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- 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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Hirak and security forces trade blame over death of Hirak member



Mubarak Al-Awlaqi, who killed Friday morning in Aden. Hirak and security forces each accuse each other of the killing.

DAY OF DIGNITY 3RD ANNIVERSARY: In April 2013 the Court of the Eastern Area of Sana'a ordered an investigation of former President Ali Abdulla Saleh and 11 of his senior aides over the killing of peaceful protesters on March 18, 2011. The order has never been carried out. A fund for the families of the victims is due to start disbursing monthly stipends on Tuesday, the third anniversary of the Day of Dignity. The disbursement is five months overdue. **See page 3 for more information.**

(Photo credit: karamahasnowalls.com)

National Dialogue members hold town hall meeting

Bin Mubarak responds to UN resolution concerns

Story and photo by Ali Saeed

SANA'A, March 17—Yemenis from around the country gathered at the Movenpick Hotel on Sunday to ask questions and share concerns about the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) outcomes that are expected to shape the new country.

These outcomes are expected to be included in the new constitution, which is due in March 2015. The Constitutional Drafting Committee, established on March 8, was given a year to draft the constitution.

Attendees were able to directly question NDC Consensus Committee Chairman Abdulkarim Al-Eryani, committee rapporteur Hosam Al-Shargabi, and the General Secretary of the NDC, Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak.

In addition to those at the town hall meeting, Yemenis participated by sending their questions and comments through Facebook and via SMS messages.

Most questions and concerns centered around the country's unemployment, the deteriorating economy, constant sabotage against

oil and electricity infrastructure, violence in the north and the general security vacuum in the country, as well as a lack of services from the government.

"We waited for you to finish the conference, [expecting that the situation would improve], but cars continue to line up at gas stations and attacks against oil pipelines and power stations continue," said a woman from Mahwit.

The town hall meeting was organized following efforts by some in the country to paint the latest UN Security Council resolution on Yemen as foreign intervention into Yemeni affairs. The resolution was passed in late February.

The resolution threatened to sanction and issue travel bans against those who would disrupt Yemen's political transition. To identify individuals or groups, 15 UNSC countries will be tasked with determining who is obstructing the process.

On Feb. 10, the Regions Defining Committee decided that Yemen would become a federal state consisting of six regions—four in the north and two in the south.

A child from Dhamar addressed a question to Al-Eryani at the town hall meeting. The child asked if federalism spelled the end of Yemen's unity and if dividing Yemen into regions was a way of allowing soft



NDC officials responded to allegations that the latest UN Security Council resolution on Yemen allowed for foreign intervention in Yemeni affairs.

foreign military intervention into Yemen, with each region potentially allying with foreign countries or groups.

"Federalism does not mean dividing Yemen and it is just a new political system to address past grievances," Al-Eryani replied.

Responding to the accusation that the resolution was foreign intervention in Yemeni affairs, Bin Mubarak told the audience that, "the U.N. Resolution stands with

the Yemeni people and its aspirations for change against the spoilers."

Audience members and citizens from the north were also concerned about the violence between the Houthis and local tribesmen in the north.

"The government is not unable to mitigate conflicts. It is good that the international support continues to promote peace in Yemen," Al-Eryani said.

Three militants accidentally blown up in Shabwa

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, March 17—Three suspected militants were killed and another wounded on Sunday after an explosive device they were working on detonated prematurely, a local security official said.

Among those killed was a Saudi national, while the wounded suspect is said to be a Yemeni citizen.

Mubarak Lazlam, security chief assistant of Shabwa, said in an interview with the Yemen Times that

the explosion occurred while the suspects were planting a bomb in a vehicle in preparation for an attack in Habban district.

He added that the district where the explosion took place is out of the reach of the security forces, and that a number of Al-Qaeda militants operate in the area.

"There is no security presence in the district, but there are some local informants who provide security information to the security administration of Shabwa," said Lazlam.

"We can't send policemen to this district as it is large and we need the military to back us," he explained.

Lazlam claimed that the suspected militants were probably Al-Qaeda operatives, adding that a significant number of Al-Qaeda members with Saudi citizenship operate in the area.

Last Tuesday, in the Hadramout region of eastern Yemen, the military detained 11 Saudi nationals who were part of a group of 32 militants who attacked a security

checkpoint between Al-Wadea' border crossing and Al-Abr city. The militants killed one soldier and captured the chief of staff of the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Mechanized Brigade, according to a security official quoted by the local news website Al-Masdar Online.

The military released the detainees on Wednesday in exchange for the military chief of staff, after the militants imposed a siege on the barracks of the 23rd Mechanized Brigade.

Fuad Mussed

ADEN, March 17—Hirak, also known as the Southern Movement, and security forces in Aden have accused each other of murdering Hirak member Mubarak Khalid Mubarak Al-Awlaqi, 26, on Friday in the Al-Mansoura area of Aden. Security forces have arrested several individuals associated with Hirak, and on Friday and Saturday Hirak members blocked several thoroughfares in the coastal city.

Nabeel Abdu, a friend of Al-Awlaqi, told the Yemen Times that "on Friday at 1:00 a.m. security forces opened fire on several youth in Al-Mansoura, and Al-Awlaqi was shot twice in the stomach."

Adeeb Al-Essi, a leader of the Southern Movement who hails from Al-Mansoura, claimed in a Facebook post that the soldiers tried to assassinate Al-Awlaqi.

"The soldiers arrested several youth in the area and threatened to kill them if they spoke up about Al-Awlaqi," he added.

The Ministry of the Interior's website on Saturday reported that "unidentified gunmen riding in two cars shot Al-Awlaqi in the stomach and back. Al-Awlaqi was a suspect

in three serious criminal cases and was wanted by the security apparatus," the ministry said.

The ministry said that they have initiated an investigation into the matter in order to identify and arrest those responsible.

The military last month stormed the central square in Al-Mansoura and forced Hirak members to leave. Hirak has been organizing its events in the square for over two years.

The Southern Movement, which began in 2007, demands independence for Yemen's South. Some Hirak proponents participated in the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) that took place on March 18, 2013 and ended on Jan. 25, 2014, while others refused to participate, revealing some dissent within the movement's ranks.

In order to address demands for regional autonomy, the NDC's Regions Defining Committee on Feb. 10 decided to divide Yemen into six regions: four in the North and two in the South.

However, the members of the Southern Movement who boycotted the NDC rejected this resolution, saying that the division of the South into two regions may engender conflict among southerners.

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College of Science faculty goes on strike at Sana'a University

Staff complains of lack of equipment and faculty

Khalid Al-Karimi

SANA'A, March 18—The teaching staff of Sana'a University's College of Science have been on strike since Saturday. The faculty council voted late last week to halt studies at the college in protest over insufficient funding and a general lack of academic resources, such as poorly outfitted laboratories.

"The College of Science does not have an adequate budget and the labs are in a very bad state. There is also a shortfall of computers and other equipment needed to conduct experiments," said Elham Ameen, a professor and head of the Department of Life Sciences at the university.

Teaching under such conditions does not bear fruit, Ameen said.

"The subjects we are teaching are not theoretical. Students should have hands-on practice to apply their learning. Studying without being able to perform experiments is simply ineffective [and of little benefit to the students]," Ameen said. "This is why the college teaching staff decided to go out on strike."

According to Ameen, many students are still coming to the college but staying out of the classrooms. "They want to publicize their plight and they hope to see [improvements in their education]."

Mohammed Shukri, the dean of the College of Science, said in a statement to the state-run Al-Thawra newspaper that the teaching staff at the college decided to go on strike for a variety of reasons including inadequate equipment and a lack of supplies in the chemistry department's laboratories, as well as a lack of faculty.

"The College of Science does not have the financial wherewithal to properly outfit the life sciences,



"The subjects we are teaching are not theoretical... Studying without being able to perform experiments is simply ineffective [and of little benefit to the students]," said Elham Ameen, a professor at Sana'a University.

chemistry and physics laboratories. Moreover, the college's library is incapable of meeting students' scientific research needs," Shukri said.

The College of Science includes chemistry, physics, mathematics, life sciences and geology departments.

"Our demands are simple, and the university administration is capable of meeting them. We want to upgrade the labs and enrich the college's library with up-to-date reference works," said Saddam Ahmed, a second-year chemistry student.

Though Ahmed supports the strike, he is afraid that it may drag on for a long time, causing them to lose several weeks' worth of classes.

"If time passes and our demands remain unfulfilled, we are going to be the ones whose education suffers. But I hope the university administration will be able to resolve these issues soon so that we can return to classes and continue our studies," he said.

Abdulhakeem Al-Sharjabi, the rector of Sana'a University, told Al-Masdar online that the College of Science is hurting for funds because

there is no parallel system at the college to help cover operational costs.

The dual system, in-place at other colleges at Sana'a University, allows students who pay higher tuition to circumvent normal admissions criteria. Ordinarily, students, in order to gain standard low-cost admission to the university, must have passed the entrance exam and met a certain grade point average (GPA).

This parallel system admits students who do not meet the criteria but who can afford to pay higher tuition. Such a system generates income for the colleges that choose to adopt it.

According to Ahmed, whether or not a college chooses to adopt such a dual system depends on the popularity of the field of study. Popular majors include subjects such as English and medicine because of their practicality—students expect to be able to find work after completing these studies. Students who study at the College of Science cannot expect to find jobs right after graduation, he said, which makes them reluctant to pay extra tuition to pursue the sciences.

Security reinforcements arrive in Al-Dhale

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

AL-DHALE, March 17—Special Security Forces on Sunday arrived in Al-Dhale to reinforce the police forces that will replace the 33rd Brigade in the governorate.

A presidential committee last week reached a ceasefire agreement between the brigade and local militia in Al-Dhale, bringing to a halt armed clashes that have taken place throughout the past two months.

The violence has left 44 residents dead and more than 80 others wounded, including the 19 killed and 20 injured after the brigade's shelling of a funeral tent on Dec. 27, according to Waleed Al-Khateeb, the media officer of the Al-Dhale Coordination Council.

The clashes also resulted in the death of 30 soldiers and the wounding of over 50 others, according to Sadeq Al-Hakami, director of the brigade commander's office in Al-Dhale.

Mohammed Al-Oqla, a member of the Al-Dhale Tribal Council, told the Yemen Times that the replacement forces were sent from Sana'a in accordance with the agreement signed last week with the presidential committee.

The Ministry of Interior on Sunday sent five military vehicles to Al-Dhale to reinforce the security forces in the governorate. The move comes amid deteriorating security conditions after gunmen were able to take over the security department in the governorate, which they held for two months, according to Al-Oqla.

