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متوفر لدى جميع
الموزعين المعتمدين
ومراكز خدمة سبأفون

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ريال إشتراك شهري
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2013—A look back at the year's significant events
 Traditional dancers from the Tehama region of Hodeida governorate celebrate their cultural heritage at the Sana'a Summer Tourism Festival held in August at Sabaeen Park. In a year-ender article, the Yemen Times takes a look back at significant stories from 2013. **Read more on Page 12.** (Photo by Ali Saeed)

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Clashes continue across Southern governorates

Lahj becomes scene of latest fighting

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki
 SANA'A, Dec. 30—More clashes between the state's army and gunmen associated with the Southern Movement (Hirak) broke out on Monday in the South, where tension has been mounting since anti-government rallies in Hadramout were held a little over a week ago. In the Al-Habelain area of the

Radfan district in the southern governorate of Lahj, six people were killed and 16 others injured on Monday in a gun battle, according to security officials. Gunmen also burned two military vehicles and a tank. Armed men also believed to be associated with Hirak tried to storm military locations in the Al-Habelain area early Monday morning. Clashes broke out in the early morning at 2 a.m. and lasted for four hours, leaving one soldier dead and four others wounded. Five armed men also died and 12 others were wounded, security forces said.



The sites of recent clashes in Lahj governorate. Al Habelain (top pin) and Lahj City (bottom)

"Lahj is in chaos and armored military vehicles are roaming the streets," said Nasr Al-Radfani, a Radfan resident. "I saw a tank and two military vehicles burning." However, Col. Naji Al-Arashi, the 201st Brigade's chief of staff, who fought against the armed men, told the Yemen Times that the situation in Radfan district is now under control. "Despite the ongoing sporadic shooting and the presence of insurgents in several areas who are trying to set ambushes for the army, we are prepared [to maintain security]," said Al-Arashi. Several Northerners residing in Lahj have left the governorate in fear of more clashes between the army and armed men. "I have seen several families leaving the governorate early Monday for fear of possible reprisals," said Saleh Mohammed Ahmed, a resident of Al-Habelain.

The situation in other Southern governorates, particularly Shabwa, has reportedly been calm. The Southern governorates have been witnessing security imbalances and clashes between armed men and the military since the breakout of mass anti-government rallies in Hadramout on Dec. 20. The rallies were organized by the Hadramout Tribal Federation. The federation made demands of the central government following the killing of a prominent sheikh from the area at the beginning of December at a checkpoint in Sayoun city. They requested the evacuation of the governorate's military camps, the trial of those accused of killing the sheikh, and the recruitment of locals to positions in oil companies based in the governorate. Although the government promised to gradually phase in concessions to the federation, the rallies went ahead, leading to protests across the South.

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Another security plan shakeup

Checkpoint soldiers instructed to crackdown on ID inspection

Story and photo by
Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Dec. 30—The Supreme Security Committee (SSC) took action on Saturday to reduce assassinations and organized attacks and beef up security nationwide.

The committee issued national orders to all military checkpoints to verify the identity cards of all military personnel, military vehicles and motorcycles.

Since former President Ali Abdulla Saleh was ousted in 2011, Yemen has witnessed an increased security vacuum, with multiple terrorist attacks taking place against government interests.

Armed men clothed in military uniforms entered the Ministry of Defense in early December with a bomb-laden car and proceeded to indiscriminately shoot inside the compound, including inside the Al-Ordi Hospital, located within the ministry. Fifty-six people died in the attack and more than 200 others were wounded. Victims included both civilians and military personnel.

According to the new security

regulations, military vehicles are not allowed to enter cities unless they have an official permit issued by a military or security unit. Regulations also oblige all military and security vehicles to stop at security checkpoints and present ID cards of all passengers and the driver. The new procedures also include a ban on the use of motorcycles by uniformed military personnel.

Authorities have stressed the importance of checking military personnel's IDs even when they use civilian transport, such as taxis or vans.

In a situation in which an uniformed individual is suspected of carrying false identification, checkpoint officials are directed to contact the individual's alleged security or military unit to verify the information provided on his or her ID.

"The security plan will come into [full] effect at the beginning of 2014," said Brig. Ali Ghaleb Al-Harazi, the deputy head of the Army Morale Division. "New checkpoints will be positioned in all governorates, at gateways to cities as well as along main streets. Existing checkpoints are currently being [reevaluated], reorganized and redistributed."

Regarding traffic jams caused by checkpoints, Al-Harazi said, "Residents have to be patient because security checkpoints are meant to protect them."

Some residents are skeptical

about the seriousness of the committee, saying that although the city banned the use of motorcycles in early December, the bikes are still spotted all over Sana'a.

"It's true that motorcycles are still seen on the streets but those people don't care about the public interest," Al-Harazi conceded. "[I believe that] motorcycles will disappear gradually."

On Monday, the Supreme Security Committee announced an extension of the motorcycle ban through January 2014.

"The number of assassinations and traffic accidents has gone down in the capital due to the motorcycle ban," Al-Harazi said.

Sana'a resident Abdulsalam Al-Maswari doubts the measures taken by the committee will be effective, again citing an example of the government announcing new regulations but failing to implement them.

"The security committee gave orders two weeks ago to close all military clothing shops but no action has been taken thus far," he said.

But several soldiers working in security checkpoints including Abdu Al-Qoash, say they have received orders and will be complying with them.

"We were instructed to begin checking military IDs and military vehicle travel permits," Al-Qoash said.



Plagued by assassinations and targeted attacks, the government rolled out a new security plan this week.

Four die and five injured in armed confrontations north of Sana'a

Leaders seek tribal mediation following deadly clashes at checkpoint in Arhab

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANA'A, Dec. 30—Armed clashes broke out between tribesmen and Houthi supporters on Sunday in the Thaiban area of the Arhab district, located 30 km north of the capital Sana'a, killing four people and injuring another five, according to security officials. Armed men from both sides are now reportedly preparing for more clashes, despite the presence of a peace delegation in the area.

The confrontation took place at an unofficial checkpoint, said Nabeel Al-Habari, the security chief of Arhab. According to Al-Habari, the tribesmen, whose leader is a member of the Islah Party, established the check-

point and tried to prevent men coming from Sa'ada governorate—where the Houthis, a group of Zaidi Shiites, have operated outside of the central government's control since 2011—from entering the area.

It is unclear who fired at whom first. The men from Sa'ada trying to enter Arhab were accompanied by locals said to be Houthi supporters.

Three of the killed and the five injured were a part of the group trying to pass the checkpoint. The other casualty was a tribesman, Al-Habari said.

A tribal delegation has been formed to try and mediate a peace deal between the two parties.

Sheikh Hamid Hatim, the deputy governor of Sana'a governorate and member of the mediation committee, told the Yemen Times that they are working on a solution to satisfy both sides.

"We have not achieved anything yet as both parties are de-

manding the arrest of members of the other party," Hatim said.

Al-Habari said his forces will not involve themselves in the conflict unless tribal mediation fails.

There has been an explosion in the number of checkpoints erected in the area out of fear that the Houthis are sending fighters from Sa'ada to the area to expand their influence, an accusation that Ali Al-Qahoom, the chairman for the media center for the Houthis in Sa'ada, denies.

He said there is local Houthi support in the area that is not being imported.

Many foresaw tension between the tribesmen and the Houthis supporters brewing. In an effort to avoid clashes—like the one on Sunday—on Friday, tribesmen signed an agreement with pro-Houthi locals to withdraw checkpoints.

Sunday's clashes have suspended the implementation of the document, local leaders say.

Conflict-affected farmers in Abyan receive cash compensation

U.N. says the majority of 2011's IDPs have returned to the area

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Dec. 30—The Abyan Reconstruction Fund on Sunday began to distribute cash compensation to conflict-affected farmers in Abyan. These payments are meant to enable them to resume farming, now that the majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to the governorate.

The fund handed out YR1 million (\$465,000) to almost 3,000 farmers who are expected to begin producing fruit, cotton and grains.

"Providing cash compensation for the farmers in Abyan contributes to the resumption of normal life in the governorate because most of the returnees will go back to farming their fields," said Ali Eidah, a spokesperson for a Popular Committee in Abyan, a group of local militiamen who maintain security in the area.

The Agriculture Ministry's district office in Abyan was in charge of identifying and visiting the affected farmers in Abyan and assessing appropriate financial compensation.

According to Eidah, 70 percent of Abyan's 500,000 residents work in agriculture.

In 2011, following Yemen's popular uprising and the security vacuum that ensued, fierce fighting between the army and Ansar Al-Sharia, an offshoot of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) broke out, displacing hundreds of thousands. The military, backed by the U.S. and Popular Committees, were able to retake the area in mid-2012.

Fighting between militants and state security continue in districts such as such as Al-Mahfad, which is al-

most entirely still under Ansar Al-Sharia's control. However, according to Zaid Al-Alaya'a, a media assistant at the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), over 200,000 IDPs have returned to their homes in Abyan. Only 56 families remain housed in shelters in Aden, he said.

The reconstruction fund was established in June 2012 with an initial budget of YR10 billion (\$46.5 million). The fund was created to rebuild infrastructure in Abyan, including private houses and business and public schools and institutions.

In June and July, the fund distributed YR8 billion (just over \$3.7 million) in cash assistance to 13,000 people whose houses were damaged in the 2011 fighting, according to Nasser Jubran, the CEO of the fund.

Civilians attacked twice in two days by brigade

Death toll mounts

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Dec. 30—State security forces opened fire on Saturday on a civilian march in Dhale governorate that was organized to condemn the shelling of a funeral tent the day before, according to several eye witnesses.

According to Walid Al-Khatib, a member of committee in Dhale that is associated with the Southern Movement, one person was shot dead and six others were injured during the march.

Soldiers from Brigade 33 have been blamed for attacking the protestors. Leaders of the brigade could not be reached for comment.

On Friday, alleged shelling from Brigade 33 on a school in the Sanah

district of Dhale governorate left 22 dead and 29 injured, some of them critically, according to security officials in Dhale. Victims were gathered at the school for the funeral of man who died in a car accident days earlier, several sources said.

"What happened to the [funeral] mourners was offensive and completely unjustified," said Brig. Mohammed Al-Shaeri, the security manager for Dhale.

Al-Shaeri said Brigade 33, admitted to mistakenly firing at the funeral tent.

However, Al-Shaeri disputes the brigade's claims that they only fired once. He says nine shells were fired, and three of them hit the funeral tent.

Ali Mohammed Qasim, one of the injured mourners, said he was sitting in the tent, set up outside the school, when suddenly and inexplicably, three shells hit the school.

