

Feature

'You can't just undo what has happened over the past two decades'

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Opinion

The Arab world needs its own Nelson Mandela and its own FW de Klerk

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Interview

Parliamentarians examine the government body's transitional role

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متوفر لدى جميع
الموزعين المعتمدين
ومراكز خدمة سبأفون

400

ريال إشتراك شهري
حسب سنة الإشتراك

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فائز شهرياً

خُط الفوترة لتبدأ حُلة جديدة ومزايا فريدة

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الأهل والأصدقاء

100%

الخط مجاني

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الإنترنت

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- قيمة خط الفوترة سبأ مجاناً (فقط دفع مبلغ التأمين) .
- إشتراك شهري يبدأ من 400 إلى 750 ريال ، وذلك حسب سنة الإشتراك حيث يحصل المشترك على 5% تخفيض عن كل سنة .
- فقط 150 ريال إشتراك لخدمة الأهل والأصدقاء ، أول 6 أرقام تضاف مجاناً ويتخفيض في المكالمات والإشتراك الشهري يصل إلى 67% .
- تأهل للسحب ضمن 200 فائز شهرياً بجوائز قيمة وذلك لكل 2500 ريال يتم سدادها شهرياً وتستطيع مضاعفة فرصك للفوز .
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Forced out of business: The Interior Ministry announced that all military clothing shops will be closing. The Ministry says the move will allow them to be the only source of the uniforms, which have ended up in the hands of militants and used in attacks against the government. Shop owners say they will not comply with the decision unless they are fairly compensated. **Read more on Page 3**

(Photo by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki)

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Government offers guns and money to families of those killed in Al-Beida'a airstrike

Parliament moves to ban American drones from Yemeni airspace

Nasser Al-Sakkaf
SANAA, Dec. 16—In a rare case of arbitration, Yemeni authorities sent 100 rifles and paid YR34 million (about \$158,000) on Saturday to the relatives of those killed in an airstrike that targeted a wedding convoy in the Rada'a district of Al-Beida'a governorate. Thursday's drone-fired missiles—believed to be American—killed 12 people and injured eight others, according to several government and tribal sources. The death toll has been reported at high as 15 by various news outlets.

Sheikh Ahmed Saeed Al-Dahab, a leading social figure in Rada'a, said that Gen. Al-Daheri Al-Shadadi, the governor of Al-Beida'a, and Ali Mohsen Muthana, commander of the Seventh Military Region, arrived in Rada'a on Saturday and convinced the victims' relatives to bury the dead and resolve the matter in traditional "tribal arbitration."
Dozens of tribal gunmen came from the Qaifa area to Rada'a to carry the corpses of the dead to their burial sites, according to Al-Dahab.
The Al-Dahab family, accused by the government of having links with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), hail from the Qaifa area.
An airstrike targeted and killed Tareq Al-Dahab in the Qaifa area in February 2012. His brother, Qaed Al-Dahab, was killed in a separate strike in September 2013, in the same area.

"The relatives accepted tribal arbitration as the governor promised that drone attacks will not take place again in the area," said Al-Dahab.
Al-Shadadi told the Yemen Times "The tribal arbitration aimed to soothe and calm residents in Rada'a district."
In an interview with the Yemen Times, Abdullah Al-Khashm, one of those injured in the strike, said one of his sons was killed and another injured in missile attack. He said they were about 60 people in the wedding convoy in 12 cars when the strike happened.
Al-Khashm says there were no AQAP affiliates in the group, although the government has claimed that high-profile AQAP members were targeted in the strike.
Hamoud Al-Ammari, Rada'a's security chief, praised the tribal resolution.
"The [government] was able to persuade the relatives to accept tribal arbitration," Al-Ammari said.
But many activists have said the solution is unacceptable and that neither the American nor the Yemeni governments are being held responsible for civilian deaths.
"The airstrikes are useless and is an aggression by the U.S. against Yemeni people," said Abdulrahman Barman, a lawyer and human rights activist with the HOOD organization, a local NGO.
In a non-binding memorandum, on Sunday, Yemen's Parliament called on the government to ban American drone strikes and utilize the country's security and military personnel to battle terrorism.
Interim President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi has publicly endorsed American airstrikes in Yemen.
"The call to ban airstrikes must be directed to President Hadi as he is the lone supervisor of intelligence bureaus in Yemen that provide information for the attacks," Barman said.

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Death of third-grader mars city's second-annual cleaning campaign

Story and photo by
Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANAA, Dec. 16—The Capital Secretariat named an eight-year-old school boy an official "City Martyr," on Saturday after he was run over by a car while participating in Sana'a's second-annual "Sharik" (Participate) campaign to clean-up the city's streets.

Raouf Al-Aji was run over by a car on Thursday as the boy and his father were picking up garbage on a street alongside Raouf's classmates on Berlin Street in the Azal district. The boy was rushed to the hospital but pronounced dead. The father survived with minor injuries.

"The car which ran over Al-Aji was unregistered and in very bad condition," said Wajdi Al-Jabri, an eyewitness. He said it appeared as though the driver lost control of his vehicle before striking the child and his parent.

The traffic police immediately arrested the driver, taking him to the Al-Ryan police station. He is now awaiting a trial.

The title of City Martyr is honorary and prestigious. Al-Aji's family will also be gifted YR200,000 (\$930) from the city.

Abdulla Al-Faek, the general manager for media for the capital secretariat said the deputy mayor, Mohammed Al-Surmi, visited the boy's family to offer the city's condolences.



The city held a mass-cleaning campaign for the second year in a row.

On the day of the boy's death the city was busy sweeping streets, collecting garbage and painting dated infrastructure for the Sharik campaign. Thousands of teachers, students, businessmen, companies, politicians and ordinary citizens participated.

"In spite of the hard circumstances the country is going through, our cleaning participation

in makes us feel that cooperation among Yemenis still exists," said Mohammed Al-Faqeh, a Sharik participant.

Sana'a's mayor, Abdulqader Hilal, whose office sponsored the one-day event in collaboration with the private sector and civil society organizations, called the day a huge success.

"Cleaning the city is everyone's

responsibility," the mayor said.

Of course, there were critics of day, who questioned the government's passivity to keep the city clean the rest of the year.

"The concerned authorities should improve the living situation of the street cleaners instead of spending millions on a one-day campaign," said Majid Ali Al-Hadda, a local resident.

Civil society organizations graduate from training program

Very few organizations in Yemen have the appropriate structures to effectively operate, experts say

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANAA, Dec. 16—There are over 10,000 civil society organizations (CSO) in Yemen, but the majority lack the institutional support to follow through with their missions, the deputy minister from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor said this week at an event to celebrate the end of a year-long training course dedicated to strengthen the capacity of 100 select CSOs across the nation.

"Providing training for these organizations is vital... several organizations fall short of performing their work due to [shortcomings in structural practices]," said Deputy Minister Ali Saleh Abdulla.

The training course, jointly sponsored by the ministry, the Responsive Governance Project (RGP) and USAID, focused on training CSOs to structure their organizations with strong leadership and measurable objectives.

"Several organizations depend

mainly on personal efforts of its employees. They are the ones to determine the success or failure of the organization. Organizations should direct their employees instead of mainly counting on their capacities," Abdulla said.

The secretary for the newly-trained Anti-corruption Parliamentary Organization, Ahmed Jameel, said his organization revamped their NGO to have clearly defined managerial and employee roles.

"If a worker leaves the NGO, another one can take on the job without direct supervision by the head of the organization," Jameel said. "This also helps the sustainability of the organization."

The number of registered CSOs in Yemen has skyrocketed over the past two decades. According to Abdulhakim Al-Sharjbi, the chancellor at Sana'a University, in 1990 there were only 200 registered CSOs.

However, Al-Sharjbi says that isn't necessarily a good thing. He emphasizes quality over quantity.

"Although the number of CSOs is increasing, these organizations lack institutional strength [to reach targeted populations]," he said.

The acting USAID mission director, Tamara Halmrast-Sanchez, said USAID will continue to provide support for CSOs and take a new group of trainees on in 2014.

NDC subcommittee: Still no consensus on Yemen's potential regions

Yemen's likely move to federalism worries some that the country is not prepared

Mohammed Al-Hassani

SANAA, Dec. 16—A member of the National Dialogue Conference's (NDC) 8+8 Subcommittee, told the Yemen Times that no agreement has been reached on the number of regions Yemen will be composed of in the future.

