

Reconstruction of damaged homes and farms in Abyan to cost YR21 billion

Rammah Al-Jubari

ABYAN, March 13 — The Abyan Reconstruction Fund (ARF) released the results of a survey assessing the extent and costs of damage to homes and farms in Abyan as a result of clashes that have taken place between government forces and the Al-Qaeda affiliated group Ansar Al-Sharia over the past two years.

The head of ARF, Nasser Al-Yafe'i told the Yemen Times that 12,615 homes and 3,282 farms were damaged or destroyed in Abyan during the clashes. Reconstruction efforts are estimated to cost YR21 billion, almost \$100 million.

An internally displaced person, Ahmed Al-Sultan, told the Yemen Times that he and other IDPs are eager to return to their homes.

"Ansar Al-Sharia destroyed my home. I have been in a Lahj school sheltering IDPs for about two years, I hope all concerned authorities will end our desperate predicament and provide money for reconstruction," he said.

Reconstruction costs are to be paid in three installments. Of the initial YR7 billion (33 million) installment, 70 percent will be paid by the state treasury, and the remainder will be covered by international donors. The final two installments are expected to be allocated in late 2013, Al-Yafe'i said.



This month, home owners in Abyan will receive the first installment of a compensation package that will cover the cost of rebuilding their homes.

Payments will be made to home and farm owners, under the supervision of architects to ensure the money goes directly for reconstruction, Al-Yafe'i said.

The coordinator for internally

displaced persons (IDPs) in Abyan, Nabeel Al-Amoodi, doesn't believe government officials, particularly local officials, are serious about reconstruction efforts in Abyan. He says there is a lack of transparency

for funds provided by donors.

Beginning in 2011, Abyan witnessed fierce clashes between military forces and Ansar Al-Sharia as a result of a security vacuum caused by the popular uprising. Militants were able to take control of Zinjibar and Jaar for over a year. Popular committees, with the support of state military forces, were able to regain control in mid-June 2012.

Heavily guarded, electricity technicians repair power in Marib

Amal Al-Yarisi

Marib, March 13 — Electricity technicians on Wednesday finished repairing one electrical circuit in the Marib Power Gas Station, located northeast of the capital Sana'a.

Mohammed Amir, the manager of Marib Operations Department, said that a number of security personnel and tribesmen safeguarded the electricity technicians when they started working at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, immediately after the station was allegedly attacked by local tribesmen.

Amir said that the team finished its work at 3 a.m. on Wednesday.

Amir said security authorities intensified security procedures in order to protect the station and thwart any attacks it could be exposed to by blacklisted tribesmen.

"The Ministry of Electricity accused eight individuals who belong to the Al-Damashiq tribe," Amir said. "Their names have been sent to the judiciary and the security offices in order to capture them."

Ali Mahdi, said the tribe to which he belongs, Al Shabwan, has done their best to guard the electricity towers. He condemned sabotage of the electricity infrastructure in Marib.

Mahdi blamed the government for being unable to capture the perpetrators.

"The attackers of the electricity infrastructure are guilty. Even if they [were to] belong to [our] tribe, that doesn't mean the tribe approves of their acts," Mahdi said.

The Yemeni government called on the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defense to

immediately take action by means of a comprehensive security plan to protect the oil pipes and electricity towers which have sustained attacks. The government also called on the two ministries to catch the perpetrators and bring them to court.

The government authorized the prime minister, the general prosecutor and the interior and defense ministers to take executive measures to reinforce the rule of law, the state-run Saba News Agency reported.

The Marib Power Gas Station has been subjected to repetitive assaults by angry tribesmen, knocking out services all over the country. Many Yemeni governorates, including the capital city, have had to deal with power outages lasting upwards of 15 hours as a result.

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Efforts underway to clean up Sana'a's trashed streets

Story by Amal Al-Yarisi
Photo by Amira Nasser

SANA'A, March 13 — Sana'a streets are in store for a little dusting. The local council has approved a new plan to clean up Yemen's capital.

The plan includes installing 32 new trash compactors and buying top-quality trash cans to be distributed across the city, according to Jamal Juhaish, the manager of the cleaning sector in Sana'a.

With the new plan, Juhaish says street cleaners will also be moved to peripheral areas that are neglected. Usama Khalid, a resident of one such neighborhood, said the state of cleanliness in Sana'a is not acceptable.

Khalid said political officials should be held accountable for the situation, but emphasized that locals share a responsibility in the effort, and should be educated on the importance of hygiene.

Taxi driver Maher Ghailan thinks more organization is required if anything will ever change.

"There are no concrete plans to improve the cleanliness of the capital city's streets, which now



The capital's streets now resemble dumps, local says.

resemble garbage dumps," Ghailan said.

Juhaish says the troubles are a result of deteriorating equipment; over 40 percent of equipment operates poorly, if at all.

The Capital Secretariat launched a cleaning campaign on 12 December called "Sharik," which

garnered a lot of support and involvement from Sana'a residents. However, trash started accumulating a few days after the campaign kickoff.

Local resident Al-Maswari said the campaign did not make a big difference. While he had high expectations initially, hoping there

would be no trash on the streets, he was disappointed to see how quickly the campaign failed.

Sana'a's cleaning office has set-up a hotline for complaints. Residents are encouraged to call if they believe street cleaners are not doing their jobs. The number is 202-602.

Fate of Yemenis detained in Syria murky

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANA'A, March 13 — Syrian security authorities may have lifted the death sentence which had been placed on detained Yemeni physician Riyadh Al-Umaisi last month, Najeeb Al-Ba'dani, from the Yemeni Migrants Organization, said. Al-Umaisi was captured over a year ago by the Syrian Air Intelligence, but almost everything else about his detention remains murky.

Najeeb Al-Ba'dani said he spoke with inside sources at the Syrian Embassy in Sana'a, who told him that Al-Umaisi's death sentence has been overturned. The Syrian Embassy could not officially verify this and declined to comment, passing responsibility to the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ismael Al-Ma'bari, of the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has heard the reports but believes that Al-Umaisi may still be put to death.

It's rumored that Al-Umaisi had been working with anti-government opposition groups in Syria, which have been fighting to topple Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad for the past two years. However, Al-Umaisi's family disputes this, saying that he was not a part of any armed group.

Three weeks ago, Al-Umaisi's relatives staged a protest in front

of the Syrian Embassy in Sana'a and the Yemen's Foreign Affairs Ministry, calling for the doctor's release.

The fate of five other Yemenis who were detained by The Victory Front (an armed Syrian opposition group) last year, remains unknown. The five were arrested in the south of Syria and—unlike Al-Umaisi—are being accused of fighting alongside Syrian state forces.

Al-Ba'dani said that the Syrian Embassy in Damascus has contacted the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to help release the detainees, but no progress has been made. Al-Ba'dani said the Yemeni government is at fault and that they are not acting quickly enough on behalf of the detained officers.

Ismael Al-Ma'bari, from the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the Yemeni Embassy in Syria has been doing everything they can.

Abdulrahman Barman, a lawyer in Sana'a, said that he—alongside other human rights activists—has reached out to the Victory Front, but have seen no progress.

Barman said that he spoke with the five officers a month ago. They were healthy, he said, but didn't know if or when they would be released.

Tourism Ministry proposes \$20 million plan



Tourists have become a rarity in Yemen. Many foreign countries issue travel warnings.

Story and photo by
Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, March 13 — Yemen's Tourism Ministry outlined a new five-year strategy at the beginning of March to boost the listless industry that collapsed in 2011 following Yemen's popular uprising.

Despite travel warnings from several foreign countries, the Ministry wants to attract back the esti-

mated 1,000,000 visitors they say came through the southern Arabian country in 2010.

"The plan also aims to better the image of Yemen for the world, making it a sought-after tourist destination," said Abduljabar Saeed, the deputy minister of the Tourism Ministry.

In order to endorse Yemen's reputation as a destination safe for travelers, the Ministry says they

will work with security forces and tourist police to stay abreast of happenings in the country.

The plan, with a budget of \$20 million, also aims to distribute materials abroad portraying a positive image of Yemen. Representatives from Yemen will be sent to international tourist exhibitions to show short films on the country's many historic and natural wonders, the ministry says.

A large portion of the money will also be used to restore services like paved roads near Yemen's main tourist attractions, including its three current UNESCO sites, Bab Al-Yemen, the city of Zabeed and Shibam.

The city of Zabeed and Bab Al-Yemen have both been threatened to be removed from UNESCO's List of World Heritage sites due to de-

gradation.

Five other destinations will also be targeted to improve facilities around them and encourage developments like Internet cafes. These include the northern shore of Midi City, Al-Dwima Island in Hajja, the coasts of Al-Luhia city and Kamran Island in Hodeida, Khor Omaira shore in Lahj, Jazolit shore in Al-

Mahra, and Dhabdhab Al-Shihr shore in Hadramout.

Tourism companies have embraced the plan.

"The plan will help increase the influx of tourists. This will contribute to growing tourism agencies," Muad Al-Jalidi, the manager of Al-Fatah Tourism and Haj Agency, said.

