



9

سبأفون تسلم جوائز السحب التاسع لعرض كرت المفاجآت

تتوالى أفراح مشتركي سبأفون للشهر التاسع على التوالي حيث احتفلت شركة سبأفون مؤخراً بتسليم جوائز كرت المفاجآت في سحبها التاسع للعرض الذي انطلق مطلع العام الحالي الذي يواصل تحقيق نجاحات كبيرة ويساهم وبشكل كبير من خلال المميزات التي يقدمها والجوائز القيمة في دعم الأسرة اليمنية. وفي حفل التسليم جرى تسليم الجائزة الكبرى "سيارة سانتاي" والتي كانت من نصيب الأخ منصور قاسم علي مهدي.. كما جرى تسليم الجائزة المالية الكبرى "مليون ريال" والتي كانت من نصيب الأخ خالد مصلح عبدالله عاطف إضافة إلى تسليم جوائز مالية أخرى قيمة لبقية الفائزين وقام الأستاذ محمد العبادي مدير التواصل التسويقي في شركة سبأفون بتسليم الفائز المحظوظ الجائزة الكبرى "سيارة سانتاي" أمام فرع سبأفون في محافظة اب وذلك بحضور فريق عمل عرض جوائز كرت المفاجآت وعدد من الموظفين ومدراء الشركة وممثلي نقاط البيع وجمع غفير من أبناء المحافظة. وبعد استلام الجائزة الكبرى "سيارة سانتاي" عبر الفائز بالجائزة عن سعادته الكبيرة وفرحته بالفوز بالجائزة الكبرى والذي نشر الضحك والسرور في قلبه وقلب جميع الأسرة مضيفاً انه لم يكن يتوقع الفوز بهذه الجائزة الكبيرة شاكرًا إدارة شركة سبأفون على تقديم هذا العرض المميز وعلى صداقتها. ويهذه المناسبة قدم الأستاذ /محمد العبادي/ مدير التواصل التسويقي تهنئة للفائزين بجوائز كرت المفاجآت مشيراً إلى أن هذا العرض رسم القرحة في وجود مئات الفائزين منذ مطلع العام مؤكداً على استمرارية العرض خلال شهر سبتمبر الحالي والذي يأتي استمراراً لجهود الشركة في تطوير البرامج والخدمات البديلة والعروض التي تلبى رغبات العملاء في الحصول على خدمات وعروض مميزة تواكب احتياجات العملاء.

وكانت قد أجرت شركة سبأفون السحب التاسع لجوائز كرت المفاجآت في حفل بهيج أقيم في العاصمة الثقافية تعز. وفي مستهل الحفل رحب الأستاذ محمد الشامي مدير عام أول استراتيجية وتطوير الأعمال في قسم التسويق بالجمهور مشدداً في كلمته على أهمية استمرار عرض كرت المفاجآت ومدى الإقبال على العرض من قبل المشتركين خلال الأشهر الماضية الذي يدل على نجاح العرض ويشجع الشركة تقديم عروض مبتكرة ماثلة. ولا يزال بإمكان كل مشترك سبأفون الاشتراك والفوز من خلال تعبئة كرت اكسترا 80 وحدة في السحب الأخير على سيارة (بورش) مطلع شهر أكتوبر المقبل.

أسماء الفائزين:

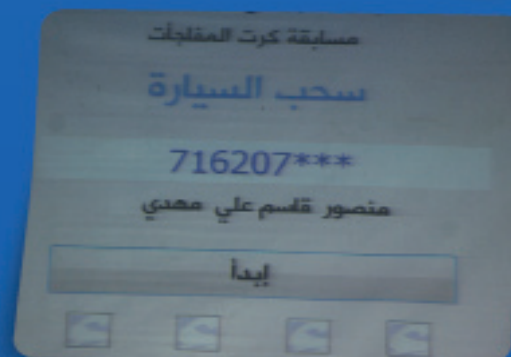
الفائز الأول بالجائزة الكبرى (سيارة سانتاي) - منصور قاسم علي مهدي
الفائز الثاني بجائزة مليون ريال - خالد مصلح عبدالله عاطف
الفائز الثالث بجائزة 500.000 ريال - يحيى علي أحمد الحكيم
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Roaming advocacy: When people see Khalid Hawrsh's Jeep coming down the street, they stop to look. Hawrsh is on a 40-year mission to keep his fellow countrymen and women informed about history, politics and the environment by way of his transport. Adorned to the side of his vehicle are photos from historical elections, major events and advocacy campaigns. *Read more on Page 4.*

As Yemenis leave, officials worry about 'brain drain'

The nation loses an estimated \$24 million every year as a result of the phenomenon

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANA'A, Sept. 16—There are 30,000 highly qualified Yemeni professionals residing abroad, according to a report issued by the Ministry of Expatriates.

A majority of those have moved to other Gulf countries for work.

The report estimates a YR5 billion (\$24 million) loss resulting from "brain drain."

As a result, according to the report, Yemen has had to hire foreign professionals, costing the country thousands of dollars.

The health sector has been sharply hit by the exodus of talented, qualified Yemenis. The Minister of Public Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Ansi, announced last month that 163 consultants at major public hospitals in Yemen, including the state-run Al-Thwra Hospital, have left Yemen

to work abroad because of Yemen's low-pay.

Al-Thwra director Dr. Abduka-reem Al-Khwilani told the Yemen Times that the migration of so many senior and qualified doctors has affected the hospital's performance.

In response, the hospital has resorted to hiring recent medical school graduates and bringing in specialized foreign experts to bridge the gap, Al-Khwilani said.

"Competent Yemeni doctors leave Yemen to look for higher salaries," he said.

Doctors at Al-Thwra Hospital receive on average \$700 per month.

"The money that competent professionals make in Yemen isn't enough to buy a house, car or to even enjoy yourself," Dr. Mohamed Al-Faqeeh, a media studies professor at Jizan University in Saudi Arabia and former head of broadcast studies at Sana'a University, said. "So people are always wanting to [leave]."

Yemeni professionals often find work in the technological field and in laboratories abroad, Al-Faqeeh

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Shahi Haleeb
Are dowries too expensive?
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Quoted



“The government is dealing seriously with this issue, and it will investigate it and those responsible will be brought to justice.”

—**Rajeh Badi**, an aide to Prime Minister Mohammed Salem Basindwa in response to the recent disputed case of an 8-year-old alleged child bride, identified as Rawan. (Al-Jazeera)

“No party at all would dare to stand with Hirak, in fear of international threats.”

—**Munir Mawari**, a Washington DC-based Yemeni writer and political analyst reacting to the Southern Movement representatives return to the NDC. (Carnegie Endowment)

“The best way to see past negative the headlines and to understand the democratic momentum taking place in the country would be to travel to Yemen today.”

—**President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi** in an op-ed published on the International Day of Democracy.

Truce reached in Amran

The tribal-mediated agreement is a break from fighting but not a permanent solution, Houthi spokesperson says

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

AMRAN, Sept. 16—A year-long ceasefire agreement was reached in Amran between tribesmen loyal to the Houthis and tribesmen loyal to the Al-Ahmar family on Saturday.

The mediation committee created by President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi negotiated the unconditional one-year long ceasefire that stipulates the formation of a sub-committee to further discuss and resolve the root of the dispute between the two tribes.

The Houthi-affiliated ADR tribe and the Al-Usaimat tribe, loyal to the Al-Ahmar family, have had fierce clashes over the past month, resulting in over 20 casualties.

Houthi spokesperson for the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), Ali Al-Bukhaiti, told the Yemen Times that though they believe the mediation committee established by President Hadi is impartial, they are accepting its conditions.

“The majority of the mediation committee members are loyal to the Al-Ahmar family,” Al-Bukhaiti said. “[But] we have to be optimistic.”

The mediation committee assembled by Hadi is composed of six tribal sheikhs from Amran governorate. The committee is headed by Sheikh Kahlan Abu Shawrib, the former governor of Amran.

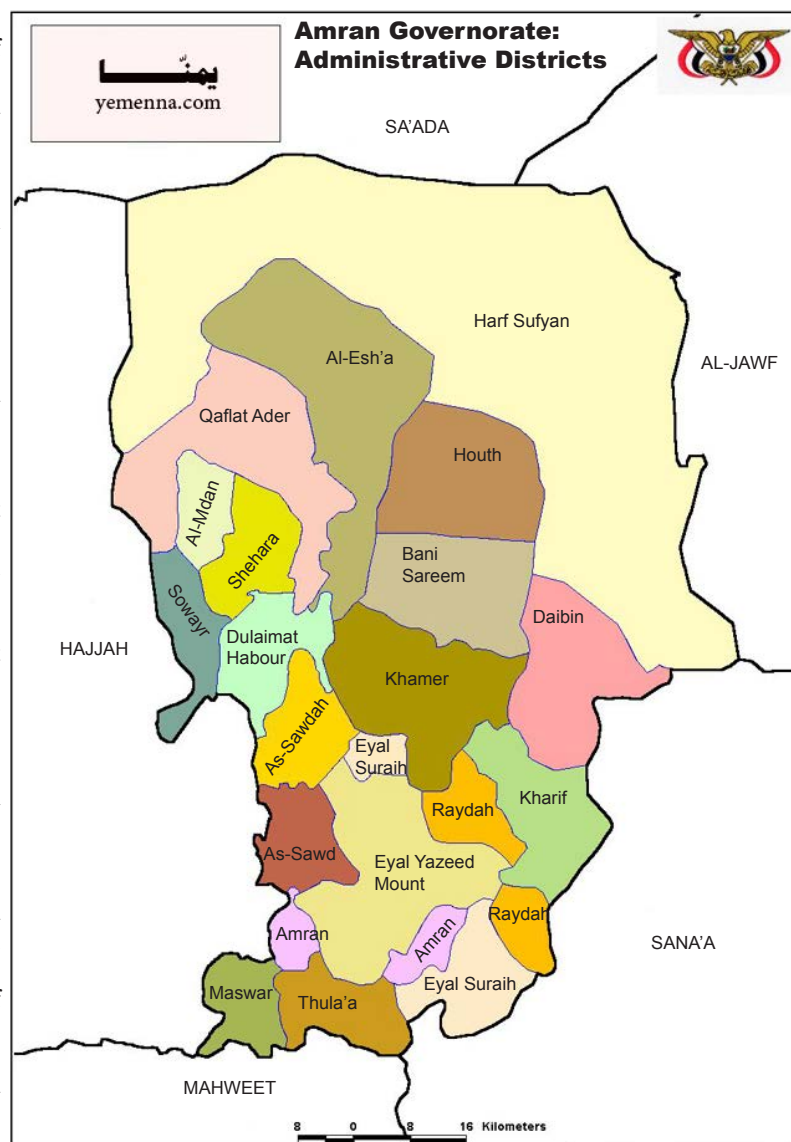
Houthi-affiliated tribesmen outlined several conditions before an end to the current dispute could be reached, including the freedom to think and worship as they please, the return of property they say was looted and the formation of a committee to resolve border-related disputes between the ADR and Al-Usaimat tribes.

“The mediation committee has secured a ceasefire, it has not [achieved] a solution to the problem,” Al-Bukhaiti said. With both tribes still in barricades, Al-Bukhaiti emphasized that the ceasefire is a break from conflict until the root of the dispute is solved.

Both tribes suffered casualties and damage to property in the fighting, said Mohammed Al-Raei, the security manager of Al-Asha district. Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar's house was destroyed in the clashes, Al-Raei said.

Unlike the recently-agreed upon ceasefire in Sa'ada between Houthis and Salafis, this ceasefire does not stipulate the removal of barricades.

