحوار؟ مع من نتحاور؟ ولماذا نتحاور؟ القضية الجنوبية محور أساسي يجب أن نتعامل معه.

ما زالت هناك فصائل في الحراك الجنوبي ترفض الحوار رغم أنه قد يكون فرصة لهم لطرح قضيتهم؟

حتى الذين لديهم تحفظ في المشاركة في الحوار علينا أن نتواصل معهم للمرة الأولى والثانية والثالثة. أعتقد أحياناً أن هناك نوعاً من التساهل في هذا الجانب لكن علينا أن لا تضيع الصور وعلينا أن ننظر عندما نتحاور سنأتي بالأخوة الجنوبيين. هذا البلد لنا جميعاً فالأخوة في الجنوب عندما يلمسوا الوضوح والرغبة وهذا ما بدأت تبادر إليه لجنة الحوار والعشرين النقطة أكبر دليل على ذلك وأنا متفائل أن الحوار الوطني سيسيير إلى الأمام.

أنتم تدعون الجنوبيين للحوار وحتى اللحظة لم يتم تطبيق النقاط التي طرحتها اللجنة والخاصة بالجنوب، فكيف سيبستجيبون للحوار؟

أنا أتفق معك في هذا الجانب وهذا ما نسعى إليه، وهو ما تحدثنا فيه مع الرئيس الذي وعدنا أن هناك خطوات ستتم في القريب العاجل، ونحن نقول لن تكتمل طاولة الحوار بالكامل إلا بوجود الأخوة في الحراك الجنوبي.

متى هذا القريب العاجل؟ نحن نتحدث عن أسابيع كما لمسنا.

هل هناك وسائل نستطيع من خلالها جذب المطالبين بالانفصال إلى الحوار مثل الضغوط الدولية، أو الاستمالات الداخلية؟

لا توجد حاجة اسمها ضغوط دولية بقدر ما هناك رغبة وإرادة محلية. فهي التي ستقرب من وجهات النظر وعلينا أن لا تضيق عندما نسعى أطروحات المطالبة بالانفصال مهما كانت، أنت لا تتحاور إلا مع من تختلف معه أما من أنت متفق معه فلماذا الحوار؟ فلماذا علينا أن نفتح صدورنا جميعاً وعقولنا وأنا على ثقة إذا فتحنا عقولنا وصدورنا ستكون اليمن بخير، فاليمين بني على وحدة الشعب... لكن كيف يكون شكل النظام: هل فيدرالي أو آخر هذه الأشياء سنطرحها على طاولة الحوار بصور رغبة ومتقبلين لهذه الأشياء. وأنا رأيي أن ما يختاره الأخوة في الجنوب ستكون جميعاً معه.

كيف ترى شكل الدولة القادمة، وحدة أم فيدرالية؟

أنا أرى أن الفيدرالية شيء طيب سيفيد اليمن، ومفهومها لا يعني الابتعاد عن الوحدة ولكنه ترسيخ للوحدة ومشاركة للحوار، مشاركة للمصالح والتنمية وفي كل شيء، فلا نتخوف من المسميات.



# Illiteracy elimination movement faces hurdles

Interview and photo by  
Mohammed bin Sallam

The illiteracy elimination movement began decades ago in Yemen. Although it is credited with many achievements, it remains relatively limited and inadequate to tackle such a large issue. According to the organization, those benefiting from the illiteracy elimination programs reached just under 160,000 in 2010 and 2011.

The Yemen Times met with Ahmed Abdullah Ahmed, the head of the Adult Education and Illiteracy Elimination (AEIEA) organization, as well as other societal issues relating to illiteracy. Ahmed calls for the country to prioritize this education-related crisis.

"We exert great efforts so that people take notice of this issue that has low awareness. We look at this issue as a national one. Illiteracy is one of the biggest challenges in the country. Consequently, people should agree on the importance of this issue. Their support will help us succeed and overcome the challenges and difficulties facing us," he said.

Ahmed asserted the importance of a partnership of all facets of society to contribute to the programs of illiteracy elimination.

"The role of the local councils and the media outlets is weak. It is my duty to remind these people that they are responsible for the important role of making the process of illiteracy elimination go effectively and smoothly. The illiteracy elimination issue is a connected one and is not limited to a particular side."

