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# Fifteen soldiers killed in Hadramout



AQAP militants stopped a bus carrying both civilians and soldiers, before kidnapping and later executing 14 soldiers who were on their way home. Photos were published by AQAP on its twitter account.



AQAP militants inspect soldiers' identity cards. An eyewitness reports they apologized to the civilians on board.

## Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Aug. 10—Fifteen soldiers were killed in two separate incidents on Friday and Saturday in Hadramout governorate by members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

On Friday night AQAP members killed 14 soldiers of the 135th Infantry Brigade in Seyoun district, Hadramout. The soldiers were captured from a civilian transport bus; four of them were decapitated, the remaining ten were shot dead.

Another soldier was killed on Saturday when the same brigade was combating the neighboring al-Qatan district, according to a high ranking officer in the 135th Infantry Brigade who asked to remain anonymous for fear of his life.

Two further soldiers and eight AQAP militants were killed in fighting in Al-Qatan earlier that week, while twelve members of AQAP were arrested.

"A mistake was made by the brigade; we did not consider the soldiers' safety, and that AQAP's armed men had spread in that area, so we sent soldiers home via buses, owned by Al-Baraq Company, to drive them to Sana'a. But the eyes and spies of AQAP, inside or outside the brigade, informed the armed men and they ambushed the soldiers in Al-Hazem area and killed and slaughtered the soldiers," the officer told the Yemen Times.

Explaining why the soldiers were using civilian transport to begin with, the officer said, "after the large battles with AQAP militants on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday [in Al-Qatan area], we had a huge victory. After that we had very high morale and did not expect that AQAP would ambush us, so we decided to send some soldiers to their families to take some rest as a reward for holding their ground, because they had spent the Eid holiday with the brigade."

The officer added, "now, we are deployed in Seyoun and the entire city is under our control, and we will pursue the armed men. The perpetrators will not escape punishment."

## Eyewitness account

Eyewitness Ameen Baroufaied, who was aboard the bus that the 14 soldiers were captured from, posted his account of events online. Baroufaied confirmed his story to the Yemen Times over the phone, adding that he is still too shaken up from that day's horrifying events to talk about them more.

"After Maghrib Prayer in Seyoun the land transport bus started to move, carrying armed soldiers that seemed afraid and were wearing parts of their army uniforms which made it obvious that they were soldiers. Before we could leave, an armed man boarded the bus and walked around it which made the soldiers more nervous and afraid," he began.

Baroufaied recounts that while the bus was heading toward the airport, taking the main street toward Shibam area, the bus driver was informed that AQAP members were waiting on the road, so he went back to Seyoun and took an alternative road, Seyoun-Hawtah.

When soldiers in the bus noticed that armed men on motorbikes were following them, civilian passengers convinced them to hide anything which would identify them as military personnel and to change into civilian clothing. The soldiers did, hiding their guns under their seats.

"If we had not done that there would have been a massacre on the bus, because we heard the soldiers were planning a confrontation in case we were pulled over by AQAP members," he said.

At Al-Hazem area in Seyoun district, the bus was stopped at a checkpoint manned by armed men. "A veiled armed man boarded the

bus and ordered us to evacuate. We exited the bus and there were more than 50 armed men, most of them from Hadramout and veiled," Baroufaied explains.

He recalls that they "looked at the passengers' IDs and apologized to us because we are civilians. They laid the soldiers on the ground while they were crying and screaming, and the camera was recording everything."

Jalal Baleedi, who used to be the AQAP commander in Abyan between 2011-12, then spoke to the civilian passengers.

"Baleedi came and gave us a speech, mainly about how the soldiers are filthy Rawafidh [people who reject Islamic authority], how they let the Houthis have their way in the north and came here to kill Sunnis in the south," Baroufaied said.

The militants then drove away with the soldiers, still alive, in a Toyota Hilux, while Baleedi left in a plain Toyota Corolla, Baroufaied reported. He added that it was only one soldier who was left behind with the other civilians as he could not be identified as military personnel.

## Fighting in Al-Qatan

This tragic incident came after a violent week in Al-Qatan, where fighting broke out periodically from Tuesday, August 5, until Thursday, August 7, between the army and AQAP militants. In the course of fighting two soldiers and eight militants were killed, and twelve members of AQAP were arrested.

On Tuesday, August 7, fighting first broke out in Al-Qatan. AQAP members attacked the district's government headquarters one day later, on Wednesday, again engaging in fighting with the army. Although the army announced its full control over Al-Qatan, and its expelling of the gunmen, on Wednesday evening, AQAP mem-

bers were again visible in Al-Qatan on Thursday when periodic fighting renewed.

One week ago, the 135th Infantry Brigade moved from Lahj governorate to Seyoun, Hadramout to reinforce the armed forces already positioned there.

The brigade participated in the wars against the Houthis between 2004 and 2010. After that it relocated from Sa'ada to Aden, then to nearby Abyan to fight AQAP in 2012.

Along with the 135th Infantry Brigade, now positioned in Seyoun and Al-Qatan, the Al-Salam Battalion arrived from Sana'a last week specifically to secure Seyoun and to support the 37th Armored Brigade, which was already stationed in the area.

According to Dr. Saeed Al-Jamhi, the head of the Al-Jamhi Studies and Research Center which conducts studies about AQAP in Yemen, "AQAP militants have a major presence in Hadramout governorate and their numbers have doubled during the past two months."

## Rising fear of what's to come

"We hold the Ministry of Defense responsible for what happened to our colleagues and we demand that the leadership of the ministry, as well as the brigade's command and the 1st Military Command in Hadramout [which is responsible for the 135th Infantry Brigade] be held accountable," said Abdulrahman Mohammad Ahmed, one of the soldiers in the 135th Infantry Brigade.

In his opinion, secure transportation should have been provided to the brigade's soldiers by aircraft. "They know we are in continuing battles with AQAP militants and that the area is not secure."

He added, "right now we are not leaving our military bases until there are aircrafts to transport us. We are fearing for our lives."

## Tribal mediation ongoing to release sons of southern leader

### Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Aug. 11—Tribal mediators sent to President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi by the southern tribal leader Tareq Al-Fadhli on Saturday have thus far failed to release Al-Fadhli's two sons, who were arrested on Wednesday in Hadramout.

Several local media reported on Saturday that Al-Fadhli sent prominent military and tribal figures from Abyan to Sana'a in order to convince President Hadi to release his two sons, who were arrested for fighting with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in Seyoun, Hadramout governorate.

Local media further reported that President Hadi refused to release Al-Fadhli's sons and that Al-Fadhli's mediation team requested the head of the National Security Bureau to provide special treatment to his sons.

Jamal Al-Queiz, head of the Defense Ministry's Security Department, confirmed this information. He told the Yemen Times that he heard a mediation team was sent to President Hadi to request the release of Al-Fadhli's two sons and to treat them well while being held in custody.

"I am sure nobody, including President Hadi and the Defense Ministry, can release Al-Fadhli's sons, who will be punished like other Al-Qaeda militants," he said.

The arrest of Al-Fadhli's sons on Wednesday was carried out by soldiers of the 135th Infantry Brigade during clashes with AQAP militants, which left a soldier and eight militants killed

and 12 other militants arrested.

A high-ranking official of the brigade, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions, said that Al-Fadhli's sons were arrested around noon and handed over to the military police in Abyan, thereafter being transferred to Sana'a by helicopter on Friday.

He alluded that "if Al-Fadhli's sons are released this would be a betrayal to the blood of the soldiers who were killed by Al-Fadhli's sons and by other members of AQAP. We demand the president of the republic to give them the maximum penalty under law because they are murderers."

Tareq Al-Fadhli is an important and powerful tribal leader and prominent figure in the Southern Movement. Like President Hadi, he is originally from Abyan governorate. Yemeni authorities in November 2012 forced Al-Fadhli to move from Abyan to Aden and placed him under house arrest after he refused to actively support the military in its campaign against AQAP. In June he fled Aden to Abyan governorate, escaping house arrest.

Once a leading member of the General People's Congress and later siding with the Southern Movement and urging southern secession, Al-Fadhli has long been a controversial figure in the country. Having fought against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan under Osama Bin Laden in the 1980s and having been publicly accused by the Yemeni government of supporting AQAP in Abyan in 2009, Al-Fadhli has often been associated with Al-Qaeda in the past.

Gruesome video and photos of the killings were taken from AQAP's Twitter account and circulated on news and social media websites. They were met with considerable public outrage from locals and government officials alike condemning the act as barbaric.

Abdulrazzaq Al-Jamal, a journalist specialized in AQAP affairs, said that "the way in which those soldiers were killed will distance AQAP from Yemeni's hearts; it is a very heinous method."

Friday's attack reminded many Yemenis of the attack carried out by AQAP on the Defense Ministry hospital in Sana'a in 2013, which left 56 people killed and 215 injured.

Local residents in Seyoun are afraid that things may become worse in their city as a result of the increasing presence of militants as well as the massive number of army troops in the area, fueling the fear

that a war is looming.

According to Ahmed Saleh Shamlol, a resident of Seyoun and a journalist, Seyoun and Al-Qatan have been witnessing clashes between the army and AQAP for the past two months. Government headquarters and public schools were burglarized and destroyed, hospitals were closed down, and homes were destroyed due to the clashes, which has spread fear and panic among the locals.

Shamlol added that "gunmen are present in large numbers and appear openly in Seyoun and Al-Qatan. They have taken advantage of the major lack of security in the governorate; they have entered it and spread in all its streets; they have polarized locals because they came in the name of religion. Some [locals] have joined AQAP because of their poor economic condition—they joined for the money."

## Heavy security presence in Lahj after AQAP Attack

### Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA'A, Aug. 11—Security forces were deployed throughout Al-Hawta, the capital of Lahj governorate, after armed men suspected of being members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) carried out simultaneous attacks on the city's Special Security Forces headquarters, Political Security Bureau, and government compound on Saturday evening.

A security source who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal told the Yemen Times that members of AQAP handed out pamphlets declaring Al-Hawta city an Islamic Emirate last Thursday. In anticipation of an attack by AQAP, security departments "adopted pre-

cautionary measures and deployed security personnel around government headquarters," the source said.

