

## Taiz residents call for immediate action to address local security

**Ahmed Dawood**

TAIZ, Nov. 11 – Thousands in Taiz staged a protest Sunday, roaming several streets in the governorate to demand the resignation of security leaders who they claim are responsible for the current security vacuum.

The protest comes following Saturday and Sunday meetings by area security leaders to design an updated security plan in the governorate.

The protest started at Wadi Al-Qadi and ended in front of the governorate's compound, where protestors demanded security and stability in Taiz, Azooz Al-Samei, a columnist and youth activist, said.

Protestors also demanded the resignation of Mohammed Mansur Al-Shawafi and Abdulla Amir, undersecretaries of Taiz, and Mohammed Al-Haj, secretary general of the local council.

Taiz residents complained about the security vacuum in the governorate and the spread of armed men. Yaser Obad, a youth activist, said residents fear the total absence of security in main streets and the gunshots at night.

Shawqi Ahmed Hail, governor of Taiz, blamed Taiz's security chief and the leader of the Central Security Forces for the security vacuum.

"The security situation has deteriorated in the governorate, and people are shooting ammunition



Security officials in Taiz are in the middle of playing a blame game, each saying the other is responsible for a deteriorating situation.

and fireworks while you only stand and watch," Hail said in a Facebook post. "You bear the responsibility and have to put an end for what is going on; otherwise, I'll be obliged to halt you and replace you with other people able to do so."

Ahmed Ali Al-Maqdashi, Taiz's

security chief, told Yemen Times, "The security situation in Taiz is better than in many Yemeni governorates."

He said there is media hype regarding what is happening in Taiz, and the reality is that Taiz remains calm.

He said during the meetings on Saturday and Sunday, they set a more effective security plan for the current period and for 2013.

Al-Maqdashi said the plan includes pursuing "wanted" people and eliminating arms proliferation in Taiz.

## Suspected Al-Qaeda supporter in custody



Tarek Al-Fadhli was forced to abandon his home in Zinjibar.

**Amal Al-Yarisi**

DATA LINE — Suspected Al-Qaeda affiliate and sheikh, Tarek Al-Fadhli, whose house in Zinjibar was besieged last week by local militiamen known as Popular Resistance Committees (PRC), was forcibly moved to Aden on Saturday.

This followed clashes between loyalists and military forces that killed a guard affiliated with the southern sheikh, according to Nasser Al-Fadhli, a local from the same tribe as Tarek Al-Fadhli.

Nasser confirmed that Tarek Al-Fadhli left his home in the company of military forces, a move that many hope will help settle the

volatile situation in Abyan, a governorate beset with conflicts.

"Al-Fadhli is currently residing in Aden under forced residence imposed by the interior minister," Nasser said.

Jihad Muhsen, a journalist in Abyan, said Al-Fadhli was moved to the house of the defense minister, Mohammed Nasser Ahmed in Khor Maksar in Aden.

He said some locals protested Al-Fadhli's presence in Aden, hoping he will be taken to Sana'a in the days to come.

Many accuse Al-Fadhli of supporting Al-Qaeda militants, who took control of many cities in the Abyan last year.

## Kung Fu team returns from world competition with medals in hand

**Nadia Haddash**

SANAA, Nov. 11 — Yemen's national Kung Fu team participated

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in the fifth World Kung Fu Championship (Wushu) in China from Nov. 5 to 12, winning four medals. Approximately 3,300 players from 55 countries participated in the championship, which took place in Huangshan, a city in China's Anhui Province.

Kung Fu, also known as Wushu, refers to Chinese martial arts, created about 4,000 years ago as a type of self-defense.

The Yemeni team's participation followed and internal training camp in Sana'a lasting 28 days. Numerous Kung Fu athletes participated in the camp, which culminated in the selection of players for China based on physical and mental preparation, according to the Ministry of Youth and Sport.

On Day 1 of the competition, Yemen's Yusef Al-Khadari won the first gold medal of the games for the Taijiquan Kung Fu style. Hamdi Al-Yarisi won a silver medal in Southern Sword Style and Saddam Al-Rahomi and Sultan Al-Yamani placed third and tenth, respectively, in Spear Style.

On Day 2, Al-Rahomi placed



Team Yemen captured four medals at the championship.

first in Falcon style among ten athletes. This victory is the first of its kind for Yemen's national team in international championships.

Al-Khadari, however, wasn't lucky enough to medal on the second day. He ranked tenth among 19 athletes in Taiji Sword style. Al-Yarisi was 22nd among 30 athletes in the Southern Boxing and Al-Yamani was tenth among 14 athletes.

Mohammed Abdu Raweh, head of the Kung Fu Union in Yemen, accompanied the team to China and expressed his happiness about the results of the games.

