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There were two main demonstrations to mark the Day of Dignity on Tuesday. The Revolutionary Youth Council organized a march to Change Square and then to President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi's home to demand the resignation of the General Prosecutor. A Houthi demonstration also marched to Change Square, before heading to the Cabinet building and demanding an end to the current reconciliation government. Photo by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

# UN: 60 percent of Yemenis need assistance to meet basic needs

### Ali Saeed

SANA'A, March 19-The United Nations called on the international community on Monday to provide support for 14.7 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

"The scale of current needs makes Yemen one of the largest humanitarian emergencies globally," the UN humanitarian coordinator, Johannes Van Der Klaauw, said during a regional meeting held last Monday in Cairo to discuss the 2014 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan.

The meeting in Cairo brought together representatives of the Yemeni government, local and international humanitarian NGOs and the Arab League.

"In 2014, almost sixty per cent of Yemen's population require humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic needs," said Van Der Klaauw in a press releases circulated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in Sana'a.

The implementation of the 2014

only two percent of this amount has been financed, according to Abdulelah Taqi, public communication officer at UNOCHA in Sana'a.

The recent conflict between the Houthis and the local tribesmen in the north and the fighting between local militants and the military in Al-Dhale, a southern governorate of Yemen, has increased the vulnerability of more people, according to UNOCHA.

The fighting in Amran between the Houthis and local armed tribesmen between November 2013 and February 2014 displaced around 42,000 people from their homes to Amran city and the capital Sana'a, according to Taqi.

Yemen is also a destination for African migrants and refugees who arrive in the country every month, fleeing violence or seeking transit to Gulf countries for better job

Tagi said that returnees, refugees and displaced people, mainly in Sa'ada and Abyan, are the groups most targeted for the 2014 humanitarian response plan.

humanitarian response plan re- million as total budget for humani- in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to push has been prioritized over the hu-



"The scale of current needs makes Yemen one of the largest humanitarian emergencies globally," said the UN humanitarian coordinator, Johannes Van Der Klaauw.

53 percent of that budget was funded, Taqi said.

Fayka Al-Saleh, general secretary's assistant at the Arab League asked NGOs who took part in the Cairo meeting to present findings of the UN 2014 humanitarian response plan to the 7th Friends of Yemen conference. The conference

for the humanitarian needs in Ye-

The Friends of Yemen, which is compromised of donor countries and international funding organizations, was established in January 2010 to help Yemen overcome its financial challenges.

"The lack of sufficient financing In 2013, the UN proposed \$702 is expected to be held next month comes because the political issue quires \$592 million, but until now tarian intervention. However, only donor countries to provide support manitarian issue," Al-Saleh said.

# Security forces deployed to Hamdan

### Rival militias leave their positions, return to their homes

### Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, March, 18-Security forces were deployed Tuesday to several locations within Hamdan district, according to security source. The district has seen ongoing fighting between Houthi forces and rival tribesmen since the beginning of last week.

The Houthis are Zaidi Shi'ites who have battled the government for power in Sa'ada governorate for almost a decade. In March 2011, during Yemen's popular uprising, the governor of Sa'ada fled and the Houthis took control of the area.

Early this year, fierce clashes broke out between the Houthis and armed tribesmen in Arhab district, not far from Sana'a. The fighting came to a halt on Feb. 10 after the intervention of a military committee formed by President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi. The committee facilitated a ceasefire between the warring sides.

Fresh clashes between Houthis and tribesmen then broke out in



Security forces have been deployed to Hamdan district where this is ongoing fighting between Houthi forces and rival tribesmen, despite a ceasefire that was reached in February.

Hamdan, to the north of the capital. The violence raised concern that the Houthis intended to take over the

This prompted the Supreme Security Council on Monday to give the opposing sides a 12-hour ultimatum to withdraw from Hamdan

On Monday, a tribal mediation committee was sent to Hamdan district, accompanied by a military convoy. The committee, headed by

Ali Al-Ghashmi, was mandated to bring an end to the fighting in the area, according to brigadier Yahia Al-Awami, the assistant security manager of Sana'a Governorate.

"The convoy included about 20 military vehicles from the Military Police, the Special Forces and Public Security, led by Yahia Hameed, the Sana'a security manager," said Al-Awami.

The security and military forces intervened after the violence resulted in at least 40 deaths on both sides in the first three days of the fighting, according to the United Nations website.

"The security force took over the militants' locations and the main road connecting Sana'a and Al-Mahweet governorates to Amran governorate. The clashes came to an end. But the armed men are still in houses and the committee cannot extricate them from their houses," said Al-Awami.

He said that the forces will not leave Hamdan district until they can guarantee a lasting truce.

Al-Awami indicated that the areas takes by the two warring sides have been handed over to the security forces.

Ali Al-Surmi, the principal of a Quranic School in Hamdan which the Houthis destroyed last week, said that although the security forces arrived in Hamdan, the armed groups are still present.

"The situation is still tense and fighting may break out again at any time. A final solution to this situation has not been reached. All that the security committee did was secure the main road that connects Sana'a and Al-Mahweet to Amran governorate," said Al-Surmi.

Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, a mem-

ber of the Houthi political office, said "all those who came to fight for the Houthis in Hamdan have left. The remaining Houthis belong to Hamdan."

Al-Bukhait approved of the security committee's role in securing the road and preventing both sides from openly carrying weapons.

The most recent bout of clashes in Hamdan flared up after the killing of four Houthis at a local tribal checkpoint.

The National Dialogue Conference outcomes stipulate that the government should take over all weapons possessed by militant groups in the country. The Houthis say that they will comply on condition that all other armed groups do

According to the state-run Saba

news agency, President Hadi met on Tuesday with groups belonging to the Bani Hushaish tribe, 15 kilometers to the east of the capital. Hadi told the tribal representatives that "Bani Hushaish is the eastern gate of the capital and you shoulder the responsibility of maintaining security in this area in cooperation with the concerned authorities."

On Sunday, Hadi met with tribal groups in the Bani Mater district, 30 kilometers west of Sana'a, according to the Saba news agency. He told them "you are the shield that defends the capital against any potential attack from the west."

The Saba news agency reported Hadi as saying, "the republican system, Yemen's unity and the NDC outcomes implementation are red lines which no one can cross.'



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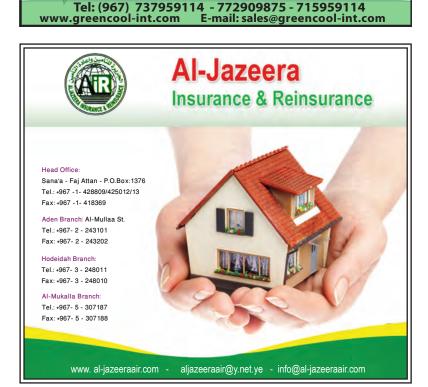
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# Tribal intermediaries make contact with Korkie kidnappers

Ali Saeed

SANA'A, March 19—The South African NGO, Gift of the Givers Foundation, said in a Tuesday statement that it received feedback about a brief face-to-face meeting between Abyan tribal intermediaries and Al-Qaeda-linked militants concerning the South African hostage Pierre Korkie.

In mid-February the Gift of the Givers Foundation asked tribal leaders to contact the kidnappers after communication between the kidnappers and the NGO broke

"We got feedback last night, 17 March 2014, that Abyan tribal leaders finally met Al Qaeda, faceface,... Al Qaeda still want the

ransom money; they can't make exceptions for a South African otherwise they will have to make exceptions for the three other hostages of different nationalities they were holding."

The kidnappers refuse to speak directly to the foundation unless it hands over Anas Al-Hamati, the NGO's representative in Yemen. They accuse Hamati of having stolen the ransom money they believe the South African government paid when it sent its deputy minister of foreign affairs, Ibrahim Ibrahim, to Yemen late Janu-

The NGO says the kidnappers told them to "hand Anas [Al-Hamati] over to us as he has our ransom money; we won't talk to

him or to his tribal leaders."

The 56-year-old Korkie has been held captive since May 2013, when he and his wife Yolande were kidnapped in Taiz. Yolande was released in January this year after negotiations with Al-Hamati.

The press release quoted the kidnappers as saying "Pierre is alive and in bad health; Pierre is completely deaf; we communicate with him by writing notes on pieces of paper."

A previous deadline to pay the ransom expired on Feb. 8, according to the Gift of the Givers Foun-

"We now, together with the tribal leaders, have to figure out the next plan of action," the foundation concluded.

