

Lucky Winner of the Second Draw on Surprise Card Offer

Sabafon Telecom Company handed over its second Surprise Card awards last Thursday in a festival ceremony in the KFC open area in Sana'a on February 7th. Lucky winner Yasser Hussein Abdullah Bare won the grand prize, a Porsche Car. A number of other valuable monetary prizes were also awarded in the presence of Lead Strategy and Business Development Senior Manager in the Marketing Department Mohammed Al-Shami who inaugurated the ceremony welcoming businessmen, the clients and all attendees."This Surprise Card Offer is one of the initiatives Sabafon does for its customers in appreciation of their loyalty and in an attempt to strengthen its relation with its customers," said Al-Shami.

He added that in a few days Sabafon will celebrate the 12 year anniversary of launching its services on 14th February 2001. "While we celebrate this amazing occasion we take pride in the achievements and the accomplishments relating to basic services and the additional merits to satisfy all customers," he said. Adding that the company had done many social services and community development projects coming out of Sabaton corporate social responsibility and will continue doing so in the future using the best technologies and highest quality.

Grand Prize Winner (2nd Porsche Car)

Mohammed Al-Obadi communication unit manager at the marketing department said that the offer is still on-going and Sabafon will have its third draw early March offering a third car and many awards.

One Million Rials Winner

Yasser Hussien Abdullah Bare

a Scratchful of Surprises

Winners of the

- Marzooq Hamid Ahmed Al-Khirbash
- Omar Salem Naser Abdulnabi
- Awadh Ahmed Naser Sa'ad

Winners of the YR 50,000

Ahmed Said Ali Al-Mashjari

Yousef Mohammed

Ahmed Dahhan

- Abdulkarim Sad Hadi Arwah
- Akram Abdulhamid Amer Qasim
- Mujeeb Abdulaleem Thabet Hazza
- Mohammed Ahmed Ali Qaid
- Faisal Salem Saleh Mohammed
- Abdu Muqbil Qaid Abdullah
- Baha Faisal Rashad Al-Himyari
- Ali Yahya Ali Mansour
- Mohammed Abdulwahab Ali Al-Dailami

For more information Send "80" to 211 for free

أصالة وتــواصـل www.sabafon.com



Selection of Consultants Request for Expression of Interest

For Providing Consultancy Services in the Field of providing with technical specification and supervision for building one tug boat 700-750HP

Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation, Port of Hodeidah, planning to consolidate its marine fleet by buying one new pilot boat for pilot operations as mentioned above. Bearing in mind that, the depth of the water in maneuvering pool is 9.4m, ambient temperature +50°C, humidity 95%, atmosphere dust & salt.

Hence,

Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation (YRSPC) – Hodeidah Port, invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the necessary consultancy services for the above project. Interested consultants must provide their qualification information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc).

The consultancy services required shall include:

- Studies and Design of the Project
- 1. Prepare the drawings and specifications
- 2. Prepare the estimated cost
- 3. Prepare the tender's documents
- 4. Analysis and evaluation the bids' offers

• Supervision and Handover the Project

- 1. Ensure the implementation of the project in accordance with the technical drawings and specifications.
- 2. Participate in the inspection, test and handover of the project.

The consultant shall submit the following qualification documents:

- 1. his qualification for the job,
- 2. his technical, financial and administrative position
- 3. his major business activities and years of relevant experience,
- key staff qualification,
- 5. references

Expressions of Interest shall be made in duplicate hard copies along with a soft copy (CD) to the address mentioned below.

Finance: Self Financed

The consultant will be selected in accordance with prevailing laws (Tender Law 23-2007) and the procedures set out in the High Tender Board's Manual for the Procurement of Consultants Services. Interested consultant may obtain further information at the address below between 09:00 am and 1400 pm from Saturday through Wednesday, excluding official holidays.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the address below:

Executive Chairman – Chairman of the Board Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation Head Office, Port of Hodeidah Hodeidah, Yemen

Tel: +967 3 211600/211603 Fax: +967 3 211264/211561 Email: pmac@y.net.ye

requirements_purchasing@yahoo.com

Website: www.portofhodeidah.com

Deadline for submission is 12:00 hours noon on by Sunday-17/3/2013. No submission after the date above will be considered. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Selection of Consultants **Request for Expression of Interest**

For Providing Consultancy Services in the Field of providing with technical specification for building two tug boats for towing and mooring operations, 3500-4000 HP

Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation, Port of Hodeidah, planning to consolidate its marine fleet by buying two new tug boats for towing and mooring operations as mentioned above. Bearing in mind that, the depth of the water in maneuvering pool is 9.4m, ambient temperature +50°C, humidity 95%, atmosphere dust & salt.

Hence,

Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation (YRSPC) – Hodeidah Port, invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the necessary consultancy services for the above project. Interested consultants must provide their qualification information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc).

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requirements_purchasing@yahoo.com Website: www.portofhodeidah.com

Deadline for submission is 12:00 hours noon on by Sunday 17./3/2013. No submission after the date above will be considered.

National Bank of Yemen Chooses^{*}ICS BANKS ISLAMIC^{*} Solution from ICSFS for its Islamic Branches



www.nbyemen.com

ICS Financial Systems Limited (ICSFS), the global software and services provider for banks and financial institutions, announced that National Bank of Yemen (NBY), which is one of the largest Commercial Banks in Yemen, has selected ICS BANKS ISLAMIC for its Islamic branches.

NBY chose ICS BGANKS ISLAMIC for its highly flexible parameterization, wher4e ICS BANKS ISLAMIC meets all business and Shari'a requirements as it is designed with native product engines that can be configured to meet the different approaches of each bank's Shari'a Board.

NBY chose ISC BANKS ISLAMIC during the 3rd quarter of last year, the agreement was signed by Chairman of NBY, Mr. Mohamed Abdulla Muqbil Al-Amery and Executive Director for Business Development of ICSFS, Mr. Wael Malkawi.

Mr. Mohamed Abdulla Muqbil Al-Amery, Chairman of NBY, commented.

"In a rapidly growing financial Islamic sector, systems' providers differentiate themselves by providing new services and products to the market and having a competitive edge over competitors, Islamic products and innovations should fulfill the requirements for business growth, therefore we selected ICS BANKS IS-LAMIC to provide us with a very homogeneous and dynamic solution."

Mr. Wael Malkawi, Executive Director for Business Development of ICSFS said.

"ICSFS continues to be very successful in the Banking sector with its solutions. Our implementation at NBY is highly significant as it expands our share in the Islamic banking market in Yemen. NBY joined our growing list of long-standing clients who have chosen ICS BANKS ISLAMIC for its flexibility and comprehensive functionality to banking institutions of all sizes."

ICS BANKS provides a complete suite of banking business modules with a rich sweep of functionality and features, addressing business needs and automating accounting processes, as needed, to improve a bank's business performance. ICS BANKS has always been a pioneer in utilizing the latest technology to serve financial institutions. In addition to its embedded Service-Oriented-Architecture (SOA), the system is deployed in a multi-tiered setup that runs on a web thin client, JZEE environment. www.icsfs.com



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Building violations on the rise in the Old City

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Feb. 17 — Since it was declared a United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site, 1,700 architectural violations have been reported in Sana'a's Old City, according to local council members. These include the use of concrete stones, constructing buildings higher than restrictions have stipulated and unregulated construction.

There are about 8,500 buildings and approximately 20 percent of the buildings constitute violations, said Khalid Al-Akwa, the head of the local council in the district that has jurisdiction over Old Sana'a.

The construction of modern housing, in addition to poor sewage and drainage systems have led to the collapse of over 400 houses, Al-Akwa said.

Locals in the Old City have complained about the deterioration of infrastructure in the area.

"The majority of the streets have been destroyed by a lack of care, and there are sewage leaks in every house. Residents are afraid that their homes will one day collapse," said Nafe Al-Wasabi, who lives in the Old City.

Al-Akwa, said the council is working in cooperation with the Secretariat to prepare a six-month plan that will repair houses in the Old City.



UNESCO has threatened to remove the Old City from it's heritage list several times.

"The project is funded by the Secretariat and Old Sana'a's district [administration]," he said. "All the damaged houses will be repaired in addition to implementing a traffic plan."

Al-Akwa also said there is a study currently being conducted by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation that will repair water and sewage networks in the Old City.

Also included in the \$500,000 budget, is a plan to pave neglected roads and improve electricity ser-

This move comes after several UNESCO warnings that threatened to remove the Old City from its heritage list and thus the cutting of needed funding to restore the historic site.

Dr. Naji Thwaba, the head of the General Authority for Preserving Historical Cities, said the authority has already conducted several studies investigating building violations. He says they are now forming plans to follow up on violations in the area.

"The violations will be remedied, and the names of the violators will be presented to the executive authority represented by the local council to take necessary procedures [against them]," he said.



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

مقابلة حصرية

Abdu Al-Nasser Al-Mawda to the Yemen Times "A true revolution strives to rid itself of a former regime, but simultaneously endeavors to build a new system."

Turn to pages 4 for the interview



نص المقابلة في صفحة ٥

اللامركزية

Security Council statement says former president and vice president have interfered with political process

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANA'A, Feb. 17 — The United Nations' Security Council released a statement Friday night stating for the first time that former President Ali Abdulla Saleh and his former vice president and the last president in the South before unification, Ali Salem Al-Beid, have both impeded the transitional political process in

The Security Council promised in a meeting held in Sana'a in late January that they would impose sanc-

tions on anyone that interferes with the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), the writing of a new constitution or elections slated for 2014.