Abdulnasser Secondary School set to reopen

Story and photo by
Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, March 10 — The Ministry of Education started receiving applications to fill the principal and deputy principal positions at the Abdulnasser Secondary School, indicating that the projected date for the school to reopen at beginning of 2014 following a five-year expansion project may go ahead as planned.

Located in the Tahrir neighborhood, the facility is Sana'a's oldest public school and is known for producing the country's top graduates.

The renovation process costs roughly \$8 million, funded by the Social Development Fund (SDF), a government organization that provides financial assistance to civil society groups.

When the school does reopen, 200 students will be admitted



The school is slated to open next year.

based on entrance exams and based on international standards, Ali Al-Khawaja, the director of quality at the Ministry of Education, said.

Another highlight of the new school includes its accelerated education system. Admitted students will finish in 18-24 months instead of the standard three years that most public schools students

take.

Ahmed Al-Hada, former principal of the school, is worried when the school does reopen that it may have a hard time bringing back some of its former teachers that he says have moved on to better assignments.

The new school will have 36 classrooms and six labs, the Ministry says.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
PROFESSIONAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°: 01/2013

Issued on: **14 March 2013**
Deadline For Application: **27 March 2013**

POSITION TITLE: Administrative Officer	GRADE LEVEL: National Consultant (Yemeni)
ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: PNYAR	DUTY STATION: Sana'a-Yemen
	DURATION: Temporary Position (One Year)
	POST CODE: 0000 Code

Applications from Yemeni Nationals only will be considered and women are highly encouraged to apply.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the direct supervision of the FAO Representative, the Administrative Officer is responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing administrative and financial activities for FAO Representation. Specifically, the incumbent will:

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- Monitor the receipt of Government contributions and ensure that all procurements and custom clearance for programmes, projects and the office are properly requested and obtained.
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SELECTION CRITERIA

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6,000 landmine survivors reported in Yemen

Rammah AL-Jubari

Yemen may have been one of the first signatories of Landmines Ban Treaty in 1997, but victims of mines in this country number over 6,000. Since the 1960s, landmines have been used in conflicts, by both government and non-government forces. It's unknown how many mines are still active and dangerous, scattered throughout mountains and fields.

The majority of those injured by landmines are children and women, Aisha Saeed, the head of the Landmines Awareness Association, said.

This is because in many rural areas—where mines are prevalent—men have immigrated to nearby cities in search of work. Women and children are left to work the land, where unexploded and active mines lay hidden and can be inadvertently set off when tending crops or grazing animals.

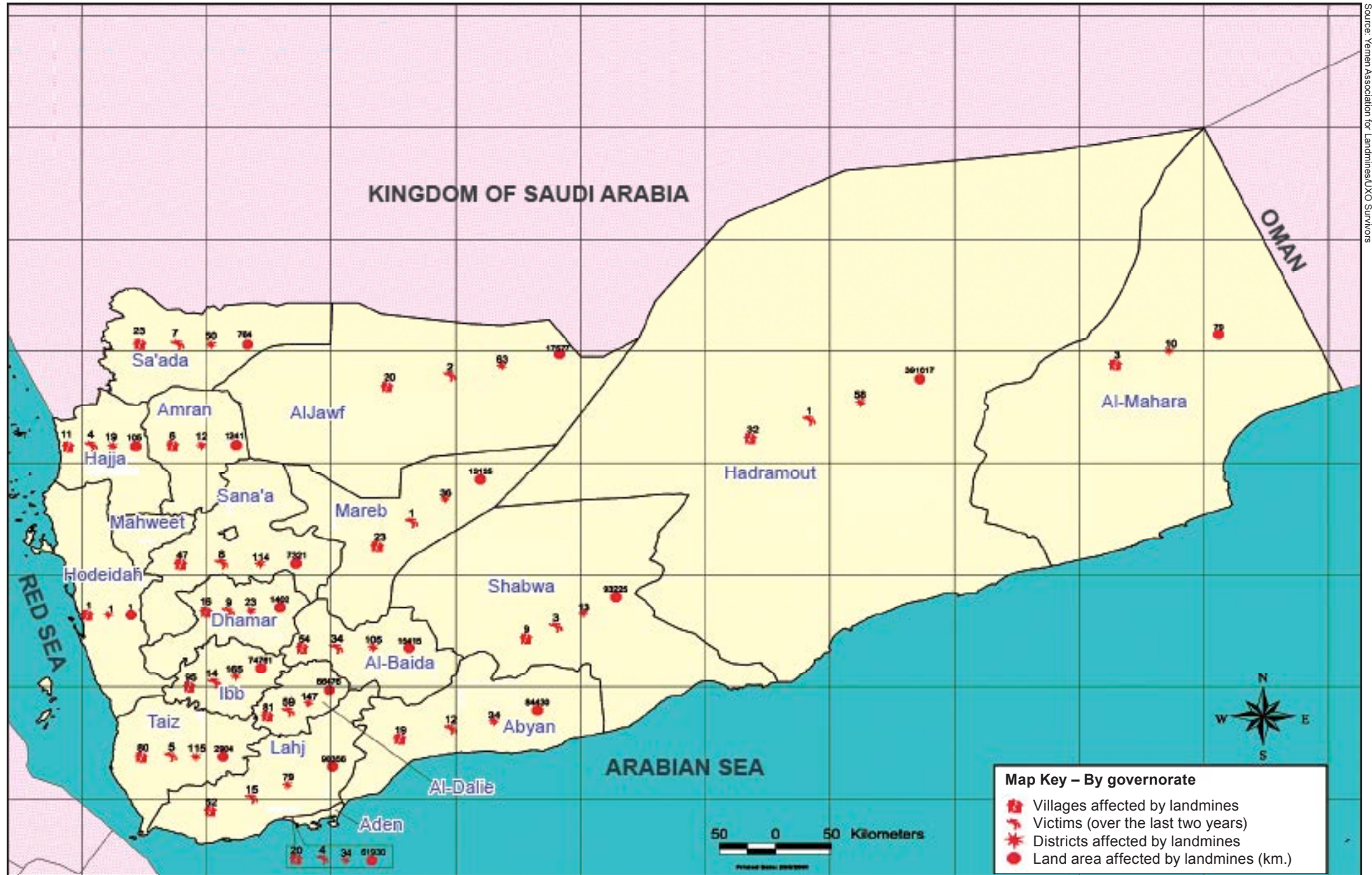
At a conference on Monday, the Yemen Association for Landmines and UXO Survivors and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines—alongside other national and international organizations—urged the government to offer aid to survivors and to stop planting mines in the country.

“Everyone should contribute to caring [for victims],” Houria Mashhour, the Minister of Human Rights, told the Yemen Times. “They’ve lost parts of their bodies,” she said; now they must adjust to their new lives.

Legislation is in the works, she said, that will aid this underserved community. But, Mashhour was not able to clarify details regarding the legislation.

The Yemen Association for Landmines and UXO Survivors works with victims, organizing vocational training sessions and psychological support groups, among other advocacy efforts. However, as most of the victims are illiterate and live in remote, rural areas, outreach is difficult.

Landmines threaten civilians in the North, where the government has clashed with Houthi rebels for much of



Although Yemen was one of the first signatories of the Landmines Ban Treaty, the weapons of war continue to claim thousands of lives every year.

the past decade, and in the South, where government forces are currently fighting Al-Qaeda affiliates. Landmines were also laid in the capital during the 2011 uprising.

At the conference, over 50 survivors were in attendance. Arwa Ali Saeed, a landmine survivor, sustained an injury in Dale governorate in 2004, from a landmine that had likely been sitting unexploded since

the war of 1994. She lost both of her legs. Now she uses a wheelchair. “I was ten years old,” Saeed remembered. “I was grazing goats in the mountain near my village. I was alone at the time of the

accident.” From the town, villagers heard the landmine explode. Someone came to find her and carry her back to her family. If they hadn’t, she would have died, she said.

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Old feuds reignite, leading to death in Taiz; more checkpoints and armed patrols set up

Amal Al-Yarisi

TAIZ, March 13 — On Monday, state authorities ramped up security procedures in Taiz, fearing clashes with and between local militia and villagers. These new measures are in part a response to an ongoing dispute between two villages on the outskirts of the city which resulted in the death of one man last week.

Authorities set up seven security checkpoints on the streets of this governorate in the Yemeni Highlands; an additional 12 patrols will canvass the city at night, Mohammed Al-Shaeri, the security manager in Taiz, told the Yemen Times.

Last Saturday, fights broke out in Saber district, which lies on the outskirts of Taiz, reigniting a years-

old dispute between the villages of Al-Marazih and Qurada over access to a natural spring which both villages claim. Though a judicial verdict in 2003 ruled that access to the spring would be shared (with the lion's share going to Qurada), recent events have caused authorities to fear that there could be more violence.

A suspect in the killing has been apprehended and is awaiting trial. Al-Shaeri spent time in the district, meeting the local leaders and Governor Shawqi Hael Saeed, with the intention of reaching an agreement about the disputed spring. Chaos will not prevail, he said.

Last month, a security patrol in the Osaifirah area of Taiz was attacked by armed militia, state-owned Saba News reported.