In Sa'ada, each side has regularly set up checkpoints and detained opponents, ending several fragile peace truces.



Two Somali nationals die in Dhamar bus crash

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

DHAMAR, Sept. 16—Two Somalis died and 27 others were wounded on Saturday when the bus taking them to Haradh district, to be smuggled to Saudi Arabia, overturned in the Al-Manar district of Dhamar governorate.

Instead of driving on the major road, Khalid Anam, director of the Traffic Police in Dhamar, said the

bus selected a secondary route to avoid security checkpoints.

The crash's seriously injured are in Dhamar General Hospital while the bus's driver and other Somalis are being held by police in Dhamar, Anam said.

According to initial investigations, Anam said, the driver was working for a person known for the illegal transportation of African migrants in Yemen.

A majority of migrants come to Yemen and then infiltrate to neighboring countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, while some of them remain in Yemen to work on farms in Sa'ada and Amran governorates, said Salah Al-Humidi, the head of the Equality Organization.

“African refugees are used in tribal conflicts in different Yemeni governorates, particularly in Sa'ada and Al-Baida'a,” he said.

The smuggling of African migrants to Yemen has increased over the past two years and become a very lucrative business, Al-Humidi said. He pointed out that migrants are typically smuggled into Yemen via the sea.

“To avoid being captured by police, sometimes some of those Africans die at sea,” Al-Humidi said.

In a previous statement to the Yemen Times, Colonel Abdulla

Al-Zorka, director of the Deportation Department at the Migration and Passports Authority, said that 70,000 refugees, about 70 percent of African migrants are trapped in the Haradh area.

Each month, thousands of refugees arrive illegally in Yemen to seek safety and better living standards, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Reporting by Ryam Al-Qadi and Rammah Al-Jubari.

Protesters demand an accelerated release of compensation fund

Families and those injured in 2011 say they are tired of waiting for promised government compensation

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANAA, Sept. 16—The Rizq family's lives have not been the same since they lost their oldest son Mahir in Yemen's 2011 popular uprising when he was shot in a protest. Mahir was the only breadwinner for his family of 17.

“He left misery for us all, no one cares about us,” said Talal, Mahir's 15-year-old brother.

On Sunday, thousands staged a protest in front of the general prosecutor's office in Sana'a to call for the release of a compensation fund, decreed by the government, to help the injured and families of those killed in Yemen's revolution.

After one year, the presidential decree to allocate the compensation fund has not been implemented.

“We are renting a house on Al-Daeri Street of the capital for YR40,000 [about \$186] monthly,” said Talal. “None of us has a job. We work as street vendors.”

“The decision to establish the compensation fund was issued after several protests held by the revolutionary victims' families,” said Shawqi Al-Maimoni, the manager of Wafa Organization for Caring for the Injured and Martyrs' Families.

The fund is supposed to be managed under the auspices of the Cabinet. It is designed to deliver monthly salaries es-

timated at YR35,000 (\$162) for the affected families. The fund will also cover the rehabilitation and educational expenses for the injured. According to the presidential decree, the Yemeni government and other foreign-based entities will finance the fund.

Al-Maimoni said the government has already informed him that the decision will be implemented at the beginning of 2014, and it will cover the injured and the families of those that died during the uprising.

“The fund is very important because it will carry out the government's commitments,” said Al-Maimoni.

The fund has been controversial with the General People's Congress (GPC), former President Ali Abdulla Saleh's political party. Saleh was removed from power as a result of the 2011 uprisings. GPC members have called the fund “unfair” because it does not take the former administration's victims into consideration.

“We demand the president to amend the decree so that the victims of the GPC benefit as well,” said Ali Abdulla Majali, a member of the GPC.

A government official who spoke on condition of anonymity said, “Their casualties are not included because they were supporting the old regime which was toppled by the revolution.”

According to the Wafa Organization, around 1,400 people were killed during the 2011 uprising and 29,000 injured.

Families affected during the revolution are afraid implementation of the presidential decree will continue to be delayed, saying that they no longer can stand their “tough living situation.”

Former ruling party delays Southern Issue's proposed solution

Mohammed Al-Hasani

SANAA, Sept. 16—The General People's Congress (GPC), former President Ali Abdulla Saleh's political party, asked for more time before submitting their final approval of the solutions proposed by National Dialogue Conference's Southern Issue subcommittee, which was formed last week after boycotting Southerners returned to the conference.

According to the committee's spokesman Mohammed Qahtan, the GPC should have signed the final document for the proposed solutions, which include a proposal for the shape of the Yemen's state on Monday morning.

Even though the GPC has two representatives on this 16-member subcommittee, the party requested more time to further deliberate this issue within the party itself.

“They had reservations about the [provision of a] 50 percent quota for the South in the [new] Parliament, the [use of the] term, ‘people of the South’ and creation of a new committee to decide on how many regions Yemen should have post the NDC,” said Qahtan.

The draft document waiting to be approved discusses measures and solutions for the Southern Issue, aimed at insuring inclusion between the North and the South in Yemen's new govern-

ment structure. There is a general consensus Yemen will be a federal state, although the number of regions within the state is yet to be decided.

The GPC declared in a statement on Sunday via its official website that they reject the formation and legitimacy of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) sub-committee, which was formed to gather various perspectives on the Southern Issue and to vote on a solution.

“The GPC and the parties of the National Democratic Alliance declare their rejection of any divisive condition emanating from the [NDC], which itself stems from the Gulf Initiative and stipulates the unity of

Yemen,” the party's statement reads.

On Friday, two days prior to the statement's release, Saleh ordered GPC representatives to withdraw from the committee, according to NDC Southern Movement member Ahmed Yaseen.

However, NDC Islah representative Dr. Salem Al-Rawhani said that the GPC's move is uncooperative at the late stages of the NDC.

The GPC's deputy head of its information department Abdulhaft Al-Nahari told the Yemen Times that the party's stance is not new and demonstrates the party's commitment to the nation's interests.

Body of Popular Committee leader found

AQAP believed to be behind the death of leading counter-terrorism fighter

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

AL-BEIDHA, Sept. 16—The body of Ali Hussein Al-Azani, the kidnapped leader of the Al-Sawma district Popular Committee in Al-Beidha, was found in Alor Mountain in Lahj governorate on Sunday.

Al-Azani was kidnapped two

months ago. The Interior Ministry media center claims Al-Azani was kidnapped on July 23 by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) members and now the terror organization is also being blamed for his death.

Al-Beidha tribal sheikh, Mohammed Yousif, told the Yemen Times that Al-Azani was an influential figure in the governorate and was involved in counterterrorism efforts in the region. Al-Azani became the leader of the Al-Sawma Popular committee three years ago, Yousif said.

“Al-Azani has been targeted for assassination several times. He survived an attack in Aden governorate last year. There was another attempt this year in Al-Beidha,” Yousif said.

Al-Azani was one of the reasons, Al-Rasas said, that Al-Sawma was purged of many militant suspects.

Al-Azani's death comes less than a month after the killing of alleged-terror figure, Qaed Al-Dhabab in Al-Beidha.

AQAP confirmed via a website Sunday the death of Al-Dhabab in a drone strike in the Al-Manaseh

area of Al-Beidha last month. Al-Beidha has witnessed increased AQAP movement after the death of Al-Dhabab, officials say.

Popular Committees have spread throughout southern areas including Abyan, where AQAP took advantage of a security vacuum following the 2011 uprising. The communities and tribes surrounding them formed militias to fight AQAP and are credited in part for regaining land lost to AQAP following Yemen's Arab Spring.



The head judge of the Hadramout Court of Appeal was released Sunday after being kidnapped in late August by unknown armed men in the Shab Albadia area of Al-Mukalla city in Hadramout.

Judge Salim Abdon was brought by military plane to Sana'a and then Hadramout. Hadramout Governor Khalid Al-Dini received Abdon, along with hundreds of other residents.

Tribal mediation was used to arbitrate and free Abdon. R.A.

An agreement signed on Saturday between the Yemeni Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control Authority (YSMQCA) and the Chinese

General Reserve, Inspection and Quality Department will mean all Chinese exports to Yemen will be inspected in Beijing before reaching the country.

YSMQCA deputy head Ibrahim Al-Hassar told the Yemen Times that of the top five countries Yemen imports from, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Malaysia, China exports the most to the country.

The agreement is based on World Trade Organization-accrued mechanisms, Al-Hassar said. R.A.

Listen up!

Visually impaired students rely on 'talking books'

Samar Qaed

As Yemeni students returned to the classroom at the beginning of the month, Ibrahim Al-Munifi, a visually impaired 11th-grade student in Ibn Majed School of Sana'a, started his year with a slightly different routine. Instead of heading to the school building to sit in front of a teacher delivering a lesson, he went to the Al-Noor Center to receive talking books, audio cassettes containing the school's curriculum.

Each year, Al-Munifi and other visually impaired students have to go to the centers so their studies are in line with the nation's curriculum but adapted for them. Students receive either cassettes with lessons or studies printed in the Braille system.

Braille, devised by Louis Braille in the 19th century, is a form of printing for the blind based on the system of reading dots by touching the paper.

Al-Munifi received 80 cassettes and had to sign a commitment to ensure that he will take care of the cassettes and bring them back at the end of the school year.

"Eighty cassettes are too much, but listening is a suitable way to study," said Al-Munifi.

He prefers the cassettes to the traditional Braille system of learning because cassettes last longer.

However, there are limitations to the curriculum. The visually impaired can study only in a limited range of topics such as literature, religion, linguistics and history.

Students residing in rural areas have an even harder time of finding suitable school subjects as cassette tapes are difficult to come by.

Currently, there are only three privately run centers that offer services for the blind in Yemen: the Al-Aman Organization for Blind Women Care, Al-Noor Center, and The Yemeni Forum for People with Disabilities. In addition to Sana'a, the centers provide audio books in Aden, Ibb, Al-Hodeida and Taiz.

Jameel Al-Hemiari, the head of Al-Noor Center, said they cannot cover all governorates due to a lack of financial means.

"This year the center provided

Nationwide, all three centers provide small recorders and batteries for around 500 students to help them with their lessons. After finishing high school, each student receives a laptop from the Disabled Care and Rehabilitation Fund, a government body that allocates money for persons with disabilities.

Al-Hemiari said the centers have so far spent about YR14 million (\$65,000) to produce audio books on cassette, adding that these cas-

settes will cover the needs of students for three years. In 2013, the Yemeni Forum started producing MP3 audio lessons for the first time in Yemen. "We used media to invite volun-

teers to produce the lessons and [had a great turn out]" Faheem Al-Qadasi, the Forum's media officer, said.

Many volunteers, he said, along with a group of TV and radio presenters participated in recording the lessons for free in a small studio at the Forum's headquarters in Sana'a.

Al-Qadasi pointed out that any visually impaired person can download the lessons from the Forum's website.

"This is the first step to enable students to access the audio curriculum," he said.

Khaleel Al-Qaheri, a TV presenter who participated in the project, said it was a nice but tiring experience.

"I recorded grammar lessons for the 12th-grade students for six hours in two days," he said.

Al-Qaheri said there is a lot of pressure to be completely accurate in these recordings, carefully pronouncing the standard Arabic used.

"Visually impaired people are very sensitive and can recognize mistakes easily," he said.

One of the difficulties the record-



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ing centers face is every now and then, the school's curricula vary from public to private universities.

"We can't produce new audio lessons each year, because there are new professors and each one teaches different books," said Huriya Anbr, the director of the printing department for the Al-Aman Organization.