The Security Council's statement called on all factions in Yemen to go forward with the Dialogue Conference and settle disputes in a peaceful forum.

The Security Council also expressed concerns about reports that suggest weapons and money have been brought into Yemen from abroad with the aim of undermining the political process.

Thabit Al-Ahmadi, a political researcher, told the Yemen Times that describing Saleh and Al-Beid as political process saboteurs in come in the wake of an extensive investigation into Yemen's political situation conducted by the Security Council.

He went on to say that Jamal Benomar, the U.N.'s special envoy to Yemen, alongside the Security Council and countries that backed the GCC Initiative, have all implied that both Saleh and Al-Beid have hampered the political compro-

In January of last year, Gerald Feierstein, the United States' ambassador to Yemen, accused Al-Beid of having ties to Iran, for the purpose of achieving southern separation and undermining the political transition.



Parties buy more time to fix NDC lists while Hirak solidifies participation

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Feb. 17 — Deadlines for the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) have been extended once again.

The deadline for political parties to hand in their modified lists of participants for NDC has been moved from Sunday to Monday.

The modified lists were requested by the dialogue's committee because all parties, except for the Yemeni Socialist Party, did not adhere to the lists' regulations - 50 percent

of representatives are supposed to be from the South, 30 percent women and 20 percent under the age of 40.

These rules were stipulated by the Technical Committee during their preparations for the conference.

"Once the new lists are submitted on Monday, they will be discussed during the committee's meeting on Tuesday. The committee we will not have reservations about any list unless they do fulfill the [mentioned] criteria," said Dr. Ahmed Mubarak, the Secretary General of the NDC.

While the political parties reorganize their lists, President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi told the Technical Committee that Hirak handed in its list of representatives on Saturday.

Hirak, a coalition of Southern Movement factions, had previously threatened not to participate in the

dialogue. Dr. Saleh Basara, a dialogue committee member, said that the lists for the independent components of the conference will be finalized on Tuesday.





Injured revolutionaries continue to protest for third consecutive week to access medical care

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANA'A, Feb. 17 - Two bullets struck Mohammed Al-Nahari's on Sep. 18 2011 near the Kentucky roundabout in Sana'a. It was one the bloodiest days in Yemen's 2011 popular uprising.

A soldier shot at him from point blank range only 10 meters from a military vehicle, Al-Nahari says. On that day, the young revolutionary became one of the 28,910, according to the Council of Injured and Martyrs' Families, to go down in history as Yemen's injured revolutionaries.

Motivated by worsening health concerns, dozens of wounded revolutionaries continue to participate in a sit-in outside the Cabinet building that began three weeks

Since then, increased pressure on the ministerial committee tasked with overseeing the injured revolutionary issue has prompted the government to hospitalize 32 seriously injured persons in Egypt

Mohammed Salem Basindwa, Yemen's Prime Minister, said in a statement issued at the beginning of this month that the government has paid YR100,000,000, almost \$500,000, for their treatment

Since the end of the revolution, Shawqi Al-Maimoni, the head of the Council of Injured and Martyrs' Families, said a little over 200 seriously injured people have been taken abroad for treatment by the Wafa Foundation, a local organization dedicated to caring for injured revolutionaries.

Al-Nahari said he considers himself one of the lucky ones.

"After my injury, I was taken to a field hospital and then to Azal hospital. After that, I was hospitalized in the University of Science and Technology Hospital. I was also taken to Cairo more than once," he said.

However, for the injured revolutionaries outside the Cabinet Building, who say they have been denied treatment largely due to ideological and partisan differences, this brings little comfort.



Many injured revolutionaries continue to wait for medical treatment.

"I was hit by a bullet in Taiz city. No institution offered me treatment. So, my father loaned me some money, putting us in a lot of debt," said Abdulelah Mohammed Al-Samei, an injured protestor.

Since the sit-in began, it has garnered media attention for the selfimmolation of Muneef Al-Zubair at the beginning of the month and alleged attacks on protestors by security forces last week.

types of fish and other sea crea-

tures. Despite fish and sea life being

the third largest export in Yemen,

its contribution to local revenue is

Last July, a governmental report

revealed a dramatic decline in Ye-

men's fish production over the past

couple of years due to piracy and il-

legal fishing by foreign ships in ad-

The report indicated that Ye-

men's production of fish and other

sea creatures has declined in value

from \$300 million in 2009 to less

dition to the crisis of 2011.

than \$50 million in 2011.

very low, officials say.

Secretariat and street vendors disagree over designated markets



Many street vendors say they get their best trade on busy roads.

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Feb. 17 - Street vendors $haphaz ardly \, scattered \, throughout$ the capital city have led residents to complain about overcrowded streets. In response, the Capital Secretariat initiated a campaign in January to create specific areas for official markets, but vendors have ignored requests and continue to stay put.

"The new markets are not good because people don't know about them. I cannot make a living in these markets. Selling our goods on the main streets is better," said Hisham Mahdi Al-Wesabi, a

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Fath Al-Rahman Jasar, the head of the Street Vendors Union, said some of the street side designated markets.

vendors wanted to stay in the markets, but had to return to the main streets because disagreements with market owners. He cited Shumaila market as an example.

Jasar says they are working towards a solution.

"We are preparing a plan in coordination with the Secretariat in order to determine new markets for the street vendors," he said.

In the same vein, Isam Juma'an, the deputy head of the Environment and Municipality in the capital city, stated that there are currently efforts to organize the street vendors until alternative markets are found.

The Secretariat's campaign aimed to ban 18,000 street vendors in Sana'a from selling out-

Fishing industry says it needs to be taken seriously



Fish and sea life are Yemens third largest exports, yet the fishing industry remains underdeveloped.

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANA'A, Feb. 17 - At a recent workshop held in Sana'a by the Fishery Cooperative Union and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Dr. Fathia Bahran, the director of IFAD, said fishing revenues are the third highest earning sector in Yemen, with over two million people benefiting from the maustry.

He went on to say that fisheries are a significant source of employment for current and future generations and therefore need to be managed effectively.

At the workshop, which aimed to discuss international best-practice models for securing sustainable small-scale fish farms, Bahran said

that the practice in Yemen face many challenges and obstacles.

According to Bahran, fish farms are often located far from markets causing late delivery, and are also subject to environmental degradation, bad climate and over-use.

Bahran also said that if this wealth is cared for, it would become a major contributor to Yemen's economic growth.

of fisheries said the workshop is of great significance. He said it can secure small fish farms, support economic growth and improve living conditions for those in the industry. He emphasized that the government has formed a committee to evaluate the losses sustained by fishermen due to piracy and to probe into the cases of detained fishermen in neighboring countries to secure their release.

For his part Ali Ahmed Bin Sheba, the head of the fishery cooperative union said the workshop aimed to explore ways to develop coastal environments to create sustainable fishing patterns in Yemen and to investigate the problems faced by fishermen.

uty representative for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Yemen said that small fish farms have a key role to play in ending poverty and providing job opportunities for fishermen throughout

Yemen's coastline is about 2500 km. long with stocks of over 600

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World Bank adds three projects to fulfill pledges to support Yemen

Nadia Haddash

SANA'A, Feb. 17 - The World Bank released a statement on Saturday that they will start three new projects, at an estimated cost of \$206 million, that aims to support Yemen's transitional process.

The projects will complement a current World Bank initiative that provides funding for reconstruction efforts across the country.

The latest announcement is the first installment of a pledge made to Yemen by the World Bank at a donor conference last year.

"We pledged \$400 million to Yemen at the Riyadh Conference, and we have invested more than half of these funds in less than five months," said Wael Zakout, the World Bank's country manager for

Zakout went on to say, "The three newly approved projects will be funded by grants from the Interna-

tional Foundation for Development, the World Bank's partner in supporting the most poverty-stricken countries. They aim to expand the rebuilding of major infrastructure [projects] and improve living conditions for the most impoverished people, who are still suffering from recent crises that have broken out across Yemen."

The three projects will implement crisis recovery initiatives, install basic education infrastructure for children and improve roads and logistical infrastructure.

The first project, funded by a \$100 million grant, will provide cash transfers to 400,000 beneficiaries of the government's own Social Welfare Fund. This project is expected to last two years.

The second project, named Basic Education II, will use a \$66 million grant to enhance the quality of education for primary school students by focusing on reading skills.

The project will provide funding to overcrowded schools, rebuild 150 schools and train and employ 700 rural female teachers to promote equal access to quality education for young girls as well as poorer and rural children.

The third project aims to increase the quality of road facilities. Funded by a \$40 million grant, it will develop roads in four governorates, Al-Hodeidah, Ibb, Taiz, and Lahj.

The World Bank group pledge of \$400 million is one of a number of financial pledges, estimated to total \$7.5 billion, that the international community has made in order to support Yemen's transition. The funds are meant to be used to overcome the country's budget deficit within the government plan for national reconciliation and to create a stable atmosphere for the transitional process that includes a national dialogue, elections and the drafting of a new constitution.

Institutional upheaval in Yemen, micro Arab Springs

Samar Qaed

eafening shouts exaggerated through speakers radiate through the hospital wards as anxious patients try to find someone to attend to their needs. What used to be one of the country's most distinguished hospitals has turned into grounds for large protests used by angry employees demanding salary increases and benefits and accusing management of corruption.

