

## Committee blames Sukhoi 22 crash on manufacturing defects

Story by Amal Al-Yarisi  
 Photo by Bassam Al-Ashmouri

SANAA, March 6 — The committee assigned to investigate the crash of a Sukhoi 22 aircraft into a highly populated area of Sana'a's Change Square on Feb. 19, announced on Wednesday that manufacturing technical faults were the main reasons behind the incident.

Disclosures from the airplane's black box highlighted that the plane suffered from a series of technical malfunctions that were outside of the pilot's control, according to the head of the fact-finding committee tasked with investigating the crash, pilot Abdulkareem Al-Sa'r.

Al-Sa'r said the committee reached its findings after an in-depth analysis of the scene and an examination of the black box.

He added that the wreckage of the plane was also examined by a committee formed by specialists from the Air Force, Defense Ministry and Interior Ministry, in addition to the cooperation of a Russian team set up by the Defense Minister, Mohammed Nasser Ahmed.

The final findings of the investigation indicated that the wings of the plane suddenly shifted positions, according to Al-Sa'r. The aircraft's trailing edge flaps, hinged surfaces on the wing that help control the speed at which an aircraft can be safely flown, malfunctioned.

Although the pilot attempted to control the plane, the change in



Locals gather in front of a home damaged by the February plane crash. A committee tasked with reconstruction efforts released a report Tuesday.

airwaves combined with the plane's technical malfunction made a crash unavoidable, Al-Sa'r continued.

"The plane rapidly diverted to the right at a high speed and the pilot was simply unable to regain control," Al-Sa'r said.

With a technical fault being confirmed as the reason behind the tragedy, the fact-finding committee put forth a selection of recommendations, such as reconsidering the importation of Russian-made

planes and providing all safety-related warrants on the basis of official documents issued by the Plane Classification Office.

Al-Sa'r mentioned that a key recommendation involved transferring the onus of responsibility for technical faults onto the manufacturers themselves.

The committee suggested that manufacturers compensate victims, as opposed to the state.

"In case the manufacture refuses

to give compensation, a third party will be involved to prove to the manufacturer that the findings are authentic," Al-Sa'r said.

Although the Air Forces have released the findings from the investigation on the most recent crash, the final findings of a similar incident, known as the Antonov crash that occurred in Habasa area of Sana'a, over three months ago have not been disclosed.

Staff Brigadier and pilot Abdulmalik Al-Zuhairi, Chief of Staff or Air Forces and Air Defense, said the black box of the Antonov was severely damaged, forcing the Yemeni government

to send it to Russia for further examinations.

However, initial investigations into the last phone call between the pilot and the telecommunication tower at the airport, combined with eye-witnesses accounts, indicate that a fire in the plane's right engine caused the plane to plummet from the sky, according to Al-Zuhairi.

Al-Zuhairi added the incidents have spurred President Abdu Rabu

Mansour Hadi to ask the military to provide alternative areas for military trainings, far from residential areas in Sana'a.

Another committee assigned by Sana'a's mayor to count the number of houses damaged in the Sukhoi 22 crash also finished its work on Tuesday.

Mujahed Al-Khaledi, director of

Moa'een District, said the committee met on Tuesday and specified needed reconstruction in the area, where six houses were completely destroyed.

He pointed out that they have selected contractors to start rebuilding the destroyed homes and repair the damaged ones, with work set to start next week.

## NDC technical preparations completed

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANAA — The Preparatory Committee for the National Dialogue Committee (NDC) held a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the lists of the independent youth, women and civil society organizations and to select the names of the Standards and Discipline Committee members and the committee heading the conference. The committee is led by President Abdu-Rabu Mansour Hadi and composed of eight members.

The committee resumed holding its regular meetings on Tuesday after a nearly two week recess, due to the unrest in Aden following government forces clashes with Southern separatists on the first anniversary of President Hadi's election.

Dr. Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak, secretary general of the NDC, told the Yemen Times that the technical preparations for the NDC have been completed.

Bin Mubarak added that the opening session will be held in Sana'a in the presence of the Gulf Initiative broker-countries that were invited to attend the session. Some sessions may be held abroad,

but locations will be specified later.

Hadi briefed the committee after a visit he paid to Aden and a meetings he held with multiple leaders of the Southern Movement (Hirak), who consented to partake in the NDC and agreed to submit the lists of their representatives, Bin Mubarak said.

Hadi sent a presidential delegate to meet with Hirak leaders in Dubai and invite them to take part in the NDC. Hadi also granted YR5 million, about \$23,000, to the families of those killed in the clashes in Aden. Each person injured was given YR500,000, roughly \$2,300.

Though the NDC is slated for March 18, one of the conferences' biggest political players, the General People's Congress (GPC), has yet to amend the lists of its representatives, following notes from the Preparatory Committee.

If the GPC does not submit their amended list, President Hadi has said he will meet with them to further discuss their choice of representatives.

The GPC currently shares half of the government and has been granted 112 seats at the NDC.

Yemenis have varying opinions concerning the NDC. Some say

the political parties are seriously invested in the NDC. Others are more skeptical, predicting that the political parties will spend their time bickering, not engaging in dialogue.

Hussein Al-Soufi, a local man from the Damar governorate, was confident that the dialogue would be a success. According to him, all political parties are committed.

Not everyone shares his optimism.

Adnan Al-Rajehi, from Taiz, said the political rivalries will bog down the talks; the NDC will be a failure, he said.

Political parties need to engage in honest discussion to get Yemen out of its troubles, Al-Rajehi said. Only then can they get their country out of its current situation, without foreign supervision.

The NDC includes Yemen's political factions and will be represented by 565 participants.

At present, there are many hurdles that lie ahead. Some tribal and military figures have attempted to foil the NDC as they see advantages in the prevailing chaos across the country, according to Dr. Fuad Al-Salahi, a politics professor at Sana'a University.

