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Thursday, 22 November, 2012 • Issue No. 1627 • Price 50 Yemeni Riyals

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Plane crashes in Sana'a suq, 10 dead



Various military units sift through the rubble after a military plane crashed into an abandoned Haseba suq early Wednesday.

See page 2 for complete story.

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Military plane crash in Sana'a leave ten dead

Story and photos by
Ashraf Al-Muraqab

SANA'A, Nov. 21 — A military plane crashed early Wednesday in the Haseba neighborhood of Sana'a. The 10 people on-board died.

The military plane, identified by the Ministry of Transportation as a Russian-made Antonov, was undergoing a military training when it attempted an emergency landing. The plane crashed in a Haseba suq that has been empty since the 2011 uprising.

Abdulkareem Mayad, the deputy head of the Civil Defense Authority, said the plane crashed following a technical defect.

Mayad said the plane crashed 43 minutes following takeoff.

He said the Civil Defense Authority is involved with an investigation into the crash, in coordination with the Yemeni air force.

Mayad also dismissed the possibility of any Al-Qaeda involvement in the crash.

Secretary of the Capital Abdudqadir Helal said in an interview with Yemen Times that the plane was seen with flames pouring out of it into the skies above the Haseba market.

Helal said the pilot made an attempt to land away from the residential areas, an act he called "heroic."

Abdullah Al-Qushaibi, a local council member in Haseba, said he was in the vicinity of the market at approximately 8:30 a.m. when he saw a plane swinging high in the sky, seemingly attempting to avoid hitting any buildings.

"The plane moved toward Haseba market and crash-landed on the roof of shops, finally landing in a



Water hoses were used to stop the flames and smoke from spreading.



In the immediate aftermath of the crash, civilians and military units arrived on the scene, taking photos and trying to discern what happened. The large crowds made the area chaotic, and emergency services were slow to arrive.

plume of smoke in the market," Al-Qushaibi said.

He said the plane landed just meters from Al-Ramah school, where 2,000 students were attending the morning assembly.

Firefighters rushed to scene of the accident, well after locals and school students crowded around to get a look. Fire trucks and ambulances were flustered and arrived late to the scene because of the large crowds.

Transportation Minister Waed Badeeb said in a meeting Wednesday at Sana'a's international airport that aviation training procedures should not be implemented in skies above urban areas, particularly in Sana'a, for safety reasons.



Both civilians and military crowded into the area.



Firefighters eventually arrived, pushing through crowds.

Marib pipeline attacked, military leader dead in tribesmen ambush

Samar Qaed

MARIB, Nov. 21 — One soldier died and others were injured Wednesday morning when tribesmen in Wadi Habab ambushed them.

Colonel Ali Al-Asdi, leader of the Tanks Battalion of the 312th Brigade, died and Staff Colonel Saleh

Al-Bukair was injured along with several other soldiers.

The soldiers were following armed tribesmen who sabotaged an oil pipeline in Serwah Valley of Marib on Tuesday night.

A security source in the 312th Brigade, speaking on condition of anonymity because he's not autho-

rized to speak with press, told the Yemen Times that confrontations between the saboteurs and the brigade ended around noon Wednesday, following a tribal mediation. The sides agreed to halt clashes until tribal mediation hands over the assailants.

The source said the pipeline

saboteurs claimed the government ignored their demands, so they attacked the pipeline in retaliation.

Ghaleb Bin Moa'iri, an oil director in Marib, stressed the importance of providing security protection around oil pipelines, which are often exposed to acts of sabotage at the hands of whoever wants to

retaliate against the government. Attacks against oil pipelines causes Yemen great economic losses because it depends on oil profits.

Moa'iri said the explosion is the fourth of its kind this month, which has led to a halt in oil supplied to Hodeida. In addition, Al-Wadi district has witnessed three oil pipe-

line and one gas pipeline explosions.

An oil pipeline that connects eastern oil fields in Yemen with the oil stations in the Red Sea was exposed to two explosions Nov. 12 at the hands of unknown assailants, resulting in two holes in the pipeline and a halt to the oil supply.

Protest travels to Sana'a, calls for replacement of Damar governor



Protestors organized a trip to Sana'a from Damar, more than 100 miles from the capital city, to call on President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi to dismiss current Damar Governor Yahiya Al-Amri.

Story and photos by
Ahmed Dawood

SANA'A, Nov. 21 — Hundreds of locals in Damar governorate organized a protest in front of President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi's house in Sana'a on Wednesday, calling for the replacement of current Governor Yahiya Al-Amri.

Protestors traveled to the capital city from Damar, more than 100 miles south of Sana'a, for their self-titled "March of Salva-

tion." The protest ended in front of Hadi's house, where demonstrators lifted signs and chanted slogans.

Abdurazaq Al-Hajiri, a parliament member, took part in the march, indicating that many marches were also organized in the governorate, yet the governor still refuses to listen to the protesters' demands.

"Damar locals call for an improvement to the situation in the governorate," Al-Hajiri said.

"They said it has seen a huge deterioration in security and services because of rampant corruption and the governor's inability to make effective reforms."

Al-Hajiri said Al-Amri remains loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh—ousted during the 2011 uprising—and doesn't work with the new president or with the reconciliation government.

Meanwhile, as the protesters chanted in front of Hadi's house, soldier from the First Armored

Division cordoned the gate to the home.

Nasser Mujali, head of the executive office of the Islah Party in Damar, said 2011's uprising achieved a lot, except in Damar, where he says the governor blocked development and justice.

Mujali said the march is a message to Hadi to look into the issue and give Damar governorate the same amount of attention he gives other governorates.

People in Damar want the gov-

ernor to reform the security situation, education and health. They also want basics such as electricity and drinking water, according to Mujali.

Ahmed Mohammed Al-Shaer, Al-Tadamon Coalition manager in Al-Manar district, said Al-Amri has made no effort to restore or to develop the governorate, especially in the field of education. He said the governor funds education-related sit-ins, which only worsens the governorate's situation.

Al-Shaer said protesters would remain outside Hadi's house until their demands are met.

Faisal Hassan, the Damar governor's office manager, said Islah Party members staged marches in Damar because they want a governor appointed from their party. He said Al-Amri is well known for his honest efforts to improve the situation in Damar, adding that those who organize such marches aim to destabilize the governorate and create havoc.

Red Badges in all airports of the republic in preparation for a strike

Amal Al-Yarisi

SANAA, Nov. 21 — The Yemeni Company for Land Service employees posted red badges in syndicate offices in airports across the country to indicate an impending strike. Red badges are the unofficial markers used by striking workers in Yemen.

Waleed Ameen Al-Molaiki, head of the syndicate, announced the strikers' intentions. They will continue to display red badges until Tuesday and then initiate a partial strike.

"If our demands aren't met, we'll start a full strike" he said.

Al-Molaiki said that they have taken the option to escalate protests in order to ensure their demands—that include risk allowances, medical care and work related allowances—are met.

Hani Al-Qershi, a member of the syndicate, said that Ahmed Alwan, chairman of Yemen Airlines, has no interest in their demands.

