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Two years after uprising, Change Square protestors evacuated as tents come down

Story and photo by Rammah Al-Jubari

SANAA, April 21 — A day after the Organizing Committee of the Youth Revolution (OCYR) announced a suspension of its protests in Sana'a's Change Square—where thousands of protestors gathered in 2011 in opposition to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh—about 30 tents remain, out of hundreds that once covered the square.

On Saturday, former protestors carrying their tents and the belongings they had accumulated over their two-year stay, voluntarily left at the request of OCYR, the group that officially organized the square's protests.

OCYR says they have conducted 113 Friday prayers on Al-Siteen Road, located near the square, since the revolution began on February 11, 2011 but this Friday the group expects the street to be empty.

A member of the OCYR, Habib Al-Ariqi, said the committee asked for everyone to leave following the realization of several revolutionary goals, including President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi's recent military restructure.

However, spokespersons for the OCYR said the group is ready to return at any point if they see the country slide "backwards."

However, not all protestors share the OCYR's view. Square inhabitants who identified themselves as Houthis youth and independents have refused to leave.

The spokesperson for Houthis still in the square, Khaled Al-Madani, said he will remain because nothing has changed since the time of the former regime.

The Houthis, a group of Zaidi Shites, have current political representation at the National Dialogue Conference.



Thousands of protestors gathered here in 2011. Now, about 30 tents are scattered throughout the square.

Tents have gradually disappeared from Change Square since the signing of the Gulf Initiative in November 2011, in which former President Saleh signed away his presidential power.

Local residents and shop owners, who say they have sustained financial losses due to protestors inhabiting the area, praised the revolutionaries' departure.

"[There is] no use to remain in the square but to annoy resident and provide a place for unemployed people to chew qat," said Salah Al-Awadi, a shop owner near Change Square.

In February of this year, the Military Committee ordered the evacuation of both Change Square and Tahrir Square, but they were un-

successful in convincing the OCYR to move on.

In Tahrir Square, the area that

pro-government protestors occupied during the revolution, tents remain.

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مقابلة حصرية EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Mohammed Al-Zubairi, the rotating head of the JMP to the Yemen Times
"Every revolution should end in a dialogue."

الرئيس الدوري لـ "المشترك" في لقاء مع يمن تايمز الحوار لم يهين له وسيواجه مصاعب كثيرة
نص المقابلة في صفحة ٩

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Rada'a residents praise withdrawal of troops from First Mountain Infantry Brigade

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

RADA'A, April 21 — After a three-month stay in the area, 700 soldiers affiliated with the First Mountain Infantry Brigade, a branch of the Republican Guards, evacuated their barracks in the Rada'a district on Thursday. This comes following the recommendations of a fact-finding committee assigned by the Defense Ministry to investigate acts of violence that broke out between soldiers and residents in the district earlier this month.

"Now we are very happy and living peacefully because they have left the area," said Sheikh Jar'on Mohammed Jar'on of Qaifa area in Rada'a.

The fact-finding committee determined the soldiers had been creating problems for residents through blackmail and setting up unofficial checkpoints, Hamood Al-Ammari, Rada'a's Security Chief and a member of the fact-finding committee, told the Yemen Times.

Tensions between residents and



Clashes earlier this month between state forces and locals left seven dead.

the Brigade cumulated in a deadly clash at the beginning of the month that left four soldiers and three residents dead when gunfire was exchanged.

"We, the sheikhs of the area, met after the clashes and demanded the Defense Ministry remove the soldiers," said Jar'on.

The soldiers have returned to their former headquarters in the Dola'a Hamdan area of Sana'a and will be deployed to the Dhamar Military Camp, Al-Ammari said.

The First Mountain Infantry Brigade began a military campaign in late January to drive out suspected Al-Qaeda affiliates in the area. The government-backed strikes included aerial raids that killed hundreds of civilians and displaced countless others.

There are still 1,500 military soldiers in the area and 1,000 security personnel, said Colonel Mansur Al-Bahal, director of investigations department in Rada'a.

GPC and the JMP bicker over candidates' list for anti-corruption authority

Mohammed Al-Hasani

SANAA, April 21 — New disagreements between the General People's Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMPs) regarding the list of the candidates who are going to fill the vacant positions for the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (SNACC) have emerged. The list of potential candidates was presented to Parliament on Saturday.

SNACC is a national authority that is government-funded but does not operate under any ministry. It has legal power to combat corruption and investigate

individuals accused of corruption. The JMPs has rejected the final list that includes 30 candidates, a majority of whom are affiliated with the GPC.

"We wanted the candidates to be selected in a reconciliatory manner so the elected authority will be accepted and respected by all parties," said Mohammed Al-Mansur, the JMP spokesperson.

"The SNACC mustn't be biased for one party," he added. The 11 members of the authority can only serve one five-year term. Civil society organizations, the private sector and women must all be represented.

All candidates must be Yemeni

citizens, have a university degree and have never received any accusations of corruption against them, qualifications that members of the GPC in Parliament say the candidates all meet.

The 30 names that have been put forward will go to Parliament for a vote.

While Parliamentarians bicker about the list of candidates, citizens are not convinced that the SNACC actually does its job.

"The authority has found out several corruption cases in government institutions but no official was held responsible so far," said Anwar Al-Tag, a human rights activist.

Concerns over dialogue surface as leading representative suspends participation

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANAA, April 21 — Sheikh Ahmed Bin Fared Al-Suraima, the deputy president of the NDC and the head of the Southern Issue Working Group has announced his temporary withdrawal from the National Dialogue Conference (NDC).

Al-Suraima, dissatisfied with the course of the conference, also urged fellow members of the Southern Separatist Movement, or Hirak to join him in his withdrawal, particularly seven members from Shabwah, an eastern governorate where the sheikh has ancestral roots.

However, it appears that Al-Suraima is on his own.

Aidrous Hukais, a member of the Supreme Committee of the Southern Movement, said Al-Suraima's withdrawal is his personal decision. It does not reflect the position of other Hirak members, Hukais said.

In a message sent to President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi on Friday, Al-Suraima outlined 12

stipulations that must be met before he rejoins the conference.

His demands include the recognition of the South as a sovereign country and the release of political prisoners from Hirak. Al-Suraima also denounced the use of force by the military to put down peaceful protests held in the South.

Al-Suraima took issue with the military restructuring that was recently announced by President Hadi. As per Hadi's decree, the country's military is to be divided into seven sections. Al-Suraima sees this move as dangerous and fears it could lead to further fracturing of the already unstable country.

Al-Suraima wrote he would rejoin the conference if the military restructuring came to a halt.

In his letter to President Hadi, Al-Suraima also called to question the validity of Yemen's reunification accord, signed in 1990 between the North and the South.

The Civil War of 1994—in which Aden was occupied by Northern forces—rendered this agreement

between the two regions invalid, Al-Suraima wrote.

President Hadi sent a delegation headed by Mohammed Ali Al-Shadadi, of Hirak and from Shabwa, to Muscat to meet with Al-Suraima and persuade him to retract his withdrawal.

Al-Suraima wouldn't budge.

The demands Al-Suraima outlined are not new but are drawn from similar points the Preparatory Committee of the NDC created prior to the conference.

Al-Suraima is one of the leading Hirak members at the NDC. Out of the 565 seats in the conference, Hirak has 85.

Fathi Bin Lazraq, a political analyst and editor-in-chief of Aden Alghad, a news website, said the NDC does not have the executive power to halt the military restructuring or meet any of the other demands put forward by Al-Suraima.

Besides, Lazraq said, the Yemeni people have welcomed the restructuring of the army.

Al-Suraima's demands are "impossible," Lazraq added.

Scientific researchers ask for funding

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANAA, April 21 — The Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministry on Saturday asked the Finance Ministry to approve a budget they have created for a specific scientific research fund to start next year.

In an effort to increase the amount of research taking place in Yemen, Dr. Thekra Mutahr, the director of the Scientific Research Department at the ministry, which was created at the end of last year, said they have requested \$140 million a year.

Funding for scientific research is limited in Yemen. Currently, a President's Prize of \$42,000 is

provided each year in several fields from the government. State-run universities have small budgets—typically around 10 percent of the universities income from student fees—to support professors conducting research, but Mutahr says it is not enough.

International organizations like the World Health Organization also provide a small amount of money for research geared towards medicine.

Khadeja Al-Sayaghi, the Deputy Chancellor of Scientific Research Affairs at Taiz University, is excited about the idea of having more government funding dedicated to research.

At Taiz University, Al-Sayaghi

says those interested in conducting research must fund their own, which discourages many.

Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Yusif is a professor at Taiz University and is conducting a study on the use of technology in the teaching process. He is paying for it out of his own pocket and has already spent close to \$500.

"The University and the Higher Education Ministry don't provide even a single riyal for us, consequently, my research has been delayed," he said.

Mutahr says it is impossible to track how much independent research is currently going on. She hopes once the budget is approved this will change.

NDC Update

- Conference working groups have been given until May 22 to complete their midterm plans. The second general assembly will begin on June 8 and last for one month. In this midterm session, the working groups will present their reports to the General Assembly for their approval.
- The Consensus Committee will be announced by the end of the week.
- As the conference does not have an executive authority, recommendations from working groups regarding measures to be taken against individuals accused of corruption will be forwarded to the current government.
- The Presidium will meet with the Order and Standards Committee by the end of the week to decide how to deal with habitually absent or uncommitted members of the conference.
- The Consensus Committee has the responsibility of creating the Constitution Committee and will do this after the second General Assembly meeting.