Al-Salahi added that Hadi does appear to be deeply invested in the success of the NDC, citing his recent visit to Aden as an example.



## Yemen's capability to meet foreign donors' pledges to be discussed at London meeting

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, March 6 — The latest meeting of the Friends of Yemen, headed by the U.K. and Saudi Arabia and in the presence of officials from over 35 countries, will be held on Thursday in London. Representatives will discuss political, economic and security progress in Yemen, obstacles that obstruct the political compromise and appropriate procedures to solve them.

"The meeting will come up with an agenda to evaluate ongoing preparations to launch the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), slated for March 18," said Dr. Mohammed Al-Haweri, Yemen's deputy minister of Planning and International Cooperation.

The agenda will also focus on currency stability and the allocation of grants pledged in Riyadh and New York City last year. An executive body to appropriately spend these grants will also be created.

To date, none of the billions of dollars that were pledged last year have been allocated and spent.

"The donors' conference is the only hope to recover Yemen's economy," said Rajeh Badi, the prime minister's press advisor.

At a donors' conference in London in 2006, \$5 billion was granted to Yemen, but the government succeeded in receiving only 13 percent of these grants because it was unable to fulfill donors' requirements.

## Allegations of 700 forged distance learning certificates spark ongoing protests at Dhamar University, officials deny claims

Rammah Al-Jubari

DHAMAR, March 6 — Although their numbers have dwindled, students are still protesting at Dhamar University, demanding the resignation of the school's chancellor, Dr. Ahmed Al-Hadrani.

Protests began on Monday to draw attention to Al-Hadrani's alleged issuing of hundreds of false university certificates accredited by Dhamar University from an unaccredited office in Jeddah in a presumable scheme to earn money.

"The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research knows what's happening inside the university but attempts to cover it up," said Fathi Al-Haddad, a leader of the Student Union at Dhamar University.

Al-Haddad presented copies

of official documents sent by the chancellor to the Foreign Affairs Ministry and Yemen's embassy in Saudi Arabia to assign a representative for the university in Jeddah. The representative was caught later in Jeddah and accused of forging 700 university certificates.

Dr. Salem Aqeel, vice chancellor of Dhamar University, told the Yemen Times that the university has no offices abroad. There was one office in Jeddah, he said, but it closed down in 2009, adding that running the office after that was a personal matter of the chancellor.

Aqeel was surprised when Yemeni students in Saudi Arabia contacted him saying that there was an

office there, still issuing certificates accredited by Dhamar University.

The University Council requested that Al-Hadrani clarify the matter.

In response, he said the office in Jeddah is only used for coordination and not for issuing certificates.

Nearly a year ago, the Ministry of Higher Education assigned a committee to follow up Yemeni distance learning offices in Saudi Arabia. Though the committee visited Saudi Arabia, it has issued no reports.

Saudi authorities have detained Mohammed Nasser Al-Azani, Dhamar University's alleged rep-

resentative in Jeddah, and accused him of forgery, according to Akhbar Al-Balad, a Saudi newspaper. The publication cited sources in the consulate saying Al-Azani is currently still in custody.

He had been accused of issuing 700 forged university certificates to several Yemeni students living in Saudi Arabia and other Saudi and Arab students.

Change Forces Coordination Council in Dhamar University held a press conference last week to address this most recent scandal. Corruption has become rampant inside the university, they said, which has led them to close the university.

## Yemeni world heritage site threatened to be kicked off UNESCO's preservation list

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANA'A, March 6 — One of Yemen's listed world heritage sites, Zabeed city located in the western part of the country, has a final chance to make its case at an upcoming United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) meeting, slated for June in Cambodia.

Yemen's government will attempt to save the historic city from being axed from the list and cut off from UNESCO's funding by presenting a report demonstrating how the state has implemented procedures to preserve the site, renovate its buildings and curb unofficial construction.

After numerous violations noted by UNESCO, the organization gave Yemen's government a three year trial period to comply with standards.

"In spite of its essential historical status, the government has paid no attention to Zabeed," said Ahmed Al-Na'mi, a human rights activist in the area. "They offer unfulfilled promises to renovate buildings."

Al-Na'mi says the government has also promised to fine those using cement to renovate their houses, which is violation of UNESCO's rules. But no one enforces the standard, he says.

However, Dr. Naji Thawaba, the head of the Historical Cities General Authority, told the Yemen Times



Historians believe Zabeed city is over 1,000 years old. The historic site is currently on the chopping block for UNESCO.

that the authority has taken several positive steps to preserve the city.

He says the government has designated a plot of land, outside the city and paid for by the state, to be given to residents who want to construct new houses. This is meant to solve the problem of unsanctioned construction inside the city as a result of population growth. It is also meant to keep modern-looking buildings out of Zabeed and preserve the city's historical integrity.

Al-Na'mi estimates that about 50 percent of the historic houses in Zabeed are mixed with indiscriminately constructed modern houses.

Another issue Al-Na'mi pointed out is a lack of cooperation on the part of social leaders who refuse to give the government the right to own houses they want to preserve.

If Zabeed is removed from the World Heritage List, no other city in Yemen will be eligible to be added for 20 years. Currently, Otma, Hawf and Bora reserves, as well as the city of Thula and the island of Socotra are being considered as additions to the list.

Sana'a's Old City and Shibam Hadramout are current UNESCO sites, but the Old City, plighted by violations, is also being considered for removal.

## Smugglers thwarted at airport, ancient artifacts headed to museum in Sana'a

Story and photo by Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA'A, March 6 — Over the past seven years, around 1,500 antiques—including coins, and pre-Islamic stone carvings—have been confiscated at Sana'a International Airport. Smugglers have been tucking these ancient artifacts inside clothing and hiding them in bags, hoping to sell them abroad.

