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**In the name of love:** Demonstrators gather outside the courthouse where a Saudi woman is being tried for illegally crossing the Yemeni-Saudi border to elope with her Yemeni boyfriend, who her parents prohibited her from seeing. The story of Arafat and Huda, the young couple, has swept the nation and captured Yemenis hearts. **Read more on Page 4** (Photo by Ali Abulohoom)

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## Yemen officially establishes Southern victims' fund

**Qatar donates \$350 million**

**Mohammed Al-Hassani**

SANA'A, Nov. 25—Southern Movement leader Brigadier Nasser Al-Taweel said he was happy with the launch of a trust fund to compensate Southerners who were unfairly dismissed from military and civil service posts and those who had their land confiscated following Yemen's 1994 civil war. Al-Taweel called the trust a "step in the right direction."

Qatar pledged \$350 million to the

fund.

The establishment of the fund was announced on Sunday in Sana'a in the presence of President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, U.N. Special

Envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar and Qatari Foreign Affairs Minister Khalid Al-Atyia.

Continued on page 2

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## Dammaj copes with a lack of shelter, food and medicine

**There is no longer a functioning hospital in the city to accept patients**

**Rammah Al-Jubari**

SANA'A, Nov. 25 — Dammaj locals are resorting to building underground shelters because of continued shelling from the Houthis that have destroyed homes, said Ahmed Al-Wadaei, the manager of the Dammaj Hospital, a facility that is not longer functioning due to shelling that took place on the building at the beginning of the month.

"The situation is not healthy and things could get worse because [underground shelters] allow for the spread of disease," Al-Wadaei told the Yemen Times.

"Trash is piling up inside the shel-

ters, and they lack even basic amenities," Al-Wadaei said. "No one can go outside for fear of being targeted."

Tuberculosis, measles and meningitis have begun to spread, according to the doctor, "besides many other [diseases] that we haven't been able to diagnosis due to the lack of equipment."

Some of the places locals have sought shelter in include buildings used for grain storage.

"Some children have nightmares and have convulsions when they wake up," Al-Wadaei said.

He has seen several women miscarry due to distress with no medical facility to receive treatment from. A woman died on Friday due to complications brought on by a miscarriage.

Dammaj has been the epicenter of violent fighting between Houthis, a group of Zaidi Shiites and Salafis,

Sunni conservatives, since the end of October. The fighting has led to food and medicine shortages. Both groups have set up checkpoints around the area, preventing the transport of basic supplies.

A presidential committee has been unsuccessfully trying to settle the fighting in the area.

At the beginning of November, armed tribesmen from Amran governorate rallied support for the Dammaj-based Salafis and opened a fighting front with the Houthis in the Kitaf area, resulting in dozens of deaths and injuries.

As the fighting escalated, pro-Salafi men in Hajja governorate blocked the road connecting Sa'ada governorate with Harad city, near the Saudi border. The road obstruction caused price hikes in oil, diesel and food commodities.

"The humanitarian situation in Dammaj is a tragedy. There is no medicine, security, food or residence," said Al-Wadaei.

He added, "There are currently over 170 injuries, but we do not have medicine to treat them."

There are reportedly more than 12,000 people studying Islamic theology in the Dar Al-Hadith Center in Dammaj. Students attending are accused of doing the majority of the fighting against the Houthis in the area. Along with Yemeni nationals, there are an unconfirmed number of foreign students also living and learning at the Salafi center.

The conflict in Dammaj dates back to 2011 when the area witnessed sporadic clashes between the two groups, according to Saroor Al-Wadaei, the spokesperson of Salafis in Dammaj. He said the confrontations

intensified in late October, leading to 70 deaths in Dammaj in addition to 270 injured.

The Houthis have not released an official number of deaths in the conflict.

Adnan Hizam, a communication officer for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said 128 injured persons, including women and children, had been evacuated from the area since early November.

"The mission of the ICRC is to transfer the injured from Dammaj and hand them over to the local authorities in Sa'ada governorate," he said. "The ICRC is not concerned about how, when and where they will be treated."

"The ICRC calls on the conflicting sides to allow the entrance of aid to Dammaj and transfer of serious injuries to specialized hospitals," he

said.

Some of those injured evacuees are being treated at the Military Hospital in Sana'a. Others have been sent to Saudi Arabia for treatment.

The Salafis refused an offer in mid-November to receive food aid from Sa'ada governor, Faris Mana'a.

"Our ego is bigger than submission or taking aid from Mana'a," a local Salafi, who asked not to be named told the Yemen Times.

In March 2011, when the Houthis took control of Sa'ada governorate, local people appointed Mana'a as the governor. At the time, the then governor who was stationed in the government fled to Sana'a.

"Though the Dammaj locals have one meal a day, they will not take the aid that Mana'a is offering in order to manipulate the public," the Salafi source added.

## Speculation grows following assassination of parliamentarian and NDC member

**Nasser Al-Sakkaf**

SANA'A, Nov. 25 — In the aftermath of Friday's assassination of the parliamentarian and National Dialogue Conference (NDC) Houthi representative, Abdulkareem Jadban, people are scrambling for explanations for the man's murder, which many are saying was politically motivated.

Jadban was shot dead last week as he was leaving the Al-Shawqani Mosque, located on Al-Qyada Street near the general leadership headquarters for of the armed forces in Sana'a. Eyewitnesses say men on motorcycle fired at Jadban and fled the scene.

"Jadban's assassination was politically motivated because of his stance and affiliation," said Hassn Al-Humran, the foreign relations officer for the Houthi group.

True to a sentiment often put forward by Houthis, Al-Humran blamed America for meddling in Yemeni affairs, leading to security instability in the nation and allowing for assassina-

tions to take place.

On Nov. 13 an alleged Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) video emerged online in which leaders threatened retaliation against the Houthis, a group of Zaidi Shiites, who are locked in conflict in the city Dammaj in Sa'ada governorate with Salafis, a group of Sunni conservatives.

"There is no solid evidence to prove that Al-Qaeda is not involved in the assassination of Jadban," said Saeed Al-Jamhi, Yemeni a researcher who follows Islamist groups.

But Al-Jamhi is also not convinced that AQAP is behind the assassination.

"There are many political factions that would be able to gain an advantage through this crime," he said.

A local AQAP researcher, Abdulrazaq Al-Jamal, said it's unlikely AQAP was behind the assassination as it would be out of character. He argues that AQAP would be more likely to go after armed Houthis militants

rather than a politician.

The Yemeni government issued a press release following the assassination, condemning Jadban's death.

"The purpose of assassinating Jadban is to drag Yemenis into conflict in order to halt the progress of the transitional phase," the statement read.

The Yemeni Parliament has asked Prime Minister Mohammed Salem Basindwa to select government ministry representatives to meet with them on Thursday to discuss the crime and how Yemen will proceed following the incident.

While some have predicted the worst, saying Jadban's assassination and the conflict in Dammaj is a sign of growing sectarian divides in the nation, political analyst Abdulrazaq Al-Hwyani said Yemen has too much international support and scrutiny to spiral into religious divisions that have been seen in other parts of the region, like Iraq.

"There are ten countries sponsoring the Gulf Initiative, and they want to

make sure Yemen serves as an example for other Arab Spring countries. So, they will not allow Yemen to fail."

In an interview with the Yemen Times, published on Nov. 21, Jadban said, "There is no solution for Yemenis but to coexist and accept one another. They should not point weapons at one another and blasphemous campaigns against Muslims should stop."

According to Jadban's son, Mortahda, in 2012, his father's car was tampered with. Both Mortahda and his father entered the vehicle for a routine trip in Sana'a and as they began to pull away, they realized the car's tires had been loosened and began to fall off.

Jadban's assassination marks the first death of an NDC member. Four days after the conference began in March, Abdulwahid Abu Ra's, a Houthi representative, was shot at by unidentified assailants but survived the attack. Hamza Al-Kamali, a NDC youth representative, was kidnapped on Oct. 27 by unidentified attackers but he was released.