Nada Assag, a second-year Business Administration student at Science and Technology University, who is also blind, is working with

her other peers to record books.

They recorded 40 cassettes for the first semester of this year. Now they are looking for volunteers to record the courses they are going to study next semester.

Assag hopes that all of her school's reading materials can be turned into audio books and be playable on smart devices.

"We are lost and always look for anyone to help," she said. "We are part of this society and must be integrated into it."




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A man and his car, on a mission to change the country

Sana'ani advocate uses personal Jeep to publicize environmental campaigns and political causes

Story and photos by Ali Abuloom

With emerging technologies, advertising has undergone incredible transformations in the 20th and 21st centuries. From an industry largely dependent on newspapers, it is now one capable of diversifying its placements in mediums ranging from radio, to television, and even debabs, Yemen's public transportation.

There is hardly a surface advertisers haven't touched, including 60-year-old Khalid Hawrsh's 1973 JEEP. But most of the posters and photos gracing Hawrsh's vehicle are not paid for, he says, but are there to foster discussion and raise awareness. He has imitated advertisers in an attempt to saturate the country with a message.

It's not uncommon for a man to name his car's name can often evoke human qualities including class, danger, beauty or loyalty. Hawrsh calls his jeep Zooba, a slang term in Arabic meaning frightening. The 40-year-old vehicle has earned that nickname, Hawrsh says.

Aside from politics, Hawrsh is passionate about cleanliness and worked for many years in the cleaning sector. He was appointed as the Sana'a Cleaning supervisor during the rule of Abdullah Al-Salal, the first president of the Republic of Yemen following the 1962 revolution that brought an end to Imamate's rule.

Hawrsh soon moved on to the Streets, Gardens and Public Places sector and was able to earn enough money to purchase his vehicle. He



From morning until noon, you will find Hawrsh in his aging truck. He stops to allow fellow city dwellers the opportunity to check out his photos and encourages debates and discussions.

decided he would use it to educate people around him and bring attention to important events.

Hawrsh first used his vehicle to promote the news that former President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi had taken office in 1974. He believes he was the first person to use a vehicle in Yemen for this sort of purpose.

The passionate man was a contracted employee, but securing a permanent position was not one of his priorities. Aside from his work, Hawrsh had other hobbies and passions, including driving his car to raise awareness about issues he felt important about. After a disagreement with a co-worker in 1976, Hawrsh resigned from his govern-

ment job.

"I wasn't disappointed [because] I realized [it would give me] more time to use my car to [spread the word]," Hawrsh said.

What led Hawrsh to leave a good, stable job to drive his vehicle around and engage citizens with the latest news or cause?

Hawrsh's older brother Ahmed was executed by Imam Ahmed following the failed coup against him in 1948. He was beheaded, a common punishment for opposing the imam.

His brother had been the imam's teacher and defected to the opposition when he witnessed people rise up against the leader. Hawrsh's fa-

ther feared for his other children and, claiming that educated people were often targeted by the regime, he prevented them from continuing their education, hoping they could avoid their oldest son's fate.

But Hawrsh's journey with words and ideas wasn't over. Inspired by his brother and other revolutionaries, he decided to take his views to the people, and to engage them in discussion.

"My brother and his fellow revolutionaries wanted to free Yemen of sickness, illiteracy and poverty," he said. "They were not able to accomplish this dream."

Hawrsh hung posters and photos of revolutionaries on his vehicle and



Some of Hawrsh's photos of political figures have been on his truck as long as he has owned it.

used loudspeakers to play nationalist songs.

"I wanted to be part of [the] media but found no path other than using my car to raise awareness and [spread information]," he said.

Folks on the street linger around his vehicle, taking in past periods and discussing any number of topics, including how Yemen got to where it is today, what could have happened differently, and where the country is heading now.

He hasn't abandoned his passion for cleanliness, and does several public-service style announcements using his loudspeaker.

"I love my country and want to draw people's attention to the importance of cleaning. I would clean it by myself if [that were possible]," he said.

Hawrsh receives a small pension from his days of working in the cleaning sector. The only compen-

sation he receives for his current efforts is from the occasional advertisements, including information about the census or elections placed by the government.

You can catch Hawrsh and his JEEP all over the capital city prior to—and on—national and religious occasions, which he takes advantage of to play music.

Hawrsh's causes also include the environment. Hawrsh has decorated his vehicle with tree ornaments, hoping to remind people of the importance of planting trees.

"I hope to see trees in front of each home—[trees] are the symbol of life," he said.

As he enters old age, Hawrsh is as determined as ever to continue driving his vehicle, sparking discussions and raising awareness.

"I will not give up my work. I am committed to it until death," he said.

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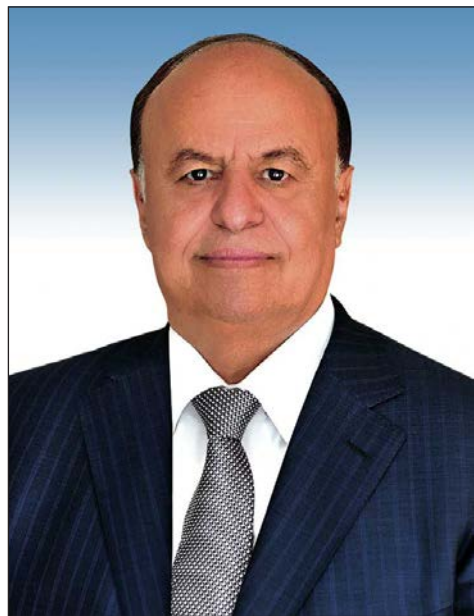
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Distancing the past for a brighter and democratic future



Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi
President of the Republic of Yemen

The Republic of Yemen has been in the media spotlight recently, but unfortunately, this spotlight is not always positive. Today though, as Yemen joins other countries around the world celebrating the International Day of Democracy, I wanted to counter some of the negative media stories

and share a story rarely told—a story of pride and measured success.

When the winds of change swept through Yemen in 2011, the country teetered on the edge of chaos. Rival groups ripped at the fragile seams holding the country together. Some feared civil war. But Yemenis believed there was a better way. Unlike its other Arab Spring peers, nearly two years later, Yemen is transforming and is slowly becoming a unique model for democratic transition in the Middle East.

There is no single model for democratic transition, and the Yemen model is distinctive both historically and in the present. Etched into our collective memory, Yemenis remember the democratic teachings of our most famous queen, Bilqis of Sheba. More recently, Yemen became the first and only Arab country to apologize publicly for past grievances.

After 2011, Yemen established a national coalition government which integrated leaders from the new opposition and the old guard. It also has brought new and old voices together from all sectors of society to debate national issues in a national

In short, Yemenis have moved outsiders into the inner circle, chosen debate over dispute and have made a choice to favor future ballots over bullets.

is no small feat for any country, particularly those in transition.

Though Yemen faces many challenges, on this International Day of Democracy—a day set aside by the UN General Assembly in 2007 to promote and celebrate democracy—Yemen has plenty to be proud of, and it is only right to commemorate this progress.

It is also fitting that this year the theme of the International Day of Democracy is "Strengthening Voices for Democracy." The different voices of Yemen—women, government, civil society, youth,

dialogue. For example, Yemen's youth activists have moved from protesting in the streets to discussing policies as a new generation of leaders. Additionally, an unprecedented number of women have taken center stage to discuss national issues and in the process have both solidified their positions and gained respect for their efforts. Moreover, as I have mentioned before, groups who fought each other in the not-so-distant past have put down their weapons and are now sitting at the same table. In short, Yemenis have moved outsiders into the inner circle, chosen debate over dispute and have made a choice to favor future ballots over bullets. This

marginalized groups—have all raised their voices and are being heard in Yemen's peaceful democratic transition.

The best way to see past the negative headlines and understand the democratic momentum taking place in the country would be to travel to Yemen today. Right now, the National Dialogue Conference is in its final stages and is deciding on its official recommendations for our new constitution and new electoral system. The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum is already at work finalizing their outreach plan on how to encourage more Yemenis to register to vote in the next election. Some Yemenis are already preparing to run for political office.

Today, a women's leadership academy launched a recruitment process to find and train a select group of Yemeni women on the best strategies and tools to run for political office. To ensure these voices are heard, a new coalition of influential women held a press conference today advocating for national support for at least, a 30 percent quota for female [representation] in all branches of government.

Youth have also raised their voices, both in and outside the National Dialogue. A diverse group of Yemeni youth is meeting today to announce recommendations for the future structure of the new state and the status of youth and women. Today they will finalize their strategy on how to turn these ideas into a reality for the new Yemeni

government.

Also happening today, a small but dynamic group of female activists from the North and the South have come together to talk about how best to create peace and reconstruction across the former borders of Northern and Southern Yemen. A cluster of Yemeni cultural leaders, who are working to raise awareness about peaceful dialogue (self-named Dialogue Messengers), are holding a public forum today to discuss the unfair treatment of the "Muhamasheen," a group marginalized in Yemeni society. Many civil society organizations from across Yemen are coming together to network and share their ideas, goals and successes with each other at a democracy fair in Yemen's capital city. These are some of the most important stories in Yemen, though you are unlikely to read about them in the Yemeni or international press.

All countries in transition are bound to have significant challenges—and Yemen is no different. But today, on the International Day of Democracy, we are celebrating the beginning of Yemen's longer-term process and our hopes for the future. But at the end of the day, democracy is not about the processes or politics, it's about the people and the country they are trying to build, today and every day.

An on-line version of this op-ed originally appeared on yementimes.com on Sept. 15, the International Day of Democracy.

Who created the terrorists?

Nabil Al-Bukiri
Middleeastmonitor.com
First published Sept. 14

The fallout from the coup in Egypt includes a number of answers to questions regarding political and security issues since the fall of the Soviet Union. The collapse of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact was a historic turning point in the strategies adopted by the U.S. and the capitalist West.

America, for one, had to find a replacement enemy "other" instead of the Soviet Union. In his book "The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers," Paul Kennedy says that no empire can maintain its political stability and remain a superpower unless it directs its energies towards an enemy, real or imagined. Without the external bogey to focus on, such energies are dissipated internally leading to cracks in the façade of unity, followed by the fall of the empire.

Kennedy's theory is consistent with the roots of Western thought. The German philosopher Hegel believed that without the prospect of war and the sacrifices it requires people become absorbed in themselves and society deteriorates under the rush to fulfill their selfish desires, resulting in the collapse of society.

Philosophical theories aside, America was also aware that as a result of the Warsaw Pact's demise, Europe could have gone its own way. Posing a threat to U.S. national security, this could have seen America unable to persuade European countries to join it in its wars, even NATO could have been hard to manipulate.

In the decade or so between the fall of the Warsaw Pact in 1990 and

the events of September 11, 2001, an image of the new enemy was being prepared by Western decision-makers, who enlisted the help of writers and intellectuals. The purpose was to restore the tactical and strategic position of the U.S. Army as the strongest in the world.

Samuel Huntington's book, "The Clash of Civilizations," and Francis Fukuyama's "End of History," represent the most important theoretical literature on what became known as the "Green Menace," a new enemy for the West to focus on, replacing the communist "Red Menace" of Eastern Europe.

Huntington noted that the upcoming struggle between nations would be a cultural struggle between the Islamic East and the Christian West. According to Fukuyama, liberal capitalism as a governing system in the West will be the last example of human intellectual creativity and that through capitalist values the West will prevail and impose them on the entire world.

Coinciding with the announcement of these theories, the Western media was spreading its carefully selected terminology associated with what it called radical or fundamentalist Islam. These and other terms were welcomed warmly by security agencies and state media in the Arab world before being repeated maliciously and somewhat foolishly. Such Arab regimes were overjoyed that their interests met with the West's in creating a bogey out of terrorism and extremism.

