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Security forces evict Houthi tents

■ Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Sept. 8—Security forces evicted demonstrators' tents on Sunday evening from Airport Road, in the north of the capital Sana'a.

Protesters camping near Airport Road since August 18 closed the main route to Sana'a International Airport on Sunday morning, causing riot police to end the protest and re-open roads the same day.

On Sunday evening, the riot police removed the protesters using water hoses and tear gas. Protesters could hear gunshots from an unknown source, according to Ahmad Mansour, one of the protesters.

"The riot police used speakers and ordered us to re-open the road and remove the tents, but we are in the escalation phase, we were not going to back down, so they had to force us out and remove the tents," Mansour said, adding that some members of the riot police joined the protesters.



Riot police removed protesters using water hoses and tear gas. Houthis allege two protesters were killed during the eviction.

The Ministry of Interior said on its website that the tents were erected by "outlaws on Airport Road, which led to the closing of the street, the halting of traffic on the road leading to Sana'a International Airport, and the hindering of pedestrian movement on the main road."

Mohammad Abdulsalam, the official spokesperson for the Houthis, alleges that "the authorities used American tear gas canisters and water hoses, in addition to using live rounds."

Mohammad Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthi's Political Office alleges that two Houthi supporters were killed and two others were injured in the process.

The Yemen Times could not independently verify Al-Bukhaiti's claims.

Several hours after the tents along Airport Road were removed by riot police, protesters re-erected their encampments. As of Monday evening the Yemen Times observed

that the protesters' tents remained in place on Airport Road, with security forces stationed nearby.

Attempts to close Airport Road on Sunday came as part of the Houthis' third and final "escalation," as announced by the group's leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi on August 31. The Houthis have been launching mass protests for over three weeks in the capital, with thousands of supporters camping both inside the city and on its outskirts.

The Houthis continue to list three major demands: toppling of the government, reinstatement of fuel subsidies, and the implementation of the NDC outcomes.

"We are not backing down, we will keep escalating until all the demands for which we took to the streets are met," said Al-Bukhaiti.

Armed Houthis camping at the western, southern, and northern entrances of Sana'a say they will protect the protesters from any attacks by government forces.

Two traffic officers shot dead in Al-Baida

■ Murad Al-Awasi

ADEN, Sept. 7—Colonel Amer Ahmed Amer and non-commissioned officer Mukhtar Lugman were shot dead Sunday morning in Al-Baida city by unknown gunmen, a military source and the state-run Saba News Agency reported.

Both victims were working for the traffic police in Al-Baida governorate; Amer was the traffic police's deputy director and Lugman its finance director.

"Two masked gunmen on a motorcycle assassinated Colonel Amer while he was leaving his house located near the Al-Amery Mosque and the security administration headquarters in downtown Al-Baida city," a military official told the Yemen Times on condition of anonymity.

"Another officer named Mukhtar Lugman was killed alongside Colonel Amer in the same incident," the source added.

Colonel Ali Al-Kadry, an officer at Al-Baida's security administration, confirmed the incident.

Saba News Agency quoted a source as saying that security and military vehicles were deployed at entrances of Al-Baida city, looking for the criminals.

The source suspected Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) of being behind the assassination of the two



Archive photo of the murder of Al-Baida deputy governor, Hussein Dayan who was assassinated on April 15 of this year.

officers. So far, no one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Khaled Saleh Hamood, a resident of Al-Shaab neighborhood where the assassination took place, rushed to the crime scene and reports that "the attackers covered their heads with black masks and fled the scene."

"Just a few hours after the officers' murder, army and security patrols were deployed in the streets and set up checkpoints searching for the perpetrators," he added.

The agency quoted a security source in Al-Baida on Sunday as saying that one of the armed men was injured during the gunfire exchange with Amer

and Lugman, and the other armed man escaped.

During the past two years, Al-Baida governorate has witnessed instability amidst a growing number of armed attacks and assassinations that targeted several politicians, as well as army and security personnel. Security personnel have often attributed attacks against army camps and government compounds to AQAP.

The local police accused AQAP for the killing of the deputy governor of Al-Baida governorate, Hussein Mohammed Qahtan Dayyan, who was assassinated by unknown militants on April 15 of this year.

Air strikes reported in Al-Jawf

■ Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Sept. 7—The Yemeni air force launched two air strikes on Sunday targeting Houthi fighters in Al-Ghail district in Al-Jawf governorate.

According to Al-Jawf-based journalist Mabhout Mohammad, another airstrike was launched early Monday morning at 7 AM. All the air strikes targeted Al-Habari, he said, an area controlled by Houthis.

Mohammad added that many army and security personnel were killed in the fighting on Sunday and Monday, which caused the air force to intervene and bomb Houthi positions. "The air force did not intervene until the clashes between the army, backed by the tribes, and the Houthis intensified," he added.

"The army's bombardment did not target Ansar Allah [the Houthis], it targeted the host community they are in," said Mohammad Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthi's Political Office. He admitted civilian casualties occurred, but was unable to provide any specific numbers.

Al-Bukhaiti said most of Al-Jawf's residents are pro-Houthi, denying allegations the Houthis' are forcefully controlling the governorate. In his view, Al-Jawf and the Houthis are one.

Mubarak Al-Obadi, the head of the Islam Party's Department of Information in Al-Jawf, said that the army and tribes have been fighting alongside each other to stop the Houthis'

expansion in the governorate.

He added, "the fighters are not from the area and most of them came to fight with the Houthis, who want to control the governorate."

Mohammad also said "there are dozens wounded and dead in the area due to the clashes in the district. The injured, including civilian citizens, were taken to field hospitals belonging to Houthi supporters," said Mohammad.

The Yemen Times contacted the Defense Ministry several times, but received no response.

Mohammed further indicated clashes have been ongoing in Al-Ghail district for the past four days. The two sides fighting are using all kinds of light, medium, and heavy weaponry in the clashes.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said on its website on Sunday the fighting in Al-Jawf has led to the displacement of 8,000 persons between August 11 and September 3.

There are no charity associations or local and international organizations providing aid in the area due to the high levels of insecurity, according to Mohammad.

Al-Ghail district is an area populated with Houthi supporters. Houthis began their military expansion in northern Yemen after they gained control over Sa'ada governorate in March 2001 during the popular uprising against former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. They gained control over Amran, 50 km north of Sana'a, on July 8 after violent clashes with the 310th Armored Brigade that lasted between March and July this year.

Saudi embassy shuts down in Yemen

■ Bassam Al-Khameri

SANA'A, Sept. 8—Saudi Arabia issued orders on Monday to shut down its embassy in Sana'a and evacuate Saudi nationals from Yemen, due to the country's volatile security situation.

"Orders were given to shut down the Saudi embassy in Sana'a and evacuate all officials and employees in the embassy until the situation in Yemen improves," the Saudi newspaper Al-Watan cited an anonymous high-ranking Saudi diplomat as saying.

"The charge d'affaires [acting ambassador] at the Saudi Embassy to Yemen, Haza'a Al-Mutairi, along with 50 other Saudi nationals working in the embassy left Sana'a late Sunday," said the diplomat.

The embassy's closure follows

growing tensions between the Yemeni government and Houthi protesters in Sana'a who are calling for a new government and the reinstatement of fuel subsidies.

In a similar development, the Saudi Higher Education Ministry issued an urgent decree to evacuate 60 Saudi students who are studying at the University of Science and Technology (UST) in Sana'a.

Mohammed Ali Meshni, director of the Public Relations and Media Department at the UST, said that the Saudi embassy sent letters to all universities in Yemen announcing the evacuation of Saudi students.

The Saudi authorities have stopped dispatching Saudi nationals to study in Yemen after Mohammed Al-Katheri, a 23-year-old Saudi national studying in UST

was killed in Yemen in 2011. Saudi nationals are still studying at the UST, and no one has left the university so far, according to Meshni.

However, Yemeni students at the UST, who spoke to the Yemen Times on condition of anonymity, said that several Saudi students have travelled to Saudi Arabia more than a week ago.

The closure of the embassy affects Yemeni residents who want to get visas to work in Saudi Arabia. Abdulaziz Ali, a resident from Taiz, said that he wants to get a visa to work in Saudi Arabia but now he will have to wait until the embassy re-opens again.

Yaseen Al-Tamimi, an independent and Sana'a-based political analyst, said that Saudi Arabia expects its interests in Yemen to be

targeted by the Houthis if the situation gets worse.