Continued from page 1

### Yemen officially establishes Southern victims' fund

The allocated fund comes at a time when calls for Southern separation are growing louder.

"The fund is a new foundation for building trust and correcting the injustices of the past," President Hadi said in a speech he delivered at the inauguration ceremony of the fund.

According to the president, the trust will be overseen by an independent body that will have to meet certain standards and regulations and will be subjected to oversight.

**Qatar steps in as Saudi influence declines**

Political analyst Ahmed Sinan said the sizable donation from the Qataris is a way to decrease Saudi influence in

Yemen.

"Qatar [knows] that Saudi Arabia has had influence in Yemen since the 70s through financial support for the state, the regime and tribal sheikhs," said Sinan. However, "the Saudi influence is [now] declining in favor of Qatar."

Sinan said that Saudi Arabia and Qatar are funding different groups in Yemen to gain a footing. He accused Qatar of funding Islah, the Yemeni offshoot of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, which has historically been at odds with Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia has grown, Sinan said, cozy with Southerners. The Qataris are starting to court them as well to minimize Saudi influence in the region, he said.



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## Media College wants new building

**Sana'a University's journalism students say an updated facility is vital to their education**

**Rammah Al-Jubari**

SANA'A, Nov. 25—Teaching staff and students at the Media College in Sana'a University staged a protest on Sunday in front of the Parliament to demand a new building for their specialized school. They are asking the construction of the new building be included in the government's 2014 budget.

The dean of the Media College, Abdulrahman Al-Shami, said Sana'a University's presidency sent an official letter to President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi explaining why they are asking for a new building. According to Al-Shami, Hadi said earlier this month that funds would be allocated to the college, which was established in 1996. However, the Finance Ministry, who is in charge of releasing the funds, has yet to respond to Hadi's orders, Al-Shami said.

Dr. Belquis Alwan, head of TV and Radio department at the col-

lege, said all colleges at the university have received new buildings except the Media College, which was established in 1996.

"We need a building that has all educational technology and equipment because the old building is about to collapse," said Alwan.

There are three divisions within the Media College, the Television and Radio department, Public Relations and the Journalism department, all of which say their educational offerings are suffering due to their outdated building.

While demonstrating for the new building, students also took the opportunity to criticize the school's curriculum, which they say is way behind international standards.

"The curriculum taught currently in the college is as old as the building," said Qahtan Al-Tuiti, a student and activist.

"The curriculum isn't updated



**The Media College at Sana'a University was founded in 1996 in an old building and now it is on verge of collapse, students say.**

and the college lacks practical methodology," he added.

Teachers agree with the students. Hussein Jaghman, a professor within the Media College, said, "Practical training is supposed to be 50 percent of the education at the college, but it's almost absent due to the out-of-date equipment." For example, the TV and Radio stu-

dents do not have proper cameras or microphones to practice skills learned in the classroom, students say.

A majority of the equipment in the college's studio, was originally purchased in 1996, Jaghman said.

There are a little over 12,000 students currently enrolled at the Media College.

## Al-Shihr remains on edge as shelling dies down

**Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

SANA'A, Nov. 25—While confrontations between militants alleged to be affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) have quieted in the city of Al-Shihr in Hadramout governorate, the town remains surrounded by security forces and under an enforced curfew from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

While state security forces say they have proceeded with the siege of the city, which began on Wednes-

day, according to a plan to rid it of alleged AQAP operations, locals say security is haphazardly accusing them of militant affiliations.

The Ministry of Interior spokesperson, Mohammed Al-Mawiri, admitted to the arrest and release of a group of women and children last week.

"The ministry released three women and two children Sunday who were arrested on Wednesday on suspicion of Al-Qaeda connections," he said.

Local resident Mohamed Ba Guhoom said the women and children were arrested while trying to escape their home which was being shelled.

"Everyone here is living in fear," he said, adding that empty houses were also being shelled.

There are conflicting reports about the number of alleged AQAP affiliates who have been killed in Hadramout over the past week. A source who identified himself as a member of Al-Qaeda but requested

anonymity, told the Yemen Times that a total of seven AQAP affiliates were killed in the fighting and in an area drone strike. In contrast, the Interior Ministry says they have transferred 13 bodies of militants back to Sana'a that are currently being held at the Military Hospital.

Last Tuesday, a drone strike hit the Ghail Bawzeer area in Hadramout governorate. Five people were reportedly killed in the strike. Both the anonymous source and Al-

Mawiri said three of the five killed were non-Yemeni nationals.

According to Waleed Baobad, a local journalist, a state military presence has spread widely in both the Al-Shihr and Ghail Bawzeer areas.

"There are still small clashes and fire exchanges taking place in the night," he said.

The chief of staff of the Special Security Forces in Hadramout, Mohammed Hamoud Al-Subahi, was killed in fighting on Wednesday,

according to officials. An additional four state forces were also killed and two other soldiers wounded.

Meanwhile, two soldiers were killed and four injured on Sunday at a western checkpoint in Sayoun City in Hadramout by alleged AQAP affiliates, according to Colonel Hussein Al-Hashim, Sayoun's security chief.

"This attack is Al-Qaeda's reaction to the security campaign launched across the governorate," he said.

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# Forbidden love

The story of Huda and Arafat has galvanized support for women's rights across Yemen

Story by Ali Abulohoom and Rammah Al-Jubari  
Photos by Ali Abulohoom

**A**rafat Radfan, the Yemeni boyfriend of 22-year-old Saudi citizen Huda Al-Niran, was released from prison on Sunday, following a statement from the U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR) that Huda is under international protection.

UNHCR believes Huda will be granted asylum based on humanitarian ground.

The scene on Sunday outside Huda's case hearing was a marked departure from her last appearance in court, where she repeatedly screamed, "Arafat or death!" at the judge in the Capital Secretariat Southeastern courtroom.

Huda has been imprisoned since late October, charged with crossing the Yemeni-Saudi border illegally. She and her partner, Arafat, have been hailed a modern day Romeo and Juliet—the girl's family does not approve of the relationship. So the couple found their way across the border, hoping to start a new life in Yemen.

Huda is being held at a prison on the grounds of the Migration and

Passport Authority in the capital city. Arafat was held at the Reserve Prison.

Their love has grabbed the attention of the country. There have been large demonstrations outside of the courthouse in support of the couple—many protestors traveled all the way from Taiz.

From behind bars, Huda told Saudi Okuz TV channel that she first met Arafat three years ago in Mahayl Asir governorate in Saudi Arabia. He was working in a mobile phone shop, and they wasted no time before falling in love.

She told the TV station that she went often to fix her phone, and that it was Arafat's integrity and respectful behavior that attracted her to him.

They decided to make their relationship halal and get married. Arafat asked Huda's family for her hand, but they refused.

"We do not marry our daughters off to Yemenis," Huda's father told Arafat. Despite the rejection, Arafat renewed his proposal many times.

He and Huda decided they would wait them out, confident that the family would eventually consent to the marriage. Huda's father had something else in mind.

He informed his daughter that

she would be marrying someone else, in order to end her relationship with Arafat.

Huda's sisters also had arranged marriages, and two of them are now divorced, she told Okuz channel. Not wanting the same fate, she decided to run away to Yemen that night.

Arafat told the media outlet that he was shocked to receive a call from Huda from a Yemeni number to inform him that she had run away and was waiting for him at the border.

During her first court hearing, Huda told the court that she had packed up all her money and jewelry and headed to the Yemeni border without telling Arafat, knowing he would refuse a plan that would put her in danger. She decided to call him after arriving at the border.

Huda told a Yemeni family that she was a Yemeni citizen and convinced them to take her to the bor-



Outside the court that is hearing the couple's trial, demonstrators pledged their solidarity with the youngsters.

der with them.

"I didn't believe it," Arafat told Saudi Okuz. "I burst into tears because I was so amazed by the sacrifice she had made for my sake, but also worried, because our future in Yemen was unknown."

Arafat headed to the border to join Huda. They were both caught by security forces and detained.

