

## Nation watches as first round of speeches delivered at NDC



The next step for NDC participants is to form working groups where the majority of discussions will take place.

### Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA'A, March 20 — Monday marked the first day of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), during which members delivered speeches, broadcast live on government television channels.

Amal Al-Basha, spokeswoman for the NDC, said conference members will be divided into nine working groups in the coming days to discuss targeted issues. Each member will have the opportunity to speak and present grievances, which will be revisited later in the conference.

The working group meetings will each be held in a different governorate to be announced at a later date.

Approximately 28 members were absent during the first session held on Tuesday, Al-Basha said.

Attendees said several speeches symbolized the conference's intent to include a diverse range of representation.

No'man Qaed Al-Hodaifi is attending the NDC as the sole representative of the Muhasheen—a group of dark-skinned Yemenis known also by the derogatory name, "Akhdam," who have historically been repressed in Yemen.

Al-Hodaifi gave a rousing speech which was met with applause. "Let me speak," he said. "I haven't voiced my opinion for the last 1,300 years."

Muhasheen are normally excluded from all political participation, Al-Hodaifi said. And

although the Muhasheen's population is somewhere around 3 million, only one seat in the conference has been allotted to this marginalized group, he said.

### Revolutionary youth

When given the chance to speak,

Mohammed Al-Yadomi, head of the Islamist Islah Party, announced he would be stepping down from the NDC, forfeiting his seat to a member of Yemen's revolutionary youth.

Mohammed Al-Sabri, a revolutionary youth and head of the Revolution's Media Committee, said Al-Yadomi's resignation was a positive step. He hopes others will follow his lead.

Yesterday, the Organizing Committee of the 2011 revolution gathered in Sana'a's Change Square, protesting what they believe is their underrepresentation at the NDC. They called on President Hadi to reconsider the lists of NDC members.

Not only were the youth not given their fair share of seats in the conference, but in general they object to the dialogue's manner and mechanisms, Al-Sabri said.

The participation of members of the former regime—particularly those who participated in the violent suppression of protests—has also caused outrage among the revolutionary youth.

As well as being the opening of the national conference, Monday also marked the second anniversary of the Friday of Dignity, when around 52 young protesters were killed, and 100 injured, by pro-government forces in Sana'a's Change Square.

"The presence of people who participated in the killing of young revolutionaries in 2011 will lead the NDC to fail," Al-Sabri said.

## South settles after days of NDC protests in Aden

Rammah Al-Jubari

ADEN, March 20 — Following days of ongoing acts of civil disobedience by Southern Movement affiliates, commonly known as Hirak, streets in the southern city have calmed, Hirak activists say.

But, leaders say future mass protests are being planned so Southern groups can continue to voice their disapproval of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), which began Monday.

On Tuesday, protestors blocked several major roads in the port city with burning tires and other obstructions.

Traffic movement resumed on Wednesday following the arrival of state security forces.

On Monday, tens of thousands protested in Alorodh Square—the same area where clashes between the Islah Party and Hirak activists broke out in February—holding signs that read, “It’s our decision.” Protestors say they refuse a dialogue that is held in the North.

Nizar Haitham, a Hirak leader,

said the continued protests are asking for the international community’s support to arrange a southern-northern dialogue instead of what they say is a discussion between conflicting northern forces.

Former southern President Ali Salem Al-Beidh, a staunch secessionist who has been threatened with sanctions by the United Nations Security Council for disrupting Yemen’s transitional process, has praised Southerners as tenacious and pledged to continue pushing for a liberated South.

At the NDC, participating Hirak leaders have been well-received in the conference’s three days. On Tuesday, United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar met with several Hirak leaders and representatives.

“We agreed to prepare and implement an integrated program to resolve human rights issues and continue to [engage in] discussions in the NDC in order to solve the Southern issue,” Benomar told media outlets.

Although they have agreed to par-



Though protests have died down, activists in Aden continue to call for a “liberated South.”

ticipate in Yemen’s national conference some Hirak NDC representatives including Khaled Bamadhif say Southerners have the right to self-determination.

Bamadhif said that his agreeing to participate was contingent on an invitation he received from the international community, includ-

ing and Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

A lack of cohesive leadership within Hirak is worrisome to many including political analyst Abdulghani Al-Maweri who says political instability will continue to flourish during and after the NDC given current fractious visions.

## Islah’s headquarters struck with grenade in Hajja, partisan disputes cause security vacuum

Rammah Al-Jubari

HAJJA, March 20 — Yesterday, a rocket-propelled grenade hit the headquarters of Islah, an Islamist party with links to the Muslim Brotherhood. The facade of the building was damaged and a fire erupted; no casualties were reported. As of yet, the perpetrators of the attack are unknown. This northwestern governorate is experiencing increasing instability, in part due to divisive partisan disputes, which cause the security mechanized to function poorly.

Abdulhameed Al-Ashwal, a leading figure in the Islah of

Hajja, called on the security authorities to launch immediate investigations and identify those involved in plotting this attack.

However, there are gaping holes in the security apparatus.

The man who the Interior Ministry recently selected as security manager—Brigadier Abdulmalik Al-Madani, a member of Islah—is experiencing some local resistance to his appointment.

The governor of Hajja Ali Al-Kaisi, a member of the General People’s Congress, has taken issue with Al-Haifi’s appointment, which took place without the governor’s consultation, Ibrahim Al-Shami, the deputy governor

explained.

Ibrahim Al-Shami, deputy governor of Hajja, said the security situation in the governorates is deteriorating in general, hindered

by divisive partisan disputes such as this one. Al-Haifi said that an investigation has been launched into Wednesday’s attack, but he refused to go into detail.