"Saudi Arabia isn't in good relation with the Houthis who are allegedly supported by Iran, so it took this precautionary procedure," he added.

This is not the first time the embassy has closed down. The embassy closed down for a short period in March 2012 after Abulla Al-Khaledi, the Saudi Deputy Consul in Sana'a, was kidnapped in March 18, 2012.

The embassy did not close down during the 2011 uprising although several clashes took place between the protesters and pro-Saleh forces. "Saudi Arabia had good relations with the conflicted parties during the 2011 uprising and was sure that its interests would not be a target," said Al-Tamimi.

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School enrolment plummets near Houthi camps

■ **Khalid Al-Karimi**

SANA'A, Sept. 7—Some schools in the capital have seen a decline in enrolment numbers following the volatile security situation in the capital caused by heightened tensions between the government and the Houthis. Mohammed Al-Akhrum, the principal of Al-Rayan School in the so-called Airport neighborhood, one of the locations where the Houthis have pitched their tents, said unlike last year the school has witnessed a 50 per cent fall in numbers to only 200 students.

Abdulrahman Al-Maslol, the principal of another neighboring school, Ashbal Al-Yemen School, close to Sana'a International Airport, said close to 200 students moved to schools in neighboring areas where the parents feel their kin will be safer.

Similarly, Mohammed Khatm, the principal of Cairo School in Bani Al-Harith district in Sana'a, where Houthis have set up encampments, admitted to the drop in enrolment numbers at his school this year. "The students who registered this year are less in comparison with last year," he said, unable to comment on the exact numbers.

"Many parents anticipate a violence breakout at any moment," said Khatm, admitting that the situ-

ation has put an unexpected strain on the school financially.

Ismael Zaidan, manager of the Media and Publication Department at the Ministry of Education, said "this is not the first time this has happened. The situation was similar during the 2011 uprising, when protests broke out calling for the overthrow of the former regime."

"It is normal that the attendance level has dropped at the outset of this year due to the security situation some areas in the capital have been witnessing. Parents are naturally worried and hesitant to send their children to schools at a time when tensions are rising," he added.

Al-Maslol sees the proximity of the Ashbal Al-Yemen School to Houthi encampments as the main reason for decreasing enrollment.

"Many schools situated near insecure areas have suspended studies until next week. Sending students to insecure neighborhoods is worrisome to some parents. This year schools situated near protesting spots in the capital are likely to see a drop in attendance," said Al-Maslol. Sadeq Al-Amin, who works in the health sector in Sana'a, said,

"I do not feel safe to send to my son Ayman, four years old, to a distant nursery school. I think I am not alone feeling unsafe, but all the students' parents sense so."



Living on Al-Dairy Street of Maen district, Saleh Al-Amri, a father of a ninth grader, said he initially registered his son at Saif School in Tahrir neighborhood. Later, he got worried violence was imminent, and that Saif School was too far from his home, putting his son at risk.

"I thought to register my son in a better school in a farther area, but, out of fear for his safety, I was hesitant to do so. In the end, I chose the nearest one," said Al-Amin.

Zaidan called on the government and the Houthi supporters to urgently solve this issue and distance education from any politically motivated conflicts.

Mohammed Al-Fadhli, the edu-

cation office manager at the Education Ministry, said, "education is the wheel of change, development and prosperity. Education is the safety vessel of the country. The government and the armed groups should take this into account."

At the end of last week, Abdulrazaq Al-Ashwal, the education minister, told the state-run Saba News Agency that over six million students nationwide would begin the new school year on Sunday.

In his address, Al-Ashwal urged parents to push their children to school, saying that the school is the genuine nucleus of change through which the country can reach a developed and prosperous future.

Yemeni businessmen meet president

■ **Ali Abulohoom**

SANA'A Sept. 8—The Federation of Yemen Chambers of Commerce and Industry met with the Yemeni President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, leaders of political parties, and Houthi representatives in Sana'a on Sunday.

The meeting was held to put an end to the volatile security situation and the political deadlock associated with the government's fuel subsidy cuts which came into effect late July.

During the meeting President Hadi promised the businessmen economic reforms which would accompany the fuel subsidy cuts, including the removal of "phantom jobs," the addition of new beneficiaries to the Social Welfare Fund's lists, and the fight against corruption.

Abdulwhab Thabit, the deputy manager of the federation, told the Yemen Times, "as businessmen we refuse to remain bystanders. The political impasse has economic grounds, so we met with the political stakeholders explaining the economic situation and the possible solutions that would help Yemen out of the current crisis."

For his part, Jamal Al-Mutareb, a member of the federation and businessman in Yemen, said that Yemeni businessmen uphold the government's decision on fuel subsidy cuts as they regard it to be the only viable solution to save the Yemen economy

from breaking down.

Had the government not cut its fuel subsidies it would have had to spend its reserve currency, which is estimated at \$5 billion, to buy oil derivatives from abroad, and that would have devastated the economy, according to Al-Mutareb.

"The reserve should be kept in the national bank to avoid a dropping of the Yemeni Riyal," he added.

For his part, Abdulrahman Al-Ameri, a Yemeni businessman and a member of the federation, said, "the fuel subsidy cuts have become urgent for the time being; at least we can fight oil smuggling. The government now is unable to fight smuggling as those who smuggle and are corrupt belong to the government."

During a press conference held at the federation's headquarters on Monday, businessmen denied the possibility of inflation and increasing commodity prices at the same time as fuel subsidy cuts.

They also assured the Yemeni people that in next few days the solution for the political impasse will be seen on the ground.

"We received positive responses from all sides we met and within a few days an agreement must be reached to put an end to this deadlock and the terrible scenario of a civil war," Al-Mutareb added.

"The fuel subsidy cuts had to be taken many years ago, but consecutive governments postponed this decision for fear of violent public responses."

UNHCR, Human Rights Ministry sign refugee and IDP protection agreement

■ **Madiha Al-Junaid**

SANA'A, Sept. 7—The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Ministry of Human Rights signed an agreement on September 4 which includes a number of initiatives to strengthen the protection of refugees and inter-

nally displaced persons (IDPs) in Yemen.

According to the agreement, the ministry's efforts to expand its protection of refugees will be achieved "through targeting capacity building for staff of the authorities that deal directly with refugees and asylum

seekers in Yemen—civil servants, police and law enforcement authorities, judges, and the coast guard," the state-run Saba News Agency reported. Jamal Al-Jubi, the legal protection officer at the UNHCR's Yemen Office, said the ministry is to implement a number of initiatives, includ-

ing capacity building, studies, and training workshops in cooperation with the UNCHR regarding cases of human rights violations.

"All these programs are working toward monitoring and detecting those violations in order to offer the proper legislative and legal help to the refugees and IDPs," said Al-Jubi.

Abdussalam Al-Nowab, the manager of the Refugees Management Department within the Ministry of Human Rights, said this agreement is to support the issuance of a national law concerning the protection of refugees.

"The cabinet decision number 50 for the year 2014 came to agree on the issuance of the law—preparing the first draft of it—and the agreement's programs and its training courses are to advocate the law's issuance," said Al-Nowab.

According to him, many police officials, government members, and judiciary employees are unaware of

the international agreement the Yemeni government signed with the UN called the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which includes the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol.

"They don't know how to properly deal with those refugees and IDPs because there is no legal reference that they can follow," he said, emphasizing the importance of issuing a law and preceding it with agreements that support its implementation.

A committee is currently working on the first draft of the law, which will then be presented to the cabinet and the house of representatives for approval as a national law, according to Al-Nowab.

The National Commission for Refugees, chaired by the deputy minister of foreign affairs, will coordinate the drafting process which will be supported by the partnership between the UNHCR and the Ministry of Human Rights, according to Saba News

Agency.

The coordination and partnership "aims to strengthen the existing mechanisms in the Ministry of Human Rights to receive and work on complaints from refugees and asylum seekers about any violations of their rights, as well as supporting the Ministry of Human Rights to conduct advocacy campaigns and awareness in Yemeni society, which will improve the refugees' situation," the agency reported.

This is the third year in a row the UNHCR and the Yemeni government have signed an agreement regarding the protection of refugees and IDPs.

Al-Jubi explains "the past agreements were confined to specific matters, such as refugees' complaints."

According to Saba News Agency, the UNHCR and its partners in Yemen are providing protection and assistance to nearly two-hundred-and-fifty thousand refugees and more than three-hundred-thousand IDPs.