The military vehicles are now in the government compound in Sana'a district and will be deployed to security checkpoints over the next



The government is in the process of handing over the remaining checkpoints to the police in Al-Dhale in the coming days. Residents have demanded the departure of the 33rd Brigade from the governorate.

few days. There are seven security checkpoints in Al-Dhale, three of which were created during the past three months, according to Al-Khateeb.

The presidential committee headed by Deputy Interior Minister Ali Lakhsha last Tuesday signed the agreement with the Al-Dhale Tribal Council to end the fighting. Under the terms of the agreement those held captive by both parties were to be released and the 33rd Brigade was to be replaced by security forces headed by a local commander.

Twenty of the 50 residents held by the military were released on Wednesday, along with 17 of the 29 soldiers held by the local militia.

"The two warring parties are

implementing the agreement without any obstruction and we will do our best to evacuate the 33rd Brigade," said Al-Oqla.

Al-Oqla pointed out that the police forces, headed by a local commander, will control security in the governorate, adding that it is exactly what residents want.

All security checkpoints controlled by the 33rd Brigade will be handed over to the police within a few days, according to Al-Oqla.

Brigadier Mohammed Al-Shaeri, Al-Dhale Security Chief, told the Yemen Times that "the

patrols sent from Sana'a will reinforce security in the governorate and protect the government compound. The security forces will not be able to control the situation in the governorate without the reinforcements."

Local militia controlled most of the government facilities in Al-Dhale and several officials from those facilities left the governorate.

Al-Khateeb said that forces associated with the 33rd Brigade are still in control of all security checkpoints except one, adding that they will be evacuated over the next two days.

"Residents of Al-Dhale wanted all security forces in the governorate to be local residents," Al-Khateeb said.

Diesel, propane shortage lead gas stations to shut down

Story and photo by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, March 17—Gas stations around the capital have had to shut down this week following increased shortages of diesel fuel and propane gas.

The last severe diesel fuel shortage occurred in early November 2013, when thousands of drivers were forced to queue in front of gas stations across the country in order to buy diesel and propane. Following the latest severe shortage, people have begun parking their cars and waiting for fuel to arrive.

Taxi driver Fuad Al-Jaleedi told the Yemen Times, "I queued for an entire day in order to buy diesel fuel but the station ran out and I ended up going home empty-handed."

Without fuel, Al-Jaleedi says he has been without work for two days.

"For two months it has been hard for us to buy diesel fuel, and this week the gas stations completely ran out. I can't work now because my taxi operates on diesel fuel," he said.

Diesel is available on the black market—for higher prices, according to Al-Jaleedi. Supplies of regular gasoline are also spotty, but more readily available than diesel fuel.

One liter of diesel fuel sells for YR100 (about 46 cents per liter, or \$1.76 per gallon).



Mohammed Al-Aizari, the owner of a gas station in Sana'a, says that even after the start of the diesel shortage two months ago, the station would still get periodic deliveries. Al-Aizari says he used to sell 12,000 liters of diesel in two days but now sells the same quantity in two or three hours.

"People lined up in front of the station and some people even slept in their cars but because we didn't get any deliveries, we decided to close the station," Al-Aizari said.

In its last session on Thursday, Parliament formed a committee to study the reasons behind the diesel shortage and to coordinate with concerned government bodies to find an appropriate means to ensure regular provision of diesel fuel to the market. The committee will report back to Parliament within a

week. Yemen Petroleum Company in a statement on Saturday denied rumors that the government intends to raise diesel prices, according to the state-run Saba News Agency. The company said that diesel is regularly delivered to gas stations but that the current high demand has led to the shortage.

Al-Aizari believes the rumors of diesel fuel increases are leading some to hoard fuel.

In a financial statement released on Sunday, Yemen Central Bank said oil pipeline sabotage has caused a decline in the production of unrefined fuel. The bank said that the government has had to import large quantities of oil derivatives to meet the country's demand—to the tune of \$258 million in January 2014 alone.

Two soldiers killed in Hadramout attack

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

HADRAMOUT, March 17—Two soldiers were killed Monday morning near the city of Shehr, Hadramout, in an attack by unidentified gunmen on an army supply pick-up truck, according to a local security official.

Unidentified gunman attacked the truck in the middle of Wadi Dafiq, just east of Shehr city. The soldiers—driver and his assistant—died, according to Omer Madi, Shehr city security chief.

"Soldiers in military vehicles and armored cars rushed to the scene

after hearing intense gunfire, and found the two men's remains inside the burned-out vehicle," Madi told the Yemen Times. The attackers had already fled.

"We have not yet [determined the guilty party]," said Madi.

Mohamed Baqahoom, editor-in-chief of the local news website in Shehr, Al-Sada, said that the situation in Shehr had been quiet for the past few months.

In the last violent incident a roadside improvised explosive device targeted an armored military vehicle. The bomb was detonated but nobody

was hurt, according to Baqahoom. "Whenever we feel the attacks have ended, they start up again. It seems that the perpetrators want us to live in fear again," said Ahmed Shamlool, a Shehr resident.

Shehr, in January 2014, experienced fierce fighting between suspected Al-Qaeda affiliates and the military that resulted in the deaths of nine soldiers, one militant and one child, according to local security sources.

Violence erupted when militants attempted to take control of Al-Alee military camp in downtown Shehr.

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Mock funeral procession to mark Friday of Dignity anniversary

Funds to be released to victims and families on Tuesday



On March 18, 2011, thousands of protesters gathered on the Friday of Dignity to demand that then-President Ali Abdulla Saleh step down. Over 50 protesters were killed and more than 400 injured.

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

Yemenis around the country will commemorate on Tuesday the third anniversary of the Friday of Dignity, the day on which over 50 citizens were killed and over 400 were injured in Sana'a's Change Square in 2011 during the uprising former president Ali Abdulla Saleh.

A mock funeral procession will pass through Change Square on Tuesday. Demonstrators will carry cloth-wrapped "corpses" to represent those who lost their lives. The procession will end in front of the

general prosecutor's office, where they will demand his removal from office. In addition, to mark the anniversary, the Youth Revolution Council opened a photography exhibit on Saturday, displaying many graphic images.

On March 18, 2011, thousands of revolutionary youth organized a mass protest in Change Square, calling it the Friday of Dignity. On that day, as on previous Fridays, demonstrators performed prayers together in the square before commencing demonstrations. After the killing of dozens of protesters, many government officials, diplomats, and military officers resigned

or defected to the revolution. Abdulkhaliq Rizq lost his brother, Mahir, on the Day of Dignity.

"We will follow the path of the martyrs until all the goals of the revolution are realized, until justice is served, and until corruption is eliminated," Rizq said.

"We call [on the government] to bring those responsible to justice. We cannot say that the revolution has been successful until justice prevails and the guilty are punished."

The now-dissolved Central Security Forces—since renamed the Special Forces—have denied involvement in the massacre.

According to the Organizing Committee for the Revolution, the total number of people killed during the uprising was 1,444. Roughly 29,000 demonstrators were injured, the committee said. Of those, 250 have been left with permanent disabilities.

2011 Revolutionary Victims Fund to pay victims

In September 2013, The 2011 Revolutionary Victims Fund—an independent body associated with the Cabinet—was established under a presidential decree to provide YR35,000 (\$162) monthly stipends to the families of those killed during the uprising. The fund will also assist with health care for those injured. The state is the main sponsor of the fund along with local and international organizations, as well as donor countries.

Yemeni Nobel Peace Prize laureate Tawakkol Karman donated her entire \$500,000 prize to help finance the fund to help victims of the uprising and their families.

The government has contributed YR100,000,000 (over \$465,000).

Sara Abdulla Hassan, director of the fund, said that the fund's headquarters will be inaugurated on Tuesday in order to coincide with the anniversary. Also on Tuesday—after five months of delay—the fund will begin disbursing funds.

On Sunday, the Legal Committee of the Youth Revolution Coordinating Committee held a symposium titled "The Victims of the Friday of Dignity: A National Issue Awaiting Justice."

The committee said that the families of the victims are within their rights to call for the alleged perpetrators to face trial before the local judiciary and also before the International Criminal Court. They presented a set of legal procedures that they want followed.

According to lawyer Abdulrahman Barman, in April 2013, the Court of the Eastern Area of Sana'a ordered an investigation of former president Saleh and 11 of his aides. The order was not carried out, Barman said.

"The issue was referred to the general prosecution and it stopped there. The prosecution has not raised the issue since, despite solid evidence," Barman said.

The 2012 Human Rights Watch annual report said there were indications that a number of current and former government officials played a role in the massacre, but they were not charged with any crimes. It called on the Yemeni government to conduct immediate investigations into the issue and hold the perpetrators accountable.

Fatima Al-Aghbari, a human

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rights activist, told the Yemen Times, "the government is procrastinating and is not serious about investigating the human rights violations in Yemen, in particular the violations that occurred on the Friday of Dignity."

Fatima Al-Aghbari, who participated in the youth revolution, wondered if the government could make a real effort to investigate and hold accountable those behind the massacre.

"The reason behind government procrastination is that the former

regime is part of the current government," Al-Aghbari said.

The coalition government consists of 50 percent of the former opposition and 50 percent of the former ruling party, the General People's Congress.

"On this anniversary, we renew our vow to move forward in achieving the martyrs' great dream of building a modern Yemen ruled by civil law," said Karman, who played a leading role in mobilizing Yemenis to take to the streets to demand the end of Saleh's rule.

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Armed conflicts leads to spike in gangrene cases

Story and photo by
Ali Abulohoom

Abdulla Alwan, a Yemeni writer, lies helplessly moaning in bed. Gangrene took root in his toes a month ago, and has continued to climb up his right leg. His toes were amputated, but the pain has not abated.

His gangrene is the result of an old injury. Initially, it did not hurt, but he could not feel the pain because of his diabetic neuropathy. He was diagnosed with diabetes in 1991.

Gangrene is a serious and potentially life-threatening condition that arises when a considerable mass of body tissue dies because of insufficient blood flow to these tissues due to an injury or a bacterial infection, according to Dr. Mohammed Zayid, who works for the 48th Military Hospital in Sana'a.

In a country like Yemen where armed conflicts are common, there are consequently many cases of physical trauma, and the escalation of violence over the last few years has contributed to the increasing number of gangrene patients.

"As a military hospital, we often receive patients who have been in car accidents or who have shooting-related injuries. We seldom receive cases originating from diabetes," said Zayid. He warns that patients who neglect to properly clean and care for their wounds could end up with gangrene.