Also on Saturday, clashes broke

out between Dhale security forces and unidentified armed men, who attempted to break into government offices in the area.

While there have been reports that the armed men were members of the Southern Movement (Hirak), a popular secessionist group, Al-Shaeri said, the attackers were operating independently of any political group.

"These attackers wanted to capitalize on the situation and spread chaos," he said.

The secretary general of the Sah Foundation for Human Rights, Essam Al-Shaeri, visited the governorate on Saturday. He said the situation in Dhale was tense. Shops were shuttered and armed militants were spotted throughout the Sanah district.

President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi on Friday ordered the formation of a committee to investigate the weekend events in Dhale. How-

ever, Al-Khatib said such a committee has yet to reach Sanah.

Activists, tribal sheikhs and other leading local figures in the governorate met independently over the weekend, demanding that individuals from the accused brigade stand trial for both the deaths that took place on Friday and Saturday.

Many fear that this is just the latest incident fueling anger in the South, where calls for secession are at an all-time high.

"It was expected that the president and the defense minister would take bold action following the attack on the mourners in order to appease the entire governorate," said political analyst Fadhil Al-Rabei. However, he says the government is not helping its case by not moving to reconcile the situation or investigate the allegations against Brigade 33.

"[The government] should be held accountable," he said.



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India Council for Culture Relations (ICCR), Government of India, has offered 54 scholarships under various schemes for Yemeni nationals. Candidates with good academic record who wish to pursue their studies (Bachelors/Masters/Research) in India may apply for the scholarship. Candidates must be proficient in English language.

Application forms together with guidelines can be downloaded from the Embassy website: <http://eoisanaa.org/scholarships-to-yemenis/> Filled-in application forms should reach the Embassy before 9 January 2014.

A written English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) will be conducted on Saturday 11 January 2014 at 2.00 p.m. at the following venues:

1. Indian Embassy School, Al-Safia, Sana'a.
2. Mahatma Gandhi International School, Crater, Aden
3. Hadhramout University, Fowa, Mukalla, Hadhramout
4. Al-Amal National High School, Hodeida.

Nine men sentenced to prison for roles in plot to assassinate president

Mohammed Al-Hassani

SANA'A, Dec. 30—The Specialized Criminal Court in Sana'a, which deals with people accused of crimes against the regime, sentenced nine Al-Qaeda suspects to two to 10 years in prison this week after being convicted of plotting to assassinate President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi. One of the men, Abdulrahman Ismael Al-Raimi, was sentenced in absentia.

The men were convicted for their connections to a plan to install an explosive device on Al-Siteen Street, a main Sana'ani thoroughfare regularly used by the president's convoy, according to Mahdi Al-Dubaibi, the court's secretary. The plan is believed to have targeted the current president.

Abdulrahman Mahyoub Al-Sharabi was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Nabil Mohammed Al-Lamani was sentenced to five years in prison. Jamil Ibrahim Al-Dubaibi, Mohammed Salman Al-Jamaei and Ala Al-Deen Arif Al-Adrisi were each sentenced to four years in prison. Nasr Ameen Khufasha and Sameer Mohammed Sufan were sentenced to three years each. Emad Najeeb Al-Maqtari was sentenced to two years in prison.

In May, the Interior Ministry exposed the plot to the public.

The Specialized Criminal Court was established in 1999 during the regime of former President Ali Abdulla Saleh. It was established to prosecute members of the political opposition such as Al-Qaeda, the Houthis and the Southern Movement.

Anti-landmine campaign launches in eight governorates

Photo courtesy of YEMAC



Children are often the victims of landmines because of a lack of awareness about the dangers of the explosive devices.

Landmine victims are on the rise, organizations say

Rammah Al-Jubari

SANA'A, Dec. 30—The government-run Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) launched a campaign on Thursday to raise awareness about the dangers of unexploded ordnance and landmines in conflict-stricken areas and how to deal with them.

Landmines and other explosive remnants of war claimed 263 lives

in 2012 and 19 in 2011, according to a report released in late November by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. In April, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that landmines in Yemen displaced over 150,000 people during 2011 and 2012, the majority of whom have been living in camps in Abyan, Sa'ada and Hajja governorates.

Funded by UNICEF, the campaign targets Sa'ada, Hajja, Amran, Abyan, Aden, Lahj, Hadramout and Shabwa governorates and includes educational programs at schools and other public spaces. Informational brochures

and books informing residents what to do if the encounter suspicious-looking devices are being distributed.

"The number of landmine victims is on the rise due to lack of community awareness," said Mohammed Al-Amrani, a trainer and awareness supervisor at YEMAC.

Of particular concern for the campaign are children.

"The majority of the victims are children because they are curious about [the strange objects and play with them]," said Faris Al-Qasili, a campaign coordinator in Amran governorate. "School students mainly benefit from this

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campaign because they lack any information on how to deal with landmines.

Landmines threaten civilians in the North, where the government has clashed with Houthi rebels for much of the past decade, and also in the South, where government forces are currently battling an Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula insurgency and other offshoots of the militant organization. Landmines were also planted in Sana'a governorate in 2011 during clashes between

tribesmen opposed to former President Ali Abdulla Saleh and government security forces.

"This campaign will help decrease the number of casualties, but it will not put an end to the problem," said Aisha Saeed, the head of the Landmines Awareness Association. She called on the relevant authorities to see that the conflict-stricken areas are completely cleared of the explosive devices.

The awareness campaign is expected to run through Feb. 2014.

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The never-ending degree

Graduate school tough to navigate at Sana'a University

Story and photo by
Ali Abulohoom

It took five long years and YR1 million (nearly \$5,000) for Abdulla Taha, 35, to finally complete a three-year master's degree in life sciences at Sana'a University.

"I was supposed to finish after three years, but due to delays by professors and the bureaucracy involved, [it took much longer to finish]," Taha said.

Some graduate students complain about red tape, ill-willed professors, insufficient course offerings and inadequate resources that together deter some graduate students from their educational goals and delay others who persevere, sometimes for years.

After Taha completed his bachelor's degree in biological sciences in 2002, he took a job as a science teacher in Dhamar governorate, but it wasn't taking him where he wanted to go.

According to Taha, people value a piece of paper—a diploma—more than they value an individual's actual knowledge and personal achievements. So in order to set himself up to be able to achieve his dream of either working in a biological laboratory or as a lecturer at one of the universities, he decided to return to academia.

"An excellent scientific reputation and respectable social standing can only be achieved by getting a graduate degree," he said.

In late 2004, he enrolled in a master's program. However, shortly after starting, Taha realized that there are serious problems at the graduate level.

"[One professor] told me that he would keep my dissertation on hold for three years to teach me a lesson," he said. "Professors have the power to delay discussion of a student's dissertation, and this can even be for personal reasons."

Since all professors within the department are required to meet to approve each student's thesis topic, the student was caught in limbo.

Every step of the way, from being assigned an advisor to defending his thesis, proved to be a drawn-out process. Per university regulations, the department, then the college, then then the dean of the college all had to approve Taha's thesis topic, a practice that Taha says the college doesn't make easy. Additionally, Taha's bill from the university began to mount. For example, students are assessed fees to compensate academic reviewers for time spent on an individual's thesis.

According to the latest reforms at Sana'a University, issued in 2006, a student should need a maximum of three to four years to complete a master's degree (three years of coursework, plus a year to work on a thesis) and an additional three to five years to obtain a Ph.D. However, the reality is quite different.

For most students, like Taha, it is the cost involved in the involuntary extension of their studies that really irks them. Taha complained that while yearly tuition and fees are already out of reach for most Yemenis, at about YR170,000 (nearly \$800) on average, he actually spent a total of almost YR1 million (\$4,700) on books, transportation and fees.

Another graduate student, Abdulla Al-Sharabi, who worked for six years to get his master's degree,

said, "I regretted enrolling in a master's program. One of the professors delayed the discussion of my thesis by making up excuses to [continually postpone action]."

Mohammed Al-Yafaei, a doctoral student in the Arabic language department, shared many of the same concerns as Taha and Al-Sharabi. He has been working on his dissertation for over seven years now, and it still has not been reviewed. Al-Yafaei cites many reasons for this, including the repeated absences of his supervisor. But he admits that his own absences from departmental meetings have slowed the process down.

Elham Shukri, the head of the life sciences department at Sana'a University, said students are largely the ones to blame for lengthened courses of graduate study. She says completion of a program depends on the students themselves. Some students finish their tasks on time, but others do not.

Shukri says a professor acting as a thesis supervisor has the power to hold up approval of a student's thesis if, in his or her judgment, the student is not prepared or misses appointments with professors. She admitted that some professors are stubborn, but she said the real blame lies with the students because they are free to lodge complaints with the dean of their college or with the head of their department.

Regarding resources for graduate students, Shukri concedes that the college does not provide students with everything they need. Many of the materials provided to help students in their studies are outdated.

The Higher Studies Office encourages students to report such complaints to their office, said Khalid



Student enrollment in graduate programs at Sana'a University has dropped by 30 percent over the past two years.

Al-Samawi, an employee who works on such issues.

"Whenever we receive a complaint, we send a memorandum to the appropriate college. That college is responsible for [investigating and responding] to the complaint," he said.

Students have not expressed optimism about the future of the graduate programs at Sana'a University. Enrollment numbers have dropped by 30 percent over the past two years, according to Al-Samawi, who blames the 2011 protests for the drop in figures. Fueling this pessimism is the fact that master's degree students have not yet begun studies

this school year because their documents are stuck in the Higher Studies Office.

"The students were supposed to begin their studies on Oct. 1. But the Higher Studies Office makes the excuse that they [have not finished] entering student data," said Shukri, who expects the issue to be sorted by February 2014.

Speaking about why the Higher Studies Office has not finished with the students' paperwork, Al-Samawi said they have faced problems associated with having extended the registration period, but would not elaborate on this.

For some though, like Mohammed

Musleh, a graduate from the master's program at the College of Law at Sana'a University, navigating grad school is all about knowing the system.

"I befriended all the professors at my college. My supervisors were not late to discuss my dissertation. I earned my master's degree in just two years. This was record time," he said.

As for Taha, despite the difficulties he faced along the way, he is planning to enroll in a doctoral program at the same university.

"Although the situation is very frustrating, I am firmly determined to earn a doctoral degree," he said.



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CAST YOUR VOTE TO CHOOSE YEMEN TIMES' 2013 PERSON OF THE YEAR

In order to feature and profile a person that has had the greatest positive impact on Yemen in 2013, the Yemen Times' editorial team has compiled a shortlist of nominees for you to choose from. Cast your vote and let your voice be heard. Voting closes at 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31. The Person of the Year will be announced on Jan. 2. Submit your vote either via SMS: 8808 or email: ytreaders.view@gmail.com.



