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المُشغَّل الأول والأكبر للهاتف النقال في اليمن

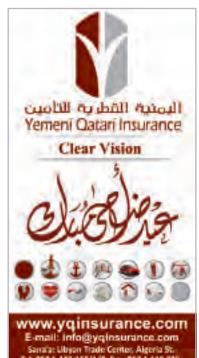




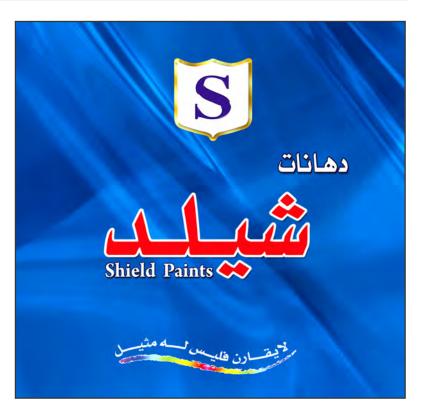
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Live from the Basement: Musicians performed original music and covers of their favorite hits on Oct. 19 at the Basement, including Guns 'n Roses — Sweet Child O' Mine; The $\label{eq:White Stripes} White Stripes - Seven \ Nation \ Army;$ and Toxic Roulette — Highway to Hell. Pictured above: Amani Al-Battah (L) and Methal Hamadi perform an original piece together. Photo credit: the Basement



تأمين الحريق

لغطى الأطراز والداسالار الثى تحدث للملكيات الازملام فليجثر الحريق والمعرامق الأخلجنزات الزالازل الأماميير القيضانات القجار لتابيب للهاة طفح للهاة سقومة الملظرات فراطام الركيات الشغب الأشرايات والسرقات



NDC working groups resume meetings, Houthis and Southern Movement continue boycott

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANA'A, Oct 21 — Houthis and the Southern Movement continued their boycott of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) Monday, as working groups who have not turned in their final reports resumed meetings. The final plenary session is scheduled to resume on Saturday.

Yasser Al-Roaini, the Deputy General Secretary of the NDC, said Houthis and the Southern Movement are demanding more time to finish their respective working group's final reports. They will be given the week to complete their reports, Al-Roaini said.

The reconciliation committee will



off on October 8, but came to a halt discuss remaining issues that have the next day when representatives

easureable taste

been raised by some NDC working from the Southern Movement and the Houthis staged a protest in The concluding plenary kicked front of the stage at the plenary session.

Out of 565 representatives at the NDC, the Southern Movement has 85 representatives. It is demanding a federal state composed of two regions, a demand rejected by other NDC factions that have agreed on five-region federal state.

Ahmed Al-Qana, the spokesperson for Southern Movement representatives at the NDC said the Southern Movement still insists on boycotting the concluding plenary unless the South is given the right to self-determination and the Southern Issue is fairly solved.

Southern Movement representatives will meet in Aden on Oct. 22 to agree on a clear vision for the Southern Issue.

The Houthis have 35 representatives at the NDC. The group has refused to take part in the concluding plenary, saying the Sada'a Issue Working Group, the Southern Issue Working and the State Building Group have not finished their reports yet. Houthi representatives are demanding the inclusion of victims of the Sa'ada wars to be added to the list of injured and killed revolutionaries of the 2011 uprising who are receiving compensation.

NDC Houthi representative and spokesperson Ali Al-Bukhaiti told the Yemen Times that Houthi representatives will protest in front the conference stage of the final plenary if it is resumed before all final reports are finished.

According to internal regulations of the NDC, the reports of the nine committees of the NDC will be reviewed in the concluding plenary. The percentage of consensus on reports should be 90 percent. If disputes arise, they are referred to the reconciliation committee that takes into account the notes and views of all working groups. The disputed issue is then returned to be voted on, requiring 75 percent consensus.







Deadly Abyan attack leaves one soldier under investigation

Attack left 5 dead, 32 wounded

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

ABYAN, Oct. 21 - Following the suicide attack on a military base in the South of the country on Friday, an officer who was in charge of controlling the gate of the camp is under investigation for security improprieties, according to Jamal Al-Aqel, the director of Abyan governorate.

The attack on Brigade 111 military camp in Ahwar district of Abyan left five soldiers dead and 32 wounded, as well as four militants involved in the attack.

Shaker Al-Ghadeer, a soldier in Brigade 111, told the Yemen Times that the committee formed by the governor to investigate the officer is composed of three officers from the brigade and security forces in the governorate.

According to Al-Ghadeer, Popular Committees, the local militias formed to fight Al Qaeda, had already informed the officials that a suspected military vehicle was on the way to the camp, but the

vehicle, fitted with explosives, entered the camp without any safety checks from the soldier controlling the gate.

"Soldiers at the gate weren't wounded in the attack and no confrontations took place out there," he said. "The clashes began after the explosions inside the camp."

A bomb-laden car with four armed men wearing explosive devices entered the camp early Friday. One went to the mosque where some soldiers were praying, the second went to the Administrative Affairs' Building and the third to the Communications Military Company. The militants blew themselves up at those locations while the driver blew-up the vehicle inside the camp, according to Al-Ghadeer.

Following the explosions, Al-Ghadeer said, other militants positioned themselves outside the camp to attack more soldiers.

The security officer in question was immediately removed from his duties and is currently under investigation.

"We formed the committee to investigate the incident and find out how the suicide attack was carried out," said Al-Aqel. "But it doesn't mean that we [have] accused anyone of betrayal."

Al-Aqel praised Popular Committees' roles in supporting the military and security forces in their fight against Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

"We paid around YR7,000 (\$32) for each one of the 80 members of the Popular Committees in recognition of their efforts," he added.

Yaslm Abu Sita, the security manager of Ahwar district, said, "Popular Committees are indispensable. All the checkpoints in the district are staffed by those people."