Arafat was accused of assisting Huda to enter Yemen illegally but was acquitted during his first hearing based on Huda's confession that she made it to the border on her own.

He was released from prison but refused to do so until Sunday, the day Huda was granted asylum.

Huda's family discovered her es-

cape and her father visited Arafat's shop, but it was closed. He filed a complaint against him at the Saudi Embassy in Yemen, accusing Arafat of putting a spell on Huda and kidnapping her.

Responding to the complaint filed by Huda's family, the Saudi Embassy assigned her an attorney to fight the charges so that she could return to Saudi Arabia. She rejected the lawyer from the embassy and asked for asylum.

Huda threatened to commit suicide if she was sent back to Saudi Arabia, according to Abdulraheeb Al-Qadi, a lawyer assigned to defend her by the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD).

Abdulla Al-Mujahid, the lawyer assigned by the Saudi Embassy to send Huda back, told the Yemen Times that it's better for Huda to return to Saudi Arabia to live with her family because she is currently imprisoned and will face an unknown future in Yemen. However, Al-Qadi is optimistic about Huda and Arafat's future, saying that she will have rights in Yemen because she was granted asylum.

Some of Arafat's relatives support him and his marriage to Huda.

Arafat's cousin Abdulatif Al-Qadi, 50, said, "We will stand by Arafat and support him to marry Huda and live here in Yemen."

Family support isn't the only support.

Nobel Peace laureate Tawakkol Karman was at the court on Sunday to demonstrate her solidarity with the couple.

"I declare my complete solidarity with [Huda] who is being tried on charges of illegal entry. I demand [Yemeni authorities] treat her as a refugee with full protection assigned by international conventions," she said on her Facebook page.

Sheikh Mohammed Al-Qudma of Sana'a has offered Huda and Arafat a home, and others have said they will provide the couple with furniture. Abu Raouf, a furniture store owner, has offered the couple YR600,000 (\$2800) worth of furnishings. Young artists and musicians were in the crowd as well. They offered to play at the couple's wedding for seven days, without charge.



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# The specialist

## Kidney pediatrician talks medicine, resources and a need for a revamped hospital system

Story and photo by  
Ali Saeed

Dr. Taha Al-Naib has been at his game for a while as one of the few pediatricians in Yemen who specializes in the treatment of childhood kidney disorders. Patients from all over the country come to him for his expertise on ailments ranging from renal failure to kidney infections. Renal failure remains a serious cause of mortality in Yemen, according to many doctors in both public and private facilities. The capital's state-run Al-Thawra Hospital receives on average three to four new cases of child "chronic renal failure" every week and Al-Naib says he sees just as many in his private clinic.

Al-Naib knows he is a rarity in Yemen, where general medical care-givers are struggling to serve a bulging population. The burden increases for specialists, who are sometimes one of a few doctors in the entire country specialized in their particular field. While Yemen also copes with a phenomenon known as brain drain—the loss of skilled intellectual and technical labor through the movement of such labor to more favorable geographic, economic, or professional environments—Al-Naib says he is just as committed today to his mantra that "every Yemeni child be privy to adequate health care and be free of pain," as he was when he first began working in his field in 1999.

The doctor's specialized skill-set

keeps him very busy. He is in high demand in both the public and private sector. He is the deputy chief of the Pediatrics Department and head of the Child Kidney Unit at the state-run Al-Thawra hospital in Sana'a. For the first seven hours of his day, Al-Naib is on his feet checking on patients. In the late afternoon he heads to his own private clinic to provide medical consultations and see patients by appointment. But more often than not, he has to head back to Al-Thawra for emergency calls.

While Al-Naib is optimistic about the future of his field—he established the Child Kidney Patients Society in 2012 to raise money for patients—he often feels like he is fighting an up-hill battle, given his resources and the state of medicine in a developing country.

One of Al-Naib's biggest criticisms is of the primary level of medical care which he says inhibits and complicates his job.

"Some doctors just prescribe medicine without referring a case to a specialist," he said.

"There must be a [qualified] local hospital or a medical center in each neighborhood or village and a pediatrician that can receive cases and refer them to specialists," he said "This is what is typically done in all over the world but [this system] does not exist in Yemen."

The idea of a specialists is very foreign in Yemeni medicine, the doctor explains. Al-Naib has hundreds of examples of cases that went wrong because general physicians attempt to "bandaid" cases without having

an understanding of how to treat specialized cases.

He says typically patients who come in and complain about a burning sensation while urinating are often sent away with antibiotics or pain killers without any further tests being conducted. Al-Naib says this is extremely dangerous because there are a number of diagnoses that are possible and if not treated, in the worst cases, symptoms can lead to renal failure.

Something Al-Naib says is absolutely disastrous for the treatment of patients, is the growing phenomenon of nursing graduates opening licensed clinics. While the clinics offer cheaper and more readily available services, a very attractive prospect to Yemen's poorer population who often have to travel large distances for medical care, Al-Naib says they are not qualified to be providing medical services.

"These clinics are the most dangerous for children's lives and health," the doctor said. "In their clinics, they take over the physician's role as well as the nursing."

There are no statistics on the number of children affected by complications with their kidneys, but Al-Naib says the majority of cases are not only treatable but preventable. However, Al-Naib is not only battling poverty but a lack of awareness about the importance of catching illnesses early.

"Only once a year do I receive a father asking for a medical checkup for his child," he said.

The medical care crusader is currently trying to open a dialysis unit



The doctor stands by one of his donation boxes. He is currently trying to raise money for his cause.

for children at Al-Thawra Hospital but is facing a funding battle. The unit is already underway but the hospital is waiting to see if its new annual budget will allot more money for its completion. Currently, children share a dialysis center with adults, which Al-Naib says is detrimental to their care as doctors are not as accustomed to working with children.

While Al-Naib couldn't imagine

treating anything but kidneys, he says the specialty is neither attracting fresh graduates nor funding from NGOs.

"Most efforts of organizations focus on vaccinations, communicable diseases and related primary health care," he said. "Most medical students are not interested in specializing in kidney treatment because it is not lucrative." Al-Naib explains this is because doctors are often not

paid per visit but rather course of treatment and a kidney patient can require many visits without the doctor receiving a higher rate of pay.

Al-Naib says he can only keep fighting and hoping he will see changes in the medical field during his career.

"I want them to pay attention to children...since children are in need of continuous medicine, treatment and permanent checkups."

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ \* الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ \*

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إيهاب سعيد اليريمي

وكافة آل اليريمي

بوفاة المغفور له، بإذن الله تعالى،

والدته

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأن

يسكنه فسيح جناته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان

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المعزون

خير الدين النصور  
المدير العام التنفيذي

نادية عبدالعزيز السقاف  
رئيس التحرير

وجميع موظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز

### The Ministry of Public Works and Highways The Rural Access Program-Central Management Office (RAPCMO)

## Job Vacancy-Program Manager RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Background:

The Government of Yemen, through the Ministry of Public Works and Highways is committed to ensure that the Rural Access Program contributes to the Government's plans to promote economic growth and poverty reduction in rural areas of Yemen.

The Rural Access Program is a multi-donor funded program aims to support the government strategy in providing year-round access to basic services, markets, jobs and thus alleviate poverty among the rural population of Yemen where more than 65% of the populations live.

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways now invites highly qualified applicants to fill the position of Program Manager of the Rural Access Program. The selected candidate will report directly to the Minister of Public Works and Highways-Chairman of the Steering Committee who has the overall oversight of RAP. The position seeks candidates with expertise and practical experience in rural roads/highway construction and maintenance, procurement, contract management combined with knowledge in Environmental and Social safeguard policies and their applications in road/highway construction would be an added advantage.

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

The selected candidate will work under the Ministry of Public Works and Highways, and liaise effectively with other line-ministries, and donors in the interest of accomplishing RAP's development objectives.

