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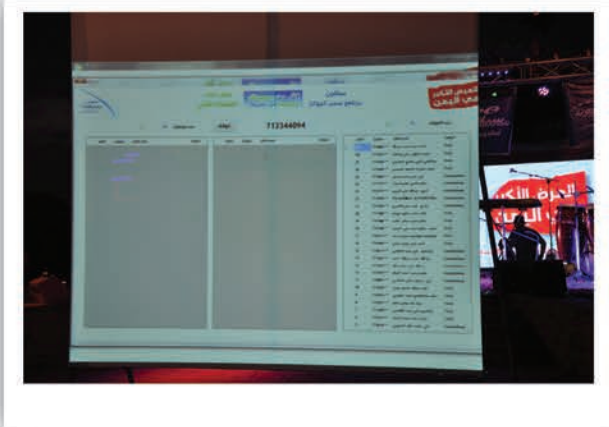
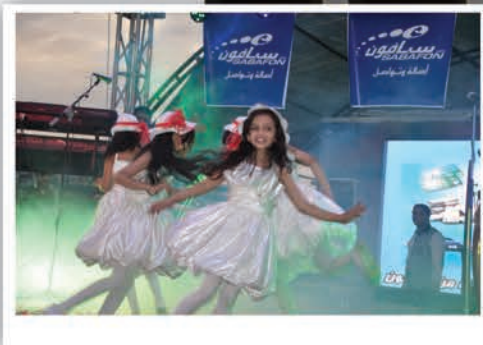
Sabafon celebrated last Wednesday the first draw of in a grand celebration at Fun City Park 2 Surprise Card .where many entertainment events took place During the celebration a number of valuable prizes were distributed in the presence of the company's staff and managers including Mohammed Al-Shami Senior Strategy & Business Development Manager and Mohammed .Al-Obadi Communications Manager

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# Tribal groups attempt to broker peace in Abyan, Shabwa

Story by **Ali Saeed** and **Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

**SANA'A, May 6**—Separate tribal groups are attempting to broker peace between the military and alleged Al-Qaeda militants in Abyan and Shabwa governorates after a week of fighting.

Tribal sheikhs from the Bakazim tribe in Abyan governorate told the Yemen Times on Tuesday that they are seeking to mediate between the army and Al-Qaeda militants to bring an end to the fighting.

The tribe is located in the Al-Mahfad district, which has been the scene of heavy fighting over the last few days. The tribe says it is seeking to avoid further civilian deaths and wants the military to evacuate the area.

The Defense Ministry's news site on Tuesday quoted an anonymous military source who said that the security forces would not negotiate with Al-Qaeda under any circumstances.

"There is no choice for Yemen but to eliminate terrorists from the country," the source said.

Saleh Al-Kazimi, a tribal sheikh from Al-Mahfad, told the Yemen Times that the tribe held a meeting on Monday and agreed to offer itself as a mediator between the army and Al-Qaeda.

"Although we support the army in its fight against Al-Qaeda militants, we want to stop this war because it will destroy the district. We want to avoid the destruction," said Al-Kazimi.

"Some Al-Qaeda militants belong to Al-Mahfad district. We want them to hand over their weapons, repent, and to live their lives like other citizens. We, the sheikhs, decided to force our tribesmen who are engaged in the fighting to give up their weapons. We have assured them that they will not be killed or handed over to the government," Al-Kazimi added.



Tribal sheikhs in Abyan and Shabwa say they want to mediate between the army and militants. The army says it will not negotiate with Al-Qaeda and will eliminate them "at any cost".

During the meeting it was decided that ten sheikhs would negotiate with other tribal leaders who are lending support to Al-Qaeda, while four other sheikhs have been assigned to negotiate with the leadership of the Fourth Military Region as a precursor to mediation efforts, Al-Kazimi said.

A high-ranking officer from the Fourth Military Region told the Yemen Times that the force has not yet met with the sheikhs but that they would reject mediation efforts.

Residents voiced varying views on the possibility of mediation. Some expressed concern that mediation would give militants an opportunity to re-group in a different area.

In Shabwa governorate, which neighbors Abyan, local tribal leaders on Tuesday evening agreed on a peace plan that would suspend confrontations in the area, Sheikh

Hamid Al-Karibi, a prominent local leader in Shabwa, told the Yemen Times.

The plan would see local tribesmen helping security forces deploy in the Maifa district of Shabwa, while Al-Qaeda militants in the district would cease attacks on the military, surrender their heavier weapons, and turn in foreign fighters, according to Al-Karibi.

Armed forces in Shabwa could not be reached for comment on the proposed agreement.

Saeed Ubaid Al-Jimhi, chairman of the Al-Jemhi Studies Center that has conducted research on Al-Qaeda in Yemen, told the Yemen Times that "tribes in the war zone are affected negatively by the fighting in their areas and that is why they [tribesmen] propose mediation."

"They want Al-Qaeda militants out of their areas," he said.

He doubted that Al-Qaeda would turn in its foreign fighters to the Yemeni army or hand over weapons.

The army entered Jawl Raida city, the capital of Maifa district, on Wednesday morning, according to Salim Al-Sayel, a journalist in Shabwa.

The situation has been relatively calm since Tuesday evening after a week of clashes between the army and the militants, said one soldier who is taking part in the fighting in Shabwa.

The soldier told the Yemen Times that 13 troops were killed in an ambush late last week.

"We do not know how many militants were killed because when they attack us, we fire back and they flee," said the soldier, who requested anonymity because he is not allowed to speak to the press.

Civilians in Jawl Raida and areas

near the conflict zone have already fled their homes to Ataq city, Al-Sayel said.

Shabwa Alhdath, a local news website, on Sunday quoted Heif Al-Fadhool of the Rights and Freedoms group, a Yemeni NGO, as saying "the army and the armed groups in some areas [of Shabwa] use citizens as human shields and they [citizens] are vulnerable to blockade and displacement."

"The army must exercise the maximum level of caution when civilians are in a war zone," the organization stressed.

According to Al-Sayel, the conflict has resulted in food shortages and massive price hikes.

Fahd Ahmed Ali, a soldier in the Fourth Military Region which is operating in Abyan, said General Mahmoud Al-Subaihi, the commander of the sector, gave Al-Qaeda militants a 48-hour grace period commencing on Monday evening to hand over their weapons. According to Ali, the general warned that the military would enter the Dhaiqa valley, where some militants have stationed themselves, if the order was not complied with.

On Wednesday, the state-run Saba news agency reported that the army had entered Dhaiqa valley.

The Defense Ministry also said Al-Qaeda militants blew-up a government compound in Al-Mahfad on Tuesday. The Yemen Times could not independently verify the claim.

The military, along with the Popular Committees, began the offensive on militants in Abyan and Shabwa on April 29. The fighting has left thousands displaced and scores dead on both sides.

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## EU ambassador rejects evacuation rumors

■ **Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

**SANA'A, May 7**—The EU ambassador to Yemen strongly rejected rumors on Wednesday that EU staff had been evacuated from the country following the killing of a French national in an attack on Hadda Street in the capital on Monday.

However, two individuals who work for the EU and declined to be named told the Yemen Times that foreign staff had been evacuated.

"All are out except one," according to one source.

The French national was killed and two others were injured when their vehicle came under fire in Sana'a's busy commercial center. The other foreign national was severely injured in the attack. A third colleague, a Yemeni national, has recovered fully from the light injuries he sustained. The three men worked for a private security company that was contracted by the EU.

The EU ambassador to Yemen, Bettina Muscheidt, strongly denied to the Yemen Times that her staff had been evacuated.

"I am deeply disturbed by rumors spread about us evacuating. We are in mourning of a lost friend and pray for the one who survived," Muscheidt said. "The EU continues to support Yemen's transition with unwavering commitment."

Muscheidt said the EU Delegation is in direct contact with the

Interior Ministry and is closely following up on the issue in order to establish the facts. The delegation is also calling for due process to be respected.

Staff who were close to those attacked need to recover, Muscheidt said, and others have gone on mission to headquarters. She told the Yemen Times that the EU delegation remains open and that EU staff, including herself, remain in the country.