YEMEN TIMES Radio



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After Successful conduct of YCL edition-II, Yemen Cricket League edition-III inaugurated on 12th of April 2013, at Al-Zorafi Sports Stadium under supervision of Yemen Cricket Association (YCA). The tournament will be Played on league basis. Seven (7) Teams from all over Yemen are participating in

this tournament. Number diplomats, Ambassadors attended the opening ceremony and enjoyed the opening matches. The chief guest, His Excellency! Dr. Irfan Yusuf Shami, Ambassador of Islamic Republic Pakistan in Yemen, appreciated the participation of all teams and said that such tournaments will give the opportunity

to enhance the talent of local youth. In the end Chief Organizers thanked all guests, sponsors, teams, and the members of organizing committee for extending their utmost cooperation and support, which really made this tournament a real success. It was announced that YCL-IV will be played during the months of Nov-Dec 2013.

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Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sub-Sector
Project Management Unite (PMU)

Grant No.: H449-RY

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

Assignment Title:
Review and Update of Detail Deigns & Preparation of Final Tender Documents, and Construction Supervision for Al-Qaida Wastewater Network and Treatment Plant.

Reference No.: QADCS-1AB

This request for expression of interest follows the General procurement Notice for this project that appeared in UNDB online on [insert date].

The Republic of Yemen has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Water Sector Support Project - Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sub-Sector, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include Review and Update of Detail Designs & Preparation of Final Tender Documents, and Construction Supervision for Al-Qaida Wastewater Network and Treatment Plant (The estimated assignment period is 18 months and expected to be started in July 2013).

The Project Management Unit of Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sub-Sector, the Ministry of Water and Environment now invite eligible consultants firm to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified and have the relevant qualifications and experience to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

The shortlisting criteria are as follows:

- To have a successful experience as a consulting firm in engineering design and supervision for at least 10 years.
- To have a successful experience as a consulting firm over the last five years in the execution of at least two assignments in similar nature and size.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers* (May 2004 and revised in October 2006).

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours between 9:00 am and 14:30 pm (Yemen Local Time).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below not later than May 25, 2013

The EOI is preferred to be delivered in one original and two hard copies in addition to one soft copy

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Yemeni merchants cash in on Turkish movie stars' fame to sell products

Story and photos by Ryam Al-Qadi

Though the Turkish actor Murad Almdar is more famous for his role as gun-wielding action star in the series "Valley of the Wolves," on the streets of Sana'a - even though he doesn't know it - he also advertises perfume and socks.

Turkish movie stars like Almdar are very popular here. Their faces adorn labels in shopping centers and in markets and are pasted on perfume bottles, cosmetics and clothes.

But all of this advertising is done without their permission.

"Recently, people have begun following Turkish TV series," Amar Al-Kaboudi, a clothes trader, said. "And, there's nothing that stops us from promoting our products using names and photos of those Turkish stars."

Turkish dramas first hit the Arab world in 2008, the American magazine Newsweek reported when Saudi business mogul Sheik Waleed Al-Ibrahim, who owns the



Merchants say the faces of famed Turks move inventory quickly.

Pan-Arab Middle East Broadcasting Center, bought the rights to a number of Turkish dramas, dubbed them into Syrian Arabic, and aired them all across the Arab world.

Audiences fell in love.

In a 2011 report, the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation surveyed 16 Arab countries

and found 75 percent of those surveyed said they had watched Turkish TV before, the National, a leading UAE newspaper, reported.

Ahlam Al-Rubaei, a young woman from Sana'a, said these Turkish celebrities are so popular Yemenis now want to imitate their styles. So, they'll buy anything that bears

their name or face.

But are customers being deceived? Dr. Sa'ad Al-Deen Bin Talib, the minister of Trade and Industry thinks so.

"This is commercial cheating," Talib told the Yemen Times. These products likely come from China, and have nothing to do with those Turkish actors who appear to be endorsing them, he said. "But the ministry is not directly responsible [for monitoring this]."

Business is business, one merchant says, they'll do whatever they need to move their products.

"The socks are popular," Salah Al-Muthna, a local merchant, said. "Children's clothes, too, we name them after famous Turkish actors and bring them to the market."

Eman Ahmed, who lives in Sana'a, doesn't think it's strange to see the faces of famous movie stars on clothes labels, even if the celebrities' have nothing to do with the products.

"I think it's normal. At the end of the day, I buy the clothes that fit me."

Sahar Al-Faqeh, also from the capital, says the pictures of the ac-



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tors might catch her eye at first, but if the product is of a cheap quality, she won't buy it.

Tyseer Al-Marwani, a local in Sana'a, said merchants take advantage of these celebrities popularity to attract customers.

"It a matter of capitalizing on people's ignorance," he said.

Hani Abdu Al-Kareem, from where? said that if anyone thinks that these products are actually endorsed by the Turkish movie stars, they're foolish.

"This generation lacks genuine education, culture and awareness,"

he said.

"Such an industry cannot succeed in an educated society."

But some Yemenis object to the products for another reason, not because of their false advertising. Al-Marwani questions why Yemenis are enamored with these Turkish film stars in the first place.

"I don't think these products suit us," Al-Marwani said. "[We are] Arabs and Muslims. We don't need to follow the example of these actors.

"We have our own personalities."

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جميع موظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز

Sugar rush: Yemeni sweets, still made the traditional way

Story and photos by **Amal Al-Yarisi**

It is not Ramadan or Eid —when sweets become a staple in Yemenis' diet to break the ritual fasting that accompanies the holy holiday month and its celebration afterwards—but at the well-known Glaise shop for sweets in the Bab Al-Subbah area near Al Tahrir Square in the heart of Sana'a, people still wander in to either gawk at or sample the baklava, rawani, qataf or shoubia treats on display in the shop's window.

All of these are traditional multi-colored Yemeni sugar and honey creations sold in sweet shops scattered throughout the city. Characterized by their simple ingredients but unique flavors ranging from nutty to syrupy there isn't a shortage on variety. But while to the untrained eye it may appear all sweets are created equal, loyal customers and shop owners say the industry is guided by family-owned businesses who are passing down the secrets of the industry to the

next generation

"I inherited this shop from my father," said Rabai Ahmad Glaise, the current owner of the Glaise shop.

Rabai speaks with pride as he demonstrates how he glazes cakes with shera, a sweet almost honey-like liquid made of sugar and water that usually accompany all traditional Yemeni sweets. He explains how he feels a need to carry on his father's legacy through his business.

"It has a lot of meaning [for me]. I will pass it to my children," he said.

Next to Glaise's shop is a kitchen where he employs about ten helpers who spend their days preparing the delights that historians say are originally from Turkey. It is believed that during the time of the Ottoman Empire—when Yemen's lands were under its control—Turkish foods, including deserts, permeated the area and became a part of local food culture.

For Glaise and regulars like Wafa Saleh, it is important to preserve Yemen's unique style of sweets that typically contain just a few ingredients, like flour, sugar, eggs

and nuts.

"I love buying sweets with that authentic Yemeni taste," Saleh said. At another sweets shop in Bab Al Subbah, the art of crafting Yemeni sweets is a family affair.

Seham Al Hajj, the wife of popular sweets vendor, believes that making sweets is a simple process—but also an art.

She helps her husband come up with new creations and designs to attract those with a sweet tooth.

Although Yemeni shop owners believe their trade has staying power, in recent years a few say their sales have dropped because of the availability of imported sweets.

"Right now [some] popular desserts aren't as popular as they were before. This is because of the types of imported sweets from abroad," said Abdul Aziz Yahya Elshabani, a shop owner who inherited his business from his father 14 years ago.

All along Hadda street, a main thoroughfare in Sana'a, and in other suburbs, shops specializing in Iraqi and Syrian sweets have opened.

Popular international dishes



Most sweet shops in Sana'a are family-owned and recipes are handed down from generation to generation.



Though made out of simple ingredients, shop owners guard their trade secrets.



No wonder they're so popular. Almost all of the traditional desserts are lathered in sweet, sugary syrup.

include kunafah, a dessert with roots all across the Arab world. Kunafah exists in a variety of forms, but is typically a soft cake with cheese in the middle, soaked in sweet syrup.

"Unlike our grandfathers who preferred to stick to traditions throughout their lives, this generation prefers new things," said local Najat Shuhaitr.

Hosam Orabi works in a shop that sells Syrian desserts. He started to notice an influx in foreign sweets in the 90s. He believes this was due to Yemeni expats going to neighboring countries in search of work and coming back with new culinary influences.

Orabi says his employer is Yemeni, but after living in Syria for a number of years, wanted to bring new flavors

back with him.

Despite pressures put on him to start selling more international treats, Elshabani remains as passionate about his local trade as ever. He says there is something special about Yemeni treats.

"A person always returns to the customs and traditions that have with them for years," he said.

Glaise agrees. "It is true joy to be earning money and [knowing that] there are people who are still holding on to their traditions. We do not have to compromise," he said.

When asked what makes his sweets so tasty, Glaise rattled off a few ingredients and then stopped himself.

"The rest is a trade secret."



REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

CSSW

Charitable Society for Social Welfare

The EASE program focuses on providing humanitarian assistance to displaced people, returnees and host communities in the southern governorates of Abyan, and Aden, carried out in cooperation between the Charitable Society for Social Welfare and CHF International. Program aims to meet the emergency needs of IDPs and populations affected by conflict and control and increasing levels of malnutrition through a holistic approach consisting of water, sanitation and hygiene and living conditions, and to provide non-food items.