The primary duties and responsibilities of the selected applicant would be:

- Execute the engineering, planning, technical, procurement, financial and managerial activities and day-to-day operations of the Rural Access Program.
- Ensure that RAP's projects are prepared and implemented in line with Government of Yemen's, World Bank's and other donors' guidelines, policies and procedures.
- Provide professional input with respect to formulating government of Yemen's and its partners' strategies and policies toward RAP achieving its development objectives.
- Work effectively with Ministry Public Works and Highways, and liaise with other line ministries, mainly Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and Ministry of Finance, and stakeholder to secure government's contributions in financing RAP.
- Ensure that donors' legal and financing agreements are implemented and effectively met.
- To achieve the above, applicant must meet the following qualifications and experiences.

#### Qualifications, Experience and Skills:

- Minimum Bachelor's of Science degree in Civil Engineering.
- Minimum of 10-years of proven experience in road/highway planning and programming, construction management, supervision and maintenance works.
- Extensive experience in road/highway Engineering, infrastructure and technologies and translate such knowledge into practical application to the overall needs of RAP, and decision making. In addition, the applicant should demonstrate proven experience in contract management, procurement and financial management at senior management level in government or private sector organizations.
- Demonstrated skills and ability to ensure the implementation, and long-term sustainability of RAP projects.
- Good understanding of donors, especially World Bank's, financial, procurement, guidelines and procedures, and Environmental and Social safeguard policies.
- Team-work, leadership and people management skills, including demonstrated ability in mentoring and providing guidance to staff to deliver high-quality output and projects.
- Ability to identify needed resources to accomplish results and find solutions to overcome obstacles and problems.
- Excellent communication skills in sharing ideas and making presentations to wide and diverse audience in a clear way.
- Proven ability to read, write and speak fluently in English language.
- Demonstrated ability to use modern personal computer technologies, softwares and their applications.

#### Selection Criteria

- Selection shall be based on the applicant's ability, to the extent possible, to meet the above requirements.
- Interested applicants are requested to write a covering letter to be submitted with his/her CV, no less than 200-words, explaining the reason why he/she is applying for this position.
- Selection shall be based on the combined results of the person's evaluation of his/her credentials, cover letter and the interview.
- Short-listed applicants only shall be invited for interview.

Interested applicants shall submit their applications in sealed envelope, clearly marked, to the following address NO LATHER THAN December 10, 2013. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED:

RAPCMO-Program Manager Position  
The Ministry of Public Works and Highways  
The Minister's Office-4th Floor  
Dhafer Himyar area- Berlin Street  
Sana'a, Yemen



# Opposing views The Benomar question

As the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) drags on, political parties are intensifying criticisms of the international community's role in the nation's reconciliatory talks, which are slated to lead to a new constitution and national elections. The role of U.N. Special Envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar has been the most contentious for some political parties. The General People's Congress (GPC), Yemen's former ruling party, which has been accused of having its own agenda of destabilizing the nation, has been particularly critical of Benomar, accusing the U.N. representative of meddling in Yemen's affairs.

Benomar has not been shy in recent statements, accusing traditional powers of hindering Yemen's political progress.

On the flip side, other political factions at the NDC, including the Southern Movement,

have welcomed a strong international presence at the talks, trusting Benomar's assistance in solving many stalemates at the conference. It was with Benomar's support that the entire Southern Movement officially rejoined talks after an initial boycott of the conference's concluding sessions.

Yemen Times spoke with Khalid Bamadhaf, a Southern Movement representative, Abdulwali Al-Madabi, the editor-in-chief of the GPC-sponsored Al-Methaq Newspaper, and Nadia Abdulla, a NDC delegate representing the youth faction, to ask about the intensified criticism Benomar has been drawing recently.

Interview by  
Mohammed Al-Hassani



في الوقت الذي يشارك فيه مؤتمر الحوار الوطني على الإنتهاء أخرج حزب المؤتمر الشعبي العام المتهم بالقيام بالعمليات المنهجية لإرباك المشهد العام وخطط الأوراق المبعوث الأممي لليمن جمال بنعمر عن طوره، وهو ماحدى به إلى أن يشن بالمقابل هجومه على المؤتمر واتهامه صراحة بممارسة الإبتزاز وعرقلة مؤتمر الحوار.. خاضت الحملة الإعلامية الشرسة ضد السيد جمال بنعمر.. موضوع هذا الحوار الذي تستضيف الصحيفة فيه كلا من القيادي في الحراك الجنوبي خالد بامدهف ومدير تحرير صحيفة الميثاق التابعة لحزب المؤتمر عبد الولي المذابي وأحد ممثلي شباب الثورة في الحوار نادية عبد الله..

حوار/ محمد الحسني

**Starting with Khalid Bamadhaf, what does [the Southern Movement] think of the [negative] media campaign being waged against Jamal Benomar?**

**Bamadhaf** We appreciate [Benomar's] efforts based on [United Nations Security Council] resolutions 2014 and 2025, as well as the Gulf Initiative. The crisis in Yemen is complicated, particularly considering two important issues, the Southern and Sa'ada Issues, as well as state building for the nation. We believe that Gulf countries should have more of a presence in order to [help us] address those complicated issues. However, we also believe the international community's will, represented through Benomar's, is not consistent with the complexity of the Yemeni crisis in general nor the importance of the Southern and Sa'ada Issues in particular.

**Perhaps everyone agrees on the complexity of Yemen's crisis, but do you think these attacks on Benomar are coming at a strategic time?**

**Bamadhaf** The peaceful Southern Movement currently participating in the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) definitely appreciates Benomar's role, but we believe his role requires broader views to deal objectively with Yemeni issues. The Gulf Initiative's narrow focus doesn't provide enough flexibility to Benomar to deal with all issues. Benomar is unfortunately restricted within specific guidelines to perform roles that should be carried out by Yemeni authorities.

**Abdulwali Al-Madabi, have you participated in the media campaign against Benomar?**

**Al-Madabi** No, we think Benomar is the only international figure who has been welcomed widely in Yemen and perhaps more broadly in the Yemeni media. The General People's Congress' (GPC) media has talked about Benomar a lot. They have praised him when they believe he is neutral. However, this doesn't mean that criticism against Benomar is part of an organized campaign. I think Benomar overstepped his role.

**How?**

**Al-Madabi** The Gulf Initiative and Dr. Abdullah Al-Zayani, the secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), were supposed to carry out Benomar's role but Benomar overstepped his boundaries. He also meddled in the president and prime minister's duties. For example, the government said nothing about the war in Dammaj in Sa'ada [governorate] but Benomar intervened regarding this issue. He has also intervened in the procedures and major issues at the NDC. This doesn't sit well with all Yemenis.

**You have denied an organized media campaign against Benomar but said he deserves sharp criticism?**

**Al-Madabi** Yes, but this criticism isn't official.

**It's true though that your party issued a statement criticizing Benomar?**

**Al-Madabi** Yes. When I praise you for doing your job, it doesn't necessarily mean that you have the right to

interfere in things that you have no right to be meddling in because I will criticize you.

**There is an internationally-backed timeline [for the GCC Initiative's] implementation mechanism that Benomar has been assigned to supervise.**

**Al-Madabi** Implementing the initiative is not his responsibility.

**Are you saying Benomar took over Al-Zyani's responsibility?**

**Al-Madabi** This is clear. I don't need to argue this point. I know this and everyone knows it as well.

**Many are asking, why criticize Benomar now?**

**Al-Madabi** Because of what is going on. I think Benomar had some success and this led him to go beyond his responsibilities, interfering in affairs that are not of his concern. He overstepped his boundaries, placing Yemen under his guardianship. This is unacceptable.

**Some are saying your [negative media criticism] against Benomar is happening at a time when you are losing agreements at the NDC?**

**Al-Madabi** No one can impose decisions from outside Yemen on the GPC. Dialogue is dialogue. You suggest one point, and I suggest another. What is agreed upon is passed and carried out. What cannot be agreed upon is shot down. If international forces come to pressure me to agree on a particular stance, this is not acceptable.