Employees of Al-Thawra State Hospital have been on strike for the last seven months and intend to continue until their demands are fulfilled.

The director of the hospital, Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Khawlani, stands helpless before this chaotic situation, unnerved by the fact that his staff instead of treating patients, are ignoring them and disturbing their peace with the speakers.

"These protestors do not care about the patients, all the doctors are standing in the yard while the patients are looking for anyone to take care of them," he said, almost standing beside himself in exasperation.

"Where is the oath they swore by? Where is the humanity? Is this how rights should be attained?"

But, the protestors say they have had enough. They say they attempted to amicably ask for a dialogue with the hospital's administration, but now they are taking it to the next level.

"We waited and waited. We objected peacefully and demanded our rights quietly since 2011. But when no one paid attention to us, we decided to get louder," said Fuad Al-Barakani, the secretary



general of the Al-Thawra Hospital Laborers Union.

Al-Thawra Hospital is one of at least 40 public institutions whose staff went on strike or carried out some sort of institutional protests over the last two years. Nationwide, the use of protests by employees against management has become a growing trend since the emergence of the protests in 2011 that toppled former president Ali Abdullah Saleh's reign of power.

In many instances, management did not put up much of a fight against the protestors and relented within days or a couple of weeks, leading to agreements between management and employees regarding issues like official contracts and unpaid wages.

However, out of the reported institutional protests in 2012, less than 50 percent led to actual

In 2011, employee protests caused management changes in 18 government facilities.

Illegal protests Although peaceful protests are protected by the 1995 law per Article 146 of the Labor Code, lawyer and legal activist Nabila Al-Mufti says Article 150 of the same law prohibits strikes in essential institutions like airports, central banks or the oil sector where daily income losses due to strikes are estimated to cause significant financial distress or like in hospitals where the public's general interest is at stake.

"The ministerial cabinet passed a decree last August criminalizing all forms of strikes in occupations or institutions that would consequently and significantly impact the national economy," she

"According to this law, employees are forced by law to carry out partial strikes, so that they take shifts in getting the work done or delivering services.'

On the flip side of protestors' anger at an inability to voice their concerns, management says protests are triggered by personal interests rather than actual grievances.

Mohammed Shidiwa, the former director of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), who was ousted from his job a month and a half ago, said he was removed from office not because of his inability to meet employees' demands but because of private objections from heavyweights in the department.

"There are certain people in the authority who managed to lobby others and get them to create chaos because they wanted to take charge," he said.

However, the head of the EPA Union said Shidiwa's statement is not true. He said new management has come from outside the authority and is now working with employees to find solutions for their complaints.

It's all about the money

A majority of employee strikes are based on financial grievances as disgruntled employees complain of insufficient wages.

Mohammed Al-Jadri, the head of the Yemeni Laborers Union said that there is so much corruption at institutional levels, that it forces employees at the lowest level of the institutional hierarchy to find a way to present their case.

"There is so much stalling in paying people their financial dues. This pushes employees to strike as a last resort as they don't want to lose their jobs. We receive dozens of complaints daily from unsatisfied employees," Al-Jadri said. Some striking employees have

escalated their protests to the point of a facility takeover. Last month, Al-Thawra Newspaper employees locked themselves inside the paper's building and prevented

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the daily publication from going to print. Their action got the attention of the president, who personally intervened and promised to attend

Protests can also turn very ugly. In January of this year, bodyguards for Sana'a's Chief of Security exchanged fire with angry soldiers demanding his resignation, resulting in one death and three injuries. This was quickly followed by death of a protestor in the same week in Aden. The protestor was among a crowd of angry employees who tried to stop the head of the Central Organization for Control and Auditing branch in Aden from entering work. Following a heated argument between his armed bodyguards and the protestors, one person was killed.

Al-Jadri says if there was more financial accountability and transparency from officials, the protests would not be necessary and situations like that could be

Why can't we have a civil way for demanding rights without being subjected to such violence?" he questioned.









Grants Announcement

The USAID funded Responsive Governance Project (RGP), implemented by Counterpart International, aims to help civil society organizations throughout Yemen to play an effective role during the Transition Period, through interaction in the process of the National Dialogue Conference. This objective will be achieved by strengthening the institutional capacity of selected civil society organizations, and by activating their base through direct grants to enable them to implement activities related to the National Dialogue...

Accordingly, RGP calls on effective Civil Society Organizations throughout Yemen to submit a request by filling an application form to be evaluated for participation in RGP Grants & our Training Program. Send application and the required attachment to the following email (to download the application visit the following link

http://www.facebook.com/groups/rgpyemen/

A committee will be formed to select the 69 CSOs in a competitive manner according to specific criteria. The selected organizations will be required:

1- To engage in activities related to providing input to the National Dialogue. :60 selected CSOs will receive a basic training on institutional building for civil society organizations including the administrative, financial, and programmatic aspects, in addition, they will get a direct material support (Devices and Equipment) or technical support(Systems and Regulations Improvement).

2- 9 CSOs will be selected to receive ISO 9001training and a direct institutional materials or technical support.

- Application should be sent to the following e-mail: csog@rgpyemen.org or to RGP office which is located in Beirut Street-Haddah Zone, front of Primary Administrative Court, no later than February 27 2013 at 4:00 p.m.
 - For any inquiries, please contact Eman Abdullah Awadh, the program assistant, on: 772399601



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Abdu Al-Nasser Al-Mawda' to the Yemen Times

"A true revolution strives to rid itself of a former regime, but simultaneously endeavors to build a new system."

Writer and political analyst Abdu Al-Nasser Al-Mawda' thinks the secessionist Southern Movement factions may spark violence and create chaos in the South in order to voice their dismissal of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC).

In an interview with the Yemen Times, he also said the time devoted to the conference is very little in comparison to its complex issues. The future of Yemen's political system and the nature of the state will be two of the largest areas of debate at the conference, he says.

Interview by Mohammed Al-Samei Photo by Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Two years after the revolution, what change has been achieved?

The revolution was a turning point in history that made society adapt to a particular situation. But, where the change is headed is a different

What happened is really a revolution that changed the course of the Yemeni state, forcing it another

The future possibilities are acceptable. There are many possibilities that will improve the situation in comparison with the pre-revolution era. There is another possibility that the situation will deteriorate. Any revolution has risks particularly if the state institutions are fragile, as is the case in Yemen. Issues such as the insurgency in Sa'ada, the Southern Movement and the instability in the South all face Yemen. These risks cast a shadow on the future of the revolution. The revolution was a necessity because the country was heading towards a disastrous situation. Thus, the revolution happened to bring an end to this disastrous situation, but we don't know what will happen.

Thus far, has the revolution made positive changes?

Fortunately, Yemen is exposed to a foreign world that has an influence on its internal affairs. Because of this influence, the foreign powers were able to find a mechanism for an organized peaceful power transfer. This mechanism helped keep is normal. However, some people state institutions functioning. This is a positive point because a revolution that aims to achieve full-scale change usually runs the risks of a collapse of state.

What happened in Yemen was a disorganized change. In my opinion, the primary goal of the revolution was to divert the country's path to another one. This is what happened. The power was transferred from former President Ali Abdulla Saleh to the current President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi based on the Gulf Initiative and the agreement of an internal elite. I think the power transfer mecha-



Fortunately, Yemen is exposed to a foreign world that has an influence on its internal affairs. nism in Yemen was the best way.

Some political components expressed their unhappiness about the Gulf Initiative, saying it obstructed comprehensive change. What do you

This speech is unrealistic and unfair. Comprehensive change can only be achieved through war and violence. We all know the army was connected to the former regime. Unlike Tunisia and Egypt, military institutions were not independent from the former regime. When the revolution erupted in Egypt, military institutions did not support the regime of Hosni Mubarak. Thus, such a situation compelled the regime to resign. The army did not side with the regime. If there had been no peaceful transfer of power in Yemen, then a Libyan or the Syrian experience would have ensued. There would have been street wars which could have resulted in damage for the state's infrastructure like what is taking place in Syria at the moment.

The youth spurred a revolution in order to make changes in many fields. Yet, the youth are currently unhappy about the political and economic situation.

The regime prior to the revolution was balanced. The revolution caused it to lose that balance, which led to a deteriorated economy in addition to a halt of investments. This feel that once the ruler steps aside, all bad circumstances will come to an end. This is not true, it is just a dream. A true revolution strives to rid itself of a former regime, but simultaneously endeavors to build a new system. This is a complicated process that comes with a lot of problems. Frequently, societies fail post revolution. It can be one step forward and five steps back.

As a writer and political analyst, are you convinced of the revolution's achievements?

I am content that worst case scenarios have not occurred vet. Some expected those scenarios to happen in Yemen, like a destructive civil war. Luckily, losses were not that big. So I think what happened is a success.

The National Dialogue Con- Frequently, ference (NDC) is slated to begin March 18. What do you think about the NDC? Will be

held [on time] or delayed? The NDC's tasks are enormous. So its execution is a difficult process. Bringing stakeholders together is a difficult process. A delay is a possibility, given the conference has already been postponed several times since its set start date in November. I think it will be delayed, but the possibility that it will be held is acceptable. There is an issue regarding to the representation of political components in the NDC. The refusal of Southern Movement factions to partake in the NDC is a



It is a message to the old regime that the outcomes of the NDC will create a new system in which the former regime will have no power.

problem as well. Even if it is held in March, some political components will be absent.

