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Captain Sami Saeed Farea, the Chairman of the Aden Ports Development Company, and Mr. Mubarak Azban, the Chairman of the Halal Shipping Company represents as the local line agent for CMA CGM, jointly met the vessel and Captain Sami Saeed Farea presented a commemorative plaque to the Captain of the vessel and to the Chairman of the Halal Shipping Company to mark the vessel's maiden call to Aden.

Captain Sami Saeed Farea said "we are delighted to receive the maiden call from the CMA CGM vessel SILS". Indeed, we have got one more opportunity to prove our ability to provide premium services to the vessel. We are closely associating with CMA CGM to establish an excellent partnership and looking forward to receive the CMA CGM vessels daily.



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Drone strike in Abyan kills four alleged Al-Qaeda affiliates

Rammah Al-Jubari

ABYAN, May 19 — Four alleged Al-Qaeda affiliates were killed late Friday night by an American drone strike in the Almahfd district of Abyan governorate, in South Yemen, according to security officials.

Rumors have surfaced that prominent Al-Qaeda leader Jalal Bl'eed was killed in the attack.

"We don't have sufficient informa-

Security officials cannot confirm if one of the four killed is a well-known leader

tion to either assert or deny Bl'eed's death," said Almahfd district's Secu-

city Chief Colonel Ahmed Al-Rab'i. Al-Khader Abdulla, a leader of a local Popular Committee— a group of civilian fighters who back state military— said Bl'eed's relatives have denied his death in the attack.

After being drive out of Al-Qaeda strong holds in the Zinjibar, Jaar and Shuqra areas in Abyan last year, members of the terror group have found pocketed havens in several surrounding mountainous ar-

reas including the Almahfd district.

According to a report issued by the Yemeni Hood Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, there were 81 American-backed drone strikes in 2012.

The use of drones have been criticized both domestically and internationally by human rights activists who condemn civilian deaths caused by drones and say the strikes are a violation of Yemen's sovereignty.

Deceased pilot's refuse to hold funeral until they get answers about crash

Details about the crash remain unclear, bullets may have grazed black box

Story and photo by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, May 19 — Relatives of the deceased pilot Hani Al-Aghbri, who died on Monday after his plane exploded and crashed into a residential area in the south of Sana'a, are refusing to bury his remains, until those responsible for his death are arrested.

Abdulrahman Al-Aghbri, the pilot's brother, told the Yemen Times that Rashid Al-Janad, commander of the Air Forces, tried to put pressure on his family to bury the re-

mains of the deceased pilot. The Al-Aghbri family had been offered money, but they have so far refused any compensation.

Hani Al-Aghbri graduated in 2002 from the Air Force Academy, at the top of his class, his brother said. He also recounted that during the uprising of 2011, he was in support of the young protestors.

The family says they will wait on a funeral until after official black box findings about the cause of the plane crash are released.

"Two days following the explosion, we found the black box and handed it to Major Nabeel Al-Anz," a source in the Air Force who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

The source said that several bullets had damaged the black box.

Abdulrahman Al-Hilali, the media spokesperson for the Air Forces, told the Yemen Times that investigations are underway and that



Three houses were damaged when the plane tore into this residential neighborhood.

it is still unclear whether the plane was fired at.

Al-Hilali said the box hasn't been properly examined yet and that they are still recovering informa-

tion. Twenty-eight military planes fell to the ground during the last eight years. These accidents claimed the lives of over 18 pilots and assistants as well as 23 trainers and technicians.

Three Yemeni journalists and two other foreigners kidnapped by tribesmen

Kidnappers are demanding \$100,000 per person for victims release

Rammah Al-Jubari

MARIB, May 20 — Tribal mediations are ongoing in Marib, where on Thursday three journalists, two foreigners, and an employee of the Safer Oil company were kidnapped by tribesmen in the eastern governorate.

Yahia Saleh Al-Masmi, a tribal leader, took responsibility for the

kidnapping and told the Yemen Times that the capturing was part of a plot to take revenge on the government, for what he said were outstanding grievances—including the killing of locals and destruction of property, caused by the state around two years ago in clashes between local tribesmen and military brigades.

Mohammed Al-Shamiri, a photographer, was one of those targeted for kidnapping, but was not captured. He was at the scene when the others were taken.

He told the Yemen Times he was on assignment driving with four other journalists when their vehicle came to a blocked road, in the Wadi Habab area near the Sewrah dis-

trict. His car was stopped, and he and his colleagues were taken from the car.