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Inventory Specialist	Compiles and maintains records of quantity, type, and value of assets, material, equipment, merchandise, or supplies stocked in an establishment: Counts assets, material, equipment, merchandise, or supplies in house and posts totals to inventory records, manually or using a computer database. Proper control of the physical inventory will add to a positive guest and staff experience. All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor.	\$410 US Dollar (Gross)
Human Resource Coordinator	A human resource coordinator is an executive responsible for carrying out several tasks related to administration. He/ She is a coordinator for all important functions such as hiring and recruiting, and development, maintaining employee records, etc. Generally, the coordinator works under the supervision of the human resource director. The coordinator is also responsible for consulting with managers and supervisors about company policies and procedures. The coordinator helps employees and their managers in performance and disciplinary matters. He/ She may even propose and develop a set of rules that would monitor the discipline and work of workers. The job also includes consulting with practice managers regarding employee turnover, absenteeism, changes in work settings, employee motivation and recognition, and other employee-related aspects. His/her responsibility also includes assessing, sieving, and interviewing candidates for available positions; and making referrals of well-qualified and skillful applicants to the respective department managers. Other tasks assigned to him/her include carrying out field interview campaigns and advertising, arranging for all essentials needed for the recruitment drive, coordinating work with other staff members, determining employee performance appraisals and developing plans and strategies for recruitment. All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor.	\$650 US Dollar (Gross)

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Diesel subsidies continue for power stations

■ **Ali Saeed**

SANA'A, Sept. 6—The government announced on Friday it will maintain the subsidy on diesel used for power stations despite calls for the subsidy to be removed, according to the state-run Saba News Agency.

The government's statement followed local news on Thursday reporting that the state-run Yemen Petroleum Company (YPC) released a statement demanding fuel subsidy cuts to be extended to Yemen's electricity sector.

The subsidy of diesel used for electricity generation costs the Yemeni government around \$759.6 million every year, according to the YPC.

While subsidy cuts in the electricity sector would thus raise the government's public budget it would also lead to a 90 per cent increase in electricity costs in both the private and the public sector. The current tariff in urban areas for individuals is between YR9-19 (\$0.042-0.088) per kWh.

"The electricity sector in Yemen is one of the key sectors touching the daily lives of citizens and shaping the business environment in

Yemen," a report by the government's Executive Bureau (EB) published late June read.

The EB, a governmental office established in December 2013, is tasked with speeding up the absorption of financial aid pledged by donors in consistency with national priorities.

Currently, the EB is working on a two-year action plan on energy reforms to be presented to the government. The EB's proposals aim to enable the government to provide Yemeni citizens with a reliable electricity supply.

The total production of 1,500 MW does not cover the existing energy demand in Yemen, where only 41 per cent of the population has access to electricity, according to the Ministry of Electricity.

"The current state of the sector obliges the government to heavily subsidize each kWh consumed, putting pressure on the government's budget that is already suffering from the highest deficit in recent years," the EB report said.

The YPC sells one liter of diesel to the Ministry of Electricity at the subsidized price of YR38.7 (\$0.18) while the price for individuals is YR170 (\$0.79). The diesel used in

powered stations costs the government \$80 million each month. The Electricity Ministry pays \$16.7 million, whereas the Ministry of Finance pays the remaining \$63.3 million as a subsidy.

The amount of diesel used for generating electricity increased during the last two years from 35,000 tons to 70,000 tons per month, according to the YPC. This is due to the government's increased reliance on power generated and supplied by private firms which use and buy the diesel at a subsidized price, according to Mohamed Al-Absi, a Yemeni business analyst based in Sana'a.

The power generated by private firms increased from 220 MW in late 2011 to 480 MW in late 2013, according to Al-Absi, who adds that some private companies use the pretext of generating electricity in order to get cheap diesel which they then smuggle abroad.

In his view, "the price of diesel must be unified to end chances of smuggling."

"Urgent reforms are needed in [the electricity] sector to make it sustainable and support increased levels of investments and private sector activity," the EB report read.

Attacks leave soldiers traumatized

A Defense Ministry campaign is ongoing to "lift soldiers' spirits," but many say the government is not doing enough to keep soldiers and security personnel safe and provide mental health support.

Story by **Ali Abulohoom**
Photo by **Brett Scott**

"I rushed out of my house in the morning heading for my job with my military uniform on, but wearing a shawl over the shirt to partly hide the upper part of my uniform so that the terrorists won't notice that I am a soldier," said Ahmed Sharif, 36, a soldier from the Special Security Forces based in the capital Sana'a.

Sharif says he takes these precautions in anticipation of being the subject of an attack by militants from Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), as hundreds of officers and soldiers have been in recent years. Many of these attacks have been confirmed or are alleged to have been carried out by AQAP.

Not only does AQAP target military and security personnel in its insurgency against the state, the group also appears to be geared toward fostering fear among soldiers. They are not merely eliminating enemy combatants, but using media to record and spread the killings—which are often done brutally, including by beheading. For this reason, many Yemenis tend to refer to these actions as "terrorism."

The ongoing attacks on military and security compounds and checkpoints have left soldiers in a state of panic and vulnerability, feeling they could be AQAP's next target.

This is what led Sharif to hide his identity as a soldier, he says. He feels acutely aware of the ever-present possibility he will be next. His wife came up with the idea of wearing a shawl while he heads to work; she "keeps her eyes glued to the television screen," Sharif says, closely following any attacks that happen around the country.

"My wife makes sure before I leave home that I am dressed up well and wrap my shawl around my neck which drops down the upper part of my body covering the military shirt, for fear of being assassinated while walking in the street," said Sharif. The military pants look similar enough to civilian clothes that they do not reveal him as a soldier.

The security vacuum following the 2011 uprising and continuing today has made room for AQAP to expand their activities into many governorates. The absence of the government is apparent not only in its failure to adequately investigate attacks on security and military personnel and bring the perpetrators to trial, but



The fear of AQAP attacks causes severe psychological distress among soldiers which often goes untreated.

also in its inability to ensure soldiers have basic security.

"The terrorist actions carried out by unknown armed militants, most of which targeted soldiers, have made the soldiers' lives fragile and precarious. When a soldier dies it means their family loses their main source of income. For this reason my family is keen on my safety," said Sharif.

Sharif is serving in the security corps for the monthly YR45,000 (\$220) salary, he says, which is the sole source of income for his family.

"I had no source of sustenance so I resorted to becoming a member of the security forces. I never pretend that I joined the army because my allegiance to the country. I do love my country, but my country would not care about my family if I had no job," Sharif added.

Saleem Humaidan, a soldier in the 5th Armored Brigade in Amran governorate, shares a different view.

The 29-year-old, who was recruited into the brigade as a child soldier 14 years ago, says the time he served in the wars against the Houthis and AQAP was done for his country. Humaidan said he was recruited to defend his homeland and the dignity of Yemeni people in the whole country, not just in the governorate he is from.

He admits however, that the "unabated" attacks by militants have made him worried and wary of walking in the streets with his military uniform on. "As I heard about the attacks, I became anxious, trying

not to wear my uniform apart from when urgently needed," he said.

Humaidan says that when "it turned into a problem which started to affect my life" he was able to gradually "get rid of it. Now I wear my military jacket over my ordinary daily clothes."

In the last eight months, the Yemen Times has recorded in its news coverage that an estimated 387 soldiers were killed and hundreds others injured by attacks confirmed or allegedly carried out by AQAP militants.

Atrocities by militants reached a pinnacle in August this year as 14 off-duty soldiers travelling on a civilian bus were kidnapped and executed by AQAP militants, four of whom were beheaded.

The Defense Ministry's campaign

It is not only combat that can lead to distress or even post-traumatic stress disorder, but prolonged separation from family and friends and the threat of violence can also impact a soldier's mental health.

Mohammed Rashad, an independent psychotherapist based in Sana'a, is convinced that the recent attacks against soldiers and security personnel have caused psychological trauma, whether in the short or long run.

"I do not know how the government can expect soldiers to defend their country against terrorists whilst ignoring the psychological impact caused by frequent attacks

carried out by Al-Qaeda," he said.