**Could you please clarify what you feel has been imposed on you or what you expect to be imposed?**

**Al-Madabi** The GPC's press releases are clear.

**The GPC issues contradictory press releases. Some praise Benomar and others lash out at him. Why this contradiction?**

**Al-Madabi** Everyone in the GPC has a particular stance or viewpoint. But the party's official stance is presented in press releases.

**I am talking about the press releases, not about the statements made by the party's leadership.**

**Al-Madabi** It is true there was criticism about [Benomar's] meddling with the Political Isolation Law and his bid to push certain agendas. The GPC does not accept this [interference] at all.

**What else [do you believe Benomar interferes with]?**

**Al-Madabi** Benomar is responsible for disintegrating the Yemeni army because of the role he played in the army's restructuring.

**Let me shift to Khalid. Abdulwali says Benomar took over responsibilities that were supposed to fall under Al-Zyani, what do you think?**

**Bamadhaf** I think Benomar is acting according to what he was supposed to do, supervising the NDC in accordance with the United Nations legal proceedings. We understand this role. We also understand there are attempts to place this international role in the middle of serious

problems and put Benomar in positions and missions that are not under his authority. I think there are traditional powers that want to put institutions, represented by the president, in difficult positions as well. We hope the U.N.'s special envoy to Yemen will respond and deal with all troubles thrown at him in a professional manner.

**But do you think that Yemeni political leaders have forced Benomar to perform duties outside of his role?**

**Bamadhaf** As part of the peaceful Southern Movement, we have several times asked for outside help to keep others from dividing our political authorities and establishing other bodies to replace us. We also have had a hard time negotiating. However, we try to keep our speeches in line with the public interest of Yemenis, both in the North and the South. We try to deal professionally with the political developments in Yemen. Those who think an external party can make decisions for the NDC that are inconsistent with the interests and aspirations of Southerners are mistaken.

**Nadia, what do you think about a campaign against Benomar?**

**Abdulla** We, as revolutionary youth, condemn the systematic media campaign against Jamal Benomar because it only serves to hurt the dialogue. The campaign is coming from political factions that have no interest in the NDC's success or the establishment of a modern civil state.

These factions enacted the campaign after they failed to get their way at the NDC. So, they criticize Benomar and hope others will cast their doubts about his neutrality. This is not the first time this has happened. It has been happening since 2011. In our opinion, Benomar has done a lot to enact the change we aspire to achieve, and his presence has many positive aspects.

**So why do you think many are attacking Benomar?**

**Abdulla** I think because Benomar has waited so long to make clear who he thinks are the obstructers of the political process in Yemen, this has allowed them to overstep their roles. We want the GPC to be taking part in politics and learn from what happened to the deposed Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak and his party. Although we have sacrificed many [revolutionary youth that we call] martyrs, we have agreed to participate in a dialogue with the GPC in order to build a new Yemen, hand in hand. Perhaps the GPC's leadership has not yet fully accepted that change that has taken place.

**Al-Madabi said Benomar is responsible for breaking up the army, what do you think?**

**Abdulla** This is nonsense and baseless. Yemenis wanted the army to be restructured because it was polarized and had non-patriotic structures. The president, who is a part of the GPC, addressed the issue. However, the former president's family members, who held senior posts in the army and security institutions, refused to accept the restructuring decisions. In the end, the international community has had to force them to move ahead with the decisions.

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ونتفهم أيضا أن هناك محاولات عديدة لوضع هذا الدور الدولي في مآزق حرجة ووضع بنعمر في مواقف ومهام ليست من صلاحياته.. نحن نعتقد أن هناك قوى تقليدية تريد وضع المؤسسات الدستورية الممثلة في الأخ رئيس الجمهورية في وضع حرج.. ونتطلع إلى أن يستجيب المبعوث الأممي ويتعامل مع كل النوايا الحسنة ويجنب نفسه الوقوع في المآزق الحرجة التي سيدخل نفسه فيها يقوم بصلاحيات ومهام السلطات اليمنية.

**لكن ألا تعتقد أن القيادات السياسية اليمنية هي من تجبر بنعمر على القيام بأدوار ربما ليست من مهامه؟**

نحن في مكون الحراك السلمي المشارك في الحوار نغاني كثيرا من محاولات الوصاية علينا والتفريخ لهيئاتنا السياسية.. نغاني أيضا من محاولات إيجاد هيئات بديلة لنا.. نغاني من محاولة إيجاد طريق تفاوضي آخر غير طريقنا التفاوضي الشرعي، ولكننا مع ذلك نحاول أن يكون خطابنا متماشيا مع المصلحة العليا للشعب في اليمن سواء كان في الشمال أو في الجنوب وأيضا نتعامل مع المستجدات التي نراها تتجاوز البعد السياسي لليمن بأكمله بنوع من الحكمة، وأنا هنا أقول من يعتقد أن

**طبيب هناك من يتساءل.. لماذا في هذا الوقت بالتحديد قلتم عن بنعمر ذلك؟**

لأن ذلك ما نعايشه الآن.. اعتقد أن الرجل أخذته نشوة الإنجاز بعد أن سجل له القيام بأعمال جيدة، ودفعه ذلك إلى تجاوز مهامه والتدخل في شؤون ليست من مهامه، وأن يتعادي في ذلك ويضع اليمن تحت الوصاية.

**هناك من يقول إن حملتكم ضد بنعمر تأتي استباقا لعدم قبولكم على ما تم الاتفاق عليه، كمخرجات لمؤتمر الحوار؟**

لا أحد يستطيع أن يفرض على المؤتمر الشعبي العام القبول بأية قرارات تأتي من خارج اليمن.. والحوار يظل حوار.. يعني أنت تضع شيئ وأنا أضع شيئاً آخر وماتم الاتفاق عليه يمرر وينفذ وما لم نتفق عليه يلغى.. لكن أن تأتي بأطراف دولية لتفرض عليّ مواقف معينة هذا شيء مرفوض.

**هل من الممكن أن توضح لنا ماهو الشيء الذي فرض عليكم أو تعتقد أنه سيفرض عليكم؟**

بيان المؤتمر الشعبي العام الأخير واضح.

**على العكس لم يكن حزب المؤتمر واضحا بدليل بياناته المتناقضة بشأن بنعمر فالبعض يقدر مهمته والآخر يهاجمه.. أو ربما يكون هناك تبادل للأدوار؟**

كل شخص في الحزب له موقف ووجهة نظر معينة، لكن الموقف الرسمي للحزب يصدر عبر بيان.

**وأنا أحدثك عن البيانات وليسبت عن التصريحات التي صدرت من قيادات الحزب؟**

صحيح هناك انتقاد لتدخله في قانون العزل السياسي ومحاولته فرض أجندة معينة، والمؤتمر لن يقبل بذلك على الإطلاق.

**وماذا أيضا؟**

بنعمر مسؤول عن تفكيك الجيش اليمني بسبب تدخله في القرارات التي صدرت بإعادة هيكلته.

**اسمح لي أن أنتقل مرة أخرى إلى خالد بامدهف.. مارأيك فيما طرحه عبد الولي من أن بنعمر يقوم بالمهام التي كان من المفترض أن يقوم بها الزياتي؟**

نحن نعتقد أن بنعمر يسير وفق ما هو مرسوم له في الإشراف على مؤتمر الحوار وفق المسارات القانونية المتاحة له من قبل الأمم المتحدة.. نحن نتفهم هذا الدور

**هذا الكلام موجه لبنعمر؟**

نعم.. القضية بسيطة جدا بنعمر عليه مهام معينة يفترض أن يقوم بها كمبعوث أممي.. لكن اتفاق نقل السلطة اسمه المبادرة الخليجية يعني ينبغي أن يكون الدور الخليجي أكبر فيها وليس الدور الأممي.

**لكن أليست هناك أيضا آلية تنفيذية مزمّنة وهي دولية وبنعمر هو من ينبغي أن يشرف عليها؟**

ليس تنفيذ المبادرة مهمته.

**يعني أنك تقول الآن أن بنعمر سحب البساط على الزياتي واختطف مهمته، إن صح التعبير؟**

هذا شيء واضح، ولا يحتاج مني إلى إبراز دليل أنت تعرف وأنا أعرف والجميع كذلك.