Another one of the captives, Ahmed Al-Shamiri—no relation to Mohammed—spoke with the Yemen Times from captivity. He said he was being held in "a remote valley," but could not be more specific.

"A car brings us food and we sleep on the ground," Al-Shamiri said. "We don't have mobile coverage."

In exchange for the release of the captives, Al-Masmi is demanding financial compensation for each tribesman killed in previous bouts of fighting which took place in 2011, asking for YR20 million (about \$100,000) per head.

Tribal mediations thus far have

been fruitless.

Along with the journalists, one Russian, one Turk, and a Yemeni employee from Safer Oil company are also all being held by Al-Masmi.

Along with Al-Shamiri, Yaseen Al-Zkri of Suhail Channel, Ibrahim Al-Ashmori of Al-Thawra Newspaper and Ahmed Al-Shamiri from Okaz Saudi Newspaper are all being held by Al-Masmi.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate condemned the kidnapping, calling on the state to work to secure the release of the detainees.

Secretary-general of the syndicate, Marwan Damaj, called this kidnapping a "flagrant violation of the law."

NDC temporarily adjourns sessions to condemn murder of two boys



NDC members hold sings in the lobby of the conference's venue to call for the speedy investigation and arrest of those involved in Thursday's murder.

Mohammed Al-Hassani

SANA'A, May 19 — The entire assembly of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) shut down for an hour on Sunday to condemn the killing of two young Southerners in Sana'a, who were shot dead by armed men on Thursday.

NDC sessions were suspended on Saturday in protest of the killings but resumed on Sunday with the exception of the brief protest.

Two people have been brought in for questioning in the murders, according to the Interior Ministry. Investigations are ongoing.

The presidium of the NDC released a statement Saturday denouncing the incident.

The victims, 20-year-old Hasan Aman and 22-year-old Khaled Al-Khatib were from Aden. They were killed when they sped up in their car to pass a wedding convoy of the Al Awadh family on Al-Khameen Street in Sana'a, said security forces.

According to witnesses quoted by several media outlets, armed men in the convoy were upset about the passing and opened fire on the two young men, killing them.

"There are concerns this accident could be exploited by [members of the dialogue] to trigger further resentment among Southerners," said Mohammed Marim, a member in the NDC.

The conference has been boycotted more than once after crimes against Southerners have been committed.

Marim said the sooner the perpetrators are caught, the smoother current NDC sessions will go. But, he realizes it may take some time for officials to solve the crime.

"We understand the unstable political and security circumstances the country is going through," he said. "We should give the security and judicial authorities an opportunity to catch the perpetrators and bring them to justice."

Security officer assassinated in Hadramout

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

HADRAMOUT, May 19 — Security authorities said on Saturday that preliminary investigations indicate Al-Qaeda affiliates are responsible for the Friday assassination of Colonel Abdullah Al-Rabaki, an officer in the political security authority in Al-Mukala city in Hadramout governorate.

Officials with information on the attack were hesitant to speak to the press as they feared retaliation from the terror group.

Although Al-Qaeda has not officially claimed responsibility for the murder, a youtube video found online by an alleged Al-Qaeda member names Al-Rabaki as a recent target of the group.

Two suspects on a motorcycle shot Al-Rabaki on Friday at around 11 p.m., according to Hussein Al-Shaiba, the coordinator of public relations in Hadramout. He said this is characteristic of Al-Qaeda assassinations.

Al-Shaiba said investigations are ongoing to capture and prosecute the suspects.



Security officials in Hadramout have said they are afraid of being targeted by Al-Qaeda.

Assassinations linked to believed Al-Qaeda affiliates have worried the southern governorate recently, Al-Shaiba said. He believes individuals like Al-Mukala who are involved in counter-terrorism are being targeted.

A local journalist, Amen Barufaid, who reports on Al-Qaeda activities said Al-Rabaki was well-known in the area for his investigations of Al-Qaeda.

Yemen Times contacted the security and forensic depart-

ments in the governorate, but they declined to comment.

Two weeks ago, Brigadier Ahmed Abdulrazaq, the manager of the military intelligence in Hadramout, was assassinated in Al-Mukala.

Al-Qaeda is also suspected in his assassination.

According to official reports from the state, 56 government employees have been assassinated this year, 18 of them in Hadramout.