The 8+8 Subcommittee was created in September to manage North-South negotiations in the

NDC's Southern Issue Working Group.

The NDC's delegation, represented by 565 members, have reportedly agreed on a federal state for Yemen's new structure, but the debate wages on for regional divisions.

The former ruling party, the General People's Congress (GPC), along with the Islah Party presented a united vision to the subcommittee last week regarding the future shape of the state.

"The subcommittee considered their vision which suggested the formation of six regions, four in the North and two in the South," said Nadia Abdulla, a member of the subcommittee.

She said the committee will

continue discussing the issue until a consensus is reached.

Muneer Al-Mamari, a writer and political analyst, warned against Yemen's likely direct transformation from a centralized republic system into a federal system, asserting that this change could lead to interregional conflicts between new divisions.

"Changing into federalism is costly when it comes to implementation," Al-Mamari told the Yemen Times. "The issue requires local governments, Parliament bodies and many other councils. It also requires a troop of civil servants that will dramatically increase [the state's] expenditure."

"This quick transformation into federalism without research and

examination is a jump in the dark," he added.

In a meeting last week with the British development minister in Sana'a, President Abdu Rabu Mansour said, "We will benefit from others' experiences in relation to the nature of the shape of the state in line with a federal state composed of several regions."

The NDC's six-month term officially ended on Sept. 18. However, the conference has been extended indefinitely due to disagreements over major issues including Southern representatives ongoing threats of secession, the shape of the state and a transitional justice law that was meant to hold those accused of crimes against civilians accountable.

Committee to restore Southern lands warns against property sales

Only 10 percent of land complaints to date have been examined

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANAA, Dec. 16—The presidential committee assigned to return stolen lands in the South following Yemen's civil war in 1994, on Wednesday warned against the selling of land slated to be redistributed.

In mid-November President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi issued a decree that authorized the government to repossess land from anyone who had more than 1,000 square meters of property that has not been built on and was seized from the approximately 45,000 Southern Yemenis whose land was taken by Northern forces post-1994. If the seized land was built on, per the presidential decree, the owner is required to pay the committee a fee.

The committee, which had been working on the issue for almost

a year now, said anyone caught selling land before it is restored to them will be prosecuted.

"Anyone attempting to sell lands included in the decree will have to pay money in compensation," said Ali Atboosh, the committee's spokesperson.

Committee officials say a little over 1,100 individuals are being forced to return land, most of whom have served in the military. They are allowed to keep small plots of their land if they have a house constructed on it.

As part of his duties as Yemen's transitional president, Hadi was meant to restore relations between the North and South, which included making right on the land seizure epidemic that swept the South following the war.

The ongoing National Dialogue Conference (NDC) has been supportive and pushed for the presidential decree to go ahead, in an effort to appease the block of Southern representatives who stipulated the issue of land restoration as a condition of their participation in the conference.

But many see obstacles standing

in the way of the committee's newest decree. A journalist who writes on the South, Fathi Bin Lazraq said it going to prove very problematic to find the ones who originally seized the Southern land as a lot of it has already been sold and resold, passing through hands that are hard to track.

"This decree will encounter too many problems to be implemented," he said.

Atboosh said to date, the committee has received more than 95,000 complaints in all Southern governorates from residents about seized lands. Almost half of those are from Aden. Only a little over 10 percent of them have been reviewed and approved for compensation. The committee is continuing to go through complaints, Atboosh said.

Although many have praised the government for taking positive steps to restore Southern confidence in a transitional government that is trying to keep Southern separatists from pushing to secede, others have said efforts have been shallow and misguided.

For Abdulla Nasher, a social leader in the South, the decree to

restore lands is nothing more than an effort to appease Southerners and lacks practical implementation.

"The decree only aims to convince Southerners to agree to the NDC's outcomes," he said.

Dangerous explosive items confiscated in Mocha Port

Boat's captain said he believed he was transporting cigarettes and fireworks

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANAA, Dec. 16—Yemen's Coast Guard seized a boat loaded with large quantities of dangerous explosive items wrapped in electrical wires in Mocha Port of Taiz governorate on Saturday, officials said.

"Two men were driving the boat which was loaded with 63 boxes [filled with explosive devices]," said Mohammed Sabir, the director of the Mocha Port.

Sabir said a team of explosive experts associated with Brigade 35 arrived in Mocha Port this week to examine the materials. He said the team has not released a final report on their findings yet.

"Following investigations, the items were handed over to Brigade 35 in order to protect employees in the port," Sabir added.

The explosive items were confiscated near the port's Al-Jadeed Coast with labels listing Sana'a as the items' final destination, according to Col. Faisal Abdulmughni, an officer in Brigade 35.

"After investigating the boat's captain and his teammates, they

said they transferred the explosives from a ship in the middle of the sea, he said. "The ship...was in Yemeni waters."

"Coastal forces are continuing to search for this ship," Abdulmughni said.

He went on to say, "Likely, the explosives are coming from a country around the Horn of Africa."

The boat's captain told the Al-Eshtraki news website that he was deceived into believing the explosives were cigarettes and fireworks. He said he transferred them in exchange for money, saying that this was the first time he used his boat to transport goods.

NGO transports dead in Hajja

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANAA, Dec. 16—A Yemeni Red Crescent Society team was able to transport 17 dead bodies on Saturday from the Al-Faj and Al-Fadiha of Haradh districts in Hajja governorate to the Haradh Public Hospital, where the victims' families were able to collect the bodies.

The dead were victims of ongoing fighting in the area between the Houthis, a group of Zaidi Shiites and the Salafis, conservative Sunnis.

Musleh Al-Ezi, the investigation department manager in Haradh city, said fierce clashes broke out Thursday between the Salafis, who cut off access to the road that connects Sa'ada governorate to Haradh city.

Al-Ezisaid both sides cooperated with the Red Crescent Society's efforts to remove the dead bodies. There was a 24-hour ceasefire, Al-Ezi said.

Clashes over the road connecting Sa'ada to Haradh have repeatedly renewed between the Salafis and the Houthis.

Ayman Madkour, the manager of the health office in Haradh, said the clashes on Thursday killed 21 people and caused 20 injuries from both sides. He said some dead were not taken to the hospital but taken to burial by their families directly.

Ongoing fighting in Sa'ada governorate has displaced

hundreds.

Ahmed Al-Majdli, a member of local council in Haradh, said over 600 families have been run out of their homes in the area.

He said the issue of displaced persons needs to become a priority for human rights groups and the government.

The parliamentary and presidential committees assigned to bring a peace deal in Sa'ada submitted a report to President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi last Thursday. In it, they largely place the blame on the Houthis for violating various tentative ceasefire agreements.

However, Ali Al-Bukhaiti, the Houthi spokesperson at the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), said in a previous interview with the Yemen Times that the Houthis were ready to make concessions provided that the Salafis hand over their strategic location on Al-Buraqa Mountain, which overlooks Dammaj in Sa'ada, the epicenter of the fighting.

The government report supports Al-Bukhaiti's claims that pro-Salafi tribesmen and residents refused to hand the mountain over to the military forces, citing fears that it would end up in the hands of the Houthis.

The report warned the conflict is worsening rather than improving and that the government needs to take extraordinary measures to end the fighting.

State's closure of military uniform supply stores angers shop owners

Shop owners say they will not be able to take the hit

Story and photo by **Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

SANAA, Dec. 16—A decision by the Interior Ministry last week to close all shops selling military uniforms sent owners in a tizzy on Sunday. Shop owners threatened mass protests in response to what they call subjective decision making.

Privately-owned stores were previously permitted to sell military uniforms as long as they checked customers' identity cards to confirm their military positions. Now the ministry says all sales of military clothing must be done through the ministry itself.

This decision comes a little over a week after the Defense Ministry was attacked by militants wearing state uniforms. More than 50 people, many of whom were civilians, died in the attack and hundreds were injured. Militants in reportedly dressed in state uniforms have staged several other attacks on government interests over the past few months.

Shop owners who make a living by selling military uniforms, say the government decision has cut off their livelihood.

"The decision is unfair. I have been working in this field eight years, and we have permits," said Ridhwan Ali Qaed Al-Fadhli, an owner of military clothing shop.

"We are surprised by the announcement," he said, adding that



Shop owners say if the government wants them to close, they better be compensated.

he adheres to strict restrictions and registers everyone's name who buy suniforms in his shop.

"If the Interior Ministry is determined to implement this decision, it should compensate us because the clothes cost us millions [of riyals]," said Musleh Al-Haj, an owner of a military clothing store on Al-Qyada Street in Sana'a.