"If they maintained security in the district, and they informed Brigade 111 of the vehicle with explosives, why did the brigade not defend itself against the attack?"

On Monday, the deceased soldiers were buried at the Martyrs Cemetery in Sana'a.

Al-Qaeda operatives gained control of some towns in Abyan governorate in 2011, taking advantage of security vacuum during the uprising. They were defeated by government forces, which were supported by Popular Committees and the United States in June 2012.

Rada'a to receive security reinforcement

Locals say move is necessary to prevent Al-Qaeda takeover

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

AL-BEIDHA, Oct. 21 - After a year of calling for security reinforcement in Ra'ada district, Al-Beidha governor Al-Dhahiri Al-Shadadi said security forces will be deployed to the district in the coming days. Security reinforcement is necessary to prevent the fall of the district to Al-Qaeda, said Rada'a security manager, Brigadier Hamoud Al-Amari.

In January 2012, Al-Qaedaaffiliated groups took control of Rada'a, but the government reached an agreement, leading to the withdrawal of the militants in February of that year.

"It's strange that reinforcements are [being] sent to all districts, [but Rada'a], the militant stronghold, [is] being neglected," Al-Amari said.

"Rada'a has been demanding security reinforcement for over a year, but has received nothing so far," he added.

Residents have reported an increased security presence in Al-Beidha governorate at the district border, where checkpoints were set up.

"Deploying [more] security personnel was a result of the attacks on a police camp in Awain, east of Al-Beidha city. That attack left two soldiers dead and seven wounded," said Najm Al-Deen Harash, security manager for Al-Beidha governorate.

Two military vehicles were seized in the attack, Harash

In an attack on Mechanized Brigade 139 in Rada'a in early October, seven alleged Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) members were killed, along with two soldiers. The alleged AQAP members took three soldiers captive, in the attack.

Security officials are currently visiting the governorate to determine how AQAP attacks can be thwarted. Reinforcements will be sent for police patrols and to the Special Forces camps.

"The interior and defense ministries' reinforcements will arrive in the coming days to restore order," Al-Shadadi said.

Gang accused of sexual assault arrested in Sana'a

Security officials in Sana'a arrested five accused gang members of sexually assaulting children, in an official statement given to the press

"Police have detained five people aged 18 to 20 years who are accused of abusing and photographing children in order to blackmail their families," said Lt. Col. Saleh Hamdan, director of the Qa' Al-Qaidi Police Station in Sana'a.

Hamdan said that the abused and their families have filed lawsuits against the gang members.

The last complaint was filed two weeks ago by the family of a child victim who was allegedly raped by the gang in the Qa' Al-Qaidi area, according to Adeeb Abdulkareem, the representative of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation at the police station.

Four Yemenis died during Hajj

Hajj casualties

Four Yemeni pilgrims died from natural causes during this year's Hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.

Mohammed Mohammed Al-Ashwal, deputy head of the Hajj and Umrah Section at the Endowment and Guidance Ministry, said that since Sunday, about 9,000 Yemeni pilgrims have returned from Saudi Arabia.

Al-Ashwal said that 38 Yemeni pilgrims that suffered from high blood pressure, diabetes and other chronic illnesses were taken to hospitals, adding that they all left the hospital except for two pilgrims who had to undergo medical operations.

Reporting by Samar Al-Ariqi

Through the lens of three cameras, "Karamah Has No Walls" captured the gunning down of demonstrators and those who tried to help them.

events of that day by interviewing survivors and editing the footage provided by three cameramen.

Ishaq was visiting Yemen in ear-

ly 2011 and decided to record the

Ishaq's has been a hit in film festivals worldwide, and was awarded Best Short Documentary at the 2012 United Nations Association Film Festival and the EDINDOCS Documentary Film Festival in

Scotland. Among the shortlisted documentary films competing with "Karamah Has No Walls" to get a spot in the final list of Oscar nominees is "The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life" directed by Malcolm Clarke, from the U.K., about the oldest-living Holocaust survivor.

Other contenders include "Jujitsu-ing Reality" by Chetin Chabuk, from the U.S., which tells the story of a writer's battle with ALS, also known as Motor Neuron disease, and "Recollections" made by Nathanael Carton, portrays the recovery of personal photographs in the aftermath of a tsunami in

Three other shortlisted films

are "Slomo" by Joshua Izenberg; "Prison Terminal: The Last Days of Private Jack Hall" by Edgar Barens; "Facing Fear" by Jason Cohen; and "CaveDigger" directed by Jeffrey Karoff.

In addition to Yemen's "Karamah Has No Walls," there are feature entries from the Arab world hoping to be nominated for Best Foreign Film section at the 86th Academy Awards.

Among those entries, Saudi Arabia's first-ever feature film "Wadjda", which has already gained a worldwide recognition, is competing with submitted movies from Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine.

The only Arab country to win an Oscar in the Best Foreign Film category was Algeria, for the 1969 film "Z". The 2005 Palestinian film "Paradise Now" was nominated for an Oscar in the Best Foreign Film category.

The 86th Academy Awards ceremony is scheduled to take place on March 2 in Hollywood, California.

Yemeni film short-listed for Oscar



Yemen Times staff

Yemen is on its way to a first-ever Oscar nomination after the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences announced the eight films shortlisted for Best Documentary Short Subject at the 86th Academy

"Karamah Has No Walls" by the Yemeni-Scot filmmaker Sara Ishaq is competing with seven documentary short films to earn the official nomination. The final list of three to five nominees will be announced on Jan. 16.

Ishaq's film documented the bloodiest day of Yemen's popular uprising, March 18, 2011, known as the Friday of Karamah, or Friday of Dignity.

On that day, like many others, thousands of people gathered in the capital demanding that President Ali Abdullah Saleh step down. The demonstrators became the target of plainclothes snipers who fired into the crowd from surrounding rooftops.

