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Tens of thousands flee Amran as humanitarian crisis deepens

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki and
Ali Saeed

SANA'A, July 13—Tens of thousands of displaced people are in need of urgent humanitarian aid after fleeing fighting between Houthi rebels and an alliance of tribesmen and military units, according to government and local sources.

The numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs) have swelled since the Houthi takeover of Amran City on July 8.

There are conflicting reports of the numbers of displaced people, with local authorities in Amran citing 35,000 and relief organizations saying that the actual figure could be twice as high.

Mohammed Turaik, the security manager of Amran governorate, said that over 35,000 people have moved to neighboring areas such as Hamdan, Ayal Basuraih and Sana'a. Others have moved in with relatives in other governorates, he added.

However, Alyas Mane, the field coordinator of disaster management at the Red Crescent, said the



A displaced family from Amran lives in a public school in the capital Sana'a.



Displaced children from Amran live with their displaced family in a governmental school in the capital Sana'a.

number of IDPs has reached about 70,000, according to the statistics of the field teams of the Red Crescent.

Fierce fighting broke out in October of last year between Al-Ahmar tribesmen and armed Houthis. Military units later stepped in, suspecting that the Houthis were attempting to take over the governorate.

Adel Hussein Nasser is a teacher who fled his home in the Bani Maimona area in Amran. He told the Yemen Times that the violence last week forced many to flee on foot due to the shortage of fuel.

"Now I am renting a house in Sana'a for YR25,000 a month. My cousins are living with their brothers in Sana'a," he said.

Hadiyah Ahmed Abdullah, a mother of eight who is in her final month of pregnancy, said that her house was shelled. She is worried that she will not be able to give birth in a decent hospital and complains of the lack of food and adequate shelter at the school where she and other IDPs have been accommodated.

The head of the executive unit

in charge of managing the IDP camps in Amran, Mutahr Yahia Abu Shaiha, called on local and international relief organizations to step up their efforts.

Meanwhile, Saddam Al-Kamali, the media coordinator for the executive unit, said: "the majority of the displaced are now in open areas near Amran. They need urgent aid." He added that many are still trapped in the areas of fighting.

"The security committee decided last week to accommodate some of the displaced in Al-Najah School af-

ter the Houthi takeover of Amran. Now we are distributing the food aid to over 100 families," said Al-Kamali.

According to Marie Claire Feghali, a spokesperson for the Red Crescent in Yemen, teams are in the process of assessing the scale of the emergency. "So far, we do not have a specific number of displaced people from Amran," she said, adding that on July 7 the NGO distributed shelter-related items such as blankets to 120 displaced families in Hamdan.

Electricity crisis in Hajja

As the crisis in Amran continues, knock-on effects are still being felt in neighboring Hajja governorate, which has been without electricity for over a month. Electricity pylons supplying the governorate were cut during the fighting in Amran, affecting an estimated 1.5 million people in Hajja.

The electricity problem is compounded by the ongoing fuel crisis, leaving Hajja residents unable to run backup generators.

A source in the Electricity Ministry, cited by the state-run Saba News Agency, added that some local hospitals in Hajja were forced to shut down in response to the month-long electricity outage.

The Yemen Times contacted local officials for comment but they could not be reached.

Military shake-up in Amran

Ali Saeed

SANA'A, July 14—A battalion of the 9th Brigade replaced soldiers of the 310th Armored Brigade and the 6th Military Command in strategic locations in Amran governorate on Saturday and Sunday.

The Houthis on Saturday evening said that they handed over the headquarters of the 310th Armored Brigade they captured last Tuesday in Amran City, 50 kilometers north of the capital Sana'a, to a battalion of the 9th Brigade based in Sa'ada governorate.

"In an effort to normalize the situation in Amran, a military battalion from the 9th Brigade arrived to take command of the 310th Armored Brigade and supervise security in Amran governorate," read a statement by Houthi spokesperson Mohamed Abdulsalam on the group's website, ansaruallah.com.

Late Sunday troops from the 6th Military Command withdrew from their military positions around Dhain mountain, a strategic location in Amran that overlooks Amran city, Mohamed Al-Arqi, a local source who lives in the area, told the Yemen Times.

The battalion from the 9th Brigade was seen late Sunday replacing the 6th Military Command's troops, according to Al-Arqi.

The replacement of the military forces in Amran is a significant development. The 310th Armored

Brigade, which was led by the deceased Brigadier General Hamid Al-Qushaibi, falls under the command of the 6th Military Command. Al-Qushaibi was widely seen as an Islah Party ally. As part of a previous agreement between the Houthis and the central government, the 310th Armored Brigade was to be handed over to the 9th Brigade, which is seen by the Houthis as a more neutral force.

However, the political affiliation of the 9th Brigade remains unclear. The government has not yet commented on the brigade's recent takeover of the 6th Military Command's positions, but the brigade, which is based in Houthi-controlled Sa'ada, has refrained from engaging in the fight between Houthi rebels and factions of the military.

These recent moves come after the Houthis, who took control of Amran City last Tuesday, July 8, exchanged artillery fire with forces of the 6th Military Command after capturing the city. The Houthis were firing at Dhain mountain from Sha'ab Al-Ghail in Hamdan district.

On Friday, warplanes attacked Houthi positions in Hamdan and allegedly destroyed a tank captured by the rebels. Another tank was reportedly destroyed by pro-government forces positioned on Dhain mountain.

Despite the Houthis' declaration on Saturday that they would leave the city and hand over government

offices in Amran, their fighters continue to occupy all government departments in the city, according to a source who visited the city on Sunday and requested anonymity for fear of reprisals.

As of Monday, the Houthis were setting up checkpoints at all entrances to the city and conducting security patrols around Amran using local police vehicles, according to the source.