Following violent clashes in Saber district, authorities ramp up security measures.

YR 10 billion to build digital map of Sana'a



The capital secretariat says the map will improve future road projects, including bridges.

Tehama Hirak: the former regime marginalized us

Mohammed Al-Samei

HODIEDA, March 13 — A group who call themselves the Tehama Hirak threatened to escalate protests in this governorate in western Yemen, accusing local sheikhs—who activists claim have ties to the administration of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh—of seizing their land illegally.

"The former regime marginalized the governorate for 33 years, and we don't want the current regime to do so," Khalid Khalil, a prominent activist in the Tehama Hirak, said.

"Tehama must be recognized as a region that has the right to peacefully live with other regions within a civil, federal state and to benefit from its own wealth," Khalil said, using the historical name of this

region, located along the coastal plains of the Red Sea.

The Tehama Hirak staged its first protest during the anti-government uprising of 2011, calling for better state services in this poor, yet fertile, region of Yemen. Hodeida is among the poorest of Yemen's 20 governorates but, activists say, their access to natural resources have been dominated by tribesmen and corrupt members of the military.

Hassan Ziad, a political activist and journalist in Hodeida, questions the legitimacy of the Tehama Hirak movement, which he believes has been infiltrated by those same sheikhs who are accused of unlawfully appropriating land.

Khalil refuted this claim. The Tehama Hirak, which originally began as a youth movement, is com-



Activists in Hodieda, inspired by Hirak, take to the streets.

pletely separate from the former administration, he said.

The Tehama Hirak formed in 2009, borrowing its name from the Southern Separatist Movement,

also called Hirak. Unlike the separatists, activists in Tehama are not advocating for national sovereignty, but instead calling for an end to regional corruption.

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, March 13 — An estimated YR20 billion, or \$93 million, has been dedicated to developing municipal infrastructure in Sana'a, including building bridges, sanitation facilities and paving streets. Half of that YR20 billion will be used building something less concrete, but perhaps just as important for future development—a digital map of the city.

Waleed Rase, the projects coordinator in the capital secretariat, imagines that mapping the city will lead to full scale improvements in Sana'a. It will provide a much-needed comprehensive database, including names and locations of streets, traffic circles, administrative buildings and schools.

The digital map will aid later developments, hopefully meeting the needs of residents, said Rase.

These projects represent two years worth of the YR10 billion earned by the secretariat from taxation and revenues, Najeeb Al-Hadad, the general manager of the financial resources in Sana'a, told the Yemen Times.

Much of the development implemented by the capital secretariat is implemented by the state. However, the city's digital mapping will be carried out by the municipality.

Abdulraheeb Ata, the manager of the public works office, was optimistic about the project.

This project will make Yemenis proud of their capital city, he said.

INTERNATIONAL TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Yemen Corporation for Cement Industry & Marketing (YCC) invites International Contractors specialised in cement manufacturing industry works to enter into competition for the coal conversion project of their cement plants in the Republic of Yemen.

The project comprises the EPC supply of coal reception, storage, drying/grinding and multi-fuel firing systems for two cement plants and an import facility.

Tender documents (the bidding documents amount is \$200) can be acquired upon written request or by e-mail to Yemen Cement Corporation (YCC) or Cement Consultancy Associates Limited quoting reference YCC/CCA/S482 as follows:

Cement Consultancy Associates Ltd.

Regus House
1 Emperor Way
Exeter Business Park
Exeter
EX1 3QS
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 1392 314022
Fax: +44 1392 314001

Email: YCCMBproject@cementconsult.co.uk

Yemen Corporation for Cement Industry & Marketing (YCC)

B1, Government Complex
Abo Alhassan Al-Hamdani
P.O. Box (1920)
Sana'a, Yemen

Tel: +967 1 264139/7
Fax: +967 1 263168

Email: yccim@y.net.ye

Companies interested in implementing this project are to submit their bids in accordance with the tender documents along with 2% bid guarantee and the bid should be accompanied by the appropriate bid bond as set out in the tender instructions.

The last date for selling tender documents is on Wednesday 24/4/2013 and the opening of the Bid envelopes shall be in an open session in the presence of interested bidder's representatives on Monday 29/4/2013 12:00 at the YCC Head Office, Planning Dep. in Sana'a, Yemen.

مناقصة رقم (YCC/CCA/S482)

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3. صورة من البطاقة التأمينية + البطاقة الزكوية سارية المفعول
4. صورة من شهادة مزاوله المهنة

تستثنى الشركات الأجنبية من تقديم الوثائق والشهادات المشار إليها أنفا (1-4) ويكتفى بتقديم الوثائق المؤهلة الصادرة من البلدان التي تنتمي إليها تلك الشركات.

سيكون فتح عطاءات الشركات المتقدمة في جلسة علنية وبوجود ممثل عن كل شركة في مكتب المؤسسة اليمنية العامة لصناعة وتسويق الاسمنت وعن طريق إدارة التخطيط.

Shrinking profits: gas vendors take on new state-imposed price cap



Gas vendors from Marib and Jawf intend to join the men currently protesting outside the Yemeni Gas Company in Sana'a.

Story and photos by Samar Qaed

Adozen resolute men have been staging a sit-in in front of the Yemeni Gas Company (YGC) for over a month now. The group are minor-league gas vendors who say until the government issued a price cap in February, they were making a profit off the 15 kilogram cylinders they sell. Now they want the YGC to defend their right to set their own price for the cylinders, which are used in homes and restaurants all over Yemen for cooking and household needs.

The Ministry of Oil and Minerals oversees the state-run YGC that controls gas prices and sells the commodity to merchants. In 2010, the Ministry tried to set a price cap, but it was never enforced. Nearly three years later, they have issued a regulation that vendors cannot sell the cylinder for more than YR1,200, about \$6.

Mohammed Al-Bawsani, technical affairs director at the YGC, says the decision was calculated to protect consumers.

"Prices have gone up," he said. "Gas agents sold cylinders for [high] prices."

Enraged gas vendors say the move is unfair. The maximum profit they can now earn is YR 90, or 42 cents, because YGC sells the cylinders at wholesale for YR1,110, around \$5.20.

This decreased profit is too little, the sellers say. Naji Al-Soma'i,

a protester, said it doesn't take into account sellers' costs like transportation, insurance fees and employees' wages. They estimate that after all of this, they make around a YR40, 18 cents profit.

"I wonder whether it's right to decrease the profit sellers get currently," said Ibrahim Al-Janad, the head of Gas Sellers' Assembly in Taiz, who called the new price cap unsustainable.

Gas sellers say that on average they used to make a YR160, or 74-cent, profit per canister prior to Yemen's revolution in 2011, when the industry took a big hit and prices skyrocketed.

During the revolution, consumers paid around YR2500, about \$12, for a cylinder, a burden many families could not afford.

Because of this, many residents have praised the ministry's decision, but that doesn't mean vendors are falling in line.

"I went to several shops, but all of them insisted on selling a cylinder for YR1300 [over \$6]," said Rafeeq Al-Zoraiqi, a local resident.

In his area, Abdulla Al-Aizari said vendors still sell the cylinders for YR 1400, or around \$6.50.

The Oil Minister has asked citizens to report such violations, but enforcement has been very loose.

Consumers say they are also being cheated in other ways. Maher Ghailan, a local resident, says some gas cylinder stations are trying to reduce their profit deduction by not filling the cylinders to their full capacity.

Unregulated gas selling

While a price cap gave gas vendors the fuel they needed to start protesting, they are also upset by an emergence of unlicensed gas shops, which undermines their business.

These small, random shops surfaced during the revolution, but typically do not abide by the rules and regulations that govern the certified ones.

"Although rules stipulate the distance between two gas-selling shops should be 500 meters, gas is currently sold in a grocery beside me and my neighbor is also selling gas inside his yard," Mohammed Al-Weshah, a protester, said.

"Many people sell gas in their shops without safety procedures which may cause terrible incidents," he added.

Al-Weshah says nobody is regulating these pop-up shops.

Fatima Abdulfatah, lives next to an unregulated seller, which makes her feel uneasy. She says such shops should not be allowed in populous areas.

"I feel as if I'm living beside a bomb store that may explode at any moment," she said.

Unlicensed shops are reported to lack even the smallest safety measures like a fire extinguisher.

YGC representatives agree that these shops are hazardous not only to business but could also lead to hazards like fires.

Although Abduljaleel Qaed, the director of the facilities department at the YGC, says they create criteria

needed for shop certification, it is not their job to prosecute perpetrators.

"We coordinate with the Civil Defense [Ministry] and its branches across Yemen to inform them of gas shops that lack safety procedures," Qaed said.

The Civil Defense Ministry says they are doing their part despite an unprecedented number of new unregulated gas vendors appearing every day.

"We pay field visits to make sure that the gas shops adhere to safety procedures in terms of being built with anti-fire materials and [are located] far from highly-populated areas such as schools," said Colonel Abdulkareem M'iad, the director of the Civil Defense Ministry.

As with many government agencies, they say political instability since the revolution has



The 15 kilogram cylinders can be sold for no more than YR1,200, about \$6.

inhibited their work.