Rashad advises the Yemeni government to treat the soldiers after each war or military offensive with psychotherapy. Similar to what's done in the United States, he says, where soldiers receive psychological treatment upon their return from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Morale Guidance Department, a department within the Ministry of Defense tasked with lifting the soldiers' spirits, began a new

campaign in response to the threat of attacks damaging soldiers' mental and emotional state, as well as their performance in both the military and security corps. The campaign which took off two months ago, targets several brigades in the war-torn governorates of Sa'ada, Abyan, and Amran with the aim of raising the confidence of the soldiers.

More specifically, a team of preachers and individual military officials are travelling the country, holding motivational speeches.

As part of this Defense Ministry campaign, the deputy chief of the army's general staff, Abdulbari Al-Shamiri, visited the 125th and 133rd infantry brigades and the 1st Artillery Brigade in Sa'ada on August 28 to be briefed on the soldiers' current situation.

Al-Shamiri delivered many speeches in Sa'ada emphasizing the importance of remaining vigilant at all times as the threat of "terrorist" attacks is not over and the "war on terror" is still ongoing.

He asked the soldiers to remain devoted to their country, doing whatever necessary for the sake of it.

For his part, Mohammed Yahya Zaid, 35, a young Yemeni preacher and a member of the ministry's campaign, said he and his team of preachers had visited many brigades in the past two weeks and are going to visit the other brigades during the weeks to come.

"We found out that the soldiers' spirits have been damaged and have

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become lower than should be as the terrorist attacks keep continuing despite promises made by the political leaders to improve the situation. However, we tried to increase their enthusiasm through religious and patriotic speeches," Zaid said.

"Our speech is based on two pillars, the religion and the country. We urge the soldiers to defend both religion and the country against terrorists who try to deform religion by spreading wrong values such as attacking and killing soldiers," Zaid said.

Zaid also preaches that soldiers, in case of death, count as martyrs and have a spot reserved in heaven—which is exactly what AQAP promises its members.

According to Humaidan, who works as a soldier with the 5th Armored Brigade, speeches—whether by the military commanders or the religious preachers in the brigade—are effectively raising the soldiers' spirits and motivate them to face the enemy.

"The Yemeni people, including soldiers, are passionate so they are strongly affected by the words they listen to. After someone finishes a speech, voices of approval are clearly heard, which means that the speeches have a positive impact on them," said Humaidan.

In addition to motivating speeches, Zaid reports that the officers who attended the speeches gave promises to improve the soldiers' financial situation and arrange their work timetable once the security situation improves so that they could visit their families once in a while.

Currently, soldiers are only allowed to see their families every six months.

Even if the military were to give soldiers more money and time to see their families, it appears they are currently unable to provide them with adequate security. The 14 off-duty soldiers who were executed by AQAP in Hadramout constitute a case in point.

A high ranking officer in the 135th Infantry Brigade, which the soldiers killed in the Hadramout attack belonged to, previously discussed the killings with the Yemen Times. The officer, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of repercussion, said "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 [civilian] buses, owned by Al-Baraq Company, to drive them to Sana'a."

Explaining why the soldiers were using civilian transport to begin with, the officer said that after a "huge victory" against AQAP "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."

Another issue that makes many soldiers question their loyalty to the military is the government's failure to pay pensions to the families of killed military personnel.

"My friend was killed in the war against Al-Qaeda militants two years ago in Abyan," begins Sinan Ajaj, 25, a soldier in the 135th Infantry Brigade based in Abyan. "His salary was supposed to be given to his family as pension, but the pension was not disbursed under the pretext that the rifle which was granted to him when he was recruited must be brought in order for his salary to be released."

The way the family of his friend, the fallen soldier, was treated angered Ajaj and diminished his trust in the military. "When I encounter the terrorists, I first think about my family and how bad of a destiny they will face in case I die. I like my country but I like my family more. I am afraid that my family will face the same troubles my friend's family faced," Ajaj said.

Military analyst Ahmed Obaid believes the government should improve the living conditions of the soldiers by incentivizing them, handing out promotions, and increasing their salaries.

"Unfortunately, the successive governments have ignored the soldiers," he said.

The Yemen Times contacted the Ministry of Defense to ask what the government is doing to improve soldiers' safety and what psychological support they are providing, in addition to its recent campaign, but there was no response.

Qat as a remedy for psychological distress

Mohammed Noman, 46, a soldier with the Special Security Forces who is stationed at checkpoints in the capital, said he found a way to help him cope with the threat of terrorism.

As a stroll past any checkpoint or military location reveals, a large number of soldiers chew qat while on duty. Some soldiers have taken up the habit as a form of self-medication to deal with the stress that comes along with the fear of potential attacks.

"When I used to stand at the checkpoints frisking people, I kept thinking of the imminent danger of Al-Qaeda, but when I started chewing qat, the fear gradually faded away as qat makes you enthusiastic and releases you from fear."

Noman is well aware that while his method of coping may solve one problem, it only creates another. He knows that spending almost half of his YR30,000 (\$150) per month salary on qat doesn't leave enough for him to provide for his family. However, Noman says, he has no other option.

"Until now I have no choice to overcome the fear of the Al-Qaeda threat except with qat."

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Islamic State is cementing, not destroying regional order

Sharif Nashashibi
middleeasteye.net
First published Sept. 7

All the talk these days is about how the Islamic State (IS) is redrawing the map of the Middle East. This is true—for now—with regard to Iraq and Syria, on whose territories it recently declared a caliphate. However, to a far greater extent, the IS is inadvertently achieving the opposite of what it intends. Its threats, atrocities, and rapid expansion are cementing the existing regional order rather than destroying it.

Its rise has given autocrats a sense of vindication in their warnings that a threat to their absolute hold on power would result in Islamist militancy and fanaticism. Once-restive populations have quieted, their exasperation with their dictatorships trumped by the very real fear that their countries could end up like Syria, or Iraq, or Libya, or Egypt, or Yemen.

IS is threatening surrounding

states, and even those beyond—threats that should be taken very seriously. However, most of the region's leaders are arguably sitting more comfortably than at any time since the start of the Arab Spring.

The brutality and effectiveness of the IS have galvanized governments in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the international community, to face a common enemy, and to coordinate as much as possible in doing so.

To an extent, state abuses are being ignored and bitter rivalries put to one side in that pursuit. A stark example is Iran's supreme leader this week reportedly approving military cooperation with the US to fight the IS, and the State Department saying "we're open to engaging" Tehran. Although the US and Iran have now denied reports that they are coordinating their efforts, the possibility of collaboration would have previously been unthinkable.

There are even a growing number of voices in the West advocating—however grudgingly—working with Bashar Al-Assad. A man whose bru-

tal response to an initially peaceful revolution has resulted so far in the deaths of almost 200,000 Syrians, the displacement of around half the entire population and the destruction of the country, is being considered as a partner.

In addition, his allies are more determined than ever to prop him up. Although Assad's forces and the IS are belatedly fighting each other, the latter has focused most of its attention in Syria on targeting rebels opposed to the regime, at a cost of several thousand lives since the start of the year. All in all, the IS is proving to be a boost to Assad's longevity.

Rulers across the region are echoing American, European, and international calls for a united, global strategy against the IS. Such a broad-based approach is necessary, but this very breadth means a blind eye to state practices and abuses, some of them directly contributing to the kind of extremism that everyone seems intent on eradicating. The thinking is, "if we can be seen as part of the solution, we will not be seen as part of the

problem."

The IS has become as much a lightning rod as George Bush's maniacal "war on terror," which spawned global franchises of terrorism and oppressive regimes claiming to counter it. Once again, countries across the region are declaring their own "wars on terror," in turn, justifying draconian measures that target dissent generally, not the IS specifically.

They plead for international help—mainly military, of course—and given the urgency in combating the IS, such aid is amply forthcoming, but at such a pace that there is little thought as to how these weapons may be used to cling to power. This is, after all, the Arab world.

Regional states during Bush's "war on terror" conflated various organizations and movements with Al-Qaeda. The same is happening now, with Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, and other groups being viewed, portrayed, and treated as no different to the IS, often out of expediency rather than genuine belief.

In Egypt, however, the IS has

played into the authorities' discourse of curbing rights and freedoms in the name of fighting terrorism. Cairo had already been citing the Brotherhood as the reason for its crackdown on dissent, which has expanded well beyond the movement.

The Sinai-based group, Ansar Bayt Al-Maqdis, which has killed hundreds of members of Egypt's security forces in the last year, is reportedly being instructed by the IS on effective military methods. This is giving the authorities added impetus and public support to intensify its general crackdown. Meanwhile, President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi wants in on the anti-IS coalition, and the West—which had been critical of his heavy-handedness—is obliging.


