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On the Occasion of the 13 anniversary of the company's establishment:

SabaFon honors a group of distinguished employees and supports the wedding of 57 of its employees.

The Yemeni Telecommunication Company SabaFon celebrated the 13th Anniversary for its establishment last Monday, with a number of employees, managers and supreme management attending the event that was held in the Company's building in the capital Sana'a.

During the celebration Mr. Abdullah Al-Kebisi the General Manager of Human resources honored the exemplary employees for the year 2013 and they are 39 employees from various administrations.

This event is an annual initiative in which the company encourages its employees to

provide the best services. Mr. Abdullah Al-Kebisi also praised, in a speech he gave, the efforts the employees exerted during the year which contributed to achieving all the company's goals for the passed year.

In a press release Mr. Abdullah Al-Kebisi



13 عاماً من التواصل

الحفل السنوي الثالث عشر لشركة سبافون



said : "this event occurred in the 13 anniversary for establishing SabaFon, we usually have a big annual celebration that includes all employees, however, due to the conditions the country is undergoing, we held a simple celebration where gifts were handed out to managers and employees who have proven to be competent,



distinguished ad all around excellent, we had an award for: best manager in the company, best employee in the company, and best manager in every administration, a total of 39 employees were honored, we gave financial amounts to the new grooms and they are 57, it is a great occasion but a simple celebration, thank god we were able to make this event a success."

At the end of the celebration the employees who were honored expressed their extreme happiness for the event which raises the value of diligence hard working.

This celebration is an annual custom taking place every year since the establishment of the company in 14 February 2001 as the first mobile phone operator in Yemen, in recognition of the employees role in achieving the company's goals and supporting its continuing march towards success and prosperity.



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Houthi protests escalate

Story by **Nasser Al-Sakkaf**
Photo by **Zakrya Dahman**

SANA'A, Sept. 10—On Tuesday morning Houthi protests in front of the cabinet in Sana'a escalated, leaving seven dead and dozens injured.

State-run Yemen TV reported that seven protesters were killed and dozens injured on Tuesday morning in front of the cabinet headquarters.

Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, member of the Houthis' Political Office confirmed that seven protesters were killed.

While the government and the Houthis agree on the number of casualties, their accounts on events differ markedly.

"Houthi supporters tried to enter the security area of the cabinet, which is forbidden," read the Interior Ministry's website.

Guards of the cabinet prevented the protesters from storming the cabinet headquarters, using water and tear gas, the ministry said.

The ministry's website did not make any mention of casualties.

The government's statements are strongly opposed by Houthi representatives. Al-Bukhaiti insists that the government is responsible for the deaths, saying "the Houthis didn't storm the cabinet, they were only trying to erect tents."

"The protesters tried to put up



Streets around the cabinet were cleared after protests on Tuesday and remain blocked by sandbags and rocks set up by soldiers.

tents nearby the cabinet peacefully, but the bullets killed them," he said.

Al-Bukhaiti added that the government's violence is going to force protesters to find alternatives to their peaceful demonstrations.

Eyewitness Hisham Al-Mikhlafi

confirms Al-Bukhaiti's view, saying that security forces started shooting the protesters when they tried to erect tents in front of the cabinet.

Al-Mikhlafi told the Yemen Times that shots were fired from houses nearby, some of which killed protesters.

Aseel Ahmed, a Sana'a resident living close to the cabinet, also reports that security forces prevented protesters from setting up tents in front of the cabinet headquarters. They used water cannons, tear gas and gunfire was heard, he said.

Continued on page 2

Military and AQAP clash in Hadramout

■ **Murad Abdu Al-Awasi**

ADEN, Sept. 9—Soldiers from the 135th Infantry Brigade and AQAP members clashed on Tuesday morning at a military checkpoint at the entrance of Ser Valley in Al-Qatan district, Hadramout governorate.

The fighting broke out after a car exploded near the checkpoint.

The Defense Ministry's website confirmed the car explosion and the clashes, saying that military personnel destroyed the car before it could reach the checkpoint.

The ministry cited a military source from the 1st Military Command as saying that "terrorists attacked the checkpoint with an explosive-laden vehicle, but the soldiers aborted the attack and destroyed the car before it could reach its target."

According to the Defense Ministry's website, ten of the AQAP militants were killed and others were wounded during the clashes. Two soldiers were also killed and three others were injured.

AQAP claimed responsibility for the attack, stating on its Twitter page on Tuesday that "the Mujahideen [those engaged in Jihad] detonated a booby-trapped car at a military checkpoint located at the entrance of Ser Valley in Al-Qatan."

"Then a number of Mujahideen raided the checkpoint and opened fire at the rest of the soldiers there, leaving dozens of soldiers killed and destroying all armored cars," AQAP's statement read.

Eyewitness Rashid Bin Rajeh told the Yemen Times by phone that "two hours after the explosion a number

of gunmen carried out an attack on the checkpoint manned by soldiers using assault rifles and grenades."

"The fighting was intense and lasted about three hours. Some military warplanes were hovering over Al-Qatan region where the attack took place," Rajeh said.

Several armed attacks and drive-by shootings occurred in Hadramout governorate throughout the year, resulting in the killing of a number of police and army soldiers and the looting of banks. AQAP claimed responsibility for most of these attacks.

Al-Jawf governor: War with Houthis will end in days

■ **Khalid Al-Karimi**

SANA'A, Sept. 9—The governor of Al-Jawf governorate informed the Yemen Times in a phone interview on Tuesday that the war with the Houthis in the governorate will draw to an end in days. The governor's announcement followed a series of air strikes on Houthi locations in Al-Ghail and Al-Masloob districts.

"The war with the Houthi militants will end in days due to the strong presence of the state and the unwavering local support," Mohammed Bin Salem Al-Sharif, Al-Jawf governor told the Yemen Times.

Al-Sharif said that the assistance from the air force has destroyed many Houthi locations and weapons, thereby preventing them from expanding their territory in Al-Ghail district.

"More than 80 Houthi fighters have been killed in air strikes during the past two days. The Yemeni air forces have been launching raids on the Houthi-controlled locations in Al-Ghail and Al-Masloob districts," he added.

Al-Sharif said that the army and tribesmen affiliated to the Islah Party have been repelling Houthi attacks since last Thursday.

Faisal Al-Aswad, a local journalist in Al-Jawf, said the governor is assuring people, which is "good." However, he remains unconvinced and still concerned about the security and humanitarian situation in the governorate.

"The air strikes continue to shell the Houthi locations in Al-Ghail district, causing large militant casualties," said Al-Aswad, adding that "the civilians have fled to neighboring areas since the end of July."

As of Wednesday afternoon, local

media reported ongoing airstrikes in Al-Jawf.

He continued, "the Houthi armed men used sophisticated weapons during the past days, which they robbed from the military camps in Amran."

Regarding the civilian situation in Al-Jawf, Al-Sharif said "hundreds of people have been displaced from villages in Al-Ghail and Al-Masloob districts which have become uninhabitable. They live in very tough situations since there has been an absence of local and international relief organizations."

Mubarak Al-Obadi, head of the Islah Party's Department of Information in Al-Jawf, said he is not sure the war will end in a few days given the fierce fighting. "The Houthi group has local supporters from within Al-Jawf," he added.

"The relentless airstrikes by the military has negatively impacted the morale of the Houthi fighters. On Tuesday morning, a war plane destroyed a tank owned by the Houthis. Lately, the Houthi fighters have been sustaining a great loss," added Al-Obadi.

Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthis' Political Office, dismissed the governor's statement calling it "unfounded."

According to Al-Bukhaiti, "the governor's statement that the war will end is aimed at raising the morale of the Islah-led militias. The Islah Party's extremists are seeing tremendous losses, and Ansar Allah [the Houthis] are about to control the entire governorate."

"It is true that the war will end [eventually] but in favor of Ansar Allah [Houthis]," he added.

On July 29 clashes first broke out between government forces, supported by tribesmen, and Houthi rebels in Al-Jawf.

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New AQAP video shows Al-Qatan raid

■ Bassam Al-Khameri

SANA'A, Sept. 9—Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) early Tuesday released a 14-minute video detailing its attack on Al-Qatan city of Hadramout governorate on August 7.

The video was published by Al-Malahim, a website run by AQAP. It includes footage of the group storming the security headquarters and banks in Al-Qatan.

The video opens with AQAP members in several cars driving to Al-Qatan city, with the signature black AQAP flags being waved.

The words shown across the screen at the beginning of the video are: "This attack came following the pro-Houthi military's [referring to the government] announcement of launching a military campaign on the Sunni people in Wadi Hadramout early August and sending military troops from Mukalla [city] and Lahj [governorate] to Hadramout."

The video shows clashes between AQAP members and soldiers of the Special Security Forces' camp in the city before the militants gained control over it. A helicopter can be seen hovering over the camp, and afterwards several military vehicles inside the camp were shown on fire.

The video also shows individuals, alleged to be local residents, providing assistance to the AQAP members. People who appear to be civilians are shown bringing water for AQAP members, and someone is shown providing a ladder so that one of the militants can climb over a wall.



In addition to the HD footage of intense gunfights that commonly characterize AQAP videos, residents are reportedly shown bringing water and food to the militants, even providing a ladder so one can scale a wall.

Another group of AQAP members stormed the Security Department in Al-Qatan and gained control of it, placing AQAP's black flag on the roof.

Following the attack, Jalal Baleedi, who has been leading major AQAP attacks in southern Yemen, appeared in the video speaking to a group of people who were claimed to be residents of Al-Qatan.

"I have good news for you. There are eight AQAP members now battling the military in Seyoun [city]. Clashes have been ongoing for an hour and several soldiers were killed and wounded," Baleedi said.