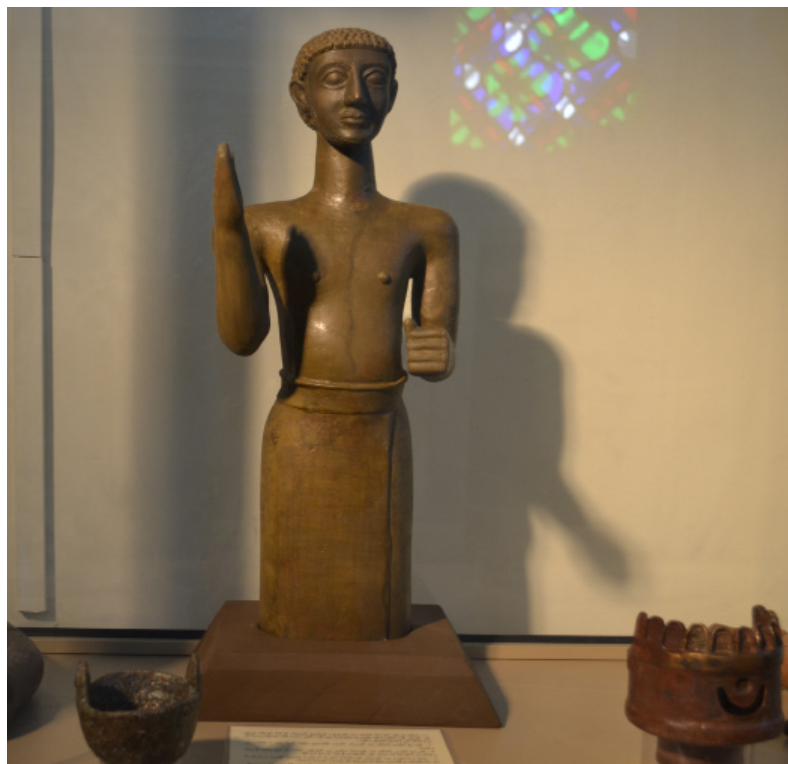
Now, instead of entering the black market or ending up on a wealthy collector's shelf, these relics are headed to the Sana'a National Museum next week, Muhammad Al-Saiani, head of the Heritage Authority said.

A committee, composed of the Antiquities General Authority, Sana'a's Airport Security and Antiquities Prosecution, has prepared an inventory of the antiquities that were confiscated at the airport between 2006 and 2012.

"If we get adequate support, we will hold an exhibition inside the museum for three weeks to present the confiscated antiquities," Al-Saiani added.

Ibrahim Abdulla Hadi, secretary general of the Sana'a National Museum, hopes this exhibit will boost the national spirit and raise awareness about Yemen's rich cultural heritage. For now, though, the artifacts are going into storage.

None of the items have been



dated yet. Once the antiquities arrive in the museum, each piece will be assessed.

"The date of arrival, origin, type, and all other information [will be noted] in order to protect them," Hadi said.

The Antiquities Prosecution is pursuing antique smugglers who sell these relics in local markets.

Several of them were caught and sent to court, Al-Saini said.

He called on residents to inform authorities if they have information about the smuggling rings.

Although some smugglers are caught attempting to steal historical items, there are no official statistics estimating smuggled artifacts that evade security.



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## Yamaan celebrates International Women's Day

The 8th of March marks International Women's Day! Around the world, individuals, companies, governments and organizations celebrate the achievements of women, the improvements that have been made for both their rights and welfare, and recognize the challenges women continue to face.

On this day, Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development would like to celebrate the progress made by Yemeni women, and underscore its commitment to improving the health and lives of women and their families across the country. Yamaan would also like to encourage all Yemenis to contribute to the improvement of the health and well-being of their mothers, sisters, and daughters.

Yamaan, a partner of the Ministry of Public Health and Population delivers life-saving services to women, children and families and important health training for doctors, nurses and midwives to ensure women and children have the best chance of survival during pregnancy and childbirth. Thousands of women and children's lives are saved by the delivery of family planning methods, ante-natal and post-natal care, training of doctors on emergency obstetric procedures to

prevent maternal deaths from delivery complications, and the sharing of information on safe motherhood practices through trainings, campaigns and Shababline. You can reach the helpline at 800 8090. Nevertheless, there is always more to be done.

Yemen's maternal mortality ratio remains one of the highest in the world and in the Arab region at 365 per 100,000 live births. According to the United Nations, it is only surpassed by Somalia and Sudan. Together the three countries account for 77% of maternal deaths in the Arab region. A high fertility rate, 6.3 children per woman, limited antenatal care (only 39.3% of rural pregnant women and 68.2% of urban pregnant women receive any antenatal care), poor nutrition and illiteracy contribute to the high level of maternal deaths, according to a survey done by the Ministry of Public Health and Population and the UN Children's Fund. The same survey found that about 25% of deliveries are attended by qualified personnel. The UN Children's Fund estimates nearly three quarters of the country's maternal deaths are caused by postpartum hemorrhage, difficult labour, ruptured uterus, toxemia of pregnancy, puer-



مؤسسة يمان للتوعية الصحية والاجتماعية  
Yamaan Foundation for Health & Social Development

peral sepsis, and complications resulting from unsafe abortions - almost all of which are preventable through effective interventions.

With these statistics, the work of Yamaan to deliver healthcare to women and children, with the support of the Ministry of Public Health and Population is imperative for saving lives and building a prosperous Yemen.

So on this day, International Women's Day, and every day of the year let us put a spotlight on women's health, and remember all of the women who lost their lives during pregnancy and childbirth.

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## OUR OPINION

### JMP, the beginning of the end

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), which was established in 2005 as a coalition of five parties, is one of the most successful political coalitions in Yemen. If we ignore the fact that the General People's Congress (GPC) was initially founded as an umbrella of various political directions, we can easily say that the JMP is Yemen's political pride.