The IS is not just consolidating the positions of the region's rulers, but also those of foreign powers. The Americans, Brits, French, and Russians have a destructive record in the Middle East and North Africa, for which they have been viewed with widespread public suspicion and hostility.

One of the aims of the Arab Spring was to throw off the shackles of foreign interference. This jeopardized the traditional influence and dominance of outside powers. Now, however, they are clamoring to renew or deepen their regional involvement, and are being welcomed, as if their policies will somehow no longer be self-serving or short-sighted.


To a large extent, they can thank the IS for opening that door wider, for allowing foreign involvement to be seen as the lesser of two evils. Meanwhile, the alliances between these outside powers and their regional allies are being consolidated.


The IS has inflicted a double tragedy on the people of the region. Not only is it displaying unadulterated viciousness, but it is cementing—rather than existentially threatening—a dysfunctional order.

Sharif Nashashibi is an award-winning journalist and analyst on Arab affairs. He is a regular contributor to Al-Arabiya News, Al-Jazeera English, The National, and The Middle East magazine.



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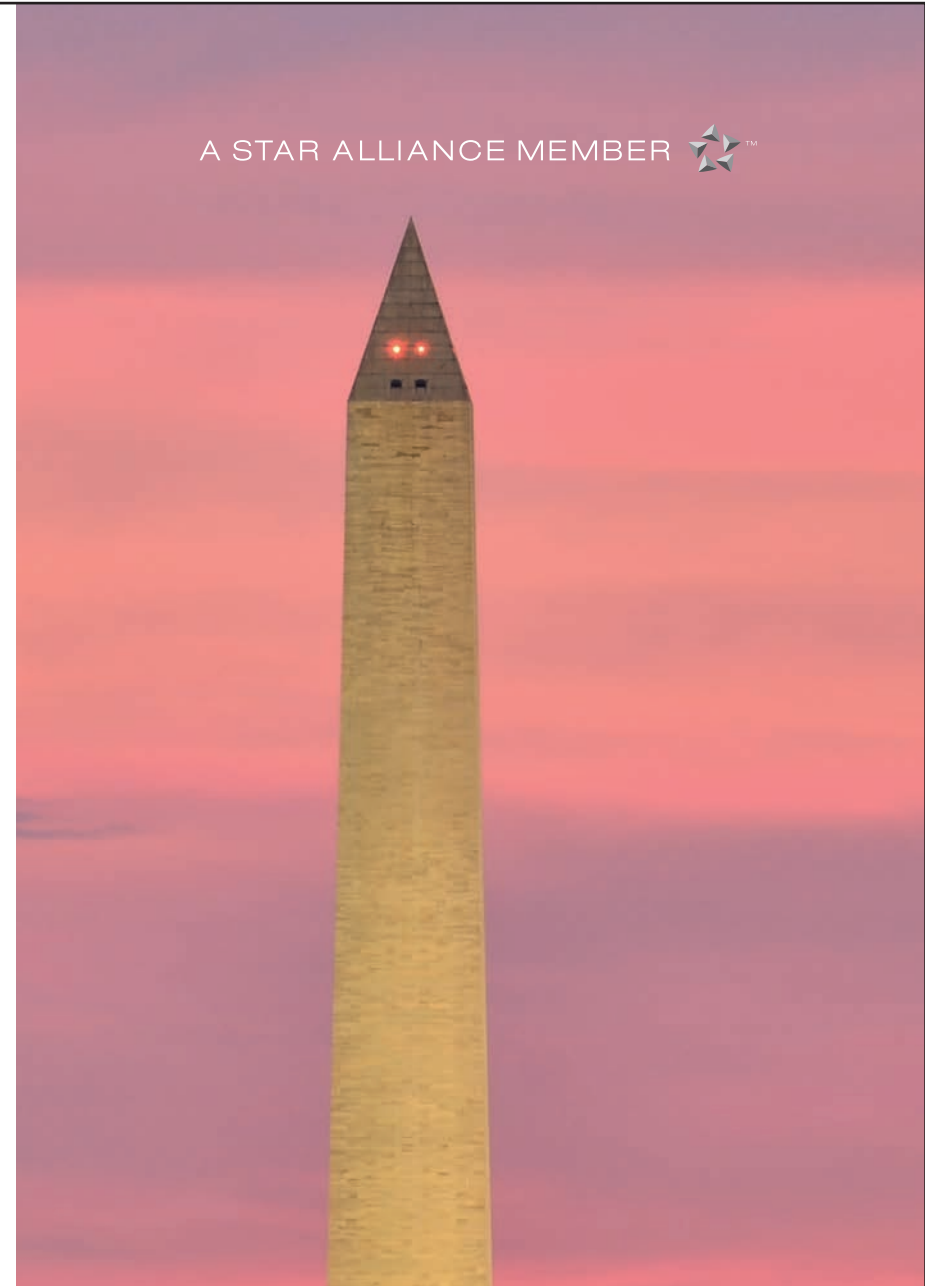
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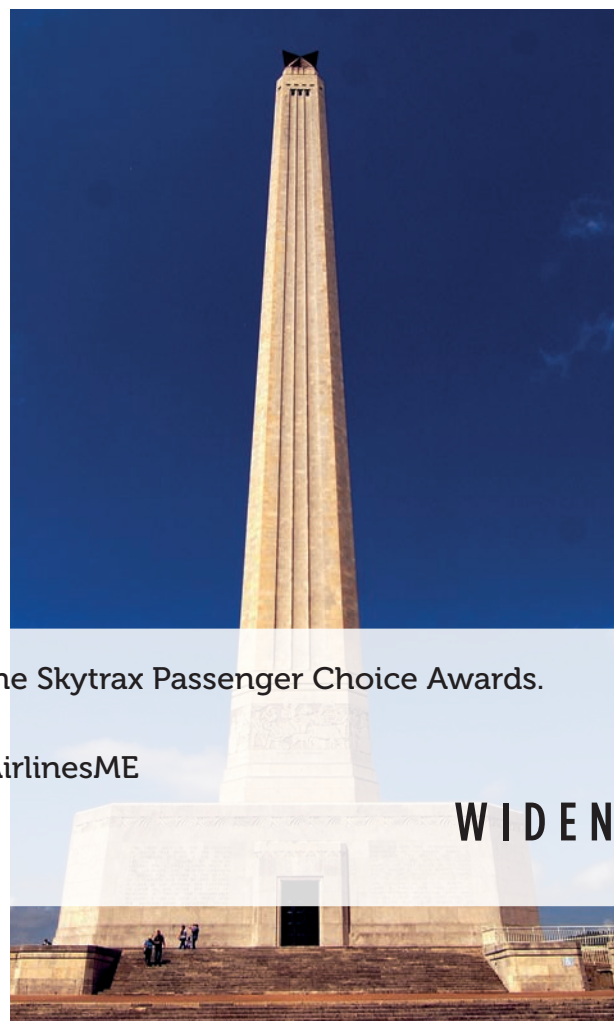
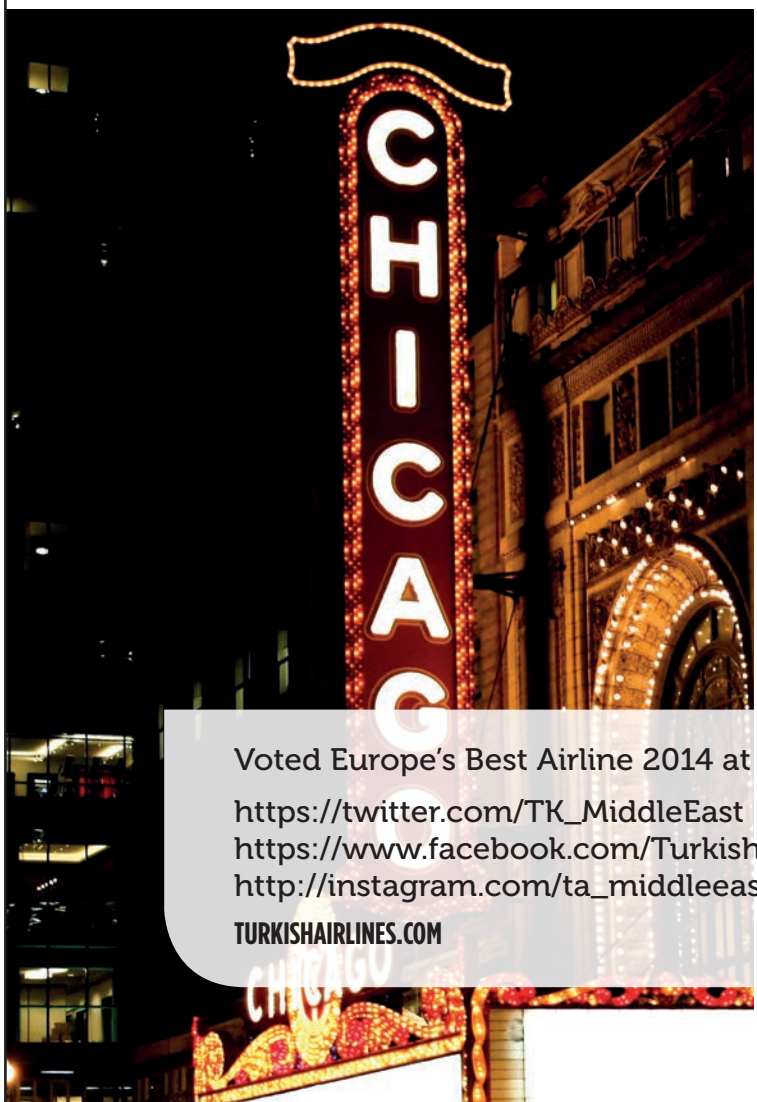
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WIDEN YOUR WORLD