However, an employee at the EU told the Yemen Times that the EU delegation has been shut down, "until further notice."

In the past couple of weeks the EU had received threats from Al-Qaeda, which accused the organization of complicity in the counter-terrorism operations in the country, the source said.

The EU's High Representative Catherine Ashton has condemned the attack on the EU Delegation's security team in Yemen in strong terms, saying:

"I condemn in the strongest terms the killing today, in Sana'a, of a member of the team providing security to the EU Delegation and the wounding of two others," said the EU's High Representative Catherine Ashton in a statement released on Tuesday.

"The EU's presence in Yemen aims only to assist the country in its transition to democracy and in its economic development. To target persons engaged in this effort is evil and senseless."

## Judges call for partial return to work

■ **Nasser Al-Sakkaf**

**SANA'A, May 7**—Judges on Wednesday partially resumed work in courts nationwide after the Yemeni Judges Club released a statement on Sunday calling on them to return to work two days per week in order to resolve urgent cases.

The club called on judges to resume working on Wednesdays and Thursdays after an initiative proposed by the Isnad Center for Strengthening Judicial Independence and Rule of Law. The initiative aims to resolve the disagreement between the government and judges.

"The judges demand protection for all judicial institutions and have made financial demands, but nothing has happened so far. However, we resumed work, taking into con-

sideration the current situation of the country," said Redhwan Al-Omais, the media officer of the club.

The judges went on strike on March 26 in protest against the abduction of Judge Mohammed Al-Sorori from the Criminal Court in Hajja governorate. Al-Sorori was released on April 3.

"We decided to resume working for two days a week to resolve the urgent cases that take about 24 hours, but we will not work on cases that require a long time," said Al-Omais.

There are about 700 judges nationwide, while 8,000 judges are needed to resolve all cases in the country, according to Al-Omais.

Al-Omais said that they resumed the strike because the annual leave of judges is about to begin. The

leave lasts for about 70 days.

In mid-April, the Supreme Judicial Council, the highest judicial institution in Yemen, called on judges to call off the strike. The judges refused.

"We will continue the strike even after the annual leave unless our demands are met," Al-Omais added.

Faisal Al-Majedi, head of the Isnad Center, said that the judges reached a deadlock in negotiations with the government, so the center proposed an initiative that would take into consideration both the judges' demands as well as the dire economic and political situation in the country.

Judges continue to demand protection and the arrest of those who abducted Al-Sorori.

"The Supreme Security Committee reacted to the initiative by

agreeing to provide a mechanism to protect the judges and pledging to implement it within the upcoming days," he added.

Al-Majedi said that committees from various human rights organizations would visit prisons and report on the prisoners who have been due for release since the strike began.

"Some inmates were acquitted but they are still in prison and this is illegal," said Abdulla Rajeh, head of the Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate.

Rajeh said that the judges should resume work and demand their rights, adding that two days a week are not enough to finalize the urgent cases, particularly because the annual leave of judges is due soon.

Certain criminal, commercial, and personal cases will not be addressed, according to Al-Majedi.



Central Bank employees visit colleagues' kidnapper

## Strike ongoing

■ **Nasser Al-Sakkaf**

**SANA'A, May 7**—Employees from the Central Bank of Yemen's branch in Al-Jawf governorate remain without pay for April as five of their colleagues continue to be held by tribesmen. About forty employees visited one of the kidnappers at his home in Al-Jawf, demanding the release of their colleagues.

Employees say they made the visit to help secure the release of the captives. Employees have been on strike since April 20. They are demanding the release of their colleagues and for the punishment of the kidnappers, in order to deter future kidnappings.

Saleh Monem, deputy director of the central bank in Al-Jawf, said the bank is working to release the captives.

"We will not resume work unless our col-

leagues are released in order to prevent any future assaults," he added.

Staff say they worry that kidnapping Central Bank employees could catch on as a way for groups or individuals to have their grievances heard.

Abdusallam Al-Aji, one of the kidnappers, told the Yemen Times that he was part of the group that kidnapped the employees on April 17.

"We received the visiting employees with open arms, but could not allow them to visit their captive colleagues unless Governor Mohammed Bin Salem Abboud comes himself to negotiate our demands with us," said Al-Aji.

Al-Aji said the captives are in good health and are being treated as guests. He denied affiliation to any terror groups.

Among his demands is to talk with the governor about the killing of his brother

Ali Al-Aji, who he said was assassinated on Aug. 25, 2013 in Sana'a. Al-Aji said he has another major demand for the governor, but declined to say what it was.

Talal Al-Azani, the press secretary of Al-Jawf governorate, said the governor of Al-Jawf is doing his best to convince the bank's governor and employees to resume work.

"The governor has sent a representative to [Abdusallam Al-Aji], but he is demanding to be appointed director of the bank in the governorate," Al-Azani added.

Al-Azani said that Al-Jawf is like any other Yemeni governorate and that military force is not the solution for all problems. The governorate is open to negotiations with the abductors, he said.

"Resuming work at the bank is the sole solution. The kidnapped can further remain with Al-Aji as long as they are secure and have their basic needs met," he added.

## Cold case reopened after two decades

■ **Madiha Al-Junaid**

**SANA'A, May 5**—Mohammed Al-Kamil, sentenced to death in absentia for the murder of his aunt in 2004, was arrested Friday, according to Major Abdo Salah, the deputy manager of security operations in Taiz governorate.

Al-Kamil was apprehended in Mo'aath Bin Jabal mosque in Taiz city wearing a wig.

Nabeel Sabra, an officer at the security operations of Taiz governorate, said that suspicions were aroused by Al-Kamil's wig and security officers initially suspected him of being mentally unstable.

Sabra said that interrogations revealed he was wanted for murder.

"He gave us a false name—Mohammed Morshid. However, when we did a search and contacted the security operations, we found out that he is a wanted murderer whose cold case goes back approximately

20 years," said Sabra.

Salah said that Al-Kamil's wig raised suspicions.

"Al-Kamil gave a strange story to investigators, claiming that he was ordered to wear a wig while in the mosque on that holy day by a Sufi leader whom he visited to help seek forgiveness," said Salah.

He added that Al-Kamil has been on the move and has lived in various parts of the country over the past two decades. He is said to have also spent some time in Saudi Arabia.

Colonel Razzaz Sofyan Al-Kamil, sheikh of the Al-Taizia area of Taiz and its security manager, told the Yemen Times that Mohammed Al-Kamil is one of his relatives and that the case has been open for so long that a lot must have been forgotten.

"Even if the families haven't forgotten, legal procedures have to be re-done because the sentence was in absentia," said Colonel Al-Kamil.

## Prisoner found dead in Taiz

■ **Madiha Al-Junaid**

**SANA'A, May 7**—A prisoner being held at the Central Prison in Taiz allegedly committed suicide in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

The prisoner was serving his last year in jail. He was imprisoned since June 2010, according to Abdunaser Al-Junaid, the prisons' prosecution deputy in Taiz.

Family members of the deceased visited the prison to collect the body, said Al-Junaid.

The prisoner allegedly hanged himself using his shawl. "According to the other prisoners, the man went to the bathroom [after midnight] and stayed for a long time there while leaving the water running, which made his fellow prisoners suspicious. They found his

dead body hanging by his shawl that was tied to pipes," said Al-Junaid.

The victim was serving a five year sentence and was faced with a fine of over 5 million Yemeni Riyals (US \$23,265) in compensation to an individual he shot and wounded, according to Tawfeeq Al-Shouaib, the chairman of the Taiz team of the rights group the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedom (HOOD).

"There have been rumors saying that he committed suicide in protest against the [ongoing] judges strike, however, that can't be true given that the judgment against him was already issued," said Al-Shouaib.

"I believe he was desperate as he had no money to pay for the recompense," he added.

He said that there are lingering uncertainties and that although initial evidence suggests suicide, he is unsure whether or not others were involved.

"I told him that there were no indications of struggle marks on his body of which is said to be a normal suicide case," said Al-Junaid.

Abdu Molhi, who has been working as a coroner since 1990, said "there were no indications of struggle marks on his body, which is typical in suicide cases."

Molhi said that the other evidence, such as how the rope was tied, is for investigators to take care of.