SCER say parliamentary elections will be held as scheduled

Mohammed Al-Hasani

SANA'A, May 19 — The Supreme Committee of Elections and Referendum (SCER) said as far as they are concerned parliamentary elections will go ahead in February 2014 as stipulated by the Gulf Cooperation Council



Yemen's new voting system is expected to cut down on fraud.

(GCC) Initiative, the internationally brokered deal that handed power from former President Ali Abdullah Saleh to current President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi.

Representatives from the SCER said the committee has been working overtime in order to meet the deadline.

The committee had expressed their concern earlier this year that elections would be delayed due to a lack of funding.

The 2014 elections will be the first of their kind in Yemen, using an electronic registry. It will replace the old manual, thumb-print system.

The United Nations and other international donors have provided \$24 million dollars for new, electronic thumb scanning machines.

Bids for companies wanting to supply the machines will be decided in late May, said Judge Khamees Al-Deeni, the deputy head of the SCER.

Yemen's Finance Minister recently also approved Yemen's financial contribution to the new voting system, about \$52,000. This is allocated for the training of employees in the new voting centers.

Al-Deeni said the committee can only speak about parliamentary elections right now as presidential elections are up in the air.

Yemen's new constitution, which is expected to be drafted when the National Dialogue Conference comes to an end in a little over three months will determine if presidential elections are even necessary, Al-Deeni said.

Yemen's current president, Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi came to office in 2012 in a single candidate election held as a part of the GCC Initiative.

Republic of Yemen Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Individual Consultants Consultancy Services for Preparation of Investment Plan

- The Government of Yemen through the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) has received a Grant from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and intends to apply part of the grant for financing consulting services.
- The Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) invites eligible specialized individuals with extensive knowledge and experience in renewable energy to indicate their interest in providing their services. Interested individuals must provide detailed information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services as detailed in the attached Terms of Reference. The detailed information should include CV, description of similar assignments undertaken during the last ten years (the list should include details on contract data such as name of client, cost, status, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc).
- Yemen has been selected as one of the six reserve countries for funding support by the Scaling up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries (SREP). The objective of the SREP program is to pilot and demonstrate the economic, social, and environmental viability of low carbon development pathways in the energy sector by creating new economic opportunities and increasing energy access through the use of renewable energy in low-income countries. The first step is to prepare an Investment Plan for developing renewable energy and securing funding from SREP and other donors. The consulting service to be procured under the Express of Interest is to assist MOEE in preparing the IP.
- The scope of work to be performed by the consultant is detailed in the Terms of Reference attached to this Express of Interest.
- The overall implementation period is expected to six months, commencing in the second semester of 2013. The consultant is expected to make 2-3 trips to Yemen during the implementation period with each trip lasting 1-2 weeks.
- An individual consultant will be selected in accordance with the World Bank's Guidelines on Selection and Employment of Consultants (current version) based on his/her experience and qualification, consultants are encouraged to submit their interests for the above assignment. In case of individual employed by a firm, the selection will be made only on the experience and qualifications of the individual, not those of the firm.
- Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 08:00 to 15:00.
- Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be sent by email or delivered in English to the following address not later than June 10, 2013.

Address: Ministry of Electricity and Energy
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Republic of Yemen
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Reporting by: Rammah Al-Jubari, Nasser Al-Sakkaf and Samar Al-Ariqi

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المركز الوطني للتغذية والإعلام الصحي والمساكن

One man's travails across the border Saudi Arabia continues to deport Yemeni migrants

Story and photo by Samar Qaed

A doctor in the Artificial Limbs and Physiotherapy Center in Sana'a lightly pushes on Mohammed Al-Muhyas shoulder. The 27-years-old winces in pain as the doctor examines the joint that used to connect to Al-Muhyas arm. The Yemeni man lost his right arm in December 2012 in a construction accident in Saudi Arabia where he was working as an illegal migrant laborer.

He is now back in Sana'a as one of the estimated 30,000 Yemeni workers who have been forcibly deported from the Saudi Arabia as a crackdown on migrants without visas and a part of a new labor law that requires employers to sponsor their employees' visas instead of allowing individuals to do so as was previously permitted.

“When I told them I entered the country illegally, they shackled my leg to the bed”

After a backlash from migrants when the law was announced in late March, Saudi's King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud announced a three month grace period that would put the law into effect on July 3.