Ignoring the ban

Soldiers in uniform leave their posts to buy qat, chew while on duty

Story by **Nasser Al-Sakkaf**
Photo by **Brett Scott**

In late April 2007, former Minister of Interior Rashad Al-Alimi issued a ministerial directive forbidding the widespread habit of army personnel wearing their uniforms in qat markets and chewing qat while on duty.

In the weeks following Al-Alimi's instruction, military police were regularly seen monitoring Sana'a's bigger qat markets such as in the Al-Hasaba and Shumaila neighborhoods, according to researcher and author Peer Gatter.

While a number of soldiers disobeying the ban were arrested, the strict monitoring and enforcement of Al-Alimi's directive did not last long.

Two months later, by early July 2007, military police disappeared from the qat markets and soldiers in uniforms were widely seen again.

As Mohammad Hezam, the deputy manager of public relations in the Ministry of Interior, sarcastically remarks, "Al-Alimi could not even implement his directive among his own guards."

A continuous lack of enforcement and wide-spread disregard caused Interior Minister Abdu Hussein Al-Trab seven years later to issue yet another ministerial directive, essentially repeating parts of what was once ordered by Al-Alimi.

In March 2014, Al-Trab ordered a ban on military and police personnel in Yemen chewing qat while on duty.

Employees who leave their post without an excuse or prior permission are supposed to be punished.

While there is no specific penalty for doing so, many of them have been handed out jail time.

Five months on, history seems to repeat itself: No one seems to be taking Al-Trab's order seriously. Around Sana'a, it's rare to see a soldier without his cheek filled with the leafy narcotic.

More than that, it continues to be commonplace to see soldiers in uniform in qat markets—after leaving their post while on duty—despite Al-Alimi's decisions banning military and security personnel from entering qat markets with their military uniforms on.

Soldiers' unawareness and legal violations

The Yemen Times went to Anss Qat Market in Al-Safia area of Sana'a to find out what soldiers and the qat vendors think of the ban. It didn't take long before soldiers Ali and Mohammed* showed up in full military garb, both unaware they were violating an order.

After being informed that by entering the qat market while wearing their military uniforms and carrying their equipment they were violating an order from the Supreme Security Committee, one of the soldiers responded "we are on the clock. We left our post in a checkpoint in Dar Salm for these few minutes to buy qat and return to our posts."

Their explanation for why they are wearing their uniform: It would take time to change as they would have to return to their homes to do so.

When soldiers leave their posts without a valid reason—such as when going to purchase qat—they do not leave anyone to fill in for them.

"When we leave a checkpoint for



On-duty soldiers regularly leave their posts to buy qat while in uniform, violating a number of orders. Here, a soldier chews while a bag of qat hangs from the turret he is manning.

half an hour, this does not mean there is negligence. We work around the clock, half an hour will not effect the work," Mohammed said.

Lacking law enforcement

According to Hezam, "the officials in the Interior Ministry are intentionally overlooking the problem because of the circumstances the country is going through, but offenders must be punished and their numbers are increasing everyday even though there are orders against those actions."

Indeed, the ministry is fully aware

of the violations: "Some soldiers gather in a certain place to chew qat leaving a checkpoint without anyone in it, which takes more time than the time used to buy qat," Hezam said.

The penalties for soldiers in uniform chewing qat in public places; for entering qat markets with their uniform on; and for leaving assigned posts is jail time, although in all cases the period differs for each individual case.

Nabeel Al-Sharjabi, a professor of economics at Sana'a University, says that "banning the consumption

of qat in public places is a positive move to reduce the level of financial corruption in security institutions because security personnel will be motivated to take bribes to pay for their expensive daily qat usage."

According to Al-Sharjabi, the former president's decision to ban the consumption of qat by on-duty soldiers was a move towards developing the performance of the security forces. However, he said, this decision does not have a high priority at the present time.

In case the government wants to implement these rules, they will also have to enforce the punishment for them.

"These laws are only ink on paper and they are impossible to follow unless there is a punishment, this has become the only way to get them to do anything," Al-Sharjabi added.

Many citizens feel that qat chewing by on-duty soldiers negatively affects their work.

"When I pass through a checkpoint while the soldiers manning it are chewing qat they will either ignore everything, which means they have no energy to work, or they will try to shakedown citizens to secure

money for tomorrow's qat," said Haithm Abdulmalik, a resident in Sana'a.

A qat vendor's view

Tariq Al-Wosabi, a qat vendor at the same market where the two soldiers were seen, told the Yemen Times that some qat dealers feel they are being extorted by soldiers.

"Some soldiers are known to be extortionists who extort dealers using their government capacity, and if they don't bribe the soldier with qat or a simple amount of money such as YR100 (under \$0.50) they will get into trouble with them," Al-Wosabi said.

Soldier Mohammed condemned this, saying these actions are not the actions of a security officer but of that man himself and that they should not be generalized to include all security personnel.

According to Hezam there have not been any convictions against soldiers who have practiced extortion, adding that those soldiers who roam the streets with their guns are not punished at all.

*Not their real names.

Yemeni women fight for greater representation

aljazeera.com
First published Sept. 2

After years of activism, Amal Basha's demands for guarantees of greater representation for women in the political system has finally edged closer to reality.

"Women have been fighting for it for a long time," said the prominent Yemeni human rights advocate, referring to the more than decade-long battle she and others have waged to secure women representation in public office in Yemen.

In the aftermath of the country's 2011 uprising, and over the course of the nation's ten-month National Dialogue Conference (NDC), Basha and other pro-quota NDC delegates were able to secure the endorsement of an article for the nation's new constitution—planned to be ratified later this year—recommending that at least 30 percent of those serving in government should be women.

This quota, proponents have argued, could rectify Yemen's poor track record of female representation in politics and potentially chip away at negative stigmas of women holding positions of power.

Currently, there is only one woman in a 301-member parliament and three out of 35 ministers are female. The country continues to rank extremely low on many international measures of gender equality.

"Most women have come to the realization that we will not be represented unless there is a quota—even those from the more conservative parties," said Jamila Ali Raja, an in-

dependent NDC representative.

But given Yemen's already shaky record of commitment to the inclusion of women in serious numbers on post-NDC committees, there is worry that the measure could fall victim to political wrangling and fail to make it into the constitution.

The Constitutional Drafting Commission (CDC), the presidentially appointed group assigned to write the constitution, was one member short of reaching the minimum margin of 30 percent, with only four women sitting on the 17-member panel.

Julie Ballington, a political participation adviser at United Nations Women, warned that quotas are often undermined if there are no sanctions in place to ensure compliance.

"Quotas are an electoral measure. They can reshape the makeup of the political institution, but other complementary strategies and measures are needed for women to have an impact and have results," Ballington said.

A gender quota became a rallying point for the majority of women at the NDC, taking on typically conservative and religious factions opposed to the measure, NDC representative Raja explained.