He went on to say, "We are not the only ones responsible for this process. The AEIEA is a technical, educational authority. Our mission

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**YEMEN TIMES**  
Radio



"We exert great efforts so that people take notice of this issue that has low awareness," Ahmed Abdullah Saleh, head of the Adult Education and Illiteracy Elimination organization.

is to facilitate the process and to make policies and programs. Thus, the process cannot continue without the participation of everyone. Though the obstacles are many, we go on steadfastly. We have convictions that it is our duty to carry on, no matter the difficulties or hurdles or the limited potential."

In reference to the AEIEA's new techniques and programs, he said, "We work to advance our programs. We issue many cultural, educational and teaching booklets to help those who cannot read. We created another program geared at tourism. We issued two books about this, specifically for Shabwa, Al-Jawf and Mareb, two governorates that are tourist attractions. This was in coordination with the Tourism Ministry."

Ahmed also said that illiteracy elimination programs concentrate on fostering basic skills like teach-

ing the alphabet. The organization additionally supports many centers, providing them with equipment, machines, garments, and other materials needed to help illiterate people acquire reading skills.

He added, "We aim to develop the abilities and skills of teachers because we consider the teacher to be the cornerstone of our daily framework. The illiteracy elimination teachers are different from the school teachers. We teach the illiteracy elimination teachers how to deal with adults, and how to convey the information patiently. We have intensified these training courses and established a special team for this training."

It is not an overnight process teaching someone to read, according to Ahmed.

"The time needed is about two years. Then the learners are given

certificates, equivalent to the certificates of the fourth grade students. There is then no objection if they want to enroll at a government school."

For the most part, the centers continue to attract news students.

"As many as 186,000 male and female students are enrolled at the centers this year," Ahmed boasted, but pointed out that numbers dropped in areas like Al-Jawf and Shabwa, due to a deteriorating security situation.

The literacy crusader expects the number of teachers to increase during the 2012-13 school year.

"This year we are using new techniques. A teacher will teach 40 students in each class to get financial incentives. No teacher will be approved if he isn't committed to this rule, Ahmed said. "This initiative aims to increase the number of students nationwide."

Another focus of the AEIEA is to increase literacy in rural areas.

"The problem is that the number of students in rural areas is between five and 20, and it is hard to find teachers who accept working in rural areas. However, we still continue to teach," the organization's leader said.

Regarding the support offered by governmental and non-governmental organizations for his program, Ahmed asserted the importance of working together to gain their cooperation.

He went on to say, "Political parties should have a positive role in eliminating illiteracy, opening classes and encouraging its members to participate in the teaching process. Moreover, the Ministry of Endowment should require imams to teach students, and in return, we'll provide blackboards, chalks and certificates."

"We don't want financial support at all [from non-governmental groups]. What we need is participation to eliminate illiteracy in our country using available resources. I don't know what prevents asso-

ciations and unions from holding classes in their factories and offices for employees after work," he added.

"Media has an essential role too. Media, whether television, radio or newspapers, should have an active role, but unfortunately when we request that they add headlines encouraging people to study, they ask for money," Ahmed criticized.

Although Ahmed isn't demanding anything but small efforts from institutions outside of government, he wants the state to take financial responsibility to teach its constituents to read and calls for a redistribution of resources for education.

"There is a shortage of funds. The budget the state gives to our authority doesn't equal what is given to other authorities."



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## EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (YEM12/LOG/005)

The Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Yemen is currently seeking a qualified internal candidate for the following post:

**Post Title:** Senior Logistics Assistant (COMPAS)  
**Duty Station:** Sana'a  
**UN Category:** Service Contract SB-3  
**Duration of:** One year  
**Closing Date:** 22 October 2012

This position is open to both male and female candidates. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

### Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the Logistics Officer and the overall supervision of the Head of Sub Office, the incumbent will be:

- Assist with logistics operations including all logistics assets in order to ensure timely and cost-effective delivery of WFP cargoes;
- Assist in the training of staff, particularly ensuring that support staff are adequately trained, cross trained and identify any additional training needs to achieve high working standards;
- Follow up on projections of needs and call forward requirements;
- Follow the movement of food and non-food items for the projects and operations in the country;
- Collect regional and statistical information related to needs in various locations;
- Assist the sub-stations in the distribution and control of food and non-food aid;
- Organize and supervise the distribution at food at sites and maintain appropriate records;
- Prepare contracts for the transport of food and non-food items in both emergency and development operations;
- Initiate regular visits to stores to ensure conformity with regulations for storage of food and non-food items;
- Maintain cost data on various means of transport in the country;
- Deliver standard waybills to those involved in the transport of the operations; ensure that the proper paperwork has been prepared;
- Assist with the accounting, reporting on food and non-food items and ensure that internal control systems are functioning and that all relevant records are maintained;
- Assist in contingency planning and logistics preparedness reviews;
- Supervise general service staff as required;
- Perform other related duties as required.

### Expected Results:

Well organized, reports and/or records, put together independently with only general guidance. Well organized work with accurate information and databases; efficiently supervised team of support staff or work unit.

### Critical Success Factors:

Sound judgment; ability to extract, interpret, analyse and format data and to resolve operational problems. Ability to work with minimum of supervision; to supervise and train support staff; and to work effectively with people of different national and cultural backgrounds. Ability work with accuracy under time constraints and pressure; to deal patiently and tactfully with staff members and others and to have a high sense of confidentiality, initiative and good judgment.

### Qualifications:

**Education:** Secondary school education, preferably supplemented by technical or university courses in a field related to logistics/transport activities. University degree in computer science, statistics, finance or accounting is preferable.  
**Experience:** At least 4 years of progressively supervisory and/or technical experience is preferable.

### Desirable

- Master's degree preferably in Information Systems and Technology.
- Knowledge of Oracle or other relational databases management systems
- Local Area Network (LAN) administration experience
- Experience in Logistics and Supply Chain Management Systems

**Language:** Fluency in both oral and written English and Arabic.

**Knowledge:** Experience utilising computers, including word processing, spread sheet and other software packages.

To apply, please send your curriculum vitae with a cover letter by the deadline to the following address:

World Food Programme, Sana'a  
P.O. Box 7181  
Diplomatic Area, Nowakshot St, House No. 22, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Application should be sent to above mentioned address in a sealed envelope and should meet the requirement (Covering letter, Personal History Form and copy of curriculum vitae) as well as with clearly mentioning the preferred location of the post otherwise application will not be considered.

The subject of the mail should indicate the reference number of the vacancy announcement. Only short-listed candidates meeting the requirement shall be contacted.



## EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (YEM12/LOG/006)

The Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Yemen is currently seeking a qualified internal candidate for the following post:

**Post Title:** Senior Logistics Assistant (LTSH)  
**Duty Station:** Sana'a  
**UN Category:** Service Contract SB-3  
**Duration of:** One year  
**Closing Date:** 22 October 2012

This position is open to both male and female candidates. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

### Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the Logistics Officer and the overall supervision of the Head of Sub Office, the incumbent will be:

- Assist with logistics operations including all logistics assets in order to ensure timely and cost-effective delivery of WFP cargoes;
- Assist in the training of staff, particularly ensuring that support staff are adequately trained, cross trained and identify any additional training needs to achieve high working standards;
- Follow up on projections of needs and call forward requirements;
- Follow the movement of food and non-food items for the projects and operations in the country;
- Collect regional and statistical information related to needs in various locations;
- Assist the sub-stations in the distribution and control of food and non-food aid;
- Organize and supervise the distribution at food at sites and maintain appropriate records;
- Prepare contracts for the transport of food and non-food items in both emergency and development operations;
- Initiate regular visits to stores to ensure conformity with regulations for storage of food and non-food items;
- Maintain cost data on various means of transport in the country;
- Deliver standard waybills to those involved in the transport of the operations; ensure that the proper paperwork has been prepared;
- Assist with the accounting, reporting on food and non-food items and ensure that internal control systems are functioning and that all relevant records are maintained;
- Assist in contingency planning and logistics preparedness reviews;
- Supervise general service staff as required;
- Perform other related duties as required.

### Expected Results:

Well organized, reports and/or records, put together independently with only general guidance. Well organized work with accurate information and databases; efficiently supervised team of support staff or work unit.

