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Searching for answers in Hasaba: Two were killed and five injured on Saturday morning when an explosive device, planted in a trashbag resting on the sidewalk in this Sana'a neighborhood, detonated. Who was behind the attack? Blood and shattered glass littered the scene of the crime as policemen and investigators rummaged through the debris, in search of answers. (More on Page 2)

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Hadi wants to see 'trust building' nation-wide

At NDC midterm session, president instructs Cabinet to reach across regional divides

of the dialogue unless and until their issues are resolved. However, high level interventions—including those of UN Special Envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar—resolved their disputes.

Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A July 8 — In response to the National Dialogue Conference's success at its mid-term session, President Hadi instructed the Cabinet to start implementing "trust building actions" all over the country.

The actions are based on the 20 points recommended by the Preparatory Committee for the NDC as well as the 11 points by the Southern Issue Working Group in the NDC.

"We need to show the people in the South that our involvement in this dialogue means serious actions for them and not a sellout of our cause," said Mohammed Ali Ahmed, leader of the Southern Movement, or Hirak at the conference, in a meeting with the NDC Presidency one day prior to the presidential order.

The Hirak and Ansar Allah had threatened to withhold their approval of any recommendations

Remembering July 7, 1994

A country unified or divided?

Page 7

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SCER hiring for electronic elector registration campaign

Mohammed Al-Hassani

SANA'A, July 6 — The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) announced on Thursday the start of the registration process for those interested in working with the technical co-

ordinating committees on the new electronic elector registration campaign. SCER is in particular need of computer technicians for the campaign, they stated.

SCER finished preparations for the electronic system last month to prepare for elections in February

2014, as outlined by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative.

Applicants should be Yemeni nationals with at least a secondary school certificate and solid computer and communication skills.

SCER Head of the Media and Electoral Awareness Sector Judge Abdulmon'm Al-Eryani told Yemen Times that knowledge of computer and software applications as well as fast typing skills are essential.

The registration process will last for two weeks; following this process, candidates will undergo testing to determine typing speed and accuracy.

SCER will allow candidates to determine the locations where they will participate in the campaign. SCER determined location for participants of previous campaigns, Al-Eryani said.

Journalist Anwar Al-Taj said that

Parliament ratified on Saturday a bill to apply government amendments on the elections and on referendum law 13 of the year 2001 to cope with the new electronic elector register.

The estimated cost of the electronic elector register project is \$22 million. It was funded by the UN and other donor countries after the Yemeni government fell short of the required funds.

Voter registration is scheduled for September and will last for three months.

The electronic election system is a computerized database that stores the data of voters for parliamentary and presidential elections. The system utilizes fingerprints to identify citizens, as well as digital cameras. Voters will receive voter registration cards to present to authorities during elections.

Yemen seeks help for workers returning from Saudi Arabia

Authorities request shelter, water for 200,000 displaced laborers

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, July 7, 2013—Yemeni authorities have requested help from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the 200,000 Yemenis who have returned from

Saudi Arabia during the previous three months.

In a statement issued on Friday, IOM said that Yemeni authorities have requested shelter, water supplies and vehicles to transfer basic supplies.

According to the organization, 25,000 Yemeni migrants are stuck at the Haradh border at the wall constructed by Saudi Arabia.

Deported migrants experience

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Families stock up ahead of holy month

Story and photo by Samar Qaed

For the world's one billion Muslims, the holy month of Ramadan marks a special time of the year devoted to fasting, prayer, reflection and discipline. Yemenis are preparing for the month with special preparations and customs which include a lot of purchases—for food, cutlery, clothing and decorations. But some say the focus on elaborate meals and celebrations take away from the month's message of humility and self-control. However elaborate or humble a family's Ramadan is, however, there are certain staples that hardly anyone does without.

After an entire day of abstaining from food, drink and all manners of sin, families around the country sit down to break their fast with one of Ramadan's favorite treats—somosas. Whether potato, cheese or meat-filled, this Ramadan classic is for sale at every *bufia* in the city. Many families prefer homemade somosas, but Yemeni women, the chief chefs behind the deep-fried delicacy, are finding a middle-way. Store-bought dough has reduced the labor behind somosas, allowing for a semi-homemade appetizer that allows time for other tasks.

Some families break their fast and have their supper all at one sitting. Others break their fast with somosas, soup, *shafout*—a yogurt and bread salad—and have their main meal later in the evening. If finances allow, Ramadan desserts such as pudding, jello and crème-caramel abound.