Al-Muhyas admits he entered Saudi Arabia illegally, like 80 percent of



Mohammed's as a illegal laborer in Saudi Arabia complicated treatment for his severe workplace injury.

Yemenis working in the country, according to estimates from the Ministry of Migrants Affairs.

However, Al-Muhyas says had he not lost his arm while on the job he believes he would never have been found out or deported.

Al-Muhyas leaves the Artificial Limbs and Physiotherapy Center after his latest round of medical test. In one month, he will return for further examinations. He is trying to be fitted with a prosthetic arm as his doctor has recommended, but he likely will not be able to afford all the medical costs he is incurring.

Al-Muhyas reflects back on how his life has changed since the accident. Before December, he was a control supervisor in a Saudi company called Astool, receiving about \$530 a month. Al-Muhyas had finished his secondary school and like many migrants worldwide, Al-Muhyas was chasing increased economic opportunities.

"I did not land a suitable job after I finished my diploma in accounting, I started [small jobs] in carpentry. But when the political crisis broke out in

2011, many workers in the workshop were laid off," said the young man who has to support his six-member family. "My living situation got tougher."

That is when he paid about \$400 to make the dangerous journey across the border as a smuggled migrant.

He found a construction job in Al-Kharj area, to the south of Riyadh, and no questions were asked. This was about a year and half ago, Al-Muhyas remembers.

Then in December of the last year, the accident happened.

Al-Muhyas was used to working at night so as to avoid Saudi deportation police.

"I was using the [industrial] sand crusher that night," he said. By accident Al-Muhyas turned the machinery without taking proper safety precautions and the machine caught his right arm.

It was a half an hour before anyone found him. He was rushed to the hospital.

Once there, it was clear he was in trouble. Security officials were waiting at his bed once Al-Muhyas woke

up. Al-Muhyas says his boss had told the police the accident happened in traffic, but admitted to working without papers.

"When I told them I entered the country illegally, they shackled my leg to the bed," he said. Al-Muhyas says he was treated inhumanely while in the hospital but he did receive two surgeries at the expense of the Kingdom.

"They didn't allow me to [be unshackled] except for once a day and only for 5 minutes."

It was never clear to Al-Muhyas what his fate would be, but after a friend of his visited him in the hospital and snapped a picture of him chained to the bed and posted it on the Internet, Al-Muhyas was immediately on a plane and sent back to Yemen.

"Security screamed at me, 'Who published this photo?'"

Even though Al-Muhyas was in desperate need of more surgery, the hospital discharged him.

Now the injured man is staying with his sister and trying to figure out how to come up with the almost \$1,500 needed for more surgery and prosthetic arm.

Stories like those of Al-Muhyas have angered Yemeni citizens and law makers alike.

When the Yemen Times contacted the Saudi Embassy in Sana'a for comment on Al-Muhyas's case they would only issue a statement on Saudi's current labor law.

"The Saudi king made labor law amendments and gave the foreign workforce in Saudi Arabia a three-month notice to correct their situation," an embassy representative said, referring to the extension agreement the Kingdom has granted workers to switch the sponsors of their visas.

This has done little to appease Yemen's estimated 2 million person strong workforce in Saudi, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Kiribi arrived in Riyadh on May 12 to hand deliver a letter from President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi to King Abdullah asking that Yemenis be exempted from the labor law.

However, Maqbool Al-Rafaei, an advisor at the Migrants Affairs Minister, said it's too little too late, criticizing his government's lack of action to stop the deportation of migrants.

Najeeb Al-Odaini, the head of the Yemeni Migrants Organization, is also concerned about what will happen if the law actually does go into

effect on July 3.

"[Deported migrants] will arrive in Yemen unemployed," he said.

"How will these people feed their families? Where will they go?"

Despite time spent in Saudi that he enjoyed, Al-Muhyas is now bitter about the country he called home for over a year. But he has come to terms with the fact he must rebuild his life in Yemen with only one arm at the moment.

"I look forward to returning gold [I borrowed from one of my sisters to afford doctor's bills] and be able to feed my family," he said. "I will recover."

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New Muslims say conversion is a long journey

Photos and story by Samar Qaed

One day this past month in Sana'a, Lili and Sofia, two Ethiopian women now living in Yemen, made their official declaration of conversion to Islam. Sheikh Abdulla Bin Farj, the head of the Islam Presentation Committee, guided them through this moment. He asked the two women to lift their index fingers.

