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Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Water & Environment
Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project
IDA-Grant No. H449-RY

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT for Financial Manager Position (FM)

Source of Fund of the Position:

International Development Association (IDA-Grant No. H449-RY),
Water Sector Support Project (WSSP) – Urban Component

Background:

The Government of Yemen represented by The Ministry of Water and Environment & The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has received a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Water Supply and Sanitation Project (WSSP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to hire for its services a highly organized, energized and experienced professional Capable of operating effectively in a very demanding post-conflict environment, to serve as a Financial Manager (FM) for Project Management Unit (PMU), Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Subsector (UWSS), Water Sector Support Program (WSSP).

Function of the Project Management Unit (PMU):

The Project Management Unit is the implementing agency at the central level consisting of professional staff, whose contracts are renewable annually for the duration of the Project, based on their performance evaluation. PMU operates under the guidance and supervision of the Minister of Water & Environment (MWE) and in strict cooperation and coordination with MWE AUs/LCs, which are generally responsible for routine project implementation of its activities and operating the projects after -completion.

The PMU has the primary role for overall project oversight, coordination, and dissemination of best practices and operates autonomously from undue interference, particularly in the areas of procurement and financial management.

The PMU carries out the planning, procurement, financial management, Audit, M&E and social & environment activities according to the legal requirements resulting from the credits/ grants agreements, donors' guidelines and government regulations.

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES OF FINANCIAL MANAGER:

Under the general direction of the PMU Manager, the Financial Manager (FM) is responsible for the financial management of the PMU's Activities as well as the activities of IDA and other donors who support NWSSIP, in accordance with the signed financing agreements, donor's guidelines and government regulations. He will be responsible for the preparation of periodic reports to the General Manager on the progress of activities.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE:

The Financial Manager will be responsible of, but not limited to the follows:

- Ensure that the financial and accounting manual of policies and procedures is appropriately applied in managing the project funds;
- Implementing and managing the financial and accounting system of the PMU;
- Supervising the Project Accountants;
- Preparing the quarterly interim financial reports of the project and interpreting the variances when compared to the project budget;
- Preparing annual project financial statements and submitting them for audit;
- Coordinating with the MOF to ensure availability of budget for the project funds and the counterpart financing for implementation;
- Regularly reviewing the internal control system to ensure compliance with the agreed mechanisms, procedures, and systems;
- Compiling all project activities and monitoring PMU's operating costs;
- Preparing the yearly budget of the project in cooperation with the Donors and Government of Yemen;
- Preparing disbursement schedules and financial forecasts for the project;
- Maintaining adequate records of authorized appropriations and ensuring that all sums expended pursuant thereto are properly accounted for;
- Maintaining adequate records of all procurement and consultant contracts; and following up on the bid performance securities, validity and renewals;
- Verifying payments to ensure that the expenditures have been properly budgeted, authorized and recorded;
- Verifying, on a regular basis, the petty cash expenditures to ensure that these are properly authorized and recorded with all supporting documentation;
- Close monitoring on the advances through following up and clearing them promptly when the advance purpose is complete.
- Managing the cash accounts designated for project use to ensure the efficient use of funds, through following up on the signed contracts and all committed funds;
- Verifying withdrawal applications for the disbursement of the Grant funds on direct payment and reimbursement basis;
- Establishing central policies and procedures for the safeguarding of project assets and supporting project

documentation;

- Communicating and cooperating with the project external auditor and the government audit bureau; and
- Performing any other project-related duties requested by the PMU Manager.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

The Financial Manager should have:

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in accounting/finance;
- A minimum of seven years of private or public sector financial management experience, preferably with donors funded projects;
- The ability to translate planned activities into concrete budgets, analyze and report them for the purpose of recommending improvements in operations;
- The ability to supervise accounting and other financial functions and report financial information usable to the various stakeholders: Government, World Bank, Donors and auditors;
- The ability to supervise accounting work and motivate accountants to achieve positive actions and results;
- General understanding of procurement concepts;
- Proficiency in the use of computers, accounting and other software applications; and
- Proficiency in Arabic and English.

Upon acceptance to occupy the position he/ she shall provide evidence of being no longer employed or on unpaid leave from any Government or Non-Government Organization, as he/she shall be a full-time employee.

Interested applicants' should send their Resume (CV) with copies of their certificates and supporting documents not later than Saturday, June 8, 2013 to the below mentioned address: (Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only short list candidates will be contacted for interviews).

Office of the Project Director,
Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project,
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Despite almost 20 drownings Locals in Bait Baws prevent officials from draining Kamran Dam



Signs warning locals of the dangers of swimming in the dam haven't stopped residents from using the water source for entertainment and sport purposes.

Story and photos by Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, May12 — Armed locals in the Bait Baws area in southern Sana'a on Sunday prevented a team from the Ministry of Agriculture and the local council from emptying Kamran Dam, an area of water that has claimed 17 lives since it was created in 2004.

Men with guns threatened to

shoot officials if they opened the large taps directing water flow in the dam.

"We absolutely refuse to empty the dam," said Hafit Allah Ali Al-Mirani, a farmer in Bait Baws. "We will defend it even with force of weapons. This dam provides us water for our farms."

Al-Mirani and others say the water source is too important to be without it even for a short period as

officials have suggested.

The Ministry of Agriculture wants to drain the dam temporarily to recover bodies of victims who have drowned.

The body of water is constantly full of locals, swimming and washing their clothes in the dam. The Civil Defense department rescued three people last Friday who almost drowned.

Al-Mirani says the state can do other things to prevent deaths.

"[They] can construct barriers, prevent swimming in the dam or any other solution instead of drawing water from it," he said.

Ahmed Nasser, the manager of the irrigation department at the Ministry of Agriculture, said he understands why locals do not want them to drain the dam but it is necessary to determine why so many drownings have taken place. The ministry suspects that very muddy material is sucking people in and they are unable to resurface.

Nasser believes the dam will be quickly filled, given the heavy rainfall that Sana'a has seen recently.

Ahmed Taher, the general manager of Sanhan and Bani Bahlool district, is trying to reach a com-

promise between local and officials. He has recommended emptying half of the dam.

Bu the Agriculture Ministry said this will not help them determine why the dam is causing so many deaths.

The Justice Aid Organization, a local group that deals with social issues, has filed a lawsuit against the Tobacco and Matches Company, which built the dam, claiming they did not take safety into account by building barriers to keep swimmers out when they constructed it.

The organization will have its preliminary hearings on Monday, and they are in full support of emptying it, according to Raghad Al-Bar, the head of the organization.

City officials have grown increasingly frustrated at locals' insistence on using Kamran as a swimming hole even though it is prohibited, and there are warning lining the dam.

Brigadier Abdulkareem Al-Bukaiti, the manager of the Civil Defense department in Sana'a, said their abilities to stop people from swimming are limited.

Instead they have begun providing a crew of four rescue divers from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day.



Area farmers worry that a drained dam will inhibit their agricultural activities.

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Protestors stopped on way to border Condemn construction of Saudi fence

Rammah Al-Jubari

HODEIDA, May 12 — Security authorities in the Al-Khushm area of Hodeida shot rounds of ammunition into the air and used tear gas and batons on 200 people on Saturday who were a part of a marching protest against a wall being built along the Saudi Arabian border in order to curb illegal migration.

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Adrisi, the head of the organizing committee of the march, said 13 of the participants were injured by the tear gas and batons.

The security manager of Hodeida, Mohammed Al-Makaleh, said the march was stopped because it was not licensed by the Minister of Interior and nine people were arrested. Although legally all protests are supposed to obtain licenses from the Minister of Interior, hundreds go on every without doing so.

"The purpose of the march is to shed light on the suffering of Yemeni migrants and send a message to President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi and the reconciliation government that the nation will not be silent if the government let's this happen," said the official spokesperson for the march, Majed Si-fyan, referring to the Saudi fence project which began in 2004 and was put back into motion this year after abandonment.

The fence is meant to be three



The source of the photo: by courtesy of Majed Si-fyan.

Protestors never made it to the Saudi border, security officials broke up their march with batons and tear gas.

meters (10 feet) high and run 1,800-kilometer (1,125 mile) along the Saudi-Yemeni border and will be fitted with electronic detection systems, Arab News reported.

Many Yemenis and human rights activists have expressed their concern over the fence which Saudi has defended as a security measure.

The march was stopped on the border of Hodeida governorate and Hajja which borders Saudi Arabia. The protestors planned on spending four days on the border in a sit-in.

Some protestors called the wall unfair as Saudi was the big winner in the treaty they signed with Yemen in 2000 that defined the two

countries' borders. Many accuse Saudi of taking more than their share and now trying to protect it with a fence.

Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, the minister of foreign affairs, met with his Saudi counterpart Saturday, handing a written message in from President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi to King Abdulla Bin Abdulaziz asking for cooperation between the two countries, according to the state-owned Saba News Agency.

About two months ago, Saudi Arabia amended its labor law, which led to the deportation of 30,000 Yemenis from the country, according to the Ministry of the Mi-grants.

Hadi reneges presidential decree

Mohammed Al-Hasani

SANA'A, May 12 — Under pressure from media and watchdog organizations, President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi has broken precedent and pulled back on one of his presidential appointments.

