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Three Zaidis dead, 13 injured in targeted bombing attack

Ahmed Dawood

SANA'A, Nov. 25 — The Military Affairs' Committee, headed by Defense Minister Mohammed Nasser Ahmed and Interior Minister Abdulkader Qahtan, condemned Saturday night's targeted attack on residents in Zahrat Al-Madaen Hall in Al-Jeraf.

Three people died and 13 others were injured when a bomb exploded in Zahrat Al-Madaen Hall, where members of the Zaidi Sect were commemorating the religious anniversary of Ashora.

As a result, the committee has opened an investigation into the incident in order to bring the perpetrators to court.

Committee members include the Interior Ministry's Undersecretary of Security, Secretary of the Capital Abdulqader Helal and representatives of the National Security, Political Security and Military Intelligence Bureaus.

Mohammed Meftah, head of the preparatory committee of the Al-Oma Party, said that as participants left the hall, a bomb on the sidewalk detonated.

Miftah said security apparatuses arrived on the scene, but they did not seriously or quickly work to investigate the bombing.

For his part, Ali Al-Emad, the Houthi representative in Sana'a's Change Square, expressed resentment about targeting the Zaidi

What happened is because of media provocation by some political parties against this faction, he said, referring to the Islah Party, which is known to have increasing tensions with the Houthis.

Al-Emad said the Zaidi sect has been suppressed since the regime of former President Ali Abdullah

The sect, he said, used to celebrate Ashora in private for fear of targeted assaults.

"Once the Zaidi sect started celebrating publicly in wedding halls, they have been targeted because of constant media provocation."

Adnan Al-Odaini, the Deputy Head of the Information Unit of the Islah Party, condemned the at-

The occurrence targeted social peace in the country, he said, calling on the security forces to quickly investigate the accident and penalize the perpetrators.

Such an accident should be dealt with calmly, and it should not be used by politically motivated groups, said Al-Odaini, describing this occurrence as "dangerous."



Smuggled gun parts shipment confiscated in Hodeida Harbor

Amal Al-Yarisi

HODEIDA, Nov. 25 — Customs authorities in Hodeida Harbour reportedly confiscated a container loaded with 225 gun parts on Sat-

The parts were hidden inside a shipment of baby diapers, which triggered the initial suspicions that it contained smuggled goods.

Hodeida Security Director Mohammed Al-Maqaleh said 225 gun pieces, reportedly sights, were confiscated. Amongst the shipment were 125 laser sights. The cargo initially raised eyebrows during the censoring process, he said.

Mustafa Al-Mahdi, a coast guard

Beyond reason.

KRUPS

the harbor, in cooperation with the coast guard and Political Security, checked the cartons by X-ray and then manually.

State-run Saba News Agency reported that Salem Bin Buraik, the Hodeida Customs General Manager, said the container came from China through Jeddah Harbor. The gun pieces are still being held.

Merchant Yahia Hussein Qasim Al-Hoqbi ordered the gun sight shipment, Al-Magaleh said.

Al-Hoqbi and those onboard the ship with the cartons have since been arrested on smuggling charges, according to Al-Maqaleh.

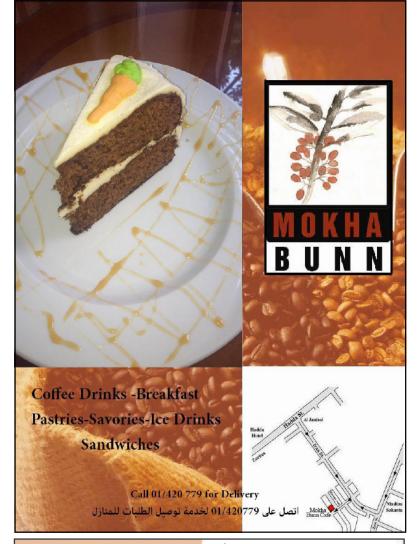
"Investigations are still in prog-

representative, said inspectors in ress to reveal what the shipment er coming from Turkey-and loaded was meant to be used for," he said. Aden Harbor witnessed a similar incident in October when a contain-

with a large quantity of handguns inside biscuit cartons—was confiscated in the Free Zone of Aden.

















Military, tribal leaders seek understanding in Marib

Ashraf Al-Muraqab

MARIB, Nov. 25 — Sheikhs from four Marib tribes met Saturday with Abdulkhalek Ahmed Shuwait, chief of staff for the 312th Brigadier, eventually agreeing on several points to solve tensions between .the groups

Frustrations among the tribes and the military hit a high point Wednesday when the armed, tribal groups ambushed a military unit, killing a high-ranking military officer and injuring two others. Colonel Ali Al-Asdi, leader of the Tanks Battalion of the 312th Brigade, died, and Staff Colonel Saleh Al-Bukair and soldier Faris Ali Al-Jabri were injured.

Naji Al-Salehi, a journalist in Marib, said the Eial Bani Saeed, Aal Hajlan, Aal Jezailan and Aal Al-Qasab tribes flocked to the 312th Brigadier's headquarters and met with Shuwait.

Al-Salehi said the tribesmen turned over six men from the four tribes and multiple machine guns.

This practice is a show of goodwill for the tribesmen—a sign that they are willing to work with military personnel to ease friction. Al-Salehi said tribesmen pledged not to obstruct repairs of the electricity stations and oil pipelines—including the pipeline in Wadi Habab.

Revolutionary coalitions in Marib condemned sabotage against oil pipelines, which they say hurts public interest.

Safer Exploration & Production Operations Company recently warned about the possibility of an upcoming crisis in oil derivatives due to ongoing oil pipeline explosions.

In a letter sent to the Minister of Oil and Minerals, the company reported, "The continuous halt to supply Aden refineries with crude oil that meets the local consumption will lead to an oil crisis in the country."

The company also said saboteurs are digging around oil pipelines before detonating them to increase damage to pipelines.



Tribal leaders have pledged not obstruct construction of pipelines in Marib.

The company said Yemen loses approximately 100 barrels of oil per day (\$310 million per month) from halts in oil pumping.

Khalid Bin Mo'aili, general manager of oil in Marib, said government authorities couldn't repair the oil pipeline destroyed last week.

Bin Mo'aili said weak security protection around oil pipelines and

weak state control, coupled with the slow moves to improve the security situation would cause continuing heavy losses.

He called on relevant authorities to better protect public interests, to arrest saboteurs and hold them publicly accountable and to reveal whoever obstructs state sovereignty by supporting saboteurs.

Still no official date for National Dialogue

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANA'A, Nov. 25 — The National Dialogue Conference (NDC), which was slated to begin mid-November, still has no definite start date, according to Sultan Al-Atwani, the deputy head of the conference's Preparatory Committee.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, he said a final report that outlines the breakdown of dialogue participants will be submitted in the next several days to President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, who will then select an exact date for the dialogue to begin.

Although most details of the report are confidential, on Wednesday, the Preparatory Committee declared that Southerners will represent half of the NDC's 565 seats.

Jamal Benomar, the United Nations special envoy to Yemen, on Friday said the transitional pro-

cess is going through an important phase, calling on political stakeholders and the Technical Committee to resolve pending issues.

According to a statement released by the state-run Saba news agency, Benomar said the transitional process in Yemen is still threatened by those who do not realize that change is imperative.

Benomar's statement added, "The National Dialogue is owned by Yemenis and is led by the Yemeni people. It is important to secure Yemen's future, but there needs to be bold steps to assure all Yemenis that their aspirations will come true."

Benomar also said it was inspiring to see youth, women, civil society organizations and political groups represented in the Technical Committee's plan. He called such a step, the initial move towards a new Yemen.

Campaign works to end violence against women

Story and photo by Nadia Haddash

SANA'A, Nov. 25 — The United Nation's Population Fund (UNFPA), in cooperation with the Yemeni Women's Union, inaugurated on Sunday an anti-female violence campaign that will run for 16 days, under the slogan, "I am Against Violence." The movement coincides with the World Day for Opposing Violence Against Women on November 25th.

On the first day of the campaign, short films made by local filmmak-

ers that depict female suffering women, reasons behind it and ways were shown. women, reasons behind it and ways to eliminate it. She also highlight-

Marc Vandenberghe, a UNFPA representative called on media outlets to work together with the campaign. He said media can help consolidate social awareness about such a serious issue.

"Any violence against women is generally considered a human rights violation and violation of her and her child's rights in particular," he added.

Ramzia Al-Eryani, the head of the Yemeni Women's Union, spoke about types of violence against the campaign.

women, reasons behind it and ways to eliminate it. She also highlighted community education as a way to combat violence. Schools and mosques are vital in this strategy she said.