Supermarkets around Sana'a have entire pyramids made of jello and crème-caramel boxes. These desserts have largely overshadowed and displaced some of Yemen's more classic dishes such as *bint-al-sahn* and *shaariya*. Though they make solid appearances in homes around the country, crème-caramel is served every evening in Yemen's middle-class homes.

"I buy dessert ingredients and pack-

ages in large quantities because my husband, children and relatives have iftar in our house and they love desserts," said Um Ali during a shopping trip in Hael Street.

Sana'a resident Ghada Al-Sakkaf told Yemen Times it was necessary to buy a large amount of spices for the occasion, because after a long day without food, her family likes to have various dishes to enjoy.

"I buy double the quantity of spices during Ramadan because I make numerous dishes every evening," she said.

Known as a budget-buster, Ramadan is welcome news for Yemen's shop owners. Alwi Al-Hababi said it's his most profitable month of the year.



In the weeks leading to Ramadan, Yemenis go on a country-wide shopping spree.

"Many people shop at my store—so many that we have three shifts during Ramadan and don't close until sunrise."

During Ramadan, residents buy grains, spices and desserts—but rice, sugar and flour are often purchased 50 kilos at a time, Al-Hababi said.

Many families mark the occasion with new silverware and plates. Those with tighter budgets can be accommodated by street vendors where a plate can be snagged for as little as YR 100, less than 50 cents.

"During Ramadan, we seize the opportunity to buy new cutlery and dish settings to replace what has broken throughout the year. It's also nice to be able to serve food and nuts for guests during Eid on nice new plates," said Layla Zawiah.

Eid preparations

Hunger, thirst and nicotine deprivation guarantee several supermarket fist-fights every year. To avoid the long-lines, many make their Eid and Ramadan purchases simultaneously.

Five young women at the Trade Center were seated and enjoying their new clothing purchases, having beaten Eid madness.

"My father gave us our Eid stipends early because streets are very crowded during Ramadan and we won't be able to go out," said Ryam Al-Rub.

Her father, Mustafa, said it was better to buy Eid clothing before Ramadan because prices increase during the month and the chaos often results in long traffic-jams.

Families prepare for Ramadan and Eid by giving their homes a very thorough cleaning. Al-Shei's five daughters clean each part of their home before the month, welcoming guests with freshly scrubbed walls and floors.

His daughter Manal said there was more to the traditional deep-cleaning than hosting guests.

"Now we can worship Allah in any part of the house because it's all clean. By cleaning early, we can avoid scrubbing the walls when Eid comes and focus on celebrating," Manal said.

Priorities or indulgences?

Some women resent the pressure to prepare numerous daily dishes and desserts.

Layla's younger sister Asma thinks the country's priorities are wrongly placed.

"We buy so much during Ramadan and then we're stuck cooking and washing dishes all evening. I think we should eat less and worship more," she said.

Seventy-year-old Mohammed Al-Shei said that Ramadan is a time to pray for forgiveness.

"I long to hear the adhan and the special Ramadan prayers," he said as he held his rosary beads. "I hope Allah will forgive our sins. Ramadan is meant for worshipping Allah. I hope people will remember this more than their desire to shop for food and clothes."

Shahi Haleeb



Pre-Ramadan madness

Sara Zawqari

Ramadan has not yet arrived but our roads are busy. It feels like there isn't a single person at home. Everybody is out buying goods, food, clothes, and practicing staying up late before Ramadan.

If you ask the ladies what is the best thing about Ramadan, they'll tell you, "We can stay out shopping late, and no one will tell us anything."

And don't even try passing by a street that is near a supermarket! These roads are blocked, cars are parked miles down the road, and the shops are overcrowded.

Usually wives start preparing their husbands mentally, emotionally, and financially months before Ramadan arrives.

When you see the amount of people inside supermarkets, you'd think that the country is going to war. Every inch of the supermarket is filled with products: on the shelves and on the floor. Just roll up your sleeves and start pushing and fighting!

All you see is a bunch of octopuses—hands grabbing things and throwing them on top of the mountain of goods in the shopping carts. The lines at the cashiers are so long. When you stand in line you can't even see the cashier.

Preparations for this holy month mainly center on thinking about food. Logically, we should be consuming less food since we fast during the day. In the month where we are supposed to feel for the hungry, the opposite happens, we waste food and squander money left and right.

If you ask anyone why they fast, you'll get this answer: we fast to sympathize and feel for those in need, and to discipline ourselves. Everyone memorizes these two lines, but most people don't mean it. Are you sure you are showing sympathy and that you understand what they go through every single day, when you're pushing two shopping carts full of food? When your cupboards and refrigerators are so full that you have to find a new storage place for food? When you throw food in the trash?