### Critical Success Factors:

Sound judgment; ability to extract, interpret, analyse and format data and to resolve operational problems. Ability to work with minimum of supervision; to supervise and train support staff; and to work effectively with people of different national and cultural backgrounds. Ability work with accuracy under time constraints and pressure; to deal patiently and tactfully with staff members and others and to have a high sense of confidentiality, initiative and good judgment.

### Qualifications:

**Education:** Secondary school education, preferably supplemented by technical or university courses in a field related to logistics/transport activities. University degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration, Economics or Statistics is preferable.  
**Experience:** At least 4 years of progressively supervisory and/or technical experience.

### Desirable

- Master's degree is preferable in Accounting or Finance.
- Computer skills including word processing, spreadsheets and other software packages.
- Experience in Audit, Finance or banking services would be an added asset.

**Language:** Fluency in both oral and written English and Arabic.

**Knowledge:** Experience utilising computers, including word processing, spread sheet and other software packages.

To apply, please send your curriculum vitae with a cover letter by the deadline to the following address:

World Food Programme, Sana'a  
P.O. Box 7181  
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# Sana'a school sits powerless in its crumbling infrastructure

Amal Al-Yarisi

**T**he Abdulatif Al-Hamd Primary School lies just south of Sana'a, but unlike many other schools in the area, it has two stories that are yet to be completed, as well as a laundry-list of services and operational equipment that the government has neglected to provide.

Although the school was established sixteen years ago, it still lacks standard materials like books that necessary for a productive learning environment. According to Suad Qasim, the Deputy Head of the school, there are classrooms with no windows, chairs or doors. She deems the school completely unfit for teaching.

However, Mohammed Al-Fadhli, the manager of the Education Office, said the Education Ministry is attempting to resolve the problem.

Al-Fadhli said the German government recently granted Yemen €1 million in order to help build schools in Sana'a, as well as repair the un-equipped ones.

He also defended the Education Ministry office by saying the government body strives to construct standard schools that meet the students' needs, as well as reduce the number of crowded classes.



It is necessary for students to sit cross-legged on the ground, almost on top of one another, in the classrooms without desks or chairs. This classroom has windows, a luxury many rooms lack.



The unfinished Abdulatif Al-Hamd School was supposed to be completed six years ago, but money disputes between the contractor and the Ministry of Education led to its current state of steady decay.



During a break, students flock to nearby streets. The school lacks a fence, leaving the youngsters to come and go as they please.



Ilham Al-Ariqi, a teacher who has worked at the school since 2003, said she constantly feels depressed by her surroundings. "I usually leave class early due to the difficulties inside the classroom," she said.



The school's administration complains that pupils have fallen from the overcrowded and crumbling stairwells, causing them to sustain injuries.



Though the students face dire circumstances, some express hope about moving to another school being built in the area.



Sanitation facilities are unavailable on school premises. Some students resort to using the rooms like this one as a toilet when necessary.



Mohammed Al-Ariqi, a student, said he doesn't like the school, reporting that to date, he has not received any school books, making lessons difficult to understand.



Girls constantly have to fight for space in this narrow passageway leading to their classes on the upper floor.



Despite the classroom deficiencies, Lamyia Nasser, a student who aspires to become a doctor, completes her lessons without complaint.



The school administration has resorted to using curtains in place of doors.









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## Young people cleaning up

Story and photo by  
Ashraf Al-Muraqab

Under the slogan, "Starting with my Hands", the youth organization, Our Yemen Will Start From Here, in coordination with the youth group, To Change and Make a Change, launched the Exemplary

District competition in Sana'a. The program, which launched last week, aims to raise levels of cleanliness and environmental health.

Ghasan Al-Shami, the competition's manager, said the friendly event is a youth initiative created to spread the concept of the cooperative social work amongst youngsters.

The competition establishes

small teams of participants, who are assigned a particular district to clean for two weeks. At the end, one team will be selected as the winner.

Ten neighborhoods in Sana'a are participating in the competition, under the leadership of Abdulqader Helal, Secretariat of the Capital. A ceremony will be held this Thursday to honor the partici-

pants.

On Sunday, Helal visited the participating neighborhood of Alasbahi, and talked to the Yemen Times about the important role the young play in developing their society. He pointed out the trees that had been planted in the area.

"We found creative youth to participate in making a real change in society," he said.




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