Last week the president came under public scrutiny when his office appointed Muad Bajash as the deputy of the Central Organization for Control and Auditing, a governmental organization that works as a watchdog for public resources and government spending.

Critics were upset at Bajash's appointment because of allegations of nepotism. Bajash had served under Nasser Taha Mustafah, the head of Hadi's office, at the state-run Saba News Agency when Mustafah was head of the agency from 2001 to 2011.

Saba news reported this week that Hadi had cancelled the appointment "in response to the broad calls from the media, political and partisan groups."

Members at Yemen's ongoing National Dialogue Confer-

ence (NDC) had objected to Bajash's appointment.

Ahmed Al-Sulaimani, a member in the NDC and an academic, called Hadi's decision to renege the appointment a positive move.

"He listened to the opinions of the political and social components," he said.

Law expert Tawfeek Al-Shuaibi says Hadi's decision is within his legal rights as he is the one who issued it and therefore he can also annul it according to Yemeni law.

"Anyone affected by this decision can present an appeal to the court in the capital city," he said. The court could abolish it because it doesn't conform to the law which stipulates that anyone who is to be appointed in senior posts of the Central Organization for Control and Auditing should be one of the staff members."

Bajash's appointment was not technically legal, Al-Shuaibi said, as the head of the organization is supposed to be hired from within and Bajash had never worked for the agency.

First-time discussions on Yemen's national identity

Political parties in the NDC must decide what it means to be Yemeni

Mohammed Al-Hassani

SANA'A, May 12 — The State Building Working Group at the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) is in the middle of preparing documents relating to political parties' visions for the country's future. In a matrix to be released on June 8—during the mid-term general assembly meeting—they are compiling views on state identity and the shape of Yemen's state.

In terms of state identity, NDC participants will be deciding on a number of things including the name of the state, the religion of the state, the national language, Yemen's source of legislation—whether it be secular or Sharia law—and commitment to international agreements.

While debating the shape of the state, political parties will be debating their visions for a ruling system and the number of regions Yemen

will be divided into.

Once receiving a filled out matrix that includes the above listed criteria, the State Building Working Group will have to reach a consensus on these issues and recommend them to the general assembly to be voted on written into Yemen's new Constitution to be created later this year.

Yemen's dialogue conference has distinguished itself by being the first meeting in the nation's history where these sorts of discussions have taken place with the inclusion of diverse political parties.

"There will be different opinions, that's all," said Dr. Mohammed Marim, the head of the State Building Working Group when asked to comment on the disagreements that are expected to arise when discussing these issues.

A professor of social sciences at Sana'a University, Dr. Salah Al-Jamaie, thinks it is normal for

Yemenis to be engaged in heated debates especially when it comes to subjective terms like national identity.

"As Yemenis we don't have a sense of belonging because it is not endorsed in us in our early childhood or in the educational system," he said.

He argues a national identity is more than a passport or an ID card with Yemen written on it.

"It is the sense of affiliation you have in your heart for a land or a culture or people and sense of pride and understanding of this affiliation and how it reflects on you," Al-Jamaie said.

Although the political debate on this issue has not technically began in the State Building Working Group, major political parties in Yemen including the Islah Party, General People's Congress, and the Socialist Party, have presented their views on national identity.

According to Dr. Ahmed Yasin, a member of the State Building Working Group said the Islah Party, the General People's Congress and Yemen's Socialist Party have kept their definition of national identity as currently defined by Yemen's Constitution. These articles define the nation's identity as Yemeni Muslim.

The debate will come from other national parties who want the state not identified as Yemeni but as an Arab nation with an emphasis on shared culture within the Arab region.

Posing a question like national identity is a difficult one for many to answer. Questions regarding the issue elicited confused expressions from many locals in Sana'a. Most when asked by the Yemen Times, what national identity meant to them answered with their place of birth.

When thinking about Yemen's

identity, Mohammed Al-Mikhlafi, a 25-year-old working in the marketing sector said to him Yemen is identified by its kindness, wisdom and knowledge. When thinking about Yemen, he said he visualizes a man in a mi'waz (a traditional waist wrap that men wear that hits above the ankles) and incense.

Shiekh Ali Al-Maqdi an imam from Sa'ada has a religious twist to understanding of national identity. "My identity is Muslim, my language is Arabic and my way of life is high morals," he said.

Altaf Qalfah, a 26-year-old, thinks historically when she is faced with the question.

She views Yemenis as the ancestors of all Arabs and even of mankind.

Abubakr Al-Omari, a 24-year-old local, agrees with Qalfah. "There is nothing such as a Sana'ani, Taizi, or Adani. We are all Yemenis," he said.

Following confiscation of a Turkish arms' shipment in Taiz

Yemen intensifies coastal security

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, May 12 — The Interior Ministry, in cooperation with the Coast Guards and other security forces in coastal governorates, announced on Saturday they would be stepping up surveillance on Yemen's shores—which run for 2,500 kilometers—in order to deter the smuggling of weapons into Yemen, which the ministry has assessed is an increasingly serious problem.

This came one day after a shipment of arms was confiscated in Taiz.

Brigadier Ali Mus'd Hussein, leader of Taiz military in the area, told the Yemen Times he believed the weapons were made in Turkey.

Hussein said the guns were confiscated at a checkpoint in the Al-Barh coastal area, manned by public security and the 35th Armored

Brigade. It appears the weapons first entered the country through Mocha Port.

"We're keeping suspicious boats under constant surveillance, monitoring the movement of ships and sending regular patrols along the coasts," Brigadier General Shuja'a Mahdi, the operations' director, told the Yemen Times.

Dr. Fuad Al-Salahi, a political analyst, told the Yemen Times Yemeni-Turkish relation has prospered recently, but the seizure of arms of alleged Turkish origin may put a strain on relations between the two countries.

There have been a series of illegal arms seizures since the beginning of the year. In many cases, it has been reported the weapons may be coming from Turkey.

One week ago another shipment of 20,000 arms was confiscated in Mocha Port. Nearly 2,000 arms were confiscated in Amran gov-



http://www.albaman.tnews

ernorate in March. In January, a shipment of arms was confiscated in Aden. Some of the arms bore stamps indicating Turkish manufacture.

Though unavailable for comment in relation to the most recent incident, in an earlier statement for the Yemen Times, Fazli Cor-

man, the Turkish ambassador, said not enough information was available on the two most recent seizures to connect them to Turkish customs.

The arms that were confiscated on Friday are currently being stored in the 35th brigade and are under investigation.

Tribesmen shoot electrical lines in Marib

Mohammed Al-Hassani

MARIB, May 12 — Armed tribal men are accused of attacking and preventing the repair of electrical power lines at the Marib power station, located 173 kilometers east of Sana'a.

On Sunday power was still out in much of Sana'a as the alleged perpetrators continue to intimidate repairmen with guns.

This most recent attack is considered the fiercest yet, according to an official at the Electricity Ministry.

Engineer Abdulrahman Saif, the general director of the Electricity Public Corporation, said

saboteurs typically disrupt electrical lines using heavy chains but the accused tribesmen opened heavy fire this time shooting down lines.

Although repairmen still haven't been able to restore the lines, Saif fears the power station may not be able to recover from this latest sabotage.

Security authorities in the area have accused the well-known tribesman Abdulla Bin Hamd Al-Damn and his brothers as being behind this attack, according to the state-run Saba News Agency.

Al-Damn has been accused of disrupting power lines several times in the past as well.

IN BRIEF

On Friday, a man detonated a bomb on a bus in the heart of a crowded market in Sheikh Othamn neighborhood in Aden, injuring ten people, some seriously. Omar Hulais, the spokesperson of Aden Security department, identified the bomber as Mohammed Al-Adn, and said that he fled the scene, with an injured hand. As far as Hulais can tell, this is a personal dispute and—despite original fears—is neither politically motivated nor related to Al-Qaeda. (R.A.)

The Public Telecommunication Corporation launched a new wireless communication system that includes data transmission and high-quality internet connectivity known as WiMAX on Saturday in Sana'a and Aden. The corporation's deputy director Lutfi Bashrif said WiMAX equipment can be purchased at service centers. Internet WiMAX packages range from YR500 to YR12,500 — around \$2.50 to \$58. Modems cost YR20,000, about \$93. (N.A.)

A plot to explode an oil well belonging to the Yemeni oil company Safer Oil in the northeastern governorate of Marib on Friday morning was thwarted, the Interior Ministry has said. A bag full of explosives, rigged to a mobile device and placed at the opening of the well, was found during a routine check. A source at the Interior Ministry said a specialized security team dismantled the explosives by cutting the wire that connected the mobile to the explosives. Further investigations are underway. (S.A.)

Sheikh Drhm Bin Mohammed Yahia, the director of Sabr district in Taiz, said a truce has been reached between the Al-Marzookh and Qorada villages. Residents of the two villages have been fighting the last two months over access to a natural spring. Previous bouts of fighting had left four dead and six others wounded. (S.A.)

Reporting by: Rammah Al-Jubari, Nasser Al-Sakkaf and Samar Al-Ariqi

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Since April, reportedly 40 army camps have disobeyed orders from the state

Will military rebellions lead to a fractured country?

Ali Abulohoom

In March 2011 shortly after Yemen's popular uprisings began, General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar made headlines and shifted the course of the nation's history when he defected from the state army and sided with what has been coined the peaceful youth revolution.