And to those who seek to diet, or stop chewing qat or smoking during Ramadan, they spend the weeks before Ramadan overdoing everything. If they want to lose weight they'll eat sweets every day, and if they want to give up qat, they'd chew day and night and if they want to stop smoking, they smoke double their usual amount. This is one of the worst ways to try to quit something.

Ramadan is the season for TV series and soap operas. More than 100 series are played during Ramadan. The previews for the series have been airing for quite some time.

Men fear this sentence: When are we going to buy Ramadan supplies? They keep postponing shopping, until it's a week or two before Ramadan, and then they complain about the crowds. They ask questions, and the ladies always have their answers ready.

Q: Why do we have to buy all this?

A: Because every day you want me to cook for you something new, and don't forget we have to invite your family, my family, and your friends.

Q: Why do we have to buy new plates?

A: How am I going to serve the guests on those old plates?

Q: Why do we need to buy a set of blank CD's?

A: So I can record all the episodes, and cooking shows.

Q: The kids are on vacation why are you buying notepads and pens?

A: so we can answer all the competitions that come on TV. Maybe we'll win a house or a car!

Ladies specialize in taking notes—writing down the names of the shows, the timing and the channel they will be aired in. Then they discuss with their friends what series they will watch, then the discussion shifts to the house. After long arguments, each person in the family chooses one show.

I always hear people complain about the influx of shows in Ramadan, which they say act like a distraction from religious requirements. Whose fault is this? Production companies wouldn't spend millions if they knew they were not going to get watched. They know their market.

Many needy families end up taking out loans, and end up spending the rest of the year paying off their debts. Who said that Ramadan compels us to spend money, and throw food in the bin? Ramadan's demands are simpler—but perhaps harder to actually meet—we are asked to empathize with others, to become better people.

Hear more of Shahi Haleeb weekdays on Radio Yemen Times, aired 2:00–3:00 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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What's in that bag?

20 young Yemeni women opened up their purses and showed us what was inside

Story and photo by Samar Qaed

It's a mystery to most men. What are women carrying in their purses? A handful of Yemeni women opened up their bags and showed us what was inside.

Some women carry their home with them — make-up, perfume and cell phones, books, food, papers, jewelry and medicine.

Dua'a Ahmed, a student of Commerce at Sana' University, stuffs her textbooks, pens, notebooks, markers and cosmetics inside a large handbag.

"My purse is like a portable bookshop," she says.

Women, particularly young professionals working outside the house, carry especially large handbags these days.

The majority of women who carry large handbags are university students or professionals. They wouldn't want to be seen carrying plastic grocery bags. Instead they sport a

fashionable purse.

Um Ahmed, a teacher in Amid East Language Institute, says she carries everything she needs inside her bag: erasers, water bottles and attendance sheets.

Arwa Al-Amri who works at the Trade Chamber, says that her health is poor. She makes sure she has painkillers with her wherever she goes.

Dr. Fawzia Nashir has two different purses—one for the morning and one for the night.

"I carry work papers and cards in the morning. In the afternoon I carry just the things I need when I meet my friends," she says.

Marwa Hassn has three children the oldest of whom is three years old. Her bag is full of baby clothes, milk, diapers. She hardly has any space for her own personal items.

Suha Hameed sat with three of her friends in a cafe. In front of each, there was an iPad, chatting and downloading applications and games.

They spend hours here each day.

Ghada Abdulla says that she needs to be able to fit her computer and iPad in her bag.

Taghreed Adel carries food with her whenever she goes. She never knows when she'll get hungry, she explains.

The more devout Yemenis might carry a Quran with them, tucked into a side pocket of their purse.

Noor Al-Qaedi is a first-year student at the College of Law. She has a busy schedule, she says, but she tries to find time each day to sit down and study the holy book.

She's trying to "memorize the entire text," she says, and she's "pressed for time."

Amal Ayash, a journalist from Aden, had about a kilo of fruits inside her bag.

Because of her work, she says, she's always on her feet and doesn't have time to sit and eat.

"I have apples, orange and bananas," Amal says. "My friends laugh when they see what I have in here."

Marker, for work



Facial cream, to stay fresh



Thermos, for tea on the go



Radio Yemen Times initiative delivers food for 60 needy families

Every little bit makes a difference

Amal Al-Yarisi

Radio Yemen Times listeners and supporters of the For Their Sake Initiative gathered at the Yemen Times building on Thursday morning to help distribute food to 60 of Sana'a's needy families.