Currently the Ministry of Public Works, the Consumers Protection

Association and Gas Sellers Assembly say they are coordinating efforts to solve the problem.



CONSULTANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 08/2013

If you are a committed, creative Yemeni professional and are passionate about making a lasting difference for children, the world's leading child rights organization UNICEF would like to hear from you.

Title of post: Consultant, Nutrition Sub-Cluster Coordinator
Duty Station: Taiz Field Office with frequent travels within Taiz and Ibb
Duration: Six months

Specific Tasks:

Ensure inclusive of key humanitarian partners (local and international) for the nutrition sector in Taiz and Ibb, respecting their respective mandates and program's priorities, and establish capacity mapping database with profile of new/potential actors – government, national and international humanitarian organizations as well as national institutions.

1. Establishment and maintenance of appropriate humanitarian coordination mechanisms:

Ensure appropriate coordination between all Nutrition humanitarian partners (including national and international NGOs), as well as national authorities through the: -

- Establishment/maintenance of appropriate sector coordination mechanisms at the subnational level.
- Secure commitments from Sub-cluster partners in responding to needs and filling gaps, ensuring an appropriate distribution of responsibilities within the Sub-cluster, to achieve complementarities with clearly defined focal points/technical group for specific issues where necessary.
- Ensure strong inter-cluster linkages with other concerned Sub-clusters (with OCHA support), especially Health, WASH, Food Security and Livelihoods, child protection and Logistics when available.
- Act as focal point for inquiries on the Sub-cluster's response plans and operations, and represent the interests of the Sub-cluster partners in discussions with the different stakeholders on prioritization, resource mobilization and advocacy;

2. Planning and strategy development:

- Needs assessment and analysis.
- Promote and ensure the use of standard assessment formats (SMART methodology) within the Sub cluster and ensure effective and coherent sectorial needs assessment and analysis, involving all relevant partners.
- Identification of information and response gaps.
- Developing and updating sub-cluster response strategies and ensuring that these are adequately reflected in the overall central cluster strategies, such as the YHRP.
- Ensure adequate contingency planning and preparedness for new emergencies in consultation with the central sub-cluster coordinators.
- Promote emergency response actions while at the same time considering the need for early recovery planning and ensure integration of IACS's agreed priority cross-cutting issues, namely human rights, HIV/AIDS, age, gender and environment, and promote utilization of participatory and community-based approaches.

3. Application of standards:

- Ensure that the sub-cluster partners are aware of relevant policy guidelines, technical standards and relevant commitments that the Government has undertaken under international human rights law.
- Ensure that responses are in line with existing policy guidance, technical standards, and relevant Government human rights legal obligations.

4. Monitoring and reporting :

Ensure adequate monitoring mechanisms are in place to review impact of the cluster working group and progress against implementation plans.- Ensure adequate reporting and effective information sharing with due regards for age and sex disaggregation.

5. Advocacy and resource mobilization :

Identify core advocacy concerns, including resource requirements, and contribute key messages to broader advocacy initiatives of all actors.

6. Training and capacity building :

- Promote and support training of humanitarian personnel and capacity building of humanitarian partners, based on the mapping and understanding of available capacity;
- Support efforts to strengthen the capacity of the national/local authorities and civil society.

7. Provision of assistance or services as a last resort :

The nutrition sub-cluster coordinator will act as "provider of Last Resort" to meet agreed priority needs (subject to access, security and availability of funds).

Technical Background and Experience:

- University degree in medical sciences and/ or postgraduate degree in public health.
- Minimum 2-3 years' experience in H&N field. Working in emergency sites or community-based experience is an asset.
- Computer skills using MS office, e-mail and internet applications.
- Fluency in both English and Arabic languages written and spoken.
- Past experience as cluster coordinator is an asset.

If you meet the requirements stated above, please send your application, enclosing comprehensive curriculum vitae, duly completed United Nations Personal History form (which can be downloaded from www.unicef.org/employ) stating telephone number, email address and detailed contact address quoting the vacancy number to: yemenhr@unicef.org not later than 10 days from the date of this publication. For additional information on UNICEF, please visit our website: www.unicef.org

UNICEF, is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages qualified female and male candidates, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of our organisation. UNICEF is a smoke-free environment.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



Out of 160 registered gas vendors in Sana'a, only 87 renewed their licenses last year, according to the Yemeni Gas Company.

YT vision statement



"To make Yemen a good world citizen."

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



OUR OPINION

The secret of Yemeni politicians

There is an amusing Yemeni way of doing politics. I didn't notice it until I became involved in the - sometimes frustrating - political process.

Yemeni politics is 10 percent strategy, 30 percent lobbying and propaganda and 60 percent sheer willpower. Yemenis simply "will" things to happen. Sometimes it is a collective will, and many times it is individual will—but in order to make things happen, the individual has to be an experienced, seasoned politician who has learned this art of "willing."

I have seen this happening during my work with members from the Preparatory Committee for the National Dialogue Conference (NDC).

First of all, the idea that the Preparatory Committee has a fixed agenda every day is merely a guideline. Members are allowed to talk about anything they want and can repeat for the nth time their already established point of view.

These members are new to politics. They do not know that it is not repetition, loud voices or shouting—which happens a lot—that makes their voices heard, it is instead, the use of "will."

Often times, the Preparatory Committee would be in heated discussions about an issue, and then suddenly, someone with political power would magically "will" the matter to conclude. He (it is always a male) would say, "So we are in agreement, let's break this session," or "Let's go for lunch" or "Let's take a group photo."

Everyone would then agree and say, "Yes, yes, let's."

Budding politicians like me would question, "What just happened?"

This would make it impossible to write the minutes for the meeting and summarize the proceedings of the day.

I suppose that this is why Yemen has been able to sail through conflicts and is where it is today. This is in itself an achievement.

But, here we are, entering a conference where we decide on the shape of a new Yemen. I worry the same type of politics will take place.

There will be experts, working papers and discussions, but as long as strong politicians continue to "will" things to happen, I am not sure how much good all our planning will do.

In my time with the committee, I have learned one of the tricks these politicians use to "will" matters. They allow people to vent. They likely switch off their minds and pretend to listen because it is a very painful process to listen to incoherent speeches repeatedly.

They sort of allow their "willed" idea to simmer somewhere in the air, and when the time is right - which is usually the third round of repetition - they magically throw the idea on the table as a matter of, and say, "Ok, so here is the idea you have all agreed on."

Perhaps this tactic allows people to talk their heads off so when they have no heads to think with, they are easily persuaded.

Yemeni politicians are practiced illusionists. I have heard many stories of how former President Ali Abdullah Saleh would constantly change his decision on an issue.

Current President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi knows this powerful talent. From the very beginning, he decided to listen to no one. It was only recently that he started to let a few selective people in and share his thoughts with them.

I don't blame him. I only wish Hadi and the upcoming conference luck. Maybe luck can balance the invisible power of "will."

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Dialogue, Interrupted

Nasser Arrabyee
Carnegieendowment.org
First Published March 8

Yemen's National Dialogue is scheduled to start on March 18, but despite government measures, the country's overall security remains under threat. Political assassinations are on the rise, and armed struggle in the South is gaining momentum. Addressing these security issues is the only way to allow for the success of the National Dialogue.

The Southern Separatist Movement (Hirak) and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) remain behind most of the unrest; but neither is party to the dialogue, nor does either have any interest in preserving the country's unity. The Yemeni government alleges that Southern separatists receive financial support and "dangerous weapons" from Iran (which denies the allegations).

Although the separatists say they want independence only through "peaceful" methods, armed clashes occur from time to time. Indeed, the South has seen increasing tension between separatists and the pro-unity Muslim Brotherhood in Yemen, which - in addition to being an integral part of the Islah party - wields vast influence in the South and has been a longtime opponent of separatists.

The separatist movement's top leader, the exiled Ali Salem Al-Beidh, described the Brotherhood as terrorists following an incident on Feb. 21 when the organization's members killed at least 10 separatists. They had, with the help of security forces and the army, been preventing separatists from holding a rally in Aden that day - the same day (and place) that the Muslim Brotherhood was preparing to rally for national unity. In retaliation, angry separatists carried out acts of violence across the south, burning the Brotherhood's offices, blocking roads, harassing and threaten-

ing Northerners - describing them as "occupiers." Separatists even set fire to one individual from the North - he nearly died - in Sayoun in Hadramaut on Feb. 23.

AQAP also is prominently featured in the conflict between the separatists and the Muslim Brotherhood. While the relationship between the Brotherhood and AQAP is subject to intense debate and speculation, both have an interest in a weak central government. Yet both the separatists and the Brotherhood are attempting to use Al-Qaeda against one another.

Following the Feb. 22 assassination of Aden journalist Wajdi Al-Shabi - who had covered separatists' activities since 2007 - Muslim Brotherhood-allied Governor Wahed Rashid accused the slain journalist of being Al-Qaeda's media person, which he claimed was the reason he was killed. Hours later, the central government said the dead body of the "citizen" Wajdi was found in his house and investigations were ongoing to find the killer - suggesting that the central government denied the journalist was a member of Al-Qaeda. The assassination came hours after the government surprisingly issued a statement saying that gunmen loyal to Al-Beidh, along with Al-Qaeda, operatives were behind the violence and killing in Aden.

