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**Navigating the global demand:** Water is the root cause of growing conflicts worldwide, especially in dry, arid nations like Yemen. At a conference held last week in Jordan, experts and politicians gathered to discuss plans on how to more effectively share water resources in regions like the Middle East. *Read more on Page 8*

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## Motorbike ban goes into effect, causes backlash from cyclists

**Officials say ban is temporarily being enforced, to be re-evaluated in two weeks**

**Nasser Al-Sakkaf**  
SANA'A, Dec. 2 — A two-week long ban on motorbikes in the capital city went into effect on Sunday in order to curb hit-and-run attacks and targeted shootings, Yemen's Interior Ministry announced.  
The ban, praised by many, has also triggered an angry reaction from motorcyclists who say their bikes—used for transporting passengers—is their only means to make a living.  
Mohammed Al-Mawiri, the ministry's spokesperson, said the tem-

porary ban on motorbikes is part of a pilot program to evaluate the security situation in Sana'a. The ban comes amid increases in the number of assassinations of security and military officers over the past two months. A majority of the assassinations including the recent killing of parliamentarian and National Dialogue Conference (NDC) Houthi representative, Abdulkareem Jadbani, were committed by assailants on motorcycles.  
*Continued on page 2*

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## HRW says Yemen must investigate the use of antipersonnel landmines by the Republican Guard

**Rammah Al-Jubari**

SANAA, Dec. 2—Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called on the Yemeni government to investigate the use of antipersonnel landmines that were reportedly planted in 2011 by the now-dissolved Republican Guard, formerly commanded by Ahmed Ali Abdulla Saleh, son of former president Ali Abdulla Saleh.

In the opening of an annual meeting on the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty held in Geneva, Switzerland, HRW said the office of Yemen's Prime Minister released a statement in November 2013, admitting that there was a violation of the landmine ban treaty during the nation's 2011 uprising, which led to the ousting of Saleh.

In a press release, the organization said the Yemeni government admitted to the violation following reports from various rights groups, accusing Yemen of the violation. A

report issued by HRW said Republican Guard forces stationed on Al-Sama Mountain in Bani Jarmouz, outside Sana'a planted thousands of landmines.

The deputy head of the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC), Ali Abdurqaeb, told the Yemen Times that the center prepared a comprehensive mine awareness plan to go into effect in 2014 for all areas still affected by remaining landmines.

Abdurqaeb said their job is to remove landmines and clear areas, not to identify who was responsible for their placement so he offered not comment on the HRW report.

According to HRW, 162 people, including 110 children, died in Yemen during the first six months of 2012 as a result of land mine related deaths and injuries.

Yemen was among the first countries to sign the 1997 global treaty banning the using of antipersonnel landmines.



**Fawaz Mohsin Saleh Husn Al-Jarmoozi, 9, lost his leg after stepping on a landmine on April 12, 2013.**

## Local sheikh and six others killed at security checkpoint in Sayoun

**Soldiers say sheikh refused to surrender weapons**

**Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

SANAA, Dec. 2—Seven were killed, including a prominent area sheikh, and four wounded in armed clashes that broke out on Monday morning between area tribesmen and security personnel in a government checkpoint positioned in the western entrance of Sayoun city in Hadramout governorate, according to officials.

The officials said shots were fired after soldiers at the checkpoint tried to prevent Sheikh Sad Bin Harish, the head of Hadramout's tribal federation in Sayoun, and his escorts from entering the city while carrying weapons.

In addition to Bin Harish, three soldiers and three of the sheikh's guards were killed in the fighting. Of the injured, two were soldiers and two were bodyguards.

Although Col. Hussein Hashim, Sayoun's Security Chief, says the deaths were unintentional, he defended the security forces actions saying they city is trying to implement a security campaign to prevent weapons carrying.

According to the colonel, Bin Harbish opened fire first after the soldiers tried to confiscate his weapons.

"The weapons carrying ban will



be implemented equally for all people," he said.

Local Sayoun journalist, Ameen Barufid, said he believes security forces need to be applying the ban equally to everyone in the area, but he is afraid the incident may lead to further tribal run ins with the law as Bin Harbish's supporters try to revenge his death.

The sheikh's death comes at a time that Hashim says his team is struggling with overall security in the area and daily clashes are taking place between government troops and suspected Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) af-

filiates.

"Sayoun and several areas of Hadramout experience intense security movement and residents are afraid of clashes," Barufid said. "Al-Shehr, Sayoun, Mukalla and Ghail Bawzeer cities are the most unstable areas and some residents are leaving those areas for others."

On Sunday, Col. Ahmed Hussein Al-Marfadi, the deputy head of the Technical Affairs for the 37 Armored Brigade in Al-Qatan city in Hadramout, was assassinated by unidentified gunmen in the city's center near the hospital, accord-

ing to Col. Mansour Al-Kokabani, the head of the 37 Armored Brigade.

Elsewhere in the governorate, in the city of Al-Shehr, residents are still under a government-imposed 9:00 p.m. curfew to 6:00 a.m. after security forces stormed the city almost two weeks ago in a campaign that they said was to clamp down on a flourishing AQAP population in the area.

However, the Interior Ministry later admitted that innocent persons, including women and children were arrested in the siege and later released.

## Cold wave hits Yemen's highlands

**Cold temperatures expected to continue, meteorologists warn**

**Ali Saeed**

SANAA, Dec. 2—The National Meteorological Center said Monday that a cold wave that began on Saturday is going to continue into the week.

The coldest temperature over the course of the past two days was recorded in Amran governorate at negative two degrees Celsius, according to the Yemen Meteorological Service. In Sana'a and Sa'ada the service said the low was three degrees, two degrees in Dhamar and five degrees in Ibb.

"This cold wave is expected to continue in Sa'ada, Amran, Sana'a, Dhamar, Amran, Al-Beida'a and some parts of Ibb and Al-Dhale," said Rasheed Al-Ariqi, the head of the Weather Forecast Unit at the Meteorological Service.

He added that low temperatures in the highlands will continue to hover between zero and five degrees Celsius.

Al-Ariqi denied media reports

that parts of Yemen's central governorates had experienced snow, saying that the weather was mistaken for hail.

"[There was small storms of] hail in Bani Mater," an area 60 km. west of Sana'a," Al-Ariqi said.

The meteorologist added that the cold air was a combination of fronts coming from the Northern Arabian Peninsula and another one entering from the east.