This was project three of the Hand-in-Hand initiative organized by Radio Yemen Times.

Vehicles carried flour, rice,

wheat, oil, dates and other food products needed for Ramadan. Three separate teams distributed food to various Sana'a districts, including Al-Sonania, Al-Hasaba, the Old City, Madbah, Farwah, Taiz Street, Habra, Mosaik, and Nukm.

Food was collected over the course of several days; it was



donated by residents, Watania National Insurance, Al-Qadi Trade Centers and the contracting office of Ameen Saleh Naji.

Radio Yemen Times broadcaster Ryam Al-Qadi hosted a number of

contributors live on Thursday.

In cooperation with the Capital Secretariat, Radio Yemen Times launched the Hand-in-Hand campaign last month. The campaign

is focused on restoring the once-green garden spaces of the Old City. The first project involved cleaning water canal nets around the city, which were clogged because of accumulated dirt and trash.

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Extension announcement of Public Tender No. (7) of (2013)

Yemen Public Radio & TV Corp. announces an extension to the opening of bidding envelopes of the public announcement no. (7) of 2013 about purchasing, supplying, ensuring, authorizing, delivering and guaranteeing TV devices and equipments and their supplements for Aden Channel

Envelops will be opened Tuesday, July 16, 2013 at 1:00 pm in the corporation headquarter at the corporation chairman's office, located on the third floor, in attendance of the bidders or their officially delegated legal representatives.

Yemen Times interview:

Saudi Arabia has had both positive and negative influences in Yemen

Yemeni expat workers in Saudi Arabia are facing tough times. If the current administration is doing anything to persuade the Saudi government to have mercy on these hundreds of thousands of Yemenis who will be kicked out of the country, it's hard to tell. Saudi Arabia itself has extended a grace period, giving the hundreds of thousands of Yemenis who live and work in the country more time to sort out their situation before deportation. But so far, the Yemeni government has not pushed diplomatically for its citizens' exemption from the amended Saudi labor law. Will the government also fail to accommodate these workers once they're home? Mahasin Al-Hawati, deputy minister of the Ministry of Expatriates, says that the ministry is working to improve the situation of Yemeni expats. Economic analyst Rashd Al-Haddad discussed about what comes next. When these expats return to Yemen, what will become of them?

Interview by Mohammed Al-Hasani



Rashd Al-Haddad



Mahasin Al-Hawati

The Expatriates Ministry was established in the last decade. Can you give us an overview of its tasks?

Al-Hawati: The Expatriates Ministry was established after the breakout of September 26 Revolution in 1962. It is one of the oldest ministries. It was once integrated with the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and it turned to be a general union of expats.

But the ministry really took shape in the last decade.

Al-Hawati: The Ministry of Expatriates doesn't get the credit it deserves.

The ministry has three major tasks. They must look after Yemeni expatriate communities, which exist in almost all countries. The care includes giving the Yemeni communities abroad the opportunity to participate in elections and opening schools in the countries whose languages are not Arabic, facilitating the contact between the Yemeni nationals abroad and Yemeni embassies in addition to following up their issues.

The ministry follows the issues of the immigrants in cities and villages. Among its tasks also is attracting the capital and investment of Yemenis abroad and organizing immigration. A department at the ministry was recently formed and is responsible for this task.

When was it formed?

Al-Hawati: In 2007, when Dr. Saleh Sumei was minister.

But did you really manage immigration?

Al-Hawati: Unfortunately we have not done this so far.

Why?

Al-Hawati: Perhaps the role of this department has not been activated. In the past, we did not have a clear vision of how to manage immigration and labor markets. The other thing is that all of this is connected to foreign affairs. That was the specialty of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Thus, we could do nothing as long as the tasks of our ministry overlapped with the Labor Ministry's.

What are the consequences of the overlapping tasks on the Yemeni expats?

Al-Haddad: Incompatibility has huge consequences on Yemeni expats. When we speak about the Yemeni expats, we speak about tremendous human resource that has been squandered by the current and former governments. The Yemeni expats have been seen as a workforce only. The majority of these consequences lie in the overlapping responsibilities between the Labor Ministry and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Expats. Each ministry says organizing the work of the Yemeni expats is its specialty.

Do you mean these three ministries compete to take care of the Yemeni expats?

Al-Haddad: Yes, but it's not a good competition. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs was responsible for organizing the work of Yemeni expats, but I think I did nothing and it does not have a database of the Yemeni expats though we have over 6 million expats around the world, as statistics show. Their revenues are huge and boost the national economy.