The recent fighting has led to the displacement of up to 70,000 men, women and children from Amran governorate and "numbers are growing by the day," according to the latest situation report by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) released July 9.

"The humanitarian situation is very dire as many people were forced to leave their homes while others were trapped inside being unable to flee the fighting to more secure areas," the report read. "Access to the area is very difficult; the UN agencies could not intervene so far due to the lack of clarity in the situation."

Commander shake-up, security plan for the capital, UNSC statement

The fall of Amran to the Houthis led President Hadi on Saturday to sack senior military commanders including Major General Ali Mohsen. The highly influential Mohsen defected from former President Ali Abdullah

Saleh's regime during the uprising of 2011.

General Mohamed Al-Magdashi, commander of the 6th Military Command, was dismissed and replaced by General Mohamed Al-Hawri. Al-Magdashi is said to be an ally of Mohsen.

Hadi also replaced the commander of the 1st Military Command in Hadramout, General Mohamed Al-Sawmali, with General Abdurrahman Al-Halili.

Amidst talk that the Houthis will set their sites on the capital Sana'a following their victory in Amran, the Interior Ministry on Saturday formed a security crisis group headed by General Ali Lakhsha'a, the deputy minister of interior.

General Abdo Al-Tarib, the minister of interior, also ordered Lakhsha'a to "supervise the security of the capital Sana'a and Sana'a governorate."

In the past month the Houthis have engaged in on-and-off clashes with local Sunni tribesmen affiliated with the Islah Party in the Hamdan and Bani Matar districts of Sana'a governorate, not far from Yemen's capital.

Meanwhile, the Islah Party said in a statement on Wednesday that the "Houthis seek the damage of the state and the republican system, and the obstruction of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) outcomes."

The party demanded that the gov-

ernment disarm all militias including the Houthis, as agreed on in the NDC. Both the Islah Party and the Houthis took part in the NDC.

The details surrounding the death of the 310th Armored Brigade's commander, Brigadier General Al-Qushaibi, is still ambiguous. While the Houthis said last Wednesday that they found him dead in a house nearby the brigade's headquarters, the Islah Party said the Houthis executed Al-Qushaibi in what they consider to be a "war crime."

On Saturday, the UN Security Council demanded "that the Houthis, all armed groups and parties involved in the violence withdraw and relinquish control of Amran and hand over weapons and ammunition pillaged in Amran to the national authorities loyal to the Government."

The Security Council's statement and the statement made to the press by UN Special Envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar were otherwise reiterations of previous statements, calling for a ceasefire and disarmament but lacking specific details of implementation and repercussions for failing to do so.

The Defense Ministry reported Sunday that it held a funeral for 16 members of the 6th Military Command who died in the course of fighting. According to the state-run Saba News Agency, on Monday a further 8 soldiers from the same military region received military funerals.

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Armed tribesmen sabotage Marib pipeline

■ Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA’A, July 14—Armed tribesmen on Saturday detonated the main oil pipeline in Marib governorate.

Ahmed Al-Ghulaisi, an officer in Marib’s Operations Department, said that armed tribesmen detonated the oil pipeline in the Bait Damaj area in Serwah district.

Al-Ghulaisi added that the oil flow was suspended due to the explosion and that engineering teams had not yet been able to repair the pipeline.

In a previous statement to the Yemen Times, Hussein Bin Nasser, the deputy head of the Oil Ministry’s Office in Marib, said that the pipeline transfers 90,000 barrels

of oil per day to Ras Essa on the Red Sea. It links the Safer oilfields with the terminal at Ras Essa.

Al-Ghulaisi said that the security forces are still in pursuit of the suspects.

In recent years disgruntled locals in Yemen have increasingly resorted to attacks on oil pipelines and electricity infrastructure as a means of pressuring the government to meet their demands. Such attacks increased dramatically after the governor of Marib, Jaber Al-Shabwani, was killed in a US air raid on May 24, 2010. Tribesmen loyal to Shabwani retaliated by sabotaging public infrastructure.

Economists say that attacks on oil pipelines have come at enormous cost for Yemen.

“Yemen has to import oil from abroad because oil pumping is suspended after the attacks,” said economist Saeed Abdulmomen.

Yemen is enduring an acute fuel shortage with seemingly endless queues at fuel stations.

According to Abdulmomen, attacks on oil infrastructure result in less oil being exported, which means less sorely needed hard currency for the impoverished country. Yemen loses over one billion USD annually due the acts of sabotage on oil pipelines, according to data by the Yemen Central Bank (CBY).

CBY statistics show a 53 percent decrease in oil exports for the first five months of 2014 in comparison to the same period for the previous year.

Tribesmen and security forces exchange fire in Sana’a

■ Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA’A, July 14—Violent clashes between armed tribesmen and security forces broke out in Al-Haima district of Sana’a governorate on Saturday after security forces attempted to reclaim 50 oil tankers seized by tribesmen.

According to Brigadier Yahia Al-Awami, assistant manager of the Sana’a Security Department, fire was exchanged when tribesmen in Al-Haima attempted to thwart ef-

forts by security forces to reclaim the tankers. Two tankers were set ablaze, said Al-Awami.

The 50 oil tankers coming from Hodeida governorate were on their way to the capital Sana’a.

“These tribesmen are retired soldiers who demand their salaries and other rights which they claim have been denied by the government,” said Al-Awami, without elaborating on the details. After two hours of fighting, the oil tankers that were not destroyed were

taken by the security forces to the capital, according to Mohammed Al-Hizyazi, who owns three of the fifty oil tankers. Abdullah Al-Asbahi, who is responsible for 17 of the government-owned tankers that were reclaimed, confirmed that the tankers reached their final destination. Al-Asbahi added that local security forces are still in pursuit of those who seized the tankers. Disgruntled tribesmen regularly set up roadblocks and seize tankers as a means of voicing their grievances.