The Meteorological Service in Sana'a has advised those living in the highlands to dress warmly. The service warned farmers to prepare for the dropping temperatures and to take precautions to protect their crops.

Dhamar Farmer Abdulmoghni Saleh said the cold has affected his area earlier this year than last year. As a result, both his potato and tomato crops have been damaged. He said he and other farmers in his area have been covering their fields with any materials they can find, including clothing items.

"Not only my farms, but the farms of several others have been devastated," he said.

### ADVERTORIAL

On Dec. 2, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) marked its National Day, celebrating 42 years since the UAE's establishment. The seven emirates formed a federation, working together to bring development and prosperity to the region. The federation was led by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and is led today by his son, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The UAE government's commitment to upholding all rights and freedoms for its citizens and other residents has led to the state becoming what has been described as "a paradise for citizens and others. All live in peace in a tolerant community that is free from segregation and injustice."

In the 42 years since its establishment, the UAE's GDP has grown more than 200 times, from \$1.77 billion in 1971 to \$360 billion in 2012. It ranked first among Arab

countries and 26th globally in the 2013 Doing Business report.

In addition to its economic health, the UAE has succeeded in promoting dialogue and conflict resolution in the region and the international community, including in Yemen—where it is a sponsor of the GCC Initiative and its roadmap for the transitional period.



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Continued from page 1

## Motorbike ban goes into effect, causes backlash from cyclists

"After this pilot period, we will make decisions regarding the ban of motorbikes in the capital city," Al-Mawiri said, adding that the current ban "is not a final solution."

Al-Mawiri said motorcyclists are ideal for quick escapes, making them dangerous for the current security situation.

Over 30,000 motorbikes are estimated to be in use in Sana'a, Al-Mawiri said.

The first day the ban went into effect, police announced they had confiscated roughly 500 unlicensed bikes.

Over the past two months, armed gunmen on bikes have targeted several people in Sana'a, including Jadban, Col. Ahmed Al-Jahdari, the director of training department in the police academy and two Belarusian military contractors, one of which survived the shooting.

Before the ban went into effect, on Saturday, hun-

dreds of motorbikers demonstrated against the decision near President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi's residence. As the motorcyclists neared the residence, riot police used a water cannon and tear gas to disperse them.

One of those motorcyclist, Mohammed Muheeb, said he was beaten by the riot police with a baton.

"I basically rely on my motorbike to earn a living. I have no other means of income. I have registered my motorbike, and there is no justification for preventing me from work," Muheeb said.

He went on to say, "If other people use motorbikes for assassinations, the state should be able to find a solution other than a general ban."

Majed Ali, another motorcyclist who hopes protests will earn them public support, said he and fellow cyclists are getting ready to stage another protest in the coming days.

Political analyst Abdulsalam Mohammed de-

scribed the ban on motorbikes as an important step to assess the country's security situation.

"It is dangerous that assassinations increase day by day at a time the government does nothing to stop it," he said.

A report published by the Ministry of Interior in 2012 states that motorbikes were used to assassinate 40 security personnel that year, including an Iraqi general who was working as an advisor at Yemen's Defense Ministry. The report also says four civilians were killed by armed motorbikers.

In a separate report from Sana'a's Traffic Department, it says traffic accidents caused by motorbikes left 200 dead and 1,150 injured in 2012.

This is not the first time the government has tried to place a ban on the use of motorbikes. In late November 2012, the Yemeni government issued a decree to ban motorbikes in large cities from 7 p.m. until 6 a.m. However, the regulation went largely ignored.

# 'Handcuffs Must Break' campaign: Free Yemen's revolutionary detainees

Photo courtesy of Handcuffs Must Break campaign



Activists are continuing to call for the release of persons detained during Yemen's 2011 uprising who have not been charged with crimes.

## Rammah Al-Jubari

The "Handcuffs Must Break" campaign is continuing to organize awareness festivals and protests in a bid to increase pressure on the government to release detained revolutionaries still imprisoned from 2011.

Interim President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi issued orders in late 2012 to suspend the trial of a group of detainees being held in Hajja governorate. Later, the case was put on the agenda of the Transitional Justice Working Group at the Na-

tional Dialogue Conference (NDC). However, Hadi retracted his orders after being handed in the general prosecutor's report. The detainees' trial resumed in the middle of this month.

Campaign participants, which include human rights activists and NDC members, have visited 19 revolutionary detainees in Hajja Central Prison, 126 kilometers to the west of the capital Sana'a.

The 19 prisoners were arrested by security forces during the breakout of Yemen's 2011 anti-government uprising.

Campaign participants also vis-

ited Sana'a Central Prison, where five youth revolutionaries are incarcerated.

Security forces under Yemen's former government, headed by Ali Abdulla Saleh, accused the five revolutionaries of involvement in the Al-Nahdain incident in which the former president and his aides were targeted in a bombing at the Al-Nahdain Mosque on the presidential compound in June 2011.

Other campaign delegates recently headed to Taiz Central Prison where Mahir Al-Maqtari is being held under charges that he killed a soldier during a 2011 protest in the

city of Taiz.

"The campaign aims secure an immediate release of detainees. They are not charged with anything but malicious charges by the former regime due to their participation in the revolution," said Abdulkareem Thu'ail, the head of the General Council of the Revolutionary Abducted Youth. "The campaign will not stop until the detainees are released."

"They are held under ambiguous charges," he added.

Yemen's Human Rights Ministry has endorsed the campaign and called for fair trials.

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"We don't want the revolutionary youth to be acquitted if they are criminals. We want them to be either convicted with evidences or released," Thu'ail said.

According to rights' groups, more than an estimated 3,000 revolutionary youth were arrested during the 2011 uprising, which spilled over into the beginning of 2012.

The campaign says the vast majority were later released except for the 19 still being held in Hajja,

the five in Sana'a Central Prison, the prisoner in Taiz and six others scattered in different intelligence bureau prisons.

Khalid Al-Jahshari, one of the detainees in Hajja, told the Yemen Times via a Facebook message from inside the prison that he is charged with a crime he did not commit.

"I thought I would leave the prison two or three days [after I was arrested]. I never thought I would be on trial for this crime," he said.

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# Young leadership Children's Cabinet sets the stage for adolescent voices in Yemen

Story and photo by Ali Abulohoom

Yemeni children officially received a new set of sanctioned voices on Nov. 20 when the nation's Cabinet recognized the two-month-old Children's Cabinet, a non-governmental group created by the Social and Developmental Service Foundation for Child Care.