As part of the above objective, CSSW is intending to publish two RFQs :

- **Hygiene Kit Items (EASE – RFQ – 002)**
- **Water Purification Kit Items (EASE – RFQ – 003)**

Vendors who are interested in the program are invited to submit the program documents and applications from the program management during a period not exceeding seven days from the date of the announcement of RFQ, in the official working hours at the following address:

**Baghdad street, behind the head of election committee, Sana'a
Tel:(01/464 398) or (771 888 940) .**

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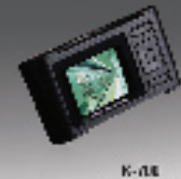
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From morning to night, locals in Al-Khafji neighborhood live with 'unbearable' sewage

Story and photos by
Amal Al-Yarisi

Entering Al-Khafji neighborhood in Sana'a, you have to be careful where you step. There are pools of sewage in the street. And you might want to cover your nose—the air stinks.

This area, in the southern end of the city, is lacking basic sanitary infrastructure. Human waste lays open in the street. On top of that, the roads are not paved and the electricity lines are strung haphazardly between homes.

All of this takes its toll on Noman Mohammad, who lives here, and anyone else who calls Al-Khafji home.

Every morning before sunrise, Mohammed wakes up to the sound of the adhan, the Islamic call to prayer. The first thing he does is wash his hands and feet to ritually cleanse himself so he can pray. Then

he sets out for the neighborhood mosque, not far from where he lives.

But, he says, he has to be very careful on the dim, wet streets.

"At dawn, it's difficult to see," he says. "I'm afraid of slipping in the road and falling in the sewage."

As Mohammed is on his way to pray, it's especially important for him to stay clean. "There's no way to guarantee that my clothes will stay pure."

Taha Abdulla is a taxi driver who lives in Al-Khafji. For him, the pools of standing water and sewage present an occupational hazard. He has to navigate his taxi carefully through the streets, circumventing the pools of rank water. He doesn't want his wheels to get stuck in the rutted, uneven roads.

"I sometimes have to go the long way around, through different neighborhoods, to avoid the sewage-filled roads," Abdulla says.

We live a real tragedy

Hussein Al-Sifiani, another local, says that his children often have fevers and diarrhea, particularly during the rainy season. He thinks that the poor sanitation is directly responsible for their sickness. When the streets flood, Al-Sifiani says, mosquitoes also breed in the standing puddles.

Whenever Al-Sifiani leaves his house, he covers his face with a scarf. The smell is overpowering, he says.

"We have been suffering from this sewage problem for over 20 years. We are fed up with empty promises from the local council," he said.

Abdulraqueeb Ata, the manager of the Public Works Office Sana'a, said they are very close to carrying out a number of service projects in Al-Khafji neighborhood, in large part thanks to funding provided by the World Bank.

"We will introduce sanitation projects, like paving the streets and installing streetlamps for this



Hadeel and other children like her say they wouldn't dare play on the streets in their neighborhood.



Drivers prefer to take longer routes to get where they are going in an effort to avoid driving through sewage.



The accumulated trash in the area attracts stray dogs who are known to carry diseases.

neighborhood," he says. "We will turn it into a modern area."

However, Ata says—even with this foreign aid—their budget is very limited. Ata could not specify when the projects would begin.

Another problem in Al-Khafji neighborhood is the accumulation of trash in the streets.

Piles of garbage draw packs of dogs, Musleh Al-Ba'dani, a local in the area, says. Al-Ba'dani said he

worries that his son, Shihab, will be attacked by these dogs, which might carry diseases.

Shihab was chased by stray dogs recently. He got away, but slipped into a pool of sewage.

"Our children are exposed to diseases. The sewage makes us sick. The dogs frighten us. We just want a solution for the sewage problem in this neighborhood," Al-Ba'dani said.

"I wish we had a clean street."

Where is the government?

Al-Khafji is near the center of Sana'a. But outlying neighborhoods—like Al-Jarda, Al-Huthaily and Al-Qaidi—have better access to government services, locals claim.

Hadeel Ahmed is five-year-old neighborhood child.

"I wish I could play on the street without fear of dogs," she said. "I wish we had a clean street."

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Title: **Monitoring and Evaluation 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 and is looking for a candidate with M&E and management capabilities to fill this position as soon as possible.

Duties and Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- 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. Response will only be made to shortlisted candidates. The deadline for receiving applications is extended to April 30th, 2013 by 5 pm.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (Re-issuance)

For Selection of Consultant firm / Integrator to provide support for the implementation of the Climate Information and Pilot Program for Climate Resilience Coordination Project

Republic of Yemen
Pilot Program for Climate Resilience
CONSULTING SERVICES
Grant No.TF097544
Project ID No. P122687

Expressions of interest (Re-issuance)

This request for expression of interest follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this project that appeared in dgMarket on 10 November 2010.

The Environment Protection Authority, Republic of Yemen expects to receive financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Information and Pilot Program for Climate Resilience Coordination Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services. The services will include two phases.

1. The Consultant firm will analyze meteorological and hydrological networks and related services of the Civil Aviation and Meteorological Authority / Yemen Meteorological Service (CAMA/YMS), the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI), and the National Water Resources Authority (Nwra). This analysis will be based on existing project documents as well as the consultant's own assessment of the existing infrastructure at these agencies. Based on this analysis, the consultant will prepare detailed technical Project Implementation Plan. This is required to support the integrated modernization of the weather, climate and hydrological networks, forecasting and warning, telecommunication and service delivery systems, including weather radar, upper air and marine stations, a national climate service and a national early warning system. The expected duration is six months.
2. The Consultant firm will provide technical support to CAMA/YMS, EPA, MAI and Nwra for the implementation of the project. This will include specification, procurement and implementation support, monitoring the execution of the Project Implementation Plan, and assisting in improving project performance. The expected duration is in the range of thirty-six (36) months with the option of extension in terms of timing.

The Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) within the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of the Republic of Yemen now invites eligible Consultant firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultant firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).

A Consultant firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers* (Revised Jan. 2011).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during working days Saturday – Wednesday from 0900 to 1500 hours.

The Expression of interest (EOI) has been reissued. Firms who have already sent their EOI do not have to resend, but if they wish to provide any update that may be sent. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the following address, by May 15, 2013

PPCR, Program Coordination Unit (PCU)
Attention Mr Anwar Abdulaziz Noaman
Behind Commercial Bank
Beirut Street
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen
Telephone: +967 1 422 563, 422 564
Facsimile: +967 1 412 431
Email: ppcr@yemen.net.ye

ADVERTORIAL

Monitoring & Evaluation in Development Training



A training workshop in "Monitoring & Evaluation in Development" has been organized by last week at Albustan Hotel in Sana'a. The training aimed at building the capacity of development professionals in Yemen in order to efficiently integrate solid monitoring systems and mechanisms into the development projects in their areas of work. The participants came from different organizations and sectors including IOM, NDI, Yemen Times, ACTED, and Ministry of Health.

DIPHERENT TRAINING managed to bring recognized and experienced International M&E specialists from the U.K to facilitate the group training on best practices of managing and running M&E systems in development projects. DIPHERENT TRAINING, <http://training.dipherent.com/>, is a local training provider which aims to build the capacity of local talent by delivering highly valuable and relevant training in new and effective formats.

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Mohammed Al-Zubairi, the rotating head of the JMP to the Yemen Times

“Every revolution should end in a dialogue.”

Following a hiatus of his initial announcement in December to restructure the military, President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi followed through with his decision to remove key figures from leadership positions this month. While some have criticized the immunity many former leaders received, including former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's son, Ahmed—who was removed from his position as commander of the Republican Guards and appointed ambassador to the United Arab Emirates—others have called the change a revolutionary victory. Political parties, including the Joint Meetings Parties (JMP) have openly supported the restructuring. In an interview with the Yemen Times, Mohammed Al-Zubairi, the rotating head of the JMP, defends his party's position and speaks about hurdles still inhibiting progress at the country's National Dialogue Conference which began March 18.

Interview by Mohammed Al-Hasani

The latest [military] decisions made by President Hadi were not issued all of a sudden, [but were rather reported as] the outcome of a series of negotiations. What do you think of the [military restructuring] and did you, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), have any input?

We asked for these [presidential] decrees a year ago. The JMP made sure these decrees were part of the 20 Points. Only one of these points has been achieved, namely the [restructuring of the military]. The JMP welcomed these decrees as a step in the right direction because they laid the foundation for the National Dialogue Conference (NDC). It is a good start, and we hope other decrees will follow.

How did you contribute to these decrees? Did you, for example, suggest particular names for [positions]?

No, our contribution was in a sense

of army restructuring. We did not put forth particular names. If we named certain individuals, it could have caused rifts. The president set up a committee and other countries helped to reorganize the army. The country has been divided into seven military regions. The army restructuring was a result of a study prepared by a Yemeni team in co-operation with American and Jordanian teams.

But many newspapers reported General Ali Mohsen [Al-Ahmar], former commander of north-western region, suggested several names [to be appointed for the new structure]. Is it true the JMP negotiated with the president in terms of this?

As a matter of fact, we negotiated. We wanted the 20 Points to be implemented as well as the army restructuring. But, in fact, we had no role in naming candidates. Ali Mohsen played a part, but these de-

isions [had other contributions]. Even leading military figures who sided with the revolution were appointed to ordinary positions. Therefore, I believe the decisions were judicious and unbiased.

Do you think the decrees will bring an end to military divisions?

