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Mr. Saeed Bamashmos
Sales Manager

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One person dies in clash in Aden, NDC members call for investigation

Amal Al-Yarisi

ADEN, March 31 — A new round of clashes broke out between security forces and several Southern Movement (Hirak) affiliates in Aden on Saturday, leaving a resident from Taiz dead.

Hisham Abdu Mohammed Al-Shamiri was shot dead when security forces fired their guns to prevent Hirak members from blocking roads during their routine Saturdays and Wednesday protests in a local square, according to Colonel Omar Hulaish, a spokesman for the Aden Security Department.

Four others were wounded when security forces attempted to disperse protestors and reopen the well-traveled Crater Road.

"Those people don't have the right to block roads," Hulaish said. "Our job is to unblock these roads."

Hulaish does not consider the protests acts of civil disobedience as the protestors have been calling them.

Hirak members have been staging the protests in response to the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), which began March 18. Factions of Hirak have called the conference illegitimate.

Hadi Hassan Ba'om, a Hirak affiliate, blamed security forces for attacking Hirak members. The state has called on Hirak to join in the NDC to discuss the Southern Issue, Ba'om said, but it's difficult to accept dialogue when southerners' blood is being shed.

Abdulla Nasser Rashid, a NDC



Hirak factions have threatened to withdraw from the NDC unless the state investigates the most recent death of protestors in Aden.

participant representing the South, said they will suspend their NDC participation unless the NDC Presidium summons the Interior Minister to the conference and orders the resignation of Waheed Rasheed, Aden's governor.

Last Wednesday clashes between Hirak members who were trying to block roads and security forces left three people dead.



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

مقابلة حصرية

الشيخ عبد الرحمن المروني ليمن تايمز
لن تنتهي قضية الثأر ما دام المواطن يفقد
الثقة بالقانون، وما دام الجيش لا يتدخل في
النزاعات القبلية

نص المقابلة في صفحة ٥

Sheikh Abdurrahman Al-Marwani to the Yemen Times:

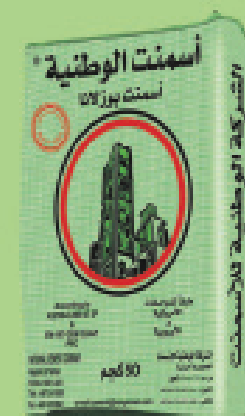
"Revenge [killings] will never be eliminated as long as people do not trust the law, and the military doesn't intervene in tribal conflicts"

Turn to page 4 for the interview



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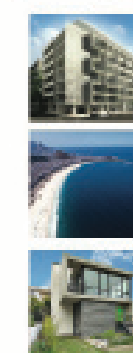


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Yemen deports 2,500 African refugees this year



Illegal migrants complain about the lack of access to work in Yemen.

Story and photos by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANAA, March 31 — The Deportation Department in the Immigration and Passport Authority has extradited 2,500 illegal African migrants from Yemen since the beginning of 2013, according to officials.

In March alone, 850 migrants have been detained and returned to their home countries, Abdullah Ali Al-Zurka, the director of the Deportation Department, said.

A majority of the migrants have been caught in the northern governorate of Sada'a, Al-Zurka said. African migrants are often caught in the north trying to cross the border to Saudi Arabia.

"The rich neighboring countries are the reason for this influx because the African migrants use Yemen as the stepping stone towards these countries," said Saba Al-Mualimi, the coordinator for the voluntary return department in the International Organization for Migration. "Only a few stay in Yemen. Yemen is not their goal, given the economic situation in the country."

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) released a report late last month, stating that an estimated 17,700 refugees entered Yemen from January to February

this year. Almost 15,000 of the refugees were Ethiopian and 2,700 were from Somali. Very few were not from those two countries.

Al-Mualimi says IOM's numbers are different but he said both figures present a "catastrophic" situation.

Economic experts estimate African refugees cost Yemen YR2 billion, over \$9 million a year in health care, education and transportation costs.

"This is a huge amount at a time when Yemen's economy is continuously deteriorating," said Mustafa Nassr, an economist at



Yemen receives thousands of migrants in spite of its deteriorated economy.

the Studies and Economic Media Center in Sana'a. "Yemen cannot accommodate this number."

Al-Zurka says the Yemeni government is stepping up its patrols at Yemen's various border crossings to keep the influx of refugees from entering the country.

No suspects yet in Rada'a explosion, officials continue investigations

Amal Al-Yarisi

RA'ADA, March 31 — A bomb exploded last Tuesday in the Al-Qane' neighborhood of Rada'a. Official sources said the intended target of the blast was Abdusalam Al-Nasiri, a prominent sheikh in the southern city. Four houses and a metal fence were damaged, but no one was hurt.

After almost a week of investigations, it's still unknown who set off the bomb, or why the sheikh was targeted.

Sinan Jaroon, the deputy governor of Al-Bayda' governorate, said the bomb was found in the vicinity of Al-Nasiri's house at 5:30 a.m. Security officials were unable to defuse the explosive.

"We don't have the special equipment to defuse these explosive devices," Colonel Hamoud Al-Amari, the security manager of Rada'a area, said. He added that there was also a shortage of experienced staff on his team.

Al-Amari said they called on military specialists from a base

to defuse the explosive, but they came too late. Instead of disabling the bomb, officials opted to evacuate the neighborhood. The explosive went off around 11:00 a.m.

Rada'a has been relatively calm recently, following violent confrontations between state security forces and Al-Qaeda affiliates in many districts of Rada'a, Qaifa and Al-Maraseh.

A seven-member council—made up of five local sheikhs, a member of the Ministry of Interior and a member from the Ministry of Defense—has been instrumental in defusing regional tensions. The council has been mediating between Al-Qaeda and state security forces.

The attempted assassination could be an attempt to reignite violence, Al-Amari said. Certain parties would rather see Rada'a remain unstable, he said.

Saleh Al-Qudaimi, the chief of the Central Security Forces branch in Rada'a, said the city is almost entirely empty of Al-Qaeda affiliates.

Flooding continues, death toll rises

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANAA, March 31 — Last week's flooding has led to 19 reported deaths, said the Yemeni Meteorology Center on Sunday. Seven of the deaths were in Hadrmout governorate, seven in Shabwa and five in Marib, including some child fatalities.

The Yemeni meteorology center warned of more heavy rains especially in mountainous governorates including Sana'a, Amran, Mahweet, Dhamar and Raima. They said land and rock erosions could be a result.

They are asking citizens to take precautions.

"[Hadromaut] has been living in a state of emergency for four days," said Saeed Bark, the office manager for Hadrmout's deputy governor.