Let us shift to Mrs. Al-Hawati. Do you really have accurate statistics about the number of the Yemeni expats?

Al-Hawati: Yes, we have approximate statistics, based on the latest census and on the field visits of some communities. They are around 6 to 7 million expats.

What is the prime problem in terms of the migration of Yemeni labor force?

Al-Hawati: It lies in the labor offices and purchasing ready work contracts, something for which the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs' was responsible. Imagine buying a visa. Some sell their houses and whatever they have to do this. And when the visa comes, you may find yourself as an electronic technician. But you are not.

So, you are obliged to change the data of your identification card according to the data of the visa. After this, you may not find an opportunity to work in what you want. Therefore, you find yourself compelled to work in another job. This is why our civil record had confusion. Instead of amending the wrong data, you amend the correct in order to be consistent with the visa data. The second problem is changing the profession more than once. This is wrong.

What have you done to stop this mess?

In fact, our minister continued going to the Cabinet for one year in order to restore the tasks and specialty of the Expatriates Ministry. The Cabinet knows organizing the immigration is the business of the Expatriates Ministry. Frankly, the Minister of Legal Affairs was so cooperative and worked to restore the tasks of our ministry after working under the Labor Ministry and Foreign Affairs Ministry. Now we have a responsibility. The ministry is working to legally organize the status of the foreign labor and guarantee the worker a true work contract that maintains his rights.

Now you are doing your job according to your specialty, but some say the ministry needs to correct its situation before correcting the situation of Yemeni labor.

Al-Hawati: It is true we need to arrange our ministry from the inside. We need to know first what our specialties are. Honestly speaking, our minister is seriously looking to improve the situation of our ministry. I am not commending him here, but he does his best. In my opinion, he should be given more time in order to make his efforts pay off.

Can the Ministry of Expatriates be excused for its shortcomings?

Al-Haddad: I think we can excuse the ministry because it's a symbolic structure for expatriates. But in fact, the ministry doesn't pay attention to Yemeni expatriates. When a country requests tens of Yemenis for work, the ministry is supposed to figure out why these Yemeni laborers are requested, enquire about their situation there and provide conditions after training them instead of sending laborers

and the ones who have achieved the development in the Gulf.

Don't you think the new labor law aims to make Yemeni laborers leave Saudi Arabia?

Al-Hawati: I think there is political motives. Yemen is currently undergoing a hard stage and we appreciate the role the Gulf countries played, Saudi Arabia on top, to help Yemen during the transitional period but we haven't imagine that politics would play a role in the deportation of Yemeni workers. This makes us feel that Saudi Arabia uses Yemeni laborers as a political card. In 1990, we have paid the price for our stance from the Gulf war but now we are paying the price without knowing the reason.

Saudi Arabia is one of the big supporters of Yemen. It knows very well the difficult economic situation Yemen is undergoing. Don't you think that the procedures taken on Yemeni laborers conflict with this support?

Al-Haddad: Frankly, I don't deny that Saudi Arabia has had both positive and negative influences in Yemen. It's a double edged sword for Yemen that may help us politically, but kills us economically. Saudi Arabia was supposed to deal with us based on the neighboring relations between the two countries just like the European Union helped Spain to overcome its deteriorated economic situation. I don't know why Saudi Arabia is prejudiced against Yemen while Yemen has done nothing harmful to it.

You said Saudi Arabia uses the Yemeni laborers as a political card but this doesn't exempt you from performing your job to expatriates. What have you done for expatriates since Saudi Arabia notified them to correct their situation?

Al-Hawati: Personally—but don't take it as an official statement—we should have had ready solutions since the amendment of the Saudi labor law by studying the consequences of this amendment and decide what we, the ministry and the government, should do.

However, there was a disagreement between the Ministry of Expatriates and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on which ministry should deal with the problem and this weakened us as a government. Anyway, a ministerial committee—formed by the heads of the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs, Labor and Expatriates—was established to solve the matter. This committee took a long time and instead of solving the problem facing our expats, we created another one.

You mean the problem of overlap between specializations still exists?

Al-Hawati: Yes. The foreign

affairs minister was eventually appointed by the president to discuss this problem with Saudi Arabia. The Ministry of Expatriates knew nothing about the statements that were given about solution for the problem of Yemeni expatriates. The Foreign Affairs Ministry has adopted the issue but the Saudi Labor Ministry announced that about 500,000 to 3 million Yemeni workers are likely to return to Yemen. As a government, we should provide solutions for them.