Salafi-Houthi coexistence agreement signed in Dhamar

■ Abdulkareem Al-Nahari

DHAMAR, July 14—Houthis and Salafis in Mabar city, Dhamar governorate reached a co-existence agreement on July 9.

Fighting between the Salafis and the Houthis broke out in Dhamar in January 2013, leaving one Salafi member dead.

In May, another round of clashes left six dead and dozens wounded.

The document stipulates three articles and was signed by Houthi representative Yusuf Abdulla Al-Faishi and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulla Al-Emam, the representative of the Salafis.

The first article of the agreement acknowledges the lack of tolerance between the two groups.

Article two of the agreement reads: “the two parties should stop inflammatory speech towards each other in all means and ways and instill fraternity and co-operation between one another,” while the third article calls for direct communication between both parties in times of disagreement.

Thousands of Salafi students study at the religious center of Dar Al-Hadith in Mabar city, one of the largest such institutes in the country.



ADVERTORIAL

French Embassy celebrates its national day

On the evening of Tuesday, July 14, the French Embassy in Sana'a celebrated its national day, brining together foreign representatives and dignitaries. The French Ambassador, H.E. Franck Gellet, praised the GCC Initiative for having brought the country back from the brink of civil war. Gellet condemned the dangerous political maneuvering and conflicts raging in various parts of the country, which he said were "inexcusable." He went on to add that necessary economic reforms have been avoided for too long, referring to subsidy cuts. Lastly,

the ambassador underscored the necessity of a rapid draft process for the constitution, which would

guarantee Yemen's unity. Gellet said that France will remain a loyal ally of Yemen.



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Interpreter	Interprets spoken statements into/from English into Arabic. Translates documents, correspondence, forms, and other written material from one language into another. Rewrites material from English into Arabic vice versa. Maintains records of materials translated and interpreting contacts. At least 3 years' experience in interpreting and translation or Project Administration. Computer skills with working knowledge of MS Office applications, such as Word, Excel and Power Point required. All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor.	\$1,000 US Dollar (Gross)
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¹MetaMeta is a Netherlands based company and provides research and consultancy services in water governance. It also offers specialized communication products geared to the international resource management and development sectors. MetaMeta is present in Yemen, Ethiopia, Pakistan and Nepal. For more information visit www.metameta.nl.

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

World Cup 2014 in Brazil goes to Germany



The German national team celebrates its fourth World Cup victory.

■ Ali Abulohoom

Mario Goetze, the German player who was brought onto the field by the coach a mere three minutes before the referee's whistle drew the match to a close, succeeded in scoring the only goal of the match, crowning Germany as world champions.

Germany has become the first European team to win the World Cup on South American soil, depriving Argentina of victory in the spiritual home of their biggest rivals, Brazil.

Goetze also contributed to Germany's fourth star which will be emblazoned on the players' shirts to symbolize the team's fourth World Cup victory. The first was in 1954 in Switzerland, the second in 1974 in West Germany and the third in Italy in 1990.

During the 120-minute match, Argentina's players squandered several chances, including one at the 12th

Facts about the final match:

- Germany being crowned in Brazil means that European countries have won an unprecedented three tournaments in a row after Italy won in 2006 and Spain in 2010.
- The final match in Rio is the third in a row which was not determined during the 90 minutes of regular time.
- Argentina failed to score a goal for the first time since 1990.
- Goetze pushed the German's goal tally to during the World Cup to 18—the highest since Brazil scored the same number in 2002.
- The only goal of the final match brought the total number of goals in the tournament to 171, which is the

same record made in France World Cup in 1998.

- A goal was scored against Argentina during extra time for the first time in history.
- This World Cup witnessed eight matches with extra time, which is the same record made in 1990.
- The World Cup's best scorer, German player Klose, played his second final, the first being 12 years earlier in 2002. This is the same record as Brazilian player Pele who played in the 1958 and 1970 World Cups.
- Argentina's ball possession during the final match was only 36 percent, which is its lowest since 1966.

minute which saw forward Higuain receive a mistaken pass from the German defender.

Despite Argentina's defeat, the

team's captain Lionel Messi won the prize for best player during the one-month tournament. He has scored four goals in three matches and has

Facts about the tournament:

- 0** The number of cards given to players for diving.
- 2** The number of African countries, Nigeria and Algeria, which passed the group competitions.
- 4** The number of months the Uruguayan player Suarez is suspended as punishment for biting a player from the Italian team.
- 6** The highest number of goals scored by Colombian player James Rodriguez.
- 7** The number of goals scored against Brazil in one match.
- 8** The number of players who scored for Germany.
- 10** The number of red cards—the lowest since 1986 when only eight were given.
- 16** The number of goals scored by German player Klose, which make him the highest all-time scorer of the World Cup.
- 16** The highest number of saves in one game, made by the American goal keeper Tim Howard against Belgium.
- 17** The number of goals scored by the German team this World Cup.
- 28** The number of tackles made by Argentine player Mascherano, more than any other player ever.
- 172** The number of yellow cards handed out.
- 393** The average number of completed passes by one team; more than 2010's 353 passes.
- 53,018** The average number of fans in the stadium—the highest since 1994 when an average of 68,991 attended the World Cup in the United States.

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been responsible for the majority of complete and crucial passes in his team.

Goetze won man of the match with his goal, while the award for the best goal keeper went to his teammate Manuel Neuer who made a number of splendid saves and has been described as a two-in-one goalkeeper and defender.

The absence of Angel di Maria, the Argentine left wing who had to sit the game out due to injury, put the team's coach under a great deal of pressure and forced him to use the bench. But the substitutes failed to

fill the gap and were slow in responding to Messi's passes on the attacking line.

