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Military and militants battle in Hadramout, besieged city in shock



Ongoing fighting: Locals in Al-Shehr say they are the victims of a military seige on the city to battle militants.

Four military officers reported killed in Wednesday's fighting

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Nov. 20—The Special Security Forces chief of staff in Hadramout, Col. Mohammed Hamoud Al-Sabahi, and three officers were killed in violent clashes that broke out on Wednesday between military forces and alleged Al-Qaeda affiliates in the city of Al-Shehr, 60 km. east of Mukalla, according to Hadramout's governor. Two other officers were also wounded in the

fighting and two alleged militants were killed.

Governor Khalid Al-Daini said the battle began after military forces surrounded the whole city, entering neighborhoods and individual homes in search of alleged militants they say they were tracking.

"Columns of smoke are rising from homes due to the shelling," said local journalist and eyewitness, Waleed Baobad. The shooting has terrified citizens, he added, as the military uses RPGs, tanks, armored vehicles and Kalashnikovs in the siege.

A majority of the fighting, according to Baobad, is happening in the Al-Shuqaq neighborhood and on the western and eastern reaches of the city.

"We saw a number of tanks around the city as well as heavy army deployment," he said. "This makes locals fear that the city is turning into military barracks."

"All shops are shut down and citizens feel unsafe to go out, fearing they will become targets in the street," said Mohamed Ba Gohoom, an Al-Shehr citizen.

"I'm against what the military is doing since clashes are taking place in a civilian areas," he said. "If the government was able to get information about these militants, why aren't they fighting them outside the city?"

According to Al-Daini, the state recovered "a large quantity of weapons" from the militants.

No independent source could

confirm the government official's claim that the two men killed in the fighting were AQAP affiliates.

A security campaign, in which forces were gathering information about alleged militants in the area, began 20 days ago, Al-Daini said.

Five alleged Al-Qaeda affiliates were killed on Tuesday morning in an airstrike believed to be an American drone raid in the Ghail Bawaazer district in Hadramout, according to officials.

"Militants have a large presence in both Al-Shihir and Ghail Bawaazer," Baobad said. "We see the militants on the streets."

Hadramout is Yemen's largest governorate, which many say has provided a haven for growing insurgency.

GPC representatives resume participation in NDC's 8+8 Subcommittee meetings

Mohammed Al-Hassani

SANA'A, Nov. 20—The National Dialogue Conference (NDC) Subcommittee assigned to resolve the Southern Issue resumed meeting on Tuesday after former President Ali Abdulla Saleh's party, the General People's Congress (GPC), ended its boycott of more than a week.

"We resumed participation following assurances made to us about Yemen's unity and guarantees that any decrees or recommendations will not violate the GCC Initiative and its implementation mechanism," said Ahmed Al-Kuhlani, GPC representative in the NDC and member of the 8+8 Subcommittee.

Al-Kuhlani said that the GPC and its allies insist on adherence to the Gulf Initiative and the U.N. Security Council's resolutions 2014 and 2051, which emphasize the importance of maintaining Yemen's unity and stability.

"We received reassuring messages from Yemeni President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi that unity will be maintained and there will be no two-region division," he said.

Critics say that dividing the nation into regions is the first step towards separation.

Nadia Abdullah, another member of the 8+8 Subcommittee who represents youth at the NDC, told the Yemen Times that the meeting held focused on debates over whether to divide the country into two regions or five.

that there would be nine states. Six would be in the North and three in the South. This vision is a copy of the French system," Abdullah said.

She said the GPC suspended its participation in reaction to a decision to politically isolate those granted immunity under the GCC Initiative,

which was approved by the Good Governance Working Group.

The 8+8 Subcommittee was formed on Sept. 10 to develop resolutions for the Southern Issue. It consists of 16 members representing different parties, including two GPC representatives.



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Rights organizations and activists try to rally support for famed Yemeni-Saudi love story

Huda and Arafat are now household names in Yemen

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANA'A, Nov. 20 — After their love story went viral, Yemeni activists, civil society organizations and international rights' groups, are asking Yemen to stand behind a Saudi Arabian woman and a Yemeni man who are currently in the government's custody.

Twenty-five-year-old Yemeni citizen, Arafat, and 22-year-old Saudi citizen Huda were arrested by Yemeni authorities at the Al-Twal border crossing between Yemen and Saudi Arabia in early October and are being held at the Migration and Passport Authority's prison in Sana'a for Huda's illegal entrance into the country.

Huda says she was escaping her family in Saudi Arabia, who would

not accept her relationship with Arafat. According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), the girl fears harm from her family, whom she says have beaten her in the past.

Several Yemeni government forces told HRW that the Saudi government is exerting political pressure on Yemen to return Huda, they said in a statement issued on Tuesday.

The couple's story has made the rounds on social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook. Users are changing their Facebook profiles to pictures of the couple.

Activists reposting the statement, "Yemenis are known for being generous and providing shelter to anyone who seeks it. They will not be silent about authority's procedures to deport the Saudi girl," on Facebook in solidarity with the couple.

HRW is calling on the Yemeni government not to deport Huda and to consider her claims that her life will be under threat if returned.

The Capital Southeast Court, the jurisdiction in charge of her case, held a private hearing on Tuesday for the case. Following the meeting, it was decided to postpone the hearing until next Sunday, according to the girl's lawyer Abdurraqeb Al-Qadi.

Al-Qadi, a volunteer with the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD, said "The Saudi girl came to Yemen to escape oppression."

HRW has requested the Yemeni authorities allow the UNHCR office in Yemen to meet with the girl and question her.

Yemen's Noble Peace Prize laureate, Tawakul Karman, said via her personal Facebook page that she had visited Huda and called on the Yemeni and Saudi governments to allow the couple to get married.

"Any humiliation or insult on Huda is a personal insult on me," Karman wrote.

Authorities thwart smuggling of 14 historic manuscripts

Alleged smuggler to be tried by special prosecutor

Nasser al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, November 18 — Fourteen historic manuscripts intended to be smuggled out of the country were seized in Al-Qanawes district of Hodeida last week, the Culture Ministry said on Monday.

"The smuggled manuscripts belong to certain individuals and are not state-owned, but individuals don't have the right to send manuscripts abroad," said Mujahid Al-Yatim, the deputy minister of the Culture Ministry.

Hodeida security chief, Brigadier Mohammed Al-Maqaleh, told the Yemen Times that security forces in Hodeida seized the manuscripts, along with a precious stone, on Nov. 7. The man accused of attempting to smuggle

the items abroad has been arrested, he said. The man, along with 24 others accused of smuggling or attempted smuggling in 2013 are being prosecuted by a special prosecutor tasked with antiquities crimes, Al-Yatim said.