I think it is a step in the right direction. The decrees changed leadership positions, but this change has not been completely implemented [so far]. We in the JMP believe the restructuring is a long-term process because it includes changing the goals of the army, its message, strategy and mission. This requires one to two years. We are aiming for united military leadership so that negative consequences [of fractured leadership] will not affect the NDC. We see what is happening in the NDC. That is to say, [some use their] weight in the military, or with weapons and money [to get what they want.] This has impacted the NDC. Some people have threatened to withdraw if their voices are not heard. These decrees have defused the situation, and placed the first step of complete restructure of the army. We want an army to defend and protect the country, not to be stationed in cities.

Do you support appointing figures [to military leadership positions] even if they are loyal to former President Saleh?

[We are in the middle of] a political reconciliation. Political reconciliation means a compromise for all parties. Right now this is happening on the ground. The former regime has shared these positions



Unlike some parties, the JMP has not advocated for the evacuation of public squares used as gathering-points during the revolution.

[and we must compromise with them]. When the revolution broke out, some committed crimes. We [should] not be held responsible for this. The law should hold [perpetrators] accountable. Right now, the NDC is discussing the transitional justice law, meaning those who committed past crimes will be held accountable. As long as there is a transitional justice law [governing] the NDC, it will serve this nation and the revolution. The transitional justice law is a necessary pillar and will [be useful across the board].

Some say by appointing [military] figures loyal to the former regime, the principles of the popular revolution are violated. What is your opinion? Do you have dual interests—being a part of the revolution and also being in a position of power?

Every revolution has two sides. The first is the popular revolution side and the second is the political side. Every revolution should end in a dialogue. The revolution and politics are lines that [affect each other]. If politics reach a deadlock, revolutionary actions continue and vice versa. We would not have been able to enter a dialogue if we didn't have revolutionary support. If the dialogue falls apart, revolutionary efforts will end. Hence, the two are inseparable. There is a peaceful power transfer deal that requires the revolutionaries to be patient. The revolutionary process is not similar to the political one because the latter entails negotiations, dialogue and resilience. When we were negotiating in the Technical Committee, there were [NDC participant] names recommended that we had formerly protested against because they committed crimes against the revolutionary youth. But the committee decided there was no proof. So we need to give a space to judiciary powers in order to take its role and hold the perpetrators accountable.

One month has passed since the start of the NDC. What are the achievements of the NDC so far?

This month, representatives have unloaded their energy. They have expressed their projects and visions. Energies should be high, so working committees can highlight major issues.

With regard to the Southern Movement, what is communication like with its leading figures abroad? Is the situation appropriate for their involvement?

The conference has said Southern Movement members can join any time. We hope this faction will join the conference because they will have a huge impact on the conference. I think once an agreement is reached and all representatives are present, the outcomes of the NDC will be good.

Let's go back to the youth-led revolution. What did the JMP think of it?

Since we signed the Gulf Initiative, the former regime has raised the issue of evacuating the squares [during the revolution]. But we don't want that. We left them open and free to move. Without a doubt, the revolution has lost some of its momentum because it was not endowed with vital immediate decision-making authority that could help the process. However, the wheels of change still revolve, even if things are going slowly. The revolution caused an intellectual shift in the Yemeni people that will not be easily gotten rid of. The revolution propels us today to continue the dialogue and will encourage President Hadi to make further decisions. The revolution still exists and will realize its goals when the NDC is over. A civil state will be declared that fulfils the ambitions of all Yemeni youth. If [things go wrong], a new revolution will erupt just like what happened in other Arab countries.

Given that JMP head the reconciliation government, they have been accused of neglecting those young people injured during the revolution. How do respond to this accusation?

First, the issue of the injured revolutionaries is a humanitarian one. They sacrificed themselves for the sake of the nation. [We] don't want the issue of the injured to be a source of political division. The issue of the injured is a national one. The government ought to treat all the wounded and compensate the families of the martyrs.

What has the reconciliation government achieved since it was formed?

Honestly speaking, we aren't satisfied with its performance because it is composed of two parts. The prime minister endeavors to make these two parts take a united stand. Among the tasks of the reconciliation government stipulated in the Gulf Initiative is that the government is responsible for the peaceful transfer of power, as well as other services. Unfortunately, the government has not introduced any programs for development. The [Gulf Initiative] also included a point about the good governance, which means removing corrupt officials from their government positions. However, the government has not been able to do this. The reconciliation government is supposed to work together, not to split into two. One leads the change, and the second goes against. It's for this reason that the government has not performed as well as it should.

Is this a good enough reason for those Yemenis who are still waiting for basic things, like electricity and living?

No, but there will be developmental progress after the elections. Currently, citizens don't feel the existence of the government because there are no tangible changes. So, the mission of the reconciliation government was political, not developmental. The citizens should know this.

How does the JMP deal with their ideological differences?

What is positive in the JMP is that the ideologies have dissolved inside their coalition because they have a national project, which is building the modern, civil state. Outside of this project, we can criticize one another, but not during the official meetings.

How do you envision the future of the JMP?

We have been working on a new strategy for six months. Our previous project sought dialogue, revolution, change and reforms. Today we have made it.

You entered the NDC as [separate] parties, not as one coalition. Is this correct?

Yes, because the mission of the coalition is done. Now, the new challenge is how to hold elections, how to build a civil state, and how to politically advance. During the last meeting of the JMP, we assigned a committee to prepare a schedule to implement [these goals]. Through this vision, a change to unite future visions in Yemen may take place.

Will the coalition continue even after the coming elections?

We, in the JMP, agreed to have an electoral session in order to make certain the elections go smoothly. After this electoral session, perhaps some will leave the coalition. Or we may establish a new, advanced coalition.

With regard to the elections, do you think there is still time to hold elections even though there are many obstacles?

We are keen to hold elections on time because if the elections are not held on time, many problems will arise. We met with the Supreme Commission of Elections and Referendum and approved of the [proposed] electronic register. Also, we called for a retina scan to be added and asserted the importance of restructuring the election commission in order to prevent rigging.

Finally, do you think Yemen will succeed and be able to move past its transitional phase?

I hope the NDC comes to an end peacefully. If it ends in peace, that means we have [survived].

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الرئيس الدوري لـ "المشترك" في لقاء مع يمن تايمز

الحوار لم يهين له وسيواجه مصاعب كثيرة

حاوره / محمد الحسني

بعد طول انتظار أصدر الرئيس عبد ربه منصور هادي قرارات عسكرية اعتبرتها خطوة كبيرة في سبيل هيكلية الجيش وإنهاء انقسامه ، وهناك من اعتبرها انتصاراً للثورة الشبابية .. تداعيات القرارات الرئاسية الأخيرة ومستجدات المشهد السياسي من وجهة نظر اللقاء المشترك .. موضوع هذا الحوار الذي استضيف فيه الأستاذ محمد الزبيري الرئيس الدوري لأحزاب اللقاء المشترك عن حزب البعث تحدث فيه عن معوقات مؤتمر الحوار ومستقبل المشترك ككتل وغيرها من القضايا .. فإلى الحوار ..



محمد الزبيري

بداية أستاذ محمد قائمة القرارات الأخيرة التي أصدرها رئيس الجمهورية لا شك أنك تعرفون أنها لم تكن محطمة مفاجأة وإنما كانت نتاج مفاوضات .. كيف تنظرون أنتم في اللقاء المشترك لذلك و هل أسهمت في صناعة هذه القرارات ؟ نحن منذ عام طالبنا بهذه القرارات وسميناها في المشترك بالعشرين النقطة. وقد سلمناها للأخ رئيس الجمهورية برسالة رسمية. ولم يرى منها النور إلا نقطة واحدة هي هذه القرارات ، وهي قرارات تعتبرها في الطريق الصحيح ، لأنها تهين للحوار الوطني .. الذي نشعر أن التخندق داخله كان ما يزال قائماً .. وعلى كل حال المشترك كان له بصمات فيها وهي بادئة طيبة ونأمل أن تتبعها قرارات أخرى.

ما هي طبيعة مشاركتكم في صناعة هذه القرارات ؟ هل كانت باقتراح أسماء معينة مثلاً أم ماذا؟

لا .. نحن طرحنا إعادة هيكلة الجيش كقنطة عامة دون أن نحدد أسماء ، لأنه لو حددنا أسماء نكون قد ذهبنا إلى مساحة تخندق الطرف الآخر ، لذلك لم نكن طرفاً في إعادة الهيكلة بل كنا رافضين طرح أسماء .. رئيس الجمهورية هو الذي شكل لجان متخصصة واستعان بدول لإعادة الهيكلة وطرحته هذه الدول كيف تكون اليمن ، وكانت القرارات ناتجة من صلب إعادة هذه الهيكلة ونتائج الدراسة التي أعدها الفريق اليمني بمعية الفريقين الأردني والأمريكي ، وبالتالي لم تتدخل في أسماء الشخصيات التي تم تعيينها.