According the Yemeni Women's Union, the organization will use the sixteen-day period to put pressure on the government to implement pledges it has made to crack down on violence against women.

Diplomats, ministers, ambassadors and social organization were all in attendance at the launch of the campaign.



Several films were screened by the campaign in order to bring attention to human rights violations against females.

Families of revolutionary detainees and hidden prisoners escalate their protests

Story and photo by Amal Al-Yarisi

he families of revolutionary detainees and hidden prisoners have never given up. Though they have only achieved a few successes in their fight for justice, they continued to demand that authorities reveal the truth behind their relatives' imprisonment and release them.

Mohammed Al-Asa'adi, an uncle of Abdulela Al-Asa'adi, one of those arrested, said he would continue to demand the release of his nephew. Abdulela Al-Asa'adi was accused of being linked to the explosion, which happened in the Al-Nahdin Mosque of the Presidential Compound targeting former president Ali Abdulla Saleh.

"The Political Security Bureau has no evidence against my nephew," Al-Asa'adi said

Ahmed Al-Ameri, a bother of Saber Al-Ameri, another detainee, continues to demand the release of his brother. He said they won't surrender and will continue protesting until finding out where those who have been forcibly detained are held.

Discussing his brothers arrest, Al-Ameri said some bullies kidnapped him from a local market in Sana'a and they have been told nothing about him or his whereabouts so far. Al-Ameri added that during protests, his brother used to take injured revolutionary people to hospitals on his bike, pointing out that he played a great role in rescuing those who were injured in clashes that happened in Kentucky Roundahout.

"I think this is the main reason behind kidnapping him."

Al-Ameri asserted that the families of those detained would continue protesting.

"All the families of detainees hope the government and human rights organizations will bring justice to them and release them," he added.

At the beginning, Al-Ameri's family thought that Saber was killed in protests but later on, some arrested prisoners were released and told them that he is imprisoned at the Military Intelligence Headquarters.

Al-Ameri said, "Military Intelligence denied having him and didn't permit us to visit him."

The issue of the detainees is a big problem that worries Yemeni families, researchers and human rights activists, according to Edi Al-Munifi, a researcher for the United Nation High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNCHR),

Al-Munifi thinks it is possible for the government to reach a point of reconciliation if all the revolutionaries arrested and the people forcibly detainees in secret prisons were released. This would allow the people of Yemen to live with dignity.

He said, "All these things will ease the atmosphere and settle the political scene and then we can start a National Dialogue without this black mark on our political history."

He indicated that international decrees were issued, in addition to President Hadi's decrees, to establish a fact-finding committee for the forcibly detained people but nothing has been implemented and no member of this committee showed up.

Escalation of protest

The General Council for Revolutionary Detainees mentioned the names of the people who are still in secret jails.

Abdulkareem Thua'il, Head of the Council, said they have called on the government to release all those who are being forcibly detained but it continues to ignored them.

The council launched the second phase of their attempts to secure the release of detainees by holding a consultative meeting with their families.

Thua'il indicated that they outlined achievements so far in the first phase, monitored the names of the released detainees as well as discussing the legal procedures concerning the abducted people linked to the Al-Nahdeen Mosque's



Young girls hold a picture of a relative who has been forcibly detained. They join other families in their demand for the release of their loved ones.

incident

"We plan to escalate the program

in the second phase," he added.

According to Thua'il, some revolutionary youth, accompanied by
Human Rights Minister Horia

Mashhoor, who visited the Political Security Bureau but weren't allowed to into prisons.

Thua'il also asserted that more than 28 people have been arrested in relation to Al-Nahdeen Mosque's

explosion in addition to many hidden detainees.

The government has issued a decree number 108 of 2012, which stipulates the urgent release of revolutionary detainees.

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Efforts continue to seek justice for journalists who died in 2011





Jamal Al-Sharabi (left) died after being shot by unidentified snipers on March 18, 2011. Shortly after, Hassam Al-Wadhaf became the second journalist to die while covering a protest during last year's uprising.

Ahmed Dawood

t's widely said by most Yemeni journalists that 2011 was the most violent year for journalists because of the protests and subsequent uprising that broke out, culminating with the ouster of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who had been in power for 33 years.

The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate recently released a report indicating 330 violations were committed against Yemeni journalists in 2011. According to the report, some of those violations include the 93 assaults on journalists, 76 confiscated newspapers, 47 threats, 25 journalists illegally arrested and 17 kidnappings.

A reported 50 journalists were killed while covering the uprising. Journalist Jamal Al-Sharabi was among those killed by unknown snipers on March 18, 2011-a day also known as the Friday of Dignity—in Sana'a's Change Square.

Al-Sharabi was the first journalism martyred in Yemen in 2011. After he died, a steady succession of Yemeni journalists joined him. Hassan Al-Wadhaf, a cameraman of Al-Hurra TV channel, was shot dead in Change Square—the second journalist to die. Journalists Abdulmajeed Al-Samawi, Abdulhakeem Di Al-Noor, Fuad Al-Shamiri and others followed.

Demands to prosecute the perpetrators

Journalists are not ignorant to what happened to their colleagues. On Saturday, the Yemen Journalists' Syndicate organized a protest in the syndicate's compound calling for investigations to uncover those responsible for the deaths of journalists during the uprising.

Saeed Thabet, the deputy head of the syndicate, said threats and violence still linger around journalists; however, 2011 was the worst year for violence in the history of Yemeni journalism.

He said working in a safe atmosphere with full freedom and security was unattainable during the former regime; the situation is better now.

Thabet said the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate stressed the importance of investigating the deaths, as well as compensating the famithe case, saying the Gulf Initiative lies of the dead and providing them

with monthly stipends. Unfortunately, he said, the government turns a deaf ear to the syndicate's requests.

He also said wounded journalists in need of additional medical care should be sent abroad for treatment, on the government's dime.

Thabet said the syndicate could do nothing but peacefully make demands to the government because the syndicate itself has no budget to assist the wounded and the fami-

The journalists who died during the uprising bore witness to the crimes of the former regime, so their families should be compensated, he said.

Insistence on investigations

Marwan Damaj, the general secretary of the syndicate, said the syndicate insists on investigating into all the violations the journalists were subject to, whether in 2011 or at another time.

The syndicate has already called on General Prosecutor Ali Al-Awaj to investigate journalist deaths; however, he excused himself from granted immunity to the former re-



The journalists who died bore witness to the crimes of the former regime, so their familes should be compensated.

- Saeed Thabet

gime, according to Damaj.

Damaj said those directly affected by the attacks on journalists deserve truth and answers. The injuries and deaths have nothing to do with political compromise, he asserted, saying the assaults were deliberate. Damaj said he thinks they were carried out by security and also by former authoritative personnel, who ordered that no photos be taken at the protest sites. However, an investigation would prove who is responsible.

Lawyer Abdulrahman Barman said snipers killed five journalists, which indicated criminal intent against those carrying cameras. He said many people who died on the Friday of Dignity were holding cameras or taking photos with their cellphones.

Damaj said there has been little government interest in addressing the situation. He said he met with Prime Minister Mohammed Salem Basindawa, but nothing came of the meeting.

Damaj said bringing assailants to justice is the only way to halt aggression toward journalists.

No strength in numbers

Doctor Mohammed Al-Qadi, an academic and a journalist, said the syndicate's role in protecting journalists remains weak.

Al-Qadi said the work of the syndicate is limited to issuing statements and staging protests, but it isn't able to put pressure on the government to implement its de-

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He said the threats and violations against journalists would continue unless journalists build up the syndicate into a powerful institution with power or influence to exert.

A Yemeni problem, an international problem

Murdering journalists with impunity isn't restricted to Yemen. According to a report issued by the Committee to Protect Journalists, worldwide, 94 percent of attacks on journalists are not investigated.

"Five journalists were murdered in Yemen, and no one is charged with killing them," Barman said. "Worse is that the security apparatus has no case regarding that."