"I consider it an honorable achievement for Yemeni sports," Raweh said in an interview with the Yemen Times. "The athletes fulfilled what they were expected to do. It is an honor for all Yemeni athletes in Yemen."

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**القطاع الصناعي**

## President Hadi begins tour of Gulf states

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANA'A, Nov. 11 — President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi headed to Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, Sunday, marking the first stop of a Gulf tour that includes Kuwait and Oman.

The tour is the second of such nature in as many months. One-and-a-half months ago, Hadi toured Western countries including the U.S. and a number of European nations.

The state-run Saba News Agency said Hadi is set to meet leaders of the three Gulf countries in line with consolidating their brotherly relationships, particularly at this critical moment where Yemen is enduring the auspices of the country's historic political reconciliation.

Mu'een Al-Salami, a political analyst, said Hadi's trip comes following his "successful" tour of the West. The visit also comes prior the National Dialogue

Conference, set to begin later this month. Al-Salami said the tour is likely a part of the political leadership's efforts to guarantee the success of the dialogue as well as the completion of the Gulf Initiative's implementation.

Media activist Elham Al-Hudabi said the tour will be effective because Yemen currently depends on the Gulf Initiative to resolve national issues and to please all the active political parties; therefore, the visit will help put the initiative items in effect, particularly as some parties have started to flout in advance of the National Dialogue Conference.

Al-Salami said it is common knowledge that every Gulf country has influence in Yemen, so they could help push those who object to dialogue, especially in the south, to attend the conference.

On the agenda is Yemen's military restructure, he said, adding that the military issue requires wide support and solidarity from the Gulf states and all the patrons of

the Gulf Initiative.

Journalist Faisal Ali said Hadi's visit aims to build good relations with neighboring countries, explaining that to stabilize the country in the new Yemeni period of governance, bonds with neighbors must be strengthened.

"The Gulf states are safe as long as Yemen is not unsafe," Ali said.

Ali also said Hadi aims to attract investment and economic support from the Gulf region, pointing out that Gulf country investments in Yemen will pave the way for economic relations that could provide luxury to countries in the region.

Al-Hudabi said Hadi wants to hammer home that he is supported by foreign powers that will not allow any further deterioration in Yemen for fear of terrorism and loss of interest. Visiting these three countries, she said, reminds stakeholders of the Gulf Initiative line items that oblige them to cooperate with the president for the sake of the public interest.

## Southern leaders meet with Benomar, each other in separate Cairo meetings

Samar Qaed

SANA'A, Nov. 11 — Haithm Al-Gharib, head of the political unit of the Southern Movement Supreme Council, said Southern Movement leaders meeting in Cairo this past weekend decided not to participate in the National Dialogue Conference slated for later this month.

Southern Movement leaders met with U.N. Special Envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar Friday night in Cairo to discuss Southern involvement in the conference. The next day, they met together to discuss conference participation.

"The Southern Movement leaders, represented by Ali Nasser Mohammed, Haider Al-Atas and Hassan Baom, held a Saturday meeting at the house of Baom in Cairo, which lasted hours," Al-Gharid said. "They ultimately agreed that they will not participate in the dialogue, and they started to prepare a Southern dialogue bill seriously and honestly."

He said the three men considered their refusal to participate in the dialogue as a first main step to prepare for a separate Southern

dialogue.

Following the Cairo meetings Friday and Saturday, the Southern Movement leaders submitted a seven-condition list to Benomar. They said the conditions must be met before they participate in the National Dialogue. Conditions include the legality of self-determination for southerners.

Brigadier General Hussein Ali, spokesperson for the Security and Military Retirees Association, said it would be better to hold a Southern dialogue prior to the Cairo meeting, indicating that such a meeting at the current time could be a disadvantage to southerners. It's a disadvantage, Ali said, because the Southern issue has not been internally resolved to date.

He asserted the importance of the refusal by Southern Movement leaders to participate in a national dialogue because it could facilitate a path for southerners to unite.

"The majority of the southern factions agree to reclaim the flag and obtain independence," Ali said.

Abdu Raqeeb Al-Hadiani, a political analyst, said the Cairo

meeting indicates the approval of Southern leaders to take part in the dialogue and their acceptance of it, though gradually. He said their participation in the meeting with Benomar is an indicator of their interest in attending the National Dialogue Conference.

He said the National Dialogue is a chance to address the southern issue, particularly given the international community's concern for it. Since 1994, the Southern issue has not been seriously dealt with, so if the south turns down participation in the dialogue, the international community-led political reconciliation will misfire, according to Al-Hudaini.

In an interview with state-run Saba News Agency, Benomar affirmed the significance of the involvement of political stakeholders in Yemen in the dialogue, without conditions.