"We will not close down our shops without compensation," Al-Haj said, adding that the shops provide jobs for hundreds.

Five months ago, the defense minister met with shop owners throughout the city at the Police Officer's Club in Sana'a. He said the ministry would be shutting down vendors' operations, according to Al-Haj.

Al-Haj says the minister requested all shops make an inventory of their stock, saying all own-

ers would be reimbursed. However, 20 days later, the Defense Ministry announced that shops would not be shut down.

According to Khalid Al-Sharhi, a soldier, the Interior Ministry issues two military uniforms a year to each soldier. Al-Sharhi says he and his friends have come to rely on military clothing shops to make up for what he calls insufficient uniform supplies from the ministry.

"There is a better solution than shutting down the shops," he said.

Despite shop owners complaints, many citizens say this government's move is long overdue.

"This is a wise decision. These military clothes should only be sold through the Interior Ministry," said Abdulsalam Al-Kulaibi, a Sana'a resident. "We cannot differentiate between the soldier, the officer and the citizen. All put on military uniforms."

A spokesperson for Interior Ministry, Mohammed Al-Mawiri, said the campaign to close clothing shops will take place gradually.

"The ministry is studying the possibilities of compensating the shop owners," he said.

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Motorcyclists protest ban extension

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANAA, Dec. 16—Hundreds of people on motorcycles blocked several streets in the capital on Sunday and burned tires to protest the Interior Ministry's extension of the motorcycle ban until Dec. 30. The protests continued through Monday in different areas of Sana'a.

The protesters blocked a number of important streets, including Al-Zera'a Street, Marib Roundabout,

Mathbah Roundabout and Airport Road.

The ban began on Dec. 1 in response to the increase of assassinations carried out by armed men on motorcycles against military and security figures.

Security forces put out fires, unblocked roads and arrested demonstrators throughout the day on Sunday and Monday.

"The extension of the ban is unfair. We have no other source of

income," said motorcycle driver, Shawqi Amer, who uses his motorcycle as a taxi service. "The ban is a sign of the government's weakness. If it were strong, it would pursue terrorists in the streets."

But many motorcycle drivers have disregarded the ban, saying they cannot afford to be without work for a month.

"I have been working [the entire time] but not on the main streets," said Abdulsalam Al-Yemeni. "I

have a 10-member family and no other source of income."

He told the Yemen Times that he has been stopped by the police twice, but "I pay them and they release my bike."

"The extension [of the ban] came after a noticeable decrease in assassinations in the capital as a result of the banning," said Col. Mohammed Hizam, the deputy chief of public relations at the Interior Ministry.

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'You can't just undo what has happened over the past two decades' Northern-Southern couples navigate their cross-regional marriages

Samar Qaed

Following unity in 1990, Yemen now borderless witnessed an increase in marriages between Southerners and Northerners. The mixing of the two sides saw the combining of customs, traditions and cultures, leaving its mark on the social fabric of society. However, as the conversation around secession grows, particularly in the South, mixed couples say their marriages are vulnerable to the changing politics of the time. The growing demand for two separate nations once again is taking its toll on personal relationships.

Mutie Al-Humaidi and Dalal Al-Dahbani married in 1990. Al-Dahbani is from Dhale governorate, in the South, and Al-Humaidi is from Qataba, an area in the Northern governorate of Ibb. Unification allowed for people from the former North and South to move easily between governorates. Al-Humaidi moved to her husband's village in Dhale, but in 1994, Yemen's civil war threatened to end their union. "We followed the events closely, things were difficult in Dhale. Psychologically, we were all affected. Our relatives were openly discussing our relationship and its fate," Al-Humaidi said. "We were anxious about our future."

They feared a renewed separation of the country would spell out a separation for them as a couple. With constant electricity and communication shutoffs, Al-Humaidi was not able to keep in touch with her family in Ibb and said the sound of bullets and weaponry was constant.

All she could think of, she said, was how to get to her family in order to check on them.



A neighborhood prepares for a traditional Northern wedding. Couples who are from both the North and the South say they often have difficulty adjusting to their spouse's customs.

"At the time, we were not a couple. We were like prisoners waiting for our fates to be decided by the decision-makers," she said.

That was 20 years ago, but the couple says the current situation feels more and more like what it did two decades ago in Dhale.

"We were happy that unity continued because it meant the unity of our family. But now we are afraid," said Al-Humaidi.

But another regionally-mixed couple, Fatima Saeed and Mutahar Al-Khawi, do not feel as threatened as Al-Humaidi and her husband. Saeed and Al-Khawi married in 1993, three years after unity. Saeed, originally from Abyan, moved to Sana'a to live with her husband.

"We don't care about what's going on. We only care about our children," Saeed said. Despite being from the South, Saeed says she has integrated quite well into Northern culture. She wanders the streets of

the capital, speaking to vendors and residents in a Sana'ani accent.

"When I visit my family, they have to ask me to speak in an Adeni accent. But the Adeni accent has become difficult for me," she said.

Saeed has become a pro at Sana'ani dishes such as bint Al-sahn, salta and shafout.

"I am one of the Old City's daughters. I wear the Old City dress, [the sataraj]," she said.

While some couples worry that outside disharmony will affect their lives, others say conflict starts in the home.

Mohammed Al-Zawqari's wife is from Aden. He says his life has completely changed since the Southern Movement arrived on the scene in 2007 to openly call for secession.

"My wife began reading newspapers and websites that publish the Southern Movement's statements. She told me she wanted to go to Aden to participate in the movement, but

I refused," Al-Zawqari said.

Al-Zawqari and his wife lived in the northern Dhamar governorate with their two sons, where he worked as a nurse in a private care facility. His wife began demanding that they move to Aden.

"She started to demand a divorce and began calling me Dabhashi," he said. Dabhashi was a character in a famous TV series, a caricature of a backwards Northerner.

One day, Al-Zawqari didn't return home for two days, saying he wanted to avoid fighting with his wife. He returned home to a letter she left, informing him that she had left for Aden with her two children and that she wanted a divorce.

"I went to Aden to enlist her relatives' help to convince her to return but was surprised to find that they supported her," he said.

Al-Zawqari has not agreed to divorce his wife yet. He says she is currently participating in Southern Movement demonstrations with their two children in Aden.

"My children send me photos of themselves holding the flag of the former South," Al-Zawqari complained.

The Southern Movement's calls for secession have been taken up by the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) and the NDC's 8+8 Subcommittee. The NDC is currently debating the number of regions a future federal system would contain. Critics of secession say those pushing for a two-region federal state along the former borders of North and South Yemen are laying the groundwork for secession.

Ihab Al-Hamdani moved to Hadramout governorate to study pharmacy 13 years ago. He met his future wife there, and they now have three children together. Despite having a Southern wife and three

children who are part Southern, he continues to receive threats against his pharmacy because he is a Northerner, he said.

"We share traditions and customs

and have intermarriages between the South and North. People and traditions have merged. You can't just undo what has happened over the past two decades."

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400 houses in the Old City promised renovations

Preserving heritage

Story and photos by Amal Al-Yarisi

Hassiba Ali Al-Mansur sits in an entertaining room of her five-storey house in Sana'a's Old City. The housewife has a lot on her mind as she looks around taking stock of her surroundings. The woman and her daughter, who share the house, have gathered all of their furniture in the room where Al-Mansur now sits. This includes their bedding.

From the outside, Al-Mansur's house shares the attractive architectural qualities that neighboring ones do, including faded brick towers with white icing-like trim. There is not any external indication that Al-Mansur's house is on the verge of complete collapse. However, the ceilings of the fourth and fifth floor have already buckled and walls throughout the house are rife



Abdulla Ali points to his ceiling, which is on the verge of collapse. He says his family has received no help with repairs for their Old City home.

with cracks.

Al-Mansur has been promised reparations for her home from the National Campaign to Preserve Old

Sana'a. The woman's home is among 400 others in Sana'a's Old City that have also been identified as at risk and in need of renovation.

The National Campaign to Preserve Old Sana'a was put in charge of making restorations in the Old City at the expense of the government and donors in June of this year following warnings from the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) that the Old City was going to be axed from its prestigious World Heritage list for repeated construction violations. Taking the international body's threats seriously, the Culture Ministry and the General Authority for Preserving Historical Cities formed a committee under their auspices to take on reparations and provide oversight.

But the campaign is yet to deliver on any sort of renovations.

