

## Several military men assassinated days after Hadi's military restructure

Ahmed Dawood

SANA'A, Dec. 26 — One officer in Sana'a was assassinated, an attempt was made on the life of an officer in Dar Salm and soldier in Hadramout was killed on Tuesday, making them the latest casualties in a worrying trend.

The assassinations come days after President Hadi's decrees to restructure the military, which includes the purging of the First Armored Division and the Republican Guards.

Field Brigadier Fadhl Al-Radfani, a leader in Thammoud military area in Hadramout, was assassinated mid-afternoon in front of the Defense Ministry building in Bab Al-Yemen area of Sana'a.

The assassins are unidentified and still at large.

Yusuf Ali, an owner of a clothing store in Bab Al-Yemen told the Yemen Times that he heard gunfire so he, along with several residents, rushed to the scene. They say they found a man bleeding from the head, flat on the ground.

The officer, who has been identified as a defense advisor in several published reports, was reportedly killed after coming out of the Defense Ministry building with a file in his hand.

Witnesses say they saw the assailants speed away on a motorcycle as they fled towards the Al-Sayla area.

Colonel Sameer Al-Ghorbani also fell victim to unidentified assailants on motorcycles.



An officer was shot dead outside the entrance to Bab Al-Yemen on Tuesday.

The Colonel's brother, the national soccer player, Abdulsalam Al-Ghorbani told the Yemen Times that Sameer is currently in critical condition in the hospital and worked in the Sport Activities Unit in the Republican Guard.

The soldier Abdulmajeed Awadh Al-Ajem, 25, was also assassinated on Tuesday in Hadramout. Al-Ajem is the oldest son of the former head of the Military Intelligence Unit in Ghail Bawazeer district of Hadramout, who was assassinated at the hands of unknown assailants in December in Hadramout.

The Defense Ministry reported on its website that perpetrators fled

the scene and investigations are currently being held.

Many believe the string of assassinations are related to the president's recent reshuffling of the military.

Mohammed Al-Saiadi, Field Colonel of the Interior Ministry, said the killings primarily target the current regime.

Abdulsalam Mohammed, head of Aba'ad Center for Strategic Studies, agreed. He said there is evidence pointing to organized groups that lost power when the former regime crumbled and are trying create disorder within the transitional government.

It is not the first time that assassinations have been prevalent during a transitional period. Several officers and soldiers were murdered after President Hadi took the helm in February 2011. Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for some of them but many are still unsolved.

The assassination of General Salem Qatan, leader of the southern military region, in June is the most prominent assassination claimed by Al-Qaeda.

However, the assassination of Abdulla Al-Ashwal, a prominent officer in the Political Security Bureau, in September has never been attributed to a party.

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## Ministry denies using force against protesters from Taiz in Al-Hayat March

Ashraf Al-Muraqab

Yemen's Interior Ministry refuted claims that a slew of protesters were injured during the Al-Hayat March on Tuesday night in front of the Presidential Compound in Sana'a, near Al-Sabeen Square.

However, photos and video clips broadcasted on media and social networks show security forces attacking the protesters.

Mohammed Al-Selvi, a protester, told the Yemen Times that several people, including women, were injured because riot police used tear gas bombs and batons against protesters. He says several protesters were also arrested and taken to unknown locations.

He said he witnessed a fellow protester, Fahmi Al-Moghalis, being run over by a police vehicle. Al-Moghalis' current status was unable to be confirmed by Yemen Times.

The ministry said in press release that one person was injured. This person was taken to the hos-

pital to be treated at the ministry's expense, according to the release. The statement was unclear as to how the protester was injured.

Al-Hayat revolutionary participants arrived in Sana'a on Monday from Taiz to protest the reconciliation government. They began a sit-in in front of the Presidential compound to demand a new government. Security forces set-up a siege around them. After spending the night, their presence carried through to Tuesday day. Then according to protesters, special forces teams began using tear gas on them that night.

"The military forces broke the sit-in 30 hours after the siege im-



Protestors set up camp near Al-Sabeen Square.

posed by Central Security Forces. Some [protestors] fainted as a result of not being able to obtain food during this time," a protestor, Henda Al-Anesi said.

This is the second march for the Al-Hayat movement. Last year, protesters set out on foot to march from Taiz to Sana'a, but were attacked by security forces in Dhamar.

## JMP to boycott dialogue if Saleh represents the GPC

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANA'A, Dec. 26 - The coalition parties are not happy.

After the General People's Congress (GPC) announced Monday that former President Ali Abdullah Saleh will represent their party at the upcoming National Dialogue Conference (NDC), the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) said they will boycott the conference.

Sultan Al-Atwani, the rotating head of the JMP, said the stance of his coalition is self evident regarding the participation of the former president in the NDC.

"The JMPs will not participate if Ali Abdullah Saleh is going to take part in the NDC," he said. "How are we expected to confer with Ali Abdullah Saleh when he is the sole reason behind the current situation in the country?"

Al-Twani accused Saleh of creating hurdles right before the conference, which threatens the political reconciliation of the country.