Considering that diabetics often have nerve-related ailments (neuropathy) and sometimes lose feeling, diabetics who have a gangrenous infection are especially difficult to cure, according to Zayid. "When a [diabetic] patient is injured, [because of numbness in the extremities due to the diabetes] he does not feel pain," said Zayid.



With armed conflicts throughout the country and thousands of injured revolutionaries in the wake of 2011, hospitals say they have seen increased cases of gangrene in the past three years. The disease is more likely to take root in patients with diabetes and when wounds are not properly cleaned.

Dr Adel Ahmed, who is treating Alwan at Al-Thawra Public Hospital, said that "the only treatment for gangrene is removal [of the infected tissues]. If this tissue is left in place, the disease will spread." The first line of treatment is debridement, the scraping away of dead tissue, but if this does not work, amputation is the alternative, he said.

According to Zayid, the majority of gangrenous infections occur in

the extremities because they are injured more frequently; however, any part of the body could be infected if that part lacks a sufficient supply of blood to the tissue. "For example," he said, "gangrene can occur in the intestines."

Some people confuse gangrene for cancer, which it is not, Zayid clarified.

Mohammed Qasim Hussein, deputy head of the Statistics De-

partment at the Ministry of Public Health and Population, said that the ministry does not have accurate national hospital statistics on gangrene.

However, Zayid said that the number of people suffering from the condition has increased over the past three years due to the increasing number of violent conflicts in several governorates, adding that "hardly a week goes by that the 48th

Military Hospital in Sana'a does not admit patients suffering from gangrene."

Dr. Esaam Murshid, a doctor working at Al-Jomhuri Public Hospital in Sana'a, corroborated Zayid's claims, saying that the number of people who have been admitted to the hospital with gangrenous infections has increased in the past three years. He said that the condition of a patient's health determines whether

he can be treated for gangrene. Low blood pressure and diabetes can complicate debridement and amputation, Zayid said.

Abdulrahman Al-Kamali, an activist in the 2011 revolution, died late last year in Cairo as a result of gangrene because he did not receive appropriate treatment. A young revolutionary familiar with Al-Kamali's situation said that he died after gangrene spread through his body and caused low blood pressure, which prevented the amputation of his left foot.

Yahia Hussein Al-Muradi, a resident of Marib, said his brother was injured in a confrontation with another tribe. His brother didn't receive appropriate treatment and his foot turned gangrenous.

"He was eventually cured, but the cure was amputation of his foot," Al-Muradi added.

A similar fate awaits Alwan. Tissue on the toes of his right foot died, prompting Dr Ahmed to amputate them, but his foot has also been affected and will have to be amputated within a few days.

"Alwan needs to travel abroad for treatment but he can't afford it. We have called on President Hadi and the prime minister to help him, but in vain," said Mu'ad Rajeh, a Yemeni writer and poet.

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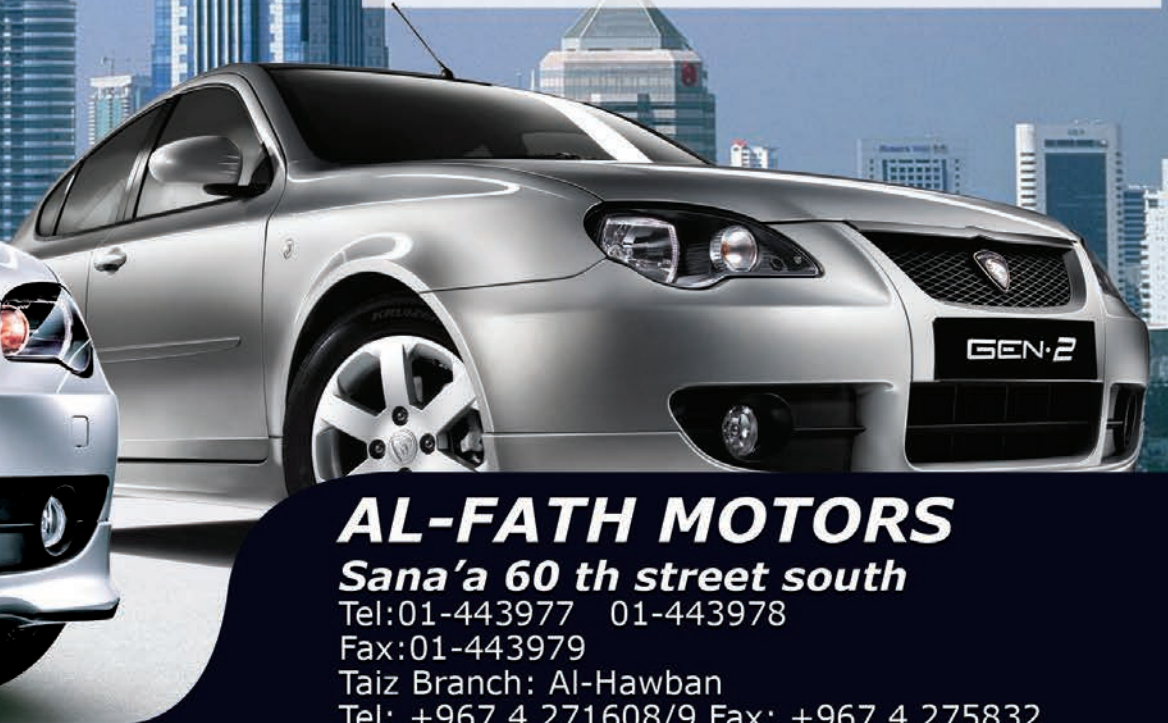


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Nearly one year on, residents still await March 21 park

Story and photo by
Ali Abulohoom

People living in the vicinity of the headquarters of the 1st Armored Division, a unit led by General Ali Mohsen who defected to the Yemeni revolution in March 2011, warmly welcomed the republican decree issued on April 10, 2013 which stated that the headquarters would be turned into a public park.

The park was to be named March 21 Park in reference to the date on which the general defected from the old regime and joined the revolution.

The decree announced sweeping changes in the structure of the military, but nearly a year after its passing, the provision dealing with the establishment of the park has not been implemented.

The delay in handing over the military area to the Capital Secretariat has led to increasing frustration and distrust among local residents.

A few days after the decree was issued, Sana'a Mayor Abdulgader Hilal announced that the area, which served as a military base for more than 30 years, would be handed over to the Capital Secretariat within a few weeks. He said that the 20 battalions belonging to the 1st Armored Division would be moved to the 6th military region in Amran—one of the seven deployment regions divided up in accordance with the military restructuring initiative.

The division, however, is still located in a residential area in Sawad Hanash, an area near the Al-Hasabah district of Sana'a.

During the revolution, the 1st Armored Division was caught up in fighting between military units loyal to the regime of Ali Abdulla Saleh and tribesmen affiliated with Sheikh Sadeq Al-Ahmar, a leading



Sana'a Mayor Abdulgader Hilal said the area that has served as a military base for 30 years and most recently housed the 1st Armored Division would be turned over to the Capital Secretariat in the coming weeks. President Hadi first ordered the camp to be turned into a park nearly a year ago.

tribal figure who sided with the revolutionary forces. The division was targeted by regime forces after defecting, and residents near the division's headquarters were forced to flee their homes.

Although the conflict has died down since Saleh handed over power to his deputy, in line with an initiative brokered by the Gulf Cooperation Council in Nov. 2011, locals are still wary of the presence of the division headquarters.

Ahmed Saleh Bukiri, a military analyst who served as an officer in the division for 25 years, said that the fragile security situation in the country has made it difficult to implement the decree, especially as President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi has not yet completed the restructuring of the Yemeni armed forces, which began on Dec 19, 2012.

"The people are keen to see the tanks and artillery replaced with a park which their kids can play in and their families can enjoy," Bukiri said.

Jamal Husam, a 40-year-old Yemeni engineer who lives a few meters from the division headquarters, said that he moved his family to his village in Ibb governorate, 200 km south of Sana'a, when the fighting broke out during the revolution.

"Because the division is located near other brigades and the Al-Ahmar stronghold in Al-Hasaba, shells dropped around our homes, which forced me to move my family to the village for fear of being harmed," Husam said.

According to Husam, people were surprised by the decree and were optimistic that it would ensure peace in the neighborhood.

"I personally breathed a sigh of relief when I heard of the decree, but my hope has started to dwindle because soldiers still occupy the place a year after the decree was issued," Husam said.

Mohammed Rasheed, a 52-year-old construction worker, is another Sawad Hanash resident. Unlike others, Rasheed had nowhere to go when the conflict erupted, though he and his family were not harmed.

"I considered the decree proclaiming the park a triumph for the revolution because we have always dreamed of a civil state without military symbols.

But now we feel pessimistic because the soldiers are still stationed at the place," said Rasheed.

Hilal attempted to reassure residents by announcing at a press conference held on Sunday that the local council has formed a committee, led by Hilal, to receive the military's plot from the Ministry of Defense next Friday.

"We apologize to the people of Sana'a and other governorates for the delay in the implementation of the decree but, believe me, things were beyond our control because of the political and security problems our country has been going through. However, the time for the park's construction approaches and we will initiate workable plans to turn the decree from paper into reality," Hilal said.

According to Hilal, the bidding

process for architectural and design companies has been opened, with a total of twelve companies competing.

"On Friday, we will receive the entire designated area, not just a part of it as some media have speculated. Regarding the bids, we will choose the best one in terms of specifications and financial matters," Hilal added.

Hilal said that the March 21 Park will be the second largest in the Middle East.

"As soon as the design of the park is chosen we will initiate construc-

tion using a leading construction company, local or international. We do not want to waste time because people are getting fed up," Hilal said.

He also said that the area would be devoid of soldiers but that 300 security guards would watch over the area during the period of construction.

"The park will include everything from facilities for people with low incomes, pools, libraries, restaurants, open fields for walking, and all sorts of sporting facilities," Hilal said.

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Head of the Aba'd Center to the Yemen Times: “Saleh was determined to make a political comeback and wanted to make his presence felt within the security apparatus”

The United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution on Feb. 26, 2013, stipulating the formation of a committee to blacklist and impose sanctions on those attempting to derail the political transition in Yemen. What are the consequences of this resolution for Yemen? And does it really legitimize foreign interference in the country?

Placing Yemen under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter has been a contentious move. In an interview with the Yemen Times, Abdulsalam Mohammed, head of Aba'd Center for Strategic Studies, discussed the resolution, which he sees as a positive step.

Interview by Mohammed Al-Hassani



Many people do fear that the resolution threatens Yemen's sovereignty.