Included in the 14 manuscripts was the Canon of Medicine, by Ibn Sina; the third chapter of Sahih al-Bukhari; and a manuscript by the scholar Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al-Murtada, dating back to the year 1414.

"People convicted of smuggling manuscripts are imprisoned for up to six months and face a fine of up to YR10,000 (\$50)," said Al-Yatim. "However, this penalty is not [much of a] deterrent considering the historic and scientific value of such manuscripts."

The Culture Ministry cannot afford to purchase such valuable manuscripts, according to Al-Yatim. Though it is authorized by law

to offer between YR 50,000 (\$250) and YR 5 million (\$25,000), the ministry's total annual budget for acquiring manuscripts is only YR 3 million.

"This is not enough to buy [these] manuscripts from citizens," Al-Yatim said. "A manuscript dating back to 1414 could fetch up to \$1 million or more."

Recognizing the importance of such historic manuscripts to the country, some citizens donate items to the ministry. One man, Al-Yatim said, brought in 467 manuscripts three months ago. The Culture Ministry has a collection of about 70,000 manuscripts.

A coastal city with access to the Red Sea, Hodeida is a popular route for smuggling. With the historical city of Zabid located in Hodeida governorate, Zabid's historic manuscripts are at risk from smugglers, Al-Yatim said.

UN Envoy: No elections in February

Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Nov 18 — UN Envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar said on Friday that Yemen will not hold presidential elections until the transitional period finishes its tasks.

"There is [talk] that the transitional period and Hadi's term will end in February 2014. This is untrue and violates the transition of power agreement," Benomar told the Kuwait-based Al-Sayasya Arabic newspaper.

Saleh, who still heads his party, the General People Congress (GPC), criticized the UN Envoy's statement.

"[The] manipulation of the elections timeline is an explicit obstruction of the political process and National Dialogue Conference," Saleh said in a statement released Sunday.

The implementation mechanism of the GCC-deal stipulates a two year transitional period starting from the day the new president, Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, was elected to office in a one-candidate election. Hadi's term is scheduled to end in February according to the implementation mechanism.

Benomar said that many of the tasks of the transitional government had not been completed because of an "organized effort to derail the political transition."

"What we agreed upon was that transitional period might be two years, but the main focus was on accomplishing a number of tasks, including military and security restructuring, issuing the transitional justice law, launching the National Dialogue Conference and agreeing to a new voting law and system," Benomar said.

Islah Party expressed its support for the extension on Friday, but said it must be limited to one year. The extra year should be spent drafting a constitution to be put to referendum, they said.

Waleed Al-Amari, a prominent member of the youth uprising, placed the blame for the current situation on those who accepted the GCC Initiative. He concluded that elections could not be held in February because a constitution is not prepared for referendum yet.

Benomar was scheduled to deliver his assessment report on Yemen to the UN Security Council (UNSC) on November 13, but the council has postponed the ses-

sion and has not indicated a new date. The London-based Al-Sharq Al-Awast quoted an anonymous source who claimed the session would be held on Nov. 27.

Benomar has threatened that those who obstruct the country's political transition will face sanctions.

"I will present my next report to the UNSC soon and whoever thinks that it will be similar to previous ones, he is wrong. It is different this time, there is systematic obstruction of the National Dialogue Conference and the political transition," said Benomar.

Sheba Strategic Studies Center political analyst Majid Siraj said the UNSC will issue a statement warning parties that are obstructing the political transition.

"The GPC [knew] that a [two-year] transitional period would be too short for the [transitional government] to bring about the change that [the uprising demanded]," Siraj said. "At the end of this period, the [GPC] will benefit from the failures of the new government. The impression will be that those new to office were no better than those previously in office."

Governor's relative kidnapped in Taiz

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Nov. 20 — Unknown armed men abducted Mohammed Moneer Ahmed Hayel, the nephew of the governor of Taiz, as he was driving to his office Tuesday morning, said Abdullah Moree, the deputy security chief of Taiz.

The 20-year-old is employed at a family-owned company, Hayel Saeed An'am Group, where the governor of Taiz, Shawqi Ahmed Hayel, used to work.

On the same day, the deputy general manager of the company, Abduljabbar Hayel Saeed, was also

assaulted while he was on the way from Taiz to Sana'a, Moree said.

The man was reportedly robbed at gunpoint of his personal belongings, including his cell phone and wristwatch.

Moree said security officials are investigating the crimes and trying to locate the kidnapped.

"The abduction of Mohammed and the assault against Abduljabbar are related and both are politically motivated acts to put pressure on the local authority and the governor of Taiz," said the spokesperson for Taiz governorate, Abu Bakr Al-Ezzi. Tawfik Al-Shoabi, the head of the

National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms in Taiz, known as HOOD, also believes the two crimes are related.

"It was a planned action by those who want to create instability in Taiz governorate," he said, adding that there are local gangs who see the Hayel Group as a threat.

On Wednesday, Yemen's prime minister, Mohammed Salem Basindwa, asked security authorities to investigate the case as quickly as possible.

Locals in Taiz took to streets on Wednesday to condemn the kidnapping and the assault.

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

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Title: Outreach and Communications Specialist

Duration of Assignment: Full-time Position

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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).

We are seeking an Outreach and Communications Specialist (OCS) to work with YMEP staff as well as with donors to develop and implement specific activities in this area as outlined below.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The OCS is responsible for supporting, strengthening and augmenting the outreach and communications of YMEP.

- Planning and development:** In consultation with the client, the OC specialist will develop an Outreach and Communication Strategy and Action Plan, and an overall timetable.
- Event Coordination: Duties related to event coordination will include, but not be limited to:**
 - Organize and conduct workshops, conferences and seminars to disseminate activity and impact results and progress.
 - Leverage other events such as speaking engagements, graduations, and activity launches.
 - Work with implementing partners and the client staff to create and implement an events calendar.
- Communications:**
 - Draft features stories and narratives to tell "Transforming Lives Stories" both in English and in Arabic of people who have received assistance.
 - Undertake site visits, conduct interviews with beneficiaries and implementers and attend public events and activities to collect stories, take photographs and videos of activities.
 - Build and maintain relationships with the local media, and work to encourage local media to report on development assistance success stories, particularly from a human interest perspective.
 - Prepare information packages including human interest stories and photographs to disseminate as part of a coordinated outreach campaign.
- Translations:** will include but are not limited to:
 - Arabic approved written documents used for outreach and communications work.
 - Key outreach materials, such as newsletters, brochures, fact sheets, and reports and support with production of these materials.
- Media monitoring and analysis: including digital and social media.**
- Interpretation:** serve as an interpreter as needed.