"Those are Houthis who want to

control the city. The military cooperates with the Houthis to attack the Sunnis. America strikes our strongholds because we are against them but it doesn't strike the Houthis," he told them.

The video also shows AQAP members distributing money and boxes to alleged residents of the city. The content of the boxes is unknown, but they are said to come from the raided security headquarters and were handed out from the back of Hilux trucks.

In the video, one AQAP member refers to the money the group was handing out, saying that all the money they took from the Al-Qatan

branch of the Yemen International Bank would be distributed to the city's poor people.

Saeed Al-Jamhi, head of the Al-Jamhi Center for Strategic Studies, told the Yemen Times that AQAP began recently to document all its attacks on military and security camps.

"AQAP uses media to attract more supporters and to show their power. This also shows their technical abilities," he said, adding that such videos—especially those which feature beheadings—affect the morale of soldiers and make "soldiers afraid and discouraged to fight the militants."

New Special Security Forces commander appointed

■ Bassam Al-Khameri

SANA'A, Sept. 10—General Fadhl Al-Qawsi on Tuesday welcomed President Hadi's decree to appoint a new Special Security Forces commander in his place.

"I welcome President Hadi's decree and assert that I support all decisions he takes," the Defense Ministry's website quoted Al-Qawsi as saying.

President Hadi on Monday dismissed Al-Qawsi from his position as commander of the Special Security Forces and appointed General Mohammed Mansour Al-Ghadra in his place.

"The Interior Ministry on Monday issued decree No. 313 of 2014 to appoint General Moammed Al-Ghadra as the Special Security Forces commander," read the Interior Ministry's website. The Special Security Forces are run directly by the Interior Ministry.

On Monday, the same day he was dismissed, Al-Qawsi was appointed as assistant deputy for the Criminal Investigation Department at the Interior Ministry.

Al-Qawsi denied claims by several local media outlets that he refused the new position.

"I was a member of the Military Committee established late 2011 to end weapons carrying in major cities. I implemented all decrees by President Hadi, so how come now I would refuse my appointment?" the Defense Ministry's website cit-

ed Al-Qawsi as saying

Al-Ghadra was the assistant deputy for the Criminal Investigation Department, the same position Al-Qawsi was just appointed to. Al-Ghadra has previously held the positions of security chief of Marib governorate and director of the Sana'a Traffic Department.

Mohammed Hizam, deputy head of the Public Relations Department at the Interior Ministry, confirmed Al-Qawsi's dismissal to the Yemen Times but gave no definitive information as to why he was fired.

"He was probably dismissed after the Special Security Forces failed to disperse a Houthi protest camp on Airport Road," Hizam said.

The Special Security Forces failed Sunday evening to remove an anti-government protest camp set up by the Houthis on Airport Road. They temporarily dispersed the crowd but the protesters were back only hours later with their tents set up.

Al-Qawsi was appointed commander of the Special Security Forces in place of General Abdulmalik Al-Taib on May 21, 2012, the same day as a suicide bomber killed around 100 Special Security Forces soldiers, called the Central Security Forces at the time, and injured around 400 others.

The attack occurred during military drill rehearsals for the annual Unity Day parade at Sabaen Square the day before the event was scheduled to take place.

Local NGO to monitor media performance

■ Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Sept. 9—The Freedom Foundation for Rights and Freedoms and Media Development, a local NGO based in Sana'a, launched a two-year program on Monday to observe the performance of 41 Arabic media outlets in Yemen.

"The media outlets in Yemen changed into means of incitement and hatred amidst lacking government action against poor publishing practices," said Khaled Al-Hamadi, the head of the foundation.

"The program will publish monthly reports on the 41 media outlets," he added.

In evaluating the selected 41 media outlets special attention will be paid to aspects of hatred and incitement.

The program aims to pressure media outlets into abiding by professional reporting standards, said Al-Hamadi.

Ashraf Al-Rifi, secretary of the Freedoms Committee at the Yemeni Journalist Union, welcomed the program, saying that it would oblige those in charge of partisan newspapers to be committed to professional standards and to stop promoting their political agendas.

However, he views the program as insufficient to bring about professional objective reporting. "The management of media outlets should have their own codes of conduct," he said.

The union has so far failed to approve the code of conduct for journalists it developed in 2009.

Since the 2011 uprising and the onset of Yemen's political transition, the publication of false or hateful content has largely gone unpunished in Yemen, according to Al-Hamadi.

The country's media sector has been relatively unrestricted since 2011, in spite of Yemen's press and publications law, which regulates the work of printed media and enables the government to take legal action against newspapers.

With no law in place to regulate visual and audio media this has led to the emergence of several unlicensed private and partisan satellite TV channels and radio stations.

Unlicensed private and partisan news websites are also on the rise.

Since 2011, only one newspaper, the Aden Al-Ghad, was temporarily shut down in February and one satellite TV channel, Al-Yemen Al-Youm, was closed in June by interim President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi.

The Aden Al-Ghad newspaper was accused of publishing articles that called for southern secession, whereas the Yemen Today satellite TV channel, owned by former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, was closed for inciting violence.

The program will not monitor the performance of state-run satellite TV channels and private radio stations.

"State-run satellite TV channels do not promote incitement and hatred and the private radio stations do not practice poor professional reporting, but play the role of community media," said Al-Hamadi.

The program is not the first of its kind. Ghamdan Al-Yousufi, a freelance journalist based in Sana'a, along with other journalists launched a Facebook page in November 2013 that provides daily assessments of news stories and headlines published by local media.

The page is called Habl Al-Ghaseel (clothesline) and has so far received around 11,000 "likes."

"There is no journalism at this time [in Yemen]. There is political propaganda rather than professional reporting... you rarely find standard reporting," said Al-Yousufi.

"Most media outlets are not independent and they operate according to specific agendas that serve specific parties here or there," he added.

According to Al-Yousufi, bad reporting contributes to insecurity in Yemen and negatively impacts its citizens.

Local newspapers reported that war was looming in the capital after the Houthis, a Zaydi Shia rebel group, set up protest camps in and around Sana'a. This caused some families to flee the capital, according to Al-Yousufi, which was unnecessary at the time, as protests stayed peaceful for another three weeks.

Judge kidnapped in Al-Baida

■ Ali Abulohoom

SANA'A, Sept. 10—Ahmed Al-Radaie, a judge at the appeals court in Al-Baida city was kidnapped by an unknown tribal group from his apartment at 8 PM after returning from a mosque on Monday.

Mohammed Asker, a security official working with Al-Baida city's security forces, said that a group of armed men knocked on Al-Radaie's door, forcibly capturing him once he opened the door.

According to Asker, the judge and his security escort were taken away to an unknown village within the same governorate.

The security forces were unable to track the kidnappers in the village without any leads from locals about their whereabouts.

In another incident which took place last week, the man-

ager of the Yemen Economical Corporation (YECO), Al-Baida branch, was kidnapped by tribal men in a similar way as the judge. In his case, however, the kidnappers demanded a ransom of YR15,000,000 (\$70,000) two days after his abduction. The manager was recently released after the requested ransom was paid by his relatives.

Despite the fact that some areas of Al-Baida governorate, including Rada'a, are believed to be strongholds of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Asker ruled out AQAP's involvement in this incident as they have never kidnapped locals to get ransoms in the governorate before.

Mohammed Tamish, a tribesman from Al-Baida, said that tribal armed men arrive from villages in the governorate to Al-Baida city to kidnap officials, and demand a ransom in return.

"Some tribal men are opportunists trying to exploit the security vacuum the country has plunged into since the 2011 uprising, to extract money to fulfil their goals."

Tamish has stepped in many times to release kidnapped people in Al-Baida, most of which, according to him, were abducted for financial reasons.

"The judge was definitely kidnapped by an armed group in return for a ransom and the sooner the kidnappers show up demanding money the sooner he will be released," he said.

Asker said the security forces are unable to step in, as the kidnappers usually contact the relatives directly, blackmailing them into paying the ransom.

"In case we intervene, the kidnappers have militants, and clashes will be inevitable. As far as possible, we would like to avoid bloodshed."

Major parties react to Houthi killings

■ Khalid Al-Karimi

SANA'A, Sept. 10—Leading political parties in the country have expressed concern after Tuesday's killing of Houthi protesters by the government near the cabinet headquarters.

The General People's Congress (GPC) titular head and former president, Ali Abdulla Saleh, described the violence as "tragic."

Presided by Saleh, the General Committee of the GPC held a meeting on Tuesday to review recent developments in the capital city and other governorates. The party issued a statement in reaction to the recent developments.

"The GPC and its alliances have been following the tragic events that occurred along Airport Street in the vicinity of the cabinet, and denounce violent acts by all sides to make

the capital a battleground," the statement read. The statement called all sides to maintain self-restraint to further avoid deterioration.

"The GPC and its alliances calls for the formation of an independent fact-finding committee to investigate what happened and identify those who were responsible for what took place," the statement added.

Mohammed Abdullah Al-Yadomi, Chairman of the Supreme Authority of the Islah Party, Yemen's main opposition party, said in a statement on Tuesday, "it is clear that the escalating events have contributed to raising the social and political tension. This has exacerbated the suffering of the entire society nationwide, not only in Sana'a," read the statement.

Al-Yadomi deemed the reasons behind what happened "made up and thus unaccept-

able," adding, "we all still have the opportunity so that we get out of the tunnel that we have been forced to enter."

"We still have plenty of time if we deal with our problems logically, and if we—by rhetoric and deed—consider the interests of the nation and people," said Al-Yadomi, expressing optimism things could improve if political parties think reasonably and place the national interests first.

