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Stigma surrounds adoption of abandoned children

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Interview

"I think that people experienced a state of uncertainty on [Feb. 11] because each group gathered its supporters for different purposes..."

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اتصل على حسابي

لأول مرة في اليمن خدمة إتصل على حسابي

سوبر نبا

خدمة إتصل على حسابي ... لجميع مستخدمي الدفع المسبق

- استخدام الخدمة : إطلب *9* يليه رقم الموبايل المطلوب ثم إتصال.
- الخدمة متاحة لجميع خطوط الدفع المسبق ضمن شبكة سبافون ولا تحتاج إلى تفعيل.
- إمكانية الإتصال حتى بدون رصيد بالنسبة للمتصل، لكن يشترط توفر رصيد كاف لدى الطرف الآخر حتى تتم المكالمة.
- استقبال المكالمات : عند ورود المكالمات سيظهر رقم المتصل على شاشة الموبايل وعند الرد سيستمع المتلقي إلى رسالة صوتية تطلب منه قبول المكالمات على حسابه بالضغط على الرقم 1 أو رفضها بالضغط على الرقم 2 وفي حال كانت المكالمات من رقم موجود في قائمة السماح، سيظهر رقم المتصل على شاشة الموبايل وعند الرد سيتم استقبال المكالمات مباشرة دون إنتظار موافقة الطرف الآخر.
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المشغل الأول والأكبر للهاتف النقال في اليمن



MODERN MEETS TRADITIONAL: A break dancer entertains a crowd in Sana'a's Old City on Friday during an event put on by The Basement. The event, called Art is the Daughter of Freedom, included dancers, an art exhibition, singers and a planned screening of Karamah Has No Walls. The screening was cancelled by security forces, who feared that a showing in the conservative area, inhabited by many Saleh supporters, would be problematic. The movie documents the 2011 uprising's Day of Dignity, when snipers killed over 50 people at Change Square.
Photo by Shohdi Al-Sofi



Southern Movement organizes million-person march

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

ADEN, Feb. 19 — Southerners are preparing a million-person march for Friday, according to the organizing committee of the Southern Movement.

"The goal of the march is to express the voice of the southern people who oppose the new federal regions [map]....," according to a statement released Tuesday by the committee.

Yemen's federal map was approved on Feb. 10 by the Region Defining Committee. The new map divides the south into two regions and the north into four regions.

Despite the participation of some southern leaders in this committee, the Southern Movement has rejected the decision and continues to call for independence.

The march will fall on Feb. 21, which marks two-years of Abdu Rabo Mansour Hadi's interim presidency. On that day two years ago, southerners took to the streets to object to the one-candidate referendum and demanded separation.

"The committee calls on all southerners to take part in the march in Al-Arood Square in Khor Maksr in the capital of the South, Aden." Aden was the capital of the former

People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

"This day is a special day because many of our people sacrificed their lives defending the dignity of the southern...on Feb. 21, 2012," the statement read.

Majid Al-Shuaibi, an activist with the Southern Movement, told the Yemen Times that the "march will be peaceful and [the marchers] will not be armed—there should not be any problems [unless the security forces try to stop] the march."

The security administration in Aden held a meeting on Tuesday and approved a security plan on how to secure the march to pre-

vent any rioting, according to Col. Mohamed Musaed, an administrator in the office of Aden's security chief.

"The plan includes readiness preparations in order to control any possible chaos," said Musaed.

The plan also includes deployment of additional security personnel around state buildings and Aden International Airport.

Seven people died and dozens were injured on Feb 21, 2012 in Aden, in clashes between security forces and demonstrators.

South Yemen was an independent country until unification with the north in 1990.

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Gunmen attack brigade headquarters in Abyan

Popular committees threaten to withdraw support if salaries, weaponry not provided

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Feb.19 — Gunmen attacked Brigade 111's headquarters in Abyan on Wednesday, using RPG's and machine guns, according to a security official.

Lt. Gen. Shakir Al-Ghadir of Brigade 111 told the Yemen Times that the brigade responded with tanks and artillery and that the fighting lasted for about half an hour. No casualties were reported.

The gunmen had been attempting to enter the headquarters since early February, he said. Security authorities have warned that militants may be planning attacks on security and military sites in an attempt to take over the governorate. "[The] Al-Qaeda [presence] has grown in the Al-Mahfad and Ahwar districts of Abyan. They come and go and hold meetings in the area," Al-Ghadir said.

He told the Yemen Times that militant activities have increased over the past few days, taking advantage of the tensions between

the Popular Defense Committees and the government.

The Popular Defense Committees were established in 2011 to support the military in fighting Al-Qaeda. They are local militias who have manned checkpoints and checked for weapons.

The Interior Ministry warned security authorities on Friday to be alert about what it called, "suspicious movements of Al-Qaeda affiliates," in Abyan governorate districts.

Col. Mohammed Denba'a, the security manager of Abyan governorate, said security forces in the governorate are on alert, and that the Interior Ministry provided Abyan security forces with detailed reports of plots a week ago.

"We fight the gunmen but we lack sufficient equipment to defeat them," he said.

The Popular Defense Committees, civilian fighters who backed the military to force Al-Qaeda affiliates out of Abyan in mid-2012, threatened to withdraw from checkpoints and from the streets because the government hasn't provided weapons or salaries for them, they said.

"We demand weapons to battle Al-Qaeda affiliates who are heavily deployed in several districts. Security officials and several resi-



Popular Committee members in Abyan governorate. The committees have threatened to withdraw support from the military if the government does not provide more support to them.

dents informed us that Al-Qaeda militants are planning to carry out attacks in the governorate," said Ali Eidah, a spokesperson for the Popular Committees in Abyan's Lawdar district.

Abdul-Latif Al-Sayed, the head of the Popular Committee in Abyan, was a member of Al-Qaeda but joined the Popular Committee in 2011 after his brother was killed by Al-Qaeda affiliates.

"The Popular Committees defeated Al-Qaeda in Abyan in 2012

because [Popular Committee members] are brave fighters and know the area," said Abdulrahman Anees, a journalist based in Aden, in a conversation with the Yemen Times. "Al-Qaeda will control the governorate again if the Popular Committees withdraw."

The Popular Committees in Abyan are comprised of 6,100 fighters who receive an average monthly salary of YR30,000 (\$150) from the government, according to Eidah.

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Nahdain bombing defendants: Our lives are in danger

Reportedly threatened by relatives and victims of bombing

Jamila Obaid

SANA'A, Feb. 19—Victims and families of those killed and injured in the Nahdain Mosque bombing have been accused of threatening the lives of the defendants in the case during a court hearing on Monday.

In May, a presidential decree ordered the release of 19 of the 22 defendants. In June, seventeen were released—five remain behind bars. The five detained defendants have been on hunger strike since the beginning of February.

Essam Dwaid, a bodyguard of former President Ali Abdulla Saleh who was injured in the bombing, along with Mohammed Abduaziz Abdulghani, whose father died in the bombing, demanded the resignation of Judge Mohammed Al-Raghshi during the hearing. They accused Al-Raghshi of belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood.

The 22 defendants appeared in court on Monday for their third scheduled hearing. The first hearing, held on Aug. 26, 2013, resulted in the resignation of the judge, Hilal Hamid Ali Mahfal, who cited unwelcome media attention. The second hearing, on Jan. 2, was adjourned following demands that Al-Raghshi, the new judge, resign. The third hearing, held on Monday, has been adjourned until Feb. 27.

Al-Raghshi said he would con-

tinue to preside over the case, saying there were no legitimate objections that would obligate him to step aside.

Abdulrahman Barman, the lawyer representing the defendants, said the relatives of those killed and injured in the bombing withdrew from the hearing, protesting against the judge's refusal to resign.

When they left the hearing, Barman said they threatened to kill the accused themselves, specifically, the seventeen defendants not being detained.

"They said, 'we will take [justice] with our own hands and will come to your houses.'"

Gamal Al-Dhafiri, one of the released 17 detainees told the Yemen Times that the threats were made in the open.

"The judge told us to return to prison if we wanted protection," Al-Dhafiri said.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Mohammed Al-Masswari, an attorney for Saleh and those injured in the Nahdain Mosque bombing, denied that his clients had made threats against the defendants.

"These accusations would have been mentioned in the hearing's minutes [if they were true]," he said. "[The threats] were made up by the defendants lawyer, Abdulrahman Barman."

According to Barman, Al-Masswari was not at the court hearing. The clients were accompanied by another attorney, Mohammed A-Bakwli. Barman said the threats were made in the presence of the judge. When Barman requested

that the threats be included in the minutes, the judge, Barman said, told them to write the threats in a letter of complaint to the prosecution instead.

"If my clients wanted to kill the defendants, they wouldn't be bothering with a court case," Al-Masswari said. Al-Masswari's clients were accompanied to court by about 100 armed men.

Barman said he followed the procedures to ensure the safety of defendants released on bail, including requesting from the prosecution added security. Considering the sensitive nature of the case, additional security is customary, he said.

The Revolutionary Youth Defense Committee has requested that the hearings be transferred to the Court of Appeals on Al-Adel Street in the capital. The committee said the area is safer than the location of the Special Criminal Court (SCC), located in the Artel neighborhood of Sana'a. Artel has more open space and is populated by many tribesmen. The committee fears that if a riot were to break out, the defendants lives would be at risk.

Al-Adel Street has a large security presence and includes the Defense Ministry Command. A riot there, they say, could be more easily controlled.

Al-Nahdain Mosque, part of the Presidential Palace, was bombed on June 3, 2011 during Yemen's Arab Spring uprising. Former President Ali Abdulla Saleh was injured in the attack. Eight people were killed in the bombing and nine were injured.

Natural gas to be developed in Al-Jawf



The well's production capacity is estimated to be 6 million cubic feet (about 170,000 cubic meters) of gas per day. Gas production currently ranges from 1 to 25 million cubic meters per day.

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

AL-JAWF, Feb. 19—The Safer Exploration & Production Operations Company completed the drilling of the first of four wells in the western area of Block 18 early this week, which extends from Marib to Al-Jawf. The well's production capacity is estimated to be 6 million cubic feet (about 170,000 cubic meters) of gas per day, according to the initial assessment.

In a press release to the state-run Saba news agency, the company said that the well was drilled based on three-dimensional geological studies and seismic surveys performed by the company over the past few years.

The well is located in the Al-Khasaf Al-Marwan area of Al-Hazm district in Al-Jawf governorate.

This discovery is expected to boost Yemen's economy. Oil and gas comprise about 60 percent of Yemen's public budget, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Yemen spends \$1.2 billion annually on the import of fuels for power generation, according to

the head of the Technical Office in the Electricity Ministry, Abdullah Al-Qershhi.

Adel Al-Hazmi, the general manager of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority, told the Yemen Times that, "Block 18...is very rich in gas. Though the block might contain some oil, gas [is the more important discovery]."

Yemen's oil wells produce, on average, 500 to 1000 barrels daily, while gas production ranges from 1 to 25 million cubic feet (28,300 – 708,000 cubic meters) per day.

"Marib and Al-Jawf, as well as Shabwa, could be [most easily] exploited for gas exports," Al-Hazmi said. Although gas is also produced in Hadramout, he said that it is not produced in such large quantities.

In order to support gas exports, Al-Hazmi said, a gas reserve should be over one trillion cubic meters. According to the Defense Ministry website, Yemen has reserves of 18.2 trillion cubic meters.

Mohammed Jubran, a financial analyst from Sana'a University, said gas produced in Al-Jawf could attract investment to the country.

13 dead, dozens injured in Al-Dhale

Doctors without Borders forced to leave governorate

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

DHALE, Feb. 18—Seven soldiers and six civilians were killed and dozens others wounded Tuesday morning during clashes between the military and militants, accord-

ing to the Defense Ministry.

Al-Dhale governorate has witnessed an increasing number of confrontations between the military and local gunmen, who took over several government offices in January, according to Brig. Mohammed Al-Shaeri, Al-Dhale security chief.

"Gunmen opened fire on a truck carrying food supplies to [Brigade 33] and set it on fire along with another vehicle," according to the Defense Ministry. This resulted in the clashes between the parties that left an officer and six soldiers killed and nine others wounded, according to the ministry.

The ministry said that the militants abducted 14 soldiers in the Sanah area of Al-Dhale on the same day.

Sporadic clashes are still continuing in the governorate and residents fear that shelling may erupt, according to Al-Dhale resident, Waleed Al-Khateeb.

Al-Shaeri, who three weeks ago left Al-Dhale for Aden after gunmen stormed and occupied the Security Compound, told the Yemen Times that most of the public offices have been taken over by gunmen, forcing employees associated with international organizations to leave.