Barman said international humanitarian law addresses the issue of journalist attacks and the importance of protecting journalists. It criminalizes attacking journalists and addresses the necessity of protection for reporters in areas of armed conflict. It also says victims' families have the right to hold in-

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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International Rescue Committee (IRC) Yemen Program

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Reference IRC: 001/NOV/ 2012

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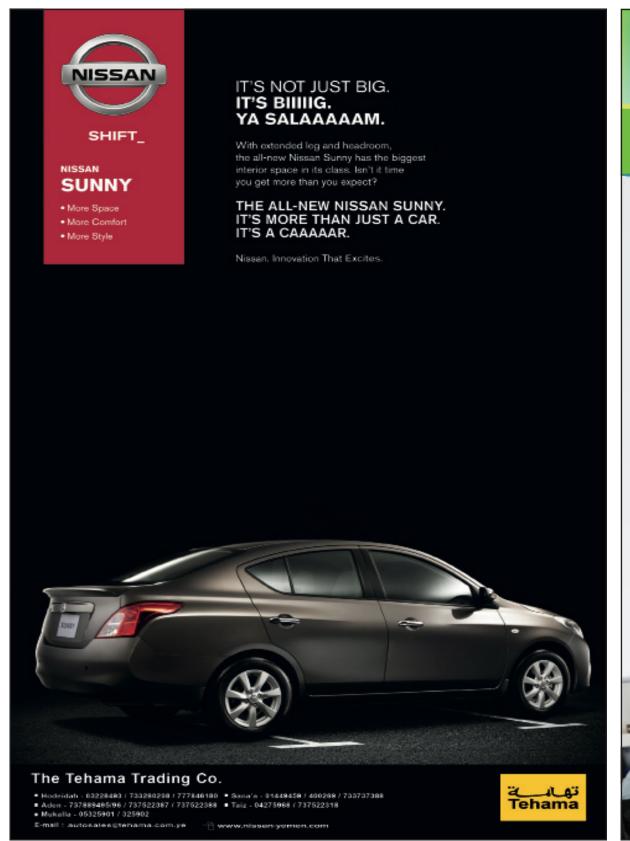
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Opinion 26 November, 2012

Journalists Under Attack - a call for action to improve journalists' safety

Michael Spindelegger & Alison Bethel McKenzie

ell over 100 journalists have been killed so far this year - the highest number since the International Press Institute (IPI) began keeping count of journalists' deaths in 1997. All across the world - from Africa, Asia and Europe, to the Middle East and Latin America - journalists continue to be systematically and brutally targeted because of their work. Some are caught in the crossfire while reporting on conflict, but most are targeted by criminal groups and individuals who want to prevent information from getting out, corruption and other crimes from being exposed and critical views from being disseminated.

In many countries, journalists stare death in the face every day. For them, receiving threats is part of a near-daily routine. Journalists are killed for telling a story, but also, ironically, sometimes they're killed for not telling one. Attacks against iournalists are not confined to murder. Many reporters have been brutally beaten this year, or seriously injured by firearms or explosive devices. Just a few weeks ago, a Bolivian radio presenter was set on fire by assailants who poured petrol over him as he was live on air with his radio show. And all too often reporters' families are also caught up in the deadly spiral of violence.

Impunity for those responsible for attacks against journalists is rampant and constitutes one of the biggest obstacles to improving the safety of journalists.

Journalists play a special role in society as providers of information on matters of public interest. To preserve this important role is in the interest of society as a whole. The consequences of attacks against journalists are manifest: An absence of crucial information, a denial of the people's right to know and the independence that is so vital to their professional credibility

The growing number of journalists killed around the world has prompted a call for action. In the past year, a number of international initiative milestones have been achieved which we feel will provide impetus in the quest to roll back the tide of 'violence with impunity' directed at reporters.

For the first time in its history, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the safety of journalists last September. The new resolution – initiated by Austria in line with a commitment made when it became a member of the UN Human Rights Council in 2011- represents a significant step forward in the promotion of the protection of journalists' safety. Driven forward in cooperation with a cross-regional core group comprising Brazil, Morocco, Tunisia and Switzerland, and with input from IPI and other press freedom and professional organizations, the unique resolution makes a clear statement in condemning all forms of attacks against journalists and calls on States to end impunity and ensure accountability, by investigating attacks, bringing the perpetrators to justice and providing adequate remedies for victims. The resolution also underscores the responsibility of governments in ensuring the safety of journalists not only in clearly-identifiable conflict situations, but everywhere, and at all times. For let us make no mistake: Most of the journalists killed and physically harmed are targeted outside classic conflict zones. The fact that the resolution – in spite of its strong, uncompromising language – was supported by 66 co-sponsoring States and passed by consensus in the Human Rights Council lends it even greater impe-

Parallel to the UN Human Rights Council, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has also promoted discussions, and action, an inability of journalists to retain related to the need to reinforce incused on the implementation of the



Austria's Vice-Chancellor Michael Spindelegger (right) and IPI Executive Director Alison Bethel McKenzie congratulate Zeynep Oral, the Founder of Winpeace for winning the 2011 IPI Press Freedom Dialogue Award.

ternational instruments for the protection of journalists. As a result, in another milestone, the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity was endorsed by the UN Chief Executives Board in April.

In the past couple of days, discussions have continued, as representatives of UN agencies, funds and programs, intergovernmental organizations, Member States, professional associations and NGOs have gathered in Vienna at a follow-up meeting hosted by Austria and foUN Plan, to ensure that it does actually result in "action" that will help limit violence against journalists.

Members of the global media community have been actively involved in the implementation phase debate. In fact, at a meeting in London a few weeks ago, editors and journalists issued a statement welcoming the UN Plan of Action, calling on the UN system and other relevant national and international bodies to operate effectively and in accountable ways in the implementation of the Plan and encouraging news media to monitor regularly

the actions of their governments, judicial authorities and other institutions in implementing the Plan and ending impunity.

Much has been achieved in 2012 to ensure greater protection for journalists in the future. Now it is up to UN agencies, civil society, media professionals and, most importantly, the numerous States that have endorsed the UN Human Rights Council resolution on the safety of journalists to actively show their commitment to this important cause.

Austria, and IPI, stand ready and

willing to continue their work to actively promote the now-existing broad mechanisms for the protection of journalists.

And IPI will continue to support journalists in dangerous environments, call for justice when they are attacked and hold States accountable for their safety.

Michael Spindelegger is the Vice-Chancellor & Foreign Minister of the Republic of Austria. Alison Bethel McKenzie is the Executive Director, The International Press Institute (IPI).

The wrong man for the C.I.A.

Gregory D. Johnsen NYTimes.com First published Nov. 19

ith the resignation of David H. Petraeus, President Obama now has a chance to appoint a new C.I.A. director. Unfortunately, one of the leading candidates for the job is John O. Brennan, who is largely responsible for America's current flawed counterterrorism strategy, which relies too heavily on drone strikes that frequently kill civilians and provide Al-Qaeda with countless new recruits. Rather than keeping us safe, this strategy is putting the United States at greater

For all of the Obama administration's foreign policy successes from ending the war in Iraq to killing Osama Bin Laden — the most enduring policy legacy of the past four years may well turn out to be an approach to counterterrorism that me over tea in Sana'a, the capital, has more than tripled in size after the intended target. American officials call the "Yemen model," a mixture of drone strikes and Special Forces raids targeting Al-Qaeda leaders.

Mr. Brennan is the president's chief counterterrorism adviser and the architect of this model. In a recent speech, he claimed that there was "little evidence that these actions are generating widespread anti-American sentiment or recruits for A.Q.A.P.," referring to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

Mr. Brennan's assertion was either shockingly naïve or deliberately misleading. Testimonies from Qaeda fighters and interviews I and local journalists have conducted across Yemen attest to the centrality of civilian casualties in explaining Al- Qaeda's rapid growth there. The United States is killing women, children and members of key tribes. "Each time they kill a tribesman, they create more fighters for Al-Qaeda," one Yemeni explained to

last month. Another told CNN, after a failed strike, "I would not be surprised if a hundred tribesmen joined Al-Qaeda as a result of the latest drone mistake."

Rather than promote the author of a failing strategy, we need a C.I.A. director who will halt the agency's creeping militarization and restore it to what it does best: collecting human intelligence. It is an intelligence agency, not a lightweight version of Joint Special Operations Command. And until America wins the intelligence war, missiles will continue to hit the wrong targets, kill too many civilians and drive young men into

the waiting arms of our enemies. Without accurate on-the-ground intelligence, our policies will fail. George W. Bush launched two major ground invasions, and Mr. Obama has tried several smaller wars. Neither strategy has worked. In Yemen, which has been the laboratory for Mr. Obama's shadow wars, A.Q.A.P.

Khair Aldin Al Nsour

Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Managing Editor Assistant

sadegalwesabi@hotmail.com

three years of drone strikes. When the United States started bombing Yemen in 2009, A.Q.A.P. had just 200 to 300 fighters. Today, the State Department estimates it has a few thousand. Since 2009, the group has attempted to attack America on three occasions, coming closest on Dec. 25, 2009, when a would-be suicide bomber narrowly failed to bring down an airliner over Detroit. When it tries again - and it will the organization will be able to draw upon much deeper ranks.