He said, "Unfortunately, Alwan has achieved nothing since he was appointed to this post."

Alwan, however, refuted the accusations against him, saying that he works hard to solve problems that arise in the company. He told the Yemen Times, "Those people attempt to create problems."

Alwan says he is open to discussing the workers complaints, but he also claims Yemen Company for Land Services' employees receive adequate salaries.

The syndicate announced it will exempt transit flights, forced landings, private planes, and relief aid related flights from their strike, according to Al-Molaiki

The syndicate met with the chairman and executive manager in April with initial grievances, but there was no agreement made, according to Al-Qershi.



The strike could escalate from partial strike to full strike if demands are not met within an adequate timeframe.

Pro-governor march through Taiz deemed controversial

Mohammed Al-Samei

TAIZ, Nov. 20 — Taiz activists have displayed a variety of reactions regarding Tuesday's march in the governorate.

Organizers said the purpose of the march was to stand by Taiz's governor, Shawqi Ahmed Hael, so he would work harder to improve the governorate. However, critics say supporters of the former regime, loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, instigated the march.

March organizer Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Naef said it aimed to support Hael and to encourage better management of the governorate, which has witnessed increasing insecurity in the past year. He said another reason for marching was to demand the governor end the increasing military presence from the governorate and hold corrupt and law-breaking citizens accountable.

Azooz Al-Samei, a journalist and an activist in Taiz's Freedom Square, said the march's organizers started preparing two weeks ago.

"There were placards hung on the walls of government schools where principals supported the former regime," Al-Samei said. "The students were evacuated from the schools to take part in the march. They alleged the purpose was to stand by the governor. Yet, they also used it as an opportunity to challenge the opposition's coalition."

Leaders of the General People's Congress participated in the march, arriving from different districts, according to Al-Samei, who added that Houthis in Taiz also participated.

He said the families of martyrs have already stationed themselves outside the governorate's compound to protest against the march, saying that it is instigated by figures loyal to the former regime.

According to him, some of the march's participants were affiliated with the JMP and with the Houthis, and these people attacked the relatives of the martyrs, ripping posters and chanting, "No more martyrs; no more squares."

Naef denied claims that the march intended to counter the opposition's coalition parties. He said no slogans were chanted against the coalition parties, and he denied that youth were attacked or that photos of martyrs were torn down.

Following the march, a group of the former regime's loyalists and some Houthis headed to Freedom Square in Taiz, yet the organizing committee prevented them from entering the square—leading to minor clashes.

Last year, Taiz governorate witnessed violent clashes between the pro-revolution groups and the pro-regime army, resulting in civilian deaths and injuries, as well as the destruction of homes and public property.



Demonstrators traveled through Taiz as a show of support for Governor Shawqi Ahmed Hael.

MPs call for revoking immunity given to senior state officials, call for equality under the law

Amira Nasser

SANAA, Nov. 21 — Parliamentarians (MPs) said Tuesday that immunity from prosecution—something granted to high-ranking officials—should be revoked, saying equality for all people before the law must be upheld.

SEMC head Mustafa Nasr said a solution matrix was prepared six months ago, with the cooperation of 120 judges and law specialists who searched for the constitutional texts that present a barrier toward fighting corruption in 13 governorates.

The matrix was organized by the Studies & Economic Media

Center (SEMC), in coordination with constitutional committees in parliament and with the good governance project GIZ. According to Nasr, the matrix is in its final phase and still needs to be presented to MPs concerned with drafting legal legislations regarding Yemeni law.

MP Zaid Al-Shammi said immunity from prosecution should be modernized to be under the limits of official employment. He said immunity is granted so officials feel safe to speak out about people's problems without fear of intruding on the rights of others.

"We need a determination—a commitment from the highest-

ranking employees in the country to the lowest—to fight corruption," he said.

Al-Shammi added that today's parliament is limited and cannot change current legislation that impedes fighting corruption. He said a long and difficult process is required to add or to change law.

"Despite the presidential directions allowing for the right to do so, we need to collect the signatures of 60 MPs, then to show it to the parliament, then to the specific committee."

Mohammed Al-Qubatti, also an MP, said members have previously asked to limit immunity for senior state officials because this

law protects corruption.

"The construction of parliament needs to be changed in the present time, especially with the process of the National Dialogue and with the spirit of democracy," he added.

Nasr said right now is the time for introducing new legislation because the constitution will be reformed after the National Dialogue, and that will limit the power of senior state officials.

"It is a chance to guarantee the basic principles which are supposed to meet our ambitious in transforming the authority," he said.

Fees unpaid, Yemeni students in Malaysia threaten fresh protests

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANAA, Nov. 21 — The Yemeni students of the cultural exchange program in Malaysia threatened to stage a new protest, accusing officials at the Ministry of Higher Education of being the cause of unpaid tuition fees.

Mohammed Abdulfatah, the students' spokesperson, told the Yemen Times that Manager of the Financial Affairs at the Ministry of Higher Education Muneer Al-Yamani refused to sign the check and send the education fees.

"Al-Yamani's excuse was that he wants the Malaysian universities

to ask for the fees; however, he wants to deny us from completing this term in which we have missed the half of classes already," Abdulfatah said.

Abdulfatah said they (the students) were optimistic that their problem would be resolved, as the Finance Ministry has pumped money into the Ministry of Higher Education. He said that now the Ministry of Higher Education has no further excuses.

The Yemeni students of the cultural exchange program recently organized protests that lasted two weeks in front the Yemeni consulate in Kuala Lumpur.



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Location: Taiz

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Dead line: 25/11/2012

Conditional Cash Transfer Project Profile:

(CCT) project is managed by Social Welfare Fund and funded by European Union.

The specific objective is:

To support poor households and to promote their investment in Human Capital of their children

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Requirements:

- 1- Yemeni nationality
- 2- Bachelor degree in accounting or at minimum diploma.
- 3- Work experience of at least two years accounting with charity projects desirable.
- 4- Good acknowledge of English language reading and writing

Duties and Responsibilities:

- 1- Perform all financial tasks including receiving Taiz office cash advances for branch operational costs.
- 2- Ensure financial regulations and procedures compliance and payment accuracy
- 3- Ensure that all expenditures are within the budget and forms prepared by project management.
- 4- The fund transferred used only for project purpose and any remaining amounts should be returned back to project accounts.
- 5- Report to project management periodically as needed including any irregularity on time.
- 6- Keep project documents in an organized way and send it to project management in monthly basis.
- 7- Performing other tasks as required by project management.

Application:

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Email: r_alsofi@hotmail.com

Nissan Launches the 2013 Model Year Nissan Sunny in YEMEN

- Tenth generation brings refined styling, high quality interior
- Small on the outside, big on the inside
- Smart technology with next-generation efficiency

Republic of Yemen (10th November, 2012) – The Tehama Trading Co., in announcing the launch of the All-New Nissan Sunny – 2013 Model Year, the completely revised tenth generation model which is one of the most popular models in the region. This key competitor in the highly competitive C-segment market breaks new ground for entry-level compact sedans and proves you don't have to sacrifice style for affordability, interior roominess for a smaller footprint, or drivability for high fuel. In short, the smiling All-New Sunny boasts some most innovative design features to further broaden its appeal.

