

Yemen Times Person of the Year 2012

Yemen Times Staff

Yemen Times readers and listeners voted in abundance.

Nominations through our radio and our print publication indicated an overwhelming majority of you selected Abdulqader Hilal, Sana'a's Mayor, as the Yemen Times Person of the Year for 2012.

Most voters say they based their nominations on his recent work as the city's leader and on his past achievements in other parts of the country.

Voters describe him as a hardworking, dedicated person of high integrity. He is also characterized as being a man of action instead of relying on theoretical preaching. In the short time he has been in office, citizens explain the city is cleaner, authorities are more efficient and the community is more engaged and responsible.

His program every Tuesday on Radio Yemen Times was praised by citizens. They said it is the first time they felt able to communicate and reach an authority figure who would listen to their problems and seek solutions.

One the mayor's most popular projects was the 12/12/12 city cleaning campaign.

In his previous posts as the governor of Ibb and Hadramout, the mayor was also well received by citizens. Many voters praised his work there.

However, citizens know there is much work to be done, and they say the mayor just needs support to get the job done.



Testimonies from voters:

"I use public transport a lot. Whether it's in taxis or minibuses, people are always saying nice things about Hilal. They call him the 'Erdogan' of Yemen. We are all with you." *Heba Mohammed*

"He is a unique character and is loved all over the country, north, south, east or west. He is capable, efficient and humble in the way he meets with normal people and listens to them. You have a great place in all our hearts." *Mamoun Taha*

"His dedication to developing the country is admirable and [his name] should be written in gold. I take pride in knowing him during his post as the governor of Ibb in 2000 when he would modestly walk around the city to make sure it was clean. When you are in his presence, you feel you are standing before a great personality." *Mohammed Al-Attari*

"We felt the positive change immediately the day Abdulqader Hilal became the mayor of Sana'a. His latest achievement is the Sharik campaign for city cleaning. Without his support, it would not have been such a success. Thank you Abdulqader Hilal." *Adnan Al-Maznai*

"Abdulqader Hilal is an honest citizen who loves his country. I have never seen the capital city so clean. He even respects the street cleaners and works to support their rights." *Naval Omar*

"He is the only person who takes to heart the needs of all Yemenis without prejudice or taking sides. I hope he becomes Yemen's president in 2014." *Amin Ahmed Matar*

Who is Abdulqader Hilal

Born in 1962 and raised in Sana'a, Hilal earned two bachelor's degrees in 1984, one from Sana'a University in Law and the other from the Police Academy in Police Sciences.

One year later he went on to earn a diploma in Local Science Administration from the National Institute.

His professional career began in 1986 as the general director of the Mawiyah district. The following year he became director of the Damt district. In 1994 he became the deputy governor of Ibb. He soon became governor of the area. He stayed at that post until 2001 when he was appointed the governor of Hadramout.

He became Minister of the Local Administration for two years in 2007. Then he worked as State Minister for a year in 2010.

During his career he headed and was a part of many committees, including the Supreme Committee for Administrative Division, the Supreme Committee for Local Administration Strategy, the Sa'ada Reconstruction Committee and the Southern Land Grievances Committee.

He is also member of the Yemeni German Friendship Association, the Human Rights Association and the Association for Supporting the Holy Aqsa Mosque.

In 2012 he was appointed to be a member of the Presidential Outreach Committee for the National Dialogue Conference (NDC). Today he is a member of the Technical Committee for the Preparation of the NDC.

He became the mayor of Sana'a on July 9, 2012.

Weather experts warn vulnerable populations of frost



Families, who are already unprotected from the elements could suffer greatly from a drop in temperatures.

Story and Photo by Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA'A, Jan. 2 — The National Meteorological Center (NMC) warned on Wednesday about the possibility of a frost hitting areas

in the North of the country, leaving many out in the cold.

Exposed groups, like those living in poverty, are expected to bear the brunt of this change in weather.

Salama She'i, a resident in the

Al-Ramah slum in Al-Hasaba area, said, "We live in small tents made of cartons and our clothes are ineffective in the cold."

She'i said that one of her children died in the past due to cold weather.

She and other like her say they

will be forced to do their best to stay warm with materials they can find.

With the center expecting temperatures to reach a low of one degree Celsius they warn the elderly, children and shift workers to be extra careful, especially during the early and late hours of the day.

Rasheed Al-Ariqi, director of the

Forecast Department at the NMC, called on all residents, particularly farmers, to take precautions as the cold sweep could negatively impact crop development.

Al-Ariqi said the cold front is expected to last two days and is likely to hit the more mountainous governorates of Sana'a, Dhamar, Amran, Sa'ada and Baida'a.