"My mother has gone to Hodeida

[several times to live] out of fear the house may collapse any moment," said Al-Mansur's daughter.

Abdulhameed Qatab, the services' manager for the Old City, who is working with the restoration campaign, said they are committed to preventing construction violations from taking place, but funds to begin assisting the houses with restoration projects have not been allocated yet.

The walled neighborhood is believed to have been built in the fifth century.

The Capital Secretariat, Sana'a's central governing body, said they would provide YR600 million (about \$2.8 million) for the committee. But, Qatab says that to date, the campaign has only received YR100 million (\$465 thousand) that has been provided by the Local Council and Old Sana'a district's administration.

"We have renovated nine houses, giving priority to the ones with the most damage and the poorest owners, who can't afford to renovate their houses," Qatab says.

Qatab said Al-Mansur's house is included in the committee's future plans for renovations but they could not provide a date for renovations.

Old City residents, including Al-Mansur, are skeptical of promises being made. Although the campaign with UNESCO's approval has been allotted two years to make the necessary renovations for the 400 houses, resident says seven months have already passed since the formation of the committee and only a fraction of the targeted homes have been touched.

"The committee only offers words," said Um Mohammed, an Old City resident, who is also waiting for renovations on her long-time home.

Part of the problem is the bureaucracy that accompanies a body that is vying for money from different authorities.

Mujahid Al-Yateem, the deputy minister of culture, said their role is to administratively support the committee in charge of renovations, but that their budget is already inadequate to fund their operations.

"What can we offer at a time when we have a deficient budget? We cannot support this committee financially," he said.

Al-Yateem also complains that although the Ministry of Culture is supposed to be involved with the restoration committee, they are often not present at meetings and internal disagreements within the committee has delayed operations several times.

While the committee tries to sort itself out financially and administratively, residents continue to grow restless.

Outside one of the neighborhood's famed houses, a group of women gather, sipping tea and chatting about the neighborhood. The topic of construction comes up almost immediately.

Sho'ya Ali Hassan recalled when the ceiling in her home collapsed. Pieces fell on her mother who had to go to the hospital for sustained injuries. Hassan says her family has tried to repair the ceiling with cement, which violates construction codes. But she said they had no choice if the committee is not going to follow through and help them.

"How can this city improve at a time when its protector is its thief," said Hassan's fellow Old City resident Amina Shaef.



The Old City's spot on UNESCO's World Heritage list is in threat because of repeated construction violations.







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The Arab world needs its own Nelson Mandela and its own FW de Klerk

Richard Spencer
Blog, telegraph.co.uk
First Published Dec. 10

There has been much breast-beating in the Arab world since the death of Nelson Mandela, and that's understandable. "Where is our Mandela?" is the almost universal question posed by Twitter and other social media as its idealists reflect on their social and political catastrophe.

"Where is the man who has the patience to survive 27 years in jail for his ideals, and then come out and preach reconciliation with his captors? Rather than just imposing his version of reality on his enemies?" (I use the male gender without hesitation, of course).

Some of the subsequent debate, it has to be said, has largely missed the point. "F*** you! F***!" was the message addressed to the opponents of one prominent (secular) commentator, lest they dare hijack Mandela's memory for their own purposes. This, the commentator

explained, was her way of showing "respect" to the great man.

Others, more religiously inclined, demanded their sectarian rivals respect Mandela's teachings. If Mandela could reconcile with the white man, why couldn't Shia reconcile with Sunnis, asked Sunnis, etc. I had a slightly different reaction, and it wasn't just because I'm not an Arab, as several essayists began to weigh in on the same theme.

This thought struck me when I was looking through a picture gallery of Mandela's life and saw one of him holding FW de Klerk's hand, raised in triumph. The picture referred to them as Nobel peace prize joint winners and I have to confess that it had entirely slipped my mind that de Klerk had won it with Mandela. (Of course, one of the ironies of the peace prize is that it is easy to forget awards to deserved winners, since their achievements are normally far more memorable than the baubles they have won to mark them.)

De Klerk! That is, of course, what the Arab world needs. You cannot be magnanimous in your victory over a defeated dictatorship if the



dictator refuses to step down, the common trait of Middle Eastern leaders. I hardly need to name names, particularly as there are so many, but as another twitterer put it more bluntly, how can we tell which of the 200,000 jailed by Assad is the Arab Mandela? How do we know the Arab Mandela is not already dead?

(As another aside: without wish-

ing to diminish in any way Mandela's sacrifice, many Syrian and other Arab political prisoners would give a lot for his cell on Robben Island, again as portrayed in photographs taken on post-apartheid tours. Mandela—yet more have pointed out—came out of captivity still with his finger nails).

But there is also a deeper truth. In Britain and elsewhere the Left

and Right have battled rather pointlessly to claim Mandela's spirit. Others ask whether Mandela betrayed the Left by refusing to allow mass socialist policies, such as nationalization or expropriation of property, when he came to power; or whether his refusal to disavow tyrants like Gaddafi was a stain on his name. To me such questions ignore or at least are only a part of more interesting questions about how Mandela's personal and political ideas developed over the years.

One thing seems pretty clear: that his relationship with his captors and white overlords was symbiotic. The whites didn't just decide to let him out. He didn't just decide to forgive them. He came to see them (through his warders) as human beings trapped in many ways by the same tyranny that physically detained him, while de Klerk realised that whites were safer with Mandela and indeed all blacks free rather than in chains.

That is an intellectual breakthrough Middle Eastern leaders so repeatedly fail to make. Much of the problem lies with the education system, the region's greatest

failing: both Mandela and de Klerk were lawyers, from good universities, rather than army officers. But that is not the only problem: there are plenty of Arab Mandelas in lowlier positions, if only they were listened to. Too often potential Mandelas fail to win advancement, or run away, or are driven out, like Egypt's own perennially disappointing Nobel laureate Mohammed ElBaradei, as the fine Egyptian blogger Zeinobia says in a post (by contrast with de Klerk, we are never allowed to forget ElBaradei's peace prize). Others simply are left human wrecks, or are killed.

I do not claim to have a solution. Many Arabs would in any case tell me it's none of my business—Egypt will find its own solutions, so I am regularly told here. South Africa found its own solutions, it is true, but often with considerable outside help, the pressure of sanctions, and by adopting certain universal principles first. That might be a good starting point.

Richard Spencer is one of the Daily Telegraph's Middle East correspondents. He is based in Cairo.

A shot of hope for Yemen

Hesham Hussain

Living abroad in America and hearing Yemen's news is not enough to get a good perspective of what's really going on. I decided to visit my home country and get a closer look. After staying a week in Yemen, I have become hopeless about its future. The country is heading in the wrong direction in all aspects: politically, socially, economically, morally and

culturally!

There are only a few individuals and some efforts (initiatives by non-profit organizations) going on. They are doing great things, but too often find themselves limited to helping certain groups of people instead of targeting broad populations.

Is there any hope out there? Because I need a shot of it! In fact, many Yemenis do at this moment.

Two years ago, the expectations were high. The revolution gave people hope and a reason to live and

die for, rightly so. However the by-product of the uprising, as matter of fact, the only product, has turned out to be a disaster. Change takes time, yes. Decades, no problem. We can wait and be patient, why not? But, the outlook for many people towards the future is negative.

Revolution 2.0 is a must, but it will have to go the other route, person by person, house by house, institution by institution, from the bottom up, slowly but surely. Many people would agree that the single,

key element to success is education combined with awareness. Education in Yemen has fallen apart. The curriculum is weak and teaching methods are from the Stone Age. In a time where the students are browsing Facebook on a daily basis in Internet cafes and on smart devices, their own school teachers are computer illiterate! This is a shocking fact that I discovered while speaking to a group of teachers. And the list goes on...

Talking and writing is easy and

cheap, but implementation is rigorous and takes continuous efforts. A roadmap to implement change needs a visionary group of people who only have one objective in mind—Yemen and its benefit. Personal gains at all levels need to disappear. The desire to be in charge must be something someone sees as a duty rather than a self-serving privilege. What is missing in all of what's going on in Yemen is sincerity and selflessness. Yemen needs a miracle. I remain confident that

Yemenis will eventually and miraculously fix Yemen, even after a 100 years, long after many of us have died.

The hope is still there, even if it is at an all time low. The gauge of hope will continue to fluctuate based on who we meet, what we see and where we live. Mine is at a double "low" reading, a shot of hope would help a lot.

Hesham Hussain is a Yemen Times contributor.