"Nissan - Tehama hopes that with the introduction of All-New Nissan Sunny, Nissan's C-segment sales will be strengthened," said S. Faisal, General Manager, The Tehama Trading Company. "Its lack quality feel, performance and standard equipment present an exceptionally high standard for a vehicle in this class which we expect to attract buyers from a broader audience than its predecessor." "We are committed to offering new products and value-added services to our customer and The new Nissan Sunny 2013 is a further step in that direction" he added.

Nissan Sunny has rich heritage especially in the region and the New Sunny will most certainly be able to leverage this benefit.

The All-New Nissan Sunny's exterior design is a departure from most current compact sedans, offering a refreshing design character that is both sophisticated and highly aerodynamic. The designers gave the exterior shape a strong sense of volume, with a wide shoulder width and a smooth silhouette. In front, Sunny features Nissan's new signature sedan grille design and jewel-like headlights. The front end blends smoothly into the sides, which offers sleeking curves, while design elements such as the shape of the trunk lid help give the new Sunny excellent aerodynamics, including a low coefficient of drag of just 0.31.

The designers of the new Sunny sought to combine pre-passenger practicality with a high degree of comfort and refinement. The new All-New Nissan Sunny's interior volume of 1548 litres and trunk volume of 465 litres (1,613 litres total) are intended to not only look great on a specification sheet – the passenger and cargo spaces have been configured for real-world use. Nissan Sunny has, for example, more rear legroom than across mid-size sedans – including even some luxury cars. And the trunk design features an available space, taking into consideration everything from the size of the hangers to the shape of the suitcase.

The interior is further enhanced with some innovative features including steering wheel control and rear window tint that is closed.

In addition, to help ensure superior functionality, each design was addressed in the initial stage between the designers and the engineering team. For example, the interior has in the middle of the Sunny Sedan's steering wheel is not just a design feature, but a functional innovation that helps reduce the amplitude of the road noise vibrations in order to ensure a quieter cabin interior without the use of reinforcement devices.

One of the biggest challenges in designing a compact sedan, of course, is when to put everything – people, cargo, engine, transmission and other mechanical components. Often the solution is to gather a load of on each side, a fraction there and hope they add up to a viable overall. For the new Nissan Sunny Sedan, the approach was a little more refined – create a totally new global platform and drive-train, reducing the size of engine and transmission, reducing the number of component parts and reducing platform weight.

The All-New Nissan Sunny's front-wheel drive global "F" platform, designated "F" for Versatile, weighs nearly 20 percent fewer platform components and weighs around 110 pounds less than the previous "E" platform. While retaining the same 120-horse wheelbase and 118-horse width as the previous generation Sunny, the new model is 20mm lower in height (1615mm overall height is 4-chassis). The biggest dimensional gain, however, is in the visible gain in trunk length – provided by a new compact engine/transmission design that allows for a shorter footprint in rear packaging (the distance from the center of the rear tire to the rear bumper).

Combining the proven Nissan 1.6-litre HR16DE engine, All-New Sunny delivers ease in handling for city driving where there's frequent acceleration and deceleration, and superior drivetrain performance as a projected class leader in fuel economy.

The All-New Sunny is available with automatic and 5-speed manual transmission.



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For further information contact The Tehama Trading Company:

R. Faisalman

Asst. Marketing Manager

The Tehama Trading Company

Tel: +967 9 222 463

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Discrimination against immigrant athletes prevalent in sports

Ahmed Dawood

In a small cafeteria in the heart of Sana'a, dozens of African immigrants and refugees, mostly from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia gather to talk about famous soccer players and international sports competitions, which is a big part of their native culture.

The media often reports on newly-arrived immigrants' struggle to assimilate into local culture or find work in Yemen but these marginalized populations are also fighting a battle to gain ground in the field

of athletics, an area that usually bridges cultural divides.

However, many African immigrants report unprecedented discrimination when participating in local soccer matches.

"I try to get closer to Yemenis and play with them particularly in lanes. Some welcome me and allow me to take part. However, sometimes, I quarrel with them. Thus, I am subject to insults and discrimination. They say derogatory comments and words that psychologically hurt me, causing me not to play with them again," said Faisal Ahmed, a Somali refugee.

Others say it remains incredibly difficult for Africans to enroll in or be recruited to local sport clubs.

Qosai Al-Basheer, an immigrant from Sudan, said he has wanted to join a club for a while, but is unable to because most clubs only accept Yemenis. He also says others like him have passed tryouts for teams, but are ultimately denied membership.

As a result many immigrants have sought to find places that are specifically established to allow them the opportunity to participate in athletics.

The Technical Chinese Institute has provided an opportunity for athletically inclined immigrants like Asjad Majoor, a young Eritrean.

"The institute allows us to play football once a week on Friday," he said.

However, it comes at a hefty cost. Majoor and friends pay YR 1,500 every time they rent the space, an amount that they often cannot afford.

Majoor says rental space is not the only financial obstacle preventing immigrants from participating in sports, the cost of sporting clothes and shoes is very steep as well. A potential sport-induced injury also excludes some from participating because of the possibility of an unaffordable doctor bill.

Humanitarian organizations ignore sports

Although there are several humanitarian organizations that care for refugees and immigrants in Yemen, they concentrate on providing education and health services



Yemeni and Ethiopian youths shake hands after finishing a game of football

but usually lack the funds to promote sports.

Khadra Ali, child protection officer at IDV organization, said that sports are vital for refugees and immigrants in Yemen. They can assist with integration and the elimination of racial discrimination.

"The problem is that refugees in Yemen love to practice sport, but they aren't able to join sport clubs and also don't know how to do so," she said.

She also said she often receives complaints from African children

saying that they are both physically and verbally assaulted by Yemenis during games, causing a tense relationship between the two groups.

Another advantage of promoting athletics according to Ali is that it reduces the likelihood of someone using qat.