لكن كثيراً من الصحف تحدثت أن اللواء الركن علي محسن قائد المنطقة الشمالية الغربية سابقاً هو من اقترح العديد من الأسماء، أيضاً أنتم في المشترك تفاوضتم

ربما يقول البعض إن تعيين رموز النظام السابق تتنافى مع مطالب الثورة الشبابية التي قضت بأن يحاكم كل من تورط في قتل الشباب، كيف تنظرون إلى ذلك ؟ وهل ما زلتكم تلعبون بدورين كمشرك في الثورة والسلطة ؟

كل ثورة تتخذ جانبين أحدهما ثوري جماهيري والآخر سياسي لأن كل ثورة نهايتها يجب أن تصل إلى حوار. المشترك عندما التقط المبادرة السياسية ذهب ليملى فراغ كان ناقصاً. وعلى كل الثورة و السياسة خطان متلامان ، وإذا توقفت العملية السياسية استمر الفعل الثوري والعكس . ولا يمكن أن نذهب إلى الحوار ما لم يكن الداعم الثوري قائماً. لأنه لو فشل الحوار معناه أن العامل الثوري انتهى ، وبالتالي نحن نعمل بالخطين

، و المسألة هي انتقال سلمي سلس للسلطة يحتاج من التوريين أن يصبروا ، لأن العملية السياسية ليست كالعملية الثورية ، لأنها عملية حسم ، لكن العملية السياسية تحتاج إلى تفاوض وإلى حوار وإلى مرونة ، ولهذا نحن عندما كنا نتفاوض في اللجنة الفنية للتحضير للحوار وعندما رفعت قوائم المشاركين احتجاجنا وقتلنا هذه القوائم تتضمن أسماء أشخاص ارتكبوا جرماً بحق شباب الثورة، لكن تم الرد علينا بأن القانون لم يتخذ قراراً بحقهم، لذا نحن بحاجة في العمل السياسي لأن نطعي مساحة للقضاء ليأخذ دوره ويحاسب كل من ارتكبوا الجرائم.

في شأن الاحتجاج في الحوار، كيف تشددون على أهمية الحوار و في ذات الوقت تنسحب بعض قياداتكم منه ؟ هل هذا أيضاً سيناريو متبع لتعاملكم مع مؤتمر الحوار ؟

من ميزة مكونات المشترك أن أجزابه متفقة على مشروعها الوطني، لكن في قضايا تختلف عليها مثلنا نحن متفقون على ضرورة تنفيذ العشرين النقطة قبل المشاركة

الثورة بالنسبة لكم كمشارك؟

منذ توقع المبادرة الخليجية كان يطرح الطرف الآخر بجديّة رفع الساعات ورفضنا من يومها أن يدخل هذا الشرط في المبادرة وتركنا للساعات حرية الحركة ، وبالتالي اشتغل العامل السياسي و الثورة ما زالت قائمة طبعاً .. بلا شك تأثرت الساعات لأنها لم تلمس قرارات حيوية وسريعة تساعد في عملية التغيير ، لكن جذوة الثورة ظلت مشتعلة وعجلة التغيير بدأت تدور نعم ببطء لكنها بدأت تتحرك ، وبالتالي الثورة ليس من مظاهرها فقط أن يخرج الناس .. الثورة أحدثت تغييراً في المكون الفكري الثقافي لدى الإنسان اليمني ، وبالتالي لا يمكن أن تطفئها بسهولة.. هذه الثورة المشتعلة هي التي تدفعنا اليوم كي نستمر في الحوار ، و هي التي ستدفع رئيس الجمهورية لاتخاذ قرارات لاحقة.. إذا الثورة ما زالت قائمة وأهدافها ستتحقق في نهاية مؤتمر الحوار بإعلان الدولة المدنية ، التي ستلبي طموح الشباب ، وإذا انحرفت العجلة ستقوم ثورة ثانية . كما حدث في دول عربية.

باعتباركم ترأسون حكومة الوفاق أنتم متهمون بإهمال جرحى الثورة .. كيف تردون على مثل هذا الاتهام؟

أولا قضية الجرحى قضية إنسانية قبل القول في هؤلاء ضحوا بدمائهم من أجلنا. ونحن في المشترك نرفض أن تطرح قضية الجرحى للمزايدة السياسية. الجرحى مسألة وطنية ، و الحكومة عليها أن تلتزم بمعالجة كل الجرحى وتعوض كل الشهداء، هذا من حيث المبدأ. والحقيقة أن الاختلال يوجد في الآليات ، التي ما زالت تسحب نفسها على الماضي ، و لم تتمكن من استيعاب حالات هؤلاء الجرحى ومعالجتهم.

مثل ماذا هذه الآليات ؟

الآليات التي شكلت .. رئاسة الوزراء شكلت لجنة .. الجرحى شكلوا هيئة وهناك هيئات أخرى تدعي القيام على الجرحى .. طيب من الذي يمثلمهم .. المضروبون أمام رئاسة الوزراء هؤلاء لهم الحق ، ونحن خاطبنا رئيس الوزراء الذي وعد بمعالجتهم . كذلك كان هناك إشكالية في الدولة التي ستختار ليتعالج فيها الجرحى ، حيث معظمهم يريدون العلاج في اليمن ، ولما خاطبت الحكومة السفارة الألمانية قالت ليس بيدنا هذا الموضوع و أن الموضوع بيد الخارجية الألمانية ، لأنه قد حدث في ألمانيا أنها استوعبت الليبيين وحدثت معهم مشاكل. ونحن نخاف أن يتكرر بالنسبة لجرحى اليمن. ومع ذلك فقد أبدت دول غير ألمانيا استعدادها للقيام بمعالجة الجرحى مثل المين وروسيا و أمريكا وكوبا وكوريا ودولاً أخرى . وعلى كل المسألة هي مسألة وقت و الحكومة جادة في معالجة الجرحى . حتى الذين أصيبوا ضمن مسيرات الحراك الجنوبي في الأعوام الماضية.

حسنأ أستاذ محمد اسمحلي بالتنقل بين عدد من القضايا المختلفة .. ماذا تستطيع القول في شأن ما حققته حكومتكم منذ تشكيلها؟

أولها أقولها بصراحة لسنا راضيين عن أدائها .. لماذا؟ لأنها مشكلة من فريقين ورئيس الحكومة خلال الفترة كلها ظل يحاول لملمة الجراح بين هاذين الفريقين .. من الهام الأساسية التي وردت في المبادرة الخليجية و الآلية التنفيذية أن تقوم الحكومة بمهام الانتقال السلمي للسلطة و القيام بالمهام الخدمية الأخرى ، لكن للأسف لم يكن للحكومة برنامج إنمائي وإنما كانت مقيدة في هذا الاتجاه . أيضاً كان هناك نقطة مهمة جدا في الآلية وهي المتعلقة بالحكم الرشيد ، ويعني ذلك إزالة الفاسدين من مؤسسات الدولة . وهنا لم تتمكن الحكومة من القيام بهذا الدور لوجود الطرف الآخر ، الذي يشجع المعارضة . مع أن المفترض أن تعمل الحكومة في إطار الوفاق الوطني وتعمل بالاتجاهات المطروحة لا أن تنقسم إلى طرفين طرف يعارض وطرف يقود التغيير ، ولهذا لم تؤدي الحكومة دورها بشكل إيجابي.

هل تعتقد أن هذا مبرر لإقناع المواطن البسيط الذي يبحث عن كهرباء ولقمة عيش ؟

هذا بالتأكيد ليس مبرراً .. لكن مسيرة الحكومة التقدمية تبدأ بعد الانتخابات. المواطن اليوم لماذا يفتقد الحكومة ؟ لأنه لم يلمس منها تغييراً قد حدث ، لذلك كانت مهمة حكومة الوفاق سياسية ولم تكن

محور صعدة اختلفوا على رئاسة لجنة أو غير ذلك .. المهم انه هناك بعدا خطيرا قد لا نتنبه له.

ما هو هذا البعد؟

هناك أجنحة دولية موجودة ، و وبالتالي عندما نصل إلى محور صعدة سنجد أجنحة خارجية تفرض اتجاهات وقرارات جديدة على هذا المحور. وكان المفترض أن نهين أنفسنا بشكل كامل بحيث نتفرغ لهذه المحاور ، لأنها تحتاج بعض الأحيان إلى صفقات في الخلف بين دول .. ونحن لا نستطيع أن ننكر أن هناك أجنحة خارجية موجودة في محور صعدة.. في أجنحة سعودية .. هناك أجنحة إيرانية .. هناك أجنحة قطرية . ونحن في هذه المسرحية.

وكانكم تقولون أن الحوار انطلق قبل أن تتم التهيئة له؟

نعم لم يهين له .. وكانت هناك عشرون نقطة مرتبطة بالآلية التنفيذية في المبادرة الخليجية . من ضمنها تعيين المحافظين والسفراء وإعادة الحقوق لبيئات الجنوب وإعادتهم إلى وظائفهم.. على أسلاف المعتاد فقط هؤلاء الذين هم في ساحات الثورة كيف سيقبل أي منهم الدخول في حوار وهو لم يعوض و لم ينصف.. إذا نحن لم نهين للحوار بشكل إيجابي ، وبالتالي سنواجه مصاعب كثيرة ، فالرئيس اليوم مطلوب منه ألا يتهاون في إصدار القرارات الأخرى . هناك قرارات مهمة جدا ستشكل عامل ضمان لنجاح المؤتمر.

مر ما يزيد عن شهر منذ انطلاق الحوار.. هل يسير وفق ماخطط له، وهل هناك إنجازات تحققدون أن المؤتمر حققها حتى اليوم؟

أنا اعتقد أن هذا الشهر كان بمثابة عملية تفرغ للطاقت . أي أن كل شخص طرح ما عنده من مشاريع و رؤى ، وهي كما يقولون المرحلة التي تسبق العاصفة .. يجب تفرغ هذه الطاقات بحيث أنه عندما تبدأ الفرق و اللجان بالعمل تستطيع أن تشتغل بنفسية غير متوترة .. لا تطرح القضايا التي طرحت في المؤتمر العام أو في الجلسات العامة وإنما تطرح القضايا المحورية المكلفة بها.

