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متوفر لدى جميع  
الموزعين المعتمدين  
ومراكز خدمة سبأفون

400

ريال إشتراك شهري  
حسب سنة الإشتراك

200

فائز شهرياً



## خُط الفوترة لَسْبأ

### حُلة جديدة ومزايا فريدة

67%

تخفيض في خدمة  
الأهل والأصدقاء



100%

الخط مجاني



800

ريال بداية لباقات  
الإنترنت



خط سبأ الجديد كلياً ... تحدث ، إربح ، شارك ، قل مرحباً بمزايا لا حصر لها .

- قيمة خط الفوترة سبأ مجاناً ( فقط دفع مبلغ التأمين ) .
- إشتراك شهري يبدأ من 400 إلى 750 ريال ، وذلك حسب سنة الإشتراك حيث يحصل المشترك على 5% تخفيض عن كل سنة .
- فقط 150 ريال إشتراك لخدمة الأهل والأصدقاء ، أول 6 أرقام تضاف مجاناً وتخفض في المكالمات والإشتراك الشهري يصل إلى 67% .
- تأهل للسحب ضمن 200 فائز شهرياً بجوائز قيمة وذلك لكل 2500 ريال يتم سدادها شهرياً وتستطيع مضاعفة فرصك للفوز .
- باقات إنترنت متنوعة تبدأ من 800 ريال فقط ( 40 ميجا بايت ) .
- ( الأسعار غير شاملة للضريبة )

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ستايشن 3 ، مسرح منزلي وجوائز أخرى متنوعة .

جائزة  
200 تنهرياً

لمزيد من المعلومات أرسل ( سبأ ) إلى الرقم ٢١١ مجاناً



# تواصل لا يشترى ...

# تخفيض حتى 60%



## للأهل والأصدقاء

خدمة الأهل والأصدقاء تتيح لمشاركي نظام الفوترة إضافة 6 أرقام  
ولنظام الدفع المسبق إضافة 3 أرقام  
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## Joy to the world!

Tens of thousands of Zaidi Shiites gathered on Monday at Al-Thowra stadium in Sana'a to commemorate the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed. In the photograph, a man holds up Arabic text that reads, "At thy service, O Messenger of Allah." **Read more on Page 8**  
(Photo by Ali Abulohoom)

## Non-local Salafis evicted from Dammaj

### Religious school students given four days to leave

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Jan.13—Non-local residents of Dammaj in Sa'ada governorate are packing their bags following the signing of an agreement on Saturday between the two parties engulfed in conflict in the area—the Houthis and the Salafis. The Houthis, a group of Zaidi Shiites who control Sa'ada, and the Salafis, conservative Sunnis, have been fighting since late October, leaving dozens dead and hundreds injured, according to various estimates.

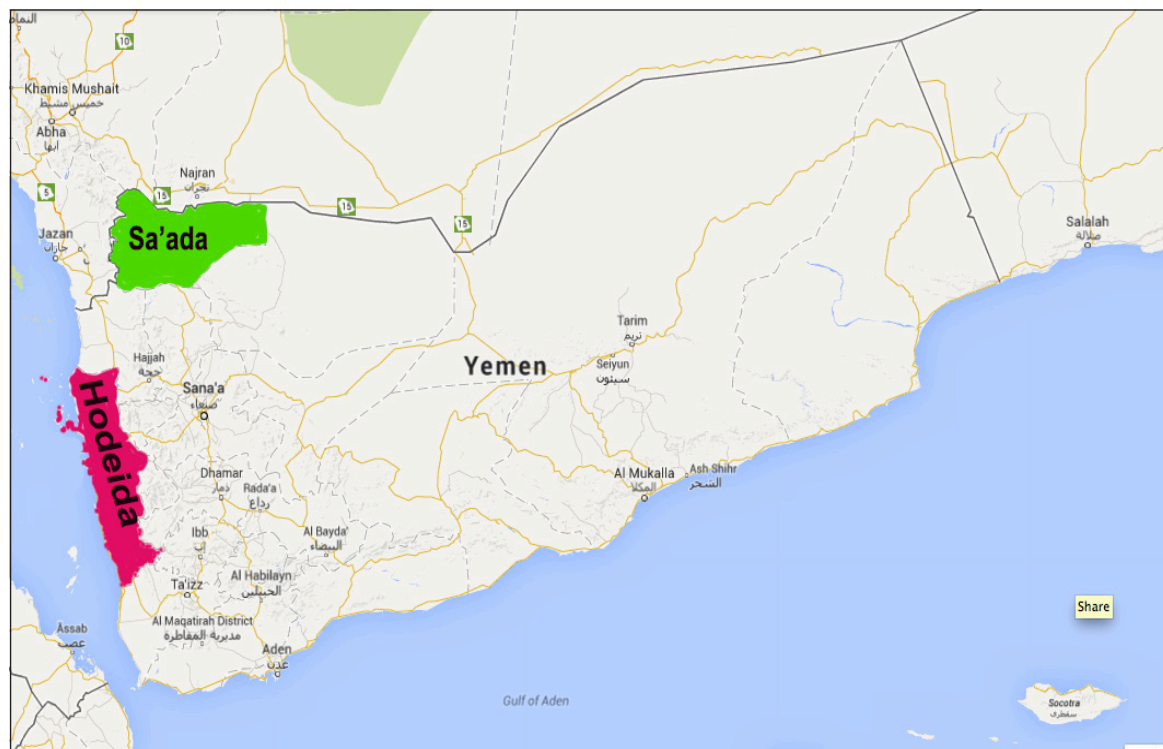
The agreement, negotiated by a presidential committee, stipulates the evacuation of all students from Dammaj who are not originally from the city, even if they are Yemeni. In practice, this means that Salafi students who have been studying at the Dar Al-Hadeeth religious school must leave Dammaj by Wednesday, a four-day deadline. Locals say the students will be moved to Hodeida governorate.

A local in Dammaj, Mohammed Al-Wadie, said the students are adhering to the agreement but are not happy about it.

"There are around 200 families—more than 8,000 individuals—hoping for appropriate redress from the government," he said. "I think no one will remain in Dammaj, because these people want to live in peace."

A spokesperson for Salafi citizens in Dammaj, Sroor Al-Wadie, said the government-brokered deal was not fair to the Salafis.

"After three months of fighting, we were hoping that President



**Dar Al-Hadeeth religious school students not originally from Dammaj are being forced to leave. They are being relocated to Hodeida governorate. The school's director, Yahia Al-Hajori, is originally from the Hodeida area.**

[Abdu Rabu Mansour] Hadi would stop the war in Dammaj and punish the Houthis, but we were shocked that he rewarded them by delivering Dammaj to them."

"The people leaving Dammaj will leave everything they have behind. President Hadi should be held accountable for this inappropriate solution," he added.