This was the West able to create a new avenue for international conflict under the guise of a "war on terrorism" in which anything and everything concerning Islam was a target.

Following the defeat of the Soviets

in Afghanistan, a vicious civil war afflicted the country in the absence of a unified national project and vision among the disparate groups who had been victorious against the invaders. This internecine conflict amongst the Afghans has become an object lesson in what can happen to one-time comrades in arms who are left without clear leadership.

There was a difference of opinion among the jihad leaders in Afghanistan, with a number suggesting that the Arab fighters should return to their countries to contribute to the political developments taking place there. This was an idea backed by the doyen of the Arab fighters, Abdullah Azzam. The intention was to give support to peaceful change through democratic means.

The first test for this point of view was the Algerian Islamist Party's victory in the municipal elections, followed by the parliamentary elections in 1992. As soon as it was clear that the Islamists would win, the election was cancelled by the army. A bitter armed conflict followed. The architect of the victory, though, did not live to see this happen; Azzam was assassinated in 1989.

Osama Bin Laden was among the first to agree with Azzam and went back to Saudi Arabia and his life in business. He'd majored in Business Administration at King Abdul Aziz University and was following in his father's footsteps.

It is claimed now that Bin Laden was engaged in the type of political affairs prohibited by the Saudi government. In any case, events took a turn for the worst with Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait and the deployment of American troops on Saudi soil ready to invade and liberate the small, oil-rich state. This complicated the

Coinciding with the announcement of these theories, the Western media was spreading its carefully selected terminology associated with what it called radical or fundamentalist Islam.

political situation in Saudi Arabia, with many people condemning the decision to allow American troops into the land of Makkah and Madinah.

Bin Laden, like other Islamists opposed to the Saudi policy at the time, was put under house arrest before being allowed to return to Afghanistan to put his affairs there in order, he then went into self-imposed exile in Sudan in early 1991. He invested heavily in Sudanese construction and agricultural companies. This coincided with his announcement of the establishment of the "Advice and Reform Committee" based in London, through which he would oppose the Saudi regime that expelled him from his country due to his political views.

Neither the Saudis nor the

Americans liked this, so they put great pressure on Khartoum, which was willing to hand over Bin Laden to either side; both refused. Back in Afghanistan he formed the "World Islamic Front for Jihad against Jews and Crusaders" with Ayman Al-Zawahiri in 1998.

The membership increased as the Arab "Mujahideen" fighters followed Bin Laden to Afghanistan having found only prison cells and oppression waiting for them in their home countries. The same agencies which had recruited them to go and fight against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan now demonized and persecuted them.

The September 11, 2001 attacks on the American mainland were preceded by attacks against U.S. targets such as the American embassies in Dar Al-Salaam and Nairobi. The USS Cole was also targeted off the coast of Yemen in 2000. However, 9/11 remains the biggest and most damaging attack against the United States in living memory. It was this which prompted George W Bush's "war on terrorism", leading to US invasions of Afghanistan just weeks after 9/11 and Iraq in 2003. Both countries and their regimes were accused of harboring terrorists and supporting terrorism.

It is often forgotten that "Al-Qaeda" was a name given by the Americans to a list provided by the Arab fighters against the Soviets in Afghanistan to keep track of those killed and those who survived. It has since become the generic term for any and all "Islamic terrorists."

With the outbreak of the peaceful demonstrations in 2011 against decades of repression, marginalization and despotism in the Arab world the Arab Spring was born. As regimes were overthrown in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and

Yemen, the common factor was the clearly peaceful intentions and nature of the demonstrators. This changed the minds of those who felt that only armed solutions were possible, although the situation in Libya and now Syria has further altered perceptions considerably. Nevertheless, the Islamists won free and fair elections but the democratic experiment faced a major setback with the coup against Mohamed Morsi in Egypt. It is now feared that the gains of the Arab Spring will be lost, not least because the coup leaders were given a clear green light to proceed by the supposedly democratic West.

This poses several questions regarding the extent of the West's involvement in what is happening, not only in Egypt but also in Syria. The new terrorism is backed by the West in its efforts to overturn any possibility of Islamists coming to power in the Arab World. Once again, the Arab despots are behind the West, cheque-books in hand.

The Islamists who have gained most from the Arab Spring have been proven to be the most effective democrats in the region. Hence, a great deal of effort has been expended on dragging them into violence and demonizing them as "terrorists". It is clear that the West wants to eliminate democracy and Islamists in one go. They forget, however, who created Islamic "terrorists" and terrorism in the first place to do the West's dirty work against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. These things are all linked and now form part of one long chain of events with no foreseeable end in sight.

The author is a Yemeni journalist. This article is a translation of the Arabic text which appeared on Al-Jazeera net on Sept. 12.

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When the lights go out, it's solar energy's time to shine

Two Sana'a sports clubs can now train members around-the-clock

Story and photos by Ali Abulohoom

The May 22 Sports Club in Sana'a is known to be narrow and dark, but at least one of those issues has now been resolved. With Sana'a's sometimes daily power-cuts, the recently installed solar panels at May 22 allow athletes gym access even after the sun goes down.

"Electricity is not a problem anymore," said the club's Iraqi boxing coach, Taha Al-Beidhani.

At the boxing section of the club, sweaty athletes punch and kick

heavy training bags, under the supervision of Al-Beidhani.

Training hours used to be from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., but solar panels, installed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) nine months ago, have meant that athletes can train far into the evening now, even when power in the rest of city is out.

The club's now extended hours are making for happier athletes.

Youth soccer coach Amar Al-Badani praised the technology, saying the May 22 Club, along with the Bilquis Girl's Sports Club, another sporting event center, to recently have installed solar panels, are for-

tunate to have them.

Bilquis Club office manager Raofa Al-Sharaei told the Yemen Times that Bilquis Club members have improved their performance since the installation of their solar panels.

"We [can] stay at the club the entire day and darkness is [never] a problem," she said.

Al-Sharaei has been working at the club for the past seven years and says the facility's new solar-powered system has cut-down on their unwillingness to bring in outside members.

"We [have] hosted competitions where the electricity goes off. This [left] us embarrassed. It no longer happens," she said, thanks to solar panels.

Generators, used by much of Yemen's population to cope with electricity outages, are an alternative to solar energy, but they have their drawbacks.

"Generators are slow, noisy and costly. The solar panels, however, are fault-free and work automatically following a power cut," Al-Sharaei said.

Many are excited about Yemen embracing solar technology and encourage others to use them in their homes.

But the start-up cost of using solar energy to power a house, is usually a deterrent for most people. A battery and a power converter are also necessary equipment for the panels and they aren't exactly cheap.

However, solar advocates counter this economic argument.

"It's cheap if compared generators, which always need more fuel," said Engineer Ahmed Al-Faqeh, a specialist in solar installation and maintenance. He also argues solar power requires very little maintenance.

A solar panel measuring 170x80 centimeters would provide enough electricity for four light bulbs, a



There are several stores in Sana'a that stock solar panels. Vendors say unreliable electricity over the past two years have led to a spike in sales.



Boxers at the May 22 Sports Club are enjoying longer training hours since the club began relying on solar energy.

television and a washing machine for six hours and cost around \$500, said Al-Faqeh.

The Al-Jazeera Shop on Hadda Street, first started importing solar panels to Sana'a seven years ago, from Korea and Japan.

Sales were slow, but since the 2011 uprising and the increased power cuts, demand has increased, Al-Faqeh said.

Mohammed Badwi had solar panels stalled in his Sana'a home years ago.

"I have been using these panels continuously for [the past] two years—they have cost me nothing except the initial cost," Badwi said.



USAID paid for the solar equipment at the Bilquis Club. Now the sporting facility is in charge of maintaining it.

Yemeni government aims to promote digital literacy

But older employees and a population without access to computers are failing to keep up

Ali Abulohoom

Sad Ibrahim sits at his computer, carefully entering financial data into a computer at the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Ibrahim is just one of the employees who received training in using computer and the Internet under an ongoing state-run initiative to promote digital literacy among civil servants.

Unlike Ibrahim, who became computer literate in a short period of time, his older colleagues at the ministry rely on younger fellow workers to help them complete their tasks.

The government's plans for training Yemeni civil servants on basic computer skills in order to keep them abreast to best practices in information technology (IT), as well as modernize their institutions, began in the 1980s, when other parts of the world were also going electronic.

Although Yemen is still lagging in terms of producing an "on-line" population, with only about 15 percent of its population having access to Internet, this issue is not the major obstacle that has prevented Yemeni civil servants from using technology to complete their tasks.

Some say there is an age gap. Mohammed Mahdi, 27, a reporter working for the government-run Yemen TV channel, said computers are available, but only young people use them. In spite of being trained properly in computer skills, the majority of employees over the age of 45 continue to deal with papers, Mahdi said.

"They are unwilling or unable to deal with computers," he said. Mahdi thinks it's generational and having not grown up with computers, many find them intimidating.

Mahdi, who usually helps his older colleagues to complete computer-related tasks, said his older colleagues "feel embarrassed for being unable to deal with computers, so they resort to papers," and then their younger colleagues enter the data into computers.

The National Data Center, in a report published in 2010, said 80 percent of the state-run institutions in Yemen have been computerized but that doesn't mean people are necessarily accepting of the technology.

Mohammed Murshed, 49, has a supervisory role at the Ministry of Youth. His job does not require a computer, but he has received training courses. However, he still isn't able to operate a keyboard with a sense of efficiency.

"If I need to type a letter, I ask my colleagues for help," he said. "I write it down on paper and then it is typed up."

Murshed is not alone sticking to this traditional way. Lots of the government employees say they have only dealt with handwritten documents their entire government careers.

According to a survey conducted by the National Data Center in 2001, about 25,000 people, including the computer operators, work in the IT job market, a number that is likely much higher now. The center attributed the increase of the workforce in this sector to the high number of graduates in computer science fields as well as the rise in



computer training courses.

Yet in spite of this progress, the government only recently gained complete Internet access in all ministry buildings in Sana'a in 2009, when the Yemeni government began to create web pages for the state-run institutions.

One shortcoming of this service, called "electronic gates," is that the pages are not interactive. Citizens do not easily have access to information through the "gates." If anyone needs to obtain official infor-

mation, it has to be done through a personal request at a governmental institution and then the information is released on paper.

A project called the "Electronic Government" was launched in 2003, during the premiership of Abdulqadir Bajamal, with an estimated budget of \$60 million. The project was supposed to electronically provide civilian services like applying for identification cards, but the project ultimately failed in large part due to a lack of trained

staff, those behind the project say.

In 2012, the Yemeni government decided to revive the project and implement it in 2014-2015.

"The [success of the] strategy depends on the training the state employees will receive to deal with technology and the Internet," said Engineer Ahmed Al-Awajari, the head of the executive team for the Electronic Gate Project, which launched the ministries' websites.

However, Al-Awajari does not see the problem of computer illiteracy

among state employees as the only problem though. He said, even with trained employees, dealing with a population who are not computer literate and looking for information can be a huge headache.

To tackle this problem, Al-Awajari said the government could build centers to offer electronic services.

"We are keen to employ young people in such centers," he said. "They can be a medium between the illiterate citizens and the government."