صوت لإختيار شخصية يمن تايمز لعام 2013

من أجل إبراز الشخصية التي كان لها تأثير إيجابي أكبر في اليمن خلال عام 2013، قام فريق التحرير بصحيفة يمن تايمز بإعداد قائمة من المرشحين لنيل الجائزة. صوت للشخص الذي تعتقد أنه ترك أثراً كبيراً في اليمن هذا العام. ينتهي التصويت الساعة 11:59 مساءً من تاريخ 31 ديسمبر 2013 وسيتم إعلان شخصية العام في 2 يناير 2014. صوت وساعدنا لإختيار شخصية يمن تايمز لعام 2013 عبر البريد الإلكتروني: ytreaders.view@gmail.com أو أرسل رسالته قصيره إلى 8808

Farea Al-Muslimi – Youth activist and international advocate against U.S. drone policy.

فارع المسلمي – ناشط حقوقي ومتحدث عالمي بشأن طائرات بدون طيار



Ramzia Al-Eryani – Late director of the Yemeni Women's Union.

الرا حلة رمزية اليراني – رئيسة اتحاد نساء اليمن



Noria Naji – Director of YERO, a charity dedicated to educating vulnerable child populations. First Arab woman to receive the Order of the British Empire (OBE) from Queen Elizabeth.

نورية ناجي – مؤسسة منظمة الإغاثة والتعليم اليمنية واول امرأة عربية تحصل على وسام الشرف من الملكة اليزابيث على عملها الخيري من اجل اطفال اليمن



Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak Secretary General of the NDC.

د. أحمد عوض بن مبارك – الأمين العام لمؤتمر الحوار الوطني



Amr Jamal – Young Yemeni director who has reinvented Yemeni dramas through the production of various plays such as Ma'ak Nazil (Pull Over) and Akhir Fursa (Last Chance). He organized TEDxAden.

عمرو جمال – كاتب ومخرج يمني شاب أعاد ابتكار الدراما اليمنية من خلال مسرحيات عديدة مثل "معك نازل" و"كرت أحمر" وقدم مسلسل فرصة أخيرة وأدار فعالية تيدكس عدن



Yasin Saeed Noman – Secretary General of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

د. ياسين سعيد نعمان – الأمين العام للحزب الاشتراكي اليمني دعم نجاح مؤتمر الحوار الوطني وله مواقف وطنية على الساحة السياسية



Mohammed Murshid Naji – Late Yemeni singer and composer.

الراحل محمد مرشد ناجي – فنان ومؤلف يمني له اغاني مشهورة وتعامل مع المقامات الشرقية العربية في أعماله



Murad Subaie – Activist and artist who initiated public campaigns advocating for human rights. He has won international awards for his campaigns.

مراد سبيع – ناشط حقوقي و رسام قام بحملات عامة لحقوق الانسان بما فيها المخفين قسراً واختطاف الاجانب والجوع و فاز بجوائز دولية في هذا المجال.



Abdulkarim Al-Eryani – Politician, intellectual and a member of the General People's Congress who has held a variety of positions. He is known for his supportive role at the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) even if it goes against his party's policy.

د. عبدالكريم اليراني – مفكر وسياسي يمني تقلد مناصب متعددة في الدولة اشتهر مؤخرًا بمواقفه المؤيدة للحوار الوطني حتى وان كانت تتعارض مع سياسة حزبه – المؤتمر الشعبي العام



Ibrahim Muthana – Late activist and promoter of the youth's role in rebuilding the country.

الراحل ابراهيم مثنى – ناشط ومفكر يمني ترك بصمته في الشباب من خلال العمل التطوعي ورفع اسم اليمن في الخارج



YEMEN TIMES Radio "راديو يمن تايمز"

البرفسور الراحل، من خلال تأسيس راديو يمن تايمز بمشاركة الكثير من المتطوعين والداعمين ومن أمن بأهمية الاعلام المستقل ودور الاذاعات المجتمعية. وتعد جزءاً من أصواتنا، وهذا الأخير هو برنامج دولي يدعم تأسيس الإذاعات المجتمعية في دول الربيع العربي. حيث يتمحور هذا البرنامج حول العرب الذين سعوا لانه تكون أصواتهم المستقلة مسموعة، بعيداً عن الاحتكارات الحكومية، أو التجارية، بحيث تكون نقطة انطلاق جديدة لكل من يريد الخوض في تجربة الاذاعات المجتمعية المستقلة.

برامجية متنوعة تعالج قضايا المرأة والطفل وحقوق الانسان وتدافع عن الحريات من خلال باقة برامجها المتنوعة والتي تخاطب بروح شبابية وإيجابية سكان صنعاء واليمن.

التأسيس

"راديو يمن تايمز" هو أول إذاعة مجتمعية في صنعاء، حيث بدأ العمل في هذا المشروع في بداية ٢٠١٢، والذي كان تأسيسه من اهم رؤى مؤسس يمن تايمز الراحل، بروفيسور عبد العزيز السقايف. ولذلك سعت نادية السقايف وهي رئيس تحرير صحيفة يمن تايمز الى تحقيق فكرة

اهدافنا

يعمل "راديو يمن تايمز" على طرح للجمهور اليمني وجهة نظر جديدة واعلاماً جديداً يعايش قضايا المواطنين الذين يجيدون اللغة الانجليزية والعربية والاميين بشكل مباشر والذين وللاسف يشكلون نسبة كبيرة من سكان اليمن. ويسعى ايضا لايجاد فضاءات جديدة لحرية الراي والتعبير في اليمن ومجتمع مدينة صنعاء ليكون منير راديو يمنز تايمز صوت من لا صوت لهم وليعزز مفاهيم الديمقراطية وحرية الراي والتعبير من خلال دوراته

للاعلام دور كبير ومهم في الدعوة للتغيير السلمي . ولكن الصراع اعتاد ان يترك اثراً سلبياً واضحاً على طابع استقلال الاعلام مما اثر بشكل مباشر على معايير اساسية مثل الحيادية والموضوعية. وهنا يسعى "راديو يمن تايمز" لتعزز من دور مؤسساتها الاعلامية المستقلة لتصل الى كل من لا تصل اليه صحيفة اليمن تايمز لتكون من الاذاعات الرائدة في اليمن على الرغم من عدم وجود قوانين ناظمة لعمل الاذاعات الخاصة في اليمن.

من برامجنا



هوانا يمانى: برنامج نقاشي شبابي تفاعلي يتناول مواضيع متنوعة يتخلله أغاني متنوعة ويستقبل اتصالات ومشاركات وآراء الجمهور على الهواء مباشرة وايضا على صفحة الفيسبوك. يبث البرنامج كل يوم (عدا الجمعة) من الساعة الرابعة مساءً حتى الساعة الخامسة والنصف.



شاهي حليب: برنامج تثقيفي ترفيهي نستعرض فيه مجموعه من الاخبار المتنوعة والخفيفه من اليمن ودول العالم ، ونستضيف فيه مجموعه من المواهب اليمنية ، وكما تعلق فيه على ظواهر بصرة ساخره وانتقادية من خلال بعض المشاهدات الجيه التي نراها. البرنامج يبث يومياً ما عدا الجمعة الساعة الثانية مساءً ويعاد في العاشره مساءً.



صباحكم رضا: برنامج صباحي يناقش قضايا متنوعة تهتم المجتمع ومحاولة حلها مع الجهات المعنية ويقدم فيه خدمات للمستمعين كأخبار الصحف وأحوال الطقس وحركة الطيران وأسعار العملات، بالإضافة إلى عرض فقرات متنوعة تهتم المجتمع كالفقره الشبابية والصحية والرياضية والتربوية، إضافة إلى فقرات أخرى بالتعاون مع مونت كارلو الدولية. يبث البرنامج كل يوم (ما عدا الجمعة) من الساعة السابعة والنصف صباحاً حتى العاشرة صباحاً.



نقطة تحول: أول برنامج إذاعي في اليمن لتمكين الشباب اقتصادياً، بالتعاون بين يمن تايمز والبرنامج الإنمائي للأمم المتحدة (UNDP). يبث على راديو يمن تايمز أسبوعياً كل أحد ٨:٠٠ مساءً، ويعاد الإثنين في نفس التوقيت.



مع العمال: برنامج يهتم بقضايا العمال في كافة مواقعهم يطرح كافة قضاياهم ويناقشها مع المختصين والعمال انفسهم ويعمل على حل مشاكل العمال التي تواجههم في على مختلف قطاعاتهم وايضا وجدوا. البرنامج يبث كل اثنين الساعة الحادية عشرة صباحاً ويعاد الثلاثاء التاسعة مساءً.



مساحة حرة: برنامج سياسي أسبوعي حواري يناقش أهم الأحداث والقضايا السياسية الأنية في البلد مع جهات نظر مختلفة. يبث البرنامج كل يوم ثلاثاء الساعة الحادية عشر صباحاً ويعاد يوم الأربعاء الساعة التاسعة مساءً.



ذوي الإرادة: برنامج يختص بذوي الاعاقه احلامهم ، آمالهم والامهم، يسلط الضوء على قضيه تهم ذوي الاعاقه في اليمن ونستضيف فيها مختصين في هذا المجال ، ونلتقي في كل حلقة بشخص من ذوي الاراده ليطلعونا على قصص نجاحهم للاستفادة منها وعكسها على منهم من فنتهم ، ويستعرض البرنامج آخر الاخبار التي تتعلق بذوي الاعاقه . يبث البرنامج الساعه الحادية عشرة صباحاً كل أحد ويعاد الإثنين الساعة التاسعة مساءً.



المادة التاسعة عشر: برنامج يسعى للتوعية بالحق في حرية الراي والتعبير عنه. يتحدث بشكل مبسط عن حقك وحقك وحقوق المجتمع في الحق في حرية التعبير عن الراي ويسعى كذلك لرفع سقف حرية التعبير لدي المواطنين. ياتيكم كل اربعاء الساعة ٨ مساءً ويعاد السبت الساعة ١١ صباحاً.

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We can't stop, we won't stop

The staff at the Yemen Times bids 2013 farewell. It was a year full of politically and socially important events in Yemen. We were there, providing you with coverage and giving you the opportunity to have your voice be heard. Everyone here looks forward to 2014 and wishes you a happy and healthy new year.