"Criminal evidence investigation results usually come in late. We have relied on what was initially found and what the coroner said," said Al-Junaid.

## Dhamar University Medical College set on fire

■ **Abdulkareem Al-Nahari**

**DHAMAR, May 7**—A guard at the Medical College at Dhamar University has been arrested on suspicion of setting part of the college ablaze on Sunday, according to Colonel Mohammad Al-Hadi, chief of the Department of Criminal Investigations in Dhamar governorate.

Al-Hadi told the Yemen Times that investigations revealed that a guard at the college started the fire. Al-Hadi added that the guard admitted to the arson, claiming that the

college refused to consent to certain financial demands he made.

Attempts to reach the suspect and his family for comment on the accusations made against him by the Criminal Investigations in Dhamar were unsuccessful.

The fire destroyed the office of the college's secretary general. Part of a stationary store was also damaged. The fire brigade and some residents were able to extinguish the fire before it reached other halls and laboratories.

Other buildings were alleged

to have been splashed with gas-oline.

"The guard was plotting to burn the entire college. This accident shows the degree of hate and grudge some people have towards national institutions," said Amat Al-Khaliq Mihras, the deputy dean of the Medical College at Dhamar University.

She told the students their documents are safe and were not destroyed in the fire.

The suspected arsonist is detained at the Criminal Investigation Jail in Dhamar and will be transferred soon to the prosecution, according to Al-Hadi.

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**Interested NGO's are kindly encouraged to fill the "Request for Information" (form available on the UNDP website).**

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**For further clarification please contact Mr.Abdulraheem Almekhlafi in his mobile number 00967 71222123.**

# God save the queen?

## Marking 60 years since the royal visit to Aden

■ Yemen Times Staff

On the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Aden, some Yemenis are feeling nostalgic for Yemen's days as a British colony.

Given the widespread dissatisfaction in the South regarding unification since the 1994 civil war, Adenis are looking to the past for a glimpse of brighter times.

"Aden was an important city in the past," said Reyad Yassin Abdullah, the head of the Royal Visit Organizing Committee. "It used to be highly appreciated by those who realized its value. Today as people from Aden we want to remind ourselves, and the rest of the world, that Aden matters."

The event, which took place in Aden on Sunday, April 27, marked six decades since the queen's visit to Aden between 26 and 28 April 1954. The Queen herself hailed the anniversary with a special message to the people of Yemen:

"On the 60th Anniversary of my visit to Aden, I send my warmest greetings to the people of Yemen. I have fond memories of my visit and am pleased that the close relationship between our two countries has continued. I would like to express my best wishes for the happiness, security and prosperity for the people of Yemen during this period of transition and beyond. Elizabeth R."

On that day sixty years ago, Queen Elizabeth II arrived on Aden's shore accompanied by Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, on a the royal ship called Surprise. During the visit she laid the foundation stone for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Aden (now known as Al-Jamhooria Hospital) and for the British Petroleum Refinery.

The queen's visit was part of a



A cut-out of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, in Aden, for the 60th anniversary of her visit.

royal tour that covered more than 80,000 kilometers (50,000 miles) in 166 days. Her visit to Aden was her first visit as queen to the Arabian Peninsula.

"Her Majesty had a warm welcome from the people of Aden and had the chance to meet many Yemenis and to see many aspects of the city," said Alison Kemp, deputy head of the UK mission in Yemen in a Youtube recording of the event. She added that many Adenis whom she and the ambassador met vividly recall participating in the royal visit as children.

Because of its strategic location as an international port on the India Ocean crucial for international trade, seizing control over Aden was important to the British Empire. British Lieutenant Colonel Harold Fenton Jacob mentioned this in his book *Perfumes of Araby*, published in 1915, after serving for more than

20 years in Aden as first assistant to the British Royal Envoy to Aden.

Commenting on the anniversary, Saif Saleh, a Yemeni from Aden, says he is proud that the queen visited his hometown and wants her to come back again. Another Adeni, Mawahib Al-Sharri, pleaded for the queen to return "for God's sake."

With the political tensions between northerners and southerners, as well as the deteriorating economy, nostalgia for the past has been a constant—whether that nostalgia is for colonial rule or for the Marxist regime that ruled South Yemen from 1967 until 1990.

Many Adenis remember colonial Aden as a city where order and the rule of law prevailed.

"If only the Brits came back they would be much better than the Dahabisha [a derogatory term used by southerners to describe Yemenis of the north]," said Saeed Al-Qizai, a

local resident in Aden and an activist in Hirak, a popular movement that has been demanding secession from the north.

During its occupation of Aden, the British Empire established a modern judicial system modeled on the British system and created the city's first administrative bureaucracy with local municipalities. It also invested in Aden's infrastructure by building hospitals, roads, a refinery and its famous port, and provided free education. Starting from 1955, the British also allowed a degree of local autonomy by making the colony's executive body locally elected.

But, not all Adenis remember colonialism warmly.

Mohammed Abu Saleh, a teacher living in Aden, said history would never forget the 128 years of occupation Aden faced.

There have been widespread allegations of torture against detainees during colonial rule. Amnesty International's 1966 report detailed British torture of prisoners, including stripping the prisoners and making them stand naked, as well as keeping naked prisoners in supercooled cells. They also kept them awake and forced them to sit on poles directed towards the anus. They hit and twisted genitals, and extinguished cigarettes on skin, according to Amnesty.

Abu Saleh is not the only Adeni with bitter memories of colonial rule. Abdulwahid Sharif, from Lahj, recalled a number of atrocities carried out by occupying forces and said the British were ultimately concerned about their own interests—not the interests of Yemenis.

Ironically, according to D. C. Watt in his book *Labor Relations and Trade Unionism in Aden: 1952-60*, although the British occupation encouraged trade unions under the assumption that the British model



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of trade union development would be followed, it was the trade unions that helped spearhead riots and strikes. This occurred as the local tangle of grievances merged with nationalist demands for freedom from the British occupation.

Many landmarks around the city serve as a reminder of the 128 years of British rule in Aden, which lasted from 1839 to 1967. Much of the architecture in Aden is of a distinct British style, including historical landmarks such as Big Ben (a smaller version of the original in London) and Queen Victoria's garden, where a statue of the queen is

placed. The three-day 60th anniversary event included a photo exhibition detailing the royal visit, fireworks that ran for three nights, and certificates of appreciation to those who supported the event.

As the country tries to navigate its future following the end of former President Ali Abdulla Saleh's rule, citizens have had to turn to the past to address issues that continue to divide Yemen. Sixty years following the visit of Queen Elizabeth II, Yemen has had to confront its feelings of that period and the legacy—good or bad—that it has left behind.

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UK foreign office minister to the Yemen Times:

# “Friends of Yemen will hold Yemen to its transition timetable!”

**Hugh Robertson was appointed as minister of state for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in October 2013. He co-chaired the recent Friends of Yemen meeting on April 29, 2014 in London.**

**Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviewed Robertson in London about Friends of Yemen and what lies ahead.**

**How do you feel this Friends of Yemen has evolved so far?**

I think promisingly, but the really important thing about this meeting is delivery. In the eight months that I have been here, my sense is that there is a lot of interest and support for Yemen in the international community, and the challenge is to turn that interest and support into really [tangible] deliverables on the ground in Yemen.

I think the challenge for us yesterday and today [before and during the Friends of Yemen meeting on April 29] is to prove to people in Yemen that this isn't just an international talking shop, but it is something that is going to make a difference on the ground and that's what we really focused on today—delivery.

**Since 65 percent of the pledges have already been delivered, we are talking about the remaining 35 percent. How are we going to ensure that they are delivered on time?**

Through international meetings such as this. If people made promises at previous meetings and have not fulfilled them, there is no better mechanism to discuss that than a follow-up meeting, and that is one of the things that the chairs will be doing today: pressing all those countries that have made commitments to deliver.

**But these commitments were made in 2012.**

They were indeed, I should probably say that in this country [the UK] we feel very confident about it, because we committed \$350 million—a considerable sum of money—to Yemen for the period 2012-2015 and have delivered that in full. And to those partners who have not delivered on [the] commitment [they] made at the start of the process, this is an opportunity here in London to draw attention to that—I won't get any further than that—but to draw attention and make sure countries live up to their obligations.