A copy of the signed agreement between the Salafis and the Houthis was published on several news websites. The first point of the agreement called for a ceasefire between both parties and an end to the siege of Dammaj.

The manager of the Dar Al-Hadeeth school, Yahia Al-Hajori, who is also cooperating with the agreement, is critical of it. He said that

the presidential committee should guarantee compensation for costs associated with moving to Hodeida. He also asked for a guarantee from the committee that the Houthis will not follow them to the new area.

Meanwhile, a Houthi representative to the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), Ali Al-Bukhaiti, said, that he is pleased with the agreement.

"Those who are armed should leave Dammaj so that it can once again be a peaceful area. The government will control Dammaj and also control Dar Al-Hadeeth. Dar Al-Hadeeth will be able to continue its work." That is, the religious school will continue to function, but with a local student popula-

tion, free of outsiders, he said.

Many, including political analyst Nabeel Al-Sharjabi, say the agreement appears to have favored one party over the other.

"The evacuation of Salafis from Dammaj should be considered a setback not just for Salafis, but also for the government because it showed itself to be powerless to do anything to resolve this conflict other than evacuate Salafis from Dammaj in order to resolve this conflict," Al-Sharjabi said.

Sharjabi believes the Houthis were given the upper hand by the government in this agreement.

"I consider this a very dangerous thing. It is the first step toward a division of the country along sectarian lines," he said.

## It's time for a government reshuffle, youth movement says

### 'Rescue Campaign' to call for new Cabinet

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Jan. 13—The independent youth movement announced on Tuesday that they will launch an initiative they are calling the "Rescue Campaign."

The Rescue Campaign's goal is to pressure President Abdu Mansour Hadi to reshuffle the Cabinet. The youth group is calling for the resignation of all current ministers, including the prime minister, Mohammed Salem Basindwa. The youth campaign is similar to one that contributed to the ouster of Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi in June 2012.

On Monday, security forces were heavily deployed on the streets of Sana'a in preparation for mass protests that could result from the campaign. National Dialogue Conference (NDC) leadership called on citizens to resist calls to join the protests on Tuesday.

In addition to calling for the government reshuffle, NDC representatives believe the students may also cause problems for the Southern Issue Solution Document, which was finally signed off on last week.

The date of the campaign is symbolic, explains Abduljalil Al-Yateem, the head of the movement. Tuesday's date, Jan. 14, is 40 days after the Dec. 5 attack on the Defense Ministry that left more than 50 dead and more than 200 wounded.

The campaign's organizers are using the attack on the Defense Ministry to mobilize people against the government because of what they see as the state's failure to protect the compound, supposedly one of the most tightly-guarded buildings in the country. By extension, some feel that the government has failed to protect its people.

Although some have accused the General People's Congress—former President Ali Abdulla Saleh's political party—of supporting the campaign, the GPC issued a statement on Friday denying any support for the Independent Youth's planned initiative.

"The GPC and the National Co-

alition Parties do not have anything to do with the campaign; rather it hopes the organizers will take the current situation into consideration and cancel it," the statement read.

"We are against this campaign and will not join it, as we said in our statement," said Sinan Al-Aji, a GPC member of Parliament.

Also opposed to the youth initiative is the GPC's main opposition, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), who control half of the current government.

The JMPs' Supreme Council met on Friday and issued a statement in support of the government, calling on the state to maintain security and oppose any acts that would aim to create disorder in Yemen.

Despite their critics, Al-Yateem said everything is going ahead as planned.

"The youth will take to the streets as independent youth and will not represent any political party," he said, adding that demonstrations will take place at several locations in Yemen.

Some media outlets have reported that the Revolution Salvation Front, established after the signing of the Gulf Initiative, supports the campaign and will join it. However, Ahmed Saif Hashed, head of the front, denied these rumors.

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# More than 150 families displaced, and nine soldiers killed in clashes in Hadramout

## Details regarding attack on military camp still trickling in

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANAA, Jan. 13—More than 150 families were forced to abandon their homes in the city of Al-Shihr in Hadramout governorate this week after fierce fighting erupted after armed men attempted to storm the Al-Olaie Military Camp on Sunday in the center of the Al-Shihr, according to local sources.

Nine soldiers, one child and one gunman reportedly died in

the fighting, which took place near a populated area, eyewitnesses said. Soldiers engaged in fighting with militants at checkpoints in the area as well, security officials said.

"The number of deaths is large on the soldiers' side, but no one knows the exact number," said Ahmed Omar Madi, Al-Shihr's district manager. "Initial reports say there were nine deaths."

According to Madi, the fighting went on for about six hours, finally dying down at 8:30 p.m.

"The soldiers used artillery, tanks and machine guns. Some nearby houses were destroyed and locals were displaced," he said.

Mohammed Al-Qahoom, one

of the displaced residents, told the Yemen Times that the use of tanks and RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades) left residents with little choice but to abandon their homes and seek safety elsewhere, typically with relatives.

"We have never experienced such a [terrible] night before, so we decided to leave the area," Al-Qahoom said.

"Military vehicles are deployed heavily everywhere in the city and clashes are still ongoing," he added. "We heard firing from heavy weaponry and saw columns of smoke rising from several buildings. Two houses burned and several others were damaged."

Local officials say the gunmen had a mixture of affiliations,

Some are believed to be members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and others from area tribes.

Al-Qahoom said he heard "some gunmen repeating Al-Qaeda slogans," during the fighting.

Military reinforcements reportedly arrived late to the military camp because of roadblocks the gunmen had set up.

Hadramout's security manager was unable to be reached for comment on this story.

In November, government forces laid siege on the city of Al-Shihr in a campaign the state said targeted local militants. Dozens were reportedly killed during the campaign.



Smoke rises from the military camp near Al-Shihr's downtown.

## Female hostage from South Africa released, husband still in captivity

### Negotiations to secure husband's release ongoing

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANAA, Jan. 13—South African national Yolande Korkie, who was abducted along with her husband Pierre by gunmen in Taiz more than seven months ago, left Yemen late Saturday for Dubai en route to her homeland after being released on Friday.

She left the country in the company of the non-resident South African ambassador to Yemen.

Negotiations are ongoing to secure Pierre's release, who is still in custody. The Gift of the Givers Foundation's Yemeni branch is negotiating with the kidnappers via tribal mediators and expect to secure the husband's release by Tuesday. The Gift of the Givers Foundation is a South African charity.

The head of the foundation in South Africa, Imtiaz Sooliman, told African media outlets on Friday that Yolande was released without ransom following four days of negotiations. According to Sooliman, the unidentified kidnappers are asking for \$2 million for Pierre's release.