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki (Reporter)

I joined the Yemen Times this year, working for both the newspaper and the radio, and I felt like I really made a difference. I specialized in covering stories pertinent to security issues, including assassinations and acts of terrorism. This can be dangerous work. However, I am dedicated to my job and determined to cover sensitive issues and bring accurate information and exclusive photographs to our readership. I cannot forget one incident that took place in front of my eyes during the city-wide cleanup on Dec. 12 in Sana'a. Raouf Al-Aji, a young student participating in the campaign, was run over by a car. He died from injuries sustained in the accident. It is a moment that is still painful to remember. Thank you Yemen Times, you have made a big difference in my professional life.

Ali Saeed (Senior Reporter/Editor)

I am very pleased to have rejoined the Yemen Times' team following a hiatus of more than a year. I previously worked here from 2008 to 2012.

I hope to continue contributing to the paper by ensuring that the Yemen Times' stories are unique and well-researched. In 2014 we plan to focus on a wide range of issues that are different from what the mainstream and international media tend to cover.

Our Yemen is much more than what the international media presents—Al-Qaeda, rebels and armed men. Yemen is coffee, beautiful traditions, ambitious youth and people who want a good government. With the cooperation of—and hard work from—both citizens and responsible journalists, tomorrow holds great promise for Yemen and Yemenis.

Majdi Al-Sakkaf (Subscription and Distribution Manager)

Throughout 2013, the Yemen Times was readily available at hundreds of kiosks and bookshops, both inside and outside of Sana'a, as we continue to expand our distribution. We also worked to ensure timely delivery of the newspaper to our valued customers, and we have plans in place to make sure that our paper is even more widely available in 2014.

Our newspaper is distributed on time in Aden governorate and is the only English-language paper to be published and distributed the same day.

Currently, the newspaper is available in Sana'a, Ibb, Dhamar, Taiz, Mukalla, Mahra, Sayoun and Hodeida. We will work to expand the newspaper's presence in these governorates so that the Yemen Times remains the English-language newspaper of choice in Yemen.

Sara Al Zawqari

(Radio Yemen Times Manager)

I can't believe 2013 is over! I have spent the past four years in four different places. It feels good to finally be doing something in my country. It has been a tough year for Yemen, but I am happy I have spent it with the Yemen Times. Being associated with a publication that is completely independent provides us with opportunities to openly discuss any topic.

My greatest achievement over the past year was producing and presenting the program, "Shay Haleeb," (Tea with Milk) a show that breaks all the rules by using local slang and bluntly discussing societal issues. The show has been a big hit with a variety of demographics. I have always understood the power of the spoken word but have never fully appreciated its influence until now. The reactions I get from listeners are unbelievable and being welcomed in people's homes, cars and families is a huge privilege. Given the high illiteracy rate in Yemen, radio is going to become a game changer. It is playing a huge role in educating people. I work with a great team of people who believe in serving their community, and it is exciting to be a part of this influential medium.

Ali Abulohoom (Reporter)

I dreamed of being a journalist at the Yemen Times since I was a child. I joined the paper almost 10 years ago. I was always impressed by the way the Yemen Times addressed humanitarian issues.

My dream became a reality almost a year ago. I am very grateful to the Yemen Times for helping me become a journalist at the only objective and professional news outlet in Yemen.

In the course of my employment at the Yemen Times, I have covered any topic without censorship. I can convey the voice of the underprivileged to people who have political power. I am proud to be a member of the Yemen Times' staff! I will never forget one situation I faced while covering a story. I was arrested by security forces, and my camera was confiscated. After my arrest, our editor-in-chief, Nadia Al-Sakkaf, managed to secure my release. I was pleased to be freed, but even more so to know how important I am in the eyes of Nadia.

Khalid Al-Karimi (Translator)

Every day I that come to work at the Yemen Times, I feel that I am growing professionally. Following a brief journalism internship under the supervision of this newspaper's editor-in-chief, I started working as a reporter. Later, I embarked on translation. Without a shadow of a doubt, translation is an arduous job! I came to the Yemen Times directly from college and am proud of the progress I have made here. Now we are entering a new year, 2014, which I foresee to be fruitful as well. I am ready to make greater professional progress. I am up for the challenge.

Najla'a Hasan (Editor)

By the end of 2013, I will have spent 11 months at the Yemen Times. This period has been full of good things. For one, I have had the opportunity to connect with a radio audience via my weekly program, "Wajh Mokhtalif," (Different Face) which discusses various topics of interest to Yemeni women.

Journalistically, I have learned a lot. The Yemen Times provides its staff a lot of opportunities to grow and flourish professionally. Although I have not had the time to write articles because of my demanding job as an editor, I have been delighted to work with my outstanding colleagues. It has been a mutually beneficial experience.

I believe that 2014 will bring opportunities and great changes in Yemen and also abroad. I am very optimistic about the future.

Khaled Al-Baadani (Driver)

Happy New Year!



Khairaldin Al-Nsour (CEO)

In 2013 the Yemen Times expanded its operations and hired more staff. We gained new clients and readers, and we added interactive elements to our website. We represented the organization both internationally and locally, proving once again that our newspaper and radio are influential agents of change in Yemen. We pride ourselves on the difference that Radio Yemen Times has created in the audio-media landscape in Yemen with its variety of programs and sincere commitment to citizens and their rights.

This coming year, we hope to increase our circulation and reach new areas of the country. We also hope to expand our network of reporters and present new topics that will make our newspaper and radio coverage even more colorful.

Expect some nice surprises in 2014!

Samar Al-Ariqi (Reporter)

I can say without hesitation that 2013 has been the best year of my life. Throughout the year, I was able to achieve many goals. It was remarkable and full of personal and professional achievements. This year brought me great happiness and good colleagues—now friends—at the Yemen Times.

I want to thank everyone who has helped me change and grow, and who has taught me valuable life and professional lessons. I am hopeful that 2014 will be even better. My dream—every Yemeni's dream—is to see a stable Yemen. I will work hard to do whatever I can to help that become a reality.

Bassam Al-Khameri (Translator)

This year seemed to pass by at a lightning pace. A year and a half ago, I embarked on a new career as a translator with the Yemen Times. As a college student, I dreamed of joining this newspaper and felt extremely lucky when I was offered the opportunity to work here.

Being hired at the Yemen Times was just the beginning. It opened the door for me to practice professional translation work with native-English speakers. My reputation has also grown because people know that the Yemen Times only hires qualified professionals.

In 2014, my goal is to do more on-the-spot Arabic and English translating. I am determined to acquire more skills.

Nasser Al-Sakkaf (Reporter)

I took my first steps into the world of journalism and broadcast this year, preparing and presenting programs on the radio as well as writing for the Yemen Times. It was a quantum leap in my professional life. My colleagues in the newsroom have really helped me evolve professionally. I consider myself very lucky to work with such great people and am happy to count them as my friends.

Over the course of 2013, I participated in several local press conferences and one international conference about water in Jordan. At home, I worked hard on stories to go beyond the rumors and report the unbiased truth to our readership. In 2014 I want to continue to contribute to the success of the paper and the radio and see that the Yemen Times remains number one.

Mohammed Al-Hassan (Reporter)

Professionally, 2013 was a great year for me. Since I joined the newspaper in late March, I have been an independent, unbiased journalist. The interview process at the Yemen Times was a turning point in my career, and I have received feedback from our readers that has helped me move forward to expanding my professional skills in 2014, especially in conducting interviews.

2014

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Saleh Al-Khoulaqi (Deputy General Manager)
"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."
Those few words motivated me to join the Yemen Times' team. I started here in November. During this short period, I have analyzed the business from many different angles and started to sort out issues and implement many operational improvements.
For 2014 my wish is to see our country in a better situation. The Yemen Times will be progressing significantly in 2014. We have put into place new strategies and goals for the immediate future. The Yemen Times' readers and Radio Yemen Times' listeners will see many changes for the better. I hope you, our audience, will give us valuable, constructive feedback to help us improve in 2014. We are happy to hear from you!

Samar Qaed (Reporter)
This year was a beautiful year. It is with great pride that I represented Radio Yemen Times at the Second Regional Conference on Community Media in Egypt. It was a chance to learn from many regional experts in the media field. On Radio Yemen Times, I spent the year presenting a program called, "With Workers," in which we highlight the situation of Yemeni workers across the country. Through the program we are able to bring the voices of the voiceless to policy makers.
The experience has brought me closer to people and has refocused my reporting on humanitarian issues. Some Western newspapers and websites have contacted me for further information, which means that my reporting at the Yemen Times has had an international reach, and that feels really good!

Amal Al-Yarisi (Reporter)
I called 2013 the year of "childbirth" as the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) went into labor in March. I will never forget the day I reported on the launch of the NDC for the Yemen Times. It was among the most important moments of the year.
We are still waiting on the birth of a peaceful, new Yemen that is free of conflict. I hope all political parties will agree on the NDC's outcomes. Through my work, I have been confronted with the concerns of average Yemenis and have done my best to shed light on them. I have been fortunate to work for a newspaper that has allowed me the freedom to write about the topics that I think are the most important.
At the Yemen Times, we worked as a family throughout 2013 to provide the best reporting on Yemen for Yemenis. We will continue to work hard in 2014. I am optimistic about the coming year and truly believe that tomorrow will be better!

Rammah Al-Jubari (Reporter)
While studying at college, I aspired to work for an independent, unbiased media institution. That is the situation here at the Yemen Times. I cannot say that the work has been stress-free. However, working closely with an editor named Sadeq Al-Wesabi really smoothed my transition. As we welcome the new year, I promise our readership to persevere with enthusiasm and continue to report the truth, not only in 2014, but throughout my entire life.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf (Editor-in-Chief)
This year was a difficult year for me as chief editor at the Yemen Times, as I have been trying to redefine our internal structure and position in Yemeni media despite political and security turmoil.
The most significant achievement is the great success of Radio Yemen Times and how, within a year of it going live, we have managed to become the most popular radio station in Sana'a governorate.
In 2014, I hope the Yemen Times is able to set the news agenda for other media and tell the untold stories in Yemen. Equally important, we will continue to contribute to improving the professionalism of media in the country.

Magdi Muzahim (Graphic designer)
This year was full of good and bad experiences. I will remember it as time I used to hone and sharpen my expertise. I am full of hope at 2014 will carry within it more prosperous and life-changing opportunities.

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Ramzy Alawi (Head of the Tech. Department)
Every year starts with dreams and aspirations that fade as monotonous days keep coming. "Next year I will..." and then nothing substantial happens because there wasn't a driving force behind the hopes. For me, the best policy is to do what you have to do right away! Every day is a new chance, so live life to the fullest.

Rasheed Al-Sakkaf (Marketing Manager)
This year was full of a mix of happy events and worrisome occurrences. It was also the year in which the newspaper's marketing department began to recover from the spillover of the 2011 crisis. The newspaper's success is linked to domestic political and financial stability. If the country is stable, we will manage to reach our goals for 2014. My greatest wish for Yemen is that the nation find lasting security and stability.