More than 50 protesters were killed and hundreds were injured that day, and it is understood as the turning point in the uprisingentire military units defected and joined the uprising to protect demonstrators.

Shortlisted films for Best Documentary Short Subject, in alphabetical order by title:

- CaveDigger by Jeffrey Karoff
- Facing Fear by Jason Cohen · Jujitsu-ing Reality by Chetin
- · Karama Has No Walls by Sara
- The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life by Malcolm
- Prison Terminal: The Last Days of Private Jack Hall by **Edgar Barens**
- Recollections by Nathanael
- SLOMO by Joshua Izenberg



March 18, 2011, the Friday of Karamah (Friday of Dignity) was the turning point in the uprising. With more than 50 demonstra-

tors shot dead, soldiers began defecting to join the protesters.

Damaj Rural Hospital remains closed

Ali saeed

SA'ADA, Oct. 21 - Food and medicine is running out in Sa'ada, said Salafi spokeperson Saroor Al-Wadee. A Houthi blockade on the area, imposed since early October, has resulted in the death of several residents, including children, said Dr. Ahmed Al-Wadee, Dammaj Rural hospital manager. The deaths were a result of being unable to transport the residents out of the

The hospital, the only one in the Salafi-populated area, was shut down on October 7 when continued clashes between Salafis and Houthis resulted in the targeting of the hospital with heavy weapons, Al-Wadee said.

"The situation is extremely bad and a humanitarian catastrophe will take place soon, [if something isn't done]," he said. "We call on the international community to help end this blockade."

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SIS SUCCESS FOR ALL

When the power goes out, the generators come on

Consumers pay high-price for low-cost generators

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

Yemen's frequent power cuts, those who can afford it often resort to generators to get to by without electrcity. The quality of generators range and so do the prices. But some Yemenis are learning—in a tragic way—that a low-cost generator can sometimes come at a high price.

Engineer Majed Al-Aghbari fixes a wide-range of appliances and machines, including generators. He told the Yemen Times that customers are lured in by the low prices, but don't often account for the cost of constant repairs and maintenance for cheap generators.

Customers should also consider the potential damage to electronic devices with low-cost generators, which are unable to control the electricity currents as successfully as generators of higher quality.

"Many customers come to my shop to have their (inexpensive) generators fixed, but I turn them down. The cost to fix them is a third of the generator's price and I know it will just need fixing soon," Al-Agh-

Inexpensive generators cannot operate longer than five continuous hours. Better generators last for 10 hours without any troubles, he said. Some remove the exhaustive filters from generators for 'durability pursposes', he said, but increase the

Labels about power capacities are often misleading. He said this



Power cuts in Sana'a range from frequent to constant. Yemenis have spent \$500 million on generators since 2010.

leads customers to try and operate many devices on a weak generator and damage their electronics in the

Sana'a resident Wael Al-Burhmi said he bought a generator for YR24,000 last year ago, but had to stop using it after only four months. The generator damaged many of his appliances, leaving him with a high repair bill.

"I now prefer candles," he said. Grocery store owner Abdulwali Al-Sharabi said generators are the lesser of two evils-the other evil being power cuts. "People need electricity to operate their businesses," he said.

"I was obligated to purchase this inexpensive generator because commodities like milk and cheese require refrigeration. I once lost YR20,000 (about \$95) because of a power cut."

Purchasing a generator wasn't an option, he said, it was a necessity. His first generator cost about YR26,000 (about \$120). He ended up with a fried refrigerator. His next purchase cost him YR120,000 (about \$560).

Taha Al-Amri, head of public relations at the General Authority of Standardization and Metrology, said there is no criteria for importing generators to Yemen. This has made

quality products.

People sometimes place generators on their balconies or inside their house—unaware of the hazards.

to insomnia, he said.

"Noise is not the only trouble. to consume," he said.

Brigadier Abdulkareem Mayad, head of Civil Defense Authority, said improper operation of generators results in dozens of

He urged users to not place generators inside their homes or closed spaces. He said generators should be placed in open spaces, like on the roof or in the yard.

The Interior Ministry said that more than 60 people died in generator-related incidents last year. Since the beginning of 2013 alone, 74 people have died in generatorrelated causes.

Abdulghani Al-Sharabi, an owner of a store selling generators, said the demand for inexpensive generators is increasing. With nearly half the country living on less than \$2 a day,

Yemen fertile ground for some of the lowest-

Dr. Adnan Al-Maqtri told the Yemen Times that generators contribute to noise and environmental pollution—leaving neighbors sleepless. This can lead

Generators emit fumes that are dangerous for humans

deaths each year.

a generator—even an 'inexpensive one', is unaffordable for many.

His stock of generators range from YR 25,000 to YR600,000,he said, and it is up to the purchaser to choose which generator to buy.

Rashad Mufreh is the security manager of Al-Odain district. He told the Yemen Times about a generator incident in his district in September. He remembers seeing columns of smoke emitting from a house in the morning. Security forces rushed to the scene and managed

to save seven, but eight had already

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A generator, operating inside the home, had exploded, he said.