In the interview, Benomar asserted the importance of Southern Movement participation in the dialogue to resolve the Southern issue justly, adding that many leading figures have expressed willingness to partake in the dialogue.

## Confiscation of unlicensed motorcycles continues

Story and photo by Ashraf Al-Muraqab

SANA'A, Nov. 11 — The Sana'a Security Department reportedly said it is holding 507 unlicensed motorcycles in Sana'a, just one week after the start of a citywide campaign to confiscate license-free bikes.

The Ministry of Interior reported Thursday that it ordered security departments in Sana'a and, in other governorates and in the General Directorate of Traffic to ban all unlicensed motorcycles, based on the country's traffic law.

Via its website, the ministry detailed the importance of organizing daily security campaigns to confiscate unlicensed motorcycles due to their negative effects on traffic movement and for the public safety of pedestrians.

"Traffic police, Central Security Forces and Reinforcement Police participated in the campaign based on orders given by the Ministry of Interior," Sana'a Traffic Manager Qais Al-Eryani said.

Al-Eryani said the campaign would continue until all unlicensed motorcycles in Sana'a are either picked up or properly licensed. He said the goal is to instill discipline and stability in Sana'a.

In September, Yemeni authorities failed to impose a different decree banning unlicensed motorcycles because the motorcyclists staged protests calling the ban unfair since there are no facilitations in the custom fees required to receive licenses.

Al-Eryani said that the influx of



As a result of the ban, in the past week 507 unlicensed bikes have been confiscated in the capital city.

unlicensed motorcycles during the past period also created confusion in traffic movements and attributed to uncounted traffic accidents.

He said applying the law is necessary to instill greater discipline in the streets and to reduce traffic accidents.

The campaign also comes after security authorities reactivated the decree in cities and main streets throughout the country in response to militant use of motorcycles to gun down Yemeni and non-Yemeni government officials.

The use of motorcycles in assassinations targeting military and security officers in different

governorates has considerably increased in recent months.

On Wednesday, two armed men on a motorcycle assassinated Major Hussein Hajeb Al-Feel, an officer of the Anti-Terrorism Forces and a representative of the Ministry of Interior, in Al-Haseba, near the Interior Ministry's headquarter in Sana'a.

One of the two armed men opened fire on Al-Feel, the most recent official to die in a series of assassinations in Yemen that started several months ago.

Al-Feel is the 62nd officer killed this year nationwide by armed militants using motorcycles and bombs.

## Stage four of Sana'a sewage network requires \$60 million investment loan

Amira Nasser

SANA'A, Nov. 11 — Secretary of the Capital Abdalqader Helal met Saturday with a delegation from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), a Kuwait-based, pan-Arab development finance institution, to discuss the fourth stage of an agreement to establish a sanitation network in Sana'a.

AFESD allotted nearly \$60 million in loans for the current stage of the agreement.

"The fourth stage will concentrate

on finishing the basic lines of sewage in the capital," Ibrahim Al-Mahdi, general manager for the Public Corporation for Water and Sanitation, said.

The fourth stage consists of three steps. The first step will be to finish constructing sewage lines already being built; steps two and three will connect the sanitation lines across the city in a space of about 1,500 acres.

The plan is expected to take 1.5 years.

"The project will cover 80 to 90

percent of sewage lines in Sana'a," Al-Mahdi said.

The 2012-2015 proposed sanitation project will expand and is expected to include sanitation lines in Asser, Al-Sumaina, Al-Jarda'a, the north of Al-Rawdah, east of the airport, Thaban, and the Omar Bin Abdul-Aziz area.

Abdullah Al-Mota'a, a spokesperson for the project, said the agreement's finalization will occur at the end of the week, and loan agreements from the AFESD to start implementing the project will be signed.

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داعم رئيسي

# Street vendors suffer in the cold

Story and photos by Nadia Haddash

Winter has already started in Sana'a, with people rushing to prepare their heaters, warm clothes and blankets in an attempt to ward off illness. However, street vendors, who spend long periods of time in cold weather, often starting in the early morning until late night selling goods to earn a living, remain amongst the most vulnerable to winter's bitter edge.

Fatima Al-Raimi, a widow with four children, started selling tissues on Al-Safia Round about nine years ago to earn money.

"In winter, I prefer to start working at 8 a.m. because of the severe cold, but in the other seasons I start working at 6 a.m."

She went on to say, "I return home in the afternoon to look after my children and buy food with the money I got," adding, "a benefactor gave us winter clothes and blankets four years ago, and we still use them."

Jehad Ali Haider, a child street vendor, said he has a strong immunity to the cold weather.

"We street vendors are used to cold weather, and we get warm by continuous movement from one place to another. Although we rarely wear winter clothes, we aren't exposed to diseases."