Although the new group will not receive funding from the government's Cabinet, it will work closely with law makers to draw attention to some of Yemen's most pressing issues, including child marriage, child soldiers and adolescent homelessness.

"I am optimistic and confident that we will achieve our mission," said 15-year-old Amat Allah Hassan, who was appointed as the prime minister of the group.

The group is modeled after a government organization and includes 31 ministerial positions that promising childhood leaders were appointed to by a panel in the Social and Developmental Service Foundation.

All of the Children's Cabinet's 1,150 members were initially recommended by teachers in Sana'a and then chosen by the foundation based on their "oral speaking abilities, persuasiveness and aptitude." All members are age eight to 18.

The foundation has high hopes for the organization under Hassan's leadership.

"[Hassan] amazed the panel with her plans and ambitions to resolve childhood issues in Yemen," Fadhil Al-Musalami, the head of the foundation, said. "She spoke like an educated adult, not a child."

Since its establishment two months ago, the childhood organization proudly says they have held two activities. They provided and distributed 100 sets of clothes for the Orphanage House in Sana'a and 100 toys for the Child Cancer Center.

Currently, Hassan says she is focusing her efforts on an agreement with the Health Ministry for a project to get needy children free health care in public hospitals in Sana'a.

The organization is also taking on a diplomatic role.

"The Children's Cabinet contacted the Iraqi consulate to negotiate the release of a Yemeni child who has been detained in a Iraqi prison for five years after he was accused of illegally crossing onto Iraqi lands," Hassan said. According to preliminary negotiations, Hassan said Iraq has agreed to return the child to Yemen.

Now that Yemen's Cabinet has officially recognized its childhood counterpart, the organization is eligible to directly contact ministers to request collaboration and support for their projects.

"I thought they are members of the real Cabinet and had replaced the current reconciliatory Cabinet," said Ahmed Al-Kawkbani, a 32-year-old Arabic teacher at a school



Participants in the Children's Cabinet were initially selected by their school teachers based on their leadership qualities.

in Sana'a, praising the group after he saw a broadcast of one of their meetings on a local channel.

The establishment of the organization is not without critics. Essam Al-Sabri, a 32-year-old member of the Socialist Party thinks that the creation of such entities just distracts from the poor job the actual government is doing. She said, "the current government is failing," but enthusiasm from the children can

overshadow that.

Al-Musalami acknowledged such criticisms but said they have to move ahead despite Yemen's current tumultuous political situation.

"We...will prove that we are an independent body and aren't supported by any [political party]," he said.

Other participants are excited about what is in store for the group, which meets up to two times a week

depending on what is being discussed at the time.

While the Children's Cabinet—still in its infancy stages—is currently comprised of members from Sana'a, they say they will be visiting other governorates to recruit leaders so the organization is representing all Yemenis.

In the meantime, current members say they are busy working on projects.

As the appointed Minister of Culture, Hanin Al-Qersh, a 16-year-old eleventh grade student in the Nusiba Bint Ka'ab School in Sana'a, said she is coordinating with the government and external donors to try to incorporate the arts into schools and independent institutions.

"We only aim to serve the country and Yemen's children," said Al-Musalami.

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U.S. Middle East Partnership Initiative

**MEPI**

The U.S. Department of State  
Middle East Partnership Initiative

Announces the  
**Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program**

The U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and AMIDEAST are pleased to announce this year's recruitment for the Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program. The Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program is a MEPI initiative for capable and highly motivated high school seniors or recent graduates in the Middle East and North Africa who are from underserved backgrounds. The program will provide four-year university scholarships and internship opportunities at select institutions of higher learning in the Middle East to students who have the potential to become leaders.

Eligible students include men and women who represent the region's cultural, religious, and geographic diversity and are from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, who could otherwise gain admission to, but would be unable to afford, four years of college. Tomorrow's Leaders scholarship recipients should be prepared to begin the program in the Fall 2014 term.

The primary objective of the MEPI's Tomorrow's Leaders scholarship program is to build a cadre of university-age leaders who are civic-minded, intellectually able, and professionally skilled, who will become the community, business, and national leaders of the future. The program intends to nurture leadership skills and the spirit of civic engagement and volunteerism among outstanding university-age students at the American University of Beirut, the American University in Cairo, and the Lebanese American University. Selected students will join the 165 Tomorrow's Leaders already studying at these universities.

Scholarship recipients may pursue an eligible undergraduate degree in a selected field at one of the three host institutions. In addition to their studies, recipients will be expected to engage in community service activities and participate in internships. Limited English-language training will be provided for some participants.

Participation in the program includes: travel, academic fees for four years of university at AUB, AUC, or LAU, a study abroad experience in the U.S., accident and sickness insurance, housing, and a monthly allowance during the school year.

**Eligibility:**

- Current high school senior or applicant who graduated from high school in 2013;
- A citizen or national of Yemen and those qualified to hold a valid Yemeni passport - individuals holding dual U.S./Yemeni citizenship or permanent residency are ineligible;
- Strong academic credentials;
- Proficiency in written and spoken English with a minimum Institutional TOEFL (ITP) score of 490 (or equivalent on a similar test) that is less than two years old - if you do not have a valid TOEFL score, contact AMIDEAST for test scheduling;
- Displays maturity, flexibility and leadership potential;
- Ability to start the program in August/September of 2014.

**Deadline for application submission is December 31, 2013.**

Further information is available at [amideast.org/tl](http://amideast.org/tl) or [amideast.org/yemen](http://amideast.org/yemen). Information about the Middle East Partnership Initiative is available online at [mepi.state.gov](http://mepi.state.gov).

**Questions? Contact us!**

In or near SANA'A - Entelak Al-Absi: [scholarships-sanaa@amideast.org](mailto:scholarships-sanaa@amideast.org) or 01-400-279/280/281  
In or near ADEN - Fatima Guhan: [scholarships-aden@amideast.org](mailto:scholarships-aden@amideast.org) or 02-235-069/070/071

AMIDEAST  
AMIDEAST

# Carrying out a death sentence 'We are soldiers, we are used to such things'

**With the sixth highest rate of executions in the world, according to Amnesty International, Yemen has made international headlines for its capital punishment policies. The Yemen Times spoke to three executioners from three different governorates. What leads these men down a path of state-sanctioned killing?**

**Samar Qaed**

**T**all and athletically-built, 30-year-old Talal Al-Talibi is the colleague that coworkers say enters the room and effortlessly lifts their spirits. With slicked-back hair and welcoming brown eyes, he pals around with other staff at Sana'a Central Prison, sipping tea and waiting for orders in his crisp, green military uniform.