# Spike in cancer cases reported in Haran

Amal Al Yarisi

SANA'A, March 19-The Health Office of Hajja governorate will send a medical committee in the next week to the Haran sub-district in the Aflah are of Hajja, located northwest of Sana'a, to investigate an apparent spike in cancer rates.

The move comes after the recent diagnosis of 12 cancer cases in Haran, seven of which resulted in death last week, according to the health office manager in Hajja, Dr. Ayman Madkour.

Madkour said that large number of fatal cases in one week is worrying, given that Haran only has a population of about 1,200.

Madkour said that some of the patients are being treated at the Oncology Center in Sana'a after being diagnosed at the health care center in Haran.

"The majority of the cases have stomach, esophagus and pharynx cancers," Madkour said.

So far, the reasons behind the increase in cancer cases have not been identified. However, Madkour said that dependence on wells for water could be among the reasons as the water is contaminated by pesticides used for planting qat.

Madkour said the farmers also chew qat within a week of it being sprayed with pesticides although the qat is not supposed to be chewed within the first two months after it is sprayed.

He added that samples of the water that residents consume were taken to the laboratories of the Water and Sanitation Corporation in Sana'a for testing. The results will be released in less than one week, Madkour said.

Haran is known for its qat

plantations and its residents depend on wells for drinking water and irrigation.

If the Health Office confirms that the area is suffering from exceptionally high rates of cancer, there were will be intervention.

"We will launch awareness campaigns and offer medical services," said Dr. Labeen Al-Aghbari, the manager of the National Cancer Control Foundation.

"There are environmental and behavioral factors such as the pesticides and smoking that lead to increases in cancer," Al-Aghbari

According Al-Aghbari, the latest survey conducted by the National Cancer Control Foundation found that Taiz has the highest number of cancer cases with Sana'a ranking

# Gunmen attack government compound in Al-Beidha

Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, March 19-Unidentified gunmen on Wednesday attacked and bombed the government compound in Al-Sawma district of Al-Beidha governorate. No deaths or injuries were reported.

"The gunmen attacked the building in the early morning at a time when the security forces were not in the building. The gunmen then entered the building, extricating those who were inside," said Saleh Al-Rasas, the first deputy governor.

The government compound houses a number of government offices including the education, security and finance departments. It is the main governmental compound in the governorate,

according to Al-Rasas.

Fahd Al-Taweel, a local journalist in Al-Beidha governorate, said there were no more than 10 security guards on duty at the time, armed only with light weapons. They were heavily outgunned by the assailants, who possessed rocketpropelled grenades and other weapons, said Al-Taweel.

"There were no casualties during the attack because the security guards in the compound put up no resistance. The gunmen ordered the guards who were inside to leave the compound with all their possessions. None of them objected," Al-Taweel said.

Al-Taweel said that the dozens of teachers who were living in the compound were moved to a nearby

He said that gunmen currently have free rein in Al-Sawma district and security forces are unable or unwilling to stop them.

According to Al-Taweel, the gunmen often capitalize on the late hours of the night or the early hours of the morning to launch attacks, a time when there is no sufficient security staff in the government facilities.

"The armed groups often resort to bombing the compounds of those who work against them," said Abdulrazaq Al-Jaml, a journalist specializing in militant groups.

In January of 2012, armed groups believed to be affiliated to Al-Qaeda took over Ra'ada city in Al-Beidha governorate, but they withdrew after reaching an agreement with

# Yemen experienced 352 tremors during 2013-report

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

19—Yemen SANA'A, March witnessed 352 tremors nationwide during 2013, according to a report released Tuesday by the state-run Monitoring Center for the Study of Earthquakes and Volcanoes and published on the state-run September 26 News Website.

None of last year's tremors left any victims and only a few buildings were damaged. The strongest tremor had a magnitude of 4.1.

Tremors are minor earthquakes that occur when there is sudden movement in the earth's crust and the resulting seismic waves can be destructive. Earthquakes happen both on land and at sea and are measured by the seismograph or the Richter scale.

Tremors and earthquakes tend to result in fewer losses in developed countries that have advanced infrastructure and sophisticated engineering to lower the risks of

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earthquakes.

Saleh Al-Maflahi, deputy head of the Monitoring Center for the Study of Earthquakes and Volcanoes in Dhamar, told the September 26 news website that "the number of tremors decreased in 2013 to 325, in comparison to 672 over the course of 2012."

Al-Maflahi said that the reason behind the decline is the period of relative calm in the seismic activity of the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Tadjoura in Djibouti, and the Red Sea, which form a very active seismic belt surrounding Yemen.

The majority of the tremors last year took place in the Maghreb Ans district of Dhamar, the center and southwest area of Al-Beida'a, the Lawdar district of Abyan, the Hofash and Melhan areas of Al-Mahweet, north of Sana'a, the Al-Udayn district of Ibb, the Hais and Al-Maraweah districts of Hodeida and the Qataba district of Al-Dhale. The largest tremor happened in

the Hofash area of Al-Mahweet, according to Al-Maflahi.

A tremor measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale shook the Hofash district of Al-Mahweet in December 2013. Residents living 15 kilometers from the epicenter felt the earth

Najeeb Abduljaleel, an expert on earthquakes and volcanoes at the center, said that rifts appear in the crust of the earth with the passage of time and can eventually cause

strongest earthquake in Yemen took place on Dec. 13, 1982 in Dhamar. It had a magnitude of 5.9 and left hundreds people dead and thousands buildings damaged. In 1989 the Seismic Monitoring Network was established and the Seismic Monitoring Center was founded two years later. The two institutions merged to form the Monitoring Center for the Study of Earthquakes and Volcanoes in 1997.

# Sana'a University faculty calls off strike

Strikes threatened again in one week if demands are not met

### Bassam Al-Khameri

SANA'A, March 18-The faculty of Sana'a University's College of Science ended its strike on Tuesday but threatened to strike again if the university did not meet the faculty's demands. The faculty went on strike Saturday to demand more resources for the department.

"We received word that classes were to resume today and most students attended classes," according to Saddam Ahmed, a student at the college.

"We only resumed [our lectures] so far and are waiting for the university to meet our demands to resume [laboratory courses]. The

AROUND TOWN

more time that passes, the larger affect this has on our studies," he said. The poor state of funding for laboratories was a major reason behind the strike, according to students and faculty.

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Hisham Sharaf met with the rector of [laboratory training]. Unless the Sana'a University Abdulhakeem university officials meet their Al-Sharjabi on Monday to discuss the situation and find a resolution, according to the state-run September 26 news website.

The university rector pledged to provide urgent maintenance for the labs at the college and to begin to meet other demands, according to the website.

"Many of the faculty members attended [the meeting] and resumed teaching on Wednesday," Ahmed

Hatima Al-Haboob, a professor at the college, told the Yemen Times that the faculty only resumed lectures this week.

"We resumed teaching the theoretical courses and are still waiting for the university to provide us with the needed materials for promises, we will go on str Thursday," Al-Haboob said.

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

"The university leadership promised to provide the needed materials for labs, more computers, and to equip the college's library. [We have called off the strike] and are waiting to see if this will happen or not," said Al-Haboob.

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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)

held a forum on March 15 titled the "Promising Youth Forum." The forum examined how to em-

power Yemen's youth while engaging both the public and private sector. The forum was interactive, and a majority of the time was given for audience interaction. Photo credit: Sana'a Hub

The Sana'a Hub of The Global Shapers Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum,







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# The deterioration of Yemeni academic institutions

Murad Alazzany and Robert Sharp

emen's modern education system can be traced back to the early 1960s, at a time when both North and South Yemen adopted a constitution that assured equal educational opportunities for all Yemenis regardless of location or origin. In response to popular demand for education, the government, in cooperation with civil society, constructed several schools and institutions throughout Yemen. The intent was to provide equal opportunity for access to education for the country's chil-

To provide tertiary level education for the country, the government of the day authorized and supported the construction of Sana'a University in 1972, as well as Aden University in 1975. Together these academic institutions were the highest academic institutions in Yemen, and they provided a variety of educational courses and specializations for the youth of Yemen. Since then, the demand for education in Yemen has grown steadily. Growth has been both vertical and horizontal, and there are now nine Yemeni public universities in addition to a number of private universities and colleges. But demand has risen sharply in recent decades: enrollment has grown from approximately 35,000 in 1991 to 276,452 in 2010.