However, Haider said if street vendors do get sick, they have very limited resources to seek medical attention. He also said hospital employees treat them poorly, so many street vendors prefer to tolerate the cold without assistance, simply waiting for winter to end.

Vendor Ahmed Ali Al-Ameer, 32, said, "As a way to ease the suffering that comes from wearing inadequate winter clothing, we sun ourselves. Working on the streets and roundabouts help us feel warm until sunset. We return home early in the night because we cannot bear the severity of the frost on the streets."

Talking about her suffering, Wafa Al-Silwi, a street vendor widow and a mother of two, said, "We (women) suffer enormously in winter. Thus, we work hard to buy clothes and blankets to help our children feel warm."

She said some benefactors help them to cope with the problem, yet she said she is fed up with this humiliating situation.

"We have no rights, and it is the government's responsibility to take care of everybody equally."

Al-Silwi said she hopes the reconciliation government would focus on opening training and rehabilitation centers to help those like her.

"We want respectable jobs suitable for us as nationals," she said.

Amen Mohammed Hamadi, a 21-year-old street vendor, is another case. Hamadi spends his time on Remas roundabout selling goods and occasionally begging.

"After I finished my preparatory school studies, my father passed away," Hamadi said. "I was forced to drop out of school and head to



"I get used to the cold in the winter. I have a strong immunity against sickness," said this young merchant.

Sana'a

Hamadi, who has been a street vendor for two years, also said, "I still remember last year's severe

cold, which caused me to fall sick. Yet, this year I am ready to face the cold on the roundabouts. I have saved the money needed to purchase

two coats. One is for me; the second is my little brother's. We are hopeful they will protect us against the frost of the cold weather."



Many female vendors like this woman report household costs being higher during the winter so they work longer hours.



If sales are low, many vendors sell products into the evening when chilly weather makes them vulnerable to illness.



Often the only means of staying warm in the streets is direct sunlight.





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# Lack of English language skills burden job seekers

Story and photo by  
Ashraf Al-Muraqab

**A** command of the English language has turned into a basic requirement for a majority of professional-job vacancies in Yemen. Those who lack either spoken or writing skills are reporting extreme difficulties in finding suitable employment.

This is a concern for Yemenis like Mohamed Ameen, a law school graduate from Sana'a University. Due to his lack of this desired skill set, he has largely remained unemployed.

"All the announced vacancies in the newspapers and magazines [only hire on the] condition of a good spoken and written command of English," he said. "Thus, I spent six years searching for a job opportunity that didn't require English. In fact, the English language has become a nightmare that I never dreamed of. To tackle this problem, I attempted to learn the language by means of tapes and books, yet I have not improved enough to meet the condition," he said.

Many college graduates say they recognize the importance of learning English to increase their desirability in the job market, but it doesn't mean they like it.

Qosai Abdo, a student at the Language College at Sana'a University, said, "Nowadays, whoever wants to obtain a good job in Yemen must learn English in institutes or elsewhere. Otherwise, [all that is available] are unqualified businesses such as selling qat or tailoring."

Many complain that standard education does not provide students with adequate resources to learn



Students take English courses on the promise it will increase job opportunities, but it often comes at a hefty price.

English, and therefore students are left to seek out skills on their own, creating a financial burden that many cannot afford.

Another Sana'a University graduate, Sarina Yaqoob reflected on this sentiment.

"The fees are [so] high [that it] manipulates the youth's needs to learn [another] language. If the Ministry of Education focused [on implementing] it in the school curricula, the students would not need to go to the [expensive] English language institutes," she said.

Mohammed Al-Sabahi, an English language teacher, is also criti-

cal of current education policies.

"Our curriculum has not fulfilled the aspirations of students, and the majority of them are [educated] theoretically due to the large number of students and the shortage of the qualified teacher. Also, the inadequacy of the modern curriculum contributes to graduating students from schools without any other language [skills]."

However, despite the obstacles, Al-Sabahi still recommends that students go to language institutes before they enroll at university so as to stay ahead of the curve.

Yet, a third-year university stu-

dent, Naseem Jamal's experience counters this advice.

"I suspended my studies at college for one full year, spending time going from one institute to another and from one course to the second. I could have missed my years of university study because of English. I possess many [English language] certificates, which I presented to employment offices, but it was in vain," she said.

Many Yemeni youth have also complained about employers requiring candidates to speak English, but in actuality, they do not need the skill on the job.

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## Groom, guests celebrate with 'only qat-free wedding' of year



Photos by David Arnold

Guest join in to celebrate the wedding to Baraa Shibban. The wedding had been called the only non-qat wedding of the year by some people.

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In a country where chewing qat is synonymous with socializing and celebrations, Shibban is challenging traditions with his qat-free wedding.

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