Unrest in Hadramout

'We hold the state accountable'

Brig. Abdulla Al-Nakhibi



Saleh Molla

Let's begin with Mr. Molla, was the death of Bin Habrish the root cause of the mass rallies?

Molla: The mass rallies are long overdue because of suffering in Hadramout, including marginalization, injustice and assassinations and killings, the most recent of which Bin Habrish was a victim. Tribes in Hadramout met in July with representatives of various political parties and put forward several demands that they asked the state to implement. The state didn't meet any of these demands.

Why hold rallies now?

Enough is enough! Many [local] military and security cadres in Hadramout have been killed in attacks by bodies associated with the state. Moreover, Bin Habrish's death infuriated people in Hadramout. He was a leader in the Hadramout Tribal Federation, which represents interests in Hadramout. Mass rallies were organized as a result of all these things.

Some say that the rallies' timing was strategic. You went ahead with them although the central government agreed to meet some of your demands [put forward after Bin Habrish's death].

The state has made many empty promises. We provided a 10-day period for the authority to begin implementing our demands, but it didn't. For example, President [Abdu Rabu Mansour] Hadi and the defense minister gave orders to replace the commander of the battalion assigned to protect [oil] companies with someone from Hadramout, but the newly appointed commander wasn't from Hadramout. Moreover, other military commanders from Hadramout have been replaced by commanders from other governorates.

What happened with the presidential committee sent to Hadramout to negotiate with you regarding the demands?

The committee requested we form committees [to meet with them], but we refused because we believe that establishing committees is only a way to procrastinate the implementation of our demands. We are fed up and told them that we want to see our demands implemented on the ground, not in a committee.

Do you think a 10-day period is enough to meet your demands?

I understand [it's short], but we wanted to see if the state really intended to meet our demands or

not. If we saw signs that the state was serious, we would have provided more time, but we saw nothing.

The state hasn't shown any seriousness to meet your demands?

Not at all. It only makes promises.

But the state has handed over some police stations, security checkpoints and important institutions to you as a part of your demands?

Some police stations have been handed over due to pressure from residents, but several military locations have been procrastinating as a way to turn our peaceful rallies into violent encounters. Some commanders said they would hand military locations to us, but at the same time, they are willing to set fire to the entire city if they hear any shooting.

Violence erupted during the rallies and shopping centers in Hadramout—owned by Northerners—were set on fire. What is your response to that?

We said the rallies would be peaceful. We are against violence, but some people with certain agendas forced the rallies down a violent path. As for the Northern shopping center owners, some set their own goods on fire to frame us. We have photos to prove that.

How many police stations, military locations and security checkpoints have been handed over to you?

Nothing technically, but we have control of some public administrative facilities. For example, a security checkpoint still exists at the entrance to Sayoun city. Security personnel there have refused to return to their military barracks. We aren't calling for secession. We have a few, specific demands, and everything will be resolved when they are met.

I have names of military locations and security checkpoints that many have confirmed have been handed over to you.

Maybe a military camp was handed over, but this is only after it [got away with] shelling areas and killing residents [for months].

[In September] there were reports that armed local men attacked the military camp and it fought back?

No, the camp started the shelling, and then residents attacked it in retaliation. It doesn't make sense to stay quiet when people are killed.

We hold the state accountable.

Even if the state hands over only one military camp, many think that is a sign of them responding to your demands.

We want the state to meet our demands in terms of evacuating military camps, appointing local security personnel, recruiting local residents for jobs at oil companies and prosecuting those that killed Bin Habrish. We will continue to escalate our rallies and forcibly shutdown oil companies in Hadramout unless the state meets our demands.

Do you have a plan as to how you will deal with the responsibility of security and justice if all military and security checkpoints are handed over to you?

We have qualified military men and can maintain security in Hadramout. If the state is serious about meeting Hadramout's demands, it would have recruited people from Hadramout for military positions already, but it hasn't. Even men who were fired [after Yemen's 1994 Civil War] have yet to be reinstated.

Are there political powers behind the rallies?

No, there is no political power behind the mass anti-government rallies. The Hadramout Tribal Federation called for this rally, and they are the only ones behind it. However, we cannot deny that some political powers such as the Southern Movement [Hirak] participated in the rallies. That being said, the decision to hold the rallies is the business of the Hadramout Tribal Federation. We do not make our decisions with politics in mind.

Let us shift to Mr. Al-Nakhibi, everybody is speculating about the relationship between the anti-government rallies in Hadramout and the Southern Movement. What is the nature of this relationship and what does it mean for the Southern Issue?

Al-Nakhibi: The rallies in Hadramout are an extension of the ongoing [Southern Movement's] call for secession. The rallies are a result of the accumulation of past government mistakes and the authority's lack of seriousness to

In early December the convoy of a well-known and influential sheikh from the Al-Hamom tribe in Hadramout was reportedly asked to stop at a security checkpoint at the entrance of Sayoun city in Hadramout governorate for a routine weapons inspection. Soldiers say the sheikh refused to stop. A gun battle ensued, in which seven people, including Sheikh Sad Bin Habrish, were killed.

Almost immediately following the incident, the Hadramout Tribal Federation, of which Bin Habrish was a member, gave the government a list of demands to meet in order to avoid further confrontations. They stipulated that state security and military duties be handed over to local forces, the soldiers responsible for Bin Habrish's death be put on trial and positions at area oil companies be given to locals.

Although the central government, under the leadership of interim President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, agreed to concede and gradually meet demands, tribal leaders remained skeptical.

They organized mass rallies on Dec. 20 to demonstrate that they were holding the government accountable. Although, organizers say their intentions were peaceful, violence erupted during the rallies all across governorates in the South, who adopted the "Hadramout uprising" as an expression of dissatisfaction with the central government. The South, who fought a brief civil war with the North in 1994 after the two nations unified in 1990, has long standing grievances with the government. Representatives from the region are still pushing for secession at the ongoing National Dialogue Conference.

In an interview with the Yemen Times, Saleh Molla, a spokesperson for the Hadramout Tribal Federation, and Brig. Abdulla Al-Nakhibi, the secretary general of a faction of the Southern Movement, speak about what the mass rallies represented in the South and the nation as a whole.

Interview by Mohammed Al-Hassani

solve them. If part of the Southern Movement's problems were solved, and if the National Dialogue Conference [NDC] went according to plan, our brothers in the Southern Movement would not be so fed up. The marginalization of the Southerner continues.

You think the rallies are part of a larger Southern contingency, not just exclusively pertinent to locals in Hadramout.

Yes, the rallies are not just pertinent to Hadramout alone. Locals in Hadramout have their own legitimate demands, which they want to be met. The government was supposed to fulfill these demands immediately.

It has been said that the Hadramout anti-government rallies are the new face of the Southern Issue, replacing the Southern Movement. Do you agree with this?

The Southern Movement has its own components, motives, elements and supporters. The mass rallies in Hadramout will not replace it. The anti-government

rallies are a part of the Southern Movement.

What was the extent of cooperation and coordination between the organizers of the mass rallies and the Southern Movement?

The Southern Movement feels its objectives and some of its calls have finally been heard because of the rallies.

What do you think about the way the state dealt with the mass rallies?

I think the state was slow to deal with the demands of the Tribal Federation.

Some are saying the rallies are really just disguised as calls for secession. What do you think?

I don't think this was the intention of the mass rallies in Hadramout. Their demands are legitimate and unique. The state should take action immediately.

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

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Iran's Turkish gold rush

At the center of Turkey's corruption scandal is a "gas for gold" scheme that the Obama administration dragged its feet on stopping.

Jonathan Schanzer and
Mark Dubowitz
Foreignpolicy.com
First Published Dec. 26

Turkey's Islamist government is being rocked by the most sweeping corruption scandal of its tenure. Roughly two dozen figures, including well-connected business tycoons and the sons of top government ministers, have been charged with a wide range of financial crimes. The charges ballooned into a full-blown crisis on Dec. 25 when three ministers implicated in the scandal resigned, with one making a dramatic call for Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to step down as well. An exhausted-looking Erdogan subsequently appeared on television in the evening to announce a Cabinet reshuffle that replaced a total of 10 ministers.

The drama surrounding two personalities are particularly eye-popping: Police reportedly discovered shoeboxes containing \$4.5 million in the home of Suleyman Aslan, the CEO of state-owned Halkbank, and also arrested Reza Zarrab, an Iranian businessman who primarily deals in the gold trade, and who allegedly oversaw deals worth almost \$10 billion last year alone.

The gold trade has long been at the center of controversial financial ties between Halkbank and Iran. Research conducted in May 2013 by the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and Roubini Global Eco-

nomics revealed the bank exploited a "golden loophole" in the U.S.-led financial sanctions regime designed to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions. Here's how it worked: The Turks exported some \$13 billion of gold to Tehran directly, or through the UAE, between March 2012 and July 2013. In return, the Turks received Iranian natural gas and oil. But because sanctions prevented Iran from getting paid in dollars or euros, the Turks allowed Tehran to buy gold with their Turkish lira—and that gold found its way back to Iranian coffers.

This "gas-for-gold" scheme allowed the Iranians to replenish their dwindling foreign exchange reserves, which had been hit hard by the international sanctions placed on their banking system. It was puzzling that Ankara allowed this to continue: The Turks—NATO allies who have assured Washington that they oppose Iran's military-nuclear program—brazenly conducted these massive gold transactions even after the Obama administration tightened sanctions on Iran's precious metals trade in July 2012.

Turkey, however, chose to exploit a loophole that technically permitted the transfer of billions of dollars of gold to so-called "private" entities in Iran. Iranian Ambassador to Turkey Ali Reza Bikhdeli recently praised Halkbank for its "smart management decisions in recent years [that] have played an important role in Iranian-Turkish relations." Halkbank insists that its role in these

transactions was entirely legal.

The U.S. Congress and President Obama closed this "golden loophole" in January 2013. At the time, the Obama administration could have taken action against state-owned Halkbank, which processed these sanctions-busting transactions, using the sanctions already in place to cut the bank off from the U.S. financial system. Instead, the administration lobbied to make sure the legislation that closed this loophole did not take effect for six months—effectively ensuring that the gold transactions continued apace until July 1. That helped Iran accrue billions of dollars more in gold, further undermining the sanctions regime.

In defending its decision not to enforce its own sanctions, the Obama administration insisted that Turkey only transferred gold to private Iranian citizens. The administration argued that, as a result, this wasn't an explicit violation of its executive order.