Uncovered talents

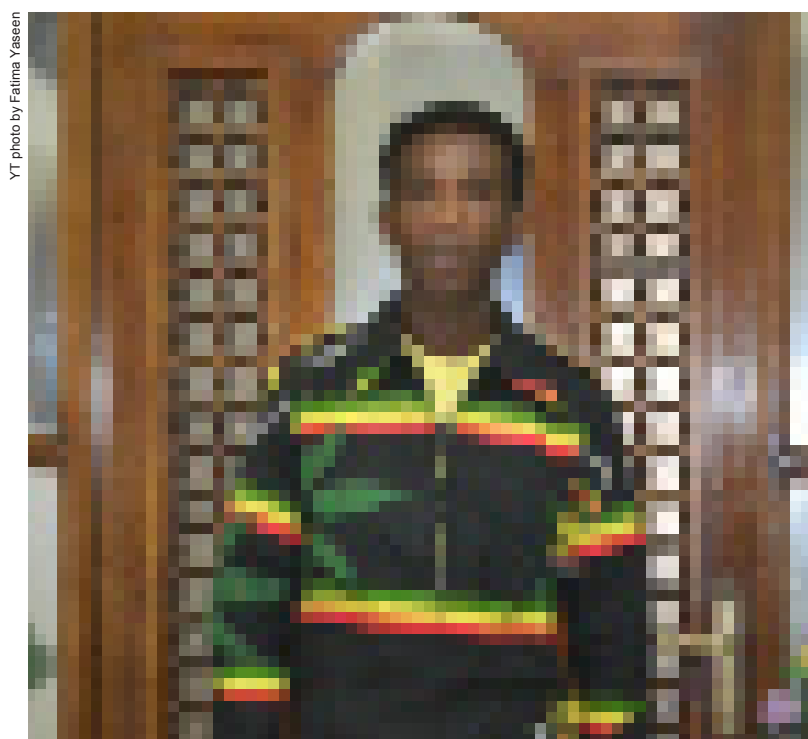
There are many talented African athletes in Yemen. For instance, Sami Yalma was once a famous athlete in Ethiopia that was forced

out due to political circumstances.

Since arriving in Yemen, he has tried to work with the Ministry of Youth and Sport in Sana'a to showcase his talent.

"Were I to participate in the name of Yemen, I would have won a gold medal in weight lifting," said Yalma, who trained 86 junior athletes before the 2011 uprising, but has since stopped.

Currently, Yalma is searching for support to help establish clubs and stadiums as a way to positively involve refugees like him in Yemen.



Sami Yalma an Ethiopian athlete coaches 86 refugees in Yemen.

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EK 419	02:35	05:00
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OUR OPINION

Happy Birthday, GCC initiative

It has been one year since, on Nov. 23, 2011, former President Ali Abdullah Saleh signed the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) agreement, ending months of protests and violence and ushering the country into a hopeful, peaceful transition. By signing the agreement and transferring power to then-Vice President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, Saleh ended a betting game that began in 2006—or possibly earlier—when he said he would not run for president again.

Before the official signing in Saudi Arabia, it was rumored that Saleh would sign many times. Yemen waited with baited breath for him to let go of the power he held onto so tightly. But, the repeated disappointments convinced most Yemenis—and even non-Yemenis following Yemeni politics—that Saleh would never let go.

I remember the sentiments Yemenis felt as we watched the news from our office. We knew Saleh was in Riyadh, and we knew he meant to sign the GCC Initiative. Even so, seeing him with the document and the pen, we were not sure he would sign. He had a smirk on his face, and we were expecting a fiasco—some charade where he would suddenly push the document aside for some reason or another.

But, he did sign. And it was an amazing moment in history. The newsroom stood, paralyzed, in front of the TV screen, trying to grasp something that we could not quite believe we were seeing.

And then the transition began. Although at the time we knew it would take two years to be fully realized, we also knew those two years would be filled with much to do and many problems to solve.

Step by step, Yemenis watched as the political, security and economic crises unfolded. Believing in the new president and his ability to strongly and wisely lead Yemen's transition, we watched—we still watch. On numerous occasions, Hadi has taken strong steps and managed to shake the shrines of the former regime.

However, there is still much to be done, and where he fails is that he has not given Yemenis the impression that he is truly listening to the pulse of the streets.

This week, for the first time, a U.N. Secretary General visited Yemen. It was an occasion that showed Yemenis and the rest of the world that Yemen matters, that what is happening in this country matters. The fact that GCC Secretary General Abdullah Al-Zayani came to Yemen to celebrate the anniversary of the initiative's signing is another positive signal that Yemen matters and that the world is watching us—just as we watched Saleh; just as we watch Hadi and the transitional government.

One year has passed, and the world is waiting. Yemenis are anxious. Yemen matters, and the whole world knows it. But, do the politicians working on our transition believe that? I am afraid not.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

National dialogue 'last chance' for peace in Yemen?

Khaled al-Hourougi
Translated from Al-Hayat
(Pan Arab)
Al-monitor.com
First published Nov. 2012

Yemenis of different intellectual, political, and cultural backgrounds agreed that the National Dialogue Conference is Yemen's ultimate salvation, since several dangerous crises overwhelm the country.

However, political and social elites in Yemen fear that this conference might not help solve the country's worsening conditions. They also fear that the international patronage provided for this political initiative might hold Yemen in the custody of the international community to better serve the interests of the West, regardless of the country's circumstances and reality.

Some elites believe that the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference is Yemen's last chance to be rescued. Therefore, if this conference fails, they fear the country will be heading toward a civil war and an armed conflict.

In fact, if the dialogue reaches a deadlock, all Yemeni parties will immediately become engaged in an armed conflict to maintain their interests by force, or so some argue. The situation might become much worse if each party sticks to their guns, mainly with respect to the issues that the conference will discuss. In fact, all concerned parties must be flexible when dealing with such challenging issues. They must be also prepared to make mutual compromises, in order to reach a common denominator that will preserve the rights of all parties.

Moreover, Yemen's political and social elites share other daunting concerns related to the international community's role in dealing with the issues that the national dialogue conference will discuss.

Although it knows little about the dimensions, background, and political implications of the problems that the conference will tackle, the international community is today imposing its own opinion on such problems. Consequently, the situation will become much more complicated simply because the ready-made solutions provided by the international community do not take into consideration Yemen's critical conditions and its tribal and political interferences.

These conditions and interferences must be considered when determining solutions.

Yemeni journalists and intellectuals also fear that National Dialogue Conference might become an umbrella for such decisions to which Yemenis do not contribute. The 10 countries that support the Gulf Initiative follow carefully all executive steps related to the political settlement's items. They threaten all Yemeni parties of so-called international legitimacy and the Council of Security, which will impose international sanctions against any party that impedes the political settlement process and prevents the implementation of all items of such settlement.

The items of the settlement must be implemented within the second transitional period that will end as Yemen's presidential and parliamentary elections kick off in February 2014.

Violated sovereignty

Several journalists and intellectuals told Al-Hayat: "Yemen's sovereignty

is violated and the country's affairs are managed by the embassies of several Western countries in Yemen."

They also believe that the role of Yemeni institutions is limited to executing the orders they receive from the international community. The fears of such journalists and intellectuals have emerged after tasks have been distributed to several Western countries that support the Gulf Initiative.

In fact, France was entrusted with drafting the new constitution of Yemen, while Russia has helped to organize the National Dialogue Conference. The United States was tasked with restructuring the Yemeni army and ending the current divisions among the military.

According to the same journalists and intellectuals, it is very important to profit from the expertise of such [foreign] countries and their support of the political settlement to ensure a peaceful power transition, mainly as Yemen is currently witnessing a critical period.

In reality, the role of such foreign countries is limited to expertise sharing only, since they intend to impose their opinions and political orientations to better serve their interests in Yemen and the whole region in general. In fact, these countries will not prioritize Yemen's interests and needs over their own interests and goals.