**طبيب هناك من يتساءل.. لماذا في هذا الوقت بالتحديد قلتم عن بنعمر ذلك؟**

لأن ذلك ما نعايشه الآن.. اعتقد أن الرجل أخذته نشوة الإنجاز بعد أن سجل له القيام بأعمال جيدة، ودفعه ذلك إلى تجاوز مهامه والتدخل في شؤون ليست من مهامه، وأن يتعادي في ذلك ويضع اليمن تحت الوصاية.

**هناك من يقول إن حملتكم ضد بنعمر تأتي استباقا لعدم قبولكم على ما تم الاتفاق عليه، كمخرجات لمؤتمر الحوار؟**

لا أحد يستطيع أن يفرض على المؤتمر الشعبي العام القبول بأية قرارات تأتي من خارج اليمن.. والحوار يظل حوار.. يعني أنت تضع شيئ وأنا أضع شيئاً آخر وماتم الاتفاق عليه يمرر وينفذ وما لم نتفق عليه يلغى.. لكن أن تأتي بأطراف دولية لتفرض عليّ مواقف معينة هذا شيء مرفوض.

**هل من الممكن أن توضح لنا ماهو الشيء الذي فرض عليكم أو تعتقد أنه سيفرض عليكم؟**

بيان المؤتمر الشعبي العام الأخير واضح.

**على العكس لم يكن حزب المؤتمر واضحا بدليل بياناته المتناقضة بشأن بنعمر فالبعض يقدر مهمته والآخر يهاجمه.. أو ربما يكون هناك تبادل للأدوار؟**

كل شخص في الحزب له موقف ووجهة نظر معينة، لكن الموقف الرسمي للحزب يصدر عبر بيان.

**وأنا أحدثك عن البيانات وليسبت عن التصريحات التي صدرت من قيادات الحزب؟**

صحيح هناك انتقاد لتدخله في قانون العزل السياسي ومحاولته فرض أجندة معينة، والمؤتمر لن يقبل بذلك على الإطلاق.

**وماذا أيضا؟**

بنعمر مسؤول عن تفكيك الجيش اليمني بسبب تدخله في القرارات التي صدرت بإعادة هيكلته.

**اسمح لي أن أنتقل مرة أخرى إلى خالد بامدهف.. مارأيك فيما طرحه عبد الولي من أن بنعمر يقوم بالمهام التي كان من المفترض أن يقوم بها الزياتي؟**

نحن نعتقد أن بنعمر يسير وفق ما هو مرسوم له في الإشراف على مؤتمر الحوار وفق المسارات القانونية المتاحة له من قبل الأمم المتحدة.. نحن نتفهم هذا الدور

**أبدأ معك خالد بامدهف.. كيف تنظرون أنتم في الحراك الجنوبي إلى الحملة الإعلامية التي يتعرض لها المبعوث الأممي جمال بنعمر؟**

نحن نقدر ما يقوم به إستنادا إلى القرار الدولي (٢٠١٤و (٢٠١١) واستنادا إلى المبادرة الخليجية واليتها التنفيذية المزمّنة.. الواقع إن الأزمة القائمة في اليمن بكل أبعادها تتميز بالتعقيد من نواحي مختلفة وأهمها القضية الجنوبية وقضية صعدة وبناء الدولة، لكننا أيضا نعتقد أن الحضور الخليجي لابد أن يحظى بنوع من الاستجابة لكي تستطيع أن تستوعب تلك القضايا المعقدة في اليمن، كما نعتقد أن الإرادة الدولية الممثلة بدور بنعمر لم تتوافق مع تعقيد الأزمة اليمنية عامة ومع الخصوصية التي تتميز بها القضية الجنوبية وقضية صعدة.

**ربما مسألة التعقيد للأزمة اليمنية أمر متفق عليه، لكن ألا تعتقد أن هناك دواعي لتوقيت الحملة؟**

الحراك السلمي المشارك في الحوار يقدر عاليا الدور الذي يقوم به بنعمر لكننا نؤكد أن دوره بحاجة إلى فضاءات أوسع لكي يتعاطى بشكل موضوعي مع القضايا اليمنية.. الأفق الضيق للمبادرة الخليجية لا تمنح الأخ المبعوث الدولي المرونة الكافية لكي يستوعب كل القضايا العالقة.. ولذلك فقد وضع السيد بنعمر في خيارات محدودة للأسف هذه الخيارات فرضت عليه أن يقوم بأدوار يفترض أن تقوم بها السلطات في اليمن وليس المؤسسة الدولية ممثلة به.

**اسمح لي أن أنتقل إلى عبد الولي المذابي ومدير تحرير صحيفة الميثاق لسنا نحال حزب المؤتمر الشعبي.. هل تتبنون الهجوم الإعلامي ضد المبعوث الأممي لليمن؟**

لا.. ونحن نعتقد أن السيد بنعمر أكثر شخصية دولية حظيت بتبريح واسع في اليمن وربما إنصافا في وسائل الإعلام اليمنية وإعلام حزبنا كان سابقا في هذا الجانب وأعلته ما يستحقه عندما كان يقوم بدور محاييد.. لكن هذا لا يعني أنه إذا تعرض للانتقادات أنها حملة منظمة أو موجهة.. أنا اعتقد أن الرجل ربما تجاوز الدور الذي يفترض أن يقوم به..

**كيف ذلك؟**

لأن المبادرة اسمها المبادرة الخليجية وكان يفترض أن يقوم بدوره الأمين العام لمجلس التعاون الخليجي الدكتور عبد اللطيف الزياتي، لكن بنعمر تجاوز صلاحيات الجميع.. تجاوز حتى مهام رئيس الدولة ورئيس الحكومة.. مثلا في قضية الحرب في دماج صممت الحكومة وتدخل فيها بنعمر بما يجب وبما لايجب.. فضلا عن تدخله في حيثيات الحوار والقضايا الحساسة جدا، وهذا الأمر لايقبل من جميع اليمنيين.

**عموما أنت أنكرت وجود حملة منظمة، لكنك أعترفت بوجود انتقادات حادة لبنعمر في الدور الذي يمثله؟**

صحيح هناك انتقادات لكن ليست رسمية.

**لكن صدر بيان عن حزبكم ينتقد بشدة بعض المهام التي يقوم بها بنعمر؟**

نعم.. ولكن أقول لك شيء إن كنت قد أمتدحتك في أداء مهمتك لايعني أن تتناول وأن تتدخل فيما لايعنيك، لأنني حينها سأنتقدك.





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# Breaking with tradition

When Yemeni women financially contribute to wedding expenses

Story and photo by  
**Amal Al-Yarisi**

The institution of marriage has gone through radical transformations since our ancestors gave up their nomadic wanderings and adopted an agricultural-based lifestyle. What has historically been an economic arrangement and a way to merge properties and tribes in Yemen is increasingly becoming a love arrangement.

Though arranged marriages remain the norm, Yemeni women are proving how far they are willing to go to be with the ones they love, including turning the tradition of a dowry on its head. As more women marry the men they love, they are contributing to wedding costs, a phenomenon unheard of in Yemen until recently.

A year ago, Sabah Al-Khalidi and her then fiancé, Saeed Ali, began furnishing a three-room apartment in the Al-Safia district of Sana'a. The burden was solely Ali's, but Al-Khalidi, a private school teacher, ended up contributing the majority of their home furnishings.

In Yemen, marriage costs, including the wedding ceremony, the couple's future home and new clothes and gifts for the bride, are traditionally paid for by the groom and his family.

According to Ahmed Al-Ghazan, a social researcher at the Sana'a Social Studies Center, dowries in Yemen generally range from YR200,000 (\$930) to YR2 million (\$9,300), barring the extremely poor, extremely wealthy Yemenis paying higher dowry prices for women who

hold citizenship from Western countries.

"Marriage costs have become exorbitant," Al-Khalidi said. "If I did not help my husband with the cost, I would not be married now."