Doctors Without Borders suspended its operation in Al-Dhale on Feb. 15, after clashes erupted between local militants and the military.

"[The organization] has decided to temporarily suspend its support

Six escape from Hadramout jail

Mohammed Al-Hassani

SANA'A, Feb. 19—Six inmates escaped on Tuesday when gunmen attacked the Mukalla Security Compound, according to Col. Sheikh Al-Hamid, Mukalla security chief.

Al-Hamid told the Yemen Times that six prisoners, including one Somali national, escaped during the attack. One of the escapees surrendered voluntarily to security forces hours after the escape. Al-Hamid said that about 20 unidentified gunmen had attacked the compound.

He said that all three guards were having lunch when the gunmen attacked and freed the inmates. Al-Hamid was at home at that time and called for backup. The guards exchanged gunfire with the assailants for half an hour, but no casualties were reported. Al-Hamid said that reinforcements arrived after the gunmen had already fled the scene.

The security compound is located

in the same area as Mukalla Radio, a branch of Yemen's central bank, and local government offices.

"One of the inmates was in debt to another resident and was supposed to be moved to the central prison in Mukalla on Tuesday afternoon," Al-Hamid said. Other inmates had been held on various charges, including drug smuggling.

Al-Hamid said that security forces had searched the local area for the remaining escapees without success.

In June 2011, 63 prisoners escaped from Mukalla Central Prison after building an underground tunnel.

Yaseen Al-Amoudi, a rights activist in Hadramout, said the inmates of Mukalla Central Prison have withstood difficult conditions, saying that the prison administration has been mixing visits and illegally detaining some of its prisoners.

On Tuesday, the inmates held a sit-in in the prison yard, to protest cancelled visits. They also called for

the release of prisoners who have been behind bars for months without charges.

"Some have been imprisoned for months without trial. This is illegal," Al-Amoudi said. "The government should stop these unjust practices, provide routine medical care, and hospitalize those who are seriously ill."

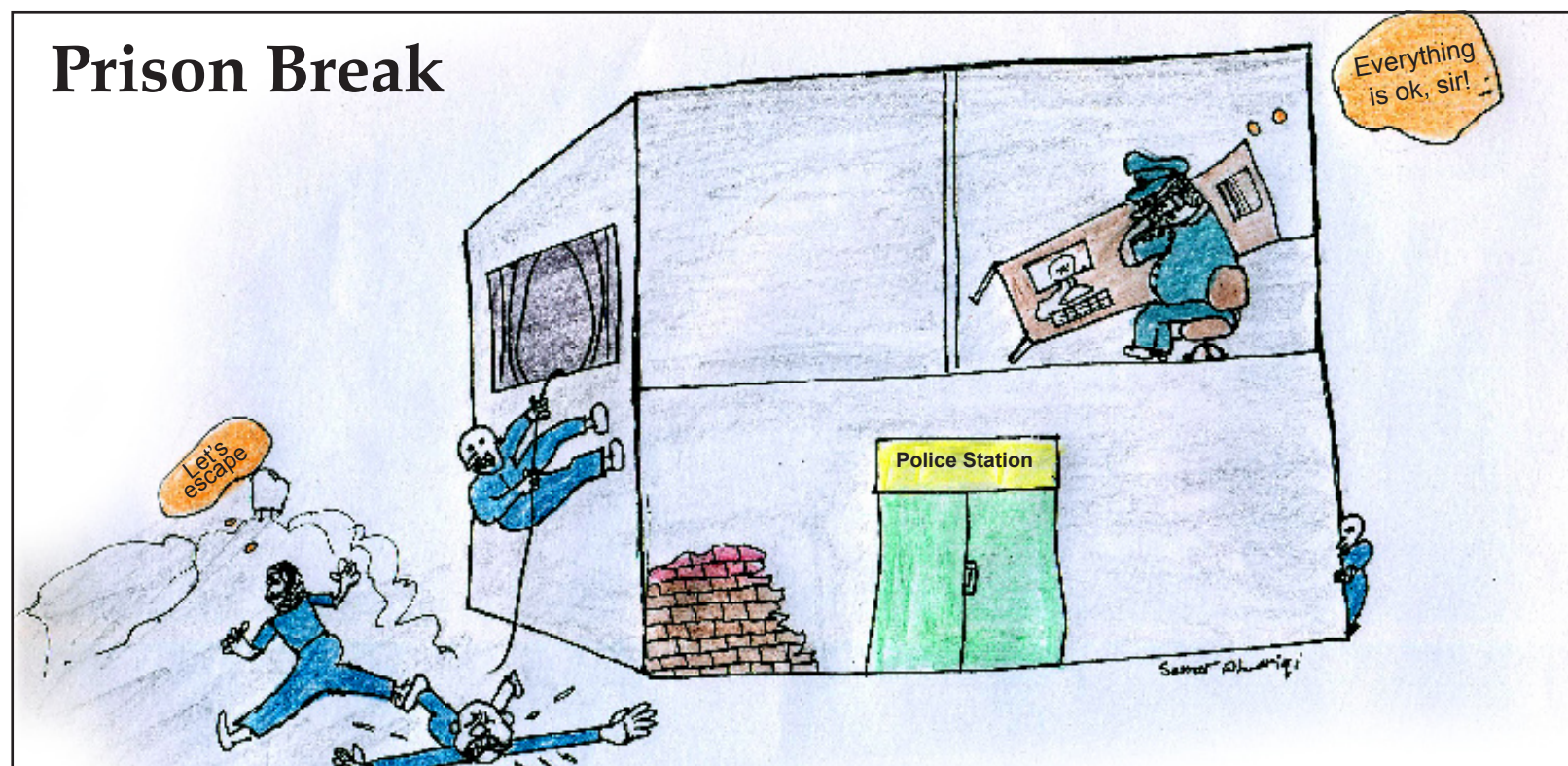
According to Al-Amoudi, during the sit-in, the inmates gave the governorate's security manager a 10-day warning. If their demands are not met, they threatened to go on a hunger strike.

"The problem is that the prosecutor's office and the security manager continue to send more and more prisoners to Mukalla's central prison. Now, the number of inmates has reached 700 in a facility whose capacity is only 350."

The media spokesperson for the governorate declined to comment.

In January 2013, armed militants freed five prisoners from Mukalla Central Prison.

Prison Break



WFP begins food distribution to schoolgirls

SANA'A, Feb. 19—The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has begun distributing take-home food rations to 100,000 girls attending school in ten Yemeni governorates, the WFP office in Yemen said on Tuesday in a press release.

The goal of the food program is to encourage girls to stay in school. In Yemen, girls often drop out of primary school, according to the WFP. The program hopes to discourage the practice of early marriage, which is most prevalent in rural areas, by offering incentives for families to keep girls in school.

The \$17 million operation provides each girl with 50 kg of wheat and three liters of fortified vegetable oil three times during the school year.

"Taking into account their family members, some 700,000 people will benefit from the project," said the WFP press release. This will also alleviate some of the food insecurity from which approximately 10.5 million Yemenis suffer, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture organization.

"In a country where more than half the adult female population is illiterate—as opposed to just 18 percent of men—women are at a huge disadvantage, so ensuring education for girls is vital," according to WFP Yemen Country Director Bishow Parajuli.

"This operation also supports plans by the Yemen Government to institutionalize gender equality under the new federal constitution," said Parajuli.

Armed men sabotage Marib gas power station

SANA'A, Feb. 19—Unidentified armed men attacked the power lines of Marib Gas Power Station in the Niham area of Sana'a governorate early Wednesday, according to an official at the Ministry of Electricity to Saba news agency.

The station provides electricity to Sana'a and other major cities.

Russia delivers food aid to Yemen

SANA'A, Feb. 19—A Russian aircraft loaded with 30 tons of food aid landed in Sana'a on Wednesday, according to the state-run Saba news agency. The Russian ambassador in Sana'a told Saba that this aid is just the first phase of more humanitarian aid Russia will provide throughout 2014 to support peace and stability in Yemen as well as the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference.

The cargo includes wheat, sugar, rice and other food items as well as two electrical power generators.

Ahmed Al-Kuhlani, head of the Executive Unit for Displaced people, a government office whose function is to assist refugees and others who have been displaced from their homes, said that this aid will be distributed to people in urgent need.

to the Al-Nasser General Hospital in [Al-Dhale], along with basic healthcare activities in nearby villages, due to an increase in insecurity," according to a statement published by the organization.

"We have reached a point where we really need substantial commitments from the authorities and armed groups to ensure that the hospital and the surrounding areas remain safe for patients and medical personnel of both [Doctors with Borders] and the Ministry of Health."

Al-Dhale has been witnessing sporadic fighting since Dec. 20, when Brigade 33, based in the governorate, attacked a funeral tent in the area, killing 15 civilians. The brigade later said the attack occurred by mistake.

Since then the government fact-finding committees have left the governorate without identifying the perpetrators or bringing them to justice, said Essam Al-Shaeri, the secretary general of the Sah Organization for Defending Freedoms and Rights, an Al-Dhale-based organization.

Al-Dhale locals have called for evacuating Brigade 33 from the Al-Dhale city.

Stigma surrounds adoption of abandoned children

Amal Al-Yarisi

On her way to work one day, Najat Bahakim and her sister heard a faint cry. As they approached the direction of the noise, they found themselves near a garbage dump on Al-Qaesia Street in Sana'a. Instead of a kitten, as Bahakim expected, she found an abandoned newborn lying in the dump.

"I found the baby a year ago and he was in poor health...his body was still covered in blood and his umbilical cord wasn't even cut," said Bahakim.

She took the child to a hospital where he received treatment. The doctor told her that the baby's health was deteriorating due to acute malnutrition and that he might not have long to live.

But, Bahakim did not give up on him. She sent the baby to Amran governorate, north of Sana'a, to be cared for by her married sister.

"My sister looked after the child for a month and his health improved," she added.

She then informed the police about the child and her intention to adopt him.

"The Police registered the baby's name at the Civil Registration Authority, issued a birth certificate for him under my father's name, and then allowed me to adopt him. We told the neighbors that he is my nephew," added Bahakim.

Foundlings are typically abandoned soon after birth because of poverty or fear of disgrace if the child is born out of wedlock.

Such children are usually left at a hospital, by a mosque or even on a doorstep—a place where they will

be found quickly. Some foundlings are left near garbage dumps because cleaners visit the sites daily and people often rummage through the sites.

Families that decide to adopt abandoned children can encounter problems.

Although a year has passed, the neighbors still haven't bought Bahakim's story about the baby being her sister's. "Everyone who visits our house asks us where the child 'came from,' because my sister and I are unmarried," said Bahakim.

Finally, Bahakim and her family decided to tell the neighbors how they found the child, Abdulrahman, but the level of gossip surrounding the ordeal indicated that they were not believed by all.

"They think he was born out of wedlock to one of us, and that we are covering up that fact."

In spite of all of the difficulties she encountered, Bahakim refused to abandon the child or send him to an orphanage in Sana'a because she thinks he would not receive appropriate care.

Ruqia Al-Hajri, head of the Al-Rahma Foundation for Human Development, said that she established the foundation in 2001 after a child died when she was unable to find anyone to take care of her.

"Originally, we were associated with the Charitable Society for Social Welfare and would receive orphans directly into our care. We didn't have a separate building to house orphans or foundlings," Al-Hajri said.

"However, I made up my mind to establish the foundation after I heard about the death of a child due to lack of care," she said.

"A woman gave birth to a child in

a public hospital in Sana'a and then ran away. There was no one to take care of her and eventually an Ethiopian nurse agreed to adopt her. She named the baby Mariam and raised her for four years, but then the nurse developed cancer [and was unable to care for her]."

Al-Hajri said that the incident prompted her to establish her non-governmental foundation for orphans and foundlings. Philanthropists donated buildings for the orphanage and others provided funding. Now there are over 400 male and female orphans at the foundation, but only two foundlings, because she said that the foundlings are always adopted by families.

Najla'a Bashafi, Public Relations Officer for the foundation, said that childless women visit them to adopt foundlings.

"People are only able to adopt abandoned babies because orphans have families that have put them in our care and we can't allow people to adopt them," she said.

Bashafi said that they conduct a field survey to investigate families that want to adopt a foundling. They take into consideration factors including the family's religion, income, and values in order to ensure, as much as possible, that the adopted child will have a safe and secure life.

"The family must bring the child in to our office for a visit once every three months so that we can see that he is in good shape," she added.

Bashafi said that society still looks down upon foundlings.