In addition, Yemeni journalists and intellectuals believe the U.S. is not as concerned as the Yemenis are about the restructuring and reorganization of the Yemeni army and security institutions, based on specific technical, professional, and national criteria.

The U.S. cares little about helping Yemen build a professional, strong army. In fact, America's biggest concern is terrorism and Al-Qaeda, which has become Washington's major threat, compared to the world's other terrorist organizations.

Al-Qaeda threatens U.S. interests and allies in the region, mainly in light of the considerable gains this organization has acquired during 2011-12. The organization also took advantage of the insecurity that accompanied the Yemeni revolution against former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime.

Yemenis are also concerned about the role France will play in drafting the country's constitution. The French Ambassador to Yemen, Frank Gillet, met recently with Yemen's Prime Minister, Mohammad Salem Basindawa, in Sana'a. During the meeting, Gillet confirmed the new constitution "will be drafted by the competent Yemeni authorities" and that France's role would be limited to providing necessary technical support.

In a news conference, Minister of Legal Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Mikhlaifi confirmed Gillet's statements.

Main mission

In addition, Mikhlaifi stated that the mechanism for the power transition process has determined the competent authorities responsible for drafting the constitution. He also confirmed that the mission of the National Dialogue Conference has two aspects.

The first defines the terms under which the constitutional committee shall be formed. As for the other aspect, it is related to the conference's perception of the future, including the structuring of the state and the form of the political regime. However, Mikhlaifi stressed the importance

of the support provided by foreign countries, confirming that the international community supports the entire power transition process. He added that such process would fail without the international community's support for Yemen's new constitution.

Despite all assurances, Yemenis fear that France and other Western countries will impose constitutional articles that prejudice the Yemeni identity and contribute to the division of the Yemeni community.

Yemenis' concerns are based on the various items suggested in the draft agenda of the National Dialogue Conference, particularly the item related to the "the state's identity and form." This item has become a major concern for Yemenis, because it tackles Yemen's national and Islamic identity and the country's territorial integrity.

The first article of the draft constitution stipulates that "The Republic of Yemen is an Arab, Islamic and independent sovereign state whose integrity is inviolable, and no part of which may be ceded. The people of Yemen are part of the Arab and Islamic nation."

According to the second article of the Yemeni constitution, "Islam is the religion of the state, and Arabic is its official language."

As for the third article of the [draft] constitution, it provides that "The [Islamic] Shariah is the source of all legislation."

There are growing concerns that such articles would be amended or annulled, thus laying the foundation for a secular regime in Yemen or a federal regime that accelerates the separation between North Yemen and South Yemen. Yemenis fear particularly that a federal regime could be adopted, separating North Yemen and South Yemen according to the conditions imposed by the South Yemen Movement and not as suggested by several Yemeni political parties.

According to these parties, Yemen should be divided into several cantons in conformity with the country's geographic and demographic characteristics, in addition to the financial and natural resources.

Many Yemeni politicians criticized "the national long-term partnership" — which is mentioned in the draft agenda of the National Dialogue Conference. These politicians fear that the new draft constitution includes this item and believe that it is an ambiguous title that may be intended to adopt a political and non-political quota system between Northern and Southern Yemen.

This explanation is the most logical, against a backdrop of suggestions regarding the issue of the South and the accompanying complaints about excluding the people of the Southern governorates from power, despite representing an independent state before the unification took place on May 22, 1990.

These politicians, who spoke to Al-Hayat, didn't rule out the possibility that, based on the concept of partnership, France would reproduce the Lebanese [sectarian power sharing] system in Yemen.

Dissimilarities between the two countries have been taken into consideration. While a confessional quota system is applied in Lebanon, a regional quota system may be applied in Yemen (between North and South). And while the head of state will come from a specific region, the head of the government will be from the other. The same applies to parliament, the judiciary, the military institution and others. In the event of

adopting this system, the door will be open to other actors that it will be hard to ignore when talking about partnership and a system of allocating power, such as the Houthis in the Northern Yemeni province of Sa'ada and the traditional tribal forces.

They emphasize that the concept of the national long-term partnership contradicts the concepts and rules of democracy, which is based on a competition between political parties that race to get to power, through the voters' support of their programs.

In the event of adopting a parliamentary system or mixed government that consists of combining the presidential and parliamentary systems of government, these politicians also believe that the concept of partnership contradicts the principle of equal opportunities, which would be negatively affected by the political factors associated with the system of allocating power.

Logical concerns

The above concerns are certainly logical and legitimate, given that all parties that will take part in the national dialogue have not yet announced their point of view regarding the issues to be discussed in the National Dialogue Conference.

Moreover, no perceptions of solutions and remedies to each issue — most notably the issues of the south, the Houthis in the province of Sa'ada, the restructuring of the army, the perception of the Yemeni constitution and the articles that should remain intact or are supposed to be abolished or amended — have been proposed, as if these parties are waiting for the proposals of international sponsors of the initiative to discuss and agree upon.

Moreover, even though all participants in the dialogue submit their perceptions regarding every issue, they will be — in the best case scenario — the perceptions of elitists that reflect the convictions and perceptions of political and partisan leaders, civil society organizations and social and tribal groups.

These perceptions have nothing to do with the popular base of political parties and other groups; this would prevent the outcome of the dialogue from gaining a national consensus. The outcome may be rejected by the people, particularly the new constitution that is due to be submitted for approval in a referendum.

Political parties in Yemen were supposed to consult the opinion of their popular base regarding the various agenda items of the National Dialogue Conference, before discussing them with other parties.

The General People's Congress, led by Yemen's former President Saleh, is placed first in this regard, even though its consultative meetings — which are held between its senior, intermediate leaders and the party's branches in the provinces — are limited to the issue of the South and how to resolve it.

Anyway, the current political scene in Yemen is still confused, according to the United Nations envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar.

In a recent statement to the media, he said: "The political process has significantly progressed, and power transition is being implemented. However, the situation is still vulnerable and requires that the international community shows growing concern in this critical phase that Yemen is experiencing."

He stressed that the future months will be decisive, "the transition process will succeed or we will be going back to zero."

YEMEN TIMES

www.yementimes.com

First Political English Newspaper
in Yemen. Founded in 1991 by
Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

Fax: +967 (1) 268-276

P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

Letters: ytreaders.view@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS:

Tel: +967 (1) 510306

Email: adsyemen@yahoo.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

Senior Reporter
Mohammed bin Sallam

Editorial Staff

Ahmed Ali Dawood
daod2009@gmail.com

Amal Al-Yarisi
amal.mansoor12@gmail.com

Amira Nasser
amira.nasser2010@gmail.com

CEO
Khair Aldin Al Nsour

Managing Editor Assistant
Sadeq Al-Wesabi
sadeqalwesabi@hotmail.com

Ashraf Al-Muraqab
aagh007@yahoo.com

Bassam Al-Khamiri
bassam.alkhameri@gmail.com

Khalid Al-Karimi
khalidmohamada@yahoo.com

Mohammed Al-Samei
alsamei77@gmail.com

Nadia Haddash
n.haddash@gmail.com

Samir Qaed
samar.qaed@hotmail.com

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Offices

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

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In surprise visit, UN, GCC secretary-generals celebrate Gulf Initiative anniversary in Sana'a

Mohammed Al-Samei

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon left Sana'a on Monday evening following several key meetings with President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, the Government of National Unity, the Military Affairs Committee and the Preparatory Committee for the National Dialogue Conference (NDC). The meetings outlined what progress has been achieved to date on the Gulf Initiative, one year after it's Nov. 23, 2011, signing.