Required Qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree in a related field such as journalism or communications.
- At least three years of professional writing experience or event coordination or a combination of both.
- Level IV fluency in both oral and written English and Arabic is desired, at least Level III in English.
- Former working experience with international development organizations is highly desirable.
- Knowledge and familiarity with Yemeni media and communication networks, including web based.
- Strong written and oral communication in English and Arabic. Use of Microsoft products including Word (required), Excel and PowerPoint (preferred).
- Skilled in accessing, using and understanding social media.
- A pleasant personality, tact and courtesy in dealing with Government of Yemen officials, partners and recipients is required.
- Good organizational skills are required.
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Please send your cover letter, a detailed CV and 3 references by email to HRYMEP@YAHOO.COM Responses will only be made to shortlisted candidates. The deadline for receiving applications is **November 30th, 2013 by 5 pm.**



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Opposing views: Dammaj conflict Houthi parliamentarian and Salafi party member debate root causes of fighting



Abdulkareem
Jadban

Dammaj, a small town in Sa'ada governorate has been engulfed in fierce fighting between two groups for over a month now, leading to dozens of casualties and limited access for humanitarian groups to enter the area. The sparring antagonists, the Houthis, a group Zaidi Shiites who have had control of Sa'ada for several years, and the Sunni Salafis, have both set-up checkpoints in the area, debilitating a flow of basic supplies in the area, including food and fuel. However, what has been labeled sectarian violence is also raising questions about deeper political and social divides as the fighting grows. Little reporting has emerged from the conflicted area, leading to speculated analysis of what is happening on the ground.

The Yemen Times spoke with Abdulkareem Jadban, a parliamentarian and Houthi leader, and Abdunasser Al-Medwahi, the assistant secretary general of the Al-Rashad (the Salafi political party), to speak about the conflict in Dammaj and its political implications in Yemen.



Abdunasser
Al-Medwahi

Interview and photos by Mohammed Al-Hassani

Starting with Abdunasser Al-Medwahi, what is currently happening in Dammaj?

Al-Medwahi: There are killings, blockades and destruction right now in Dammaj at the hands of a group that owns a diverse selection of light, medium and heavy weaponry, and they are targeting a minority that only has books and pens.

Abdulkareem Jadban, what is currently happening in Dammaj?

Jadban: Dammaj is a hub for terrorism and a gathering point for 'takfereen' (extremists) from different countries worldwide who incite sectarian conflicts. The U.S administration is planning to establish a Middle East they see fit by using those people. [Students in Dammaj] claim to be receiving a religious education, but they have replaced their religious books with RPGs, machine guns and other weaponry. More than 6,000 fighters have been brought from different countries

worldwide for training on the various kinds of weaponry in Dammaj. Sa'ada has been blockaded and residents lack basic food items. All the while, terrorist organizations, along with tribal and religious groups, are calling for violence and are gathering people nationwide to get involved in a severe, sectarian war.

You mentioned armed foreigners. Are they the ones you are battling?

Jadban: They are part of the fighters and a part of those conspiring against Yemen and the Arab world in general. I think the jihadists who failed in Syria are coming to Yemen to ruin the country because they follow the U.S.'s orders.

Al-Medwahi, what do you think of what Jadban said?

Al-Medwahi: I wonder why such lies and contradictions are being repeated. People know that the late religious sheikh, Moqbel Al-Wadei, established a religious center in

Sa'ada [Dar Al-Hadith Center] 30 years ago as a place many people from Yemen and other countries could go to receive Islamic education. Everyone knows that those students have never done anything wrong against Yemenis or taken up arms against anyone. They gather for educational purposes. As for the term, 'takfereen,' it's repeatedly used by Houthis and was used in other countries such as Syria. There must be coexistence, the same way we coexist with non-Muslims such as the Jews. [Jadban] said those students traded in their religious books for weapons, but this is to be expected in order to defend oneself from someone who wants to kill you, force you out of your home and kill your children. Why hasn't Jadban condemned the siege on Dammaj prior to the blockade on Sa'ada? Tribes in Dammaj have assisted [the Salafis].

Jadban, are you saying that [the Houthis] became involved in the conflict in Dammaj because

some foreigners took up arms against you and attacked residents?

Jadban: Yes, these foreigners have been there for a while in the name of war. A friend of mine came from Algeria just days ago. He said he met some bearded men on the plane who told him they were going to Dammaj to study. Let us be realistic. Is this the right time to go to study? This is evidence that terrorists and extremists are mobilizing to wage war in Dammaj.

Isn't it the state's job [to monitor who comes in and out of the country]?

Jadban: The state does not exist.

But, the state says they are students, and they legally entered the country for educational purposes.

Jadban: Six wars were waged on Ansar Allah [the political wing of the Houthis] in Sa'ada, but we had no dispute with the Salafis. It was them who recently started the conflict, setting up checkpoints and slaughtering our brothers and friends just like they would sheep. This is not new. The Hashids [a powerful tribe that sympathize with the Salafis] held a meeting [one month ago]. Video footage [from the meeting] showed Hussein Al-Ahmar [a Hashid leader] saying they had learned lessons on how to slaughter the Al-Rafidha, a Shiite Muslim sect, meaning the Houthis.

Why are you against the Salafi Dar Al-Hadith Center continuing to teach either local or foreign students?

Jadban: We do not have a problem with the center now nor did we in the past, and everyone knows this. Moqbel Al-Wadei and his successors accused us of blasphemy. They have called those who belong to the Zaidi sect, polytheists. There are books in their center that are evidence of this. In spite of this, we have never prevented them from existing.

Let us come back to Abdunasser. Who is responsible for changing the environment in Dammaj? It was a model of coexistence and acceptance for dozens of years.

Al-Medwahi: First of all, if the Salafis had the intention of annihilating the Houthis, they would have done so during the six Sa'ada wars when the Houthis were in the mountains and caves. However, they did not want to [create war] and they did not have weapons. With regard to Jadban's statement that the state does not exist [in the North], I would like to ask, 'Are the Houthis ready to hand over their weapons to the state so that it can do its duty?'

Jadban, are you ready to hand over your weapons to the state so that it can completely rule over the governorate?

Jadban: Do you want us to hand over our weapons to the extremists and tribes that are causing the conflict? How do we hand over Sa'ada at a time when the state does not even exist in the capital, Sana'a? The state doesn't even have influence in Hasaba. However, if the government were to exert its

authority, we would give up our weapons. We mentioned this in the Sa'ada Issue report at the NDC in which the Salafis and the Houthis are taking part. We agreed that the state should have authority in all areas of the country, and everyone should hand over their weapons, both in the South and the North.

What do you think is the major factor behind the clashes between the Salafis and the Houthis in Dammaj?