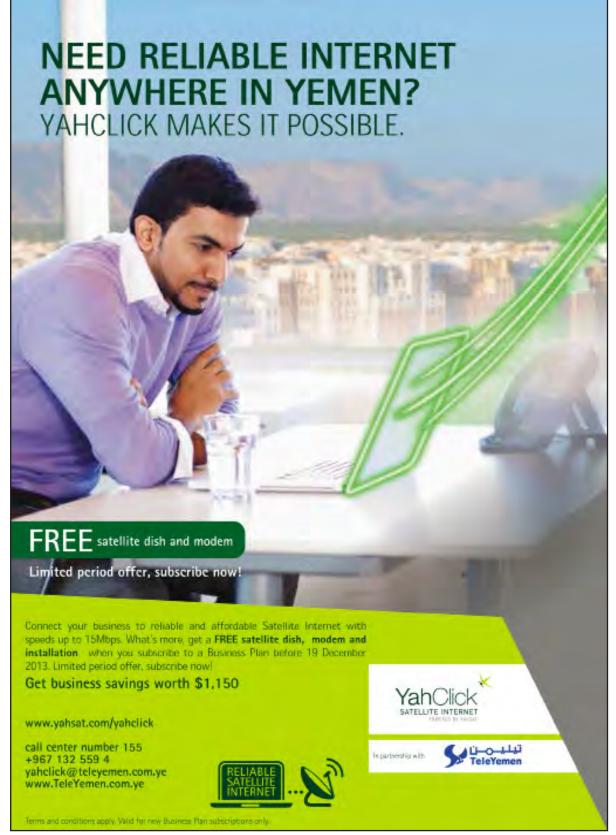
Sana'a University economics professor Mohammed Jubran said Yemenis have spent \$500 million on generators since 2010. The government is partially to blame for each and every one of those deaths, Jubran said.

"If the government provided people with electricity, we would not need these generators."













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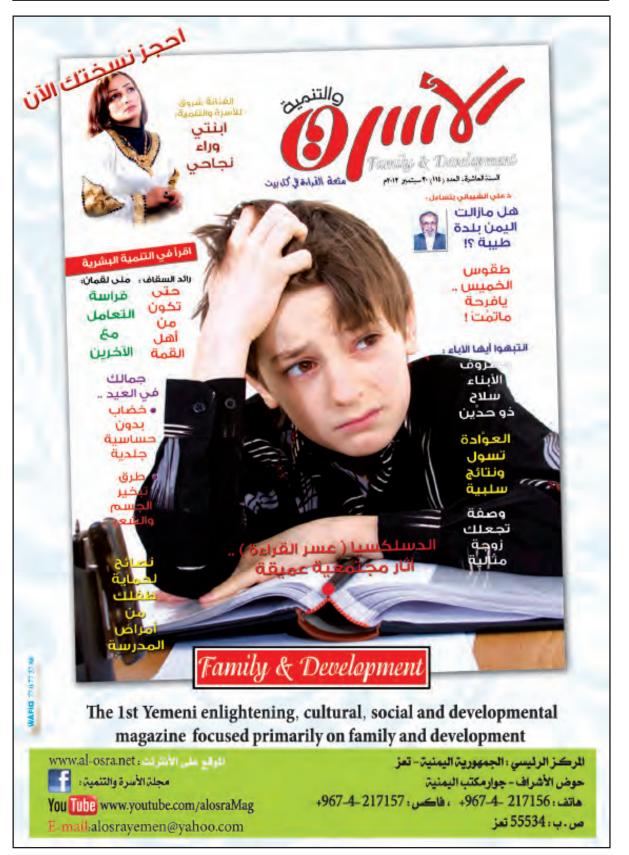
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Business 22 October, 2013

Mixed views on membership for Yemen in WTO

Mohammed AL-Hassni

BUSINESS

FOUNDATION

emeni farmer Abdullah Saleh Bafutaim exports roughly 20 tons of onions to Saudi Arabia every year, he said, and does very well for himself financially. As Yemen prepares to join the World Trade Organization (WTO), opinion is divided about the costs vs. the benefits of membership. Yemen had to agree to certain terms, including limiting tariffs on agricultural imports to 24.9

With the agreement of terms between Yemen and the Working Party tasked with negotiating conditions, the WTO concluded 13 years of negotiations. In addition to the 24.9 percent cap on agricultural tariffs, Yemen also capped tariffs on other products to 20.5 percent, and committed to opening its markets in 11 sectors. Over the years, Yemen has made legal reforms in line with WTO conditions.

In Yemen, 30 percent of the country's estimated 25 million citizens rely on agriculture for their incomes, according to the latest census report. The membership proposal will be presented to all 159 WTO members for formal approval. The Yemeni Parliament has not endorsed membership yet.

Trade legal expert Sami Al-Siri told the Yemen Times that simply joining the WTO is not enough for the country to benefit economically-that, he says, depends on the country's ability to comprehend conventions and its capacity to negotiate with member states.

Abdulkareem Sinan, the manager of the exports development department at the Ministry of Trade and Industry said WTO membership would boost Yemen's ability to market its agricultural goods abroad.

Coffee and cotton are among Ye-



In rural areas, 74 percent of the population relies on agriculture for their livlihoods.

of the country, as well as mangos, onions and grapes. Bafutaim is confident about his—and the coun-

men's most prized crops in parts try's—quality of agricultural goods. What concerns him is the inability to store his goods for longer periods of time, forcing him and other

farmers, he said, to sell their crops quickly and at lower prices. He is skeptical that WTO membership for Yemen would help him sell his crops abroad. The Gulf and Horn of Africa countries are the top markets for Yemeni agricultural goods.

Despite obligatory economic liberalization conditions, Yemen managed to keep some protective measures to protect products and goods produced in the country, particularly honey, coffee and mangos, said Marzook Al-Silwi, an agricultural development expert.

"These procedures are good, but [protection for] the rest of [the country's] agricultural crops is neglected," he said.

Agriculture accounts for 17.6 percent of the country's GDP and in rural areas, over 74 percent of the population rely on agricultural for their livelihoods, Al-Silwi said.

The Economic and Social Research Center in Sana'a released a study this year saying that 67 percent of businessmen working in the agricultural sector believe joining the WTO was a positive step.

The study interviewed 270 businessmen in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, and Hadrmout. It concluded that Yemen's WTO membership would boost competition between domestic and imported crops in the local market. It would also boost exports of local agricultural crops to foreign markets. This progress, the study said, would only come about with improvement in agricultural infrastructure, market and packaging services.