"A male foundling came to the foundation to look for a wife among the female orphans, but when we asked him to marry a female found-

ling, he refused," she said.

Because of society's attitudes about foundlings, some adoptive families keep the matter secret and try to skirt the law by failing to inform the police [of the adoption].

Mohammed Ahmed, a private sector employee, found a newborn abandoned inside a cardboard box near a mosque in Taiz governorate. Ahmed took the baby home and he and his wife decided to adopt her because they only had sons.

"I felt that she was a gift from God. I brought my wife to Sana'a and we stayed for several months, then returned to Taiz [with the baby]. I told my neighbors that the girl was my daughter and I named her Donia," said Ahmed.

Donia, now 11, lives with her four male siblings and has no idea that she was adopted.

"Donia is in seventh grade now...I decided to keep the whole issue secret because people don't have any compassion and call them bastards," said Ahmed.

Brigadier Mattash Mohammed Mattash, director of the media center in the Civil Registration Authority, said that once a foundling is discovered, he should be taken to the police to be registered and have his information sent to the Civil Registration Authority. "Based on this data, we issue a birth certificate for the foundling and name him, but without a surname," he said.

Article 27 of the Civil Status Law stipulates that police stations and all institutions and shelters designed to house foundlings must inform the respective branch of the Civil Registration Authority about each foundling and provide information about her including the time she was found, gender and estimated

A name and a nationality are human rights

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, already signed by Yemen, every child has the right to be registered at birth by the state within whose jurisdiction the child is born. This means that states must make birth registration accessible and available to all children including asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants.



age. The director of the authority should name the newborn and add it to the baby's record without stating that she is a foundling.

Mattash said that presenting oneself as the biological parents of a foundling is deceptive.

"If the foundling doesn't know the truth early on, he may encounter several problems in the future."

According to hadiths by the Prophet Mohammed, foundlings are not entitled to inheritances. Accordingly, some families that have hidden the truth about a family member who is a foundling later decide to reveal this secret when distributing inheritances.

"Some foundlings suffer from

great psychological distress when they [suddenly] find out that they are foundlings and that their family has kept the truth hidden for [years]," Mattash said.

Many have pushed for the government to establish public foundations that would be responsible for caring for foundlings and following up with adoptive families to ensure they are well cared for.

Mohammed Mutahar, a taxi driver, said that the existence of public foundations to take care of foundlings would ensure that they will live a good life.

The protection of foundlings is the duty of the society as a whole, Mutahar said.

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**YT vision statement****“To make Yemen a good world citizen.”**Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
(1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times**OUR OPINION****Time for Yemen's citizens to act**

One of the key reasons why Yemen has been able to sail through its transition so far is the unanimous support it received from the international community especially through the United Nations Security Council.

Every 60 days there is a briefing to assess the country's progress and ways in which the U.N. and its member countries can be of support. This time, we celebrate a milestone—the definition of the country's new federal structure—and look forward to drafting a new constitution.

Very soon we should have a constitutional drafting committee in place to wordsmith the new constitution. This committee will be overseen by the former 24-member Consensus Committee of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) and will include some additional members. The Consensus Committee will monitor the constitutional creation and approval process through the completion of the nationwide referendum to approve the constitution, and then, its work completed, the Consensus Committee will dissolve.

What is interesting is that Yemenis in general have had a more or less passive attitude toward getting things done. For example, although we instigated change through the 2011 uprising, we still seem to want the world to come and fight our battles.

One battle we face now is standing up to influential individuals or groups who create obstacles to the country's peaceful transition of power. It is very natural that when there is change, there is resistance to change—mainly from those who stand to lose a lot.

It is to be expected that those who have thrived under the current system will not want a system based on good governance. And although we need and appreciate the international community's support in stopping the troublemakers, we should take the initiative ourselves.

I am saying this because now that the U.N. Security Council is going to send an investigative committee to Yemen to see who is hindering the transitional process, the dominant attitude is to wait for the committee to arrive, do its work, arrive at conclusions and issue consequences.

This is fine up to a point, but the committee will need help from within. It is our responsibility as independent media, civil society, political activists and change agents to create initiatives to provide resources, information and an appropriate work environment for the investigators.

This committee will be working in a land and culture new to it. It won't be easy for them. Their lives could be in danger but their job is to come to Yemen despite all risks and bring us answers. On the other hand we are Yemenis. We know our country inside and out. We know who is who and who is doing what. We should be proactive. We should do our homework, do our own research, collect our own data and lobby against those who would impede change.

We can start by educating ourselves about the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference to begin to see where each of us fits in. This information is available free online. The roadmap section—a chapter of the document known as the guarantees—is a good place to start the learning process because it tells us what should be done immediately, in the short term, and in the long term in order for the transition to succeed. Then we can look around us and see whether these points have been implemented, and if not—why not?—and who or what is the problem.

This is our country, and we should not give up—and will not give up—on our dream of a new Yemen.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Foreign universities could be good for the GulfMaha Aqeel
Aawsat.net
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According to what some newspapers reported more than a month ago, the private education department at the Ministry of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia was reviewing several requests from foreign and Arab universities for licenses to set up branches in Saudi Arabia. The Ministry of Higher Education has held meetings between its own advisers and advisers at Saudi universities to prepare a special register of foreign universities and a list of regulations for foreign investment. The ministry requires that the foreign universities that have submitted requests be in the top 100 universities worldwide and that faculty members meet the criteria to teach at the parent university. The same curriculum of the parent university will be taught at the Saudi branch, with the addition of materials about Islamic culture and the Arabic language. Internal regulations must abide by the customs and traditions of the Islamic religion and not contradict any regulations in place in Saudi Arabia. Male students and female students must be segregated.

And so will Saudi Arabia join the other Gulf countries that have opened their doors to branches of foreign universities in recent years. Yet, is the mere opening of a Gulf branch of a prestigious university, with a fancy name and a lofty standing in the sciences, enough to produce a graduate at the same level as a student who has graduated from the parent university?

In my opinion the answer to this question must be no, and that graduates will probably not be much better than a student who graduated from an outstanding private or public Gulf-based university. Still, the graduate will be better off on the whole if the parent university was able to actually maintain the quality of teaching and of the curriculum at the branch. These are just hypotheses, though, as the experience is new and we have not yet seen the long-term results. There have been successful experiences in other Arab countries, such as Lebanon and Egypt, but we cannot compare the experiences of these countries with the Gulf nations. There are deep-seated differences in their respective cul-

tures and history and in the structure and system of higher education. The system and regulations of the foreign universities themselves and the history of their establishment also differ.

In view of the conditions set by the Ministry of Higher Education for opening a branch of a foreign university in Saudi Arabia, we see that, for instance, faculty members must meet the selection and teaching criteria of the parent university and an identical curriculum must be taught. At the same time, though, these universities are subject to 99 percent of internal regulations for private education, as reported in the newspapers. Such regulations stipulate that the university's Board of Trustees include a representative of the Ministry of Higher Education, and the board is formed by a decree from the minister himself. Likewise, it requires that the provost of the university be a Saudi national appointed by a ministerial decree for a four-year term, which is eligible for renewal. The university will be subject to supervision by the ministry to ensure the adoption of regulations, curriculum plans and science programs, as well as the degrees and grades that are granted. The ministry will also ensure that rules are issued to guarantee academic suitability in the quality of programs, educational curricula and research centers, and to ensure that university programs and curricula are conducted in accordance with specific objectives in line with the educational policy of the Kingdom.

The university will be subject to periodic performance review by way of reports and site visits. If a university complies with all of these regulations, do we really expect it to be on the same academic level as the parent university? It is well known that the prestigious foreign universities are independent and have their own academic curriculum, principles and style. Moreover, one of the most important things that benefits the student who pursues his studies abroad is the exposure to a varied educational curriculum and a different teaching style. Such exposure opens before him horizons of knowledge, information and “out-of-the-box” thinking far removed from memorization, recitation and generalizations. This does not come from the mere transfer and replication of experience by constructing buildings, putting the name of the for-

ign university on them, and importing faculty and curricula appropriate for our culture, particularities and religion, which requires a great degree of monitoring and supervision. I do not know the regulations of other Gulf countries that permit the establishment of branches of foreign universities, but I expect that there are still some restrictions.

It is assumed that the desired objective of opening branches of foreign universities is to raise the quality and capacity of higher education in Saudi Arabia, as well as to reduce scholarships abroad and the associated costs and to redirect a portion of these expenses to the state and scholarship students, and finally to create competition among private universities. I do not doubt that the establishment of these branches will raise the quality and capacity of education and create competition among private universities. As for public universities, they will remain outside competition and development, except for the few that are intent on keeping pace with the developments. This is because the students who enter private universities are either of a certain class or the children of expatriates living in Saudi Arabia, which in time will lead to the widening of the quality gap that already exists between graduates of private universities and those of public universities. This, in turn, will affect employment, because the private sector attracts the best and brightest and the public sector cannot absorb all of the remaining graduates, thereby exacerbating the unemployment problem among those with college degrees.

As for the reduction in scholastic exchanges, I believe that one of the valuable benefits that stays with the scholarship student is the experience of living in a different society and environment. The student experiences interaction with people from various cultures and nationalities, adjusting to the new lifestyle, learning about civilizations and being introduced to the Western depiction of Saudi nationals, which has become marked by terrorism and fundamentalism. These students are our ambassadors abroad, especially if they present the good, hard-working and moderate model. Experiences like these enrich a person's life and open his mind and perceptions. Plus, scholarships are open to students from all social

classes as long as they can prove their intellectual superiority and earnestness. Hence, scholarships offer equal opportunities.

A lot of Saudis have sent their children, especially their daughters, to study in foreign universities in the neighboring Gulf countries because they are nearby and do not require a visa. They also have varied fields of study that may not be available in Saudi Arabia. Moreover, such a degree would carry the name of a prestigious university, and that is what is really important.

In the book *Higher Education in Saudi Arabia: A Journey to Find Identity* published by Saqi Books in 2011, Professor Ahmed Issa, former director of Al-Yamamah College in Riyadh, remarks that the biggest issue in higher education is the quality of educational material. He also says the linkage of the universities to the state narrows the room for freedom and hence the space for innovation and excellence. Professor Issa believes that Saudi universities are all identical and lack an identity, unlike universities abroad, where they are careful to develop and preserve their own identities. Thus, students from Saudi Arabia and from all over the world seek to study at those universities. I think that branches of foreign universities lose a lot of the identity and nature of their parent universities, as well as the quality of academics and standards of scientific research.

In my opinion, opening branches of foreign universities in Saudi Arabia will benefit a small segment of society, especially young women. Perhaps these universities will be able to realize a quantum leap in the level of higher education as a whole—that is, if academic freedom and scientific research is permitted and they focus on the disciplines of science and medicine. They must also take advantage of the capabilities and experiences of their parent universities in developing public universities, through cooperation and the passing on of expertise. However, it is necessary for the ministry to make an effort to improve the performance of public universities, in which the greater number of students are enrolled, and to direct their focus towards scientific and research specialties.

Maha Aqeel is a Saudi academic, writer and journalist.

Foreign universities could be bad for the GulfAhmad Faraj
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It is indisputable that the Western world is well ahead of us in the field of education, especially in higher education. After all, we are talking about prestigious universities established centuries ago, from Harvard University in the United States and Oxford and Cambridge in Britain to the Sorbonne in France, as well as other reputable academic institutions. We are all aware that even the oldest of the universities in the Gulf were founded not more than a few decades ago.

Consequently, the Gulf nations decided to build academic partnerships in order to open Gulf branches of the largest and most famous Western universities. This is being done alongside educational exchanges designed to send Gulf students to Western universities to complete their university education or beyond. It is an immense effort, with thanks due to these host countries, and it is certainly beneficial for developing nations.

But we must stop to ask some important questions.

Is it right to refer to the Gulf branches of Western universities as entities identical to their parent universities, or should we see them as separate?

This is difficult to say for certain. Of course, they are not representative of the policies of the countries in which they were established, nor of the conditions upon which the two parties agreed. Perhaps some universities were launched in the Gulf for purely commercial reasons. We will not discuss, let alone evaluate, this here because such universities, quite simply, already contain the seeds of failure. But let us assume that these Gulf universities were established in good faith and have fulfilled all of the conditions necessary to be academic beacons of their eponymous parent universities. Are the Gulf branches equivalent to their respective parent universities in terms of performance and output? This is the bottom line.