After Al-Khalidi and Ali became engaged, Al-Khalidi's family asked Ali for a YR800,000 (\$3,700) dowry. This did not include the furniture for the home that Ali was expected to finance.

"I could only cover my daily expenses while working in my mobile phone shop," Ali said.

So Al-Khalidi, convinced Ali was the man she wanted to marry, knew she had no choice but to help her fiancé if they were to build their life together.

She began saving her money and before their official wedding she had purchased a bed, a refrigerator and a washing machine for their home.

"I believe married life should be built on cooperation," she said.

While Al-Khalidi said the economic role she played in her engagement was not "shameful," her family and friends were not happy about it. But, Al-Khalidi shrugged the social pressure off.

"It was me who got married, not my family. It is enough that I am happy about my marriage," she said.



Historically wedding expenses have always fallen on the grooms and their families in Yemen. But bleak economic prospects for many young males is allowing space for females to contribute financially to the institution.

While there are no statistics available on how many women are contributing to their dowries, many young persons are reporting it is a slow growing trend.

This is partly chalked up to economic circumstances. According to the World Bank's most recent estimates, youth unemployment hovers at 60 percent and Yemenis are known to marry young, often in their late teens or early 20s—earlier in rural areas. The Working Women's National Committee, part

of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, estimates that 25 percent of Yemeni women work outside the home.

Muna Ali Salam, a private sector employee, receives a monthly salary of YR100,000 (\$500). She married two years ago, after assisting her now-husband with some of their wedding expenses.

"I gave my husband YR400,000 (\$2,000) in order to help him buy me gold without the knowledge of my family," Salam said. "If a woman

loves a man, she does whatever she can to be with him. The woman should help the man if he appreciates her help."

Salam still contributes to household expenses, and says she continues to do so because her husband appreciates it.

A student at Sana'a University studying commerce, Ezat Mahmoud, would like to see marriage norms transform into more equitable economic obligations.

"In such tough economic

circumstances and due to a lack of work opportunities, young men can't meet dowry [costs]," Mahmoud said. He says he looks forward to marrying a woman who is employed and will help him share the burden of funding a wedding.

The institution of marriage and the traditions that come along with it vary from place to place. In Egypt, women are typically expected to contribute to marriage costs and in India women traditionally offer the dowry to men. While things may be slowly changing in some parts of Yemen, rural areas tend to be less receptive to changing traditions than urban hubs like Aden and Sana'a.

But even women who are gainfully employed are not jumping to abandon tradition.

"I make more than YR80,000 [\$375 a month], but I don't want to

contribute to any of my marriage expenses," said Yasmin Ali, a 25-year-old private company employee. She has been engaged for three years and is still waiting for her fiancé to come up with her dowry costs.

She believes that if her fiancé does not pay the full amount it sets a bad precedent.

"He may [then] fall short of providing in the future," she said. "I prefer to purchase jewelry with the salary I receive and save it for rainy days."

## State ministries' complaint boxes lose favor with citizens

Yemenis grow increasingly confident to confront officials

Story and photo by  
**Ali Abulohoom**

Yemen's 2011 uprising and the fall of former President Ali Abdulla Saleh altered Yemen's political landscape, including the politics of "complaint boxes" used in state ministries.

The use of complaint boxes in the majority of ministries dates back to the establishment of their offices in the country. Complaint boxes were created as a mechanism for citizens to provide feedback on government functions in both the form of suggestions and flat out grievances.

But now, the majority of the boxes sit collecting dust, which many attribute to a lack of trust between Yemenis and their public servants in regards to bureaucratic inefficiencies. While some officials recognize that the boxes still invite useful anonymous complaints, they also say post-uprising Yemenis have become increasingly bold in voicing their complaints via other means, including online social networking sites and in person.

"The majority of complaint boxes at ministries or corporations are installed to show that the administration is keen to listen to people and consider their complaints," said Mohammed Al-Hatimi, an employee in the auditing department of the Public Highways Authority. But, times have changed, he said, inviting people to speak their minds in other ways.

A secretary in the office of the Public Corporation of Water and Sanitation, Mohammed Ashraf, says state employees have paid little attention to the complaint boxes



Ministries say they are operating differently since Yemen's 2011 popular uprising and that includes doing away with out-dated practices like complaint boxes.

post 2011. Since then, he said, people have been more inclined to come into the office and challenge officials in person.

Only an estimated 15 percent of Yemenis have access to the Internet. While both Twitter and Facebook feeds are filled with citizens voicing their desires for improved government services—especially towards the Ministry of Electricity—the majority of people still rely on other forms of communication.

However, Hamoud Al-Awlaqi, an employee in the accounting department at the Ministry of Transportation, says complaint boxes are not obsolete yet, offering people a way to be heard in an anonymous fashion.

"The box provides privacy. You can put your complaint in at any time without anyone noticing you,"

he said.

But for people like 50-year-old Sana'ani resident, Mohammed Saleh Al-Raimi, nothing beats an opportunity to confront his government in person.

The man entered the Public Corporation of Water and Sanitation on a recent day, fuming about an incorrect bill. As he scrambled for a piece of paper to write a note to the ministry and shove it in the complaint box, Anwar Al-Khadir, the head of a Public Service Department, approached him. After a brief exchange, Al-Khadir promised to have the corrected bills delivered to Al-Raimi's house in Hasaba.

"I was looking for the complaint box," Al-Raimi said, "But I found a man to listen to me, which feels better than a complaint box."



## إعلان عن فتح باب التنافس لتوريد حقائب قابلات ومواد دعائية

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# World Children's Day in Hodeida

Samar Qaed

Save the Children International Organization, in cooperation with the Tawasul Human Development Foundation, organized a festival last week in Hodeida governorate to celebrate World Children's Day.

Hodeida was selected to host the festival because the governorate has the highest level of child malnutrition in the country, with 32 percent of children in the province being identified as malnourished, according to the latest field survey conducted by UNICEF.

The festival included a children's photo and art exhibition. The Al-Ofuq Band also performed a play during the festival.

Save the Children recently organized several field visits for journalists and members of the Media Network for Advocating Child Issues in Yemen to introduce them to projects, activities and programs they are running in the Al-Tuhita and Bait Al-Faqeeh districts of Hodeida.

Save the Children has carried out several health, nutrition and protection projects in Hodeida, according to the organization. It works with 29 national partners in Yemen, particularly in the fields of children's rights, education, protection, health, water sanitation, hygiene, and food assistance.



An art show at the event emphasized the importance of breastfeeding as a way to reduce child mortality.



Yemen has high levels of child mortality. About 250 children under age five die every day, according to statistics from the Ministry of Public Health and Population.



Save the Children operates in 120 countries worldwide to promote and protect children's rights.



Parents participated in the event by writing down what they think constitutes a childhood right.



On a piece of cloth dubbed, "A fingerprint to Survive," 152 children wrote about the life they would like to be afforded.