لكن هذا سياخذ من عمر مؤتمر الحوار واعتقد أنه لم يتم التخطيط بأن يكون الشهر الأول منه لتفريغ حالات الاحتقان كما ذكرت ، أليس كذلك ؟

نعم ولكن هناك قضايا مهمة جدا .. وكما قلت له، وتم التهيئة لكانت الأمور أفضل.. اليوم نحن نستهيبن بالعمل الذي تقوم به الفرق . اليوم اختلفوا داخل فرقة بالنظرة الشكلية تقول إنها بسيطة ، مثلا

اسمحلي أن أعود بك إلى موضوع الثورة الشبابية .. إلى أين وصلت

تنمية و المواطن يجب أن يفهم ذلك.

ننتقل لموضوع آخر .. يقال إنكم وضعتم اللقاء المشترك في موقف محرج عندما زرتهم سوريا و التقيتم بالرئيس بشار الأسد هل هذا صحيح ؟ ما هي تفاصيل تلك الزيارة؟

أولا الزيارة كانت ضمن برنامج حزب البعث العربي الاشتراكي في إطار علاقته القومية ، وبالتالي تصادفت مع صعودي لتحمل مسؤولية الرئيس الدوري للمشارك.. لكن ما دام أنني ذهبت في مهمة متعلقة بالحزب وليس لها علاقة بالمشارك هذا لا يضير .. لأنه من ميزة المشارك انه لدينا برنامج وطني نعمل عليه وهناك خصوصية لكل حزب من حقه التمتع بها .. هذه الخصوصية التي جعلتنا نزرور سوريا لأننا نشعر أن ما يحدث فيها هو تأمر دولي لم يعد ثورة . وقد ذكرت ذلك في أكثر من صحيفة بأن ما يحدث في سوريا لم يعد ثورة لقد دخلت الأحداث في طور دولي مهمته إسقاط نظام الدولة الذي يمثل التيار القومي و المقاومة. ونحن نعتقد أن إسقاط النظام السوري معناه إسقاط للفكر القومي و للمقاومة و وبالتالي التهينة للاستسلام و الدخول في تسوية مع إسرائيل . ومن احتج من الاخوة في المشارك قلنا لهم لسنا في جيب أحد وهذه خصوصية لدينا و إلا عملنا اندماج و"خلاص".

هذا يقودني إلى سؤال كيف تتعاملون في تكتل المشترك مع القضايا الخلافية ذات الطابع الايدلوجي؟

الجانب الإيجابي في المشترك هو أن الأيدلوجيات ذابت داخل التكتل لأنه لدينا مشروع وطني وهو تكوين الدولة المدنية الحديثة وخارج هذا الإطار يمكننا ان نعتب على بضعة البعض .. في كثير من الخلافات بحكم علاقة الود بيننا .. ننتقد بعضنا بعضا لكن خارج الاجتماعات الرسمية.

كيف تنظر إلى مستقبل اللقاء المشترك في ظل التخيرات الراهنة؟

نحن منذ ستة أشهر نعكف للبحث عن إستراتيجية جديدة .. لا أخفيك أن المشروع السابق كان هدفه هو الوصول إلى الحوار و الثورة و التغيير و الإصلاحات و اليوم وصلنا إليها.

خاصة وأنتم دخلتم مؤتمر الحوار كأحزاب وليس كتكتل ؟

نعم.. لأن مشروع التكتل انتهت مهمته .. اليوم نحن نبحث في المشروع القادم وهو كيف ندخل الانتخابات كيف نؤسس للدولة المدنية الحديثة كيف نؤمن سير العملية السياسية إلى الإمام فعملنا مشروع والمشروع هذا استكملناه . وفي الاجتماع السابق للمشارك كلفنا اللجنة التنفيذية بإعداد البرنامج الزمني لتنفيذه ، وبالتالي قد يحدث تغيير في الفترة القادمة من خلال هذا البرنامج في توحيد الرؤى نحو مستقبل اليمن.

يعني سيستمر تحالف المشترك إلى ما بعد إجراء الانتخابات القادمة فقط ؟

لقد اتفقا في المشترك على أن نعمل دورة انتخابية بحيث نأمن ان الانتخابات تسير بشكل إيجابي وفقا لما بنيت عليه ، ونعمل هذه الدورة ، وبعدها ربما يترك البعض التحالف أو يمكن أن نؤسس تحالف بشكل جديد و أكثر تطوراً .

في شأن الانتخابات هل ما زلتكم تعتقدون أنه ما زال هناك وقت لإجرائها رغم ما تعترضها من عوائق؟

نحن حريصون على أن تجري الانتخابات في موعدها لأنه اذا لم يتم ذلك ستظهر مشاكل كثيرة دستورية وغيرها ونحن التقينا باللجنة العليا للانتخابات و ايدنا السبل الانتخابي الالكتروني وايدنا أيضا ان تكون هناك بصمة للعين وشدنا على ضرورة ان تهيكل اللجنة حتى نأمن من عدم حدوث التزوير ونحن حريصون على نعمل في هذا الاتجاه وفي المواعيد المحددة .

أخيرا وباختصار ما مدى اعتقادكم بنجاح اليمن في تجاوز المرحلة الانتقالية؟

أنا أتمنى أن يخرج مؤتمر الحوار بسلام .. إذا خرج بسلام معناه أننا وصلنا إلى شاطئ الأمان .

Gitmo is killing me

Samir Naji Al Hasan Moqbel
Nytimes.com
First published April 14

One man here weighs just 77 pounds. Another, 98. Last thing I knew, I weighed 132, but that was a month ago.

I've been on a hunger strike since Feb. 10 and have lost well over 30 pounds. I will not eat until they restore my dignity.

I've been detained at Guantánamo for 11 years and three months. I have never been charged with any crime. I have never received a trial.

I could have been home years ago — no one seriously thinks I am a threat — but still I am here. Years ago the military said I was a "guard" for Osama bin Laden, but this was nonsense, like something out of the

American movies I used to watch. They don't even seem to believe it anymore. But they don't seem to care how long I sit here, either.

When I was at home in Yemen, in 2000, a childhood friend told me that in Afghanistan I could do better than the \$50 a month I earned in a factory, and support my family. I'd never really traveled, and knew nothing about Afghanistan, but I gave it a try.

I was wrong to trust him. There was no work. I wanted to leave, but had no money to fly home. After the American invasion in 2001, I fled to Pakistan like everyone else. The Pakistanis arrested me when I asked to see someone from the Yemeni Embassy. I was then sent to Kandahar, and put on the first plane to Gitmo.

Last month, on March 15, I was sick in the prison hospital and refused to be fed. A team from the

E.R.F. (Extreme Reaction Force), a squad of eight military police officers in riot gear, burst in. They tied my hands and feet to the bed. They forcibly inserted an IV into my hand. I spent 26 hours in this state, tied to the bed. During this time I was not permitted to go to the toilet. They inserted a catheter, which was painful, degrading and unnecessary. I was not even permitted to pray.

I will never forget the first time they passed the feeding tube up my nose. I can't describe how painful it is to be force-fed this way. As it was thrust in, it made me feel like throwing up. I wanted to vomit, but I couldn't. There was agony in my chest, throat and stomach. I had never experienced such pain before. I would not wish this cruel punishment upon anyone.

I am still being force-fed. Two times a day they tie me to a chair in

my cell. My arms, legs and head are strapped down. I never know when they will come. Sometimes they come during the night, as late as 11 p.m., when I'm sleeping.

There are so many of us on hunger strike now that there aren't enough qualified medical staff members to carry out the force-feedings; nothing is happening at regular intervals. They are feeding people around the clock just to keep up.

During one force-feeding the nurse pushed the tube about 18 inches into my stomach, hurting me more than usual, because she was doing things so hastily. I called the interpreter to ask the doctor if the procedure was being done correctly or not.

It was so painful that I begged them to stop feeding me. The nurse refused to stop feeding me. As they were finishing, some of the "food" spilled on my clothes. I asked them

to change my clothes, but the guard refused to allow me to hold on to this last shred of my dignity.

When they come to force me into the chair, if I refuse to be tied up, they call the E.R.F. team. So I have a choice. Either I can exercise my right to protest my detention, and be beaten up, or I can submit to painful force-feeding.

The only reason I am still here is that President Obama refuses to send any detainees back to Yemen. This makes no sense. I am a human being, not a passport, and I deserve to be treated like one.

I do not want to die here, but until President Obama and Yemen's president do something, that is what I risk every day.

Where is my government? I will submit to any "security measures" they want in order to go home, even though they are totally unnecessary.

I will agree to whatever it takes in order to be free. I am now 35. All I want is to see my family again and to start a family of my own.

The situation is desperate now. All of the detainees here are suffering deeply. At least 40 people here are on a hunger strike. People are fainting with exhaustion every day. I have vomited blood.

And there is no end in sight to our imprisonment. Denying ourselves food and risking death every day is the choice we have made.

I just hope that because of the pain we are suffering, the eyes of the world will once again look to Guantánamo before it is too late.

Samir Naji al Hasan Moqbel, a prisoner at Guantánamo Bay since 2002, told this story, through an Arabic interpreter, to his lawyers at the legal charity Reprieve in an unclassified telephone call.

In Yemen, journalists face threats from all directions

Committee to Protect Journalists
Cpj.org
First published April 18

Yemeni authorities must investigate a series of assaults on the press in the past two weeks and ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice, the Committee to Protect Journalists said [on Thursday]. A bomb was discovered at a building that houses media outlets and three journalists received death threats, according to news reports and journalists who spoke to CPJ.

"Yemeni journalists face an array of threats from a wide range

of sources," said Sherif Mansour, CPJ's Middle East and North Africa Coordinator. "Authorities must apprehend the people who are planting bombs and making death threats against journalists."