The source added that individuals who carried AQAP flags used artillery shells and medium weaponry when attacking the Special Security Forces headquarters, the Political Security Bureau and the governorate's central government compound, including different government departments and offices, in Al-Hawta on Saturday evening.

The army and the police exchanged fire with the AQAP militants until Sunday morning, with neither side suffering any casualties, according to the security source.

"The soldiers and the security ar-

ees are all under threat, and could be attacked by AQAP at any time. Therefore we have deployed military forces in various areas," the source said.

AQAP announced on its Facebook page that it carried out an attack on a number of security headquarters in Al-Hawta on Saturday evening, using artillery shells, rocket-propelled grenades, and light weapons.

Prior to the recent attacks, AQAP assassinated Ali Bin Ali, an employee working with the Civil Status Authority in Al-Hawta on Friday evening, thinking he was an employee of the Political Security Bureau, according to Baasem Al-Zoraiki, a journalist in Lahj.

This information was confirmed by the security source.

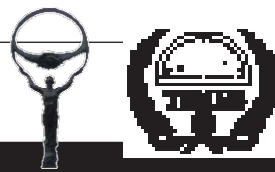
A statement by AQAP released on Twitter said that a "spy" working with the Political Security Bureau in Al-Masawa neighborhood of Al-Hawta was shot and killed on Saturday, August 9.

"All soldiers are now threatened by AQAP, which is spread around the outskirts of Al-Hawta," said Al-Zoraiki.

Saeed Al-Jamhi, head of the Al-Jamhi Studies and Research Center, indicated that the current outburst of violence in Hadramout was a consequence of short-term security measures. After military offensives against AQAP operatives in Shabwa and Abyan, the two governorates' borders were insufficiently controlled. This allowed AQAP members to flee to Hadramout.

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## Presidential committee begins implementing ceasefire agreement in Al-Jawf

■ Bassam Al-Khameri

SANA'A, Aug. 11—The presidential committee assigned by President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi to resolve the conflict in Al-Jawf between the Houthis and local Sunni tribesmen began on Saturday to implement the ceasefire agreement in Al-Safra area, in the west of Al-Jawf governorate.

Mohammed Daraan, a member of the presidential committee, said that they began removing barricades and road blocks in Al-Jawf as well as strategic positions used to control areas, adding that both parties are responsive to the agreement but remain suspicious of one another.

"We have been working since July 19 and finally began imple-

menting the ceasefire agreement on Saturday. Both parties abided by the agreement and showed goodwill," he said.

Daraan added that the committee is currently discussing a way to exchange the prisoners and abducted people on Monday.

Mubarak Al-Abadi, director of the Islah Party's Media Department in Al-Jawf, confirmed that the presidential committee has begun implementing the ceasefire agreement, adding that the situation is currently calm in Al-Jawf and that "all positions were removed in Al-Safra area."

Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthis' Political Office, also confirmed that the situation is stable and that the presidential committee is implementing the ceasefire

agreement. He said that the prisoners and abducted people held by both parties will be exchanged according to the agreement.

"We have several prisoners and we are going to exchange them for Ansar Allah's [Houthi] members who were abducted by the other party," he said.

While the Al-Safra area appears calm, Faisal Al-Aswad, a journalist in Al-Jawf, reported on Monday morning that clashes have renewed in Al-Ghail district.

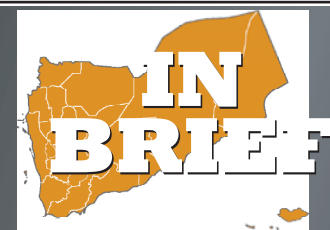
Daraan announced that the presidential committee will visit Al-Ghail "either late Sunday or early Monday to implement the ceasefire agreement there," removing all the barricades and strategic positions.

The ceasefire agreement, which

was signed last Saturday by both warring parties, stipulates the removal of barricades, the evacuation of positions created to control areas, the exchange of prisoners detained during the fighting, and the return of bodies of both parties' victims.

The committee was supposed to start implementing the agreement on August 3 but had to postpone its work because of renewed clashes that broke out in Al-Saqia area in Al-Ghail district.

While the agreement was officially signed between a Houthi representative and a representative for the popular committees formed by the Sunni tribesmen, the Houthis continue to accuse their opponents of being affiliated with the Islah Party.



**Interior Minister: Security forces kill one gang member, injure two in Sana'a**

SANA'A Aug. 11—The press secretary of Interior Minister Ahmed Harba denied claims made by several news websites that the man killed in Sana'a's Taiz Street on Monday was a terrorist wearing an explosive belt.

The press secretary said the deceased is a member of a gang that kidnaped foreigners, adding that he was under surveillance and that when security forces tried to arrest him and two others they resisted, resulting in the death of one and the injury of two others. The secretary added that the suspects do not belong to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and were not carrying any explosive belts.

He stated that the gang had kidnaped many foreigners blaming them for the abduction of Pierre Francisco, an Italian national who was kidnaped in March in Sana'a and released shortly after.

**President Hadi appoints two deputies at the National Authority for NDC Outcomes Implementation Control**

SANA'A Aug. 11—President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi on Monday held the first meeting for the National Authority for NDC Outcomes Implementation Control, which was established on April 24 to control the implementation of the NDC outcomes.

President Hadi attributed the delay in establishing the authority to current economic and security challenges in Yemen.

Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani and Nadia Al-Saqaf were appointed as deputies for the authority. President Hadi adjourned the meeting for 24 hours to give the members time to meet and allocate other positions in the authority.

**Industry and Commerce Office in Aden closes bakeries for not selling at specified prices**

SANA'A, Aug. 11—The Industry and Commerce Office on Monday closed 16 bakeries in the Al-Tawahi, Al-Muala, and Seera districts of Aden for not selling bread at prices set by the government.

The administrator of the Supervision and Inspection Department, Fadhil Swailh, told the state-run Saba News Agency that bakery owners will be referred to the Violations Prosecution Office for not selling at the fixed price specified by the Office of Industry and Commerce.

The Office of Industry and Commerce formed committees with members from the Supervision and Inspection Administration as well as citizens from the relevant districts to monitor prices for bread and other basic food items.

**Baleedi's father condemns his son for recent attack**

SANA'A, Aug. 11—The father of Jalaal Baleedi, a high ranking member of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), strongly condemned the group's execution of 14 soldiers in Hadramout governorate last Friday.

"Killing soldiers is a crime denounced by every human being on earth," said Brigadier-General Mohsen Saeed Baleedi, who returned to his work in the military last year after being forcefully laid off in 1994.

In a brief interview with Al-Masdar Online, Baleedi denied accusations that he could be an adviser to the Ministry of Defense, as was rumored on some news and social media websites after his son was claimed to be responsible for leading the attack in Hadramout.

He said, "I am not an adviser to the Ministry of Defense and I have never set foot in it. The political leadership simply brought back dozens of officers from various southern areas to their posts after we were forcefully retired during the reign of the previous president."

## Yemen awaits \$560 million IMF loan following subsidy cuts

■ Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Aug. 10—Yemen is still waiting for the Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to endorse a loan of \$560 million after the government cut fuel subsidies on July 30, the London-based Al-Hayat Arabic newspaper on Friday quoted a government official as saying.

Removing the fuel subsidy was a condition set by the IMF for the loan agreement that Yemen began talking with the fund about last May in Jordan, according to the source quoted by Al-Hayat.

In late July the government cut the subsidy by 70 percent, meaning that the remaining 30 percent still needs to be cut for it to be a complete removal of the fuel subsidy.

On Friday Reuters quoted the minister of planning and interna-

tional cooperation, Mohammad Al-Saadi, as saying that he thinks the loan will begin to be dispersed in two months time.

The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation declined to provide any details on the loan agreement to the Yemen Times.

The former minister of finance, Sakhr Al-Wajeeh, told Reuters in May that the IMF loan would be disbursed over a period of three years.

"Yemen needs to re-orient public spending towards pro-growth, pro-poor outlays, and to reduce the fiscal deficit in order to contain pressures on inflation and foreign exchange reserves," the IMF said in a report published in April.

It said that "donor financing for the budget will be crucial to support economic reforms and to halt a further decline in the already low

infrastructure investment." The report added that the IMF provided financial support to Yemen in 2012.

"Staff remain in close dialogue with the authorities on economic policy challenges, including those related to the move to a federal structure of the state," the report reads.

The government spent YR656 billion (\$3.05 billion) in 2013 on subsidizing fuel whereas investment spending was halted completely, President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi said last Wednesday during a meeting with cabinet members.

Hadi explained that the government sustains an acute shortage of revenues due to repeated sabotage attacks on oil pipelines, which halt production.

Yemen oil production decreased from 400,000 barrels of oil per day

in 2005 to only 134,000 in 2014, according to the president. Hadi explained that the sharp reduction of oil production led to an increase in local debts which, until June of this year, reached YR3.039 trillion (\$1.4 billion).

The halt of oil production has also forced the government to import oil. The fuel import bill between January and June of this year was around \$1.5 billion, whereas the government generated only \$1.2 billion from oil and gas exports for the same period.

The government also declared on July 9 an austerity plan to control public spending and generate revenues. The plan includes a ban on overseas trips for ministers, apart from four official trips per year travelling by economy class, and a review of state-owned companies in telecommunication, trade, and service.