What is the meaning of holding the NDC on the Friday of Dignity's second anniversa-

Of course, that day has historical meaning. Selecting this day indicates there was a change and a revolution. It is a message to the old regime that the outcomes of the NDC will create a new system in which the former regime will have no power.

Southern Movement factions have announced they will not participate in the dialogue. Do you expect these factions will [change their minds] and join the dialogue in the days to come?

I don't think so. First, there is a problem in terms of the Southern Movement and their representatives. There is no one who controls the South. There is a huge political vacuum. So anyone who calls himself the representative of the South will be rejected by other factions.



societies fail post revolution. It can be one step forward and five steps back.

talk about the importance of sound preparation before holding the NDC. Do you think the NDC will be held after those preparations take

There is not adequate time to be spent to create an ideal atmosphere. in particular with regard to the situation in the South because preparing an ideal atmosphere would require a long time and needs a long-term mechanism. Consequently, I don't think the NDC will be held on March18. Perhaps there will escalation by the sides that want to foil the NDC. Perhaps there will be escalation in order to create unsuitable atmosphere for holding the National Dialogue. The secessionist Southern Movement factions may spark violence and create chaos in the South in order to voice their refusal to hold the NDC.

Do you think the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) will have one single vision at the NDC? The JMP will disagree on issues and agendas at the National Dialogue. The Socialist Party and the Islah Party will differ on the shape of the state. I think many other issues will be disagreed upon.

Some think it will be difficult to agree on outcomes because the rifts between the parties are not that simple. What is your opinion?

The National Dialogue is a compound issue, and the time devoted to it is very limited. So I think it will not be easy to reach an agreement about significant issues. The shape of the state, as well as the type and the nature of the political system, will be among the major problems encountered at the NDC.

Some say foreign countries will play a big part in determining the outcomes of the dialogue. Do you agree?

This is a problem, but it can be seen as positive. It is a problem because foreign countries [concerned with

Many political components Yemen] are not a united bloc. There are regional countries that are acting on their interests. Other countries like the United States have their own agendas and priorities that are different from Saudi Ara-

At the same time, it is encouraging because they can help lobby internal forces about some issues. However, some issues are complex, and cannot be easily resolved even if their solutions come from abroad as long as the Yemeni political parties disagree about solutions. [Yemeni political parties] pretend to accept some agreements, but implementation is tough.

In your recent paper, you said: "Issues related to disengagement and secession are not legitimate." Could you please clarify this point?

The demand of self-determination or disengagement is not consistent with international law. According to international law, the Southern governorates are part of the Republic of Yemen. Because secessionist movements are one-sided, their demands are illegitimate unless they and the central state



The Socialist Party and the Islah Party will differ on the shape of the state.

reach an agreement. If they reach an agreement about separation, it is legitimate. If there is no agreement about separation, it is just an illusion.

Personally, I don't see separation taking place because of legal reasons. The Security Council supported Yemen's unity in its last session. The resolutions of the Security Council are obligatory, legal rules. No country encourages secession because emboldening separation contradicts international law. Moreover, no country has the right to determine the right of another country. The only body that can create legal legislation supporting separation is the Security Council. But, the Security Council doesn't support a secessionist movement because it goes against international law.

The Southerners say they handed over their state, and it is their right to restore it.

This was a country in the past. In 1990, it became part of the Republic of Yemen. Prior to unification, they reserved the right to have selfdetermination. After unification, they lost the right of self-determination. Even the North has no right to self-determination. Unification was realized, and the state was integrated. Unity was not established on the basis of two regions. Unity was established based on the concept that legality in the Southern governorates is the same as legality in the Northern governorates. Legally speaking, Taiz, Hodeida and Sa'ada have no right to secede. In turn, the Southern governorates also have no right to secede.

Some say there are regional countries that support secession in Yemen?

Yes, Iran supports secession for its own interests. Also, there are some regional powers who want to weaken Iran's influence. The situation in Yemen is complicated, which makes a solution for the Southern issue exceedingly difficult. There is no ideal solution.

Do you think the NDC will solve the Southern issue or help get rid of stagnation in the South?

I don't think so. The ultimate option for the South is secession. So it is impossible to reach a moderate solution for the Southern issue. The political elite in the South cannot relate to those calling for sepa-

Can federalism make a difference in this case if it is adopted in Yemen?

Even a two-region federalist option is almost impossible. Federalism would face problems in many regions. Seemingly, the most suitable option is continuing to promote integrated unity in addition to [certain forms of] decentralization. Federalism in a weak state will increase the fragility of the state and state institutions. Federalism will weaken patriotic parties and will do the opposite for non-patriotic parties. Federalism in armed fragmented communities will encourage polarization. Thus, federalism will make the situation worse.

Even if reform to the political systems is made?

The problem in the South is in the political system. Reforming the political system is the solution to the Southern issue and the Sa'ada issue. Once society approves of a political system, many issues will be solved.

عبد الناصرالمودع ليمن تايمز:

الخيار الأكثر ملاءمة لليمن استمرار الوحدة الاندماجية مع شكل من أشكال اللامركزية

يعتقد الكاتب والباحث السياسي عبد الناصر المودع أن الفصائل الجنوبية الانفصالية، قد تنفذ أعمال عنف وفوضى، بالتزامن مع انعقاد مؤتمر الحوار الوطني في المناطق الجنوبية تعبيراً عن رفضها لانعقاد مؤتمر الحوار.

ويوضح المودع أن قضايا الحوار الوطني معقدة وصعبت والفترة الزمنيت للحوار محدودة جداً، ولهذا من الصعوبة الوصول إلى اتفاق، خاصة في القضايا المصيرية مثل قضية شكل الدولة.

ويضيف في حوار لـ «يمن تايمز» أن أي طرف سيدخل الحوار بالادعاء إنه يمثل الحراك الجنوبي، سيقابله أطراف أخرى تنفي عنه هذه الصفة، وتقول بأنه ليس الحراك الحقيقي وأنه حراكا مزوراً.

> حوار: محمد السامعي تصوير: صادق الوصابي

بعد مرور عامين على الثورة ما هو التغييرالذي أحدثتم؟

الثورة هي نقطة مفصلية في التاريخ يتحول المجتمع خُلالها من مسار معين إلى مسار آخر، لكن إلى أين يتحول هذا أمر آخر، ما حدث فعلاً أن الثورة غيرت مسار كانت تسير عليه الدولة في اليمن واتجهت إلى اتجاه آخر، فالاحتمالات المستقبلية واردة، وكثيرة منها احتمال تحسن الوضع عما كان عليه في لحظة انطلاق الثورة، وهناك احتمال آخر أن تتدهور الأوضاع، فأي ثورة تحمل مخاطر تفكك الدولة، خاصة في حال كانت مؤسسات الدولة ضعيفة، كما هو حال اليمن، وفي حال وجود مشاكل جمة تواجه الدولة كما هو حال اليمن من حيث مشكلة التمرد في صعدة والحراك الجنوبي والوضع المضطرب في الجنوب، هذه المخاطر كلها تلقى بظلالها على مستقبل الثورة، لكن أهم ما في الأمر أن الثورة كانت حاجة ضرورية لأن اتجاة الدولة كان يسير نحو أوضاع مأساوية، ولهذا أتت الثورة لتوقف حالة الوضع المأساوى لكن فتحت الباب على المجهول.

هل استطاعت الثورة أن تجري تغييراً

من حسن حظ اليمن أنها دولة مكشوفة للعالم الخارجي الأمر الذي يؤثر على الأوضاع الداخلية في اليمن، بسبب هذا التأثير استطاع العالم الخارجي إيجاد آلية لنقل السلطة بشكل سلمي وهادئ ومنظم إلى حد كبير، هذه الآلية حفظت للدولة بقاء مؤسساتها متماسكة، وهذه نقطة إيجابية لأن الثورات التي تسعى إلى التغيير الشامل في الغالب تحمل مخاطر انهيار الدولة، أما ما حدث في اليمن هو تغيير غير منظم، الهدف الأساسي للثورة من وجهة نظري هو إيقاف المسار السّابق وتوجيهه إلى مسار آخر، وهذا ما حدث، عن طريق انتقال السلطة من الرئيس السابق على عبد الله صالح إلى الرئيس الحالي عبد ربه منصور هادي، وفق المبادرة الخليجية ووفق اتفاق النخبة الداخلية، أنا أنظر أن آلية نقل السلطة في اليمن هي أفضل آلية لانتقال السلطة.

لكن بعض الجهات السياسية وبعض المكونات الثورية عبرت عن استيائها من المبادرة الخليجية ويقولون إنها أعاقت تحقيق التغيير الشامل؟

هذا الكلام غير واقعى وفيه كثير من التعسف، لأن التغيير الجذري والشامل لن يحدث إلا من خلال الحرب أو العنف، فكلنا نعرف أن الجيش مرتبط بالنظام، فمؤسسات الجيش ليست مستقلة عن النظام كما هو في مصر أو تونس، فعندما قامت الثورة في مصر لم تكن مؤسسات الجيش مؤيدة أو تابعّة لنظام حسني مبارك، فهي من أجبرت النظام على الاستقالة، ولم

المطالبة بحق تقرير المصير أو فك الارتباط هو مطلب لا يتوافق مع القانون الدولي.