The international community deems instability in Yemen a threat to regional and international security. This became clear from 2009 with the expansion of terrorist operations in Yemen. In 2011, the two violent groups, the Houthis and Al-Qaeda, took over two governorates, Sa'ada and Abyan. Such takeovers made it obvious that Yemen is at risk. And this situation is not dangerous for Yemen only. The country is geo-strategically important. A third of the world's oil passes through the Al-Mandab Strait.

At whom is the resolution directed? Are there any groups or individuals in particular?

Critics of the resolution claim that it turns Yemen into a trust territory, but this didn't happen [as a result of the SC resolution]. It did, however, happen in practice when Yemen started posing a threat to international security in 2009 or even before. The international community intervened in Yemen through the use of unmanned drones and military bases, in addition to policy resolutions. Later, the Gulf Initiative was an indirect trusteeship, but it was a positive measure to prevent the collapse of the country. The international community supervised the initiative. When former President Ali Abdulla Saleh requested regional and international observers for the handover of power, this meant placing the country under trusteeship. The international community was a positive player in this trusteeship. The SC resolution does not prevent the country from arming itself and using its military. It also does not dictate the diplomatic policy of the government as was the case in Iraq, Libya, and other states. So it really does not impose total trusteeship. The resolution was adopted under Chapter VII in order to back up the Security Council's decision by force. The SC resolutions were clear and Chapter VII does not pose any threat to Yemen's sovereignty. However, it is aimed at any spoilers of the peaceful transfer of power.

Does this mean that the immunity granted to former President Saleh is at risk now?

He is not at risk, but I think the immunity is over. For the international community, his immunity is non-existent. The immunity was based on local Yemeni laws and international reconciliation efforts. The Gulf Initiative laid out the terms. Saleh's obstructive activities have not undermined the Gulf Initiative but the SC resolution makes his immunity almost non-existent.

Why should we be optimistic about such a resolution when

many claim that SC resolutions are not always for the good of the nations that are subject to them?

Powerful countries take advantage of SC resolutions, and this has happened repeatedly. It happens because of disagreements within the international community. Yemen is an absolutely different case. Firstly, the Yemeni revolution was one hundred percent peaceful even though the country is awash with weapons, although armed groups have resorted to violence, frequently claiming that they are simply defending themselves.

Another important point concerns the geo-political situation. This pushed the international community to protect Yemen given that the country's collapse is seen as a serious danger by the regional and international community. That is to say, the resolutions of the United Nations SC on Yemen are unique and consensus-based.

Yemenis often accuse each another of being secret agents. If you want to know what patriotism is, it is measured by what you offer the nation. Is it patriotism to kill 50 or 100 people in the country and expect the international community not to lift a finger?

What guarantees that the committee will be neutral and report the real obstructers?

This is guaranteed by several things provided for by the SC. Groups or individuals who are involved in obstructing the power transfer will be dealt with in terms of Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter.

For example, the resolution criticized the media associated with Saleh and Ali Salem Al-Beidh, the former president of the South, because they speak of trusteeship and Chapter VII while interviewing

people who have committed acts of sabotage on oil pipelines and electricity towers.

The NDC's outcomes are another guarantee. Whoever implements the NDC's outcomes supports the peaceful transition of power because these outcomes were formulated by Yemenis without the interference of external parties. Those who obstruct the implementation of the outcomes will face sanctions.

The committee is also internationally protected because it comprises 15 countries and a consensus must be reached to decide on whether a certain individual or group is guilty of obstructing the political process.

How do you evaluate the reaction of political powers in Yemen to the resolution?

All political powers support the resolution and none of them, including the GPC, can realistically criticize it.

Why do you think that the GPC welcomed the resolution?

It is normal because the GPC knows that the decree is a strong international resolution and that refusal would show that the party has been obstructing the political process from the beginning. The GPC is looking for shortcomings and is trying to capitalize on them. It does not want to appear to be an obstructer. This happened when Ali Abdulla Saleh violated the Implementation Mechanism of the Gulf Initiative by failing to comprehensively transfer power, in spite of the fact that he was instrumental in formulating the initiative before the involvement of the Gulf Countries.

The GPC members are in a state of disagreement now and most of them will oppose whoever rejects the resolution. The GPC is about to fall apart and this is very clear.

Some say that the U.N. resolution interferes too much in Yemen's internal politics and may be used by one party against another. What do you think?

Chapter VII and the U.N. resolution tackle the obstruction of the peaceful transition of power. It does not interfere with the political processes because it is governed in terms of the democratic political framework.

The resolution mentioned closing the book on the presidency of Saleh. Does this include any procedures that may be taken against his party [the GPC]?

The message behind this was very clear. Saleh was determined to make a political comeback and wanted to make his presence felt within the security apparatus. He also sought to convince people that his son [Ahmed Ali Abdulla Saleh] should be made a candidate in the upcoming presidential elections.

Closing the book on the Saleh presidency includes bringing to justice all of those from Saleh's regime [who were involved in criminal activities] and those involved in the 2011 violations [associated with the revolution]. It is clear that the resolution was drafted to keep Saleh out of the political process and to make it clear to him that he will not be accepted as head of the GPC.

Does this mean that Saleh's relatives cannot run for major political positions such as the presidency?

I believe that the incidents of 2011 mean that Saleh's entire family is banned from political office as they are accused of being involved in those violations, including the Friday of Dignity, and it would not be difficult to convict them.

The resolution mentioned regaining looted funds but have there been any serious actions taken in this regard?

The U.N. dealt with the issue of looted funds in several countries following the Arab Spring. There was a popular committee in Yemen but the government and President Hadi refused to tackle this issue early on. However, the international community decided to embrace this issue because of the deteriorating situation. The Minister of Legal Affairs began to take action to pass a law in this regard, and President Hadi began meeting with the committee. The looted funds will be recovered by an international decree and lawyers in accordance with measures taken by the Security Council.

Do you think that the U.N. resolution supports the 2011 revolution and its aims?

Of course it supports the changes called for by the youth revolution. The youth revolutionaries accepted the compromise and the peaceful transition of power.

How do you view Yemen's future after the resolution?

There are several possible scenarios. I believe that Yemen will succeed in the peaceful transition of power, in spite of the obstacles, and will successfully complete a democratic transition. We want the current government to treat the economic and security situation as a priority.

A second scenario would see the expansion of armed groups and Al-Qaeda in the country, division within the military, and civil war. This would require the intervention of the international community. The international community will intervene whenever chaos occurs.

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عبد السلام محمد قرار مجلس الأمن يعني أن «على صالح وكل المجاورين له خارج العملية السياسية»

صوت مجلس الأمن الدولي بالإجماع مساء الأربعاء 26 فبراير 2014 على قرار دولي جديد بشأن اليمن ينص على تشكيل لجنة لفرض عقوبات على معرقل التسوية السياسية في البلاد تشمل المنع من السفر وتجميد أصول ماليته.

ما هي أبعاد هذا القرار وتداعياته على اليمن؟ وهل هو فعلاً يشترع لاحتلال اليمن كما يطرح البعض؟

حوار وتصوير محمد الحسن



المؤتمر الشعبي العام.

برأيك ماذا رحب حزب المؤتمر الشعبي العام بالقرار؟

هذا أمر طبيعي لأنه يعرف صيغة القرار التي تعتبر من القرارات القوية الدولية، وبالتالي رفضه للقرار يعني أنه يدخل في عرقلة من بدايتها بينما هو يحاول أن يبحث عن فجوات، فمثلاً هناك بنود تتعلق بمسألة التطبيق وتحديد الأشخاص وما إلى ذلك، فهو يريد أن يلعب في إطارها ولا يريد أن يظهر كمرعقل. ومثل هذا الشيء حصل في المبادرة الخليجية عندما قرر صالح اللعب في إطار آلية العملية الانتقالية—بمعنى أنه لم يتم تسليم السلطة بشكل كامل—لأنه في نهاية الأمر وجدها مضرة عليه بالرغم من أنه هو من قام بصياغتها قبل الخليجيين.

المؤتمر الشعبي العام يعيش حالة انقسام، وبالتالي أي شخص من القيادات في حزب المؤتمر الشعبي العام يرفض القرار سيرجح غالبية أعضاء الحزب ضده وبالتالي هو لا يريد الانقسام مبكراً لكنه يعيش حالة الموت السريري أو ما قبل السقوط وهذا واضح جداً.

هناك من يطرح أن أحد مخاطر هذا القرار هو أنه قد يتدخل كثيراً في تفاصيل الحياة اليمنية، أو قد يتم استخدامه لصالح طرف سياسي ضد آخر، ما رأيك؟

البند السابع وقرار مجلس الأمن محدد بمسألة عرقلة الانتقال السلمي للسلطة وليس هناك تدخل في العملية السياسية، فهي تخضع في إطار العمل الحزبي السياسي الديمقراطي لشروط الديمقراطية والغالب في عملية الديمقراطية هو الذي يحكم.

تحدثت القرار في بعض صياغاته عن طي صفحة الرئيس السابق علي عبد الله صالح، هل يتضمن ذلك أي إجراءات قد تتخذ إزاء حزبه؟

كانت الرسالة واضحة بسبب إصرار الرئيس السابق على العودة إلى الحياة السياسية، وكانت رسالة واضحة أيضاً بسبب إصراره على التواجد ولعبه في إطار القوات المسلحة والأجهزة الأمنية واللعب على عقول اليمنيين بأن نجله سيكون المرشح القادم للرئاسة.

كلمة طي صفحة علي عبد الله صالح ونظامه تعني عائلة صالح وكل المجاورين له ممن كان لهم علاقة بانتهاكات 2011، ومن الواضح أيضاً أنه لم تتم صياغة القرار من باب الفراغ وإنما كانت رسالة له بمعنى "أنت خارج اللعبة السياسية تماماً" وغير مقبول في العمل السياسي وليس من المقبول أيضاً أن تقول بأنك رئيساً للمؤتمر الشعبي العام إذا أردت لهذا الحزب البقاء وإن استمرارك في هذا الحزب يعني انتهائه بالكامل.

وهل يعني هذا إسقاط حق أي من أقارب الرئيس السابق في الترشح لأي منصب كبير كرئيس جمهورية؟

أعتقد أن أحداث 2011 تمنع عائلة الرئيس السابق كاملة من الممارسة السياسية كون هناك انتهاكات، وبالتالي إنهم ليست صعبة تماماً لأنهم متهمون في حادثة جمعة الكرامة وغيرها من الانتهاكات.