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Health Ministry, 'H1N1 under control'

Nadia Haddash

SANA'A, Jan. 2 — Since it was announced last week that one person had died from the H1N1 virus, Dr. Abdulhakeem Al-Kohlani, director of the Epidemiological Surveillance and Disease Control Department in the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MPHP) confirmed there have been no more deaths and said the spread

of the illness never exploded.

Four others were presumed to have died from the virus commonly known as swine flu.

According to the ministry, the situation is under control as all recent hospital patients with flu like symptoms have been confirmed as seasonal flu cases and not the H1N1.

"All cases were normal flu caused primarily by the winter," Al-

Kohlani said.

Al-Kohlani pointed out that people affected by flu should rest and take the recommended medicine prescribed by their doctor. To prevent further infections they should also keep away from crowded places.

However, he cautions, "If the flu and fever lasts longer than two days, patients should immediately go to a doctor."

Personal hygiene and cleanliness are the most effective ways to prevent the spread of disease he said.

In a statement released this week, the MPHP said that it had taken precautionary measures to control the spread of swine flu and asked citizens not to panic.

President Hadi still waiting on list of participants for upcoming NDC

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANA'A, Jan. 2 — Sources in the Technical Committee (TC) currently in charge of preparing the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) have confirmed that they remain unable to set a deadline for the beginning of the conference.

Headed by Abdulkareem Al-Eeyani, the TC submitted a report to President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi on Monday regarding their final preparations for the NDC.

President Hadi informed the committee members during the meeting that a date for the NDC

would not be set until the committee hands over the final list of prospective participants for the dialogue.

The committee already submitted a report to Hadi on Dec. 12. This included a list of all the tasks the TC has achieved in terms of paving the way a comprehensive national dialogue.

Abdulla Dawbala, a political analyst, said the dialogue, which has been stagnant of late due to political problems, will make more substantial progress in the beginning of 2013.

Dawbala added that the NDC is becoming increasingly rec-

ognized both nationally and internationally as the only way forward for Yemen, with many Yemeni organizations wanting to join it.

He said that a major difficulty in gauging the success of the NDC is that different groups have different agendas.

The NDC remains a pressing issue that concerns all Yemenis. Many consider it the most appropriate way to solve important issues including the Southern Issue, conflict in Sa'ada, the formulation of a new constitution, military and security restructure and other issues.

Secretary for Turkish Commercial Counsellor

Requirements:

- University Degree
- Good knowledge of written and spoken Turkish and Arabic
- Good ability in using Office programs
- Yemeni citizenship or residence permit in Yemen
- Less than 30 years old
- Work experience in the same position

Candidates may personally apply to the Commercial Consellor's office (Hadda St. CAC Bank Building No:12 Sana'a) no later than January 12, 2013.

Marib locals accuse government of ignoring them

Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA'A, Jan. 2 — Activists from Marib staged a protest on Tuesday in front of the Cabinet compound calling for the government to increase its support for the development of their area.

Hassn Al-Zaydi, the spokesperson of the protest, said they organized this protest to coincide with protests in Marib.

"We have been excluded from the political field, and development in our governorate is non-existent," he said.

The activists said in a statement they feel it is necessary to change the situation in Marib as many of the issues from the old regime have carried over in their area.

The statement went on to say the activists held the protest to draw public attention to their plight as media does not often cover their area.

Knowing the strategic value of their location, they furthered, "Marib is full of natural resources, but it is subject to injustice."



Protesters say Marib has long been neglected by the national government.

Job opportunity in Foreign Bank

One of the largest foreign bank in Yemen invite applications for the position of Branch Manager, who possess comprehensive knowledge of banking, capable to handle large size corporate relationships, energetic, dynamic / results oriented personality with having leadership qualities with atleast Bachelor degree from any recognized University and is willing to work in a challenging environment.

The Branch Manager will need to ensure that specific business targets are achieved whilst maintaining high quality customer service and operational & compliance standards & work closely with other departments & the bank to achieve required goals.

The Role:

- Achieve the set targets in terms of building assets and liabilities and revenue budget of the branch and provide guidance and support to branch team members with their marketing efforts.
- Identify new business and develop and monitor existing relationships so as to maximize revenue for the branch.
- Identify & map the target market within the branch area to effectively guide the branch staff to acquire business.
- Improve knowledge levels of self & reporting staff for processes, systems, SOPs by continuously learning & updating.
- Adhere to the banks policies & procedures & compliance requirements & maintain a high level of operational standards. Consistently achieve acceptable risk ratings.
- Ensure strict compliance with money laundering guidelines and ensure that only legitimate funds are accepted.
- Conduct daily huddles & weekly staff meetings to encourage smooth flow of communication both within and outside the branch and to update branch staff with management decisions, monitor and guide staff on service & operations.

Requirements:

The following requirements are essential for the position of Branch Manager.