We must look after our allies east of Suez

Britain should act to stop Russia replacing the U.S. in the affections of the Arab world

Con Coughlin
Telegraph.co.uk
First Published Dec. 10

It is now more than 40 years since Denis Healey, the Labor defense secretary at the time, ordered the withdrawal of British forces located east of the Suez Canal in a futile attempt to balance the government's books.

If few could dispute the economic imperative that necessitated a dramatic reduction in Britain's global presence, the decision came as a particularly cruel blow to the Gulf Arabs, most of whom cherished their long-standing ties with Britain which, in many cases, dated back to the early 19th century.

With London no longer able to protect them, the Americans quickly filled the void, and the arrival of the U.S. 5th Fleet—which today has more warships than the entire Royal Navy—to take over the Bahrain naval base vacated by British forces in 1971 aptly symbolized our humiliating retreat from empire. Until recently, the Pax Americana has admirably served the Gulf region's interests, whether protecting it from the threat posed by the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein or the more sinister designs of the ayatollahs menacing the Arab regimes from the opposite shores of the Gulf.

But, thanks to the Obama administration's woeful disregard for the concerns of its erstwhile allies, the entire future of the Western alliance's relationship with the Gulf region is now under threat.

Looking back, the rot set in nearly three years ago, when President Barack Obama unwisely backed the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak, the ruler of Egypt, despite the fact that Mubarak had been a staunch West-

ern ally for more than three decades. If Mr. Obama could blithely turn his back on a trusted ally such as the Egyptian president, then what guarantees did other pro-Western Arab regimes have that Washington would stand by them in their hour of need?

More recently, last month's interim agreement between the US and Tehran in Geneva over Iran's controversial nuclear program has exacerbated tensions further. The result is that many leading Arab states, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, are now seriously considering whether they should ditch their long-standing ties to Washington, and look elsewhere for more reliable allies, an opportunity Russia's Vladimir Putin is only too eager to exploit.

This deepening sense of betrayal by the Obama administration was very much in evidence at last week-end's annual Manama Dialogue regional conference in Bahrain, which is organized by the London-based International Institute for Strategic

Studies. Despite attempts by Chuck Hagel, the U.S. defense secretary, and William Hague to reassure the Gulf states that the West still had their interests at heart, a succession of leading Arab politicians questioned whether they could any longer trust the Americans to support their cause.

This was particularly true of the Bahraini royal family, which, having provided the U.S. Navy with a vital operating base for more than four decades, now finds itself under almost daily assault from Iranian-backed agitators who take their orders from the very same ayatollahs Washington is negotiating with on the nuclear issue.

As Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad al-Khalifa, Bahrain's foreign minister, explained to me, "You do not need to reassure us; you need to listen to us, because we know Iran well."

Clearly, Bahrain would welcome any deal that prevents its intimidating neighbor from acquiring an atom bomb. But it has other concerns, too, such as ending Iran's open sup-

port for the terrorist groups that are trying to destabilize the kingdom, as well as many other Arab states, including Saudi Arabia.

Indeed, the Saudis were even more forthright, with Nizar Madani, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, stating bluntly: "Gulf countries should no longer depend on others to ensure their safety." There was little doubt who he meant by "others".

The alarming breakdown in trust between Washington and Arab leaders has certainly not escaped Moscow's attention, with Russia intensifying its efforts to move into countries that for decades have been stalwart American allies. Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudis' formidable intelligence chief, has recently made several visits to Moscow, and last week held talks with Putin on resolving the Syrian crisis and the Iranian issue. Last month, meanwhile, Russia sent a high-level delegation to Cairo, where the recently installed military authorities are in no mood to take any more lectures from Mr. Obama on how to

run their country.

Russia still has much ground to make up if it is seriously to challenge decades of Western hegemony in the region, but the prospect of Putin increasing his control over Europe's primary source of energy supplies is not a thought that inspires confidence.

Hague, for one, is certainly aware of the pitfalls of this dangerous tilt towards Russia, and spoke eloquently in Bahrain about his determination to deepen Britain's ties with the Gulf on the basis of "mutual understanding." Apart from the prospect of negotiating a £20 billion (\$33 billion) arms deal, plans to revive Britain's military presence east of Suez, which are currently being given serious consideration by Downing Street, would be a welcome demonstration that Britain, at least, cherishes its historic ties to the Gulf.

Certainly, if the Obama administration is not up to the job of looking after its friends, then Britain should do the job for it.

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IF YOU MEET THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR CV. TO THE FOLLOWING E-MAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE NOTE WE WILL ONLY ACCEPT CV'S THROUGH E-MAIL SUBMISSION, ONLY SHORT LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE INTERVIEWED.

jannahrecruiter@jhocyemen.com

ALL CANDIDATES MUST BE YEMENI NATIONALS – DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING YOUR CV. FOR THIS POSITION IS **JANUARY 07, 2014**

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

VACANCY NOTICE NO.

TITLE : 1 eDEWS Surveillance Officer for (Hodeida/Hajja/Sa'ada)
1 eDEWS Surveillance Officer (Hadamout)
Duration : For 6 Months (renewable)
OFFICIAL STATION (COUNTRY) : Yemen
ORGANIZATIONAL : Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO)
LOCATION/UNIT : Office of the WHO Representative,

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME:

To minimize morbidity and mortality due to communicable diseases by detecting epidemics at their earliest possible stages through strengthening of surveillance system and establishment of online platform for weekly disease reporting.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE WILL:

Under the general supervision of the head of the office and the administrative officer, the incumbent performs administrative support functions as indicated by the requirements and the structure of WRO. He performs the following duties:

Duties and Responsibilities: The eDEWS Surveillance Coordinator should perform the following:

- Collect weekly eDEWS data from health facility sentinel sites, apply quality control, computerize and assess the data patterns.
- Train the Sentinel eDEWS Reporting Sites to
 - ◊ Make active as well as passive search for the cases in health facilities
 - ◊ Fill the weekly reporting forms
 - ◊ Verify rumors in their area
 - ◊ Report the weekly data to the Hub or WHO Sub-office
 - ◊ Report immediately any disease cases that have crossed the alert threshold.
- Train the District/Governorate Surveillance and Response Unit to
 - ◊ Collect and compile the reporting forms from the Sentinel Sites
 - ◊ Make sure data are correct and complete
 - ◊ Report the weekly data to the central level
 - ◊ Carry out case/outbreak investigation and initial response when needed
 - ◊ Distribute feedback reports to the Sentinel Sites
- Communicate rapidly with the central level for any sudden occurrence of major diseases for investigation
- Coordinate and lead the outbreak investigations, specimen collection and shipment, collect descriptive data, apply statistical measures and epidemiological terms to develop a hypothesis, apply analytical methods to test the hypothesis
- Coordinate with MoH teams and other partners to assign proper preparedness against disease outbreaks and emergencies
- Detect, verify, confirm and coordinate for response the disease outbreak or emergency at any situation all over the governorate or assigned area
- Design proposals in case of any need for emergencies and disease outbreaks and communicate with the MoH counterparts for resource allocations.
- Set up an active surveillance for Communicable Disease such as Measles, Pertussis, Cholera, Avian Influenza, Hemorrhagic Fever, Dengue and any Disease which crosses its alert threshold.
- Conduct adequate training on Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Communicable Disease and Outbreak Investigation in different levels for the health personnel.
- Conduct proper research studies whenever required to answer a question or find out a solution to a problem.
- Manage all DEWS-related logistics and supplies for the district and region assigned
- Manage administrative and financial requirements of DEWS staff and activities in the district or assigned area, preparing all necessary documents and following up processing the payments.
- Perform reasonable and related tasks as may be assigned by team leaders.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

- MBBS with higher degree in public health
- Minimum Five years experience in similar functions.
- Very good knowledge in English and Arabic.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 20 December 2013

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING (Personal History Form) AND SENT TO:

World Health Organization, Al Hasaba area, Ministry of Health and Population building PO BOX 543, Sanaa, Yemen

TEL: 01 252213 FAX: 01 251612 email: wr-yem@yem.emro.who.int

ONLY CANDIDATES UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION WILL BE CONTACTED FOR INTERVIEW AND TEST. ANY APPOINTMENT/EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT IS SUBJECT TO WHO STAFF REGULATIONS, STAFF RULES AND MANUAL.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

VACANCY NOTICE NO.