Sooliman said that Anas Al-Hamati, the head of the foundation's Yemen branch, had spent several months searching for the

couple. After confirming the couple's whereabouts last week, Al-Hamati was able to convince the kidnappers that Yolande's family could not afford a ransom and that the South African government does not such sums, Sooliman said.

Fearing that it might adversely affect negotiations for the release of the husband, Al-Hamati declined to provide any specifics about the kidnappers.

The South African couple had been living and working in Yemen for four years. The husband taught English at a private institute in Taiz, and the wife worked as a nurse with a charity organization in the governorate.

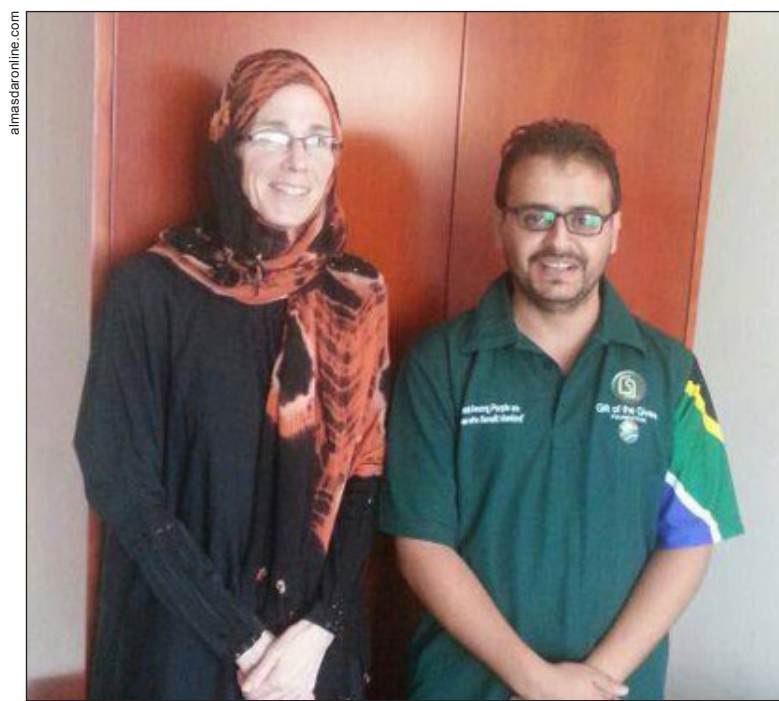
According to Al-Hamati, Yolande was in good health when she was handed over to security authorities in Sana'a.

Al-Hamati credited tribal sheikhs in Abyan governorate with helping secure the couple's release.

While there has been no official confirmation, it is believed that the kidnappers may be affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

"Armed militants exist in remote areas that are out of reach of security forces," said Ali Aida, a spokesperson for a popular committee in Abyan, which were established to support the army against Al-Qaeda militants in the governorate. "They use these isolated places to hold hostages from other governorates."

Armed militants have many sup-



Yolande Korkie (left) flew home to South Africa on Saturday after negotiators secured her release.

porters in other governorates that cooperate with them to facilitate kidnappings, he said.

Given the overall security vacuum in the country, Saeed Al-Jamhi, a researcher who specializes in Islamic groups, says the kidnapping of foreigners is relatively easy to carry out.

"In the past, kidnappers wanted to pressure the government to release family members from prison. However, the purpose of kidnappings today is to get ransom mon-

ey," Al-Jamhi said. "Abduction has become a money-making strategy for Al-Qaeda."

Last month, a Dutch couple who had been held since June returned to the Netherlands after being released to security forces in Sana'a. There has been no official statement from either the Dutch or Yemeni governments on who was behind the kidnapping, but one of the victims told media outlets before leaving the country that she didn't believe Al-Qaeda was responsible.

## NDC general session approves presidential mandate, several object

### Representatives from the Houthis and the Yemeni Socialist and the Al-Haq Parties all state opposition

Mohammed Al-Hassani

SANAA, Jan. 13—The National Dialogue Conference's (NDC) push to move ahead and implement agreements signed off in the Southern Issue Solution Document last week, continues to face backlash from individuals in political parties.

Though the majority of NDC representatives on Saturday voted in favor of a mandate that allows President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi to form a committee that will take over the decision-making process regarding Yemen's future number of regions in a federal state, several members of the Al-Haq Party, the Houthis and the Yemeni Socialist Party refrained from offering support. However, each of the three political parties had signatories on the Solution Document that stipulated the creation of the committee.

Yasser Al-Ruaini, the deputy secretary general of the NDC,

downplayed the opposition, saying that "the voting procedure is just a formality, given all the political components at the NDC signed the Southern Issue Solution Document, giving the president [power of] the mandate."

The official website of the NDC released a statement on Sunday.

"The majority of the NDC's members agreed to authorize Hadi to form a committee to determine the number of regions. The decision of this committee will go into effect. The committee will be responsible for studying the six-region state option—four in the North and two in the South—and the two-region state option. The committee will also study any other option in order to reach reconciliation."

The Al-Haq Party issued a statement on Sunday saying the voting session was chaotic. They said the disagreements that occurred while voting will inevitably lead to future rifts.



## Hadramout unable to quell tribal unrest

### Tribal federation defends recent clashes

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANAA, Jan. 13—Armed tribesmen continue to attack government institutions and facilities throughout Hadramout governorate, demanding the immediate evacuation of state-military forces from the area. The Hadramout Tribal Federation, a powerful alliance of tribal leaders, previously said they would replace the military forces with local security personnel.

"Sporadic clashes are taking place in several districts of Hadramout such as Al-Shihr, Mukalla and Ghail Bin Yameen," said Hadba Al-Yazidi, a journalist based in Mukalla. "Residents are afraid of renewed clashes."

Three soldiers were killed and six others wounded on Saturday in

clashes between tribesmen and soldiers assigned to protect oil companies located in the Al-Masila area, according to the press secretary for the interior minister, Mohammed Al-Mowri.

The Hadramout Tribal Federation released a statement late Saturday saying, "The military attacked the tribesmen, and they defended themselves. The army's attack on the areas of Hadramout entitles the residents of these areas to defend themselves."

While officials counter the claims that they attacked first, Saleh Molla, a spokesperson for the Tribal Federation, said, "The tribesmen are nomadic Bedouins from the Hemari area and were moving from one area into another when the military attacked them."

The Hadramout Tribal Federation made demands of the central government at the beginning of December. They threatened retaliation if the state did not remove its military presence in the governor-

ate, ensure that jobs at area oil companies were allocated for locals and that those responsible for the shooting of an influential sheikh at a checkpoint outside of Sayoun city be brought to trial.

The government, under President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi's leadership, agreed to meet the demands but gradually. Since Dec. 20, the deadline the tribes gave for the government to respond, sporadic clashes between state forces and locals have broken out across the governorate.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, seven prisoners and a gunman were injured when armed men attacked the Central Prison in Mukalla, according to the prison's administration.