- Recognized University Degree and 10-15 years experience across all functions of a bank branch.
- Business development skills & well groomed personality.
- Effective in people management & Decision making skills.
- Good analytical and communication skills.
- Proficiency in English and Arabic

Candidates meeting the above requirement should send their update resume along with a recent photograph latest by January 10, 2013 to recruitmentatyemen@gmail.com

Motorcyclists assassinated 40 soldiers and 4 civilians in 2012



Although popular in Yemen, security officials say motorbikes are increasingly being used in assassinations throughout the country.

Ashraf Al-Muraqab

SANA'A, Jan. 2 — Yemen's Interior Ministry announced in a report released on Tuesday that motorcyclists assassinated four civilians and 40 military personnel in 2012.

The report indicated that motorbikes were used in the assassination of 40 officers and soldiers in attacks throughout Sana'a. Among those assassinated was an Iraqi general who worked as an advisor

at the Defense Ministry.

The report also indicated that four civilians, one of them an American citizen residing in Taiz were assassinated. Additionally, 21 soldiers and nine civilians were injured due to these events.

The Interior Ministry said that the militants' dependent on motorcycles to carry out their operations. This indicates a change in the techniques used in previous years.

For his part, Qais Al-Eryani,

director of the Traffic Office in Sana'a, said that motorcyclists were obliged to pay customs fees to have license plates for their new bikes as well as the old ones that haven't been licensed yet. This new rule will hopefully curb the use of unregistered motorbikes in future assassinations.

Traffic statistics showed that more than 200 people were killed and 1150 injured during 2012 due to incidents involving motorbikes.

University educated soldiers say they are not paid what they're worth

Story and photos by
Amal Al-Yarisi

“Yemeni Law is made to fit the sons of Sheikhs and officials,” shouted Rafeeq Ali, a soldier at the Interior Ministry. Along with his fellow university educated soldiers, Ali was protesting to demand an increase in the value of a university degrees within the armed forces. Ali's wife and six children struggles to survive because of his monthly salary of YR30, 000 (less than \$150).

The soldier says he has been working for 27 years at the Ministry of Interior without being promoted to a position reflective of his qualifications.

In line with Yemeni law, this is illegal.

“I got a bachelor degree in 2003, but I have yet to be promoted to the rank of second lieutenant, which is meant to come with having a degree. Not only is this against the law, it's morally wrong,” he said.

Despite having put in so many years, Ali said life in the military has become increasingly difficult.

He says he purposefully struggled to afford a bachelor's degree from Sana'a University so as to earn higher army rank and get an increase in salary, but he has received neither.

“I'm disappointed because nothing has been given to me after I got my certificate,” he said.

Other soldiers in the Interior and Defense Ministries also suf-

fer due to their uncompetitive salaries. Many of them are forced to look for additional work to supplement their income.

Soldiers typically are never paid more than YR40,000 (about \$180) per month, according to Shafeeq Ahmed, a soldier in the Special Forces of the Defense Ministry.

He says some soldiers are paid as little as YR20,000 and with an increase in the price of consumer goods, it is nearly impossible to live.

Although Ahmed also has a bachelor's degree in law, he has received neither a promotion nor the stipulated higher salary just like Ali.

“I don't know what to do with my salary. It's simply not enough to pay rent, buy food and give money to my children,” Ahmed said.

No attention

Recently, soldiers from the Interior and Defense ministries with university degrees staged several protests in front of the Parliament and the Cabinet. They chanted slogans to demand improved living conditions, promotions and higher salaries.

“We shouted loud enough for everyone in the Parliament and the Cabinet to hear, but no one paid attention any attention,” said Mohsin Saleh, a soldier at the Ministry of Defense.

Saleh said they were promised change by higher ups, but nothing tangible has come from the protests.

Besides feeling they are slighted by their salaries, Saleh says

soldiers have had to cope with even worse circumstances – not being paid at all.

Saleh did not receive a salary for four years despite presenting his military card to the Defense Ministry on multiple occasions.

“Abdulhameed Maqwalah, a prominent leader in the Defense Ministry, ordered me to go and fight in Sa'ada and I did, but after that I received no salary,” he said.

Saleh says there is no justification for this.

Beggar's salary

Soldiers say their salaries are measly compared to other national professions. These low salaries obstruct them from performing their role effectively, they say.

Shafeeq Al-Boraihi, a soldier at the Public Security Guards affiliated with the Interior Ministry, said he graduated from college in 2003 but his salary is stagnant. He says it is significantly less than that prior to the 2011 revolution and puts him “on par with a beggar.”

“Soldiers are the root of security and development in Yemen and must be appreciated and provided with a satisfactory living,” he said.

Soldiers with university degrees said they hope the state will pay attention to their requests for salary increases.