تؤيده، إذا لم يحدث تغيير سلمي في اليمن كان سيحدث كما حدث في ليبيا أو ما يحدث في سوريا، وسيكون هناك حرب من شارع إلى شاّرع، سيدمر النظام، وينتج عن ذلك مخاطر في بناء الدولة، كما هو حاصل الآن في سوريا، فمن كان يقول إن التغيير كان بالإمكان أن يحدث من خلال الشارع عن طريق المظاهرات فهو كلام غير واقعى، فالتغيير السياسي في العالم كله يتم عن طريق استخدام القوة التي تجبر الحاكم الذي قامت الثورة ضده أن يتخلى عن السلطة فلا يُوجِد حاكم يتخلى عن السلطة عن طريق مظاهرات.

لكن الثوار قاموا بالثورة من أجل إيجاد تغيير في كثير مجالات...

في طبيعة الحال، النظام قبل الثورة كان في حالة توازن، الثورة عملت على اختلال في التوازن حمل معه تدهور في الأوضاع الاَّقتصادية ووقف الاستثمارات وأشّياء كثيرة، هذا أمر طبيعي، لكن يخالج الناس شعور أو وهم بأنه ما إنّ يتنحى الحاكم فإن الأوضاع السيئة التي كانوا يحملون الحاكم سببها ستتحول إلى أوضاع إيجابية وستنتهى كل الأوضاع السيئة، وهذا ليس صحيحا، بل مجرد أحلام، لأن الثورة هي تهدم نظام سابق لكنها تسعى أيضا إلى بناء نظام جديد، وهذه عملية معقدة تحمل كثير من المشاكل، وفي الغالب تتعثر المجتمعات بعد الثورة، وقد يكّون في الثورات خطوة للأمام وخمس أو ثلاث خطوات

بصفتك كاتب وباحث سياسي هل أنت مقتنع بما حققته الثورة؟ أنا راض عن أن السيناريوهات الأسوأ حتى الآن

لم تتحقق، كان هناك من يتوقع أن تحدث سيناريوهات سيئة في اليمن، مثل الحرب الأهلية المدمرة، لكن لتحسن الحظ أن الخسائر ما يمكن إنجازه.

من المقرر أن ينعقد مؤتمر الحوار الوطني في الثامن عشر من مارس القادم.. كيف تنظر إلى ذلك؟ وهل سينعقد الحوار أم سيتم تأجيله؟

يبدو أن المهام الملقاة على عاتق الحوار الوطنى كبيرة جدا ولهذا السبب انعقاده عملية صعبة، وتجميع جميع الأطراف في مؤتمر الحوار عملية صعبة، ولهذا التأخير أمر محتمل جداً، لأن المؤتمر قد تأخر عن موعده الحقيقي في نوفمبر الماضي، وأعتقد أنه قد يتأخر ولكنّ أيضاً كل الاحتمالات واردة أن ينعقد في موعده أو بمن حضر، فهناك مشكلة في تمثيلُ المكونات، ومشكلة في عدم حضور فصّائل في الحراك الجنوبي للمؤَّتمر الحواري ولهذا إذا انعقد في مارس القادم فسينقصه بعض المكونات.

ما دلالة إعلان موعد مؤتمر الحوار في الذكرى الثانية لجمعة الكرامة التي قتل فيها قرابة ٥٠ متظاهرا على أيدي تابعين للنظام السبابق؟

طبعا هناك رمزية لهذا التاريخ. واختيار هذا اليوم يحمل دلالة ورمزية أن هناك ثورة وتغيير ورسالة إلى النظام القديم أن الحوار القادم مخرجاته ستخلق نظامأ جديدأ ليس للنظام السابق موقع فيه.

بالنسبة لمشاركة بعض فصائل الحراك الجنوبي التي أعلنت مرارأ عن رفضها للحوار، هل تتوقع أن تعلن انضمامها خلال هذه الفترة القصيرة؟ لا أعتقد. أولا: هناك مشكلة فيما يتعلق بالحراك الجنوبى أو ممثلى القضية الجنوبية أو ممثلى الجنوب، ليس هناك من يسيطر على الأرض في الجنوب، فهناك فراغ سياسي كبير، ولهذا أيّ طرف سيدخل الحوار بادعاء تّمثيله للحراك

الجنوبي، سيقابله أطراف أخرى تنفي عنه هذه الصفة، وتقول بأنه ليس الحراك الحقيقي وأنه

كثير من المكونات ولجنة الحوار تطرح ضرورة تهيئت المناخ قبل انعقاد مؤتمر الحوار الوطني، هل سينعقد المؤتمر بعد تهيئت المناخُ؟ لا يوجد وقت كاف لتهيئة المناخ بالمعنى

المطلوب وخاصة فيما يتعلق بالأوضاع في المناطق الجنوبية لأن تهيئة المناخ تحتاج إلى فترة طويلة وإلى آليات تأخذ فترة طويلة، ولهذا لا أعتقد أنه في الثامن عشر من مارس سينعقد الحوار وهناك تغيير كبير فيما يتعلق بتهيئة مناخ الحوار، بل قد يكون هناك تصعيد من قبل الأطراف التي تريد أن تربك الحوار الوطني، قد يكون هناك تصعيد لخلق أجواء غير مواتية لانعقاد مؤتمر الحوار الوطني، وبالتحديد أعتقد الفصائل الجنوبية الانفصاليّة د تقوم بأعمال عنف وفوضي في المناطق الجنوبية لتعبر عن رفضها لانعقّاد مؤتمر

هناك من يقول أن ثمة اختلاف في المشترك فيما يتعلق بالحوار الوطني فبعض أحزاب المثبترك سلمت أسماء ممثليها والبعض الآخر لم يسلم؟

المشترك في السابق الذي كان يجمعه هو معارضة نظام صالح، وبعد سقوطه من الحكم المشترك لم يعد كياناً متماسكاً وهذا شيء طبيعي، وأصبحت هناك أجندات مختلفة في مكونات المشترك، وما يزال ما يجمع المشترك هو بقاء بقايا نظام صالح السابق.

هل سيكون هناك رؤية موحدة



قضايا الحوار الوطني معقدة وصعبة والفترة الزمنية للحوار محدودة جدا، ولهذا أعتقد أنه من الصعوبة الوصول إلى اتفاق خاصة في القضايا المصيرية القضية ستكون أكبر مشكلة تواجه مؤتمر الحوار الوطني،

مثل قضية شكل الدولة، وهذه أيضا نوعية وطبيعة النظام السياسي، ولو أن هذه القضية ستكون أقل تعقيدا من قضية شكل الدولة.



لأحزاب المشترك في مؤتمر الحوار الوطني؟

القضايا المطروحة على أجندة الحوار الوطنى لم يكن هناك اتفاق عليها بين أحزاب المشتركِّ حتى في ظل حكم الرئيس السابق، وحالياً الحزب الاشتراكي وحزب الإصلاح سيكون هناك اختلاف فيما بينهما حول شكل الدولة، وأعتقد أن هناك قضايا كثيرة ستختلف فيها أحزاب

هناك من يطرح فكرة أنى سيكون هناك صعوبة في التوافق على مخرجات الحوار في حال انعقاده سيما أن هناك اختلاف كبير بين الأحزاب قبل انعقاد الحوار؟

قضايا الحوار الوطنى معقدة وصعبة والفترة الزمنية للحوار محدودة جداً، ولهذا أعتقد أنه من الصعوبة الوصول إلى اتفاق خاصة في القضايا المصيرية مثل قضية شكل الدولةً، مؤتمر الحوار الوطني، أيضا نوعية وطبيعة النظام السياسي، ولو أن هذه القضية ستكون أقل تعقيدا من قضية شكل الدولة.

البعض يقول: إنه سيكون للخارج دور كبير في مخرجات الحوار؟ هذه مشكلة وحالة إيجابية أيضا، المشكلة

أنه الخارج ليس كتلة واحدة، هناك دول إقليمية تريد أن يخرج مؤتمر الحوار بما يوافق مصالحها، وهناك دول مثل أمريكا لها أجندة وأولويات مختلفة عن قطر أو السعودية أو إيران، أقصد ليس لهم وجهة نظر واحدة، هذه

وفي الوقت نفسه تمثل حالة مشجعة للحوار لأنها ستتمكن من ممارسة الضغوط على الأطراف الداخلية حول يعض القضايا، لكن يما أن بعض القضايا معقدة وليس من السهل الوصول إلى حلول لها حتى لو فرض الخارج حلول لها، وكانت الأطراف القوية في اليمن غير موافقة عليها، ولو ادعت بموافقتها شكلياً على بعض الاتفاقيات مستقبلاً من الصعب

في دراسة حديثة لك حول القضية الجنوبية قلت إن موضوع الانفصال أو فك الارتباط غير قانوني، ممكن شرح هذه النقطة؟

المطالبة بحق تقرير المصير أو فك الارتباط هو مطلب لا يتوافق مع القانون الدولي، المحافظات الجنوبية وفق القانون الدولي هي محافظات جزء من الجمهورية اليمنية، ولأنها كذلك فالمشاريع الانفصالية في هذه الحالة تسمى الانفصال من جانب واحد، وهذا في القانون الدولي غير شرعي إلا إذا تم التوافقُ بين الجانبين السلطة المركزية والانفصاليين، وفي هذه الحالة يصبح شرعياً. بدون الأساس الشرعى تصبح العملية الانفصالية شبيه

أصبحت جزءاً من الجمهورية اليمنية، قبل الوحدة كان لهم الحق في تقرير مصيرهم، بعد تحقيقها ليس من حقهم تقرير المصير، هم أو غيرهم، ليس من حق الشمال أيضا تقرير المصير، تمت الوحدة وأصبحت دولة اندماجية، لم تقم الوحدة على أساس إقليمين، قامت على أساس أن وضع المحافظات الجنوبية قانونياً نفس وضع المحافظات الشمالية، وكما لا يحق لتعز أو الحديدة أو صعدة أن تعلن الانفصال ليس من حق المحافظات الجنوبية إعلان ذلك، هذا من الناحية القانونية البحتة.