He said people are panicked, but field teams and helicopters from the Ministry of Defense are helping rescue victims.

A year ago, the Meteorology Center adopted an early warning system to inform citizens via official media outlets about weather dangers like floods.

However, Rasheed Al-Ariqi, the head of the Forecast Department at the Center said people do not often heed the warnings. A lack of access to media also prevents the



In rural areas, many Yemenis don't hear storm warnings broadcast through media.

messages' dissemination.

Al-Ariqi has asked for more coordination with local councils and the Meteorology Center in governorates to educate locals about how to prepare for natural

disasters.

"We have not measured damages yet because the field teams are still working," Al-Ariqi, said. "But I can say losses are estimated in millions of riyals."

Roads are still blocked and farmland has been destroyed, local journalists have reported.

Yemen has been witnessing heavy rainfall since last Tuesday all over the country.

Parliament seeks solutions for Ministry of Electricity's mounting debt; sheikhs, officials refuse to pay bills

Amal Al-Yarisi

SANAA, March 31 — The Ministry of Electricity — sitting on a YR 64 billion, almost \$300 million debt — has asked the government to step in and help them collect the owed money, specifically targeting government officials, institutions and influential sheiks who have refused to pay.

Last Wednesday, the Parliament presented a comprehensive report to the Cabinet that includes the listed names of elected officials and government agencies who have not paid their bills.

"High-ranking officials including parliamentarians and

sheikhs consider themselves exempted from paying the electricity bills," said the deputy manager at the Ministry of Electricity, Harith Al-Amiri. "If government institutions evade paying their electricity debts, [how can] the citizen be blamed?"

About half of the Ministry's debt is due to government institutions.

The report asked Cabinet to use their executive power to apply pressure to and coerce the government institutions and officials to pay.

"There must be tough punishments against those who delay paying their electricity bills," said Abdulbari Dughhaish,

a parliament member. "The punishment should not just be enforced on ordinary people."

In Parliament discussions last Wednesday, lawmakers put forth solutions to collect the debt including allowing government institutions and individuals to pay the bills in installments.

Al-Amari is behind this plan. It would allow an institution and individual three months to begin paying. If not, their electricity would be cut off and individual names would be published in state newspapers after the grace period.

However, Al-Amari said engineers, who have tried to

cut off electricity in the past as procedural punishment, have been subject to attacks. Some engineers have been killed, Al-Amari, said.

The Ministry of Electricity has been struggling with the debt since 2009.

Al-Amari says their unpaid bills are also affecting other institutions. They owe about YR60 billion, about \$2.8 million to the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals for oil they use in electrical production.

The Ministry has also been unable to carry out maintenance and pay employees salaries, Al-Amari said.

Hundreds of Yemeni boats and fishermen in custody of Eritrean marine forces, claims of inhumane treatment

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANAA, March 31 — The Fishery Cooperative Union, a non-governmental syndicate made up of Yemeni fisherman, said on Sunday that Eritrean forces have now detained over 200 Yemeni fishermen and confiscated over 850 boats since 2006.

One Yemeni fisherman was allegedly shot by Eritrean marine forces, according to the Fishery Wealth Ministry.

Wade' Ata, the head of San'd Organization—another organization which works with the country's fisheries—told the Yemen Times that fishermen undergo humiliating treatment once captured.

"They are forced to do hard labor in construction projects," Ata said. "They are inhumanely treated. They don't get enough food, water, medicine or sleep."

"The Eritrean authorities have detained Yemeni fishermen in many camps on different islands, like Fatima and Dahlk islands," Ata said.

On Saturday, this issue was raised in during a session of the Yemeni Parliament.

Yahiya Al-Raei, the head of



The fishing industry supports around 40,000 Yemenis and their families.

Parliament, was tasked with speaking with President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi in order to reach some sort of solution.

Given that Yemen has a 2,500 kilometer shoreline, the fishing industry is important for this country, supporting around 400,000 Yemenis and their families.

Ambassador Mohammed Al-Jaefi, the head of the African

Department at the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the Eritrean government has only detained fisherman who have been fishing outside of national boundaries.

Abdulla Sunbul, the deputy minister of the Fishery Wealth Ministry, said the ministry formed a committee to address the dire situation of the captured Yemeni fishermen.

The ministry released a statement last Sunday expressing its concern for the inhumane treatment of Yemeni fishermen.

The statement called on the Eritrean government to launch an investigation into the incidents and release the Yemeni detainees immediately.

The Eritrean Embassy in Sana'a did not return repeated calls from the Yemen Times.

Wounded revolutionaries vow to stay put until all receive medical treatment

Story and photos by
Ali Abulohoom

Outside the Cabinet building in Sana'a, fewer than 20 protestors sit in five ragged tents, day and night. They are there demanding medical treatment for injuries they—and tens of thousands of others—sustained during the 2011 revolution.

They've been in front of the government office since January 29 and—despite beatings by state forces—are still holding their ground.

An estimated 28,000 Yemenis were injured during the 2011 uprising—either by state forces or caught in clashes between armed tribes and the government—and have been promised YR100,000,000, almost \$500,000 for their treatment, paid for by the current administration. As of now, only 212 of those injured have been treated, 126 are currently in treatment.



For over two months wounded revolutionaries have been outside the Cabinet building.

The process is going frustratingly slow for the activists.

In January, the wounded protestors filed a lawsuit against

the government, hoping to speed up the process. Parliament Member Ahmed Saif Hashed, who is also a lawyer, took on their case.

But soon after, Hashed—along with the activists—was attacked by security forces. Hashed received blows to the head and wound up in the hospital, he said. Around the same time, Hashed—who had been given a seat in the National Dialogue Conference—stepped down in solidarity with the revolutionary youth, many of whom question the validity of the conference.

Hashid held his own protest, from March 23-28 this time inside the Parliament. Yahia Al-raei, the Parliament Chairman eventually had Hashed removed. "[Al-raei] Then [Al-raei] ordered his escorts to force me out of Parliament," Hashed said.

Hashed said he will protest in support of the revolutionaries until

the government responds.

Hamoud Al-ezi, a community organizer who works with the protestors, said on the first day of their sit-in, they numbered more than 200. Though their numbers have dwindled, Al-ezi believes that if they're persistent, justice will be served.

Al-ezi accused the Wafa Foundation—a Yemeni NGO which treats wounded revolutionaries—of not doing its job. Shawqi Al-maimoni, from the Wafa Foundation defended the organization, saying that the injured revolutionaries have not registered properly.