With the 15th term of Yemen's military law stipulating that university educated soldiers be promoted to second lieutenant after gaining a degree, the soldiers say they have the law behind them.



“Though we have university degrees, we receive very low salaries,” said Mohammed Motea.



Soldiers say that promotions are only given to officials and the sons of prominent figures.



A group of soldiers who have not received their salaries for the last four years.



HSE & SOCIAL RESPONSIBLE TRAINER Position # (0135) – CPF -Hadhramout For Yemeni Nationals Only

Basic Function :

This position is overall responsible for coordinating environment, health and safety training activities. This includes assisting the Environment Health and Safety Manager in establishing, administering and implementing an effective HSE&SR training system for all levels of staff and maintaining appropriate training records.

Job Duties:

- Develops, upgrades, documents and provides training courses and assessment where necessary to meet the needs of the company's emergency response plan, company policies and procedures or oil industry training requirements.
- Prepares monthly training schedules for the CPF and Terminal based on the needs of line managers, Training Coordinators, and supervisors. Submits for approval and distributes as required.
- Coordinates the maintenance of HSE&SR training facilities and equipment at the CPF.
- Participate in raising HSE awareness of the local communities by developing and conducting HSE training presentations including, for example, safe driving, environmental protection, fire protection.
- Participate in the department's HSE&SR meetings and HSE&SR seminars to obtain information to reflect on the HSE&SR training programs and also to develop the training requirements.
- Keep effective record of the HSE&SR training data base and ensure the HSE&SR training courses are updated. Also when required, develop alternative training methods, according to the new update in the HSE&SR international standards.
- Provides materials and expertise for all levels of management as directed by the HSE&SR Manager for safety meetings, presentations and orientation.
- Conducts job site observations to establish training needs, safe work permit evaluations, vehicle inspections, radar speed surveys and HSE&SR site inspections.
- Carries out other similar or related duties such as assisting his Superintendent /manager in the preparation of departmental objectives, action plans, annual training budget and, maintaining computerized training records, preparing weekly and monthly training reports, providing recommendations for improving training methods
- Translates and revises training materials and documents from English to Arabic and vice versa.
- Prepare weekly, monthly and yearly reports for the HSE&SR Training Department.
- Develops tracking programs to record individual and group training data to ensure personnel HSE&SR Training Standards are met.
- Provides constructive feedback to the departments superintendent on the progress, success and areas for improvement for their personnel with regards to HSE&SR Training
- Develops and revises training programs and HSE&SR procedures in response to changes in company policy/objectives.
- Maintains communication with all departments to manage training needs within the constraints of ongoing workload.
- Identifies gaps in the skill level of employee/contractor in cooperation with the department supervisor.
- Participates in emergency responses, environmental assessments and HAZOP analysis.
- Assesses and validates that all contractors convey in their new employee HSE&SR training the core message of PetroMasila's Dos and Don'ts.
- Responsible for scheduling / coordinating the Training for department personnel.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of Secondary (Technical) education (12 years) followed by 3 years' full time training leading to an Engineering Diploma.
- 7 years' oil field experience in an operational or technical role.
- Has attained a minimum 5 years of service in the role of HSE&SR Trainer.
- Very good presentation skills.
- Very good knowledge of English and Arabic (written and spoken).
- Very good computer skills, basically, in Excel and PowerPoint.

- To Apply for this Job please apply to: Recruiting_YEMSANA@petromasila.com
- Applications **should be submitted NO later than January 15, 2013** Faxed applications will not be considered.
- Make sure that you mention the job title you are applying for in the email subject.
- Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN Position # (0060) – Terminal -Hadhramout For Yemeni Nationals Only

Basic Function :

Maintains, repairs and installs a variety of equipment at CPF, Terminal and in the field such as pumps, valves, turbines, compressors, diesel and other generators etc. Uses such tools and equipment such as small to large combinations, torque wrenches, socket sets up to 1" drive, and a variety of hand tools. Utilizes specialized alignment tools

Job Duties:

- Overhauls diesel engines. Includes overhauling Caterpillar, Wartsila Ruston and other types of diesel generators, and commissioning same. Performs work from drawings, and diagrams, includes both operational and Maintenance manuals, to manufacturer's, and other specifications. Disassembles equipment using hoists, hand tools and power tools. Determines nature of repair and examines parts to detect problems, uses measuring tools such as calipers, micrometers and other instruments to determine correct tolerances.
- Services generator/Pump drivers. Includes changing oil and lubricants, topping up, lubricating, testing coolants etc.... in accordance with planned procedures.
- Carries out daily inspections of solar turbines and generators and Includes changing fuel nozzles, repairing leaks, changing fuel and air filters and lubricating oil cooler fan system. Shipping/Mainline Pumps Fire Water Pumps and Systems.
- Repairs and carries out major overhauls on mechanical pumps. Changes mechanical seals, as required. Makes a repair by replacing, reworking, or refinishing worn or damaged parts. Makes adjustments to functional parts of equipment using hand tools, and specialized equipment. Reassembles equipment and tests performance. Carries out services and inspections on all types of Valves including ball valves gate vaves and specialized valves associated with tankage
- Carries out planned maintenance on all of the above plant and equipment. Includes checking fluid levels, checking for leaks in mechanical seals as necessary, taking vibration readings, checking for abnormal noises, and performing quarterly alignment checks.
- Carries out other similar or related duties such as giving on the job instruction to trainees, and overhauling reciprocating gas compressors.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of secondary (Technical) education (12 years) followed by 2 years' full-time formal training in mechanical trades.
- 6 years of Mechanical related experience.
- Fair knowledge of English.

- To Apply for this Job please apply to: Recruiting_YEMSANA@petromasila.com
- Applications **should be submitted NO later than January 15, 2013** Faxed applications will not be considered.
- Make sure that you mention the job title you are applying for in the email subject.
- Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

YT vision statement



"To make Yemen a good world citizen."

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



OUR OPINION

2013 - A year of talents

TEDx Sana'a was amazing. It was held on the last day of 2012 and inspired attendees to start 2013 with a new spirit of hope and determination.

Most of the audience had not been exposed to TED (Technology Entertainment Design) events. They were amazed at how interesting and entertaining such a conference could be.

We are used to boring, dry events that usually tell us what we already know. TED is different - it inspires, makes you wonder and triggers an immediate, positive change.

Its logo is "Ideas worth spreading."

When we brought TED to Yemen, the idea was to integrate Yemen into the global TED community. The organization of the event was almost perfect, and the speakers were amazing - above expectations!

Much of the audience felt they were outside Yemen. TEDx Sana'a took them to a new world, a more positive one. They saw hope in the country's future and felt proud of it.

I was amazed and pleased to see there are so many talented Yemenis inside and outside the country. The messages coming from distinguished Yemeni men and women outside the country were so moving. They shared their love for Yemen.

I am so proud of them and proud of the speakers from inside the country who showed me that Yemen has many talents. Our citizens are brave and courageous. There are so many people who have overcome hurdles and become role models for others.

Now that we've seen how much hope there is, we need to transform it into energy and positive action.

Let's start the New Year with a call for the creation of a community of talents. Men and women can build a new Yemen any way we want it. Now that we know each other exist, the next step is to seek out one another and work together for the sake of Yemen.

Let's start the search for talented members of the community today.

We can begin by contributing to Ms. Fayza Al-Sulaimani's project: Yemeni success stories. Entries can be sent in Arabic or English to this link:

Please find it http://www.theyemenidream.com/index_en.html
We will take it from there.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Yemen's 2012, rocked by decrees and a transitional government

Mohammed Al-Samei

Yemenis bid 2012 farewell. A year sure to go down in Yemen's history books as a game changer.

Yemen witnessed exceptional political, military and security events, starting with the formation of the reconciliation government.

At the end of 2011 former President Ali Abdulla Saleh signed the Gulf Initiative, an internationally brokered deal that provided him with immunity after removing him from 33 years of power.

The 2012 new year ushered in a transitional government. In February, Saleh's vice president, Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi was elected the reconciliatory president in a single-candidate election. Regional and international support was provided to Hadi and promised through the end of his two-year transitional period.

One of Hadi's first priorities was to set forth a plan designed to peacefully draw together national interests in a comprehensive discussion to determine Yemen's new government. On May 6, the Presidential Liaison Committee was set up in order to prepare for a national dialogue. The committee was tasked with drawing together various political groups, prominent social leaders and civil society organizations to energize support for the conference.

On July 14, a republican decree was issued to establish the Technical Committee to take over preparations for the conference. The committee carried out its mission to logistically lay the foundation for the conference. They handed over their final report to President Hadi in December. After months of debates, in a controversial move, U.N. Special Envoy to Yemen, Jamal Benomar determined the representation allocations for conference seats.

Some groups including many Southern factions will boycott the conference, citing reasons related to discriminatory representation and a failure of the government to fulfill promises that address Southern grievances.

The National Dialogue Conference is slated to commence at the beginning of 2013.

Security issues tainted 2012. One of the most obvious displays of a country coping with a deteriorating security situation was the suicide attack that took place in Al-Sabeen Square during the National Unity Day celebration. It left about 100 Central Security Forces' soldiers dead, as well as dozens wounded.

In July, an explosion in front of the Police Academy in Sana'a and left 22 soldiers dead and several others injured.

Al-Qaeda also dominated media coverage in 2012. In June, government troops were finally able to regain territory in Abyan, Shabwa and Baida'a that it had lost to Al-Qaeda during the political uprisings.