Is Yemen getting a raw deal?

Sana'a University economics professor Dr. Mohammed Jubran told the Yemen Times that he is not optimistic about the results for Yemen joining the WTO, saying that Yemen has no exports that could compete abroad.

"The Yemeni economy suffers from the free market and the restrictions on customs," Jubran said. Yemeni membership in the WTO will open the market for foreign commodities even further and this will have negative impact on the national economy, he said.

The country had increased imports and decreased exports for 2012, according to the Central Statistics Authority report. The report predicted a further economic de-

Yemeni exports were valued at YR1.5 billion in that period, the report said. After endorsement of the terms by the Yemeni Parliament, Yemen will become the 160 th member of the WTO.





VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Post Title: Organisation: National Microfinance Foundation (NMF) Location: Full time, including 3 months probationary period **Duration:**

October 03rd, 2013 November 03rd, 2013 Date Announced: Closing Date:

Background

The National Microfinance Foundation was established by the Social Fund for Development in 2004 as a nongovernmental organization that aims at improving the economic and social conditions of the low and limited income Yemenis, by providing them with a variety of financial services they cannot obtain from the mainstream banking

Currently, NMF is one of the largest microfinance institution in Yemen, and as of August 30th, 2013 NMF had more than 14,800 active clients served through 13 branches and 4 offices spread across the cities and governorates of

problems, provide solutions, prepare and ensure effective implementation of the Foundation's five-year strategic

Specific responsibilities:

The Managing Director will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Develop the institution's strategic plan and ensure its implementation so that it meets the institutional goals.
- Pursue and supervise NMF's overall operations as well as manage its growth and profitability Manage the branch network through middle management and conduct regular field visits.
- Ensure qualified personals for the top management positions as well as secure the development of all staff
- Develop the NMF's capacity and infrastructure to prepare it for the transformation into a microfinance bank
- Undertake regular reviews of policies and procedures, and advise NMF's Board of Directors on actions to be
- Monitor the performance, development and portfolio quality
- Supervise 120 + employees in the headquarter and branches
- Assist NMF in mobilizing additional resources for TA or funding from local and international donors/investors.
- Develop and maintain relations with shareholders, creditors and local authorities. Ensure effective communication and coordination with the Board of Directors, donors, and other competitors
- and stakeholders. Ensure compliance with the laws of Yemen, the requirements of authorities and norms defined in the
- Charter of NMF, including implementation of effective internal controls
- Represent the institution locally and globally.

Qualifications and skills The Managing Director must have the following qualifications and skills:

- A Bachelor Degree as a minimum (Masters Degree preferred) from a reputable university in business, finance, management, economics, accounting, or any other related field.
- At least 5 years' professional experience in a bank or financial institution of which a t least 3 years were in
- Proven track record in dealing with international donors or investors, research agencies and government institutions, etc.
- Good knowledge on Microfinance and the main parties that support the Microfinance industry locally and
- Strong communication, public relations, organizational, and leadership skills.
- Mature, energetic, creative, and dynamic personality. Possess the ability to produce accurate and precise strategies, working plans, and reports to ${
 m NMF's}$ Board
- of Directors, donors, and other parties concerned.
- Competent with the use of computers.
- High proficiency in written and spoken Arabic and English. Willing and able to travel across the country and abroad.

Submission guideline:

Attractive salary (including social security), according to working experience and qualifications. Training opportunities will be available.

The application should comprise of a one page cover letter explaining the applicants' interest and suitability for the position, indicating earliest joining date if selected, and a CV with at least two significant references.

Interested candidates should submit their application by email to: smedhr@sfd-yemen.org no latter then 03rd of November 2013. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only short - listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

BUSINESS FOR PEACE

Ancient markets

Story and photos by Amal Al-Yarisi

s the oldest continuously-inhabited city in the world, there's no lack of history, poetry and magic in Sana'a's Old City. With its unique, unrivalled architecture and long, winding alleyway, it is a city of souks, stories and soul.

The souks, or markets, dotted throughout the city provide Yemenis a place to head for the day's

elry, spices and more.

Yemeni writer Ali Al-Murki says there were more than 50 large souks in the Old City at one time, but many have been consolidated. There are now roughly 30 souks, many specializing or having specialized in salt, copper, wool, clothing or hand-crafted doors, furniture or jewelry. Walking through an Old City souk is like walking through a living museum.

The Old City was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in

food, house supplies, clothing jew- 1986 for its cultural and historical value. As the city struggles with people's changing needs, local and government organizations are working to encourage inhabitants to prioritize preservation. With much of the new additions failing to meet regulations, the fate of the Old City's status on the World Heritage list is uncertain.

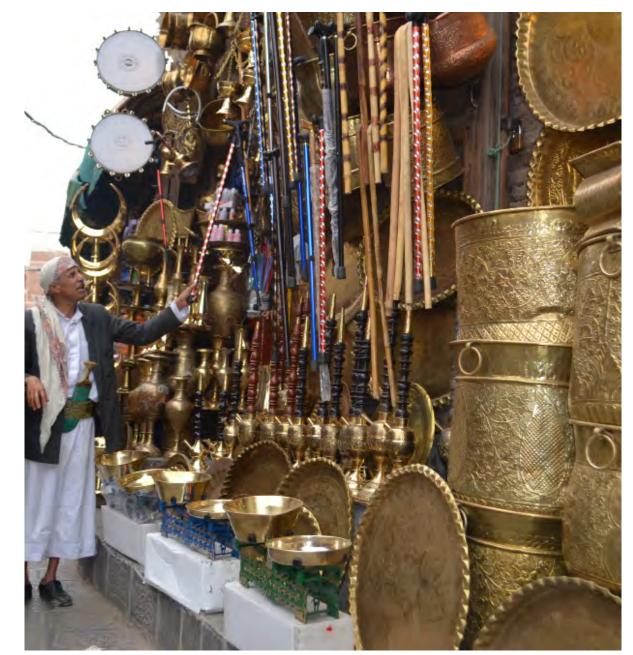
Still, residents continue to go about their lives, enjoying their city, its souks and their community as they have done for centuries before them.