Ministerial Committee

The Ministry of Health formed a committee last month to gather data about the number of injured revolutionaries.

Ali Al-Noaimi, the financial manager of the ministerial

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Parliamentarian Ahmed Saif Hashid says he sits in solidarity with the protestors.

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Sheikh Abdurrahman Al-Marwani to the Yemen Times:

“Revenge [killings] will never be eliminated as long as people do not trust the law, and the military doesn’t intervene in tribal conflicts”

Sheikh Abdurrahman Al-Marwani is the head of Dar Al-Salam Organization for Combating Revenge and Violence. Through the organization he works to eliminate violence and revenge killings in tribal areas, including ones that have faced ongoing conflicts for decades. He is also dedicated to reducing arms proliferation in Yemen.

He puts forth solutions like raising soldiers’ salaries to encourage security forces in tribal areas to be vigilant in deterring weapons carrying.

In an interview with the Yemen Times, Al-Marwani also spoke about several issues pertaining to security, weapons carrying and violence.

Interview and photo by Sadeq Al-Wesabi

In your opinion, what is the reason behind increased assassinations recently – the absence of the state or weapons proliferation?

Both. We have warned of weapons proliferation. The major reason for conflict in Yemen is the availability of weapons among civilians. Although weapons are found everywhere in the world, the problem in Yemen is more complicated because there is no weapon control.

Why isn’t the government serious about reducing weapons possession?

It is a matter of a politics – disagreements between the government and opposition parties about a bill regarding weapons carrying. Although the government is somewhat serious about this bill, it hasn’t been passed by Parliament.

In 2007, the Cabinet issued a decree that prohibited weapons carrying in major cities and closed weapons markets. Consequently, [many] cities [had a reduction] in weapons [carrying], but the 2011 uprising brought the original situation back.

Why do you think the number of assassination attempts increased with the beginning of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC)?

Unfortunately, some parties are attempting to damage the NDC because they don’t like it. I would like to tell them the tragedies that happened in 2011 are enough.

Do you think weapons carrying and violence in the country will come to an end when the NDC is over?

This could happen if the NDC members’ priority is national in-

terests.

Several sheikhs partaking in the NDC are calling for a civil society, yet they are accompanied by heavily armed escorts?

They need to be educated.

Do you think they are aware of the risks of weapons?

Their egos [get in the way]. They don’t know the value of a human being is measured by their morals and how they deal with and love others.

But they say the government is unable to protect them so they carry weapons for self-defense.

Some think it is masculine to carry weapons.

Who instilled this in [Yemen’s] culture?

Political conflicts and tribal coalitions have.

The military committee said there is a serious step in place to ban weapons. They report they caught many militants recently. They also report their moves could put a limit on the spread of crime. What do you think?

We thank the military committee. We also call for further serious and organized work. Sometimes you see five military checkpoints on one street. There needs to be a distribution strategy for these checkpoints.

Do you think the procedures of this plan are [only] enforced for regular people? Are sheikhs and influential people an exception?

A soldier in the field has one rule - to condone the powerful. Unfortunately, in many cases soldiers are executed or receive unfavorable verdicts just because they attempt to [go against the powerful].

Soldiers should be given a decent salary that cover basic needs. Soldiers also need to be given training on how to deal with citizens.

Some sheikhs and influential people do not stop at security checkpoints even if the soldiers request inspection?

Such people suffer from arrogance - it is a disease.

What can be done with these people? Do you support using force against them?

The law should be enforced for these people. The state currently isn’t strong enough to take action against them because of the exceptional circumstances the country is going through. It is a matter of conscience.

If we speak of revenge [killings], do you think this phenomenon is on the rise or on



The influential sheikh thinks tribal conflicts can be minimized with state intervention.

the decrease?

Revenge [killings] will never be eliminated as long as people do not trust the law, and the military doesn’t intervene in tribal conflicts

Some NDC members objected to some sheikhs entering the conference with a Jambia (a traditional Yemeni dagger). Do you count the Jambia as a weapon?

The Jambia has symbolic value. I don’t consider it a weapon.

Foreigners are still being abducted. Why?

The abduction of foreigners is a heinous crime that goes against tribal customs and religion. It should receive intensive punishment.

“

Even in America and France or any other country, people will take justice into their own hands if they feel the state has failed to do so.

This trend wasn’t so prevalent in the past but, unfortunately, ransoms [being demanded and paid] as well as other political and religious agendas have led to an increase. The government knows there are schools of thought that spread such concepts and instead of eliminating these schools, it arrests misguided youth.

Multiple tribesmen say they are willing to put their weapons aside provided that the state protects them?

This is a fact. Who wants to pursue his opponent? The state is supposed to intervene once a crime takes place because people become angry and resort to taking justice into their own hands when they feel nobody [cares about their] issues.

Even in America and France or any other country, people will take justice into their own hands if they feel the state has failed to do so.

Are military and security forces able to deter weapons carrying and reduce weapons proliferation?

Yes, and it has potential to do so, but the state should raise soldiers’ salaries and take into consideration the welfare of the soldiers.

Why have some youth resorted to extremist religious groups like Al-Qaeda?

Those youth are honest and faithful, but they are victims. Unemployment and a lack of places to go for entertainment play a great role in this matter. They convince the youth that they are going to heaven. I was once a victim as I grew up in a religious family. Religious groups lured me in with their ideas, but when I became an adult, I realized that religion means having morals, love and mercy.

How have extremist religious groups contributed to the spread of violence in recent years?

During the revolution, some religious groups issued fatwas, permitting the killing of the revolutionaries. In 1994, a fatwa was issued permitting the killing of Southerners. Religion is used for killing. We need a religion that teaches us love, unity and honesty, not [how to explode someone]. We do not want Islam to be confined to wealth and the hands of rulers. The type of religion some rulers in the Islamic world want is the one that keeps them wealthy. People don’t have anything except for robes and tooth paste . Rulers will even loot that.

“

We don’t lack an army or security forces. We lack seriousness. I want the army to boost security and stability in the country, not narrow-minded, partisan conflicts.

What do you think about the future of Al-Qaeda in Yemen?

Al-Qaeda has no future in Yemen if the NDC is able to come up with a national agenda that is not subject to foreign intervention.

Who do you think is responsible for attacking electricity towers and oil pipelines in Marib?

Some groups depend on the support of the state in order to live. Once that support is withdrawn, these groups resort to these attacks. If the state was strict from day one and applied the law [which states that perpetrators should have their] hands amputated, they would not dare to do such an act.

Why hasn’t the government acted to deter such groups?

Unfortunately, the government has worked to please them instead of taking strong, punitive decisions to deter them.