Much has happened since then. The army has been reshuffled at the hands of President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi. The First Armored Division has been dissolved and its general has been reassigned to be the presidential adviser for military affairs.

One thing that has not changed is revolt within ranks of the military.

Since Hadi's follow-up military reshuffle in April, a reported 40 military camps have rebelled against their leaders and in many cases gone rogue in armed actions against each other leaving fellow comrades injured and dead.

Mohammed Hizam, a researcher in crises management within Yemen's military and security apparatus, said rebellions can be either peaceful or violent but in both cases lead they lead to chaos within ranks due to soldiers' non-compliance with their commanders' orders.

Several reasons have been cited as causes of the rebellions over the last five months, but most experts agree the revolts are politicized and poor leadership is to blame.

"There is not necessarily a bad soldier, but there is a bad commander," said Brigadier General Saleh Al-Asbahi, a lecturer at Sana'a's Military Academy.



Some of these mini-uprisings begin as simple protests over management, others are politically motivated.

Military rebellions have become increasingly common in army camps, Hizam said. According to him, some mini-uprisings within troops are fueled by simple protests like calling for salary raises, but 80 percent of the most recent rebellions have ended in armed confrontations between two forces inside one military base that are divided by political loyalties.

Hadi's military restructure—originally announced in December, but really put into action in April—moved troops to other governorates and placed them under new leadership. However, troops have had a tough time making the transition and some are maintaining their loyalty to commanders they served under former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime, Hizam believes.

Issues within ranks began even before the country's military face-lift. In August of 2012, about 200 soldiers, affiliated with the Republican Guards, attacked the Defense Ministry as an act of loyalty to their leaders affiliated with Saleh. Three people died in the confrontations and nine others were left injured.

The attackers were later forced back into ranks within their brigade. A fact-finding committee was formed to probe into the incident but nothing has been made public so far, according to Hizam.

"This was a normal reaction because the traditional power in Yemen's army is pro-Saleh and change is difficult because of interests mainly related to the former regime," Hizam said.

Dr. Qasim Al-Taweel, assistant

head of the Strategic Studies Center of the Yemeni Armed Forces, said the army recruitment that took place during Yemen's revolution further fueled divisions leading to rebellions inside army camps.

In 2011 the First Armored Division leadership recruited a reported 20,000 young people siding with the revolution. In response, the Republican Guard began upping their recruits as well to more than 15,000 in case the nation entered a civil war between the two forces, Al-Asbahi said.

This recruitment was all done without a budget allocated from the Defense Ministry and now that army has been united rifts between old sides are coming out, Al-Asbahi said.

But some are chalking up the

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recent army rebellions to growing pains that will occur as the nation's military structure adopts a new identity and culture.

Hizam says it is very hard to go from an institution with loyalty to individuals to one that is loyal to the state.

"I wouldn't underestimate the consequences of these growing [army rebellions]," he said.

A newly appointed commander, who experienced rebellion in his military camp spoke to the Yemen Times in condition of anonymity,

said he is struggling with his soldiers demanding a former commander be reinstated.

Al-Asbahi said one way the state is trying to cope with these rebellions is to send committees from the Defense and Interior Ministries to the camps in order to redistribute concentrations of soldiers with specific loyalties.

The Yemen Times attempted to contact the director of the Military Judiciary Department to comment on these measures, but they did not return calls as of press time.

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Voyeurs, harassment and wedding proposals Peeping Toms wait for girls outside of school

Story and photo by
Ali Abuloom

When girls of all ages enter and exit their female only schools throughout the capital Sana'a, there are some uninvited guests waiting for them.

"I'm afraid that my daughter may be harassed," said 42-year-old Mohammed Jabah, a taxi driver. "So, I accompany her to school every day."

Many parents wait for their daughters at the gates of the school, to pick them up in a car or walk them home as they want to protect them from crowds of young men and boys hanging around.

Hafit Al-Masani is 22 and sells qat in Al-Raqas souk, in western Sana'a. This souk is close to the Nusaiba Girls School, and he admits he looks forward to showing up every day right on time to catch glimpses of the girls.

Al-Masani isn't the only man who watches the school's entrance as the girls come and go. There are many who don't want to miss a single day of the "women exhibition," as Al-Masani puts it.

These young men spread along the road leading to the school, in order to harass and tease the girls. Some boys walk next to the girls, eager to be close to them, if just for a moment.

"Harassment is not a practice limited only to the unemployed

young guys, as we imagine. It has turned out to be the practice of boys from the neighboring schools, too" Hana Al-Shami, a senior teacher at Al-Usaimi Girls School in central Sana'a noted. She said there are two boys' schools nearby, Al-Hoursh and Bin Majed.

A crowd gathers outside the Nusaiba Girls School from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m., when the girls go to their first class. The second opportunity for the men to catch a glimpse of the girls is from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. At this time, classes are over and students head home.

But for some, being spectators being the fence is not enough.

"The area around the school becomes something like an exhibition," Al-Shami said. "Even the boy students come to have their morning assembly behind the fence of the school, instead of being in their schools' yards."

Some of the men watch, others utter words, under their breath or loudly, in order to get a girl's attention.

There is another tactic the men use; they throw their phone numbers, hastily scribbled on pieces of paper, in the women's path. Occasionally, the men are even more aggressive, grabbing or touching the girls.

Al-Usaimi Girls School has taken certain procedures so as to help girls avoid harassment. It was an initiative by the school itself. A group of female supervisors now canvasses the street surrounding the school, in order to prevent the



Streets surrounding girls' schools often attract young, loitering men who come to watch women as they enter and exit the schools.

any kind of harassment.

But the boys still show up, every morning.

Raed, who declined to give his last name, said he always watches the girls at Al-Usaimi School in the morning.

"It was not enough to just look at the girl," he said. "I threw my mobile number in front of her. Now I'm still waiting her response."

Raed considers what he does as normal and many of the girls have come to accept it that way as well.

"I used to feel embarrassed as people threw numbers at me," said Amal Said, a young primary school student. She admits to feeling so bad about it that she cried at home. But some where along the line it

stopped bothering her.

"Now I am used to it and the experience is the usual," she said.

Most of the women wear the niqab, or the face veil, meaning only their eyes are visible. The school administration also imposes its own dress code.

Despite their conservative dress, Al-Shami thinks that some girls intentionally act "provocative," casting glances at the young men sitting near the school.

Girls' welcoming response to the harassment makes the situation worse, according to Al-Shami. Some girls react to the verbal harassment, taking the mobile numbers thrown on the ground, she pointed out.

"Some girls suffer from repression and are emotionally deprived," Al-Shami said. "So, they find the street as an outlet to express their feelings."

The women are not only harassed by the young boys, but also by taxi drivers, motorcyclists, the street vendors and the shop owners close to the school and it can escalate to more than glances.

Al-Shami recalled a taxi driver and a motorcyclist once sexually harassed two girls while they were on their way to the school. They grabbed and groped them, she said.

Locals stepped in and caught the two men, bringing them to the police station, Al-Shami said.

Lamia Al-Shaer, 19, is a student at Al-Tafwuk Private School in the capital city thinks it's unfair to accuse all the loiterers of sexual harassment.

"Not all those sitting near the school are there to harass or hurt the girls. Some are faithful," she said.

Al-Shaer had a story to tell about her classmate. She said a young boy used to wait in front of the school gate every day. He used to give her [classmate] a rose every day. Her classmate accepted his friendship which eventually led to formal courting and marriage.

Dr. Abdulla Abdulkhalik, a psychiatrist at Sana'a University, said those standing behind the schools' fences to harass girls have their own problems, such as unemployment and sexual frustration.

They resort to this way in order to fulfill their "biological and psychological needs," Abdulkhalik said.

"The absence of theaters, cinemas, public libraries and sport stadiums have exacerbated the problem," he said. These young men have energy and they could be using it towards other ends, he said, not just in loitering around schools, leering at girls.

Al-Masani, the qat vendor, doesn't intend to hurt the women, he says. For him, it's enough to say "sweet words," he says, which he considers admiration for the women.

Shahi Haleeb



Littering, everywhere

Sarah Al-Zawqari

It's getting hotter in Sana'a. In the street, piles of trash are baking in the sun. I was stuck in a traffic jam recently, on a sweltering day. Amidst the shouts and honking horns, I noticed a man in the car in front of me, in the right lane.

I could tell he wasn't amused—it was written all over his face.

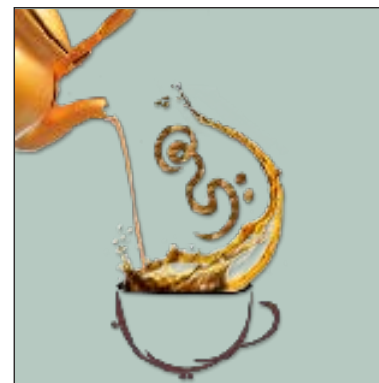
He rolled down his window and suddenly I saw something flying through the air. It went so fast I had to concentrate hard in see what it was. Was it a bird, was it a plane, was it Superman? Definitely not. It was an old plastic bottle of water.