Near the Grand Mosque, at the pottery souk, artisans show off their skils. Many still make pottery here the way it was done thousands of years ago.



The grain market is distinguishable by its many and varied smells. Here, locals and tourists can pick up coffee, fenugreek and dried beans and spices.





The iron souk is one of the most popular markets. Wielders spend their days at this souk working with iron.





For many, the Yemeni aesthetic is encapsulated in the jambiya, a dagger worn around the waist. At the jambiya market, prices range from YR2,000 to tens of thousands of dollars. There are even rumored \$1 million jambiyas, including one reportedly belonging to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.



No matter the season, the raisin market always has a plentiful A favorite place for Yemenis and foreigners alike when you are supply, as well as local varieties of nuts. Merchants say the busiest (and best!) time of the year are the two Eid holidays, when families come to stock up on the snacks to offer guests.



looking for Yemeni agate and traditional jewelry made of coral and precious stones



Colonial Middle East strategy: Another complete fiasco

Fadi Elhusseini Dailynewsegypt.com First Published Oct. 7

n a region that has been described for long time as idle, sluggish and even immune towards transformations, revolts sneaked in, toppling some regimes and shaking the thrones of others. However, with the bloody course of events, doubt started to creep and uncertainty began to haunt hope, especially with the explicit and overt foreign scramble in the region after the current transformations.

Analyses began to heap in an attempt to examine this event: THE ARAB SPRING; some choose to factor in this context a new foreign conspiracy, aiming at dividing of what is left from the region. Others suggest that the revolts are a long awaited revolution of dignity and were ignited by plain domestic forces. Nevertheless, a fresh set of events has misrepresented a newly anticipated course of transformation in the region, giving new prospects for hypotheses and theories.

Those who believe the current revolts are just the beginning of a new Sykes-Picot of 1916 and nothing but a new conspiracy target the Arab nation based their views on several events and remarks. For instance, Thomas Friedman has been calling repeatedly for a new Middle East that would reflect the new geopolitical transformations in the region. Other non-Arab intellectuals like Bernard Lewis and Theiry Meyssan published several articles suggesting a new delimitation of the so-called "Middle East". On 28 September, Robin Wright proffers in his article, How 5 Countries Could Become 14, a new landscape of the Middle East.

On the official level, many terms and projects like "constructive chaos", the "New Middle East" and the "Greater Middle East", coined and uttered by "mainly" US officials, have led to further worry and distrust. For instance, in March 2004, the Bush administration adopted what was named "the Greater Middle East Project". Such a project did not bear any fruit and was a complete fiasco, which led for new projects to follow like "the New Middle East", introduced by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in 2006. A starker example of this approach was reflected in the new map of the Middle East, presented in the U.S. military's Armed Forces Journal in 2006 entitled: Blood Borders: How a better Middle East would look.

The harmony between U.S. administration and neo-Islamists gave the impression that a new approach has been adopted: "Moderate Islam." Hitherto, promoting and encouraging Islamic parties and groups widespread struck a chord with public dissatisfaction and aversion to corrupt regimes and have become a priority.

"Moderate" Islamic movements, who were once deprived of their rights, expelled and may be executed by their own regimes, lined up to present their credentials as the new accepted "model" or alternative of the old fashioned and infamous dictatorships, which appeared in the eyes of Arab people as a stooge, too attached to the West and excessively dependent on

According to this viewpoint, the rise of the current Arab revolts demonstrated the solemn declaration of this new American plan, by inserting democratically elected new "moderate" Islamic movements in power. The new Islamic regimes will serve as good as previous regimes, yet they will be more accepted by their people; hence, interests, business and flux of oil will be secured. The warm relations between these Islamic movements, and the U.S. in particular, and being hosted by the West when they were escaping from the oppression of the previous regimes, bolstered such a way of thinking.

On the other hand, many people tend to see in the Arab revolts a definitive outcome of an increasing frustration among Arab Youth. This generation, which constitutes the majority of Arab population, inherited stories of glory and magnificent history of modernity, development, advancement in civilization, arts, science and might.

But these stories hit day after day the wall of a frustrating reality as they (Arab youth) found themselves in fully dependent states (on the West), experiencing successive defeats and living bleak economic and difficult social conditions. This is accompanied by the continuation of the oppression of their regimes and the lack of democracy and freedom of expression. The rulers exaggerated their grip and confidence; this hyperbole made Parliamentary elections a joke and a scene of irony, while the issue of inheritance of power to their sons (in "theoretically" Republican regimes) became a mixed material of comic and bitterness.

More distressingly, Arab youth saw progress, development and success in other countries, and coveted for themselves the good economic and social conditions other nations experienced. With the assistance of internet social networks and the development in communications technology, such facts are not hidden anymore, and the new Arab generation started to share their findings, concerns, fears, ambitions and dreams with each other through such platforms. Meanwhile, aged regimes were still busy with old fashioned techniques, undermining the effect and importance of such technology, which was described by one of their statesmen as "children

The moment of truth has arrived, catching every expert, analyst and politician off guard, as the eruption of the Arab Spring started from Tunisia the Green "the term Arabs call Tunisia", which people

are well-known for their quiet temper, calmness and gentleness. It was only a few days until the spark of revolution spread like fever, and other people followed suit, turning the fantasy world on the Internet to a reality that ushered in a new era, different from the previous distasteful epoch. Thus, the crux of this view is the rejection of any external role in moving or encouraging Arabs to change their regimes.