"There is no God but Allah," they repeated after him, "and Mohammed is his Messenger."

After this declaration of faith—known in Islam as the shahada—Lili and Sofia, looked relieved. Other recent converts, who had been sitting in the same room, hugged the two women and congratulated them.

Sofia and Lili walked out onto the street, but before leaving, they picked up an educational pamphlet provided by Bin Farj. They would be back, they said, on Thursday, for classes.

They may have officially converted to Islam, but adapting to this new faith, integrating its precepts into daily life, can be a long



As part of the conversion process, candidates must make a declaration of their Islamic faith or a shahada.

process. Sofia, Lili, and the dozens of other converts who pass through the Islam Presentation Committee, stay in touch with teachers at the facility for months—sometimes years—after conversion.

The Islam Presentation Committee is an independent educational committee that was established in 1987 to reach out to non-Muslims, encouraging them to convert to Islam. The head of the committee,

Bin Faraj, began his mission of converting non-Muslims to Islam while studying Political and Economic Sciences in the U.S. Bin Faraj would talk about Islam with foreign students. But it wasn't until he left the U.S. and returned to Yemen that he formally began his religious mission.

For over 25 years, Bin Faraj has been reaching out to non-Muslims in Sana'a. He estimates hundreds of people have passed through his committee.

"After four years, I embraced Islam fully," one of Bin Faraj's students said.

The path to conversion can be winding—and also isolating, recent converts say.

Aisha Parseen used to go by the name Juliet. She was raised in the Philippines and said living in Yemen was what pushed her to learn more about Islam. She said Islam provided her with "internal harmony."

"I asked around about where I could find somebody to [teach me about] Islam," Parseen said. "Then they showed me the Islam Presentation Committee. I spent a period of time regularly at the committee and sitting with Bin Farj."

Before officially converting, Parseen said she was overwhelmed with anxiety. She stumbled over her words, but afterwards burst into tears. It was then, too, that she changed her name.

Parseen said her family didn't

immediately have a positive reaction to this major change. It was hard for her loved ones to accept.

"I showed a picture to my father, of me wearing the hijab," Parseen remembered. "He asked why I did that, and advised me not to forget Jesus and the rituals of Christianity."

The young woman assured her father that she was truly happy. After returning to the Philippines for a visit, she talked it over with her father. It took hours of explaining her new beliefs, but eventually he came around. Now, she says, he respects it.

She patched things over with her father, but some of her friends from the Philippines, who also live with her in Yemen, were not as accepting.

After she put on the hijab, Parseen said she has become completely isolated from her friends. She preferred to stay at home to read the Quran rather than go out with friends.

Most of those who convert to Islam are from the Ethiopian community, Bin Faraj explained. He assessed that after spending time in an Islamic country like Yemen, they begin to see the benefits of conversion.

In an effort to welcome the converts, the committee has organized post-conversion support. There are seven teachers, Bin Faraj explained, who volunteer their time to teach converts from Somalia and Ethiopia in their own native language.

The teachers speak a variety of languages—Arabic, English and Amharic and Somali—and there are lectures offered every Friday. Fifty-two people have converted in the last two years, Bin Faraj said proudly.

Bin Faraj offers the case of Zam Zam Mohammed as a success story of the program.

Ten years ago, Zam Zam, an Ethiopian woman—who is now one of the staff teachers—started to learn more about Islam. Since then, she's not only converted but also works to convert others now.

Zam Zam speaks about her experiences with her students and says "several females are unable to attend the lessons about Islam because they have full-time work"

For this reason, Zam Zam and her team often to do home visits to accommodate her students' schedules. Zam Zam currently visits four Ethiopian females twice a week, her visits include a formal educational section, either a short talk or a discussion on a theme of relevance to the lives of the members in the group.

Another teacher, Mahdi Ibrahim has witnessed the many struggles his students face and comments about the support he has provided.

He explains some converts are afraid to practice Islamic rituals in front of their relatives. So, he advises them to share their thoughts about converting right when they first start to think about it, hoping their families will gradually be more receptive to the change of faith.

Bin Faraj says they have unique formula for their program. Rather than focus on education only, the teachers create follow-up activities to provide networking and a forum to share challenges and successes. Although the committee is committed to providing as much help as possible to the new Muslims, they often struggle due to financial instability and to the lack of sustainable sources.



A woman at the Islam Presentation Committee reads the Quran.