It's possible that the Obama administration didn't have compelling evidence of the role of the Iranian government in the gold trade. However, the president may have also simply sought to protect his relationship with Ankara and didn't want to get into a diplomatic spat with Erdogan, who he considers a key regional ally.

If the administration didn't feel that the sanctions in place at the time were sufficient to take action against Halkbank, after all, it could have easily shut down the gold trade



by amending its executive order. But at the time, Turkey was also playing a pivotal role in U.S. policy in Syria, which included efforts to strengthen the more moderate opposition factions fighting President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

It's also possible, however, that the Obama administration's decision had less to do with Turkey, and more to do with coaxing Iran into signing a nuclear deal. In the one-year period between July 2012, when the executive order was issued, and July 2013, when the "golden loophole" was closed, the Obama

administration's non-enforcement of its own sanctions reportedly provided Iran with \$6 billion worth of gold. That windfall may have been an American olive branch to Iran—extended via Turkey—to persuade its leaders to continue backchannel negotiations with the United States, which reportedly began as early as July 2012. It could also have been a significant sweetener to the interim nuclear deal eventually reached at Geneva, which provided Iran with another \$7 billion in sanctions relief.

Indeed, why else would the administration have allowed the Turkish gold trade to continue for an extra six months, when Congress made clear its intent to shut it down?

This brings us back to the current corruption drama in Turkey. The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) has been claiming that it is a victim of a vast conspiracy, blaming everyone from Washington to Israel to U.S.-based Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen for its woes. Some Turkish media have pointed a finger at David Cohen, the Treasury Department's undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence,

who happened to be in Turkey as the news began to break. Erdogan even raised the possibility of expelling the U.S. ambassador to Ankara, Francis Ricciardone.

But if the charges stand against the panoply of well-connected figures fingered, the AKP will have only itself to blame. While the gas-for-gold scheme may have been technically legal before Congress finally shut it down in July, it appears to have exposed the Turkish political elite to a vast Iranian underworld. According to Today's Zaman, suspicious transactions between Iran and Turkey could exceed \$119 billion—nine times the total of gas-for-gold transactions reported.

Even if the Turkish-Iranian gold trade represents only a small part of the wider corruption probe, the ongoing investigation could provide a window into some nagging questions about the relationship between Ankara and Tehran. Perhaps we will finally learn why the Turkish government allowed Iran to stock up on gold while it was defiantly pursuing its illicit nuclear program—and whether the Obama administration could have done more to prevent it.

All talk at Yemen's national dialogue

Looking back on Yemen and its national dialogue in 2013

Abubakr Al-Shamahi
Majalla.com
First Published on Dec. 25

If 2013 has been the year of anything in Yemen, it has been the year of the National Dialogue Conference. Conceived as part of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative that led to President Ali Abdullah Saleh stepping down in February 2012, the much-anticipated conference did not begin until March 2013. It started as it meant to go on, with President Abdu Rabu Mansur Hadi's opening speech interrupted by Houthi delegate Ali Al-Bokhaiti, until Hadi showed him where the door was should he wish to use it. In that opening session, delegates from the Southern separatist Hiraq movement waved the flag of the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, popularly known as South Yemen. Chaotic scenes have been a fixture throughout, with the General Secretariat struggling to maintain order at times, or to enforce the strict time limits that speakers are supposed to stick to.

As of the first half of December, the national dialogue is still being talked about in the present tense precisely because it is continuing. That was not part of the plan. Scheduled to end in September, ongoing issues, specifically the Southern Issue, have caused considerable delays, with constant assurances that a conclusion is near. The Southern separatists of Hiraq have repeatedly boycotted sessions

or threatened to pull out completely. The leader of their delegation, Mohammed Ali Ahmed, has said that he has now pulled out completely, but he could not take all Hiraq delegates with him, a sign of the discord within the movement—the delegates to the national dialogue represent only a portion of the wider movement, many of whom boycotted the conference from the outset.

The most eagerly anticipated outcomes of the national dialogue center on the Southern Issue, political isolation, or the political future of those who are covered by the immunity issued in the GCC Initiative, and how much longer Yemen's transition will take.

The most contentious issue, the Southern Issue, has led to the creation of the 8+8 Subcommittee, in which attempts to iron out a united decision have been taking place outside the much larger Southern Issue Working Group. The committee is called that because eight of the committee members are Southerners, whereas the other eight are from the North. The most likely outcome being talked about is federalism. Herein lies the problem. The Hiraq delegation wants a federal Yemen that encompasses only two federal states, North and South. They are backed in this regard by the Socialist Party. However, Hadi, along with the General People's Congress (GPC) and the Al-Islah Party, are pressing for a number of states, perhaps four or five. Many members of Hiraq see this as simply a way of splitting the

South, whereas those pushing for a four or five-province solution see the two-province proposal as simply a forerunner to the breakup of Yemen—which many Hiraq supporters would probably agree with.

What has been termed the "political isolation" law has been agreed in draft form by the Good Governance Working Group, but in a much-diluted form. Initially, political isolation was intended to—quite explicitly—prevent figures like ex-President Saleh and his son, Ahmed Ali Saleh, from being able to take part in politics. There is a great fear on the part of many of those who opposed Saleh in 2011 that he is simply waiting in the wings, with his tribal patronage systems still in place, and will possibly return to power, whether the titular president be him or his son. The youth delegates in the Good Governance Working Group who pushed a hard line on the political isolation law eventually lost out, with the draft of the decision merely opaquely referring to any future candidate for political office having a "criminal-free record," among other general conditions. Many of the youth saw this as a betrayal by the members of the Joint Meeting Parties coalition, including the Socialists and Al-Islah, who backed down and agreed to the watered-down political isolation in order to placate Saleh's old party, the GPC.

This watering-down on the part of the Joint Meeting Parties comes as a result of the former opposition coalition not wanting to bite off more

than it can chew. Its major goal is to secure for Hadi and the current government an extended transitional period, something bitterly opposed by Saleh and his supporters in the GPC. The initial understanding many Yemenis had was that the GCC Initiative stipulated that the transitional period would end in February 2014, and that presidential elections would then take place. However, U.N. envoy Jamal Benomar, who has faced a growing campaign attacking him backed largely by Saleh's supporters, has recently said that the transitional period is open-ended. There is even talk of the national dialogue delegation being transformed into some sort of transitional parliament, replacing the current parliament that has massively overrun its term.

So, the end of what was supposed to be the national dialogue year draws closer, and yet the conference itself may find itself continuing into 2014. The delegates at the national dialogue have spent months hammering out what they hope will be a roadmap for Yemen's future. And 2014 will show whether they have succeeded or not, and with the security and political situation increasingly uncertain, many Yemenis are not too positive that the whole costly exercise was worth it.

Abubakr Al-Shamahi is a British-Yemeni freelance journalist. He holds an MA in Near and Middle Eastern Studies from SOAS, University of London.

Influential China

A long history of innovation

Abdulla Al-Ademi

China has a vast physical territory as well as an immense population. It was one of the four greatest ancient civilizations in the world along with Egypt, Babylon and India. China is the birthplace of mankind, which has been proved by the discovery of the 45 million-year-old Shu fossils, of the first anthropoid.

China has always been one of the most influential countries in the world, and four great Chinese inventions changed the world. These inventions are the compass, gunpowder, printing technology and paper manufacturing technology. China also produced the first astronomical instrument, and was a pioneer in agricultural technology, developing irrigation systems. Chinese polymath Zhang Heng invented an instrument to detect seismic activity in 192 AD, far long before others were developed in

Europe in the 1700s.

Each phase of Chinese history has brought great benefits to mankind. The Chinese first began to manufacture bronze during the Xia Dynasty about 5,000 years ago. During the Shang Dynasty, metalworking became one of the most important industries and China led the world in the building of large warships and carriages.

More recently, in 1978, China started embarking on market reforms. It transformed from a central, planned economy to a market economy with quick economic and social development. Average growth in GDP reached 10 percent annually. This has helped China pull over 500 million of its people out of poverty. Its population currently stands at about 1.3 billion, making China the world's second largest economy.

Abdulla Al-Ademi is a trainer at Safer Oil Company in Sana'a.

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South Sudan's deteriorating humanitarian situation

IRIN
First Published Dec. 27

As fighting continues across South Sudan, the United Nations is reporting that some 1,000 people may have been killed, while aid agencies estimate that in a worst-case scenario, thousands more could be displaced or will require humanitarian assistance.

There are also serious concerns about the safety and health of the 58,000 people who have sought refuge at U.N. bases around the country, as aid organizations work to provide emergency food, water and sanitation facilities to prevent disease outbreaks.

"We are extremely concerned about the escalation in the situation in South Sudan," the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) Country Representative, Iyorlumun Uhaa, told IRIN. "We're really facing a huge and growing humanitarian crisis."

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), aid agencies need an estimated \$166 million in emergency funding from now until March 2014 for the needs of those affected by the violence.

The fighting in South Sudan began on Dec. 15, when clashes erupted between two factions in military barracks in the national capital, Juba. President Salva Kiir blamed the incident on a failed coup attempt by his former deputy, Riek Machar, which Machar denied. However, the former vice president

has told several news agencies that he is now in open rebellion against the government.

The violence in Juba has since subsided, but clashes have been reported in seven of the country's 10 states. Forces loyal to Machar are in control of Unity state. They also held Bor, the capital of neighboring Jonglei state, but lost control of the town to government forces on Dec. 24.

The government has also reported continued fighting in oil-rich Upper Nile state. Michael White, the head of mission in South Sudan for the medical charity, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), said "over the last couple of days there has been sustained fighting" in the area, and they have received 70 people with gunshot wounds at their hospital in Malakal, the capital of Upper Nile state.

The U.N. Security Council voted on Dec. 24 to nearly double the number of peacekeepers in the country—from 7,000 to 12,500—while the special representative of the secretary-general, Hilden Johnson, warned that the U.N. Mission is "overstretched with current protection obligations related to the civilians in our camps and making sure they are safe".

In areas where the fighting has stopped, aid agencies are scrambling to meet the needs of thousands of people uprooted from their homes and still too afraid to return. This includes Juba, where at least 500 people were killed in four days of fighting, according to the U.N., and 25,000 people are still sheltering at two U.N. camps.

UNICEF's Uhaa said most of those living in the camps are women and children. "In areas around Juba where we have access, the major issues for children relate to the separation from their families," he said. "A lot of the children came to the camps [after] being separated from their families."

According to Uhaa, U.N. and other agencies are trying to provide emergency supplies of food, water and temporary shelter to as many people as possible. They are also building latrines to discourage open defecation, which heightens the risk of an outbreak of water-borne diseases, like cholera.