Political analyst Rashad Al-Sharabi to the Yemen Times: Dividing the country into regions is another way to facilitate a partnership between wealth and authority

Everyone's waiting to see if the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) will end on time. Some have reassured the public that it will — with a day extension at the most. Others say the process is going to need another couple of months. The temporary suspension of participation by Southern members further complicated this equation. The South is now back, but members are still hesitant to say that they think the dialogue will work. Political analyst Rashad Al-Sharabi speaks to the Yemen Times about accusations that side deals have been made within the conference and about doubts — whether things will change — even if the deadline is extended.

Interview by Mohammed Al-Hassani

First of all, do you think the Southern National Dialogue Conference (NDC) representatives' suspension is justified?

They had the right to suspend their participation as they were demanding changes to the conference's agenda. Their new demand was holding an equal dialogue between the South and the North in a neutral country. However, last week, they gave up this demand and resumed their participation in the NDC. The other demands are [included in] the 20 Points, which were ratified by the [NDC's] Technical Committee and the other 11 Points presented by the Southern Issue Working Group.

But the Southern Movement's leaders already put forth this demand as a condition to initially join the dialogue.

I wasn't just [referring to] an equal dialogue but [was referring to] holding it in a neutral country. Since the very beginning, NDC representation has been divided [in two] between the South and the North.

Some have said Southerners boycotted the NDC because of a leaked document written by Abdulkareem Al-Eryani, deputy head of the conference, that was in agreement with other political parties to impose certain outcomes on the NDC [like an extension for President Hadi and dividing Yemen into seven regions]. What do you think?

That's true. Southern representatives boycotted the conference [to demonstrate their disapproval] of this document. However, there were more important reasons [such] as those listed by Mohammed Ali Ahmed, the head of the Southern Issue [Working] Group, in a letter sent to President Hadi immediately following their suspension. [These demands] are consistent with the 31 Points. President Hadi and the government have prepared a mechanism to implement these demands.

You said the Southern Movement has relinquished their demands and resumed their participation in the NDC. Can you expand on what happened?

First, I want to point out that President Hadi, who is a Southerner, said since the very beginning that the dialogue will be held under the ceiling of unity

The dialogue is currently being held in Yemen, but the Southern Movement's leaders appeared with Benomar beneath the former Southern state's flag [at a meeting]. This [image] reflects the Southern Movement's concession for their demand to hold the dialogue [abroad]. It seems all parties made concessions when the Southerners decided to end their boycott.

Do you think there was international pressure [that forced] political parties make these concessions?

Yes, because Yemen is currently under international observation, according to the latest Security Council decisions. All political parties are under pressure to implement the Gulf Initiative and its implementing mechanism.

A member of the NDC [recently] commented on the issue of self-determination, saying that all presented issues are discussed wholeheartedly in the NDC. What do you think?

First, I want to point out that President Hadi, who is a Southerner, said since the very beginning that the dialogue will be held under the ceiling of unity. Second, I agree with self-determination. Southerners have the right to decide either to [remain unified] or separate. But do all Southerners support separation? I'm sure that most of the Southern Movement's members and Southern members in the General People Congress (GPC), Socialist Party, Is-

lah Party, Nasserite Party, civil society, youth and women are against secession. I think the [essential question] is whether all Southerners support secession.

Why do you think some political parties participating in the NDC were excluded from the small committee recently formed to summarize the presented solutions for the Southern Issue?

I think representation percentage was [fairly] distributed between the parties. Five seats were allocated to the Southern Movement and three seats to Southern members of the Socialist, Islah and GPC Parties. Moreover, the seats for the North were distributed to these [same] three [political] parties, [as well as] the Houthis, the Building and Justice Party, civil society, youth and women.

It's impossible to include all political parties in a 16-member committee. For example, the six parties within the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) weren't all represented in the committee. As for the Al-Rashad

It's impossible to include all political parties in a 16-member committee

Salafi Party, the only party that objected to representation, I think it's represented by the Islah's representative because they are strategic allies. After all, the most important thing is what the committee does.

But does this political representation process go against the nature of the dialogue?

In the end, it is reconciliatory work. As far as I know, this committee will show its achievements to all the members of the Southern Issue Working Group. The committee is representative of all political factions, and there is no problem.

Do you believe that some of the dialogue's stakeholders are trying to push through pre-determined agreements?

For sure, some components create problems at the NDC by bringing up non-essential issues. They look for disputes, not agreements.

What is the advantage of creating the disputes?

As Dr. Yaseen Saeed Noman, the general secretary of the Socialist Party, sees it, these individuals have their own small projects. They create disagreements and conflicts outside the NDC [as well] in Sana'a, Amran, Sa'ada and Ibb.

Are there indicators that reconciliation will be achieved on major issues once the [final] determinations of the dialogue are announced?

There is a consensus on the majority of issues, but there is still a problem in terms of the future shape of the state whether presidential or parliamentary. Regarding the suggestion related to the federal state, there is almost consensus. However, the problem lies with the size and the number of regions, whether it's four, five or six.

Is it fair to say the Yemeni state will be based on federal regions?

Yes, it will be a federal state, composed of regions. But as I have said, there will be disagreement on the division and formation of regions. Some suggest a two-region system, and others have suggested a three-region division or five-region division. The disagreement still revolves around the number, but the system of the federal state has been agreed upon, and it is regionally and internationally backed.

Do you think this system could bring about old problems, namely inequality for the distribution of resources among governorates or regions?

It depends on the criteria for the division of regions. For example, the oil-rich areas are supposed to be one region. Dividing the country into regions is another way to facilitate a partnership between wealth and authority. Generally speaking, the federal state should accomplish this partnership.

Do you think the government will be able to implement the 31 Points already put forth in order to resolve the country's two major issues, namely the Southern issue and the Sa'ada issue?

There have been good indications such as the reinstatement of 800 Southern security and army personnel. There is more to do on the part of the president and government. It is easy to issue decisions. It's true, the former regime created problems by firing employees and looting lands, making it an extremely complicated issue. If the [transitional government] is honest and serious about resolving these issues, nothing is impossible.

What if the Southern Movement insists on the right to self-determination, do you think the government and the regime have alternative options?

There are supposed to be alternatives if the Southern Movement ultimately turns down the federal state option. These alternatives should satisfy [those who feel marginalized]. In fact, such a question should be raised to the president, the prime minister and leading political factions, namely the Islah Party, the Socialist Party and the General People's Congress. They are supposed to have alternative options for all issues under discussion. I think there is no option other than a federal state. I am afraid that in case the South disagrees on this option, we will enter a new political crisis.

What does the international community think about this?

We should not depend on the international community. We should depend on the will of the nation. Does the entire nation, South and North agree with secession? For this question to be answered, there must be a referendum.

Do you think what's left of the dialogue lifespan will help participants come up with solutions that fulfill the aspirations of millions of Yemenis?

The dialogue presidium says the dialogue will end at its determined time. But I think it could be possibly extended until the end of September. The main document and the outcomes are almost ready. The outcomes have been agreed upon by many components. There are still some formalities which will be voted on during the final general session. I think Abdulkareem Al-Eryani's document, which was leaked, is the basis of this document.

Did the suspended participation of Southern participants in the dialogue discredit this document?

No, it did not. The points and agendas mentioned in [the document] have remained unchanged. Instead they have been developed and agreed upon.

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الكاتب والمحلل السياسي رشاد الشرعبي في حوار مع "يمن تايمز":

الوثيقة الأساسية التي سيخرج بها المؤتمر شبه جاهزة والوثيقة المسربة عن الإرياني بذرتها الأولى

بعد نحو شهر من المقاطعة.. التأم شمل مؤتمر الحوار الوطني من جديد بإنهاء ممثلي الحراك الجنوبي تعليقهم المشاركون فيه عقب مخاوف من فشل المؤتمر إثر تعثره في مرحلة حساسة تتمثل في مرحلة صياغة مخرجاته باعتبار من سيرسم مستقبل اليمن الجديد.. لكن هل تذهب خلاصات التحوارين فيما تبقى من عمر الحوار القصير إلى غير رجعة.. هل يستطيع أهل الحوار أن يلجموا أفواه من يقولون بفضله، ويراهنون على ذلك بكل ما يملكون ويثبتون أنهم على قدر المسؤولية التي حملهم إياها ملايين اليمنيين.. عودة الحراك وحصاد الحوار.. موضوع حوار هذا الأسبوع التي تستضيف فيه يمن تايمز الكاتب والمحلل السياسي رشاد الشرعبي.. فإلى الحوار..

حوار / محمد الحسني



ماذا لو أصر الحراك الجنوبي على حق تقرير المصير ومنح له هذا الحق.. هل تعتقد أن للنظام والحكومة خيارات بديلة؟

اعتقد أنه يفترض أن يكون هناك خيارات بديلة إذا رفض الحراك الجنوبي في نهاية المطاف خيار الدولة الاتحادية، وأن تكون هذه الخيارات مرضية، أما أن يظل النظام أسيراً لخيار واحد فهذا غير جيد.. وحقيقة هذا التساؤل لابد أن يطرح للرئيس ورئيس الحكومة وللأطراف السياسية البارزة أقصد هنا أحزاب المؤتمر والإصلاح والأشتركي.. هل لديهم خيارات بديلة في حال أصر الحراك على استعادة الدولة الجنوبية.. المفترض أن يكون لهم خيارات بديلة متعددة لكل القضايا المطروحة.. وفي البديل عن خيار الدولة الاتحادية اعتقد أنه لا يوجد هناك غير خيار واحد هو الدولة الاتحادية، وأخشى في حال عدم موافقة الحراك عليها أن ندخل في أزمة سياسية جديدة.

وإن موقف المجتمع الدولي في اعتقادك من هذا الخيار؟

يجب ألا نراهن كثيراً على المجتمع الدولي.. يجب أن نراهن على إرادة الشعب.. هل الشعب الجنوبي كاملاً سواء من هم في الجنوب أو في الشمال مع فك الارتباط.. للإجابة على ذلك لابد من استفتاء شعبي.

أخيراً.. هل تعتقد أن الوقت المتبقي من عمر الحوار يسعف التحوارين على الخروج بما يؤمل به ملايين اليمنيين؟

كما تقول رئاسة الحوار، فالمؤتمر سينتهي في الموعد المقرر له، لكن في اعتقادي أنه قد يمتد إلى نهاية شهر سبتمبر.. المخرجات أو الوثيقة الأساسية التي سيخرج بها المؤتمر شبه جاهزة، وقد تم التوافق عليها بين كل المكونات، وبقيت فقط رتوش سيتم التصويت عليها في الجلسة العامة الختامية.. واعتقد أن وثيقة عبد الكريم الإرياني التي سربت تعتبر البذرة لهذه الوثيقة.

ألم تنسف هذه الوثيقة بتعليق ممثلي الحراك لمشاركتهم في الحوار؟

لا لم تنسف.. المحاور والأجندة التي ذكرت فيها ما تزال كما هي، وقد تم الاتفاق عليها وتطويرها.

الدولة الاتحادية فقد تم الإتفاق عليه وهو يحظى بدعم إقليمي ودولي.

ألا تعتقد أن هذا النظام يعيدنا إلى المشكلتة السابقة وهي عدم العدالة في تقسيم الثروة بين مناطق ومحافظات اليمن؟

بناء على المعايير التي يتم عليها تقسيم الأقاليم.. مثلا المناطق النفطية يفترض أن تكون إقليماً واحداً.. أيضاً التقسيم إلى أقاليم من شأنه أن يسهل موضوع الشراكة في الثروة والسلطة، وعموماً يجب أن تحقق دولة الأقاليم هذه الشراكة.