Not surprisingly, American officials reject the claim that current policy is exacerbating the problem. In June 2011, Mr. Brennan declared that "there hasn't been a single collateral death because of the exceptional proficiency, precision of the capabilities we've been able to develop." This came almost exactly a vear after a botched drone attack in Yemen killed a deputy governor and four of his bodyguards instead of

Head of Design Dept.

Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Under Mr. Brennan's guidance, the United States has also adopted a controversial method for determining how many civilians it has killed, counting all military-age males in a strike zone as combatants. This means that Abdulrahman Al-Awlaki, a 16-year-old American citizen killed by a drone in October, was classified as a militant despite evidence that he was simply a shy teenager whose father happened to be Anwar Al-Awlaki, who had been killed by American missiles two weeks earlier.

The strikes Mr. Brennan asks the president to approve frequently lead to civilian casualties. Indeed, the first strike Mr. Obama ordered on Yemen, in December 2009, destroyed a Bedouin village that was mistaken for a terrorist training camp. American missiles killed more than 50 people, including 35 women and children. Watching that strike live on a grainy feed the militarv calls Kill TV, Jeh Johnson, the Pentagon's top lawyer, later admitted, "if I were Catholic, I'd have to go to confession."

Mr. Petraeus's departure presents Mr. Obama with an opportunity to halt the C.I.A.'s drift toward becoming a paramilitary organization and put it back on course. For all of the technological advances America has made in a decade of fighting Al-Qaeda, it still needs all the old tricks it learned in the days before spy satellites and drones.

More and better human intelligence from sources on the ground would result in more accurate targeting and many fewer civilian casualties. That would be a Yemen model that actually worked and a lasting and more effective counterterrorism legacy for Mr. Obama's second term.

Gregory D. Johnsen is the author of "The Last Refuge: Yemen, Al-Qaeda, and America's War in Arabia."

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Tel: +967 (1) 268-661 Fax: +967 (1) 268-276 P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen Letters: ytreaders.view@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS: Email: adsyemen@yahoo.com Publisher & Editor-in-Chief Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

Senior Reporter Mohammed bin Sallam

amal.mansoor12@gmail.com

amira.nasser2010@gmail.com

Amal Al-Yarisi

Amira Nassei

Editorial Staff Ahmed Ali Dawood daod2009@gmail.com

Ashraf Al-Muraqab aagh007@yahoo.com

Bassam Al-Khamiri bassam.Alkhameri@gmail.com

khalidmohamada@yahoo.com

Mohammed Al-Samei alsamei77@gmail.com

Nadia Haddash n.haddash@gmail.com

Samar Qaed samar.qaed@hotmail.com

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 **Subscriptions**

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Political analyst Thabet Al-Ahmadi to the Yemen Times:

"There are obvious indicators that the National Dialogue will be a success."

Political analyst Thabet Al-Ahmadi displayed his optimism about the success of the National Dialogue. He said the southern secessionists don't stand for the entire south, with the more powerful southern figures being represented in the dialogue. He added there is an Islah-Houthi conflict in the north, indicating that the Houthis strategy over the last year has included both peaceful and militarized agendas.

Interview by Mohammed Al-Samei

Let's start by discussing what you feel are the major indicators that the National Dialogue will be a success. How do you evaluate the progress that has been made given the obstacles faced?

In reality, obstacles do exist, but there are obvious indictors that the dialogue will be a success. Since signing the Gulf Initiative, everything has been going well, with every day being better than the one before. There are positive steps on the ground day after day in spite of the fact that obstacles do exist.

Following the meeting between U.N. Special Envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar and the southern leaders in Cairo, do you think the southern leaders opposing the dialogue have been convinced to participate?

Their meeting with Benomar was positive. Some used it as an opportunity to raise certain conditions, many of which were objective and achievable. However some figures showed reservation and others were unnecessarily ambitious. Hopefully they will rethink their ambitions and make concessions to reach a compromise. The Yemeni opposition figures abroad were the last group Benomar conferred with. So far, the indicators show a positive response. God willing, the days to come will be much better.

Some factions in the south are still refusing to participate in the National Dialogue?

Let us suppose these factions reject the opportunity to take part. In the end, common sense will prevail. Do these factions represent the south? No. Do they hold strong political weight in the south? No.

But some say some factions in the south are headed by influential figures?

I think the weighty popular figures in the south have accepted the dialogue such as Abdullah Al-Nakhibi and Lutfi Shatarah, both of whom are now in the Dialogue Committee. I don't devalue the southern leaders, yet the figures that have already decided to take part in the dialogue have weight and influence. Al-Nakhibi and Shatarah are important and represent large factions in the south.

What are the reasons behind the refusal of southern leaders to take part in the dialogue?

The southern leaders can be divided into two groups. The first faction works on the basis of foreign agendas, separate from any patriotism. The second faction is hugely mistreated with genuine grievances. They are a faction whose people are pessimistic about the future and don't believe that positive reforms will be made.

Do you think the opponents of the dialogue want the secession of the south from the

This trend does exist. They want separation and the end of unity, but secession is impossible for many reasons. First and foremost, grass

root movements in the south do not support the idea of secession and the leading southern elites don't either. Essentially the differences boil down to the federal system and whether it will contain five regions or seven. Either the dialogue stakeholders will agree on this issue or they will move to adopt a parliamentarian system.

Do you think the current regime is the main reason southerners' refuse to participate in the dialogue given the twenty points presented to the **Dialogue Committee have not** been implemented thus far?

The twenty points will be implemented. I disagree with you comment that none of them have been progressed as some of these points have already been implemented. The points are put forward to the highest authorities to implement real change; they cannot be executed overnight. In the end, the implementation of these points will be realized, but we have to settle our feet on the right path first.

As a political researcher, how do evaluate the performance of the National Dialogue Committee?

Of course, the committee has achieved so much over the last year, and it continues to work in line with its original agenda.



Since the signing of the Gulf Initiative, everything has been going well, with every day being better than the one before.



I think the weighty popular figures in the south have accepted the dialogue such as Abdullah Al-Nakhibi and Lufti Shatarah.

Back to the twenty points, many have stated that some points don't need much time to be implemented such as apologizing to the southerners and Sa'ada as well as releasing the detainees.

This is true, but perhaps these points are not as easy as we see.

The southern leaders call for the release of southern detainees. Why do they continue to be detained considering this could pave the way for future dialogue?

This is a fundamental demand. It must be taken into account today before tomorrow, as it will be too late then. Moreover this is a humanitarian demand before being a legal one. However, there are certain procedures that are necessary before setting these detainees free. I am not acquitting the government of responsbility but we should not be pessimistic and sharply critical or negative. We ought to debate such issues reasonably.

Do think President Hadi and the Dialogue Committee will be able to attract Ali Salem Al-Beidh and Hassan Baom to the committee?

Al-Beidh has no more popularity in the south. He has lost his past, present and future. He is the most idiotic politician in history and has done nothing right for the good of the southern issue. There are real grievances in the south. If he followed the right way to deal with the southern grievances, it would be better for him. Yet he continues to look for myths to mislead people.

Has he been working in connection with foreign countries to influence the stance of the southerners in Yemen?

The odds are that he has relations with some countries that work against Yemen such as Iran.

Though some factions agreed to take part in the dialogue, they refuse to attend in case foreign patrons of the dia-

Is their refusal legitimate? No. Is the Gulf Initiative suspicious? No. Did they agree to participate in the dialogue? No.

Some countries abroad don't want the success of the National Dialogue. Do they aspire to divide Yemen and undermine its stability?

Unfortunately, Yemen has turned into an arena for international and regional sides that care more about their own interests than Yemen's. There are some countries that don't want to see stability out of spite for enemies who desire to see Yemen stable. For example, Iran doesn't want the success of the Gulf Initiative, this is clear.

Out of spite for the Gulf?

Yes, out of spite for the Gulf and the Saudi Arabia in particular. Iran always opposes Saudi Arabia. In this case, it is at the expense of Ye-

In Yemen, there is division even among the elite because some of them support Iran and some others support Saudi Arabia. What is your opin-

Unfortunately, this is a political reality in Yemen. We can't separate ourselves from other countries in the region because our economic situation doesn't permit us to be 100 percent independent. Those who aren't powerful can't make de-



In the lead up to the National Dialogue, political analyst Thabet Al-Ahmadi provides valuable insight into how Yemen's political framework has changed over the last year.

cisions.