**There was a point made in the Mutual Accountability Framework progress report by Yemen's Executive Bureau, that it is not only about delivering the pledges but also about utilizing it in projects. So even if we had all the money today in our hands there would still be a problem.**

That is correct and that is a perfectly fair comment. Something that many people said to me is that it is really important that parallel to the international effort to draw this money together there has to be an equal effort on the ground to make sure that it is spent in a way that genuinely benefits ordinary Yemenis and doesn't get diluted in various other ways.

**So is this question being addressed here [at the Friends of Yemen conference]?**

Yes, very much it is. It is really important for the confidence of the international donor community that they know that the money they

pledged to Yemen is well spent, and spent in such ways that benefit ordinary Yemenis.

**What is being done or discussed to improve this confidence?**

We've got the foreign minister of Yemen here today, and he will be absolutely clear—I am sure he already knows this—by the time he leaves London that it is important for the international community to make sure that money is correctly spent. And that above all else is the responsibility of the Yemeni government.

**I am sorry but I have to press on this issue. Tell me what is different in the realization that Yemen has to spend this money according to the transitional plan [2012-2014] and according to the country's priorities, two years ago compared to its realization today? What has changed in Yemen's realization that this is serious now?**

The fact that in a sense it comes back to the beginning of the question you asked. The money was pledged but it hasn't yet been delivered. One of the reasons it hasn't yet been delivered has been the international concern about making sure that there is a properly accountable trail and that the money is well spent. So one of the key things that will be discussed today is giving the international donor community the confidence it needs to ensure that money is well spent.

I suppose what I am saying to you is that in a sense it is a two-track process here. The conference will be doing two things: one is to ensure that the international community lives up to the promises that it made originally, and secondly to ensure that the government of Yemen absolutely understands that there has to be a proper accountable trail to make sure that that money is effectively spent.

**How is the UK going to react to the next meeting if and when pledges have not come through or if the Yemeni government's commitment has not been fulfilled?**

There is a fairly short time lag between the meeting here and the next Friends of Yemen meeting due to take place in the margins of the UNGA [United Nations General Assembly] in New York in September. In international development standards you have got a fairly short time lag between now and then and that meeting tends to be a high level ministerial meeting so that will be an opportunity just the same as with today's meeting, which reviews progress since last September. And next September's meeting will review the progress between this working group meeting today and the ministerial meeting in September.

That will provide the perfect opportunity for people who have made pledges here today and not followed them through to pursue that at the ministerial level in New York in the margins of the United

Nations. That is a very effective vehicle.

I know the situation in Yemen is very serious—but very few countries have benefited from this level of international attention. So I think the combination of the working group meeting today and the ministerial meeting in September will provide a very effective means to ensure that countries live up to their international pledges.

**In terms of the humanitarian situation, yesterday [April 28] at the Yemen: a Forgotten Crisis charity event, it was mentioned that not enough has been pledged to address the humanitarian crisis. Is the UK going to address this?**

I am not absolutely sure that this is entirely fair. [The UK] would not be donating \$350 million if we had forgotten about the crisis. We would not be hosting a major international meeting here in London if we had forgotten about the crisis. If I look at my eight months as minister in charge of the Middle East, something about Yemen has come up virtually every single day that I have been here. I regularly see visiting Yemeni politicians, I see the Yemeni ambassador here in London regularly, and the British ambassador in Sana'a comes in to see me every single time that she is back, which is every six weeks.

So I would dispute this idea. I realize that the progress is slower than people would wish to see on the ground but there is no lack of will on behalf of the international community or any sense that Yemen is forgotten. It isn't! The very fact we are having this meeting here today, and this will be followed up by another in the United Nations in September, tells you that the international community is very firmly focused on this.

**You were minister when the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) concluded. How do you evaluate that process and what should the priorities of the National Authority that had been recently decreed be, in your opinion?**

The first thing that is worth saying is that it was a very considerable achievement to get the National Dialogue Conference completed. There were many people at the start of the process who thought that this was impossible. I can remember a number of people when I arrived here saying this probably won't happen or it will reach a messy compromise in the end or it won't get through. So actually Yemen has proved the doubters wrong and has delivered a properly concluded national dialogue.

I was talking to [Yemen's] foreign minister about this today and the key now is on implementation. Moving through to the next stage requires getting a new constitution drafted and agreed upon and getting elections within the year that are allowed under the National Dialogue. It's quite a testing timetable but it is right that Yemenis should be ambitious and the Friends of Yemen will hold Yemen to its transition timetable!

**Again, about the National Authority, since its mandate is quite similar to that of the Friends of Yemen political working group: ensuring the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference are implemented and integrated into the**



Yemen has received 65 percent of pledged funds from donor countries. Ensuring that the remaining 35 percent is delivered is a priority, but so is making sure these funds are spent in a way that benefits ordinary Yemenis, said UK Foreign Office Minister Hugh Robertson.

**government's executive plans, what could be the correlation between the two bodies?**

I suppose the political group of the Friends of Yemen validates the work that you [the National Authority] all do. I don't think there is any conflict between the two. In a sense, it goes back to your first question on how does the international community ensure that its money is properly spent in Yemen? In a sense you translate or transpose that to the political side. The political group coming out of here is precisely there to oversee the

process and make sure that it is on track. For me, it is one of a number of sources of information I get from Yemen. I also have my own ambassador, Jane Marriott, who tends—sometimes daily—to reminds us of Yemen. She is everywhere and keeps us all very firmly focused on what's happening in Sana'a and on progress in Yemen.

I think that everyone in Yemen should take enormous confidence from the fact that the international community is still so interested and engaged and wants to come here for a conference and will be there

for follow-up events.

The really important thing for Yemen to understand from this is that the international community is here in London because we care about Yemen and the future of Yemen, and we are bothering to go through this all in order to keep that focus on Yemen. What is really important coming out of today's meeting and what we all are very focused on is that we come straight on delivery. We make things happen and again we'll make a difference on the ground before we all meet again in September.




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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****Mothers' Schools coming to Yemen and not a moment too soon**

**N**o one can deny that mothers are the first school for children. Mothers are usually the ones who instill in us the sense of right and wrong way before school or wider society does so. Naturally, mothers want their children to thrive and stay safe.

That being said, how would a mother of a violent extremist feel?

At the Women in the World Summit 2014, Vicky Ibrahim, a British mother, brought me to tears when she narrated the story of her son Andrew, who was arrested in April 2008 and convicted of plotting to blow up a shopping center in Bristol. He is currently serving a minimum of 10 years in prison.

"Every day I ask myself what I did wrong as a mother? How could I have messed up and brought up a son who became a terrorist?" she said.

There are so many stories like Vicky's. The mothers in these cases realized what was becoming of their children once it was too late. It is common to hear, however, that there were some early warning signs that, if met with the right responses, could have saved their children's lives.

If only there was a way to educate mothers of youth vulnerable to extremist influences about these early warning signs. If only people knew more about ways to prevent their children from becoming a victim and a criminal at the same time.

This is what Edit Schlaffer, director of Women without Borders, has been trying to achieve through the Mothers' Schools campaign. In essence, this is a training program where mothers are made aware of stories like Vicky's and are given advice on how to have better insight into their children's lives.

The approach recognizes that mothers, as primary caretakers, are positioned at the heart of families and communities and are frequently the first to experience the effects of violence.

Already this methodology has been tested in projects in India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Tajikistan, Zanzibar and Nigeria. Soon it will also come to Yemen.

"We aim to establish a Global Mothers School movement to promote Mothers Schools as a mainstream tool for all families in the struggle against terror," says the Women without Borders director in Youtube video about mothers as the first line of defense.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

**Russian ambassador: US supports fascist takeover of Ukraine**

Vladimir Dedushkin

**I**n an article published on Al-Masdar online on April 17, Ms. Karen Sasahara, the US Charge d'Affaires in Sana'a, gives a version of events in Ukraine characterized by emotion and an exaggerated portrayal of US humanitarian concerns.