Similar to the GPC and the Islah Party, the Yemen Socialist Party announced that yesterday's events contradict the National Dialogue Conference outcomes. "The dangerous situation the country has slid into requires all the political powers to responsibly and patriotically confront it. The situation doesn't need any further bickering. The situation requires decisive solutions to overcome this situation," read the party's statement.

Continued from page 1

Houthi protests escalate

An increasing number of soldiers were seen on Tuesday evening around the cabinet. The number of guards deployed around the Central Bank of Yemen, three kilometers away from the cabinet, was also increased.

Soldiers told the Yemen Times they were called on to protect government offices from any attacks.

Clashes in Hiziya area

On Wednesday morning clashes between soldiers from Al-Sawad Military Camp and Houthi supporters broke out in Hiziya area, in the south of the capital.

Houthis have erected camps in the area since August 18.

The state-run Saba News Agency quoted a source from the Supreme Security Committee on Wednesday as saying that Houthi supporters attacked government

facilities and an army checkpoint.

"Houthi supporters attacked the Hiziya electricity station, the Al-Wahda School, and stationed in front of Al-Sawad Military Camp," the source said.

The source explained that the clashes left one citizen dead and 15 others injured. Soldiers were wounded as well and taken to the 48th Military Hospital, the source said.

Basem Al-Harazi a resident in Hiziya area said that before the clashes broke out armed men belonging to the Houthis were deployed nearby Abdulateef School.

"Soldiers from Al-Sawad camp came to evacuate the area from armed Houthis and then the clashes broke out," said Al-Harazi.

Ali Al-Emad, a member of the Houthis' Political Office in Sana'a responded to these statements that the clashes in Hi-

ziaz area were purposefully initiated to divert the attention from "the cabinet massacre."

"Two tanks and 15 military vehicles went towards the tents of the protesters and started shooting them, then soldiers came back to their barracks," according to Al-Emad.

The Houthis have erected eight protest camps in and around the capital since August 18. The group's leader, Abdulmalik Al-Houthi is demanding the toppling of the government, the reversal of fuel subsidy cuts, and the implementation of the National Dialogue Conference outcomes.

President Hadi promised on September 2 to change the government and decrease the fuel price by 25 percent in an attempt to end the protesters' escalation. The Houthis refused Hadi's step and are continuing to launch protests.

Prisoners held without trial in Mukalla continue sit-in

■ Madiha Al-Junaid

SANA'A, Sept. 10—Hundreds of inmates at the central prison in Mukalla City of Hadramout governorate continue their peaceful sit-in, which began Monday, demanding they should be tried in court.

According to Hasan Ba Alawi, the manager of the prison, the prison holds 450 inmates, 280 of which are imprisoned without trial—for “six to seven months” at minimum.

“All prisoners staged peaceful sit-ins, refusing to enter their prison wards, cooperating with their fellow prisoners who haven’t yet been prosecuted,” said Ba Alawi.

The prisoners demand that trials commence as soon as possible for those who have not been tried. The central prison holds inmates for both civil and criminal cases.

Civil cases usually involve private disputes between persons or organizations such as robbery, accidents, trade disagreements, and fighting. Criminal cases involve actions that are considered to be harmful to society as a whole, such as participating in war, banditry, or illicit drug and human smuggling.

In Mukalla city, prosecution for criminal and civil offenses occurs in different courts. Particularly prisoners who require trials at the First Instance Specialized Criminal Court face long waiting times, as the court’s judges are often in Sana’a, Ba Alawi said.

One of the reasons why judges refuse to do their job in Hadramout, is because of the volatile security situation, said Salim Abdoon, director of the Specialized Criminal Prosecution in Mukalla.

Although the situation faced by criminal offenders seems to be the most severe, the sit-in is a united effort by all prisoners, Abdoon adds. Protests include convicted pris-

oners and those awaiting civil court trials scheduled to proceed on September 14.

Even those prisoners who are not actively participating in the sit-in, are sympathizing with their fellow prisoners, said Abdoon.

“[The central prison] is in contact with the civil courts for cooperation and we will meet them tomorrow,” said Ba Alawi.

All prisoners staged peaceful sit-ins refusing to enter their prison wards, cooperating with their fellow prisoners who haven’t yet been prosecuted,” said Hasan Ba Alawi.

Ba Alawi commented on the possibility for civil court judges to replace the criminal court judges, saying, “some [civil court] judges are cooperative and do come to the prison to issue judgments and sentences [for criminal cases]. However, such occasions are rare and are restricted to certain dangerous cases where the suspected criminals can’t go to the courts.”

There has been no justification given by the prosecutors or the courts regarding the repeated trial postponements.

“We have been trying to solve this issue by talking to the general prosecutor and the criminal court but received no response nor action,” said Abdoon.

He added, “the prisoners are now asking for a trial against those who postpone their prosecution.”

Some local media news websites published that the prisoners in Mukalla declared a hunger strike along with the sit-in until the courts continue functioning. This was confirmed by journalist Hadbaa Al-Yazeedi from Mukalla who has been closely following the case of the prisoners.

“Yes, there has been a hunger strike that the prisoners started with first. I am not sure whether it continued or not since I was prevented from entering the prison by the Mukalla security manager,” she said.

Ba Alawi denies that a hunger strike ever took place.

Absent judges

While acknowledging that there are legitimate reasons for judges to not be at work, such as for strikes, vacations, and when it is too dangerous, Ba Alawi said “the prisoners have rights too and need to be prosecuted.”

“[The prisoners] themselves call for whatever judgment to be issued as long as a sentence will come out, and that is because some of them can be released with no penalty and some others with only minor penalties.”

Abdoon also agrees with Ba Alawi that it is the right of the prisoners to be prosecuted and not be held back from obtaining their freedom. However, he states that some judges are not able to be present in the governorate.

“Some judges are not even here and can’t come because of the

threatening security situation. The court judges in districts like Al-Reefa Al-Sharqia, Hajar, Ghail are not there.”

Although Abdoon recites possible reasons of the absence of judges he strongly believes that “the prosecution of the prisoners should be prompt and all cases should be studied a session after another,” said Abdoon.

According to Al-Yazidi, “whatever minor security issues occur, such as marches or demonstrations or movements, it is taken as a reason by the judges themselves to run away.”

Prisoners being held illegally Abdurraheed Al-Faqeeh, the head of Mowatana (Citizenship), a human rights organization in Sana’a, said that it is illegal for a person

to be imprisoned without trial for more than a week.

According to him, if a case requires a longer period of time to search for evidence the prisoner needs to remain imprisoned for security concerns. Only the general prosecutor or the judge, however, are allowed to extend that period to a maximum of two months.

“If no legal evidence is proved during this period, the prisoner should be released,” said Al-Faqeeh. He added, “if the investigations were opened and the judge looked at the cases and decided on postponing the case, that should depend on the case and on what the judge deems to be appropriate.”

Al-Yazidi, who attended the prisoners’ declaration of their sit-in, said that the Human Rights Minister Hooria Mashhour was in Mu-

kalla at the time.

“She had been there for nine days and the declaration of the protest occurred while she was still there. I believe she heard about it and knew what issues they [the prisoners] struggle with,” said Al-Yazidi.

Abdoon agrees with Al-Yazidi regarding the minister’s visit. He argues that Mashhour and other prosecutors from around Mukalla met to discuss the situation of the prisons including the strikes, complaints, and demands.

“Some didn’t come because of the security situation and the agenda wasn’t fully accomplished,” complained Abdoon.

The prisoners are calling on all relevant parties to help in realizing their demands, and are threatening to escalate their strikes if their demands remain unmet.



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Widespread misconceptions impede vaccination efforts

■ Mohammed Al-Khayat

“A four-hour drive on a rough road—that’s what it took to arrive at our destination. When we arrived, exhausted from the trip, we headed swiftly for the clay houses, wanting to fulfill our humane goal of helping the children of the area by providing them with essential vaccines. We were surprised when their parents refused to allow us to give them the vaccines.”

So begins the story of Abdulsalam Al-Mahdi, who recalls his efforts to administer vaccinations to children in Al-Jabeen area of Raima governorate as part of the Ministry of Health’s National Vaccination Program.

Raima’s mountainous terrain makes it difficult for vaccination teams to access children in remote villages. Of those that do reach, they often find that deep-seated cultural beliefs cause parents to refuse to have their children vaccinated.

“Through my work with vaccination teams I have discovered many weird things,” Al-Mahdi remembers. “It is not uncommon that [parents] bring me a three-year-old girl wearing a niqab and ask me to find a female to vaccinate her. I tried very hard to convince them to allow me to vaccinate the child, saying that I am a father of an older girl, and only then I could give her the vaccine.”

Other obstacles faced by Al-Mahdi are linked to popular superstition. In Al-Jabeen district, he says, “they think vaccines are harmful to the child and cause them problems in the future in addition to badly affecting their manners.”

Al-Mahdi links these beliefs to the remoteness of certain areas in Al-Jabeen. “People there are completely isolated from the rest of the world, reliant largely on herding and farming for sustenance—even cell phones were not introduced to these areas until 2009.”

The governorate of Raima, established only in 2004, is located 200 km southwest of Sana’a. Raima is divided administratively into six districts, with Al-Jabeen being both a district and the capital city, located in the center of the governorate. Raima is distinct for its rough terrain and high mountains.

Qaid Al-Saeed, a Raima-based journalist, says “it is so sad that cars reach an area that is normally out of reach by cars, only to find that residents are refusing these vaccines due to the beliefs spread there.”