Saleh's information office said in a statement published on Al-Motamar website that President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi will be chairman of the NDC because he is the president of the country. "Moreover, each party will be represented by its head so that the problems posed during the dialogue can be solved."

Ahmed Al-Soufi, Saleh's secretary, said "The JMP should be concentrating on who will represent them in the NDC instead of resorting to political bickering."

Al-Soufi defended the former president's proposed leadership position by saying he is "the boss of the party." He said Saleh's participation is normal as all the parties will be represented by their heads.

Ahmed Saleh Al-Faqeh, a political analyst, said it is the right of the GPC to elect whomever they want to represent them as their party was specifically made a part of the transitional government by the Gulf Initiative agreement. He pointed out that Saleh was granted immunity



under the terms of the initiative.

"It is not right to deny the former president participation in the NDC under the pretext that he is accused of human rights violations. Many of the dialogue participants committed violations against human rights," he said.

The criteria established by the NDC's Technical Committee states participants should be responsible and committed to international human rights conventions.

The GPC itself seems to be fracturing as some members stand by Saleh and others have stated their support of the reconciliation government.

## Three years worth of awards given out

Ashraf Al-Muraqab

The winners of the President's awards for the past three years were awarded at a ceremony on Wednesday under the supervision of President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi.

The president's awards are given to talented and creative young women and men under the age of 30 in categories in the sciences, literature and the arts.

Fuad Mansur Al-Rawhani, the secretary general of the President's Awards, said that Yemen's political circumstances the past two years prevented the awards from being handed out. The 2010, 2011 and 2012 winners were all

announced at the ceremony.

Mosa'd Al-Salemi, a 2011 winner in the short story category, said that this award encourages the young to be more creative and serve Yemen. He said that though the award was late, it is still an important recognition.

Over 1,800 competitors were nominated over the three years. Of the total, 508 are females.

Shifa' Al-Shafe'i, a coordina-

tor for the ceremony, said that 35 percent of the participants in 2012 were females. This is the highest percentage since the President's Awards started 14 years ago.



Group photo of award winners and officials.

## Blogger's Apostasy trial delayed

Nadia Haddash

A Printing and Press Court judge surprised a courtroom full of people when he postponed the trial of a Yemeni blogger being tried as journalist for apostasy.

Ali Qasim Al-Saeedi, who was arrested in November under charges of denouncing Islam was supposed to receive a verdict on Tuesday. But, in front of an outpouring of journalists, human rights activists, relatives and neighbors, the judge overruled his case, mysteriously postponing a declaration of the verdict until January 7, 2013.

The judge offered stunned witnesses no explanation for his decision.

Al-Saeedi's case has generated a lot of attention as it touches on issues of the freedom of expression and faith and who should be considered a journalist. The accused's family has professed many times

that he is a blogger and not a journalist, and therefore should not fall under the jurisdiction of the Printing and Press Court.

However, the family offered no comments at the trial on Tuesday.

The one-time general manager of the Budget and Planning department in the Supreme Judicial Council, finds himself in trouble because of academic writings and interpretations of the Koran he posted on his personal facebook page.

Ameen Hajar, Al-Saeedi's lawyer, said he is confident that his client will be exonerated, calling the issue a "serious" violation of freedom of expression and faith. Hajar furthered that Al-Saeedi has declared on numerous occasions that he is a Muslim and that the lawsuit against him was filed by colleagues who "misinterpreted" his publications as apostasy. The lawyer also says the case involves



personal politics between Al-Saeedi and his accusers.

Al-Saeedi has received an outpouring of support from the local community. "We are in front of a grave issue that could lead to Al-Saeedi's demise," said Abdullah Al-Sabri, a writer. "To date, the accusations against Al-Saeedi are unfounded."

## Leaders seek agreement after 16 die in ongoing Marib clashes

Amal Al-Yarisi

Tribal negotiations are currently taking place in Marib, located east of Sana'a, to stop several days of clashes that have been ongoing between Yemen's military forces and tribesmen of the Habab area in Serwah District.

Local sources say 16 people have died in the confrontations. Dara'an Al-Saqqaq, a resident in Habab, said four civilians were killed in the conflict and Nasser Mohtam, head of Ajial Association in Marib, said 12 military men died.

Mohtam said the clashes broke out on Tuesday morning when the

blacklisted leader, Saleh Hussein Al-Damaji's tribesmen confronted military forces who were trying to secure the area to repair a pipeline the tribesmen had destroyed several days prior.

Artillery and warplanes were being used to pursue the saboteurs that explode the oil pipelines, according to Mohtam.

Al-Saqqaq said that the tribal mediation committee is composed of several prominent sheikhs including Sheikh Mohammed Bin Ali Al-Ghader, of Khawlan District, and Mohammed Bin Mohammed, the sheikh of the Serwah Tribe. He said the committee was able to agree on an initial truce.

Habab's tribesmen are demanding the government recruit 600 people from the area for the military and provide electricity for the tribes, according to Al-Saqqaq.