Al-Medwahi: There is a clear reason. It is the Houthis' attempt to expand so they can rid Sa'ada of political and ideological opposition and make Sa'ada more like southern Lebanon—a small state or kingdom through which they can do whatever they want and be ideologically and politically unopposed.

What do you think about Abdunasser's statement?

Jadban: It is sheer fabrication. Why are we only focusing on the Houthis' arms when the entire nation is awash with weapons? There are arsenals of weapons in Dammaj, Hasaba, Ma'bar and Arhab, as well as all areas of Yemen. Those who are fighting say they are knowledge seekers. If that were true, how could weapons being used in the fighting have reached them? Have they been preparing for this war for long? It is not true that the Salafis did not take part in the Sa'ada wars. They effectively took part in the sixth war and issued a fatwa against us because they believe that anyone opposing them is a disbeliever. The fatwa of Yahia Al-Hajori, the head of the Dar Al-Hadith Center, is well known.

Let me ask Abdunasser, a picture was taken of armed students in Dammaj. What do you have to say about this picture?

Al-Medwahi: Before answering your question, let me comment on what Jadban said. The Houthis say something but do the opposite. They said they refused to accept the Gulf Initiative, but they took part in the dialogue, which is based on the Gulf Initiative. They simultaneously attempt to please the dialogue participants and the ones who also rejected it. Although they are engaged in dialogue, [the Houthis] have their strongholds in the Manbih district of Sa'ada and the Al-Ridhma district of Ibb. With regard to your question, there are a group of students in Dammaj. They have been besieged and killed by the Houthis. They have appealed for the state's help, but the state has not done its job. So, they have no solution but to carry weapons for self-defense. Some tribesmen rushed to assist them and to join the cause. I assure you that if the Houthi siege on Dammaj is lifted, the students will put their weapons aside and return to their educations.

You, along with the Houthis, agreed to take part in the dialogue.

Al-Medwahi: The Houthis have attempted to make sure the dialogue doesn't succeed. Observers at the NDC sessions have seen this either through the Houthis' protests, boycotts or [different] alliances with political powers. As I have said, dialogue is not their goal, they are using it as a cover to expand [their influence] and take on the opposition.

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في حوار مع "يمن تايمز" حول أسباب وتداعيات الصراع في دماج: النائب جدبان: كيف نسلم صعدة وصنعاء العاصمة لم تسلم للدولة حتى الآن الخطري: الحوثيون يريدون جعل صعدة خالية من أي مناوئ فكري أو سياسي لهم



عبد الكريم جدبان

من المسؤول عن إذكاء الصراع المذهبي في دماج، وبماذا في هذا الوقت بالتحديد... ألم تكن دماج حتى وقت قريب نموذجاً للتعايش بين المذاهب يفتخر به.. ما حقيقة استمرار إقتتال السلفيين والحوثيين في دماج في الميدان واتفاقهم على طاولة مؤتمر الحوار.. خلفيات الصراع في دماج وتداعياته على المشهد السياسي اليمني.. موضوع هذا الحوار الذي تستضيف فيه الصحيفة كلاً من القيادي في جماعة الحوثيين النائب عبد الكريم جدبان والأمين العام المساعد لحزب إتحاد الرشاد السلفي عبد الناصر الخطري..

حوار: محمد الحسني



عبد الناصر الخطري

في فتوى يحيى الجبوري رئيس مركز دار الحديث.

دعني إذا أسأل عبد الناصر.. ما حقيقة الصور التي عرضت لطلاب أجنب في دماج وهم يحملون السلاح؟

قبل أن أجيب عن سؤالك دعني أعقب على ما تحدثت به الأخ عبد الكريم جدبان.. وهو أن الحوثيين يقولون شيئاً ويعملون خلافاً.. قالوا نحن نرفض المبادرة الخليجية ثم شاركوا في الحوار مع أنه يستند للمبادرة وهي من أقرته.. هم بذلك حاولوا أن يرضوا من شارك في الحوار وفي الوقت نفسه يرضون من يرفض المبادرة.. حتى وهم يتحاورون كانت لهم جهات قتال، في مديرية منبه في صعدة وفي مديرية الرضمة بمحافظة إب.. وبالنسبة للإجابة عن سؤالك؛ فهناك جمع من الطلاب محاصرون ويتعرضون للقتل في دماج من قبل الحوثيين.. استغاثوا بالدولة، لكنها لم تقم بواجبها، فلم يكن هناك حل إلا أن يحملوا السلاح ليدافعوا وعن أنفسهم، وهناك من هب لنجدهم من القبائل.. وأنا أؤكد لك إن تم رفع حصار الحوثيين عن الطلاب في دماج فإنهم سيتركون السلاح وسيعودون إلى طلب العلم كما كانوا.

لكن رغم حديثك هذا.. اتفقت مع الحوثيين في الحوار؟

الحوثيون يحاولون إفتشال الحوار.. ومن يتتبع جلساته يدرك ذلك تارة بالاعتصام وتارة بالمقاطعة وتارة بالتحالف مع قوى سياسية.. وكما قلت لك هم ليس هدفهم الحوار، وإنما يتخذونه كغطاء لاهدافهم في التوسع والتمدد وقتال كل من هو مناوئ لهم.

السؤال الأخير لك سيد عبد الكريم.. ما هو الحل من وجهة نظركم لإطفاء نار الصراع المذهبي التي أوقدت في دماج؟

لا حل إلا بأن يتعايش اليمنيون فيما بينهم، ويقبل كل منهم بالآخر، والأ يرفع السلاح في وجهه، وأن تتوقف حملات التكفير ضد المسلمين والاحتكام للغة الحوار، وأن تبسط الدولة نفوذها في كل منطقة من الجمهورية، وأن تخرج المسلحين الأجنب من دماج، وأن تعمل كل القوى والمكونات السياسية على بناء الدولة اليمنية الحديثة، التي تضمن حقوق الجميع ويحتكم فيها الجميع للنظام والقانون.

في حينها ولم يحملوا السلاح.. وفي شأن حديث جدبان عن عدم وجود الدولة.. نقول له هل أنتم على استعداد لتسليم سلاحكم للدولة لكي تقوم بواجبها.