Seconds after the bottle was thrown, a series of other flying objects followed. He started a trend. A bag of chips from the right, a chocolate bar from the left, a box of tissues from the front, another bottle from the back, and—GOOOOAAALL "what an amazing finish!"—a can hit a man's head crossing the street.

He wasn't hurt. He brushed it off and went the other way as the onslaught of litter continued.

Everybody started looking inside their cars, searching for things to throw. Even those without trash started to feel jealous, so they started throwing cassettes, CDs, air fresheners—it didn't matter, they just wanted to play the game.

At that moment all I wished for was someone who was decent enough to feel shy. All I wanted to see was someone who was littering secretly, looking left and right, trying to see if anyone had seen him. Yes, he littered, yes, he dirtied the street, but at least he felt ashamed, at least he knew that what he did was wrong. But I never saw this imaginary man. People were littering with their heads held high.



Let me pour you a cup of Shahi Haleeb

We don't live in isolation. We share this country with over 24 million other people. Somehow, we have to get along. In Shahi Haleeb—Arabic for "milk tea"—a daily radio program on Radio Yemen Times, I criticize some of things that are happening in our society. Humor, I find, is sometimes the best way to do this. This is not to air out Yemen's dirty laundry, but rather to bring issues into the open so that we can talk them over and—hopefully—move on with our lives.



Trash attracts more trash, if you throw something today, you'd find that the same spot has turned into a mountain of trash few days later. Fear for yourselves, your families, and your little ones. Garbage is a serious health hazard. These mountains of trash are a haven for breeding bacteria, and attract rats, stray cats, and all kinds of insects like flies, which can spread infectious diseases.

Moreover, it looks and smells disgusting. Littering can be very costly. Removing trash from the streets can cost millions of riyals. Let's not give them—the officials, the state—a chance to say: "Honestly, we would have loved to spend money on education, but the garbage situation forced us to allocate these sums to remove the trash that the nation threw." From here I'd like to ask officials to provide garbage bins along the roads, so when the series of flying objects start flying, they find a safe place to land.

But it's not just about asking the city or the state for more trash bins, we have a responsibility here, too.

What kind of an image do we project as a nation and as individuals when we throw trash left and right? Whether you care about your health, the beauty of your neighborhood or your image, there are many good reasons to stop littering.

All you have to do is control that hand before it tosses something out the window.

Hear more of Shahi Haleeb weekdays on Radio Yemen Times, aired 1:30–2:30 p.m. and 10:00–11:00 p.m., Saturday through Thursday. Tune your dial to 88.8 and thanks for listening!



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Drones policy in Yemen flies blind without making the US safe

Farea Al Muslimi
Thenational.ae
First Published May 11

On May 2, I testified before the U.S. Congress on the tragic effects of America's drone policy in Yemen. Speaking before the Senate judiciary subcommittee on the constitution, civil rights, and human rights, I offered, I felt, neither a new angle nor new insights to the wealth of information already written on the American drone program in Yemen.

Activists and journalists have written extensively for years about the repercussions from drone strikes in Yemen, but such thinking was always taboo in Washington. No one wanted to discuss such assumptions in the halls of U.S. power, despite significant evidence that the arguments Washington was using to justify the drone program in Yemen were false.

For most Yemenis, my words were common sense. Yet the interest from the U.S. media and public was striking.

There appears to be significant momentum to challenge the drones program, although it remains an open question whether such interest will last.

Hours after my testimony, during a quiet dinner with American friends, I realized that the attention

given to my testimony was extraordinary. That day and for the rest of the week, I repeated the same talking points a minimum of 15 times a day in 15 different interviews and meetings.

The week was one of the busiest of my life. I managed to escape the madness briefly to visit my American host family from when I attended high school in the U.S. My host mother reminded me to focus on the finer things, by insisting I fill my bag with Oreos and chocolate, just as she did when I was in high school.

I enjoyed this time, but was struck by the fact I had visited my American mother twice in the past eight months, two times more than I was able to visit my biological mother in Yemen during the same period. Going back now seems harder than ever, given that U.S. drones now cruise over the roads to my home village.

In virtually all my conversations with the media and policy makers, I had to challenge common American assumptions and misconceptions about the drones program and Yemen. My perspective was a sharp contrast to what they were used to hearing from foreign commentators, who mainly stay in five-star hotels in Sana'a, and trumpet the "success" of the program.

What became abundantly clear from the discussions was the extent to which Yemen is misunderstood,

even among those who claim to be knowledgeable about the country. A variety of assumptions seem to have been forged from misleading statistics and inaccurate or downright false information on the drones program. I was shocked not merely at the ill-conceived notion of "seeing" Yemen from three kilometers above the ground from a camera on a drone, but more crucially in the apparent disinformation campaign circulating about the program.

The most remarkable claim I encountered was that "targeted killing" was a necessity due to the inability to capture suspects. Such claims are patently false, certainly in my village, Wessab, but also almost anywhere else in Abyan province.

An even more misleading argument often thrown at me was that, "your government approves <target killings>" - and that therefore there is no problem with the drones program.

The main choice I faced with such a statement was whether to laugh or scream. I had to explain that the government in Yemen is not "my" government, but rather the world's government, including the U.S.'s, in the sense that it is a transitional government put in place by the international community.

Of course, I voted for President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, but only over his shadow - there were no other candidates in the election - and I did not sign the Gulf Cooperation

Council (GCC) deal that brought corrupt politicians to the cabinet. A cabinet that even the most realistic Yemenis are unhappy with.

The current Parliament and government in Yemen have no legitimacy whatsoever. The Parliament's mandate expired in 2008, yet a deal among Yemen's elite has extended that term until today.

As a result, it was understandably difficult for me to listen to policy makers who helped impose a government on my country ask such questions. How could an unelected parliament effectively represent me or be accountable to me, if it was imposed? Ironically enough, it was easier for me to deliver my message to the U.S. Senate than it would be to deliver it to my own legislative body in Yemen. The possibility of communication between the U.S. Senate and any Yemeni is more likely than between any Yemeni and his/her own parliament.

There are not many countries where you can challenge their most secret policies from their capital. Yet speaking to US media outlets was both interesting and troubling. American media outlets tend to focus exclusively on the domestic political maneuvering in Yemen, without any reference to the tragedies I encountered on the ground. It was as if someone wanted to focus on me but in no way discuss my personal experience with the powerful and horrific stories of the drone

strikes.

One troubling aspect of the media coverage was the extent to which the focus was on how the drone strikes raise animosity in Yemen towards America. While that is true, I felt that some journalists focused too narrowly on this point at the expense of the more pressing issue: hundreds of innocent civilians were killed in these strikes. This point seemed obscured by the attention given to the reaction toward America after a drone strike. Civilian deaths should alone be the leading cause for discussion and critique of the program.

I was also unhappy with the cheap attempts by a few media outlets to use the tragedies we were discussing as a way of making a party political point, usually against the Obama administration.

On the other hand, I was truly touched by the reactions I received from the general public in America, both in person and virtually.

While the hearing may have furthered some public and political critique of the drone strikes, the battle against this ill-advised policy has not even begun.

Yet journalists and legislators will soon focus on new developments and probably forget about Yemen. The American government will probably resume the old habit of raining down explosive mistakes from three kilometers above Yemeni soil. Nor is it likely that serious

consideration will be given to even minute changes in the program, such as the willingness to pay compensation to the Yemeni civilians who were victims, as was done in Pakistan.

No, continuity in the drones program will probably be uninterrupted, enabled by the same elite politicians who disclose more to their American counterparts than to the Yemeni people.

On the other hand, the most promising front for change in the policy comes from human-rights activists, in Yemen and America, from the US and Yemeni publics, and from those politicians willing to challenge such senseless policies.

As I told countless reporters and legislators, the drones program does not make Americans safer. Yet there is a willful blindness to the full range of implications of this counter-productive policy.

After a beautifully calm final night in DC with American friends, I headed back to Yemen, after two weeks I still struggle to describe. At the airport, the immigration officer looked at my passport and told me I had been "randomly" selected for extra security checks.

I didn't buy the word "randomly," but smiled and told him: "Sure. It has been a random two weeks to start with."

Farea Al Muslimi is a Yemeni activist and writer

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Fazli Çorman:

I have bad news for those who are disturbed by the developing Turkish-Yemeni brotherhood. Our relationship will only grow faster.

Interview by
Sama'a Al-Hamdani

The Turkish Ambassador to Yemen, Fazli Çorman, previously served in Greece, Oman, Japan and Canada. Upon his assignment to Yemen, he quickly made a name for himself in the country as he is one of only two ambassadors with a Twitter account. He now has more than 2,000 followers and prides himself on being accessible.

In an interview with the Yemen Times, Çorman talks about the complex relationship Yemen and Turkey have. Those who remember the Ottomans fondly view the empire as a force that structured the North of Yemen. Today, Yemenis in this category continue to celebrate their "Turkish heritage." While others, who remember the Ottomans as occupiers, believe Turkey is primarily expanding its influence in the Middle East through Yemen. On this relationship, Çorman said:

"We all know that Turkey and Yemen have had a strong relationship, for centuries. There are deep cultural affinities, ties of brotherhood, as well as a firm solidarity between the Turkish and Yemeni people. Almost all Yemenis know this fact and feel very close to Turkey. The Yemeni-Turkish brotherhood is deeply-rooted; transcending any particular period or personal realm. Thus, efforts to harm this brotherhood are doomed

to be unsuccessful. Yemen is special to us, and we have nothing but good intentions. We deem Yemen's security and stability as of our own. Our Yemeni brothers and sisters can be sure that nothing will affect the excellent relationship between the two brotherly countries. It will only reinforce our ties. I have bad news for those who are disturbed by the developing Turkish-Yemeni brotherhood. Our relationship will only grow faster."