He also said unless the government meets the tribesmen's demands, they say they will continue to detonate oil pipelines and electricity towers.

President Hadi recently gave orders for security forces to deal with the saboteurs with an iron fist.

The military launched a campaign last month on tribesmen suspected of detonating oil pipelines and electricity towers, which is likely leading to an increase in confrontations.

## إعلان عن رغبة بالتخلص من مواد غذائية تالفة

يسر برنامج الأغذية العالمي للأمم المتحدة في اليمن أن يعلن للشركات المرخصة والمسجلة لدى وزارة الصناعة والتجارة عن رغبته في بيع مواد غذائية تالفة (تومر غير صالحة للاستخدام الأدمي) موجودة حالياً في أحد مستودعات مؤسسة موانئ البحر الأحمر - ميناء الحديدة.

على أن يتم التخلص من المواد الغذائية التالفة بمعالجتها وتحويلها إلى أسمدة عضوية، طاقة حيوية، وقود احتراق لإستخدام المصانع، أو أي غرض آخر يتماشى مع اشتراطات الهيئات الحكومية المختصة. الموقع الحالي للمواد الغذائية التالفة هو ميناء الحديدة، مستودع رقم ٧ والكمية في حدود ٢٧١.٦٠٠ طن، ويمكن معاينتها في نفس الموقع من السبت إلى الأربعاء أثناء ساعات الدوام الرسمي لمؤسسة موانئ البحر الأحمر. يمكن الحصول على وثائق المزاد بالمجان من أحد العناوين المبينة في الأسفل ابتداءً من الساعة التاسعة صباحاً حتى الساعة الواحدة والنصف بعد منتصف النهار (٠٩:٠٠ - ١٣:٣٠) من السبت إلى الأربعاء، من تاريخ الاعلان حتى يوم السبت، الموافق ٢٠١٢/١٢/٢٩.

جميع العطاءات يجب أن تقدم في ظرف مغلق يحمل عبارة «عطاء للمواد الغذائية التالفة» إلى أحد العناوين المبينة في الأسفل في مدة أقصاها يوم الأحد، ٢٠١٢/١٢/٣٠ الساعة الحادية عشر قبل الظهر. على الشركات التي ستتاها في العطاء، أن تقوم بتسوية جميع المستحقات الضريبية لدى الجهات المختصة (إن وجدت)، مع ارفاق كافة المستندات المؤيدة لذلك.

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Tender documents can be obtained free of cost from the addresses mentioned below, between 09:00 and 13:30 hours on working days, from the date of this advertisement up until Saturday, 29th December, 2012. The location of the commodity is at Customs Warehouse - inside Hodeida Port- and the approximate quantity is 271.600 metric tons, as stated in the tender document.

The food commodity may be inspected at the indicated location from Saturday to Wednesday during Port official working hours. All bids are to be sent in sealed envelopes marked on the front with "BIDS FOR SPOILED COMMODITIES" to either of the addresses mentioned below no later than 11:00 hours Sunday 30th December 2012.

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# Petro Masila proves success of 'Yemenizing' oil exploration

**Samar Qaed**

The Yemeni oil company, Petro Masila, which took over the block 14 oil field from the Canadian company, Nexen, in Hadramout last year, announced its revenue for 2012 as \$500 million.

Currently, the company produces 45,000 barrels of oil per day. This yields about 20 percent of the total national oil production of 258,800 barrels a day.

As it celebrated its one year anniversary of taking over the oil field on December 18, Masila's top management wants to prove that "Yemenizing" (moving foreign operations into the hands of Yemenis) this large oil project was a good decision.

By 2015, two foreign oil companies' contracts, that of Total and Dove, will expire and Petro Masila is hoping to add these fields to its scope of exploration.

The oil sector in Yemen employs

more than 4,000 workers - 3,365 of those are Yemenis.

In terms of human resources, the percentage of Yemenis to non-Yemenis working in the 83 oil companies currently operating in Yemen has increased from 72 percent to 89 percent in the last five years, according to Khalid Al-Zindani, the human resources manager at the Ministry of Oil and Minerals. He says although the majority of top management positions remain non-Yemeni, the number of Yemenis earning these highly-skilled positions is rapidly increasing.

Furthermore, Al-Zindani says the ministry is implementing strategies to replace foreign manpower with Yemenis.

Until recently, there was a problem identifying skilled Yemenis, especially for technical exploration jobs. However, an agreement in 2007 between the Oil Ministry and exploration companies required them to include three Yemeni engi-

neers from the national Oil Exploration Authority in the exploration training courses the companies conduct for their staff.

Due to this policy, there are now 214 skilled Yemeni technicians specialized in the exploration phase of oil production.

Today Petro Masila prides itself on the fact that 97 percent of its manpower is Yemeni.

However, progress could be hindered if the oil industry does not continue to grow. A 2011 World Bank report predicts that the current oil fields in Yemen could potentially run dry by 2017.