From a theoretical angle, it is difficult to say for sure whether it is within the capacity of the Gulf branches of Western universities to be analogous to their parent universities. A university requires an academic cadre of a superior level, and this is difficult to realize in a Gulf branch because

highly qualified academics could find work in the parent institution itself. Thus, no matter what the incentives offered to these academics, it will be hard to attract the necessary core group of qualified faculty members to the Gulf branches. I believe they are able to draw in qualified academics, but they will not in any way have the same credentials as their counterparts at the parent universities.

As an example, let us assume for the sake of argument that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology—which is one of the most distinguished academic institutions in the world—decided to set up a branch in the Gulf. Would someone really expect the faculty that work there to be on the same level of those employed by the original MIT? I reckon that no one would answer “yes” here. I think this example sums up the whole situation.

So, let us say that the establishment of branches of prestigious Western universities in Gulf nations is a good and useful idea, but we cannot possibly be so optimistic as to believe they will be comparable, or even semi-comparable, to their parent universities.

And yet, it is our duty to be op-

timistic—perhaps some of these branches will become distinguished institutions, if they are developed in a highly professional manner. Or perhaps they will have successful experiences like that of their Arab predecessors, the American University in Cairo and the American University of Beirut.

As for the degrees awarded by Western universities in the Gulf, a diploma from any of these universities—especially those established with as challenging an academic curriculum as possible—will be far better than those from Arab universities. But the frightening concern remains that some of those seeking only financial profit will take advantage of such developments for commercial gain. Then, the target of a student of Western universities in the Gulf will simply be to obtain a degree stamped with the seal of a global university, without attaining real knowledge.

We are referring to a true academic disaster, and of course we hope this does not happen. However, let us be optimistic about a bright future instead.

Ahmad Faraj is a Saudi academic and writer.

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Getting away with sexual abuse in Jordan

IRIN
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S hop cleaner Nawal* from East Amman regrets the day she accepted an offer of extra work from her employer, who said he wanted her to clean his home. It was a trap; he took her home and raped her.

Although an investigation proved her allegations, she says the legal process did not bring justice. Her rapist benefited from controversial article 308 in Jordan's penal code, which allows rapists to escape jail if they marry their victims and stay with them for five years.

"Marrying a rape victim to her rapist is committing a second crime against her. It is the rapist who should be punished," said Munir Idiabes, the executive director of Sisterhood Is a Global Institute (SIGI), a locally based women's rights group.

But some legal experts argue the article leaves women the choice not to marry their assailants.

"Women and their families do not have to accept it, and in some cases families demand the rapist is prosecuted," Fawzi Al-Nahar, a judge and head of Jordan's Grand Criminal Court, told IRIN. "It remains as an option for those who want to marry their daughters [off] and avoid the social stigma," he said.

But women's activists argue that women and their families may feel they have little choice. Their decision is influenced not only by social pressure to "cover a scandal" but also by difficulties brought about by other laws, especially those covering abortion and proof of parental lineage.

Dealing with the consequences
Nawal intended to keep quiet about the rape until the day she discovered she was pregnant. Most rape cases

remain unreported unless there is pregnancy involved, say women's rights activists and social workers.

Abortion is prohibited in Jordan—even for rape survivors or in cases of incest—unless the pregnancy could lead to the mother's death.

"I started taking massive pain killers, vitamins, even tried punching my belly with my hands... pushing a gas cylinder on to my belly to abort the child," she said. But after her efforts failed, she decided to report the incident to her family and the police.

The investigation and the results of a DNA test corroborated Nawal's allegations, but rather than see her attacker punished, she found herself battling parental lineage laws.

To prove a child's parental lineage, the father's confession and a marriage contract are required, according to Judge Ashraf Omari from the Islamic Chief of Justice Department.

"Each case has its particularities, but in order to register a child with his father, a legal marriage contract is required," said Omari.

"I had no choice but to marry him because I did not want to lose my child," said Nawal. Children born out of wedlock are often removed from their mother's care. They also face a lifetime of discrimination.

A small wedding ceremony took place, and the perpetrator escaped a jail sentence.

"I do not remember the party, because I did not care," Nawal said. "All I had on my mind was the life



Photo: Anas Abumadi/IRIN

sentence I was going to serve in the house where I was raped."

Contradictory numbers

Judge Fawzi Nahar, of the Grand Criminal Court, argues that marriage to one's rapist is not a common occurrence in Jordan. He told IRIN that on average there are only six to 12 cases per year.

But in the past four years, some 159 rapists have escaped punishment through marriage, according to lawyer and activist Taghreed Al-Doghmi, who recently published an investigation about the issue.

Even those numbers are challenged by women's rights activists and social workers, who say the incidents are underreported.

"Official numbers do not reflect reality, especially when it comes to issues regarding rape and sexual violence," said Lubna Dawani of the Mezan Centre for Human Rights. "We come across several cases that go underreported."

From 1998 to 2013, when gender-

based violence expert Hani Jahshan served as the chief forensic physician at the state-run family protection unit, he says that only 20 to 25 percent of perpetrators of rape cases reported to them were prosecuted.

"Article 308 of the penal code is the major factor to blame," he said. "It hampers all efforts to achieve justice for survivors of sexual violence."

Religious condemnation

The law has no roots in Islam, according to Mahmoud Sartawi, professor of Sharia and Islamic Studies at the University of Jordan. "Islam does not endorse punishing the victim by forcing her to marry her rapist," he told IRIN. "Rapists should be strictly penalized to protect the society from such crimes."

Sartawi also says marriage in such circumstances does not meet the requirements of a "valid and genuine" marriage in Islam. "Approval is the basis of marriage in Islam. In this case [when women are married to

their rapist], the victim and her family were forced into accepting this marriage, and the rapist is using the marriage to benefit," he said.

Cultural and societal expectations that women and girls are "responsible" for preserving their family's honour is what makes the practice acceptable, although it has no religious roots, according to Eman Bisher, professor of education and women's leadership at the Applied Blaqaq University.

"In our society, it is still seen as shameful when there is any sexual activity by women and girls - even if it is by force. Social norms in this context rule," she told IRIN.

The article, if not amended, will encourage more sexual violence against women and girls, she argues. "When the article was discussed in my class, some students noted that it is making it easy for young men to rape any woman they like and force the marriage onto her and her family," she said.

Inadequate services

Limited access to services, which many activists and aid workers describe as "inadequate", makes it difficult for rape and sexual violence survivors to overcome the trauma.

"Women continue to suffer for years as the trauma is not addressed [in] the early stage," says Amal Adli, a social worker at SIGI.

Psychological support and counselling remain challenging, says Hanan Thaher from the National Council for Family Affairs. "There are inadequate services that aim at providing psychosocial services for victims of rape and sexual violence," said Thaher.

In rural areas, access to such ser-

vices is even more limited. There is only one state-run shelter for women and children in Amman; the government is racing to build a second one in Irbid to accommodate growing needs provoked by the influx of Syrian refugees.

"We are stretched to the limit," said Zain Abbadi, manager of Al Wifaq Family Centre in Amman. One-third of the 916 women benefiting from the services are Syrian, and 25 per cent of the remaining are refugee women of other nationalities.

Regional issue

Similar laws are also an issue in neighbouring countries, including Syria and Lebanon.

In Morocco, the parliament on 22 January repealed an article in its penal code allowing rapists to escape punishment if they marry victims who are minors.

The change came after two years of activism and a petition signed by one million people following the suicide of 16-year-old Amena Filali, who killed herself after she was forced to marry her rapist, who was reported to have severely beaten her during their short marriage.

"It is a complicated question where oppressive laws and societies interact against the rape of sexual survivors," says Atifa Timjerdine, president of the Rabat branch of the Democratic Association for Moroccan Women.

The changes to Morocco's law fell short of the expectations of many activists, who say the laws remain biased against women and supportive of child marriage. Still, campaigners in Jordan say it gives them hope to see change taking place in the region.

*Not a real name.

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YEMEN TIMES Radio

راديو يمن تايمز

التأسيس

"راديو يمن تايمز" هو أول إذاعة مجتمعية في صنعاء، حيث بدأ العمل في هذا المشروع في بداية 2012، والذي كان تأسيسه من أهم رؤى مؤسس يمن تايمز الراحل، البروفيسور عبد العزيز السقاف. ولذلك سعت الأستاذة / نادية السقاف رئيس تحرير صحيفة يمن تايمز إلى تحقيق فكرة المؤسس الراحل، من خلال تأسيس راديو يمن تايمز بمشاركة الكثير من المتطوعين والداعمين ومن آمن بأهمية الإعلام المستقل ودور الإذاعات المجتمعية. وتعد إذاعة يمن تايمز جزء من مشروع أصواتنا، وهو برنامج دولي يدعم تأسيس الإذاعات المجتمعية في دول الربيع العربي. حيث يتمحور هذا البرنامج حول العرب الذين سعوا لأن تكون أصواتهم المستقلة مسموعة، بعيداً عن الاحتكارات الحكومية، أو التجارية، بحيث تكون نقطة انطلاق جديدة لكل من يريد الخوض في تجربة الإذاعات المجتمعية المستقلة.

أهدافنا

يعمل "راديو يمن تايمز" على طرح وجهات نظر جديدة وموضوعات هامة للجمهور اليمني ويعايش قضايا المواطنين الذين يجيدون اللغة الانجليزية والعربية والأميين بشكل مباشر. ويسعى أيضا لإيجاد فضاءات جديدة لحرية الرأي والتعبير في اليمن عامة وفي العاصمة صنعاء خاصة ليكون راديو يمن تايمز «صوت من لا صوت لهم» وليعزز مفاهيم الديمقراطية وحرية الرأي والتعبير من خلال دوراته البرمجية المتنوعة التي تعالج قضايا المرأة والطفل وحقوق الإنسان وتدافع عن الحريات بواسطة إعلامها الهادف وبرامجها المتعددة والتي تخاطب بشفافية وموضوعية كل مستمعيها وتتسم بروح شبابية وإيجابية واضحة لكل من يتابعها سواء سكان صنعاء أو اليمن.

رؤيتنا

للإعلام دور كبير ومهم في الدعوة للتغيير السلمي فهو ركيزة من ركائز التغيير نحو الأفضل، ولكن الصراعات السياسية اعتادت أن تفرض أجندات على المؤسسات الإعلامية مما يخلق أثراً سلبياً واضحاً على طابع استقلال الإعلام وأثر بشكل مباشر على معايير أساسية مثل الحيادية والموضوعية. وهنا تسعى إذاعة يمن تايمز لتعزز من دور مؤسساتها الإعلامية المستقلة لتصل إلى كل من لا تصل إليه عبر صحيفتها لتكون من الإذاعات الرائدة في اليمن التي جعلت من الحيا والاعتماد على سياسة خاصة لها مواصلة بذلك سمعتها الحسنة التي استطاعت أن تفرضها من خلال سياسة الصحيفة على الرغم من عدم وجود قوانين منظمة لعمل الإذاعات الخاصة في اليمن.

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Ammar Al-Kuhlani, Zafran Al-Muhana and Muneer Al-Basheri

“I think that people experienced a state of uncertainty on [Feb. 11] because each group gathered its supporters for different purposes...”

Yemenis nationwide last week celebrated the 3rd anniversary of the Feb. 11, 2011 youth revolution. Some youth think that the revolution was a success and that it has created an atmosphere of optimism. Others say

that the revolution has not ended—that none of its aims have been achieved.

Ammar Al-Kuhlani, a leading organizer of the anti-government rallies, Muneer Al-Basheri, a leading

member of the Freeman Bloc, and Zafran Al-Muhana, a political activist, discuss these issues.

Interview by Mohammed Al-Hasani



Ammar Al-Kuhlani

Photo courtesy of Ammar Al-Kuhlani



Zafran Al-Muhana

(balqisnews.blogspot.com)



Muneer Al-Basheri

Photo by Mohammed Al-Hasani

To start with, Mr. Al-Kuhlani, did any political forces manage the rallies you organized on February 11?

Al-Kuhlani: No, the rallies weren't managed by any political forces. We are youth from different parties and several of us are independent. We took to the streets to demand a government reshuffle. We also wanted to send a message to the parties that claim to be part of the revolution and at the same time defend the government that failed to meet the basic needs of the people who revolted against the former regime. Those parties want to control the revolution but revolution can't be controlled by anyone. Thousands of young men took to the streets independently to demand government reshuffle.

Are these rallies an extension of the Rescue Campaign that was organized in January?

Al-Kuhlani: For sure. The rallies of February were larger in number because new people join us at each march. Moreover, the rallies also took place in other governorates—not only in Sana'a—and hundreds of people from districts outside of Sana'a joined us. We will continue to organize marches to oust the government and form a new government of technocrats.

Do you have a program for these marches?