Lively and always with an easy smile, Al-Talibi and his buddies—soldiers guarding the prison—would not appear out of place at any local shisha café.

But now duty calls. An inmate is led to the courtyard of the city's main prison, passing by the family and friends of the two men he is accused of killing. The man briefly bids farewell to his own family, who are also present, and performs the last prayer of his life before his impending execution.

A doctor draws a red circle on the inmate's back to mark the location of his heart as Al-Talibi watches.

The man is ordered to lay on his stomach on a blanket so that he can be wrapped up after the deed is done. He is not blindfolded.

Al-Talibi approaches the eldest from each of the victims' families, giving them the opportunity to accept an offering of blood money

instead of the state-sanctioned execution.

"We would not forgive him for all the treasure in the world," said an elderly male relative of one of the victims.

That is Al-Talibi cue to move ahead. He asks the condemned to repeat the Shahada, the Islamic profession of faith.

"There is no God but God and Mohammed is his messenger," the condemned man recites.

Al-Talibi shoots twice into the air and then aims at the man's heart, lodging several bullets into his body. Al-Talibi's work is now done. The executed man's body is wrapped in the blanket and given to his family.

Al-Talibi is the sole executioner in Sana'a, Yemen's capital. The man who Al-Talibi executed today had been a soldier with the Central Security Forces. During a heated disagreement at a checkpoint, the man shot dead two of his colleagues. This day was the man's state-imposed day of reckoning and just like hundreds before him, Al-Talibi was one of the few witnesses to it.

While Al-Talibi's fellow colleagues at the prison praise him, they admit his job is one few would ever be able to do. They, like countless others, wonder out loud how someone deals with a profession so clearly aligned with death.

"In this country, everything is

inherited, even a profession," Al-Talibi said.

## Like father, like son

Al-Talibi's father was the sole executioner for Sana'a Central Prison for over 40 years. Al-Talibi remembers walking home from school one day and seeing a large crowd gathered in an open square, where executions were held before being relegated to prison grounds.

He spotted his father and ran up to greet him. The elder Al-Talibi sent him home, but the son hid in the bushes. After witnessing his father execute an inmate, Al-Talibi left his hiding spot and went up to him.

"I saw what you did, and I liked it," he told his father, who laughed and gave him YR200, about \$17 in those days. From then on, the son began accompanying his father to every execution, carrying his father's rifle for him.

When Al-Talibi's father died in 2004, there was no one to replace him. Soon afterwards, a death sentence was handed out to an inmate, but none of the soldiers at the prison would agree to step in as the executioner. Despite having a degree in accounting from Sana'a University, Al-Talibi approached the prison administration and asked to perform the execution.

"I was 24-years-old at the time. The prison director was impressed by my determination," he said.

Al-Talibi's father had taught him to shoot at an early age so he quickly passed the prison's shooting accuracy test.

"I used to watch my father, and remember how he would shoot fearlessly. I wanted to follow his lead," Al-Talibi said.

In his eight years of work as an ex-



ecutioner, Al-Talibi easily recounts the 179 prisoners, including three women, he has killed in the name of the state. In the course, he has managed to convince the families of victims to forgive 13 prisoners and pardon their execution orders.

Unlike many executioners worldwide, Al-Talibi does not cover his face while performing his job. He says he has nothing to hide.

"If they want to come after me, it wouldn't be hard, they know where I live," he said. "My car was set on fire three times. I'm just doing my job, but many people don't understand that."

## I can't kill my friend

Yahia Al-Dailmi, 64, is the sole executioner in Hajja governorate and has been for the past 35 years.

Twelve-years-ago, he received some unexpected execution orders. His close friend, who had killed Al-Dailmi's cousin, was sentenced to death. The three involved parties had been close friends since childhood. They were neighbors and often played and even ate together growing up.

Decades later, the condemned

and Al-Dailmi's cousin were having dinner when they found themselves in the middle of a heated argument that turned deadly. The friend shot Al-Dailmi's cousin and killed him.

"I threw the rifle on the ground and refused to carry out the execution of my friend, but he begged me to do it," Al-Dailmi said.

Al-Dailmi's wife, Taqia, says she believes the man didn't trust anyone else to kill him and so Al-Dailmi followed orders.

Unlike Al-Talibi, Al-Dailmi stumbled upon his career.

After witnessing an execution that he says was being carried out improperly, Al-Dailmi's wife explains her husband was drawn to the profession.

"He rushed to the executioner and told him to either execute the prisoner properly or to let him do it. He carried out that execution and has been doing it ever since," she said.

The couple has been married for 25 years. Taqia was 14 and Yahia was 39 when they married.

There is no current law in Yemen that sets a minimum age for marriage. The Human Rights Ministry

as well as delegates from the National Dialogue Conference are pushing for a law that sets a minimum age, but they are being met with opposition from various groups.

Even at her young age, Taqia smiles as she remembers the day she was told she would be married to an executioner.

"I didn't sleep for days before the wedding, complaining to everyone who would listen to me that my family was giving me to the angel of death," she joked.

"I didn't expect him to be so kind."

In Hajja, Al-Dailmi is known as a pious man, with a reputation for assisting the poor through pro-bono legal work.

He is the same man who has executed 320 inmates.

## Fighting with people

Mohammed Al-Mohamadi is the head of the execution department in Taiz, where he leads a five-person firing squad at Taiz Prison. Unlike Al-Dailmi, Al-Mohamadi cannot shake his association with death. Prisoners and fellow soldiers say they have a hard time saying his name without having a pit grow in their stomachs.

Al-Mohamadi is used to defending his work.

"They wonder how we function normally after executing prisoners. We are soldiers, we are used to such things," he said. "I enjoy seeing how people fear me and how they whisper my name."

Al-Mohamadi has been carrying out executions since 1996. At 48-years-old, he has executed 96 prisoners and has "saved the lives" of 20 by persuading the families to accept blood money in exchange for the condemned's death.



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# How far has Yemen c

Yemen has had its fair share of government transitions, revolutions and the redrawing of borders. From the overthrowing of the imamate to the most recent marking—on Nov. 30—of the return of Aden Port to Yemen's hands from British colonial rule, history is constantly changing in the southern Arabian nation. Follow the time line below to keep up.