The Tribal Federation has denied any connection to the attack and government officials, including the security chief in Hadramout, have declined to speak to the press this incident.

The director of the Central Pris-



on, Col. Hassan Ba-Alawi, said investigations are underway regarding the attack and that prison procedures have returned to normal.

Three of the men who were injured were treated at an area hospital and have now returned to the prison, Ba-Alawi said.

"The clashes lasted for about an hour," he added, saying that no prisoners escaped during the fighting.

# Time to celebrate Wealthy demographic moves children's birthday parties to halls

**Samar Al-Ariqi**

**Y**emenis in general do not celebrate birthdays. However, some families, particularly well-off ones, hold celebrations for their children's birthdays at special party halls which are available at some shopping centers and children's clubs in Sana'a.

A family books the hall and pays for the extras like colorful decorations, balloons and music. Some halls even provide a digital camera, so all the family has to do is bring a cake and presents. While the cost of a party, which ranges from YR5,000 (just over \$23) to YR20,000 (\$93), is out of the price range of the majority of families, party halls say it is a steadily growing business in Sana'a.

"I expect the number will increase in the coming months given that the customers who have already held parties [here] are promoting

us," said Ahmed Atia, the head of the entertainment department at Magic City, an entertainment center for children in Sana'a.

"Early booking is important," said Atia, indicating that the majority of parties are held to mark the birthdays of younger children, with only a few parties being held for older youth. "Ninety-eight percent of our...bookings are for children's birthday parties. It is rare for [college-age students], most of whom attend private universities, to make bookings."

There are at least 15 such dedicated birthday party halls in Sana'a. These venues say they have tapped into an upscale market. According to the halls' managers, the bulk of their customers are from well-off families.

Mysar Sadam belongs to one such Sana'ani family. This year, she decided to hold her daughter's birthday party at Fun City, a well-known amusement park. She said it is an



YF file photo

**Children dressed in party hats enjoy celebrating a little boy's first birthday with food, a special cake, beverages and party games.**

open area, so she felt encouraged to invite many children.

"We were very pleased and I think we will celebrate her next birthday the same way," she said.

Even so, the demographic of families who can either afford or want to host parties outside the home is small. For the majority, celebrations are still family affairs without fanfare.

"Instead of spending money to rent a hall for a birthday party, I prefer to hold [the party] at home and use the money to purchase food items or other things for my family," said Wafa Ahmed, a housewife and a mother of five children.

Ahmed, who describes her family's income as moderate, said that she enjoys preparing a birthday party at her home, but that she does worry about the mess that the party creates and also how it will affect

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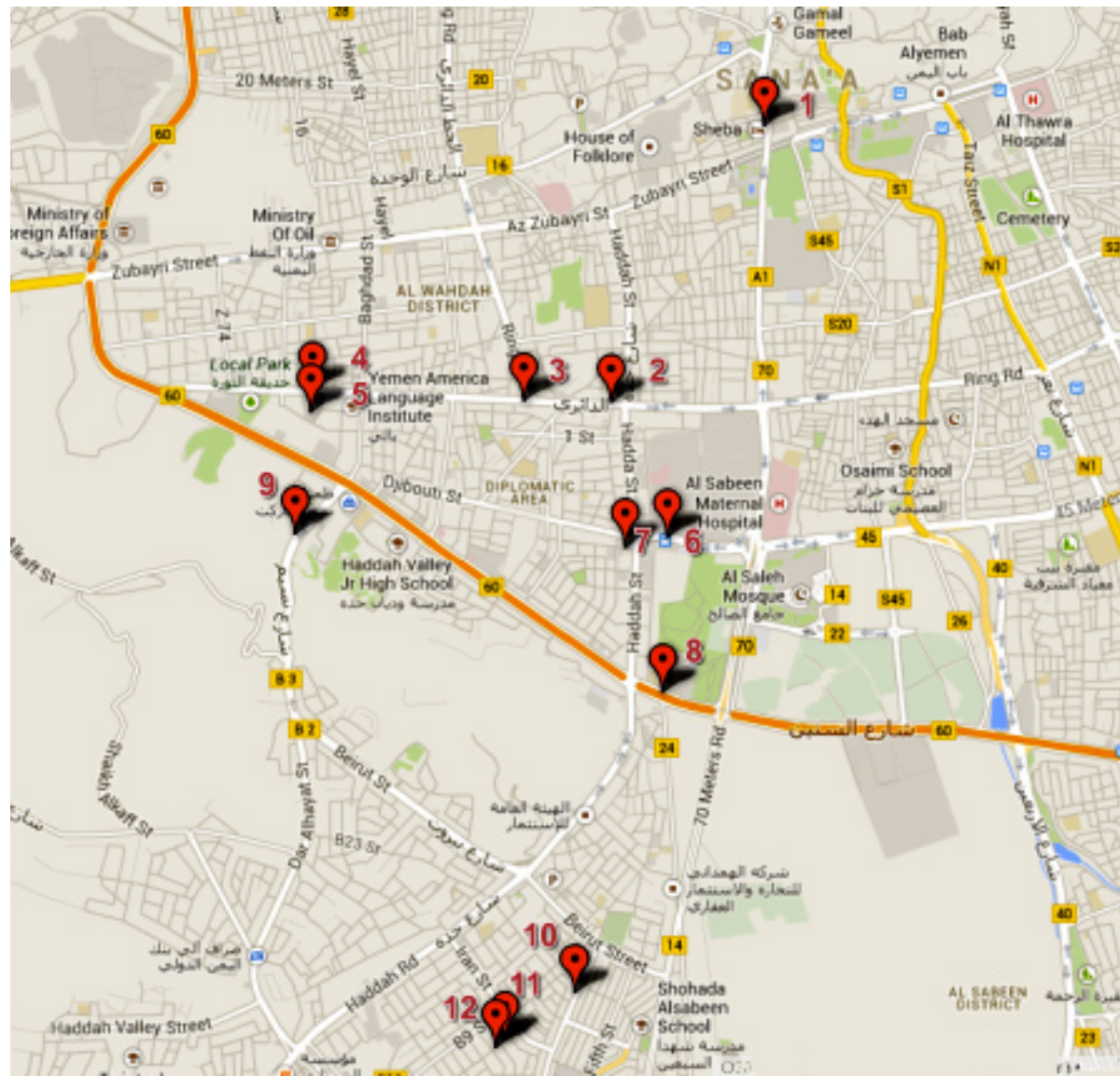
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### Popular places for birthday parties in Sana'a

1. Sheba Hotel, Tahir St.
2. Yemen Mall, Hadda St., Roweishan roundabout
3. Coffee Corner, Algiers St.
4. Labranzo, Algiers St.
5. Magical City, Libyan Center, Algiers St.
6. Kentucky Restaurant, Hadda St.
7. Coffee Trader, Hadda St., Rimas roundabout
8. Fun City, Hadda St.
9. Madinat Al-Sanafer, Fajj Atan, Naseem St.
10. Facebook Café, Zero St.
11. Al-Bostan Hotel, Iran St.
12. Mokha Bunn Café, Iran St.

the family's budget.