What supports this view is a number of facts; the first is the close relationship between the West in general and previous autocratic regimes. Another important fact is Western flopping and hesitation on the eve of the eruption of the revolutions. Michele Alliot-Marie, former French Foreign Minister, had to resign after expressing the willingness of France to provide the Tunisian government with expertise in the field of security a few days after the escape of former President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

U.S. position was also marked by confusion with the first spur of the Jasmine Revolution of Tunisia. BBC correspondent in Washington Kim Ghattas described the first reaction of US State Department officials as those "seemed to be caught unaware", adding they had not been briefed about Tunisia recently. Ghattas referred to the following reaction of the U.S. administration as focusing mostly on the advisory issued to American citizens in Tunisia.

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third opinion: "riding the crest of the wave". Combining the two opinions where time is ample, despite first-blush confusion, to ensure that foreign powers restore their balance and ride the crest of the wave as they begin to evaluate and reassess their positions based on these new developments; this will be a clear attempt to secure interests and cooperation with new emerging regimes. The US, along with many other powers, could adapt themselves to such changes, and build alliances with nascent regimes. However, the toppling of Egypt's Morsi was another fiasco, manifested in the US surprise and pique. This unforeseen change ushered unexpected and dramatic variation in newly charted scenarios, which could put their updated plans in serious jeopardy.

Inter alia, one can say that the Arab Spring represented a glimmer of hope for Arabs, despite the longevity, at times failure, and escalation of violence and bloodshed. Unfavorable repercussions permeated the sense of frustration, leading to a loss of zeal and the questioning of purposes, motives and even goals of these revolts.

Fadi Elhusseini is a Political and Media Counselor in Turkey. He is an associate research fellow (ESRC) at the Institute for Middle East Studies-Canada and a doctoral candidate at the University of Sunderland in Britain.

Yemen's Quota: Success for international community or Yemeni women?

Samaa Al Hamdani fikraforum.org Published Sep. 27

n September 15, Yemeni President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi wrote his first-ever op-ed in hopes of reassuring the Yemeni people of the current political transition's progress. The article, published in the Yemen Times and available only in English, highlights the role of women during the transition and praises the status of women in Yemen. More importantly, the President indirectly endorses the proposed 30% quota; he writes, "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."

Without a doubt, women's participation in the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) has been powerful, with women representing almost 28% of all participants. Female representatives chaired three of the nine working committees. They also formed alliances within and outside the dialogue to champion women's rights; yet in spite of these efforts, they could not reach a unanimous decision regarding the 30% quota. Regardless, it appears that Yemen's NDC will pass the 30% quota for women in all three branches of the government, but is this success due to the persistent efforts of Yemeni women, or is it in order to make Yemen look more democratic?

While the participation of women in the NDC is impressive, the dialogue remains completely detached from the realities of Yemeni women on the ground. The transitional process, which was meant to conclude on September 18, continues to be strongly supported by the international community. This begs the question of how successful the process is likely to be in the long term if its goals are achieving international approval as opposed to true engagement and impact on the ground.

The 30% Quota

According to the NDC process requirements, at the initial stage, an article must receive 90% of the vote among the committees in order to pass; otherwise it is sent to the Consensus Committee, which was established to oversee the dialogue process in order to maintain harmony. If the Consensus Committee modifies the article and sends it back to the committees, it must then receive 75% approval or it is returned again to the overseeing body. Finally, a modified draft must be passed by 55% of the committees. If it is not passed by the committees, the Consensus Committee and the dialogue president make the final decision on whether or not to move forward with the article.

The State Building, Good Governance, and Rights and Freedoms committees in the NDC all convened to discuss the women's quota,

which, if passed, would require 30% of officials to be women across all branches of government. The State Building Committee was the only committee that managed to pass the initial required 90% consensus, though this was only due to the fact that some members withheld their vote on the

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assumption that it would lower the consensus rate. The other two committees did not reach tne requirea votes so, according to dialogue procedures, the transferred to the Consensus Committee before August. At that time, it was

reasonable to assume that the subject would be transferred back to the working committees where women would have to form alliances and work hard to get the required 75% consensus to pass the article.

If the women and the youth groups were to unite their votes to win consensus in the committees, they would still likely fall short with only 50%. From there, it would be extremely challenging to gain the remaining required votes, especially considering that several men who publicly endorsed the 30% quota later rejected it when it was time to vote. The traditional powers in Yemen publicly opposed the idea of a 30% quota, and even the "liberal" parties of Yemen opted for a 15% quota rather than the proposed 30%. However, after the president's op-ed, several party members in the dialogue shifted their tone. The Consensus Committee then agreed that women should be represented in all three bodies of the government, thereby postponing the discussion of a women's quota until the final plenary session.

Assessing the Quota

The women's quota is based on the idea that it will improve women's participation in governance, thus advancing women's issues, through a top-down approach. First, this is based on the assumption that the creation of a 30% quota for women ensures that it will be implemented, when in reality, there are no guarantees that this will occur. Then, there is the assumption that the women selected or elected will put women's rights ahead of their party's political agenda. The real question is whether or not this quota can truly make a difference in transforming the deteriorating conditions of women's health, illiteracy rates, unemployment, and economic status. It certainly can, but only if women politicians and government employees work hard for these rights.

Several men argue that women

30% quota because too few women are qualified, either based on education profesor sional expe-This rience. argument, however, is invalid. Many male officials are placed in positions for their social connections rather their than qualifications. Another argument is that 30% is too high a quota, especially

are not ready

since men are the main providers for their families. This argument is also weak because figures have shown that women who make more money spend their wealth on their families. Furthermore, if Yemen embraces federalism, new local governments will lead to new positions and jobs so women will not "steal" any of the available jobs.