Police defused a bomb hidden in a black bag [last] Wednesday at the entrance of a building housing the daily newspaper Al-Masdar and the Yemen Youth TV channel in Sana'a, the paper reported. An expert from the Ministry of Interior told Al-Masdar that such an explosive was often used by military intelligence, and said the bomb had parts from Russia and the U.S.

Nogroup has taken responsibility for planting the device. It is unclear

who the bomb was supposed to target.

In an unrelated case, Abdul-Raqeab al-Hudayyani, editor-in-chief of the news website Aden Online, told CPJ that he received

anonymous death threats after his website published an article on March 5 that alleged corruption within the government-owned daily 14 October. The article said the paper had used money to print pictures of a southern secessionist leader and former vice president of Yemen. The paper denied the accusations and said Aden Online had cited forged documents. More than a month later, a judge told al-Hudayyani the paper had filed a case against him for forging

documents, the journalist said.

Al-Hudayyani told CPJ that he had also been threatened this year after criticizing the Southern secessionist movement in Yemen.

In another case, Mohammed Ayesh, editor-in-chief of the daily independent Al-Oula, told CPJ he has received several death threats in phone messages since April 9. The threats, originating from both domestic and foreign numbers, threatened to cut off his hand and tongue.

Ayesh told CPJ that the individuals identified themselves as residents defending the "honor" of Marib province. Al-Oulahad published an article on April 9 accusing groups in the province of

sabotaging power lines and causing power outages across Yemen. But Ayesh said the threats could actually be an attempt to silence the paper, which has published several articles critical of the government and religious groups. He said unidentified gunmen angry at the paper's coverage of the government had attempted to storm the newspaper's headquarters in Sana'a last August.

The local media watchdog Freedom Foundation also reported that a journalist with the daily newspaper Al-Thawra, Mohammed Qa'ed al-Azizi, was threatened by gunmen last Tuesday in Sana'a. Al-Thawra reported that the assailants demanded the journalist

stop writing about corruption. Freedom Foundation told CPJ that the incident may be related to the paper's recent investigation of illegal prisons run by tribal leaders in Sana'a.

In an unrelated episode, three unidentified gunmen on April 7 briefly abducted Naif Hassan and Nashwan Dammaj, editors from the daily independent Al-Sharea, while they were on a reporting trip in the northern province of Al-Jawf, the paper reported. The assailants took the journalists to a nearby village, where they held them for half an hour before armed tribal group members ordered their release. The journalists were unharmed.



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Judges resume working, Sana'a security forces pledge to protect them from threats

Story and photo by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

Following negotiations between the Judiciary Council and Sana'a's security forces, the Judges' Forum in Sana'a has ended its two-week strike. Three-hundred-and-fifty judges from the forum, which in total represents 690 judges, will resume work on Saturday.

The strike had originally been protesting an increase in violent assaults and threats against judges in the capital—of which there were a reported 34 in the past two months—and was called off after Sana'a's Security apparatus pledged to provide police escorts to judges from now on and apprehend the assailants.

Three alleged attackers have been

apprehended and handed over to the Penal Prosecution.

The suspects include Ahmed Bahlool, a sheikh who has been accused of physically threatening one judge and Yahia Qutaish, a military official from Al-Thawra district, is also accused of physically threatening a judge.

Judge Redhwan Al-Omaisai participated in the strike and said the minister of interior will be summoned next week to the Supreme Judiciary Council to review the repetitive violations against judges.

Sheikh Ahmed Bahlool is accused of threatening Nizar Al-Saman, the head of the Eastern Court in Sana'a, Sulaiman Al-Shamiri, a member of the Supreme Judiciary Council, told the Yemen Times.

Bahlool cornered Al-Saman and demanded an apology for a perceived slight. During the exchange,

the sheikhs' guards stood nearby and held weapons threateningly, Al-Shamiri said.

Bahlool has been apprehended and is currently detained in Sana'a Central Security Prison.

Yahia Qutaish, director of Al-Thawra district, was also questioned in regards to an alleged assault on Tariq Al-Ariqi, a judge from Sana'a. Al-Ariqi was inspecting a prison in Al-Thawra district, looking for any cases of unlawful imprisonment, when Qutaish accosted him. Qutaish ordered Al-Ariqi to leave, threatening to detain him in the prison if he did not, Al-Shamiri recalled.

Qutaish was summoned to the General Prosecution and stripped of his military rank as an officer, Al-Shamiri said.

Holding these two assailants responsible is a "great achievement

for the judiciary system," Al-Shamiri said. It also speaks to how much has changed since the uprisings of 2011.

"Before the revolution, no one paid attention to the judges," Al-Shamiri said. "Nothing could stop those sheikhs and officials from attacking us."

The two-week strike that has just ended left the entire judicial system in a standstill.

"My brother is on trial for stealing electricity from the electricity meter," Hilal Abdu Ahmed, a middle-aged man from Sana'a, said.

"But because of the strike, his case was postponed."



Following the arrest of several individuals accused of assaulting judges, protesting judicial officials are now taking court cases again.



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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

IT Officer (1 position)

Location: Haradh
Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

You will act as a first line support and primary point of contact for all service-related queries; issues and requests; log all calls made to the Regional Service Desk; refer unresolved calls to the most appropriate resolve group and escalate calls to the correct level of management as appropriate. You will be monitoring the successful conclusion of all calls; actively communicating user requirements and concerns; proactively managing user expectations; pro-actively communicating with customers on progress of open calls. You will ensure that no illegal or unsupported software is installed on Oxfam equipment; maintain a working knowledge of all Oxfam approved PC and/or application packages; make recommendations to Regional Information System Manager (RISM) regarding policies, processes and procedures. You will be collaborating with the RISM and the Service Delivery Coordinator to obtain information on impacted user groups and identify potential service enhancement opportunities; working with users and the Regional IT management to identify and assess service enhancement opportunities; actively communicating the users' needs, requirements and concerns from a customer service perspective, You will manage user expectations and establish confidence in IS services and their outsourced partners, by proactively communicating service effect and achieved or missed SLAs.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with proven experience in basic hardware, operating systems, and customer management. You should have the ability to solve hardware problems, provide good support on applications to the users, meet deadlines, organize work effectively, and travel to the field. Any additional experience in emergency relief would obviously be an advantage, proving your resilience and ability to maintain team work under pressure. You should have training skills.

Candidates from Hajjah and Hodeidah governates are encouraged to apply for this position

Logistics Officer- (1 position)

Location: Sana'a
Contract Duration: 1 month with possible extension

The role

You will organize all logistics processes, including purchasing, warehousing, and transportation, as well as the related administrative procedures, for Oxfam operations, follow Oxfam Logistics, purchasing and supply procedure manual; supervise and support Sana'a Logistics Assistant; monitor logistics systems in accordance with Oxfam policies and procedures; establish and maintain good contacts with suppliers, government offices, and other NGOs with regards to logistical matters. You will manage procurement and storage of all Oxfam materials in Sana'a; liaise closely with the field logisticians, technical staff, accountants, as well as the program managers concerning local and international procurement; keep records of and maintain contacts with suppliers and local repair/maintenance shops. You will organize transportation of project materials from Sana'a to the final destinations within Yemen; supervise and plan vehicle allocation; work closely with the Country Logistics Manager to manage the lease contracts of Oxfam premises in Sana'a. You will contribute to recruitment of logistics staff, and manage and supervise on a daily basis the drivers and external guards.

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 either of these positions, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job you are applying for and the location of the job in the email subject, to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk .

Closing date for applications is 30th April 2013



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES)

Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development
Social Marketing Project - Phase II
BMZ no. 2011 65 463

Assignment Title: Behavior Change and Communication (BCC) Activities for Family Planning and HIV/AIDS, and Family Planning Counseling Training

The Government of Yemen has received funding from Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) for implementing the Social Marketing Project for Reproductive Health Services through the private sector. Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development has been a party of the agreement as the Project Executing Agency (PEA) of Social Marketing Project. Yamaan Foundation efforts are fully coordinated with the MoPHP and integrated within the National Reproductive Health (RH) Strategy.

The consulting services ("the Services"): include the services below in the targeted governorates:

#	Services	Targeted governorates
1.	BCC activities for Family Planning	Sana'a city, Sana'a, Dhamar, Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Hadhramaut, Hodaydah, Hajjah, Marib, Taiz, Ibb, Mahwit
2.	BCC activities for HIV/AIDS	Sana'a, Aden, Hadhramaut
3.	Family Planning Counseling Training	Sana'a city, Sana'a, Dhamar, Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Hadhramaut, Hodaydah, Hajjah, Marib, Taiz, Ibb, Mahwit

Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development now invites eligible consulting organizations ("Consultants") working on social marketing and behavior change communication (BCC), and training the health providers to indicate their interest in providing the Services.

Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The short listing criteria: an organization with evidence of legal situation, general professional expertise, relevant experience and sector knowledge, and adequate personnel structure. The documents should outline, briefly and concisely, the relevant work performed and summarize the applicant's qualifications and experience.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (8am - 4pm, Saturday to Wednesday).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail) by 30/04/2013.