تحدثت القرار عن استعادة الأموال المنهوبة، لكن هل هناك إجراءات جادة في هذا السياق؟

قضية الأموال المنهوبة بدأتها الأمم المتحدة بعد الربيع العربي في كثير من الدول. مثلاً في اليمن كانت هناك لجنة شعبية، ولكن السلطات اليمنية ممثلة برئاسة الحكومة

المعرقلين المحددة أسمائهم في إطار اللجنة التي تنزل، بمعنى أن البند السابع يفرض العقوبات بالقوة وهذا يعني إذا لم تستطع الدولة اليمنية فرض عقوبات ضد المعرقلين فيتولى المهمة مجلس الأمن بشكل كامل، وبالتالي يدخل تجميد الأموال عبر البنوك الدولية ومنع السفر وكذلك ملاحقات أمنية عبر الإنترنت وما إلى ذلك. بالتالي البند السابع لا يشكل خطراً على سيادة البلد إنما هو ضد المعرقلين ويساعد اليمن على إنجاز الانتقال السلمي للسلطة.

ما الذي يضمن أن هذه اللجنة ستكون حيادية، وستختار فعلاً المعرقلين الحقيقيين؟

الضمان واضح جداً من خلال أشياء حددها مجلس الأمن وهو عرقلة الانتقال السلمي للسلطة، فما يدخل في إطار عرقلة الانتقال السلمي للسلطة يدخل تحت إطار البند السابع سواء جهات أو أشخاص.

مثلاً قرار مجلس الأمن عندما انتقد علي عبد الله صالح وعلي سالم البيض أن وسائل إعلامهم والتي تتكلم عن الوصاية والبند السابع هي أصلاً من كانت تجري مقابلات مع أشخاص قاموا بأعمال تخريبية متمثلة في قطع الكهرباء وتفجير أنابيب النفط فالأمر لا يتعدى الآن مسألة جانب خوف على الوطن لأنه إن كان هناك خوف على الوطن ما كان هناك تشجيع على أعمال العنف في فترة انتقالية حرجة.

بالنسبة للضمانات الأكثر في مسألة المشروعية الدولية هي المشروعية المحلية (مخرجات الحوار الوطني) من ينفذ مخرجات الحوار الوطني يدخل في إطار الداعم لعملية الانتقال السلمي للسلطة، وهذه المخرجات مقبولة شعبياً كون مؤتمر الحوار الوطني جاء من قبل اليمنيين وليس فيه تدخل خارجي، ومن يعرف هذه المخرجات سيدخل في إطار العقوبات، اللجنة أيضاً يحميها التنوع الدولي داخلها من 15 دولة وبالتالي لا تحصل موافقة على شخص مرعقل بكامل المواصفات إلا بعد الموافقة الكاملة في إطار اللجنة.

كيف تقيم تعاطي القوى السياسية مع القرار؟

القوى السياسية بشكل كامل مع القرار ولا يستطيع أي حزب سياسي أن ينتقده بما فيه

في الوطن وظهرت في 2011 عندما سيطرت جماعات العنف المسلحة على محافظتين، في محافظة أبين سيطرت عليها تنظيم القاعدة، ومحافظة صعدة سيطر عليها الحوثيون. هنا أصبح واضح جداً أن اليمن في خطر وخطر اليمن ليس على الشعب فقط، على الأمن الإقليمي الذي هو المحيط أو الجوار الخليجي النفطي وممرات النفط وعلى الأمن الدولي بشكل عام، كل ما يسمى ثروات أو نفط العالم يمر ربما ثلث نفط العالم من باب المنذب، وهذا أمر خطير.

من يستهدف القرار؟ هل يستهدف جماعات معينة، أم يستهدف شخصيات؟

دعني أقول لك ما هي المبررات التي يصوغها رافضي القرار، يصوغون مبررات بشكل واضح وهي مسألة الوصاية الدولية والسيادة، هذه المسألة لم يعد أحد يذكرها الآن لأن البلد وضع تحت الوصاية من حين أن أصبح مهذا للأمن الإقليمي والدولي، بمعنى أنه من عام 2009 وما قبله أصبح المجتمع الدولي موجود داخل اليمن بشكل عام من خلال طائرات بدون طيار ومن خلال قواعد عسكرية ومن خلال فرض كثير من القرارات بعد ذلك، في المبادرة الخليجية كانت هناك وصاية غير مباشرة لكنها إيجابية وهو منع البلد من الانهيار فقط، دخل المجتمع الدولي للإشراف على المبادرة الخليجية. إذا المبرر ينتفي هنا في مسألة قرار مجلس الأمن لأن الموافقة تمت بتسليم الأمر إلى الوصاية بعد رفض علي عبد الله صالح المصالحة الوطنية الداخلية، وطالب بحضور شهود إقليميين ودوليين، وبالتالي كان طلبه معناه تسليم هذا البلد للوصاية في 2011 مع المبادرة الخليجية، وبالتالي كان المجتمع الدولي فقط لاعب إيجابي في مسألة هذه الوصاية، بالنسبة للقرار هذا لا يفرض وصاية على الدولة لأنه لا يمنع الدولة من التسلح ولا يمنع الدولة من إنشاء معسكرات ولا يحدد السياسة الدبلوماسية للدولة كما حصل في قرارات سابقة ضد العراق وليبيا وبعض الدول، إنما القرار جاء تحت البند السابع وهو فرض مقرر به مجلس الأمن بالقوة، وقد كانت قرارات مجلس الأمن واضحة: إنشاء لجنة عقوبات واستهداف العقوبات هذه للأشخاص

لماذا نتفائل ونفرض بمثل هكذا قرارات، وهي تأتي من مجلس الأمن التابع للأمم المتحدة وليس فيه خير للشعوب كما يقول الكثيرون؟

مسألة استغلال قرارات مجلس الأمن من قبل الدول الكبرى اتضح في كثير من الدول وكانت نتائج سلبية، بسبب خلافات المجتمع الدولي وليست بسبب توافقهم، نحن تجربته مختلفة تماماً، أولاً: الثورة اليمنية كانت ثورة سلمية 100% في إطار شعب مسلح كان هناك عدوان واضح باتجاه المتظاهرين السلميين، ليس كما تعمل الجماعات المسلحة الآن تتظاهر بالبنادق وتقتل العديد من عناصر الجيش لتقول بعد ذلك أنه تم استفراننا وقد كانت مسيرتنا سلمية.

المسألة الأهم تتعلق بجانب الوضع الجيوسياسي لليمن وهو من دفع المجتمع الدولي لحماية اليمن واهتمام العالم به كونه يشكل خطر على المجتمع الإقليمي والدولي في حالة انهياره، بمعنى أنه قرار مجلس

حدثنا عن حيثيات صدور القرار؟ قرار مجلس الأمن لم يأتي بالصدفة ولم يأتي لتطورات مفاجئة بل كان قراراً مطروحا منذ بدء مؤتمر الحوار الوطني، ولكنه تأجل أكثر من مرة لترك فرصة للمصالحة الداخلية، ونحن نعرف أن قرار مجلس الأمن الدولي لم يتدخل في اليمن إلا بعد أن رفض النظام السابق تسليم السلطة والحوار مع الداخل واشترط لتسليم السلطة وجود مبادرة إقليمية وشهود دوليين، وبالتالي جاءت المبادرة الخليجية التي وافق عليها اليمنيون، وعلى ضوءها تم بدء الانتقال السلمي للسلطة، لكن بعد المبادرة الخليجية شهدنا وضعاً سيئاً، حيث أن الانتقال لم يتم بالشكل المطلوب ولا زالت جزء من السلطات الكبيرة بيد الرئيس السابق، وهنا بدأ صبر اليمنيين ينفد وبدأت الاحتجاجات تعود وعلى ضوءها تم الدعوة لمؤتمر الحوار الوطني بعد تشكيل حكومة الوفاق الوطني بناء على مقررات المبادرة الخليجية واليتم التنفيذ، أدخلت أطراف غير مشاركة في حكومة الوفاق من خارج الأحزاب السياسية وقبل الناس بدخول جماعات مسلحة أيضاً، مثل الحراك الجنوبي وجماعة الحوثيين من أجل زيادة أو توسعة التوافق الوطني الداخلي. لكن كانت الأمور لا تزال أكثر ارتباطاً بعد أن انتهى اليمنيون، وكانت هناك مخرجات واضحة لوضع البلد في السكة الحقيقية، وجدنا تعنت من داخل قيادة حزب المؤتمر الشعبي العام ولا نقول قواعدها ولا نقول القيادة السياسية بكل كامل، لكن من قبل الرئيس السابق وبعض أعوانه، فكانت هناك مهددات للسلام الاجتماعي وهنا مجلس الأمن أراد أن يفرض قراره لفرض مخرجات مؤتمر الحوار الوطني ولا يفرض قراراً خارج إطار ما توافق عليه اليمنيون.

أستاذ عبد السلام ربما هناك ليس أو عدم وعي للكثير من الناس عن القرار وماهية القرار وطبيعته، لو شرحت لنا باختصار القرار وهل هو فعلاً يشترع كما يُقال لاختطاف سيادة اليمن لاحتلال كما يطرح؟

أولاً اليمن ينظر المجتمع الدولي أصبحت خطراً على الأمن الإقليمي والدولي ليس من الآن فقط بل ربما اتضحت هذه الصورة في 2009 عندما بدأت العمليات الإرهابية تتمدد

«مواجهة الارهاب مسئولية الجميع»



نبذ القتل والتطرف ورفض ثقافة وسلوك العنف، ومواجهة الممارسات الإرهابية وفقاً للقوانين الوطنية ونصوص القانون الدولي.

من مخرجات مؤتمر الحوار الوطني



Gitmo hunger striker v. Barack Obama

Why my client, Emad Hassan, is suing the president to end his force-feeding

Clive Stafford Smith
March 11, 2014
america.aljazeera.com

Today one of my clients, Emad Hassan, a detainee and hunger striker at Guantánamo Bay, files a challenge in U.S. federal court to prevent his force-feeding by military staff. Obviously, I find this difficult: I like Emad. He is an intelligent, thoroughly decent man from Yemen who never was an extremist. Indeed, you'd have to either laugh or cry if you heard how they muddled his original detention: U.S. interrogators asked, through and Arabic interpreter, if he was familiar with Al-Qaeda. He said he was. Indeed, he had been there once or twice. They did not understand that he was talking about the small town of Al-Qaidah, just north of Aden. It took years for the Guantánamo interrogators to understand this, but they seem finally to have accepted that he is no terrorist, and he has been cleared for release.

I tried going without food for seven days in solidarity with my clients

last year, but my inconsequential gesture pales when placed beside Emad's commitment: He has been on hunger strike, force-fed, since 2007, or more than half his time in the prison. He was 23 and a university student in Pakistan when he was seized by the Pakistanis and sold to the U.S. military for a \$5,000 bounty. Now he is 35. He had never been to Afghanistan until the U.S. military took him there. He was then rendered around the world to Cuba.