Does this exempt you from your duties towards this problem?

Al-Hawati: Absolutely not because Yemeni expatriates will look to us and not to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Anyway, the problem still exists and we created this problem when we sent laborers either illegally or by contracts that don't ensure their rights. I don't blame Saudi Arabia but blame the Yemeni government and the Ministry of Expatriates. In fact, this problem existed even before the amendment of the labor law but the amendment worsened it.

Is this an official admission about the deficiency of the Ministry of Expatriates towards Yemeni expatriates in Saudi Arabia?

Al-Hawati: It's a personal admission.

You mean a personal admission given by an official?

Al-Hawati: We created this problem and haven't addressed it seriously.

Translated from the Arabic by Bassem Al-Khameri and Khalid Al-Karimi.

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From our pages July 10, 1995: “Yemen is united but the Yemeni is torn”



Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Yemen Times founder

One year ago this week the war was over as the secessionist leaders fled the country and sought refuge in foreign lands. Victory was achieved and Yemen's unity has been secured.

Citizens from all corners of the nation were hopeful that the future promised to be better. The feeling was that a real opportunity for the reconstruction was at hand. July 7

was seen as a threshold, a possible beginning of a prosperous and growing Yemen. A Yemen that is fair to all its children and which treats them equally.

That unfortunately did not happen.

Some Yemenis are today more equal than others and a few Yemenis are able to tap the resources of the country for their private interest and to live extremely well at the expense of the majority. One year later, the majority of the people of Yemen are still torn apart and suffering. Yes, the geography of

Yemen is united, but the Yemeni human being is torn. We are not just divided in groups, but it looks like every one of us is divided from within

We had many chances to rise up in this country. We had many opportunities to get out of the doldrums and work to reduce the suffering of our people. Often, we failed because the leadership failed us. There was a shortage of far sight and vision. The suffering of the majority of Yemenis continues and it looks like there is more suffering to come, at least in the near future.

Today Yemen has embarked on a reform effort.

This represents yet one more opportunity to do what is right, and not necessarily what is politically expedient. It is time for the authorities to become responsible and visionary. If that can, that is.

One more time, the nation is at a crossroads. We need to work together—all of us—to salvage the situation. No one Yemeni is more patriotic than others. We each love our country in our own way. The leaders should appreciate and understand this.

One more time, we have a chance to make it happen. The Republic of Yemen has mended fences with the neighbors, and has by and large overcome the fallout from its position in the gulf war. We now need to attend to our internal problems and correct the distortions through the full and serious implementation of the reform package. Let us not blow it!

Southerners commemorate ‘unforgettable black day’

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

Millions of Southerners gathered in Hadramout's Al-Qurnish Square on Sunday to commemorate Southern Land Day which coincided with the nineteenth anniversary of 1994 civil war.

Millions of Southerners from various Southern governorates gathered at the massive rally for three days. It was the eighth such gathering since the establishment of the Southern Movement, or Hirak, in 2007. Demonstrators chanted slogans and called for the secession of the South.

Various Southern Movement factions coordinated efforts to commemorate the “black day,” according to the founder of the movement Nasser Al-Nouba.

Al-Nouba told Yemen Times that the armed wing of the Southern Movement, headed by the former president of the South, Ali Salem Al-Beidh, has called for civil disobedience in Southern governorates in order to escalate the situation.

“We contacted them and asked them to be peaceful and we refused the call for civil disobedience,” Al-Nouba said.

Al-Nouba said he hoped that the mass rally would prove to the international community that Southern people want a peaceful separation.

“We will not resort to violence, whatever happens. If an armed confrontation breaks out, the armed faction under Al-Beidh is responsible. We have nothing to do with it,” Al-Nouba said.

Aden resident, lawyer and human rights activist Mukhtar Ali told Yemen Times that Aden has been witnessing civil disobedience.



Millions of southerners commemorate July 7, which they call the “unforgettable black day.”



Civil disobedience halts traffic in southern governorates

Shopping centers have been closed and roads have been blocked, Ali said.

“The previous day, Southern Movement members hung posters on the streets calling for civil disobedience—and it really happened.”

Southern Movement leaders abroad recently issued a statement praising the peaceful struggle of the movement and warning National Dialogue Conference (NDC) participants of underestimating the Southern Issue and the demands of Southerners. The leaders behind the statement included former president of the South, Ali Nasser Mohammed; former prime minister

of the South, Haider Abu Bakr Al-Atas; and Al-Atas' former deputy, Saleh Obaid Ahmed.