## الفائزين في المسابقات الرمضانية الذين لم يستلموا جوائزهم

الرقم	الاسم	الجائزة	الرقم	الاسم	الجائزة	الرقم	الاسم	الجائزة	الرقم	الاسم	الجائزة
1	احمد عبدالله شرف	هدية من شركة مام	29	بليغ انور الغفوري	مودم	57	صباح عبدالله زيد	مودم	85	علاء العديني	اسكانر
2	احمد قائد الذيب	فحص طبي	30	تيسير محمد احمد	هدية من شركة مام	58	صدام عليان	تلفون الكاتل	86	علوم عبده عبدالله	ريسيفر
3	احمد محفوظ ثابت	مودم	31	جمال عبدالناصر الحماطي	فحص طبي	59	صفاء موسى القارح	دورة في معهد يالي	87	علي احمد عبدالله	شاشة 24 بوصة LCD
4	احمد محمد الغفاري	تلفون الكاتل	32	حافظ مطيع علي	ريسيفر	60	صفية مرتضى الشاحدي	دوره في معهد يالي	88	علي حزام ناشر	ريسيفر
5	اختابراهيم يحي منصور	20000	33	حمدي محمد يحي	ايباد	61	ضيف الله احمد البردوني	DVD	89	علي عبد الغني علي	ريسيفر
6	اخت موسى علي	دورة في معهد A2Z	34	حنان احمد عبدالله	تلفون الكاتل	62	طه احمد صيفان	ريسيفر	90	علي عبدالله شطيرة	هدية من شركة مام
7	ادام علي مساعد	دورفي معهنوهوريزن	35	حنان شوقي عبدالله	دورفي معهنوهوريزن	63	عائشة علي القراع	دورفي معهنوهوريزن	91	علي محمد التشديلي	شاشة 24 بوصة
8	اديب احمد البعداني	ساعة	36	خالد احمد عيسى	ساعة	64	عائشه حسن احمد	20000	92	عمار محمد المابهي	تلفون ال جي
9	اسامه سلطان	ساعة	37	خالد احمد عيسى	طابعة	65	عادل محمد السلاي	شاشة 42 بوصة	93	عمار جعدل	فحص طبي
10	اسماء احمد عطيفة	هدية من شركة مام	38	خالد شاطر	10000	66	عادل محمد النعمي	دورة انجليزي	94	عمرانور سالم	ريسيفر
11	اسماء عبدالرحمن	دورة انجليزي	39	خالد شاطر حسين شاطر	مودم	67	عبدالرحيم محمداالصبحي	هدية من شركة مام	95	غالب ابراهيم الحسيني	هدية من شركة مام
12	اسماعيل محمد احمد	ريسيفر	40	خالد عبدالرحمن	طابعة	68	عبدالسلام صالح الغزيفي	دورفي معهنوهوريزن	96	غسان العيسوي	اسكانر
13	اشراق عبدالله السراجي	ريسيفر	41	خالد قاسم الشعري	دوره في معهد يالي	69	عبدالسلام عبداللشعبي	دوره في معهد يالي	97	فؤاد راشد محمد السوري	كاميرا ديجتال
14	اكرم حميد الجراي	ريسيفر	42	خليل علي محمد	فحص طبي	70	عبدالكافي سيف	تلفون الكاتل	98	فاطمة مصطفى عبدالله	مودم
15	ام جواد عبداللطيف	10000	43	خيرية صالح	هدية من شركة مام	71	عبدالله الفتاحي	دوره في معهد يالي	99	فتح توفيق عطاء	دورفي معهنوهوريزن A2Z
16	ام محمد عبدالمجيد	هدية من شركة مام	44	رغد الكميم	10000	72	عبدالله حسن احمد	تلفون الكاتل	100	فضل علي عبده القدسي	ريسيفر
17	اماني حامد العلفي	ريسيفر	45	رقيه محمد ثابت	ساعة	73	عبدالله دحان قائد	طابعة	101	فضل علي عبده القدسي	مودم
18	اماني محمد علي حاجب	ريسيفر	46	زوجة عدنان حسن	ساعة	74	عبدالله عبد الحميد	دوره في معهد يالي	102	فنون حمود	مودم
19	امة الرزاق محمد الدار	دورفي معهنوهوريزن	47	زينه صالح احمد	مودم	75	عبدالله عبدالعزيز الحرازي	دورفي معهنوهوريزن A2Z	103	فيصل مهدي ابراهيم	دورفي معهنوهوريزن
20	امرية حيدر النهاري	10000	48	سارا يحي علي	هدية من شركة مام	76	عبدالمك يحي	طابعة	104	قدريه احمد قاسم	اسكانر
21	امل سعيد	ساعة	49	سعديه علي سليمان	مكتسة كهربائية	77	عبدالنور سعيد علي حارث	مكتسة كهربائية	105	ماجد عباس سعيد	DVD
22	امل صالح احمد	هدية من شركة مام	50	سمر مصطفى احمد	مودم	78	عبدربه يحي التاج الدين	DVD	106	مبارك علي محمد	تلفون الكاتل
23	امنة احمد الفقيه	مكتسة كهربائية	51	سميرة محمد الجعيد	هدية من شركة مام	79	عبده عثمان المجيدي	مودم	107	محمد مطهر الشاحدي	مودم انترنت
24	اميرة صالح احمد	ساعة	52	سميره احمد عبدالله	شاشة 50 بوصة لاجي	80	عبير حسن احمد الفهد	كاميرا	108	محمد احمد	طابعة
25	انتصار علي محمد	20000	53	شرف نعمان الدغيش	ريسيفر	81	عبير عبدالكريم	ساعة	109	محمد الشامي	خلاط
26	ايمان عبدالجبار	مودم	54	صبرين طالع العيسوي	ريسيفر	82	عبير علي الميسري	كاميرا	110	محمد الغزالي احمد	كاميرا
27	ايمان هادي بن سليمان	شاشة 32 بوصة	55	صادق القاضي	ايباد	83	عدنان علي احمد الخولاني	دورة انجليزي	111	محمد حافظ مطيع	مكتسة كهربائية
28	باسم سيف احمد	كاوية	56	صالح احمد الحميني	دوره في معهد يالي	84	عدنان علي عباد	هدية من شركة مام	112	محمد حسن السباك	هدية من شركة مام

علماً بأن آخر موعد لتسليم الجوائز يوم الأربعاء والخميس 13-14/8/2014 من الساعة 9 صباحاً وحتى 4 عصراً وعلى جميع الفائزين الإلتزام بالحضور في الموعد المحدد حيث انه آخر موعد للتسليم

# Yemenis continue paying heavy price for widespread arms possession



A cartoon circulated on Twitter and Facebook pages depicting how Yemeni military personnel are targeted by both AQAP and Shia Houthi rebels.

## ■ Ali Saeed

The entire population of Yemen suffers from weapons possession. Every day, a significant number of people are reported to be killed and injured by guns whether in direct fighting or by accident, with guns going off unintentionally.

The Ministry of Interior reported on August 4 that two persons were killed and another one injured while they were "playing with guns" in separate incidents taking place in Sa'ada, Amran, and Hajja, on August 3 alone.

In Kutaf district of Sa'ada a 20-year-old man accidentally fired a

bullet from the Kalashnikov he was playing with, killing a 13-year-old. A similar incident occurred in Amran governorate, when a young man also toying with a Kalashnikov unintentionally killed a 30-year-old. In Hajja, a third person's careless handling of his Kalashnikov caused him to accidentally shoot himself in the leg.

These incidents, however tragic, are dwarfed by Yemen's arms business, which continues to fuel sectarian and tribal conflicts throughout the country. According to a report published on August 7 by the Abaad Strategic Studies Center, a tank in Sana'a, these conflicts cause a high number of casualties.

Ever since the National Dialogue

Conference (NDC) concluded on January 25, the reports reads, around 2,980 individuals, including military and security personnel, Houthi Shia rebels, alleged AQAP militants, armed Sunni tribesmen, and civilians were killed in recurring fights between the government and various armed militias.

In Abyan, Shabwa, Al-Dhale, Lahj, Sana'a, Marib, Hadramout, and Aden, around 300 suspected AQAP members were killed between January 25 and August 7 in military operations directed against AQAP, the report continues. At the same time, around 200 military personnel, among them 15 army officers, and 30 civilians were killed in attacks carried out by sus-

pected AQAP militants.

More recently, about 400 military personnel, 250 civilians, and over 2,000 Houthis were killed during fighting in Amran city and locations in Sana'a and Al-Jawf governorates.

In his televised address to the nation on July 27, President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi blamed Yemen's unregulated arms sector for such high rates of violence, declaring that "ongoing conflicts and armed confrontations... are the natural result of warring parties' possession of heavy and medium weapons."

He continues, saying that conflicts in Yemen were "also a result of the arms business, which used to be conducted with the knowledge of the state and under its sponsorship, a thing which I started curbing strictly since my first day in office."

Indeed, an increasing amount of arms smuggled into Yemen have been detected over the past three years at Yemeni borders.

In spite of these efforts, arms smuggling has not been stopped and a number of problems related to the dealing of arms remain unaddressed.

In his speech on July 27 Hadi accused arms dealers of sabotaging oil pipelines and electricity wires in an attempt to pressure the government into allowing their continued illegal practices of "systematically importing and smuggling weapons."

The trade and possession of weapons constituted one of the main topics discussed during the NDC. Different committees, including the Sa'ada Issue Work-

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ing Group, the Good Governance Working Group, and the Development Working Group set out several constitutional and legal frameworks on arms business and possession that are expected to be included in Yemen's new constitution, which is scheduled to be completed by March 8, 2015.

The committee working on the Sa'ada conflict advised the government to disarm all parties, groups, and individuals who looted heavy and medium weapons from the military. "The possession of heavy and medium weapons must be confined to the state and personal guns must be regulated by a law," the committee proposed.

Likewise, the Good Governance Working Group argued that the new constitution must "ban and criminalize all armed militias and declare any political party that forms military wings to be illegal."

According to a previous statement made to the Yemen Times by Aysh Awas, a security analyst at the Sheba Strategic Studies Center, the government of Yemen used to import its weapons through non-governmental local arms dealers until 2007.

The NDC outcomes document advises those practices to be stopped immediately. It further suggests to issue a law regulating the possession of arms for personal use, including handguns and Kalashnikovs. Setting a counterweight to rampant gun shops in Yemen, the new gun control law would make sure that weapons' serial numbers are registered on government lists and that shops selling weapons will operate under the government's supervision. Importantly, the registration of serial numbers would help in the identification of suspects involved in gun crimes.

# Succeeding with a disability: The story of Manal Al-Ashwal

## ■ Dares Al-Badani

Manal Al-Ashwal was born in Taiz in 1982 to an educated family. Her mother recalls her being a happy, healthy child.