Sasahara claims to speak in the name of the international community, including Yemen. Yet all she does is speak in political slogans, oversimplifications and false facts. The article unfortunately is both inconsistent and misrepresented, and people around the world do not want the Americans to lecture them on their internal affairs and national interests. It's difficult for the USA to get used to the fact that a uni-polar world does not exist anymore.

Let us now try to find the truth in the incidents Ms. Sasahara mentions in her article. She wrote, "everything in Ukraine began last November with peaceful protests in the so-called Maidan..." Her claim, however, is simply not true. The conflict began well before that, when the European Union forced Ukraine to pick a side—Russia or the EU. Pressure was put on Ukraine to sign an agreement on association with the EU, but the Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich doubted such a move.

Had the country signed, it would have lost the substantial economic interests it has in the Free Trade Zone Agreement with countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia. Yanukovich hesitated.

It was then that the protests began with instigation from the West. Demonstrators in Maidan demanding Ukraine's integration into the EU were mostly from the western provinces where Russian-speakers are a minority. Western politicians became regular guests in Kiev's square, egging on the demonstrations. In the east and south, people largely oppose Ukraine's integration into the EU. So, the country has witnessed a serious division and the threat of secession. Meanwhile the West is set on separating Ukraine and Russia—two countries which share deep historic roots.

As the situation deteriorated, President Yanukovich sought to calm the situation by agreeing on Feb. 21 to disarm Maidan extremists, to make constitutional reforms and to hold early presidential elections on Dec. 25. But European guarantees from Germany, France and Poland to ensure the implementation of the agreement proved to be political bluff.

It became clear that the leaders of the demonstrations were anti-Russian extremists, who on the next day after signing the Agreement of Feb. 21 were quick to resort to violence. The threat to the president was real and he took the decision to leave Kiev for Kharkiv in the east of Ukraine. He did not flee the country as Ms. Sasahara said in her article. The truth is that he would likely have been assassinated if he stayed in Kiev. Extremists then seized power through the unconstitutional armed coup.

An atmosphere of lawlessness has prevailed since power was hijacked by the new government, which includes five ministers associated with ultra radical groups. The new rulers have declared that Russian-speaking Ukrainian citizens are not full citizens, labeling them "creatures," intruders and occupiers of Ukrainian lands who should be killed. The Russian language is being eradicated. The first decree issued by this government was that the law on the status of national languages, including Russian, would be abrogated.

Ms. Sasahara believes that "Russia

can't dictate the future of Ukraine," and this is true. It is also true of the US, which has facilitated the rise to power of radical criminals who are calling for the killing of Russians under the guise of a "democratic revolution."

Ms. Sasahara claims that the new Kiev regime enjoys the support of the UN General Assembly, but this is plainly untrue. One-hundred member countries voted for a resolution against Russia, but 93 others did not—almost a half-half divide. Moreover, the US put pressure on many of those countries that voted in favor of the resolution.

What happened following the "Euromaidan" coup? According to our American colleague, the results were only positive and people of different ethnic and religious groups—Russians, Ukrainians and Tatars—began building a democratic future. Contrary to such idealistic nonsense, what is currently happening on the ground is the opposite, and public institutions in Kiev are still occupied by armed right-wing extremists from the fascist Right Sector. They announced elections on May 25, before constitutional reforms and in violation of the Feb. 21 Agreement.

Meanwhile, a strong protest movement against the new regime gained momentum in the eastern and southern areas of Ukraine, where Ukrainian citizens with Russian origins form 90 percent of the population. It would have been weird if the Russian-speaking Ukrainians had not reacted to the racist decisions taken by the illegal government in Kiev, which effectively called for their deaths. People demanded a referendum on the establishment of federal regions within the Ukrainian state, but now we see a fully-fledged uprising with Kiev sending tanks and right-wing extremist fighters against its own people in so-called "counter-terrorism operations."

The conspiratorial ideas that were designed to separate Ukraine from Russia through the coup have not succeeded as well as the military action, because the Ukrainian soldiers joined the demonstrators. Ukraine is divided as a result of these malicious intentions and signs of civil war have appeared.

It seemed that there was a way out of the Ukrainian impasse through the meeting held on April 17 between Russia, the US, Ukraine and the EU in Geneva, where they adopted the Geneva declaration to end all illegal presence of armed paramilitary forces in the country, to combat religious extremism and intolerance, and to initiate inclusive dialogue between the parties within a constitutional framework.

What do we see now? Washington's evaluation of the Geneva Agreements are disappointing. Once again, as America stands by the new rulers in Kiev, US propaganda labels the people of southeast Ukraine "terrorists" and "criminals." Such distortions are promoted by the mainstream Western media.

The threat of imposing sanctions on Russia should lead us to believe that, for Washington, such heavy-handed measures have replaced diplomacy. The Americans would do better to demand that Kiev adhere to what was agreed upon in Geneva and disarm the fighters of the Right Sector and other fascist groups. Washington should also urge the current Ukrainian government to immediately stop its military

operation in south-east Ukraine and start inclusive dialogue with Ukraine's Russian-speakers. We hope that our American colleagues realize the level of their responsibility for what is going on in Ukraine now.

The representatives of the "Euromaidan" should hand over the occupied public buildings in the capital. What is Washington's response to this? The representatives of the US Department of State, particularly Victoria Nuland, claim that the four sided meeting on April 17 in Geneva concluded that the separatists in southeast Ukraine should leave the public buildings they occupied. This is yet another lie. The April 17 declaration stipulates the reciprocal obligations for both sides to simultaneously vacate buildings they occupied, in addition to the disarmament of illegitimate armed groups across the country, not only in the southeast.

It is most unfortunate that those who have taken over in Kiev have worked against the outcomes of Geneva and have not taken any positive steps to resolve the political deadlock.

In her article, Ms Sasahara said, "the world has not been deceived into thinking that the Russian-engineered referendum is not a forcible takeover of the land." She added, "Now everyone can know this through the Internet."

Of course, she is right in what she says of the Internet. Strangely, the Internet could not help our American colleague realize that the referendum

was held in Crimea without a shot being fired. No occupying Russian army was in Crimea and there was no forcible takeover.

Russian President Vladimir Putin made his move only after the provocative events in "Euromaidan" and the violent takeover of power in Ukraine, in addition to rising anti-Russian statements from the Ukrainian government. Radical anti-Russian militants attempted to interfere in Crimea and take over government institutions, but Crimeans stood firmly against the new regime, holding a referendum for the purpose of self-determination, the results of which revealed the people's desire to gain independence and join Russia.

Crimea became a Russian federal region through popular expression—97 percent of Crimean residents voted in favour of this. Compare this to what happened in Kosovo, which NATO separated from Serbia through the use of military force and without UN Security Council consent. No referendum was held and thousands lost their lives.

Crimea was not occupied. Russia took action on the basis of international law guaranteeing the right to self-determination. Why does the West not support the self-determination of Crimea? Simply because Crimea joined Russia, not the West. Yet again, we see Western double standards at work.

Despite the existence of the Internet, our American partners overlooked the thousands of

people—Russians, Ukrainians and Tatars—who gathered in Sevastopol and Simferopol and other parts of Crimea to show their support, bursting into tears of happiness for Crimea's return to the Motherland. I suspect that Americans felt the same when their Declaration of Independence was read out for the first time. Crimea, ultimately, is an inseparable part of Russia on which so much Russian blood was spilled.

I want to offer an honest piece of advice to my American colleague not to attempt to speak on behalf of Yemeni people. Unlike the US, we will not arrogantly order Yemenis to stand against Ukraine's struggle for democracy. The Yemeni people do not need foreigners lecturing them on how to understand international affairs. Indeed, the Yemeni political experience that enabled Yemenis to overcome their own political crises may provide a useful lesson for Ukraine. In Yemen, strained relations have been successfully settled through the National Dialogue Conference and the constitution drafting committee has started cobbling together a new constitution for the country. We are waiting for the same to happen in Ukraine.

Vladimir Dedushkin is the Russian ambassador to Yemen.

The Ukrainian Embassy in Riyadh has agreed to respond to Dedushkin in next week's issue of the Yemen Times.