We have heard the state army is pursuing the attackers. However, the military has not thwarted these attacks.

We support decisive action from the state. However, the state needs to cooperate with the tribal community, civil society organizations and clergies.

Why haven’t tribal leaders taken action and stopped saboteurs considering [tribal sheikhs] signed a petition to defend the electricity infrastructure?

Tribal norms are decisive on such issues. But these norms have failed. The tribes have tried to maintain civility, but this hasn’t happened because of political conflicts. Now there is a vacuum between the two [tribalism and civility].

Tribal checkpoints are still ubiquitous in many areas. Why hasn’t the state punished perpetrators?

These tribal checkpoints have questionably spread. Tribes used to step in and end these checkpoints, which are considered shameful. But tribal norms have started to gradually disappear. At a time when norms and the law are both absent, who will control people?

During the 2011 revolution, it was rumored tribes became closer and revenge [killings] were coming to an end.

Revenge [killings] are still happening. When political powers want to create propaganda about something, they will.

What is your opinion about military camps and warehouses for weapons being located in residential areas?

I want the army evacuated out of Sana’a so security forces will be in charge of safety in Sana’a. Why don’t these military camps contribute to resolving tribal issues and disputes? Why don’t citizens have a state that penalizes perpetrators? We don’t lack an army or security forces. We lack seriousness. I want the army to boost security and stability in the country, not narrow-minded, partisan conflicts.

Arms traders sell weapons while the state watches. What can be done about these traders?

The state is in trouble, and the security situation is unique. After the dialogue these issues must be addressed.

“

Unfortunately, in many cases soldiers are executed or receive unfavorable verdicts just because they attempt to [go against the powerful].

الشيخ عبد الرحمن المروني ليمن تايمز

لن تنتهي قضية الثأر ما دام المواطن يفقد الثقة بالقانون، وما دام الجيش لا يتدخل في النزاعات القبلية

قال الشيخ عبد الرحمن المروني، رئيس منظمة دار السلام لمكافحة الثأر والعنف بأن الأجهزة الأمنية والعسكرية اليمنية قادرة ولديها الإمكانيات لردع من يقومون بحمل السلاح، مشدداً على ضرورة رفع رواتب الجنود لتحقيق هذا الهدف. ويعتبر المروني من المشايخ المساهمين في إنهاء العنف والثأر في العديد من المناطق القبلية، بما فيها تلك المناطق التي شهدت اقتتالاً خلال عقود طويلة، وذلك عبر منظمته الشهيرة العينية بمكافحة مظاهر العنف والثأر والحد من انتشار السلاح.

المروني تحدث في لقاء خاص مع يمن تايمز حول العديد من القضايا المتعلقة بالأمن والسلاح والعنف وغيرها من القضايا...

حوار وتصوير: صادق الوصابي

هؤلاء بحاجة إلى توعية...

(مقاطعاً) معقول بأنهم غير واعين لمخاطر السلاح؟

الشعور بالأنا وعندما يتم تعبئة الشخص بأنه كبير وأنه لا يجب إلا أن يسير بمرفقين هو ما يجعل هؤلاء يلجأون لحمل السلاح. هؤلاء لا يدركون أن قيمة الإنسان في أخلاقه وفي تعامله ومحبته للناس.

لكن هؤلاء يقولون بأن الدولة لم تستطع حمايتهم لذا يضطرون لحمل السلاح...

هناك من يرى أن رجولة اليمني ترتبط بحمل السلاح.

من كرس هذه الثقافة؟ الصراعات السياسية والتكتلات القبلية هي السبب وراء ذلك.

اللجنة العسكرية قالت بأن هناك خطوات جادة للحد من الأسلحة، وأنها قبضت في الأيام الماضية على العديد من المسلحين وأنها حدث من انتشار الجريمة...

نحن نشكر اللجنة العسكرية ونطالبها بالاستمرار في العمل ولكن بصورة أكثر جدية وأكثر تنظيماً، لأنه أحياناً في شارع واحد هناك خمس نقاط أمنية، فينبغي وضع استراتيجية في كيفية توزيع الحواجز العسكرية.

هل ترى بأن اللجنة العسكرية استهدفت بهذه الخطوة البسطاء من الناس واستتنت كبار المشايخ والمسؤولين بالرغم من أنها صرحت بأنها لا تستثنى أحد في مسألة منع حمل السلاح؟

هناك قاعدة عند العسكري بأن يتجاوز عن القوي. للأسف، معظم الحالات التي قام فيها الجنود بواجبهم أصدرت ضدهم أحكام وأعدموا.

يجب أن يتم إعطاء راتب مجزي لهذا الجندي يغطي احتياجاته ويجب إعطائه محاضرات دائمة حول كيفية التعامل مع المواطن.

لكن المشايخ والناخبين لا يسمحوا لأنفسهم من الأساس أن يقفوا للعسكري البسيط حتى ولو طلب منهم الوقوف... هؤلاء يعانون من مرض الغرور.

ما الذي يمكن عمله مع هؤلاء؟ هل تؤيد استخدام القوة ضدهم؟ يجب تنفيذ القانون ضد هؤلاء. الدولة غير قادرة حالياً أن تتخذ أي إجراءات ضد هؤلاء بسبب الظروف الاستثنائية. المسألة يجب أن تكون مسألة ضمير ليس إلا.

كان هناك اعتراض من قبل بعض أعضاء الحوار الوطني على دخول بعض المشايخ بالجنسية... هل تعتبر الجنسية سلاحاً؟ الجنسية قيمة اعتبارية ومعنوية. ولا اعتبرها سلاحاً.

إذا تحدثنا عن ظاهرة الثأر.. هل ما زالت هذه الظاهرة منتشرة أم أنها تتلاشى؟

انتشرت محاولات الاغتيال الأيام الماضية.. من يتحمل السبب بربايك؟ غياب الدولة أم انتشار السلاح أم ماذا؟

كلاهما. ونحن طالما نبهنا من انتشار السلاح، حيث أدركنا منذ وقت مبكر أن أهم عوامل النزاع هو توفر السلاح بأيدي المدنيين بدون ضوابط. ولا شك أن السلاح متوفر في العالم كله وهو مشكلة عالمية لكن في اليمن المشكلة معقدة أكثر لأنه لا توجد ضوابط للأسلحة.