"Al-Qaeda is stronger and in better shape than before, because people respond to it more than they do the government - which has failed to do anything [to] change people's life," asserts Abdul-Razek Al-Jamal, writer and researcher specialized in AQAP. AQAP is likely behind 74 assassinations of senior military and security officers across Yemen from 2012 through February 2013 - when a motorcycle-riding gunman killed a counterterrorism officer, Khaled Sewari, in Sana'a. In early March, AQAP published an enthusiastic poem by Abu Hajer Al-Hadhrami, an operative who had escaped from the prison of Mukalla in eastern Yemen in 2011, in which

the group threatened to continue with this style of assassinations.

Despite this, President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi is falsely boasting a victory over Al-Qaeda and citing the "liberation" of towns and areas in the South - such as Zinjibar and Jaar - that Al-Qaeda had governed as a Taliban-style emirate for over a year.

Yet, Al-Qaeda has not been defeated in Yemen; it has only changed tactics. In fact, good indicators of the group's strength are ongoing kidnappings and the group's ability to hide hostages. AQAP currently holds four hostages: a Saudi diplomat, a Finnish couple and an Austrian man. On Feb. 27 a Swiss hostage that the group had held for about a year was released after the Qatari government paid a ransom of \$5 million - tribal leaders close to the Brotherhood coordinated the release. According to sources familiar with the mediation effort, \$2 million went to AQAP while \$3 million went to tribal leaders.

When Hadi was elected president in February 2012, a number of tribesmen cooperated with him against Al-Qaeda, thinking that their situation would change for the better. However, a year later nothing has changed for them. "Hadi cares only for the U.S. and how to please it, ignoring the sovereignty and the feelings of Yemenis. He publicly says he loves drones - a sentence that never ever was said by ex-President Saleh," said Al-Jamal, who interviewed many Al-Qaeda leaders and stayed with them for months.

In a visit to the United States in 2012, Hadi expressed his admiration of the accuracy of drones that hit target areas and killed more than 100 militants since 2009, according to recent statements by Yemen intelligence chief Ali Al-Ahmadi. Hadi has also failed to reach any agreement with Al-Qaeda through tribal leaders. In early March, Al-Qaeda issued a statement stressing that it expects no agreement with the government: "The reason was the

disgraceful attitude of Sana'a's government which is dragged behind American projects and American agents from [the] Gulf." Around the same time, on March 4, at least 12 tribesmen were killed and 17 others injured when an Al-Qaeda suicide bomber targeted the anti-Al-Qaeda Popular Committee in the middle of the town of Lawdar on the border of Al-Baidha.

The coming National Dialogue's chances of success are further lessened because of the unclear link between Al-Qaeda and the Brotherhood, who dominate Islah, the largest opposition party in Parliament. In February, U.S. Ambassador Gerald Feierstein warned the dialogue will be a failure if a leader of the Islah party, preacher Abdul-Majeed Al-Zindani participates, because he is deemed a terrorist by the United Nations and the United States. Earlier Al-Zindani had said that the United States must not interfere and that there would be no dialogue without the agreement of clerics.

"The Brotherhood is using Al-Qaeda as if it were their military wing to frighten America and the West so that they [the U.S. and the West] accept the Brotherhood as the best model of moderate Islam," said Najeeb Ghallab, a prominent political analyst focusing on Yemen and the Gulf. "So, America and the West now wrongly believe that [they are forced] either to accept the Brotherhood or Al-Qaeda will be the other alternative."

But Yemen's constantly evolving political and security dynamics mean that there are few clear choices. For the National Dialogue to achieve anything, the context surrounding it must have greater stability.

Nasser Arrabyee is a Yemeni journalist based in Sanaa. He has reported for The New York Times, among others. This commentary first appeared at Sada, an online journal published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Drone policy must be debated

Mike Hoeflich
Ljworld.com
First Published March 13

The killing by drones in Yemen of American citizens Anwar al-Awlaki, in September 2011, and his son, Abdulrahman, a few weeks later has continued to be a major issue among lawyers and constitutional scholars, and a subject of discussion and debate since the deaths were announced. The legality of the killings became national news recently when Sen. Rand Paul mounted a 13-hour filibuster to delay the confirmation of John Brennan, President Obama's former national security adviser, as the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Fuel was also added to this legal fire by the leak of a "summary white paper" of the legal opinion that justified the use of drones to kill American citizens who had not been tried or convicted of any crimes by an American court.

Let me be clear, from all of the information available, Al-Awlaki was a high level member of Al-Qaeda in Yemen although his son's killing was apparently a terrible

mistake and no public information connects Abdulrahman to Al-Qaeda or any terrorist organization. Sen. Paul asked Attorney General Eric Holder whether the administration intended to use drones to kill Americans on U.S. soil. After some delay, the attorney general answered that there was no such intent, but whether the administration believes that it has the legal right to do so remains up in the air. It also seems fairly clear that the administration does believe that it has the right to use drones to attack and kill Americans, under certain circumstances abroad, as it did in the case of Anwar Al-Awlaki.

Many lawyers - and I'm among them - find the administration's position on the use of drones to kill American citizens without affording them any due process of law quite troubling because it would appear to set a very dangerous precedent never before even considered to be acceptable by the federal government. What is even more troubling is that the administration has steadfastly refused to make public all of the documents and reasoning it used to determine that these drone attacks against American citizens without any trial or conviction.

Thus, it is impossible for anyone outside the current administration either to determine the precise extent of the powers that President Obama is now claiming or to make reasoned criticisms of these powers and their legal justification.

This lack of transparency and the existence of secret memoranda and opinions is troubling in itself and also because, when President Obama ran for his first term, he and his supporters were highly critical of President Bush's use of "enhanced interrogation techniques" - what many have called torture - and the memoranda prepared by administration lawyers to provide legal justifications for these techniques.

There seems to be a bit of hypocrisy at play here. For my own part, it seems to me that the killing of American citizens without trial is no less troubling than the use of enhanced interrogation techniques like water boarding against terrorists. At least the terrorists survived to challenge what had been done to them.

I remember an experience I had several years after the Oklahoma City bombing. Then Gov. Bill Graves asked me to go to western

Kansas and meet with some militia members to try to understand their grievances. So I drove out and met with several militia members in an old courthouse.

One of the first things they told me was that they feared that the day would come when black armored helicopters would fill the skies over their farms and murder them and their families. I immediately told them that was crazy, that no American government would ever kill its citizens without due process of law.

Now, I'm beginning to wonder. Except if it happens, whoever is the target won't even have the warning of hearing a helicopter's rotors. Instead there will just be silence, ruptured by the explosion of a Hellfire missile. I hope this never happens. But I think it is time for the Obama administration to release all of the relevant materials they used to justify the legality of drone strikes against American citizens and permit this policy to be debated openly by Congress and the American people.

Mike Hoeflich, a distinguished professor in the Kansas University School of Law, writes a regular column for the Journal-World.

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ADVERTORIALS

Sabadfon Telecom announces third winner of Surprise Card Awards

The first and largest mobile company in Yemen, Sabafon, announced its third winner of the Grand Prize a Hyundai Veracruz in a large celebration at the Dreams Land Compound in Hodiedah.

The winner Nizar Mohammed Ali Naji got his Veracruz and other winners also got their valuable awards via a direct and transparent draw.

A huge crowd attended the draw including members of the media which indicates the popularity and credibility Sabafon has among its clients.

It is worth mentioning that the Surprise Card Awards Offer is still ongoing and there will be a fourth grand prize as well as other valuable awards worth millions of rials.

The awards ceremony included entertainment, marketing and cultural activities and the attendees entered an immediate draw and received prizes just for being there.

Sabafon's offer is still available and wishes all its subscribers good luck and all names of the winners will be announced in the official newspapers.



Minister of telecommunication launches Yemen Mobile subscribers service center in the Capital Secretariat

Yemen Mobile Telecom Company launched this Wednesday a long awaited collection of special services for its clients through the establishment of the company's second largest service center. The ceremony was attended by a number of executives from the company, Yemeni Mobile agents and a number of social and economic figures.

Minister of Telecom and Information Technology, Ahmed Obaid bin Dhaghr, inaugurated this center which is located at Hadda Road near Roushain roundabout. The minister praised this accomplishment and admired the high level of advancement in the services provided by the center and the facilities that the customers will enjoy.



In the inauguration ceremony, engineer Sadeq Mohammed Musleh, the General Manager of Yemen Mobile, explained to the media that this center is one of many to come in the capital secretariat as a first step and in

other governorates soon.

"Our company's board of directors is very interested in customer service and has approved many strategies that would provide wide services to our subscribers and hence contribute to the national economic and service development," said the GM.

Engineer Amer Hazza the Executive Director of the company clarified that the end purpose of the new service centers is to increase the number of subscribers and facilitate their interaction with the company through modern technology and advanced user friendly interactive systems.