The prize for the biggest goal-scorer went to Colombian player James Rodriguez who scored six goals despite his team being forced out by Brazil in the quarterfinals.

Germany, so impressive in thrashing Brazil 7-1 in the semifinal, found Argentina a much tougher opponent. Ultimately, however, the 100,000 Argentina fans that went to support their team in Brazil ended up going home with tears in their eyes and frowns on their faces.

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TEDx Sana'a Book Club brings together enthusiastic readers



Since March 2013 the book club has been holding biweekly group discussions about a cosmopolitan selection of books in both English and Arabic.

Photo and story by
Madiha Al-Junaïd

Around a table at one of Sana'a's coffee shops, TEDx Sana'a Book Club gathers to discuss this week's book: "Frankenstein in Baghdad" by Iraqi author Ahmed Saadawi.

The 2014 recipient of the International Prize for Arabic Fiction, the novel tells the story of a man who stitches together the body parts of those killed in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. The monster he creates begins to take revenge against those responsible for the violence.

Every second week the youthful group brings together enthusiastic readers in Yemen's capital to discuss a variety of books. The club is an initiative of TEDx Sana'a and was founded by Mazin Al-Hebshi, a doctor, who also acts as the group's discussion leader and moderator.

TEDx Sana'a Book Club aims to encourage people to read, engage them in enriching discussions about a broad array of social and political issues, and relate the topics explored in the literature to issues faced in Yemen.

"The process is integrative and will hopefully contribute to building a new Yemen," said Yassir Elwan, an employee at a Yemen-based security company, who attends the discussions.

Al-Hebshi says the idea for TEDx Sana'a Book Club "started on Face-

book when we were talking about the 'Life of Pie.' The discussion was so amazing that we thought it would be more insightful if we read the book."

Ever since the book club's first discussion in March 2013, the group has been meeting biweekly. While there are usually not more than 20 people attending, the club's Facebook group has more than 1,500 members who discuss the readings online and nominate books for upcoming meetings.

While all members can nominate books, only those who attend the discussions are allowed to vote "because those who attended show real commitment," Al-Hebshi explains.

"There are many people who join the online discussion after they read the nominated book. Their comments are awesome and their engagement is impressive," said Al-Hebshi.

Despite the impressive interactivity and depth of online discussions, "it is nothing like being here and exchanging our ideas about a certain book," Elwan says.

"I come from Dhamar governorate, 100km south of Sana'a governorate, to attend these discussions," said Basheer Al-Zandani, a 35-year-old PhD student who frequently joins the book club's meetings.

Shihab Al-Reyashi, a 15-year-old high school student, agrees. "I come here to benefit from interactive discussions," he said.

Despite the clear enthusiasm of the group's bi-weekly discussion participants and the large number of online members, TEDx Sana'a Book Club has fewer discussion attendees than it would like. "It is depressing that the number of members is high while the number of the discussion attendees is low," said Al-Hebshi.

"In the end, however, we do not force people to attend the discussions. Our main role is to encourage people to read," he adds. The group thereby hopes to promote cultural understanding in Yemen.

In a country with high illiteracy rates, it is doubtful that the TEDx Sana'a Book Club succeeds in introducing all sections of society to international literature. It rather targets those who are already educated and able to read.

"We try to get every educated person engaged in the book club. We encourage whoever is able and ready to read to join us at meetings or via the online discussions," explains Al-Hebshi.

In an attempt to increase the diversity of the club's membership and to spread reading among those who do not have access to books, the club is posting some of its reading material online and plans to establish a public library containing a broad range of donated books.

Novels are the most popular genre discussed, but Al-Hebshi explains that the group reads a variety of other topics as well, including

psychology, history, politics and religion.

"We have read books like 'Chaos Theory' (philosophy), 'Reyadh Al-Saleheen' (religion), '50 Years in Shifting Sands' (history and politics) and many other types of books," said Al-Zandani.

Within these varied genres, TEDx Sana'a Book Club has selected books from around the world; Yemeni, Arab, and international books translated into English or Arabic are all open for discussion.

The book club eagerly recalled some of the foreign books they've checked off their to-read list: "The Kite Runner," an Afghan book,

"Life of Pie," an American book, "Saq Al-Bambo," a Kuwaiti book, "Sophie's World," a Norwegian book, and "To Kill a Mockingbird," another American book.

The discussions are not confined to the books' content, but also involve various contexts of writing, information about authors, the time period in which stories take place and questions of how they relate to the readers' lives.

"Sometimes the content of the books is just not enough. We find that we need to do our own research to fully understand the era that the book is talking about," said Al-Zandani.

Using the example of 50 Years in Shifting Sands, which discusses Yemen's modern political history, Al-Hebshi explains that group members found the book to be imprecise, neglecting some important events like the death of Al-Hamdi, a former president of Yemen.

Although some people tend to take discussions too personally, Elwan explains that "we leave these discussions as friends, even if we have conflicting views." Criticism, according to Al-Hebshi, is important and he aims to moderate debates in a way that makes them constructive and informative for all.

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways The Rural Access Program-Central Management Office (RAPCMO)

Re announcement

Job Vacancy-Program Manager

Background:

The Government of Yemen, through the Ministry of Public Works and Highways is committed to ensure that the Rural Access Program contributes to the Government's plans to promote economic growth and poverty reduction in rural areas of Yemen.

The Rural Access Program is a multi-donor funded program aims to support the government strategy in providing year-round access to basic services, markets, jobs and thus alleviate poverty among the rural population of Yemen where more than 65% of the populations live.