Despite almost fifty years of academic institutional development and expansion, there is still insufficient capacity within local universities to absorb enough qualified high school graduates. Dr. Ali Qasem, the Deputy Minister of Education, has publically referred to the lack of capacity across Yemen. He stated that "the students who gradu-



The authors say that "teaching in Yemen tends to be pedagogic (child learning) rather than andragogic (adult learning)...As such it does not foster the critical, creative thinking and problem -solving capacities that will be essential for Yemen's graduating youth..."

year are estimated to be 200,000 in number, but the enrollment capacity of public universities is estimated to reach only 55,000...the capacity of private universities is only 20,000 students, and 10,000 students are distributed between technical institutions and military

The increasing demand for higher education and the low adsorptive capacity of Yemeni universities are not the only challenges facing our higher education system. There has also been a notable decline in the quality of education provided

ate from secondary school each to students because of limited academic resources and poor teaching methods. Students have a feeling of deep dissatisfaction with deteriorating academic standards and conditions. For example, at Sana'a University the teaching council of the science faculty recently suspended lessons because of a lack of laboratory materials due to a reduced operating budget.

> Rabab Aiyash, an education student, complained that the college does not provide her with the quality of education she expects. She attributes her comment to the way learning is conducted and be

lieves it to be less about students and more about teachers. Teachers simply speak and students listen. She said that "in [my] four years, I have been given a platform to speak only three times...textbook quality is poor and outdated because they were designed to reinforce skills that students no longer need." Her plea is to see the curriculum reformed to improve learning and equip the youth of Yemen with the skills required for the job market. She is passionate about the education of Yemeni youth and adds that "all I ask is that we get compensated for the four years we spent

in these corridors doing nothing. We need a substituted education for our drudge, effort, and cries, which have all gone to waste." Others share her view. They complain about the lack of resources for research and study, particularly the lack of access to the library, which is only open for two hours a day, often during class time.

In general, teaching in Yemen tends to be pedagogic (child learning) rather than andragogic (adult learning). It continues to be far too didactic and teacher-directed rather than student-centered. As such, it does not foster the critical, creative thinking and problem-solving capacities that will be essential for Yemen's graduating youth as they enter a demanding local, regional and international work place. Learning centered on memorization of definitions, reciting facts, and repeating what the teacher said does not foster the ability to think creatively.

Yemeni students are pressing for far-reaching reforms. These should start from modernizing the curricula through the provision of modern educational technologies. Students are taking a stand for an educational transformation. They are calling for a move away from traditional teaching methods toward more modern, adult, liberal educational methodologies within a life-long learning environment that generates critical thinkers. Only when that goal is reached will Yemen stand a real chance of benefiting from the opportunities presented by the current transition, the National Dialogue Conference, and the new Constitution.

Students articulate a need for a change in governance and in managerial approaches to ensure greater accountability and increased efficiency in the management of academic institutions. Students have driven home the need for the government to pursue dramatic and revolutionary educational reforms. Dr. Adnan Al-Senwi, director of the Higher Education Quality and Accreditation Unit, stressed the need for expanding the higher education system, saying that "more than onethird of the population in Yemen is under the age of 15 years and is either currently enrolled in, or about to enter college." Clearly, there is a need for more colleges and universities, but there is also a need for a better education system.

Yemen is at an education crossroads. Demand is growing, but so too is the demand for a quality educational system worthy of a new Yemen. We need to invest in our youth and the future. Education must be made a priority for the country if we are to realize the opportunity afforded us by our recent transition. The demand to establish credible educational institutions in order to equip our youth with 21st century thinking skills is obvious. The first step is to make education a priority for the government, possibly establish an educational emergency reform committee, and then match that intent with appropriate funding. Yemeni educational institutions are deteriorating and there is now an opportunity to put this

Murad Alazzany is an associate professor at Sana'a University, Yemen. Robert Sharp is an associate professor at the U.S. National Defense University, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA), Washington DC, USA. The views expressed in this article are the authors' alone and do not represent the official policy or position of Sana'a University, the U.S. National Defense University, the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. or Yemeni government.



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YT vision statement "To make Yemen a good world citizen."

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999)Founder of Yemen Times



### **OUR OPINION**

# **Problems in** Yemen's transitional road map

ccording to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative brokered in November 2011, Yemen should have completed its transition from Saleh's three-decadelong autocracy into a more democratic form of government by February 2014. There was a two-year transition plan known as the GCC Initiative Implementation Mechanism, which outlined milestones and tasks that should be completed for this transition to take place.

What happened is that early on—starting in 2011 we realized that we as a nation were running behind schedule and that we would need an extension, which we got from the international community through the United Nation's Security Council. The extension was not bound to a specific timeline-it was instead tied to the tasks that needed to be completed. This is a relatively good decision. Yemen's issues cannot not be arranged and tackled like a grocery list. The situation does not let us cross off items one at a time.

But then we had the amazing National Dialogue Conference (NDC) which was a first in the region, and perhaps a unique event in the world. After 10 months, the NDC concluded with a final document that was supposed to map out the road ahead and detail how the extension would be managed.

The NDC's Consensus Committee created a detailed table outlining the tasks that would need to be completed before the country could celebrate the success of the political transition. The table had detailed timelines and named the authorities that were responsible for each task.

At the time, there was an urgent need to wrap-up the already delayed conclusion of the NDC, and there was concern that the entire process could be jeopardized if compromises were not made.

It's all coming back to haunt us now that we realize some of these mistakes. For instance, the long list of points that the final document says are to be implemented before elections are unlikely to be implemented.

Tasks include the complete restructuring of the military and security forces, the unarming of armed militia, an investigation into 2011 violations, updating the voter registration list, drafting the constitution and having a referendum, issuing the transitional justice and federal regions laws, establishing the Supreme Constitutional Court, issuing the elections law-and having elections, implementing a system of good governance in state institutions, reforming civil services, implementing the 20 points, implementing the 11 points, etc.

The NDC final document said that the country should complete all this by January 25, 2015—one year from the conclusion of the NDC. The presidential decree regarding the drafting of the constitution has set the deadline for this process for March 8, 2015.

The road ahead is not as clear as we thought it would be. The tasks to be completed before the elections must be reviewed so that the tasks that could be realistically achieved are implemented before the elections. The other tasks could be deferred to the two-term foundational period.

The constitutional drafting committee will have to take this long list of tasks into account when defining the transitional regulations within the constitution. These transitional regulations will explain how the country is to operate for two terms after the electionsbetween eight to 10 years depending on how long each presidential term will be.

These problems are not new, but had to be pushed aside because of the risks facing the NDC. Now it's time to deal with these problems before it is too late.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

# On women's liberation

# Who is to decide how women should be liberated today?

Talha Jalal aljazeera.com First published March 18

prominent think-tank in Washington, DC recently hosted a conference on women's rights and democracy in the Middle East and North Africa. It was a worthy topic by all means. The tragedy is that this conference, without an exception, mostly lacked substance. In general, hollow activism, pomp, and chronic "cultural anatopism" (misattribution of a culture or cultural values) pervade all discussion of women's rights in the context of democratization.

This conference continued the trend. One panelist, a former UN official, bashed sharia, warning that women's liberty was under threat from it. The bashing was not the issue, it was that the speaker gave no theological or legal context as to what "sharia law" is—sharia is not a codified, universally agreed upon set of laws-and the term was thrown around, with no explanation of what this would actually mean for women.

### **Futile debates**

Another panelist bashed the Muslim Brotherhood, saying that the Brotherhood is bent upon imposing this ominous "law" on "them"—the liberty loving women of the Middle East. While an attempt was made to present all women of MENA region as a singular "them", the claims rattled hollow.

But what of women's liberation? The question that is often missing from debates that follow such "headline" moments relating to women and their bodies is whether liberation translates into a universal truth for every individual. Further, the confusion of culturally specific norms with a misplaced belief in universal liberty results in meaningless debates that end up advancing liberty for no one.

While the divide within Western liberal circles is significant, even greater is the one between Western-educated, liberal women and conservative women in the Muslim world.

This leads to the second issue, which is again commonplace in feminist activism within the DC-based policy circles, i.e. the conservative section of the societies in question is almost always missing from attendance. The group of 21 women including minors, sentenced to 11 years in jail in Egypt for supporting Mohammed Morsi, is an example of the missing section in this debate.

Are these women modern enough to be part of the debate? Perhaps yes, but the problem is that they are not "Western" enough-certainly not with those headscarves.