There are two main legitimate concerns regarding the quota: first, that the quota will not be implemented; and second, that the women selected through the quota will promote their party's agenda rather than a women's agenda. In either case, it is possible that the 30% quota is setting Yemeni women up to fail, but it is a risk that Yemen's women should be willing to take.

Yemeni women have worked very hard since the early 1990s for every right that they have. If the quota is passed, then women should use it to their advantage as an opportunity to continue their good work of improving the status of women in society. The quota for women is not the only solution, but rather one of the many ways in which women can influence politics. Unfortunately, Yemeni women were seen as symbols of democratic change in the 2011 Yemeni uprising, but they have not so readily been approached as serious influencers of the political process. If the women's quota is viewed by the international community and the Yemeni government as a primary benchmark of "success" of the current political transition without a serious commitment to supporting its implementation, the quota, like the dialogue, will merely be a process involving the upper echelons of society and will have no real impact on the reality on the

Sama'a Al-Hamdani is a Yemeni researcher and writes on the blog Yemeniaty.com. You can follow her on Twitter @Yemeniaty.

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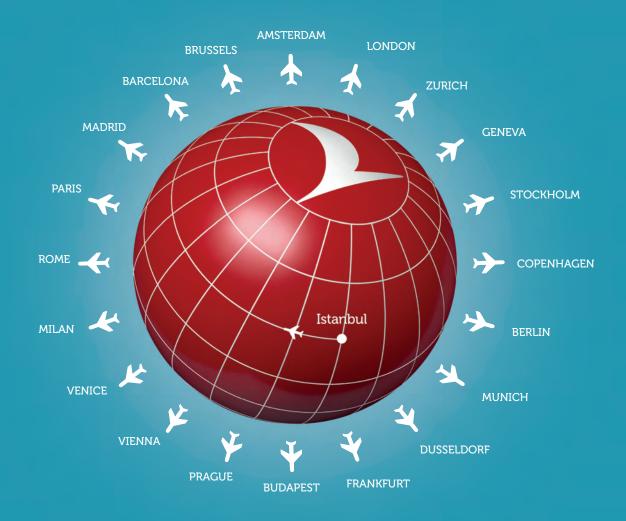
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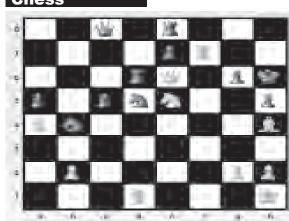
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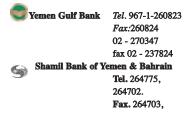
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Rammah Al-Jubari

Yemeni poet and his wife filed a lawsuit against the State-run Saba news agency in 2002 for violating their intellectual property, eight years following issuance of the Intellectual Property Law in Yemen in 1994 aimed at protecting individuals and institutions' intellectual property rights.

The poet Abu Al-Qasab Al-Shalal and his wife accused the agency of plagiarizing their intellectual property when it published a book entitled [Yemen within a Hundred Years] in 2000 on the occasion of the tenth unity anniversary.

Al-Shalal asserted that the agency copied a book he composed in 1994 entitled "Yemen's Events ChronolYemenis having difficulties protecting creative work

Intellectual property rights battles increase

Yemen between 1869 and 1989.

"We published our 237-page book where we documented Yemen's history during at our personal expense in Damascus," said Al-Shalal.

The trial began and the court issued a verdict ordering the agency to compensate Al-Shalal and to give a public apology. The agency appealed and the Court of Appeals overruled the prior court's

ruling. "We attributed the overruling of the initial decision to the political affiliation of the agency, so we appealed to the Supreme Court, who supported the initial verdict and referred the case back to the court of appeals.

Shams Al-Deen Al-Zain, head of Al-Zain Organization for Intellectual Property, an organization specialized in registering trademarks to protect rights, said the lack of public awareness on intellectual property rights contributes to the country's increasing cases. Non-implementation of legal penalties, even when a verdict

ogy" that detailed the situation in of financial compensation is issued, also contributes to the trend, he said.

"We don't have accurate statistics about the number of cases of intellectual property violations, but we know that the number has increased significantly in the past

years," Al-Zain said. A person convicted of violating the Intellectual Property Law is to be sentenced to no more than six months imprisonment and a fine no less than YR10,000, about \$50.

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Yemen's Culture Ministry has a separate department to register literature and books classified as cultural in order to protect authors' intellectual properties.

However, this does not provide complete protection for authors and their works.

Al-Zain said that the common violations of intellectual properties are copying information without stating the source and republishing books without the permission of a writer or the publisher.

"It's mostly school and university books that are being reprinted in full. Students cannot afford the originals, but it's still theft,"

he said.

Yemeni journalist Mujali Al-Samadi said those that steal from writers don't just effect them financially, but wound them emotionally as well, stealing something that was lovingly and painstakingly created by the owner.

Al-Samadi has accused Al-Saeeda TV channel of stealing his idea for a show called "A Party's Journey. He presented the idea to the channel while he was employed there and prepared one episode. Al-Samadi had to leave the channel for personal reasons, but was shocked to discover that the channel began airing episodes it had shot three years after Al-Samadi had presented his idea.

He initially gave the channel a five-page vision of the show's points and content in February 2009 in the presence of several people, he said, who are ready to testify as witnessed in court. Al-Samadi was not in the show's credits.

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His lawyer, Najeeb Al-Haj, said he was preparing the final documents and will soon bring a lawsuit against the channel.

Al-Saeeda Channel Director Mukhtar Al-Qadasi said his channel respects the law and the constitution and will respond to the complaint once they are summoned by

Al-Shalal and his wife prepared a complaint to the Arab Parliament in 2006, a federation of parliaments in the Arab World, as a last resort for 'justice', but the parliament was not cooperative. They have given up.

"The verdicts were nothing more than ink on paper," Abu Al-Shalal