"Manal was born with no disability. She was just like any other normal child. I used to notice that she was intelligent in comparison to her siblings. Her memory was good and she was outspoken," said Al-Ashwal's mother.

From a young age, she said, her daughter's mental ability far exceeded her age group. She used to challenge her teachers, listen to the news, and read widely. In fact, Al-Ashwal's mother proudly points out that her daughter was able to read and write before formal schooling.

However, Al-Ashwal's promising and seemingly happy life took a sudden turn for the worse when she lost her hearing.

Eight-year-old Al-Ashwal suffered from mumps, which caused the sudden onset of deafness to the shock of her and her family members, constituting a dramatic turning point in her life.

The disease was common in the area at the time, with the vac-

cine for Mumps being inaccessible to large segments of the Yemeni population. With the possible exception of some private hospitals, until today "no vaccine for Mumps exists in Yemen for logistical and financial reasons," explains Ali Jahaf, the General Director of the Ministry of Health's Family and Health Administration. With no vaccination available, Al-Ashwal's siblings suffered from mumps as well. They all made a full recovery, contrary to Al-Ashwal, whose auditory nerves were damaged, leading to her loss of hearing.

Al-Ashwal's mother remembers one night calling her daughter to open the door for her brother.

"I called her, 'Manal, Manal, open the door for your brother.' I thought she was engrossed in the news. But this was not the case. She told me she saw the movements of my lips, but heard nothing," she recalls.

Al-Ashwal was taken to many doctors, both in Yemen and abroad, but none were able to help her. One doctor in Jordan recommended surgery for a Chochlea transplant, but the estimated cost was \$40,000, which the family could not afford at the time.

Al-Ashwal was left with no other choice than to adapt to her condi-

tion and do her best to live with it. "At the beginning it was difficult. I was very shy and I did not dare talk to others," Al-Ashwal remembers.

Fourteen years after Manal lost her hearing she still struggles to speak like her siblings. Though she speaks Arabic conversationally, she gives the impression of being a non-native speaker. Nevertheless, Manal understands others perfectly well, having been trained to read lips. The fact that she was not born deaf, but could once speak and hear properly, helped Al-Ashwal become proficient in lip reading.

However, the ability to understand people took time to develop. Initially, after losing her hearing Al-Ashwal struggled at school, not understanding her fellow students and teachers. Language classes were especially tough, as great emphasis was put on speaking and listening. Al-Ashwal was also unable to participate in many activi-



Al-Ashwal earned an MA in biology and established an association to help deaf girls in Yemen pursue their education.

ties with her classmates, leading to feelings of isolation and exclusion. Al-Ashwal's mother remembers that school years were the most difficult in her daughter's life and that she would often return from

school crying.

Eventually, Al-Ashwal successfully graduated from high school in 1999, with an average of 87.50 percent.

Being determined to continue her studies at university, Al-Ashwal registered at the Science College in Taiz and majored in biology. She has a passion for applied sciences and a particular interest in studying animal and plant life. Al-Ashwal was the only deaf student at her university and spent long hours studying to keep up with her peers. In spite of her difficulties, she successfully completed her first degree in 2004, and following her enthusiasm for learning, decided to pursue an MA in Biology.

Having always been supported by her family, her mother explains that it was Al-Ashwal's determination which made the family push her forward. Researching how poultry could be fed with Yemeni plants at low costs, Al-Ashwal completed her MA studies with honors in 2013. This makes her the first deaf Yemeni woman who has completed her graduate studies and is now on track to start her Ph.D. Recently she was chosen to

represent Yemen in the Disabled People's International (DPI), working as treasurer in the Arab Region Department.

Recognizing that in spite of her success she has faced many difficulties and obstacles as a deaf woman in Yemen, Al-Ashwal established an association that offers help to about 190 deaf girls in the country. Located in Taiz, the Al-Saeeda Association for Deaf Girls provides cultural and sport activities to its members and supports girls in pursuing their education. Al-Ashwal is currently working to qualify and train the members of her association, by providing them with courses in sign language for example.

Al-Ashwal founded the association to prevent other Yemeni girls from suffering the same way she did when she was young and unable—or too afraid—to participate in many activities with other kids her age.

While there are organizations in place that care for males with hearing impairments, like The Association of the Deaf and Mute in Sana'a, and the Al-Erada Association for the Deaf in Dhamar, the country has long been lacking an organization which focuses specifically on deaf girls and young women.



# Libya insecurity forces aid workers to leave

IRIN  
First published Aug. 7

Libya's deteriorating security situation has led to an exodus of aid workers and suspension of development programs, leaving tens of thousands of displaced and vulnerable people relying on skeleton networks manned in part by volunteers.

In recent weeks, thousands of families have fled their homes in the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi, following clashes between rival militias, factions of whom seized control of the capital's international airport and a military base in Benghazi, and set fire to a major fuel depot.

This latest surge in violence comes after a highly contested election in June and while some steps have been taken towards forming a new parliament, the authorities are still struggling to manage law and order, prompting claims the country is heading back towards civil war.

But as the needs grow, the capacity to respond is shrinking. The bulk of international organizations are now operating either remotely from neighboring Tunisia via local partners, or in some cases, not at all.

## Existing caseloads

Before this latest unrest, Libya was already straining under the



Amid the worsening security situation in Libya, which has caused many foreign relief workers to leave, medical supplies are running low and doctors and nurses are unable to travel around or even get to work.

weight of a surging population of migrants using the North African country as an exit point to Europe, while supporting an existing caseload of more than 50,000 in-

ternally displaced persons (IDPs), uprooted during the 2011 NATO-backed overthrow of former President Muammar Gaddafi. The latest surge of violence has affected

around 500,000 families, with at least 9,000 displaced, according to the International Medical Corps (IMC).

Most Western embassies and international companies have pulled out nearly all their staff, a number evacuated by boat due to the airport in Tripoli being inaccessible—while aid agencies and UN bodies have taken similar approaches. Among the major aid organizations that have suspended or can-

celled their work on the ground are the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

“Most organizations have pulled out of Libya due to the security situation,” explained Tunis-based Muftah Etwilb, regional representative for North Africa at the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). “The Libyan Red Crescent

(LRC) is really one of the few actors left on the ground, along with a handful of national NGOs.”

“The LRC volunteers are doing a fantastic job despite the difficult and challenging environment but at some point they will need support,” he said, adding that assessments were ongoing and a potential deployment by Federation members from Tunisia was under consideration.

The ICRC's withdrawal was prompted by the assassination of 42-year-old Swiss national Michael Greub, who was shot by a group of armed men in a targeted attack as he left a meeting in the eastern city of Sirte. The organization's offices in Misrata and Benghazi had also been attacked in the past.

## Funding shortages

Other local bodies appear woefully unprepared. The Libyan Humanitarian Relief Agency (LibAid), which was established under the prime minister's office following Gaddafi's fall, was supposed to lead the humanitarian response, but staff there say it has recently been able to do little due to funding shortages.

The agency's secretary-general, Khaled Ben-Ali, told IRIN “we have not received any budget [from the government] for a year and a half... It is critical now. The IDPs have not been getting any support from LibAid... no food rations or any help for the past six months or more.”

Describing LibAid's capacity to respond to an increase in needs as “almost zero,” he said he had contacted the government “hundreds” of times for funding but feels there is little interest in supporting the IDPs. He and his board have tendered their resignation, he said.

*Continued on the back*

## Tunisia's Political Prospects

Duncan Pickard  
atlanticcouncil.org  
First published Aug. 8

Consensus has characterized Tunisia's transition to democracy. Ennahda, the self-styled Islamic party, governed in coalition with two secular parties. The National Dialogue, which made several important decisions about the stages of the transition, prompted Ennahda to agree to step down from power—a first for an Islamic party in the region—in favor of a technocratic government.

With the political crisis averted, the National Constituent Assembly adopted a progressive constitution in January with 92 percent voting in favor. The constitution's overwhelming support is a testament to the arduous, two-year process of building consensus on the shape of Tunisia's political system. The success of the system now rests in the hands of political parties that will be elected to office in the fall, and in particular, whether those parties maintain their commitment to inclusion of their opponents.

Parties will compete for leadership of a number of new democratic institutions envisioned by the constitution. Parliamentary elections are scheduled for October 24, followed by two rounds of presidential elections a month later (there is some chance that elections will be delayed, especially in light of the elections commission's recent extension of the deadline to register. Still, the constitution requires that elections be held before the end of the year). Unlike under the Ben Ali regime, parliamentary elections likely will be genuine, and the parliament will have real control over the executive. The parliament will choose the prime minister, will exert nearly total control over the state budget, will be able to compel testimony from ministers, and will be able to override presidential vetoes.

The prime minister will also be much stronger under the new constitution than previously devised under Zine Al-Abidine Ben Ali. The prime minister will appoint and di-

rect cabinet ministers, with the exception of the minister of defense and foreign affairs. The prime minister will be appointed by the governing coalition in parliament and not by the president. The president remains quite powerful: she or he will direct foreign and national security policy, and will be able to call a state of emergency, to veto legislation, and to dissolve parliament under certain circumstances. The president will be the only politician elected on a single nation-wide ballot, giving him a powerful mandate vis-à-vis others in the government.

The dual executive is intended to diffuse decision-making across political actors, and the potential for conflict is high. The constitution creates a constitutional court that will, in part, reconcile debates on the prerogatives of the president and prime minister. The court will also rule on the constitutionality of laws passed to it by lower courts, or on the constitutionality of draft legislation when prompted by parliament. The constitution envisions the new court as a powerful mechanism for enforcing democracy and, as such, its membership will be balanced. The president, parliament, and Supreme Judicial Council will select four members each, four of whom will not be judges or lawyers.

In sum, the constitution creates three powerful institutions virtually from scratch: the dual executive, the parliament, and the constitutional court. The elections represent a competition between political parties for control of these institutions, with plenty of opportunity for winners and losers to work together to share in government. The potential for gridlock, however, is also high. Parties could undermine each other in implementing their programs, given the large number of veto players. Parties must commit themselves to consensus not only in assigning posts but also in executing their power.