When it comes to women's rights in Muslim majority states, the resultant feminist activism should provoke the question as to whether liberty is a singularly conceived universal truth. The fundamental issue at hand is the extremely problematic association of culture and religion with the idea of liberation.

A chador-donning woman is thought of as nothing but a repressed being in a man's world—her liberation may only occur if she throws off that black cloth. This seems to be the view from herefrom the policy centers of the US. Our standards, or in other words, our metrics for assessing women's empowerment, are in need of a thorough review.

### **Defining liberation**

The outcome of the current approach, which is highly subjective, is that the difference between modernization and westernization is lost on most of these conversations. The underlying assumption of this debate, as highlighted earlier, is the existence of a universally recognized conception of women's liberty. But the reality is that no such thing exists in either the US or in Egypt or any other society for that matter.

Edward Said, in his writing on Orientalism, exposed the problems with taking a West-centric view of the socalled Orient. Women's rights are no exception. Said's words are still as relevant as they were when he published the first edition of Orientalism.

As I sat for three hours listening to the panelists at this conference discuss the future of women's rights, I couldn't help but think of what Said wrote. And

[H]istory is made by men and women, just as it can also be unmade and re-written, so that "our" East, "our" Orient becomes "ours" to possess and direct. And I have a very high regard for the powers and gifts of the peoples of that region to struggle on for their vision of what they are and want to be. There's been so massive and calculatedly aggressive an attack on the contemporary societies of the Arab and Muslim for their backwardness, lack of democracy, and abrogation of women's rights that we simply forget that such notions as modernity, enlightenment, and democracy are by no means simple, and agreed-upon concepts that one either does or does not find like Easter eggs in the living-room. The breathtaking insouciance of jejune publicists who speak in the name of foreign policy and who have no knowledge at all of the language real people actually speak, has fabricated an arid landscape ready for American power to construct there an ersatz model of free market 'democ-

The problem explicated in this passage from Said was referred to earlier as "cultural anatopism." This is perhaps the most damaging intellectual mistake which distorts reality and prevents us from developing a well-guided and effective policy.

The question is, then, who gets to define liberation?

At the end of the day, liberal feminist activists, the Ukrainian group FE-MEN, for example, all have varying visions of liberating women, but so do the female members of Muslim Brotherhood that were jailed recently for expressing their opinion. How does one judge, on the one hand, demeaning song lyrics, such as that of the bestselling single of 2013 "Blurred Lines" by Robin Thicke, which promote rape culture, and on the other, FEMEN activists waging a "topless Jihad" outside mosques in Europe?

BUSINESS FOR PEACE

AWARD

This may be hard to answer, but for the sake of fairness, all of these visions must be sensitive to the multiplicity of cultural norms and values which is part of any social reality, including the Western one.

It is by all means essential that women gain a status equal to that of men in the societies that are experiencing change. Women are enduring a great backlash as a result of the uprisings in MENA, and are by far more vulnerable than men in a time of transition.

But the absolutist notions that come with such importations, as free market democracy, must be dealt with some sensitivity to history and cultural norms. This is forgotten time and again, in the form of invasions that are unjust, in suppositions that have proven wrong in the wake of disastrous wars, and in the reality that women of Iraq and Afghanistan are hardly better off today than they were a decade ago.

There is much work that needs to be done to promote freedom and equality for women, but that freedom cannot be achieved whilst being oblivious to the multiplicity of world views that emanate from within every society.

The hallmark of liberty is that every woman may be the way she wants to see herself rather than being forced to fit the profile envisioned by others.

Talha Jalal is the author of Memoirs of the Badshahi Mosque (OUP, 2013). He currently works as a Research Associate at the Foreign Policy Institute in Washington, DC.

# Failing the litmus test of legitimacy

Rami G. Khouri dailystar.com.lb First published March 19

ne of the big issues that remain to be resolved across the entire Arab world is how citizens who feel most comfortable participating in public politics through the lens of their Islamic religion can do so with both credibility and safety.

For the past 80 years or so, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and its offshoots in the Arab world have been a main vehicle through which many Muslims combine the expression of their personal piety, moral values, citizen expectations and political action. Today, this option has become more problematic for many Arabs, both because of the recent incompetence of the Brotherhood in office and the crackdown against it by various regimes, especially Egypt and wealthy Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and others.

Egyptian interim President Adly Mansour personifies the anti-Brotherhood Egypt. He was installed by the armed forces head, Field Marshal Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi last August, to replace the elected president and Muslim Brotherhood official Mohammad Morsi. Mansour said Sunday in a television interview that he thought the general public opposed the Brotherhood's participation in politics because it used violence. He said that any member of the Brotherhood who renounced violence and gave up membership in the organization was welcome to engage in political action and join the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elec-

"If people are convinced [and vote for them], they are welcome," Mansour declared. He added that he could not engage the Brotherhood in negotiations because they had incited and committed violence after Morsi's ouster. The Sisi-installed government designated the Brotherhood as a terrorist organization and banned it from public activity. Thousands of its supporters and leaders have been arrested since July.

Continuing Friday demonstrations and labor strikes across Egypt indicate that not all members of society are pleased with the changes since July. Available indicators suggest significant support simultaneously for military rule through the Sisi-led government, for Islamists such as the Muslim Brotherhood and Salafist groups and for more secular and nationalist groups that failed to consolidate their strength and numbers following the removal of President Hosni Mubarak's regime in

Many Arab governments since the 1950s have banned the Muslim Brotherhood, always without permanent success. That is because the Brotherhood and other Islamist groups harness two irrepressible forces: They challenge political and socio-economic conditions that cause hardship, and they play on the sense of hope that divine promise and their own political action will bring about a better, more iust future.

Such attitudes and activism cannot be permanently removed from society as long as political, social and economic conditions remain as they are. The irony is that when the Muslim Brotherhood won elections in Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Yemen and other Arab countries in recent decades, they proved incompetent in responding to citizens' grievances through good policy-making. In Egypt and Tunisia, their mismanagement of public policy, combined with their apparent thirst for permanent power by trying to dominate all major public offices, led to a backlash against them by millions of Egyptians and Tunisians, which led to their ouster.

Arab citizens who voted for Islamists on the basis of combined political-religious attitudes actually judged the Muslim Brotherhood's performance in office on the basis of more pragmatic criteria related to whether Islamist-led governments responded to their practical needs. Religious sloganeering helped get the Brotherhood into office, but it could not maintain them there in the face of their poor performance as

Banning and jailing the Muslim Brotherhood is a simplistic response to the complex public politics that define Arab societies today. The Brotherhood-like terrorism, mass emigration, corruption and criminal activity-is mostly a symptom of underlying and often chronic problems in society. As long as those problems persist, citizens will find a way to protest and seek change for the better. Events in Egypt have also shown that banning the Brotherhood opens a space for extremist and militant groups such as Ansar Beit al-Maqdas to attract adherents and use terror against the state and civilians.

The Muslim Brotherhood failed the test to deliver on the promise of a more productive, just society with equal opportunity for all. Its supporters and millions of other Arabs still seek a more effective way to harness the power of their religious values and their practical expectations as citizens. But banning the symptoms of an ailment is an unimpressive response to real national challenges. A better response would be to craft an inclusive, efficient and legitimate political process that allows all citizens to participate peacefully, leading to governments that can implement more effective public policies.

To date, both the armed forces and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt have failed that litmus test.

# YEMEN TIMES

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### Story and photos by Ali Abulohoom

ami Saleh, 19, recently spent a day in Sana'a searching in vain for a veterinarian to treat a dog he received from his uncle in Germany. He was not even able to find a pharmacy selling medicine for dogs.

A day later, Saleh's neighbor gave him the address of a veterinarian on Al-Methaq Street.

"I was thinking of sending the dog back to my uncle because people in Yemen don't receive appropriate health care, let alone pets," said Saleh. But he changed his mind after he eventually found a qualified veterinarian.

"We have qualified veterinarians but the problem is that people are not aware of their locations or the importance of veterinary medicine," added Saleh.

For many Yemenis, animals are a vital source of income and when they fall ill livelihoods are at stake.

Mohammed Noman, 35, bought a horse for YR1,35,000 (\$6500) from a local sheikh. It was a significant investment and a means for Noman to earn a living. He takes photos of people on the horse in Tahrir Square in return for YR100 (about \$.50) per photo.

to take photos on them because sick or injured animals due to they see horses as symbols of a general lack of awareness of strength and pride," said No-

When Noman's horse gets sick he immediately takes it to the Animal Health Care Department, a section of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Al-Methag Street, where Saleh took his ill dog. There Noman gets free treatment for the horse.