## Phase one done, two more to go for youth UNDP project

SANA’A, March 20 — Wearing caps and gowns 70 fresh-faced Yemenis celebrated the completion of the first phase of a United Nations Development Program (UNDP) project called the “3x6”

approach at a graduation ceremony last week.

The 3x6 project is held in cooperation with the Yemeni government’s Youth Economic Empowerment Project and is aimed at eliminating youth unemployment.

At the end of the project, the participants will run their own micro business start-ups.

The graduation event celebrated a successful completion of phase one of the project where youth earned income by rehabilitating schools and public places. The income earned will be put towards participants’ business plans.

“Investing in youth is not only investing in their future, it is investing [Yemen’s] future as well,” said Mahamed Hassen, the UNDP’s country director.

## Painting the town green, city plants over 60,000 trees



Female students planted trees outside their school as part of the city-wide campaign.

Story and photo by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA’A, March 20 — The Capital Secretariat launched a five-day campaign on Saturday to plant 63,000 trees along streets and roundabouts in the capital city’s 10 districts.

The campaign was planned to coincide with the launch of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) that started Monday and is aimed at improving Sana’a’s urban appearance.

Last year in a similar campaign, close to 10,000 trees were planted. This time around the city says it is more focused on sustainability and is using recycled water to maintain the new shrubbery.

“We will benefit from [recycled] water used by mosques [for ablutions],” said Esam Joman, the deputy of the Municipalities and Environment Sector in the Capital Secretariat, explaining used water from the mosques will be collected in tanks and dispersed by designated water trucks.

A local water truck driver, Fadhil Al-Esami, said 10 new trucks have been purchased by the city for the project, in addition to the 40 already in operation.

Project participants also planted trees at 50 area schools, five in each district.

The Capital Secretariat say it is also preparing a plan for pest control, which has been an issue in the past for tree maintenance.

## Proposed economic plan divides Yemen into regions

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA’A, March 20 — Formed eight months ago by the Minister of Trade and Industry, a team of experts has been working to prepare a new economic plan for the nation based on decentralizing trade and dividing Yemen into six economic regions.

The economic proposal will be presented at the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) in April to be discussed by participants, a team expert said.

Dr. Sa’ad Al-Deen bin Talib, the minister of Trade and Industry, told the Yemen Times that regions need more autonomous economic decision-making authority.

Governorates boasting diverse economic potential are currently stifled by centralized decisions controlled by a limited number of people, says Mustafa Nassr, the head of Studies and Economic Media Center.

Nassr says multi-faceted development has been crippled in Yemen because the same people who dictate Hodeida’s economic agriculture policy also decide on Aden’s port industry.

“This vision is built on the fact that each governorate has its own potentials,” said Sadam Mute, an economic writer.

The new plan proposes these six regions: Sana’a, Marib, Hodeida, Taiz/Ibb, Aden and Hadramout.

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION (MOPHP)  
SCHISTOSOMIASIS CONTROL PROJECT (SCP)

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT for LOCAL PROJECT INFORMATICS OFFICER

The Government of Republic of Yemen has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Schistosomiasis Control Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds to cover the cost of the contract for recruitment of Project Informatics Officer. The Ministry of Public Health and Population now invites qualified Yemeni individuals for the position according to the job descriptions and qualifications specified below

#### Duties and Responsibilities

For the fulfillment of the objectives of the assignment, key roles and responsibilities will include, but be not limited to the following:

1. Provide installation and maintenance of all equipment, computers and servers (including application servers, database servers, and files system) all computer peripherals, printers, UPS’s, hubs, modems and other hardware involved in the network configuration.
2. Monitor the performance of the whole network and hardware; troubleshoot, all areas including cables, and other media linked to the network configuration, and report to direct supervisor the condition of the equipment together with inventory report.
3. Studies problems (or anticipates potential) and suggested procedures, methods, or techniques to fill in the gaps and improve systems, email and MS-office applications.
4. Any other duties that may be assigned from time to time specially during treatment campaigns.
5. Ensure the optimum and operation of central databases on the server including relational, spatial and geo-statistical databases; manage security and granting access rights to different users as needed, and ensure successful back up databases and perform retrieval in emergency situations.
6. Collection of relevant information and data in order to facilitate and maximize the exchange of information and data between partners, and support creation of appropriate information products for planning and decision-making.
7. Establish and maintain appropriate record-keeping and document archiving systems and managing backups, archiving and migration, as needed, for digital archives and databases.
8. Provide support, training and advice to relevant staff on electronic tools and techniques.
9. Support the creation and maintenance of project website, uploading information, reports, related publications, events and interventions, forums, and GIS products.
10. Provide GIS support by development of appropriate maps and info graphic products to support decision making and planning, update Yemen national geographic profile including village, schools, health facilities, roads, water bodies and drainage system, land use, and land

cover and unify the coding of different features among all stakeholders and users.

11. Ability to analyze the data base by (SPSS) program or other analytic programs.
12. Ability to use mapping for campaigns.
13. To attend in operation room during campaigns.

#### Qualifications and Experience

1. Degree in Engineering in Computer Science, Networking or equivalent.
2. Minimum of 2-3 years of professional working experience in maintenance and serving of computer network and equipment.
3. Microsoft Certified System Engineer (MCSE) or CISCO Networking Certified Engineer.
4. Technical expertise in OSI Model, Ethernet networks configuration, TCP IP, and IP addressing.
5. Working knowledge of client server, Windows NT XP servers, Exchange Server administration, and install and configure firewalls.
6. Good oral and written English skills.
7. Experience in data processing, analysis and mapping utilizing popular statistical and mapping software packages (e. g. Arc GIS, Google Earth, SPSS, etc.)
8. Experience with development of websites, managing CMS, SharePoint Portals and simple pages.