The Turkish government has become one of Yemen's main trading partners. Just two months ago, Turkey received its first shipment of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Yemen. When asked about Turkey's future economic cooperation plans with Yemen and what to expect, Çorman said Yemen's struggling economy has a lot of potential.

"Turkey's Ege Gaz LNG company received the cargo at Aliğa Port on March 9. This shipment supports the Yemeni economy and other shipments will follow. We all know that Yemeni gas is sold at very low prices and Turkey is ready to purchase Yemeni gas at the world market price. I think this trade will not only increase Yemeni exports to Turkey and thereby balance the bilateral trade, but will also give leverage to the Yemeni government in their negotiations with Yemeni gas prices.

"Also, I have observed an increase of all kinds of Turkish goods in the market. This shows development in the bilateral trade relations, which



YT archive photo by Amira Nassef

Çorman says that no foreign power should interfere in Yemen's internal affairs.

are reflected by our statistics. Our trade volume in 2012 was a new record in our economic relations. It was approximately \$500 million in 2012 which, not only doubled the figures of 2011, but exceeded all

statistics prior to 2011. Our target is to contribute by further increasing this volume to at least \$1 billion in the near future," Çorman said.

Turkey's ruling party, the Justice and Development Party (AKP), is considered by many as one of the most conservative parties with Islamist roots to have power since the time of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Rumors are circulating that suggest Turkey is dealing primarily with individuals in Yemen from the Islah Party, which is the largest opposition party in Yemen also with Islamic roots. Examples people put forward are that of an Islahi tribal Sheikh Hameed Al-Ahmar, who is also accused of being part of Ali Abdullah Saleh's former regime and said to have multimillion dollar businesses in Turkey. Tawakkol Karman, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, also an Islahi, was awarded Turkish citizenship. Furthermore Çorman was asked to comment on Islahis who were wounded during the Yemeni Revolution and were sent to Turkey for treatment.

"First of all, any Yemeni businessmen can have a business in Turkey. Hameed Al-Ahmar may be one of them. We invite and welcome all Yemeni businessmen to invest or establish businesses in Turkey regardless of their political affiliation. Secondly, Tawakkol Karman was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize before she gained Turkish citizenship. In this regard, she successfully represented Muslim women in general and Arab women in particular. It is with this understanding that Turkish citizenship was given to her and her family, as a result of our appreciation of her strong voice as a Muslim woman which has been heard in the West for the first time. Our act is out of respect and should not be traced with any other intention behind it.

"Thirdly, in the framework of the Agreement Concerning the Cooperation in the Area of Health between Turkey and Yemen every year, 25 Yemeni patients—this number is increased to 100 in 2013—who cannot be cured in Yemen can be treated in Turkey by the selection of the Yemeni Ministry of Health. If the Yemeni Ministry chooses them according to party affiliation, I do not know, and I cannot judge this. Due to the dire conditions of those injured in Yemen during the

revolution and as a response to the requests of the Yemeni government, 100 more patients were offered complimentary health care. All of these patients were selected in coordination with Ministry of Health officials. Turkey is equally distanced to all parties in Yemen and doesn't think about discrimination, especially the humanitarian field. If Yemeni people follow our news closely, then they will easily understand that these rumors and allegations are clearly baseless.

Yemen and other countries have seized weapon shipments that passed through Turkey or originated from there in the past few years. Some of the weapons seized are said to be manufactured in Turkey and many media outlets and politicians have accused Turkey of turning a blind eye. Çorman answers who is shipping them and how the weapons are being smuggled into Yemen.

"There have been three shipments that are associated with containers coming from Turkey over the last two years. One was caught in Dubai in March of 2011, another in Aden in November of 2012 and the last one came to Aden in November but wasn't inspected until January of 2013. All three shipments had pistols that were concealed amongst other goods. They were not declared to customs as such, and therefore they were cases of illegal smuggling.

"The pistols captured in Dubai, were blank or traumatic-firing pistols that may be modified for live ammunition, and were marked by its Turkish producer's brand name. That producer was prosecuted and imprisoned. His license for blank-firing pistols was cancelled. The pistols captured in November 2012, were marked with a fake brand. They were small-caliber handguns and were concealed in some biscuit boxes loaded at the very back of the container. Most of them were bundled with biscuits and cakes. We got one sample of that handgun and the laboratory analysis in Turkey recently revealed that their barrel is not ribbed and they cannot fire regular live ammunition. It appears that the receiver in Yemen was planning to modify their barrel to fire live ammunition in order to make extra profit.

“

We invite and welcome all Yemeni businessmen to invest or establish businesses in Turkey, regardless of their political affiliation.

"The last shipment, captured in November but opened in January, contained a very small caliber of blank-firing handguns. I am not an expert, but I personally saw these handguns and they were clearly not-capable of firing live ammunitions since they do not have the proper barrel.

"There are exaggerations

involved. These cases are very amateurish and do not reflect the work of a professional arms smuggler. This does not change the fact that whomever did this broke the law by hiding weapons—blank or not—in containers declared as something else," Çorman said. "The Turkish Minister of Customs is planning to visit Yemen soon as we are searching for an agreement with Yemeni officials to prevent such cases from happening in the future."

Soon, Yemenis won't require a visa to travel to Turkey. Turkey would be one of the few countries around the world that won't require visa applications from Yemeni nationals. Furthermore, some Yemenis have said Turkey is recruiting fighters from Yemen to fight in Syria against current President Bashar Assad.

"This is the most ridiculous thing that I heard. It is almost a laughing matter if the subject and aim of the allegation was not so serious. These allegations are like free-flying balloons released by obscure sources online and then whomever catches the bait, some knowingly and others inadvertently, spreads the news. Yemen has an incredibly fertile ground for every kind of conspiracy and thus, conspiracy theories abound. The lack of trust and transparency by inept and corrupt personalities allows modifiers of public opinion to play freely with these kinds of conspiracies, all in order to promote their own wicked agendas. In the case of this "balloon," the quality of work is so low that it gives itself up.

"If Turkey would like to recruit Yemeni fighters for Syria, why would we sign an agreement to abolish visas? It's a public move that would attract the world's attention. Also, why is the Yemeni government with its General People's Congress Foreign Minister accepting such an agreement? Wouldn't it be simpler and wiser to just let the 'recruited fighters' enter into Turkey if that is what we wanted? Furthermore, this visa abolishing agreement was originally signed in January of 2011, under the presence of former President Saleh and the current President of Turkey in Sana'a. At that point, there was no revolution, neither in Yemen nor in Syria. The ratification of the agreement took longer than anticipated due to turmoil in Yemen and it was signed in October of 2012.

"I would like to kindly remind our Yemeni sisters and brothers that by implementing this agreement, Turkey will be one of the very few countries that opens its borders to Yemenis for free travel, and vice versa, all while the rest of the world puts more restrictions on Yemenis. We expect that it be appreciated. Those few who may still believe that Turkey recruits fighters are free of course, to ignore the agreement and to not travel to Turkey to save themselves from the risks of being lured into fighting in Syria."

When asked to comment on Iran's involvement in Yemen, Ambassador Çorman had the following to say:

"When it comes to your question about Iran or any country's influence in Yemen, I want to believe that no partner of Yemen interferes in the internal affairs of the country. It is only the business of Yemenis to choose their partnerships as they see fit. It is true Yemen is facing many challenges, some internal and some external and we are ready to extend all necessary contributions for the consolidation of peace and stability in Yemen, as well as the well-being of the Yemeni people. Despite difficulties, I am confident to say that we are doing our best to help."

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"تركيا تقف على مسافة واحدة مع جميع الأحزاب في اليمن، خصوصاً عندما يتعلق الأمر بالجانب الإنساني"



فضلي تشورمان

نريد؛ إضافة إلى ذلك، اتفاقية إلغاء الفيزا تم توقيعها بالأساس بصنعاء في يناير 2011 إبان حكم الرئيس السابق صالح والرئيس التركي الحالي. وفي ذلك الوقت، لم يكن هناك ثورة في اليمن أو سوريا. إقرار هذه الاتفاقية تأخذ وقتاً أطول من المتوقع بسبب الاضطرابات في اليمن، وتم إعادة التوقيع عليها في أكتوبر 2012.

وفي تعليقه على التدخل الإيراني في اليمن، قال تشورمان:

«عندما نتحدث حول نفوذ وتأثير إيران أو أي دولة في اليمن، أنا أعتقد بأنه ليس هناك شريك لليمن يتدخل في الشؤون الداخلية للبلد. هو فقط شأن اليمنيين ليختاروا شركائهم إذا ما رأوا بأنها تلائمهم. صحيح بأن اليمن يواجه تحديات داخلية وخارجية عديدة ونحن على استعداد لتقديم كل الدعم الضروري للشعب الأمن والاستقرار في اليمن والرخاء للشعب اليمني. ورغم الصعوبات، أقولها بثقة بأننا نسعى جاهدين لمساعدة هذا البلد».