In his view the government is to blame. “The state did not care about education in this area, and if it were



Many Yemenis are opposed to vaccinations, thinking for example that they are intentional attempts to harm their children. The Ministry of Health tries to fight such misconceptions through awareness campaigns (see photos).

not for that, these ideas that harm our society would not be so prevalent.”

“I used to wish that vaccination teams could reach the area I live in so that my daughter, who died of measles, could be saved,” Al-Saeed said in a sad voice.

Recalling the tragic death of his daughter, Al-Saeed paused for a long time, before continuing, “when she was four years old, and I could not save her life, I tried to take her to Hodeida governorate, but I did not have enough time and the rough road did not make the trip easy. She died in my arms.”

“Many people say their biggest problem in Raima governorate is the rough road which cars cannot access, in addition to the lack of awareness of the importance of vaccinations. Most of the time we do not know what types of vaccination are available and for what purposes they are used,” he said.

Yahya Al-Khatibi, a young man living in the center of Al-Jabeen district, says “the enemies of Islam and the Jews made these vaccines, how can we expect that these people do any good for us?”

“This is an obvious issue, it does not require great intelligence for people to understand this. These are our enemies, they add things in the vaccines that could harm us. We admit that there could be something useful in the vaccine but what is harmful is also there,” Al-Khatibi added.

Raima is not the only place where vaccination teams face difficulties; Yemenis in other parts of the country also believe that vaccines are a chemical used to negatively impact their children’s health and impair their mind.

Islamic perspectives

Al-Khatibi shares the view that life and death are in the hands of God. So are sickness and health. In his eyes, it is therefore unnecessary to fear or worry about one’s future, as human destiny lies outside individual control.

In opposing vaccinations, Al-Khatibi quotes a Hadith (a record of the words and deeds of Prophet Muhammad), which he claims denies the infectiousness of diseases.

“Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said, ‘no transmission of disease of one person to another and no evil omen, but I am pleased with good omens.’ He was asked: ‘What is good omen?’ He replied, ‘A good word,’” the Hadith reads.

Sheikh Yahya Bin Hassan, the Imam of the Omar Bin Abdulazeez Mosque in Taiz, refutes Al-Khatibi’s interpretation, arguing that “Prophet Muhammad said this Hadith only to clarify that people contract illnesses by God’s will. So not everyone who would come in contact with a sick person will get sick.”

“The point of this is clarifying that everything happens according to God’s will,” he explains, seeing the Hadith as a rebuttal to everyone who thinks that scientific laws alone determine contagion.

In Hassan’s interpretation, the Hadith does not say that contracting diseases does not happen. On the contrary, it proves that diseases can be transferred from one person to another, yet there is no certainty or natural law determining the chances of contamination.

Dr. Abdul Nasser Al-Rubai of the World Health Organization (WHO) was very surprised about Al-Khat-

abi’s interpretation of the Hadith, saying “we did not use to have this type of difficulty in the past.”

The problem of reaching remote villages and settlements in Raima’s mountains, however, was a familiar one to Al-Rubai.

“The vaccination teams of the Ministry of Health used to suffer to reach some mountainous areas, and we in the World Health Organization also had difficulties reaching those areas,” he said.

Spreading vaccination

Vaccination teams play a central role in Yemen’s health sector, as certain vaccines are not available at public health facilities and Yemenis, especially in rural areas, lack access to hospitals.

As Ali Jahaf, the general director of the Ministry of Health’s Family and Health Administration previously told the Yemen Times, mumps vaccines, for example, are not available in public hospitals.

Thus, the Ministry of Health relies on vaccination teams to spread its vaccines among the country.

The number of teams differs from one governorate to another, and depends on the type of vaccine and the target groups in each governorate.

“Vaccinations reach every governorate in Yemen without any exceptions. The process was developed in the past three years until it reached every village and area in Yemen,” said Dr. Ghada Al-Haboob, the director of the Ministry of Health’s National Vaccination Program, who is in charge of the vaccination teams.

Smallpox was completely eradicated in Yemen, and at the time being Yemen is polio-free but it is at risk of losing that status because of the prevalence of the disease among

populations who migrate to Yemen, mostly from African countries. Al-Haboob says this is what has made the Ministry of Health launch precautionary campaigns against polio.

According to Al-Rubai, the Ministry of Health is supposed to provide them through the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and in cooperation with GAVI Alliance, a global health partnership committed to increasing access to immunization in poor countries.

Al-Rubai says there are currently ten vaccines that are used to inoculate children against polio, tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, hepatitis B, measles and pneumococcal, tuberculosis, diarrhea, and viral Alimovlass. The vaccine for rubella will be added to the list in November.

Vaccines are manufactured in WHO facilities around the world, under the supervision of world experts. All samples are tested by these experts which is what makes these vaccines trusted around the world.

“If it had any harmful effects then the first world countries would not have used them,” said Al-Rubai, seemingly it an attempt to rule out popular suspicions against vaccines.

Awareness campaign

According to Al-Haboob, vaccination teams “suffer from the absence of awareness and the spread of misconceptions, but we try to tackle these through the Health Education Center which spreads awareness in

the midst of these villages through brochures and other.”

Dr. Ghada Al-Haboob says brochures are distributed in seminars, especially for teachers. The brochures contain caricatures showing the importance of vaccines and provide general info about them.

Training courses are mainly held in areas where many people are opposed to vaccinations.

According to Al-Haboob, schools are a priority for the vaccination campaigns, where banners are hung on the walls to raise awareness and to trigger questions about the nature of vaccines and their benefits.

Al-Haboob adds, “in some areas that suffer severe lack of awareness, we go to the elders and specifically towards the sheikh and we start convincing him with the idea of vaccination and its importance for children and how it protects them from viral diseases which leads to death or chronic illnesses.”

At times, the sheikh would then ask local residents to inoculate their children in order to avoid viral illnesses. Because residents generally believe the sheikh knows best, about 90 percent of the residents will be convinced and support vaccinations, Al-Haboob predicts.

At other times, however, “the sheikh is not convinced, at which point all the residents in the area reject the vaccine,” Al-Haboob adds. In some cases, the deaths that happened in areas where residents refused vaccination “made them change their minds and seek the vaccination teams and facilitate their access to the areas.”

ADVERTORIAL

Etihad Airways Launches Arrivals Lounge In Abu Dhabi



Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has enhanced its premium service offering at Abu Dhabi International Airport with the opening of a new Arrivals Lounge.

The luxurious facility is the first Arrivals Lounge to be operated by Etihad Airways in the world, offering a stylish and modern environment for the exclusive use of the airline’s First and Business Class guests. It also boasts a convenient location, immediately after customs.

Highlights include a dedicated area to freshen-up before leaving the airport, with 10 revitalising shower units, each equipped with luxurious amenities and linked to a complimentary service for clothes steaming. As part of the offering, garments such as suits and dresses can be steamed by house-keeping while guests shower, and will be returned within 10 minutes.

The innovative new ‘SHAVE by Etihad Airways’ concept has also been in-

troduced inside the lounge, with guests offered a complimentary refreshing wet shave by fully-qualified barbers.

Access is also provided to a dedicated relaxation area, with high-comfort seating, large screen televisions, and an array of local and international newspapers, magazines and books. Café style refreshments are served throughout the day, including a delicious breakfast offering in the morning, hot and cold beverages, and a delectable range of canapés, snacks and sweet treats, all freshly prepared by a culinary team and inspired by gourmet flavours from around the world.

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Peter Baumgartner, Chief Commercial Officer of Etihad Airways, said: “Our latest airport lounge is a milestone for Etihad Airways and has been launched following extensive market research into the requirements of our First and Business Class guests. This facility, the first of its kind in Abu Dhabi, has been specifically designed to meet their needs and our innovative new offerings, such as the clothes steaming



service and ‘SHAVE by Etihad Airways’, will hold particular appeal for guests with early morning arrivals, before hotel check-in hours.

“Once again, we have benchmarked ourselves against some of the world’s leading hotels and restaurants, while placing the warmth of Arabian hospitality at the heart of the experience.”

Etihad Airways currently operates a global network of 11 airport lounges, including the new Arrivals Lounge, and

its existing First and Business Class facilities at Abu Dhabi International Airport. The airline’s international lounges are located in Dublin, Frankfurt, London Heathrow, Manchester, Paris, Sydney and Washington DC, with future locations set to include New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Melbourne and Milan. More than 280,000 guests visited Etihad Airways’ lounges between January and July 2014, an increase of over 20 per cent year-on-year.

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OUR OPINION

A full circle back to Saleh

The Gulf Cooperation Council initiative brokered in 2011 to save Yemen from the same fate as Syria stipulated that while the president comes from the former regime, the prime minister (PM) should be appointed by the opposition, mainly the Islah Party. This arrangement was supposed to last until the next elections.

But the Houthis happened. The takeover of Amran governorate happened, and the Saleh-Houthi alliance happened.

Because of Islah's strength and dominance, it very much felt as if it was going to be the new regime. Islah rushed to claim their share of power post-2011, creating hostility with major regional and international players. It seemed that Islah was becoming an alternative to Saleh.

However, within a short time this power balance was again disrupted and newcomers—the Houthis—claimed their share of power, pushing Islah from the PM's position even if it meant conspiring with their old enemy who raged war against them on-and-off for almost six years.

There is another rising star coming from the south, even if it does not seem their time has fully arrived yet. Hirak, or the Southern Movement, is playing it slow. Perhaps this is due to severe internal conflicts that handicap its progress or because southerners learned that jumping into power immediately may not prove useful in the long run.

Are we looking at a full cycle where the rapid change in power balance will eventually bring back Saleh to power, even if not in person?