"I go to the administration whenever my horse is sick and pay only for the medicine that isn't available in the department," he said.

Nasser Al-Ansi, head of the department, said that most of those who visit the department with cats, dogs and other pets are foreigners. Rarely do Yemenis bring pets in for treatment.

Al-Ansi said that the department provides free services for those who have pets, adding that it is authorized to provide licenses for veterinarians and veterinary pharmacies.

Hadi Rajeh, a guard working for a foreign employee in Yemen, said that the foreigner asked him to take care of her four cats because she was always busy.

Rajeh said that it was hard for him to take care of the cats in the beginning because he knew nothing about cat nutrition and the need for veterinarians.

"Special cat food is sold in health of livestock.

some shops but it was difficult to find a vet to treat the cats whenever they got sick," he said.

Rajeh eventually got the telephone number of a veterinarian through a neighbor of his.

"The veterinarian came to the house with a bag and some injections and tablets. He injected the four cats and I paid him YR4,000, but the cats did not recover," said Rajeh.

Rajeh said that the veterinarian was actually a qat-seller who had deceived him.

"I saw the 'veterinarian' selling qat three days later and he confessed that he deceived me. He requested forgiveness in return for giving me the telephone number of a qualified veterinarian who then treated the cats," said Rajeh.

Mohammed Ismail, a veterinarian running a private clinic in Al-Hasaba area, said that foreigners used to visit the clinic but their numbers decreased dramatically following the 2011 revolution, when security deteriorated and many foreigners left.

"Veterinary medicine isn't very popular in Yemen and there are only a limited number of clinics and pharmacies, because most Yemenis aren't interested in keeping pets," he added.

www.mercure.com

Ismail said that people encounter significant difficulty "Yemenis love horses and love when looking for places to treat veterinarians and animal healthcare issues. He added that some of those who visited him in the clinic said they were deceived by people claiming to be veterinar-

> Ismail recalled an incident where an American citizen came to his clinic with a dog that had been injected with a poisonous substance by someone claiming to be a veterinarian.

> Fadhel Ali, another veterinarian in Al-Methag Street, said that most of his clients are Yemenis.

> Yemenis pay more attention to livestock such as cows, goats, camels and donkeys because they rely on them to make money, according to Ali.

"People in charge of zoos also visit my clinic to get medicine for animals there," he added.

Mohammed Al-Anesi, a 55year-old resident of Dhamar, said that he does not take any of his three cows and 20 goats to a veterinarian because of the high costs of transportation.

"I wait for the annual visit by the Animal Health Care Department to inspect the livestock. I isolate the sick animals until they recover or die," he added.

Al-Ansi said that the department carries out annual field visits nationwide to check on the



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# Change and continuity coffee culture

### Rooj Alwazir

Coffee culture has historically played a huge role in Yemen. Yemen's maqahi, or coffeehouses, are diverse and have evolved considerably over time. Although some of the country's older cafes live on and people of all generations continue to fill them, at the same time a new kind of coffee culture is emerging. It is one that appeals to the younger generation, which is indicative of the importance and vitality of coffeehouses in contemporary Yemen. In earlier years, Yemen's coffeehouses provided a public space for men only, where they interacted and discussed politics, society and so forth. Now we see women socializing in new coffee shops, signifying a broader shift in the coffee culture of Yemen. Today, Yemeni men, Western expats and tourists are the usual customers of traditional cafes, where shai bil haleeb, or milk tea, and Yemen's age-old Mocha coffee variety is served. But at modern cafes, young middle-class Yemenis sip on lattes as they discuss anything from business to social life and the latest gossip. The resilience of the old coffeehouses and rise of new cafes in Yemen has allowed for both the continuation of coffeehouses as well as the re-imagination of public space.



Men sit around a table and discuss current affairs at Qahwat Hatem.



Shai bil haleeb, or milk tea, at a traditional Yemeni coffeehouse called Qahwat Hatem.

One of the most famous coffee houses is Bab al Yemen, which is run by one man called Hatem. It dates back almost forty years and is located in Old Sana'a. Once a regular haunt for politicos in Sana'a, it is still a popular hub for intellectuals.



# in Yemen's



Mokhtar (Right), the Qahwaji, or barista, at Ameen Cafeteria sits with his customers. Together, they enjoy a traditional Yemeni breakfast called foul.





Yassin, a barista, makes espresso at Coffee Corner.



Beit al-Ma'arifah, The House of Knowledge, opened its doors earlier in 2014. Today, artists, poets and activists meet in these modern coffee shops to debate the issues of the day. Sit together comfortably.



The menu board at the modern Coffee Corner.



Qahwat Hatem is a very busy coffee shop. This older man catches the attention of passersby as he sits alone sipping his coffee.



A small but well-equipped library at Beit al-Ma'arifah.



A woman in a red scarf works on a student project while drinking a cappuccino at Coffee Corner.



# 3 Meters Away:

# Yemen's first reggae band



Al-Asery and his band made their big break in Change Square during the 2011 uprising, where they performed for hundreds of thousands of people.



The trio went to Dibouti and Ethiopia in 2011 to create artistic alliances in Africa. Their tour there was named the Journey of Love and Peace tour.

### Samar Qaed

laying his black-andwhite guitar, Ahmed Asery produces quiet and romantic melodies. Asery is part of the band 3 Meters Away. Though the band is known for its reggae music, they also play rock, pop and bluesdabbling in a bit of everything.

The band is the first reggae band in Yemen, and was established in 2010. The three-person band also consists of Sudanese musician Hassan Al-Malik and Yemeni musician

"We choose to play this type of

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Email: consumables@natco.com.ye

music because we want to deviate from the traditional music," Asery

"We [want] artistic and cultural variety in order to reflect the nuances of society. We choose blues and reggae music because they are associated with calmness, serenity, peace and love we need in this life,"

Asery chose the name for his band because the shares music with people around him in a three-meter

The band has produced three albums and really took off after the 2011 youth uprising, when they played in Change Square in front of

hundreds of thousands of people.

"Yemen's youth revolution inspired us and help determine our path as a band," said Asery.

The positive response the band received in the square encouraged them to keep going, he said.

The deviation from the traditional is not limited to their musical choices. With long dreadlocks, Asery is often asked if he is in fact Yemeni.

While the band played in the square, Asery said various political parties approached 3 Meters Away to ask if the band would perform for

ایمیل: comsumables@natco.com.ye

"They wanted to buy our voices,"

he said. "[Rejecting these offers] helped us win over the audience [at the square]."

Asery recently returned from a year-long stay in Sudan, where he met with Sudanese musicians and artists. The band spent time in Ethiopia and Djibouti in 2011, calling their tour there the Journey of Love and Peace.

The purpose of the trip was to create artistic alliances in Africa. The band also recorded music during the trip.

We went to Addis Ababa to gain experience because it is known for its reggae music," Asery said. "Going to Sudan allowed us to connect

with the youth there, and to make human connections.'

Their most dangerous travels have been in-country, however. In 2012, the band went to Abyan to shed light on a city that has suffered greatly as result of confrontations between the military and Al-Qaeda

Asery, whose family originates from Abyan governorate, said the band wanted to send a message by heading to Abyan.

"We wanted to send a message to civil society organizations: if we could reach the area, they must also go and take action to help the people there."

The band held workshops in the area, targeting local students and teachers. Discussions also centered around the role of villagers in peace building. Because the journey is risky, the band had help reaching the location from the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Culture.

"We hope to produce an album in 2014 that will cover a wide variety of topics. We are also preparing for a play to be performed in Sana'a, titled: The Betrayed Flower's Color Does Not Matter."

The band has been invited to perform in several summer festivals, including festivals in France, Spain, Germany and the U.K.