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Ministry of Education (MoE)**

The of the Ministry of Education (MoE) is now seeking applicants for the following positions:

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- Coordinate with the Project Steering Committee and other agencies regarding the Project/Program activities.
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- Report and seek guidance from the PAU Director on any unusual deviation from the agreed project plans;
- Coordinate MOE, PAU and DPs comments on draft reports coming out of the TAs and make sure that there is adequate follow up of this TAs;
- Coordinate the project work closely with the Project implementation teams in the field at the district and Governorate levels;
- Be responsible for working with all the concerned units at the PAU, (GPE Unit) and MOE for compiling and/or drafting appropriate reports for submission to the DPs;
- Be responsible for preparations, receiving and coordinating with the Supervision Mission of the Donors;
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- Perform any other project related duties as directed by the Project Director.

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- Prepare an annual work plan with milestones for the projects functions for the Procurement Department;
- Prepare and revise Procurement Plans (PP) which will be reviewed by PAU Director.
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- Act as a focal point for any dialogue on procurement management matters relating to the Projects;
- Systematically report and update the Projects Management on the status of procurement activities and issues, and follow-up with MoE and other related Ministries and Institutions on procurement and other projects issues as may be required by the Projects Management;
- Contribute to Projects Management Reports;
- Ensure that procurement procedures provided in the Financing Agreements are respected at all stages; and
- Perform any other project related duties as directed by PAU Director.

**Qualifications:**

- A minimum of Bachelor degree in Business Administration, Commerce, Economics, Engineering, Education, or any other related field;
- A minimum of five years of professional experience in procurement management;
- Familiarity with the government procurement guidelines and procedures;
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to lead and mobilize staff;
- Strong oral and written capabilities in both Arabic and English; and
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# Australians were killed by a US drone strike, and we deserve to know why

**Antony Loewenstein**  
 theguardian.com  
 First published April 29

The news that the US had killed two Australian "militants" in a drone strike was announced in mid-April. Christopher Havard and "Muslim bin John," who also held New Zealand citizenship, were allegedly killed by a CIA-led airstrike in eastern Yemen in November last year.

Readers were given little concrete information, apart from a "counter-terrorism source" who claimed that both men were foot soldiers for Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, though they may also have been collateral damage (the real target being other terror heads).

The Australian government claimed ignorance of the entire operation. "There was no Australian involvement in, or prior awareness of, the operation," a spokesman said. New Zealand prime minister John Key released some more details, saying that the country's Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) spies had been authorized to spy on him. "I knew that he had gone there [to Yemen] and gone to a terrorist training camp," he stated.

Since publication of these bare facts, little new information has emerged from the government or other sources—except for some reporting in The Australian about Havard's apparent transformation after he converted to Islam in his early 20s and went to Yemen to teach English. The paper editorialized in support of the strike: "to be killed in this way is regrettable," it wrote, but

obliterating civilians without a trial was acceptable because "such attacks have done much to stop the terrorists committing even more atrocities." There was no condemnation of the scores of civilians killed by drones since 9/11.

It's of course morally convenient to believe that the death of these men will make the world a safer place by removing "threats" without the need to place western soldiers in harm's way—this is, after all, the apparently compelling logic of drone warfare. But it's a myth challenged by the former drone pilots featured in the recently released documentary Drone, in which ex-Air Force pilot Michael Haas explains that:

You never know who you're killing, because you never actually see a face. You just have a silhouette. They don't have to take a shot. They don't have to bear that burden. I'm the one that has to bear that burden.

Yet, uncertainty be damned, the Australian government seems to keep on supporting the CIA killings with most of the media following without question.

Fairfax Media headlined one story, "Abbott government defends drone strike that killed two Australian Al-Qaeda militants," without challenging that the two men were, indeed, militants or affiliated with Al-Qaeda—they may or may not have been, but innocent civilians have been killed by drones before. The sentence "alleged militants, according to the government" never appeared in the article (this is a relatively common habit in journalism).

I've reported independently from Pakistan and Afghanistan,

and accurate journalism requires finding reliable sources on the ground (or corresponding with individuals through email, phone, encryption or Twitter) who can confirm or challenge the official version. It's not rocket science, though definitive information can be scarce in a war zone.

In the last days I've reached out to various sources in Yemen and asked Sana'a-based Baraa Shibani to comment. His answer is revealing. "The lack of transparency has become a fixed strategy for the US in its drone war. The US announced recently the death of almost 30 militants in a training camp in Abyan, south of Yemen, but can't release a single name; this tells it all."

Taking the word of security sources and the state, when this information is so often wrong or deliberately skewed by anonymous officials who strategically leak to justify their counter-terrorism policies, is sadly all too common. "We don't know the facts" is not a shameful statement. To be skeptical shouldn't be a flaw, but an asset.

The desultory lack of debate over this latest drone attack is a sadly familiar tale (former Australian prime minister Malcolm Fraser lent a rare voice of criticism, saying Australians assisting the US drone program could face crimes against humanity charges). The Lowy Institute's Rodger Shanahan, former army officer and Australian diplomat, offered a commonly-held view of the deaths: "If it is confirmed that these Australian citizens were members of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and were not deliberately targeted," he wrote, "then I don't think either the Australian government or public

will lose much sleep over their passing."

This misses the point entirely. The two men are dead, so arguments about the legality of their assassination should surely have happened before the US fired its missiles. Shanahan expressed confidence without evidence that Australia "would not allow the deliberate targeting of one of its citizens by another power." This is a familiar refrain echoed by governments, too: that if you're standing, sitting or socializing with militants, with or without your knowledge, your life could be in jeopardy.

The effect of this random violence, along with the devastating signature strike policy—drone attacks based on "suspicious" behavior without knowing names or identities of people—is well documented. In Yemen, hatred of the US, along with major social and political tensions, is growing amongst a poor and scared population.

Although the Yemeni regime works openly alongside Washington in its war against perceived enemies (unlike Pakistan, which many say behaves in a similar way but feigns opposition to appease the angry masses) the death of dozens of alleged Al-Qaeda militants and civilians at a major base in the remote southern mountains last week will only inflame tensions in the nation.

Let us not forget that the US drone program, massively accelerated under the Obama administration, is mired in secrecy. Earlier this month, a US federal appeals court ordered the government to release legal advice relating to the killings of three US citizens in Yemen in 2011. The American Civil Liberties

Union correctly argued that it was unacceptable for the US to both claim the program was classified and yet leak selective information to favored journalists to "paint the program in the most favorable light."

The latest killing of two Australian

citizens is not the end of the conversation, but the beginning. If these men were threats to national security, then the public deserves to know why and the legal backing behind it. The countless lies during the "war on terror" warrants skepticism of official claims.



## Invitation for Expression of Interest For Cleaning Services

The World Bank Office in Sana'a is announcing its need for Cleaning Services including hospitality. Qualified firms with experience of not less than 3 years are encouraged to contact our office to obtain detailed ToR or to visit our premises in Faj Attan.

Expression of Interest should be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Cleaning Services" no later than 4 pm, Sunday, May 25th, 2014 to:

### Office Manager

Faj Attan, off Beirut Street  
 Behind Al-Soswa Petrol Station  
 Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Telephone: 413-710/413 708

The package should include: (i) company profile; (ii) copy of the valid business license (iii) three verifiable references, and (iv) breakdown for expected fees including cleaning materials.