#### Competencies

9. Ability to deal people with diplomacy.
10. Knowledge of IT Department clients and their nature of work.
11. Ability to function well under pressure, resolve conflicts, and balance trade-office.
12. Self-development, initiative-taking.
13. Acting as a team player and facilitating team work.
14. Facilitating and encouraging open communication in the team, communicating effectively.
15. Managing conflict
16. Learning and sharing knowledge and encourage learning of others.
17. Informed and transparent decision making.

#### Duration of Assignment

The contract period shall be one year and renewable as required, Probation period shall be 3 months.

Interested applicants, who meet the above requirements, may submit their applications with their CVs and supporting documents to the Project Administration unit (PAU) by **8th April 2013**

Attention: **Dr. Abdul Hakim Al-Kohlani; Project Director**  
Ministry of Public Health and Population - Program’s Building  
Schistosomiasis Control Project (SCP) - Project Administration Unit (PAU) - 2nd Floor  
Al – Hasabah – Mazda Street - Sana’a - Republic of Yemen  
Tel: +967 1 230 127 - Facsimile: +967 1 230 347 - Email: yom-2007@hotmail.com

#### ADVERTORIAL

### State Of Qatar’s Hamad International Airport names 10 airlines moving to new facility on 1st April 2013 Soft Opening Date

Doha, QATAR – Effective 1st April 2013, Hamad International Airport (HIA) – the State of Qatar’s brand new iconic airport – will begin soft opening operations for the following 10 passenger airlines:-

1. Air Arabia
2. Air India Express
3. Biman Bangladesh Airlines
4. flydubai
5. Iran Air
6. Nepal Airlines
7. Pakistan International Airlines
8. RAK Airways
9. Syrian Air
10. Yemen Airways

Qatar Airways’ flights will not be affected. The national airline will move its entire operations from the current Doha International Airport (DIA) to Hamad International Airport (HIA) by the end of the year.

The 10 airlines listed will no longer have a presence at Doha International Airport (DIA) and will operate exclusively from HIA from

1st April 2013 There will be around 32 passenger flights departing daily from HIA equating to approximately 222 flights per week.

Concourse B at HIA will be fully operational on 1st April 2013 for passengers travelling with these 10 airlines. Passengers will enter the passenger terminal complex from the east side entrance and go directly to the check-in counters. After check-in, immigration and security, passengers will be directed to concourse B. At HIA, passengers departing and arriving will be boarding and exiting aircraft via an air bridge to the terminal.

Along with the concourse B opening on 1st April 2013, the eastern runway, which is the longest of the two runways at HIA, and the uniquely designed, crescent-shaped air traffic control tower, will also be in operation.

Parking will be available at the eastern side of the short term car park in front of the passenger terminal complex. From the car park,



passengers will be able to enter the passenger terminal complex through the eastern link bridge connected to parking facility.

There will be taxis available to and from HIA as well as a limousine service from April 1. The taxi pick-up point is located on the arrivals floor at the left side when exiting the terminal and the limousine service is located on the arrivals floor at the right side when exiting the terminal. Across the road from arrivals there will be a pick-up point for private cars.

For transport between airports, arriving and departing passengers will be able to use the shuttle bus service which will be operating from HIA to Doha International Airport Departures terminal (DIA) and DIA to HIA as of the 1st April 2013.

### Yemen demonstrates experience in protecting coastal cities

Yemen participated in the first regional Arabic conference to reduce the danger of disasters. The three day event was held in Al-Aqaba, Jordan and began on Tuesday.

Participants included regional countries, the Arab League and international organizations.

The conference discussed Yemen’s progress in reducing the risk of flood for coastal cities. It

also facilitated information and experiences exchange between participating countries regarding current policies and institutional mechanisms to manage potential disasters.

# Pre-marriage genetic blood tests cast unwarranted doubt on young women's 'virtue' and family reputations

Amira Nasser

One day in 17-year-old Amani Mosed's high school class, her teacher presented a lesson about hereditary illnesses. These genetic ailments, such as sickle cell anemia and thalassemia, are found in Yemen where their prevalence is related to the custom of marriage within families and between cousins.

If untreated, genetic disorders can be fatal.

To reduce the chance of inherited diseases, Amani's teacher advised her class to get blood tests before they marry, to be sure that they will not pass any defective genes to the next generation.

It's a simple test - a small drop of blood is drawn and goes through a routine analysis - the teacher assured her students.

But even though Amani is engaged to her cousin, there's no chance she will undergo an examination.

"I know about the benefits of the medical exam," Amani admits. But, she says, if it's found that she has a defective gene, the marriage will be called off. "Then, what would people say about me?" Amani asked.

Rumors would spread, the kind that would bring shame on her family, the young girl says. They would cast doubt on her "purity."

Abu Salim, a 47-year-old taxi driver from Sanhan, a province south of Sana'a, heard about pre-marriage blood tests from a program on the

radio. He advised his son and his fiancée to get tested before marriage. He didn't want his grandchildren to be born with any faulty genes.

But Abu Salim was shocked by his future family's reaction to his suggestion.

"Her father returned the gold and money [we had] provided [as a dowry for his] family and asked us to break off the engagement," Abu Salim said. It was a generous dowry, too. "Then he accused me and my son of spreading rumors about the girl's reputation."