**Nadia Al-Sakkaf and  
Nasser Al-Sakkaf**

**1946**

The first wireless station in North Yemen, which gifted from the American army to the Yemeni army, is established. The station becomes a public radio covering Sana'a and broadcasting two days per month

**1962**

Revolution in the North against the imamate rule breaks out. A new nation called the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) is formed with Abdullah Al-Salal as president



The YAR radio station goes national. The next year a local station in Taiz follows and another in Hodeida seven years later

**1967**

After the British leave South Yemen, Qahtan Al-Shabi becomes president of the new nation



Judge Abdulrahman Al-Eryani takes over as president of the YAR after a military coup



**1970**

The first public universities are established separately in both Sana'a and Aden.



**1974**

Ibrahim Al-Hamdi takes over as president of the YAR after a peaceful coup and the resignation of former President Eryani.



**1975**

All public electricity companies are merged into the National Electricity Corporation in the North, which establishes three local stations for power production in Sana'a, Taiz and Hodeida

**1977**

Ahmed Al-Ghashmi takes over as president of the YAR following a military coup and the assassination of Al-Hamdi



**1981**

Ali Nasser Mohammed returns as the head of People's Higher Council of the PDRY

**1983**

Ali Abdulla Saleh is reelected president of the YAR and is elected the higher commander of the Armed Forces by the People's Founding Council

**1962**

**1970**

**1980**

**1955**

Following a five-year suspension, the only radio station in the North recommences broadcasting and increases its coverage to an hour every day

**1964**

The first TV channel is established in the PDRY in Aden

**1969**

Salem Rubaie Ali takes over as president of the presidential council in the PDRY



**1968**

The first print law in the YAR goes into effect, which regulates journalism



**1967**

Telecommunication services become publically accessible in South Yemen



**1978**

Abdulkarim Al-Arashi takes over as president of the YAR through a military coup and the assassination of former President Al-Ghashmi



Ali Abdulla Saleh takes over as president of the YAR after the resignation of Al-Arashi



**1982**

The strongest earthquake ever in Yemen hits Dhamar governorate. It measures 6 points on the Richter scale. Around 3,000 are killed and 1,500 injured

The first telephone booth capable of making international calls is established in North Yemen



**1978**

Ali Nasser Mohammed takes over as president of the presidential council in the PDRY for less than six months. Later that year, Abdulfattah Islamil becomes president



Three French companies are contracted to install 26,500 phone landlines in North Yemen

# ome?

**1988**

Armed forces of both North and South Yemen withdraw from the border between the two countries. The same year, the two nations agree to withdraw passport requirements for citizens of the two bordering countries

Ali Abdulla Saleh is reelected as president of the YAR and the higher commander of the Armed Forces

**1993**

The first parliamentary elections are held in Yemen



The first known and publicized tribal kidnapping of a foreign diplomat takes place.

**1995**

Yemeni channels are now broadcast via satellite

**1989**

For the first time, the Yemeni Socialist Party—the ruling party in PDRY—allows opposition groups to create political parties. The Nasserite Unionist Organization becomes the first opposition party in South Yemen

**1996**

The first fiber optic under-sea cable is constructed, connecting Yemen and Djibouti

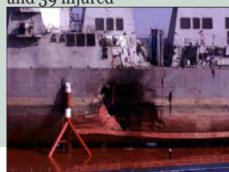
The Internet is made available in Yemen via Yemennet and the Public Telecommunication Company

**1999**

The first presidential direct elections are held in Yemen and won by Ali Abdulla Saleh

**2000**

The USS Cole is bombed by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in Yemeni waters. Seventeen American soldiers are killed and 39 injured



A bomb explodes at the British embassy. Four Yemenis are later jailed for the crime saying they carried out the attack in solidarity with Palestine

**2001**

Yemen's first mobile companies open, Sabafon and Spacetel

**2002**

The first U.S. drone strike takes place in Yemen



**2006**

President Saleh beats Joint Meeting Parties candidate Faisal Bin Shamlan in presidential elections



**2007**

The Hirak movement forms in Southern Yemen



**2010**

Yemeni authorities launch a major offensive in Lawdar in Abyan governorate against believed AQAP militants who took over control of the town. Thousands are displaced



**2011**

What is coined Yemen's version of the Arab Spring breaks out. Thousands of protestors are killed in daily demonstrations against the 33-year rule of President Saleh.



In November a deal is signed known as the Gulf Council Countries (GCC) Initiative in which Saleh steps down, allowing for a two-year transition of power

An assassination attempt is made on Saleh's life

AQAP takes over Zinjibar in Abyan



Yemeni human rights activist Tawakul Karman is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize



1990

2000

2010

**1986**

A new government is formed in the South after thousands die in political, armed clashes. President Ali Nasser Muhammad flees the country and is later sentenced to death for treason

Ali Salem Al-Beidh becomes president of the PDRY and Aidar Al-Attas becomes the prime minister



**1991**

Saudi Arabia evicts hundreds of thousands of Yemenis from the country because of Yemen's pro-Iraq stance following the breakout of the Gulf War in 1990. Yemen loses an estimated \$8 billion dollars in remittances

**1990**

A Yemeni unity agreement is signed in Aden between the North and the South. The Republic of Yemen is created with Ali Abdulla Saleh as president



**1994**

A civil war between the North and the South takes place. An estimated 1,000 soldiers and civilians are killed and 5,000 wounded



Ali Abdulla Saleh is reelected as the president of Republic of Yemen by the Parliament post the civil war

**1997**

Parliamentary elections are held. A majority of seats go to the General People's Congress—Saleh's ruling party—followed by the Islah Party

**2005**

36 civilians die in clashes between police and protestors of a nationwide fuel price hike



**2004**

The first of the six Sa'ada wars breaks out between the government and Houthi militants. The death of the leader of the Houthi movement in the North, Hussein Al-Houthi, at the hands of state security sparks the war



**2003**

Parliamentary elections are swept by a GPC majority

**2009**

The government releases 176 imprisoned persons accused of AQAP ties for what the government calls good behavior

A U.S. drone strike in Shabwa kills several suspected AQAP affiliates including the controversial, American citizen, Anwar Al-Awlaki

**2013**

The GCC-stipulated National Dialogue Conference begins. Its goals is to write a new constitution and redefine the shape of Yemen's state



**2012**

Consensus presidential elections are held with former Vice President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi as the only candidate in accordance to an agreement made in the GCC Initiative



**2008**

An attack on the American embassy in Sana'a leaves 19 dead and 16 injured

A terrorist attack claims the lives of an estimated 100 soldiers during a parade rehearsal in Sabeen Park in Sana'a



# Experts argue peaceful relations and water management are directly connected

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

Yemen will run out of water in four years, said Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan at the Water Cooperation for a Secure World conference in Amman on Thursday.