There are two distinguishing merits for the coalition. The first is that it includes ideologically different parties, and the second is that it has periodical leadership and spokesperson changes as the parties rotate the role.

Theoretically, the JMP was created in a democratic manner to unite the opposition parties against the then common enemy - the GPC.

Since the signing of the Gulf Council Countries Initiative in November 2011 and a power sharing agreement between the JMP and the GPC, differences within the JMP have begun to surface. Ideological differences used to surface every now and then, such as an anti-early marriage campaign in 2008 where the conservative Islah Party stood against the Yemeni Socialist Party and prevented a law defining the minimum age for marriage from being passed in Parliament.

Another example is conflicts between Al-Haq Party and the Islah Party when it comes to issues in Sa'ada. Al-Haq are affiliated with the Houthis, who dominate Sa'ada.

Yet, these two disagreements were not disconcerting enough to break up the coalition because as the trend of all political parties in Yemen shows, women can be sacrificed for the "greater good," and small political parties within the JMP such as Al-Haq can be ignored.

But, when it comes to power sharing, or allocation, Islah is willing to bargain with other parties in order to give them a piece of the cake so all political parties in the JMP are represented in the new government - not equally - but still there nonetheless.

Today the situation has changed. The common enemy, the GPC, is fading away - or so it seems - and we are about to make significant decisions at the National Dialogue Conference in about ten days, deciding on the country's development.

Understanding this, the JMP Parties have decided they do not want to enter the dialogue as one coalition any more, even though they signed an agreement that says they will present themselves at the conference as one entity. They were the ones that fought for this.

The reason for the change of heart is that they have different political projects. The smaller parties want to have a different voice in the conference, outside the domination of the largest and stronger party in the JMP, the Islah.

With the Southern Movement's participation almost confirmed, there is another reason to disagree. Historically, the Socialist Party has long been the standing party in the South and the most popular. However, Islah has managed to gradually inch its way in, and today, it has created several organizations and "popular committees" in the South so when the time comes to decide on issues relating to the South, it will have a strong voice.

Politically speaking, this is not illegal. In fact, this is how political parties gain dominance. But, the way Islah has proceeded steps on the Socialist Party's toes. Moreover, it is not really doing projects in the South to gain local support. Rather it brings ready supporters from elsewhere and plants them in Southern governorates. This has led to resentment, violent clashes and killings.

I predict that by the time the National Dialogue Conference concludes, there will no longer be a JMP. Another coalition will rise, perhaps including an old player, the GPC, or a reformed version of it. It will likely include younger parties and some of the smaller parties in the current JMP, who will always need a coalition to assert its power. Let's see what happens.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

# Yemen: An Opportunity for the Arab League to Strengthen its Role?

Anne-Yolande Bilala  
Diplomaticourier.com  
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Yemen just celebrated the first anniversary of the passage of power, thus marking the end of the country's revolution. Indeed, many embraced the epilogue when President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi came to power as a result of a consensus within the opposition coalition backed by the support of the international community. Yet Yemen's population continues to strive for a long-term democracy. While the uprising was a historical moment of truth, it has also been the impetus needed for the Arab League to undergo painstaking changes. The League, plagued by challenges and missteps, has been deemed a failed organization. In fact, it was not much at the forefront of the Yemen peace talks at all.

The instigation of the peace agreement was led instead by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which initially was conceived to be a forum for policy coordination. The solution often referred as "the Yemeni solution" is, rightfully or not, now considered a model in domestic peace building. Certainly, the fall of ex-President Ali Abdullah Saleh appeared to be a victory, ending months of protests and violence and steering the country into a peaceful transition. However, the solution has not particularly worked well, and optimism seems rather to be short-lived.

The aftermath is gloomy as Yemen, a failed state, is facing daunting challenges including political unrest and a stalled economy. A recent U.N. report stated that over 40 percent of the population lacked sufficient food supplies and had no access to water sanitation. As a result, an urgent call was made for international donors to pledge funds for what the international community has deemed one of the world's major humanitarian crises. Moreover, the ongoing presence of Al-Qaeda has made the country an incubator for terrorism.

Today, Yemen represents perhaps an opportunity for the Arab League to reinforce its mandate and truly engage in drawing member states closer together through post-conflict rebuilding efforts. As stated in its mandate, "The purpose of the League is to draw closer the relations between member states and co-ordinate their political activities, with the aim of realizing a close collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries." In a nutshell, the organization aims to strengthen relationships between member states through political, cultural, and economic cooperation.

#### Political Unrest and the Al-Qaeda "Specter"

The peace agreement involves a



two-phase transition period lasting through 2014, under which an early presidential election was held on February 21, 2012, and changes to the constitution, political reforms, and parliamentary elections were to take place. Unfortunately, political tensions are on the rise as the March 18th starting date of the much-anticipated national dialogue approaches. The country is shattered, with the Southern Movement calling for secession, the Houthi Islamist tribal rebels armed with sophisticated weapons, and the ongoing security threat from al Qaeda militants.

Right from the start, President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi's main focus has been the country's political stability, aiming to maintain peace but to also deter al Qaeda forces presently entrenched in the southern part of the country. Irrefutably, the upheaval has been an opportunity for Al-Qaeda to yet again strike Yemen with a series of bomb attacks. Although the government has been backed by the U.S. drones attacks amongst other counterterrorism activities, these actions have only fueled more antagonism.

Hadi's first move to swiftly appoint a new head of security and a new commander of the southern military force was significant. But these actions may ultimately have been in vain, as clashes in southern Yemen between Al-Qaeda militants and pro-government fighters continue. Moreover, Foreign Minister Abu-Bakr Al-Qirbi has recently challenged Tehran's regime for its interference through providing weapons to the Yemeni Shiites.