إذا اسمح لي أن أنقل السؤال لعبد الكريم.. هل أنتم على استعداد لتسليم سلاحكم وترك صعدة للدولة لتتحكم بها تحكما كاملاً؟

هل تريد أن نسلم سلاحنا للتكفيريين والقبائل التي تشعل الفتنة.. كيف نسلم صعدة وصنعاء العاصمة لم تسلم للدولة إلى الآن.. للعلم الدولة لا تستطيع إلى اليوم بسط نفوذها حتى في الحصة.. ولكن في حال بسطت الدولة نفوذها نحن مستعدون، وقد قلنا هذا في تقرير قضية صعدة في الحوار الذي يشارك فيه السلفيون والإصلاحيون، رغم أنهم غرماً في الحرب الدائرة اليوم في دماج والحروب التي شنت على صعدة، حيث اتفقتنا على أن تبسط الدولة نفوذها على كل منطقة في اليمن، وأن على الجميع تسليم سلاحه الذي أخذته من الدولة أو اشتراه أو حصل عليه من دول أجنبية سواء في الجنوب أو الشمال.

عبد الناصر ما هو السبب الرئيس لانفلاق المواجهات بينكم والحوثيين في دماج؟

الحقيقة هناك سبب واضح.. وهو في محاولة حركة الحوثيين التمدد وجعل صعدة خالية من أي مناوئ فكري أو سياسي، حتى تكون صعدة على منوال جنوب لبنان ليكونون لهم دويلة أو مملكة يستطيعون أن يعملوا ما يشاءون دون أن يقف أمامهم معارض سياسي لهم فضلاً عن معارض فكري.

انتقل إليك سيد جدبان.. ما رأيك فيما طرحه عبد الناصر؟

افتراء محض.. وأنا أقول لماذا التباكي على أسلحة الحوثيين مع أن اليمن كلها ترسانات أسلحة، هناك ترسانة أسلحة في دماج، وفي الحصة، وفي نهم، ومعر، وفي أرحب، وفي كل مناطق اليمن، هؤلاء اللذين يتباكون ويقولون إنهم طلاب علم إذا كانوا كذلك من أين وصلهم السلاح الذي يقاتلون به الآن في دماج.. هم يعدون للحرب منذ زمن، وغير صحيح أنهم لم يشاركوا في حروب صعدة، فلقد شاركوا في الحرب السادسة، وكانت مشاركتهم فاعلة وفتاواهم ضداً واضحة، لأنهم يعتبرون كل من خالفهم في مذهبهم كفاراً، وهذا يعلمه الجميع

انتقل إليك سيد عبد الكريم.. بحسب حديثك يعني سبب دخولكم الحرب في دماج هو أن هناك أجنب رفعوا السلاح واعتدوا على المواطنين وانتم تصديتم لهم؟

نعم.. هؤلاء الأجنب موجودون منذ فترة لغرض الحرب.. ولدي صديق جاء من الجزائر قبل أيام وقال لي إنه كان معه في الطائرة أجنب ملتحمين قالوا إنهم سيذهبون إلى دماج للدراسة.. بالله عليك هل هذا وقت دراسة.. هذا دليل واضح أن هناك تحييش وتحشيد للإرهابيين والتكفيريين لخوض حرب في دماج.

لكن أليس هذا من عمل الدولة؟

الدولة غير موجودة.

عموماً الدولة تقول إنهم طلاب ودخلوا بطريقة شرعية للبلاد لطلب العلم؟

يا أخي شنت على أهاليها في صعدة ستة حروب، ولم يدخل أنصار الله في أي إشكال مع السلفيين هناك إلا عندما قاموا مؤخرًا بإشغال الفتنة والتقطيع لأهاليها وذبح أصحابنا وإخواننا ذبح الشياه.. وهذا ليس جديداً ولا غريباً بل خرج به اجتماع حاشد للشيخ حسين الأحمر يدل على النية المبيتة، حيث عرض فيديو له وهو يقول لقد تعلمنا درساً في كيفية ذبح الرافضة يقصد الحوثيين.

هل لديكم إشكال في أن يواصل مركز دار الحديث بدمج للعلوم الشرعية السلفية سواء للطلاب المحليين أو الأجنب؟

لا.. ليس لدينا أي إشكال في ذلك الآن، ولم يكن لدينا إشكالية في ذلك في السابق، كما يعرف الجميع، على الرغم من أن مقبل الوادعي ومن جاء بعده يكفروننا.. هم يسمون من ينتمون للمذهب الزيدي أنجاساً ومشركون وكتبهم التي يدرسونها في مركزهم تدل على ذلك، ومع هذا لم نمنعهم.

أعود إليك عبد الناصر.. من المسؤول عن تشويه دماج كنموذج للتعايش والقبول بالآخر منذ عشرات السنين؟

بداية لو كان عند السلفيين نية للقضاء على الحوثيين لكانوا قاموا بذلك أثناء حروب صعدة الستة عندما كانوا في سفوح الجبال وفي المغارات، لكن لم تكن لديهم النية

الشيخ مقبل الوادعي رحمه الله أسس مركز الحديث في دماج وتوافق عليه طلبة العلم، حيث كان عليه إقبال كبير من داخل اليمن وخارجها، والجميع يعلم أن هؤلاء الدارسين لم يمساو يميناً أبداً بسوء ولم يحملوا السلاح على أحد.. فتجميعهم كان لغرض العلم.. أما ما يتعلق بلفظ التكفيريين فهذه اسطوانة يرددها الحوثيون كما ردها من يوالونهم في بلدان أخرى كسوريا.. ولو افترضنا أن التكفير أطلق على من لا يستحقه فلا يكون الرد على ذلك برفع السلاح، فهناك مثلًا أشخاص من خارج الملة كاليهود مثلاً ونحن نتعايش معهم.. وعندما قال إن طلبة العلم استبدلوا البخاري بالآلي.. فمن الطبيعي عندما تجد إنسان يريد أن يقتلك وأن يستأصلك من منطقتك ويقتل طفلك ويتهكك عرضك ماذا عساك أن تفعل.. بالطبع واجب شرعاً أن تدافع عن نفسك، حتى ولو كان هذا المعتدي أولك.. أخيراً عن مسألة حصار صعدة.. لماذا لا يتباكي جدبان على حصار دماج قبل أن يحدث حصار صعدة.. الذي كان عندما رأت القبائل أن أبنائها في دماج يحاصرون فهبت لنجدهم.

من الأسلحة داخل دماج، صعدة ترزح تحت الحصار.. المواطنون لا يجدون المواد الغذائية الأساسية، لأن الجماعات الإرهابية مع جماعات قبلية ودينية تدعو إلى القتل وتجمع الناس من كل محافظات الجمهورية للزج بهم في الحرب الطائفية الطاحنة.

تحدثت عن أجنب مسلحين.. هل هؤلاء من تحاربونهم؟

هم جزء من المحاربين والمؤامرة على اليمن والأمة العربية عموماً.. هؤلاء المجاهدون في سبيل أمريكا.. أنا أسميهم، عندما فشلوا في سوريا جاءوا لتخريب اليمن.. لأنهم ياتمرون باسم أمريكا.