لماذا لا يوجد توجه جاد للحكومة للحد من حيازة السلاح؟

المسألة تحتاج إلى قرار سياسي. كان هناك خلاف بين الحكومة والمعارضة حول قانون تنظيم حمل السلاح، وكان هناك بعض الجدية في هذه المسألة لكن ظل القانون يتراوح في مجلس النواب، وبعد ذلك خرج قرار من مجلس الوزراء في العام ٢٠٠٧ بمنع حمل السلاح في المدن الرئيسية وإغلاق سوق الأسلحة وبالفعل بدأت المدن خالية من المظاهر المسلحة، لكن جاءت الأحداث الأخيرة وأعدت الوضع لنقطة الصفر.

لماذا ازدادت محاولات الاغتيال مع بدء مؤتمر الحوار الوطني بربايك؟ للأسف، توجد بعض القوى التي لا يعجبها هذا الحدث الرائع. هؤلاء الذين يريدون أن يحدثوا شرخ داخل الحوار، أقول لهم لصالح من؟ يكفيننا ما حصل في العام ٢٠١١ من مأسى واقتتال.

هل تتوقع أنه مع انتهاء الحوار الوطني.. ستزول المظاهر المسلحة وأحداث العنف في البلد؟ إذا استطاع أعضاء الحوار تغليب مصالح البلد على مصالح أنفسهم سنصل لهذا الشيء.

العديد من المشايخ المشاركين في الحوار الوطني يطالبون بدولة مدنية ومازالوا يتحركون مع مرافقيهم الدججين بالسلاح...

المفترض أن تتدخل الدولة حال وقوع جريمة لأن الناس في ذلك الوقت غاضبين وحينما يشعرون أنه ليس هناك أي جهة تتعامل مع هذه القضية غالباً ما يأخذون حقهم بأيديهم.

من هو المسؤول عن تفجير أبراج الكهرباء وأنابيب النفط في مأرب؟

هناك قوى تعيش على دعم الدولة لها وحينما يتوقف دعم الدولة لها تلجأ لمثل هذه الاعتداءات. لو كانت الدولة صارمة من أول يوم مع هؤلاء وطبقت القانون والشرع وقطعت أياديهم فلن يجرؤ هؤلاء على فعل هذا.

لكن ما الذي يمنع الحكومة من ردع هؤلاء؟

كانت الحكومة للأسف تراضيهم بدلاً من أن تتخذ قراراً قوياً بضربهم وردعهم.

نسمع أن الحكومة اليمنية ترسل الجيش إلى هذه المناطق لردع وضرب المعتدين على أبراج الكهرباء وأنابيب النفط، لكن وبالرغم من هذا لا تزال الاعتداءات مستمرة...

نحن نؤيد توجه الدولة الحاسم لهذا الأمر، ولكن الدولة بحاجة إلى التعاون في هذا الجانب مع المجتمع القبلي والمنظمات المدنية وعلماء الدين.

لماذا لا يتم ضبط المسؤولين عن هذه الهجمات من قبل المواطنين أنفسهم ورجال القبائل في هذه المناطق، خصوصاً وأن رجال القبائل في هذه المناطق وقحوا وثيقة في وقت سابق بإهدار دم المعتدين على هذه الممتلكات...

الأعراف القبلية حاسمة في مثل هذه القضايا، لكن للأسف الأعراف القبلية عثرت ومحاولت القبائل أن تتجه نحو المدينة وبسبب الصراعات السياسية لم تصل إلى المدينة ولم تعد للعرف القبلي، فأصبح هناك خواء ما بين الاثنين.

التقطعات القبلية ما زالت منتشرة في العديد من المناطق.. لماذا لا يتم ردع من يقومون بهذه الأعمال من قبل الدولة؟ هذه القطاعات ظهرت بشكل عجيب، وكانت القبائل في السابق تتدخل في حال وجود أي قطاع، حيث كان من العيب عمل هذه التقطعات. لكن العرف القبلي بدأ يتراجع والقانون غير موجود، وفي غياب العرف والقانون معاً ما الذي سيضبط الناس؟

في ثورة ٢٠١١ تم الترويج بأن القبائل بدأت بلم صفوفها وأن مظاهر الثأر انتهت... الثأر ما زال قائماً. القوى السياسية حينما تريد أن تروج لشيء فإنها تستطيع فعل ذلك.

ما رأيك حول بقاء معسكرات الجيش ومخازن الأسلحة داخل الأحياء السكنية؟ أتمنى أن يخرج الجيش من العاصمة وأن يتولى جهاز الأمن مسؤولية الأمن في صنعاء. وأنا لا أدري لماذا لا تبادر هذه المعسكرات في حل القضايا والنزاعات القبلية؟ لماذا لا يشعر المواطن بأن هناك دولة قد تضبط الجاني؟ نحن لا نقيمنا أمن ولا جيش وإنما الجدية. أتمنى أن يتم استخدام الجيش في تعزيز الأمن والاستقرار في البلاد وليس لإشغال الصراعات الحزبية والضيقة وخدمة القوى المنتفذة.

تجار الأسلحة ما زالوا يبيعون أسلحتهم على مرأى ومسمع من الدولة.. ما الذي يمكن عمله تجاه هؤلاء التجار؟ الدولة في حالة مخاض والوضع الأمني استثنائي. لكن لا بد من وضع معالجات بعد الحوار لجميع هذه القضايا.



الشيخ عبد الرحمن المروني

المتطرفة في نشر أعمال العنف خلال السنوات الماضية؟

خلال الثورة، كانت هناك فتاوى من قبل بعض الجماعات الدينية بقتل الثوار. وفي عام ٩٤ أصدرت فتاوى بقتل الجنوبيين، فبات الدين يستخدم للقتل. نحن بحاجة إلى دين يعلمنا المحبة والوحدة والصفاء وليس التفتير.

نريد إسلام لا يكرس الثروة بيد الحكام، الدين الذي يريده الحكام في العالم الإسلامي هو أن تكون الثروة بأيديهم ونحن ليس لدينا سوى بنطلون قصير وسواك فيما الحاكم ينهب كما يشاء.

كيف ترى مستقبل القاعدة في اليمن؟

لا أرى لها مستقبلاً إذا خرج الحوار بأجندات وطنية تتجنب الإملات الخارجية.

هناك مدارس فكرية موجودة تساهم في نشر مثل هذه المفاهيم وبدلاً من إغلاق هذه المدارس وتجفيف منابعها وإيقاف مدها يتم اعتقال شباب مغرر بهم.

الكثير من رجال القبائل يقولون بأنهم على استعداد لترك السلاح إذا ما وفرت الدولة الحماية لهم؟

هذا هو الواقع. من هو المستعد أن يطارد غريمه؟ المفترض أن تتدخل الدولة حال وقوع الجريمة لأن الناس في ذلك الوقت غاضبين وحينما يشعرون أنه ليس هناك أي جهة تتعامل مع هذه القضية غالباً ما يأخذون حقهم بأيديهم.