The question is whether political parties are up to the challenge. Ennahda is the only party that has led a government, to largely negative reviews. Nidaa Tunis, which is in a dead heat with Ennahda in the

polls, comprises many members of Ben Ali's former party; the president and founder of Nidaa Tunis, Beji Caid Essebsi, was Ben Ali's foreign minister and speaker of parliament. The Republican Party, one of the largest liberal-centrist opposition parties in the National Constituent Assembly, represents a loose coalition of parties but only holds eleven of the 217 seats. Ennahda's coalition partners, the Congress for the Republic and Ettakatol, are polling in the low single digits. After emerging from decades of marginalization under a one-party state, today's parties are weak and inexperienced in governing and developing platforms. Tunisians often call for “technocratic” governments to get the country out of political crises, but at a certain point, parties with real positions will need to lead the government.

One indication of the political parties' lack of self-confidence can be found in their negotiations over a consensus presidential candidate. Ennahda's proposal to put forth presidential candidates that all political forces can agree upon stems as much out of fear for their own political position as a desire for a unifying figure. Knowing well that they would unlikely win the presidency on their own, Ennahda leaders appear prepared to endorse a non-Ennahda member chosen by consensus with Nidaa Tunis and other parties. While parties attempt to mitigate the unpredictability of the presidential elections through backroom negotiations, commentators are right to criticize the plan for robbing Tunisian voters the genuine choice of several qualified candidates.

Consensus will be required to make the constitution succeed, but an excess of consensus from parties too closely resembles the pre-determination of political outcomes from the Ben Ali era. Tunisian political parties must commit themselves to working together regardless of the outcome of the elections and ultimately hold themselves accountable to the people—not to each other.

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# State department taking passports away from Yemeni-Americans

**Middle East Research and Information Project**  
merip.org  
First Published Aug. 9

Over the past year, dozens of Yemeni-Americans visiting their ancestral homeland have had their US passports summarily revoked or confiscated by the embassy in Sana'a without any clear legal basis, effectively stranding them outside the United States. Last month, a coalition of US civil rights groups submitted a report on this practice to the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) pursuant to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. We asked Yaman Salahi and Nasrina Bargzie, staff attorneys at the National Security and Civil Rights Program at Asian Americans Advancing Justice: Asian Law Caucus who co-authored this report with eight other legal rights groups, to shed light on the issue.

## How has the US government been taking passports away from Yemeni-Americans?

The experiences people report have the same essential ingredients. The typical tale involves a Yemeni-American man (all of our cases so far involve men) who has been living in the United States, as a US citizen, since childhood. As an adult, he travels to Yemen to visit his parents, wife or children, and needs to apply for a visa for his spouse or relative, or to document his children as US citizens born in Yemen. He requests an appointment, for which there is often a six-month wait. He travels hundreds of miles through politically unstable territory to reach the embassy in Sana'a. There, he typically waits several hours before being called. In the course of the appointment at the consular window, a law enforcement officer takes the petitioner away to an interrogation room for several hours. The officer aggressively lobs groundless accusations of fraud at him, sometimes accusing him of having another name, sometimes accusing him of lying about who his parents are. Keep in mind that this man has already

proven, to the satisfaction of a US government official, that he is a US citizen, and no one has taken any action to challenge that. He's got valid proof of US citizenship, like a Certificate of Citizenship, a Certificate of Naturalization or a Consular Report of Birth Abroad.

But that's not enough. The officer doesn't believe anything the man says and at this point is not vetting the application, but basically re-investigating the man's claim of citizenship—an investigation with which the man has absolutely no obligation to cooperate. The officer then terrorizes the individual with threats that failure to confess could result in several

***“The use of forced confessions is especially alarming; if the government had hard proof of fraud, it wouldn't need confessions.”***

years of prison time and denial of all of the family's applications, which would be devastating to the family, subjecting them to indefinite separation. Sometimes there are also false promises that the officer just wants to help out, that everything will be fine and that all the paperwork will be processed as soon as a confession is signed. So, after hours in an interrogation room, with all of his identity papers and legal documents in the officer's possession, without access to an attorney or other legal assistance, the individual feels like he has no choice but to sign the papers. Of course, once the papers are signed, many people are simply dismissed

from the embassy. Their passports are not returned, and their applications are not approved. No notice, no explanation, no instructions for appealing or for returning to the United States.

The use of forced confessions is especially alarming; if the government had hard proof of fraud, it wouldn't need confessions. It's hard to imagine why anyone would sign one and risk losing everything without being coerced or misled. That may explain why the reported encounters have the hallmarks of coercion—such as threats of harm and hours of detention in an interrogation room—and why the people who signed papers were generally surprised by what happened to them next. They were stuck for months without passports and without any help from the embassy. Advocates have reported that at subsequent hearings challenging passport revocations, the government's sole piece of evidence was these sworn confessions. There was no corroboration. This fact puts the entire practice on very shaky ground, and the risk of error is very high.

**We often hear about the US in Yemen through the prism of drone strikes, such as the killings of US citizen Anwar Al-Awlaqi and his teenage son Abd Al-Rahman. How does this practice of revoking and confiscating passports fit into US Yemen policy?**

The US government's foreign policy priorities in Yemen have essentially redefined the entire country as a battleground and reduced its people to nothing more than security threats. This mentality explains the unfair and harsh treatment of Yemeni-Americans at the US Embassy in Sana'a. A June 2010 State Department report explains that “Embassy Sana'a... has become the key forward operating base for the broad spectrum of counterterrorism efforts against Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula,” a remarkable description of an embassy, a place which we normally envision as a diplomatic outpost or a service center for citizens abroad.

There is nothing new about efforts to prevent immigration fraud, but the mobilization of a national

security framework to rationalize attendant abuses is troubling. The State Department report explains, “the world recently has awoken to the serious threat of terrorism in Yemen, putting Sana'a's visa and passport services in the homeland security crosshairs.” The prospect of unauthorized migration from Yemen is framed as nothing less (and nothing more) than a “risk to US homeland security,” even though there is no reason to think that the general reasons for such migration differ from the reasons for migration elsewhere in the global south—economic inequality and political instability. “Issuing a passport or visa to a terrorist is a real risk, and

***“The consular staff is thus sensitized to think of routine applicants of Yemeni origin, including US citizens, as potential terrorists, and to see fraud everywhere.”***

Embassy Sana'a works hard to make sure that their product is free of fraud,” according to a State Department internal report. The consular staff is thus sensitized to think of routine applicants of Yemeni origin, including US citizens, as potential terrorists, and to see fraud everywhere. In such an atmosphere, and without proper safeguards, it's no wonder this translates into unjust encounters that Yemeni-Americans view as insults to their dignity.

**Can you tell us a bit about the Yemeni-American community and how it is viewed by the State Department?**

In 2010, the State Department es-

timated that there were 55,000 US citizens living in Yemen. In the US, there are large Yemeni-American communities in Oakland, Fresno, Bakersfield, Dearborn, Brooklyn, and Buffalo.

One thing worth noting is the State Department's unflattering view of Yemeni-Americans who live in Yemen. It says, “many of the US citizens have no connection to the United States except their US passport,” and “a large number of the Yemeni-Americans reflect local standards of illiteracy and lack of education.” This elitist and troubling language from the State Department relies on a loaded “cultural” definition of “American” rather than a legal one. Indeed, in other places, the State Department contrasts Yemeni-Americans in Yemen with “true expatriates, including Islamic converts who have come to Yemen for religious studies.” Even in the legal sphere, formalistic conceptions of US citizenship are being displaced by culturalist, racist, or politically loaded conceptions. At the same time these Yemeni-American citizens were being stranded in Yemen by confiscation of their passports, the State Department issued a travel advisory warning US citizens to leave Yemen immediately, which these people obviously couldn't do. It is hard to imagine US citizens who are not of Yemeni origin being treated this way at the embassy.

**How does US law ordinarily govern the revocation of citizenship?**

To be clear, none of the passport cases that we are aware of so far involve formal confiscation of US citizenship, but we are concerned that the passport revocations could be a precursor of things to come. What's disturbing is the way in which a passport revocation sidesteps all of the protections for citizenship that have been put in place by the Supreme Court. Under current US law, natural-born citizens can only lose their citizenship through voluntary renunciation. And the government can only take US citizenship away from naturalized citizens if it can prove “material and substantial” fraud through “clear, unequivocal, and convincing” evidence in a federal court. By contrast, under pres-

ent rules, a passport can be taken away before any hearing, and the subsequent hearing isn't in a court with its attendant protections; rather, it's convened informally before a State Department employee who plays the role of hearing officer and a State Department lawyer who presents the government's case. Given the sharp disparity, City University of New York (CUNY) law professor Ramzy Kassem has called this practice in Yemen “proxy denaturalization” because the government is achieving an effect that it otherwise could not if it followed the rigorous procedures designed to protect individual rights.

***“Even in the legal sphere, formalistic conceptions of US citizenship are being displaced by culturalist, racist, or politically loaded conceptions.”***

**What can be done to challenge these arbitrary measures?**

Tactics are evolving. In mid-2013, when reports began to trickle in, we published a “Know Your Rights” pamphlet advising people to exercise caution when going to the US embassy in Sana'a. Since then we have posted periodic updates on the website MyEmbassyRights.org, but it remains an ongoing problem and one that the State Department has not adequately addressed. Our latest shadow report to CERD asks the UN to get involved, but such efforts need to be complemented by a community mobilization strategy as well as other interventions. The work is ongoing.

# Quality education: A responsibility for all?

■ **Shafiq A. Fakir**

Education is widely considered as a cornerstone for individual success and the progress of a nation. Development of a country largely depends on its educated citizens. Unfortunately though, as many of us are aware, our Yemeni education system is passing through a crisis.