اسمح لي أن انتقل إلى عبد الناصر.. ما رأيك فيما طرحه جدبان؟

في الحقيقة نستغرب كثيراً عندما تطرح مثل هذه الأكاذيب.. مثل هذه التناقضات التي يعلمها صغار المثقفين فضلاً عن كبارهم.. عندما قال مثلاً أن هناك مقاتلين تكفيريين يتم استخدامهم من معظم دول العالم.. الناس يعلمون من قبل ٢٠ عاماً أن

أبدأ معك عبد الناصر.. ما الذي يحدث في دماج؟

يحدث في دماج ما حدث في مناطق صعدة وغيرها.. يحدث فيها القتل والحصار والتخريب من قبل جماعة تمتلك مختلف الأسلحة الخفيفة والثقيلة والمتوسطة مقابل فئة كانت في الأصل تملك كتابها ودفترها وقلمها.

ذات السؤال أطره على عبد الكريم جدبان القيادي في جماعة الحوثيين.. ما الذي يحدث في دماج؟

ما يحدث في دماج وكر للإرهاب وتجمع للتكفيريين من مختلف دول العالم لإثارة الفتنة الطائفية والمذهبية، التي تخطط لها الإدارة الأمريكية لإثارة الفتنة لتكوين الشرق الأوسط الذي تريد، وتستخدم هؤلاء اللذين يسمون بطلبة العلم الذين استبدلوا صبح البخاري وصبح مسلم بالأزبي جي والمعدلات والأسلحة الأخرى.. أكثر من ٦ آلاف مقاتل تم استخدامهم من معظم دول العالم يتدربون على أنواع

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Embassy of the Netherlands Signs Collaboration Agreement with Marie Stopes International-Yemen and UNFPA



Embassy of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands

By: Ula Khaled

Mr. Jeroen Verheul, the Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) signed a collaborative agreement with Marie Stopes International-Yemen to support the Yemeni government in providing reproductive health services on 31 October 2013.

This is the second agreement signed between the EKN and MSIY. The first was signed in 2009, for the program "Increasing Access to Family Planning and Reproductive Health for Women and Youth in Yemen". Throughout the phase the financial support of EKN allowed MSIY to provide reproductive health services to hundreds of thousands of women. With the EKN's generous support, another phase of the program will start in January. The total cost of the project is 5.7 Million

Euro, 4.209 Million Euro is funded by the EKN, and the rest is provided by Marie Stopes International and community participation.

"We are encouraged by the collaboration we had in the earlier phase with MSIY. The organization is also deliberately implementing policies to enhance financial sustainability of their work."

Over the next two years, MSIY will not only expand and improve sustainability of its own services but will also harness the private sector to expand service delivery through social franchising midwives around the country and work closely with the government to improve quality of public services with a vision to strengthen public-private partnerships and contribute to health system sustainability in the long term. Another key component of this program will be increasing access to family planning and reproductive health services and information for youth in order to assist the government in managing population growth.

Dr. Ashraf Badr, country director of MSIY, states "it is critical to provide youth with the most appropriate reproductive health information and services so they can plan their lives and their future".

In the second phase, MSIY will provide family planning and reproductive health information and services to approximately 2,970,000 women including more than 1 million youth (individuals aged 14-24) in Yemen.

Mr. Verheul underscored the importance of reproductive health in the development policy of the Netherlands stating it is one of four areas of focus. The others include: the rule of law and security, food security, water management, and sexual and reproductive health".

Dr. Najibah Al-Shawaffi, the Deputy of Ministry of Public Health and Population, attended the agreement signing and expressed her deep gratitude to the EKN for their support to the Yemeni government and support for reproductive health services in Yemen.

On the same day the EKN signed another agreement with UNFPA, to support the Ministry of Public Health in procurement of contraceptives.



Hajj scams: Yemenis cheated by pilgrimage companies

Story and photo by Ali Abulohoom

Qasim Al-Haj is from a rural part of Yemen, just outside the capital, Sana'a. He says he has always been skeptical of city life and the bureaucracy that often comes along with it, but it wasn't until he was scammed out of a Hajj trip that he lost faith in the city.

Hajj, the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca—which is one of the five pillars of Islam—takes place in the last month of the year in the Islamic calendar, Dhu Al-Hijjah. This year it fell in October.

The journey to Mecca in Saudi Arabia can be expensive and overwhelming so to help Yemenis make their once-in-a-lifetime, obligatory journey more feasible and convenient, they seek the help of agencies that facilitate their transportation, visas and accommodations.

But what should have been a hassle-free and spiritual experience for Al-Haj, turned out to be a ploy to take the man's money.

"[My father] packed up his stuff and left our village to Sana'a to get a passport and then get a visa through a pilgrimage services' office there," said Mohammed, Al-Haj's son.

Mohammed, a teacher, said he didn't see his father again for two weeks, although they expected him back the same day.

Finally Al-Haj telephoned his son, saying he was still waiting for the travel agency that had supposedly arranged his trip to open back up.

Mohammed, already suspicious,

came to Sana'a to find his father waiting in the street outside an unoccupied office.

Al-Haj showed his son a receipt for the YR50,000 (about \$250) deposit that he had paid the purported agency as well as giving them his passport to secure a visa from the Saudi embassy.

Mohammed knew instantly that his father had been deceived. He checked with the landlord of the building, who said he had temporarily leased the space to some men he did not have a file on. They left behind a table and two chairs.

"I was unable to inform the authorities or file a lawsuit against the office as we knew nothing about them," Mohammed said, explaining how helpless his father's situation made him feel.

It's not uncommon—due to Yemen's low level of government oversight—for businesses to open one day and close the next.

In order to protect consumers, the Ministry of Endowment and Guidance requires that all companies offering pilgrimage services register with them. The ministry then publishes lists of certified companies in state newspapers.

But a lack of awareness keeps the scammers in business.

"My father didn't know that," said Mohammed.

Like Al-Haj, who went back to his village to wait another year to go on his pilgrimage, people all over Sana'a say they have been scammed out of their money.

There is a current lawsuit against a company on Al-Zubairi Street that disappeared after accepting money for Hajj trips.

Ahmad Al-Majhali, 40, protested



The Ministry of Endowment and Guidance issues a list, published in state newspapers, of accredited Hajj services companies.

outside the now closed office before this year's Hajj season

"We filed a lawsuit against the office's owner, but he is still at large," he said. "I ended up paying money to another office as I didn't want to miss the pilgrimage."

Mohammed Al-Maznai, 37, is not as lucky. He says he has to get his money back before he can afford to re-book a trip for next year.

The Yemen Times was unable to get a hold of the court handling the case, but plaintiffs say the case has been suspended until the court is able to find the accused.