Wendy Taeuber, country director of the NGO, International Rescue Committee (IRC), told IRIN that overcrowding in the camps has hampered their efforts to address cases of gender-based violence that might have occurred during the fighting.

"There's no safe space for women in the camps," she said. "If you even want to meet with a woman to hear about how she's feeling in the camp, there's nowhere...Everyone is surrounded by hundreds of other people and there's not a safe space to even have a conversation."

The situation in the country's more remote areas is unclear, with no way of confirming casualties or displacements.

The Jonglei State Relief and Rehabilitation director, Gabriel Deng Ajak, said the government still has no clear picture of what the needs are in the Bor area, and this is further complicated by reports of fighting on the outskirts of the city.



Internally displaced people at the Episcopal Cathedral in Juba.

He said as many as 100,000 people may have been displaced, of whom 15,000 are still sheltering at the U.N. base in the town.

"[A] very huge humanitarian response [will] be required, because all the civilian population in and around Bor have lost their livelihood," Ajak said. He added that the government is launching an emer-

gency assessment in the coming days to determine how extensive the needs are.

Peacekeepers and aid workers are also in danger. On Dec. 20, two Indian peacekeepers and a clinical health officer working for the International Medical Corps were killed when local youths overran a U.N. base in Akobo in Jonglei state.

MSF's White said it is critical that they "have free access in all the areas where we work", and "What we're ensuring is that our teams can continue to work, can continue to provide life-saving medical activities. That will remain our goal."

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INTERNAL/EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 56/2013

If you are a committed, creative Yemeni and are passionate about making a lasting difference for children, the world's leading child rights organization. UNICEF would like to hear from you.

Post Title: Programme Assistant (3 nos)
Contract type: Temporary Appointment
Level of Post: GS-6
Duty Station: Aden, Hodeidah & Sa'ada

PURPOSE:
Under general supervision of Chief of Field offices, performs a variety of information gathering, monitoring, technical and administrative services of moderate scope and difficulty, in support of field offices programme activities.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
Under the supervision of Chief of Field offices, the incumbent will perform the following main responsibilities:

1. Collects information mainly from records and reports and prepares periodic and ad hoc reports on programme and project activities.
2. Organizes data and information, prepares and maintains records, documents and control plans for the monitoring of project/programme implementation.
3. Contributes to the preparation of reports, project documents and submissions to governments by providing information, preparing tables and drafting relatively routine sections. Prepares background information for use in discussions with governments and other organizations. Participates in the briefing and debriefing of project personnel.
4. Scrutinizes plans of operations, exchanges of letters and takes appropriate follow-up action. Assists in the administrative process of government requests for assistance and liquidations.
5. May be required to carry out specific administrative operational/control tasks for project/programme activities.
6. Maintains contact lists and prepares correspondences for partners, ensures the organization and filing of programme documents and follow-up with sections as well as partner.
7. Performs other duties, as required.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Completion of secondary education, preferably supplemented by technical or university courses in a field related to the work of the organization.
- Six years of progressively responsible clerical or administrative work, of which at least one year is closely related to support of programme activities.
- Fluency in English and Arabic is required.

COMPETENCIES:

i) Core Values (Required)

- Commitment
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Integrity

ii) Core Competencies (Required)

- Communication (II)
- Working with People (II)
- Drive for Results (II)

(iii) Functional Competencies (Required)

- Formulating Strategies and Concepts (I)
- Analyzing (I)
- Applying Technical Expertise (I)
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If you meet the requirements stated above, please send your application, enclosing comprehensive curriculum vitae, duly completed United Nations Personal History form (which can be downloaded from www.unicef.org/employ) stating telephone number, email address and detailed contact address quoting the vacancy number to: yemenhr@unicef.org not later than **13 January 2014**. Please indicate your preferred duty location when applying. For additional information on UNICEF, please visit our website: www.unicef.org

UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages qualified female and male candidates, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of our organisation.
UNICEF is a smoke-free environment.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR REHABILITATION OF PUMPING AND DISTRIBUTION LINE AND ASSOCIATED WORKS IN AL MAHARAQ VILLAGE HAYS DISTRICT- AL HODEIDAH GOVERNORATE

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 is inviting tenders for the following:

Tender Ref No:
REF: OX-YE-HOD- REQ: 4704

1- Tender documents are available for collection from our offices in Yemen as follow:

- Sana'a office located in Diplomatic area, Hadda, 01- 444568/9
- Hodeidah Office, located in the Commercial Area, In Front OF Omar Bin Abdulaziz School ,Tel. No. 03- 219635/7.

Please report at the reception desk with an official letter from your company. Tender documents will be issued at the logistics offices (in both Sana'a and Hodeidah) between 09:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Tender documents will be issued from Monday 30/12/2013 TO Thursday 09/01/2014.

For more information please feel free to call on Tel numbers: 01- 444568/9 and/or 03-219635/7.

OXFAM is not bound to accept any application or give reasons for rejection or acceptance.

دعوة إلى تقديم العطاءات الخاصة بإعادة تأهيل شبكة توزيع المياه وأنبوب الضخ مع الصمام في قرية المحرق مديريه حيس - محافظة الحديدة

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 تدعو للمناقشة على ما يلي، المرجع مناقصة رقم:

REF: OX-YE-HOD- REQ: 4704

وثائق المناقصة متاحة في مكاتب المنظمة باليمن كالتالي:

- صنعاء، الحي السياسي - حدة - تلفون 01-444568/9
- الحديدة - الحي التجاري - أمام مدرسة عمر بن عبدالعزيز - تلفون 03-219635/7

الرجاء التقدم الى مكاتب الاستقبال بالمنظمة مع رسالة رسمية من شركتكم وذلك للحصول على وثائق المناقصة من قسم خدمات الامداد والتأمين بالمنظمة من الساعة 09:00 صباحا وحتى الساعة 4:00 عصرا وستصدر وثائق المناقصة اعتبارا من يوم الاثنين الموافق 30/12/2013م حتى يوم الخميس 09/01/2014م.

لمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الاتصال على الأرقام : 01-444568/9 و / أو تلفون رقم 03-219635/7.

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

Looking back on the year's dramatic events

By Ali Saeed

The government says it will rehire 800 Southern military and service personnel fired in 1994

On Sept. 11, President Hadi issued a decree to reinstate 795 Southerners who lost their jobs in the military and security services following Yemen's 1994 Civil War. The decision is one of the many concessions the central government made to Southerners in an effort to generate goodwill between the formerly independent South and the North.

Shabwa military camps attacked

Unidentified armed men, suspected to be affiliated with AQAP, attacked two military camps in Shabwa governorate near high-profile oil and gas infrastructure on Sept. 20. Twenty-two soldiers die in the attack and 18 are injured.

Unidentified militants take control of the Second Military Command in Hadramout

Unidentified armed men broke into Second Military Command headquarters in Al-Mukalla in Hadramout governorate on Sept. 30. The militants are able to gain entrance by using a car bomb. The military officially regained control of the headquarters on Oct. 2 after reportedly killing everyone inside—the militants as well as the soldiers that had been taken hostage. An estimated 13 soldiers died in the fighting, and 40 were injured.

Intense fighting breaks out in Dammaj

A bloody, sectarian conflict erupted at the end of October in the town of Dammaj in Sa'ada governorate between the Salafis, a conservative Sunni sect of Islam, and Shiite-Houthi rebels. Presidential and Parliamentary mediation committees fail to negotiate a peace agreement in the region. Both parties have mobilized supporters for larger-scale fighting in ongoing fighting.

Yemen's Nobel Peace Laureate donates cash prize to charity

Tawakul Karman, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 for her work during Yemen's anti-government uprising, donated her \$500,000 award on Oct. 31 to a charity that helps victims of the uprising and their families.



Photo by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moskhi

Kidnapping in Taiz

Unidentified armed men abducted Mohammed Moneer Ahmed Hayel, the nephew of the governor of Taiz, as he was driving to his office on Nov. 19. A tribal group in Marib governorate, 172 km east of Sana'a, released Hayel on Dec 16.

Yemen establishes Southern Victims' Fund

On Nov. 24, President Hadi established the Southern Victims' Fund. Qatar pledged \$350 million to support the trust, designed to restore lands confiscated following Yemen's 1994 Civil War. The fund is one of the demands made by Southern representatives at the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) in order to secure their continued participation in the reconciliatory talks. While many praise the establishment of the fund, it isn't enough to quell continued demands for Southern secession.

Two Belarussians shot in attack

On Nov. 26, two unidentified men on motorcycles shot two Belarussian military instructors outside a hotel in Sana'a. One died on the spot and the other survived the attack. No suspects have been named in the attack.

Sana'a bans motorcycles

The Ministry of the Interior enacted a two-week ban on motorcycles in Sana'a which began Dec. 1 in response to an increase in the number of assassinations of military and security personnel by assailants on motorcycles. Motorcyclists, many of whom use their bikes as taxis to make a living, react to the ban with anger and protests. The ban was largely ignored, with motorcycles being spotted all over the capital during the ban.

Unprecedented and brutal attack on Defense Ministry

A disputed number (9 to 12) armed men broke into the Defense Ministry compound on Dec. 5, killing 56 people and injuring another 215, a majority of whom had been in the Al-Ordi Hospital inside the compound. The deadly attack received national, regional and international condemnation. The military commander of AQAP, Qasim Al-Raimi, said in a YouTube video posted



two weeks later that his organization carried out the attack. In the video he apologized for the hospital deaths, saying that the target was the Defense Ministry and not civilians. He blames a misinformed fighter for the hospital casualties. Hospital security cameras captured footage of a militant executing patients and health care workers of many nationalities in the hospital.

The Yemeni weekend changes

On Saturday, Aug. 17, Yemen swapped its Thursday-Friday weekend for a Friday-Saturday weekend in line with the rest of the Gulf. Hailed by economists as a positive move, this decision, five years in the making, proves to be challenging for businesses, schools and individuals to adjust to.

Celebrating cultural heritage at the Sana'a Summer Tourism Festival

The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Capital Secretariat, sponsored a folklore and handcrafts festival in Sana'a from Aug. 18 to Sept. 1. The festival, which attracted visitors from all over the country, was designed to boost internal tourism and encourage an appreciation for Yemen's cultural heritage.

Air Force bus attack leaves one dead, 24 injured

On Aug. 25, a bomb attached to an Air Force Bus that transports soldiers between their homes and a military school in Sana'a exploded while the vehicle was in operation. One soldier died immediately, one died later in the hospital and 24 were wounded, five of whom lost both their legs. No one ever claims responsibility for the bombing, and the government never names suspects.