سوريا ضد نظام الرئيس السوري بشار الأسد. يشير تشورمان في هذا الصدد: «هذه من أكثر الأمور التي تدعو للسخرية. إنه أمر مضحك عندما لا تحمل هذه الادعاءات أي جدية. هذه الادعاءات مثل بالونات يتم إطلاقها من قبل مصادر غامضة ومن ثم من يقوم بإمسك الطعم يقوم بنشر الخبر. اليمن لديها أرض خصبة لكل أنواع المؤامرات ولذا نظريات المؤامرة تزخر في البلد. فقدان الثقة والشفافية للشخصيات الفاسدة وغير الكفوة يسمح لاعبين بالرائي العام بأن يتلاعبوا بحرية بهذه المؤامرات للترويج لأجنداتهم الخبيثة».

وأضاف: «إن كانت تركيا تنوي تجنيد مقاتلين يمينيين لسوريا، لماذا سنوقع على اتفاقية إلغاء الفيزا؟ إنه تحرك عام سيجذب انتباه العالم. أيضاً، لماذا الحكومة اليمنية ممثلة بوزير خارجيتها التابع لحزب المؤتمر الشعبي العام قبلت بهذه الاتفاقية؟ أليس من الحكمة ومن الأسهل أن ندع المقاتلين المجندين أن يدخلوا لتركيا إذا كان هذا ما

وخلال السنوات الماضية، اليمن ودول أخرى احتجزت شحنات أسلحة مرت عبر تركيا أو أنتجت هناك. ويقال إن بعض الأسلحة المضبوطة تمت صنعها في تركيا والعديد من وسائل الإعلام والسياسيين تتهم تركيا بغض الطرف حول هذه الشحنات. تشورمان تحدث حول مهربي الأسلحة وكيفية تهريبها لليمن..

«هناك ثلاث شحنات تحوي قاطرات قادمة من تركيا خلال السنتين الماضيتين. تم القبض على واحدة من هذه الشحنات في مارس 2011، وأخرى في عدن في نوفمبر 2012 والأخيرة قدمت إلى عدن في يناير 2013. جميع الشحنات كانت تحوي مسدسات كانت مخفية وسط بضائع أخرى».

«المسدسات التي قبض عليها في دبي، كانت فارغة ويمكن أن يتم تحويلها إلى ذخيرة حية، وكانت تحوي علامة تجارية تركية. والشخص الذي قام بإنتاج هذه الأسلحة تمت مقاضاته وسجنه وتم إلغاء ترخيصه. هذه المسدسات التي تم القبض عليها في نوفمبر 2012 كانت مسجلة بعلامة تجارية مزورة. هذه كانت مسدسات من العيار الخفيف وكانت مخفية في بعض صناديق البسكويت المحملة في إحدى الحاويات. معظمها تم ربطها بجانب صناديق البسكويت والكيك. ونحن قمنا بأخذ عينة من هذه المسدسات للتحليل المختبري في تركيا وتبين بأن فوهات تلك المسدسات لم تكن مدعمة ولا يمكن إطلاق ذخيرة حية عبرها. وكان من الواضح بأن مستلم هذه البضاعة كان يخطط لتحويل فوهات الأسلحة لتصبح قادرة على إطلاق ذخيرة حية لكي يتم بيعها بأسعار أكبر».

«الشحنة الأخيرة، والتي تم احتجازها في نوفمبر، احتوت على مسدسات فارغة الطلقات وذات عيار خفيف. أنا لست خبيراً، لكني شخصياً رأيت هذه المسدسات وكان من الواضح أنها لم تكن قادرة على إطلاق الرصاص الحي بسبب عدم احتوائها على فوهات مناسبة».

«هناك مبالغت حول هذه الشحنات. هذه الشحنات التي تم كشفها تدل على أن من قاموا بها قليلوا خبرة ولا يعكسون عمل المهريين المحنكين. وهذا لا يغير حقيقة أن كل من قام بخرق القانون عبر إخفاء الأسلحة في الحاويات جميعهم سواء، وزير الجمارك التركي يخطط لزيارة اليمن قريباً في حين أننا نبحت اتفاقاً مع المسؤولين اليمنيين لمنع مثل هذه الحالات من الحدوث في المستقبل».

وقريباً، لن يحتاج اليمنيون إلى فيزا للسفر لتركيا. ستكون تركيا واحدة من الدول القليلة حول العالم التي ستسمح للمواطنين اليمنيين الدخول لتركيا دون طلب تقديم فيزا. علاوة على ذلك، يقول بعض اليمنيين بأن تركيا تقوم بتجنيد مقاتلين من اليمن للقتال في

في تركيا تقدر بالملايين. كما أن الحائزة على جائزة نوبل للسلام توكل كرمان والمنتمة لحزب الإصلاح قد منحت الجنسية التركية. كما أن بعض جرحى الثورة المنتميين لحزب الإصلاح تم إرسالهم لتركيا للعلاج..

يقول تشورمان: «أولاً، أي رجل أعمال يمني يستطيع عمل مشاريع تجارية في تركيا. حميد الأحمر قد يكون واحدا منهم. نحن ندعو ونرحب بكل رجال الأعمال اليمنيين للاستثمار وتأسيس مشاريع تجارية في تركيا بغض النظر عن انتماءاتهم السياسية».

«ثانياً، توكل كرمان منحت جائزة نوبل للسلام قبل منحها الجنسية التركية. وفي هذا الخصوص، كرمان استطاعت وبكل نجاح تمثيل المرأة المسلمة بشكل عام والمرأة العربية على وجه الخصوص. وعلى ذلك تم منحها الجنسية التركية هي وعائلتها تقديراً منا لصوتها القوي المسموع في الغرب ولأول مرة. ما قمنا به تابع من احترامنا لهذه المرأة وليس هناك أي نوايا أخرى».

«ثالثاً، في إطار الاتفاق المتعلق بالتعاون في مجال الصحة بين اليمن وتركيا، هناك 25 مريض يمني ممن لم يتمكن علاجهم باليمن تم توفير العلاج لهم في تركيا بناء على اختيار وزارة الصحة اليمنية. إذا تم اختيار هؤلاء المرضى، الذين وصل عددهم إلى 100 خلال العام 2013، بناءً على انتماءات حزبية، فأننا لا أعلم ذلك ولا يمكن أن أحكم على ذلك. وبسبب الظروف القاسية التي يعانيها جرحى الثورة اليمنية وكاستجابة لطلبات الحكومة اليمنية، فقد تم توفير رعاية صحية مجانية لأكثر من 100 حالة. جميع هذه الحالات تم اختيارها بالتنسيق مع مسؤولي وزارة الصحة.

تركيا تقف على مسافة واحدة مع جميع الأحزاب في اليمن، خصوصاً عندما يتعلق الأمر بالجانب الإنساني. إذا تابع الناس أخبارنا بعناية فسيديركون أن هذه الإشاعات والادعاءات لا أساس لها من الصحة تماماً».

المسال. ولدى سؤاله حول خطط التعاون الاقتصادي المستقبلي بين اليمن وتركيا وعن توقعات تركيا في هذا المجال، قال تشورمان بأن الاقتصاد اليمني المتعثر لديه العديد من الإمكانيات.

«شركة "Ege Gaz LNG" التركية تسلمت شحنة الغاز في ميناء Aliağa في التاسع من مارس. هذه الشحنة ستدعم اقتصاد اليمن وسيبقيها العديد من الشحنات. نعلم جميعاً بأن الغاز اليمني يُباع بأسعار متدنية جداً وتركيا مستعدة لشراء الغاز اليمني بسعر السوق العالمي. واعتقد أن هذه التجارة لن تزيد فقط من صادرات اليمن لتركيا وبالتالي إحداث التوازن في العلاقة التجارية الثنائية، لكن سوف تعطي للحكومة اليمنية نفوذاً عند مفاوضاتهم حول سعر الغاز اليمني».

«أيضاً، لاحظت ازدياد لكافة أنواع البضائع التركية في السوق اليمنية. وهذا يظهر التطور في العلاقات التجارية الثنائية والتي تعكسها الإحصائيات المتوفرة لدينا. حجم التجارة بين اليمن وتركيا سجل رقماً قياسياً في العام 2012، حيث وصل إلى ما يقارب 500 مليون دولار وهو ضعف الرقم في العام 2011، ليس هذا وحسب بل تجاوز حجم التجارة للعام 2012 كل الأرقام لما قبل العام 2011. ونحن نهدف إلى الإسهام في رفع هذا الرقم ليصل على الأقل إلى بليون دولار في المستقبل القريب».

ويعتبر الحزب الحاكم في تركيا، حزب العدالة والتنمية، بحسب العديد واحداً من أهم الأحزاب المحافظة ذات الجذور الإسلامية والتي تقلدت مهام الحكم منذ أيام مصطفى كمال أتاتورك. وتدور الإشاعات التي تقول بأن تركيا تتعامل بشكل رئيسي مع أفراد في اليمن ينتمون لحزب الإصلاح، والذي يعتبر أكبر أحزاب المعارضة في البلد والذي له جذور إسلامية أيضاً. ويُقال بأن الشيخ القبلي حميد الأحمر لديه العديد من المشاريع الاقتصادية

حوار: سماء الهمداني

شغل السفير التركي بصنعاء، فضلي تشورمان، العديد من المناصب في اليونان، عمان، اليابان وكندا. ومنذ تعيينه سفيراً لليمن، لمع اسم تشورمان سريعاً خصوصاً في ظل نشاطه على حسابه الشخصي في «تويتر» والذي يتابعه أكثر من 2000 شخص.