حتى في أمريكا أو فرنسا وفي أي مكان، إذا شعر المواطن أن الدولة لم تأخذ له حقه سيلجأ إلى أخذ هذا الحق بيده.

الأجهزة الأمنية والعسكرية اليمنية هل هي قادرة على ردع من يقومون بحمل الأسلحة والحد من انتشارها؟

نعم، قدرة ولديها الإمكانيات المتوفرة لذلك، لكن كما قلت يجب رفع رواتب الجنود ولا بد من مراعاة هذه المسألة لتوفير الراحة النفسية لهؤلاء الجنود الذين يتقاضون رواتب زهيدة.

برأيك، ما الذي جعل العديد من الشباب يلجأون للجماعات الدينية المتطرفة بما فيها القاعدة؟

هؤلاء الشباب صادقين ومؤمنين ولكنهم ضحايا. البطالة وغياب المتنفسات لعبت دوراً في هذه المسألة، فهناك من يأتي ويوهم هؤلاء الشباب بالجنة. أنا كنت أحد هؤلاء الضحايا عندما كنت صغيراً حيث ترعرعت في أسرة دينية وبدأت الجماعات الدينية في المسجد تضميني إلى أفكارها. لكن عندما كبرت أدركت أن الدين سمو وأخلاق ومحبة ورحمة.

كيف ساهمت الجماعات الدينية

في العرف القبلي، يعتبر الاختطاف العيب الأجزم وهو أكبر مراتب العيوب وفيه أحكام مغلظة جداً.

هناك قوى تعيش على دعم الدولة لها وحينما يتوقف دعم الدولة لها تلجأ للاعتداءات.

Secession for South Yemen would lead to catastrophe

Sama'a Al Hamdani
Thenational.ae
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Yemen's "national dialogue" finally began one week ago, after several deferrals. The agenda is dominated by the "Southern issue", the question of Southern secession.

The Southern Movement, commonly referred to as Hirak, is already expressing its dissatisfaction with the dialogue. Hirak has 85 seats in the dialogue assembly, but several factions within the movement said in a joint statement on March 21 that those 85 representatives do not properly delineate Hirak's demands.

Any scenario other than full Hirak participation in the talks will threaten the nation's security and will ultimately cost many Yemenis their lives. The national dialogue will be squandered if Hirak's entire leadership is not on board.

Last month alone the government reported four deaths due to clashes between the Hirak and local authorities in the South.

On February 23, President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi - originally from Dhakeen, a southern village - made his first visit to Aden, to acknowledge Hirak's grievances.

After the 1994 civil war, former President Ali Abdullah Saleh consistently overlooked the concerns

of the South, as a form of revenge. There was talk of secession even then, and the movement gained momentum from 2007 to 2011, but was never unified enough to pose a real threat to Yemen's unity.

But now Hirak's fragmented leadership is a problem for national unity: if the factions cannot speak and act together, the dialogue will dissolve and chaos will follow.

Secession would not provide Hirak's divided factions with the independence they seek; rather, it would result in the creation of several weak regional regimes, in constant conflict with each other.

Yemen's government should have addressed legitimate Southern concerns long ago. Now the issue will not be settled easily or quickly.

The present weak agreement among Hirak factions is the product of an interim alliance. The only thing uniting all of them is their common goal of secession, and their common enemy, the central government. Hirak members consider the South to be under occupation.

The Southern proverb "he removes an onion, and grows garlic" refers to an apparent change that actually yields the same results. Southern power struggles have persisted through deceptive leadership changes, and this pattern is a good indicator of what the future would hold after secession.

The South has been divided since

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The idea that secession will solve the South's problems is nothing but an illusion maintained by a few who seek power for themselves.

the days of the British occupation, which saw power struggles in Hadramout, Abyan and Lahj. These internal rivalries continued after independence in 1967.

Over the next two decades, the South, as its own state, cycled through six presidents. Some transfers were peaceful while others were bloody, but all of them, while disguised as ideological or political, were driven by tribal politics and personal ambition.

In June 1969, a peaceful coup led to the removal of military leaders but also changed the regional balance of high-office-holders. And in January 1986, when internal "ideological" divisions occurred within Yemen's Socialist Party (YSP), several regions associated with the losing faction suffered losses; other regions gained influence based on their tribal loyalties.

These divisions still exist. Most current Hirak leaders were members of the YSP in the old southern People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. For these men the YSP served as a vehicle to power, and now Hirak does the same thing.

Personal conflicts still boil under the surface, damaging Hirak's leadership. No one in Hirak is capable of producing a transitional plan that can win wide support.

If secession occurs and the northern government is out of the way, a few southern leaders would opt for the creation of smaller political units, rather than consolidating the South.

Individuals such as the southern Islamist leader Tariq Al Fadhli would hope to restore their former reigns. For them, secession would be a golden opportunity.

Some within Hirak openly yearn for a return to "the old days", while others are still speaking in vague terms.

It is only a matter of time before individuals from powerful families

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Any scenario other than full Hirak participation in the talks will threaten the nation's security and will ultimately cost many Yemenis their lives.

claim authority based on their genealogy, especially if they manage to secede.

Beyond the old sultanates, there are some who would prefer a tribal emirate, another form of dynasty. And in the past few years, political Islam has gained momentum. Those who identify the most with their religious ideology are likely to demand the creation of Islamic caliphates or strict implementation of Islamic Shariah.

With a central government out of the picture, AQAP and Ansar Al Shariah could grip parts of the South.

The southern population is culturally diverse. New villages have sprung up, and older ones have expanded. Distinct identities do not exist anymore. But there are many who want distinct areas to control.

Taken together, all this means that after secession the South would have several inefficient micro-states, some of them strongly divided by prejudice and class distinctions.

Mr Hadi's government may still convince the remainder of southern Hirak to join the dialogue. Given the flexible nature of the talks, more seats can be assigned to other Hirak factions. But at the same time all elements of Hirak must consider their options and participate in the dialogue if they truly seek genuine "liberation".

For the South's sake, Hirak must submit to the dialogue and reach a settlement. The idea that secession will solve the South's problems is nothing but an illusion maintained by a few who seek power for themselves.

Secession would bring catastrophe. Participating in the national dialogue guarantees nothing, but it is the best alternative.