The suggestion of his daughter undergoing a medical exam—even if it was a routine blood analysis—struck Abu Salim's future relatives as a potential affront to their family's good name.

Abu Salim is trying to undo the damage, to put things right between his son and fiancée, but the two families have yet to make amends.

Dr. Nadim Ismaeel, is the manager at the Central Laboratory in Sana'a, one of two facilities in Sana'a that administer the blood tests. He believes a major reason couples do not take the genetic test is the stigma surrounding cancelled marriages.

Perhaps not surprisingly, this stigma does not extend to men, as their "virtue" does not come under as much scrutiny.

Ismaeel has seen more men come to his office for the blood test than women. A man will come, Ismaeel explained, but refuse to bring his fiancée, dismissing the doctor's advice to do so by saying that it's "not im-

portant."

In rural areas, doctors see greater resistance to the medical exams.

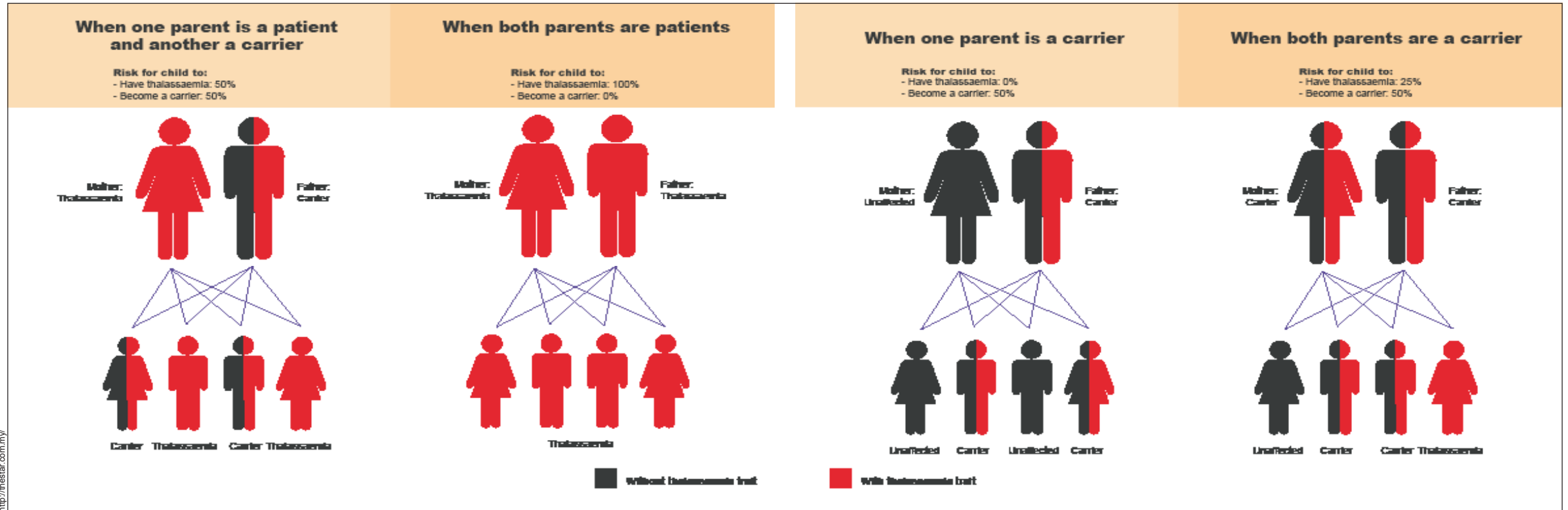
Dr. Salah Al-Dien Al-Joma'i, a professor of psychology at Sana'a University, said that almost no one undergoes this kind of examination in these parts of the country.

"If a woman [cancels] her marriage because of the results of the exam, there is a good possibility that no one else will want to marry her," Al-Joma'i said. "They will see her as unsuitable for marriage."

During 2012, the Al-Awlaqi Laboratory (the other Sana'a lab where examinations are administered) mounted a campaign to raise awareness about the risks of not getting hereditary blood tests—and the ease with which one can see if they carry a

**4U**  
The two centers in Sana'a offering the genetic test welcome walk-in patients:  
  
Al-Awlaqi Laboratory is located on Al-Zubairi Street across from Al-Jumhuri Hospital. Exams cost YR7,000 (\$32.50). Phone number: 295790/5/6  
  
The National Central Laboratory is located on Al-Edha'a Street near Al-Kuwait Hospital. Exams cost YR800 (\$3.75). Phone number: 211702/475220

mutated gene.  
Dr. Sami Al-Qubati, the manager at the laboratory, said since the campaign he has seen some change in attitudes, or if not that, at least a growing number of young men and women coming in for blood tests.



This diagram shows the inheritance patterns of thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder. Inbreeding within families increases the risk of passing the gene along. Doctors, experts and organizations are using the graphic to spread awareness about the dangers of not getting a blood test before marriage in Yemen where marriages within families are common.

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الرويثان للإستثمار صالة العرض: صنعاء، شارع حدة، جولة الرويثنان

# Overcoming the pitfalls of Yemen's National Dialogue

Danya Greenfield  
Mideast.foreignpolicy.com  
First published March 18

Among the urban elite and diplomatic community in Sanaa, all eyes will turn to the launch of the long-awaited National Dialogue Conference, a key component of the transition plan agreed upon in November 2011 that ushered out former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in exchange for full immunity. The good news about the internationally-backed agreement is that Saleh was finally forced from the presidency after more than 30 years of autocratic rule and the fighting stopped. The bad news is that it did not address any of the underlying issues that have plagued Yemen since before the uprising and have only been exacerbated in the time since. The National Dialogue, thus, is positioned to tackle the thorniest issues including calls for Southern independence, the restive Houthi movement in the North, the question of federalism and decentralization, constitutional reform, empowering women and youth, and other issues.