The conference, organized by the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan and the Strategic Foresight Group in cooperation with the Swedish Agency for International Development, emphasized the importance and links between water cooperation and security.

Bin Talal, chair of the U.N. Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, said 21st century conflicts, climate change, population growth and environmental pollution will boost the demand for water by 40 percent by 2030.

However, he added that those "countries that cooperate in managing their mutual resources for water will not be involved in disputes whatever the reasons are."

According to the report, there are 37 countries at the risk of war rooted in causes other than water disputes, which include conflicts over land, religion, history and ideology. These 37 countries are also identified as ones that are not engage in active water cooperation with their neighboring nations.

In Yemen, water disputes claim dozens of lives every year. An ongoing dispute over

a water spring in Taiz governorate has lasted for 15 years between the villages of Qorada and Marzoh. Fourteen people died in the ongoing conflict last year.

Sundeep Waslekar, the president of the Strategic Foresight Group, said the report clarifies the strong

relationship between water and peace.

The good news, he said, is that over 100 countries which actively support water cooperation enjoy peaceful relations with neighboring countries.

Mamoud Abu Zaidan, the head

of the Arab Water Council, said Arab countries have dry climates, compounding their water scarcity, whether or not basins or rivers, are shared with other countries.

He argues a major reason for water-related conflicts in these counties is the lack of international conventions.

Though many conventions pertinent to water in the Middle East have been signed, these conventions remain inoperative, Bin Talal said.

"Water cooperation is not only a matter of creating conventions. It should also be based on a political commitment to execute these conventions and treaties."

Several water experts and ministers from the region attended the conference. They presented a number of plans that could potentially contribute to the prevention of conflicts among countries sharing water resources.

### Government efforts to save Sana'a from drought

Abdulwahab Al-Mujahed, the head of the Water Unit at the Social Development Fund, told the Yemen Times they are currently working on a project to construct ground cisterns to collect rainwater to feed underground water supplies in the capital Sana'a.

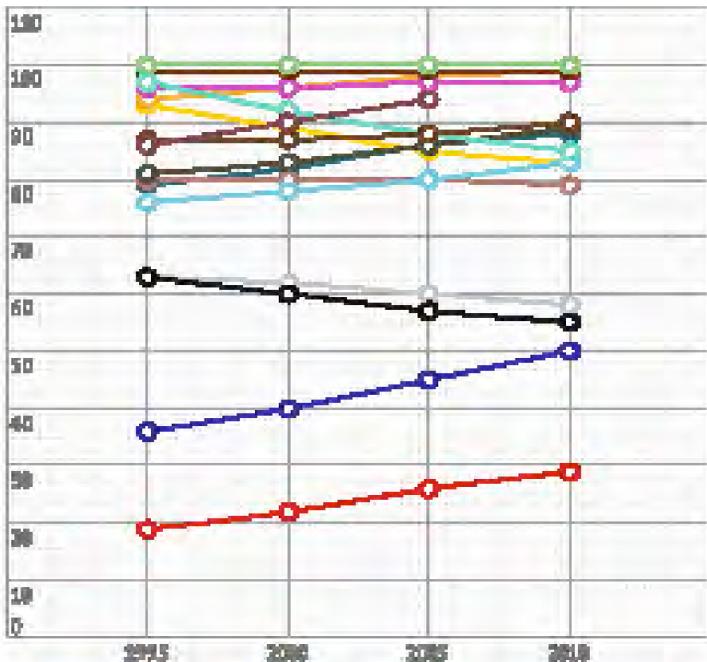
"We dug a cistern next to the Presidential Palace

that collects rainwater," he said.

He explained that other similar projects are underway in Sana'a, a city that experts say is using its water resources at an unsustainable

rate.

The government focuses on projects that feed underground water, as it is the main source of water in Sana'a, Al-Mujahed said.



Population with access to improved water resources in Arab countries from 1995 to 2010 (%)



Source: World Bank - Visualized by the Yemen Times

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OXFAM

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancy for its programme

Gender Programme Manager – (1 position)

Location: Sana'a

Contract Duration: Two year extendable

## Main Responsibilities

- Take an entrepreneurial approach and work with Oxfam's partners and other stakeholders in identifying opportunities for effective programme actions for women.
- Play a lead role in the assessment, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects that attain the objectives of the gender programme in line with the country strategy, Oxfam's values, policies and procedures.
- Ensure the effective use of Oxfam Programme Management Information Systems with respect to the gender programme/projects to facilitate project control and accurate communication of achievements.
- Ensure alignment with the 'one programme approach' and linkages with humanitarian programmes, communications, policy, and advocacy.
- Participate in proposal development and provide information that facilitates resource mobilisation and effective management of relations with donors.
- Ensure solid, effective and efficient project implementation processes and responsible allocation of financial and other resources, to deliver the programme in accordance with Oxfam procedures, values and donor requirements.
- Ensure that the projects comply with donor contractual obligations and that all reporting is of good quality and is done in a timely manner.
- Ensure that projects are implemented in a consultative, participatory and gender sensitive way and meet Oxfam's quality standards.
- Ensure technical/sectoral/geographic integration of programmes where appropriate

## Skills and Competencies Required for this Role

- Ability to effectively lead project implementation teams.
- Strong inter-personal skills and self-awareness in a diversity of cultural contexts.
- Experience of managing complex development programmes.
- Experience of rights based approaches to development.
- A strong understanding and demonstrable experience designing and implementing gender programmes that address the position of women in society.
- Passion for achieving tangible changes for poor and vulnerable women and men in Yemen.
- Demonstrable ability to think creatively and practically to improve the quality of projects (particularly in gender, partnership, accountability, monitoring, evaluation & learning).
- Effective communication skills including fluency (speaking and writing) in English and Arabic.
- Ability and willingness to travel as per programme needs.

## To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in this position, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job you are applying for and the location of the job in the email subject, to [yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk)

Closing date for applications is 17 December 2013



OXFAM

## QUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR VARIOUS GOOD AND SERVICES FOR PERIOD 2013- 2014

Oxfam is a development, relief and campaigning organization dedicated to finding lasting solutions to poverty and suffering around the world. We believe that every human being is entitled to a life of dignity and opportunity; and we work with poor communities, local partners, volunteers, and supporters to help this become a reality.