"This will create an economic disaster," said Mustafa Nasr director of the Economic Media and Research Center. "The government must quickly find new oil fields, especially considering only 25 percent of the country's area has been explored. There is great potential elsewhere, whether on or offshore." The oil sector contributes be-

tween 30 and 40 percent of Yemen's national economy, and represents more than 90 percent of the country's exports. For this sector to develop, Dr. Najib Al-Awj, the CEO of Aden Refinery, said the government must deal directly with investing companies and not go through contractors.

He believes that by cutting out the middle men, more revenues will go directly to the state. If Yemeni companies are encouraged to invest in the oil field, instead of foreign companies he says it could have a glowing effect on the national economy.

Petro Masila's CEO, Mohammed bin Sumait, said the company's most significant achievement has been maintaining production levels and renovating the facilities.

"We are committed to international standards in oil exploration, and in fact, we have produced an additional 1.5 million barrels more than what we had expected. Now, we look forward to taking over explora-



**Petro Masila employees 1,000 employees and is looking forward to taking over new oil fields and expanding its operations.**

tion in other oil fields," he said.

Masila's management team has made a point to emphasize that although Yemen experienced a very

difficult year last year, both politically and economically, the company not only survived but say they thrived.

# Garbage in vacant land in the capital pose health dangers

**Story and photo by Amira Nasser**

In the Al-Sonaina district in Sana'a, Waleed Mahdi, a father of four, says there is a problem with waste and it's growing. In this residential area, vacant land is being turned into a trash dumps.

With no official designated area to dispose of the waste, the garbage piles are creating health concerns for locals.

"When these places are filled with rubbish, the residents resort to burning it in order to rid of it," Mahdi said. "Therefore, the smoke rising from the burning process pollutes the environment and inflicts us with disease."

Neighbors complain these communal trash dumps are attracting stray dogs and insects and are an eyesore for the neighborhood.



**Unfenced piles of trash accumulate throughout the city.**

"Living in such an area is a nightmare. We cannot relax in our homes," Mahdi added.

Um Amar, a resident in Al-Qa-

disia area, said her area has the same problem. Construction waste is especially prevalent.

She is really worried about the

health of the local population, especially children whose immune systems can be compromised by constant exposure to garbage.

"We cannot prevent our children from going to such places because there are no alternative places to go."

Although there are government services meant to clean these areas, they often are outside the city center and therefore receive less attention.

Those who are assigned to dispose of the trash partially blame citizens.

Mohammed Al-Marzooki, the head of Cleaning Laborers Syndicate, said that even if they do remove the trash, locals continue to carelessly toss their trash wherever.

"Just hours after the street cleaners finish cleaning a particular place, it is teeming with flying plastic bags again," he said.

Al-Marzooki said they are coordinating efforts with the government foundation, the Cleaning Project, to increase education about waste management.

They want citizens to keep their waste in closed, fenced areas. This would require landlords to take responsibility for the fenced areas. However, many citizens say this measure lacks substance because there is no administrative body to provide oversight.

The vacant lands being used as trash dumps have not been officially counted and therefore hard to change, said Jamal Juhaish, the general manager of the Cleaning Project.

Incomplete building projects have also proven difficult for the Cleaning Projects.

"It is difficult to remove the trash from these low places, we need cranes to do that," he said.

The Public Works office has been assigned the job of enforcing landlords to fence the open lands.

Sadeq Al-Qadasi, the deputy director of the Public Works office, said they have offered to build fences for landlords, but landlords have to foot the cost of the project.

Al-Qadasi further said they have been very ineffective due to lack of security by the state. He says those working at his office have been threatened by landlords with guns.

"The Public Works office has notified landlords to fence their plots but unsuccessfully. The security situation is not stable. If there is no security, no work will be achieved," he said.

Juhaish added that the Cleaning Project is currently trying to take inventory of the vacant lands. He says a clear map will make it easier for them to target landlords who are not complying.



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Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies - English Department





**OXFAM**

**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

Oxfam, an international NGO, works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and injustice. Oxfam has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancy for its Humanitarian Programme.

**IT Coordinator – (1 position)**

**Location: Sana'a**  
**Contract Duration: One Year**

**The role**  
You will manage support team in Yemen and coordinate with the regional IT to deliver quality ICT service to Yemen offices during Emergency response; coordinate scale up and build up of new offices during Yemen Emergency; be responsible for the day to day support, development, maintenance and operation of Yemen systems, network and telecommunications infrastructure. You will be doing technical analysis and recommendations, analytically identifying technical and procedural solutions and options to optimise the ongoing availability, integrity and confidentiality of the Oxfam ICT systems, anticipating regional IT and ISD in provision of technical support and guidance in all matters relating to the Oxfam ICT Systems and infrastructure. You will contribute to the development and identification of procedures and processes to provide management information reports; advice local and regional management on Yemen issues.