A celebration was held Monday at noon at the Presidential Compound in Sana'a to mark the first anniversary of the Gulf Initiative signing and the achievements so far accomplished. In attendance was Abdul Latif Al-Zayani, secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Hadi and Prime Minister Mohammed Salem Basindawa.

Hadi said Yemen underwent a difficult period and Sana'a was divided, adding that further deterioration could lead to Yemen to a "worse" situation, citing Somalia as an example.

He deemed what happened last year the worst crisis in the history of Yemen, pointing to the deterioration in electricity services and oil derivatives, acts of sabotage on oil pipes and the security vacuum.

He also pledged to hold the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections on time in 2014, based on the Gulf Initiative, calling on all powers in Yemen to partake in the dialogue.

In a joint press conference in

Sana'a with Ban and Al-Zayani, Hadi said preparations for the NDC are almost complete.

State-run Saba News Agency reported that Hadi said, "I hope political stakeholders won't miss the opportunity to participate in the NDC. Whoever talks about secession must know that the Security Council's decisions number 2014 and 2015 stipulated maintaining Yemen's unity, security and stability. Any examination of issues will be under the ceiling of a unified Yemen."

Ban reaffirmed the U.N.'s commitment to supporting Yemen's political transition, saying the current political process has achieved many aims such as installing a transitional settlement in the country and implementing the terms of the Gulf Initiative signed in Riyadh.

Ban called on all powers in Yemen to effectively participate in the NDC to make it successful. This will help prevent escalating disparities and provide a platform to discuss contentious issues within an all-inclusive dialogue, he said.

He also said regional and international support for the political process in Yemen will continue until stability is achieved, asserting the importance of achieving transitional justice and national reconciliation that is inclusive of all people's aspirations.

Hadi granted Ban the Republic Badge and granted Al-Zayani and U.N. Special Envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar the Unity Badge.

Saba reported that, though the government has faced many challenges and obstacles, it has made exceptional achievements based on



President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi (left), U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and GCC Secretary-General Abdul Latif Al-Zayani hold a joint press conference in Sana'a. The leaders met in Yemen to celebrate the first anniversary of the Gulf Initiative signing.

the Gulf Initiative and its Operational Mechanism.

The meeting also reviewed the government's future plans for implementing phase two of the initiative, in addition to the international support required for its successful implementation.

"Your country ... was on the brink of civil war just one year ago, but you have overcome this with political courage and determination," Ban said, adding that the international community will not allow any derailment of the transitional phase.

Any attempt to spoil the political process will be subject to penalties in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions no. 2014 and 2051, Ban said.

He also warned against celebrating too early.

"There is still a long way to go."

In addition to attending a meeting for the Military Committee that was chaired by president Hadi, Ban held a meeting with members of the Technical Committee, which was set-up to prepare for a comprehensive national dialogue. Benomar was also in attendance.

Saba reported Hadi said he hoped all the social and political powers in the country will work toward healing the hostilities of the past and head toward building a bright future.

"Everyone should strive to establish a modern civil state that functions on a foundation of freedom, justice and equity and an absence of discrimination or nepotism," Hadi said.

During the meeting, General Abdulqadir Qahtan, the interior minister, presented a "comprehensive report" about the tasks achieved by

the Military Committee regarding security and stabilization.

The deeper meaning of Ban's visit, political analyst Ghamdan Al-Yousifi said, is to stress the continuation of the Gulf Initiative and to affirm the dialogue will be the major pathway out of future troubles.

Journalist Abdullah Dwila said Ban and Al-Zayani's decision to come at this time indicates the U.N. and the Gulf Cooperation Council's support for the political process. The visit could help discourage political stakeholders from derailing reconciliation.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Country: YEMEN

Name of Project: Strengthening Powerless Groups through Family- Community Led Programs (SPG) - IDA – Trust Fund No.: 095278

Assignment Title - Consultancy Services for Conceptualization Design and Execution of Information, Education and Communication Campaigns (IEC)

The Yemen Women Union (Grant Recipient) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the *Strengthening the Powerless Groups through Family - Community Led Programs (SPG)*, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include **Consultancy Services for Conceptualization Design and Execution of Information, Education and Communication Campaigns (IEC)** to be implemented within the grant closing date 30-06-2013.

The Yemen Women Union (YWU) now invites eligible advertising firms (hereinafter referred to as "Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, financial turnover, general qualifications, number of key staff and so forth). The short listing criteria are:

- An average minimum financial turnover of US\$600,000 for the last 3 Financial Years;
- At least ten years' experience in the area of advertising, communications, and execution of mass campaigns preferably in Middle East region;
- Current commitments, current implementation status and the tenure of these commitments;
- Experience of working in Yemen will be given additional weightage;
- Availability of professionally qualified and experienced staff in the areas of advertising, development of creative contents, art designs, film productions, client servicing, good links with the print and visual media in the region;
- Working Knowledge of English and Arabic by the members of the proposed team.

Note: Interested consultants shall make their own arrangements for security during their stay at Yemen during the course of implementation of this assignment.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers May 2004 and revised October 2006 and May 2010* ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a subconsultancy to enhance their qualifications. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection Based on the Consultants' Qualifications (CQS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by 03-12-2012.

Project Coordination Support Unit (PCSU)
Attn: Ms. Ramzia Aleryani, Project Director,
Strengthening the Powerless Groups project (SPG)
Yemeni Women Union
Behind Central Bank Building
Sana'a - Yemen
Office: (+967-1) 298 781
Fax: (+967-1) 483 021
email: a.wazzan@hotmail.com

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Country: YEMEN

Name of Project: Strengthening Powerless Groups through Family- Community Led Programs (SPG) - IDA – Trust Fund No.: 095278

Assignment Title - Consultancy Services for organization of National level workshop on "Gender and Education" In Sana'a, Yemen

The Yemen Women Union (Grant Recipient) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the *Strengthening the Powerless Groups through Family - Community Led Programs (SPG)*, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include **Consultancy Services for organization of National level workshop on "Gender and Education" In Sana'a, Yemen** to be implemented within the grant closing date 30-06-2013.

The Yemen Women Union (YWU) now invites eligible consulting firms (hereinafter referred to as "Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, financial turnover, general qualifications, number of key staff and so forth). The short listing criteria are:

- An average minimum financial turnover of US\$300,000 for the last 3 Financial Years and submit annual audited reports for the last 3 years;
- At least five years' experience in organizing international/national workshops for governments, bilateral or multilateral agencies in the Middle Eastern Region;
- Current commitments, current implementation status and the tenure of these commitments;
- Experience of working in Yemen will be given additional weightage;
- Availability of professionally qualified and experienced staff in organizing workshop consisting of high level delegations, organizing extensive media coverage of events, arranging press interviews/briefing, development of workshop contents, preparation of report on the proceedings of the workshop, good links with the print and visual media in the region;
- Working Knowledge of English and Arabic by the members of the proposed team.