The National Dialogue itself has been controversial, plagued by would-be spoilers and bitter complaints about the structure of the dialogue and the flawed process that created it. Since Saturday, when the final list of participants was announced by President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, several high-profile figures have withdrawn their names, including Nobel prize-winner Tawakkol Karman and the influential tribal leader Hamid al-Ahmar, and the Joint Meetings Party (JMP) coalition released a statement expressing deep disappointment with Hadi's selection of participants lacking proper qualifications and independence. Demonstrations are underway in Sanaa, protesting insufficient youth inclusion and the government's inaction in dealing with human rights abuses during and after the revolution. The government has called up 60,000 troops to ensure security for the dialogue in the capital; while the streets are generally quiet now, checkpoints have been established on nearly every street and the city's residents are holding their breath.

Yet despite opposition to the dialogue, it is clear that the status

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*The National Dialogue itself has been controversial, plagued by would-be spoilers and bitter complaints about the structure of the dialogue and the flawed process that created it.*



quo is unsustainable. The oft-repeated mantra among many Yemenis is that the question is one of dialogue or civil war. Given the stark choice, there is consensus that the dialogue will proceed. The most important issue to be discussed is the status of the South, which joined Sana'a in 1994 after a bloody civil war, and has suffered persistent and systemic marginalization since. The Preparatory Committee for the National Dialogue decided that half of the dialogue's participants would be from the South, so the list of 565 names includes a strong contingency of Southerners. However, there is concern over credibility since most of the Southern separatist Hiraq movement leaders have consistently rejected participation citing a Sanaa-centered process that does not acknowledge their quest for equality and equity. With flare-ups of violence and a general strike called in the Southern stronghold of Aden, it is clear that acceptance of the dialogue in the South will remain a divisive issue.

It is within this context that Yemen will forge forward, and just reaching this moment -- despite powerful figures who wish to see its failure -- is a noteworthy accomplishment. What might make this dialogue succeed where others have failed is the sentiment that there is no alternative and the broad international support that is helping to drive forward movement. After the opening plenary session, the delegates will divide into nine working groups that will serve as the real venue for discussion and negotiation, which will convene for two months before another plenary session. The delegates represent a cross-section of Yemeni society from around the country, including all political parties, civil society organizations, business leaders, youth, women, and independent figures. With significant support from the United Nations, the United States, and others in the international community, the National Dialogue will have a well-staffed and well-equipped secretariat, including a media outreach center and other mechanisms for community involvement beyond the delegates.

There is presently a great deal of momentum and optimism that will hopefully carry the National Dialogue delegates past maximalist positions and generate a climate

of negotiation and compromise. But after countless conversations in Sanaa over the past week, there are some worrisome dynamics that should be noted in order to increase its chances for success:

- There is a perception that the National Dialogue is being driven by an international agenda, particularly in the way it was constructed (not including tribal representatives and religious authorities), the allocation of representation (decision made by U.N. envoy Jamal Benomar) and some of the topics proposed for discussion (good governance, the environment, and child marriage). Among Yemenis sensitive to interference by outside powers, this is a particularly salient issue. Many will lament the role of international actors, and yet at the same time, they will admit that only through external pressure will anything move forward in a country that lacks strong leadership. Finding the appropriate balance will require a nuanced approach on the part of the United Nations, World Bank, Europeans, United States and other supportive parties.
- Many Yemenis express concern that the National Dialogue is merely an exercise among political and social elites, established families, and power brokers that is largely being followed by people in Sana'a, but not the rest of the country. In a nationwide survey conducted by an international

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*What might make this dialogue succeed where others have failed is the sentiment that there is no alternative and the broad international support that is helping to drive forward movement.*

firm in January, 52 percent of respondents across the country had not heard of the National Dialogue. When asked what President Hadi's priority should be, 40 percent answered corruption, 38 percent answered the economy, and only 7 percent answered the National Dialogue. There is now a concerted awareness-raising campaign underway through billboards, print media, and television so this will likely increase over time, but it is an indicator of the disconnect between Sana'a and the periphery that will need to be addressed.

- The allocation of seats is heavily tilted toward political parties and existing elites who will likely dominate the dialogue. Although a percentage of seats were allocated for independent figures, the parties ended up playing a large role in the selection of those delegates as well. While creating strong political parties is generally an objective for a healthy, well-functioning democratic system, in this case, with many entrenched interests seeking to perpetuate the status quo, it risks leading to the marginalization of women, youth, and non-affiliated independent delegates. Ensuring that these voices are not drowned out by stronger and better organized political party representatives will be essential for the success of the dialogue in reshaping Yemen's political environment and redistributing power.
- Some expect that the key decisions will be made outside the margins of the dialogue among Yemen's primary power brokers and that all this dialogue activity is just for show. The question is whether the dialogue will actually be a meaningful forum to resolve the most divisive issues, or just a sideshow to pacify the international community and revolutionary activists clamoring for change. This will depend largely on the previous two factors and to what degree Hadi provides leadership to open space for genuine discussion and debate that leads to decision-making processes inside the dialogue structure.