The Gulf Initiative was a political and economic framework. However, if we were economically independent like Tunisia and Egypt, we wouldn't need it.

As a researcher, do you support the Saudi or Iranian movement in Yemen?

I don't support either Saudi or Iranian intervention in Yemen, but generally I support the mutual interests Yemen has with Saudi Arabia, Iran and even the U.S.

Some say the southern issue is being exaggerated?

The southern issue is a tangible reality but exaggeration has played a part in its development. I am not Yemen has pants in the National Dialogue have the right to complain or express dissent. I don't play down the importance of the southern issue but the fact remains that all governorates have issues. For example, Tehama will be just like the southern issue if it has started a movement and Hodeida has real grievances similar to the south.

What is the reason behind the spread of problems?

The reason is that the wrong policies were followed in 1990 and 1994. Ali Salem Al-Beidh led the southerners to unity but lacked the ability to plan strategically for the south's future. He wasn't a competent politician, which prevented him from participatingt in the uni-

Do you mean he was a fool to sign the unity agreement?

No, but he wasn't an experienced politician. The unity project was vital and part of the national work he did, but the way he got involved in it was nonsensical.

What made Al-Beidh adopt the plight of the southern issue?

He remained silent for a long time and when he finally spoke he uttered complete nonsense. He was silent since 1994 and then in 2007, he started calling for secession via various channels. Though he was one of the major proponents of the southern issue, where has he been

since 1994? His political foolishness allowed Ali Abdulla Saleh to enter Aden in a Nazi-like and fascist way.

Who started the 1994 war? Regardless of who started it, the 1994 war has many internal and

external factors. But in general, Al-Beidh's foolishness and Saleh's maliciousness is the reason behind the current situation.



Unfortunately, turned into an arena for international and regional sides.



There was an agreement between the Houthis and Saleh to control some governorates starting in Allawf.

It is said that there is currently a Houthi-Islah conflict and people in the north are concerned with the way this could go. What do you think?

I agree there were political and cultural disputes at the beginning and later on there were media conflicts between the two parties, but I'm optimistic for a resolution because the Houthis signed a media settlement with Islah.

In fact the Houthis haven't presented a national agenda. They went from being the oppressed to the oppressors. People had sympathy for them until they waged their 6th war against the state. When the revolution took place, the Houthis adopted two stances: one with the revolution and the second against it and we all know this.

What do you mean by adopting a stance against the revolution?

A group of Houthis joined the protests in Sana'a's Change Square and camped out while another armed group went to Al-Jawf and started to battle the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP).

I still remember that I wrote a long report for the Abaad Studies Center about the war in Al-Jawf that resulted in 600 deaths among the Houthis and 100 deaths among the JMP. This all happened at the peak of the revolution.

What made them use violence at the time of a peaceful revolution?

Some political analysts say there was an agreement between the Houthis and Saleh to control some governorates starting in Al-Jawf. This was done to weaken the JMP and the revolutionary momentum. I don't rule out the possibility of

A person once told me that the Houthis recruited children during the confrontations in Al-Jawf. Is it right?

Yes they used illiterate children and paid them on a daily basis.

Were they taught Houthi ideologies?

Yes. Because they were unemployed children, the Houthis made them fight by their side and paid them a small stipends in return.

Some say there are violations in Sa'ada but the Houthi leaders we contacted refuted

The Houthis and their leaders can't deny the violations in Sa'ada.

But they say there is a lot of media hype regarding what is happening in Sa'ada to distort the image of the Houthis?

It is normal they would deny that, but there is proof that gross violations occurred in Sa'ada. They detonated bombs in many houses, killed innocent civilians and arrested many others. They say the security situation in Sa'ada is better than other governorates?

I have visited Sa'ada and it was stable to some extent. The Houthis control it and have attempted to assert civilian leadership. However, the Houthis arrest whoever goes against them. I heard that people couldn't listen to songs because this is considered taboo.

Do you mean that their beliefs are dogmatic more than political?

They deal with people as a religious state. The model they use is so extreme that it isn't even found

الباحث السياسي ثابت الأحمدي ليمن تايمز

أصبحت اليمن للأسف ملعبا وميدانا للأطراف الإقليمية والدولية، تتصارع لتحقيق مصالحها، ولا يهمها تضرر اليمن

إذا تم حضور بعض الجهات

ننظر في شرعية الرفض نفسه، هل

الرفض مشروع؟ أو هل المبادرة مشبوهة

ما الذي يجعل بعض الدول في

الخارج لا تريد للحوار الوطني أن

يتم، هل تريد تقسيم اليمن ولا

مصالح هذه الدول، وأصبحت اليمن

للأسف ملعبا وميدانا للأطراف الإقليمية

والدولية، تتصارع لتحقيق مصالحها، ولا

يهمها تضرر اليمن، فضرر اليمن عندهم

شيء عادي، فهناك دول لا تريد لليمن

أن تهدأ نكاية بخصومها الذين يتبنون

فمثلاً، إيران لا تريد للمبادرة الخليجية

نكاية بالخليج، والسعودية على وجه أدق،

حيثما اتجهت السعودية عاكست الخط

إيران، والعكس صحيح، وفي النهاية نحن

في اليمن هناك انقسام حتى في

صفوف النخبة، البعض يؤيد إيران

والبعض الآخريؤيد السعودية..

للأسف هذا حاصل، وهذا الشيء لا يمكن

الفكاك منه، العلاقة مع الخارج لا نستطيع

في النهاية أن ننعزل عنها لأن وضعنا

الأقتصادي لا يتحمل أن نكون متحررين

مائة في المائة، فمن لا يملك قوته

لا بملك قراره. بقدر ما كانت المبادرة

الخليجة سياسية هي أيضا اقتصادية، ولو

كنا متحررين اقتصاديا لما احتجنا للمبادرة

الخليجة أساسا كما فعلت تونس ومصر،

هذه الدول متحررة اقتصاديا وليست

كباحث، هل أنت مؤيد للتحرك

السنعودي أو التحرك الإيراني في

لا لا، أنت تحشرني إما أن أموت غرقا أو

أموت حرقا، لا أتفقّ معك هنا، لا أؤيد أي

تدخل سعودي أو إيراني في اليمن، لكن

بشكل عام أنا مع المصالح المشتركة،

سواء بيننا وبين السعودية أو إيران أو

البعض يقول إن هناك تضخيم

القضية الجنوبية واقع ملموس، فمن حق

المريض أو المتألم أن يرفع صوته لأعلى

مدى، وهذه مسلمة إنسانية لا جدال

عليها، لكن اليمن كله قضية جنوبية،

تهامة لو كان لها حراك لكان لها صوت

مسموع في العالم، ولكانت قضية جنوبية

في حد ذاتها، الحديدة فيها مظالم لا تقل

شأناً عن مظالم الجنوب، وفي هذا لا أقلل

ما الذي جعل هذا المرض أو الألم

السياسات الفاشلة منذ عام ٩٤ أو من

عام ٩٠، على سالم البيض أودي بشعب

الجنوب بدون طرق علمية مدروسة، لم

يكن سياسيا بالقدر الكافي لأن يدخل

في مشروع وحدة يمنية بأسس صحيحة،

للأسف كان أبناء الجنوب عام ١٩٢٣ أكثر

نضجا عندما زارهم عبد العزيز الثعالبي،

وأكثر سياسة من نخبة عام ٩٠، ففي عاّم

٢٣م كان الجنوبيون يطالبون بوحدة

دون ضم أو إلحاق، جاءت نخبة عام ٩٠

من أهمية القضية الجنوبية. ُ

للقضية الجنوبية؟

بحاجة الى مبادرة خليجية.

اليمنييون نتضرر من هذا الشيء.

الخارجية الراعية للحوار؟

وهي وافقت على الحوار؟

تريد لليمن السالامة؟

عكس ما تتبنى.

النجاح وهذا واضح.

نكايت بالخليج؟

أنت كيف ترى؟

أعرب الكاتب والباحث السياسي ثابت الأحمدي عن تفاؤله بنجاح الحوار

وقال في حوار مع يمن تايمز إن الحراك الجنوبي الداعي للانفصال في الجنوب لا يمثل الجنوب بشكل عام، وأن الشخصيات الجنوبية التي لها ثقل في الجنوب قد تم تمثيلها في الحوار الوطني، مضيفاً أن هناك صراعا إصلاحيا حوثيا في شمال اليمن.

وأشار إلى أن الحوثيين تحولوا من مظلومين إلى ظالمين وانتهجوا خط سلمي وخط مسلح وقت الثورة في العام الماضي.