TITLE : 1 Data Manager for (Hodeida/Hajja/Sa'ada)
1 Data Manager (Aden Governorate)
Duration : For 6 Months (renewable)
OFFICIAL STATION (COUNTRY) : Yemen
ORGANIZATIONAL : Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO)
LOCATION/UNIT : Office of the WHO Representative,

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME:

To minimize morbidity and mortality due to communicable diseases by detecting epidemics at their earliest possible stages through strengthening of surveillance system and establishment of online platform for weekly disease reporting.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE WILL:

Under the general supervision of the head of the office and the administrative officer, the incumbent performs administrative support functions as indicated by the requirements and the structure of WRO. He performs the following duties:

The data manager will be responsible to support the Electronic Disease Early Warning System (eDEWS) project through provision of regular analysis and reports on communicable disease, and to systematize the data collection and reporting system on communicable disease.

Responsibilities:

- To support the eDEWS Project in the following tasks:
- To develop a database for monitoring communicable disease trends.
- Ensure accurate and consistent inputting of data received from health facilities into database.
- Perform data analysis and produce reports/Epi-Bulletins in various formats including graphs, charts etc as required
- Maintain and further develop the structure or format of the database as required, incorporating ideas and amendments from eDEWS management
- Provide additional updates and data analysis as required.
- To ensure efficient management of the database to support the day to day operation and the decision making process.
- Provide technical support on the specific data required from health partners in relation to the different indicators they are monitoring (telephone support or travel to other offices) as required.
- Train WHO and other agency staff on the use of the databases
- Develop and maintain documentation database design documentation and operating manuals on how to use the Database for WHO and partner organizations
- Develop and maintain a web interface for the Database as required
- Maintain strict confidentiality in all aspects of the work
- Ensure the integrity and security of data
- Ensure compliance with data privacy
- Ensure web content management and monitoring web promotion tools
- Undertake any other tasks assigned by the Supervisor
- Assist in outbreak field investigation.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

- MBBS with higher degree in public health
- Minimum Five years experience in similar functions.
- Very good knowledge in English and Arabic.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 20 December 2013

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING (Personal History Form) AND SENT TO:

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Opposing views: Parliamentarians examine the government body's transitional role

In a session held late November, several members of Parliament agreed to hold the government responsible for the unstable security situation in Yemen. They said Parliament should be dissolved and replaced. Currently, Parliament sits in limbo as the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) is meant to determine Yemen's new state structure and pave the way for elections in early 2014, which are likely to be postponed. Meanwhile, Parliament continues to meet. Members of the Islah and General People's Congress (GPC) Parties, Yemen's largest political players, voted to block the move to dissolve Parliament. The GPC is former President Ali Abdulla Saleh's ruling party, which the ex-leader still heads.

However, following the deadly attack at the Defense Ministry earlier this month, in which 56 people died and hundreds were injured, Abdu Bishr, the head of the Freemen Block in Parliament, a group of GPC defectors, said that Parliament turned over the decision to interim President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi to decide what to do with Parliament.

In an interview with the Yemen Times, Bishr and Hassan Zaid, the current rotating head of the Joint Meeting Parties, (JMPs) talk about the stalemate in Parliament and how the governing body is going to continue as the NDC wraps up.

Interview by Mohammed Al-Hasani



Why did you vote to officially withdraw your confidence from the government [and dissolve Parliament]?

Bishr: We agreed to subject Parliament to investigation and prosecution based on Yemen's constitution and Parliament's regulations. However, representatives of the Islah Party attempted to block the measure. It was then referred to President [Abdu Rabu Mansour] Hadi to make a decision as the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Initiative stipulates that issues Parliament deals with are reconciliatory and President Hadi is authorized to step in and resolve the really controversial issues. If someone doesn't want the government changed until after the NDC, then they must guarantee that civilians and military men are still protected during this period.

Tell us about the Parliament's session where about 130 Parliamentarians made the move to dissolve Parliament?

Bishr: It was a normal session. The problem is that some political parties care for their own interests more than national and public interests.

But the issue was abandoned?

Bishr: No, it was referred to President Hadi. He should decide. He never got back to us because of the attack at the Defense Ministry. The attack was a massacre. We have warned of such things before. We brought the interior minister to Parliament sessions

earlier in November. [At the time,] he denied a security vacuum saying that the media were exaggerating the issue.

Mr. Zaid, do you think [Parliament] puts its interest as politicians above public interests?

Zaid: Politics aims to serve people and a politician's words at the very least should not contradict public interests in general. People have different opinions about different situations. On a side note, I offer my condolences to Mr. Bishr for the assassination of Abdulkareem Jadbani [a parliamentarian who represented the Houthis and was assassinated in November]. I'm really sorry people are being killed every day in Sana'a as well as other areas.

However, we disagree about the solution to dissolve Parliament. It would create an institutional vacuum that would be unfixable later, particularly at this time where the National Dialogue Conference [NDC] is nearing its end. Yemen can either stumble or come out of its current crisis.

Some think that if the government is determined to be a failure and dissolved, forcing us to jump to the unknown, it will lead to the forming a new government. This is not possible.

Why wouldn't this be possible?

Zaid: It is not possible because the foundations on which the current government was built do not exist anymore. The government was formed at a time in which two

powers shouldered the responsibility of its formation and the success of the political reconciliation. These two powers are the Joint Meeting Parties [JMP] and its partners and the General People Congress [GPC] and its allies. Because of the National Dialogue and the developments that accompanied the transitional phase, politics saw a change in the balance of power. Can President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi re-draft the political scene to fulfill the aspirations of Yemenis or the majority of them and avoid Yemen entering an unplanned stage? I think calling for the abolition of constitutional institutions is dangerous for the nation's security and its citizens, even if the performance of these institutions is weak. The danger of this proposal is more serious than negative aspects of the government's performance.

But, the government is accused of negligence?

Zaid: I agree. We have a government incapable of performing its jobs perfectly. But should we dissolve this government and jump to the unknown? We do not support it completely because we recognize that it would give certain powers the chance to capitalize on a government absence. Al-Qaeda would take advantage as would the Southern separatist movement. Tribal sheikhs could end up taking over some governorates. Then we would be living in a real [security] vacuum.

Let us pose the question to Bishr. Do you have a particu-

lar vision about how things would go if Parliament was dissolved during this current critical phase?

Bishr: It is true Yemen is in the middle of a critical phase, but I would like to tell Hassan Zaid that we are not calling for the replacement of the defense and the interior ministers. We have asked that the truth be revealed about who is contributing to Yemen's spiraling security situation.

How do you want the [new] government to be formed?

Bishr: Just the way the current government was formed, a new one would be formed with the same mechanism. However, Yemen will continue to suffer if we are silent about crimes, bloodshed and economic and security chaos. Yemen is in a very dark tunnel. If a sense of accountability and punishment are not enforced, the country's situation will not improve. It will get worse. Another thing is that if we are waiting for genuine, constructive NDC outcomes, the sovereignty of the state should be clear in all Yemeni land, property and institutions.

You wanted to dissolve Parliament, which you hoped would lead to the replacement of ministers?

Bishr: Of course, we want the entire government to be corrected. This government does not care about the people they represent. Making a change will not lead us to a worse security vacuum. The matter is simple. For example, the interior minister was appointed

by the Islah Party. This party can replace him with Mohammed Al-Yadoomi, a former security figure, for instance. That is to say, ministers who are deemed unfit for office can be replaced with members of the same political party. It is not true to say we are violating the Gulf Initiative or Yemen would spiral out of control in the case that we hold a minister accountable. I think if the situation goes on as it is now, the state will lose. Everyone will lose. It is not the Islah or the GPC parties solely that will pay the price for this loss.

How do you deal with ministers you feel are negligent?

Zaid: Unfortunately, there is no mechanism that speaks to this relationship between the JMP and its ministers in the government. We are still looking for ways to empower the role of the JMP, support its ministers, guide and assess them and hold them accountable. Regrettably, this isn't being done right now. I think this is the reason behind the messy performance of the government. Even meetings with ministers representing the JMP haven't taken place. Consequently, ministers representing the JMP and its partners attack the [JMP parliamentarians] via media outlets.

In your opinion, what is the solution?

Zaid: I call for a political dialogue between the JMP and the GPC and its allies to reach an agreement on how to replace ministers, who have not proven their capabilities. I confess there is an imbalance in

job duties, but as political powers, we should identify the government's shortcomings and apply pressure to reform them. This will ensure an implementation of the NDC's outcomes by drafting a new constitution and holding elections.