This year there were 96 Hajj agencies country-wide that the Ministry of Endowment approved for accreditation.

In addition to flat-out scams, others say accredited pilgrimage companies are not delivering promised services.

"The hotels were located far away and not beside the Al-Masjid Al-Haram [The Sacred Mosque in Mecca] as [the company] said it would be," said Yahia Nasser Al-Azab, 45. "We also didn't have means of transportation [while there]."

Moreover, Nasser said his bus from Yemen to Saudi Arabia did not have enough seats for everyone and didn't have promised air-conditioning.

But, Mohammed Al-Thamrani, the public relations director for Al-Akhween Agency for Hajj and Tourism Services, who provided services for Nasser's trip, said people have no right to complain when they know what they are signing up for. He says agencies, to accommodate a variety of clientele, fall into four levels of services. You get what you pay for, he argues.

"Pilgrims complain and blame [companies] for the services they provide because they are unaware of the level of services provided by each agency," Al-Thamrani said.

In contrast to Nasser's experience, Saleh Al-Madani, 40, said his pilgrimage company delivered on promised first-class services. He traveled by comfortable buses, stayed in nice accommodations near the Sacred Mosque of Mecca and was fed well.


Alfath Mohammed, the Hajj rituals' supervisor at the Ministry of Endowment and Guidance, said it's ultimately people's responsibility to make sure they are purchasing from a certified company and that they have a reputation for delivering what they promise.

"People cheated by some offices are responsible because they didn't [book with] certified offices," he said.

Al-Thamrani said on average, first-class services cost about YR1 million (around \$5,000), second class costs YR500,000 (around \$2,500), third class YR400,000 (nearly \$2,000) and the lowest level, fourth level, costs YR350,000 (about \$1,700). There are also the outliers that fall far above and below the average costs.

For the first time ever, this year, Saudi authorities issued a statement requesting Muslims worldwide postpone their pilgrimages to Saudi Arabia due to ongoing construction and expansion of the Sacred Mosque.

According to a statement issued by the Saudi General Statistics Authority, the number of pilgrimages completed this year, compared to last, was reduced by 37 percent.



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**YT vision statement****"To make Yemen a good world citizen."**Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
(1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times**OUR OPINION****Marking two years since the GCC Initiative was signed**

In a couple of days, two years will have passed since former President Ali Abdulla Saleh signed the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative in which he passed his power to his deputy, Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi.

Two very difficult years have passed. So much has been achieved. I remember a time not that long ago when we were afraid to go outside to go to work or school. The sound of explosions and gunfire was the norm. It was very difficult to get from one place to another in the capital because of various checkpoints and barriers. Electricity was a myth and fuel was sold only on the black market.

I remember a time when we could not express our opinions to our neighbors and colleagues out of worry that they might be working for the other side and get us in trouble.

We have come so far.

It is almost hard to believe that Yemen—an armed society with high levels of poverty and low levels of education—are now leading the entire region as an example of a nation that sought solutions through dialogue instead of violence. It is a nation where one in two women is illiterate, but it has managed to pass a 30 percent quota for women for government positions. It is a nation where unemployment among youth is higher than 35 percent and yet, these youth have contributed significantly to the decision-making process to determine the future of this country. They are forming a nation the way they want it through their active presence at the National Dialogue Conference (NDC).

Nov. 23 is a huge milestone for Yemen. We are on the verge of closing one chapter and opening another. We are carrying out our plan to achieve a real and peaceful transfer of power that includes a redistribution of power and wealth in a just and democratic manner.

As we near the end of the NDC, we look forward to what comes next. The most urgent and important step is to create a new government comprised of professional technocrats, those who will lay the foundation for a modern and corruption-free Yemen, where citizen comes first. Whatever structure it takes—whether it be another coalition government or through elections—we definitely need a strong neutral prime minister and a professional government that can achieve results on the ground. The government needs to win the trust of the people, especially those in the South.

Now that we celebrate two years post the initiative, we must all demand a professional executive authority to manage the country as soon as possible. This is what we need to focus on. Without this, the entire transitional process is at risk.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Saudi Arabia has right to become nuclear power if Iran becomes oneTheNational.ae
First Published Nov. 16

Should the U.S. allow Iran to build nuclear weapon, Saudi Arabia would have the right to seek them as well, argued Abdul Rahman Al Rashed in the Saudi-owned newspaper Asharq Al Awsat.

This would ensure that the balance of power between Saudi and Iran, which have been at loggerheads for decades, is maintained.

There has been talk about the intention of Saudi Arabia to buy a nuclear bomb from Pakistan. But is this possible under international deals that prohibit the transfer of nuclear bombs and to which both Saudi and Pakistan are signatories? And would nuclear weaponry add any value to the Saudi defense system?

Saudi Arabia is already said to have bought nuclear-capable missiles from China. A defecting official at the Saudi Consulate in New York said that Saudi was building a nuclear bomb to support Iraq, and earlier a U.S. intelligence agency analyst said that Saudi had spent \$2 billion in support of Pakistan's nuclear program.

Certainly, Saudi Arabia does not possess a nuclear bomb yet. But the question is: if the U.S. allows Iran to have the bomb, will Saudi not be entitled to protect itself by getting it as well, as Pakistan did before to maintain military balance with nuclear-armed India?

The writer answered affirmatively, noting that the country would be obliged to shield itself from the Iranian regime, either through a nuclear weapon or through deals able to maintain the balance of power in the Arabian Gulf.

The answer is yes considering Iran's long-time hostility towards neighboring Saudi Arabia. Iran is still holding the alleged mastermind of the Riyadh bombings. Moreover, it has been involved in hostile activities in Yemen, Iraq and Bahrain.

And despite the fact that Israel has been most agitated about the intentions of the Iranian leadership, there must be no doubt that Saudi is a possible target, according to the columnist.

The Iranian nuclear weaponry, when achieved, is not going to be a defensive one, because Saudi has never attacked Iran, rather it will be used to deter major powers from getting involved in Iran's regional conflicts.

"Although failure to stop Iran from completing its nuclear arms is a highly risky business, I'm not in favor of entering an arms race in the region," the writer said.

Since Ayatollah Khomeini returned to Tehran in 1979, Iran has created chaos in the region, causing the aircraft carriers and battleships of major powers to be dispatched to the Gulf region.

And despite the strong arguments from Saudi and the Gulf states for a nuclear balance with Iran, this could be a more dangerous path, politically, environmentally and economically.

Determination by the international community to prevent Iran from building its nuclear weapon is the best solution.