في حوار مع يمن تايمز، تحدث تشورمان حول العلاقة المعقدة بين اليمن وتركيا. فمن يتذكر العثمانيين باعتزاز يرى الامبراطورية العثمانية كقوة ساهمت في تشييد شمال اليمن، وما زال هؤلاء مستمرين في الاحتفال بـ«التراث التركي». في المقابل، أولئك الذين يعتبرون العثمانيين كقوة محتلة، يعتقدون بأن تركيا بسطت نفوذها في الشرق الأوسط عبر اليمن. وفي هذا المجال يقول تشورمان:

«نعلم جميعاً بأن العلاقة بين تركيا واليمن قوية واستمرت لقرون. هناك علاقات مصاهرة وروابط أخوة وألفة عميقة، بالإضافة إلى التآزر المتين بين الشعبين التركي واليمني. معظم اليمنيين يدركون هذه الحقيقة ويشعرون بقربهم لتركيا. العلاقة الأخوية بين اليمن وتركيا عميقة الجذور. لذا، فالجهود التي تسعى لتشويه هذه العلاقة الأخوية سيؤول مصيرها للفشل. اليمن بلد استثنائي بالنسبة لنا، ونحن لا نملك لهذا البلد سوى النوايا الطيبة. ونحن نتمنى أمان واستقرار اليمن كما نتمناه لبلدنا تماماً. أخوتنا اليمنيين عليهم التأكد بأن هذه الجهود لا يمكن أن تؤثر على العلاقة المتميزة بين البلدين الشقيقين. بل ستعزز من علاقتنا. وأنا لدي خبر سيء لأولئك المنزعجين من العلاقات الأخوية بين اليمن وتركيا وأقول لهم بأن هذه العلاقة سوف تتطور بشكل أسرع».

الحكومة التركية أصبحت أحد شركاء التجارة الأساسيين لليمن، فقبل شهرين استقبلت تركيا أول شحنة يمنية من الغاز الطبيعي

COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS PROJECT (CLP)

Tender Invitation

The Community Livelihoods Project (CLP) is a USAID-funded project in Yemen managed by Creative Associates International. In coordination with the Ministry of Public health and population (MOPHP), CLP is responsible for the following:

Health Media campaign

CLP is inviting qualified Companies specializing in that area to submit proposals.

Interested companies are invited to contact CLP at the address below to request a copy of the RFP during the period May 13, 2013 thru Wednesday, May 15, 2013 03:00pm to receive the complete Tender Documents. (State the tender name in your request.)
CLP email: proc@clp-yemen.com

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Providing Furniture for Al-Rawdhah hospital Al-Rawdhah city –Sana'a Gov.

CLP is inviting qualified Companies specializing in that area to submit proposals.

Interested companies are invited to contact CLP at the address below to request a copy of the RFQ during the period May 13, 2013 thru Wednesday, May 15, 2013 03:00pm to receive the complete Tender Documents. (State the tender name in your request.)
CLP email: proc@clp-yemen.com

Job Vacancies

International Relief and Development, (IRD) Inc., is a non-profit organization specializing in international development and humanitarian assistance in over 40 countries and has been working in Yemen since 2009. IRD is seeking to fill the following post:

Operations Officer – 1 post

Location: **Hodeidah**
Duration: **Twelve months - Extendable**

Under the direction of the Operations Manager/ Program Manager, the Operations officer will:

- Conduct the Administrative, Human Resources and office procurement in Hodeidah field office;
- Oversee and plan the work of the driver and cleaner;
- Ensure all filing, paperwork, and tracking systems are set up and IRD policies and procedures are followed in the everyday operation of the office;
- Track leases, vehicle rentals, local transportation expenses; time sheets; vacation and leave forms;

Essential qualifications for applicants for this post are:
At least a diploma in management, administration or related subject; Fluent (reading and writing) in English and Arabic are essential; At least three years administrative or office management experience with an NGO; Computer skills (Microsoft Office software).

Application Procedure

For all positions, applicants should send a CV and covering letter, both in English, to irdyemen@irdglobal.org with the title of the position you are applying for in the subject line of the email. The closing date for applications is **Friday 31st May 2013**.

The plight of LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees

Kyle Knight
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from IRIN

Refugees and asylum seekers face a host of challenges when crossing borders, but the obstacles are particularly pronounced for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex (LGBTI) persons, say experts.

"LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees face a range of threats, risks and vulnerabilities throughout the displacement cycle," Volker Türk, director of international protection at the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), told IRIN from Geneva.

"And while the world has come a long way since first recognizing asylum claims based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the 1980s, residual factors ranging from criminalization to disbelief result in LGBTI people suffering at the hands of a variety of actors as they flee oppression and seek safety," he said.

A new edition of the Forced Migration Review (FMR) released on April 29 highlights many of the remaining challenges for LGBTI migrants and asylum seekers.

According to UNHCR, targeting people based on real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity for persecution, discrimination, and harassment can stem from the belief that they are encouraging unwanted or unnatural social change.

LGBTI people leave home for the same reasons as everyone else: to flee war, persecution, and oppression; to seek stability, education, employment, and freedom. In situations of upheaval or conflict, sexual and gender minorities have become targets for scapegoating or "moral

cleansing" campaigns, compounding the inherent vulnerability created by unrest, activists say.

LGBTI persecution

LGBTI people experience torture, violence, discrimination, and persecution in countries around the world, sometimes deliberately carried out by the state and often conducted with impunity.

Homosexual acts are punishable with the death penalty in five countries (Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen), as well as some parts of Nigeria and Somalia, the International Lesbian and Gay Association, the oldest and only membership-based LGBTI organization in the world, reported in

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LGBTI people leave home for the same reasons as everyone else: to flee war, persecution, and oppression; to seek stability, education, employment, and freedom.

2012.

According to research by Human Rights Watch, gay Iranians are fleeing, frequently to Turkey, due to the state-sponsored persecution they face at home, while thousands of LGBTI people have sought international protection in Europe in recent years on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

And while few countries keep LGBTI-specific data, Norway and Belgium, which both track asylum decisions based on sexual orientation and gender identity, have shown a steady uptick in recent years.

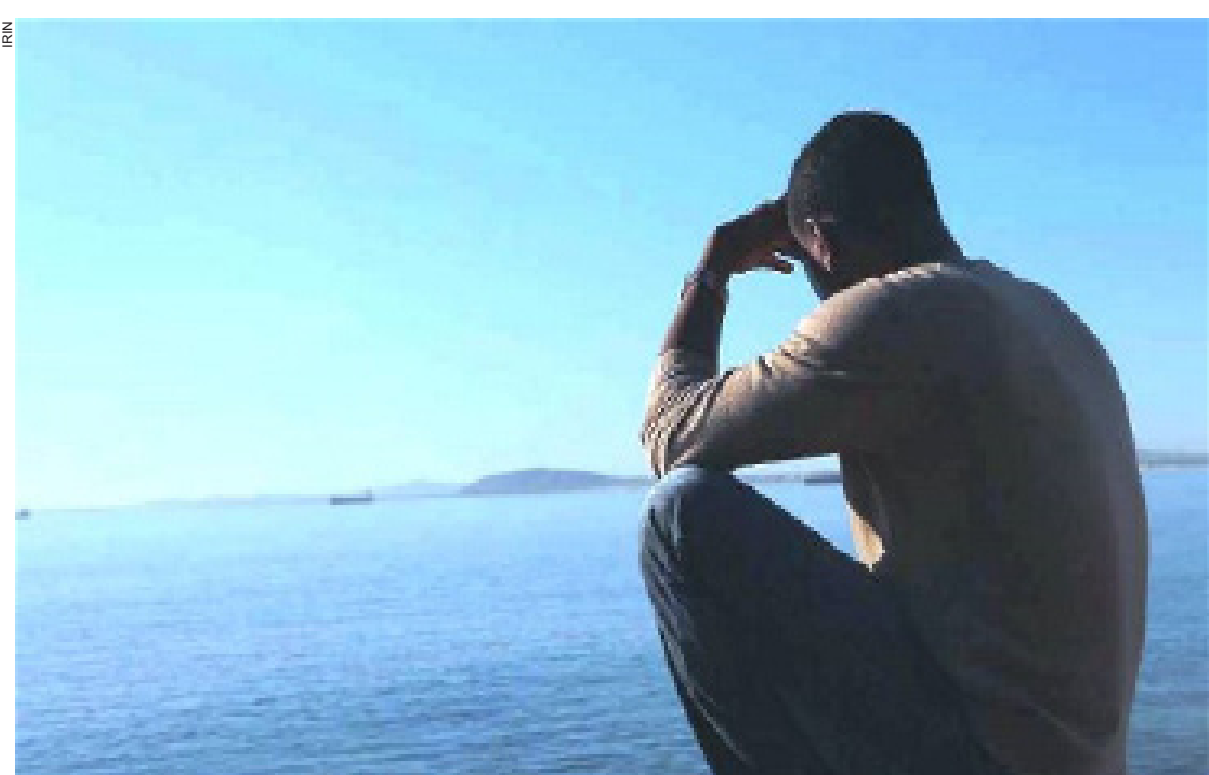
From 2008-2010, LGBTI asylum decisions in Belgium increased from 226-522. During the same period in Norway they increased from 3-26.