**What we are looking for**  
We are looking for someone with experience in optimization, configuration and definition of technical options and standards in all or some of the following : Server 2003, Windows XP, managed switches (Nortel Passports, Cisco), VPN/RRAS networks, HF Radio, VSAT's, BGAN's, GSM/GPRS, ISDN/ADSL, Firewalls (Checkpoint), TCP/IP client/server environment; VPN, WINS, DNS, DHCP; VoIP and PBX technologies). Also experience in IIS; MRTG, SolarWinds, Optivity, or similar management products is desirable. You will have good knowledge in Lotus notes domino administration; demonstrate logical and analytical thinking and problem solving ability including the ability to diagnose problems remotely. You will be flexible, adaptable and dependable and have the ability to manage and/or lead on projects as required. Any additional experience in emergency relief would obviously be an advantage, proving your resilience and ability to maintain teamwork under pressure. You will have excellent diplomatic, tact and negotiating skills, as well as oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic.

**To apply**  
If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in this position, please send your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job and the location of the job you are applying for **in the email subject**, to [yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk).

Closing date for applications is **06<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

**Please apply immediately as we will be interviewing suitable candidates before the closing date**



## YT vision statement



**"To make Yemen a good world citizen."**

**Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,**  
(1951 - 1999)  
Founder of Yemen Times



## OUR OPINION

# Kidnapping is part of a much larger problem

Here goes another blow to the country's image and security.

Last Friday, three Europeans were in Tahrir Square. Two of them were European men, one from Finland and the other from Austria. They were studying Arabic here in Sana'a. The third was the Finnish man's wife. She arrived last week to join her husband and enjoy this beautiful country we assume her husband told her about.

Little did they know that their Christmas holiday would be spent with tribes in the rural area of Khawlan, about 20 km. east of the capital city, after being kidnapped at gun point. Who could have known that the first real test of their Arabic language skills would be with armed, tribal Yemeni men?

Although it probably is little comfort to their families, there is reassurance they will be okay. In fact, had they not been kidnapped, they would have never been able to visit that remote, tribal area and become acquainted first hand with tribal life in Yemen. I am not saying they are lucky or taking this lightly, but they may be able to write a book or make a documentary once they return home safely and potentially be received by their people as heroes.

This regrettable event will cost Yemen a lot. We had just barely managed to improve the security situation and promote Yemen as a tourist destination when this unfortunate kidnapping happened.

The most unnerving fact of this incident is that the security could have easily caught the culprits. Eye witnesses reported the car description and license plate number to security officials immediately. They even tried to rescue the foreigners but were threatened by the aggressive, kidnapers with Kalashnikovs.

Yemen's authority was quick to blame Al-Qaeda. However, considering the circumstances of the kidnapping, it was obvious that rowdy gangs were behind it, rather than an organized terrorist group. The kidnapers claimed their responsibility shortly after the incident and demanded a ransom.

The kidnapping sent a very clear message to Hadi about the legitimacy of his brave decision to begin restructuring the army. Hadi finally dared to take power away from the two most powerful security figures in the country, Ahmed Ali Saleh, the leader of the Republican Guards and Ali Mohsen, commander of the First Armored Division. The kidnapping was a slap on the face that came very quickly. It reminded Hadi that he can make all the decrees he wants, but as long as he does not have a genuine command of security and military institutions on the ground, events like this will continue to happen.

I have heard first hand information that the Central Security forces refused to move when they were informed of the incident. "We don't have instructions," was what they said. They control the check points for the city's entry points and could have easily stopped the abductors' car on its way out of Sana'a.

The defragmentation of security and military institutions scares me much more than Al-Qaeda. At least we know Al-Qaeda is the enemy, and we understand their motives. However, having a security force that is supposed to protect us, but actually works against the stability of the country, terrifies me more.

The U.S. drone strike on Monday that targeted Al-Qaeda but killed civilians is yet another cause for concern.

We need to fix our priorities. While it is important to fight Al-Qaeda, it is more important to strengthen Yemen's security and unify its military so that we can deal with our own problems, without a need for U.S. drones.

There is house cleaning that needs to be done, and it needs to be done now.

**Nadia Al-Sakkaf**

# Yemeni NGOs and their role in the National Dialogue Conference

**Abdullah A. Sallam**

In just a few days the National Dialogue Conference will convene in Yemen, which may create some tension and anticipation over the next few months as Yemen's future will be discussed. Many people in Yemen and abroad are looking forward to seeing real dialogue come out of this conference, especially those with real political influence in the country. Despite the participation of many different groups in this conference, the question remains: will the views of various interest groups, especially the non-governmental organizations be heard and taken notice of?

There are more than 600 NGOs in Yemen, and they work in many different areas, like human rights,

women's issues, youth, children, and other charities within many facets of Yemeni society. In addition, NGOs in Yemen have been playing an important role in society's life. They undertake projects for people whenever they receive attention through support from the government and international organizations.

However, these NGOs in Yemen work in isolation, even with the most fundamental issues. Rarely can one find NGOs coordinating their activities on specific issues. We have seen coordination at the individual level but not at the institutional level. In addition, NGOs' activities are often duplicative and overlap.

Generally speaking, Yemeni NGOs are capable and experienced, much more than those in

neighbouring countries in the region. However, NGOs seriously need much better networking and coordination. One can see many NGOs on the ground, but unfortunately, many lack any substance, i.e. people, facilities, a vision, a mission, and means of effective implementation on the ground. The only thing you find is furniture and computers.