The Southern Movement has been calling for succession since its establishment in 2007. Approximately 2000 Southerners have been killed in confrontations with security forces.

Al-Mukala security manager Salmeen Ahmed told Yemen Times that security forces withdrew from the area in order to avoid clashes during the rally.

“We coordinated with the Southern Movement to organize a festival—not a march or a demonstration—in order to avoid Al-Qaeda attacks,” Ahmed said.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Provision of Interpretation Services (RFP/SOADEN/005/13)

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is a United Nations Agency mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee related issues worldwide. Primary objective of the agency is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. UNHCR strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country. In this context, UNHCR operation in Yemen, in close collaboration with the Government of Yemen, works with the Somali and Ethiopian refugees.

In relation to this work, UNHCR operation in Yemen, require interpretation services for translation of either Somali or Ethiopian languages. UNHCR intends to identify a Service Provider for the provision of interpretation services through a competitive bidding process with clear Terms of Reference that outline the scope of services required.

Therefore, UNHCR Yemen intends to establish a frame agreement for provision of translation and interpretation services for UNHCR through a pool of qualified Interpreters specializing in the following languages: Arabic-English-Somali-Ethiopian-Oromo-Amharic for an initial period of 24 months with the possibility of extension for an additional 12 months.

UNHCR invites sealed bids from eligible registered offices with performance experience to submit firm proposals.

Bidding documents are available at UNHCR Supply Chain Unit in Aden, from 08th of July 2013 at the below mentioned address:

Building no 27 & 28, Embassies area, Beside German Consulate, Khormaksar, Aden.
ENQUIRIES: TEL: 02 235 111; 02 231 441

Sealed bids must be received by both of the above UNHCR Offices at the above-mentioned address on or before 23rd of July 2013, latest at 11:00 hours.

Bids received after the deadline or sent to another address will be rejected.

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المعزون

Over 57 tons of expired, counterfeit goods destroyed

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

The Capital Secretariat is carrying out another campaign to inspect and weed out expired and counterfeit perishable and non-perishable products.

The campaign started in June and will continue throughout Ramadan, said Khalid Al-Khwilani, the director of the Industry and Trade office in Sana'a. The office has also met with major importers of food commodities to ensure that there is no mark-up for the Ramadan season.

More than 57 tons of expired and counterfeit food products, cosmetics and medicines have been destroyed since the beginning of the year,



One of these two packages is not what it seems. The bag of seeds on the right is a lower-quality counterfeit of package on the right.

Al-Khwilani told Yemen Times. There have been 581 documented violations; 522 have been referred for prosecution, he said.

Eight ice-cream factors in the Dar Salm area have been closed for not meeting safety standards.

Al-Khwilani urged residents to call the Trade and Industry Ministry's toll-free number, 174, to report violations and urged residents to avoid purchasing inexpensive products sold by street vendors.

"We have established sub-committees in each district to periodically inspect shops and markets until the end of Ramadan," said Al-Khwilani.

With a weak economy, people are increasingly turning to street vendors and markets for cheaper goods. The



the director of the Consumer Protection Authority, Ali Abdulaziz Al-Haj.

The Capital Secretariat confiscated nearly 50,000 packs of counterfeit chewing gum in Al-Sonaina shopping center in Sana'a. The owner of the shopping center was fined YR 400,000, about \$1900.

Trader Mohammed Al-Jalham said he was deceived into buying a large amount of expired juice. One customer returned with a juice box containing nails.

Six hundred cartons of counterfeit ice-cream were also recovered. The ice-cream was unsafe for consumption, Al-Haj stated.

Representatives of the original brand complained about the impersonating brand, leading to prosecution.

Counterfeit goods aren't limited to developing nations such as Yemen. The New York Times recently published an article about the phenomenon: Counter-

feit Food More Widespread Than Suspected.

"Around the world, food fraud is an epidemic — in every single country where food is produced or grown, food fraud is occurring," said Mitchell Weinberg to The New York Times. "Just about every single ingredient that has even a moderate economic value is potentially vulnerable to fraud."

Complaints from the Consumer Protection Authority by residents are rare, said Al-Haj. The majority of fraudulent goods consist of beans, milk, juices, sauces, cosmetic items and children's toys, he said.

Fines and prosecution are determined by the prosecutor's office.

Last year, the Industry and Trade office destroyed over 80 tons of expired and counterfeit goods. Over 1200 violations were reported; 732 were referred for prosecution. Penalties varied from prison-sentences to the closing of shops.