OXFAM Yemen is in the process of short-listing the most suitable suppliers for various goods and services as shown below:

If you believe that your company may be in a position to meet our requirements and would like to be considered as a potential supplier of any of these products and services, please contact our office on the addresses mentioned below:

1. Provision of Air Travel Agency Services: Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/1
2. Provision of Car Hire/Rental Services: Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/2
3. Provision of Clearing and Forwarding Services: Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/3
4. Supply of Fuel (Diesel, Petrol, and Oils): Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/4
5. Provision of General Electrical Repair/Maintenance services: Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/5
6. Supply of General Hardware materials: Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/6
7. Provision of General Plumbing Services: Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/7
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9. Provision of Generator Spares and Maintenance/Repair services: Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/9
10. Supply of Groceries and General cleaning materials: Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/10
11. Provision of Hotel and Accommodation services: Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/11
12. Supply of Hygiene Materials: Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/12
13. Supply of Office Furniture: Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/13
14. Supply of Office Stationery and Computer Consumables: Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/14
15. Provision of security Guard Services: OX/YEM/2013/15
16. Provision of Vehicle Repair/Maintenance Services (Garages): Ref No OX/YEM/2013/16
17. Supply of Water & Sanitation Equipment: Ref No. OX/YEM/2013/17

Tender documents are available for collection from any of our offices in Yemen as follows:

Sana'a office located in Diplomatic area, Tel: 01- 444568/9

Aden Office, Located in Khour Makser, Tel: 02- 232271

Hodeidah office, located in trading area, Tel: 03- 219383

Haradh office, located on main road, Tel: 07- 245420

Please report at the reception desk with official letter from your company. Tender documents will be issued at the logistics office between 09.00A.M to 15.00 PM. Tender documents will be issued from 02th December 2013 to 12th December 2013.

Completed tender documents should be returned to any of the above offices latest by 4.00 p.m on 19th December 2013.

## إعلان عن اختيار أفضل موردين لتوفير سلع وخدمات مختلفة لسنة (2013-2014)

منظمة أوكسفام، هي منظمة التنمية والإغاثة والحملات المخصصة لإيجاد حلول دائمة للفقر والمعاناة في جميع أنحاء العالم. ونحن نؤمن أنه لكل إنسان الحق في حياة كريمة، ونحن نعمل مع المجتمعات المحلية الفقيرة، والشركاء المحليين، والمتطوعين، والداعمين للمساعدة في جعل هذا حقيقة واقعة.

منظمة أوكسفام يمن في صدد عمل لائحة قصيره بأفضل موردين بضائع وخدمات كم هو مبين أدناه: إذا كنت تعتقد أن شركتكم قد تكون في وضع يمكنها من تلبية متطلباتنا، وتود أن تعتبر كمورد محتمل على أي من هذه المنتجات والخدمات، يرجى التواصل بمكتبنا على العناوين المذكورة أدناه:

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1. المرجع مناقصة رقم: 1/OX/YEM/2013 توفير حواريات وتذاكر سفر.
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5. المرجع مناقصة رقم: 5/OX/YEM/2013 توفير خدمات أعمال صيانه الكهربائيه العامه.
6. المرجع مناقصة رقم: 6/OX/YEM/2013 توريد مواد وأجهزه عامه
7. المرجع مناقصة رقم: 7/OX/YEM/2013 توفير خدمات سبائك
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9. المرجع مناقصة رقم: 9/OX/YEM/2013 توريد قطع غيار مولدات كهربائيه وتوفير خدمات صيانه
10. المرجع مناقصة رقم: 10/OX/YEM/2013 توريد مواد بقاله ومواد تنظيف عامه
11. المرجع مناقصة رقم: 11/OX/YEM/2013 توفير حواريات وخدمات فندقيه
12. المرجع مناقصة رقم: 12/OX/YEM/2013 توريد وتوفير مواد صحية.
13. المرجع مناقصة رقم: 13/OX/YEM/2013 توريد أثاث مكنتبي
14. المرجع مناقصة رقم: 14/OX/YEM/2013 توريد قرطاسيه مكنتبيه ومواد أستهلاكيه خاصه بأجهزه الكمبيوتر
15. المرجع مناقصة رقم: 15/OX/YEM/2013 توفير خدمات الحراسه والامن.
16. المرجع مناقصة رقم: 16/OX/YEM/2013 توفير أعمال صيانه للسيارات
17. المرجع مناقصة رقم: 17/OX/YEM/2013 توريد معدات المياه والصرف صحي.

وثائق المناقصة متاحة في مكاتب المنظمة باليمن كالتالي:

صنعاء، الحي السياسي - حدة: 01 / 444568  
- الحديدة، الحي التجاري تلفون 03/219383

الرجاء التقدم الى مكتب الاستقبال بالمنظمة مع رسالة رسمية من شركتكم، والحصول على وثائق المناقصة من قسم خدمات الامداد والتمويل بالمنظمة من الساعة 09:00 صباحا وحتى الساعة 15:00 مساءً وستصدر وثائق المناقصة اعتبارا من يوم تاريخ 2013/12/02 حتى 2013/12/12.

جميع وثائق المناقصة يجب اعادتها الى اي من مكاتبنا المشار اليها اعلاه خلال موعد اقصاه الساعة 04:00 مساءً بتاريخ 2013/12/19

لمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الاتصال على الرقم: 01-9/444568

مع العلم بان منظمة أوكسفام غير ملزمة بتقديم أية أسباب لرفض أو لقبول العطاءات.

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## إعلان توريد تموينات طبية

يسر مشروع مكافحة البلهارسيا - وزارة الصحة العامة والسكان ان يعلن عن رغبتها في إنزال المناقصة العامة رقم (51) لسنة 2013م توريد تموينات طبية البرنامج الوطني لمكافحة البلهارسيا. والتي سيتم تمويلها من هيئة التنمية الولاية (IDA) - منحة رقم H542

• على الراغبين المشاركة في هذه المناقصة التقدم بطلباتهم الخطية خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي إلى العنوان التالي:

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- يقدم العطاء في مظروف مغلق ومختوم بالشمع الأحمر إلى عنوان الجهة المحدد ومكتوب عليه اسم الجهة والمشروع ورقم عملية الشراء، واسم مقدم العطاء، وفي طيه الوثائق التالية:
- 1. ضمان بنكي بنفس نموذج الصيغة المحددة في وثائق المناقصة بمبلغ مقطوع قدره (2,000) دولار امريكي، صالح لمدة (120) يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف، أو شيك مقبول الدفع.
- 2. صورة من السجل التجاري ساري المفعول
- 3. صورة من شهادة ضريبة المبيعات + البطاقة الضريبية سارية المفعول.
- 4. صورة من ترخيص مزاولة المهن الطبية سارية المفعول.
- 5. صورة من البطاقة الزكوية سارية المفعول.
- 6. صورة من البطاقة التامينية سارية المفعول.