لا يوجد هناك غير خيار واحد هو الدولة الاتحادية، وأخشى في حال عدم موافقة الحراك عليه أن ندخل في أزمة سياسية جديدة

هل تعتقد أن الدولة قادرة على تنفيذ النقاط الـ ٣١ التي طرحت لحل أبرز قضيتين في الحوار وهما القضية الجنوبية وقضية صعدة؟

هناك مؤشرات طيبة الحقيقة تمثلت في قرارات الرئيس هادي بإعادة ما يقرب من ٨٠٠ من المتقاعدين الجنوبيين العسكريين وهناك الكثير على الرئيس والحكومة القيام به، ومن السهل على كل حال إصدار قرارات لإعادة الحق لأصحابه.. صحيح أن النظام السابق كان يستخدم مشكلات تسريح وسلب الأراضي للتلاعب والعبث مما جعلها مسألة بالغة التعقيد، لكن إن توفرت الجدية والصدق لدى النظام الحالي فلا يوجد شيء مستحيل.

هو دور أعضاء مؤتمر الحوار من الجنوبيين الذين ينتمون لمكونات سياسية غير مكون الحراك كالمتمتعين لحزب المؤتمر والحزب الاشتراكي والإصلاح والتنظيم الناصري والمجتمع المدني والشباب والمرأة، كلهم بالتأكيد ليسوا مع مطلب فك الارتباط، أيضاً الحراك الجنوبي ليس غاليته مع هذا المطلب.. فك الارتباط أو حق تقرير المصير.. هذا حق إنساني معترف به دولياً، لكن هل الشعب الجنوبي بكامله مجمع على ذلك، هنا في اعتقادي تكمن القضية.

ما مدى صحة وجود قوى داخل الحوار تعمل على التحايل على مخرجاته؟

بالتأكيد هناك مكونات تصعد بالوضع عملياً داخل مؤتمر الحوار من خلال إثارة قضايا جانبية أو فرعية أو ثانوية لا تبحث عن نقاط اتفاق وإنما اختلاف.

ما هي مصطلحتهم من ذلك؟

هؤلاء وصفهم أمين عام الحزب الاشتراكي الدكتور ياسين سعيد نعمان بأصحاب المشاريع الصغيرة.. وهم أنفسهم من يشعلون الفتنة والصراعات خارج مؤتمر الحوار سواء في صنعاء أو في عمران أو في صعدة أو في إب، يقومون بذلك للحصول على نصيبهم من الكعكة كما يقال، رفضوا الحوار سابقاً ويرفضوا حالياً أن يكون مخرجا للمشكلات القائمة رغم أنهم فيه.

هل هناك مؤشرات براك للتوافق على أهم القضايا عند صياغة مخرجات مؤتمر الحوار؟

هناك اتفاق على معظم القضايا، وما تزال الإشكالية قائمة بشأن شكل نظام الدولة القادمة، هل يكون رئاسي أم برلماني، وبشأن مقترح الدولة الاتحادية هناك شبه اتفاق عليه، لكن بقي حجم وعدد الأقاليم هل يكونوا أربعة أم خمسة أم ستة، وأيضا كيفية تشكيلها.

نستطيع القول أن الدولة اليمنية القادمة ستكون مكونة من أقاليم؟

نعم.. ستكون دولة إتحادية من أقاليم، وكما قلت لك هناك خلاف فقط على عددها وكيفية تشكيلها، حيث هناك من يطرح لإقليمين وهناك من يطرح خمسة على أساس ثلاثة أقاليم من الشمال وإقليمين من الجنوب.. وهناك من استبق بالتحضير لإقليم شرقي، وهناك من يحضر لتشكيل سلطة لمحافظة المهرة وسقطرى رفضاً لفكرة الإقليم الشرقي.. الخلاف ما زال حول العدد، أما نظام

في شأن تشكيل اللجنة المصغرة لحل القضية الجنوبية.. لماذا براك تم استثناء بعض الأحزاب من المشاركة في هذه اللجنة؟

أنا اعتقد أن توزيع نسبها بين الأحزاب لا بأس فيه، حيث تم تخصيص مقاعد الجنوب بخمسة للحزب والثلاثة المقاعد المتبقية للأحزاب الثلاثة المتواجدة في الجنوب، وهي الاشتراكي والمؤتمر والإصلاح، أما مقاعد الشمال فتم تقسيمها على الأحزاب الثلاثة أيضاً وعلى جماعة أنصار الله وحزب العدالة والبناء والمجتمع المدني والشباب والمرأة، وعلى كل هناك أحزاب كثيرة من غير الممكن أن تمثل جميعها في لجنة قوامها ١٦ شخصاً، فمثلاً عندك كتلت المشترك مكون من ستة أحزاب لم تمثل جميعها، أما بالنسبة لحزب الرشد الحزب الوحيد الذي اعترض فأعتقد أن ممثل حزب الإصلاح يمثله لأن الرشد السلفي هو حليف استراتيجي بالنسبة للإصلاح، وما يهم إجمالاً هو ما ستخرج به هذه اللجنة من حلول للقضية الجنوبية.

لكن ألا يخالف عدم تمثيل جميع المكونات السياسية في اللجنة اللائحة الأساسية للحوار؟

هو في الأخير عمل توافقي، وعلى حد علمي ستعرض اللجنة ما ستخرج به على فريق القضية الجنوبية بكامل أعضاءه، وهو يمثل جميع المكونات السياسية، وليس هناك مشكلة.

بعض قيادات الحراك الجنوبي تقول إن الحوار بتشكيل اللجنة المصغرة انتقل إلى التفاوض.. هل هذا صحيح؟

أنا أرى أننا ما زلنا في مرحلة الحوار، ولم يحدث انتقال أو تغيير، وبحسب حديثي مع أحد هيئة رئاسة مؤتمر الحوار أكد لي أن

الديمقراطية الشعبية سابقاً فوق رأسه رغم أن الحوار يتعد في الجمهورية اليمنية يظهر أن هناك تفهمه لمطلب الجنوبيين في تقرير مصير دولتهم، كما أظهر أن الحراك بالمقابل تنازل عن مطلب الدولة المحايدة.. وعلى كل المشهد أوحى بأن هناك تنازل من جميع الأطراف عندما قرر الحراك الجنوبي إنهاء تعليق مشاركته في الحوار.

ظهور بنعمر تحت علم دولة الجنوب يدل على تنازلات قدمتها كل الأطراف السياسية لإنجاح الحوار

هل تعتقد أن الضغوط الدولية هي من أجبرت الأطراف السياسية على تقديم تنازلات؟

نعم لأن اليمن الآن تحت الوصاية الدولية، بحسب قرار مجلس الأمن الأخير، لذلك جميع الأطراف السياسية تتعرض لضغوط لتنفيذ المبادرة الخليجية وأليتها التنفيذية وإنجاز المرحلة الانتقالية كما رسم لها.

هناك من طرح من هيئة رئاسة معلقاً على مطلب حق تقرير المصير لممثلي الحراك بأن الحوار يناقش القضايا الوطنية المطروحة أمامه بدون سقف.. ما رأيك؟

أولا أريد أن أشير هنا إلى أن الرئيس هادي، وهو من أبناء الجنوب تحدث منذ انطلاق الحوار أن الحوار سيكون تحت سقف الوحدة.. ثانياً أنا مع حق تقرير المصير كمطلب إنساني.. من حق الشعب الجنوبي أن يقرر مصيره أياً كان، سواء كان في الاستمرار بالوحدة أو بفك الارتباط، لكن هل الشعب الجنوب بكامله مجمع على فك الارتباط؟ ما

بداية كيف تنظر إلى أسباب تعليق ممثلي الحراك الجنوبي مشاركتهم بمؤتمر الحوار؟

من حقهم أنهم كانوا يسعون إلى فرض تغييرات جديدة في أجندة الحوار، لكن الشيء الوحيد الذي لفت انتباهي وكان جديداً هو مطالبهم لحوار ندي بين الشمال والجنوب في دولة محايدة.. لكن ما حدث الأسبوع الماضي حدث تنازل من قبلهم بهذا الشأن وعادوا إلى الحوار واستبعد هذا الشرط في اعتقادي وبقيت المطالب الأخرى التي هي ضمن النقاط الـ ٣١ التي أقرتها اللجنة الفنية للحوار والنقاط الـ ١١ التي أقرها فريق القضية الجنوبية.

لكن قيادات الحراك الجنوبي تقول إن هذا المطلب لم يكن جديداً وكان شرطهم منذ دخول الحوار؟

أنا لم أكن أقصد أن الحوار الندي هو الجديد، ولكنني قصدت مطلب أن يكون هذا الحوار الندي في دولة محايدة، والحقيقة بالنسبة للحوار الندي فهو ما كان عليه الحوار، حيث كان نصف عدد المتحوارين من الجنوب.

هناك من طرح أن السبب لتعليق الحوار هو ما سرب عن وثيقة كتبت بيد نائب رئيس الحراك عبد الكريم الإرياني باتفاق مع أطراف سياسية لفرض مخرجات معينة على مؤتمر الحوار.. هل هذا صحيح براك؟

نعم صحيح.. كان هناك تفاهات حول الوثيقة التي يقال إنها كتبت بيد الإرياني، حيث مثل تعليق ممثلي الحراك رفضاً منهم لهذه الوثيقة، لكن هناك أسباب أخرى أهم، لأن رئيس فريق القضية الجنوبية في الحوار محمد علي أحمد لم يذكر ذلك في رسالته للرئيس هادي عندما قرروا تعليق مشاركتهم الوثيقة، وإنما ذكر مطالب موضوعية ومنطقية تتفق مع النقاط الـ ٣١، التي الرئيس هادي والحكومة بصدد تنفيذها بعد أن أعادوا آية بذلك.

حسننا بشأن حديثك عند تنازل الحراك الجنوبي لمطالبه وعودته للحوار.. أرجو أن توضح ذلك؟

أول مشهد كان في ظهور قيادات الحراك مع المبعوث الأممي جمال بنعمر تحت علم دولة الجنوب، أي أن قبول بنعمر الظهور وعلم الجنوب أو ما تعرف بجمهورية اليمن