Despite setbacks, Yemenia will survive

Sadeq Al-Wesabi

In 2011, Yemenia Airways, the only public airways in Yemen, received a serious blow when its offices were looted and damaged during the popular uprising that gripped this country.

The clashes Yemen witnessed in 2011 affected several businesses and paralyzed the economy in Yemen. Yemenia Airways was one of those companies that had been highly affected. Computers, expensive equipment, furniture and documents had been stolen or destroyed. The offices were a mess. Many wondered, could the airline company bounce back?

Established in 1961, Yemenia Airways was controlled for decades by administration loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh. The employees of the company confirm that Yemenia Airways was on the verge of collapse due to corrupt officials and lack of accountability within the company.

The former head of the Yemenia Airways Abdul-Khaleq Al-Qadi was a son-in-law of former president Saleh and ran the company for many years.

In 2012, the minister of transportation ordered the head of Yemen Airways Abdul-Khaleq Al-Qadi to resign.

Since appointing him as the minister of transportation at the end of 2011, Dr. Waed Badheeb has performed major reforms to revive the economic situation of Yemenia Airways, including appointing new leadership.

In a previous interview, the minister said that the Yemen Airways is still recovering—slowly and is still in debt.



For decades the airline company has been affiliated with the former regime.

Mohsen Haidarah, who was appointed recently as a deputy managing director for commercial affairs of Yemenia Airways, echoed Badheeb's words, saying that the mistakes and corruption of the former administration greatly affected the company.

"We inherited a legacy of corruption, mismanagement and other shortcomings," Haidarah told the Yemen Times. "But now we're doing our best to improve the reputation of the company."

Many Yemenis complain about the poor service of the company as well as high prices of tickets, including those for domestic flights.

Although Yemenia Airways say that they apply the international standards, many Yemenis criticize what they call the poor service.

Over the last years, the income of the Yemenia Airways was surrounded by secrecy.

Haidarah confirmed that such cover-up will end, pointing out that any person can ask to know about the financial information of the Yemenia Airways.

"This is the era of transparency and clarity," he said.

According to Haidarah, there were attempts to totally destroy the infrastructure of the Yemenia Airways.

"In 2011, there were officials who declared that Yemenia Airways bankrupt, but they failed," he said.

Speaking about the technical problems reported in some planes, Haidarah admitted that some of the airline's planes are quite old.

Haidarah also said that they are considering rolling back the prices of tickets to enable Yemenis with low-income to travel and visit internal tourist places.

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MINISTRIES

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Prime Minister 01-490 800
Ministry of Public Works and Highways 01-545132
Ministry of Awqaf and Guidance 01-274439
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research 01-535031
Ministry of Fisheries 01-268583
Ministry of Culture 01-274640
Ministry of Civil Service and Insurance 01-294579
Ministry of Defence 01-276404
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation 01-282963
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour 01-262809
Ministry of Legal Affairs 01-402213
Ministry of Public Health and Population 01-252211
Ministry of Youth and Sports 01-472913
Ministry of Industry and Trade 01-235462
Ministry of Justice 01-236512
Ministry of Tourism 01-220050
Ministry of Expatriates 01-402254
Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals 01-202309
Ministry of Internal Affairs 01-289577
Ministry of Transport 01-260900
Ministry of Human Rights 01-444831
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology 01-331460
Ministry of Local Administration 01-227242
Ministry of Information 01-274008
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation 01-250101
Ministry of Education 01-252732
Ministry of Foreign Affairs 01-537914
Ministry of the Interior 01-332701
Ministry of Finance 01-260365
Ministry of Transportation 01-2022257
Ministry of Water and Environment 01-418289
Ministry of Electricity 01-326196

SUPERMARKET

Al-Jandul Supermarket. 01-422610
Happy Land supermarket 01-444424

TRANSLATIONS

Urwa Wautqa Int. Auth. Trans. Arabic-English-French -German-Russian-Italian- Spanish-Polish-Dutch- Iranian-Turkish-Eriterea-Amharic. Tel: 01-240515

TRAVEL

Sky Travel & Tourism 01-535080/83 02-221270
Falcon Holidays 444118
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Al-Nasim Travel 270750
Universal Business Travel Center 441158/9/60
Qadas Fly 01-280777

UNIVERSITIES

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Queen rwa University Tel: 449971/2
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To have your number listed please contact: 268661 - Fax: 268276

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يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَادْخُلِي جَنَّاتِي]

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بوفاة المغفور له، بإذن الله تعالى،

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