This is clear, he said, through the location of this center and the ones to come, which were chosen after



OXFAM

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO working with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering, has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancies for its development programme:

Finance Officer

(Women Political Participation and Community Leadership Project)

Contract Duration: One year
Location: Sana'a

The Role

You will undertake financial and administrative matters in accordance with established procedures, monitor partner grants, project budget and update forecast. Maintain close donor contract administration. Undertake and monitor all payments including transfers to partner organizations and prepare for internal and external audits. Strengthen capacity of staff and partners by training and supporting them in financial management issues at different stages of the project cycle and providing written financial feedback.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least degree in finance related subject or professional accountancy qualification, and three years experience of financial and people management in similar size organization, as well as ability to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing in Arabic and English, sound computer skills and ability to travel extensively in country.

To apply

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

Closing date for applications is 23rd March 2013

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



CONSULTANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 09/2013

If you are a committed, creative Yemeni professional and are passionate about making a lasting difference for children, the world's leading child rights organization UNICEF would like to hear from you.

Title of post: Consultant, Nutrition & Health Emergency for Hajjah governorate
Duty Station: Hodeida Office
Duration: Six months

Specific Tasks:

Under the direct supervision of the H&N officer –Hodeida zone office and technical guidance of Chief of Child Survival and Development section and Nutrition specialist in YCO; the consultant will perform the following tasks:

- Undertake regular field visits to the targeted districts in Hajjah as per their assignment, to assess the quality of the H&N services and the local capacity to deliver the required humanitarian response based on guideline provided by the supervisor, to inform the scale up plan on the required support based on the existing gaps.
- Monitor UNICEF inputs (supply and non-supply assistance), assess and document appropriate utilization and weaknesses; report back to the H&N officer-Hodeidah zone office.
- Follow up in Consultation with H&N officer in Hodaïda and YSCD team on Nutrition & UNICEF supported child and maternal health (EPI, IMCI, RH) programme implementation with partners, local government counterparts and beneficiaries in the affected areas as per activities indicated in RWP for Hodeida sub-office and targeted districts.
- Contribute to capacity development of counterparts on H&N programme implementation through facilitating training sessions and on the job training to service providers on different H&N topics as per the RWP, in order to improve the quality of the services provided.
- Collect and compile monthly data on EPI, H&N for the supported governorates and districts and monitor on vaccine preventable outbreaks via conducting field monitoring visits & follow up emergency response implementation.
- Monitor the stock situation of essential medicines and nutrition supplies and ensure no break in the supplies pipeline at the service delivery sites, through the preparation of appropriate distribution plan, as informed by the gaps and the consumptions in the targeted governorates Health offices and partners warehouses and stores, via conducting regular monitoring field visits and monthly stock reporting.
- Provide a monthly and quarterly progress report of the implemented activities against the planned tasks and as per RWP, monitor the progress made, challenges and constraint and draft appropriate recommendations.
- Act as Hajjah Nutrition sub-cluster coordinator, Hence conducting the below subtasks under cluster coordination hat:
 - Identify, mobilize, support and capacitate the national and international NGOs working in the nutrition sector to expand their work and to incorporate nutritional interventions within their basic package.
 - Coordinate all nutrition intervention by liaising with the government, I/LNGOs and UN agencies in the area, maintain updated three W matrix on quarterly basis, ensure no duplication in service delivery, and early gap detection.
 - Conduct monthly Nutrition sub-cluster meeting for Hajjah partners & share timely meeting minutes

Technical Background and Experience:

- University degree in medical sciences and/ or postgraduate degree in public health.
- Minimum 2-3 years' experience in H&N field. Working in emergency sites or community-based experience is an asset.
- Computer skills using MS office, e-mail and internet applications.
- Fluency in both English and Arabic languages written and spoken.

If you meet the requirements stated above, please send your application, enclosing comprehensive curriculum vitae, duly completed United Nations Personal History form (which can be downloaded from www.unicef.org/employ) stating telephone number, email address and detailed contact address quoting the vacancy number to: yemenhr@unicef.org not later than 10 days from the date of this publication. For additional information on UNICEF, please visit our website: www.unicef.org

UNICEF, is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages qualified female and male candidates, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of our organisation. UNICEF is a smoke-free environment.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



CONSULTANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 10/2013

If you are a committed, creative Yemeni professional and are passionate about making a lasting difference for children, the world's leading child rights organization UNICEF would like to hear from you.

Title of post: Consultant, Nutrition & Health Emergency for Rayma & Mahweet governorate
Duty Station: Hodeida Office
Duration: Six months

Specific Tasks:

Under the direct supervision of the H&N officer, Hodeidah zone office and technical guidance of Chief of Child Survival and Development section and Nutrition specialist in YCO; the consultant will perform the following tasks:

- Undertake regular field visits to the targeted districts in Rayma & Mahweet governorates as per their assignment, to assess the quality of the H&N services and the local capacity to deliver the required humanitarian response based on guideline provided by the supervisor, to inform the scale up plan on the required support based on the existing gaps.
- Monitor UNICEF inputs (supply and non-supply assistance), assess and document appropriate utilization and weaknesses; report back to the H&N officer-Hodeidah zone office.
- Follow up in Consultation with H&N officer in Hodaïda and YSCD team on Nutrition & UNICEF supported child and maternal health (EPI, IMCI, RH) programme implementation with partners, local government counterparts and beneficiaries in the affected areas as per activities indicated in RWP for Hodeidah sub-office and targeted districts.
- Contribute to capacity development of counterparts on H&N programme implementation through facilitating training sessions and on the job training to service providers on different H&N topics such as (CMAM, IYCF, EPI, IMCI and integrated package) as per the RWP, this activity is conducted on monthly basis, in order to improve the quality of the services provided.
- Collect and compile monthly data on EPI, H&N for the supported governorates (Rayma and Mahweet) at district level and monitor on vaccine preventable outbreaks via conducting field monitoring visits & data review in collaboration with GHO's programme focal points.
- Monitor the stock situation of essential medicines and nutrition supplies and ensure no break in the supplies pipeline at the service delivery sites, through the preparation of appropriate distribution plan, as informed by the gaps and the consumptions in the targeted governorates Health offices and partners warehouses and stores, via conducting regular monitoring field visits and monthly stock reporting.
- Provide a monthly and quarterly progress report of the implemented activities against the planned tasks and as per RWP and the emergency micro plans, monitor the progress made, and draft appropriate recommendations.

Technical Background and Experience:

- University degree in medical sciences and/ or postgraduate degree in public health.
- Minimum 2-3 years' experience in H&N field. Working in emergency sites or community-based experience is an asset.
- Computer skills using MS office, e-mail and internet applications.
- Fluency in both English and Arabic languages written and spoken.

If you meet the requirements stated above, please send your application, enclosing comprehensive curriculum vitae, duly completed United Nations Personal History form (which can be downloaded from www.unicef.org/employ) stating telephone number, email address and detailed contact address quoting the vacancy number to: yemenhr@unicef.org not later than 10 days from the date of this publication. For additional information on UNICEF, please visit our website: www.unicef.org

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Don't fall in love in Yemen

Abdurrahman Shamlan
First published March 11
TheMediaLine.org

Love hurts, especially in Yemen, where the majority of Yemeni people continue regarding relationships between single men and women as shameful and disgraceful. For them, real and honorable love comes after marriage, not before.

However, love may eventually conquer all, as witnessed by this year's boom of sales of red roses and other gifts to male and female youths in midtown Sana'a this past Valentine's Day, exchanging gifts in a secretive manner. Such forms of revolt against social restrictions on love are increasingly being heard of in Yemeni society, albeit with disdain.

Young lovers face a difficult path. Unlike many neighboring countries where restrictions on relationships between young men and women have been relatively eased, Yemen and Saudi Arabia are still highly conservative. Relationships outside the framework of marriage are seen as "prohibited."

Instead, tribal, traditional and religious restraints still prevent many young Yemenis from expressing or revealing their love. However, some youths are challenging these restrictions, even though doing so invites trouble.

In Yemen's ultra-conservative society, girls are not even allowed to talk with strangers who are potential suitors except when buying from a male shopkeeper or asking for directions or other information.

Girls study in segregated schools in Yemen and have segregated sections in restaurants. Public universities are mixed offering a chance to mingle, but many private universities have separate campuses for girls.

The ultra-conservative view towards love makes affairs of the heart difficult for single men seeking a wife. "Love [outside marriage] in Yemen is socially associated with shame. Generally speaking, Yemeni people disapprove of love even though it's pure and true, and consider it to be out of the norm," journalist Adnan Rajeh, 27, told The Media Line. "The culture of shame attached to love has built a solid wall between the youths of both sexes."

Rajeh's love for a girl has been blocked by her family, although the pair are still in contact and con-

vinced one day they will marry. He says their mutual love has gone on "for years" and that they used to meet, chat on Facebook and speak by phone.

"When I went to her dad to propose, he rejected me and asked how I knew his daughter. After finding out about our completely 'pure' relationship, he confiscated her mobile phone and banned her from Internet access." The young woman has been grounded and when she goes somewhere, her father gets somebody to accompany her to ensure she does not meet him, Rajeh said.