"We stop celebrating our children's birthdays once they turn 12, and sometimes we hold just one party for all of the children in order to save on expenses," she said.

For others even a small party proves impractical.

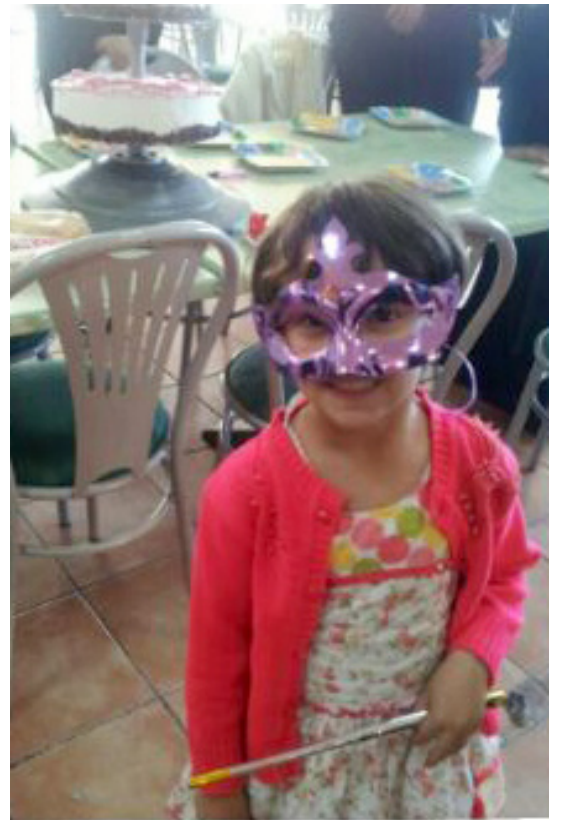
Mohammed Abdulbari, a father of 12, estimates that he would have to spend at least YR10,000 (almost \$47) to celebrate the birthday of each one of his children, for a total of YR120,000 (\$558) annually. He prefers to save money in order to spend it on things his children really need.

"Nothing will change [for the worse] if we don't celebrate birthdays," he said.

Local psychologist Farook Jahan says that birthdays do not need to be fancy or elaborate, but he does maintain that even a small recognition of a child's birthday can have

positive psychological effects.

"It is enough for the parents to remember their child's birthday and let him know that he is worthy, special and loved, because this demonstration of their love will increase a child's self-confidence," he said.



## Work done by hand, with personalized service

# Traditional laundry competes with modern shops

**Story and photos by  
Mohammed Al-Hassani**

**F**areed Al-Qubati, 75, tirelessly labors in his tiny laundry shop on Hadda Street, a main thoroughfare in the capital, Sana'a.

While globalized brands and wealth are seen all over this section of town, Al-Qubati still earns a living the old-fashioned way, using an electric iron and a washing machine meant for household use.

Al-Qubati, who has been in business for 25 years and moved his business several times before settling in Hadda nine years ago, believes his customer base seeks him out because his old India-made electric iron is healthier than other kinds of steam irons.

"My way is better at killing germs because the iron I use is hotter than irons used in steam laundries. [My

small iron] can also reach every corner of a garment," he said.

"I receive 100 to 150 items of clothing per day from people such as college students, engineers and employees," he said. He gets more work, he adds, right before the holidays.

Unlike other laundries with large washing machines that wash a lot of different people's clothes all together, Al-Qubati washes each customer's clothes separately, even if it is only one single item. Al-Qubati is proud of his work.

Prices of washing and ironing in Al-Qubati's small laundry are about the same as at other steam laundries, and sometimes, even less.

"I wash and iron one article of clothing for YR100 [about 50 cents]," the shopkeeper said.

Others recognize Al-Qubati's unwavering popularity. Adel Al-Dhabiani, the owner of a laundry store located near Al-Qubati's shop, said

that Al-Qubati has many customers despite his outdated methods.

"His masterful ironing is probably attractive to customers," Al-Dhabiani said.

But Al-Dhabiani knows that in an increasingly technology-dependent world, consumers value efficiency, something Al-Qubati lacks.

A modern laundry can iron eight items in five minutes. One individual can barely iron two shirts in the same amount of time, Al-Dhabiani says.

However, some customers value other things even more than quick service. Dr. Shakib Al-Aghbari, a doctor, is one of Qubati's regular customers. He says Al-Qubati's method of washing and ironing customers' clothes separately makes him feel more at ease. He says disease can be transmitted through unhygienic laundry practices.

"Detergents, especially the cheap ones, don't kill bacteria," according



**Shop owner Fareed Al-Qubati uses his special India-made electric iron on his customers' clothes. He says that laundering customer clothing individually and carefully hand-ironing them at a very high heat results in cleaner, neater clothes that his customers value.**

to the doctor.

Al-Qubati doesn't have any employees. His son Mohammed, a high school student, and another boy, Aziz, a college student, help him with the business.

Although the nominal amount of money he makes on an average day—between YR10,000 (\$46.50) and 15,000 (\$70) per day—is barely enough to meet the needs of his nine-member family, the laundry veteran loves his work.

He says that he wouldn't want to do anything else.



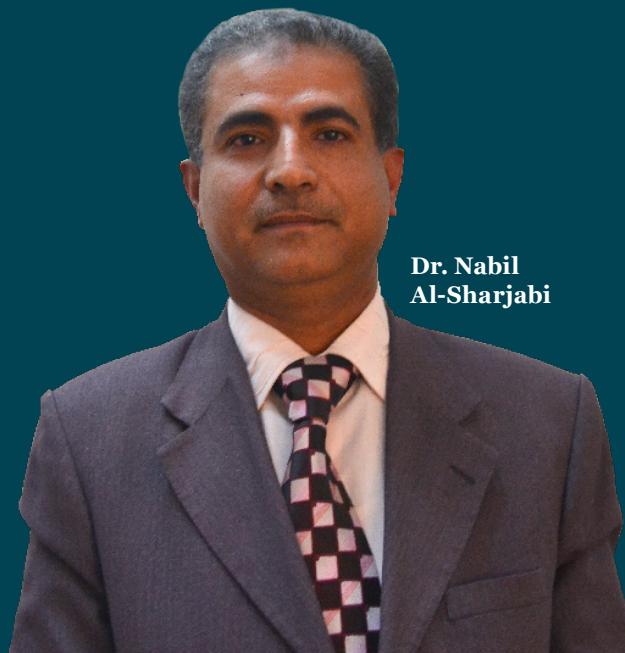
## The rise of the Houthis

# 'Lots of Yemenis have come to realize that Ansar Allah has a plan to awaken the Islamic nation'

Following the 2011 anti-government uprising, many groups emerged from the peripheries, finally being allotted the opportunity to gain political clout. Among these groups, observers say the Houthis—a group of Zaidi Shiites who have operated outside government control in much of the North since 2011—have fared well in Yemen's transforming political scene. In a little over two years, they have managed to spread their influence outside of Sa'ada governorate, grow their political base and have their political arm, known as Ansar Allah, contribute to the reconciliatory talks taking place at the National Dialogue Conference (NDC).