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Shahi Haleeb



Road Bumps

Sarah Al-Zawqari

If your kids are bored, there's no need to take them to a theme park. All you have to do is put them in the car, put their seat belts on and cruise around the city.

The streets in our capital are like an embroidered bridal dress. No, they're not adorned with beads, but punctuated instead with all kinds of makeshift speed bumps: horizontal, vertical, short, tall, fat, skinny—bumps that satisfy all tastes.

These bumps were made with the intention of slowing down traffic in Sana'a, but infrastructure here is sometimes built haphazardly. If the municipality is slow to respond to citizen's needs, locals will often take it upon themselves to build these speed bumps—lugging in shovels and cement and crafting their own.

Nothing can stop a driver in Yemen, not a traffic light, not a man crossing the street, not a stop sign. The only thing that might be able to? These self-made "monster bumps."

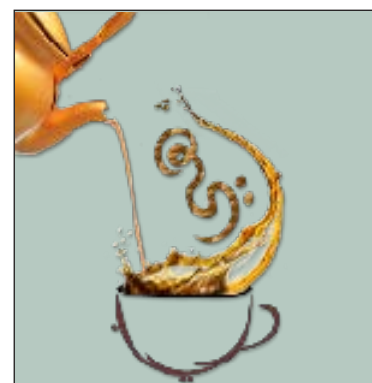
From a distance, I saw lines of cars flashing their hazard lights. Traffic had slowed to a crawl. I thought it must have been a car accident. When I got closer, it turned out to be a bump—but what a bump it was, truly a monster. You'd have to lift your vehicle over your head, and start climbing over this bump in order to protect the fragile underbelly of your car.

Imagine what would happen to you if you were driving fast and didn't see it—you'd simply fly! Either that, or tear off your exhaust.

These speed bumps are lumpy and haphazard, some of them only reach halfway across the road. I've taken to calling these ones: "half mustache bumps," because that's how they look to me—like a man with half of his face shaved.

This bump is dangerous and causes too many accidents as drivers coming both ways veer into traffic to avoid the bump.

How did we get here? Has building these speed bumps become a national obligation?



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.



monsters aim to break your car, puncture your tires, or flip you over.

Our roads are drilled just like the surface of the moon, and it's the ambulances and the people inside them that I pity the most. To all those who wake up in the morning and decide to make the roads bumpier—please don't, leave the bread to the baker.

Where is your dignity, your authority, dear government? You haven't set in place any strict rules, you haven't even punished those who make these bumps.

I would feel embarrassed if I was you, letting the nation do your job, and do it poorly. The country is filled with random bumps, cracks, holes, patched roads and poor urban planning.

I sometimes wonder—do these officials see what we see? Do they use the same roads, do they feel what we feel when the car goes up and down a monster bump, or do they have some sort of magical cars?

But it's not just our officials who are to blame. No—it's you vigilante construction workers, those of you who have taken the law into your own hands.

I know you might have built these bumps because of crazy drivers, careening through our capital's streets too fast. I agree, speed bumps should be made near kindergartens, schools, hospitals, and residential areas, but they need to be built properly.

What we have now only make the streets more dangerous. No one wants that.

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!

After attacking the A.P., a peace offering

Editorial
Newyorktimes.com
First Published May 16

After coming under scorching bipartisan criticism for secretly going through the phone records of reporters at The Associated Press in a leak investigation, the Obama administration now says it supports a law that might have prevented this outrageous conduct.

About the time that the attorney general, Eric Holder Jr., was defending the A.P. investigation on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, the White House was sending word to Senator Charles Schumer, a Democrat of New York, that it was a good time for him to reintroduce a media shield law that he says helps protect journalists from revealing their sources. The idea of a national shield law is a good one — many states now have laws protecting journalists from those trying to get notes or sources or outtakes. But any such law must provide the

maximum protections for a free press.

Schumer says he will reintroduce the bill, called the Free Flow of Information Act, which passed the Senate Judiciary Committee in 2009 with bipartisan support. It also won the endorsement of the Obama administration and the Newspaper Association of America. The bill, Schumer said, “would balance national security needs against the public’s right to the free flow of information.”

However, it is not entirely clear how much the bill would have protected The A.P. from this intrusion by the Obama administration because we still do not know some of the details of how the Justice Department got approval for the sweeping search of phone records.