# BUSINESS AWARD

# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

20 March, 2014

Post Title: **Project Officer (Internal Auditor)** SMED unit (SFD) Organization:

Location: Sana'a

Full time, including six (6) months Duration:

probationary period

No. of Posts:

18/3/2014 Date Announced: 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

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:

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

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

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

facilitate successful implementation of the programme. He/

- 1. Select and train field auditors that will carry out the field auditing of clients in the MFIs.
- Train the field auditors, as needed.
- Carry out field audit of clients in MFIs to ensure that all loans are in place.
- 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.
  - Risk position.
  - 8. Internal policies and procedures.
- D. Ensure that regular audits (in particular annual audits) are completed as per their timelines.
- Provide recommendation for changes on accounting and audit processes to be followed by MFIs.
- Immediately communicate to SMED any critical issues happening in MFIs.
- Advice on the development of the Computerized Accounting System used by MFIs.
- Advice on the development of the Computerized Loan Tracking System used by MFIs.
- Advice on the manual financial and accounting systems used
- by MFIs. Advice on the development of manual and computerized systems used by SMED.
- Review and audit all grant and loans agreements before they are signed between SMED and MFIs, or between SMED and other parties.
- 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.
- 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
- Sound knowledge of microfinance products and delivery mechanisms; experience in senior management at a reputed MFI is highly preferred.
- 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)
- 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: Location:** 

**Duration:** 

Vocational literacy Program Manager Social Fund for Development (SFD) -Headquarter, Sana'a-Yemen

three months probationary period; (with

potential renewal for 4 years) **Time Commitment:** Full time (8 Eight hours per working day)

Consultant Service Contract 1 year including

SFD Education Unit

**Supervisor:** 

business counseling services.

**Program Summary** 

**Operational:** 

Developing results-based Annual Work Plans that clearly set out the quarterly and output targets, indicators, activities, resource requirements, and budget;

experiences from participating Partners (Local and International)

Effective supervision and guidance to project personnel in ensuring effective programme implementation;

brought to bear in project implementation

- Set-up and Implementation of a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation system for the project and regular monitoring of
- 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

### PROFILE REQUIRED FOR THE PROJECT MANAGER

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

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
- Ability to innovate and propose new approaches
- Ability to deal with emergencies and stressful situations at any
- Consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude;

Leads teams effectively and shows conflict resolution skills;

- Demonstrates strong writing, facilitation, and presentation
- 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
- 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
- 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.

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES Project and Line Management**

Coordinators and national counterparts.

- 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







# FROM THE AIRWAVES

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

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



الماده 19 هو برنامج توعوى يتحدث عن حق الفرد والمجتمع في حربة التعبير عن الرأي التي كُفلت كفاله كاملة بالنص الصريح بالماده 19 في العهد الدوليُّ للحقوق المدنية والسياسية ، والإَّعلانُ العالمي لحقوق الْإِنْسانُ والتي نصت على أنه لكل شُخص الحق في حرية الرأي والتعبير، ويشمل هذا الحق حرية اعتناق الأراء وإذاعتها بأي وسيله كانت دون تقيد بالحدود الجغرافية.

هذا البرنامج يبث كل أربعاء الساعة 8 مساء و يعاد يوم السبت الساعة 11 صباحا على أثير راديويمن تايمز 91,9.

# Women and freedom of expression

This episode focuses on women and their freedom of speech during the revolution and their participation in this pivotal moment of Yemen's modern history. It also touches on the quota for female representation and whether it serves women, as well as Yemeni women's presence in the media. The following is an interview with **Zafran Al-**Mahna, a journalist and the head of Enma Al-Sharq Center for Human Development, and Samr Al-Jarbani, an activist and the head of Nataj Foundation for Community Development.

Could you us tell about the role women played in the squares during the youth revolution?

Al-Jarbani: Women's attendance was amazing at a time when all [sorts of] people took to the streets, calling for change. Yemeni society is conservative and women have not have access to all their rights. So, it was really a revolt of the women.

Is it true women are being used as a means [to achieve political goals]?

Al-Muhana: This is true to some extent. In spite of this, women have amazed the world when they participated in different political components and parties and in the pro-regime and anti-regime squares. Their participation was powerful and surprising to men, raising the question: what is the origin of this power and meaningfulness behind the issues they are raising? The men may have brought women in as a political maneuver, but now she shares seats with

Al-Jarbani: Women were not cynically used in the revolution. They took to the streets, refusing to be used. Women demanded the right to be partners in the political process.

### Zafran Al-Mahna:

The public now knows that some sides were simply using religion to serve politics.

Do you think the quota is enough to make women's voices heard?

Al-Muhana: There is a difference between article 19 and the social culture. The Yemeni woman has struggled to build the nation. She works and studies. Though she takes the cattle out to graze in rural areas and hauls home firewood, she also goes to school. Talking about such issues does not mean women are siding with certain parties or sides. As women, we want to have our rights.

With regard to the quota, I do not believe in it and I reject it. How can you give me 30 percent while I am 80 percent of your life. I am the mother, the sister, the daughter, the wife, the nurse and the teacher. I call for women to avoid political infighting or to pledge allegiance to political parties. Women need to stick together and demand their rights.

Are women given the opportunity to express themselves in the media? Have women really been free to express themselves after 2011?

Al-Muhana: Give me names of female managers and ministers who were suppressed prior to 2011. I

### **CALLERS**

Saeed Rawih: Woman proved herself strong in 2011 when she was in the front rows of the protests. Yemeni women broke the glass ceiling in 2011. Now she appears in front of the world as a journalist, doctor and a politician. Proof of the Yemeni woman's strength is when Tawakul Karman won the Nobel Peace am talking about the female teachers and mothers who raised us. I blame the man, who was not just to the woman though she works as a nurse, doctor, broadcaster, correspondent, ambassador, minister or housewife. The world did not know about them.

Religiously, was a female presence in the squares forbidden?

Al-jarbani: Women's participation in the square was comparable to women's participation in the wars during the Prophet Mohammed's era. Women took part in the uprising to win their rights. As an educated woman, it is my duty to call for the rights of women who live in rural areas. Now, women living in rural areas should play a role in the educational process. We should not forget that our current failure is because of women's illiteracy.

Al-Muhana: The public now knows that some sides were simply using religion to serve politics. All social groups—children, youth and women, were manipulated. This has been clear. The grassroots organizers and demonstrators do not trust religious leaders any more, whatever the temptations are.

What are the solutions that enable the

### Samr Al-Jarbani:

Women were not cynically used in the revolution. They took to the streets, refusing to be used.

woman to take part in different aspects of

Al-Jarbani: Awareness needs to be raised in society. This awareness should be raised in the family. I think the solution now is the implementation of the NDC outcomes though these outcomes please some factions and displease others. If there will be cooperation in society, Yemen will be okay.

Al-Muhana: We should also ask if man has obtained his rights. Everyone should have their rights, and we should all be concerned with each other and ensuring that everyone has justice.

What is your message to every sister, mother and wife?

Al-Muhana: There must be a separation between the woman and politics in the society. But if the woman wants to play a role in politics, she should be aware that when she takes part in politics, she will have lots of enemies—possibly her father, brother or teacher. If she enters the political field, she should know she will

There must be initiatives to raise awareness about women's rights in society. This awareness will fight the perceived, negative competition that will exist between women and men. The Yemeni woman is the best in the world, and she will still have a man to care

Al-Jarbani: My message to everyone is love yourself. And that anything society wants to reach will be through women. Woman is the mother, the wife and the teacher, and man is the leader whom she takes pride in. My message to women is that you have rights and as long as you know your rights, you have

# المرأة وحرية الرأى والتعبير

ناقش برنامج المادة 19 هذا الأسبوع موضوع المرأة وحرية الرأي والتعبير أثناء ثورة التغيير وتواجدها في ساحات الثورة ذلك الوقت. ناقشت الحلقة أيضاً نظام الكوتا وهل سيمكن المرأة من الحصول على التغيير الذي تصبو إليه بالإضافة إلى ظهور المرأة في المجال الإعلامي وهل سيؤثر ذلك على المجتمع. استضافت الحلقة زعفران المهنى، إعلامية و رئيسة مركز إنماء الشرق للتنمية الإنسانية، وسمر الجرباني، ناشطة ورئيسة مؤسسة نتاج للتنمية المجتمعية.

المرة لابد أن يكون لها دور داخل العملية التربوية والتعليمية ولا حديثينا عن الدور الذي لستيم أثناء تواجدك في ننسى أن الفشل الذي وصل له المجتمع إلى الآن هو بسبب عدم

زعفران المهنى: الآن انكشفت أوراق اللعبة السياسية الدينية للشارع انكشفت للمجتمع، لقد استخدموا جميع فئات المجتمع شباب أطفال نساء وأصبح الشارع لا يثق بالرجل الديني مهما كانت

ما هي الحلول الموجودة لكي تشارك المرأة في جميع الأصعدة المجتمعية؟

سمر الجرباني: المجتمع بحاجة إلى توعيه وهذه التوعية تتم من داخل الأسرة والآن الحل هو تطبيق مخرجات الحوار الوطني بكل ما تم الاتفاق عليه سوى كانت مرضيه لأطراف أو غير مرضية لأطراف والمفُروض أن يتكاتف الجميع وبعدها ستكون اليمن بخير.