تستثنى الشركات الأجنبية من تقديم الشهادات والبطاقات المشار إليها آنفاً ويكتفى بتقديم الوثائق القانونية المؤهلة الصادرة من البلدان التي تنتمي إليها تلك الشركات

• آخر موعد لاستلام العطاءات وفتح المظاريف هو الساعة (11:00) صباحاً من يوم الخميس الموافق 2013/12/12 م، ولن تقبل العطاءات التي ترد بعد هذا الموعد وسيتم إعادتها بحالتها المسلمة إلى أصحابها.

• سيتم فتح المظاريف بمقر المشروع الموضح بعاليه بمكتب مدير المشروع بحضور أصحاب العطاءات أو من يمثلهم بتفويض رسمي موقع ومختوم.

• يمكن للراغبين في المشاركة في هذه المناقصة الإطلاع على وثائق المناقصة قبل شرائها خلال أوقات الدوام للفترة المسموح بها لبيع وثائق المناقصة لمدة (10) يوماً من تاريخ نشر أول إعلان.

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## Political parties continue to spar over extension of President Hadi's term

Mohammed Al-Hassani

The rotating head of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), Hassan Zaid, said the political alliance has not reached a unified stance regarding the possible extension of interim President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi's current two-year term.

"In all meetings we held, we haven't come up with a unified position on the post-National Dialogue Conference [NDC] period," Zaid told the Yemen Times.

"The Socialist Party, the Nasserite Unionist Party and the Popular Forces Union [which all form the JMP] have presented their visions but have not indicated whether they would support an extension done via elections or not," he said.

The Socialist Party has already presented a road map at the NDC with an outline of how they would like NDC outcomes to be implemented.

The vision included the disbanding of Parliament and the Shura Council, suspending the local authority's authorities and assigning their duties to the governors of governorates and the director of districts.

This vision was presented to the NDC's Good Governance Working Group in September but the representatives from the General People's Congress (GPC), the former ruling party, and the Islah Party objected to it, and it was referred to the Rec-

onciliation Committee for debate. No consensus has been reached on the plan.

Abdulhafeed Al-Nehari, the head of the GPC's Media Department, said the party will not support a term extension for the transitional president.

"Any extension for Hadi is illegal and violates the Gulf Initiative as



well as the Yemeni constitution," he said.

In a statement issued in November, Mahboub Ali, President Hadi's media advisor, said that "Hadi assured the ambassadors of nations that are a part of the Gulf Cooperation Council [the group that devised the plan to usher Hadi into office] that he has no intention to extend his term, and he is committed to the promise he made when power was

handed over to him."

However, the Islah Party has indicated they might support an extension for Hadi on the grounds that national elections still go ahead following a longer transitional period.

"The transitional period's extension is about accomplishing missions and is not related to a particular time frame," said Saif Al-Sharabi, the head of the political department for the Islah Party.

Jamal Benomar, the United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen, submitted a report on Yemen to the U.N.'s Security Council on Nov. 27. In the report, he says the GCC power-transfer deal stipulates that President Hadi should remain in office until power is handed over to a new president.

"The priority is accomplishing the tasks stipulated in the Gulf Initiative and its implementation mechanism. The priority is not to commit to a schedule," Benomar told media outlets.

"There will be no new constitution or election after three months," said local political analyst Abdulla Dawbala, referring to the original time frame to hold national elections in February 2014.

The Security Council reiterated in their latest press statement the importance of drawing the NDC to a conclusion as soon as possible and following up other stipulations of Yemen's transitional phase including the drafting of a new constitution and national elections.

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## Dances on quicksand: US and the Arab Spring

The oil, Israel and the arms manufacturers' lobbies in Washington DC are strong actors in shaping the U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, followed by human rights organizations and other advocacy groups. Think tanks such as the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, the Brookings Institutions, the Carnegie Endowment, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, are often joined by organizations such as Human Rights Watch and Human Rights First in advocating policy recommendations with U.S. government officials.

The White House is the ultimate actor and the main channel respectively where the US foreign policy takes final shape in times of crises. All actors mentioned above interact heavily during crises. In most of

2011, Secretary Clinton went to the White house almost every day to meet with Obama, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and National Security Adviser Donilon, according to Kim Ghattas, BBC State Department correspondent who penned a best seller on Clinton.

Walter Russle Mead believes that there are four distinct impulses that shape the U.S. foreign policy in general. These four broad groups of motivations and objectives, named after four famous U.S. presidents, have contrasting but also overlapping elements. The Hamiltonians focus on the "nation's need to be integrated into the global economy on favorable terms", while the Wilsonians believe the U.S. has a moral obligation and a national interest "in spreading American democratic

and social values throughout the world." The Jeffersonians oppose the former two schools and believe the U.S. should guard such values of freedom and democracy mainly at home. They claim that the Hamiltonian drive to integrate into the global economy or the Wilsonian objective of making the world like us end up involving the U.S. "with unsavory allies abroad or increase the risk of war". Finally, the Jacksonians take the "physical security and the economic well-being of the American people" as the paramount goal of both domestic and foreign policy and are rather aggressive with military and foreign intervention if it serves these objectives.

Many commentators and academics, on the other hand, prefer to refer to 'realist' and 'idealist' camps when they explain U.S. foreign policy, with the former focused on strategic economic and security interests and the latter more concerned with values and principles of democracy and civil rights. In actual practice, the lines are almost always blurred, though the view that the ideals are completely instrumentalized in favor of realist goals is impossible to prove and analytically non-useful.

While the Pentagon and the CIA are more often than not in the realist camp while the State Department and the Congress are more amenable to the idealist camp. The White house and Obama lies in the middle of this vortex.

*Khaled Mansour is an Egyptian writer who worked for over 20 years in the USA, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa both as a journalist and as a United Nations official. He now lives and works in Cairo.*

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