شطارة. أنا لا أهون من قيادات الجنوب،

لكن الشخصيات التي دخلت الحوار لها

ثقلها وتأثيرها، فالناخبي وشطارة وآخرون

لهم ثقل وأتوا من الحراك ويمثلون

كان الشعب اليمني

متعاطف مع الحوثيين

حتى الحرب السادسة

لكن ما إن بدأت الثورة

ما الأسباب التي جعلت بعض

القيادات في الجنوب تقرر عدم

الحقيقة ممكن أقسمها إلى قسمين،

هناك جماعة لها أجندات خارجية تعمل

عليها بعيدا عن أي عمل وطني، هناك

جماعات ثانية قد يكونوا كما يقول المثل

من لدغة الثعبان يخاف من رؤية الحبل،

متضررون بصورة كبيرة، يحملون صورة

تشاؤمية وغير مصدقين بأن ثمة إصلاح

إيجابي سيتم في المدي القريب. في اليمن

بشكلَ عام، لا زاّلت في حالة رفض تام لأي

خطوة من شأنها أن تقارب الشأن اليمني،

وما زالت متصلبة، من هذه الجماعات

شخصيات وأطراف موجودة منذ حرب عام

هل هذه الأطراف تريد الانفصال

والعودة لحكم الجنوب من

هذا موجود، يريدون الانفصال وفك

الارتباط، وفي الواقع الانفصال اعتبره من

المستحيلات لعدة أسباب، أولا: الشارع

الجنوبي بشكل عام ليسوا مع الانفصال،

هناك أصوات فقط، النخبة البارزة في

الشارع الجنوبي ليست مع الانفصال،

كل ما في الأمر نحن نختلف حول النظام

الفيدرالي من خمسة أقاليم، من سبعة

أقاليم، هذا ما يتفق عليه المتحاورن،

أو يكون هناك نظام برلماني، وهذا هو

الأرجح في رؤوس نخبة اليمن بالكامل،

وهو الأقرب إلى العملية اليمنية بشكل

هل باعتقادك أن النظام الحالي

أو الحكومة الحالية سببان

رئيسىيان في عدم مشاركة

بعض الجنوبيين في الحوار،

فالنقاط العشرين التي قدمتها

لجنت الحوارلم يتم تنفيذها حتى

سيتم تطبيقها، لست معك في أنه لم يتم

المثماركة في الحوار؟

حتى بدأ الحوثيون

ينتهجون خطين

متوازيين

فصائل كبيرة.

حوار: محمد السامعي

نبدأ معك حول تقييمك لمؤشرات نجاح الحوار الوطني سيما أن البعض يقول أن هناك عراقيل ما زالت تواجه الحوار؟

العراقيل موجودة في الواقع لكن مؤشرات نجاح الحوار موجودة وبصورة جلية، فمنذ توقيع المباردة الخليجية والأمور تمشى بطريقة جيدة، ونلاحظ أن يومنا أحسن من أمسنا، هناك خطوات تسير بصورة إيجابية يوما بعد يوم رغم وجود العراقيل.

بعد لقاء جمال بن عمر لقيادات جنوبية في القاهرة هل تعتقد أن لها تأثيرات إيجابية لإقناع الرافضين للحوار؟

أولاً اجتماع هؤلاء على طاولة الحوار مع جمال بن عمر عمل إيجابي بحد ذاته ويبقى ما بعده مجرد تفاصيل.. هؤلاء اجتمعوا فعلا وكان لبعضهم شروط وتحفظات، بعض الشروط موضوعية، وبعض الشخصيات الجنوبية لها طموح زائد، في يوم من الأيام قد يتراجعون عن هذا الطموح نوعا ما، والتنازل عن بعض مطالبهم حتى يصل الناس إلى مرحلة معينة، معارضة الخارج آخر الجماعات التي تحاور معها بن عمر، والمؤشرات حتى الآن إيجابية وإن شاء الله الأيام القادمة سترينا ماهو أفضل.

فصائل في الحراك ما زالت متمسكة بعدم مشاركتها في

لىكن ذلك، فصائل تتمسك بالمعقول واللامعقول وفي النهاية يبقى ذلك في إطار رأيها، لكن هل هذه المواقف شاذة وخارجة عن إطار المعقول؟ وهل هذه الجماعات هي التي تمثل الجنوب؟ وهل تشكل ثقل سياسي مؤثر في الجنوب؟ لا، وهناك مجاميع وأطراف لها سقف عالى، لتنادى بما شاءت.

لكن هناك من يقول إن بعض الفصائل في الجنوب يتزعمها قيادات لها تأثير كبير في الجنوب؟ أظن أن الشخصيات ذات الوزن الثقيل في الجنوب قد مثلت وهي الآن في لجنة الحوار الوطنى مثل عبد الله الناخبي ولطفي

بعض الشخصيات الجنوبية لها طموح زائد، وفي يوم من الأيام قد يتراجعون عن هذا الطموح نوعا ما

تطبيقها كاملة، لكن العشرين النقطة وضعت كسقف أعلى، لكن من غيرالممكن تطبيق ٢٠ نقطة في وقت واحد، فالنقاط هذه لا يمكن تنفيذها في وقت واحد أو شهر واحد، لكن في النهاية سيتم تطبيقها على المدى القريب والمتوسط، لكن بالنهاية نحن وضعنا أقدامنا في الطريق الصحيح.

كباحث سياسي كيف تقيم أداء لجنة الحوار الوطني، هل استطاعت إنجاز الكثير من الأشياء؟

العثرات أو الكبوات موجودة.

لو عدنا إلى تطبيق الـ ١٠ النقطة،

كم نسبة نجاح الحوار الوطني؟ نسبة عالية جدا تفوق في تقديري ٥٧٪.

هل باعتقادك الرئيس هادي ولجنة الحوار بإمكانهما جذب علي سالم البيض وحسن باعوم إلى اللجنة؛ وما هي الطرق التي يمكن عن طريقها ضمهما

جماهيري في الواقع، للأسف أضاع ماضيه وحاضره ومستقبله، هذا أغبى سياسي وأغبى مخلص على مر التاريخ، مع احترامي لشخصه، رجل لم يعرف أن يعمل على القضية الجنوبية بشكل صحيح، هناك مظالم في الجنوب لو اتبع الأسلوب الصحيح في التعامل مع هذه القضايا لكان أجدى له، لّكن هو يبحث عن الكذب وهو

هل لم علاقات بدول خارجية تؤثر على موقفه الداخلي في

الذين يتبنون عكس ما

الأرجح أنه على علاقة بجهات خارجية تعمل ضد اليمن، إيران على وجه التحديد. بعض الجهات التي وافقت على الحوار الوطني أعلنت عن رفضها حضور اجتماعات لجنة الحوار

بالتأكيد، أنجزت الكثير وهي تمشي وفق برامجها، ولا يوجد أي تعثرات، وإن كانت

البعض يقول أن بعضها لا تحتاج إلى وقت مثل الاعتذار للجنوب وصعدة والافراج عن المتقلين في السجون؟

صحيح، لكن ربما هذه النقاط مرتبطة بنقاط أخرى تحتاج إلى وقت.

قيادات جنوبية تطالب بالإفراج عن المعتقلين الجنوبيين، لماذا لم يتم الإفراج عنهم كتهيئت للحوار؟

المطلب هذا ضرورى، ويجب أن ينفذ اليوم قبل غد، هذا مطلب إنساني قبل أن يكون حقوقى، لكن ربما هناك بعض الإجراءات، لكن أنا لا أبرر للنظام وللسلطة مسألة التأخير في أي نقطة على الإطلاق، لكن لنعذرها، ونظل أيضا نطالب، ولا نظل في مربع التشاؤم أو النقد الحاد، أو في إطار اتخاذ المواقف السلبية، بل نظل تتابع

بیض فی حد ذاته لم یعد له حضور في غنى عنه.



هناك دول لا تريد لليمن أن تهدأ نكاية بخصومها

الذي ترأسهم للأسف على سالم البيض نخبة أكثر حماقة.

البيض كان أحمقا عندما وقع على الوحدة؟

لا، لم يكن سياسياً. الطريقة التي دخل فيها الوحدة طريقة حمقاء، لكن توقيع الوحدة مشروع وطني محسوب له، وجزء من عمله الوطني.