Rouhani's policy on UAE is no different

The election of Hassan Rouhani as president of Iran provided hope that the country would end a legacy of arrogance towards the Gulf, including its occupation of the UAE islands. But Iran's response to recent UAE claims over the islands showed that the new Iranian government is no different than its predecessors, editorialized the Sharjah-based newspaper Al Khaleej.

The UAE has been keen to keep the doors of dialogue open with Iran to find a peaceful solution to Iran's occupation of the islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb, to no avail, with the government of President Rouhani turning out to be as intransigent as its predecessors.

During a joint conference with visiting German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle on Wednesday, UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah Bin Zayed said he hoped for a fresh start under Mr Rouhani, citing the 42-year-old issue of the occupied islands.

But a response from Tehran came to confirm Iran's long-time haughtiness. "The three Iranian islands have been and will remain part of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Iran's historical ownership of the islands is an undeniable fact," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

Curiously, Iran is seeking to solve its problems with the West by all peaceful means possible; meanwhile, it is still adamant on souring its relationships with neighboring states.

Brotherhood influence is shrinking even more

Having lost most of the common people, the Muslim Brotherhood is starting to lose its influence within universities, Emad Eddine Hussein wrote in

Curiously, Iran is seeking to solve its problems with the West by all peaceful means possible

Despite the strong arguments from Saudi and the Gulf states for a nuclear balance with Iran, this could be a more dangerous path, politically, environmentally and economically

the Cairo-based newspaper Al Shorouk.

Universities have long been targeted by the Brotherhood. Their strong base of loyalists

there had been augmented by some students who were angry with the government for this or that reason. But, along the way, fatal mistakes have been made.

Egypt's former grand mufti Ali Gomaa was harassed by pro-Brotherhood students at Cairo University, a mistake that has given rivals the same excuse to assault any Brotherhood leader with a different opinion.

The raids on the offices of university presidents were also mistakes. Attempt to disrupt education at any cost has prompted students and parents to lose any sympathy for the Brotherhood.

The deadliest of mistakes was giving the security services the excuse to bring police forces back to universities after the now-famous verdict of the Supreme Administrative Court to remove police from university campuses in 2010.

Whether the Brotherhood sparked clashes with security forces or was trapped into them, the result is that more people are now willing to accept a greater crackdown to establish order.

Compiled by Abdelhafid Ez-zouitni

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- Participate in WASH sector/cluster and other meetings to advance the WASH program.
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- Will conduct field visits to the sites and meet partners and stakeholders, and facilitate UNICEF staff and donor visits as requested.
- Prepare of progress and end of project reports, donor reports, emergency sitreps, DCT monitoring and liquidation as well as supplies monitoring for programme in the field office.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- University degree in water or civil engineering, public health, environmental studies or related technical field.
- Two years of progressively responsible professional work experience at national levels in WASH programme management. Practical experience in working in rural community-based approaches, coordination and networking with Government and/or partners.
- Fluency in English and Arabic language required.
- Computer literacy; including knowledge of spread sheet, word processing, using internet, etc.

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If you meet the requirements stated above, please send your application, enclosing comprehensive curriculum vitae, duly completed United Nations Personal History form (which can be downloaded from www.unicef.org/employ) stating telephone number, email address and detailed contact address quoting the vacancy number to: yemenhr@unicef.org not later than **4 December, 2013**. For additional information on UNICEF, please visit our website: www.unicef.org

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centralization strategy that includes explicit mechanisms for the sharing of resources between a federal state and local governments in regions," said Mostafa Nasr, the head of the organization, in a press release on Tuesday.

Although the NDC is yet to vote on whether federalism will be adopted as Yemen's state structure, it is overwhelmingly predicted to be accepted, prompting organizations and think tanks to begin putting forth plans in accordance.

"Yemen has no experience with financial resource distribution due to the centralized system Yemen has always had," Nasr said.

Secondary school textbooks available in new format

The head of the Yemeni Forum for Disabled Persons, Hassan Ismail, said on Tuesday that the forum has finished recording the state-required school textbooks for visually-disabled secondary school students in a high-definition, MP3 format.

By the end of this year, the organization says students will be able to download the audio textbooks free of charge from the forum's website. Ismail says this is the first time a project of this sort has been available in Yemen.

"Any student can download the audio clips anytime from the website, wherever they live," he said.

THEIR NEWS
NGO Briefs

"This will help blind students in their educations since they will now have the opportunity to listen to the books in high definition," Ismail said.

Currently, visually impaired students depend on recorded cassette tapes for their school textbooks.

The forum is planning to expand their project and begin recording textbooks for elementary level texts, but the organization is waiting on funding. The secondary school recordings were funded by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives.

HOOD organization to monitor rights violations in courts

The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD, has announced an initiative to begin Dec. 1, in which

the organization will monitor and keep records on rights violations in Sana'a's public courts. The monitoring program will run through July 2014, the organization said on Tuesday.

Citizens are vulnerable in Yemen's justice system, which has long been criticized for its lack of transparency and accountability, Mosa Al-Namrani, a press officer at HOOD, said.

Some of the largest judicial violations the organization hopes to expose are when defendants are not offered the opportunity to have a lawyer represent them and illegal detentions sanctioned by judges.

The organization's monitoring task force is made up of five journalists and seven lawyers who have been trained by HOOD on how to document court proceedings, Al-Namrani said.

"This will promote the community's scrutiny of the judicial authority, which will in turn improve the performance of judges," Al-Namrani said.

WFP introduces new cash transfer program

The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) announced the launch of a new project to assist 57,000 food-insecure families in Taiz and Ibb governorates via a cash transfer program, designed to supplement families' food consumption.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the WFP said the project is going forward with the distribution cooperation of the General Authority of Post and Postal Services, as well as the Education Ministry. Each approved family will receive \$27.50 a month.

"When the right conditions are there such as the availability of food in the market and providers to disburse the cash, cash transfers is often more appropriate than simply handing out a food basket," Bishow Parajuli, the WFP's country director in Yemen said in a press release. "This type of assistance introduces

the element of choice and helps to stimulate local markets."

However, WFP's cash assistance project is facing critics like Abdulla Al-Dharibi, the manager of the Yemeni Youth Observatory in the U.N. Development Program, who said cash distribution is not an effective way to improve the living situation of families because some Yemenis will spend the cash on qat—a mild

narcotic leaf—instead of food.

In their press release, the WFP countered the criticism saying, "surveys have shown that most of the money is indeed spent on food with the remainder being used for other essentials such as health care or schooling"

Reporting by Ali Saeed and Ram-mah Al-Jubari

Financial decentralization
While participants at the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) debate Yemen's state structure, the Studies and Economic Media Center, a local NGO, held a conference on Monday to examine the future of "financial decentralization" in the nation.
"The conference discussed the importance of having a financial de-

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