Al-Kuhlani: We gathered peacefully to [demand a change in government] and will not allow anyone to mislead or utilize us to achieve the aims of certain political parties in the way that the 2011 revolution was utilized by the Islah Party to achieve its aims and gain power. Now, the Islah Party has forgotten all about the victims and injured revolutionaries [from whose efforts they benefitted and] who are dying day by day. The government doesn't pay any attention to them.

Some say that the rallies organized by the revolution's organizing committee to demand

eradication of corruption were intended to steal the limelight from you. What do you think?

Al-Kuhlani: That is true. Unfortunately those [rallies were organized by] the youth associated with the Islah Party. [They really] need to revolt against the leaders of their own party because the [Yemeni] people no longer accept them. Thousands reacted positively to the rallies we organized, and this sent a strong message to parties that try to mobilize support for the government—[now] they realize that people are fed up with this government.

Let's move to Ms. Al-Muhana. How do you judge what happened on February 11?

Al-Muhana: [Peaceful protests] are legally guaranteed by the constitution whether or not we agree with their aims. I think that people experienced a state of uncertainty on that day because each group gathered its supporters for different purposes: some demanded a government reshuffle..., others demanded [the declaration of] February 11 as a national holiday, and some others had different demands.

Do you agree to give the government more time to carry out its duties?

Al-Muhana: No, but I agree that politicians should [work together to address] people's needs and demands. I want officials whose top priority is [their constituency] but unfortunately they don't exist.

Who do you think is behind the counter-rallies that were staged concurrent with yours?

Al-Kuhlani: ...those rallies were organized to celebrate the third anniversary of the revolution in order to steal the limelight from our anti-government rallies.

Are you against celebrating the anniversary of revolution?

Al-Kuhlani: Not at all. We aren't against the celebration or declaring February 11 a national holiday, but we are against the Islah Party's use

of this anniversary to derail the demands of the people in terms of a government reshuffle...Islah dominates half of the government.

But weren't the rallies organized by the organizing committee larger in number than yours?

Al-Kuhlani: We all know that Islah is popular, but it misled people under the pretext of celebrating the revolution's anniversary—as if the current government was the result of the revolution.

But their rallies demanded eradication of corruption.

Al-Muhana: Yes, but that was only a slogan that was printed on posters. They came up with this slogan for partisan purposes, by targeting [only] the government leadership that belongs to the General People's Congress (GPC).

Let us shift to Al-Bashiri, one of those who organized marches to call for overthrowing the government. What have you achieved since the Rescue Campaign kicked off?

Al-Bashiri: First of all, the Freeman Bloc—established by Abdu Bishr and a number of his colleagues who had also resigned from the GPC prior to the breakout of the youth revolution—took part in the youth revolution.

But when the Freeman Bloc saw that the revolution resulted in corruption greater than the corruption experienced during the regime of former president Ali Abdulla Saleh, we decided to take to the streets and call for the overthrow of the government. Because of this [interim] government, Yemen has deteriorated economically and socially in addition to the degraded security situation. This is according to the reports of international organizations that say that the current government is the most ineffective government Yemen has ever witnessed.

Regarding your question, we have mobilized lots of supporters since we began the Rescue Campaign.

The marches grew larger by the day. I think the Yemeni people are unsatisfied with the government's performance but they did not protest because they have lost faith in the effectiveness of protests. This is a result of the manipulation of the youth revolution by some of the political parties.

Has president Hadi promised to meet your demands?

Al-Basheri: He promised us that he would change the government. But he has not fulfilled the promise to date. We do not know why. Anyway, we are continuing our marches and we will not stop until changes are made to the current government. We believe that our demands will be met by virtue of people who are fed up with this government.

Do you think the marches organized by some political powers on February 11 were a matter of flexing muscles?

Al-Muhana: I think that every political group should understand that they can no longer play on the feel-

ings of the Yemeni people because [now they know] what is going on around them. The other thing is that those who took part in the marches organized by the Muslim Brotherhood [had been given their jobs by members of the brotherhood. If they hadn't complied by participating in the marches, they would have lost their jobs.] They were forced to take to the streets, so I don't blame them for doing it.

Some have accused former president Ali Abdulla Saleh of being behind marches to destabilize the situation and rally people against the government even though his party runs half of the government ministries.

Al-Muhana: This is untrue. Who do you see now in the streets and on TV? The Muslim Brotherhood or Saleh? Of course, the former. I say to anyone accusing Saleh that Saleh does not have that kind of authority anymore. Also, accusing Saleh of being the reason behind instability is an indicator of the Muslim Brotherhood's weakness because they have

the power now and they should be busy taking care of people's needs. They should stop their meaningless partisan plots.

Some say it was a rash decision to take to the streets without a clear vision of what should be done next. What do you think?

Al-Basheri: This is not true. We call for overthrowing the government, and at the same time we call for forming another one whose members are efficient and not chosen based on the partisan affiliation. The country is full of efficient people, [but the government is ineffective]. We need a strong, efficient government at this time [in order to be able] to implement the NDC [National Dialogue Conference] outcomes. The reconciliation government is not in agreement with the NDC outcomes. Proof of this was the absence of Prime Minister Mohammed Salem Basindwa from both the opening and concluding ceremonies.... Observers say Basindwa downplays the importance of the NDC and its outcomes.



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في حوار مع «يمن تايمز» حول الذكرى الثالثة لثورة 11 فبراير..

الكحلاني: حزب الإصلاح استغلها لتحقيق أهدافه والوصول إلى السلطة المهناً: من يتهم الزعيم صالح نقول له إنه لم يعد يمتلك سلطة في يده البشري: للأسف أفرزت فسادا تجاوز الفساد الذي كانت تعانيه اليمن في عهد الرئيس السابق

احتفل اليمنيون في مختلف مدن البلاد بالذكرى الثالثة لثورة 11 فبراير الشبابية الشعبية التي يقول شباب الثورة إنها أعادت الحق للشعب في اختيار حاكمه وكسرت حاجز الخوف وأعطت الأمل في مستقبل أفضل.. في المقابل هناك من يرى أن الثورة مستمرة ذن وأنه لم يتحقق بعد شيء من أهدافها.. ماذا تحقق للثورة في ذكرها الثالثة، وماذا لم يتحقق، وماهي ضرورات وعوائق إعلان 11 فبراير عيداً وطنياً.. هذه الأسئلة وغيرها تطرحها الصحيفة في هذا الحوار على كل من: عمار الكحلاني أحد القيادات المنظمة للمسيرات الداعية لإسقاط الحكومة، والقيادي في تكتل الأحرار منير البشري، والإعلامية والناشطة السياسية زعفران المهنا..

حوار / محمد الحسني



عمار الكحلاني



زعفران المهنا



منير البشري

سلطة في يده.. كما أن اتهام الإخوان له بالوقوف وراء توتير الأوضاع.. هذا دليل على ضعفهم، لأنهم يملكون السلطة اليوم، ويجب أن ينشغلوا بحاجات المواطن اليمني، لا أن يستمروا في المكيدات الحزبية الفارغة.

السؤال لك أخ منير البشري.. هناك من يقول إن نزولكم إلى الشارع ودعواتكم لإسقاط الحكومة، متهورة لأنكم لا تمتلكون تصورا لما بعد ذلك؟

غير صحيح.. لأننا مع دعوتنا لإسقاط الحكومة الحالية نطالب بتشكيل حكومة يكون أعضاؤها من الكفاءات التي تمتلك بهم اليمن، وليس على أساس الإنتماء الحزبي.. كما في اعتقادي أن وجود مثل الحكومة الحالية وعدمها سواء، بل ربما وجودها يؤدي إلى المزيد من تدهور الأوضاع.. كما أننا في الفترة الحالية بحاجة إلى حكومة قوية وكفوءة لتنفيذ مخرجات مؤتمر الحوار الوطني، وحكومة الوفاق بعيدة عن مخرجات الحوار على الأقل كون رئيسها محمد سالم باسندوة لم يحضر لاحتفال تشدين الحوار ولا اختتامه، وهذا يفسره مراقبون بأنه تقليل من باسندوة لأهمية الحوار ومخرجاته أو عدم إيمان به.

السؤال لك زعفران.. ماذا تأخرت قرارات رئيس الجمهورية بخصوص التعديل الوزاري في اعتقادك؟

هذا السؤال من المفترض أن يوجه لصاحب إرادة سياسية.. أنا أسأل وأنت تسأل والشارع اليمني يسأل.. لماذا يا رئيس الجمهورية منذ سنتين مضت وكل يوم يضاف ترس إلى عجلة التنمية لإيقافها.. كل يوم يطرحوا معوق كي توقف.. لماذا تدهور الوضع الأمني والاقتصادي والتعليمي.. أكيد سيجيب الرئيس بأنه لا يستطيع أن يغير وزراء.. وبأنه يواجه ضغوطا سياسية تقول إن مصالح الأحزاب الشخصية أولى.. الأجنداث الخارجية أولى.

هل تعين أن الرئيس حاليا بين خيارين إرضاء الأحزاب وإرضاء الشعب؟

لا أعتقد أنه يحاول إرضاء الشعب، لأنه لو قام بذلك لوقف الأحزاب ضده.. هو إلى الآن لم يغامر ولم يخاطر بالشعب.. لماذا.. لأنه ساند في أزمة أخرى أكبر من الأزمة التي تحاول بعض الأطراف السياسية إلى الآن جرتا إليها.. أنا أتمنى من الرئيس عبد ربه منصور هادي أنه يصل إلى مرحلة يقول فيها للأحزاب أنا والشعب فقط من يقرر.

صالح قررنا الخروج للمطالبة بإسقاط الحكومة التي يسببها تدهور اليمن في كافة النواحي الأمنية والاقتصادية والاجتماعية وغيرها، وهذا أيضا ما تحدثت عنه تقارير المنظمات الدولية التي قالت إن الحكومة الحالية أفضل حكومة تشهد اليمن.. وبالنسبة للإجابة عن سؤالك طبعاً منذ إطلاق حملة إنقاذ في يناير الماضي حشدنا الكثير من الأنصار، وصارت المسيرات التي ننظمها تكبر يوما عن يوم.. وأنا اعتقد أن الشعب اليمني بكامله غير راض عن الحكومة، لكنه لم يقرر النزول بكامله، لأنه فقد الثقة في النزول إلى الشارع، بسبب ما قامت به بعض الأطراف السياسية من إستغلال لثورة الشباب.

هل تلقيتهم وعودا من الرئيس هادي حيال مطالبكم؟

هو وعدنا بأنه سيغير في الحكومة.. لكنه لم يفي بوعده حتى اليوم ولا يعرف لماذا.. ونحن على كل حال مستمرين في مسيراتنا ولن نتوقف حتى تتغير الحكومة الحالية.. ونعقد أن مطالبنا ستحقق قريبا بفضل تفاعل الناس الذين ضاقوا ذرعا بهذه الحكومة.

أعود إليك سيدة زعفران.. هل تعين المسيرات التي نظمت في 11 فبراير من قبل قوى سياسية مختلفة، هي من باب إستعراض القوة؟

اعتقد البعض.. ولكن على كل تكوين سياسي أن يفهم أنه لن يستطيع اليوم مداعبة مشاعر الإنسان اليمني على الإطلاق، لأنه الآن أصبح محصنا بالوعي ويفهم تماما ما يدور حوله، الشيء الآخر أن من يقول إن الإخوان عبروا في المسيرات التي ننظمها عن شعبيتهم أقول لهم إن المشاركين في مسيراتهم هم من الموظفين الذين تم توظيفهم منذ أواخر العام 2011 وأجبرهم الإخوان على النزول والمشاركة في المسيرة.. وأنا أعزهم لأنهم إن لم يشاركوا سيفقدون وظائفهم.

هناك من اتهم الرئيس السابق علي صالح بالوقوف وراء تنظيم بعض المسيرات بقصد توتير الأوضاع بصورة أكبر وتأييد الناس على الحكومة رغم أن حزبه يشارك بنصف حقائقها؟

من هو الآن الموجود في الشوارع.. في القنوات.. هل الإخوان أم الزعيم علي عبد الله صالح.. بالتأكيد الإخوان، ومن يتهم الزعيم نقول له إنه لم يعد يمتلك

ويعطوا اهتماما لمطالبات المواطن.. أنا محتاجة مسؤول يقول المواطن على رأس اهتماماتي.. لكن للأسف ما فيش.

أعود إليك عمار.. هناك من تحدث عن مسيرة مضادة لمسيرتكم، كيف ومن يقودها؟

هي كما قلت لك المسيرات التي خرجت لتحفل فقط بذكرى الثورة الثالثة ونظمتها اللجنة التنظيمية التابعة لحزب الإصلاح بغرض التشويش على مسيراتنا التي نطالب فيها بإسقاط الحكومة.