Already within the Constitution Drafting Committee (CDC) there are questions about how long a military commander must wait before running for office. The National Dialogue Conference outcomes said ten years, the CDC are talking five. Does this mean that by the time for next elections Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh will have a chance to run for president?

Where is Hadi in all this? He has been in the center of all the various power shifts during his less than three year reign, as political powers emerged, competed, and lost. For about 18 years as Saleh's deputy Hadi learned the tactics needed to run the country. He seems to be more genuine about acting in Yemen's best interest, but will he be the one to realize the dream of a modern state we are looking for? And if he tries, will the old school politicians let him?

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Yemen, the forgotten front

Nabeel Khoury
middleeastcorner.org
First published Sept. 8

Seemingly unrelated to the turmoil further north in the Levant, a quiet war has been going on in Yemen since the conclusion last January of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), orchestrated by UN special envoy, Jamal Benomar. The Houthis, a Zaydi tribe in the north of Yemen, at war with Yemen's central government since 2004, have now taken the war to Yemen's capital, Sana'a, and are in a position to dictate the terms for the formation of a new government, or to take Sana'a by force of arms, precipitating a civil war that promises to be both long and very destructive. The main reason the US should be paying attention, despite its preoccupation elsewhere in the region, is that the struggle for Yemen is related to the overall struggle for power in the region, and what happens in Yemen will have an impact on the balance of power between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The 500+ NDC members succeeded, over the past year, in laying the groundwork for a new constitution for the country and the principles for a new social contract between the various parts of the country. Two things were missing, however, at the end of that laborious process: A handshake between the principal faction leaders on the basic principles upon which the new Yemen is to be founded, and a genuine end to the war in the north between the Houthis and an odd assortment of forces arrayed against them, composed of Sunni Salafis from Sana'a, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and occasional participation by the Yemeni armed forces. As a result, the NDC achievements are crumbling and the country is on the brink of civil war.

There are many indications as to why developments in Yemen are related to the cold war going on between Saudi Arabia and Iran over the past decade. Of those, one stands out as the most relevant: The Houthi campaign is strikingly similar to the Iran-supported Hezbollah cam-

campaign in Lebanon in 2005, following the assassination of Rafic Hariri and the victory of the opposing March 14 Alliance at the polls that followed.

In the Lebanese case, Hezbollah's civil disobedience campaign and threat to use arms if thwarted, allowed the party and its allies, the March 8 group, to reverse election results which gave Hariri and his March 14 a majority of seats in parliament. Hezbollah, by pulling its Shia ministers from the cabinet formed by March 14, and threatening to paralyze political life in the country, succeeded in obtaining a veto power in the government, thereby denuding the March 14 victory of any political value. High on the agenda of that new cabinet was pushing for full support of the international tribunal investigating the Hariri assassination and the implementation of UN Resolution 1701, calling among other things for the disarmament of all militia groups, including Hezbollah. The acquisition of a veto power on all cabinet decisions in effect prevented the Lebanese government from implementing any

policies "of national import" without the express approval of the group. In 2008, when the Lebanese cabinet tried to dismantle a Hezbollah security communications network discovered at Beirut's international airport, party militants stormed West Beirut, occupying it in just a few hours, burning down Hariri's party headquarters in a demonstration of strength, before handing back the Sunni majority section of Beirut to the Lebanese army—the message of that military move was not lost on the March 14 group and the Lebanese government, which rescinded the decision to move against Hezbollah's communications network.

Hezbollah Tactics

1. Much as Hezbollah was emboldened by its repelling Israeli attacks in 2006, the Houthis, emboldened by having successfully repelled a Saudi armed incursion in 2009, pushed back Yemen's Islah Party fighters and Yemeni armed forces and, after 2011, reached the outskirts of the capital, Sana'a, practically surrounding it and putting

the country's principal airport under siege. Having demonstrated their military strength, the Houthis then set up camps around and inside the capital and adopted a national reform agenda, claiming they are pressuring the government towards political and economic reform on behalf of all Yemenis.

2. Houthis have latched on to the recent plan by the government of Yemen to drop the fuel subsidy, as demanded by IMF and suggested by donor countries. The Houthis, claiming this is indicative of corruption and insensitivity to the suffering of the majority of Yemenis who are poor, have demanded the rolling back of gas and other consumer prices, and the replacement of the current government by a more representative one. In a similar vein, Hezbollah has often claimed that their military power is used on behalf of all Lebanese and that their political goal is to ensure a truly representative and reform oriented government.

Continued on the back page

Losing the plot:

Israel's premier to face new Gaza reality

Ramzy Baroud
middleeasteye.net
First published Sept. 8

Aside from being a major military setback, Israel's war on Gaza has also disoriented the policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu like never before. Since the announcement of a ceasefire on August 26, his statements appear erratic and particularly uncertain, an expected outcome of the Gaza war.

Since his first term as a prime minister (1996-99), Netanyahu has showed particular savviness at fashioning political and military events to neatly suit his declared policies. He fabricated imminent threats that were neither imminent nor threats, for example, Iraq's non-existent weapons of mass destruction. Later, he took on Iran.

He created too many conditions and laid numerous obstacles for peace settlements to ever be realized. The late Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, labored for years to meet Israel's conditions, and failed. Abbas has taken the same futile road. But Netanyahu's conditions are specifically designed to be unattainable.

For example, Netanyahu insists that the Palestinian leadership must accept Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, despite the fact that millions of Palestinian Muslims and Christians share that land, which has for centuries constituted the land of historic Palestine. Signing off the rights of non-Jews is not only undemocratic, but also tantamount to clearing the way for another campaign of ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

But in actuality, none of this truly matters to Netanyahu. For

him, protracted "peace talks" are a smokescreen for his illegal settlement construction project, which remains as ravenous as ever. He is confiscating occupied Palestinian land with impunity, while insisting that Israel's intentions have always been, and remain peaceful.

Political survival

For nearly two decades, Netanyahu negotiated his political survival based on that very strategy, skillfully, although underhandedly playing on existing fears and engineering security threats. For him, Hamas, Hezbollah, the Islamic State (IS), Al-Qaeda, the Muslim Brotherhood, Iran, Syria, and so on, are essentially one and the same. Of course, they are not, and he knows it well.

If one skims through his speeches and media interviews throughout the years, one can easily spot the oddly fashioned discourse. No threat, however, was as consistently exaggerated and misleadingly presented as that of Hamas. Whenever the Iran discourse grew too redundant and unconvincing, and when Hezbollah (especially in the last three years) grew irrelevant, he infused Hamas. Many in the media willingly or out of sheer ignorance, played into Netanyahu's hand, presenting the Palestinian political movement with a military wing as a menace that has "sworn" to destroy Israel.

That demonization of Palestinians was an essential component in Israel's military strategies throughout the years, starting with the fedayeen, then the socialists, the PLO and so on. It made the political price for war relatively easy. And, for Israel, war is a primary pillar of their policies in the region, where land

is confiscated, Israel's enemies are reminded of their place, and "taught a lesson" whenever such a lesson is needed.

War for Israel is also important as a tool to distract from political trouble at home, an under-performing economy or whatever else. Netanyahu's and Israel's wars on Gaza in recent years often served as that distraction from one failed policy or another. Bombing Gaza was quite a convenient and rarely costly strategy to boost the credential of Israeli politicians. Ariel Sharon mastered that art, as others did before him, including Ehud Barak, Ehud Olmert, Tzipi Livni, and of course, Netanyahu himself.

One could argue that Israel's recent war on Gaza, code-named Operation Protective Edge, which began this year on July 7, would have taken place even if Israel's prime minister was someone other than Netanyahu. All signs were in place that made the Israeli military move impending. Rival Palestinian factions, Hamas and Fatah, reached a unity agreement, despite strong Israeli rejection. Alone, that would have been a compelling reason for Israel to feel the need to squash Hamas and end the need for unity in the first place. But more importantly, the mood in the West Bank was begging for change. Protests and rallies were reported throughout the West Bank in June, despite Israeli attempts to crush them, with the help of the goons of the US-funded and trained PA security.

Indeed, that was more important than the unity deal itself. Palestinians were being mobilized outside the fractured political landscape that has for years existed between Hamas and Fatah. Taking the focus back to Gaza,

where Netanyahu was leading a supposed war to fight terrorism, extremism and Israel's arch enemies who are "sworn to the destruction of the Jewish state" seemed, from Israel's Machiavellian logic, like a good idea.

In fact, Netanyahu succeeded, at least temporarily, to distract from the looming confrontation in the West Bank. But what he expected was a relatively easy battle. Hamas and other resistance groups were arguably weakened due to the advent of the so-called Arab Spring. They were partly disowned by Iran and entirely disowned by Syria, which is busy fighting its own civil war. Moreover, the removal of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt left Hamas politically frail and exposed. In fact, it was such vulnerability that pushed Hamas to a unity deal with Mahmoud Abbas, who, according to the deal, maintained a degree of dominance over all Palestinian factions, including Hamas itself. Just before the war, a June public opinion poll conducted by the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR) showed that PA President Mahmoud Abbas was winning the trust of 53 percent of Palestinians, while Hamas' Gaza leader Ismail Haniyeh received the support of 41 percent.

Disastrous war

Netanyahu's war was the Israeli leadership's attempt at capitalizing on Hamas's purported decline. But the war was a disaster and it failed miserably. It killed more than 2,150 Palestinians and wounded over 11,000 more. The Israeli army was held back by a unified Palestinian resistance front. It lost 64 soldiers and hundreds more were injured. It cost the Israeli economy millions.

The war to end Hamas gave birth to the strongest Palestinian resistance front ever.