The 2009 bill would require advance notice of any subpoena of phone records, in most cases, so that a news organization can fight the subpoena in court and would require a judge to approve the government’s search. To obtain records secretly, as in the



The idea of a national shield law is a good one — many states now have laws protecting journalists from those trying to get notes or sources or outtakes.

A.P. case, the Justice Department would have to argue to a judge that obtaining the phone records was necessary to “prevent or mitigate an act of terrorism or harm to national security.”

The bill would also allow delayed notification of subpoenas — which precludes the media’s lawyers from being present at the proceedings — if a judge determines that advance notice would imperil an investigation. That is a huge loophole that could be easily abused. The government would still be able to issue special subpoenas called “national security letters” to obtain private records from businesses, like phone companies, with court approval — another loophole that would be subject to abuse.

For years, there have been administrative guidelines about how to get information from the media. The Justice Department apparently decided not to use the guidelines in the A.P. case. This scandal shows that there is a desperate need for more protection of press freedoms.

Rations cut in Yemen as funding low for food aid

William Lambers
Examiner.com
First Published May 16

The UN World Food Programme (WFP), in a report released today, said emergency food rations were recently reduced in Yemen because of funding problems. The UN food agency is facing a current shortfall of US \$128 million for 2013.

WFP says, “New funding will be required by the end of June to avoid food pipeline gaps in mid-2013.”

Emergency food distributions to families as well as nutritional support for small children and mothers is critical to WFP’s strategy of helping Yemen. In April, ration cuts to pulses and vegetable oil took place. Without new funding

more cuts will be coming.

It is estimated that 22 percent of Yemen’s population suffers from severe hunger. This includes two million children that are stunted in growth and one million acutely malnourished. As the country tries to achieve political stability and peace, hunger will gain strength without humanitarian aid.

WFP relies on voluntary funding for its relief missions. The hunger crisis in Yemen is just one of many WFP is currently facing. In the same region, WFP is trying to feed millions of Syrians suffering from a civil war. Funding shortages exist for this program as well.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., Congress is debating funding for Food for Peace and other programs which are critical for supporting Yemen and other suffering countries.

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The assistant secretary general of the Al-Haq Party Mohammed Al-Mansur “Without a doubt, our involvement in the JMP provided us with an opportunity to breathe”

The Al-Haq Party which was formed in 1990 has had some hard times, the most recent of which is has been internal disputes between its secretary general Hassn Zaid and its assistant secretary general Mohammed Al-Mansur. It currently has four seats at the National Dialogue Conference and is a member of the Joint Meetings Party, which has helped this political party stay afloat. In terms of their party's vision, Al-Haq has a lot to decide. In an interview with the Yemen Times Mohammed Al-Mansur, who is also a spokesperson for the JMP, talks about the future of the Al-Haq Party and their stance on the Southern Issue.

Interview and photo by Mohammed Al-Hasani

First of all, what are the major disagreements in the party right now?

Actually, there are disagreements in the party that are generational [and date back]. There are various points of view that can be specified into two main categories. One wants to balance power inside the party and the other prefers to keep the current situation [where a few people have with most of the power].

I want to [balance power]. I have called for a conference that takes into account the aspirations of the young inside the party.

What do you think affected the party more: internal disagreements or being targeted by the regime [of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh] as you have said before?

I think being targeted by the regime affected the party more because this affected financial resources. Financial support given to the party by the regime was conditioned. For instance, the regime would halt its financial support, estimated at YR400, 000, about \$1,900, when we published things against it in Al-Oma Newspaper, where I was the

editor-in-chief.

During the war in Sa'ada [against the Houthis], attacks against the party reached its peak [because of the party's affiliation with the Houthis] and several leaders were arrested, received death threats from the [former] regime.

Do you think your party's joining of the Joint Meetings Party [JMP] shielded it from being targeted?

Without a doubt, our involvement in the JMP provided us with an opportunity to breathe. Many parties could not survive without the JMP. In fact, our party benefited from being part of the JMP. When the Parties Affairs and Political Organizations Committee said the Al-Haq Party was invalid in March 2007, the JMP and many other parties defended us.

What is the stance of the JMP in terms of the rifts inside the Al-Haq Party?