In an interview with the Yemen Times, Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, a Houthi representative at the NDC and Dr. Nabil Al-Sharjabi, a professor of crisis management at Hodeida University, talk about the gains the Houthis have made during the transitional period as well as how they see the future for the growing political force.

Interview and photos by Mohammed Al-Hassani



Dr. Nabil  
Al-Sharjabi



Mohammed  
Al-Bukhaiti

**To begin with, some accuse the Houthis of political inconsistency. They rejected the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] Initiative, but at the same time joined the NDC. They are also currently involved in fighting [in the North with pro-Salafi forces]. What are your thoughts on that?**

**Al-Bukhaiti:** We agreed to join the dialogue on the condition that the debate be uncensored and also because [the conference] has greater legitimacy than the Gulf Initiative, [even more than] the constitution.... The political powers on the Technical Committee that prepared the NDC agreed to this. As for the ongoing clashes, we have been forced to be involved in

them. We are...ready for a ceasefire and clarification of our conditions. However, the problem is the others [the Salafis and the tribesmen of Sheikh Hussein Al-Ahmar of the Hashid tribe] that provoke clashes in the name of other parties. This complicates the matter.

**What about your [initial] refusal to accept the terms of the Gulf Initiative but acceptance of the dialogue?**

**Al-Bukhaiti:** Dialogue is a continuous human need, but the circumstances of this need vary from [situation to situation]. The current dialogue is [meant to resolve] conflict. It is well known that there were preparations for a comprehensive dialogue [between]

all political powers years prior to the Gulf Initiative. There was a joint-preparatory committee for a dialogue between the Joint Meeting Parties [JMP]...and the General People's Congress [GPC] and its allies. So, the idea of having a dialogue is not a result of the Gulf Initiative but rather, a human and national need.

**Some say that the Houthis are the big winner among the political parties since the 2011 revolution broke out. What do you think?**

**Al-Sharjabi:** I agree to some extent, but I don't think that these gains will last for a long time. The Houthis may be satisfied [with their gains at some point] and then

the situation will change. Another reason is that the Houthi expansion was neither routine nor urgent but, rather, violent. This may cause various anti-Houthi parties to unite and challenge [Houthi] expansion. [If this happens], the situation will become more complicated and more violent.

**But some have said that the Houthis' expansion is carefully planned?**

**Al-Sharjabi:** If we examine the expansion politically, we see it is based on [Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's theory at the outset of] the Iranian revolution in 1979. This theory is based on four fundamental principles. The first is attracting many supporters and targeting certain groups. The second is heavily arming newly-attracted supporters. The third is the systematic expulsion of opposition groups in these areas, and the fourth is the elimination of the opposition by means of assassinations and armed raids [if point number three is ineffective].

**Are [the Houthis] the biggest winner?**

**Al-Bukhaiti:** For sure, Ansar Allah as an intellectual movement made several gains before and after the 2011 revolution. Regarding the expansion theory mentioned by Al-Sharjabi, it is not true. [Our] opponents used a strategy to eliminate the Houthis during the six wars in Sa'ada. The government sought to annihilate a large segment of society, and this was clear from speeches made by officials. Former President Ali Abdulla Saleh called for the elimination of the Houthis and so did several officials. Following the six wars, our opponents realized that [we] can never be eliminated, so they changed their strategies and tactics. Now they are trying to prevent [our] spread. We had the right to use weapons to defend ourselves during the six wars.

**You used weapons to defend yourselves then, but why a need for weapons now?**

**Al-Bukhaiti:** Our opponents' strategy has changed now due to a change in the balance of power. Now they are trying to keep Houthis [from spreading our ideology and recruiting] outside of Sa'ada. We are being targeted. For example, the ongoing clashes in Hashid are the result of a document signed by Sheikh Al-Ahmar in 2010. That agreement stipulated that if anyone from the Hashid tribe joined the Houthis or supported them, they are subject to death and having their property expropriated. Accordingly, several individuals associated with the Houthis in the Danan area were displaced. This is the reason behind the original clashes in Dammaj. Sheikh Al-Ahmar [could not get everyone else to join him in his fight against the

Houthis. He is currently trying to carry out another round of clashes.

**Some accuse you of trying to impose your ideology by force.**

**Al-Bukhaiti:** This is not true. The problem is the opposing side that launched six wars on us. The proof is in the government's apology for initiating those wars. It confessed it made a mistake. Other sides that pushed the government to fight us are no longer able to do so. We as a political and intellectual movement have a large percentage of supporters in the capital and its surrounding areas. We have not attacked anyone, but we have been attacked. Three of Sheikh Abdulwahid's bodyguards were killed. Abdulwahid is a representative for us at the NDC. Abdulkareem Jadbani [another Houthi NDC member] was assassinated. Moreover, 11 Houthis were killed in a protest in front of the National Security Bureau [in Sana'a].

**What have you been doing in order to expand and attract more supporters?**

**Al-Bukhaiti:** Lots of Yemenis have come to realize that Ansar Allah has a plan to awaken the Islamic nation. People naturally sympathize with us. Yemenis are honorable and dignified people. They will side with an agenda that aims to awaken the dignity of the people.

**Let us pose a question to Mr. Al-Sharjabi. Do you think it is fair to hold the government accountable for the Houthi expansion going on right now?**

**Al-Sharjabi:** Perhaps events have overlapped, making it difficult to distinguish fault. The former regime provided tremendous support for the "Believing Youth," who functioned as the starting point of the Houthi movement. The former regime [supported them] because it understood it was opposed to a religious faction that was sharing power, namely the Islah Party. The current regime cannot carry out all its responsibilities because the state has been largely paralyzed. The current administration is focusing on important issues. However, simultaneously the administration overlooks a very critical point, which is Yemen's descent into sectarian conflicts similar to what is happening in Iraq and Lebanon. But I think the current regime intentionally wants to exhaust the two sides. Frankly speaking, the regional aid the two conflicting sides are receiving could enable them to wage long-term battles. These battles could reach the point of no return.