When the war ended on August 26, Netanyahu, the keen politician who insisted on defining the political discourse of any war or major political event, simply disappeared. Two days later, he held a press conference in which he declared that Israel had "won." But both Israelis and Palestinians disagreed. According to a poll conducted shortly after the ceasefire announcement and reported in the Israeli Jerusalem Post, 54 percent of Israelis believe they lost the war.

On the other hand, numbers among Palestinians have dramatically shifted as well. According to PCPSR, 61 percent of Palestinians would now vote for Haniyeh, a huge climb from few weeks earlier; 94 percent were satisfied with the resistance military performance; and, more astoundingly, 79 percent said that Palestinian resistance had "won" the conflict.

Netanyahu's war-turned-genocide backfired beyond anyone's expectations. He helped resurrect the very movement he tried to crush. And now he is desperately back attempting to reconstruct the lost political discourse, associating Hamas to vile terrorists, and absurdly presenting Israel as a victim, just as Palestinians finished burying thousands of their dead. This time, however, few seem to believe him.

Ramzy Baroud is a PhD scholar in People's History at the University of Exeter. He is the Managing Editor of Middle East Eye. Baroud is an internationally-syndicated columnist, a media consultant, an author and the founder of PalestineChronicle.com.

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Amran's youth struggle for education

■ Madiha Al-Junaid

It has been more than a month since President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi visited Amran governorate on July 23, officially declaring the governorate to be back under government control.

Prior to the president's visit, the Houthis were engaged in fierce and prolonged clashes with army forces that were backed by tribesmen. The fighting left hundreds dead and injured and caused thousands to flee the governorate. In spite of President Hadi's initial reassurances, the governorate is now de facto under Houthi control.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released a report on August 5 estimating that events in Amran led 45,000 locals to leave their homes.

Many of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) who didn't want to relinquish the place they once called home returned to Amran in the hope of rebuilding their lives there. Others stayed in their tents or with family members in Sana'a.

The challenges for those who were displaced and those who returned back home to Amran are omnipresent. Apart from a lack of tents and sufficient humanitarian aid, the challenges for IDPs are long term, chiefly education for their children.

"Many parents, more than half of the IDPs, transferred their kids' school files to Sana'a while others returned back to Amran hoping for the best," said Abdullatif Al-Marhabi, a journalist from Amran who fled the governorate and is now living with his relatives in Sana'a.

Education for the displaced

To seek refuge during and after the conflict, many travelled to Amran's neighboring areas, while a majority turned to the capital.

The school enrolment for this year was on August 24, and school began

on September 7.

Aziza Al-Hababi, national coordinator for the Ministry of Education, said that there are no statistics regarding the number of IDPs registered at schools in Sana'a.

"We know that many have returned back to Amran," said Al-Hababi, adding "we have no definite statistics on Amran's IDPs enrolled in Sana'a's schools because we don't specify whether the student is an IDP or not when registering him."

Nabhan Mohamed Nabhan, a security officer for various relief organizations in Amran, echoed Al-Hababi's view, saying there are no current statistics calculating the number of IDPs.

"I could say that approximately 30 percent of the entire number of the IDPs couldn't get back to Amran out of fear or hate for the Houthis," he added. Others cannot return because they left their documents at home when hastily fleeing Amran.

Given these difficulties, Nabhan is convinced that many IDPs will stay in Sana'a and enroll their children in school there.

In the meanwhile, the secretary of the deputy education minister, Abdullah Al-Hamidi, said, "Sana'a already has crowded schools... why the need for transferring school files when Amran is calm and stable now?"

Al-Marhabi questions such positive outlooks on Amran, pointing



According to residents and humanitarian aid workers, some schools in Amran remain occupied by militants, while others were looted and remain empty.

out many schools in Amran governorate are still closed.

"Five schools, ranging from girls only to co-ed schools in Amran are still occupied by Houthi gunmen. Two other schools to the west of the governorate are seriously damaged as a result of the conflict," said Al-Marhabi, explaining that Amran's challenges are still significant.

Al-Marhabi added, "the Houthis also prevented teachers from submitting their certificates and students from receiving their previous years' grades," making the education process even more cumbersome for their entry.

Are the Houthis providing or ignoring education?

When the Yemen Times contacted the Houthis' Political Office regarding the status of education in Amran, officials denied the public's views that their contribution has been lackadaisical.

"We haven't closed any schools until now," said Ali Al-Emad, a member of the Houthis' Political

Office in Sana'a. On the contrary, he said, "we open schools in many different locations."

Al-Emad denied public allegations that schools are occupied by their militants, and promised to respond back with additional information on the current situation in Amran. The Yemen Times contacted Al-Emad several times, but there has been no further response.

Faisal Haidar, who is a Houthi leader in Amran, spoke to the Yemen Times saying, "I assure you that there is no school that is occupied by the Houthis. All students are encouraged to attend schools."

He added, "the government is the one who should implement such strategies and programs. We only assist in that process and welcome any citizens' complaints."

IDPs undecided on whether to return

Mazin Al-Ghuraifi, a high school student and the son of a widow with three teenage daughters, is supposed to enroll in his 11th year of

school. He said "I haven't registered for the new school year yet, and I doubt that I will."

Al-Ghuraifi's family is one of many examples who refuse to return to Amran fearing the Houthis' control and the volatile security situation there.

When asked, Al-Ghuraifi dismissed the possibility of a return, saying, "we don't really know what the situation is there, but we know from others that the Houthis have taken over Amran and that the government has no kind of presence there."

The recent slashing of the fuel subsidies by the government was an additional burden to his family and widowed mother who lives in an impoverished house and has to endure expensive living conditions that have doubled by more than 50 per cent.

Al-Ghuraifi himself is not sure about returning to school due to his family's misfortunes and inability to cope with education and transportation expenses. He feels it is his responsibility to provide for his mother and the family's basic needs. He assures that his sisters will register in schools soon. "They will finish their education, even though our income won't be sufficient."

While education is a challenge, there is hope for the Al-Ghuraifi family in terms of basic provisions.

"Asya Al-Raisi's [Al-Ghuraifi's mother] family is one of many who had registered with Islamic Relief for food aids whose names have been listed on the basic food items out of 2,100 families and will be entitled to these aids by August 27," said Saddam Al-Badeeni, director of the Islamic Relief Organization's office in Amran.

That said, "Al-Raisi's family was fortunate to have been selected for such aid," as well as the many other families who received their food aid during the holy month of Ramadan," according to Al-Badeeni. Nevertheless, other necessities, such as hous-

ing, education, and health care are to be provided by other specialized organizations in the field.

Unlike Al-Ghuraifi, Mohammed Al-Mawaqa'ee said that he returned back to Amran in the beginning of September. The father of nine children, of whom six are school-going, said that "the situation is calm here [Amran] with no troops movements nor clashes, however, there is a sense of uncertainty from the Houthis."

He added, "until now, no public school has opened nor have I seen any enrolment procedures. Some other private schools have opened." He reports that some schools are still occupied by the Houthis, while others have been robbed.

"A week ago," said Al-Mawaqa'ee on September 8, "we went to the school to register. My kids and I found the school empty and listened to the vice-principal saying the school has been robbed and there is nothing to do so far."

John Ratcliffe, humanitarian affairs officer at OCHA Yemen, echoed similar thoughts to Al-Marhabi in a statement he issued after his visit from Amran: "Although the people we met were visibly relieved that stability and security have returned to the area, recent violence has nonetheless severely impacted families and communities."

"During my visit, I also encountered disturbing evidence of the misuse of civilian infrastructure. One school that I entered remains occupied by militants and has been converted into a detention center, where I saw children bearing arms," Ratcliffe added.

Regarding the education and registration at schools, Al-Badeeni believes that the process is similar to Sa'ada, a governorate which is run by the Houthis after several wars with the government.

"It [the education process in Amran] will take the same path as it did in Sa'ada, most of the people displaced will transfer their school files to Sana'a," Al-Badeeni assured.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Monitoring and Evaluation Consultants

The USAID'S Yemen Monitoring and Evaluation Project (YMEP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the position below.

Title: Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant
Duration of Assignment: October 1, 2014 – January 31, 2015 on a part time consulting basis. Possible extension of the assignment period.
Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen with travel to other governorates

The Yemen Monitoring and Evaluation Project (YMEP) is a multi-year project that is designed to provide independent third party monitoring to USAID on the activities of USAID Implementing Partners (IPs) in Yemen. It is implemented by International Business and Consultants Inc (IBTCI).

YMEP requires the services of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Consultants to undertake short-term consulting activities related to monitoring of the activities of USAID Implementing Partners in the following areas: agriculture, health, education, democracy and governance. The YMEP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Consultants will carry out monitoring activities within the framework of YMEP according to the YMEP Standard Operating Procedures for Third Party Monitoring.

The overall objective of the M&E Consultant is to monitor the projects and activities that are executed Implementing Partners (IPs) to verify that the projects and activities are carried out in accordance with the approved grant agreement or other contractual document governing each project and/or activity.

Specifically the M&E specialist will:

1. Prepare for site visits to monitor activities being implemented by USAID Implementing Partners by reviewing documents relevant to those activities and coordinating with the respective implementing partners;
2. Prepare end-of-event questionnaires to monitor the perception of participants regarding the respective activities;
3. Conduct site visits to monitor activities being implemented by USAID grantees and their partner organizations. Interview activity coordinators, facilitators and participants using interview guides to determine their perception of the activities. Apply the end-of-event questionnaires.
4. Process the end-of-event questionnaires and analyze data using SPSS;
5. Prepare brief monitoring reports describing the activities and the key findings from the monitoring visit.