Note: Interested consultants shall make their own arrangements for security during their stay at Yemen during the course of implementation of this assignment.

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Sana'a - Yemen
Office: (+967-1) 298 781
Fax: (+967-1) 483 021
email: a.wazzan@hotmail.com

Arms trade thrives in Yemen

Story and photos by
Ashraf Al-Muraqab

Ibb governorate is currently witnessing a worrying situation. Due to a security vacuum, the sale and use of arms has proliferated, often with tragic results.

Such is the case of Dhia'a Mohammed Al-Qadi, a 17-year-old who was murdered on Al-Burj Street in Ibb when a conflict broke out between two armed groups.

Dhia'a's father, Mohammed Al-Qadi, said, "One day [about a month ago], we were surprised by two armed groups fighting in Al-Burj Street. Everyone ran away, and I ran to a safe area, but my son couldn't. As a result, he was shot in the head for no reason."

"Armed men come and go everywhere on main streets and neighborhoods in Ibb carrying guns," he added. "They hold bombs and bazookas on their shoulders and create fear amongst residents, but the government and security pay no attention to them."

Mohammed Safi, head of the local council of Damt District, said, "Weapon are everywhere and arms' dealers buy them in public areas."

"The situation Yemen went through over the last year and the security vacuum in the governorate helped armed men spread unchecked. We are calling on the government to provide security for residents by implementing campaigns to eliminate arms proliferation," he added.

A main reason for the increase in the trade of arms is political unrest, which has caused a dramatic decrease in prices.

There are numerous arms mar-



Young men are often the target demographic of arms dealers.



Gun prices have significantly dropped all over Yemen, prompting consumers to snatch up weapons at alarming rates.

kets all over Yemen and Yemenis seem keen to continue to buy them. They are often a mark of prestige.

Jalal Al-Haddad, a youth activist, said, "Because of arms in the streets, people can be killed at any moment. Arms have spread amongst residents because they feel that the authorities are unable to control the arms industry or provide security."

According to Dar Al-Salam Organization, Yemen is the largest market for arms in the Gulf region, and it continues to grow.

Sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Mar-

wani, head of Dar Al-Salam Organization, a Yemeni Peace group, says there are more than nine million light weapons in Yemen, mainly owned by government employees, tribesmen and arm dealers. Light weapons refer to arms that can be carried.

He added that the misuse of these arms reportedly results in the death of 1,200 residents each year.

"Currently, arms are sold in public. [A range of] weapons are present in several markets, and new markets are emerging in different

Yemeni governorates like: Taiz, Ibb, Al-Dale and other southern governorates."

He went on to say, "The process of buying and selling arms mainly occurs in Sana'a, where arms prices have decreased by about 60 percent."

Hameed Al-Faeq, head of the Al-Rammah Police station in Sana'a, said, "Arms trading has spread recently in Yemen due to the security vacuum and banditry. Residents have been forced to carry their own personal arms."

"The confrontations that take

place between tribesmen, Houthis and Al-Qaeda from time to time, are another reason for the spread of weapons in Yemen," he added.

A Sana'a resident, Atif Ma'aoda is a light weapons trader. He said the new types of weapons which are found in Yemen such as small pistols and gun silencers are increasingly attracting younger men to the market.

Marwan Al-Shaibani, an advocate for the resolution of armed conflicts in Yemen, said the growth of the arms trade coincides with the country's decline into continu-

ous turmoil, pointing out that trading prospers in areas of political, sectarian, and religious conflict.

"Yemen is witnessing three levels of conflict. There is the Southern Movement that calls for secession, the rebel Shiite Houthis in the North and Yemen's conflicted political parties who function under the government's political conciliation efforts," he said.

Concerning the implications of arms trade in Yemen, Al-Shaibani said that conflicts between influential religious and political figures will continue to deepen the crisis.



أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نرفها
لإبننا الغالبه
بمناسبة زفافها الميمون
فأنت أنت مبروك

المهنون

جميع أفراد الأسرة والأهل والأصدقاء
عنهم والديها / عبدالسلام الفران
وأخوانها عبدالرشيد ومند و محمد ورضيه



أجمل التهاني وأرق التبريكات نرفها للأستاذ/
محمد عبدالله الفقي
بمناسبة ارتزاقه المولود الجديد والتي أسماه
هيثم

ألف مبروك

جعل الله فرقه عين والدبه

المهنون

أخوانك مراد، طارق، حسام
و جميع زملائك في شركة جريفت
كما هي مقدمة من مجدي ابوبكر السقاف
و جميع الأهل والأصدقاء



International Rescue Committee (IRC) Yemen Program

TENDER NOTICE

Reference IRC: 001/NOV/ 2012

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One year later: Is Saleh's influence gone?

YT archive photo



Protestors spent the better part of 2011 rising against the former regime and calling for a change in government power.



Saleh signs the GCC Initiative, which officially removed him from power.

Ahmed Dawood

Almost exactly one year has passed since the signing of the Gulf Initiative, a deal brokered by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that ended former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's rule after months of political protests and uprisings in Yemen. In agreeing to accept the proposal, Saleh was granted full immunity from persecution, but had to hand over the presidency to then-vice presi-

dent, Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi. From the onset, the deal generated controversy especially amongst the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), the major opposing political party to Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC).

Although Saleh did relinquish the presidency in accordance with the initiative, many argue he never left the political arena and his influence still permeates policies.

Abdulmalik Al-Ajri, a political researcher said, claimed he would refrain from politics, but there is

clear evidence to the contrary. He is still the head of the GPC, which comprises about half of the government's power. Al-Qanis also says the majority of the ministers in the country are selected by Saleh. In addition, he says Sale delivers speeches on his Yemen Today TV channel on occasion, attacking the reconciliation government in additions to accusing it of being slow in reforming the situation in the country.

Farook Al-Hakimi, former under-secretary of the Ministry of Culture, said it is necessary for Saleh to leave

politics and separate himself in order to enable President Hadi and the government to reconstruct Yemen.

He said the majority of political bodies in the country say that Saleh and his political activities negatively affect the political process in Yemen.

On the other hand, Abdulmalik Al-Fohaidi, a political analyst and editor-in-chief of Al-Moa'tmar Net news website, is critical of those who demand Saleh's complete resignation from politics.

"Ali Abdullah Saleh is the head of

the GPC and has the right to practice politics. I dare anyone to find a term in the Gulf Initiative that prohibits him from politics," he said.

He also pointed that Saleh and members of the GPC were the ones most committed to the Gulf Initiative. It would have not been signed without their support.

Al-Fohaidi particularly resents the statements of JMP members that accuse Saleh of obstructing the political process. He defends the former president by saying Saleh never carried out acts of sabotage

like some have claimed.