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways now invites highly qualified applicants, Yemeni nationals only, to fill the position of Program Manager of the Rural Access Program. The selected candidate will report directly to the Minister of Public Works and Highways-Chairman of the Steering Committee who has the overall oversight of RAP. The position seeks candidates with expertise and practical experience in rural roads/highway transport construction and maintenance, procurement, contract management combined with knowledge in Environmental and Social safeguard policies and their applications in road/highway construction would be an added advantage to the applicants' selection criteria.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The selected candidate will work under the umbrella of Ministry of Public Works and Highways, and liaise effectively with other line-ministries, and donors in the interest of accomplishing RAP's short and long-term development objectives.

The primary duties and responsibilities of the selected applicant would be:

- As Program Director, perform the day-to-day operations of the Rural Access Program. To that end, the program Director is required to manage the engineering, planning, technical, procurement, financial and managerial activities and operations of the Rural Access Program-Central Management Unit and its regional offices.
- Ensure that RAP's projects are prepared and implemented in line with Government of Yemen's, the World Bank's and other donors' guidelines, policies and procedures.
- Provide professional input with respect to formulating government of Yemen's and its partners' strategies and policies toward RAP achieving its development objectives.
- Work effectively with Ministry Public Works and Highways, and liaise with other line ministries, mainly Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and Ministry of Finance, and stakeholder to secure government's contributions in financing RAP.
- Ensure that donors' legal and financing agreements of RAP between the government of Yemen and donors' are implemented and effectively met.
- Manage the Human Resources of RAP and its regional offices and prepare yearly plan for capacity building and institutional strengthening of Rap and its regional offices.
- Ensure that RAP's assets are properly maintained and accounted for.
- To achieve the above, applicant must meet the following qualifications and experiences.

Qualifications, Experience and Skills:

- Minimum Bachelor's of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Post graduate degree/diploma is a plus.
- Minimum of 10-years of proven experience in road/highway planning and programming, construction management, supervision and maintenance works.
- Extensive experience in road/highway Engineering, infrastructure and technologies and translate such knowledge into practical application to the overall needs of RAP, and decision making. In addition, the applicant should demonstrate proven experience in contract management, procurement and financial management at senior management level in government or private sector organizations.
- Demonstrated skills and ability to ensure the implementation, and long-term sustainability of RAP projects.
- Good understanding of donors, especially World Bank's, financial, procurement, guidelines and procedures, and Environmental and Social safeguard policies.
- Team-work, leadership and people management skills, including demonstrated ability in mentoring and providing guidance to staff to deliver high-quality output and projects.
- Ability to identify needed resources to accomplish results and find solutions to overcome obstacles and problems.
- Excellent communication skills in sharing ideas and making presentations to wide and diverse audience in a clear way.
- Proven ability to read, write and speak fluently in English language.
- Demonstrated ability to use modern personal computer systems, technologies and software and their applications in the development of RAP's business and office automation.

Selection Criteria

- Selection shall be based on the applicant's ability, to the extent possible, to meet the above requirements.
- Interested applicants are requested to write a covering letter outlining their business plan for the management and development of RAP to be submitted with his/her CV. The Cover letter should be clearly written in English language, with no less than 200-words.
- Selection shall be based on the combined results of the person's evaluation of his/her credentials and their responsiveness to the requirements of the job, cover letter and the personal interview.
- Short-listed applicants only shall be invited for interview.
- Selected candidate will work under probation period for 3-months maximum. The steering committee of RAP, Chaired by the Minister of Public Works and Highways, in consultation with the World Bank and other donors will decide whether to renew or terminate the candidate's contract.
- The candidate shall be employed on a renewable year-term contract. The employment contract is a performance-based contract governed by the rules and procedures of the CPPR committee which regulate the work guidelines, employment and remuneration of PIU's/PMU's staff in Yemen.

Interested applicants shall submit their applications in sealed envelope, clearly marked, to the following address:

RAPCMO-Program Manager Position.
The Ministry of Public Works and Highways
The Minister's Office-4th Floor
Dhafer Himyar area- Berlin Street
Sana'a, Yemen.

The deadline for submission is August 14, 2014. Late applications will not be accepted.



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Palestine's dilemma: to go or not to go to the International Criminal Court

Richard Falk
middleeasteye.net
First published July 13

In light of the latest Israeli military offensive, Palestinian leaders should seek the International Criminal Court's help

Ever since this latest Israeli major military operation against Gaza started on July 8, there have been frequent suggestions that Israel is guilty of war crimes, and that Palestine should do its best to activate the International Criminal Court (ICC) on its behalf.

The evidence overwhelmingly supports basic Palestinian allegations: Israel is guilty either of aggression in violation of the UN Charter or is in flagrant violation of its obligations as the Occupying Power under the Geneva Convention to protect the civilian population of an Occupied People; Israel seems guilty of using excessive and disproportionate force against a defenceless society in the Gaza Strip; and Israel, among an array of other offences, seems guilty of committing Crimes Against Humanity in the form of imposing an apartheid regime in the West Bank and through the transfer of population to an occupied territory as it has proceeded with its massive settlement project.

Considering this background of apparent Israeli criminality, it would seem a no brainer for the Palestinian Authority (PA) to seek the help of the ICC in waging its struggle to win over world public opinion to their struggle. After all, the Palestinians are without military or diplomatic capabilities to oppose Israel, and on law and global solidarity must rest their hopes for eventually realising their rights, particularly the right of self-determination.

Such reasoning is reinforced by the May 8 letter sent by 17 respected human rights NGOs to President Mahmoud Abbas urging Palestine to become a member of the ICC, and act to end Israel's impunity. This was not a grandstanding gesture dreamed up on the irresponsible political margins of society. Among the signatories were such human rights stalwarts as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Al-Haq, and the International Commission of Jurists, entities known for their prudence.

Adding further credence to the idea that the ICC option should be explored was the intense opposition by Israel and the United States, ominously threatening the Palestinian Authority with dire consequences if

it tried to join the ICC, much less to seek justice through its activation. The American ambassador to the UN, Samantha Power, herself long ago prominent as a human rights advocate, revealed Washington's nervous hand when she confessed that the ICC "is something that really poses a profound threat to Israel."