هناك من يقول إن هناك دول إقليمية تدعم مشاريع الانفصال؟

نعم فهناك إيران تدعم الانفصال لأغراضها الخاصة وأيضا هناك أطراف دخلت من أجل إضعاف النفوذ الإيراني، في اليمن الوضع معقد يجعل حل القضية الجنوبية أمر في غاية الصعوبة، فلا حل مثالي لها.

مخرجات الحوار الوطني لن تعمل على حلها وإزالة الاحتقان في

لا أعتقد، لأن السقف العالي الذي رفع في الجنوب تحت خيار الانفصال، هذا الأمر يجعل من المستحيل التوصل إلى حل وسط للقضية الجنوبية، حتى النخبة السياسية الواقعية في الجنوب لا تستطيع مواجهة الجمهور الذي تم تلقينه ورفع سقف مطالبه إلى الانفصال.

هل موضوع الفيدرالية حلا؟

حتى موضوع الفيدرالية من إقليمين شبه مستحيل، حتى الفيدرالية بحد ذاتها من عدة أقاليم ستواجه مشاكل كثيرة، يبدو أن الخيار الأكثر ملائمة لليمن هو استمرار الوحدة الاندماجية مع شكل من أشكال اللامركزية، الفيدرالية في ظل دولة هشة، سيزيد الدولة هشاشة، وفي ظل غياب المؤسسات سيزيد من ضعف المؤسسات، والفيدرالية في ظل ضعف الأحزاب الوطنية ستقوي الأحزاب «اللاوطنية»، الفيدرالية في ظل مجتمع مسلح ومفكك سيزيد التفكك، ومنّ ثم الفيدرالية ستكون حلاً أسوأ من الوضع الراهن.

مع تغييرات ومعالجات من النظام السياسي؟

مشكلة القضية الجنوبية مشكلة في النظام السياسي، فإصلاح النظام السياسي هو الحل لمشكلة القضية الجنوبية وقضية صعدة وكل القضايا، عندما نجعل النظام السياسي مقبولاً وديمقراطياً ومرغوباً به من قبل المجتمع حينها ستحل كثير من المشكلات.

وظائف شاغرة

وأرى أنه ليس هناك مقومات للانفصال

للسبب القانوني والشرعي، كون الانفصال

غير شرعى وهذا ما أكد عليه مجلس الأمن

في جلسته الأخيرة، أكد على وحدة اليمن،

وقرارات مجلس الأمن قواعد قانونية ملزمة،

فأي دولة لا تشجع الانفصال لأن هذا عمل

مخَّالف للقانون الدولي، كما أنه ليس من حق

أي دولة أخرى أن تقرر مصير اليمن كما يطالب

بعض الانفصاليين دول مجلس التعاون

أن تبادر بمبادرة خاصة، لأنه ليس من حق

مجلس التعاون الخليجي أن يدعم الانفصال،

الجهة الوحيدة التي يمّكن أن تأتي بتشريع

قانوني يدعم الانفصال هي مجلس الأمن،

وهو لن يقوم بدعم أي مشروع انفصالي لأن

يقولون إنهم سلموا دولة ومن حقهم

هي كانت دولة في الماضي، وفي عام ٩٠

ذلك بخالف القانون الدولي.

تعلن مجموعة رائدة في المجال التجاري والصناعي والخدمي عن حاجتها إلى موظفين عدد اثنين ليشغلوا وظائف رؤساء حسابات على أن تتوفر فيهم الشروط

- خبرة لا تقل عن سبع سنوات في هذا المجال.
 - أن يكون على الأقل حاصل على شهادة بكالاريوس في المحاسبة.
 - يفضل من يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية.
- أن يكون لديم القدرة على التعامل مع البرامج والأنظمة المحاسبية.
- أن يكون لديه القدرة على التعامل مع الكمبيوتر.

فعلى من يجد نفسه حاصل على المؤهلات والشروط المذكورة اعلاه ولديم الرغبة في التقديم الرجاء إرسال سيرتب الذاتية على الإيميل newvacancy5@gmail.com قبل انتهاء أسبوع من تاريخ الإعلان.

TIMES

Sa'ada's IDPs left to live with the 'bitterness of being away from home'

Story and photos by Sadeq Al-Wesabi

m Ali's deteriorating eyesight is clouded by tears she cannot hold back as she recounts the story of her son who was arrested by Houthi militants in Sa'ada governorate more than three years ago.

"I was screaming, asking the armed kidnappers not to take my son," said Um Ali in heartrending tones. "I held my son's clothes and cried bitterly as the kidnappers

grabbed him violently. My son told me he would stab himself if I didn't stop crying."

Now living as an Internally Displaced Person (IDP) in the Dares area of Sana'a, in a two-room home with nine other family members, who were also driven from Sa'ada due to conflicts with the Houthis, Um Ali has spent the last three years paying people to try to risk a return to Sa'ada and find out information about her son.

"I still dream about him. My heart tells me that he is OK," she said through tears.



Anwar, 5, and Abdulla, 3, hold a picture of their father, Dr. Ali Jabouh, who was arrested in 2009 by Houthis militants in Sa'ada.



Sa'ada's IDPs in Sana'a say they cannot return home because of unofficial Houthis' checkpoints.

In Sana'a, there are now thousands of displaced people seeking refuge, who were forced out of their homes in Sa'ada by Houthi conflicts in the North, according to human rights groups.

The Houthis are an armed group of Zaidi Shiites that operate outside the state and are known to be ideologically driven. They have taken control of much of the North, displacing many families in their quest for dominance over local tribes and the central state.

Many IDPs have said they have two choices: either return to "Houthis Hell" or deal with the harsh conditions of starting a new life in Sana'a and bear "the bitterness of being away from home."

Khaled Al-Dhali now rents a tworoom apartment in Sana'a after his house in Sa'ada was allegedly blown up by Houthi insurgents.

As he played video on a simple mobile device of his home smoking after the explosion, he said, "How can I return to a place where Houthis only implement the law of the jungle?"

'Displaced while barefoot'

"We were kicked out of our home barefoot," said Um Ayman, another IDP who has been living in Sana'a since March 2011.

IDPs all across the city recount with horror the day they were forced out of their home due to ideological clashes with the armed group.

"Houthis don't accept the people who are opposed to their ideology," said Fahd Abu Taleb, an IDP, who said Sa'ada was turned into a battlefield by militants.

"They keep suppressing, displacing and killing them," he said.

In a report carried out by the Wethaq Foundation for Civil Orientation, a local non-profit, they found thousands of human rights violations

Houthi insurgents.

"When we visited Sa'ada we found secret prisons, displaced villagers, intimidation of locals, and interference in private affairs," said Najeeb Al-Sa'adi, the head of the

committed against civilians in Sa'ada and

Hajja governorate by

organization.

"The violations mentioned in the report are less than 25 percent of all violations," he said. "Houthis impose media isolation, and that's why it's difficult for others to find out about their violations."

Mohammed Abdul-Salam, the official spokesman for the Houthi Movement, refutes allegations like the above.

Speaking to the Yemen Times, he said those who fled Sa'ada had problems with locals as they were receiving money from the former regime to fight against the Houthis.

He said the IDPs can come back to Sa'ada, "provided they don't make any trouble."

"Who are the people we prevented from entering the governorate?" he



Khalid Al-Dhali and his family fled to Sana'a after their house in Sa'ada was allegedly destroyed by armed Houthi men.

asked, pointing out that people who are known to oppose the Houthis, such as Salafis are living safely in the governorate.

Abu Abdullah, head of the Houthis' Equity and Grievances Association, also denied attacks on civilians, saying that IDPs have harmed their community by "creating a tribal alliance to fight the Houthis."

With little chance of returning home for fear of their lives, IDPs in Sana'a criticize the state for not helping them. "My property was confiscated and plundered," said Al-Dhali. "My only store, house and car were damaged by Houthis. I've nothing now."

Hooria Mashhour, the minister of human rights, told the Yemen Times that "There is a big challenge to meet the needs of these IDPs."

She said the government prioritizes the Sa'ada IDPs' issue and cooperates with the international community to provide them with basic necessities such as accommodation, food and medicine.

"Unfortunately, the issue of Sa'ada's IDPs still exists and about 250,000 IDPs are still living in camps because their homes have been demolished," she said.

In the meantime, IDPs are left to cope with the improbability that they or loved ones will be reunited in Sa'ada anytime soon.

Hanging onto the hope that her son will eventually be released by his captors, Um Ali said, "I don't think about anything but seeing my son again."