هل أنتم ضد الاحتفال أم ماذا؟

إطلاقاً.. نحن لسنا ضد الاحتفال، ولا في المطالبة بجعل يوم 11 فبراير عيداً وطنياً، لكن في إستغلال حزب الإصلاح لهذا الحق عامة الشعب في إسقاط الحكومة، باعتباره من يراسها ويشارك فيه بنصف الحقائق.

لكن مسيرات الاحتفال بالذكرى أو التي نظمتها اللجنة التنظيمية التي تقول إنها تابعة لحزب الإصلاح كانت أكبر باضعاف من مسيرتكم؟

نعرف أن للإصلاح شعبيته، ولكنه كالعادة قام بغالبية الجماهير تحت مبرر الاحتفال بذكرى الثورة.. وكان الحكومة هي حكومة ثورة.. لكن شعار مسيراتهم كان المطالبة بإسقاط الفساد؟

نعم.. ولكنه كان شعاراً طبع فقط في الملصقات وأفرغت المسيرات من المطالبة بإسقاط الحكومة، كما أنهم جاءوا بهذا الشعار لأهداف حزبية تمثلت في استهداف بعض قيادات الحكومة التي تنتمي حزب المؤتمر الشعبي العام أو التي لا تنتمي للإصلاح.

حسناً.. اسمح لي أن انتقل إلى منير البشري أحد القيادات الشبابية في تكتل الأحرار أحد الأطراف المنظمة للمسيرات المطالبة بإسقاط الحكومة.. ما الذي حققتموه منذ إنطلاق حملتكم؟

بداية تكتل الأحرار الذي شكله النائب عبده بشر وعدد من زملائه الذين قدموا بإسقاطهم من حزب المؤتمر الشعبي العام بسبب الفساد قبل إنطلاق ثورة الشباب كان شارك في الثورة الشبابية لنات الغرض، لكنه عندما رأى للأسف أن الثورة أفرزت فساداً تجاوز الفساد الذي كانت تعانيه اليمن في عهد الرئيس السابق

باسقاط الحكومة.. كيف ترى ذلك؟

نعم.. هم للأسف الشباب المنتمون لحزب الإصلاح الذين هم بحاجة لثورة داخل حزبهم لإسقاط القيادات التي قرفها الشعب، لكن المسيرات التي ننظمها تفاعل معها الآلاف ومثلت رسالة قوية للأطراف التي تحاول اللعب بعواطف الجماهير وتستغل قلة وعيهم بأن الجماهير واعية تماماً، وأن صبرها حيال حكومة الوفاق الفاشلة قد نفذ.

اسمح لي أن انتقل إلى زعفران الناشطة السياسية في حزب الرئيس السابق علي صالح كيف تقمين ما حدث في 11 فبراير؟

ما حدث من تظاهرات كان حق قانوني كلفه الدستور لكل مواطن بغض النظر الإعتاق أو الإختلاف مع توجهاتها.. وهناك حالة من الضبابية عاشها الشارع اليمني في اعتقادي في ذلك اليوم، كون ما حدث هو أن كل طرف سياسي قام بإنزال أنصاره لأغراض مختلفة، منهم من يطلب بإسقاط الحكومة لشغلها.. ونحن معهم في هذا المطالب، ومسيرات أخرى طالبت بإعلان 11 فبراير عيداً وطنياً، وغيرها من المسيرات والمطالب.

هناك من طرح أن ما حدث في 11 فبراير الجاري هو أن الأطراف التي قامت بالثورة الشبابية اختلفت حالياً وصار كل طرف منها يسعى لاستقطاب الشارع من أجل أهدافه؟

أولا مصطلح الثورة الشبابية ليس دقيقاً، وقد اتفق طرفا المبادرة الخليجية المؤتمر والمشارك على تسميتها بالأزمة، ثانياً في اعتقادي أن هناك كثير من الارتجالية لدى الأطراف التي تحاول إستقطاب الشارع والخروج في المسيرات.. كما أننا هنا يجب أن نفرق بين المجموعة التي تمثل السواد الأعظم من الشعب، وفي مطالبته بإسقاط الحكومة الفاشلة بكل تعنيه الكلمة، وبين القوى السياسية التي تحاول أن تعود بالأوضاع إلى المربع الأول مربع الفوضى والأزمة والمواجهات بالسلاح.. كما أن النزول إلى الشارع ليس حلاً في اعتقادي.

هل أنتي مع من يطرح بإعطاء المزيد من الفرصة للحكومة للقيام بمهامها؟

لا.. ولكني مع أن تتوحد الإرادة السياسية والسياسيين ويستحوذوا على أنفسهم شوية

أبدأ معك عمار الكحلاني.. هل هناك قوى سياسية وجهت مسيراتكم التي نظمتوها في 11 فبراير؟

مسيراتنا لا توجهها قوى سياسية معينة، وإنما نحن شباب من كل الأطياف وبيننا مستقلون، نزلنا إلى الشارع لنطالب بإسقاط الحكومة التي أثبتت فشلها، كما أردنا أن نوصل رسالة للأطراف التي تدعي أنها من شباب الثورة وتدافع عن حكومة أخفقت في توفير أسسط ما يتطلع إليه المواطن الذي ثار على النظام السابق بسبب فسادها وقشلها في إدارة البلاد.. هذه الأطراف التي تسعى لاحتكار ثورة الشباب.. الثورة ليست ملكاً أو حقراً على أحد.. خرجنا اليوم وآلاف الشباب لم نرفع أي لافتة حزبية، وكلنا كان مطالباً واحد وهو إسقاط الحكومة.

وهل هذه المسيرات امتدادا لمسيرات حملت إنقاذ التي انطلقت في يناير الماضي؟

نعم بالتأكيد.. والمسيرات التي ننظمها في 11 فبراير كانت أكبر من سابقتها، لأننا مع كل مسيرة ومنذ إنطلاق مسيراتنا كان ينضم إلينا مناصرين جدد، كما لم تكن المسيرات محصورة في العاصمة صنعاء فقط، بل هناك مسيرات خرجت في عدد من المحافظات، وهناك المناء قدموا من مسيرات خارج العاصمة للمشاركة في المسيرات التي نظمت في صنعاء.. وسنستمر في حشد الأنصار حتى نسقط الحكومة وتشكل حكومة من كفاءات.

وهل لديكم برنامج محدد ومتفق عليه في تظاهراتكم؟

نحن متوحدون في هدف إسقاط الحكومة بالطرق السلمية، ولن نسمح بتبعيع هدفنا أو التسلق على أكتافنا لتحقيق أهداف أطراف سياسية، كما حدث في ثورة الشباب في 2011 التي استغلها حزب الإصلاح لتحقيق أهدافه والوصول إلى السلطة، وتناسى كل شيء خلفه من شهداء الثورة وجرحاها، اللذين يموتون الواحد تلو الآخر بسبب إهمال الحكومة التي تجاهلت تضحيات الثوار في ساحت وميادين الثورة.

هناك من يقول إن المسيرات التي نظمت من قبل اللجنة التنظيمية للثورة تحت شعار «الشعب يريد إسقاط الفساد» كانت بغرض التشويش على المسيرات المطالبة

Yemeni Business Club helps businesses grow

Yemen Times Taiz Bureau

The only private sector business organization in Yemen, the Yemeni Business Club (YBC), opened its second branch in Taiz last week, thereby expanding its business network. The first branch office opened in Aden in 2012.

“Avoid politics and focus on job creation,” was Taiz governor Shawqi Ahmed Hayel’s advice to the private sector at the branch inauguration. He encouraged the private sector to take the initiative and play a role in the country’s development, especially now, with the change of government. The new federal structure is expected to bring decentralization of government and a reduction in bureaucracy. This should result in greater ease of doing business, which should, in turn, lead to more opportunities for businessmen and investors, Hayel said.

One of the first activities of the Taiz branch, according to its director, Wael Abdullah Abdo, will be to conduct a seminar on Yemen’s new membership in the World Trade

Organization and what it means for Yemeni businesses. He hopes that the membership will create joint ventures that will have positive effects on the economy, such as job creation. “We will work on improving the professional capacity of businesses in Taiz and create a private sector network that will support the community and create economic and social stability,” he said.

According to the 2014 World Bank “Ease of Doing Business” study, Yemen ranked 133—four places lower than in 2013. The indicators with the highest negative effect were those for infrastructure and security.

The YBC management said it acknowledges that a disconnect exists between the community and the private sector. This disconnect is reinforced by the lack of state interest in partnering with the private sector as well as the negative societal perception that businessmen only care about making money, they said.

“But we do care [about people],” said Yousif Al-Kuraimi, the secretary general of the YBC. “We care



and we were able to demonstrate this through our participation in the National Dialogue Conference in which we—as representatives of the private sector—were able to bring forward realistic solutions to the country’s economic problems.”

Bringing forward solutions and being proactive are both key parts of the YBC’s mission. The governor of Taiz supports and encourages the club’s work. “We can’t wait for the state to do everything, because it just cannot do everything. It has failed at economic development, in particular, because it did not create



a business-friendly environment and it ignored the private sector,” said the governor.

The Yemeni Business Club currently has 144 members who are owners, shareholders, managers or deputy managers of businesses in Yemen. Of these, 52 are women. Last year, the female members successfully led an internal campaign to change the name of the club (formerly, the Yemeni Businessmen’s Club) to its current, gender-neutral name.

The club—which this year celebrates its ten-year anniversary—



plans to open two more branches in 2015, in Mukalla and Hodeida, according to its president, Fathi Abdulwase.

The YBC, which operates under the umbrella of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, has carried out several economic studies on Sales Tax, Corporate Governance, Social Corporate Responsibility and family businesses. It regularly holds both public and private seminars, events and conferences.

“Empowering youth is a priority for us in the club. We are currently working with some international

organizations to establish a youth development center to train and mentor youth, and perhaps even provide them with start-up capital for entrepreneurial projects,” said Abdulwase.

(Photos courtesy of the YBC.)

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For more information on the YBC, how to become a member or how to benefit from its support, visit:

www.ybc-yemen.com



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WIDEN YOUR WORLD



Buying a stolen phone can lead to jail



“We know that stolen mobile phones are sold in the Bab Al-Yemen area, but we cannot say that all street vendors are thieves,” said one police officer. “So, we do not interfere unless [someone alerts us to a problem].”

Mohammed Al-Khyat

When Usama Mohammed, 20, was in the market for a new phone, he went to a reputable mobile shop instead of approaching dodgy men in the Old City who sell stolen phones for less.

“My intention was to purchase a used phone [that I have been wanting]. I spent YR24,000 (about \$110) at a mobile phone shop and asked the shop owner for a receipt. I was [very pleased with my purchase] and immediately inserted my SIM card into the phone.”

However, days later, a man called him, claiming that Mohammed's new mobile phone belonged to him and accusing Mohammed of stealing it. He tried to defend himself, but [the caller didn't believe him].

Hours later, he heard a knock at

the door. It was the police, and to his great surprise, he was accused of stealing the cell phone he had just purchased.

He spent the night in prison until his family found the receipt and took it to the police the next day.

Mohammed expected to be immediately released after presenting the receipt.

Policemen accompanied Mohammed to the shop, where the owner readily admitted that Mohammed had purchased his phone there, and produced a photocopy of the identification card of the man who had sold him the phone, as required by law. The copy was unclear, however, making it impossible to identify the person who had sold it to the shop.

Subsequently, according to Mohammed, one of the soldiers pronounced a judgment: the shop owner was ordered to refund Mohammed YR 10,000 (about \$50)

and Mohammed was ordered to return the phone to its original owner. In addition, Mohammed was compelled to pay weighty bribes to the policemen so that they would let him go.

“I was [originally] happy that the mobile phone cost me [only] YR 24,000, but I had no idea that the whole ordeal [with bribes] would ultimately cost me YR 44,000 (about \$200).”

While Mohammed had purposefully avoided the dodgy men selling phones out of their jackets, many others yield to the temptation of a phone at a lower cost. While they themselves have not stolen, some will end up in jail for buying a stolen phone.

At Bab Al-Yemen, just meters from the Defense Ministry, vendors come and go, some selling second-hand mobile phones, others selling t-shirts, mattresses and blankets.