Emad, a dignified man whose name is spelled "Imad" on many court filings, explains to me that he has been barely living through constant abuse in Guantánamo's darkness for the past decade. Almost his entire adult life, he has been isolated, thousands of miles from his family in and around Aden. He feels that the only way that he can re-enter the world of the living is to press his moral point against the United States: Give him a fair trial or give him his life back. Americans who live in New Hampshire, where the state motto is "Live free or die," should understand. President Barack Obama presumably sides with

Emad as well, since he has said he wants the prison closed altogether.

I don't want to see Emad starve himself to death. If I thought the U.S. military was force-feeding him for humanitarian reasons, I would have a little more sympathy for it, even though what it is doing is unethical by any standard. In the Tokyo Declaration, the World Medical Association made clear 39 years ago that it is wrong to force-feed a competent prisoner who is peacefully protesting.

However, I am sad to say that the U.S. military is simply abusing Emad. In the early days of the Guantánamo hunger strikes, which began in 2002, the force-feeding regimen was less harsh, but in late 2005 Gen. Bantz J. Craddock announced that he was going to make it less "convenient" for Emad and other prisoners to protest. By this euphemism, he meant it would be gratuitously painful. Instead of leaving the 110-centimeter tube to the prisoner's stomach in his nose for weeks on end, they began to pull it out after each feeding and force it back in the next time — twice a day. They also began to use

[they asked him] if he was familiar with Al-Qaeda...He said he was.... They did not understand that he was talking about the small town of Al-Qaidah, just north of Aden.

a much thicker tube. Emad, therefore, has been subjected to this now more than 5,000 times. No wonder that one nostril has totally seized up and the other causes him great pain.

They started using the restraint chair to strap Emad down while using pressure points on his neck to prevent him from struggling. The prisoners call it the torture chair, and an advertising flier recommends its use for "interrogating prisoners."

Dan Corcoran, CEO of a company that makes such chairs, has no time for those who have, for some decades now, called his product a medieval instrument of torture.

"You know when you take a little bird and it's lost and confused and at first its heart is beating?" he asks. "But if you fully cup that bird in your hands and immobilize it, the bird ... calms down." So, too, he says, with human beings. The chair "makes a real nice sit for them."

Emad's experience does not quite live up to Corcoran's idealized avian world. When liquid is forced into him at excessive speed,

he vomits on himself. The feeding process starts again, but the vomit remains. With the nutrient mix comes the forcible administration of medication to counteract his inevitable constipation. The most humiliating aspect of the whole process, he says, is when he defecates on himself and is forced to remain seated for an hour or more before being returned to his cell — where he will be refused clean clothes.

There is a perfectly simple solution to Emad's peaceful protest: Send him home to his brothers and sisters and let him get on with the education he originally sought in Pakistan. Perhaps then he will one day become a doctor, as he always wished.

Meanwhile, Craddock is correct that none of this is convenient for the detainees. Nor is it civilized. It is, indeed, un-American, and the sooner that Obama or the courts put a stop to it, the better for everyone.

Clive Stafford Smith is the founder and director of Reprieve.

Time to stop child marriage in Yemen and give girls back their childhood

Nawal Ba Abbad
cnn.com
First published March 17

Throughout my career as a doctor I have traveled from the mountains of Yemen to its deserts. I have seen firsthand what happens when children give birth to children. I have seen the tombstones of girls who died too young because they married too young.

Yemen is one of only two countries in the world with no legislation on a minimum age of marriage.

With a national dialogue underway to establish a new constitution, there is now a chance to establish a safe age of marriage, protecting young girls who are currently married off as young as 9 years old.

As I advocate an end child marriage in Yemen, I always remember my best friend at school. We would talk about our future and what we wanted to be when we grew up. We had big aspirations, as young girls should. My friend was the smartest girl in our class. Everything felt possible.

But when she was 13, she was told to leave school to prepare for her wedding. Her dreams ended. We were all so upset. I still remember her wedding day as we tried to support her. It was such a sad day for us all, a stark comparison for so many whose wedding day is remembered as the happiest of their lives.

I was lucky. My parents did not want me to marry as a child. They

were my firewall, protecting me from the pressure of all the people in my community who said I should marry. They were determined to give me a brighter future.

As I carried on my studies, and became a doctor, the image of my friend's wedding always stayed with me. So many girls in my country don't have the right to say "No, I don't want that man or this kind of life." My friend moved away and we didn't stay in touch.

My friend's story is not unusual. The UN estimates that one in three girls in Yemen are married before 18. Around the world, approximately 14 million girls are married as children every year.

The right to choose

To think of all the girls in my country who are forced into marriage, lose their personalities, their happiness and just have to obey what they are told to do, is what drives me forward in my work.

Child brides don't talk about it, but they suffer. A recent study in Yemen has shown that girls who have their rights taken from them in this way do not forgive their parents, and there is a breakdown of family relationships.

As a doctor I see the complications young girls are suffering from as they give birth before their bodies are ready. Girls not Brides, a civil society network campaigning against child marriage, suggests that girls under 15 are five times more likely to die giving birth.

Child brides: A global problem Yemen has one of the highest maternal death rates in the world. According to the White Ribbon Alliance, one in 90 women die in childbirth in my country. I cannot bear to continue to watch young women giving up their lives and having to give birth too young.

We must support our girls and women by providing better maternal health care, access to family planning and safe abortion.

We must work together to end early marriage so that all girls have the right to choose when and whom to marry and are able to finish their education, strengthening the bonds that are so important to us, with our friends and our family.

We know how to fix these problems. We can tackle many issues if we tackle early marriage.

Together in partnership with the White Ribbon Alliance in Yemen and many other activists we have been campaigning for a safe age of marriage for many years. Since the uprising in 2011, a new constitution is being drafted in my country.

This is an opportunity to establish a minimum age of marriage. But it is a narrow window of opportunity.

Too often girls have no voice, no choice, no access. I am determined to help them have a better future. My friend did not fulfill her dream, but by ending child marriage together we can make sure that girls in Yemen and around the world can fulfill theirs.

PALM YEMEN Sana'a, Republic of Yemen Job Vacancies Announcement

PALM YEMEN-Sana'a a leading company for General Services and Consultancy is looking for qualified Candidates who are able to ensure hotel services standards are achieved in all departments. PALM YEMEN provides a good salary and benefits package. Professional experience in Administration, facility operations and maintenance is the most critical selection factors for all of the positions. Inter personal skills, time management and Fluency in English are also a positive selection factors.

POSITION	DESCRIPTION	MONTHLY SALARY
Project Manager Operation Admin Assistant	PMO Admin Assistant is responsible for providing secretarial, clerical and administrative support in order to ensure that services are provided in an effective and efficient manner. His/Her main activities are to receive, direct and relay telephone and fax messages, maintain the general filing system and file all correspondence, assist in the planning and preparation of meetings, conferences. Any other required duties that are related to the position.	\$650 US Dollar (Gross)
Inventory Specialist	Inventory Specialist is responsible for Compiling and maintaining records of quantity, type, and value of assets, material, equipment, merchandise, or supplies stocked in an establishment: Counts assets, material, equipment, merchandise, or supplies in house and posts totals to inventory records, manually or using a computer database. Proper control of the physical inventory will add to a positive guest and staff experience. Any other required duties that are related to the position.	\$410 US Dollar (Gross)
Maintain Purchase Liaison	Maintain Purchase Liaison is responsible for the following duties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that required parts are ordered and stocked appropriately. • Responsible for accurate purchase order management, inventory control and stores management. • Act as a liaison for Maintenance department when dealing with suppliers and contractors. • Investigate product specifications for production equipment. • Expedite parts and items to fulfill urgent needs as required. • Keep track of parts used and replenish as per max / min stock levels. • Research vendors for parts and service and negotiate for competitive quotes. • Work within budget as indicated by management. • Attend prescribed courses and training as required. • Any other required duties that are related to the position. 	\$560 US Dollar (Gross)
Receptionist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To perform in a pleasant, professional, and efficient manner, a combination of duties mainly related, but not limited to, check-in and checkout of guests which contributes to an overall positive experience. Greets, registers, and assigns rooms to guests. • Issues room key and escort instructions to Bell person or directly to guest as appropriate. • Date-stamps, sorts, and racks incoming mail and messages. • Transmits and receives messages using equipment such as telephone, fax, and switchboard. • Answers inquiries pertaining to hotel services, registration of guests and shopping, dining, entertainment and travel directions. • Keeps records of room availability and guests' accounts. • Computes bill, collects payment and makes change for guests. • May post charges such as room, food, liquor, or telephone by hand or machine. • May make restaurant, transportation, or entertainment reservations for guests. • May deposit guests' valuables in hotel safe or safe-deposit box. • May order complimentary flowers for special guests. • All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor. • Any other required duties that are related to the position. 	\$400 US Dollar (Gross)
Human Resource Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produces information by transcribing, formatting, inputting, editing, retrieving, copying, and transmitting text, data, and graphics. • Organizes work by reading and routing correspondence; collecting information; initiating telecommunications. • Maintains department schedule by maintaining calendars for department personnel; arranging meetings, conferences, teleconferences, and travel as needed. • Maintains employee confidence and protects operations by keeping all HR information confidential. • Prepares reports by collecting information. • Maintains office supplies inventory by checking stock to determine inventory level; anticipating needed supplies; placing and expediting orders for supplies; verifying receipt of supplies. • Secures information by completing database backups. • Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed. • Entering data into systems in both English and Arabic. • Any other required duties that are related to the position. 	\$500 US Dollar (Gross)
General Accountant	Must be able to work in Excel spreadsheets, computerized accounting systems, knowledge of balance sheet profit and loss statements and be fluent in speaking and understanding English. Bachelor degree in accounting is a positive selection. Any other required duties that are related to the position.	\$750 US Dollar (Gross)

Interested Qualified applicants can send CV to hr.recruiter@palm Yemen.com
Deadline: 15 days after the date of published.

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- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.
- For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Post Title: **Project Officer (Internal Auditor)**
 Organization: **SMED unit (SFD)**
 Location: Sana'a
 Duration: Full time, including six (6) months probationary period
 No. of Posts: 2
 Date Announced: 18/3/2014
 Closing Date: 31/3/2014

Background:

The Small and Microfinance Enterprises Development Unit (SMED) was established in 1997 as part of SFD, with the goal to provide financial services to rural and urban households through retail microfinance service providers (Micro Finance Institutions, be they foundations, institutions, banks, and programs). SMED provides technical assistance and on-lending funds to MFIs partners for the promotion of small and micro enterprises development in Yemen. As of the end of 2013, the total number of active borrowers exceeded (100,000) people.