Iranian diplomat abducted in Sana'a

Noor Ahmed, an Iranian diplomat stationed in Sana'a, was abducted on July 21. His whereabouts and the identity of his kidnapers are still unknown. The Iranian Embassy issued statements holding the Yemeni government accountable for the safety of diplomats.



Photo by Ali Saeed

Abdulah Haider Shaye

Abdulah Haider Shaye released from prison

Yemeni journalist Abdulah Haider Shaye was released two years early from a five-year sentence on July 23. Shaye, known for his reporting on Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and his exclusive interviews with the militant group's leaders, was imprisoned in August 2010 due to accusations that he was supporting the organization. He was the first to report on an American airstrike in Al-Ma'ajala, Abyan governorate in December 2009. He reported

that 42 civilians died. Shaye was originally imprisoned under former President Saleh's rule. Wikileaks documents later revealed that Shaye was in line to be pardoned by the president but U.S. President Barack Obama personally requests he remain incarcerated. Following Shaye's release, he is placed under house arrest and unable to travel to Switzerland to receive the Alkarama Human Rights Defenders award, which he was awarded earlier in 2013.

Dutch couple kidnapped

A Dutch couple working in Sana'a, Judith Spiegel, a journalist, and her partner, Boudewijn Berendsen, an independent insurance agent, were confirmed missing from their home in Sana'a on June 15. No one claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, but a video of the couple pleading with their government to take action appeared on YouTube in July. The couple was released unharmed on Dec. 7.

Neither the Yemeni nor the Dutch governments have announced whether a ransom was paid for the couple's release.



Al-Masdar online

Pro-Saleh camps in Tahrir Square come down

Following orders from the Military Affairs Committee, on May 4, the Municipality of Sana'a removed pro-Saleh protesters' tents in Tahrir Square. Like its counterpart in Change Square, Tahrir had been occupied since early Feb. 2011 when the media-coined Arab Spring broke out in Egypt with the ousting of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Then-President Saleh helped establish the camp to prevent opponents of his regime from following the events that unfolded in Cairo's Tahrir Square.

Three kidnapped Europeans return home

A Finnish couple and an Austrian student of Arabic, who were abducted in Sana'a in late Dec. 2012, were released on May 8 by a tribe in the Al-Mahra governorate in east Yemen, on the Omani border. The foreign nationals were handed over to Omani authorities by tribesmen.

Second military aircraft crashes in Sana'a in span of three months

On May 13, a military aircraft crashed into Al-Khamseen Street in southern Sana'a after returning from a routine military training exercise, authorities say. The pilot died in the crash, but there were no other reported deaths. Following the February crash in the Al-Qadesia neighborhood, President Hadi had issued a decree that military training missions are no longer allowed to fly over residential areas. This crash raises questions about the military's ability to follow orders and implement the new regulation. A committee set up to investigate the incident still has not released the cause of the crash.



Photo by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moskhi

South African couple still missing in Taiz

On May 27, armed men kidnapped a South African couple in the city of Taiz. The couple have been held captive for more than six months at an unknown location by unknown assailants. No one has yet claimed responsibility.

Bye-bye Change Square

After a two-year occupation, on April 19, anti-government protesters began to evacuate their camps from Change Square near Sana'a University. Protesters had originally closed down the area in February 2011, when thousands took to the streets to demand the departure of then-President Ali Abdulla Saleh, who had ruled Yemen for 33 years. Saleh agreed to sign an internationally-backed power transfer deal the same year, ushering in current President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi. One street near the original camp is still occupied by Houthi protesters, who have refused to leave until the revolution is "truly finished."

Hadi continues to restructure the army

On April 22, President Hadi issued several military decrees that removed relatives of former President Ali Abdulla Saleh from leadership positions in the Yemeni military. Among the sacked leaders were Saleh's son, Ahmed Saleh, who commanded the elite Republican Guard and General Ali Mohsen, former head of the First Armored Division. Both military units were dissolved and attached to other units of the national army, but both former commanders were controversially relocated to other government positions.



Military aircraft crashes near Change Square

A military aircraft on a training mission plummeted from the sky on Feb. 19, crashing into the Al-Qadesia neighborhood in Sana'a, destroying several houses, killing 12 people, and injuring 11 others. Although military officials initially report the plane malfunctioned due to "technical difficulties," an official cause of the crash was never released.

NDC kicks off in Sana'a

The long-awaited National Dialogue Conference (NDC) began March 18 in Sana'a, with the backing of both the regional and international community. Slated to last six months and pave the way for the drafting of a new constitution and national elections in early 2014, the slow-burning conference soon found itself bogged down in numerous political impasses. In order to find solutions to some of Yemen's most pressing issues, including the shape of the new government and state; a transitional justice law; calls for secession in the South; and long-standing grievances in the northern governorate of Sa'ada; the conference continued to convene well past its originally scheduled end date of Sept. 18.



مؤتمر الحوار الوطني الشامل

Saudi Arabia changes labor law, deportation of Yemeni workers begins

In late March, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia approved an amendment to its labor law that targeted foreign workers. Under the new restrictions, foreign laborers were no longer allowed to work for anyone other than their original visa sponsors, putting at risk thousands who work for more than one company or who were previously and legally allowed to enter the country under a different sponsor. Deportations began immediately, but King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud later announced a six-month grace period for laborers to get their paperwork in order. The new regulations officially went into effect Nov. 3, leading to the daily deportation of thousands of Yemenis. Experts and officials worry how Yemen's economy will absorb the returning work force.

The WTO's newest member

After 13 years of negotiations, Yemen joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Dec. 4, becoming the 160th member of the organization. The agreement was signed at the ninth Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Bali, Indonesia. Experts are still debating the effect of membership on Yemen's economy.



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Sudoku Easy Intermediate Difficult

5	9	2	3	7	8	6	3	2	1	6
4	1	8	5	8	3	5	7	7	8	9
1	8	3	5	5	5	5	5	7	3	5
2	3	4	1	7	8	3	1	5	9	2
9	7	8	5	8	5	7	2	6	1	3
6	5	8	7	7	9	6	3	4	5	8
1	7	9	4	4	1	1	6	4	5	8

Chess

Solutions

Chess: bxc2+

Sudoku

Black plays and wins in the 4th move

IMPORTANT Numbers

Electricity problems 177, Emergency Police 199, Fire Brigade 191, Water Problems 171, Telephone enquiries 118, Accident (Traffic) 194, Foreign Affairs, 2025447, Interior Affairs 2527017, Immigration 2507613, Inter-City Bus Co. 262111/3, Ministry of Communication 325110/1/2/3, Radio Station 282061, Tourism 254032, TV Station 332001/2, Red Crescent 203131/3, Tel-Yemen 7522202, Y.net 7522227

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Yemen Islamic Insurance Co. Sana'a 284193, 5 lines, Taiz: 258881, Aden: 244280
Yemen Insurance company Sana'a: 272806/272962/43, Aden: 247617 Taiz: 250345, Mukalla: 304292, Hodeidah: 261839/17
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Ministry of Local Administration 01-227242
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Ministry of Education 01-252732
Ministry of Foreign Affairs 01-537914
Ministry of the Interior 01-332701
Ministry of Finance 01-260365
Ministry of Transportation 01-202257
Ministry of Water and Environment 01-418289
Ministry of Electricity 01-326196

SUPERMARKET

Al-Jandul Supermarket. 01-422610
Happy Land supermarket 01-444424

TRANSLATIONS

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

TRAVEL

Sky Travel & Tourism 01-535080/83 02-221270
Falcon Holidays 444118
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Al-Nasim Travel 270750
Universal Business Travel Center 441158/9/60
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Just a phone call away

118—your toll-free key to important numbers

throughout Yemen as a primary source of contact information for government institutions and businesses. The GIA was established in 1981 and has call centers nationwide. It provides the public with the landline numbers for government corporations and private companies.

Fuad Al-Jarmouzi has been working at the GIA for 10 years, and they are busier than ever.

"The pressure on our office has to do with the fact that the capital city houses the majority of government and private companies' headquarters," he said. "Since [using our service] does not cost callers anything, our phones do not stop ringing."

The GIA uses a system that is connected to the Telecommunications Corporation's billing department. This system registers the names and numbers of new landline subscribers directly through the local data network, enabling 118 operators to provide up-to-date information to callers.

"We can give the caller the number he wants, provided that



The Sana'a call center of the General Information Administration's 118 toll-free information line handles about 1,000 calls per day.

he gives us the exact name of the person [or business]," said Al-Jarmouzi.

GIA employees work around the clock on shifts. Everyone is required to work six hours per day, even on official holidays, when employees receive overtime pay.

Employees are keen to provide good customer service to callers, says Ali Al-Haimi, a long-time employee at the GIA, even when callers want high-profile numbers.

"If the caller asks for the number of the office of the president of Yemen, or of the head of intelligence or national security, we give them the number," Al-Haimi said.

Some callers call just to bother employees, asking absurd questions [or making inappropriate requests], says Al-Haimi. A caller may ask, 'How is the qat today?' or 'I do not have a balance on my phone. Please recharge my account.' "Some callers misuse this service but we still deal with them politely," he said.

Forty-two-year-old Ahlam, who declined to give her last name, has been working at the center for 10 years. Despite the daily pressure that the non-stop calls put on employees, she says enjoys providing a necessary service to civilians.

"Sometimes, callers are impolite, but I do not take offense because it is my job. I help a lot of people," she said.

Ahlam says it takes a special kind of person to deal with the myriad of phone calls that the office answers every day. She says employees need to be patient, be able to deal with a wide variety of personalities, and have the ability to remain calm in the face of pressure.

Ahlam said the majority of numbers requested are those of security institutions, hospitals, airports, transportation companies, travel and tourism companies, and money exchange and transfer companies. She said that the GIA in Sana'a receives about 1,000 calls

per day, with the busiest times being between 8 a.m. and noon. It is also quite busy between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The GIA toll-free service is a huge help to callers in emergency situations. University student Sawsan Anash, 23, said that she once called 118, and it helped save her father's life.

"I called the GIA to get the number of the hospital nearest to our home. I called it, and an ambulance came [immediately]," she said.

Certificates of appreciation adorn the walls of the GIA. Al-Haimi said that many people have told him how thankful they are for his work, and that it is not unusual for coworkers to receive presents from grateful callers.

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Story and photo by Mohammed Al-Hassani

On the third floor of Yemen's Public Telecommunications Corporation, located in the Tahrir district of Sana'a, there are six cubicles neatly lined up. Each cubicle holds a computer, a telephone and a swivel chair.

This is the Sana'a governorate's call center for the toll-free phone number, 118, run by the General Information Administration (GIA). This number is well known

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