زعفران المهنى: يجب أن نعى هل نال الرجل الحقوق ونعي هل هناك توعيه يتكاتف فيها جميع قيادات المجتمع ممثلة بالإرادة السياسية لكي توجه الكل بأن يؤسسوا هذا المجتمع ولكي يؤخذ

وعندما يكون هناك توعيه أن لكل مجتهداً نصيب لن يُفرض على أحد نسباً معينه ولن يكون هناك ندية وسيحترم الطرفين

### زعفران المهني: أصبح الشارع لا يثق بالرجل الديني مهما كانت المغريات.

رسالة أخيرة لكم توجهونها لكل أخت ومربية وزوجه

زعفران المهنئ: يجب أن يفصل بين المرأة السياسية والمرأة داخل المجتمع لأنه إذا أرادت أن تلعب المرأة اللعبة السياسية يجب أن تكونّ على قدر من التوعية والتحصين لأنها حين تلعب اللعبة السياسية يخرج لها أعداء النجاح قد يكون أباها وأخوها وعمها وأستاذها أو شيخا في الحارة أو أستاذها في الجامعة. إذا دُخلت الميدان السياسيّ يجبُّ أن تعلم انه لن يكون لُّها أصدقاء بل محاصصة ومقاسمة سيأسية

وما يخص المرأة في المجتمع اليمني وهذه الهم والأغلى يجب أن يكون هناك مبادرات تعمل على توعية كل أفراد المجتمع وأن تسعى دائماً لعدم خلق الندية في أفراد الأسرة في البيت من اجل أن يكون هناك فرص في المجتمع للتنافس والاستثمار بينهم البين. والمرأة اليمنية هي الأفضل من بين نساء العالم لأنها هي المقدرة والمحبوبة وهي من يأخذ لها حقا حين يعتدي عليها أياً كان في حارتها أو قريتها وما زال هناك رجل يحتويها ويُقدم لها اللقمة منّ

سمر الجرباني: رسالتي للمجتمع هي حبوا أنفسكم والسور الذي نريد أن نصل إليه سيكون عن طريق، فألرجل هو القائد الذي تفخّر به المرأة، المرأة هي الأم والمعينة والزوجة والمربية فالرسالة هي . لكل امرأة حقوقها وطالما أنتى تعرفى حقوقك، دافعي عنها وعن

### مداخلات هاتفية

سعيد راوح: أثبتت المرأة في 2011 أنها قوية عندما حرجت متظاهرة في الصفّ الأمامي. المرأة اليمنية كسرت العقدة في 2011 والآن ظهرت أمام العالم كطبيبة وصحفية والسياسية الدليل حين حازت توكل كرمان على نوبل للسلام.

أكرم الشرجبى: المرأة أثبتت أنها قادرة على انتزاع حقوقها بجدارة ليست بمحاصصة حزبية أو سياسية أو غيره. والمطلوب من الجهات الحكومية أن يعطوا

الساّحة إبان الثورة الشبابية السلمية؛

سمر الجرباني: كان خروج المرأة للمشاركة في الثورة مبهر ومذهلٌ في الوقت الذي خرج فيه كل الشعب للمطَّالبة بالتغيير. اليمن مجتَّمِع محافظ ولم تنل المرأة كافة حقوقها حتى الآنَّ. والمفترض أن تكون ثورة المرأة ضعف ثورة الرجل.

هل صحيح أن المرأة تستخدم كوسيلة؟

زعفران المهنى: إلى حد كبير هذه الكلام صحيح المرأة استخدمت كوسيلة وأبهرت العالم بإنجازها عندما كانت تحت طائلة هذه الوسيلة، فكانت مشاركتها على جميع التكوينات وجميع الأجزاب والساحتين المؤيدة والمناوئة في تلك الفترة وكانت مشاركتها قوية وأذهلت الرجل وجعلته يقف ويتساءل من أين جاءت بهذه القوة والإيمان بالقضية، وهو يخاطب نفسه نحن أتينا بها كوسيلة والآن تقاسمناً في المناصب.

معمر الجرباني: المرأة لم تُستخدم كوسيلة في الثورة بل خرجت ضد أن تكون وسيله أو رقم لرفع المحصلة في الانتخابات والنظام السابق اكبر مثال. المرأة خرجت تطالب بحقوقها وأن تكون شريك في العملية السياسية.

هل تعتقدي أن نظام الكوتا كافي وهل سيمثل دور وصوت عالى للمرأة؟

زعفران المهنئ: يوجد فرق في وجود المادة 19 ووجود ثقافة مجتمع، والمرأة اليمنية الموجودة التي حافظت على البلد إلى الآن ما زالت تعطى وتعمل وتدرس وتجمع بين مفارقتين. إنها ريفية راعية غنم وحاملة للحطب وتذهب للمدرسة، الموضوع ليس أن نتزاحم لكي نلمع قوى، الموضوع هي أن نوجد حقوقنا كنساء ونحن موجودات وأوجدنا رجل يمنى وكانت مدافعه في 26 سبتمبر و14

بالنسبة لنظام الكوتا، أنا ارفضه ولست مؤمنة به لان كيف تعطيني 30٪ و أنا أخذ 80٪ من حياتك؛ أنا الأم والأخت والزوجة والابنة والمدرسة والممرضة وأنا الطلب التعرى من المصالح

المرأة لم تُستخدم كوسيلة في الثورة بل خرجت ضد أن تكون وسيلة أو رقم لرفع المحصلة في الانتخابات والنظام السابق اكبر مثال.

السياسية والتقاسم السياسي للمناصب القيادية في جميع الأحزاب لكى تأخذ المرأة حقوقها.

هل فعلاً وجدت المرأة حرية التعبير والحقوق الأخرى بعد العام 2011؟

زعفران المهنى: أعطني أسماء لمديرات وزيرات كن مضطهدات قبل عام. 2011 أنا أتكلم عن أستاذات وأمهات تربينا على أيديهن واعتب على العم سعيد الذي يهضم حق أمه وأخته وأمي وأختي وخالتى وعمتى ونحن من ذهبنا لنعمل ممرضات وطبيبات ومذيعاتً وفنانات ومغنيات ومراسلات وسفيرات ووزيرات وربات بيوت كل هؤلاء لم يكن يعلم عنهم العالم. وأنا كامرأة اعتز انه لدي أخ وزوج وابن في الميدان وادفع بهم أن يكونوا وزراء وأصحاب مراكز

في السياق الديني هل كان هناك حالة تحريم لوجود المرأة في السياحات؟

سمر الجرباني: وجود المرأة في الساحات كان نفسه كما كانت في عهد الرسول تُشاركُ في الغزواتُ وهي شاركت لانتزاع حقوقها ومن حقي أنا كمتعلمة أن أطالب بحقوق المرأة في الريف وهذه











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- ىكالربوس-لغة انحليزية -دبلوم كمبيوتر - خبرة مراسلات تجارية سنتين. يرغب العمل في الفترة الصباحية. 733778849
- هندية الأصل حاصلة على دبلوم انجليزي وسكرتارية بتقدير ممتاز لديها خبرة في الجرافيكس والترجمة والمراسلات التجارية, لديها خبرة في ادارة التسويق والمبيعات, تريد العمل في تعز. 736653489
- يوسف على الرازقي -مهندس تقنية معلومات وحاسوب 771293966
- معتز عبداللطيف حداد -مهندس تقنية معلومات وحاسوب 733984178

- بكالريوس محاسبة, خبرة في الحسابات والمراجعة لمدة 8 سنوات, دیلوم کمپیوتر, الاصدار السادس من يمن سوفت وكذك نظام الأونكس برو الشامل. 770705472, 733079882
- مهندس مدنی, خبرة سنتین, لغة انجليزية ممتازة. 777055889
- بكالربوس ترجمة جامعة صنعاء - خبرة في المراسلات التجارية والأعمال الادارية أكثر من 6 سنوات - يرغب في العمل في الفترة فقط . ا لمسا ئىة 777991248
- بكالريوس لغة انجليزية خبرة سنتين في مجال التدريس . اجادة استخدام الكمبيوتر والأنترنت. للتواصل/