Another disconcerting security pitfall was an increase in assassinations on military leaders, soldiers and members of local militias. Motorcycles were often used by assailants, prompting the government to pass legislation to regulate motorcycle use. Several assassinations attempts were also made on the defense minister.

Some claim the youth revolution lost momentum in 2012. However, several prominent marches and protests took place, including a gathering of protestors every Friday following prayer in Al-Sabeen Square, calling for the removal of those in power still associated with the former regime.

"We were worried because we weren't sure whether the revolution would accomplish its aims or would be foiled. After all, it was a revolutionary year in which Saleh was toppled. This is the best thing that happened in 2012, and I hope all the aims of the revolution will be achieved on the ground in 2013," said Fakhr Al-Azab, a member of the revolutionary organizing committee



Youth continue to protest well into 2012 pushing revolutionary aims.

Most recently, and in what many called a defining moment of the year, President Hadi issued several decrees to restructure the army on Dec. 19.

The Republican Guard, commanded by the son of former president, Staff Brigadier Ahmed Ali Abdulla Saleh and the First Armored Division, headed by General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmer, were dissolved under Hadi's military shake-up. Al-Ahmer had defected from Saleh sided with the youth revolution in March of 2011.

The army restructure decrees

also removed Yahia Mohammed Abdulla Saleh, the Chief of Staff of Central Security Forces.

Hadi's decision was seen as vital by many in order to hold the National Dialogue Conference and those who were relieved from their positions have accepted the verdict.

However, as much as the decrees were celebrated, going into 2013 many question the implementation and whether figures like Mohsen and Ahmed Saleh will earn equally as powerful positions under the new structure.



Security concerns have increased throughout the year as the state struggles to establish order.

Yemeni women subject to frequent sexual harassment

Ashraf Al-Muraqab

In Yemen, girls face constant harassment, whether it is on the street, in the markets or in the work environment.

Hind, a young woman who declined to give her last name, is representative of many Yemeni females. A 24-year-old private sector employee, she says she has been harassed in both personal and professional environments.

Like many women she is often teased and harassed by male colleagues. However, she never complains for fear of losing her job. She said some of the employees even go as far as to offer her money for sexual pleasure.

Her salary is a major source of income for her family, so she accepts the treatment and suffers alone.

In her private life, she says that

young men often yell at her on the street and in markets.

"They have no concern but pursuing women. If I am harassed, I remain silent. I want to go to the police station or shout, but experience has taught me that this doesn't help. Instead, I prefer to be silent and complain to God," she said.

In addition to harassment in public spaces and work environments, there has been a worrying trend of increasing levels of harassment on university campuses.

Safa Al-Samadi, a university student, said a professor recently failed her because she did not reciprocate his advances.

"We cannot file a complaint against professors teasing us because we fear of being failed in exams," she said.

Many women complain that trying to counteract harassments de-

prives them of social and professional advancement. If they cause a fuss, women have often been known to lose promotion or job opportunities.

Aryam, who also declined to give her last name for fear of repercussion, said she was harassed in a job interview by the manager of a private company. This came after she left a government institution for the exact same reason.

Fed up, she now works as a human rights activist for women who experience sexual harassment.

The financial situation of many families in Yemen means that women increasingly need to work. Sometimes they are forced to make the choice between losing their dignity or their jobs.

A report released by the youth-led Safe Streets Initiative for Combating Harassment in Yemen, re-

veals that most sexual harassment happens on the streets.

The report says 90 percent of Yemeni women are exposed to sexual harassment in one form or another.

It indicates that the issue is so widespread that even female political activists are subject to harassments inside their political parties.

Mohammed Al-Saleh, a member of the initiative, said they launched the study in August following several women complaining about sexual harassment.

The campaign now involves many activists and has released a short movie, and published a book highlighting real sexual harassment stories.

The campaign's website continues to be flooded with stories of sexual harassment.

In the initiative's study, Sana'a

ranked first as the city with most newly reported harassment cases of rape, inappropriate touching and verbal harassment. The study indicates that instances occur regularly.

Taiz and Aden were ranked second. Incidents of rape have become increasingly common in Sana'a. One of the most notorious incidents concerned a girl who died in May due to injuries induced by the rape.

The victim is referred to as "the girl of A'sir," in reference to the place where the crime occurred. The rapist were identified by eyewitnesses, but were never brought to court.

Many rights activists say perpetrators often belong to influential families and are immune from persecution.

Ashwaq Al-Aliei, a human rights activist and another member of Safe Streets Initiative, said some

victims prefer not to disclose their sexual harassment stories for fear of being disgraced by their family or community.

However, the recent increase in media coverage and an emergence of aid organizations is resulting in more and more women notifying the authorities of their experiences.