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Opinion 18 February, 2013

Corruption still plagues armed forces across the Middle East

Samira Shackle Middleeastmonitor.com First Published Feb. 7

believe that the will of the people is resolved by a strong leadership," the former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir once said. "Even in a democratic society, events depend on a strong leadership with a strong power of persuasion, and not on the opinion of the masses." This view - of powerful political and military establishments being crucial to the functioning of the state - still holds a lot of sway across the Middle East. The 2011 Arab Spring appeared to usher in a new era of democracy and accountability. However, two years later, as different bodies vie for control and militaries across the region remain powerful and shadowy, is the situation really any better?

A new report by Transparency International has found that armed forces throughout the Middle East and North Africa are continuing to operate secretively, with a high level of corruption. Respective armies assign budgets behind closed doors, award contracts through nepotistic practices and hinder attempts at reform. Those who attempt to expose wrong-doing frequently end up being punished themselves. This creates waste, corruption, impunity and a threat to security within the defense apparatus. Dysfunctional armed forces also undermine attempts to strengthen democracy.

The report assessed 19 countries in the region, from Saudi Arabia, to Israel, to Yemen. Every single country examined was found to have a high risk of corruption in the defense sector. The very worst countries - Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Yemen - had a "critical" level of defense corruption risk. This means that in these states, the security establishment is barely accountable at all. Even the best scoring countries - Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates - still had a "high" level of risk. Regional heavyweights Saudi Arabia and Iran were somewhere in the middle, with a "very high" risk. It appears to be a case of the least bad, rather than the best.

The key problems can be broken down into several categories. The first is excessive secrecy and a lack of oversight. Oliver Cover, one of the report's main authors, cited a "pathological" obsession with secrecy. In Algeria, generals buy weapons based on whim, rather than any long-term spending plan. In 60 percent of countries surveyed, the defense budget is not publically available at all, while the budget of Egypt's powerful military is 99 percent secret. Israel, Iran, Qatar, Morocco, Algeria, Yemen, Libya and Syria do not even disclose the number of personnel they employ in the armed forces. Meanwhile, 18 of the 19 countries assessed in the region don't have a legislative committee to scrutinize the defense budget, meaning that a lack of citizen engagement. The there is very little transparency report notes that in the worst or accountability for what public money is being spent on.

A second key problem is the prevalence of nepotism. Few, if any, countries surveyed award contracts openly. In many countries networks are based on close family and business ties. In Syria, the military sector is under the control of the president and his family, while Yemen's security apparatus remains a patronage network. "There are people with resources and something to hide," Cover told the Financial Times. This is borne out by the fact that oil-rich countries such as Iran, Saudi Arabia and Algeria tended to score worse than countries with lower GDPs.

A third problem is the poor provisions for whistle-blowers. Not a single one of the countries surveyed has a credible or safe system for concerned officials to report corruption. In Syria, which remains in the throes of a bloody civil war, attempts to open up a debate on defense resulted in those involved being imprisoned.

Those are the problems. What are the effects? Of course, the countries surveyed contain an enormous range.Thebalanceofpowerbetween political, military and economic bodies varies hugely, as do levels of democratic accountability. Yet, as outlined above, their militaries share a propensity for secrecy and corruption, and so the knock-on effects are comparable. There is and transparency.

affectedcountries, "citizensperceive defense institutions as corrupt or indifferent to corruption". A culture of impunity in these powerful institutions creates disillusionment and disenfranchisement among the population. In those countries which are in the process of transitioning to democracy after the Arab Spring - Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, and Yemen in particular the unaccountability of the defense establishments could undermine the whole process and exacerbate "Corruption division," explains Cover.

The picture was not entirely bleak. Lebanon was praised for its transparent defense budget. Meanwhile, officials from Lebanon, Kuwait, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia acknowledged the need for reform and were even willing to meet researchers from Transparency International. Yet in countries such as Libya, the situation now - with the armed forces run by a tightly controlled, centralized body - is barely better than it was under dictator Muammar Gaddafi. As western powers continue to make money dealing arms to these unaccountable armies, and as militaries across the Middle East continue to hold a significant amount of power over the functioning of their respective countries, it appears that no serious effort is being made to address the question of corruption

How best to celebrate World **Radio Day**

Daoud Kuttab

he United Nations Education and Science Organization (UNESCO) has declared Feb. 13 as World Radio Day. In addition to traditional public statements and protocol activities, there are some concrete things that can be done to help make the world a better place to live in with the help of radio.

Radio is a fabulous medium and instrument that allows people to communicate. It permits people to communicate without paying for it. Not everyone can afford to buy a newspaper or even have access to papers in their villages. Not only is radio free (except for the battery costs) and accessible, the information transmitted by radio can be understood by all citizens rich or poor, educated or illiterate. Even those who are unable to read and write, including those with vision handicaps can enjoy radio.

Radio allows people in all areas to consume its content. People can listen to the radio while driving, listen to it at home, and recently radio has become accessible to mobile phone users, basically everyone over the age of 14.

Not only can you listen to soothing music on the radio, drift away from the noise caused by traffic jams or follow the latest local news, but radio has also become an instrument of public discourse. Independent radio allows for serious and necessary discussion on current events. If done correctly, radio can be a very effective democratic tool.

Economically speaking, radio, especially citizen owned and operated community stations are directly responsible for poverty reduction, according to the World Bank and other international experts. Community radio has helped improve the quality of life for many people.



information transmitted by radio can be understood by all citizens - rich or poor, educated or illiterate.

Unfortunately, in the Arabworld, radio has been monopolized by governments for many years. The Arab Spring allowed for access to radio waves, often with little or no restrictions by new governing powers. In countries like Tunis, Libya and Yemen, radio has become a communications tool

for people after decades of being a mouthpiece for ruling powers.

Even in countries such as Egypt and Syria, where FM broadcasts are still not allotted to independent organizations, dozens of independent media activists have established their own radio stations using Internet opportunities. Some are also using satellite broadcasts to share news, music and discussions. Using smart phones, citizens can enjoy independent broadcasting available to anyone.

Radio stations are succeeding in spite of governments, not because of governments. It is reasonable to understand the need for a body to regulate a finite number of stations available via an FM dial. Such regulations, however, should not restrict local communities with bureaucracy or high fees. Governments genuinely interested in pursuing the freedom of expression should hold the state and those in bed with governments accountable.



Radio stations are succeeding in spite of governments, not because of governments. governments, not because of governments.

Jordan began privatizing airwaves in 2003 with a temporary law. This law is inadequate and ineffective at encouraging the proliferation of radio throughout Jordan. Among its undemocratic details is a clause restricting the licensing of radio stations. Under the clause, the entire cabinet can reject a completed and technically approved application without giving any reason.

The excessively high broadcast and telecommunications fees must be greatly reduced, and civil society owned radio should be encouraged rather than delayed.

While radio is and should be made even more available, the public as well as regulators should not allow radio announcers to use the microphone to spout out hate speech.

The best way to celebrate World Radio Day is to enact enabling laws and create guidelines and regulations that make the ownership of radio readily available to individuals or groups. Nothing says democracy, freedom of expression and accountability more than a widely available and interactive radio culture. For too long, the Arab people have been denied opportunities that independent radio can provide.

So far, Saudis shrug at revelation of secret U.S. drone base

Max Fisher Washingtonpost.com/blogs First published Feb. 11

o far, Saudi citizens do not appear to be reacting very strongly to news that the U.S. government operates a secret drone base within their country. Ahmed Al Omran, a Saudi journalist who runs the Riyadh Bureau website, wrote on Friday that the story has not elicited the sort of public outrage that some had feared:

The Saudi government has not made any statement about U.S. news reports that the CIA is using an airbase in Saudi Arabia to conduct drone assassinations in neighboring Yemen, and local media has so far ignored the story. Saudi users on Twitter talked about the story briefly, but it was not widely discussed on the social network compared to other recent

Al Omran cites a Twitter hashtag that translates, roughly, as "Secret U.S. base in Saudi Arabia." Since Al Omran posted on Friday, discussion on that hashtag seems to have largely petered out.

I asked other Gulf-country citizens if they had heard of any reaction, whether from mainstream or more marginal sources, and none had. One pointed out that the U.S.'s $close\,counterterrorism\,cooperation$ with the Saudi government is

well known, as are the U.S. drone strikes in Yemen. And it had been previously reported that the U.S. maintains a drone base somewhere on the Arabian Peninsula — which Saudi Arabia dominates. The news, in other words, does not appear to have shocked Saudis who follow this sort of thing.

For months, the U.S. government had asked media organizations not to reveal the base, which has sent drones at least into neighboring Yemen. A major rationale for that request, according to the New York Times public editor, was that the news might inflame Saudi public opinion. The concern was that outraged Saudi citizens might pressure their government to close the base, thus removing an American counterterrorism tool and creating another problem for the already troubled U.S.-Saudi relationship.

Though the Saudi public reaction has been muted so far, there was very real precedent behind the fear that it might have gone differently. In 1990, as Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded Kuwait, U.S. troops arrived in Saudi Arabia. Their purpose was both to expel Saddam's forces from Kuwait and to prevent them from pushing any farther, namely into neighboring Saudi Arabia. Still, their presence sparked a public debate within that country that quickly elevated extremist and anti-American voices.

"America has occupied Saudi about balancing those goals. Arabia," a Saudi sheikh declared on one of the popular audiotapes that circulated in the Arab world. He added, making an argument that has in the intervening two decades become familiar to Americans, "It is not the world against Iraq. It is the West against Islam." The Islamist sheikhs and activists soon turned their ire to their own government, demanding a series of reforms from the absolute monarchy; some quasi-democratic, some Islamist. Though most of their requests were not related to the U.S. military presence, those troops had caused enough public outrage to put the monarchy on its back foot.