**Some say the current administration says that it does not want to deal violently with the Houthis for fear that they**

**might withdraw from the NDC. What do you think?**

**Al-Sharjabi:** For sure, every new government should have a foundation based on legitimacy. The current administration believes the NDC's outcome document is the foundation on which it will rely to enforce its authority. But I think allowing the Houthis to expand in this way is a serious danger because groups—both Shiite and Sunni—can build militarized societies. This is [my first] point. The second point is that this group believes solely in its own ideology. It also believes that other ideologies are [of no value at all]. The government should not [fail to respond]. It should do its job.

**Back to Mr. Al-Bukhaiti, some criticize your slogan, "Death to America."**

**Al-Bukhaiti:** First of all, our slogan is not a call to kill American citizens. It is a call to combat evil American [political] policy—which all Muslims in the world understand is evil. Second, the [Yemeni] government is responsible for those killed in the Sa'ada wars because it illegitimately launched the war. The side that started the war, [the Yemeni government], is responsible for the Yemeni victims. Proof [that the government was responsible] is former President Ali Abdulla Saleh's statement, 'We have sacrificed a lot of victims in Sa'ada.' We do not know why. The Salafi sheikh, Al-Hajouri, issued an edict permitting the killing of Houthis, correct? Also, Salafis in Saudi Arabia have said on TV stations that they take pleasure in starving the women and children of Sa'ada. Do not those taking such actions [deserve] the consequences of their actions?

**The Salafis accuse you of imposing a siege on locals in Dammaj.**

**Al-Bukhaiti:** This is false. We have not prevented the entry of food or supplies. We told those [pro-Salafi tribesmen] who constructed checkpoints in the Arhab area to allow truckloads of food into Dammaj. We told them we would not stop them. Likewise, we deem any attempt aimed at preventing food supplies from entering Sa'ada a declaration of war. We called on the government to remove the Arhab checkpoints...but we have had no response.

**What is your opinion about the quick expansion of the Houthi influence?**

**Al-Sharjabi:** If they have the option to achieve their goals peacefully, why do they resort to violence? It is not necessary for them to accomplish all of their goals overnight. They could achieve them gradually. What is gained quickly can be lost quickly. In contrast, what is built incrementally on a strong foundation cannot be wiped out.



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**Title:** Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (1 position)  
**Supervisor:** Country Director/ HQ M&E Specialist  
**Terms:** Full Time Position  
**Location:** Sana'a with 50% regular travel to field offices

**General Description of Role:**

International Relief and Development (IRD) is seeking a "Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer" to support IRD's programs located in Sana'a, Hodeidah, Hadhramout and Al-Maharah related to WASH, democracy and governance awareness and refugees' support fields. The Senior Monitoring & Evaluation officer is responsible for helping IRD for proper implementation of its programs. S/he will be responsible for implementing the project monitoring plan (PMP) in addition to tracking the PMP indicators to measure achievement of project objectives, analyzing project performance, and for preparing reports and dissemination of project results, lessons learned, and best practices to external audiences.

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**Application Procedure**

For all positions, applicants should send a CV and Covering Letter, both in English, to [irdyemen@irdglobal.org](mailto:irdyemen@irdglobal.org) with the title of the position you are applying for in the subject line. The closing date for applications is Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

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Marie Stopes International Yemen (MSIY) seeks Marketing and Communication Manager to lead the development and implementation of marketing, brands and public relation strategies and make the best use of evidences and market research to strengthening the organizational reach and cost effectiveness.

job Title:	Location:	Reporting to:	Probationary Period:
Marketing and Communication Manager	Sana'a	Director of Programmes	3-6 months

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- Oversee annual marketing and PR strategy and implementation plan development in collaboration with Programme Directors.
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- Supervise the quality of all marketing and PR outputs.
- Facilitate marketing and annual media training for management and appropriate staff.
- Coordinate and conduct the client survey, and finalise the report.
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**Application Process:**

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# Thousands celebrate Prophet Mohammed's birthday in Al-Thowra stadium

Story and photos by **Ali Abulohoom**

A massive crowd gathered to celebrate Prophet Mohammed's birthday on Monday at the Al-Thowra stadium in northern Sana'a. The ceremony was organized by the Shiite Houthis, and according to the event's organizers, more than 100,000 attended. In addition to the 30,000 who filled the seats at Al-Thowra, thousands found a home on the stadium's grass. People came from all over the country to celebrate the occasion. The Houthis advertised the

event via media outlets such as Al-Masira TV channel and Al-Hawia Weekly. In a rare appearance, Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, the current leader of Ansar Allah, the political wing of the group, addressed the crowd from his stronghold in Sa'ada via a live-video message. In his speech, Al-Houthi stressed the importance of supporting the National Dialogue Conference's (NDC) outcomes. "The NDC's outcomes will certainly be the solution to the political and economic problems we have all been complaining about since the former President [Ali Abdulla Saleh] came to power," Al-Houthi told the crowd.



An estimated 100,000 people from all over Yemen showed up to honor the Prophet Mohammed.



In a live-video message from his stronghold in Sa'ada, Abdulmalek Al-Houthi, the head of Ansar Allah, expressed his optimism about Yemen's future.



Ali Al-Bukhaiti, a Houthi representative at the National Dialogue Conference, said, "We are gathering here for the Prophet Mohammed putting everything aside. It's time for tolerance."



A variety of local performances took place during the ceremony.



The Houthis' well-known slogan condemning America and Israel was plastered all over at the event.



Emad Al-Metwakkel, 29, an auditor at the Ministry of Finance said, "It is a great opportunity to gather today for the sake of our prophet to celebrate his good behaviors."