For many, society needs to be more accepting and supportive of those who have been affected by acts of sexual violence.

For her part, Rina Al-Jabal, a human rights activist, said women should be dealt with as humans, not just a means of fulfilling men's desires. She believes that the silence will not be broken unless strict laws are issued to penalize the perpetrators.

"It is essential that awareness about the rights of women is increased," she said.

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Talent, hope and innovation brand first ever TED conference

Nadia Haddash

The 250 audience members at TEDx Sana'a were promised inspiration, and inspiration is what they got. "What I saw today showed me the wealth Yemen has and that is its people. Yemen is rich with its men and women who are waiting

for their talents to be unleashed," said one of the attendees, Dr. Abdulqadir Al-Rifaei.

The first of its kind in Yemen, TED (Technology Entertainment Design) is a nonprofit organization committed to "Ideas Worth Spreading."

In a two day event on Monday and Tuesday, the 19 carefully selected speakers shared knowledge, life

stories, lessons learned and what they believe are solutions for some of Yemen's most pressing problems as individuals and as a nation.

"This is a unique conference unlike any other that has ever taken place in Yemen," said Mazen Al-Hibshi, the man behind the event. "The participants did not wait for a minister or an ambassador to inaugurate the conference. It

was launched by aspiring, hopeful Yemenis from all ages and backgrounds who represent hope for this country's future."

Several audience members identified some of their favorite presentations.

Zuha Al-Hammadi's talk created food for thought as she "carried" participants with her to a peaceful outer space and gave an alternative

alternative pathways for resolving conflict.

Speaker, Emad Al Sakkaf drew a standing ovation with his presentation on an innovative farming technique.

Another favorite was Ziryab Al-Ghabiri, who showed his documentary depicting the beauty of everyday life in Yemen, in an effort to dispel negative images associated with the country.

Other speakers from inside and outside Yemen talked Yemen's potentials underground, in the sea or in architecture.

Audience members were also treated to the artistic talents of local artists through song, dance and a martial arts display.

The 20 volunteers responsible for the execution of the conference, under the leadership of Mazen and TED fellow, Walid Al-Saqqaf, said they worked day and night for the

past six months to make the event a success.

"TEDx Sana'a managed to give us all this at a time when we need inspiration the most. There are so many stories that the world needs to be told and so many role models needed for Yemenis," said Jeehan Ghaleb, one of the volunteer organizers.

The sponsors were also thrilled with the outcome.

A representative from the day's major funder, NATCO, Fathi A Hayel Saeed, said, "I would support this event again and again and again."

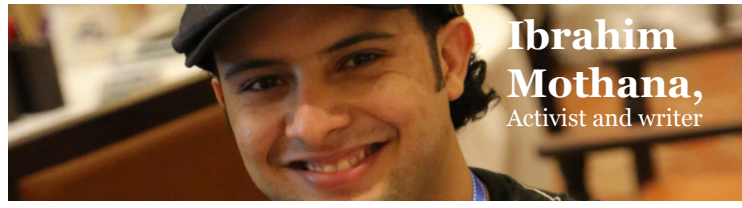
4U

To read more about TEDx Sana'a go to:
<http://www.tedxsanana.com/pages/>



Boushra Almutawakel,
Photographer

For Boushra, there is a way for people to conquer their fears no matter how intimidating they may be.



Ibrahim Mothana,
Activist and writer

Ibrahim called on the entire community to take part in creating the future. This can be achieved by creating bridges between society and decision makers.



Khalil Bamatraf,
Social activist

Khalil reminded us that a name does not define who you are, especially if it belongs to the opposite gender.



Dr. Akram Alomai,
Electromagnetic scientist

Electromagnetism is a futuristic science that can cross established barriers, including invisibility.



Jamal Alhanesh,
Social activist

Information technology is the way forward. Yemen can and should use this tool for sustainable development.



Abdulrahman Jaber,
Visual communication consultant

Abdulrahman asked us to pay attention to the designs around us and be aware of how they either harm or improve our wellbeing.



Dr. Kaled Alamarie,
Environmental protection scientist

Population growth is disastrous for the country's water resources, a solution must be created immediately.



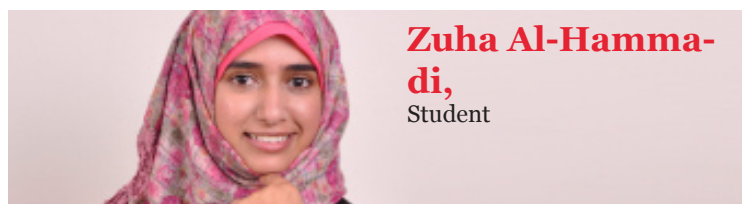
Ziryab Alghaberi,
Designer & photographer

Ziryab showed us a different side of Yemen not presented often in the media. The beauty of everyday life.