#### Economic Challenges

Yemen remains the poorest country in the Arab League as economic measures taken over the last few

years have either been delayed or not fully implemented. After rapid improvement, mainly due to its oil reserve, economic development has nonetheless stalled primarily due to corruption, a shaky judicial system, and ongoing political unrest. With extremely high levels of unemployment, food shortages, and a weak currency, Yemen's economic situation is just as alarming as its political instability. More encouraging is financial pledges adding up to \$8 billion to support national development efforts and the disbursement of a \$93.7 million interest-free IMF loan to Yemen as part of the \$370 million loan approved in 2010 to support short-term recovery.

So why is economic development so important? Terrorist organizations attract new members from communities in which terrorism is generally considered a job opportunity, as well as a viable response to perceived grievances. Yemen's unemployment rate is estimated at 35 percent, and turning to al Qaeda could be the last resort for many. Beyond this, political unrest has made the country unattractive for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as many global investors lack confidence in Yemen.

#### A Potential Role for the Arab League? Between Myth and Reality

Attendance at the last Arab League summit ultimately reflected a disconnect between its mission and the rooted feuds between member states. Critics often stated the inclusion of member states' own agenda and the lack of progress in democracy as being an impediment to the League's efficiency. So how can the Arab League help Yemen? It seems difficult for the League to truly weigh in Yemen's political

landscape without undermining its sovereignty, since several member nations are dealing with their own transitions. A meek declaration from the Arab League Secretary General Nabil El-Arabi urging all Yemeni political parties to provide appropriate conditions to hold the National Dialogue Conference may not enough to uplift spirits. The Arab League must exert proactive efforts to support Yemen in its political transition in order to ultimately decrease insecurity as a whole.

Indeed, any unrest could directly impact neighboring countries. Countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, which are part of the U.S.-Gulf Cooperation Council Security Dialogue (GSD), could draw on their experience to exert regional influence to support Yemeni counter-terrorism operations, thus supplementing the U.S.-Yemen efforts. In other words, it is important to take a more "regional approach" as supposed to the international approach currently used.

Another aspect is the possibility for better targeted economic reforms through the League Economic and Social Council or Council of Arab Economic Unity (GAFTA), which could support further trade cooperation and provide an impulse for economic recovery. Indeed, member states such as Saudi Arabia have experience economic achievement in the telecommunications and energy sectors, and could serve as mentors to Yemen.

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# Medical centers, underfunded and few, struggle to treat genetic blood diseases

Story and photos by Amira Nasser

At a Sana'a medical center, six-year-old Ibrahim Mohammed groans in pain after receiving an injection in his arm. He is just one of over 1,000 children who suffer from thalassemia, a very dangerous genetic blood disease, according to doctors. Medical centers are underfunded and scarce in Yemen, and it's causing doctors to misdiagnose the potentially fatal disease, especially in rural areas.

Mohammad is one of the lucky ones. He receives the necessary blood transfusions, administered ever 21 days at the Yemeni Association of Thalassemia Patients in Sana'a, which opened in 2005. In addition, he gets daily doses of medicine to reduce the high iron count resulting from such frequent transfusions.

The association has only two branches in Yemen: one in Sana'a and one in Aden governorate. The latter was opened in 2012 in Al-Wihda Hospital. The two branches offer free of charge medical services to thalassemia patients, of which there are around 1,500.

But, patients who live far from these urban centers—in the wide swaths of more rural country—desperately lack care.

Families are forced to make a hard decision: either they move closer to the free treatment centers or watch as their child's health rapidly deteriorates.

Bakeel Saleh Ahmed moved from the remote Al-Mahweet governorate to Sana'a seven months ago so



The majority of children affected by blood diseases will die before the age of 20.

that his two-year-old, who suffers from another blood disease similar to thalassemia, sickle cell anemia, could receive treatment.

"When I was in Mahweet, I didn't have access to medicine on a regular basis. That makes it so my child can't walk well," the father said.

So, Ahmed moved to Sana'a. His son's health is improving, he says, but not everyone who suffer from blood diseases can afford to move to the city.

Since the Sana'a and Aden treatment centers opened, 40 deaths—the majority of whom were children—were reported. The number of unreported deaths is likely much higher.

#### Hurdles

In rural areas, children who suffer from the diseases can go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed by local doc-

tors, who are inadequately trained.

"The statistics don't completely reflect the size of the disease across the country," Mohsen Al-Nwaira, the general secretary of the association, said.

Accurate statistics about the sickness are hard to come by, another hurdle for those working to combat the disease. Al-Nwaira said that he was coordinating with Yemen's Central Statistical Organization, hoping to gather better information about thalassemia.

#### Symptoms and causes

Thalassemia is an inherited blood disease,



Symptoms for genetic blood diseases such as thalassemia and sickle cell anemia typically appear 6 months after birth.

transmitted from generation to generation. If both parents carry the same defective gene, the sickness is more severe.

"Inbreeding greatly increases the

possibility of inheriting these blood diseases," Dr. Abdulla Al-Taiar, hematology specialist and a doctor at the association, said.

And though inbreeding isn't the only cause of thalassemia, it makes some Yemenis—where consanguineous marriage, or marriage between first cousins, is common—susceptible to the sickness.

Back at the Sana'a treatment center, Mohammed is recovering from his treatment. His mother is comforting him and reveals why she and her husband have decided to not have any more children: they are first cousins.



At treatment centers, administrators fear they will run out of funding for the medicines they provide patients.

"When we learned that inbreeding is the cause of our child's disorder, we decided to stop having kids, Mohammed's mother said. "It's miserable to have a child who will just live in suffering."

Those suffering from thalassemia can be lethargic, short of breath and their skin may turn yellow. They will likely develop anemia, which has its own set of symptoms and dangers.

The longer a patient waits before visiting a doctor, the worse it gets.

Dr. Abdulla Al-Taiar, a hematology specialist and a doctor at the same association, said, "When those who live in rural areas come to us for treatment after long time, they're pale and their stomachs are swollen; at that time they're in an advanced stage of the disease."