Teaching methodologies in our schools tend to be traditional and teacher-directed, focusing mostly on rote learning. Factors such as overcrowded classrooms, insuffi-

cient teaching materials, and underqualified teachers significantly affect the quality of education in schools. Drowned in these challenges, schools fail to prepare students with the so called 21st century skills required for their success in the emerging global environment. These skills include, but are not limited to, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, collaborative skills, effective oral and written communication skills, and media literacy.

Another serious phenomenon affecting our educational outcomes is cheating during exams. Despite efforts by the Ministry of Educa-

tion to combat cheating, the problem persists. On this point, see for example articles published in the Yemen Times titled “The Ministry of Education takes stand on cheating in schools” (April 11, 2013), “Cheating rampant in Yemen exam centers,” (July 4, 2013), and “Secondary school exams resume after nearly 900 violations reported” (June 24, 2014).

Cheating in some instances is encouraged by family members who use the poor quality of instruction at schools as an excuse to justify why students cheat (see *Rammah Al-Jubari's report, Yemen Times, July 2013*). Cheating has also re-

sulted in violent confrontations between those who come armed to exam centers to assist students in cheating and the security forces there. And this year, to make matters worse, in an unprecedented case three high school examination questions sheets were leaked and posted on social media networks including Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter.

One wonders why strict measures were not taken when this phenomenon had just started and were left to escalate this far! Needless to say, academic dishonesty does not only affect the present but also has negative consequences on

our students' future. Students who rely on cheating to pass exams fail to develop knowledge and skills that can help them in their future since no effort was put into studying. Moreover, it has been noticed by academics working in colleges that these students often come with a mentality that they can get away with cheating there as well. On the other hand, the diligent and the smart students who refuse cheating sulk, become disheartened, and lose motivation as they feel that the less deserving might get better grades than them, simply by cheating.

Certainly, as seen on its web

page, the Yemeni Ministry of Education continues its efforts toward improving the instructional quality in schools and takes a stand on cheating incidents. But, what do you think the role of Yemeni educators, school teachers and staff, and family members should be regarding this pressing issue? What can be done at an individual level?

*Shafiq A. Fakir obtained her PhD in applied linguistics at the University of Memphis (TN-USA) and is currently working as assistant professor of English at Aden University.*

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# Yemeni globetrotter tours the world and 11 governorates to promote peace and security

■ Madiha Al-Junaid

Having travelled the world and visited over 30 countries, globetrotter Saleh Al-Marhabi decided this year to tour around 11 Yemeni governorates by motorbike with the goal of promoting peace and stability.

The seventy-year-old father of six daughters and eight sons, and the grandfather of fifteen children, works for the National Organization for Popular Committees in Sana'a, an initiative established by Interior Minister Abdu Hasan Al-Tarb to undermine the presence of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

Al-Marhabi's self-initiated journey, which he has named "Security, Stability and Social Peace are National Duties of Every Citizen," started in Amran in early May. Believing that security is dependent on not only the government but also on citizens, he wished to spread awareness of how individual citizens can contribute to a safer Yemen.

Throughout his journey, on which he was accompanied by Al-Qahali, his assistant and photographer, Al-Marhabi presented his views on peace and security in Yemen at lectures which he held in different communities, universities, and schools. Informing his audience on existing security obstacles, he encouraged listeners to stand together to improve the country's security, regardless of the political party or religious sect they belonged to.

"A huge gap exists between the citizens and the security officials, and this gap must be eliminated," said Al-Marhabi.

After completing his one-month journey around Yemen, Al-Marhabi met with the Yemen Times to talk about the main challenges he faced on this trip and his previous journey around the world.

## The challenges of travelling in Yemen

"In Amran, attendees were approximately one thousand in number and those who couldn't find seats sat on window shelves and pathways in lecture halls," Al-Marhabi recalls, seemingly pleased by the success of his venture.

While most people were interested in Al-Marhabi's tour and generally understanding, he was met with hostility from others. "In a southern governorate that I traveled through people started calling me 'Dahbashi' [a discriminatory term for northerners]," he says. In an attempt to counter such bigotry, Al-Marhabi emphasized that his travels are a personal project to call for security, independent of his party affiliation or region.

"Politics and partisanship must not interfere with security," he says.

The major obstacle faced by Al-Marhabi throughout his journey was going to the governorate as scheduled to find the local management or the local council asking for additional travel documents "as though I came from another country."



After touring the world on his bicycle, seventy-year-old Saleh Al-Marhabi travelled Yemen this year by motorcycle, giving lectures and visiting various security departments.

Those administrative hurdles caused involuntary delays in Al-Marhabi's trip.

The most difficulty was faced in Taiz, he explains, where local officials requested new documents to be authorized in order for him to proceed with his trip within the governorate. "I told them that I am not travelling in an official capacity and that this is a self-initiative, therefore, why are you treating us as foreigners in our own country?" remembers Al-Marhabi.

The bad quality of roads and temperature also constituted obstacles. Some roads were full of potholes while others weren't paved at all, and the high temperatures in southern governorates required Al-Marhabi to frequently stop in order to cool down his motorbike.

It was in northern governorates that Al-Marhabi found it particularly difficult to get enough fuel to continue his trip. Forced to buy it from the black market, he remembers having to pay five times the normal price.

Interestingly, as soon as Al-Marhabi reached Taiz and the southern governorates, fuel was once again available and found in vast amounts.

An incident that Al-Marhabi remembers as particularly striking occurred in Lahj, where a car bomb exploded next to the college where Al-Marhabi's lecture was supposed to take place, one day prior to his arrival. Security officials in the governorate wanted to cancel the lecture,

thinking that Al-Marhabi himself might have been the target. Yet, Al-Marhabi refused, explaining later that "the lecture went well and no sign of any threat appeared."

## Promoting and observing security

In an attempt to understand how security institutions work in Yemen, Al-Marhabi visited various security departments in the course of his journey to observe different existing models of security work. After all, security apparatuses are the primary network that connects citizens with all command and leadership centers in the country.

Al-Marhabi closely observed how security was handled at the entrance and exit ports in different governorates and how security officials treated locals. He found that some security operations offices had no idea who went in or out of the governorate and fell short in reporting this information to other security bodies.

When reports are not distributed and efficiently maintained, the provision of security is put at risk, argues Al-Marhabi.

He was pleased to find that some governorates were providing sound security and demonstrated advanced communication in updating the governorate's various security institutions on current events. According to Al-Marhabi, security operations were best in Hodeida, followed by Taiz. The overall security situation, however, was the best in

Taiz, followed by Dhamar, and Hajjah. "The security was poor in the other governorates, such as Lahj and Al-Dhale," said Al-Marhabi.

He was particularly disappointed by communication within Lahj's security offices. Although he had announced his visit two months in advance, he arrived only to learn that the operations officer had forgotten to tell his boss about his arrival to set up the agenda of his visit.

## An international globetrotter

Al-Marhabi's goal of spreading awareness about security issues in Yemen was not a wholesale new experience to him. In fact, he had toured around the globe by bicycle in the 1990s to promote peace and inform people about his home country and its citizens.

Previously, he visited different regions in Yemen, expressing his opposition "to retaliation and high dowries," which he viewed as one source of insecurity and instability in his country, triggering the killing of innocents and the embezzlement of public funds.

According to Al-Marhabi, his visit to Yemen's different governorates in the 1990s came as a preparation for his international journey. It seemed inappropriate to travel abroad without properly knowing one's own country, he explained. "In addition, I wanted to know what I might need during my tour and what obstacles I might face."

When Al-Marhabi began his international journey he travelled first

through Oman, heading to the UAE, Qatar, Iran, and then to Pakistan. In one of the first Pakistani villages he travelled through, Al-Marhabi was asked to lead villagers in their prayers. "You are a grandson of the ancestors and companions of the prophet Muhammad," he was told. "I could only excuse myself by saying that my doctrine doesn't allow me to lead prayers unless I am older than 65," Al-Marhabi recalls.

Once he left Pakistan and visited Iran again, his journey took him to Turkey, Greece, Iran again, then Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, and then back to Morocco to pass through the Strait of Gibraltar and arrive in Spain. After crossing France, Switzerland, Belgium, Netherlands, Ireland, and the UK, Al-Marhabi reached Germany, his final destination.

"I then flew back to Yemen," Al-Marhabi remembers. By now he has visited 20 Arabian countries, 12 European countries, and 6 Islamic countries; a man who never completed his high school education, Al-Marhabi now speaks a variety of languages, including French, Turkish, and Farsi.

While having himself gained a lot through his travelling, Al-Marhabi hoped to have made a valuable contribution himself as well. "I wanted to change the perspective that many had about Yemen, saying that Yemenis are murderers, terrorists and criminals," he said.



Al-Marhabi spoke to communities and at schools about putting aside sectarian and political differences and standing together to achieve peace.

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# Yemeni authors discouraged by counterfeiting

Story by **Abdullah Al-Samei**  
 Photo by **Mohammed Al-Qalisi**

**W**hen a printing house in Yemen counterfeited Ahmed Al-Shuaibi's first book in 2012, the professor of Islamic studies at Sana'a University decided not to publish any of the other books he had been writing.

"I was shocked when I saw my book counterfeited. I had another book, which was about ready, but I refrained from publishing it. I feared it would be stolen," said Al-Shuaibi.

Though it came as a real shock, Al-Shuaibi said he was lucky that he knew the printing house that copied his book and began selling it illegally. He refused to disclose the name of the printing institution, however, stating he does not want the house to be labeled.

"When I learned of the printing house that illegally copied my book, I reached a settlement that I would be compensated," Al-Shuaibi said. He declined to reveal the amount agreed upon, complaining, however, that he still has not received the sum he was promised.

According to Al-Shuaibi, he is only one of many Yemeni authors who have refrained from publishing their works in response to the booming business of counterfeiting books.

As is often the case, Yemen's thriving informal economy is directly linked to poverty and the lacking enforcement of laws. According to Ahmed Al-Hazmi, the manager of Khalid Bin Al-Waleed, a publishing house and bookstore in Sana'a, there is no practical penalty for those who have been involved in counterfeiting books. This lack of strict punishment

negatively affects the publishing houses as well as authors and their readership, he says.