ما الذي جعلى يتبنى القضية الجنوبية في الوقت الحالى ويمتلك قناة فضائية تتبنى هذا

يقال صمت دهرا ونطق كفرا، صمت من عام ۹۶ م وبدأ منذ عام ۲۰۰۷ يتكلم عبر القنوات الفضائية يدعو إلى فك الارتباط. أين هو من عام ٤٩، مع أنه هو أحد صانعي القضية الجنوبية، وحماقته السياسية جعلت على عبد الله صالح يرتكب ما حدث في الجنوب وجعله يدخل عدن بالطريقة النازية الفاشية.

من الذي بدأ الحرب عام ٩٤؟

بغض النظر عن ممن بدأ الحرب، هذه لها عوامل داخلية وخارجية قد يطول فيها الأمر، لكن حماقة على سالم البيض، وخبث علي عبد الله صالح سبب ما نحن

يتداول في الوقت الحالى أن هناك صراعاً إصلاحياً حوثياً في الوقت الحالي، هناك تخوف في الشمال نتيجة لذلك، كيف ترى أنت؟

أنا معك أن هناك صراعات، كانت هناك صراعات سياسية ثقافية، في الفترة الأخيرة تطورت إلى صراعات إعلامية بين الجانبين، لكني متفائل أن أنصار الله كما يسمون أنفسهم أو الحوثيين وقعوا مع الإصلاحيين وثيقة تهدئة إعلامية، وهذه تبشر بخير، لأنه في الحقيقة أقول لك: الحوثيون لم يثبتوا مشروعا وطنيا حتى الآن، كانوا مظلومين وتحولوا إلى ظالمين، كان الشعب اليمنى متعاطف مع الحوثيين حتى الحرب السادسة لكن ما إن بدأت الثورة حتى بدأ الحوثيون ينتهجون خطين متوازيين، خط مع الثورة وخط ضدها، ونحن نعرف ذلك.

ممكن توضح ماذا تقصد بخط ضد الثورة؟

انضمت جماعة من الحوثيين إلى ساحة التغيير بمخيماتهم وأدبياتهم، ويرفعوا شعار ارحل وما زالوا في الساحة حتى الآن، وأعلنوا انضمامهم إلى صفوف الثورة. من ناحية ثانية: نزلت جماعة مسلحة من الحوثيين إلى الجوف لقتال المشترك، ثم انتقلت إلى حجة، وأذكر أني كتبت تقريراً مطولاً لمركز أبعاد للدراسات عن الحرب الصامتة في الجوف، فحصيلة القتال كانت



بقدر ما كانت المبادرة الخليجة سياسية هي أيضا اقتصادية، ولو كنا متحررين اقتصاديا لما احتجنا للمبادرة الخليجة أساسا كما فعلت تونس ومصر

يقول بعض المحللين السياسيين أن ثمة اتفاقا بين الحوثي وعلي عبد الله صالح حينها حول إسقاط بعض المحافظات التي

ما الذي جعلهم يستخدمون

العنف وقت الثورة السلمية؟

٦٠٠ قتيل من الحوثيين وقرابة ١٠٠ قتيل

من المشترك، كانت هذه الأحداث في أوج

الثورة، والمعركة ملتهبة في الجوف بين

الحوثي كمعتدي وبين اللقاء المشترك.

يمكن أن يسقطها الحوثي، وأرادا التجربة في الجوف، وأيضا كان الهدف من أجل إضعاف اللقاء المشترك والزخم الثوري وخلق مشاكل وبؤر توتر، ولا أستبعد

أحد الأشخاص أخبرني أنه في قتال الجوف كان الحوثيين يجندون أطفالا في القتال، هل هذا صحيح؟

صحيح أطفال جهلة، مغرر بهم، ويقاتلون بالأجر اليومي.

الحوثيون يتعاملون كأنهم دولة دينية، بل أسوأمن الدولة الدينية، هذا غير موجود حتى في إيران التي هي نموذجهم.

تم تعبئتهم من قبل الحوثيين

نعم، تم تعبئتهم فكرياً، وبعضهم جهلة عاطلين عن العمل أعطوهم قليل من المال وجعلوهم يقاتلون معهم.

هناك من يقول أن هناك انتهاكات ڪبيرة في صعدة يقوم بها الحوثيون، لكنا تواصلنا مع قيادات حوثية تنفى أن يكون هناك انتهاكات في صعدة؟ لا يستطيع الحوثيين أو قياداتهم نفى

هم يقولون لا توجد انتهاكات بل هناك شائعات إعلامية من قبل بعض الجهات غرضها تشويه

الحوثيين؟ توقع منهم أن ينفوا ويقولوا ذلك، وطبيعي أن ينفوا، لكن الواقع يقول أن هناك انتهاكات جسيمة من قبل الحوثيين، فجروا منازل، قتلوا شخصيات بريئة، واعتقلوا الكثير من الأشخاص.

الحوثيون يقولون إن الجانب الأمني في صعدة من أفضل المحافظات؟

أنا زرت صعدة. إلى حد ما فيها استقرار أمني، الحوثي مسيطر عليها وهو يريد أن يظهر للناس بالمدنى والحازم، لكن في المقابل إذا خالفت الحوثي من أي ناحية سيتم اعتقالك، أنا سمعت أنهم يقولون أنك لا تستطع أن تغني بأغاني أيوب طارش مثلا، فهذا شيء محرم.

تقصد أن أفكارهم ما زالت عقائدية أكثر مما هي سياسية؟ يتعاملون كأنهم دولة دينية، بل أسوأمن الدولة الدينية، هذا غير موجود حتى في إيران التي هي نموذجهم. 8 Culture 26 November, 2012

Anti-qat campaigners raising noise

Sadeq Al-Wesabi

or many years, antiqat campaigners' have been working to eradicate or at least curb the use of qat in Yemen. Despite several campaigns, initiatives, and associations started to raise awareness about the health hazards and the environmental impact of the leaf, Yemen remains inundated with consumption of the mild narcotic. However, over the last several months, the battle cries of anti-qat campaigns have noticeably increased.

Hind Aleryani, a journalist and a prominent anti-qat campaigner who capitalizes on the wide reach of social media networks to promote her agenda, says those sharing her view are gaining ground.

"I believe that if anybody has an ultimate goal, he will definitely meet it. For me, fighting qat is my issue and I will never stop working on it," she said.

With hundreds of thousands of Yemenis employed by the qat industry and millions more consuming it on a daily basis, Aleryani realizes she is fighting an uphill battle.

"People consider fighting qat an unimportant issue and say it's not the time to talk about it, claiming that there are more important problems and issues in the country to be discussed," she said. "When do they want us to talk about qat? Should we wait until qat drains all the water in the country and leaves us to die from thirst?"

Anti-qat advocates point to micro examples of citizens choosing to give up old habits as evidence of their success.

"My life has totally changed. Now I have time to sit with my family and to improve my skills. I've become more ambitious and more aware of my future," said Mohammed Al-Bahri, a graphic designer, who quit chewing two years ago. "My advice for those who chew qat is to quit it and not to be under the



Proponents of qat argue that the leaf is an integral part of Yemeni socialising, allowing men to gather and discuss events.

illusion that it's impossible to give up chewing it."

However, not everyone is quite as eager to condemn a product that is seen as an institution of Yemeni culture.

"Qat is a source of income for a lot of people, and it's a profitable career for many. So before we talk about banning qat, we should provide other alternatives for those who completely depend on the qat trade," said Adel Sadan, a qat farm-

"Unfortunately, qat farmers are stereotyped as bad people," he continued. "Those people are making money in a legal way. Where is the government and organizations

[that help] find solutions and other options for qat traders?"

Aleryani echoed Sadan's concerns regarding the importance of providing qat farmers with alternatives. However, she urges growers to emulate the practice of some former qat farmers in Haraz district in Sana'a who are now growing almonds.

Mohammed Al-Morir, a qat trader, openly criticizes anti-qat campaigners, describing them as out of touch with reality, adding that officials are the first to impede their efforts

"80 percent of Yemenis chew qat," he said. "My customers are minister and parliamentarians. How can we

prevent qat when at the same time, high-ranking officials are qat devotees. It's absolutely impossible."

"Qat has a lot of advantages. It allows people to spend pleasant time together," he added.

A recent, prominent qat-free wedding in Sana'a has added to ant-qat advocates' claims that social events are possible without chewing.

"At first, my family refused the idea and thought that many people would boycott my wedding, but it turned out that people encouraged the idea, including those who chew qat," said Al-Bara'a Shaiban, the groom. "I didn't expect a turnout like this. Many people who were not my friends came to congratu-

Hind Aleryani, a prominent anti-qat campaigner discusses the negative effects of the leaf on Yemeni society.

late me."

On an institutional level, Human Rights Minister, Hooriya Mashhoor has attempted to discourage chewing in her ministry by providing almonds and raisins as an alternative.