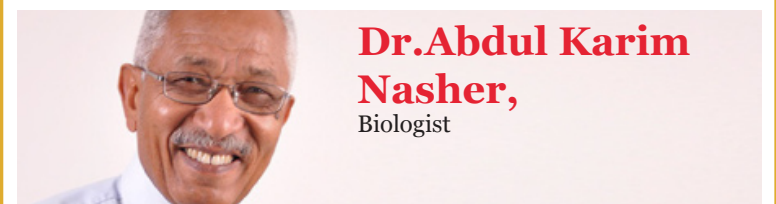
Ali Taleb Almarrany,
Media program developer

Losing a left eye due to a stray bullet only made him more determined to succeed.



Zuha Al-Hammadi,
Student

Zuha explored the possibility that Earthlings can achieve peace and agree with each other in a space outside our planet.



Dr. Abdul Karim Nasher,
Biologist

Yemen is a country rich with natural resources and Socotra Island is a gem yet to be explored.



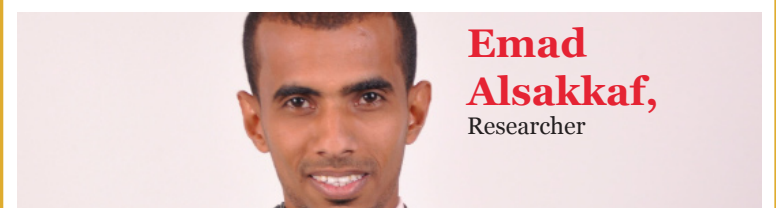
Amr Gamal,
Writer and director

Everyone has a small person in their head either discouraging or encouraging them. It is possible to control this person and become a someone who never gives up said Amr.



Abdulla Faris,
Development Scientist

A lack of formal addresses in Yemen could be overcome by using a Natural Area Code, a ten digit code that tells you where you are at the touch of a button.



Emad Alsakkaf,
Researcher

There are environmental solutions that preserve water, create income, encourage tourism, provide natural health treatment and save the country's agriculture industry.



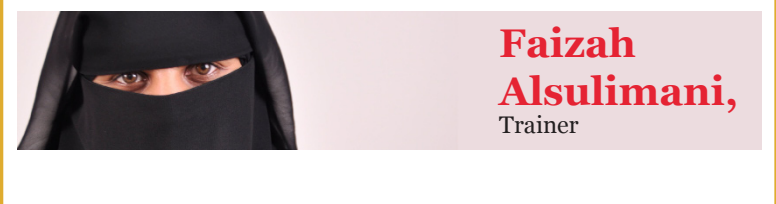
Maad Sharaf,
Student

Maad explored the many resources we have for learning. Life should be taken as a package and used to turn an individual into a productive community member.



Amad Almsaodi,
Entrepreneur

The Internet can be used to create income. It can be a tool to create small and micro projects online.



Faizah Alsulimani,
Trainer

There is nothing impossible if there is a will. Social norms can be overcome and women encouraged to excel, even when wearing a niqab.



Munir Daair,
Businessman

Munir reminded us that one should conquer their fear of failure by never giving up. A person fails the moment they throw in the towel.



Mohammed Al-Basha,
Businessman

Coffee is the past, present and future of Yemen's agriculture industry. Qat should be kicked out of the door.

Notice:

Please note that due to TEDx Conference coverage, part 4 and 5 of the Labor Series has been postponed until next week.

نُلهِم الأمل
INSPIRING HOPE



TEDxSanaa
x = independently organized TED event

TEDxSanaa is the first TEDx event in Yemen. It aims at exposing the talent, creativity, and ingenuity of Yemenis. The event will bring the brightest, most creative, most influential Yemenis together to inspire and remind the world of the potential that Yemen has to be a good world citizen. It comes at a very critical time when Yemen, which is one of the Arab Spring countries, entered a transitional phase towards becoming a democratic, modern state. The Slogan of TEDxSanaa 2012 is "inspiring hope" and it will take place on 31st December 2012

تيدكس صنعاء هو أول مؤتمر لتيدكس في اليمن وهو يعني بتقديم الأبداء والإلهام اليمني ليعكس صورة أفضل لليمن أمام العالم ويوفر فرصة ممتازة للمبدعين اليمنيين ليقدموا أفكارهم ورؤاهم بشكل مختلف يشجع على الإلهام والابتكار كما أنه يعتبر نافذة أمل جديدة للتعبير عن الأفكار والرؤى وتحويلها الى واقع ومن هنا جاء شعاره لهذا العام "نلهِم الأمل" وسينعقد في الحادي والثلاثين من ديسمبر 2012 ليكون ختام مسك لهذا العام ان شاء الله

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