Qualifications required

A university level degree (BA/ BS or higher) in an area relevant to one or more of the sectors of development assistance: economic development, health, agriculture, democracy and governance, community livelihood, youth and women development etc.

- 5 years of experience working in implementation and management development assistance projects, including at least two involving M&E tasks;
- Experience with internationally funded projects preferred and having worked with international NGOs or donors is highly desirable;
- Excellent report writing and communication skills in Arabic and English;
- Experience with research methodology, collection and analysis of data
- Excellent observation and analytical skills
- Skills to perform data analysis and monitoring of databases and a good level of experience in MS Word, Excel and PPT, and preferably in research and database related software (such as Epi Info, SPSS, Access, etc.)
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Female candidates are strong encouraged to apply.

Please send your cover letter, a detailed CV and 3 references by email to HRYMEP@yahoo.com. Responses will only be made to shortlisted candidates. The deadline for receiving applications is extended to **September 19th, 2013 by 5 pm**.

Politics of Qat: The Role of a Drug in Ruling Yemen

An interview with author Dr. Peer Gatter

Our series of book excerpts from Dr. Peer Gatter's "Politics of Qat" has come to an end. Much interesting information could not be covered within the frame of 14 weekly articles. This should encourage readers to continue studying Gatter's book, which is much more than just an investigation into qat. It is a book on Yemen's political class, on the politics of power, and on our country's political soul—seen through the eyes of a qat researcher. This makes it a precious academic contribution full of unexpected

facets. The book is likely to remain the most influential book on qat for decades to come and it may well prove to be one of the most significant pieces of research on Yemen published by a foreigner since the epic accounts of 18th century traveler and researcher Carsten Niebuhr.

In concluding the Yemen Time's qat series, editor-in-chief Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviews Peer Gatter to ask him about his personal motivation, research experience, background stories, and predictions.

■ Interview by Nadia Al-Sakkaf

You have known Yemen for more than twenty years. Why study the politics of qat?

Initially, I intended to study qat in a much broader sense and my field research focused more on its impact on Yemen's economy. But when starting to write the book, I commenced with a chapter on "qat politics," believing this to be a fast and easy section to write, as there was hardly any literature on it. The more I delved into this topic, the more I came to realize that qat was a much more determining part of Yemen's political culture and political decision making than I had initially thought. The role it plays as a funding source for the country's political, military and business elite and the extent to which Yemen's ruling class manipulates the public debate with the help of qat, is much more profound than most Yemenis would imagine or would wish to admit.

What was particular to doing research in Yemen?

It was the support I received in doing research on qat all over the country—all the way from qat farmers and traders to governors and ministers. Qat being a sensitive topic in the eyes of the development expert and the economist, I thought that I would meet distrust and that a lot of hurdles would be put in my way. But the Yemenis are a wonderful, hospitable, and curious people, who quickly open their hearts to someone sharing their interest in qat. Chewing certainly opens many doors. I also owe an inestimable debt to my counterparts and colleagues in Yemen's government, without whose support my book on qat would certainly not have been written. Uncountable people in the

Ministry of Planning and Development, the Ministry of Water and Environment, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation supported me and have helped me to understand qat.

How long did it take you to do your research?

I started with a literature review in 1998 and in the following year embarked on a decade of field studies in Yemen. These looked into the cultivation of qat, into transport, marketing, consumption, the levying of qat taxes, qat smuggling into Saudi Arabia, and the role of qat in local and national decision making. As of 2006, I started to transcribe all my field notes and began to write the first chapters of the book.

How did you manage to find information that is classified?

Detailed statistics on qat exist—for example on tax revenue, on consumption, and on cultivation—but these are not made public. With orders from the ministerial level the relevant authorities grant access to this data, but they do not do so willingly or gladly. Often the "data keepers" ignore the high orders, believing that it is a serious mistake to grant this privilege, especially to a foreigner. They feel that controlling this data is controlling Yemen. The researcher is thus discouraged in any possible way: "Come back tomorrow, then you may get the figures, inshallah (God willing)." In the case of the Tax Authority I had to return around 20 times over a period of four years, each time being given only a little slice of information. But many slices also make up a whole cake... and as Yemenis like to say, "as-sabr muftah al-janna"—"patience is the key to paradise."

What were the most challenging parts of writing this book?

When studying qat and Yemen for a decade, so much interesting and precious material comes together that there is a real danger of losing focus. One is tempted at times to write an encyclopedia instead of a book. Still, my book has become a heavy chunk and I admire everyone who has read it from page one till the end. I also need to say that I am deeply indebted to my wife Nathalie for all her support and patience with me and my research.

Did you face any dangers?

When doing field research in Yemen's countryside you are well advised to approach the villagers early on and inform them about your intentions. They will receive you with curiosity, friendship, and pride. I ignored this in the beginning of my research, which led to an incident that still today gives me goose bumps. One day at dawn, I was mapping the extent of qat cultivation in Hamdan district when suddenly a farmer emerged from between the qat trees and without a warning fired a dozen shots from his Kalashnikov at me. I jumped into a ditch and escaped unhurt. He had taken me for a qat thief and felt very sorry realizing his mistake. I was invited for breakfast and when we parted, he offered me a huge bundle of qat. We became very good friends.

Can you share any interesting anecdotes you personally encountered while doing this research?

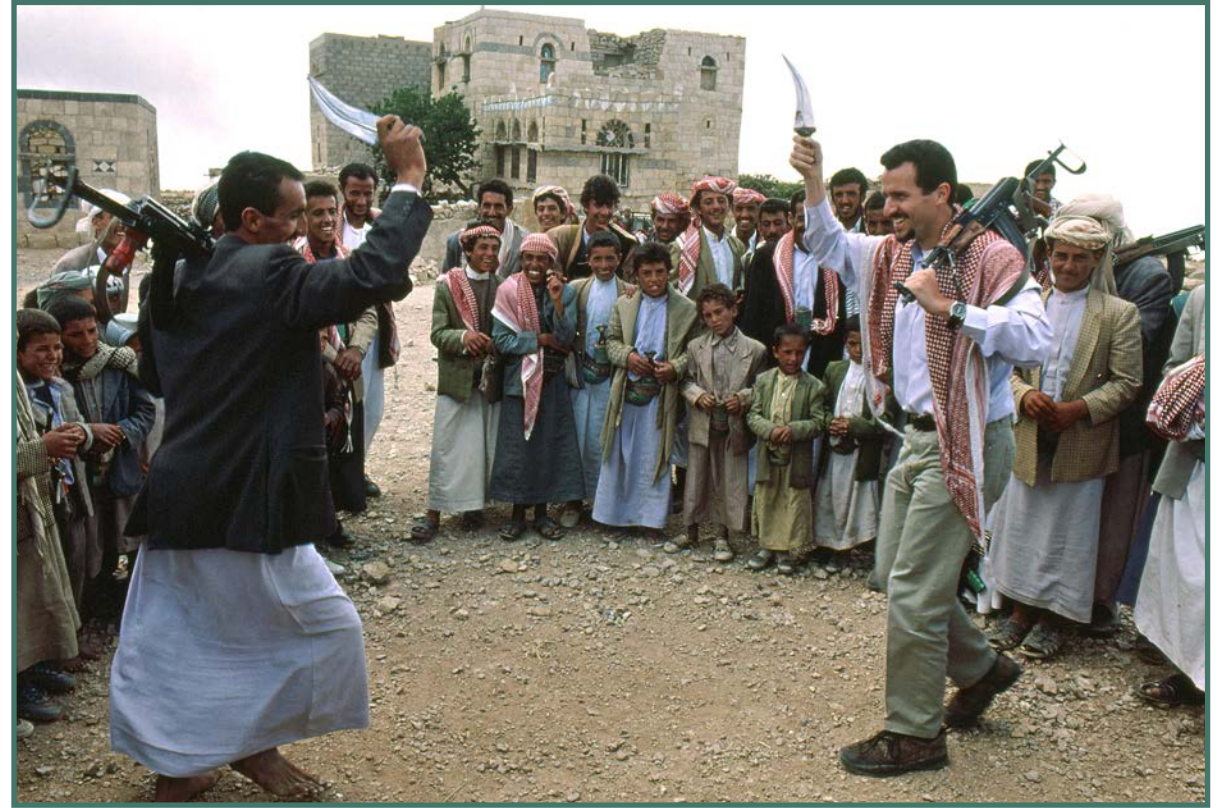
I once did a market survey in Hays [district] in the Tihama [West coast region] and wanted to see what other agricultural products were sold around the local qat market. So I asked among others for dates, the fruit of the palm tree. I must have forgotten the Arabic word "tamr" that day and mixed it up with the Farsi "kharma." As people did not know this word, they understood "hurma"—"ladies." Very soon an angry mob gathered to bring down this foreigner, who had come to buy their girls. It was very difficult to escape unharmed and convince them of my good intentions.

Did any Yemeni authority comment on it? What was the most interesting feedback you received on this book?

I received an overwhelmingly positive feedback from Yemen's administration. The chairman of the Agricultural Research and Extension Authority wrote a long and amiable book review in Atawabit (Vol. 75, 2014). Even the government-run daily Al-Thawra reported positively on it. The Ministry of Agriculture offered its help with a translation into Arabic and the minister of planning, who called it "the most dangerous book on Yemen," cautioned me—half jokingly, half seriously—of the Yemeni highland tribes.

What were the factors that made the Ismaili community's attempt to replace qat with coffee successful while other attempts failed?