Duties & Responsibilities:

In his/her position as Internal Auditor the Project Officer (PO) is a key position within SMED management structure. He/she will serve as the main contact person with SMED partner institutions (MFIs, banks, other financial programs) and will be responsible for auditing the financial, accounting, and the loan portfolio in the field for the MFIs working in partnership with SMED.

The Internal auditor will report to the Head of SMED Unit. He/she will be supported by the other Project Officers within the SMED unit.

The specific tasks related to this position include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Conduct and execute audits at branches, including:
1. Conduct regular and surprise office audits at the branches and head offices of MFIs.
 2. Verify the compliance of MFIs with best international practices in microfinance accounting and auditing, including SMED accounting and auditing manuals.
- B. Carry out field auditing of clients in the MFIs, including:

1. Select and train field auditors that will carry out the field auditing of clients in the MFIs.
 2. Train the field auditors, as needed.
 3. Carry out field audit of clients in MFIs to ensure that all loans are in place.
 4. Guide and mentor audit executives in the field.
- C. Help assess the internal capacity of SMED partnering MFIs and their current situation in the areas of:
1. Management.
 2. Auditing.
 3. Finance.
 4. Accounting.
 5. Internal controls.
 6. Field audits of loans.
 7. Risk position.
 8. Internal policies and procedures.
- D. Ensure that regular audits (in particular annual audits) are completed as per their timelines.
- E. Provide recommendation for changes on accounting and audit processes to be followed by MFIs.
- F. Immediately communicate to SMED any critical issues happening in MFIs.
- G. Advice on the development of the Computerized Accounting System used by MFIs.
- H. Advice on the development of the Computerized Loan Tracking System used by MFIs.
- I. Advice on the manual financial and accounting systems used by MFIs.
- J. Advice on the development of manual and computerized systems used by SMED.
- K. Review and audit all grant and loans agreements before they are signed between SMED and MFIs, or between SMED and other parties.
- L. When required, approve the selection of certified external auditors to audit the annual accounts of MFIs.
- M. Help monitor and analyze the performance of SMED partnering MFIs and others in cooperation with the POs.
- N. Create and/or review accounting, auditing, and finance

training materials.

- O. Train and/or guide accountants, auditors, and finance staff working in the MFIs.
- P. Travel within/outside of Yemen, as required.
- Q. Attend training courses, seminars, conferences, and other events within/outside of Yemen, as required.
- R. Perform other duties, as required by the Head of SMED unit.

Qualifications required:

1. Bachelor's degree from a reputed University in Accounting; Master's degree or State Certification in Accounting is preferred.
2. Sound knowledge of microfinance products and delivery mechanisms; experience in senior management at a reputed MFI is highly preferred.
3. At least 3 years of experience in the field of auditing, preferably in areas such as banking, project management, and microfinance.
4. Proven ability to nurture a smooth working relationship with a variety of stakeholders (MFIs, banks)
5. Proficiency in written and spoken Arabic. English speakers are preferred.

Compensation:

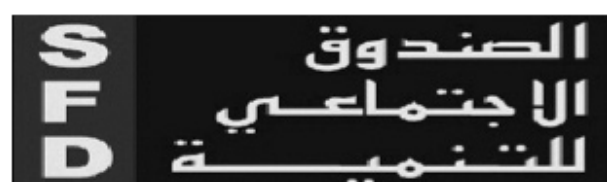
Compensation will be determined according to the qualifications, relevant experience and skills of the selected candidate. It will be based on the current salary standards for professionals in Yemen.

Submission guideline:

The application should comprise of a one-page cover letter explaining the applicant's interest and suitability for the position, indicating earliest joining date if selected, and detailed CV.

Interested candidates should submit their application by email to: smed@sfd-yemen.org by **March 31st, 2014**.

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an exam and interviews.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Post Title: Vocational literacy Program Manager
 Location: Social Fund for Development (SFD) – Headquarter, Sana'a-Yemen
 Duration: Consultant Service Contract 1 year including three months probationary period; (with potential renewal for 4 years)
 Time Commitment: Full time (8 Eight hours per working day)
 Supervisor: SFD Education Unit

Program Summary

Vocational Literacy Program for poverty reeducation (VOLIP is a five year program jointly funded by the Islamic bank and OPEC, with total amount of \$ 21.4 Million USD and implement by The Social Fund for Development (SFD). The objective of the project is to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty in four governorates (Lahj , Al-Hudaidah, Sana'a Governorates and Al-Mukal city) through empowering poor rural families with literacy proficiency, market oriented vocational training , entrepreneurial skills, and access to microfinance and business counseling services.

The Project Manager is expected to employ a collaborative approach to ensure that the different components are integrated and that inputs from as wide a cross section as possible are incorporated to facilitate successful implementation of the programme. He/she will be responsible for providing critical technical input into project implementation and overall management and supervision of the project. He/she will manage and provide overall operational leadership and supervision for the Project Management Team at SFD headquarters and branches, including project preparation, design and implementation of pilots and scaling-up to all target governorates.

The Program Manager will manage the program activities on a daily basis in close cooperation with the Program management team , Field Coordinators and national counterparts.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Project and Line Management

- Provides Strategic Leadership to Project Implementation and oversight for the following key functions and activities of the program.
- Oversee financial management and reporting of the project, and management of the available funds for the program together with the Accounting Officer, and submission of timely financial reports to the head of the SFD Education Unit
- Hire and Manage program staff and consultants
- Ensure systems and processes are in place for effective quality assurance of the project in line with requirements of both SFD and Donors.
- Insure Synergy between programme components as well as the

experiences from participating Partners (Local and International) brought to bear in project implementation

Operational:

- Developing results-based Annual Work Plans that clearly set out the quarterly and output targets, indicators, activities, resource requirements, and budget;
- Effective supervision and guidance to project personnel in ensuring effective programme implementation;
- Set-up and Implementation of a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation system for the project and regular monitoring of activities;
- Management of financial , procurement and human resources according to SFD Manuals, rules and regulations for implementation;
- Preparation of quarterly, annual and as and when required progress reports detailing progress against the output targets, and the activities undertaken in support of these; including accounting for all the disbursements, and financial audits.

External Relations:

- Develop strong working relationships with all the partners and stakeholders Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, Ministry Of Education and Literacy and Adult Education organization) at Central and local levels on all elements necessary for successful implementation of the programme
- Develop and implement Communication strategy to ensure that programme results are known and understood by a wide constituency.

PROFILE REQUIRED FOR THE PROJECT MANAGER

SFD is looking for qualified Yemeni Nationals with the following attributes:

Education

- University degree (Master's Degree is advantage) in Education, Business Administration or a related field.

Experience

- At least three years of experience in analytical and practical work in such areas as (a) Poverty alleviation programs (b) Youth-oriented programs in vocational training and entrepreneurial skills, and access to microfinance and business counseling services
- experience of managing donor-funded international aid projects in Yemen;

Knowledge

- Specialist knowledge in the area of Education & vocational training and Microfinance
- Strong understanding of national policies, strategies, and program for poverty reeducation

Competencies

- Ability to lead strategic planning, results-based management and reporting;
- Ability to innovate and propose new approaches
- Ability to deal with emergencies and stressful situations at any time.
- Consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude;

Skills

- Leads teams effectively and shows conflict resolution skills;
- Demonstrates strong writing, facilitation, and presentation skills;
- Communicates clearly and effectively with others
- Negotiation skills
- Experience and proficiency in the use of computers and office software packages

Language Skills

Fluency in written and verbal English and Arabic is required. Must be able to read and interpret documents, and communicate with others as necessary to perform job duties effectively

Working Conditions

Normal office environment, however, due to nature of activities and areas where we operate, the position will likely have to work in below average/difficult working / travel (locally and abroad) / and accommodation conditions.

Salary, and package of benefits

- Salary (including social security, life insurance) will be attractive, according to working experience and qualifications.
- Training opportunities abroad and locally will be available.

Application Process

- Application should consist of a one page cover letter, and should include the applicant's interest and suitability for the position, earliest date of availability to begin work with the VOLIP program.
- Detailed Resume or CV and should include the applicant's detailed work and educational history and experiences
- Fill the SFD application form; which will be available on SFD website (www.sfd-yemen.org) during the advertising period of the position .
- Applications should be submitted to **Miss Raja Al-Gbari, Education Project officer; e-mail: raghbary@sfd-yemen.org; ra_aghbari7@yahoo.com**; the subject line of the email should be the name of the position being applied for.
- Applications submitted after March 25th, 2014 will not be considered. Only short listed eligible candidates will be contacted.



Moving the new US-Saudi relationship beyond reassurance

Richard LeBaron
Atlanticcouncil.org
First published March 12

Over the past two months, US and Saudi officials have done what they needed to do to calm the waters in US-Saudi relations. Senior officials visited Riyadh to discuss the status of the negotiations with Iran; the Saudi interior minister visited the United States to coordinate Syria policy more effectively; the vocal complaints of the Saudi establishment have been consciously muted since the outbreak of discontent late last year marked by the rejection of a UN Security Council seat. The reassurance campaign paves the way for an inevitably "successful" visit to the Kingdom by President Barack Obama later this month. However fundamental changes in Saudi Arabia and the United States demand that the relationship move beyond ritualistic reassurance towards a more textured strategic partnership. Getting there requires recognition of major changes in the posture of both countries.

Recognizing Change

The changes influencing US policy are well known. The Obama administration will not be drawn into any vast new entanglements in the Middle East, priding itself on extricating the United States from the same. Neither is there evidence to indicate that either a Republican or Democrat successor to President Obama would support policies that would materially deepen US involvement in the region absent a crisis. Energy development in the United States will offer much more flexibility in its future energy policies and will likely, along with diminishing defense budgets, reduce the felt US obligation to provide the vast bulk of external security for Gulf partners and Gulf shipping lanes, (even though the United States will by default be the dominant military power in the Gulf for years to come). There also lingers a possibility that Iran could develop improved relations with the United States, with both positive and negative implications for the traditional US partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

While the United States gradual-



U.S. President Barack Obama greets Saudi's Haj Minister Fouad Al-Farsy and Saudi's Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi upon his arrival at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh June 2009.

ly draws back from the Middle East in the coming years, Saudi Arabia has the potential to become a more active and effective regional power. Certainly measured by purchase of advanced defense equipment, the Kingdom (along with the United Arab Emirates) will have capabilities undreamt of in the Arab world until recent years. Due to the vast expansion of educational opportunities (including the return of thousands of graduates from study abroad), Saudi Arabia will have a pool of talent—including a large new cadre of educated women—it has not seen before. Putting this new generation into productive work will be the defining challenge for the leadership that succeeds King Abdullah and is likely to have a direct impact on Saudi ability to project power and influence outside its borders. As the United States contends with a surplus of energy, Saudis will need to figure out how to manage their supplies better to meet demands of a diversified economy and their largely Eastern customers for oil.