Sama'a Al Hamdani is a Yemeni researcher who lives in Washington DC

Israel-Turkey alliance a bitter blow to Arabs

Patrick Seale
Gulfnews.com
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U.S. President Barack Obama's brief visit to the Middle East has given the Arab world a brutal lesson in power politics. Every word he uttered in Israel, every gesture he made, served to illustrate the unprecedented closeness of the US-Israeli alliance, as well as his disregard for Arab interests and his evident reluctance to give the Palestinian cause any serious or sustained attention.

Rarely has there been an American president showing such intense concern for Israel's welfare and such casual indifference for Arabs.

The visit to Israel and its Arab neighbors marks an important moment in Obama's presidency. It sends a clear message that he is not prepared to engage in a fight with powerful pro-Israeli forces deeply entrenched in American government and society. To the Arabs, it signals that resolving the Palestine problem is no longer his priority. He seems prepared to leave it to the next inhabitant of the White House, whoever that may be.

No doubt John Kerry, America's Secretary of State, will go through the motions of addressing the Palestine problem for a while, but it will be naive to expect any real progress

without vigorous and sustained presidential attention, and that now seems highly unlikely. Many Arabs had thought that Obama, on his first presidential visit to the region, would give fresh impetus to the search for an Israeli-Palestinian settlement — even at this 11th hour. Their disappointment has been bitter. They had failed to grasp how the evolving power equations — in the region as well as in Washington — had undermined their interests and hardened the resolve of Israel's land-hungry leaders not to give an inch.

The truth is that the Arabs' attention over the past two years has been fully engrossed by the political upheavals in their own societies. Revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen, as well as the bitter civil war in Syria, have absorbed Arab attention, virtually blotting out everything else. The Arabs have failed to grasp that their revolutions — whatever promise they may hold of a better future — have, for the moment, at least gravely weakened them, reducing their influence on the international stage.

It is, therefore, not surprising that, on this visit to the Middle East, Obama felt no obligation to calm Arab fears or help the Palestinians towards their longed-for independence. Instead, he devoted himself entirely to celebrating Israel's achievements as the region's most powerful and dynamic actor

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By all accounts, Arab public opinion has been shocked by Obama's extravagant love affair with Israel. It was not what the Arabs had expected.

— as well as hailing its ever closer ties with the United States. No doubt he felt free to flatter Israel and offend the Arabs because of the lamentable state in which much of the Arab world now finds itself.

As a handsome parting gift to Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, Obama brokered a peace deal between Turkey and Israel, putting an end to the three-year feud between them. It will be recalled that their quarrel dates back to May 2010, when Israel attacked and boarded a Turkish ship, Mavi Marmara, which was seeking to break Israel's blockade of Gaza.

Nine Turks on board the ship were killed. During his visit to Israel earlier this month, Obama persuaded Netanyahu to issue a public apology to Turkey's Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, together with a promise of compensation, thus putting an end to the quarrel.

The sudden and dramatic Israeli-Turkish reconciliation has come as a bitter blow to Arabs. They had thought that their alliance with Turkey would help them stand up to Israel. Instead, Obama has brokered an alliance between the US, Israel and Turkey which is clearly intended to dominate the region and dictate terms to the Arabs.

Indeed, the Arab heartland has rarely seemed so weak and vulnerable:

- Egypt is today close to bankruptcy, a condition which severely limits its regional influence. Once the most powerful Arab country, it is today a victim of long years of authoritarian rule and of a population explosion. When Jamal Abdul Nasser's Free Officers took power in 1952, there were about 18 million Egyptians; today there are 85 million. Egypt desperately needs international credits and is dependent on American support to get them. It cannot afford to show sympathy to Hamas in Gaza since the U.S. — pandering to Israel — considers it a terrorist organization.
- Iraq has far from recovered from the American invasion of

2003, engineered and driven by pro-Israeli neo-cons and from the nine-year occupation which followed. Now under Shiite leadership, and allied to Iran, it is a long way from recovering its once influential place in Arab affairs. It has virtually lost control of its Kurdish territories and is being torn apart by Sunni-Shiite strife.

- Syria is in the grip of a brutal civil war, which threatens to overthrow its secular Baathist regime, in power since 1963. If the regime is toppled, Syria can then be ruled by hard-line Islamists, who are leading the revolt against President Bashar Al Assad. It is quite likely, however, that the country may be partitioned into small confessional units, each looking desperately to its own defense. So great is the human and material damage Syria has suffered in these past two years that it seems unlikely that it will ever recover its long-standing role as a barrier to Israeli power in the Levant.
- Under Israeli pressure, the US is subjecting Iran to a cruel siege. This has greatly enfeebled the Iran-Syria-Hezbollah alliance which, over the past three decades, had attempted to keep Israeli power in check. Today, the alliance is in grave danger of collapse: Iran is battling against crippling sanctions, Syria faces dismemberment, while a nervous Hezbollah contemplates the potential loss of its two

external patrons. On March 21, in occupied Jerusalem, Obama blatantly embraced Israel's point of view by calling on foreign governments to brand Hezbollah a "terrorist organization".

What sense, therefore, can one make of the overall picture? How to explain Israel's arrogant self-confidence and its cold-hearted refusal to allow the Palestinians a mini-state of their own? Part of the answer, at least, must surely lie in Egypt's insolvency; in the deep divisions in Iraqi society, scarred by a decade of conflict; in Syria's cruel civil war; and in Iran's struggle to survive harsh American sanctions.

By all accounts, Arab public opinion has been shocked by Obama's extravagant love affair with Israel. It was not what the Arabs had expected. In their innocence, they had thought the American president would put on a show of neutrality and do his best to promote a solution to the Palestinian crisis. They had not realized — or had forgotten — how little influence the Arabs have in Washington and how their own long-running and still unfinished revolutions have sapped their energies and undermined their international influence. The awakening has been rude.

Patrick Seale is a commentator and author of several books on Middle East affairs.

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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

Senior Reporter
Mohammed bin Sallam

Editorial Staff

Amal Al-Yarisi
amal.mansoor12@gmail.com

Amira Nasser
amira.nasser2010@gmail.com

Bassam Al-Khamiri
bassam.Alkhameri@gmail.com

Khalid Al-Karimi
khalidmohamada@yahoo.com

CEO
Khair Aldin Al Nsour

Managing Editor Assistant
Sadeq Al-Wesabi
sadeqalwesabi@hotmail.com

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Offices

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
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Common Yemeni language becomes melting pot for regional dialects



Ali Mohammed (left), from Taiz, chats with Nassar Ali, from Ibb. The two men say it's easiest to speak in a common Yemeni dialect with each other, but Ali says he struggles to be understood sometimes. He moved to Sana'a two years ago and still uses a lot of 'village' language.