In addition to these challenges, there are fears that a constitutional referendum, a new parliament, and installation of a new government will be stuck waiting for movement on the toughest issues to be decided by the dialogue -- namely, the relationship between the North and South (distribution of political power and resources) and the system of governance (presidential versus parliamentary versus mixed). It would be difficult to move forward on the process-oriented pieces like constitution-drafting and election preparation until there is consensus on these essential questions. Given that, it would be wise for the dialogue participants or the secretariat to set specific benchmarks for each

## YT vision statement



*“To make Yemen a good world citizen.”*

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



## OUR OPINION

### Early observations from the National Dialogue Conference as a participant from the President's List

It feels like a football match with rival teams - coaches, captains, cheerleaders, mascots, fans and of course, trouble makers.

But, positive sportsmanship and optimism have been the dominant sentiments during the first few days of the conference.

#### Specific comments:

- The rules have changed, stakeholders have reached an understanding that no one can dominate the political scene or ensure their survival by eliminating others.
- Political stakeholders have offered appreciation to others, and in turn they have received reciprocal gratitude.
- Groups and individuals continue to bring up grievances of the past and complain about people's previous mistakes.
- An indirect apology has been issued by the more powerful parties via their recognition and prioritization of the Southern and Sa'ada issue.
- There have been conflicting positions regarding the international community. Some groups like the South insist on supervision from foreign powers at the conference, but other groups, especially the Houthis, reject engagement with the international players, namely the United States.
- Although everyone seems worried about the past, they are also focused on the future. Participants and outside observers are relieved and hopeful that at least the process has begun.
- The presence of the private sector, women, minorities and marginalized groups has been quite supported. Although small in numbers, they have been given time to speak. This is unprecedented for a big, national event of this sort.
- Yemenis are learning the art of negotiation and dialogue. Many people, who have never been given a voice, are abusing the opportunity and passionately exaggerating their speeches, but at least they are learning. I hope by the time the working groups are formed, the discussions are better organized and more useful.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

working group in order to advance a sense of momentum even in the face of delays. Many people make grandiose statements about what will happen if there is success or failure, but how will this be defined? Keeping in mind that the transformation to federalism, for example, within six months or a year is completely unrealistic, how will success be measured? Is failure the outbreak of armed conflict? Defining some of these points at the outset might help set realistic expectations about what the dialogue can achieve increasing the potential for success.

Yemen is no stranger to national dialogues, and many Yemenis will

boast that there is a tradition and culture of dialogue and consensus-building not present in other Arab countries facing similar challenges. That may be true, but the list of issues to address would be a heavy load for any country -- let alone one that is divided by deep political and economic cleavages, wracked with poverty and unemployment, and struggling to maintain security with separatist violence and extremism in various forms. Despite the obvious obstacles ahead, there is great opportunity in this moment. And hopefully next March 18 will be the anniversary of an important milestone in Yemen's democratic process.

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First Political English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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# Hundreds of Yemenis still without homes, victims of regional violence

Story by Sadeq Al-Wesabi  
Photo by Rammah Al-Jubari

Over the course of the last 10 years, hundreds of thousands of Yemenis have been displaced from their homes, victims of separate—but similarly violent—regional conflicts in the northern and southern governorates.

This number of internally displaced people, or IDPs, is now more than 500,000, according to the Executive Unit for IDPs Camps in Yemen, a state organization formed in 2009.

Many of these people live in appalling conditions. The camps, the majority of which are in Aden and Hajja, are crowded. Food, water and warm blankets are hard to come by. Outbreaks of malaria, cholera and tuberculosis, among other sicknesses are reported.

In November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) urged the government to deal with its swelling population of internal refugees. State officials were receptive and efforts are underway but—due to lack of funding and a solid organizational framework—efforts are limping along unevenly.

There have been some achievements.

Notably, in Abyan—where state forces have been successful in pushing back Al-Qaeda affiliates that had been holding power—over 143,000 IDPs (around 90 percent of those Yemenis displaced in the South and about 30 percent of all registered IDPs) have returned to their towns

and villages over the course of the past year.

But in other governorates in the South and the North, displaced people still have no house or facilities to return to even if mitigated fighting has allowed for such a homecoming.

The government declared it will draw up a new national policy to tackle the many, related problems that result from the displacements. The proposed action addresses not only the fate of displaced people, but also the difficulties experienced by temporary host communities.

The policy has yet to take any formal shape, Mohammed Harmal, deputy head of Executive Unit for IDPs Camps, said.

“The progress is slow,” Harmal admitted. And for those who are displaced, time is of the essence. IDPs are in need of immediate food, medical care and educational resources.

“This situation is tragic,” Najeeb Al-Sa’adi, head of the Wethaq Foundation for Civil Orientation, a Yemeni human rights organization, said. “[Displaced people] are severely impoverished. The alleged humanitarian aid doesn’t reach them,” he said, citing disorganization and mismanagement as the biggest problems facing aid work in Yemen.

Aid is administered by a coalition of domestic and foreign organizations, including the World Health Organization, the World Food Program and UNHCR. This past December, UNHCR and the Executive Unit for IDPs Camps held workshops in Sa’ada and Hajja—northern governorates that were hit hard during clashes between state forces



Children at an IDP camp in Hajja governorate. Children are some of the most vulnerable in the camps, lacking formal education and exposed to life-threatening diseases.

and armed Houthi affiliates—bringing together displaced people, local tribal leaders and aid workers in conversation.

Zaid Al-Alaya’a, UNHCR senior public information assistant said the organization has been working closely with the government and strengthening the capacity of state institutions, such as the Ministry

of Human Rights and the Executive Unit for IDPs Camps.

UNHCR offers assistance—providing mattresses, blankets and dishware among other items—to those who have been displaced, Al-Alaya’a said.

Though some IDPs have been able to return to their towns and villages, aid groups say too many

are still homeless, caught between places, in a perpetual state of waiting. The estimated number of displaced people—from both the UNHCR and from the Executive Unit of IDPs Camps—only paints half the picture; the number of unregistered refugees is difficult to estimate.