I am not sure that Power would like to live with the idea that because Israel is so vulnerable to mounting a legal challenge that its impunity must be upheld whatever the embarrassment of doing so. France and Germany have been more circumspect, saying absurdly that recourse to the ICC by Palestine should be avoided because it would disrupt "the final status negotiations," as if there have ever been any of value, a chimera if there ever was one.

In a better world, the PA would not hesitate to invoke the authority of the ICC, but in the world as it is, the decision is not so simple. To begin with, is the question of access, which is limited to states. Back in 2009, the PA tried to adhere to the Rome Statute, which is the treaty governing the ICC, and was rebuffed by the prosecutor who turned the issue over to the Security Council, claiming a lack of authority to determine whether the PA represented a "state."

Subsequently, on November 29 the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly recognised Palestine as "a non-member observer state." Luis Moreno-Ocampo, who had acted in 2009 for the ICC, and now the former prosecutor, asserted that in his opinion Palestine would in view of the General Assembly action qualify Palestine as a state with the rights of ICC membership. Normally, ICC jurisdiction is limited to crimes committed after the state becomes a member, but there is a provision that enables a declaration to be made accepting jurisdiction for crimes committed at any date in its territory so long as it is after the ICC was established, which was 2002.

Is this enough? Israel has never become a party to the Rome Statute setting up the ICC, and would certainly refuse to cooperate with a prosecutor who sought to investigate war crimes charges with the possible intention of prosecution. In this regard, recourse to ICC might appear to be futile as even if arrest warrants were to be issued by the court, as was done in relation to Qaddafi and his son in 2011, there would be no prospect that the accused Israeli political and military figures would be handed over, and

without the presence of such defendants in the court at The Hague, a criminal trial cannot go forward.

This illustrates a basic problem with the enforcement of international criminal law. It has been effective only against the losers in wars or those whose crimes are in countries of the South. This has been true since the first major effort was made after World War II at Nuremberg and Tokyo, holding surviving German and Japanese leaders responsible for their crimes while exempting the winners, despite their responsibility for the systematic bombing of civilian populations by way of strategic bombing and the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Unfortunately, up to this time the ICC has not been able to get rid of this legacy of "victors' justice," which has harmed its credibility and reputation. All ICC cases so far have involved defendants from sub-Saharan African countries.

The refusal of the ICC to investigate allegations of war crimes in relation to the Iraq War of 2003 is a dramatic confirmation that leading states, especially the United States, possess a geopolitical veto over what the ICC can do. The ICC failure to investigate the crimes of Bush and Blair, as well as their entourage, vividly shows the operations of double standards.

Perhaps, the climate of opinion has evolved to the point where there would be an impulse to investigate the charges against Israel even if procedural obstacles preventing the case could not be carried to completion. Any serious attempt would add legitimacy to the Palestinian struggle, and might have a positive spill-over effect on the global solidarity movement and the intensifying the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign.

Yet there are other roadblocks. First of all, the PA would definitely have to be prepared to deal with the wrath of Israel, undoubtedly supported by the United States and more blandly by several European countries. The push back could go in either of two directions: Israel formally annexing most or all of the West Bank, or more likely, withholding the transfer of funds needed by the PA to support its operations.

The US Congress would be certain to follow the lead of Tel Aviv even if the Obama presidency might be more inclined to limit its opposition to a diplomatic slap on the wrist as it did recently in reacting to the formation of the interim unity government that is attempting to reconcile

Fatah and Hamas.

A second potential obstacle concerns the jurisdictional authority of the ICC, which extends to all war crimes committed on the territory of a treaty member, which means that leaders of Hamas could well be investigated and indicted for their reliance on indiscriminate rockets aimed in the direction of Israeli civilian targets.

There is even speculation that the politics of the ICC is such that crimes alleged against Hamas might be given priority.

If we assume that these obstacles have been considered, and Palestine still wants to go ahead with efforts to activate the investigation of war crimes in Gaza, but also in the rest of occupied Palestine, what then? And assume further that the ICC reacts responsibly, and gives most of its attention to the allegations directed against Israel, the political actor that controls most aspects of the relationship.

There are several major crimes against humanity enumerated in Articles 5-9 of the Rome Statute for which there exists abundant evidence as to make indictment and conviction all but inevitable if Palestine uses its privilege to activate an investigation and somehow is able to produce the defendants to face trial: reliance on excessive force, imposing an apartheid regime, collective punishment, population transfers in relations to settlements.


The underlying criminality of the recent aggression associated with Protective Edge (Israel's name for the 2014 Gaza attack) cannot be investigated at this point by the ICC, and this seriously limits its authority. It was only in 2010 that an amendment was adopted by the required two-third majority of the 122 treaty members on an agreed definition of aggression, but it will not be operative until 2017. In this respect, there is a big hole in the coverage of war crimes currently within the au-

thority of the ICC.

Despite all these problems, recourse to the ICC remains a valuable trump card in the PA deck, and playing it might begin to change the balance of forces bearing on the conflict that has for decades now denied the Palestinian people their basic rights under international law.

If this should happen, it would also be a great challenge and opportunity for the ICC finally to override the geopolitical veto that has so far kept criminal accountability within the tight circle of "victors' justice" and hence only accorded the peoples of the world a very power-laden experience of justice.