So what to do?

These fundamental changes in both

countries call for a refashioning of the US-Saudi relationship, which gradually weans both countries away from a largely transactional approach, centered around oil and military/intelligence ties, towards a more mature relationship in which Saudi Arabia plays a greater leadership role. This is not simply a way for the United States to extricate itself from a troubled region but rather a recognition that change is inevitable and should be managed rather than simply endured.

A few examples of what such a new relationship would look like in the context of military and political interactions:

- Success in the US/Saudi defense relationship would no longer be measured only in the billions of dollars of equipment sold, but would center on clear division of defense roles among US, Saudi, and allied forces. A clear definition of who is to do what with clear commitments to provide the forces, training, and coordination necessary to implement such plans would reinvigorate the defense relationship. Call it burden sharing, shared respon-

sibility, or best use of limited resources—the main message is that the US is taking seriously the capabilities of its Gulf allies rather than seeing Saudi Arabia as a market for weapons systems but a more symbolic than real military partner. Such a change would require a shift in attitudes on both sides and will take time, but has the potential to instill greater confidence in both the capabilities and intentions of the two defense establishments.

- US-Saudi disagreement over how to deal with the Syria crisis indicates a need to improve coordination on regional issues as well as manage differences more effectively. The unfolding of negotiations with Iran—regardless of whether they succeed or not—also points to the need to understand each others' interests and find common ground rather than merely cite differences. More importantly, such consultations also need to lead to effective action. Egypt provides a good example of where Saudi regional leader-

ship, in concert with international institutions and Western partners, could make a positive long-term difference. This constructive role would require that Saudi Arabia, along with other Gulf donors to Egypt, shift from using financial aid to simply maintain Egypt's economy in its clearly inadequate state. Gulf states need to find methods to use their aid to encourage Egyptian economic policy reforms that will lead to sustained private sector investment and job creation. Otherwise, the Gulf desire for stability in Egypt will not be realized and the vast majority of the Egyptian population will continue to be denied basic economic opportunities. Banning the Muslim Brotherhood and hounding critics is not going to solve Egypt's economic problems.

- The political relationship would also be served by a richer dialogue between US and Saudi officials. Too few Saudi diplomats are empowered to genuinely and vigorously represent Saudi interests, with a long-held Saudi preference for senior-level contacts. This operating mode has worked to the benefit of both sides for much of the history of US-Saudi ties, but can no longer be relied upon exclusively. With plenty of untapped talent in the Saudi diplomatic service and a rapidly-growing reservoir in the society as a whole, Saudi Arabia should take advantage of its human resources if it aspires to leadership. It needs leaders at all levels, not just those clustered at the very top of the political pyramid. The United States could provide assistance in developing any specific capabilities, but must be accompanied by diffusion of authority—admittedly not a simple order in the Saudi context.

- As both countries confront profound shifts in their domestic and international energy positions, there is an opportunity for joint leadership that should not be lost in loose talk of US energy "independence" and freedom from Middle East suppliers. The United States, through its com-

panies, through its universities and through its policy dialogue has long been an effective energy partner with Saudi Arabia and that experience should not be casually discarded but rather built upon as Saudi Arabia plans for more effective use of existing resources and exploitation of new renewable energy technologies and the United States considers becoming a net oil exporter.

King Abdullah and President Obama

While the focus of the President's upcoming visit to Saudi Arabia will be to demonstrate that differences over Syria and Iran have been narrowed and that the path forward is clear, it would be useful for the President to reflect a bit with King Abdullah on the significant change that the King has brought to Saudi Arabia during his nine-year tenure. Undoubtedly, Saudi Arabia has a long path ahead, but most Saudi observers would credit the King with pushing the limits in creating modern institutions—some named after him such as the new economic city near Jeddah, the university of science and technology, and his massive foreign scholarship program. He has steadily improved the opportunities for women in Saudi society, recognized the need to discard the worst practices of both religious and civil bureaucracies, and tried to answer Saudi extremism with new and different opportunities for young people. We should not hesitate to offer critiques of Saudi domestic or international policies with which we disagree, but US interests would be well-served by recognizing accomplishment along with steady encouragement of progressive change. The US goal should be to help develop a more capable ally in Saudi Arabia, ready to exercise shared leadership over the long term. It is a policy that goes well beyond reassurance.

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Limited humanitarian access to Yemen's Al-Dhale governorate

IRIN
First published March 11

Humanitarians say they are still struggling to get uninterrupted access to Al-Dhale governorate in southern Yemen, which has seen fighting between militant separatists and the government since December 2013, leading to the deaths of an estimated 40 civilians.

Sana'a says attacks by armed groups allied to the Southern Movement, also known as Hirik (a leaderless coalition of pro-independence groups), on army supply routes and facilities are leading to clashes.

But representatives of Hirik deny they have resorted to violence. They claim that the 33rd Armored Brigade, the military unit stationed in the area, is engaged in a campaign to crush dissent, and is indiscriminately shelling heavily inhabited areas and shooting at unarmed civilians. At least 20 villages, home to an estimated 45,000 residents, have been "frequently shelled or violently attacked," according to figures published by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

A UN mission to assess humanitarian need has not yet been given permission to enter Al-Dhale.

Aid workers say they are con-

cerned about the impact the conflict is having on the local population, particularly food supplies and health facilities, with around 440,000 reported to be living in conflict affected areas in Al-Dhale. At least four hospitals have been shelled, according to the UN high commissioner for human rights.

An estimated 8,000 people have been displaced by the conflict, according to the OCHA. In January, 1,000 people were forced to flee a single village, Al Wabh, after a sustained bombardment.

Abdulfattah Mohammed Al-Jadi, who along with his family recently fled Al-Dhale for Aden, described a chaotic situation which has forced residents out of the area. "There are attacks daily," he said. "Shootings, bombings... You are just waiting to die." At times, he said, the city is being bombarded from sunrise until the early hours of the next morning.

"One of my friends was traveling with his son on a motorbike," he said. "They shot them and they both died. His son was six years old." Al-Jadi named his friend as Fadhli Ali Abdullah and the son as Nasser.

Al-Jadi's daughter, Hayya, still cringes when she hears the sound of fireworks. "There is a war," said the 10-year-old. "They are destroying our houses, our schools. I am scared. I don't want to go back."

Six children are among the dead so far.

"What we are seeing in [Al-Dhale] is that the proportion of women and children who are being maimed or killed as a proportion of the total casualties is far higher than in other conflicts in the rest of the country," said Julien Morcom-Harneis, Yemen resident representative at the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Both the military and Hirik, he said, "should ensure that women and children are not harmed by this fighting." Yemen is currently home to multiple conflicts, which threaten the political transition. In Amran province in the north, clashes have displaced 20,000-30,000 since October, while there have been repeated sectarian clashes further north, and the government is battling Al-Qaeda in the south.

"Indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks"

Some local rights groups have suggested that the military has committed human rights abuses, and both Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the UN Security Council have expressed concern over the way the military has acted. "Claims by Yemen's armed forces that they were fired upon by armed groups or that their bases were attacked can never justify the use of indiscriminate and



Hirik leaders deny responsibility for the violence in Al Dhale Governorate (Photo Oct 2012)

disproportionate attacks," Pillay said in a 26 February statement.

On 27 December 2013, soldiers from 33rd Armored Brigade opened fire on a funeral at a school in Al-Dhale which was being held for a known member of Hirik. Fifteen civilians, including two children were killed. The military said the armoured vehicles that opened fire on the gathering had been attacked by armed militants—a claim those attending the funeral have denied.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called for President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi to release the results of an investigation he ordered into

the attack. "Unless there is an investigation that proves otherwise, there is cause to worry because it looks a lot like a violation," said Belkis Wille, a Sana'a-based HRW researcher.

Claims like those made by Al-Jadi that the military has opened fire on unarmed civilians travelling in the area are hard to corroborate, "but we have heard that this is happening," Wille said. "If this were the case, it would represent a serious violation of the rules of war and a potentially serious human rights violation by the Yemeni government."

Access

Meanwhile, humanitarian organizations working in Yemen are trying to negotiate access to the area to assess the impact of the fighting on the local population. But it has proven hard to enter Al-Dhale even with government approval (IRIN tried to travel to Al-Dhale several times in February but was repeatedly told it was too dangerous). "We are told by government security services that the area is unsafe, which explains why it is difficult to access," Morcom-Harneis said.

Part of the problem, according to organizations working in Al-Dhale, is that Sana'a cannot guarantee safety in the area because of the lack of control it has over the commander of the 33rd Armored Brigade Brig. Gen. Abdullah Dabaan.

The UN hopes to enter Al-Dhale in the near future despite an abortive attempt in early March. "We are in a conversation with the government as to how we can do that and we should have access in the next week or so," Morcom-Harneis said. "As humanitarians, we recognize the risks of working in such a complicated environment, and we are prepared to do so, but it has to be negotiated."

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

Intermediate

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

Difficult

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

Chess

Solutions

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

Black plays and wins in the 4th move

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Ukrainian company attempts to rehabilitate oil wells

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, March 17—The Europe Ukrainian Company earlier this week began attempts to revive old oil wells in cooperation with Sky Oil Service Company (SOS), a local firm.

Nabeel Al-Gharasi, the general manager of SOS, told the Yemen Times that the Ukrainian company has rehabilitated old oil wells in

many countries and has been in contact with the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority regarding the rehabilitation of the Yemeni oil wells.

Al-Gharasi said the company has modern techniques to extract oil from wells that have stopped producing, adding that it has succeeded in renovating 1,000 wells in Arab and foreign countries.

Adel Al-Hazmi, the general manager of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority, told the Yemen Times that there are over 40 oil wells that have stopped producing or have run dry.

"The extraction rate from oil wells in Yemen ranges from 30 to 40 percent," Al-Hazmi said.

He added that "some interna-

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tional companies extract oil from the dry wells, making use of their sophisticated equipment. This has been tried in many countries but not Yemen."

He said that this oil would require special treatment methods.

Ghalib Bin Mabari, the manager of the oil office in Marib governorate, said that rehabilitating the dry wells is necessary. He hoped that the move would not be brought to a halt.

"When the oil wells [in Yemen] deplete, they are just shut. There is not even a thought to rehabilitate these wells by the use of special equipment," said Mabari.

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