You mean you, as a representative of the JMP, admit to government failures?

Zaid: I don't mean complete failure of the ministers affiliated with the JMP. However, there are practices, some of which are structural as a result of the government's formation from the GPC and JMP, which are inhibiting progress. The JMP is no longer united, neither is the GPC. Unfortunately, the government was formed based on reconciliation, but reconciliation that was originally agreed upon no longer exists.

There is a big imbalance?

Zaid: Yes, the GPC and its allies are no longer united. They are now in conflict. Members of the JMP are also fighting. This is evident in the media. Not all ministers have failed, but certain ministers should be held accountable for not performing their job duties. We should focus on addressing shortcomings. I say that President Hadi should take advantage of his popular, regional and international support and address the government's shortcomings.

Translated from the Arabic by Khalid Al-Karimi and Bassam Al-Khamiri

حقوق الناس حق
حق الحق

لكل شخص الحق في حرية الرأي والتعبير

ياتيكم كل أربعاء الساعة 8 مساءً
ويعاد السبت الساعة 11 صباحاً على

راديو يمن تايمز 88.80 FM
كلامك يوصل

التعاون الألماني
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

منتدى اليمن 21
Yemen 21 Forum

YEMEN TIMES
Radio

السادقة
19

رئيس كتلة الأحرار في البرلمان والرئيس الدوري لأحزاب المشترك في حوار مع «يمن تايمز»..

عبد بشر: إما أن يقوم الرئيس هادي بعملية التغيير وإلا فعليه أن يرحل

حسن زيد: نحن بحاجة لآلية تحدد العلاقة بين المشترك والوزراء الممثلين له في الحكومة

فشل مجلس النواب في جلسة عقدها أواخر نوفمبر الماضي في سحب الثقة عن الحكومة بسبب اعتراض كتلتي الإصلاح والمؤتمر، بعد إجماع عشرات النواب على تحميلها مسؤولية التدهور الحاد للوضع الأمني.. لكن وعقب حادثه مجمع وزارة الدفاع يؤكد رئيس كتلة الأحرار النائب عبد بشر في هذا الحوار أن إجراء المجلس بسحب الثقة من الحكومة لم يفضّل وإنما أجهض وأنه تم رفع رسالة إلى رئيس الجمهورية باعتبار أن الكرة حالياً صارت في ملعبه بشأن اتخاذ القرار.. «خلفيات إجماع البرلمان على سحب الثقة من الحكومة».. موضوع هذا الحوار الذي تستضيف فيه «يمن تايمز» النائب بشر إلى جانب الرئيس الدوري لأحزاب اللقاء المشترك حسن زيد..



حاورهما/ محمد الحسن

ما هو المخرج من هذه الأزمة؟
نحن لن نظل صامتون حتى يتحرك السياسيون أو مجلس النواب أو رئيس الجمهورية.. نحن بدأنا من يوم حادثه الهجوم على مجمع العرضي وبدأنا التحاور مع جميع المكونات السياسية والمجتمعية ومنظمات المجتمع المدني بحيث أننا نشكل ضغطاً من خلال الشارع على الأخ رئيس الجمهورية إما أن يضطلع بدوره ويقوم بعملية التغيير ومعالجة الخلل في الحكومة وجوانب القصور الأخرى في مؤسسات الدولة وإلا فعليه أن يرحل ويترك هذا الكرسي لغيره.. لمن يستطيع أن يقود اليمن إلى بر الأمان.

نقول أن الحكومة بأكملها فاشلة وإنما نقول إن هناك فشل لدى بعض الوزراء وقصور يوجب المساءلة.. ولكن ينبغي أن نركز على معالجة جوانب القصور ونفس الوقت القفز إلى المجهول عبر ما يطرح عن سحب الثقة من الحكومة بأكملها.. ونحن نقول للرئيس عبدربه منصور هادي عليه باعتباره المرجع في كل خلاف أن يستغل الدعم الشعبي والإقليمي والدولي الكبير الذي يحظى به بأن يحدد من هم خصومه في هذه المرحلة وأن يعمل على معالجة جوانب القصور.

السؤال الأخير لك سيد بشر..

خاطنة بعضها بنوية موضوعية نتيجة لطبيعة تشكيل الحكومة وتركيبها من المشترك والمؤتمر.. المشترك لم يعد موحداً وكذلك المؤتمر.. للأسف الشديد التركيبة التي بنيت على أساس الوفاق لم يحدث ومآق اصلا حتى بين المكونات نفسها التي كانت متوافقة أثناء تشكيل الحكومة.

يعني أن هناك خلافاً كبيراً؟
نعم.. تفكك المؤتمر الشعبي وحلفاءه والان هناك حالة من الصراع بين أجنحته وهناك أيضاً خلاف بين المشترك وتباين لمكوناته تظهره وسائل الإعلام.. نحن لا

الوضع سيزداد سوءاً، الشيء الآخر إذا كنا منتظرين لمخرجات حوار حقيقية وبناءة يجب أن تكون هناك سيادة للدولة او للحكومة لليمنية على الأراضي والممتلكات والمؤسسات.. وأنا اعتقد أن تغيير وزير أو مسؤولين عن أجهزة أمنية لن نذهب بذلك إلى فراغ.. فليذهب أي مسؤول مقصر إلى الجحيم.. هناك ألف شخص يستطيعون أن يقودوا الوزارة أو حتى الحكومة.

يعني مسألة مطالبكم بسحب الثقة من الحكومة كان الغرض منها تغيير وزراء؟
نعم.. وزراء وإن لم تصلح فالحكومة بأكملها.. هذه الحكومة لا تأبه لدماء الشعب.. فلتغيير ولن نذهب إلى فراغ.. والمسألة بسيطة، مثلاً وزير الداخلية من جاء به؟ الإصلاح، نقول للإصلاح قم باستبداله فيقوم بذلك وليكن بديله على سبيل المثال محمد الينومي رجل أممي تقلد منصب رئيس الأمن السياسي في السابق، وهكذا.. يعني نستبدل من فشل في أداء مهامه من الوزراء من نفس الحزب.. لكن أنا نقول إنه إذا حسنا وزير فنحن خالفنا المبادرة الخليجية والتوافق وسوف تذهب اليمن إلى المجهول.. هذا غير صحيح، وأنا اعتقد إذا استمر الوضع هكذا فسوف تضع الدولة ويخسر الجميع لن يخسر الإصلاح وحدة ولا المؤتمر وحدة ولا كتلة الأحرار وحدها.

ولكن هل هذا مبرر لإستمرار بقاء الحكومة رغم فشلها كما يقول أعضاء في مجلس النواب؟
يعني لو كانت الحكومة هي التي تقوم بأعمال الإغتيالات.. هذه مسألة ثانية.

هي متهمّة بالتقصير؟
أنا معك.. نحن لدينا حكومة عاجزة بشكل كامل عن أداء وظائفها.. لكن هل نلغي هذه الحكومة ونقفز إلى المجهول.. نحن لا نحبذ ذلك حتى لا نمنح القوى المتطرفة في اليمن إلى إستغلال عدم وجود حكومة ولو كانت شكلية لتكوين كائونات.. القاعدة ستعمل لها كائونات المطالبون، يفك الارتباط سيعملون لهم كائونات، هناك وستقوم باقتطاع جزء من الجنوب، وأخرى مشيخية وحزبية وقبلية قد تسيطر على بعض المحافظات ثم تعيش حالة من الفراغ قد لا يدركها البعض.. بعضهم من الحق نتيجة للاحياب والمعاناة يطالب فقط بإلغاء الحكومة، لكنه لا يعرف ماذا سيكون بعد ذلك.

أعود إلى الأستاذ بشر.. هل لديكم رؤية معينة لما يجب سحب الثقة من الحكومة إن تم ذلك خاصة واليمن يعيش في مرحلة حرجية؟
صحيح.. لكن قبل ذلك أريد أن أقول للأستاذ حسن زيد نحن لم نطالب بإعدام وزير الداخلية أو الدفاع أو الحكومة، نحن طالبنا بكشف الحقيقة ومن يقف وراء حالة الإنفلات الأمني المريع.. وأنا أؤكد له أيضاً أننا إلى وقت قريب كنا نحن كتلة الأحرار جزء من كتلة اللقاء المشترك وشركاءه.. لكن أن ظل الاختلالات قائمة بسبب عدم قيامنا بعدم محاسبة شخص واحد سواء كان وزير الداخلية أو أجهزة أمنية معينة أو الحكومة بشكل عام بمرور أن اليمن سوف تذهب إلى المجهول.. لماذا ستذهب إلى المجهول!..