The two remain in contact but spend most of the time commiserating and cursing their luck, although they strongly believe one day they will overcome obstacles facing their love.

Telecommunication company worker Abdusalam Shaker, 26, fell in love with a college classmate but said he couldn't reveal his feelings due to social constraints and out of fear the girl he loves might therefore reject him.

Shaker brought his older sister to college to speak freely with his beloved and tell her that he planned to seek her hand and his intentions were completely honorable. But despite his belief she was in love with him, the girl denied any knowledge of him, saying she didn't even recognize his name.

"But even if she was really in love with me it's understandable for a Yemeni girl to deny it because of restrictions and for fear her reputation may be hurt," he said.

Accountant Abdurrahman Saleh, 28, didn't fare much better. "I was once in a real love relationship with my neighbor but her family got in the way. Her father and brothers beat me up and have gone so far as to prevent me from walking in front of their house, and if I do I get into trouble."

When the girl's father heard about their meetings and phone conversations, he confiscated her phone and grounded her, Saleh said. "Two years ago she married one of her rich relatives. Our relationship has completely ended, but her image still sometimes haunts my mind even though I'm married now," he told The Media Line.

With that relationship dashed, he heeded his parents' advice and married a girl from his village "without even getting to see my wife's face before the marriage," he said. He relied on his mother's and sisters' belief that the girl was "beautiful



Girls and boys often live very separate lives, beginning with separation in school classrooms.

and respectable" and says he now believes his wife is "the best woman in the entire world."

The girls suffer more than the guys from these social constraints on love, parents believing that they bring shame on their families if they have any relationship with guys. Having been in love before even minimizes their chances of making a good match.

Men ask about potential partners, not wanting to marry girls who've had any prior love relationship. All men refuse to marry a girl who's lost her virginity due to the great social value attached to it.

But while some youths complain of these ultra-conservative traditions, others consider them to be good and say they should be maintained.

"Falling in love is uncontrollable, therefore it must be guarded by Islamic teachings," Iscander Al-Mameri, 27, told The Media Line. "We should not imitate the Westerners who have no rules governing their relationships."

Mohammed Ali, 24, agreed with Al-Mameri that the conservative Yemeni culture is beneficial and helps avoid adultery. Wearing traditional Yemeni clothes, including a jambia (a dagger with a short curved lade



This past Valentine's Day, stores on Hadda Street were full of red treats, despite the holiday's unpopularity with many religious leaders.

worn on a belt), the bearded Ali said, "There is nothing called love before marriage and this concept - love - was brought to our society by the Western movies and series with the aim of damaging our culture and erasing our identity...We should maintain our traditions in the face of such Western campaigns targeting our culture."

Speaking to Yemeni girls about love proved difficult, and most refused to comment on the subject. One girl, wearing a scarf around her head, at first happily agreed to talk with The Media Line, but then rejected speaking about love and told this reporter to behave himself.

University student Yasmin Mohammed told The Media Line, "We were raised to respect our traditions and never to think about silly things like love." Her friend Mona Ali, however, dressed completely in black and with her face veiled, said, "I'm in love with a guy and most of the girls are but they are too shy to discuss that. But although I'm in love, I draw a line at certain things. For example, I will refuse to meet the person I'm in love with or exchange gifts with him because I can't let my family down."

One result of the ultraconservative society's views on love and marriage is parents marrying off their daughters as early as age 10 or 12.

"The conservative culture of Yemeni society and the fear of the girls falling in love and besmirching the

family's reputation is one reason that pushes some parents to marry their daughters off at a young age," Abdulkaki Shamson, professor of political sociology at Sana'a University, told The Media Line, an opinion editor, Al-Mameri, Shaker and Saleh shared.

A 2007 study by the International Center for Research showed Yemen ranks 13th out of the 20 worst countries in terms of the prevalence of early marriages, with 48 percent of Yemeni women married before 18.

"Early marriage has a detrimental effect on the child, the family and society at large," Shamson said. "The girls are affected physically and psychologically. The developing body of the young girl is not ready yet to get married and deliver babies. Many young wives die while giving birth." They are also too young to be able to raise children and take care of her family and household, he added.

The early marriages hurt Yemen's economy and developments by depriving the girls, half the population, from getting education or working, "making half of society unproductive and a burden, and increasing the population growth," Shamson said. The social belief that marriage, rather than education, secures the girls' future also leads to the early marriages, along with lack of awareness of the dangers of such marriages and the high illiteracy rate.

Such marriages continue to pose

a huge challenge to the government, with some religious and political forces fiercely opposed to setting a minimum age for marriage.

Under pressure from international and local human rights groups, the former regime sent a draft law in 2009 to parliament for approval setting that age at 17. However it failed to pass through parliament, with religious and tribal figures arguing setting a minimum age for marriage goes against Islamic teachings.

Shamson blamed the weakness of human rights and civil society organizations, adding their lack of a comprehensive strategy to get it approved was the main reason for the law not passing.

"A comprehensive civil campaign should mainly target the masses by raising awareness among them about the dangers of early marriage and if we succeed in having the people on our side, we can easily force MPs and the government to determine a minimum age for marriage," he concluded.

However, analyst Hassan Al-Haifi, 63, told The Media Line, "Misguided religious teachings by religious mentors who have unfortunately adopted an almost heretical understanding of Islam were the biggest obstacle to passing the draft law."

Republished with permission from The Media Line



Couples sometimes resort to secret phone calls to hide their love from a family's disapproval.

In Sana'a's restaurants, little is wasted



At the Green Land Restaurant on Hadda Street, workers are encouraged to take any food waste to neighborhoods in need.



Per the company's policy, no food scraps are allowed back in the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant's kitchen after the food goes to a customer.

Story and photos by Amira Nasser

At 3:00 p.m. on a normal day, after the rush of lunch, you can find hungry beggars hovering outside restaurants. They are waiting to collect leftovers—scraps of bread or meat—that customers have left on their plates. Restaurant owners and employees regularly give the food away.

Restaurants across Sana'a find ways to cook and prepare food economically, with almost no waste. Nothing goes uneaten.

A 2011 United Nations study, carried out by the Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology, found that one third of edible food is wasted annually, which amounts to 1.3 billion tons of food worldwide. However, restaurants all over Sana'a are not culpable of this practice that environmentalists and advocacy groups say is careless.

Mostafa Sharjabi, the head of the kitchen in Al-Shaibani restaurant in Sana'a, said that in his restaurant, they never cook more than they need—and in the rare event that they have prepared too much of an order in the kitchen, they save

the food and donate it to an orphanage.

If there are scraps left on plates, it is given to beggars or other poor street workers, he said.

Some restaurants have agreements with charity organizations, which collect the food and redistribute it in destitute neighborhoods of the capital.

Ahmed Hamdi, the executive manager of Al-Hamra restaurant, works with such an organization, particularly during the month of Ramadan, when acts of generosity and charity carry a special importance for Muslims.

Hamdi said Yemeni food is prepared fresh and doesn't last longer than one day. Everything is cooked to order, he says, and that is why trash cans are not overflowing at the end of the night.

In developing countries like Yemen, though food may be lost in the early and middle stages of the food supply chain—due to lack of infrastructure—very little is lost once the food reaches consumers, the United Nations report found.

Annually, Europe and North America waste around 640 pounds, or 290 kilograms per capita. By contrast, countries in Central Asia and North Africa waste around

190 pounds, or 86 kilograms per capita.

Of the food lost in countries like Yemen, 90 percent of the loss happens before the food even reaches consumers. Once the meat, grain, vegetables or poultry is in the hands of a restaurant or other consumer, every bit is used.

Abdul-Qawi Al-Sharabi, the kitchen manager of Remas restaurant in Sana'a, said that if there is any extra food at closing time, the employees take it home.

Customers are also keen to clean their plates, said 23-year-old Mohamed Al-Qubati, a waiter in a local restaurant.

In contrast, at Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), one of Sana'a's only multinational fast-food restaurants, regulations dictate a different outcome.

If there is any food left on the customers' tables, it goes directly to the trash. Nothing can be given to beggars as this is against company policy.

Food handling and disposal standards are set by the corporation, which is based in the U.S., Ibrahim Al-Hassani, the manager of the shop said.

Most of KFC's food is pre-frozen. If an employee makes a mistake and

an order has to be thrown away, he may have to pay for that lost order out of his salary.

Taha Mustafa, a member of the youth-led organization called Eyoon Shaba, said that last year they launched a campaign to raise awareness about food waste in Sana'a. They gathered scraps from restaurants and over the course of

two weeks, provided over 1,000 meals to hungry Sana'anis.

"We tried to raise awareness by giving people boxes to put their extra food in," Mustafa said. They can take food home, donate it, and even if it is inedible it can be used as compost, he said.

Nearly half of Yemen's population is food insecure. Out of those, a

World Food Program survey found last year, 5 million are "severely insecure," unable to buy or grow the food they need to survive.

Soltan Saleen, a 20-year-old who works in a local restaurant said that food should never be thrown away.

"How can we throw food away, while children in the street are hungry?" he asked.