At that point, the disease can be fatal.

#### Medication: expensive and unsustainable

If diagnosed with the disease, patients will need to undergo treatment for the rest of their lives. For now, the association can provide free care in their two centers. But Mosen Al-Nwaira, secretary general of the association fears, they might not be able to for long, due to underfunding.

The association receives a meager YR 120, 000, or around \$558, a year from the Ministry of Social Affairs to treat their 1,495 registered patients. Medicine costs YR 25 million each year, or around \$116,200. One person's annual treatment costs the association roughly 2,689,400, or 12,500. Without the support from wealthy Yemeni social figures and businessmen, the association would have no way to operate.

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<b>Duration:</b>	<b>One Year, renewable</b>

Under the close supervision of Chief Field Office, contributes to child protection programme planning, administration, implementation, monitoring and the evaluation of programme/project activities with a focus on the three pillars of Evidence, Empowerment and Equity, including teamwork and capacity building

- Collects and analyzes data for the Situation Analysis, programme/project planning, management, monitoring and evaluation purposes related to child protection in the zonal office targeted governorates. Analyzes child protection programme implementation reports and evaluates against established programme recommendations and plans of action. Prepares tables, graphs and other statistical data. Reports outcome of analysis and proposes corrective actions.
- Undertakes ongoing visits to UNICEF child protection project sites, assesses local conditions and resources, and monitors UNICEF inputs. Communicates with local counterpart authorities on project feasibility and effectiveness including monitoring the flow of supply and non-supply assistance.
- Undertakes follow-up action on child protection programme implementation activities with a focus on the three pillars of Evidence, Empowerment and Equity, contributes to teamwork building, and prepares relevant reports. Drafts changes in programme workplans as required.
- Attends technical cooperation meetings, prepares notes and undertakes follow-up action and coordination related to child protection programme implementation and monitoring.
- Assists in identification and selection of technical supplies and equipment.
- Assists in the preparation of the country programme recommendation by drafting CPSS, PSS and other relevant documentation ensuring accuracy and consistency with established rules and regulations. Maintains the computerized programme system database and submits relevant reports.
- Selects and compiles training and orientation materials for those involved in programme implementation, including donor and media visits. Drafts relevant sections of reports (required for donors, management, annual reports, etc.)
- Evaluates and analyzes financial and supply reports to ensure appropriateness of documentation, expenditures are within allotments, data is consistent with PIDB. Reports to the Supervisor and/or Head of Field Office the outcome of reviews.
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### Expression of Interest To Solicit Companies to conduct Pre- and Post-Delivery Inspection of UNICEF procured supplies

**Ref. No. EOI/YEMA/2013/002**

UNICEF procures a range of supplies (water tanks, hygiene kits, school supplies, printing, etc). The company will perform inspection services required by UNICEF at the suppliers/contractors' facilities in Yemen, preferably at the place of manufacture of goods ordered from time to time. The company shall inspect the goods as required for their completeness (accuracy to size, construction, quality, quantity, efficiency and as applicable coating, performance testing etc).

Please submit your expression of interest by following the instructions outlined below.

**IMPORTANT:** please note that no offer should be submitted at this stage; only the information requested below should be included.

All interested firms are required to provide the following information:

- Full dossier of the company with references of past performance. The dossier should also include a brief description of the company structure, including branches in different parts of the country or outside Yemen.
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- Proof of financial stability - Audited financial statements from the last three years from a recognized Auditing Firm establishing the financial position of your firm
- Proof of license to operate in Yemen, providing also information on the number of years in operation
- References of similar works

Only the qualified firms with capacity to provide inspectors who are qualified or have experience in the product(s) to be inspected will be invited for bidding.

The Expression of Interest should be sealed in an envelope, sent not later **10:30am on Monday 25th, March, 2013** and clearly marked as follows:

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### التعبير عن الإهتمام للشركات المتخصصة في مجال الفحص والمعايرة ومطابقة المواصفات للمشتريات قبل وبعد التوريد

**مرجع رقم: 002/EOI/YEMA/2013**

تشتري منظمة الأمم المتحدة للأمم المتحدة (اليونسف) العديد من المواد (خزانات المياه وأدوات النظافة والمواد المدرسية والمطبوعات... الخ). وترغب في دعوة شركات متخصصة لتقوم بتنفيذ خدمات الفحص ومطابقة المواصفات المعتمدة من قبل اليونيسيف في مواقع الموردين/المقاولين في اليمن ويُفضل أن يتم ذلك الفحص في مواقع تصنيع البضائع المطلوبة من وقت لآخر وكذلك بعد التوريد. على الشركة أن تفحص البضائع وتطابق المواصفات بما يتطابق مع المواصفات المعتمدة للتأكد من اكتمالها وذلك من خلال الدقة في الحجم والصنع والجودة والكمية والكفاءة والتغليف إن كان هناك حاجة وتفيد اختبار الأداء... الخ).

يرجى تقديم التعبير عن الإهتمام من خلال إتباع الإجراءات المحددة أدناه:

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## Yemenis seeking American citizenship pay exorbitant dowries in lucrative marriages of convenience

Nadia Haddash

Getting a visa from the American embassy in Sana'a is not easy for Yemenis hoping to travel to the U.S., and is especially hard for young, single men. So, many seek an alternative route: marrying a Yemeni-American woman.

By doing so, they typically become American, too, but could be in debt for years—they often have to pay huge dowries for their dual citizen brides.

Walid Al-Asimi, 28, met his wife, a Yemeni-American, in an English institute in Sana'a.

"When I knew that she would travel to America I decided to marry her," he says. "I was surprised when her father asked me to give \$30,000 as a dowry."