When John O. Brennan arrived as the CIA station chief in the Saudi capital city of Rivadh in 1996, the public debate that had begun with the arrival of U.S. troops was still ongoing. Not all of the opponents of the U.S. troop presence were extremist, of course, but the extremists seemed to be on the rise. The Saudi monarchy seemed to want to work with the Americans on counterterrorism and against mutual enemies – first Iraq, now Iran - but it remained deeply concerned about domestic dissent of any kind. Brennan, whom the Obama administration recently nominated to head up the CIA, would have likely been involved with any conversations between U.S. and Saudi officials

Given that Brennan was reportedly an architect of the U.S. drone base in Saudi Arabia, perhaps his experience with the country's 1990s domestic turmoil informed the U.S. government's apparent urgency in keeping the base secret.

So what does it tell us that the feared public backlash has not, so far, materialized? It is difficult to draw many conclusions from this one incident, but it does suggest several interesting possibilities. Perhaps, for example, there is something categorically different, for Saudi citizens, between a large number of U.S. troops and a relatively small drone base, which makes the latter less significantly offensive than the former. Maybe there have been so many hints and suggestions of such a base that people had time to get used to the

Or maybe something about Saudi Arabia has changed during the past 20 years, such that what might have once caused wide public outrage no longer does. It is still an austere, deeply conservative and politically oppressive country, but it has not been totally immune from the Middle East's two turbulent and ideologically charged decades.

Whatever the reason for the relatively mild reaction so far, it will be interesting to see if that changes. We'll be watching.

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TIMES

Local stores in Sana'a help shoppers with online purchasing for consumer goods

Amira Nasser

Ithough Yemen has one of the lowest Internet user rates in the Arab world, with many statistics indicating a 15 percent user rate, those that are using it, are taking advantage of many global trends like online shopping.

While most Yemenis still prefer to shop traditionally by going to the market, shops offering purchasing options for items found on Internet websites are slowly spreading in

Sana'a, if and he

they say the number of customers demanding such services are increasing.

Many in favor of scrapping traditional methods of purchasing purport that online shopping offers a greater variety of products at cheaper prices.

Global websites like Amazon that allow shoppers to independently purchase products are not very popular. Instead, shoppers will look online for products and then take them to stores who offer the service of online purchasing.

"I bring the products' data to the

store owner who purchases them for me," said Mohammed Abdualkareem, a 24-year-old, who has been shopping online for a year now.

"Afterwards, he makes sure of sellers' guarantees," he added.

This is a concern for many shoppers, they are afraid they are gambling with websites and run the risk of not receiving a product.

However, Thuria Al-salami, a 20-year-old, who shops online for baby clothes that she says she can get cheaper and of better quality if stores order them online for her, says she has received 95 percent of her products with no problem.

Since the products are delivered to stores, customers do not have to worry about Yemen's notoriously unreliable mail service finding its way to their house.

At the general store Yaser Al-maqtari works at in Sana'a, employees began offering online product purchasing services two years ago. They began with clothes and then added electronics, shoes and accessories.

Al-Maqtari says businesses must search websites carefully because many websites offer no guarantees and if products do not arrive, both the business and

the buyer are out money.
"We don't deal with some Chinese websites that have

websites that have products of poor quality or other websites that cannot guarantee their products will be delivered," he said.

Even though Al-maqtari says he is glad his store now offers online services, the actual income generated has been a bit lack luster.

"Every week we fetch a shipment. The income is fine, but the demand is not that big," he said.

He said shops offering online services earn approximately \$15 to \$20 for each large order they do.

Some businesses are hesitant to

offer online services because they are not guaranteed a profit.

Although Di Yazn Ahmed Al-Harazi, another online shopping service provider, says they will continue to grow their offerings, it can be a struggle to be assured the products with arrive in an acceptable condition.

"The shipment is sometimes stolen," he said. "It can arrive damaged because of poor shipping techniques."

This forces us to compensate the

customers."

Despite difficulties, Al-Harazi says he is hopeful that the online shopping industry will prosper in the future as mail services improve and the demand for online products increase.



Health Minister and Ambassador of the Netherlands to Yemen emphasize the importance of life saving medical training during the launch of the first academic year







Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

By Sarah King

he first academic training program for Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC) was launched on February 11th 2013, and was celebrated by a high level of representation from the Ministry of Public Health and Population, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development. This comes after the signing of the cutting edge contract between Yamaan Foundation and the Dutch Embassy in December 2012.

This agreement is to assist the Ministry with funding and expanding access to Basic and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care training and services in Yemen which is implemented by the Yemeni Council for Medical Specializations in cooperation with Yamaan Foundation, and funded by the Dutch embassy in Yemen. The first set of training has begun in Sana'a, and will be expanded to Aden, Hadramout, Taiz,

Hodeidah and Dhamar in the next phase.

This project follows advocacy efforts that have strived to address the lack of human resources and capacity that limit progress towards achieving improved maternal and infant health in Yemen. This issue has become one of the highest priorities for the government in order to ensure that Yemen is able to create and sustain an enabling environment to make pregnancy safer for women. The Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Qasim Al-Ansi emphasized the importance of this medical training and qualifying medical staff in all maternal, delivery and neonatal health care facilities as well as mobilizing support from the health development partners. He stated that "this two-year emergency response training program will result in training eighty three medical staff specialized in maternal health, neonatal care, anesthesia and operation room medical care, and that the number of fully operational inclusive maternal and delivery centers will reach ninety one by end of 2015". This will be a huge step in achieving 2015 Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5.

Dr. Athmar Ali Hussien of the Yemeni Medical Council also praised this training program by stating that it targets one of the most vulnerable social groups in Yemen: mothers and newborns. She underlined the importance of improving the health of mothers, and decreasing maternal morbidity and mortality as it is vital for social and economic development in Yemen.

The Dutch ambassador to Yemen, Dr. Jeroen Verheul eloquently recognized and thanked the trainees as "front line workers to improving maternal health in Yemen, and the ones on the ground providing the quality services". He went on to say that the Dutch Embassy and the Ministry of Health share the same objectives and believe that tackling the issue of high population growth is central to the current transitional period, and that the importance of decreasing the birth rate is essential for the future of Yemen. He commented further on the fact that 2015 is fast approaching and that this first launch of the training is an important part of achieving Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, but that much more work needs to be done. Dr. Verheul

underlined raising awareness of family planning, providing family planning counseling services, better distribution of commodities, provision of clinical services, and improving movement and transport as additional means of moving forward.

The Director of Yamaan Health Foundation, Dr Ashraf Badr was also present and highlighted the crucial role that Yamaan plays as the both the local administrator and implementing partner of the project as it is the respected and well-established leader in sexual and reproductive healthcare expertise in Yemen.

The World Health Organization states that the majority of maternal deaths are avoidable, as the health-care solutions to prevent or manage complications are well-known. This training will therefore increase service provider knowledge and capabilities of these life saving methods, as it is particularly important that all births are attended by skilled health professionals; timely management and treatment can make the difference between life and death



From left to rigt: Dr. Athmar Ali Hussien, Dr. Ashraf Badr, Dr. Nagiba Abdullah Abdul-Ghani, Dr. Ahmed Qassim Al-Ansi, Mr. Jeroen Verheul



A packed room at the Ministry of Health listening to the importance of EmNC training.





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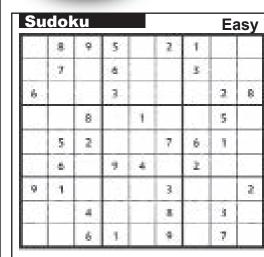
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Students with global aspirations

Story and photo by Sadeq Al-Wesabi

17-year-old confident English speaker and student, Amal Al-Qaefi doesn't like being isolated from the international community and has a strong desire to convey a positive message about Yemen to the world.

Studying at Al-Yemen Al-Saeed [Happy Yemen] School in Sana'a, Al-Qaefi aspires to be a global student. This ambition is what led her to join the Connecting Classroom Program, which is funded by the British Council in Yemen.

The program aims to support Yemeni schools to enhance global citizenship and international learning in their classroom through building successful partnerships with schools in different parts of the world.

"This program gives me an

opportunity to speak up and tell the consistently exchange information world that Yemen is not the country full of illiteracy and terrorism but is the origin of civilization," said Al-Qaefi.

Last week, The British Council in Yemen also launched newly designed courses for school teachers under the Connecting Classrooms Programm to help teachers explore ways of working with schools in other parts of the world and developing school curriculum.

Taghreed Jashan, the coordinator of the program at the Al-Yemen Al-Saeed School said the program stimulates students to exchange ideas, visions and culture with other students from all over the world.

"It will make student more confident and more knowledgeable,"

Haleema Al-Saadia School in Sana'a has been involved with the program for two years. Students and ideas with partner schools in Britain, America and other Middle Eastern countries.

Jamala Al-Qadhi, a former principal of Haleema Al-Saadia School, said more than 2,000 students have participated in the program and discussed sensitive issues like terrorism and childhood marriage.

"[The students] were able to convey positive images of Yemeni women to several global classrooms," she said.

In a press release, Rajaa Bazara, the education projects manager for the British Council in Yemen said, "Connecting Classrooms has actively raised the awareness of teachers and students of the value of embedding international issues in schools curriculum and the importance of raising young students as global citizens who are able to live in an international community.'







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