Of course, the JMP tried to contain the disagreements, and I think it largely succeeded. We kept the disagreements inside the party. We remained committed as long as we



Mohammed Al-Mansur believes the Al-Haq Party has a promising future as long as internal conflicts are resolved.

exist in the JMP. The JMP pushed the two conflicting sides in the party to put national interests first. During many meetings, I requested the JMP set up a committee in order to look at the organizational structure of the Al-Haq Party. Finally, the Supreme Committee of the JMP issued a decision over one month ago that the Al-Haq Party should hold its general conference [to determine a united vision and elect leaders]. The majority of the party's members did not attend the conference headed by Hassn Zaid [when he called for a general conference]. I think the members will attend this conference. There will be an opportunity to unite

the party and come up with a joint vision.

What will the conference do for the party?

We hope through the coming general conference we will achieve a united vision, effective leadership, an elected Shura council and efficient supreme committee with regulations and programs. This committee needs to be aware of [new] developments in Yemen because the regulations, systems and visions of the party were written in 1990. The Al-Haq Party was perhaps the first to touch on issues in the army and whether the army belongs to a particular political party.

Now what has been done to restore the party's status?

I think the party needs to develop visions and programs. Since the breakout of the revolution, we have had a youth faction that wants at the very least institutional reforms and a vision about the party's future. I think we need to reconsider the media speech of the party. We have a remarkable newspaper. To rearrange the internal situation of the party we will need multiple, integrated, political, media and organizational changes. God willing, it will be a success.

Will your party be able to continue if it ever withdraws from the JMP or if the coalition dissolves?

This question is for the far future because in the near future, the JMP will remain. We hope the JMP will develop and overcome its current [questionable] situation, but all parties should depend on themselves. We hope to continue our work either in the JMP or in any other coalition. I hope it will help [in Yemen's] development process because the Al-Haq party was the first to establish a [strong] Yemeni opposition voice.

Why do you think self-determination is a solution for the Southern Issue?

We support whatever maintains Yemen's unity. Names are less important than being just being Yemenis because we are brothers and geography poses no problem. Our vision demands the implementation of the 20 Points in order to end injustice and return the rights of the Southerners. If self-determination is necessary, it should be part of an agreement




and not a disagreement. In other words, federalism may be the most appropriate of all options but if no solution for the Southern Issue is reached, Southerners have the right to decide what they want so it doesn't affect the brotherhood between the Southerners and Northerners. Politics come second.

You are part of the JMP, which is negotiating to solve the Southern Issue through unity. You presented a vision that raises that expectation. Do you think your vision is exaggerated?

It's not a matter of exaggeration, but we understand Southern grievances because Southerners provided their land and had hopes for unity but these hopes faded when they weren't treated fairly. Based on this, it is clear, geography isn't the problem.

Unfortunately, some political mind sets are still stuck in the past. When we entered the dialogue, we had hopes for the 20 Points as presented by the Preparatory Committee. However, several elites didn't recognize these points and they should have apologized at least. If they want to preserve unity, they should return rights to those who deserve them and allow others to express their political, social and legal opinions. Now they are part of the authority, why don't they help Southerners achieve what they want?

Why don't they change their speech to line up with people's aspirations? Then we can get Southerners to make concessions driven by brotherhood and join the strategic interests of both the South and the North. However, if we continue with the same stance, the same speech and the same [religious rulings], nothing will change.

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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 is progressing along. The project aims to **restore communal garden spaces in Sana'a's Old City** that have dried up. Please join us on May 23 to help return these open spaces to their once-green appearances. Currently Mayor Abdulkadir Hilal is helping the Yemen Times fund the project by providing money for fruit trees that local residents have requested be planted. Officials are prepping the garden spaces for planting. Come help us restore the gardens and reflect on 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. وقد أكد أمين العاصمة عبد القادر هلال أن أمانة العاصمة ستتكفل بمصاريف مشروع "يدي بيدك" لزراعة سبعة "مقاشم" أراضي زراعية في باب اليمن. اصحاب المقاشم رفضوا زراعة المقاشم بأشجار زينة واصروا على زراعتها بأشجار مثمرة، و بما أن الأشجار المثمرة لم تكن متوفرة لدينا وتكلفتها كانت كبيرة طلبنا الدعم من امانة العاصمة. ومازال التنسيق مستمر مع امانة العاصمة وسيتم النزول لتنفيذ المشروع فور توفر جميع الاجتياجات. لمعلومات أكثر عن المشروع تابعونا كل خميس الساعة 7:30 صباحاً في برنامج "صباحكم رضا" على راديو يمن تايمز 88.8.



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