The majority of Yemeni youths who marry women with dual citizenship pay very high dowries,

ranging between \$10,000-50,000, or around YR 2 million- 11 million. By comparison, a typical dowry paid to a bride's family in Sana'a is around \$4,000 or YR 800,000. The dowry paid to brides' families in rural areas of the country is much less still.

But Al-Asimi wasn't deterred by the high price his bride demanded. He borrowed money for the dowry, a considerable amount for him at that time. He lives in the U.S. now, where he's working to repay his debt. A decision he says was worth it.

In some families, these marriages are a kind of tradition.

Wadhah Al-Esaie, 31, is in the final stages of engagement to his bride-to-be, a dual citizen from Yemen and America. "I don't know her and she doesn't know me at all," he says, which he says is quite normal. It is not uncommon for betrothed to never have met, marriages in Yemen are tradition-

ally arranged through families, although social norms are quietly changing.

With the elusive promise of an American passport, Al-Esie hopes to move to the U.S., where he intends to work.

Other members of Al-Esaie's family have married into the same in order "to improve their living situation," he explains. "This type of marriage has made a lot of my relatives more comfortable and satisfied."

Not all Yemeni-American girls want to be married off like this, though.

Sondos Al-Ariqi, a young Yemeni-American woman, sees these marriages as exploitative. They're being taken advantage of, she says.

"I know several friends at Michigan State [University] who were forced to get married to people they don't know," she said. "Their high dowries go to the pockets of their fathers."

Rising unemployment and general instability in Yemen lead many young Yemenis to get married in this way, said Dr. Abdul-Adheem Al-Faqeeh, a specialist in social science at Sana'a University.

"I can't blame Yemeni youths who resort to this type of marriage because they have no choices to improve their situation," he said. "They only seek a life with dignity and where law and order is enforced."

Still, these marriages of convenience don't always have a happy ending.

Mohsen Al-Riyashi, 24, married a Yemeni-American woman 10 months ago. He regrets it now.

"I was influenced by some of my friends who got married in this way. They painted a rosy picture of this type of marriage. I gave YR 2,500,000 [about \$11,000] as a dowry," he said.

"I could've invested that money instead."



Yemeni youths who want to marry Yemeni-American girls are expected to pay at least \$25,000 as a dowry.

## Women, fearing repercussions of appearing in family photos, seek alternatives in private

Story and photo by Nadia Haddash

There are many photo studios throughout Yemen, where family pictures for special occasion, like for the two Eids or weddings, are taken. However, in all of these pictures, there's one thing strikingly absent—women.

Abdulqawi Al-Asbahi works at Ajman Studio in Sana'a and says it's incredibly rare for Yemeni women to appear in photos with her family, specifically alongside any man. It would also be shameful for a woman to pose in front of a male photographer, Al Asbahi says, even if she were to wear a veil.

In family photos, Yemeni women are generally cloaked in a veil—only their eyes visible through a thin slit—or absent altogether. If a woman shows her face, conservative, popular opinion holds, it reflects poorly on her character.

Fathia Al-Jaradi, a young university student wishes the unveiled face didn't have this stigma. She likes posing for pictures, but she appears in pictures with other

women.

"My sisters and I have no pictures of us with the whole family. The traditions and customs don't allow girls to appear in photos with the family. Our relatives think that outsiders may find the photo and spread it in order to manipulate us."

Khadeeja Al-Areefi, an employee in the accounting department at Delta Institute, has similar fears. There are some men who might manipulate photos of girls, altering their images on Photoshop and sharing them on Facebook or other social media.

When they do this it brings shame on the women and their family, she says.

Still, Al-Areefi has found a way around



In a photo from Sana'a's Alwahdah studio, young girls happily pose with their family, but women often face stigma if they appear in portraits.

this perceived danger. She is happy to take photos of herself with her family—even if she is unveiled and with men—as long as the photos are taken privately, at home, and stay there.

"The family feels secure because the pictures taken are kept safely, she says. "We don't go to the studio because we don't trust the photographers there."

Dr. Salah Al-Jumaei, a sociologist at Sana'a University, understands why families forbid women from showing their faces in photos. Yemen is a conservative country, he says. This custom is prevalent in other Arab and

Islamic countries, too.

But families have—beginning to break traditional barriers, Al-Jumaei says.

Salma Al-Aghbari said her husband is normally very strict. She, as well as their two daughters, are forbidden from appearing in family photos.

"He doesn't allow me to be photographed," she said. "He's embarrassed if somebody looks at our unveiled faces. So, if we want to take a photo by ourselves, we have to be veiled."

Inconsistent with a professed mind set, when Yemeni families go abroad, conservative standards loosen.

Al-Aghbari's husband—though he normally would feel ashamed to pose in a picture with his daughters and wife—feels comfortable to take a family group picture including his daughters when they go to Dubai or Cairo.

These photos are still private. "My husband is careful not to be shown to anyone that doesn't belong to our family," Al-Aghbari says.

"We keep the pictures in a special album."

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Advertisement for 'شركة النقل البري الدولي' (International Road Transport Company) featuring a tiger logo and contact information.

Advertisement for 'عقارات' (Real Estate) listing properties for sale or rent, including details like 'شقة فخمة مؤثثة بالكامل'.

Large advertisement for 'Coupon for Free Classified Ads' with details on how to use the coupon and contact information for Yemen Times.

Advertisement for 'باحثون عن وظيفة' (Job Seekers) listing various job opportunities in fields like accounting, engineering, and teaching.

Word puzzle section titled 'كلمات متقاطعة' (Crossword) with a grid and a list of words to be placed.

Word puzzle section titled 'الكلمة المفقودة' (Missing Word) with a grid and a list of words to be placed.

Large advertisement for 'استراحة العدد' (Issue Break) featuring a coffee cup and text about the magazine's content and subscription information.