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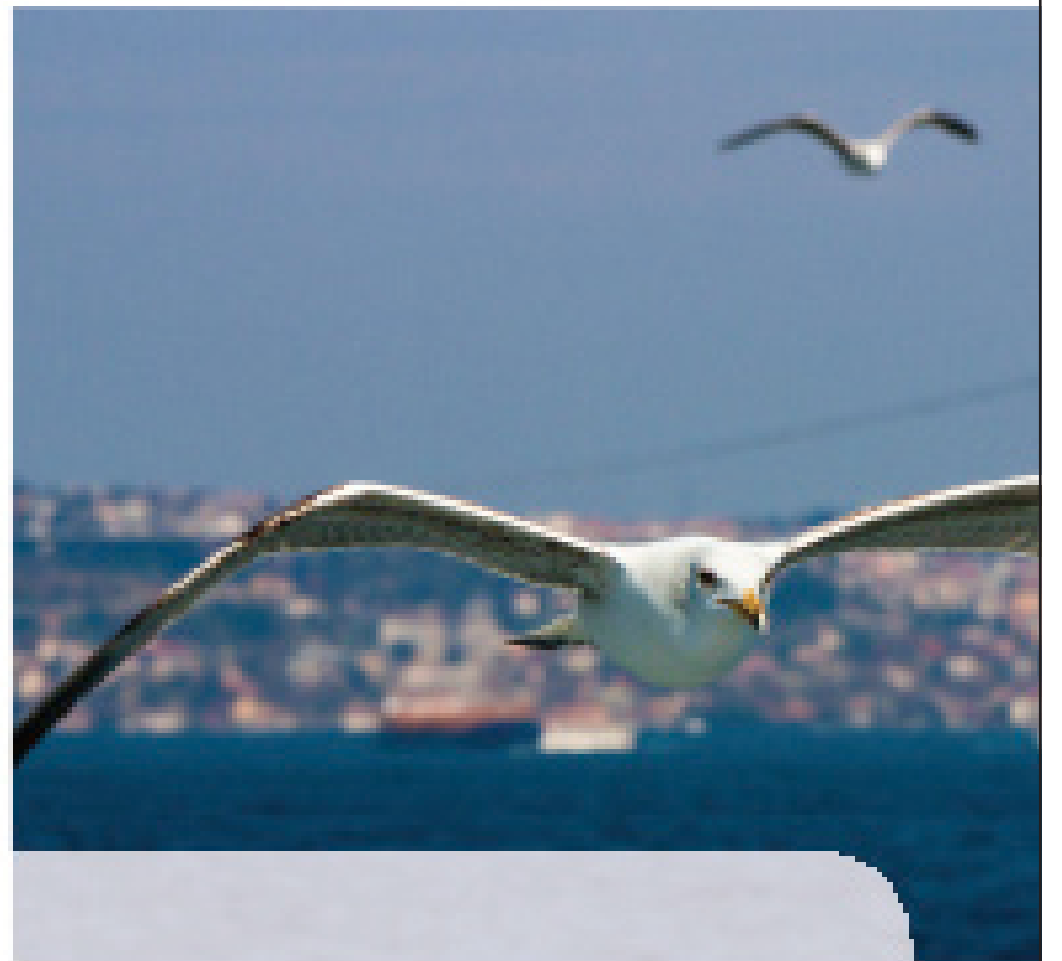
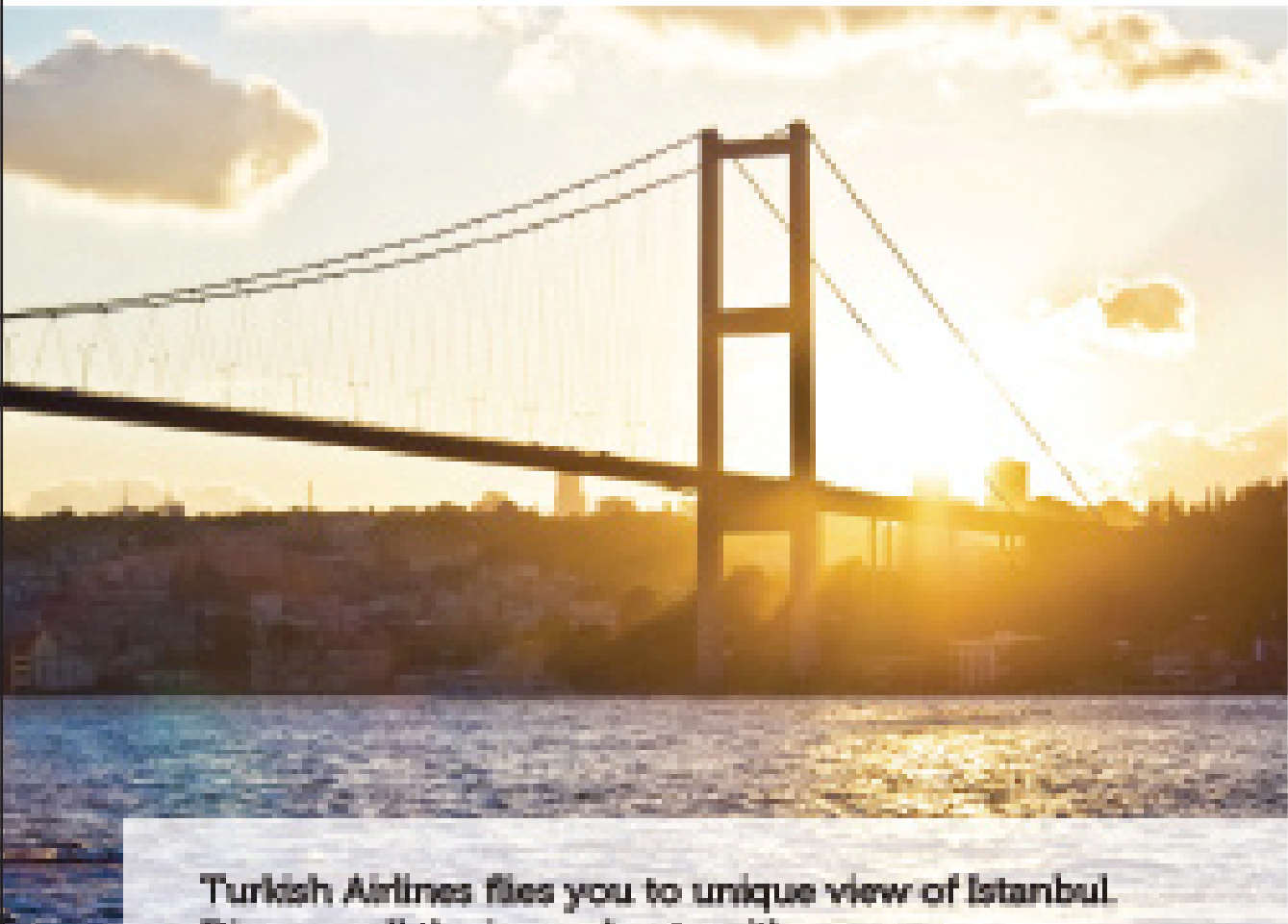
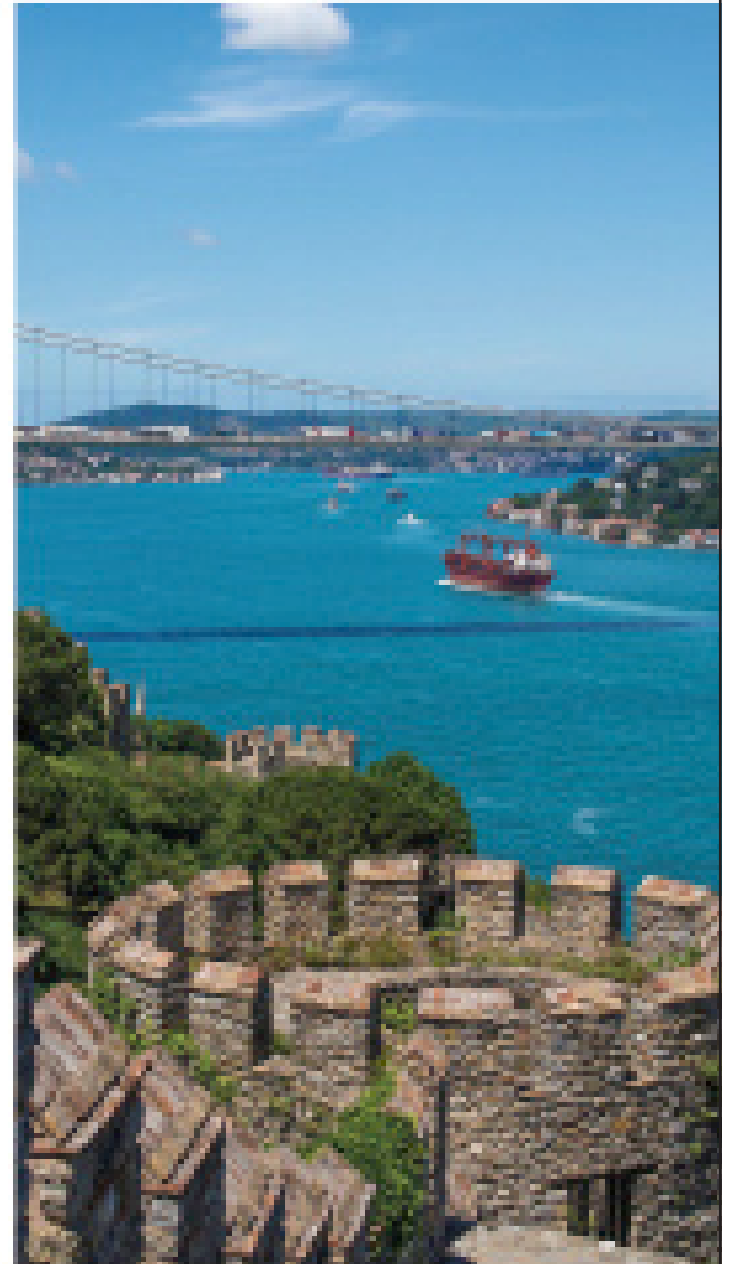
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Shahi Haleeb

Women + dowry prices = not an equation that adds up to marriage



Sara Al-Zawqari

Many men have had enough of fathers asking for extremely expensive dowries for their daughters. Unfortunately, expensive dowries have become the norm, and the asking rate only seems to be getting bigger. With the amount of money and gold some ask for, you could open up a business.

What's strange is Yemen isn't getting richer, but when some fathers hear there is a man coming to ask for their daughter's hand, you can see the dollar signs in their eyes. Before the man officially comes to ask for the daughter, the father starts writing a list of all the things the family needs. The entire family: uncles, aunts and grandparents come to add to that list.

As soon as the groom reaches the bride's house, they say, you have to pay the mom and dad because they are the reason for the bride's existence. You have to pay the aunt because she raised the girl when she was young. The uncle deserves to be in on this because the girl stayed at his home when she was studying. This logic continues until the groom ends up paying not only for the bride but for the entire family.



The dowry is a present for the bride, not a will to be distributed between family members.

This is enough for a man to call a wedding off. If we were living in Monaco where a greater percent-

age of the population is wealthy, we might think these dowries are reasonable, but when you ask for millions, I want to know what's so special about your daughter, is she an ocean-view room, on the 60th

floor of Burj Khalifa.

Marriage is not a business deal. Your daughter is not a product, and the groom is not a source for money. If the groom has to take out loans from family and friends in order to

pay for the dowry, your daughter the one to suffer-she is going to have to live in debt as well.

Due to these financials, men are becoming more and more accustomed to living as bachelors. They do not have the financial means to get married, so they stay single for longer. While it's much easier for a man to carry the weight of being single, when these men cannot marry that means there are girls left without marriage offers. For them society can be less forgiving for not entering into nuptials. If a girl remains single, she is "unwanted."

How long is a girl going to wait for here Prince Charming with an unlimited bank account. Sometimes such a man exists. He comes along and fulfills all the family's demands. Although it's a happy day for the family, this creates a problem for others. Now the rest of the family and the entire neighborhood, want the same thing for their daughters.

It's important for families to ensure their daughters are offered security when their hands are asked in marriage, but they should also think of reasonable dowry prices. What's more important though is to find someone that will treat their spouse well. It's more important to be a good man rather than a rich man.

Men are saving right now to get married, but the more they save, the more expensive the dowries get. They chase this dream, until before you know it, they are 40.

This pressure put on men can have very ugly consequences. There have been cases where men have thrown acid in women's faces as a way to lower the dowry price for the women. Their justification is that if a woman has some sort of deformity, her dowry price will be lower.

The solution is in society's hands. I hope fathers start to think about their daughters' future in the long run, instead of thinking of marriage as a business deal.

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!

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Title: Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

Duration of Assignment: Full-time Position

Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen with travel to other governorates

Introduction

The Yemen Monitoring and Evaluation Project (YMEP) is a multi year project that is designed to provide independent third party monitoring of donor-financed development projects and interventions in Yemen. It is implemented in Yemen by International Business and Consultants Inc. (IBTCI).