**Applications not complying with the above requirements or applications received by fax/e-mail will not be considered. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.**

# Job Vacancies

## The Executive Bureau for the Acceleration of Aid Absorption and Support for Policy Reforms

The Executive Bureau (EB) is an institutional mechanism to provide support and monitoring for the implementation of the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) policy reforms and acceleration of aid absorption. EB was established by the Presidential decree no. 2 on February 2, 2013 and was launched on December 8, 2013. EB, based in Sana'a, is currently seeking to recruit Yemeni nationals with professional credentials that match the profile of the following positions:

### 1. Project Management Specialist (2 positions available)

#### Main tasks would be:

1. Assist government implementation agencies complying with the application of government project selection and prioritization criteria in accordance to sectorial priorities, plans and development objectives;
2. Support Project Implementation Units (PIUs) and Project Monitoring Units (PMUs) enhancing their technical and organizational capacity in the fields of project management, procurement, and project implementation and compliance;
3. Strengthen the capacity of government implementation agencies (PIUs and PMUs) to accelerate the implementation process of ongoing pledged donor funded projects;
4. Participate in constant contacts and meetings with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and government agencies on project selection, prioritization, implementation and evaluation;
5. Conduct frequent initial assessments of government implementation agencies' capability and assist drafting effective action plans to support these agencies;
6. Provide technical and capacity building support to PIUs and PMUs to overcome any major pitfalls in their implementation progress;
7. Enable PIUs and PMUs adopting best international practices and conducts in project management and procurements;
8. Participate in the development of MAF M&E system at the EB;
9. Assist in the preparation of quarter and annual progress reports and business plans for the EB's Board of Directors and donors;
10. Able to travel outside Sana'a and abroad;
11. Other duties: As assigned by management.

#### Qualifications, Work Experience and Skills:

1. A minimum of Master degree in Project Management, Engineering, Business Administration, Economics, or any other related fields;
2. Notable qualifications or certifications in Project Management or related area will be a plus;
3. At least seven (7) years of progressive experience in project development or project management, with emphasis on established managerial experience in designing, planning or implementing public projects that are either funded by international donors or the Yemeni government;
4. Hand-on experience of applying common project management and planning tools;
5. In-depth knowledge of Project Cycle's requirements and arrangements in Yemen;

6. Familiarity with international organizations' project procedures and procurement guidelines;
7. Strong and certified verbal and written communication skills in both Arabic and English;
8. Strong computers skills in Microsoft Office applications, Internet and MS Project.

### 2. Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (2 positions available)

#### Main tasks would be:

1. Review the MAF project investments working with relevant actors responsible for actions with the MAF, to ensure that all indicators are clear and measurable and contribute to the objectives of the MAF and that benchmarks and targets are well defined;
2. The development of an M&E plan, in conjunction with relevant actors, for the collection of data;
3. Oversee the preparation of regular reporting;
4. Design a tracking tool and process to track movements of aid, from pledges to commitments and from commitment to allocations to each of the pillars of the Transitional Program;
5. Support central and line ministries in developing and implementing monitoring plans for the policies and projects;
6. Identify capacity gaps within government implementing agencies and develop programs of support;
7. Work with MoPIC and other state institutions to institutionalize enhanced monitoring and evaluating systems and practices across government;
8. Communication: Ensure all stakeholders are aware of progress and decisions related to the implementation of the MAF and the Transitional Program and manage stakeholder expectations;
9. Design, implement and manage forums for coordinating stakeholders relevant to MAF and Transitional Program implementation. Activities should take into account existing coordination forums, including the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) Steering Committee, the MAF coordination mechanisms and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC);
10. Enable PIUs and PMUs adopting best international practices and conducts in Monitoring and Evaluation.
11. Able to travel outside Sana'a and abroad;
12. Any other tasks as deemed necessary and relevant to EB work plans.

#### Qualifications, Work Experience and Skills:

1. Master's degree(s) or higher in Economics and or Statistics or any other related fields;
2. Notable qualifications or certifications in Monitoring and Evaluation or related area will be a plus.
3. At least seven (7) years of working experience in international development, policy analysis and national development monitoring and evaluation;

4. Strong analytical skills and experience in analyzing quantitative/qualitative data and surveys and policies;
5. Good computer skills and familiarity with statistical packages;
6. Excellent communication and writing skills, in both Arabic and English;
7. Good contextual knowledge of local issues, community priorities, social and cultural constraints and realities will be an added advantage.

### 3. Project Management Assistant (1 position available)

#### Main Tasks would be:

1. Providing direct daily support to the Project Management Support (PMS) unit;
2. Administrating and updating collected projects data, documents and correspondences;
3. Preparing a monthly consolidated projects sheet for each sector;
4. Supporting the unit in coordinating and organizing workshops, seminars or training sessions that aim at strengthening the capacities of the government implementing agencies;
5. Participating in meetings with various stakeholders either in or outside Sana'a;
6. Preparing meeting minutes and reports;
7. Supporting the Project Management specialists in the preparation and the designing of monthly, quarterly and annually reports;
8. Developing and updating client contact information;
9. Other duties: As assigned by management.

#### Qualifications, Work Experience and Skills:

1. Bachelor degree in Project Management, Engineering, Business Administration, Economy or other relevant or equivalent filed;
2. At least three (3) years of progressive experience as an assistance in administrative management;
3. Experience or notable qualification or training in project management will be an asset;
4. Knowledge in reporting, meeting minutes writing and coordination in either public or private sector organizations;
5. Superior interpersonal and communication skills;
6. Strong verbal and written language skills in both Arabic and English;
7. Advance computer skills; mainly in Microsoft Office, Internet and MS Project;
8. Ability to work under pressure;
9. Multi-tasks oriented and a team player attitude.

\*\*\*All Positions will be for expected work duration of one year; renewable and subject to semi-annual and annual performance evaluation against specific deliverables established by the EB Managing Director.

**Qualified and interested Yemeni individuals should apply. Please apply along with your detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) and cover letter via email to [apply@ebyemen.org](mailto:apply@ebyemen.org) by May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014.**

**Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for written tests and interviews.**



# Despite new era, anti-corruption agenda struggles in Yemen

IRIN

First published April 29

The 2011 street revolts that drove Yemeni President Ali Abdulla Saleh from office and spurred an internationally-monitored democratic political transition were considered a boon for anti-corruption activists, who had spent the past decade trying to foster good governance reforms in a prevailing system of graft to little effect.

But more than two years into the process and despite the impetus given to the new democratization era by interim President Abd Rabu Mansour Hadi, the anti-corruption agenda is still grappling with a culture of impunity in which people are reluctant to blow the whistle out of fear of losing their jobs, donor funding or worse.

The founder of a local human rights foundation, who requested anonymity, said Saleh's overthrow dismantled one patronage system only to create a plethora of opportunities for new actors to exploit, increasing the competition.

"Under Saleh, bribery was more standardized—there was a limit to how much a soldier would demand," he told IRIN. "Now, with no central authority, each group has its own price."

But for Mohammed Al Basha, spokesperson for the Yemeni embassy in Washington, D.C., this is par for the course. The high levels of corruption Yemen is experiencing "are characteristic of transition periods where you're going to have people take advantage of the chaotic atmosphere to benefit."

In 2013, Yemen earned its lowest Corruption Perception Index score in the 11 years that Transparency International (TI) has been using the measurement, falling just 10 slots from the bottom.

In a 2013 Yemen Polling Centre survey, 42 percent of respondents said they felt corruption had got

worse since 2011.

While respondents said they felt an even bigger decline in jobs, the economy and public services, corruption was a bigger concern to them than the security situation, human rights, women's rights and the political situation.

## "It's not my job"

An international medical professional who works with trauma victims in a government-run facility in Sana'a told IRIN of daily graft by a fellow aid worker in collusion with the Yemeni military official who runs the facility. It included extracting money from an aid agency's budget by inflating certain costs or charging for items never purchased.

Due to the risks involved, however, the medical worker decided to ignore the problem.

"It's not my job, I'm here to support my patients," he said on condition of anonymity, adding that exposing the corruption could scare away donors, compromise the entire project and ultimately affect the patients.

Yemeni colleagues at the facility expressed doubts that blowing the whistle would accomplish anything, given the legacy of impunity military commanders continue to enjoy, despite slow-moving efforts to bring the military-security apparatus under civilian authority. The Yemeni medical staff told IRIN they feared not only that the military commander would escape punishment, but they would lose their jobs and perhaps face more serious consequences for challenging the commander's authority.

Such dilemmas are not uncommon in Yemen's politically sensitive environments in which both aid agencies and donors face pressure to uphold a positive image in the eyes of government officials and the public in general.

"Donors and implementing agencies are generally not keen on denouncing corruption," Transpar-

ency International wrote in its 2005 Global Corruption Report. "They often fear a possible backlash in domestic public opinion that could undermine future support, the risk of local political instability or retribution from local authorities which may lead to the end of programmes benefiting vulnerable populations. Exposing corruption may also lead to a loss of credibility and reputation when direct mismanagement is involved."