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## Never leaving work, shop owners and employees sickened by living quarters

Story and photos by Bassam Al-Ashmori

After 15 years of living in and working his junk shop, where he collects old car parts and electronics, Akram Al-Zabidi went to bed one night and ended up in the hospital. The 22-year-old was deprived of oxygen and exposed to bacteria in the makeshift "bedroom" he had created for himself in the corner of his junk shop. Al-Zabidi has now been at the state-run Al-Thwara public hospital for a month receiving treatment for a respiratory disorder that doctors believe was a result of unsanitary living quarters where very little oxygen was allowed to circulate.

Al-Zabidi, like many other Yemenis, said he had no other financial alternative to living in his shop, exposing him to chemicals and dirt in a very small space. In 2012, the General Department of Civil Defense reported 7 people in Sana'a suffocated and died while sleeping in their place of work.

Although the Civil Defense Department is now warning people of the dangers associated with turning their shops into sleeping quarters, they say they have been ineffective in convincing people, or coercing them with fines, that it is very dangerous to inhabit places like junk, carpentry and other small manufacturing shops.

"These places contain chemical substances and oxygen is almost non-existent," said Abdulla Al-Hamili, an information assistant in



Room like this one lack ventilation and can lead to respiratory problems and even death, doctors say.

The Civil Defense Department, explaining that the small spaces often lack windows and doors, cutting off oxygen circulation.

"Some shops use lanterns which burn the already inadequate oxygen," he added.

Most shops are very small, which doctors say is the biggest problem.

"The narrow humid places cause respiratory disorders such as pulmonary obstructions and chest inflammation. These conditions lead to allergic and chronic bronchial asthma," said Dr. Fikri Al-Qubati, the head of the Respiratory Diseases Department in Al-Thwara Public Hospital.

The Civil Defense Department does not track an accurate number of people whose only home is their place of business, but the Ministry of Public Works and Highways says the number is substantial and likely growing.

They say these places are not only dangerous to sleep in, but the majority of these shops neglect to follow occupational safety standards the department stipulates.

The biggest violations are a lack of fire extinguishers, regular health checks for workers and adequate ventilation.

Adel Al-Nihmi, the deputy general manager of the Public Works



A man sleeps above his small carpentry shop every night.

Ministry, says these shops are not granted licenses, but that doesn't keep them from operating. He says

his department is unable to sufficiently follow-up on violators, and thus owners have no motivation to

comply with standards, protecting themselves or employees who might sleep amid violations.

But, many say - violations or no violations - people often have no other alternative than living in hazardous conditions.

"Some limited income people sleep and live in their shops even if these shops are unfit because they cannot afford rent," Al-Qubati said.

Poverty is not the only factor keeping some owners in their shops 24 hours a day. A lack of security motivates others to not travel far.

"I sleep in the shop in order to guard equipment inside. I am afraid that if I sleep elsewhere, the shop will be burglarized," said Mohammed Jawdam, a worker in a local carpentry shop.

Although Jawdam and others say they know their sleeping quarters are risky, they shrug off the possibility of moving.

Even Al-Zabidi, who still lies in a hospital bed, said he intends to return to his shop to sleep. He says he has no other place to go.

## Damaged or destroyed during the revolution: Hundreds of schools currently being rebuilt

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

During the revolution, armed militias and government forces used hundreds of children's schools as barracks and firing points. When the soldiers and militiamen left, the schools were left in complete disrepair, some destroyed entirely. Now, nearly two years later, 380 of those schools have been repaired.

Abdulkareem Al-Jindari, the deputy minister of the Education Ministry, told the Yemen Times that approximately 146 schools in Abyan, in addition to 200 schools in Sa'ada, were seriously damaged between 2011-2012. Hundreds of schools in other parts of the country were also damaged.

Schools in Abyan, Aden, Lahj, Sana'a and Sa'ada have been rebuilt, Education Minister Dr. Abdulrazaq Al-Ashwal said. In Abyan 70 schools were repaired and 45 schools in Aden. All but one school in Sana'a has been repaired. Aid money—amounting to millions of dollars—has been dedicated to the reconstruction.

The repairs have been made possible by funding provided by a group of foreign organizations and states, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the German govern-



Schools all over Yemen are undergoing renovations following damaged sustained during the revolution.

ment, UNICEF, Save the Children, Oxfam and others. The Social Fund for Development, a relief program launched by the Yemeni government and funded by foreign sources, also carried out the rebuilding. The American government has funded the repair of 10 schools, too, Al-Jindari said.

Over the course of the past two years, schools in Aden were also used to house refugees from Abyan, following clashes between govern-

ment forces and believed Al-Qaeda affiliates, which in 2011 gained control of the southern province. Tens of thousands of Yemenis from Abyan were displaced.

UNICEF provided emergency aid—including electricity, boards and sanitation facilities—to 33 schools that sustained damages after accommodating the refugees flooding out of Abyan, Mohammed Al-Ebi, the education coordinator for UNICEF in Aden, said.

# SHARP

## هي الأقوى والأكثر مبيعاً في العالم

ألات التصوير شارب  
تلبية جميع مستلزمات عالم التصوير الرقمي

Home Office	AR-M205 AR-M160	AR-203E AR-M201	AR-M206/207 AR-M161/162	MX-M160D MX-M160
Small Office	AR-5530 AR-5534	AR-344201 AR-344202	AR-M256/258	AR-5731 AR-5726
Small Workgroup	MX-M350N/U MX-M450N/U	MX-M310N MX-M260N		
Medium Workgroup	MX-M350N/U MX-M450N/U	MX-M350N/U MX-M450N/U MX-M363N/U MX-M283N		
Large Workgroup		MX-M7000U/N MX-M6200U/N MX-M5500U/N		
Office Walk-up		MX-M1100 MX-M950		

شهره واسعة بفضل جودتها ومئاتها وإنتاجيتها العالية

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يرجى التواصل لمعرفة أنواع آلات التصوير التي تحمل هذه الميزة