وزارة الصحة العامة والسكان

- بكالوريوس محاسبه وإدارة أعمال وديلوم لغة إنجليزية، خبرة طويلة في إدارة الحسابات والمراسلات التجارية باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية في اليمن والسعودية، مستعد للعمل
- مدرس متخصص يرغب في اعطاء دروس خصوصية للصف التاسع في الرباضيات والعربى والانجليزي والعلوم لطلاب المدارس الحكومية. 734680597

فوراً، حوال: 715608677

- مهندس شبكات, شهادة بكالريوس في الاتصالات والشبكات وشهادة Sisco في مجال الشبكات مستعد للعمل فورا. 770497062
- بكالريوس محاسبة, خبرة 10

بنك كاليون

بونابتد بنك لمبتد

(Budget ) زاوية

بنك كاك الاسلامي بنك اليمن والكويت للتجارة والانشاءات

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سنوات في مراجعة وادارة الحسابات, قدرة التعامل مع ا لمحا سيية ا لا نظمة الالكترونية, اجادة الانجليزية, حاصل على شهادة ايزو. 733913209

• ماجستير محاسبة - 8 سنوات خبرة في (الحسابات -المراجعة - الرقابة) أخرها رئيس قسم المراجعه - إجادة اللغة الإنجليزية (كتابة -محادثة ) - إجادة إستخدام الحاسوب - إجادة البرامج المحاسبية (خاصة يمن سوفت) - دورات عدیدة فی العلوم المالية والمصرفية والإدراية. 714796729 -737299730



•المركز الكندى للتدريب

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فندق شهران - صنعاء

مستشفى الثورة

مستشفى الجمهوري

وتنمية القدرات بحاجة إلى فاكس: 525124

۰۰ أن تدعـــوكم

وترحب بكم على ركب اسطولها الحديث ورحلاتها

المنتظمة وعلى بساط الراحة ندعوكم إلى رحابنا

لنشد الرحال معا صباحا ومساء إلم جميع المحافظات

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كلمات متقاطعة

### تلفاکس: ۱/٤٤٠٨٤٠ موبایل: ۷۳۳٤٥٥٦٤٥ مدرسة رينبو مدارس صنعاء الدولية مدرسة التركيه الدوليه

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مطاعم

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### عجائب وغرائب

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هناك نوع من النمل الأفريقي يبني بيوتا تشبه المسلات تحقق لها نوعا من التكييف فتفتح نوافذ سفلية لإدخال الهواء البارد ونوافذ علوية لإخراج الهواء السَّاخن. ويعيش هذا النوع من النمل حياة طبقية عجيبة, فلكل منها مساكنه الخاصة, وكثير من النمل العامل داخل الخلية تشتغل بلقمتها.

### حكمت العدد

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الليييييل على مهله على مهله.

الحلول بالمقلوب

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مالطية

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Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language newspaper

# How equal rights boost food security

**IRIN** First published March 14

liminating the gender gap in agriculture is widely seen as crucial to alleviating poverty and improving food security, and the effects of inequality are likely to be further compounded by climate change.

"For global development to be sustainable, the issues of climate change, gender equality and food security must all go hand-in-hand," said Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and head of the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice, told a recent meeting of experts in Rome convened to mark International Women's day.

"Family farmers are the dominant force in global food production. And, at the same time, they are among the world's most vulnerable people," Food and Agriculture Director-General José Graziano Da Silva said at the gathering.

"Much of the future of global food security depends on their realizing



Verdiana Msuya and her daughter sieving cereals to remove soilimpurities in Mangio village, Mwanga District, Tanzania.

SHARP هي الأقوى والالتجج والالكثر العالم مبيعاً في العالم المرس معرض المرس Pay for Print/CRD MX-M753N/U MX-M623N/U Large Workgroup MX-M503/M453/M363N/U/283N X-M354N/M314N/M264N MX-M232D/M202D/ M182D/M182 Small Office AR-5623/N/D **Home Office** 

their untapped potential. Rural women are an important part of this, not just as famers but also in processing and preparing food, and local markets," he added.

But, in many countries such as Tanzania, an outmoded system of land tenure continues to shut women out of land ownership. Despites strong laws prohibiting the practice, women farmers still face discrimination.

Asha Ramadhani, a farmer in Tanzania's Mwanga District, has been trying to access a piece of land she desperately needs to boost her meagre crop output. "It's a tricky and frustrating process because I am a woman my issue is treated as a favour rather than a right," she complained.

Local attitudes to land ownership make it difficult for them to access the best land.

The 44-year-old divorcee has in the past three years been leasing a two-acre farm near Mangio village where she grows maize, beans, vegetables and sweet potatoes.

While farming in this village is based on tenancy through exchange of crops, drier weather is making it harder for Ramadhani to pay her lease due to dismal yields.

"My landlord wants a quarter of my crop vield every season as lease payment, but the drought makes it harder to come by," she told IRIN.

Women own only 20 percent of registered land in Tanzania, according to a US Agency for International development (USAID) property rights and resource governance country profile for Tanzania, and land held by women under customary law is likely to be much

The Land Act and the Village Land Act of 1999 govern women's land rights. The constitution of Tanzania also enshrines the equality of all persons.

The law gives women the right to access, own, and control land on an equal footing with men and allows them to participate in decisionmaking on land matters.

Section 3(2) of both the Land Act

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"The right of every woman to acquire, hold, use and deal with land shall, to the same extent and subject to the same restrictions, be treated as the right of any man." Women are also allowed to own or occupy land jointly with other persons, while protecting them

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tittles under joint occupancy. But legislation is insufficiently enforced.

against unlawful transfer of land

All over Mwanga district, women are finding it increasingly difficult to access land and water sources in the face of ever drier weather.

"Most people with large tracts of land are men; there are hardly [any] women who own land, especially close to the water sources," Ramadhani told IRIN.

The village land ownership procedure gives men the upper hand, she said. "Many of my friends have lost hope because whenever they lodge their request for land they don't succeed," she added.

The few women who manage to navigate the bureaucracy end up getting small plots-and far from water sources.

"Women own less than 1 percent of land in the African continent"

Anna Tibaijuka, Tanzania's minster for land and human settlement. development, told IRIN men and women should be treated equally in terms of land ownership, but said that, "Importantly, the people must know their rights and not let anyone trample on them."

### "Discriminatory attitudes"

Yefred Mnyenzi of Haki Ardhi, a Lands Rights NGO in Tanzania, told IRIN that most women have access to land through male relatives, adding that unmarried daughters, widows and divorced women are often "bullied" by their male relatives.

"In some cases husbands have been using title deeds to secure loans without the knowledge of their wives, causing evictions or loss of their property," he said.

Lack of awareness, a male dominated system, social stereotypes and outdated traditions are some of the challenges undermining women's land rights in Tanzania. "The general population must be

sufficiently educated to understand these issues," Mnyenzi said.

وؤسسة بن ثابت للتجارة

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"Women are typically given few or no rights to land during their marriages—never being permitted, for example, to add their names to documents indicating ownership of property—and even fewer upon the death of a husband," noted the USAID report.

"Customary law focuses property rights on men or kinship groups dominated by men, and thus the ability of women to claim or inherit land is extremely limited," it said.

According to Mnyenzi, the government needs to decentralize land administration to allow grassroots communities to participate in decision-making and economic empowerment and fight discriminatory customs, beliefs and attitudes.

"In situations where women are degraded to an inferior position in the society due to cultural norms, we need to have support systems that enable them to own and use land without problems," Mary Lusibi, a women's rights activist with Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, told IRIN.

### **Continent-wide problem**

Such discriminatory practices aren't just limited to Tanzania. Women own less than 1 percent of land in the African continent, notes William Garvelink, senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"While statutory law may be gender neutral, customary law prevails and is based on a patriarchal system. Securing property rights for women is crucial to the economic development of Africa," he said.

Experts are calling for equitable land rights to be included in the post-Millennium Development Goals (MDG) agenda.

"The post-2015 agenda should include targets and related indicators on secure rights to land, natural resources and other productive assets that explicitly include women's rights," said a statement by 38 international organizations.

"Securing women's land and property rights is a necessary strategy for ensuring gender inequality and advancing women's empowerment worldwide," said a background paper for the UN global thematic consultations on the post-2015 development agenda.

"There is an evident correlation between gender inequality, societal poverty, and the failure to respect, protect and fulfill these rights for women," further noted the report, authored by Mayra Gomez of the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and D. Hein Tran of the Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights.

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Smith Meters / LACT Units/

**ULTRASONIC Meters** 

Mechanical Srvs.

Manpower

Supply

Calibration &