لكن كيف ستشكل الحكومة؟
مثلاً شكلت الحكومة الحالية تشكلت حكومة بديلة عنها بنفس الألية وينتهي الموضوع.. لن يذهب اليمن إلى المجهول إلا في ظل السكوت عما يجري من جرائم وإراقة الدماء، والعبث الأمني والاقتصادي.. اليمن أصبحت تسير في نفق مظلم بكل ما تعنيه الكلمة.. نحن لا نريد التجني على أحد، لكن الحساب والعقاب إذا لم يفعل لن يتم أي تحسن في البلاد، بل على العكس

لماذا غير ممكن؟
لأن الأسس التي بني عليها تشكيل

أبدأ معك أستاذ عبد بشر لماذا صوتم بدايةً على سحب الثقة من الحكومة؟

نحن وقعنا على إحالة الحكومة للتحقيق والمحاكمة إستناداً إلى نص الدستور اليمني ولائحة مجلس النواب، لكن إخواننا في كتلة حزب التجمع اليمني للإصلاح حاولوا إجهاض ذلك، وتم الرفع بحسب ما جاء في نص المبادرة الخليجية والتي تقول أن القضايا التي تحدث في مجلس النواب تتم بالتوافق، فرفع طلبنا بسحب الثقة من الحكومة إلى الرئيس عبد ربه منصور هادي.. والحقيقة أنه لم يفشل موضوع سحب الثقة وإنما رفع إلى رئيس الجمهورية والأمن الكرة في ملعبه.. من يقول إن التغيير في الحكومة لن يتم إلا بعد إنتهاء الحوار، فعليه أن يلتزم بالأ تسفك أي قطرة دم لأي مواطن يمني سواء مدنيين أو عسكريين.

هل من الممكن أن تحدثنا عن أجواء الجلسة التي طالب فيها نحو 130 نائباً بسحب الثقة من الحكومة؟
كانت جلسة برلمانية بكل ما تعنيه الكلمة، لكن مشكلة التوافق مشكلة بعض الكتل السياسية التي تقدم مصلحتها على المصلحة الوطنية.

لكن سحب الثقة أجهضت في كل الأحوال؟

لا لم تجهض.. أنا قلت لك أن الموضوع انتقل لرئيس الجمهورية وأن الآن الكرة في ملعبه، لكن ما أفرده علينا هو حادثه الهجوم على مجمع وزارة الدفاع.. الذي نعتبره كارثة بكل ما تعنيه الكلمة، لأننا حذرنا منه سابقاً في أكثر من مناسبة، مع ذلك وزير الداخلية عندما طلبنا حضوره للمجلس في نوفمبر الماضي قال إنه لا يوجد إنفلات أمني، وإنما وسائل الإعلام هي من تضخم وتروخ لهذه الأشياء، بينما كل يوم التعازي من رئيس الجمهورية والشجب والتأييد من قبل الجميع رئيس الجمهورية الحكومة مجلس النواب.. أنا لا أتصور أنه في دولة من دول العالم أن حكومة تشجب.. وزارة الداخلية تشجب.. هذا عملهم.. الشجب والتأييد وبعث رسائل التعازي فقط.

اسمح لي أن انتقل إلى الأستاذ حسن زيد.. هل أصبحت مصلحتكم كسياسيين أهم من مصلحة وأمن المواطن؟

السياسة هي لخدمة الناس.. ولا ينبغي أن يوجد سياسي تناقض أفعاله على الأقل مع مصلحة الناس في العموم.. وتقدير المواقف يختلف من شخص لأخر وهذه طبيعة في البشر.. وأنا أولاً أعزي الأخ عبده بشر في الشهيد عبد الكريم جدبان وكل شهداء الوطن الذين يعض علينا أن نرى دماؤهم تسفك في صنعاء وفي غيرها من المناطق.. لكن نحن نختلف في أن تكون المعالجة هي بالقفز إلى المجهول من خلال إحداث فراغ مؤسسي لا نستطيع بعد ذلك أن نملاها خاصة ونحن في فترة مخرجات الحوار الوطني وفي مفترق طريقتين إما أن يتعثر أو أن يخرج اليمن من أزمتها الحالية.. البعض يرى أن الحل هو بمجرد إعلان فشل الحكومة ثم القفز إلى المجهول وإعادة تشكيل حكومة جديدة.. وهذا غير ممكن.

لماذا غير ممكن؟

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH)

The Rural Access Program-Central Management Office (RAPCMO) Job Vacancy-Environmental and Social Specialist

i. Background:

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

The Rural Access Program now invites highly qualified applicants to fill-in the position of **Environmental Specialist** at the Environmental and Social Unit. The selected candidate will report directly to the General Director of (RAPCMO) who has the overall oversight of RAP. The position seeks candidates with expertise and practical experience in Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), Mitigation measures and Monitoring Programs during both construction and maintenance phases. The applicant should be familiar with the World Bank's Policies on Safeguards, particularly on Environmental Assessment OP 4.01 and Involuntary Resettlement OP 4.12 and the Yemeni Laws and Regulations (by-laws) related to Land Acquisition and environmental impacts assessment, for instance, the Law No. 1, 1995 of "Land Acquisition for Public Interest" and Law No. 26, 1995 for "Environmental Impact Assessment".

ii. Duties and Responsibilities:

The selected candidate would work closely with the Technical Department and the General Director of the Program in order to ensure the application of all Environmental and Social Mitigations Measures and ensure that all the Environmental and Social Impacts measures have been incorporated into project's design and budget (BOG).

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

- Review all ESIA and ESMP Reports prepared by Consultants (firms or individuals), before transmission to the World Bank for approval
- Ensure the compliance of Environmental safeguards through project cycle (planning, design tendering and implementation).
- Assist supervision staff during execution of projects on the understanding the management and implementation of ESIA and ESMP according to World Bank's safeguards policies, particularly OP4.01 and OP 4.12.
- Review and evaluate the performance of the road projects implementation and monitor the compliance of ESIA and ESMP by various entities involved in the implementation program in accordance with World Bank Policy Requirements.
- Ensure that all ESIA's reports are in conformity with category (A) or (B) requirements of the Environmental Assessment Operational Policy (OP 4.01) and the guidelines set in the Sectoral Environmental Assessment (SEA) manual prepared for RAPCMO depending on the nature of road impacts.
- Write the environment and social section of the monthly and quarterly PMU reports
- Assist in training on EMP to contractors and supervising consultants
- Ensure that Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) guidelines are followed during civil works

To achieve the above, applicant must meet the following qualifications.

iii. Qualifications, Experience and Skills:

- Bachelor's of Science degree in Civil Engineering or Environmental Science/Engineering or related discipline.
- Minimum of 8-years in the field of Environmental Impact Assessment of road works.
- Good understanding and familiarity with the World Bank's 10 Safeguards policies; and in particular the operational Policies (OP/BP 4.01 Environment Assessment and OP/BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement) and the relevant Yemeni laws and their regulations (By-laws) for ESIA's and other environmental assessment instruments
- Should have Strong background in quantitative and qualitative methods of database formulation and good reporting skills.
- Knowledge of Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) and World Bank Compensations measures will be an asset.
- Good knowledge of English language, reading, writing and communication.
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team.
- Good inter-personal skills.

iv. Selection Criteria

- Selection shall be based on the applicant's ability to meet the above requirements.
- Selection shall be based on the combined results of the person's evaluation of his/her credentials and personal interview.
- Short-listed applicants only shall be invited for interview.

Interested applicants shall submit their applications, no later than January 5th, 2014 close of business, in sealed envelope and clearly marked to the following address:

Environment and Social Specialist Position.
The Rural Access Program Central Management Office (RAPCMO)
The General Director's Office-4th Floor
Building No. 4, Hadda Office Complex - Hadda Street
Sana'a, Yemen.



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Sabafon participates in cleaning campaign, urges community to get involved

Sabafon, Yemen's mobile operator, participated in the second annual cleaning campaign, Sharik2, on December 12 in the capital, under the slogan: Your Participation Builds Yemen.

Sabafon provided large quantities of T-shirts, caps and clean equipment to principals of



schools in Maeen district.

Sabafon has participated in the campaign since its launch, last

year, with the aim of promoting community participation.

Sabafon has participated in more than 70 community activities this year and aims to adopt sustainable community service projects to be held annually under the company's name.

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