Khalid Bin Al-Waleed publishing house and book store is one of Yemen's printing and book selling institutions whose publications have been exposed to counterfeiting. Al-Hazmi said that illegal copies of three of the books the house has the rights for—including Al-Shuaibi's book—were found in local bookstores.

Most counterfeit books are printed in secret locations and are then distributed to bookshops and markets around the city, even appearing on newsstands. These books contain the exact same content, including the author's name and book title, but are printed on cheaper paper. Books on religion, self-teaching, and university textbooks are the most commonly counterfeited books, says Al-Hazmi.

Yemeni law criminalizes copyright infringement with a penalty of six months in prison and a fine of YR10,000 (\$47) to be paid to the publishing house that owns the rights to the book.

Even if the fine is enforced, however, authors often end up not being compensated; when copyright infringement occurs, the publishing house is responsible for following up with legal action and getting compensation, whereas the author must then deal with the publishing house directly.

"The publishing house is not able to compensate the author if illegal copies of his book are found given that the readership rejects to purchase the original version, saying that it is too expensive," said Al-Hazmi.

Given that copies of books are sold at a lower price, they are in much higher demand.

Once, Khalid Bin Al-Waleed pub-



Although the content is the same, original and counterfeit books differ in their design and the quality of the paper used.

lishing house and bookstore had to return 800 out of 1,000 copies of Sheikh Ayid Al-Qarni's book, the Lucid Explanation, because illegal copies of the book were being sold in Yemeni markets.

The counterfeit version was almost a third of the original price: YR5,500 (\$26) for the original as opposed to around 2,000 (\$9) for the copy, according to Al-Hazmi.

Najat Bahakim, the general manager of Sana'a's Culture Office, explains that counterfeiting books is a violation of intellectual property rights, arguing that authors must document their works

and should notify the office in case they discover their books are being illegally copied.

"The Culture Office in the capital city obligated printing houses that counterfeited some books to financially compensate the authors. This came after the authors notified the Culture Office," Bahakim said.

The amount of compensation is largely based on the amount the publishing house claims to have lost in sales.

In Bahakim's view, there must be campaigns to raise awareness about the counterfeiting of books, boycotting them and the print-

ing houses involved. The printing houses, she argues, do not care about copyrights, let alone quality printing, but are exclusively concerned about financial profits.

Abdulghani Al-Makrami, a researcher and poet, also thinks that the sole purpose of counterfeiting books is the pursuit of money, calling those involved thieves.

"Authors lose financial profits when their books are distorted and published," he says, complaining that "authors work hard and stay up writing and revising their works for months or perhaps years."

To protect both authors and pub-

lishing houses from counterfeiting, Al-Makrami believes a new law needs to be issued which protects copyrights and severely punishes those who illegally copy and distribute books.

So far, Yemen does not have any specialized court to resolve issues related to copyright infringement and intellectual property theft. Although the Culture Office works to tackle these issues, its rulings usually obligate those who illegally print counterfeit books to compensate the publishing houses whereas the authors often go without compensation.



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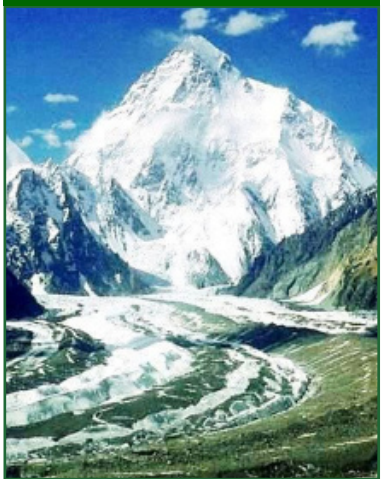


## 68 TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF PAKISTAN (14 AUGUST. 2014)

## PAKISTAN "LAND OF THE PURE"



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FAISAL MOSQUE-ISLAMBAD

Pakistan; the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is a sovereign country in South Asia. With a population exceeding 180 million people, it is the sixth most populous country and with an area covering 796,095 km<sup>2</sup> (307,374 sq mi), it is the 36th largest country in the world in terms of area. Pakistan has a 1,046-kilometre (650 mi) coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman in the south and is bordered by India to the east, Afghanistan to the west (western san-jrani agency) chagai area and north, Iran to the southwest and China in the far northeast. It is separated from Tajikistan by Afghanistan's narrow Wakhan Corridor in the north, and also shares a marine border with Oman.

Pakistan Movement led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the subcontinent's struggle for independence, Pakistan was created on 14th of August 1947 (27th of Holy month of Ramadan) as an independent nation for Muslims where they can practice ISLAM.

**History**

The Arab general Muhammad bin Qasim conquered In-

du valley from Sindh to Multan in southern Punjab in 711 CE. The Pakistan government's official chronology identifies this as the point where the "foundation" of Pakistan was laid. This conquest set the stage for the rule of several successive Muslim empires in the region.

**Geography and climate**

Pakistan covers an area of 796,095 km<sup>2</sup> (307,374 sq mi), approximately equal to the combined land areas of France and the United Kingdom. It is the 36th largest nation by total area, although this ranking varies depending on how the disputed territory of Kashmir is counted

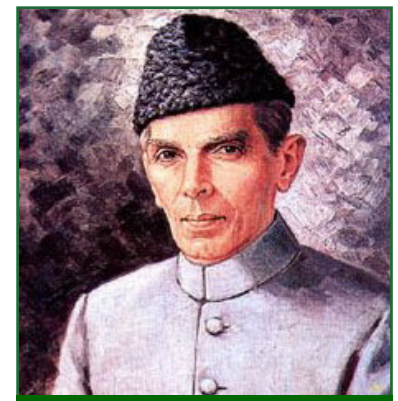
Pakistan is divided into three major geographic areas: the northern highlands, the Indus River plain and the Balochistan Plateau. The northern highlands contain the Karakoram, Hindu Kush and Pamir mountain ranges (see mountains of Pakistan), which contain some of the world's highest peaks, including five of the fourteen eight-thousands (mountain peaks over 8,000 meters or 26,250 feet), which attract adventurers and mountaineers from all over the world, no-

tably K2 (8,611 m or 28,251 ft) and Nanga Parbat (8,126 m or 26,660 ft). The Balochistan Plateau lies in the west and the Thar Desert in the east. The 1,609 km (1,000 mi) Indus River and its tributaries flow through the country from the Kashmir region to the Arabian Sea. There is an expanse of alluvial plains along it in Punjab and Sindh.

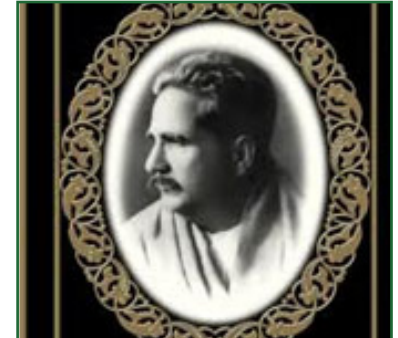
**Nuclear power in Pakistan**

Pakistan is the first Muslim Country in the world to construct and operate civil nuclear power plants. The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), the scientific and nuclear governmental agency, is solely responsible for operating these power plants. Pakistan is one of the four nuclear armed states (along with India, Israel and North Korea) that is not a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty but is a member in good standing of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Pakistan become atomic power on 28th May, 1998. Dr Abdul Qadir with the help of other scientists helped Pakistan to become atomic power.



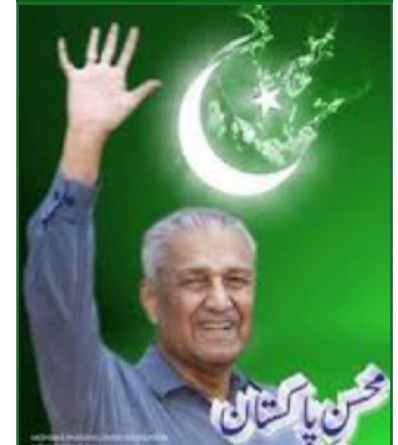
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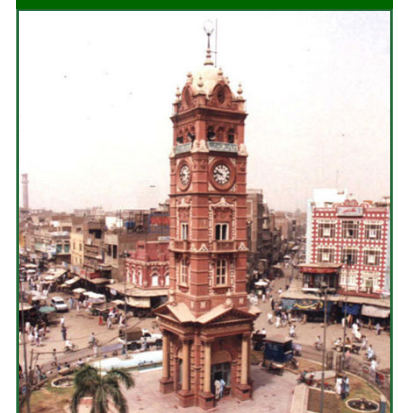
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Dr. Abdul Qadir, Scientist



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**PAKISTAN CONTINUES TO SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE IN IMPROVING QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN YEMEN**

H.E. DR. IRFAN YUSUF SHAMI,  
AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN



At the outset, I would like to extend my heartiest felicitations to all my compatriots in Yemen on the 68th Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. I draw satisfaction that the number of our compatriots

continues to steadily increase in Yemen. I also acknowledge and appreciate the vital role being played by the over three thousand strong Pakistani community in the economic development of Yemen and strengthening of Pakistan-Yemen bilateral relations. I sincerely pray and urge all of them to continue to maintain and project an excellent image of their motherland through their dedication and hard work.

This year's Independence Day follows immediately after the blessed month of Ramadhan and the festive occasion of Eid ul Fitr. It, therefore, brings about added happiness for the around 190 million Pakistanis, including our expatriate community. On this auspicious occasion, I would also like to express my profound gratitude to the brotherly people of Yemen, who have always held the people of Pakistan in high esteem. In this regard, I particularly appreciate the efforts of Yemen-Pakistan Brotherhood Association, under its dynamic President Eng. Aiyed Shamiri and all its office bearers, for their continued efforts in strengthening the bonds of friendship between our two brotherly countries.