In a country where there are few reasons to hope for a better quality of life, this conference offers a small glimmer of hope in the horizon.

Mrs. Amal Basha, a Technical Committee spokesperson for the National Dialogue Conference said NGOs will be attending the conference. But, she did not say how many people from NGOs will be participating. In spite of the fact that we

don't know who and how many will be able to participate in the conference, a major issue between various NGOs in Yemen is that they do not have a shared vision when approaching the conference. Consequently the problem is not about how many NGOs will be attending the conference, it is about having a sense of a clear and shared vision for the future of Yemen.

In fact, this paradox tends to support the idiom, "No one can give what he does not have."

The hope of many Yemenis is to create a successful dialogue process at this conference. In order to have a successful dialogue, all parties must in good faith and transparency determine how they can work together to exchange ideas and not just use the same old vocabulary or rhetoric we have all heard before.

# Yemen needs help closing the book on Saleh

**No listed author**  
**The national.ae**  
**First published Dec. 23**

Of all countries passing through Arab Spring revolutions, Yemen is probably the most complicated and least reported. Yet it is the one with the most potential to affect the countries of the Gulf. The challenges of security, of water, of labor migration and of economic growth all will have a direct impact regionally if left unaddressed. And the best way to make progress on all these points is to see the emergence of an effective Yemeni government.

Yet building a new, stable Yemeni state has not been easy. Since the former president Ali Abdullah Saleh agreed to step aside at the start of this year, his successor, Abdrabu Mansur Hadi, has faced an uphill battle to bring elements of Mr. Saleh's family and supporters under government control. The security apparatus has proved a sticking point: Mr. Saleh's regime fellow - "remnants" - has fought tooth and nail to hold on to their weapons. This struggle has destabilized the country further.

That is why Mr. Hadi's latest move is so important, and so risky. On Wednesday, the president announced the restructuring of the military into five branches. One move scrapped the elite Republican Guard, and reduced the power of Mr. Saleh's son, Ahmed. Another overhauled the Central Security Forces, led by Mr. Saleh's nephew Yahya, and the First Armored Division, led by the powerful Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar.

The question, of course, is whether Mr. Hadi has the political capital to see this restructuring plan through. Mr. Hadi clearly has huge public support. On Friday, hundreds of thousands of people turned out in every single province of Yemen to support his move. But Mr. Saleh has not gone far. He remains in the country, and it will take more than a flourish of a pen to close the book on decades of authoritarian rule.

There will be a backlash from these elements and President Hadi will need political backing to weather it. This is where strong support

from the Gulf, and from the US, is vital. These governments helped push Mr. Saleh from power, and they must stand beside the man who replaced him.

A carefully orchestrated overhaul of the security apparatus could be a

first step towards healing Yemen's tribal and political grievances. Or, an unsuccessful one could have the opposite effect.

During Mr. Saleh's time in power international interest in Yemen was almost exclusively tied to counter-

terrorism; most American aid was funneled to the security apparatus. Mr. Hadi has done his part to overhaul Yemen's security forces. Outside powers must do the same, and rethink their relationship with Yemen.



**USAID | YEMEN**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD PROJECT (CLP) |

### Tender Invitation

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The Community Livelihood Project (CLP) is a USAID-funded project in Yemen managed by Creative Associates International.

In coordination with Ministry of Education, CLP is responsible to do the following work:

#### Education and Reading Media Campaign

CLP is inviting qualified Companies specializing in that area to submit best offer quotations.

Interested suppliers are invited to contact CLP via email at the address below to request a copy of the RFP during the period **December 27, 2012 thru Monday December 31, 2012 02:00 pm** to receive the complete Tender Documents.

CLP email: [proc@clp-yemen.com](mailto:proc@clp-yemen.com)



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إن امتلاك رينج روفر أو لاندروفر أصبح الآن أسهل من أي وقت مضى، إذ يمكنك استبدال سيارتك مهما كان نوعها برينج روفر أو لاندروفر بأفضل الأسعار. أما عند شرائك لاندروفر أو رينج روفر جديدة، فإننا سنقدم لك أفضل عرض لاستبدالها برينج روفر أو لاندروفر جديدة بعد سنتين\*.

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**USAID | YEMEN**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**CHF International - Yemen**  
**EASE Program**

**REQUEST FOR QUOTATION**

**RFQ Number: EASE-RFQ-13-03**

The EASE program focuses on providing humanitarian assistance to displaced people, returnees and host communities in the southern governorates of Abyan, Aden, Lahj and Taiz. The overarching goal of the EASE program is to meet emergency needs of internally displaced persons and conflict-affected populations and to arrest the increasing levels of malnutrition through a holistic approach consisting of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), livelihoods interventions, and non-food item (NFI) distributions.

This RFQ is for the provision of livestock (sheep) for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and host community members in the Abyan and Lahj governorates; specifically the districts of Khanfar/Zinjibar (Abyan), Lawdar (Abyan) and Al Houta (Lahj). Distribution will take place in central areas in Abyan and Lahj.