Continued on the last page

Rural Growth Programme Terms of Reference Programme Director

Organization :	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Job Title :	Programme Director
Duty Station:	Sana'a
Duration :	1 year (with possibility of extension, subjected to performance appraisal)
Languages required :	Arabic and English.
Nationality :	Yemeni

1. Background:

IFAD's Rural Growth Programme (RGP) aims at improving the food security in rural areas and reducing rural poverty. Accordingly, the RGP would stimulate sustainable rural economic growth for women and men in rural communities, and its main interventions would focus on: (i) enhancing the resilience of households and communities; (ii) upgrading the agricultural technologies; (iii) increasing the access to economic opportunities for rural women and men; and (iv) climate-proofing the infrastructure and natural resource base.

Geographically, the RGP intervention areas initially will include Dhamar, Al-Dhala, Hodeidah, Lahej and Taiz governorates. The Programme's target group would consist of poor food insecure rural women and men living in selected communities with a specific focus on women and youth. At full development, the RGP is expected to directly reach up around 1.2 million individuals, of whom around 0.8 million from below the poverty line.

The Lead Programme Agency will be the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Overall coordination at national level and support for cross-cutting issues will be provided by a National Programme Coordination Unit (NPCU) located in Sana'a and reporting to a National Steering Committee (NSC). At each governorate level, the coordination of programme planning and implementation will be the responsibility of the Programme Management Unit (PMU) reporting to a Governorate Steering Committee (GSC).

The PCU is headed by a Programme Director and supported by associated staff (viz. finance manager, internal auditor, M-E & KM specialists, environment & climate change specialist, energy engineer, training advisor, and secretary).

2. Duties and Responsibilities:

The Programme director would be responsible for all aspects of management of implementation and be directly answerable to the Programme National Board. He/she would be located in Sana'a, but will work closely with the PMU's, line ministries and governorate's offices.

The Programme director would be the head of the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) and would directly supervise and monitor all Programme work, whether in-house or contracted out. He/she would work closely with senior staff from national, Governorate, NGO and private sector agencies, community-based organisations and service providers to ensure that the operations of all involved implementing bodies achieve the Programme goals and objectives.

Within the framework, as described above, he/she will be responsible for the following:

- acting as Secretary to the National Board and ensuring that its directives and guidelines are incorporated into all Programme activities;
- the liaison function, in concert with the line ministries, MoPIC, MOF, MAI, MLA; and with all national or regional level bodies representing farmers, service providers and related interests;
- Oversee the AWPB preparations at governorate level and ensure the consultative and participatory approaches in AWPB preparation;
- Facilitate and ensure proper implementation of the outputs and activities of the RGP in accordance with the AWPB;
- Provide leadership and strategic thinking to ensure proper implementation of programme activities. Administer the day-to-day operations, through designated staff, to ensure the effective management and efficient implementation of the programme components;
- Management of the (PCU) and direct involvement in all personnel selection, appointment and performance matters relating to its staff and other PMUs staff;
- Supervise the PMU's, provide strategic guidance, overall coordination of the work, and follow-up the work ensuring the effective and efficient implementation of the activities at each governorate level;
- Coordination with relevant ministries, national organizations, private sector firms and civil society initiatives as required by the RGP objectives and activities;
- Oversee and provide general guidance and support to the national/international experts/consultants experts;
- Organize regular meetings with the PMUs Managers and staff to discuss implementation and supervision of activities and as well as follow-up actions; and assist each PMU with policy dialogue issues and provide relevant technical guidance and support.
- Coordinate and supervise the preparation of regular progress and annual reports in , The quarterly, six-monthly , and annual progress reports to be submitted to the national board, MAI and donors.
- Build up strategic relationships and develop partnerships with UN agencies, government institutions, bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors, private sector, civil society organizations, other external development partners and Yemen's national institutions (including the Chambers of Commerce) in support of appropriate programme expansion, where necessary.
- Supervise all staff assignment and consulting agreements of the PCU and PMUs;
- Participate and contribute to the capacity development activities undertaken under the programme;
- providing leadership, guidance, enthusiasm and catalytic input to all levels of Programme participants and activities, whenever appropriate.

3. Competencies:

- a. Working experience in integrated rural development in the poor area, their development issues and participatory planning and implementation of the sustainable development in the rural area and have good policy analytical capacities .
- b. Ability to work in and lead a multi-disciplinary team and to lead and direct programme financial and technical staff, strategic planning, results-based management and reporting.
- c. Demonstrates openness to change, and the ability to manage team efforts in varying complex situations.
- d. Substantial work experiences in development programs and familiarity with development initiatives and stakeholders as related to rural development in Yemen.
- e. Strong analytical abilities and research sense capacity; Demonstrates strong oral and written communication skills.

4. Qualifications and Experience:

- a. At A bachelor's degree in rural development, agriculture, development studies, or a closely related field with a minimum of 15 years of experience. A master degree in lieu of the above with a minimum of 12 years experience or Ph.D. with 10 years experience will be accepted
- b. Of the above, at least 10 years of working experience in the development programmes/programmes, policy and administrative management, and training,
- c. Strong knowledge of donor reporting formats, including AWPBs and M&E systems.
- d. Significant experience in programmes funded by international organizations, and familiar with government procedures.
- e. Full working knowledge of Arabic and English, including excellent drafting and presentation skills, excellent communication skills.
- f. He/she would have demonstrated in the chosen career: effective judgement and determination; a consistent track record of increasing responsibility and achievement; real understanding of the principles and practical methodology of community-based rural development; and a high level of inter-personal and entrepreneurial skills.

5. Application Process:

1. Interested qualified candidates are encouraged to apply for the above mentioned position by sending a recent detailed CV, along with an application letter clearly mentioning the position applied for in the " email/letter subject line ". The applications and the CVs should be replicated to all of the following email address:
 - a. agriculture@yemen.net.ye
 - b. icoyemen_ifad@yahoo.com
2. Only a short-listed candidates will be contacted for the next step of selection process.
3. The deadline for the application is 2.3.2014

Qualified female candidates are highly encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with strictest confidence.

ADVERTORIAL

Emirates and Jetstar launch new codeshare and frequent flyer agreement

Emirates customers to reap a host of benefits from latest deal

Emirates and Jetstar have announced an agreement which is set to open up new destinations for Emirates passengers across Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia as the Dubai-based airline continues to connect people, places and passions.

Emirates' code will now be placed on a number of routes operated by Jetstar Airways in Australia and New Zealand and Jetstar Asia, giving passengers access to 27 new routes and six new destinations such as Bali in Indonesia, Byron Bay in Australia, Dunedin in New Zealand and Siem Reap in Cambodia.

Members of Emirates Skywards, the airline's frequent flyer programme, will be able to earn Miles for flights on Jetstar-operated routes which have the Emirates code, they will also be able to use their Miles to purchase reward flights on any Jetstar operated route*, starting from just 7,025 Skywards Miles.

“This new link between Emirates and Jetstar offers our passengers a number of benefits including new routes to destinations that are not part of the Emirates network today,” said Adnan Kazim, Emirates' Divisional Senior Vice President, Planning, Aeropolitical & Industry Affairs.

“The link between Emirates and Jetstar is also fantastic news for our Emirates Skywards members, giving them more options to use their miles to explore new countries and cultures,” added Mr Kazim.

“This agreement will see us bring our extensive Asia Pacific network consisting of some of the most popular leisure destinations, to the doorstep of Emirates passengers across the globe,” said Lisa Brock, Jetstar Group Chief Commercial Officer.

“Working with Emirates we have created a product and a network offering



Emirates and Jetstar have announced an agreement which is set to open up new destinations for Emirates passengers across Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia as the Dubai-based airline continues to connect people, places and passions.

that will provide Emirates passengers with new holiday options throughout South East Asia including Bali, Siem Reap and Phnom Penh and new destinations across Australia and New Zealand.

“Emirates customers travelling on Jetstar will enjoy a range of full service fare features such as food and beverage options and the same luggage allowance they would have on Emirates.”

From 6 April, all Emirates' passengers on Jetstar flights will receive boarding passes on check-in at their first international departure point for connecting international services.

The codeshare includes seven domestic routes in Australia to add to the 50 that Emirates already codeshares

with cornerstone investor in the Jetstar Group, Qantas; four new routes in New Zealand, six new routes between Australian and New Zealand over the Tasman Sea and ten international routes out of Singapore to Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and Hong Kong.

Emirates' Jetstar codeshare itineraries will be on sale from the 13th February 2014 for travel from the 6th April 2014. Emirates frequent flyers will be able to redeem flights with points from the 1st March 2014.

**Subject to final regulatory approval.
** Excluding Jetstar Pacific Flights.*



YEMEN TIMES
Radio

FROM THE AIRWAVES

Article 19 is a weekly awareness program aired on Radio Yemen Times. It tackles some of Yemen's thorniest issues: those related to the right to freedom of opinion and expression as defined in Article 19 of the International Declaration of Human Rights.

The program airs on Radio Yemen Times, 91.9 FM, on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. and is rebroadcast on Saturdays at 11 a.m.

National Reconciliation and Transitional Justice

The country has concluded its National Dialogue Conference and is waiting to see which outcomes will be implemented. Although the conference has ended, reconciliation—following decades of conflict—has yet to follow. Article 19 asks what national reconciliation would look like and how victims can receive justice for abuses they have endured.

What does national reconciliation mean?

Khaled Al-Anesi: National reconciliation means the willingness of society to end a certain conflict and shift to peace after addressing the consequences of that conflict—and to also work to keep it from happening again.

How does national reconciliation relate to the law in light of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) outcomes?

Hameed Al-Lahbi: National reconciliation doesn't have a specific form and can take place in any country based on the political and social situation of that country. It contributes to a framework of human rights, namely, the right of a society to know the truth about things that happened during periods of conflict, the right of victims and society to receive justice, and the right to compensation and reparations.

Khalid Al-Anesi:

The rights to freedom of opinion and expression should be guaranteed.

How will victims and their families be dealt with during national reconciliation?

Al-Lahbi: National reconciliation is one of the transitional justice procedures.... There should be an integrated process to deliver justice to the victims of rights abuses.

If relatives of victims refuse forgiveness, what will you do?

Al-Anesi: People's understanding of national reconciliation is associated with amnesty—such as the amnesty granted by the state for the people or parties that committed certain crimes during a period of conflict—to overcome the conflict and focus on the future. To satisfy victims and their relatives, the state should deliver justice.

How can we raise people's awareness about national reconciliation?

Al-Lahbi: National reconciliation should take a bottom-up approach.

One of the transitional justice outcomes in the NDC stated that the conference [aims to establish the procedures for national reconciliation and settle all conflicts in such a way that ensures victims' rights, that is not contradictory to transitional justice, and that provides guarantees to ensure that such conflicts will not recur].

This outcome shows us that the NDC is a national reconciliation conference where victims of human rights violations are at the heart of the process.

What do you think are the guarantees of this outcome?

Al-Anesi: The most important thing that must be guaranteed is the freedom of victims to participate in national reconciliation without any coercion. Prior to this step, state institutions should be established because they are part of the problem. When victims are

able to choose whether to prosecute their opponents or to forgive them, they are more willing to forgive. We want a real amnesty that isn't followed by renewed conflict.

The other guarantee must be the departure of people accused of crimes from positions of power. People cannot forgive them if they remain in power.

Do we need a fact-finding committee to prove what happened and to identify our rights and duties?

Al-Anesi: National reconciliation requires investigation of these crimes and violations. Those who admit to crimes and apologize to victims are guaranteed not to be punished for their admissions, while those who deny their crimes and are later proved guilty should be prosecuted because they wasted the opportunity that was granted them to confess their crimes to society.

Each citizen has the right to know about the crimes that happened. We need to implement the Freedom of Information Law.

Al-Lahbi: The right to access information is the principal and most important right. People have the right to access information and to know the truth about crimes and those behind them.

What was the idea behind writing your book about transitional justice and national reconciliation at this time?

Al-Lahbi: At the beginning of 2012, I looked at the transitional justice bill which was prepared by the Ministry of Legal Affairs. I found that bill incapable of fulfilling the needs of transitional justice. The law targeted political reconciliation alone.

I prepared the transitional justice bill and made the language simple and accessible.

Hameed Al-Lahbi:

The right to access information is the principal and most important right. People have the right to access information and to know the truth about crimes and those behind them.

Do you think it is better to forget the past and to think about the future in order to build the country?

Al-Anesi: Yemeni society is a religious one. Tolerance is part of the culture and part of the Holy Quran.

How do you see the future of freedom of opinion taking into consideration national reconciliation and the new Yemen?

Al-Lahbi: We should be able to implement the principles of freedom of thought and freedom of expression, as well as the right to obtain information and to circulate it. This is an integrated process.