Yemen is one of the more than 90 countries worldwide to have adopted or be in the process of adopting a gender quota in government, according to figures from Ballington at UN Women. Ballington told Al-Jazeera that quotas are a key driver in the increasing number of women in decision-making positions worldwide.

"Having gender equality guaran-

tees in the constitution, like temporary special measures or quotas, is particularly important in countries where the rights of women may be undermined in national legislation," she said.

But it has not been an easy ride in forcing gender parity in a male-dominated political arena. "The woman's cause is on the sidelines," said Bahya Al-Saqqaf, who represented the Southern Movement) at the NDC, a group composed of southern secessionist factions. Gender equality in politics is considered less important than issues like greater autonomy for the southern governorates, Saqqaf explained.

While the participation of women in the NDC reached 28 percent in March 2013, and three of the conference's working groups were headed by women, not all agreed that a gender quota was in their best interests.

Huda Al-Yafai was the only female NDC delegate representing the Rashad Union, a Salafi political group that supports the implementation of Islamic law in Yemen. Yafai and her party's six male delegates all voted against mandatory gender representation in politics. "The 30 percent limits choice," Yafai said. "You will not be able to find qualified people to fill this quota."

Although Yafai acknowledged that she would not have participated in the NDC had her party's participation not been tied to the inclusion of a female delegate, she touches on an argument pro-quota activists are constantly forced to dispute. Yemen—plagued by high levels of illiteracy and relatively lower levels

of enrollment in schools for girls—does not have enough skilled or educated women to fill elected and appointed positions.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf,* an independent NDC representative who was the only woman on the NDC's governing body, dismissed this argument without hesitation. "Where are the qualified men?" she asked. "Women won't solve all problems. The 70 percent of men at [the NDC] did not solve all men's issues. It is not fair to ask so much of women."

Pro-quota advocates have created online databases that list potential female leaders and their credentials, in an effort to gain support, but these measures haven't stifled criticism.

Samira Ali Bindaair, who has worked in development for 20 years across many of Yemen's rural areas, said she was not convinced that a quota would enact change in places that are far from the country's decision-making centers, nor provide a voice for Yemen's rural female population. "How effective will it be? It seems [like a] very token [measure] and full of self-interest," she said. "I don't think anyone is looking at the core issues affecting women."

Meanwhile, Raja argued the quota could be most effective at the local level if Yemen moves away from a centralized system to a federalist one with devolved powers, as the NDC recommended.

"A lot of women do have solutions at the local level, but right now they are outside of the decision making," she said.

*Nadia Al-Sakkaf is the editor-in-chief of the Yemen Times



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Sana'anis face the brunt of noise pollution

■ Madiha Al-Junaid

Five years ago, Yasmin Dammaj, general manager at the Industrial Management Department of the Yemen Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control Organization (YSMO), was battling severe stress and sleep deprivation. "The unbearable sounds from a carpentry workshop near my house constantly affected my ability to sleep and function." The loud sound levels from the equipment used at the carpentry workshop compelled Dammaj to take the issue to court.

"Environment Public Agency (EPA) officials measured the noise from the workshop's equipment against international specifications. It was found they [the carpentry workshop] violated the stipulated noise levels in a residential area and were forced to stop," said Dammaj.

Luckily for him, the case resulted in a victory after five years of pressuring officials in court. Even though the workshop remains open today, it was forced to discontinue the use of its equipment after the sentence was issued.

Not everyone is as fortunate as Dammaj. Fatima Mohammed, a former employee at Soul Organization for Development, Sana'a, has been fighting anger and depression while travelling to work. "The noisy environment I have to go through each morning with the screaming voices of those in the markets and bus stations, as well as the traffic noise at every roundabout, is nerve racking," she said.

"Many times, I realized my inability to perform at work due to regular headaches, lack of concentration, and a hot temper," she added.

While noise pollution in big cities

has long been perceived as an inevitable challenge by governments across the globe, noise laws and ordinances have become common place in local and national governance, especially in developed countries.

According to the European Commission, environmental noise pollution relates to ambient sound levels beyond comfort levels as caused by traffic, construction, industrial, as well as some recreational activities.

Similarly, the World Health Organization (WHO) describes the "pain threshold" of noise as the high level (high dB) audible sound where the level of pressure of the sound produces discomfort or pain.

While noise, or "unwanted sound," is in some form present in all areas of human activity, the extent and length of exposure are widely regulated.

According to a WHO document on noise pollution, "Guidelines for Community Noise" (1995), there is general agreement that exposure to sound levels below 70 dB does not produce hearing damage, regardless of the duration of exposure. The report also suggests that exposure to sound levels exceeding 85 dB for more than 8 hours is potentially dangerous.

To place this in context, the magnitude for motorcycles is 100 dB

with a damage effect for over one minute; and diesel trucks' magnitude is 90 dB with the potential effect of chronic hearing loss if exposed for a long period of time.

Engineer Ali Al-Dobhani, the general director of the Chemical Safety and Hazardous Waste Department at the EPA, said that no local studies of measures by the EPA are in place that calculate the average exposure to noise levels on the streets of Sana'a.

On the other hand, Awadh Al-Hanshi, the deputy general manager of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) organization, recounted a study that took place on 70 Meters Street in Sana'a, which

he referred to as a non-noise-polluting area.

"The measurements weren't that high, and that was the only study we had regarding street noise. Other crowded and traffic-filled streets with many electricity generators haven't been part of our experiment. I am sure they are problematic and noisy though," said Awadh.

Sana'a's increasing noise levels

Overpopulated areas, excessive traffic, generators, and water trucks are not an uncommon sight in the capital. The resulting noise is particularly tangible during peak hours between 10 AM and 3 PM. At that

time, Professor Salah Al-Juma'ee, a sociologist and psychology lecturer in Amran and Sana'a Universities, describes Sana'a as a city "unbearable to live in." Other times of loud noise are during electricity outages, when electricity generators take over.

"The traffic in the city of Sana'a has been increasing since it is the center of the governorate and most work, education, and business opportunities are here," said Radhwan Al-Khazzan, general manager of legal affairs at the Traffic Department in the Mayor's Office.

Al-Juma'ee said the electricity generators are indispensable to peoples' livelihoods in Yemen

where close to 90 percent depend on these devices for regular electricity supply.

"In Sana'a alone, there is an excess of one-million generators," said Al-Juma'ee. He explained due to the long hours of electricity shut-downs, "exposure to these sounds lasts for more than 10-15 hours per day resulting in mental stress and diseases."

According to Awadh, three to four electricity generators working simultaneously could reach 102 dB.

While factories and airplanes do not constitute major sources of noise pollution in Yemen, motorcycles and diesel trucks with loud horns do.

In fact, Al-Juma'ee singles out car horns as a source of unbearable noise.

"Unsurprisingly, some vehicle drivers install louder horns to make more noise thinking they can get everyone out of their way," said Al-Juma'ee. He added that this trend has spread throughout the city since drivers remain unbothered about high sound levels their horns emanate due to lack of regulations.

In addition, "motorcycles which were banned by the government are now back with a side seat and used as a transportation tool. Their unpleasant high noise levels are really disturbing, sometimes resulting in hearing loss when exposed for long and continuous periods of time," said Fatima Mohammed, a former employee at Soul Organization for Development.

"We also see more and more diesel trucks on the streets which should have a specific time for moving around in the city, but that doesn't happen," said Abdullah. He added, "the weddings' stereo and mega-size speakers" are environmental hazards too.

Continued on the back page



Long electricity outages make generators indispensable to Yemenis. Three to four generators working simultaneously can reach up to 102 dB.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT YEM2014/LOG011/Gen-055- Re Adv

The UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
Invites both female and male candidates to apply for the following position:

Job Title:	Logistics Assistant (Billing-Invoice Verification & fund Management)
Duty station:	Sana'a
UN Category:	Service Contract – SC-4 (SB-2)
Duration:	One Year (12 months)
Vacancy Number:	YEM2014/LOG011/Gen-055- Re Adv
Opening date:	04 September 2014
Closing date:	17 September 2014

Supervision received: The Logistics Assistant reports to the Logistics Officer and under the overall supervision of Head of Logistics

Accountabilities:

Within delegated authority, the Logistics Assistant will be responsible for the following duties:
(These duties are generic and thus are not all-inclusive nor are all duties carried out by all Logistics Assistants)

- Post daily dispatches of WFP food and non-food commodities in the corporate system; monitor the correct use and quantity as per loading orders;
- Respond to queries regarding commodities staff in the unit and elsewhere in the Programme;
- Receive and process the logistics service providers' invoices, immediately register the same in the invoice tracker, and efficiently and in a timely manner.
- Identify and recognize the data discrepancies among the physical documents and system and report them immediately to the supervisor.
- Produce organized, accurate and well-documented records with well-analyzed data and in accordance with WFP established guidelines and procedures.
- Establish effective communications with the internal and external clients and respond to their queries constantly and with a constructive feedback.
- Process the transport invoices via the WFP invoicing tool (COMPAS) and using the Transport instruction criteria.
- Respond to the service providers queries concerning their due payments professionally and in an efficient manner.
- Review and interpret the information of non-routine nature with good judgment and with the appropriate analytical approach.
- Ensure timely and accurate processing of payments for Logistics service providers within the specified timeframe.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Expected Results:

Produces organized, accurate and well documented records conforming to required format with well analyzed data. May provide guidance on office practices to staff in lower grades.