YMEP requires the services of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist to undertake activities related to the monitoring and evaluation of international development projects and activities. The YMEP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist will carry out monitoring and evaluation activities within the framework of YMEP as defined under the IBTCI program. The overall objective of the M&E Specialist is to monitor the projects and activities that are executed Implementing Partners (IPs) to verify that the projects and activities are carried out in accordance with the approved grant agreement or other contractual document governing each project and/or activity.

Specifically the M&E specialist will:

1. Conduct site visits to monitor activities being implemented by USAID grantees and their partner organizations.
2. Develop or modify questionnaires as necessary for the monitoring of IP activities
3. Process questionnaires and analyze data including through the use of specific data processing software packages.
4. Provide technical assistance to the donor and IPs in matters related to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the M&E process and the quality of data collected and reported by the IPs.
5. Assist YMEP evaluation and assessment teams as needed with translation of documents, design of questionnaires and field survey instruments, implementation of field surveys, conducting interviews with beneficiaries and key informants, processing of questionnaire/field survey data, report writing, and liaison with local USAID implementing partner staff.
6. Prepare analytic reports from the data contained in the data Clearing House that has been developed under YMEP and where project data are regularly uploaded by IPs.

Qualifications required

- > A university level degree (BA/ BS or higher) in an area relevant to one or more of the sectors of development assistance: economic development, health, agriculture, democracy and governance, community livelihood, youth and women development etc.
- > 5 years of experience working in implementation and management development assistance projects, including at least two involving M&E tasks.
- > Experience with internationally funded projects preferred and having worked with international NGOs or donors is highly desirable.
- > Report writing and communication skills in Arabic and English
- > Experience with research methodology, collection and analysis of data
- > Excellent observation and analytical skills
- > Skills to perform data analysis and monitoring of databases and a good level of experience in MS Word, Excel and PPT, and preferably in research and database related software (such as Epi Info, SPSS, Access, etc.)
- > Excellent communication skills, writing and speaking skills in English as well as Arabic.
- > Proactive in meeting people, gathering information, and recommending solutions if problems arise.

To apply:

Please send your cover letter, a detailed CV and 3 references by email to HRYMEP@YAHOO.COM Response will only be made to shortlisted candidates. The deadline for receiving applications is extended to September 30th, 2013 by 5 pm.

AROUND TOWN



A young girl checks out reading material at one of Sana'a's small libraries. Illiteracy remains a huge issue in Yemen with one of the highest rates in the region, according to UNICEF. About 60 percent of women are illiterate and 30 percent of men.

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When the water runs dry, the ideas flow

John James
IRIN
First published Sept. 13

Droughts are rarely seen as a positive development. Historically equated with divine punishment, they can be fatal to local economies and human lives alike.

But they can also provide a crucial test for water management systems, which-when they function effectively-may allow regions to shake off severe droughts that would have otherwise led to widespread loss of life.

"Droughts provide an opportunity for action as well as learning lessons. There is often a sense of community, a greater political will and a heightened awareness of conservation issues," said Roberto Lenton, from the University of Nebras-

ka's Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute in the United States.

"We have been experiencing, over the last couple of years, some major droughts around the world that have reinforced the growing recognition that we are going to be facing more climate extremes- droughts and floods-and we need to learn how to deal with them more effectively."

Statistics on natural catastrophic events collected by insurers Munich Re show that the "number of major weather-related natural catastrophes has almost tripled since 1980." They report "an increase in the length, frequency or intensity of warm-weather periods" and predict that droughts are "likely to become more frequent."

In a globalized food market, droughts-even those in the developed world-can quickly impact the world's poorest, as in the 2007-

2008 food price crisis, which was aggravated in part by drought in Australia.

So what have we learned from current and recent water shortages?

Water storage and risk management

The current drought in northeast Brazil is the most severe water shortage the area has seen in last 100 years. Last year, it caused the deaths of five million cattle.

The federal government has responded with some relief actions, including trucking in water, providing agricultural schemes for farmers, and investing in water infrastructure like dams and reservoirs.

"Whenever you have droughts, over the last 100 years, you see a rapid rise in water stocks and reservoirs," said Francisco de Assis de Souza Filho, director of the Brazil

office of the Columbia Water Center, who added that politicians are often short-sighted when it comes to risk management because they "are only focused on the four years of their mandate."

Droughts-in Brazil and many other parts of the world-can be a key spur for politicians to invest in dams, water management and resilience, even if prevention strategies would have been more cost-effective.

"Brazil needs to change from reactive drought crisis management to proactive drought risk management. We have a good institutional approach to water research management, but we don't have a focus on drought management," said de Souza Filho.

Michael Hayes, director of the U.S.-based National Drought Mitigation Center, says investment in mitigation, planning, monitoring and early warning pays-off when

drought strikes.

"If our only focus is on crisis management, we don't take any steps to reduce our risk to future events."

As destructive as droughts can be, they can provide the catalyst for better preventive action:

"Droughts provide windows of opportunity to engage the stakeholders," said Hayes.

Motivating farmers and decision makers is key to making change happen.

"Political will is the foundation of drought management policy," said Thierry Facon, senior regional management officer for the Asia and Pacific region at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Groundwater

Like Brazil, the U.S. state of Nebraska also suffered a severe drought in 2012, though with a rather different outcome. Nebraska is the country's

biggest producer of red meat, number two for ethanol production, and fourth nationally for the value of its crops.

Crop failure would have been a national disaster with global consequences.

By tapping into the groundwater held in the High Plains aquifer, US farmers were able to see through the drought. In fact, production of irrigated corn - thanks to the increased sunshine and longer growing season-actually increased by 5.6 percent.

Continued on Page 16

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Radio Yemen Times is pleased to announce its newest monthly initiative for its community service series, Hand in Hand.

This month in coordination with My Book Is Yours project-Yemen, a group of community activists, Yemen Times will be collecting children's books and other items to furnish small libraries to be established throughout the city.

Radio Yemen Times is collecting both new and used items like shelves, chairs and notebooks. We invite you to join us and ensure the success of this initiative.

Over the past four years, My Book Is Yours project has set up 10 small libraries and book cabinets in the city, including one in Al-Thwara Public Hospital and one in Al-Miqdad School in the Shumaila neighborhood.

For more information, tune into our radio show, Sabahukm Ridha, at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday.



يمن تايمز بالتعاون مع "مبادرة كتابي كتابك - اليمن"، تنفذ مشروعها الجديد

يهدف مشروع كتابي كتابك لجمع كتب الأطفال القديمة والجديدة إضافة إلى المستلزمات الخاصة بالمكتبات (الرفف، كراسي، الوان، دفاتر رسم وغيرها من المستلزمات...), ليتم بعد عملية الجمع إنشاء عدد من المكتبات الصغيرة، أو زوايا قراءة في بعض الأحياء التي تتضمن أماكن تهتم بالأطفال وبخاصة لإنشاء مكتبات خاصة بهم.

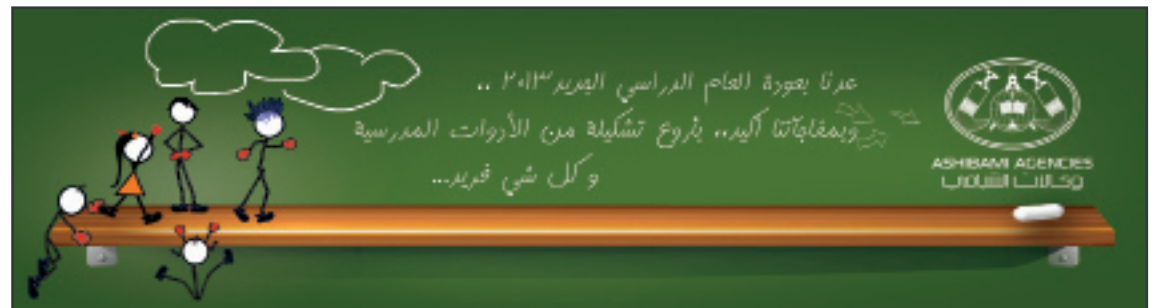
وندعوكم لمد يدكم إلى يدنا ومشاركتنا في التبرع بتلك الاحتياجات، إضافة إلى دعوة المهنيين بالرسم للمشاركة في هذا المشروع من خلال مبادرتهم بالرسم في الجدران التي سيتم اختيارها كزوايا ومكتبات صغيرة لإنشاء أماكن خاصة بالقراءة للأطفال.

خلال الأربع السنوات الماضية أنشأت مبادرة كتابي كتابك- اليمن أكثر من 10 مكتبات وزوايا قراءة ضمن مؤسسات أو جمعيات أو مدارس في العاصمة صنعاء منها: زاوية القراءة بمركز الزبير التابع لهيئة مستشفى الثورة العام، مدرسة المقداد في حي شميلة، اهداء قصص وكتب لدار الأيتام وغيرها من الأماكن.

لمعلومات أكثر عن المشروع تابعونا كل خميس الساعة 7:30 صباحاً في برنامج "صباحكم رضاً" على راديو اليمن تايمز 88.8.



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When the water runs dry, the ideas flow



Dry earth in the desert plains of the Danakil depression in northern Ethiopia.

lithic systems, we get a better understanding and learn how to predict, so there are ways to actually know when a drought is coming up," Mats Eriksson, director of climate change and water at the Stockholm International Water Institute, told IRIN.

As a slow-onset hazard, droughts have often caught governments unawares—though as the 2011 drought in Somalia showed, awareness does not always lead to effective preventive action.

"I think the problem is more communicating this kind of knowledge in a tailor-made format, down to a more local context where people can

actually utilize and benefit and plan based on these predictions," said Eriksson.

Studying past droughts has helped scientists refine their predictive models, and it has helped build technology that can offer greater resilience.

"Technologies have played a great role in mitigating these shortages of water. Science and technology is going to play an increasing role in the future," said Dilip Kulkarni, head of the Agri-food Division at India's Jain Irrigation Systems, Ltd.

He stresses that in the developing world, water technologies can

be extremely beneficial in helping farmers survive water scarcity—as long as the methods have been adapted to the smallholder farms that predominate in places like sub-Saharan Africa and India.

Biotechnology has helped provide drought-resistant plants, while adapted farming practices, like avoiding tillage in dry areas, helped farmers in Nebraska avoid a repeat of the 'dustbowl years' in the 1930s.

"Droughts spur technological innovation," said Lenton. But greater water efficiency does not necessarily mean lower water use, something that is frequently forgotten in discussions about the wonders of drought-resistant technologies.

Learning lessons

In 1877, around half a million people died because of drought in north-eastern Brazil, according to de Souza Filho. Economic development and technology have since helped reduce the human cost of drought in Brazil and many parts of the world, though as the 2011 drought in the Horn of Africa showed, widespread loss of human life still occurs.

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While well-resourced farmers in formal, well-governed water systems, like those in Nebraska, may have learned to survive even severe droughts, poverty continues to leave others exposed.

And the lessons learned in such formal water systems may not even be applicable in tropical informal governance areas, warns Facon.

Communities used to living in arid lands have, of course, knowledge about dealing with drought that has been passed down through generations—for example, mixing pastoral and agrarian ways of life to cope with times of water scarcity.

"In many parts of the world, drought is part of the natural environment. That means that people have developed means and methods

to overcome drought," said Eriksson.

But climate change poses new challenges, particularly with weather extremes that traditional systems, based on historic weather patterns, may not be adequate for.

"Maybe the old traditional systems don't work anymore, so you have to find ways of maybe supporting them [the systems] if they're good enough. Or in other cases, the kind of livelihood system that you relied on doesn't really work anymore - and you have to add other things," said Eriksson.

Climate change maybe creating new lessons to learn.

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