Although people can still distinguish where a person is from based on their clothing, the use of regional dialects is disappearing on the streets.

Story and photo by
Amira Nasser

Mohammed Mansoor was born in Aden and moved to Sana'a when he was two. Though he's now in his twenties, he still speaks like an Adeni, using regional slang from the South. But only in his home and with his

family. On the street—with work colleagues and friends—he tries to speak more like the people around him.

In rapidly urbanizing Sana'a—where Yemenis from distinct regions and cities live side by side—a common, more homogenous Yemeni Arabic has emerged.

Khalil Ba Matraf is from Hadramout. She learned quickly that when in Sana'a she has to change the way she speaks.

"Our Hadrami words are hard to understand. If I were to use my own dialect [in Sana'a], it wouldn't be easy," she said.

Regional dialects differ even within Yemen's many regions and over 20 governorates.

Matraf explains that in Hadramout some people will use a spattering of Swahili and Hindi words in their conversation, especially if their families' have roots in India or Africa.

"Even in Hadramout [we have to] use clear words to be understood," she explained. "There are a variety

of dialects in Hadramout, too."

Sana'anis, too, refrain from using their local slang, despite the fact that they live in their hometown.

"People laugh at me and don't reply if I use Sana'ani words," said Altaf Al-Haymi, a 22-year-old who was born and raised in the capital. "I have to use other vocabulary at work." For example, when speaking to coworkers she knows to not use to not say "bard," Sana'ani for "glass," or "dimah" which means "kitchen" in the Sana'ani.

A common language

Doctor Abdul-Salam Al-Gwrafi, from the Faculty of Languages in Sana'a University, said that there is a new common Yemeni dialect that has emerged in Yemen—and especially in Sana'a—over the past three or four decades.

In the '70s, Al-Gwrafi says, Yemenis would have had a much harder time understanding each other. Dialects were more distinct.

Doctor Mohammed Nayf, also from the Faculty of Languages

in Sana'a University, said that it's a natural process—people will always try to find the most succinct way to communicate.

In the capital, Nayf explains, local dialects may be perceived as provincial, or backwards. If they use the language of their hometown, some fear that they may appear unsophisticated, from

poor or rural backgrounds.

Whether regional dialect will be resilient enough to survive the country's urbanization remains to be seen.

Ibrahim Hadi comes from from Hajja but has been living in Sana'a for the past three years.

"No one will understand me if I [say] irba which means 'look,' so I

say 'shuf,'" Hadi says. "We wouldn't say [shuf] in my town. But [here] I have to."

Hadi say that he's embarrassed when he lets a word from the Hajja dialect slip into his daily conversation.

"I try my best to use the easy words, the words everybody uses," he says. "That's better for me."

KNOW YOUR DIALECT:

Talk like a Sana'ani:

فمقمي/Gomgomi/ a medium-sized can
حوي/Hawi/ a garden
جبا/Jobi/ a roof
غوزح/Gawzeh/ sit (imperative)
بردى/Bardag/ cup

Talk like a Hoiidedi:

زخمو/Zakhmo/ nice, beautiful
تعيد/Teheed/ to see
باهجه/bahga/ a hole

Talk like a Dhamari:

عكد/Aked/ sit (imperative)
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Dr. Yahya Al Thour has assured that all are partners in this success and encouraged everyone to put more effort in order to serve patients. At the end of the ceremony lunch was served in honor of this occasion.

Female dialogue conference delegates confront responsibility of representing rural women



Many hope that women's issues will be addressed at the ongoing National Dialogue Conference.

Ali Saeed

Women in Yemen comprise almost half of the country's estimated 25 million people, where two thirds of the population live in rural areas. Yemeni women in general still operate in a very traditional role throughout the country, but this role in rural areas can especially subject them to a lack of services.

Women say life can be very hard in the country's remote areas.

"There are no midwives in the villages. Most of the women are illiterate and those who enrolled in primary education drop out in the sixth or seventh grade," said Um Ezzaldin, a 27-year-old who grew up in Mahweet governorate.

The country has statistic after statistic provided by both the government and international community that reveal startling low numbers of services like access to health care for women in rural areas. By UNICEF's latest estimates, 91 percent of women do not receive proper prenatal and postnatal care.

With these figures in hand, many pin their hopes on the nation's current dialogue conference to offer solutions for the plight of rural women. However, with lofty goals

like restructuring the state and paving the way for national elections slated for February 2014, the conference's representatives have their work cut out for them and the question remains whether much attention will be given to issue taking the back burner like elevating the status of the country's rural female population.

"I hope that we would really do something for the women in rural areas," said Samira Zuhra, a member of the NDC who represents one of the 40 independents seats allotted to female representatives at the conference.

The overall conference has a 30 percent representation from women which was stipulated by the event's organizers. However, Zuhra says it will take women meeting on the side in "shorter" female sessions to present a united front regarding gender issues.

Lists for the NDC's nine working groups were announced earlier this week. In these isolated sessions participants will hash out solutions for their assigned topics. Within the Independent Bodies and Social Issues group, topics including rights for women, children and the disabled will be discussed, said Warda Qasra, an independent female representative from Hodeida.

According to initial lists that are

expected to change, 27 of the 80 representatives assigned to this group are women. But some are worried that these women, who are not all independent, may be more focused on representing their political parties rather than their gender.

"Women's issues in general have not presented on the table yet," said Qasra.

According to Qasra and other NDC participants very few representatives at the conference actually come from rural backgrounds. This gives females at the conference, the majority of whom are from urban centers, a huge responsibility to represent their rural counterparts, said Ahmed Al-Juhaifi, a man from a rural village in Ibb.

"Female participants at the conference have to lobby the government's service institutions to do their jobs," he said.

Zuhra says, "The best solution which will meet grievances of rural women is to have a state of law."

This sentiment is shared by many others. They argue women all over the country will be helped provided the NDC ends with its original goal of establishing a future Yemeni state.

Yemen must first create for itself a sound mechanism for making decisions, Al-Juhaifi said. After that, women's rights will fall into place.



Two thirds of Yemens population live in rural areas, where few women have access to government services.

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		2		3	8
5	7		6		2
7			9	2	6
	6		1	8	3
	5	2		4	9
2			5		7
1		7		8	6
		5	7	6	1

Intermediate

5		6			4
1			7		2
	9		8	3	
		9		6	
	3			8	
4		5			
	7	2	1		
6		3			9
8			4		2

Difficult

		6	7	2		5	
3	8			4			
		5					
	9		1				
5		8			4		1
			2		3		
		3				2	7
	1			7	9	6	

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White plays and wins in the 4th move

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Sudoku

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