But information about abuses against LGBTI people - called "Country of Origin Information" (COI) in the asylum process - can be scant in hostile countries, argued Christian Pangilinan, a Tanzania-based refugee lawyer cited in the Forced Migration Review.

For transgender people, COI can mislead agencies, such as in Iran where authorities "allow transsexual surgery as a forced method of preventing homosexuality rather than supporting trans identities," according to a gender expert's FMR chapter.

Crossing borders of geography and identity

The multiple document checks migrants might encounter can be particularly difficult for transgender or gender-variant people. While international standards for travel documents officially recognize three genders - marked M, F, or X - only a handful of countries



Speaking about sexual identity is difficult in many countries. For refugees moving over borders and looking to re-establish themselves in a new place, it is even harder.

have incorporated the third category, meaning that high-security travel environments, such as airports or emergency residential camps, can threaten humiliation or exclusion to people whose gender identity or expression is different from what is indicated by their documents.

Sexuality and gender are nuanced personal matters. According to research by psychologists, some individuals may have had limited experience expressing or experiencing his or her deeply-felt sexual orientation or gender identity, and may outwardly appear very different than how he or she feels - to the extent of even being in a heterosexual relationship.

With the asylum process taking increasingly extended periods of time, some may start the migration or asylum process with one identity, and change over time, complicating the matter both personally and administratively and exposing the individual to further discrimination or ill-treatment.

UNHCR's guidelines for claims to refugee status based on sexual orientation and gender identity take the progressive step of acknowledging that "sexual orientation and gender identity are broad concepts which create space for self-identification" which may "continue to evolve across a person's lifetime."

Nonetheless, according to UN Office of Drugs and Crime guidelines, discriminatory attitudes regarding sexual orientation and gender identity can mean the credibility of LGBTI people is dismissed by authorities.

"That no one should be compelled to hide, change or renounce his or her identity in order to avoid persecution is a central tenet of refugee law, and this applies to sexual orientation and gender identity on equal footing with other claims," UNHCR's Türk told IRIN.

"There is no space for decision-makers determining refugee status to expect them to conceal who they are."

Safety and security

"There is harassment in the camp against us, sometimes beatings," said Yoman Rai, a 19-year-old Bhutanese refugee living in a camp in Nepal. "We have a protection unit and complaint mechanism, but we are still facing problems," he said, adding that just last month a transgender woman was beaten by other people in the camp.

Security in refugee camps is complicated and contingent on numerous, unpredictable factors. For members of the LGBTI community, vulnerabilities are exacerbated. Sexual abuse is common, but often goes unreported because the right questions are not being asked, and because survivors of sexual violence are reluctant to report events

that will "out" them to legal authorities.

Explained Rai: "Many Bhutanese are not 'out' to anyone except for the outreach workers because they still believe being LGBTI will put them in danger and negatively affect their resettlement process," adding that the outreach educators' network was operated by a Nepalese LGBTI rights NGO.

Emergency shelter settings - such as relief camps or refugee housing-pose specific challenges for transgender people. Access to male-female gender-segregated facilities, such as dormitories or bathrooms, can be perilous. New research is exploring how immigration detention centers can respect and protect LGBTI residents, a US-based prisons expert explained in FMR.

For LGBTI migrants who end up in urban areas, research has shown that cities can be unwelcoming and unfamiliar and access to basic social services limited by scant local resources, exclusion of foreigners, or limitations to access including finances, language, and cultural barriers.

"The single most threatening factor for these migrants is isolation," said Neil Grungras, executive director of the Organization for Refugee Asylum and Migration (ORAM), a leading advocacy group for refugees fleeing persecution due to sexual orientation or gender identity.

With UNHCR data showing the average major refugee situation lasting 17 years, these circumstances can impinge on a significant portion of an individual's life.

Migrant populations are generally more at-risk for HIV due to disruption and displacement and according to UNAIDS are often overlooked in host-country HIV policies.

"It is critical that refugee organizations identify what the best ways of offering protection are, such as providing access to safe shelter, requesting expedited resettlement, and, if possible, working with the police and refugee communities to address specific threats of violence," said Duncan Breen, a senior associate in the refugee protection program at Human Rights First.

Evolving frameworks

Recent UN reports and statements demonstrate increased international attention to the human rights of LGBTI people.

On the program level, agencies have begun to adjust to include considerations of sexual orientation and gender identity.

For example, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is implementing a "safe space" project for refugees at its four US Refugee Admissions Program Resettlement Support Centers.

Jennifer Rumbach, IOM resettlement

support centre manager for South Asia, told IRIN the program is designed to help LGBTI refugees at "every step along the way - whether during counseling, interviews, orientations, travel, or post-arrival..."

"Disclosing sexual orientation and gender identity overseas works to the refugees' benefit because it ensures we can provide appropriate and respectful services, ask questions that are critical to their resettlement experience, and try to get them any special help they need while they wait to be resettled," she explained.

But ORAM's Grungras warned: "We have to be extra careful to talk with refugees and migrants on their own terms - to understand them as they understand themselves, and not label them as 'LGBTI' just because it fits our programs."

In spite of challenges such as a dearth of respectful terms used in some languages referring to sexual and gender minorities, IOM's programs also attempt to engage with local terminology.

"While it's important for staff to

“

Some may start the migration or asylum process with one identity, and change over time, complicating the matter both personally and administratively.

understand sexual orientation and gender identity terms used by the international community, we make special efforts to use relevant and respectful local terminology in our signs, handouts and interview and counseling scripts," said Rumbach. Supporting and protecting LGBTI people as they migrate requires nuance, sensitivity, and an appreciation of evolving identities, legal frameworks, and programmatic potential.



VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

The World Bank country office in Sana'a is seeking to recruit a
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- > Native Arabic speaker with good knowledge of English, able to interact tactfully and effectively with internal and external clients.

Interested candidates should apply via the World Bank site www.worldbank.org/jobs Section: "employment opportunities" job number **131133**, where you can find full particulars on the vacancy. Closing date for this job is **May 16, 2013**. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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Coffee Break

Sudoku **Easy** **Intermediate** **Difficult**

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

Chess

 White plays and wins in the 2nd move
Solutions

 Chess: Nf6+

IMPORTANT Numbers

 Electricity problems 177, Emergency Police 199, Fire Brigade 191, Water Problems 171, Telephone enquires 118, Accident (Traffic) 194, Foreign Affairs, 2025447, Interior Affairs 2527017, Immigration 2507613, Inter-City Bus Co. 262111/3, Ministry of Communication 325110/1/2/3, Radio Station 282061, Tourism 254032, TV Station 332001/2, Red Crescent 203131/3, Tel-Yemen 7522202, Y.net 7522227
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HAND in HAND: a Radio Yemen Times social project

With the support of the capital secretariat, Radio Yemen Times is pleased to announce its newest community initiative. The project aims to **restore a communal garden space in the Old Sana'a City** that have dried up. Please join us on May 23 to help return the open spaces to their once-green appearances. On Saturday, the cleaning workers, headed by the manager of the cleaning office in the Old City, Mohammed Jar Allah, started cleaning up ten garden spaces. This campaign will continue until May 21. After this campaign the garden spaces will be fit for planting. Please join us in order to restore the greenness of the garden spaces and reflect the beauty of the Old City. For further information on the project, follow our morning show program, "Sabahkum Ridha" live on Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. on Yemen Times Radio, 88.8.



"يدي بيدك": مشروع إجتماعي برعاية راديو يمن تايمز

راديو يمن تايمز تنفذ مشروعها الثاني، بالتعاون مع أمانة العاصمة وعدد من المبادرات الشبابية. ويهدف المشروع إلى تاهيل عدد من المساحات الخضراء "مقاشم" المنتشرة في صنعاء القديمة، والتي أصبحت جافة ولا تجد من يهتم بها. وبدأ عمال النظافة السبت الماضي برئاسة مدير مكتب النظافة في صنعاء القديمة محمد جار الله بتنفيذ حملة نظافة لعشرة مقاشم. وتستمر هذه الحملة حتى 21_5_2013 أي قبل تنفيذ مشروع يدي بيدك لزراعة وإعادة تاهيل المقاشم بيومين. بحيث تصبح المقاشم مؤهلة للزراعة. وندعوكم لمد يدكم على يدنا حتى تصبح مقاشم صنعاء القديمة خضراء بما يعكس الصورة الجميلة لصنعاء القديمة. لمعلومات أكثر عن المشروع تابعونا كل خميس الساعة 7:30 صباحاً في برنامج "صباحكم رضا" على راديو يمن تايمز 88.8.



لتفاصيل أكثر، اتصل على 711326669، أو تجدنا في صفحة المشروع على الفيسبوك "يدي بيدك" For further information, call 711326669 or visit our Facebook page

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