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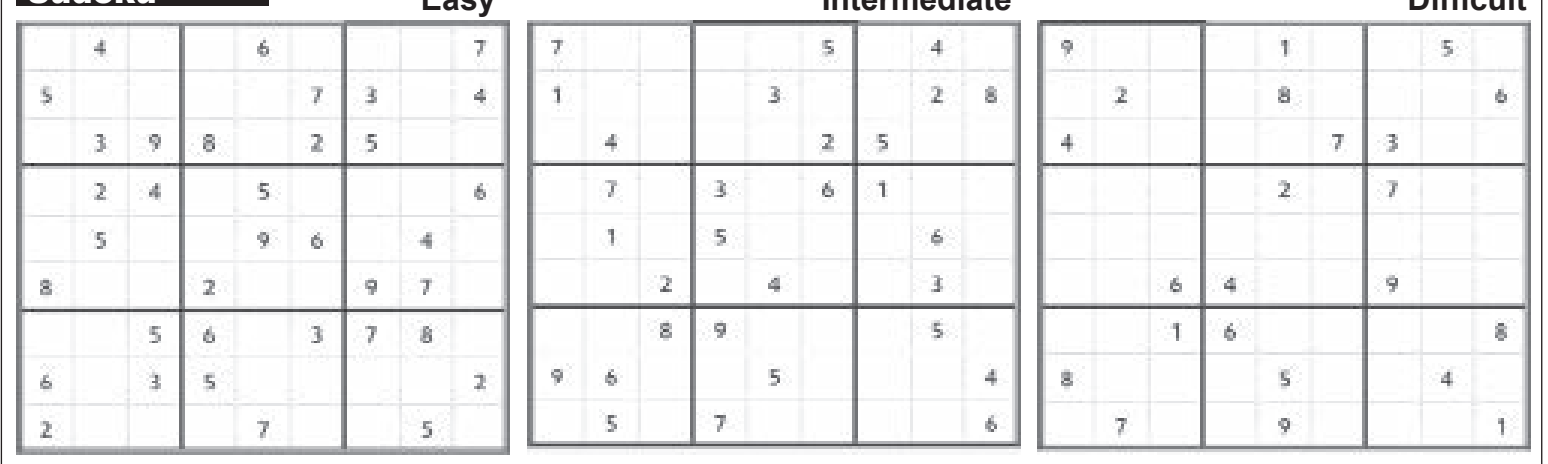
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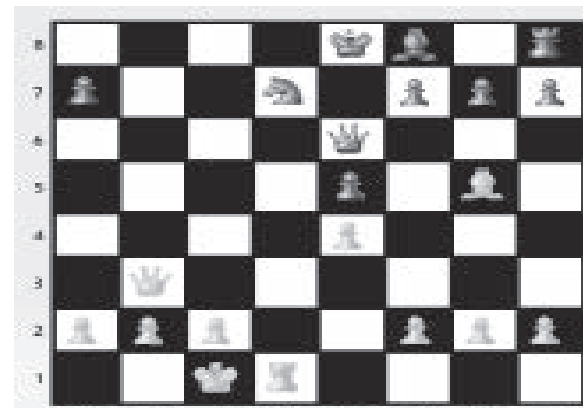
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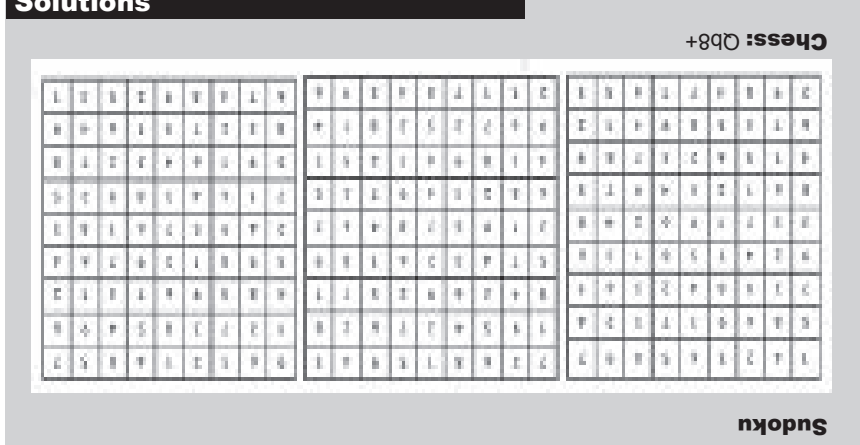


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## Guantanamo inmate cleared for release but has nowhere to go

has stipulated Yemen house its returnees in a secure rehabilitation center, an endeavor that even optimists predict will not be taking place any time soon.

The American Pentagon on Thursday announced Al-Mujahid's clearance from the detention facility in Cuba, where he has been detained by the U.S. since 2002.

According to Al-Mujahid's brother, as well as Ahmed Arman, the executive manager of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms—known as HOOD—Mujahid was arrested in January of 2002, alleged to have been Osama Bin Laden's bodyguard in Afghanistan.

In a statement issued last week, the Pentagon said, "Continued law of war detention is no longer necessary to protect against a continuing significant threat to the United States, and Al-Mujahid is therefore eligible for transfer subject to appropriate security and humane treatment conditions."

According to the Pentagon, Al-Mujahid is eligible for transfer to any country that will accept him.

The statement did not specify a time frame for Al-Mujahid's physical release.

Dozens of Yemenis remain behind bars at Guantanamo, despite having been cleared for release. U.S.-imposed restrictions placed on countries that could potentially receive them has prevented their physical release from the detention center. These conditions include specific security procedures and rehabilitation programs in receiving



The U.S. government recently cleared Mahmoud Abdulaziz Al-Mujahid for release.

countries.

Eighty-eight of the 155 remaining detainees at Guantanamo are Yemeni.

In August 2013, U.S. President Barack Obama and Yemeni President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi announced plans to "establish an extremist rehabilitation program to address the problem of violent extremism within Yemen, which could also facilitate the transfer of Yemeni detainees held at Guantanamo."

But not everyone is convinced. Al-Mujahid's brother, Ma'an, said, "This 'release' simply moves a prisoner from one jail to another."

He says Yemen will not be able to meet all the conditions the U.S. has put forward.

"It is better to send [Mahmoud]

to any other country, rather than waiting for Yemen to build a rehabilitation center," he said.

Arman believes the U.S. is stalling.

"Prisoners from Afghanistan were returned to their homes even though the situation there is no better than that in Yemen. So the rationale that Yemen lacks adequate security measures and rehabilitation centers is unconvincing," he said.

Of the 88 Yemenis still held at Guantanamo, 56 have been cleared for release. According to HOOD, 24 of the 56 are in a group slated for release to any country that will accept them, which also has a secure and appropriate rehabilitation facility approved by the U.S.

"We prefer for detainees to return to their home countries," said Abdulrahman Barman, a lawyer for HOOD. "However, if we insist on their return to Yemen, they may continue to languish in Guantanamo Bay."

Barman said Yemen may have to begin calling on its neighbors to receive its citizens. In the past, Yemenis have been resettled in Saudi Arabia.

Yemen's foreign affairs minister, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, said in November the government had plans to build a rehabilitation center for former Guantanamo Bay detainees, but many have doubted both the government's will and capacity to do so.

The Yemen Times attempted to contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but they declined comment on the story.

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## U.S. restrictions hinder the release of Yemeni detainees from Guantanamo Bay

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANAA, Jan. 13—When they heard their relative was approved for release from the U.S.'s detention center in Guantanamo, 34-year-old Mahmoud Abdulaziz Al-Mujahid's family was ecstatic.

However, the family's joy was cut short once they learned about the conditions laid down by the U.S. government, effectively prohibiting Al-Mujahid's return to his native country of Yemen. In order for Yemeni detainees cleared for release to repatriated, the U.S. government




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