The Minister of Information and the Minister of Education have supported similar initiative in their offices.

Anti- qat activists are currently

focused on the passage of a bill that would prohibit qat in state institutions during working hours.

The bill has yet to receive a response from the majority of the parliamentarians.



Operetta revives themes from past for a unified future

Amira Nasser

ll Together," an operetta that offers social commentary focused on events relating to the 2011 revolution has captivated audiences for nearly two weeks. Showcased in various cultural centers and halls across Sana'a and sponsored by the Bader Development Organization, the performance uses artistic expression as a way of remembering and learning from a bloody and simultaneously peaceful period in Yemen's history.

"Throughout 2011, Yemeni society started to come apart, and we noticed that the training courses [aimed at rehabilitation] did not affect audiences as much as [forms of] media [like the operetta], said Ahlam Al-Essawi, the Executive Manager of the Bader Organization and the show's coordinator. "The operetta shows that our previous generations lived with each other

without problems, and they were just part of one society. However, currently, society is separating itself into different divisions."

Using songs, poetry and acting, the show opens with themes of violence, fighting and weapon use, presented as byproducts of the revolution.

"Through the show, we tried to make people relive the conditions of 2011," Al-Essawi said.

The following performances depicts a peaceful coexistence of society's factions in the past, to serve as a reminder of a path worth revisiting. Finally, the show closes with a focus on rebuilding Yemen as a unified body.

"We tried to establish tolerance

and peace among all Yemenis. The show attempted to demonstrate our traditions and vibrant past," said Ahmed Boorji, the operetta's manager.

Although the show was designed

for people of all ages, just as the revolution was largely driven by the youth, the show also provided a medium of expression for the young. The youth worked directly with the show's creators to generate ideas, music and lyrics.

"I believe that there are youths who have no chances to show off their talents," said Mohammed Al-Anessi, a composer for the show.

Al-Essawi added that by directly involving the young in composing and writing, they will indirectly encourage their families to think about Yemen's current societal divisions and look to the next generation to lead the way to unification.

Despite a limited budget for marketing, the show experienced a great deal of success and positive reaction from audiences said Boorji.

"The show halls were full and the audience thanked us about the show

and its content, and we submitted requests to reshow the operetta in other governorates," he said.

"We saw a high level of interaction and understanding from the audience," Al-Anessi added.

Mohammed Al-Hubaishi, a television director and a scriptwriter said that the idea of operetta is not new in Yemen, but its concept has recently been revived.

"Operetta has a nature that expresses ideas and problems in an easy way to the presenters and audience," he said.

Mohammed Ali, an audience member, said that he loved the show. He said it taught him much about Yemen's

"Violence is not from our habits, and I know that we have a beautiful Yemen," he said.

The final show was held last night, but its creators have hinted at extending the show's



A male singer shows-off his vocal talents in All Together.



تُلهم الأمل INSPIRING HOPE

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YEMEN TIMES







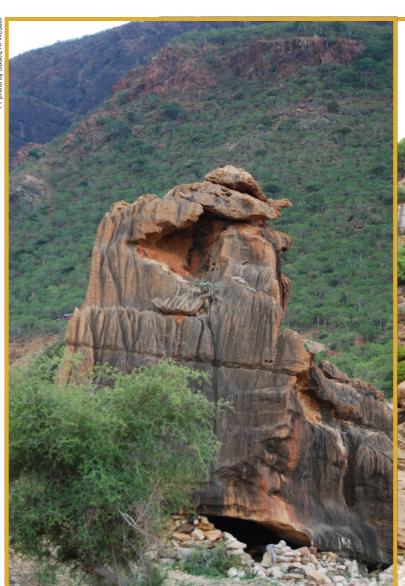


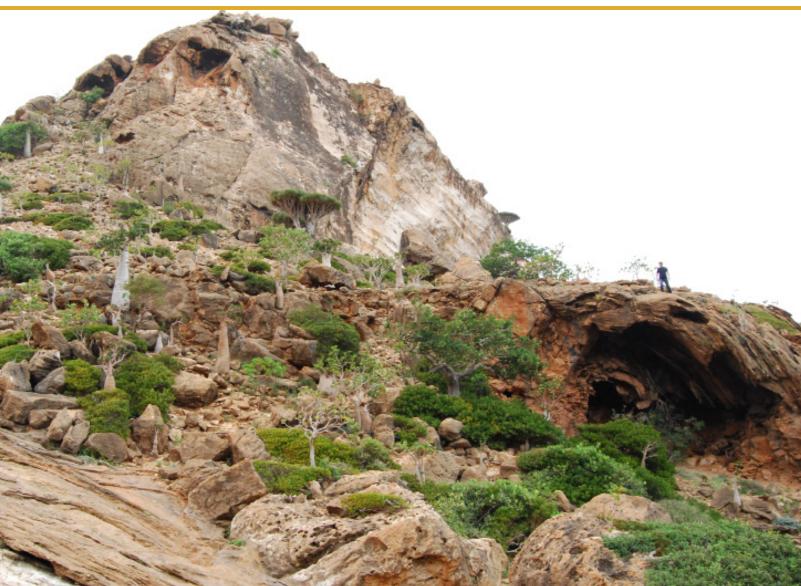


10 Feature 26 November, 2012



Socotra: An island rife with discovery





Some of the findings are believed to date back to the Stone Age.

On Socotra Island, investigations are ongoing to verify the hypothesized centuries-old artifacts unearthed by a Yemeni-Russian team of researchers who have operated on the island for three decades.

Ashraf Al-Muraqab

Yemeni-Russian team that has been working together for five years in Yemen discovered last week a building on Socotra Island that dates back the eighth century A.D., according to Khalid Ali Al-Ansi, an archeology expert in the General Authority for Antiques.

Al-Ansi told the Yemen Times that the archeological site, found in the

Al-Ansi told the Yemen Times that the archeological site, found in the Foahr Sha'awb District on the island, dates back to the pre-Islamic period. After initially discovering the building, the team went on to find a whole compound consisting of square and circular buildings separated from one another by lanes.

Within the compound, the archaeologists found ancient carvings bearing the south-Arabian alphabet, as well as a cluster of letters that Al-Ansi conjectures could be names of former rulers and kings. Al-Ansi speculates some of the findings date back to the Stone Age in the eastern and southern areas of Socotra.

Investigations are underway to verify the validity of the hypothesized dates.

Yemeni researchers hope to continue to work with the Russian team. Russian archeologists have been operating on the island for three decades.

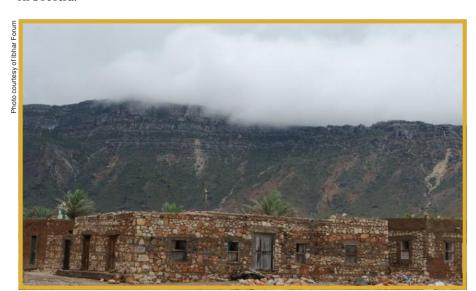
Muhanad Al-Siani, the head of the General Authority for Antiquities, commended the historic relationship between Yemen and Russia in the field of research and exploration in several areas in Yemen. He praised the Russian team for its decision to resume their archeological activities on Socotra following the political turmoil of 2011.

Earlier this year, a Russian team of archeologists discovered a site named Kush on Socotra. On the site, many many stone and wooden boxes and pottery utensils were unearthed. The artifacts are believed to date back to 2,000 years ago.

Jameel Shamsan, the manager of the Historic Cities Preservation Authority, said they are planning, in cooperation with the General Authority of Antiquities, to organize an international conference to exhibit the work that the Russian team of excavators has amassed on the island.

Al-Siani hopes the international attention, as a result of these discoveries, will lead to an increase in tourism on Socotra, an island characterized by its natural beauty and often called the Pearl of the Indian Ocean.

Najla Jubran, an employee at the Environmental Protection Authority in Socotra, said Socotra is distinguished by its botanical diversity. Despite its relatively small size, at 3,598 km squared, she said there are 825 types of wild plants, 307 of which only grow on Socotra.



The small island of Socotra, off the Yemeni coast, is home to unique wildlife only found on the 3,600 km squared of the island.



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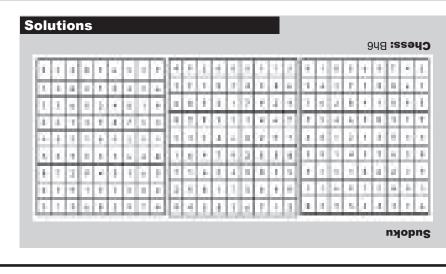
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