Critical Success Factors:

Ability to review a variety of data, identify and adjust data discrepancies. Identify and resolve operational problems. Ability to communicate moderately complex matters clearly and concisely. Ability to perform detailed work, work of a confidential nature and/or to handle a large volume of work possibly under time constraints. Ability to deal patiently and tactfully with people of different national and cultural backgrounds.

Qualifications:

(These are the standard minimum qualifications established by WFP for the effective performance of the tasks described in the Generic Job Profile. Corporate recruitment/workforce planning needs, in addition to local market supply may require changes or amendments to these, as appropriate. Any queries on changes for vacancy announcement purposes should be addressed to Recruitment and Reassignment Branch, Human Resources Division.)

Education: Completion of secondary school education.

Experience: At least three years of progressively responsible support experience including at least one year in the field of accounting, transport, insurance, statistics, operations or another related field.

Language: Fluency in both oral and written English and Arabic.

Knowledge: Experience utilising computers, including word processing, spreadsheet and other software packages.

Interested candidates are requested to apply by:

- Completing their resumes, the **Personal History Form (P11)** and a covering letter addressed to WFP HR unit indicating the VA reference number and the position title as per the vacancy announcement, **YEM2014/LOG011/Gen-055- Re adv.**
- Send all above mentioned documents to the following email address **Yemen.HR@wfp.org** or in a **sealed envelope no later than 15 September 2014**, to:
World Food Programme, Sana'a, HR Unit
P.O. Box 7181
Diplomatic Area, Nowakshot St, House No. 22, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

*The **Personal History Form (P11)** can be downloaded from WFP Yemen site, <https://teamwork.wfp.org/232/YEHR/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Only short-listed candidates meeting the required qualifications will be contacted.

VACANT POSITION



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International Relief and Development, (IRD) Inc., is a non-profit organization specializing in international development and humanitarian assistance in over 40 countries and has been working in Yemen for over four years. IRD works with a wide range of partners to design and implement, and provide technical assistance in the areas of health, economic development, relief, infrastructure, civil society and food security. IRD Yemen is implementing a WASH program in Hadramout and Al-Maharah that aims to increase access to potable water through construction of Caravans, and improve healthy hygiene practices for vulnerable communities in Hadramout and Al-Maharah. IRD Yemen is seeking to fill the following position to implement its Program in Yemen:

Job Title: Program Manager – 1 post
Program: WASH
Location: Hadramout and Al-Maharah
Duration: Five (5) months - Renewable

Essential Job Functions:

Under the direction of the Country Director, the Program Manager will:

- Manage the program to budget and to time, ensuring generation of implementation pipelines, equitable task allocations and timely creation of narrative reports;
- Oversee baseline and end line assessment surveys;
- Manage the program team and community based volunteers, provide them with required technical, support, training and capacity building; oversee the field office in Hadramout and Al-Maharah in accordance with IRD procedures and policies;
- Design and implement hygiene training programs for teachers and students in schools and oversee water management committee training and home-based water treatment training in communities;
- Ensure locally sound and socially accepted design of WASH Civil Works projects and follow up pace of implementation and bringing them to final and satisfactory closure with no delay.
- Take regular water samples for quality testing and take necessary actions to meeting required water quality standards.
- Coordinate and liaise with the local authorities, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, the General Authority of Rural Water Supply Projects, and other implementers and partners;
- Prepare required Bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual progress reports to the Donor/ HQ;
- Assist the Country Director and HQ team in preparation of WASH proposals; Identify WASH and development needs in the local communities for possible future interventions;
- Identify and monitor risks, constraints or escalating issues, and inform the hierarchy accordingly;
- Ensure all Data and information are saved, well organized and easily accessible;
- Conduct regular visits to the field to monitor construction works and HP activities;
- Ensure Admin, Logistics, and financial activities are conducted in accordance with IRD policies and procedures;
- Stimulate team spirit work among Program Team and encourage staff initiatives;
- Coordinate field based distributions of NFIs and ensure simple commodities management procedures are followed.

Required Skills and Experience:

- University degree in WASH related studies (Engineering, Public health.. etc);
- Fluency (reading and writing) in English and Arabic are essential;
- At least (7) seven years program management experience, preferably on US-government funded WASH programs; Experience in Sand dams construction is essential;
- Excellent Report-writing, and management skills;
- Excellent Computer skills

APPLICATION PROCESS:

For all positions, applicants should send a CV and covering letter, both in English, to irdyemen@irdglobal.org with the title of the position you are applying for in the Subject line of the email. The closing date for applications is Thursday 18th September, 2014.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Sana'anis face the brunt of noise pollution

Correlation between noise pollution and well-being

"Constant exposure to noise pollution causes damage to the ear drums and weakens hearing. The central nervous system needs quietness and when people are continuously exposed to noise pollution, it causes anxiety. Blaring sounds damage the five senses and in most cases lead to depression and an imbalanced personality," said Al-Juma'ee.

According to the WHO, environ-

mental noise is one of the major causes of disturbed sleep. Once sleep disruption becomes chronic, negative impacts on human health follow, including mood changes, decrements in concentration and other long-term effects on well-being.

A WHO report in 2004 classified the health implications of noise into three categories: Stress-related somatic effects (stress hormone, blood pressure, and muscle spasm);

psychological effects (annoyance, isolation, sleep disturbance and mental health); and cognitive effects (reading, concentration, memory, attention)."

Health psychologist, Professor Mohammed Shidewa from the University of Aden, said that in the long run noise pollution can induce a breakdown of the central nervous system which gives rise to fear and tension. The university did studies and research in factories to see correlation between activity and noise pollution, and concluded that health implications are very likely to follow high levels of noise.

"Not only is the productivity of a person professionally and personally impaired, but also their productivity and way of life," added Al-Juma'ee.

EPA employee Al-Dobhani added continuous exposure to dangerous levels of noise resulted in, "serious health damages, such as heart diseases including heart attacks, and fetal malformation."

According to Al-Juma'ee, the YSMO is the national authority specialized in standards and specifications of noise. "It is their job to ensure generators and cars brought into the country adhere to these specified standards."

Calls for noise regulation fall on deaf ears

When the Yemen Times contacted the YSMO, Dammaj said YSMO has no standards nor censorship regarding noise pollution as these matters concern the environment

and health.

"The Environment Public Authority is actually the one who is concerned with these issues, not the YSMO, which is only concerned with censorship of goods, the workers, and the institutions."

According to Al-Dobhani, the EPA is working on environmental issues, including noise pollution. "We received many cases similar to Dammaj's," he said.

Al-Khazzan at the Mayor's Office put forth the importance of using street signs and traffic lights instead of car horns as a means to decrease noise pollution. "The law imposes fines ranging from YR5,000 (\$23) to YR10,000 (\$47) against those who use horns without any necessity," he said, adding, there are significant challenges for its implementation. Traffic officers, not paying heed to the law, don't issue traffic violation tickets when required, thereby encouraging drivers to veer from the law," he said.

Al-Khazzan reiterated, "as of now there is no single law or sign ban-

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ning the use of vehicle horns next to residential buildings," thereby depriving residents of some peace and quiet.

According to Al-Dobhani, there has been nothing done by the EPA so far to solve the problem of noise pollution as a whole. "However, we are trying to solve specific and

single cases, such as the mega-sized electricity generators in the city areas that cause a lot of noise," said Al-Dobhani.

For now, Al-Dobhani expressed concern about the economic situation in Yemen hindering environmental enhancement projects moving forward.

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