المادة 19 هو برنامج توعوي يتحدث عن حق الفرد والمجتمع في حرية التعبير عن الرأي التي كُفلت كفالته كاملة بالنص الصريح بالمادة 19 في العهد الدولي للحقوق المدنية والسياسية، والإعلان العالمي لحقوق الإنسان والتي نصت على أنه لكل شخص الحق في حرية الرأي والتعبير، ويشمل هذا الحق حرية اعتناق الآراء وإداعتها بأي وسيلة كانت دون تقييد بالحدود الجغرافية.

هذا البرنامج يبث كل أربعاء الساعة 8 مساءً ويعاد يوم السبت الساعة 11 صباحاً على أثير راديو يمن تايمز 91,9.

المصالحة الوطنية ومفهومها

ناقش برنامج المادة 19 هذا الأسبوع موضوع المصالحة الوطنية ومفهومها وركز على توضيح مفهوم المصالحة الوطنية والإجراءات التي يجب اتخاذها قبل المصالحة والفوائد التي ستعود على المواطن والدولة من العدالة الانتقالية، ضيوف الحلقة هم المحامي والناشط الحقوقي خالد الأنسي والمحامي الدكتور حميد اللهيبي.

ماذا تعني المصالحة الوطنية؟

خالد الأنسي: المصالحة الوطنية هي رغبة المجتمع في إنهاء صراع معين عاشه المجتمع والانتقال إلى السلم بعد معالجة نتائج ذلك الصراع والعمل على تجنبه.

خالد الأنسي:

لا بد أن يكفل لكل الأصوات حرية الرأي والتعبير مهما اختلفنا معها ومهما ارتفع سقفها أو انخفض أو مهما رأينا أنها متخلفة أو بدائية.

كيف ينظر القانون للمصالحة الوطنية في ظل مخرجات الحوار الوطني؟

حميد اللهيبي: المصالحة الوطنية ليس لها شكل أو طريقة محددة ويمكن أن تتم في أي دولة وفقاً للظروف السياسية والاجتماعية الخاصة بهذه الدولة. وهي في الأخير تخدم ما يعرف اليوم بالجيل الجديد من حقوق الإنسان المتمثل في ثلاثة حقوق أساسية وهي حق المجتمع في معرفة الحقيقة وما جرى خلال الصراعات وحق الضحايا والمجتمع في الحصول على العدالة والإنصاف والحق في الحصول على التعويض وجبر الضرر.

كيف يمكن التعامل مع الضحايا أو أولياء الدم في ضوء المصالحة الوطنية؟

حميد اللهيبي: المصالحة الوطنية هي أحد إجراءات العدالة الانتقالية.. فالعدالة الانتقالية يجب أن تكون المحور الذي تقوم عليه المصالحة الوطنية.. وفي الصكوك الدولية لحقوق الإنسان يجب أن يكون هناك عملية متكاملة لضحايا انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان تؤدي إلى انصافهم وجبر ضررهم.

في حال تم تطبيق المصالحة الوطنية وجاء إليكم أولياء دم أحد الضحايا وأخبروكم أنهم لم يستطيعوا نسيان فقدان هذا الشخص، ماذا ستفعلون؟

خالد الأنسي: المصالحة في مفهوم الناس مرتبطة بمفهوم معين وهو مفهوم العفو أما عفو السلطة عن الجرائم التي ارتكبها أشخاص أو جهات معينة خلال فترة الصراع من أجل تجاوز الصراع والانتقال للمستقبل أو عفو أو مسامحة الضحايا بدون أن يترتب على هذا العفو إسقاط حقوق هؤلاء الضحايا.

من أجل إقناع الضحايا بالمصالحة والتسامح والعفو يجب أن تصل الدولة إلى مرحلة معينة يصبح بمقدورها أن تنتصر لهؤلاء الضحايا.. أما في المشهد اليمني، فالذين خرجوا وسقطوا ضحايا سواء شهداء أو جرحى نجد أنهم على استعداد أكبر لتقبل فكرة المصالحة أكثر من ضحايا الصراعات القبلية لأنهم خرجوا من أجل العدالة والمساواة.

وكيف يمكن أن نعمل على رفع مستوى الوعي بالمصالحة الوطنية؟

حميد اللهيبي: المصالحة الوطنية يجب أن تبدأ من القاعدة وتنتهي بالقمة، أي تبدأ من القرى إلى المحافظات ومن ثم إلى العواصم. أحد مخرجات العدالة الانتقالية في مؤتمر الحوار الوطني ينص على أن المؤتمر يهدف إلى الإسهام في وضع إجراءات المصالحة الوطنية وإغلاق كافة ملفات الصراع بما لا يصادر حقوق الضحايا ويتعارض مع العدالة وتحديد ضمانات بعدم تكرار ما حدث. هذا المخرج يدل على أن مؤتمر الحوار الوطني هو مؤتمر للمصالحة الوطنية بحيث يكون في صلب هذه العملية ضحايا انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان.

ما هي برأيك الضمانات التي تضمن هذا النص الصريح من مخرجات الحوار الوطني؟

خالد الأنسي: أقوى الضمانات هو شعور الضحايا بأنهم فعلاً

يسامحون بدون أن يفرض عليهم ذلك أو بدون أن يصل المجتمع إلى مرحلة معينة يصل فيها الضحايا إلى هذه القناعة. وقبل هذه الخطوة يجب بناء مؤسسات الدولة لأن غياب مؤسسات الدولة هو جزء من المشكلة حيث يميل الضحايا أكثر إلى العفو عندما يكون بمقدورهم مقاضاة من ارتكبوا جرائم ضدهم أو العفو عنهم. نحن نريد تسامح حقيقي ليس تسامح مصطنع يأتي بعده صراعات وثارات.

والضمانة الأخرى أنه يفترض ممن قاموا بانتهاك هذه الجرائم الإبتعاد عن إدارة مصالح الناس فلا يمكن للناس أن تسامح عن حقها في حين من انتهك حقوقهم لا يزالون في السلطة. هل نحن بحاجة إلى لجنة تقصي حقائق لتثبت لنا ما جرى وما لنا وما علينا من حقوق وواجبات؟

خالد الأنسي: من مقتضيات المصالحة أن يتم التحقيق في تلك الجرائم والانتهاكات والتحقيق في تلك الجرائم والانتهاكات يحقق عدة غايات.. فالأشخاص الذين يعترفون بالذنب بتلك الجرائم ويعتذرون عنها يكفل لهم أن لا يعاقبوا على هذه الاعترافات ويعرف المجتمع ماذا حدث لهؤلاء الضحايا.

ومن يتمتسون وراء جرائمهم ويتهربون من تطبيقها يكون هنالك تحقيق وان ثبتت إدانتهم يتم محاكمتهم ولا تنطبق عليهم المصالحة لأنهم لم يستفيدوا من الفرصة التي منحها المجتمع لهم للاعتراف والكشف عن ما حدث من انتهاكات.

حميد اللهيبي:

أبرز وأهم حق من حقوق الجيل الجديد في مجال حقوق الإنسان هو الحق في معرفة الحقيقة والحصول على المعلومة في ما جرى من انتهاكات وأسباب ودوافع الصراع ومن المتسبب فيه.

هل نحن بحاجة لتفعيل قانون حق الحصول على المعلومة لأنه من حق كل مواطن معرفة كل معلومة ذات صلة بالانتهاكات؟

حميد اللهيبي: أبرز وأهم حق من حقوق الجيل الجديد في مجال حقوق الإنسان هو الحق في معرفة الحقيقة والحصول على المعلومة في ما جرى من انتهاكات وأسباب ودوافع الصراع ومن المتسبب فيه.

ما الفكرة في إنشاء كتابك الخاص بالعدالة الانتقالية والمصالحة الوطنية في هذا التوقيت بالذات؟

حميد اللهيبي: في بداية 2012 نزل مشروع قانون العدالة الانتقالية الذي أعدته وزارة الشؤون القانونية فاطلعت على مشروع القانون ووجدت أن هذا القانون لا يلبي فعلاً متطلبات العدالة الانتقالية كان مجرد قانون لإجراء المصالحة السياسية، فاعدت مشروع قانون العدالة الانتقالية والمصالحة الوطنية وعملت على تبسيطه للمواطن البسيط.

هل تعتقد أن اليمن الجديد الذي يسعى الكل له يمكن أن يصل إلى وعي أنه من اعترف عفى الله عما سلف؟

خالد الأنسي: المجتمع اليمني مجتمع متدين والمسامحة هي جزء من ثقافته وجزء من التعاليم القرآنية.

حميد اللهيبي: لا بد أن نكون قادرين على تطبيق مبدأ حرية التعبير وحرية الحق في التعبير الذي يتبعه الكثير من الحقوق مثل الحصول على المعلومة وتداولها ونشرها فهي عملية متكاملة ومتراصة لا يمكن أن تجزأ.

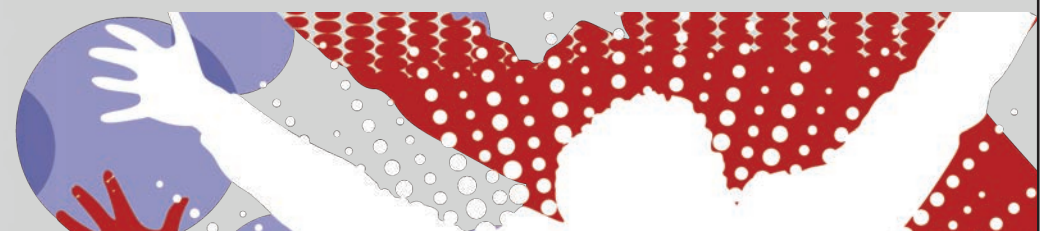
خالد الأنسي: لا بد أن يكفل لكل الأصوات حرية الرأي والتعبير مهما اختلفنا معها ومهما ارتفع سقفها أو انخفض أو مهما رأينا أنها متخلفة أو بدائية.



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YEMEN TIMES Radio



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Buying a stolen phone can lead to jail

Essam Al-Hamadi, a street vendor who sells phones said that many of the phones sold on the streets of the Old City were of poor quality and that others had certainly been stolen.

"This place [full of] quarrels over mobile phones," said Mohammed Al-Jafari, a restaurant employee in Bab Al-Yemen. Security officers always arrive after fights break out, he said.

"The crime investigation department, in cooperation with prosecutors and telecommunications companies, identifies stolen mobile phones by means of their serial numbers," said Abdulrahman Abu Al-Rijal, the head of Sana'a's criminal investigation unit. "This helps us find a mobile phone's owner."

"Reputable mobile phone shops give their customers warranties," he said. "The majority of those caught are innocent. They say that they bought their phones from street vendors. At the very least they should take a look at the photocopy of the seller's ID card."



Mobile phone shops are required to take a copy of identification for anyone who wants to sell a phone to the shop. If the phone turns out to be stolen, the seller will be held accountable.

He said the criminal investigation unit is responsible for arresting suspects and referring their cases for prosecution.

Abu Al-Rijal said that negligence on the part of citizens is contributing to the increase in mobile phone thefts. Some leave their cars unlocked, providing an easy opening for thieves, he said.

Abu Al-Rijal said that dozens have been referred for prosecution over the past year, but he also said that there are no accurate statistics, and that some of the thieves are accused of other crimes, not just mobile phone theft.

Abdumalik Sharafaldeen, legal advisor for the Al-Sajeen organization in Yemen, said that a lot of individuals accused of stealing mobile phones have been imprisoned, even though they are innocent. What they are guilty of is buying cell phones on the streets from people who do not have a business address and cannot be found after the sale, he said.

"The Al-Sajeen organization offers aid to first-time offenders, in-

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cluding those who are imprisoned for mobile phone thefts," Sharafaldeen said. "In late January, the organization allocated funds to assist 20 insolvent, jailed [first-time offenders]. Among them are some who are accused of stealing mobile phones."

Those who can afford to make a financial settlement at the local police station are released on payment, but those who cannot are jailed and have to await judicial proceedings, according to Sharafaldeen.

Tawfeek Al-Wajeeh, the head of the Bab Al-Huria police station, said he regularly receives notifications about mobile phone thefts as

well as disputes between vendors and their customers. He said they prefer to attempt to resolve the disputes rather than arrest those involved and send them to court.

"We know that stolen mobile phones are sold in the Bab Al-Yemen area, but we cannot say that all street vendors are thieves. So, we do not interfere unless [someone alerts us to a problem]," he added.

Many people shop for phones at Bab Al-Yemen and know that their origins are suspect, Al-Wajeeh said. Even so, some are tempted by the gamble because of low prices—but it is a gamble that could land them in jail.

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