## Anti-corruption risks

Beyond the policy concerns are very real concerns for the safety of whistleblowers.

As part of a new campaign called "Keep your income clean", TI's local chapter, the Yemeni Team for Transparency and Integrity (YTTI), spread awareness about security sector corruption by speaking to locals about their experiences with bribery and extortion involving policemen and soldiers. One day during the campaign last autumn, policemen allegedly threatened YTTI members physically: One officer aimed his rifle at the volunteers, while his colleagues pushed around the activists and shouted at them as they protested in the streets of the capital, TI said at the time.

Earlier last year, in May, an unidentified gunman reportedly shot the group's project coordinator after he delivered a public speech against corruption, injuring him seriously.

The absence of state whistleblower protection laws has further compounded the risks of exposing corruption. According to the US Department of State's 2013 Human Rights report on Yemen, "NGOs reported many cases of individuals losing their jobs or suffering other harm after revealing instances of corruption."

The report also stated that Yemen's "Ministry of Social and Labor Affairs interfered with the licensing of some human rights-related organizations that were viewed with suspicion, including organizations



Men exchange money in Yemen.

focused on accountability and transitional justice. Civil society organizations and NGOs not focused on these issues experienced minimal restrictions on their activities."

## Impact of corruption on aid

For one tribal sheikh from Marib Province, east of Sana'a, the nepotism endemic in aid projects run by government ministries often counteracts the intended benefits.

He heads the local office of Dar Al Salam, a tribal conflict resolution and humanitarian aid organization, and would welcome the construction of a new hospital in his district, where there is only one hospital with a few doctors who can do minor operations.

But "staff are mostly hired on the basis of their relations to the local prominent sheikh, who allocates jobs as he pleases, without regard

for qualified individuals who wish to apply to the positions," he told IRIN. "Many of the employees either do not exist or do not show up to work. The latter collect their pay cheques without earning them, while the sheikh collects the pay cheques of the former 'ghost workers'." By the time each employee takes his share of the budget provided by the Ministry of Health, there's hardly anything left to buy medicine or maintain the facility."

More than half of Yemen's population—or 14.7 million people—are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance. Millions of people do not know where their next meal is coming from. More than one million children under five are acutely malnourished, and some 13 million Yemenis do not have access to an improved water source or adequate sanitation. Another 8 million do not

have access to health care.

Yet of the \$706 million requested to respond to humanitarian needs in 2013, UN agencies and NGO partners received just over half that amount.

Yemen's reputation for corruption is one of the driving factors limiting aid funding.

Before a major donor conference in 2006, Yemen received only US\$13 per capita per year in Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) compared to an average of \$33 for other Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

As recently as 2013, Chatham House described Yemen as a "donor orphan", saying the ODA it received was still "a fraction of that sent to three other similarly poor and high-risk conflict-affected countries, namely Sudan, Iraq and Afghanistan."

*Continued on the back page*

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12- مادة نائفة- نحس
13- عكس عقابى- يمازحها
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## Despite new era, anti-corruption agenda struggles in Yemen

### Challenges of reform

In 2012, the Friends of Yemen grouping of international actors seeking a stable political transition in Yemen pledged \$7.9 billion in mostly humanitarian and development aid. But Yemen's history of mismanagement of foreign aid and limited capacity to absorb large amounts of funding have slowed its disbursement.

In 2006, a forerunner to the Friends of Yemen in London pledged \$4.7 billion in aid for Yemen, only about 10 percent of which had been disbursed by 2010 due to absorption and corruption obstacles.

These factors led donors to bypass the regular Yemeni system altogether this time around, creating instead parallel institutions capable of absorbing the \$7.9 billion in a more transparent, effective and timely manner.

But this approach highlights the challenges of fighting corruption in a place like Yemen.

Bypassing domestic institutions today defers capacity-building exercises essential for the bodies to one day perform their intended functions independently.

A 2013 report by Stanford Uni-

versity's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law concluded that one of the main problems affecting the disbursement of aid pledges was the creation of "parallel institutions as a mechanism to channel aid in Yemen, without addressing the real absorptive capacity constraints needed by the government in order to maximize aid effectiveness and promote better governance mechanisms in the country."

Still, Yemen's current absorptive and disbursement capacities can contribute to significant delays in delivering pledged resources to crisis situations—leaving donors in something of a Catch-22.

"Not only can such delays affect the security and well-being of targeted communities, they can also induce local authorities and businesses to find inappropriate 'quick fixes' and turn to corruption or the informal or criminal economy," TI wrote in its report.

A 2011 study by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) aimed at reducing corruption in the delivery of aid found that current anti-corruption approaches are usually unsuccessful

because they rely too much on internationally-driven "technical-legal" processes that lack widespread local consent. "No country can change without domestic collective action" and the role of the international community should be to support the representativeness and sustainability of those initiatives, it said.

In addition, "Most of the current anti-corruption strategies... focus on increasing legal constraints, which often fail because most interventions are localized in societies that lack the rule of law," NORAD wrote.

In a line: There is no 'one-size fits all' approach, the report said. Each society has its own dynamic that is best tackled indigenously through a customized strategy.

In the context of Yemen's failing economy—oil revenues have been falling sharply—bribes are likely to continue to be a necessary adaptation to bleak economic conditions until the government is able to tend to policemen and other rank-and-file civil servants whose salaries barely meet subsistence levels.

"Petty corruption ensures the survival of low-ranking civil servants,

even if some of their bureaucratic activities are in themselves questionable," argues Philippe Le Billon, associate professor at the University of British Columbia, in Canada.

### Progress on the horizon?

Still, some see progress on the horizon.

The UN Secretary-General's special adviser on Yemen, Jamal Benomar, says he is optimistic about the prospects for the anti-corruption agenda.

After 10 months of reconciliation talks that wrapped up in January, delegates at the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) "recognized that the country's resources were pilaged by a handful of people and that's why they came up with a number of conclusions that constitute a programme of recovery of these assets," he told IRIN. "One of conclusions of the NDC is the setting up of a national committee to oversee implementation of these goals in practical terms... So no doubt with the end of the NDC there will be a focus on this set of issues related to corruption and asset recovery."

The Good Governance Working Group responsible for developing a new framework to eradicate corruption recommended the establishment of whistleblower protection through the "issuance of a law to protect informants, witnesses and investigators in corruption cases." A loftier goal aimed to eliminate the chief cause of petty graft or bribery through legal "reform of the wage and bonus structures for the State and private sector employees with the objective of improving their living standards and the meet [sic] the level of sufficiency to eliminate corruption."

Implementation of these anti-corruption measures, of course, will be the challenging part. Al Basha, the Yemeni government spokesperson, said this is an increasing priority for the government.

In 2013, President Hadi fired and replaced many high-ranking officials that were involved in corruption; and the Central Organization for Control and Auditing (COCA) has prosecuted junior to mid-level officials and recovered money, he said.

"But overall everyone has been [so] obsessed with the security and political aspects that the economic and financial sectors have been—not neglected—but have been a second priority. But that will change this year."

He said an asset recovery law in

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On the occasion of World Thalassaemia Day

## Yemeni Association for Thalassaemia Patients presents Sabafon with Humanitarian Work Shield

The Yemeni Association for Thalassaemia Patients celebrated World Thalassaemia Day on May 8, under the slogan "Together for a Thalassaemia free childhood". At the celebration attended by Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amatal-razzaq Humad, Deputy Ministers of Endowment Hassan Al-Sheikh and Hameed Al-Matari and Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Nasser Bauom. Dr. Bauom delivered a speech praising the association's work to support Thalassaemia patients and provide them with necessary care and medications.

interest in this inherited disease despite the financial difficulties among others. The best solution for this is to issue a law preventing marriages from taking place unless the couple are tested to be Thalassaemia free," he said.

Dr. Ahmed Shamsan Al-Maqrani president of the association thanked sponsoring companies of the event appreciating the role Sabafon, the premier mobile company in Yemen, in particular does in support the association. He presented Sabafon with the Humanitarian Work Shield, which was received by Sabafon representative at the event, in recognition for its continuous support.



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