Sadeq Al-Hamai, a columnist and a political analyst, said Saleh's influence has faded with time. Initially, Saleh counted on external support after being removed from power, but that support has vanished and so has Saleh's ability to assert himself in matters of the state.

Al-Hamai said the security vacuum in the country has made some people fear Saleh's presence, and the only way to alleviate this political tension is for Saleh to leave Yemen.



New cafés emerge in Sana'a to reduce Qat chewing

Story and photos by
Nadia Haddash

Several cafes have recently emerged in Sana'a, presenting a new cultural trend in Yemeni society. Frisco Cafe and Facebook Café are the newest to join the city's coffee culture. Both cafes are now among the growing community of coffee shops, where a new tributary to the cultural movement of Yemen's youth—male and female—are flocking.

"Cafes have become places where many educated young people go to avoid qat sessions and escape the restrictions of customs and traditions," Ghofran Al-Khatib, the public relations officer for Frisco Cafe, said.

"In my opinion, cafes are good because they help spread awareness and provide a space to highlight creative literary and artistic talents," Al-Khatib said. "For example, at Frisco Cafe, we provide a place for people to participate in hip hop dances. Each Thursday, we

hold a competition between hip hop dancers to help them spend their time away from qat places."

She said providing the opportunity for the youth to partake in bazaars, cultural parties and symposiums should be the main goal of all cafes.

Regarding the policies of the cafe, Al-Khatib said, "Frisco Cafe was designed to be a comfortable place. We don't allow people with unsuitable appearances to come in and start bothering others. The cafe pays attention to people's ap-

pearances to keep up its reputation of the cafe."

Another new cafe, which sprouted up in Hadda, is called Facebook Cafe—named after the famous social networking website.

Rawoof Uthman, the coffee shop's owner, said, "The life of this generation is connected to Facebook, and they express everything that happens in their life on Facebook. They spend so much of their time on Facebook, so I chose this name to be a place providing the same atmosphere, but on the ground."

Uthman said Facebook Cafe stands out from the other Sana'a coffee shops because it is both a coffee shop and restaurant. According to Uthman, Facebook Cafe provides a special setting for families and young people, and it doesn't care about customer appearances.

He said coffee shop culture is growing in Sana'a because Yemeni youth are constantly adapting and adjusting to new cultural trends.

"Cafes aren't an imitation of the West or an abandoning of traditions because the Arabs were the

first to start cafes, but in the form of sessions and chambers."

"The increasing number of young people visiting cafes has resulted in the emergence of multiple cafes in Sana'a and has created more competition. Since young people look for new things, cafes must compete with each other to provide new services in addition to drinks, snacks and Internet."

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Fresco Cafe and Facebook Cafe are two new editions to the burgeoning coffee culture in Yemen

Workshop outlines business opportunities for Yemeni youth and women

Story and photo by
Ashraf Al-Muraqab

The Youth Economic Empowerment Project, created by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), held a workshop on Tuesday to outline the primary results of a study evaluating market requirements and training needs in Sana'a, Taiz and Aden.

Doctor Muneer Saif, a member of the team, said the study's results were presented to more than 40 relevant government and private sector bodies, civil society organizations and interested people.

These groups plan to use the primary results to focus on innovative areas where Yemeni youth can start businesses. Examples include honey, produce and poultry.

The results of the study were not made publicly available.

Fuad Ali Al-Qadasi, head of the Poverty and Sustainable Development Team, said the study aims to specify promising business opportunities ripe for growth and Yemeni innovation. He also said

the study aims to draw youth's attention to business and to specify the training needs for socially and economically disadvantaged women and youth.

Saif said the results of this workshop would form the basis for the project's activities and a reference for people interested in economically supporting the youth.

The study presented at the workshop included collected data and information about national poverty strategies as well as holding a consultative meeting with relevant bodies, including youth, to set a plan and to make recommendations for areas that can support youth and women by providing work opportunities.

The project aims to target 4,000 young men and women in Sana'a, Taiz and Aden, based on market need strategy, and it will also respond to gender issues.

According to Saif, the project emerged from the local society and will include strategic partnerships with partners of the local authorities, local council, religious leaders, NGOs, the private section and other relevant bodies.



A selection of youth and women participate in a workshop at the United Nation's Youth Economic Empowerment Project



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Oman celebrates its 42nd national day

Omanis in Sana'a celebrated their country's 42nd National Day anniversary Monday in the presence of diplomatic, political, social, civil society, academics and media figures.

Abdulla Bin Hamad Al-Badi, Oman's ambassador to Yemen, said Oman has entered a new phase of improving state facilities, meeting the requirements of continuous economic and social advancement and achieving aspirations of the third millennium due to the close cohesion between Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'eed and Omanis.

"I'm very happy to celebrate this national day and also glad to assure [everyone] that the good fraternal relations binding Yemen and Oman have developed

and improved in various cooperative fields," Al-Badi said.

Omani citizens formed the cornerstone of Oman's development in the past years and continuous, direct attention was paid to all social factions, especially the youth because they are the power of the present and hope of the future, he said.

Oman is also paying more attention to education to prepare qualified people for jobs that will ensure the country's development both now and in the future.

Constructing a modern state and establishing an institutional state have remained important goals of the country, around which comprehensive efforts of national development evolve under the gradual approach of Sultan Qaboos. He established the pillars of the modern state to keep up with other countries in the fields of science and knowledge, while maintaining originality. 2012 was a milestone in the history of Oman's Judiciary System, as it became independent.

Oman is a fertile ground for security, safety and stability in this vibrant region of the world. Thus, the country has been hailed for its safety. Oman ranked high in the Global Peace Index, marking it as one of the most stable nations in the Middle

East and Africa. Oman came fourth in the Arab World and 41st in the world, according to the Global Peace Index that was included in a report released by Australian Institute for Peace and Economics in 2011.

The policies and stances of Oman are met with broad appreciation in the Arab World because of its increasingly positive contributions to diverse Arab issues, as well as developing its bilateral bonds with all Arab nations for the good of the common mutual interests and objectives of all Arab countries.

International testimony
Based on international reports, Oman's economic policies have been internationally in 2011 and 2012. This reflects good infrastructure and a stable economy, health care system and education. Oman ranked 8th among Arab Nations in regard to the 2011 Human Development Index, according to the U.N. Human Development Program. Oman was categorized among countries that rate high in human development.

The government of Oman worked to attract investment in the past years through insuring encouraging climate for foreign investments and by stimulating local capital. The government exerted efforts to better the economic environment and adopted inspiring incentives, in addition to issuing many laws and legislations conducive to this vital sector to assist the government of Oman in executing economic diver-

sity programs and policies. In tribute to the high tourism status of Oman, Muscat has been selected the Arab Tourism Capital of 2012. Oman plans to augment the number of tourists from 1.5 million to 2.5 million by 2015.



A cake was cut by officials in celebration of the patriotic holiday.



Dignitaries gathered at the event in honor of Oman's special day.



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Printed by Yemen Times Est. for Press, Printing & Publication
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