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E-mail: maha.alnajjar@yamaan.org

طلب التعبير عن الاهتمام (خدمات استشارية)

مؤسسة يمان للتنمية الصحية والاجتماعية
مشروع التسويق الاجتماعي لخدمات الصحة الإيجابية-المرحلة الثانية
BMZ no. 2011 65 463

عنوان الاعلان: أنشطة الاتصال من أجل تغيير السلوك فيما يتعلق بوسائل تنظيم الأسرة وفيروس نقص المناعة المكتسبة والإيدز، وأنشطة تدريب مقدمي الخدمات الصحية على تقديم المشورة في تنظيم الأسرة
تلقت الحكومة اليمنية تمويلًا من بنك التنمية الألماني لتنفيذ مشروع التسويق الاجتماعي لخدمات الصحة الإيجابية عبر القطاع الخاص. وتعتبر مؤسسة يمان للتنمية الصحية والاجتماعية طرفًا في الاتفاقية وهي الجهة المنفذة لمشروع التسويق الاجتماعي لخدمات الصحة الإيجابية. تعمل مؤسسة يمان بالتنسيق مع وزارة الصحة العامة والسكان وفي إطار الاستراتيجية الوطنية للصحة الإيجابية.
الخدمات الاستشارية ("الخدمات") تتضمن الخدمات التالية التي ستندف بحسب المحافظات قرين كل منها:

م	الخدمات الاستشارية	المحافظات المستهدفة
1.	أنشطة الاتصال من أجل تغيير السلوك فيما يتعلق بوسائل تنظيم الأسرة	الأمانة، صنعاء، ذمار، عدن، عمران، لحج، أبين، حضرموت، الحديدة، حجة، مأرب، تعز، إب، المحويت
2.	أنشطة الاتصال من أجل تغيير السلوك فيما يتعلق بالإيدز/فيروس نقص المناعة المكتسبة	عدن، صنعاء، المكلا
3.	أنشطة تدريب مقدمي الخدمات الصحية على تقديم المشورة لتنظيم الأسرة	الأمانة، صنعاء، ذمار، عدن، عمران، لحج، أبين، حضرموت، الحديدة، حجة، مأرب، تعز، إب، المحويت

تدعو مؤسسة يمان للتنمية الصحية والاجتماعية جميع المنظمات الاستشارية المؤهلة ("الاستشاريين") والعاملين في المجال الصحي والاتصال من أجل تغيير السلوك وتدريب مقدمي الخدمات الصحية للتعبير عن اهتمامهم لتقديم الخدمات المذكورة أعلاه.

يُتبعي على المنظمات الاستشارية المهتمة تقديم معلومات تثبت أن لديهم المؤهلات المطلوبة والخبرة ذات العلاقة لإداء الخدمات المطلوبة.

معايير الاختيار للمنظمات:

يجب أن تكون المنظمة عاملة في اليمن مع توضيح وضعها القانوني، وجود خبرات مهنية في الجانب الصحي وذات علاقة بالخدمات المطلوبة، وجود عدد كافٍ من الكوادر المؤهلة. يجب أن توضح الوثائق المقدمة وبشكل مختصر الأعمال ذات العلاقة التي تم تنفيذها وتخصيص مؤهلات وخبرات الجهة مقدمة الطلب.

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Yemenis say Saudi fence will have adverse effects on economy and security

Abdurrahman Shamlan
First published April 17

There is fierce resentment among in Yemen over the new fence that Saudi Arabia is currently building along its frontier with Yemen, with some likening it to the controversial barrier Israel is building in and around the West Bank.

Yemenis, especially those living in areas near the border, say the fence is going to have adverse effects on them by disrupting commercial activities. It will also cut off their ability to maintain contact with their relatives living on the other side of the border. Many are comparing it to the Israeli barrier in and around the West Bank.

"Thousands of people mainly depend on commercial transactions with the Saudis on the other side of the border, and this fence will mean taking away their only source of income," Ali Majdali, a pharmacist and resident of the Haradh district a few miles away from the Saudi border, told The Media Line.

"Riyadh has been dealing inhumanely with Yemenis and now it wants to take away their only source of income," he said, adding that more than 90 percent of commercial transactions with the Saudis involves legal goods such as honey, vegetables and fruit.

Saudi Arabia has recently resumed the construction of a high 1300 mile-long wall designed to seal off its troubled frontier with Yemen. The barrier will stretch from the Red Sea coast in the west to the edge of Oman in the east. The oil-rich state started building the fence

in 2004, but quickly suspended it due to the strong opposition by the Yemeni government.

The border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia has long been a conduit for smuggling drugs, hashish, illegal workers and terrorists. Saudi officials say smuggling has been increasing since unrest hit Yemen in 2011 and that it wants to secure its border.

However, Yemeni officials and analysts say Saudi Arabia can achieve that by cooperating with Yemen's government, not by isolating it. They warn that the wall will deal a serious blow to Yemen's security and economy.

"The fence will have a terrible impact on the Yemeni people and will stoke the humanitarian and economic crises," Zaid Argash, the deputy governor of Hajjah province, which is located along the borders with Saudi Arabia, told The Media Line.

The fence will also trigger a social crisis as relatives on opposite sides of the border will no longer be able to meet, he said. Yemenis and Saudis in the border area are believed to belong to the same tribes. In the early decades of the 20th century, Saudi Arabia conquered large swaths of land from Yemen, separating those communities.

Analysts warn that the barrier may actually encourage terrorist groups inside Yemen.

"The separating barrier will also undermine Yemen's security and encourage militant groups including Al-Qaeda to operate more freely," political analyst Mohammed Shamsan told The Media Line.

In the past, Saudi Arabia has supported Yemen's economy, but

the barrier will counteract that support.

"Riyadh has been one of the main countries to support Yemen's economy through its huge donations, but the harm that this fence will cause way outweighs all the benefits of its support," political analyst Abdul-Ghani Al-Aryani, told The Media Line. "Unfortunately, the kingdom is building with one hand and destroying ten times as much as it has built."

The renewed construction comes as Yemen is attempting broad political reforms as part of a national dialogue.

"Yemen is currently at a sensitive stage as it undergoes a reshaping process of its military as well as political landscape. Therefore, it can't bear the huge blows of this separating fence along with the recently-amended labor laws," Shamsan said.

Recently, Saudi Arabia has amended its labor laws in order to reduce unemployment among the Saudi nationals, a move that could result in the deportation of around 300,000 Yemenis working there.

Lawyer Mohammed Naji Alaw, chairman of Yemen's most prominent human rights group, the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD), told The Media Line that the construction of the fence clearly violates the border agreements signed between the two neighboring states and ratified by the United Nations.

"Even the last border agreement signed in 2000 between Sana'a and Riyadh stipulates that the social relationships between the families, relatives and communities living on both sides of the border must



continue and be protected," he said.

But while most in Yemen agreed that the fence violates the border agreements, they said Yemen can't do much to stop Saudi from going ahead with the construction of the barrier in light of the political, security, and economic circumstances.

"As Yemen direly needs Saudi support and is politically unstable, the government's options to stop the construction of the wall are limited,"

a political analyst said.

"However, if the circumstances were different, all the government has to do is file a lawsuit against its oil-rich neighbor at the International Court of Justice, and it would absolutely win it." He said the government should try to convince Saudi Arabia to stop the construction of the fence.

"Saudi Arabia had better help Yemen in its current critical transitional period instead of

seeking to isolate it, exploiting the current situation in which the government is too weak to react or do anything to stop it," Argash said. "We in the local council of Hajjah have reported the resumption of the construction of the Saudi wall to the government. And it's the government's responsibility to take action in such matters."

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German government reaffirms new support for Reproductive Health in Yemen



Executive Director of Yamaan Dr. Ashraf Badr delivers a speech during the meeting.



Signing of Agreement

On Wednesday 10 April, German government delegation visited Yemen to discussed co-operation between the two countries. During the visit the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mohammed Al Sadi expressed his deep gratitude to Germany for its continues support to Yemen. While here the German government through German Development Bank (KfW) signed (five million euro) an agreement with Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development. The generous funding of KfW will allow Yamaan to continue its trailblazing social marketing program that brings vital sexual and reproductive health services and family planning products to men, women and couples across Yemen.

The agreement was signed by the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mohammed Al Sadi, the KfW Regional Director Hanning Baur and the Executive Director of Yamaan Dr. Ashraf Badr. MOPHP is supporting partnership between government and NGOs, and His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Alansi, the Minister of Public Health and Population, Dr. Nagiba Alshwafi, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Public Health and Population have attended this ceremony in addition to Dr. Omer Abdulaziz the Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation.

At the ceremony the importance of offering high quality reproductive health care services and products to Yemenis was underscored as a national priority. The Minister of Planning and International Cooperation also expressed his gratitude to KfW which he said has helped the government of Yemen overcome obstacles in meet-

ing the health needs of Yemenis. He added that he is pleased that Yamaan's social marketing project will continue to successfully provide quality health services and products to Yemenis as it has done over the last four years.

Yamaan is the foremost social marketing enterprise in Yemen. Through employing traditional marketing techniques and partnering with the private and public sector Yamaan prevents unwanted pregnancies and the transmission of HIV and other STIs through the distribution and sales of Protec contraceptives. Awareness raising campaigns and trainings by Yamaan with religious and community leaders, and other key individuals facilitate the use of Protec products by dispelling negative myths and rumours about contraceptives and sexual and reproductive healthcare. Yamaan also works to build up the country's health services by training healthcare professionals such as doctors, nurses and midwives, as well as pharmacists on reproductive health and family planning counselling.

The new agreement with KfW extends Yamaan's for another four years. In the new phase Yamaan plans to grow its operations, expand its reach and provide services for hundreds of thousands of Yemenis.

This project is one of three run by Yamaan, the others include a safe motherhood voucher program which involves a private-public partnership to ensure that women are able to access and receive quality maternal health care and emergency obstetric care training for doctors and nurses to prevent women dying from treatable complications during pregnancy and childbirth.



Family planning health education session for women in Hadramout.



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