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### Tender Invitation

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CLP email: [proc@clp-yemen.com](mailto:proc@clp-yemen.com)





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- Female, BA in Arabic literature, very good written and spoken French/English, seeks to work as a babysitter for a foreign family (Aden or Taiz). 737168816
- An ambitious man, holding BA in English, two years of experience in administration including secretary, translation and coordination, ready to utilize acquired experiences in any vacant position that suits. 770658490
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2 years experience in teaching, good dealing with computer and internet. To contact/ 772663229

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- Bachelor degree in English, experience in teaching and dealing with different levels. Ready for tuitions, low rate and excellent teaching. 713481271.
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experiences, administrative skills, internet skills. esaamhamadi@gmail.com, 739882744

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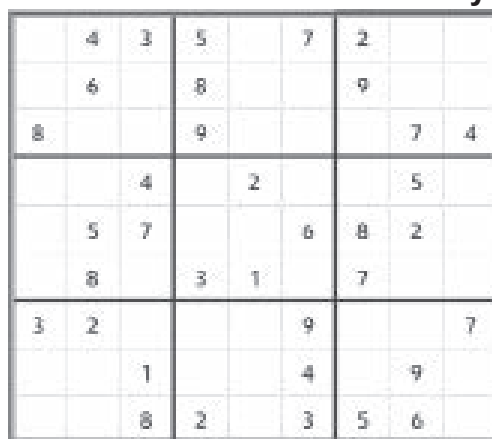
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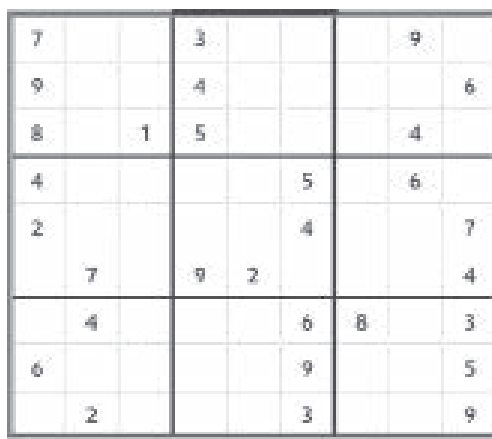


# Coffee Break

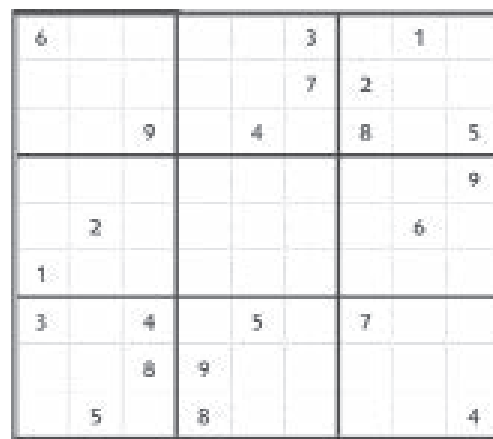
### Sudoku



### Easy

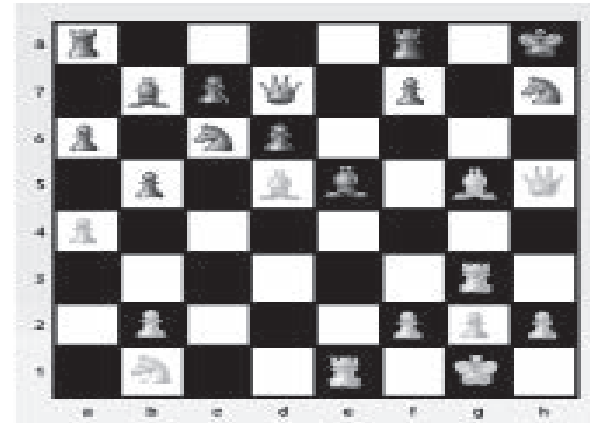


### Intermediate



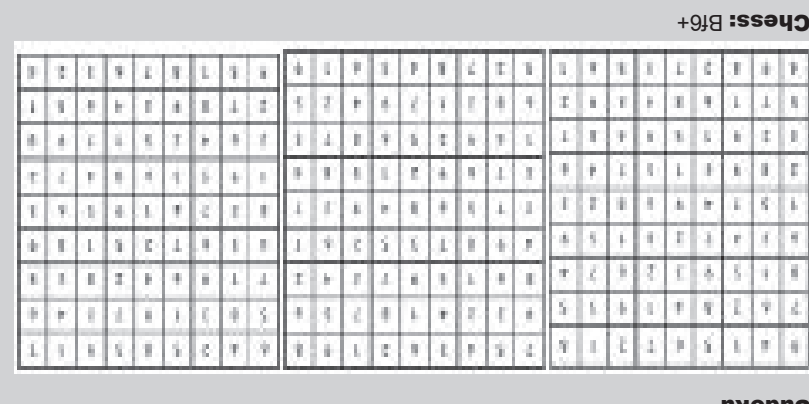
### Difficult

### Chess



White plays and wins in the 4th move

### Solutions



Electricity problems 177, Emergency Police 199, Fire Brigade 191, Water Problems 171, Telephone enquires 118, Accident (Traffic) 194, Foreign Affairs, 202544/7, Interior Affairs 252701/7, Immigration 250761/3, Inter-City Bus Co. 262111/3, Ministry of Communication 325110/1/2/3, Radio Station 282061, Tourism 254032, TV Station 332001/2, Red Crescent 203131/3, Tel-Yemen 7522202, Y.net 7522227

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### TRANSLATIONS

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

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## Water cooperation for a secure world

The good news is that more than 100 of those countries which promote water cooperation in both letter and practice also enjoy peaceful and secure relationships with their neighbouring countries. Water and peace are interdependent.

Nonetheless, and despite the growing international consensus in the international community on the significance of water as an instrument of cooperation (as reflected in the U.N.'s designation of 2013 as the Year of Water Cooperation), many analysts continue to project water as a source of potential conflict. It is true that lakes, rivers and glaciers around the world are shrinking. Growing pressures of population, economic growth, urbanisation, climate change and deforestation can further deplete water resources, thus causing social and economic upheavals, but this need not be so.

Active water cooperation can help overcome environmental challenges and usher in a new era of peace, trust and security. Beyond the essential legal agreements, active cooperation also requires sustained institutions of trans-boundary cooperation; joint investment programmes; collective management of water related infrastructure; a system for regularly and jointly monitoring water flows together with a shared vision of the best allocation of water resources between agriculture and other sectors; and, a forum for frequent interaction between top decision makers. An institutional infrastructure should enable political leaders to discuss exchanges between water and other public goods such as transit, national security or large public works. The underlying emphasis must be placed on harnessing the benefits of a river, rather than on squabbling about the

shares of depleting flows.

The new Strategic Foresight Group report introduces the Water Cooperation Quotient (WCQ) which measures the effectiveness and intensity of trans-boundary cooperation in water using the parameters mentioned above. The 37 countries that face the risk of war happen to have a WCQ below 33.33 in value.

Many parts of the world witness active water cooperation between riparian countries. In the Senegal River basin in West Africa, an autonomous body which is independent from any state owns the dams. In Latin America, the waters of Lake Titicaca are considered joint and indivisible by Peru and Bolivia. In the Mekong basin, flow data is harmonized among the lower riparian countries, while the upper riparian countries, China and Myanmar, are dialogue partners. The Rhine, Danube and Sava River basins, as well as Lake Constance in Europe and the Colorado River between the United States and Mexico are all jointly managed on a daily basis. These countries all enjoy peaceful and stable relations.

The benefits of active water cooperation, both in terms of economic growth and in previously unknown levels of peace, as evidenced in both the developed and parts of the developing world such as Central America, West Africa, and South-east Asia should not be denied to West Asia or other regions. Such cooperation however is premised on an intellectual framework for cooperation, rather than confrontation, or the "Blue Peace way of thinking" where water is seen as an instrument of collaboration rather than a cause of crisis.

We have together developed the Blue Peace approach, in a process

supported by the Swiss and Swedish governments over the last three and half years. It entails the development of a community of political leaders, parliamentarians, government officials, media leaders, and experts from regions facing political discord, to encourage the use of water to promote peace and the protection and enhancement of the human environment. Such a community can pave the way in establishing regional cooperation councils for the sustainable management of trans-boundary waters to facilitate joint monitoring of water flows; to harmonise standards to measure water and climate indicators; to negotiate joint investment plans in water related large projects; and, to discuss exchanges between water and other public goods. This can result in the improvement of the WCQ to a level higher than 33.33 in Asia and Africa. Indeed we urge all countries to use the WCQ to assess their own performance with regards to their cooperation with neighbours and thereby to enhance the prospects of peace and security for themselves.

It is our profound hope that together we can begin the process of implementing the Blue Peace framework across the world by crafting institutional instruments, globally acceptable legal regimes, dialogue mechanisms and a worldwide Blue Peace network. If we take a few steps in this direction this year, the proclamation of 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation will prove to be meaningful.

HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal is the chair of the U.N. Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. Sundeep Waslekar is the president of Strategic Foresight Group.

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