Though domestic and international organizations are working

to provide immediate assistance to IDPs, the final goal should be to bring people home, Harmal said. Everything else is a temporary solution.

“[Our job] isn’t limited to giving them a bag of flour, but also helping them to return to their homes safely,” Harmal said. “When we do this, we are helping all of Yemen.”

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

### تعلن المؤسسة اليمنية العامة لصناعة وتسويق الاسمنت

عن رغبتها في انزال المناقصة العامة رقم (YCC/CCA/S482) الخاصة بمشروع التحويل لمنظومة الإحراق في المصانع التابعة لها في كل من عمران والبرح (مشروع تسليم مفتاح) والمشمول على انشاء منظومة استقبال وتخزين وطحن وتجفيف الفحم واستخدامه في منظومة الإشعال في كل من عمران والبرح وكذلك معدات الميناء وتمويل ذاتي.

رقم المناقصة	اسم المناقصة	موعد فتح المظاريف	الضمان
(YCC/CCA/S482)	مشروع منظومة الإحراق متعدد الأغراض	الساعة 12 ظهرا الاثنين 2013/4/29م	2٪

فعلى الشركات المتخصصة الراغبة في الدخول في المناقصة التقدم بطلب خطي خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي لشراء واستلام وثائق المناقصة نظير مبلغ قدره (\$200) لايرد إلى العنوان التالي:

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المجمع الحكومي الاداري - مبنى رقم (1)

تلفون: 264139/7  
فاكس: 263168  
ص.ب.: 1920

email: [yccim@y.net.ye](mailto:yccim@y.net.ye)

أو التقديم عبر البريد الإلكتروني للشركة الاستشارية  
([YCCMBproject@cementconsult.co.uk](mailto:YCCMBproject@cementconsult.co.uk))

وعلى الشركات الراغبة في الدخول في المناقصة تقديم عطاءاتهم وفقا لوثائق المناقصة، ويشترط أن يكون العطاء مرفقا بالضمان البنكية الابتدائية، علما بأن آخر موعد لبيع الوثائق هو يوم الأربعاء الموافق 2013/4/24م. يقدم العطاء في مظروف مغلق ومختوم بالشمع الأحمر إلى عنوان المؤسسة مكتوبا عليه اسم المؤسسة ورقم المناقصة واسم مقدم العطاء وفي طيه الوثائق التالية

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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.



# OXFAM

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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

### Logistics Officer- (1 position)

Location: Sa'ada  
Contract Duration: 7 months

#### The Role

You will be responsible for organizing all logistical processes, including purchasing, warehousing, communications and transport, as well as the administrative procedures related to the job. You will supervise and support the staff reporting to this post, ensure that security guidelines are in place and followed by all staff members, instruct and supervise logistics staff under your line management, and report on all activities as necessary to the Logistics Manager.

#### What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least four years experience in purchasing, warehousing, and vehicle management. Any additional experience in emergency relief would obviously be an advantage, proving your resilience and ability to maintain teamwork under pressure. You will have excellent diplomatic, tact and negotiating skills, as well as oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic, and will possess good computer skills.

#### To apply

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

Closing date for applications is 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013

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

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

USAID'S Yemen Monitoring and Evaluation Project (YMEP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the position below.

**Title:** Rehabilitation and Recovery M&E Specialist  
**Duration of Assignment:** Full-time Position  
**Duty Station:** Aden, Yemen with travel to other governorates

Yemen Monitoring and Evaluation Project (YMEP) is a USAID funded project aiming to provide the USAID mission with continued, on-the ground performance monitoring, verification and evaluation of its assistance projects in Yemen. The project is implemented by International Business and Technical Consultants Inc. (IBTCI), a strategic consulting private firm with over 25 years of experience, specializing in the provision of expert advisory services to the private and public sector in global markets. YMEP seeks to establish an office in Aden to meet the project needs there and in neighboring governorates.

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

- Collects information and provides reports and analysis on rehabilitation and recovery progress and activities in Abyan, Aden and Lahj
- Provides M&E third-party monitoring for all ongoing USAID-funded activities
- Prepares written monitoring reports after field monitoring visits
- Works closely with the MOPIC and IRD POC in charge of the technical transition to MOPIC of the Damage and Needs Database (developed by IRD); and continue to monitor use thereafter to ensure data is collected with frequency and accuracy.
- Prepares written updates and reports on progress of rehabilitation of structures and infrastructure in the Damage and Needs Database.
- Participates in sector working groups and UN Clusters active in the southern governorates and reports back on these meetings on a regular basis.
- Engages in frequent and regular communication with the Director of the Abyan Reconstruction Fund and with the offices of Governors of the three governorates, and reports back on these meetings in writing
- Collects information and prepares written reports on changing needs in the recovery sector – to include humanitarian needs, rehabilitation of buildings and infrastructure, education, health, nutrition, agriculture, and economic recovery.
- Prepares a weekly summary of all activities undertaken, along with planning for following week and submits weekly to the YMEP Sana'a office
- Communicates regularly via phone, email, and occasionally in person with YMEP COP and YMEP Senior M&E Specialist and responds to USAID requests as needed in close coordination (or consultation) with YMEP COP.