Richard Falk is an international law and international relations scholar who taught at Princeton University for forty years. In 2008 he was also appointed by the UN to serve a six-year term as the Special Rapporteur on Palestinian human rights



INTERNAL/EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 14/2014

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Duty Stations:	Aden Post # 89199 Saada Post # 89201 Sana'a FO Post # 89202

PURPOSE:
Under the close supervision of one of the Chief Field offices, the incumbents will contribute to programme planning, administration, implementation, monitoring and the evaluation of programme activities, including teamwork, capacity building, and coordination. The incumbent is expected to work under the technical guidance of the WASH Specialist in Sana'a on planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of programme activities

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Collects and contributes in the analysis of data for the Situation Analysis, programme/project planning, management, monitoring and evaluation purposes. Prepare programme implementation reports and evaluates against established programme recommendations and plans of action. Prepares tables, graphs and other statistical data. Reports outcome of analysis and proposes corrective actions. Also to assist in the work with other stakeholders on relevant surveys, research, and studies.
- Undertakes ongoing visits to UNICEF project sites, assesses local conditions and resources, and monitors UNICEF inputs. Communicates with local counterpart authorities on project feasibility and effectiveness including monitoring the flow of supply and non-supply assistance.
- Attends technical cooperation meetings, prepares notes and undertakes follow-up action and coordination related to programme implementation and monitoring.
- Assists in the procurement and contracting process and the identification and selection of technical supplies and equipment and monitoring of WASH supplies and contracts chain.
- Ensure the appropriateness of financial, administrative and supply documentation; verify that WASH programme expenditures are within allotments and that data is consistent with the programme information and database (e.g., Vision). Follow up on queries or initiate corrective action on discrepancies. Collaborate with Monitoring & Evaluation office on maintaining a gender & equity focus in WASH data collection and reporting.
- Facilitate and compiles training and orientation materials for those involved in programme implementation, including partners, counterparts, donor and media visits.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- University degree in one of the following disciplines: Public Health, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Geology, Hydrology, Sanitation Engineering, or a field relevant to international WASH related development assistance.
- Additional training in Water or Environmental Engineering, Health Education or Communication for Development (Programme Communication) is an asset.
- One year progressive professional work experience in research, surveys, assessments, social studies and reporting in the field of Water Sanitation and Hygiene.
- Fluency in English and Arabic, both oral and written is required.

COMPETENCIES:

i) Core Values (Required)

- Commitment
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Integrity

ii) Core Competencies (Required)

- Communication [II]
- Working with People [I]
- Drive for Results [I]

iii) Functional Competencies (Required)

- Formulating Strategies and Concepts [I]
- Analyzing [II]
- Applying Technical Expertise [II]
- Learning and Researching [II]
- Planning and Organizing [I]

If you meet the requirements stated above, please send your application, enclosing comprehensive curriculum vitae, duly completed United Nations Personal History form (which can be downloaded from www.unicef.org/employ) stating telephone number, email address and detailed contact address quoting the vacancy number to: yemenhr@unicef.org not later than 23rd July, 2014 Please indicate your preferred duty location(s) when applying. For additional information on UNICEF, please visit our website: www.unicef.org

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If you meet the above requirements, please send a cover letter and a detailed resume to the following email address: engpmtc@gmail.com . Applications through fax will not be considered. The deadline for receiving applications is August 7, 2014. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for interviews.

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The politics versus economics of subsidy reform in MENA

Svetlana Milbert
atlanticcouncil.org
First published July 11

Subsidies, particularly on energy, are still widely used around the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries, but there is growing consensus that urgent reforms are needed to address costly and distortive economic effects of energy subsidies. In a recent report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Subsidies Reforms in the Middle East and North Africa: Recent Progress and Challenges Ahead," the Fund makes recommendations on how to best implement energy subsidy reforms aimed at reducing state budgets while advocating for social safety nets to replace subsidies.

For decades, governments in the MENA region have resorted to food and energy subsidies to appease their citizens, making it part of the social contract. Following the 2011 Arab uprisings, most MENA governments increased expenditures on energy subsidies despite their distortive impact on economic growth, budget deficits, investment, and crowding out of public spending in other sectors to placate protesters calling for social justice and greater economic opportunities.

The IMF estimates that in 2011, pre-tax energy subsidies in the region, which arise when consumers of energy pay less than the supply cost of energy, accounted for nearly half of all energy subsidies globally, 8.6 percent of regional GDP, and 22 percent of government revenue.

In 2012, subsidies for diesel and gasoline alone accounted for almost 4 percent of regional GDP.

The IMF acknowledges that reforming energy subsidy policy is a difficult task, both technically and politically.

Therefore, it says, the timing and duration of reforms should be carefully planned in advance of unrolling subsidy reductions. Another important factor to ensure the success of subsidy reforms lies in conducting a media campaign to spread awareness as to the cost of subsidies and the benefits of reform. This step is vital in rallying the largest possible political and public support for reforms.

Although policy makers widely recognize the adverse consequences of energy subsidies, MENA countries hesitate to implement reforms.

In Egypt, following the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak, successive governments refused to undertake subsidy cuts, fearing a political backlash. It was

not until earlier this month, that President Sisi finally decided to lift energy subsidies by increasing prices on various petroleum products (Table 1).

Similarly, Tunisia has cut spending on subsidies in the state budget for the current year and raised prices on a select number of petroleum products.

Other transitional countries, such as Yemen, have yet to move towards reducing subsidies despite deteriorated public finances. This week, the Yemeni government announced upcoming austerity cuts, described by President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi as belt-tightening measures. Subsidies account for 30 percent of state revenues and more than 20 percent of expenditures, costing Yemen over \$3 billion a year. If Yemen hopes to salvage its budget and cut expenditures, it has few options but to cut subsidies. But in a country where a third of the population lives on less than \$2 a day, such a political decision will be met with popular resistance—reflecting a lack of confidence by the population that governments will reinvest the savings from subsidy reform into social development.

Opposition to reform will primarily come from the middle and upper classes and industrial users who benefit the most from energy

subsidies. Given that subsidy reform is a necessary component to macroeconomic stability and growth, MENA governments can leverage communication strategies

proposed by international institutions like the IMF and emphasize transparency to convince all segments of the population that removal of what is perceived

as social entitlements is a legitimate and necessary action.