Interested vendors can collect the document by contacting the email address listed below. The below information & qualifications must be submitted with the quotation:

**Required information & qualifications**

- 1- Certified and valid initial check or approved banking guarantee in the amount of \$1,500 USD, valid for at least 60 days.
- 2- Valid Commercial Record ID card or equivalent documentation.
- 3- Valid Tax ID Card or equivalent documentation.

CHF reserves the right to visit any interested contractors offices & reject firms considered to be unqualified for the proposed work.

The last date for proposal submission is **January 07, 2013 - 12:00 PM.**

Accompanying data, background information, Terms of Reference, livestock specifications and other requirements for the assignment are available upon request. **For further information about this (RFQ) please contact:**

**Logistics and Procurement Committee**  
**CHF International - Yemen**  
**Khour Maksar, Aden**  
**Email: [habeeb@chfyemen.org](mailto:habeeb@chfyemen.org)**

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## The Labor Series (3)

A five part sequence

Every Thursday the Yemen Times takes a look at the construction sector to discuss problems, obstacles and solutions.

Yemen's construction industry at stake (Continued from last week)

# Government 'working on' recovery for Yemen's construction industry



Several large-scale, state construction projects have been at a standstill for the last six years because the government was unable to pay contractors.

Story and photos by Samar Qaed

One of the most important economic sectors in Yemen was devastated by the 2011 recession and further damaged by state corruption. The construction industry, which comprises around two thirds of the national economy, has already lost 60 percent of its contractors to other businesses due to an almost complete halt in projects in 2011 brought on by an inability of the state to pay contractors and aid in security related issues.

However, there may be hope for saving this flailing industry as the state begins to take account of the extent of damage the sector faced.

The general manager of the Media and Awareness Department at the Ministry of General Works and Roads, Samir Al-Najjar, says the ministry has created a strategy to revive construction.

An initial government economic plan was introduced back in 2008, with an eventual goal of increasing the private sector's share of the national economy to 40 percent by 2018. The strategy was centered on four guiding principles: promoting a positive image, attracting investors, facilitating investments and adopting friendlier policies towards private investment. This policy was meant to directly affect the construction sector. However, whatever progress was made in increasing the power of the private sector was high jacked in 2011. Now, the government says they are trying to realign themselves with the plan.

"We are reviewing the laws in order to provide better incentives for investors in this sector, we are also providing attractive aid for large construction projects," said

Al-Najjar.

He admitted there are challenges such as a shortage in financial resources, but that they are "working on it jointly with the Ministry of Finance."

### Rescue boat

Recent pledges from the donor community may provide an opportunity for the government to solve its financial deficiency.

In September, about \$6.4 billion was pledged to Yemen in aid at a donor conference in September. According to Dr. Mohammed Al-Zuaitiri, Deputy Minister of Finance, the government is hoping to use some of the money to support the construction sector and pay off the money it owes contractors for work completed. These debts amount to \$180 million for state construction projects that were carried out by private contractors over the last four years.

*The donor community needs to urgently fund development projects that were presented at donor conferences.*

"The international community needs to fulfill its promises to Yemen and immediately send over a rescue boat. We specifically need them to urgently fund the develop-

ment projects that were presented in the Friends of Yemen conference in New York last September," Al-Zuaitiri said, referring to the \$1.4 billion that is still pending.

The government says without money to back their plans, the plans will remain just plans.

Al-Zuaitiri does not just blame the 2011 crisis. He says Yemen's economic problems started well before that and warns they will get much worse if intervention does not take place. However, he recognizes the concerns of the donor community - funding should come hand in hand with efficient and accountable implementation on Yemen's part.

"We already saw how the government failed to absorb the London donor conference pledges in 2006. The reason is that we did not have realistic, detailed implementation plans, and we did not have people to implement these economic recovery plans," he said.

"The number of people living below the poverty line is rapidly increasing. Life is hard and without investment it will become harder," he added.

### Remedies

Many agree that prioritizing the recovery of the construction sector is a non-negotiable.

"If this sector collapses, then the entire country's economy will do so," warned Ahmed Saeed Shammakh, an economics expert at the Yemeni Central Bank who says the government needs to compensate contractors for losses they have incurred as well as the interest on loans they had to pay to banks.

Shammakh also wants contractors to be compensated for lost equipment and construction materials that went to waste when projects were halted.

He suggested the government pay an interest rate of 28 percent, the standard for commercial banks, on its debts to contractors. He proposed an additional 23 percent interest to compensate for damages

or stolen equipment and another 10 percent for currency deterioration.

Additionally, he said the government should also pay the rent for equipment and construction sites' security the contractors had to pay after the projects were interrupted

by the revolution.

A more sustainable solution Shammakh recommended was to establish a fund to support the construction industry, similar to other sectors. This fund will provide financial cover for contractors as per

an agreed mechanism.

Thousands of contractors have declared bankruptcy in the last few years and 400 Yemeni contractors have been jailed for not being able to pay back the bank loans they had taken for construction projects.