Sixty seven years ago, on the eve of 14 August 1947, Allah Almighty blessed the heroic struggle of the Muslims of sub-continent with a miraculous success. They were able to achieve a sovereign and independent homeland for themselves. However, this was not possible without the innumerable sacrifices by millions of Muslims and, most importantly, the charismatic leadership of the Founder of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Quaid-e-Azam had envisaged a modern, democratic and welfare state of Pakistan. He had also championed the rule of law and equitable social justice for harmonious socio-economic development. The Great Leader's mission is yet to be fully achieved. This blessed day of 14 August, therefore, calls upon all our compatriots to renew their pledge to these noble objectives espoused by Quaid-e-Azam. This very special day also beckons us to make a strong determination to continue to collectively and sincerely strive to shape our lives in accordance with the Great Leader's golden principles of Unity, Faith and Discipline, in order to make Pakistan a strong and prosperous country.

Pakistan's 68th Independence Day is being celebrated at a time when our blessed country is faced with daunting security and economic challenges. I am confident that, as demonstrated in

the past on several occasions, our great nation will Insha Allah resiliently and successfully overcome all these challenges. I am also hopeful that the pragmatic policies adopted by the second successive democratically elected government of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif will continue to enhance socio-economic development and prosperity within the country as well as improve our stature amongst the international community.

I also note with immense satisfaction that significant progress continues to be made by the brotherly Yemen towards achieving peace and stability, under the able leadership of H.E. President Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi and H.E. Prime Minister Salem Basundwa. Following the successful conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference early this year, steady progress continues to be made towards the successful achievement of all remaining milestones in this crucial transitional phase. I am convinced and sincerely pray that my Yemeni brothers and sisters, irrespective of their political affiliations, gender, age and social status, will remain committed in peacefully overcoming their differences and will Insha Allah make Yemen a truly modern and strong country, like its glorious past. I strongly believe that Pakistan and Yemen can greatly benefit from sharing each other's experiences and can cooperate in various fields in order to overcome their common challenges and steer their respective people towards stability and prosperity.

Since my arrival in Sana'a more than two and a half years ago, I have continued to vigorously pursue several initiatives, particularly in the education, health, trade and defence sectors. I am confident that, with the cooperation of my Yemeni brothers, my efforts will further strengthen our brotherly relations.

In the education sector, I am pleased to inform that Pakistan School Sana'a has successfully completed 30 years of being a centre of educational excellence in Yemen. With the strong support of my Yemeni brothers, I remain committed to constructing a modern custom-built campus for this premier institution. I also note with satisfaction that after the successful completion of the first academic session of his school in Aden, a Kuwait-based Pakistani entrepreneur, Mr. Majid Ali Chaudhary, is establishing four branches of his Pakistan National English School in the important Yemeni cities of Ibb, Taiz, Hodeidah and Mukalla. I would like to commend Mr. Majid's initiative, which I am confident will further contribute towards significantly improving the quality of education in Yemen as well as further enhance Pakistan's credentials in the educational system.

In the trade sector, steady progress continues to be made in improving business relations, including bilateral trade and establishment of joint ventures. High-level official visits to Pakistan by the Commanders of Yemen Navy and Yemen Air Force and Air Defence and follow-up actions have given impetus in further strengthening bilateral defence relations.

*Pakistan Zindabad and Long Live Pakistan-Yemen Friendship and Brotherhood.*

**AN OVERVIEW OF PAKISTAN-YEMEN RELATIONS**

As envisaged by the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, maintenance of close fraternal relations with the Islamic world has been a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy ever since its independence in 1947. Republic of Yemen, accordingly, continues to prominently figure amongst Pakistan's closest friends around the world. Both countries enjoy a long history of brotherly relations, which dates back before their emergence as independent sovereign countries. The people of both regions which presently constitute Pakistan and Yemen had traditionally interacted and conducted trade through the Arabian Sea routes, which linked Karachi and Mekran with Aden and Mukalla. The advent of Islam in the 7th century and its subsequent expansion to South Asia further strengthened these fraternal relations and introduced to the people of both regions a common ideological perspective and a comprehensive code of life.

Present day relations between Pakistan and Yemen are based on these strong historical links, common faith, common set of cultural and moral values as well as convergence of perceptions on the entire range of regional and international issues. Regular people-to-people contacts further reinforce this fraternal bond.

Both countries continue to enjoy strong relations in the education sector. Forty academic scholarships are annually offered by the Government of Pakistan to Yemeni students. Yemeni graduates from Pakistani academic institutions have established a Yemen-Pakistan Brotherhood Association, which remains an effective bridge between the two brotherly countries. Likewise, there are over three thousand Pakistanis living in Yemen, who are contributing towards the socio-economic development of the country. Their numbers continue to steadily rise with increasing stability and prosperity in Yemen.

As the first foreign English Medium School in Yemen, Pakistan School Sana'a (PSS) completed thirty years of providing quality education this year. The School

presently enrolls nearly 700 students from different nationalities, predominantly Yemenis, studying in its Senior and Junior Sections. The School's alumni continue to achieve positions of influence in Yemeni society and abroad.

Encouraged by the successful completion of the first academic session of his school in Aden, a Kuwait-based Pakistani entrepreneur, Mr. Majid Ali Chaudhary, will be inaugurating four new branches of Pakistan National English Schools in Ibb, Taiz, Hodeidah and Mukalla in September 2014. Mr. Majid intends to establish additional branches in other Yemeni cities next year.

Despite the enormous goodwill towards each other, bilateral trade volume between both countries remains far below its actual potential. The nearly US\$ 100 million bilateral trade volume essentially comprises import of rice, pharmaceuticals, food stuff and electrical items from Pakistan and export of scrap, leather, hides and gemstones from Yemen. Participation of delegations of eminent Yemeni businessmen in the annual EXPO 2012 and EXPO 2013 as well as anticipated participation in the forthcoming EXPO 2014 will further strengthen bilateral trade relations.

Yemen's fruitful participation in Pakistan's bi-annual defence exhibition IDEAS 2012 has been followed-up with successful official visits to Pakistan by the Commanders of Yemen Navy and Yemen Air Force & Air Defence. These high-level visits as well as anticipated participation in the forthcoming IDEAS 2014 will provide further impetus in defence-related bilateral collaboration.

Fruitful discussions during 7th Session of Pakistan-Yemen Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC), held in Islamabad in January this year, are being followed-up in various socio-economic fields in order to further strengthen and broaden the canvas of bilateral relations. After obtaining first hand exposure during its nearly one year presence in the country, Pakistan's largest public sector engineering firm, Frontier Works Organization (FWO) has relocated to its recently established regional office in UAE, from where it continues to closely monitor and assess its participation in various upcoming infrastructure projects in Yemen.

To conclude, there is tremendous potential for expansion in bilateral cooperation in all fields, as Yemen steadily and successfully strides towards political stability and economic recovery during its crucial transitional process. The Government and people of Pakistan as well as the Embassy of Pakistan remain committed towards providing all possible support to the Government of Yemen.

*Long live Pakistan – Yemen Brotherhood*

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## Libya insecurity forces aid workers to leave

### Supplies running low

Speaking from Tunisia, the head of the ICRC's Libya delegation, Antoine Grand, said, "the fighting is mostly in the south and west of Tripoli but the whole city is feeling the impact. There is a lack of fuel; banks are running low on cash; there are regular electricity cuts, and also lack of bread.

"Doctors and nurses and other

public service workers are not able to move around or get to work, either because it is not safe to do so, or because they have no fuel to put into their cars... and on top of that a number of medical staff have left," he added.

Some of ICRC's work has been taken on by its national staff in partnership with members of the Libyan Red Crescent, with addi-

tional remote support from IFRC and the ICRC. But specialist tasks, such as visiting long-term detainees, have been put on hold.

"ICRC has the willingness to go back into the country with an international team but it all depends on the security," Grand said. "The situation is very chaotic and it is hard to reach our partners. They have difficulties in moving around. Just to maintain contact with our own national staff is sometimes difficult."

### UN staff withdrawn

The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) began withdrawing its staff from Libya in early July, and although it initially said it would keep a core team to continue operations, it announced on July 14 that everyone was to leave due to the "prevailing security conditions."

UN agencies have likewise relocated the bulk of their teams to Tunisia, though agencies continued to maintain a limited presence in Libya through their national staff and implementing partners.

"Despite our limited ability to provide immediate assistance, UNHCR is working with several NGOs and partners, such as the International Medical Corps, to respond to the needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and IDPs, as well as potential asylum seekers in detention centers," Dalia Alachi, a UNHCR regional public information officer, told IRIN.

Teams had been providing relief items and medical support to migrants caught up in boat accidents when trying to leave Libya by sea, as well as assistance to people displaced from parts of Tripoli hit by missiles and rockets in the recent fighting, Alachi explained.

Ghassan Khalil, special representative for the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Libya, said that while his international staff had been removed from the country, national workers remained, and he hoped everyone would return soon, when the security situation allowed.

"The situation in Libya is worrying and we continue to ask the government of Libya to protect civilians, especially women and children, and to ensure children are not part of the armed conflict," he said, adding that UNICEF was not involved in frontline humanitarian work in Libya but instead supported education, protection, and social capacity-building programs in conjunction with government ministries.

He added that many staff had already planned to be out of the country for the post-Ramadan Eid-Al Fitr holiday, one of the most important dates on the Muslim calendar.

### Situation peaked

With so few humanitarian actors left in country, the challenge will be for those that remain to meet the growing needs via remote manage-

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Heather Pagano, a spokeswoman for MSF on Libya, said despite the relocation of MSF's seven international staff from Tripoli to Tunisia in July and the suspension of a mental health program, the organization continued to monitor hospitals in Libya in case they needed emergency supplies.

Speaking from Tunis, Francois de la Roche, Libya country director for the IMC, said, "we have great communication with our team and can coordinate actions from here. The security situation in Tripoli, because of fighting and stray shells, does pose a problem for keeping expats in the country which is a real shame because I think we could be operating more effectively if we were in the country."

"Certainly with international

organizations pulling out, some of the most exposed populations are not being reached and supported," Christian Jacob Hansen, head of the DRC's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) unit and interim regional director, told IRIN, noting that even before the latest escalation in violence, humanitarian structures had been thin on the ground with support weighted towards development initiatives instead.

"In the last few years the international donors have been keener to fund more development-orientated support in Libya, and in situations like this one in Libya, there is less capacity for a rapid humanitarian response," he said.

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