If prepared food is not eaten within two hours at KFC, it is tossed in the trash. According to a U.N. study, one third of all edible food is thrown away each year.



VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

The World Bank office in Sana'a, Yemen is looking for a skilled and motivated Information Technologies Analyst.

Job Description and Accountabilities:

- Helps users solve hardware, software and network-related problems.
- Provides network administration, including routine trouble-shooting, maintenance and upgrades.
- Assists in the selection and evaluation of hardware and software.
- Installs, configures, and supports World Bank-standard hardware and software, including desktops, laptops, printers (local as well as network) and World Bank-standard software (e.g., Lotus Notes, Windows 7, MS Office 2010, SAP etc.).
- Provides all types of Lotus Notes support, including hardware setups (desktop/laptop/home PCs).
- Assists staff with virus control issues.
- Provides IS/IT support to visiting staff from HQ and Country Offices.
- Provides support for the World Bank's remote access services (Fiber link E360, Lotus Notes, WIFI, etc.) for local as well as visiting staff.
- Assists in the development and maintenance of web pages.
- Provides on-the-spot training to clients, promoting the effective use of technology.
- Assists in setting up and maintaining the network infrastructure at the World Bank's Sana'a Office.
- Supports the World Bank's communication network infrastructure (MPLS, Satellite link, Routers, Switches, Hubs, Local ISP links, etc.). Ensures that the network is functioning on a 24x7 basis. Liaises with the local ISP, Telecom provider and the World Bank's Network Operations Center (NOC) if required.
- Schedules VCs and supports video conferencing equipment.
- Ensures proper functioning of all office technology equipment, including local telephone system, fax machines, copiers, docking stations and scanners.
- Provides troubleshooting and maintenance services for the PBX.
- Sets up and operates multimedia equipment for conferences and workshops inside and outside the World Bank's office. Provides support for PowerPoint presentations and scanning.
- Assists in the procurement of IT equipment and accessories for the office.
- Ensures that Bank information and information systems are protected in a manner consistent with Bank information security policy, procedures and standards.

Essential Specialized Skills/Competencies:

- Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in computer science or another related field.
- Solid work experience in IT disciplines within or outside the World Bank Group, with a minimum of 4 years of relevant experience.
- Excellent oral and written English, and Arabic language skills, including the ability to draft routine correspondence and edit materials.
- Excellent knowledge of Windows 7, Windows 2008, Active directory and TCP/IP Networks, all Microsoft Office 2010 applications, SCCM, SAP and Lotus Notes.
- Ability to troubleshoot and install various hardware and software.
- Ability to work independently and to prioritize workload.
- Knowledge of communication infrastructure fundamentals desirable.
- Strong knowledge of PC-based hardware, including desktops and laptops; ability to configure and troubleshoot such computers.
- Strong communication skills coupled with a self-starter personality.
- Ability to remain calm under pressure in a changing work environment. Courteous and patient demeanor with clients.
- Excellent organizational skills, established record of reliability and strong sense of responsibility.
- Knowledge of FCS (Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations) Context and exercise appropriate behaviours in FCS environment.

Interested candidates should apply via the World Bank site www.worldbank.org/jobs section: "employment opportunities" job number 130660, where you can find full particulars on the vacancy. Closing date for this job is March 26, 2013. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

No demand for needle and thread, tailors threatened by cheap, imported clothes



Local markets are flooded with suits made in China, leaving the locally-made ones at a disadvantage.

Story and photos by Bassam Al-Ashmor

Thi Yazan Al-Zekri sits inside his empty shop, bewildered. He remembers how he used to work day and night sewing and stitching men's suits. Now, he only has one or two clients a day.

Custom tailors in Sana'a are disappearing, Mustafa Nassr, head of the Studies and Economic Media

Center, says. Locally-made suits are being replaced by suits imported from countries abroad, namely China.

Adel Al-Nehmi, deputy director of the Public Works Ministry's branches in Sana'a, said that there are now 387 men's clothing shops in Sana'a. It is unknown how many shops were open before, but local shop owners confirm that there are far fewer operating in the capital city.

In general, Yemeni products are

harder to come by, Nassr said.

The markets are currently flooded with Chinese-made clothes, which are cheaper in comparison to Yemeni brands. A locally-made suit costs around YR8,000-YR10,000, or around \$33-\$46. An imported Chinese suit is sold for as cheap as YR4,000, or \$19.

Salman Al-Dubaei has been working as a tailor for seven years. He's confident that his suits look nicer and are of a better quality than the imported competition.



Tailors say the market is stronger for women's clothing, rather than men's, so they have swapped specialties.

"We make better designs than the Chinese ones, but we're not able to compete with the Chinese prices," Al-Dubaei said. "Fabrics are expensive."

Suit tailors are going out of business and many are moving into other professions. Others are looking to meet a different market demand and have shifted their clientele to a market they say is faring better – women's clothing.

For Al-Dubaei, it makes more sense to start selling factory-made

clothing, instead of struggling as a tailor.

"It's frustrating," Al-Dubaei said. "[We] see the shops with imported suits full of shoppers, our shops are vacant."

"Tailoring is vanishing. The concerned government bodies pay no attention to it," Mustafa Nassr, head of the Studies and Economic Media Center, said.

Even those hanging onto their trade, know it's not the easiest of jobs. Tailors have no job security

and their work is seasonal. Typically they are busiest leading up to the two Eid holidays but have lulls in between.

The events of 2011, which caused many shops across the capital to shut their doors and suspend services, did not help, either.

Accepting the hardships, many tailors, who typically spend their lives in the trade, say they have no choice but to stick it out.

"I'm not qualified to do any other job," Al-Zekiri said.



Vacancy Announcement

Yemen Esso & Mobil Lubricants Marketing (YEMLUB) would like to invite qualified Yemeni nationals to apply for the following vacant position in the main office in Sana'a:

Post Title: Sales Representative for Hodiedah

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Promoting Mobil industrial lubricants & greases.
- Conducting regular visits and calls to existing customers/accounts.
- Providing technical support and advice to customers.
- Sales to the industrial and commercial sector.
- Initiatives/programs to the industrial and commercial customers.
- Proposing initiatives and ideas to further improve sales.
- Reporting competitive activities and plans to overcome.
- Collecting data and statistics about market segments, customers, opportunities, products, prices, etc.

Qualifications and Experience

- University degree (Preferably Mechanical Engineering).
- 1-3 years experience in a sales position.
- Commercial and technical knowledge in lubrication technology.
- Ability to understand customers' business interests, needs and constraints.
- Customer-oriented and negotiation skills.
- Good Presentation and communication skills.
- Strong command of both Arabic and English Languages.
- Very good computer skills.

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications along with their CVs to:

Fax: (+967 1) 469145 or
Email: info@yemlub.com

Deadline for the applications is March 31, 2012.

All applications will be treated with strict confidentiality



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شركات طيران
طيران اليمنية
فرع تعز: ١/٢١٧١٢٦
فرع عدن: ٢/٢٥٣٤٥٦
فرع الحدیدة: ٣/٢٠١٤٧٤

فنادق
فندق ميركيور صنعاء
فندق شمر
فندق مومبيك

معاهد
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معهد التلي
المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر

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المتحدة للتأمين
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سفريات
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سكاي للسفريات والسياحة
عطلات الصفر

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مطعم: ٩١٦٦٢٢
تلفون: ١٠٥٧٣٦٦٢

بنك التضامن الإسلامي
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تأجير سيارات
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للبيع: سيارة BMW موديل 91 بحالة جيدة، جيد عادي لون أسود. 736336666، 77773688
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كلمات متقاطعة
1- من أقيم من العالم - متشابهة
2- مدينة مصرية - قاسية
3- اسم من - علم مذكر - حرف نصب
4- متشابهة - ابن - في البيضة (أم)

الكلمة المفقودة
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4: البير
5: اصة
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يفشل الكثيرون بسبب جهلهم كم كانوا قريبين من النجاح عندما استسلموا للفشل.
نكتة العدد
قال المدير للطالب: أنتم طلاب مشاغون... ماذا أفعل لأمنعكم من تسلق سورا المدرسة؟ فجاب أحد التلاميذ: أهدم السور يا أستاذ.

Red, white, black and green:

Scores of Syrians mark anniversary of anti-government uprising in home nation

Story and photos by Nadia Haddash

On Wednesday, the Yemeni Student Union held a festival at Sana'a University, commemorating the second anniversary of the breakout of Syria's anti-government uprising.

At the event, upbeat participants full of hope passed the day with a photography exhibit and other displays of Syrian culture, including food and drink.

Yemeni academics, students, and religious leaders joined the crowd dominated by Syrian immigrants and refugees, who have been displaced by the conflict.



A Yemeni woman poses with her Syrian friend.



Local activists delivered hopeful speeches.



Photos illustrating harsh living conditions in Syria were displayed.



Volunteers pass out scoops of traditional Syrian food.



Women gaze at photos of those affected by the uprising in Syria.



Yemeni revolutionaries brought fanfare to the event.



Participants proudly wore Syrian flags.



هي الأقوى والأكثر مبيعاً في العالم

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شركة ناتكو لتقنية المعلومات المحدودة

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