**OXFAM**

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO, works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and injustice. Oxfam has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancy for its Humanitarian Programme.

### Public Health Promotion Assistant – (1 position)

Location: Haradh  
Contract Duration: 6 months

#### The role

You will work closely with Engineering colleagues and other relevant departments in the implementation of WASH projects; participate in the conduct of public health assessments, baseline data gathering, collection of health data and statistics, monitoring of morbidity, public health issues; support the conduct of community based public health promotion focused on hygiene knowledge, practices, and behavior change at the household level; support the conduct of school hygiene programmes. You will be supporting the identification of community health volunteers; mobilizing communities towards increased awareness about personal & community hygiene; supporting the WASH team in the conduct of assessments, and water quality monitoring; participating in beneficiary identification for latrines and prioritization. You will create community groups and empower them to develop a sense of ownership of assets; ensure that all programme interventions take gender issues fully into account. You will follow up the monitoring log frame and produce regular weekly/monthly reports ; do any task reasonably assigned to you by your line manager.

#### What we're looking for

We are looking for someone who is qualified in Public Health Promotion related disciplines with experience in working with local partners and an understanding of community-based and gender-sensitive approaches to water and sanitation work. Any additional experience in emergency relief would obviously be an advantage, proving your resilience and ability to maintain teamwork under pressure. You will be diplomatic and tactful; be a sensitive and experienced communicator. You will have influential communication skills in both Arabic and English; have knowledge of assessment and reporting methods; have proven analytical, planning, organization and planning skills, as well as the ability to take initiative and identify priority areas for work.

#### To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in this position, please send your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job and the location of the job you are applying for in the email subject, to [yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk).

Closing date for applications is **09<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

Please apply immediately as we will be interviewing suitable candidates before the closing date

### Important figures

Estimated jobs in the construction sector	3 million
Construction sector's contribution to the national economy	65%
Number of men who lost their jobs in the last four years	1 million
Percentage of contractors who have left this sector	60%
Money owed to the contractors from the government	\$180 million
Financial losses in this sector in the last two years	\$80 million
Number of Yemeni construction companies	1,300
In the past four years, number of contractors jailed for failing to pay back bank loans	400
Number of contractors currently in prison who defaulted on loans	20
Proposed interest on state debts to contractors	28%
Proposed compensation percentage for damage	23%
Proposed compensation for currency exchange rate fluctuations	10%

### 4U

To read more about the incentives and facilitations provided for construction projects go to:  
<http://www.gjay.org/content.php?c=4&langid=2&pageid=5&play.php?id=109>









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# Spending a non-local holiday abroad

Story and photo by Nadia Haddash

**H**olidays are typically deeply rooted in culture, religion or customs so spending one in country other than your own can lead to a completely different experience.

This week, here in Yemen, some shopping centers and cafes in the capital city put up a decorated tree in the days leading up to Dec. 25 to mark the Christmas holiday. Christians recognize this day as the birth of Jesus Christ, an occasion celebrated by few Ye-

menis.

Immigrants and visitors all over the globe often share common experiences when they find themselves in a nation where their holiday rituals are not common.

They usually long for the comforts of home and family.

"Celebrating [Christmas] in Yemen is different. I would prefer to go home to celebrate with my entire family to celebrate the customs of this day," said Gwen Johannes, a 26-year-old from Germany.

Yemenis report the exact same experience when they celebrate traditional holidays outside of Yemen.

"As a Muslim, Eid (a religious occasion) in Norway was dry and boring. I had no access to the holiday," said Osmá Al-Haj, a 26-year old Yemeni, who spent two years living in the Nordic country. "During Ramadan, it was particularly tough. I longed for my family and my whole country."

Al-Haj says foreigners in Yemen are an advantage because many people he knew were given Christmas off.

"However, in European countries, we suffered because we were not given official vacations in Eid," he said.

That is not true for everyone. Elizabeth Baphlophiski, an X-Ray lab technician from Russia said, "I had to celebrate [Christmas] with some friends in the house because we didn't get the chance to have a day off."

But it doesn't really bother the 34-year-old, she said it was necessary for her to work on Christmas.

"I may celebrate with my daughter when I come back to Moscow in January," she said.

Often times those that find themselves in unfamiliar territory during a holiday can find a small niche community or organizations that provide the support or comforts of being home.

Najwa Al-Rafaei, a Yemeni citizen with American nationality, spoke about her experiences living with her family in the American state of Michigan.

"There are lots of Yemenis in Michigan. When we have religious occasions, we gather the Yemeni community. We experience the same rituals that we do at home. Some Americans celebrate with us. This accustoms them to the situation outside [the U.S.]," she



The Coffee Corner cafe provided some the comforts of home during the Christmas holiday.

said.

In Sana'a Coffee Corner was among the cafes that allowed Yemenis and foreigners alike to ring in the Christmas holiday. They played traditional music and decorated a tree for display.

Joseph Mercado, a Filipino working at an oil company, said, "The atmosphere in the Coffee Corner is wonderful. I feel at home in the company of others."

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