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Table 1. Breakdown of Price Increases on Select Petroleum Product in Egypt

Petroleum product	Price increase	Price change	Consumed by
80-octane gasoline	EGP 0.90 to EGP 1.60 per liter	78 percent	Old vehicles
92-octane gasoline	EGP 1.85 to EGP 2.60 per liter	41 percent	Most vehicles
95-octane gasoline	EGP 5.85 to EGP 6.25 per liter	6.8 percent	Luxury vehicles
Diesel	EGP 1.10 to EGP 1.80 per liter	percent 64	Public transportation/trucks
Natural gas	EGP 0.40 to EGP 1.10 per cubic meter	percent 175	Taxis

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Boycotts from Mayo to Montgomery to Manama

Brian Dooley
muftah.org
First published June 5

Boycott is an Irish word. At least its origins are in Ireland, from 1880 when tenant farmers in County Mayo withheld rent from land agent Captain Boycott. They refused to harvest his crops or clean his house. The local postman refused to deliver his mail after Boycott tried to collect rents despite harvest failure. That peaceful protest of noncooperation has inspired economic and political boycotts since, including the 1955-56 United States civil rights landmark, the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

This week's news that Bahrain's political opposition will boycott the upcoming November elections comes as no huge surprise. Bahrain's lower house has 40 elected seats; the upper house is all appointed. Opposition parties won 18 of the 40 seats in the last full parliamentary elections of October 2010, but all 18 members of parliament resigned in protest a few months later when the government reacted violently to widespread calls for democratic reform. The opposition parties then refused to take part in the by-elections of October 2011, prompted by the earlier resignations.

Al-Wefaq, Bahrain's largest opposition party, is now faced with the dilemma of legitimizing an election by taking part or risking rejectionist accusations by refusing to join the ballot. The lack of incentives given by the government makes it hard for the opposition to join the election. Many Al-Wefaq supporters argue they should not take part in elections when the government has not

addressed issues of gerrymandered districts. Bahrain's public prosecution has brought charges against Al-Wefaq's secretary general and deputy secretary general, and many of the country's leading opposition figures remain in jail, unable to run for office anyway.

Should the elections this year go ahead without real opposition participation, it will most likely mean several more years of political unrest. It might seem odd for those pushing for greater democracy to refuse a chance to take part in elections, but there are precedents.

"Without real parliamentary elections to legitimize its political authority the regime's claims to represent the will of the people look less credible."

In 1988 Archbishop Desmond Tutu urged South Africans to boycott elections, arguing that they were to take place at a time when the government had outlawed extra-parliamentary organizations working for change, and when many political leaders were in jail. He and other clerics wrote in a pastoral letter:

"While the government claims it is organizing 'democratic' elections... it is using all the instruments of a totalitarian state to create a climate in which talk of democracy is hollow ... We believe it is of critical importance to our country's future that the government should be given a very

clear message that its vision for the future, as well as its specific plans to achieve that vision, are wholly inadequate. A boycott of these elections would send such a message in the hope that the government would reassess its position."

Irish republicans developed a second option during the twentieth century: the semi-boycott. This is where candidates run for election on the understanding that if they win they will not take up their seats, and will remain "abstentionist." This protest vote tactic was used with some success by Irish republicans, notably in the 1980s when their candidates stood for parliament either in the name of a party or as proxies for a party. In 1981, Irish republican prisoner Bobby Sands became an international sensation when he won a seat in the British parliament. When he died on hunger strike a few weeks later another republican won the consequent by-election. It would be interesting to see how Bahrain's leading political prisoners would poll if they were allowed to stand for election.

Without real parliamentary elections to legitimize its political authority the regime's claims to represent the will of the people look less credible. This is very worrying too for Bahrain's allies, including the United States, who need the sort of political stability in the kingdom real elections would help support. South Africa's apartheid system of government collapsed within a few years of Tutu's 1988 call for election boycotts, and Bahrain's rulers risk the same if they do not radically and urgently reform.

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Recipe of Ramadan

Kebab Hindi

■ Ussama Al-Khalil

Contrary to what the name might suggest, this simple, healthy and wonderfully tasty Syrian dish does not appear to have much Indian influ-

ence and is not heavily spiced. Like Damascene cuisine more generally, the key to this dish is its delicately balanced, fresh flavor. It is the ideal dish for breaking one's fast with friends and family and can easily be cooked in large quantity.

Ingredients (4 persons):

- 500-600 grams minced meat
- 2 eggs
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 spoon of breadcrumbs
- Olive oil
- 3 large onions
- 10-12 tomatoes
- 1 large zucchini
- 1 eggplant
- 1 green bell pepper
- pine seeds (small handful)
- 1 large handful of finely chopped mint
- Salt, pepper to taste (other spices at your discretion)

Preparation:

- Cut onions in narrow slices and dice the tomatoes.
- Cut the green pepper, eggplant and zucchini into small pieces about 1cm thick.
- Sweat the onions in a little oil and then add green pepper, eggplant, and zucchini.
- Add tomatoes, tomato paste and finely chopped mint, salt and pepper. Cook for about 10mins before placing the sauce into a large casserole.
- Now mix the minced meat with the eggs and breadcrumbs (you can use a little flour instead of breadcrumbs) until you get a firm mass. Season with salt and pepper and roll into small

- meatballs about the size of a golf ball. Fry the meatballs gently in a little oil (not too long, as they will be cooked for another 30 minutes afterwards).
- Place the meatballs into the casserole with the sauce and sprinkle with a handful of pine seeds.
- Place the casserole into a pre-heated oven (200°C) and cook for 30 to 40mins.
- Serve with rice or flatbread.

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