#### Qualifications:

- University degree (MA/MS) in a technical science or social science with coursework in regional development, program management, and communication.
- 5 years of field experience relevant to development including at least two in some aspect of M&E or analysis-based tasks upon which the candidate was also required to report in writing
- Have sufficient IT experience to perform data analysis and monitoring of databases and a good level of experience in MS Word, Excel and PPT, and preferably in research and database related software (such as Epi Info, SPSS, Access, etc.)
- Excellent analytical skills
- Excellent communication skills, writing and speaking skills in English as well as Arabic.
- Capable of working independently and responsibly.
- Proactive in meeting people, gathering information, and recommending solutions if problems arise.

Please send your cover letter, a detailed CV and 3 references by email to [HRYMEP@YAHOO.COM](mailto:HRYMEP@YAHOO.COM). Response will only be made to shortlisted candidates. **The deadline for receiving applications is March 30th, 2013 by 5 pm.**



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# YEMEN TIMES

Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language newspaper

## Local female leaders overcome career hurdles with new program

Nadia Haddash

**A**sma'a Al-Saiaghi has a master's degree in sociology and is the director of a local charity association. By many measures, she is an already accomplished woman but every morning she makes the two-hour journey from her home in the Hiziz area to a local hotel in Sana'a to attend a training program that is providing tools for 30 Yemeni women to propel them forward as social leaders.

The six-month program called Female Leaders Project is funded by the World Bank and run by the National Organization for Development in Society (NODSYEMEN), a local non-profit that works on the empowerment of many social groups.

"The program effectively meets the needs of women as political and social activists," Al-Saiaghi said.

Rana Al-Ariqi, the project's coordinator, said these women were chosen because in the past they had demonstrated leadership in both the social and business sector.

"Females from different societal groups were selected in the program, 40 percent [of participants] are independent [from politics], 30 percent are from civil society organizations and 30 percent from [established] political parties," said the head of NODSYEMEN, Shawqi Shawqi Al-Qadi.



Women who successfully advance themselves in education are often abandoned after certain goals like a university degree and professional employment are met.

Al-Qadi says women often reach a peak in terms of professional development and his project aims to combat that trend.

A source of pride for Al-Qadi is also the fact that the course is offered for free. He says typically only women with no education are offered training for free and once a woman reaches a benchmark like a university degree, the support comes to an end.

"Yemeni women showed their competence during the 2011 revolution, but they still need support to

be effective social leaders and continue providing positive outcomes for the society on the ground," El-ham Shae, a public school principal and project participant, said.

Following the 2011 uprising, societal perspectives of women in society were slightly altered, Shae says and the program aims to capitalize on this.

The participants receive courses in establishing and leading private foundations, writing project proposals and advocacy.

Al-Ariqi says after the Sana'a

project finishes, they will target other governorates.

"I hope there will be more bodies and centers that support women continuously, not only to be social leaders but also to achieve effective roles in their houses, societies and environment in general," Shae said.

### Taher Shamsan

**"The Houthis are Yemenis, not from Mars, so we have to deal with them reasonably. No one has the right to say he is going to fight with them."**

Interview by  
Mohammed Al-Samei

Political analyst Taher Shamsan is a member of the Socialist Party. He has written several papers on topics ranging from the South to the proposed option of federalism for Yemen's new state.

Shamsan's work has appeared in several newspapers and websites.

As a political analyst, what issues do you want to be discussed at the National Dialogue Conference (NDC)? There are issues caused by the absence of the state and others related to constructing the state like a military restructure, education security and civil service.

Several political leaders say they support a civil state. Do you think they are serious? The most important things are the procedural matters within the state and not the content itself. I don't care about the law but the procedures of how to implement it.

Is the shape of the state important an important issue to be discussed at the NDC? Yes, because the state is the political structure of society. Development in Europe has been due to the state. So it's very important.

Some say that there will be confusion while discussing the shape of the state in the NDC because each party has its own vision.

If people understand what a federal state is, no problems will exist and they will support it. I don't think anyone can stand against federalism in the NDC.

Several politicians say feder-

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Political analyst Taher Shamsan

alism isn't applicable in Yemen.

Federalism has been implemented in several countries among people from different cultures and it has succeeded. Why would it fail in Yemen?

Some say the outcome of the NDC is set in advance and nothing new will come out of it. Do you think that's true?

No, I don't think so because all Yemenis are represented at the NDC, including youth, women and all political parties.

What do you think the political coalition will look like in the future?

We have two major agendas represented by the Islah and the Houthis. Unless other agendas emerge that make up a [collective] national agenda, they will be ignored. Everyone should present their projects.

The Houthis have become an important power, and they are present in several governorates.

Yes, but they aren't all that power-

ful. I think they failed in Aden and Taiz.

What do you think about the outcome of the revolution?

The revolution succeeded. I'm not pessimistic about [the future]. It toppled the long-time regime and introduced Yemen to the beginning of a new phase. Yemen will not be ruled as it was in the past.

The revolution eliminated the fear people had in the past. We should look forward and forget about the past. There are two types of people: those who use their senses and those who use their minds. Those who used to live in a swamp need time to realize they are out. The smell is [still] stuck to their clothes. We also need time to comprehend we got rid of the former regime and understand the value of the 2011 revolution.

The Islah Party is criticized by many people. Why?

I'm [one of] those people. Still, we have to consider what we have in common [with Islah] first. We all apply the fundamentals of Islam. I don't refuse the Islamic Sharia and this is a shared value.

What has caused leftists to join the Houthis?

The Houthis are Yemenis and not from Mars so we have to deal with them reasonably. No one has the right to say he is going to fight with them.

What do you think of the General People's Congress (GPC)? What do you think about its political future considering several of its leaders are divided?

GPC members have to free themselves from Ali Abdullah Saleh, the head of the GPC, because he is no longer a political player. They should pay attention to President Hadi to have broader options.