It was a combination of technical expertise, sufficient financing, religious zeal, and enduringness—all of which the government lacked in its



Invited to a marriage ceremony in a village in Amran's highlands, Peer Gatter participates in a Jambiyya dance that preceded the traditional qat chew.

ad hoc campaigns.

What were your impressions of how Yemenis see qat and chewing?

When speaking from their hearts, most Yemenis see qat as a very positive thing. They point out that chewing brings people from very different walks of life together and breeds friendship; that it helps people to detach themselves from their daily problems and helps them to relax. It is also said to help in the arbitration of conflicts, in arranging marriages, in brokering business deals and—not to forget—in politi-

symbol for our country?

Judging by its economic and social importance one could argue that qat deserves to be a symbol. But hardly any Yemenis would want to see a qat twig on Yemen's national flag in the manner that Lebanon displays the cedar tree or Canada the maple leaf. Even though coffee plays hardly any economic importance anymore—if you order coffee in Yemen you will receive imported Nescafe in most places—the plant has kept its place as a symbol of Yemen and an age of prosperity. The main reasons that qat will never acquire this status are the uncount-

the protest camps. Here, strategies for a time after Saleh were elaborated. But while some had potential for a peaceful new order of society, others were very apparently insinuations of a qat-high and were bound for disaster.

With Yemen's economy being in free fall and with the security situation deteriorating more and more, qat cultivation seems to have become the only robust pillar of the country's economy. With the political and economic instability the qat sector has attracted massive investment over the past few years and the cultivation of the drug continues to expand relentlessly. Qat agriculture is absorbing more and more day laborers and is feeding more and more mouths.

Also more people chew qat today and they chew more often than before the 2011 events, putting an ever greater strain on family budgets. But in turbulent times like these, qat and the qat-induced daydreams give comfort to people in fear of what the future may hold for them and their families.

Qat consumption may now be one of the few remaining common traits in a society disintegrating along religious, tribal, and geographical lines. Qat chewing is among the few things that Houthi rebels still have in common with Sana'a merchants and with Adeni fishermen. Something that goatherds of the Tihama share with Marib Bedouins and with Al-Qaeda suicide bombers blowing themselves to pieces with qat filled cheeks.

How do you see this plant's future in Yemen, any predictions?

I am rather pessimistic in this respect and believe that the cultivation of qat will further expand to all areas where climate and water availability permit. This will before long lead to the opening of yet another front in Yemen's ongoing conflicts—that between city dwellers, with their growing water needs, and qat farmers. I believe that over the next decade we will see a rapidly growing number of armed conflicts erupting over the access to wells and water.

But who knows? Today a utopia, tomorrow maybe a reality. Perhaps it will be the rich and powerful qat farmers with their ever-growing water needs who will become patrons of technological research on sea water desalination and cloud seeding—techniques that could boost water availability and could benefit all Yemenis, chewing or not.

About the Author

Peer Gatter's family has a more than century-long connection with Yemen: His grandfather and great-grandfather made frequent stops in the port of Aden on their way to East Africa, where they cultivated the famed Arabica coffee. They explored Yemen's highlands for better coffee varieties and introduced these to the Kilimanjaro area in what has become Tanzania today. Gatter first came to Yemen in 1993 to study Arabic in Sana'a and returned to live in the country with his family from 1999 to 2008. In Sana'a he has worked as an advisor in a number of Yemeni ministries and he organized Yemen's "First National Conference on Qat" in 2002. His professional experience with the World Bank, UNDP, and German development agencies ranges from water resource management, rural development and desertification control to health and narcotics policies, biodiversity protection, and tourism promotion.

Preceding his career in the field of development he long worked as a journalist and was regularly on assignment in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, West Africa, and Northern Ireland for the German weeklies Der Spiegel, Focus, and Die Zeit. For his work on qat, Peer Gatter received a doctorate in political science in 2010 from the University of Tübingen, Germany. It was published in 2012 under the title "Politics of Qat: The Role of a Drug in Ruling Yemen." Prior to his PhD Gatter availed his master's in Middle Eastern economies. He also holds a master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies. The focus of these studies was Arabic, Farsi, and Turkish literature, Islamic Law, Shia Islam, as well as Islam in sub-Saharan Africa.

To read more about the book go to www.qat-yemen.com



Peer Gatter interviewing qat farmers in Hamdan district, Sana'a governorate, on the system of qat zakat payments.

cal negotiations. The Majlis Al-Qat is seen as the Yemeni answer to fight globalisation and to protect Yemen's unique culture. Yemenis will also reason that following unification, chewing has contributed to forging a national identity and that it has built bridges between north and south.

But when giving qat and their chewing habit a second thought, Yemenis come to very different conclusions. When carrying out a country-wide qat consumption survey for the World Bank in 2006, it came as a big surprise to me that 86 percent of chewing Yemeni males said that qat was causing poverty, 79 percent claimed that it was bad for health, and 72 percent held the opinion that it was the cause of corruption. Seventy-two percent called it a bad habit and 64 percent said it was destroying social values and morals—and these were the responses of chewers. Non chewers were even more negative about it.

You mentioned that qat was seen as protecting Yemen's culture. Has qat the potential to become some kind of national

Why do people join AQAP?

Mohammed Al-Qalisi

Given the recent rise of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in Hadramout the question why young Yemeni men join AQAP has never been more important. It is a question highly relevant to Yemen's and international security since it is only by targeting the root causes that motivate Yemenis to join or sympathize with AQAP, that the group's influence can be undermined.

The link between education, poverty, unemployment, and terrorism is widely recognized in academic and some political circles, but little has been written about Yemenis' opinion on the matter.

The Yemen Times interviewed Sana'ani residents to find out why AQAP appeals to some young men.



ABDUSALAM AL-ANSI, 29, security guard

"What makes people join Al-Qaeda is ignorance combined with poverty and unemployment. There is nothing special about Al-Qaeda, except their ability to influence people's minds, using the name of religion and generously-provided financial support."



ABDULKAREEM AL-BAEIDANY, 40, painter

"Poverty and unemployment are the two main reasons that drive people to join Al-Qaeda. What makes Al-Qaeda so special is their concern for their people and the large sums of money they give to their members."



MOHAMMAD AL-SAWADI, 36, salesman

"Wrong upbringing is what makes people join organizations that brainwash people and give them wrong ideas. What distinguishes Al-Qaeda is its ability to manipulate people using religion. They don't realize their actions are far from what Islam stands for."



KHALID AL-ODAINI, 22, Islamic law student, Sana'a University

"Dire financial conditions, the absence of religious standards, as well as unemployment are the reasons that drive youth to join Al-Qaeda. There is nothing special about it; it is just a refuge for them."



SALEEM ABDULLAH, 27, gas station employee

"What makes people join Al-Qaeda is the absence of awareness. Some religious individuals are turning into extremists. What makes Al-Qaeda special is its religious character and the considerable financial support it hands out."



Wael Al-Shamiri, 29, IT specialist with Yemen Mobile Company

"The absence of relevant authorities along with ignorance and religious extremism turns some people into ticking time bombs. What makes Al-Qaeda special is their media campaign all over social media websites."

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WIDEN YOUR WORLD



Women fearful in South Sudan camps

Andrew Green

IRIN

First published Sept. 9

Julie Francis's self-imposed curfew starts when the sun sets. The widowed mother of four has been living at the UN base outside Malakal since December, one of more than 17,000 people who have fled there to escape episodic fighting in South Sudan's Upper Nile State capital. But the overcrowded camp is not without its own dangers, especially for women and girls.

Francis can hear drunken teenagers hound women as they make their way around the site's darkened paths. She has seen the holes men have cut through the tarpaulin walls of the showers so they can peep and leer at women. She has comforted rape survivors.

"It is too much," she said. "They attack us at the place of the toilets or at night where we collect water." There were 28 reported cases of sexual assault in the Malakal camp between January and June of this year, according to an assessment released by the inter-agency Global Protection Cluster late last month. But aid workers acknowledge the vast majority of attacks probably go unreported.

So Francis has decided it is best to push a bedframe in front of the entrance to her tent as soon as it gets dark. If she or her daughters need to go to the bathroom, they just use a bag.

But she doesn't think it is fair. "People should take this seriously," she said. "They should be serious to help. There are still people who need to know that it is not right to rape."

Where, she wants to know, are the floodlights that could deter men hiding near the latrines, or the regular UN Police (UNPOL) patrols to protect women who want to visit their friends at night or go to the bathroom? Why, she asked, does it seem like she is the only one taking steps to make sure she does not get raped?

The problem is not in Malakal alone. Since fighting broke out in South Sudan in mid-December, nearly 100,000 people have crowded into ten UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) bases across the eastern half of the country. They have been dubbed "Protection of Civilian," or PoC, sites. Though there are no official statistics, humanitarian groups say sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)—including rape, but also beating, harassment and domestic violence—exists in varying degrees at all of the larger camps, as does a growing resentment among women and girls that more is not being done to protect them.

"Increasing frustration"

"Of course there's increasing frustration," said Nana Ndeda, the advocacy and policy manager for Care International. She has been talking to women living in the camps about their experiences since the conflict started. "They're getting very frustrated by the fact that UNMISS is not able to provide the kind of security that they would want provided."

What is most galling, she said, is that the strategies for what should be done already exist. The 87-page Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings, compiled by a committee of UN agencies and humanitarian groups, offers detailed recommendations, including lighting communal areas, creating safe spaces where women can confidentially seek help and consistently soliciting the input of women and girls on how to improve the situation.

But in the early days of the conflict, with unprecedented numbers of civilians seeking shelter at the UN bases and scores of humanitarian workers evacuating, UNMISS



Beneficiaries waiting in line to collect their ration at a food-distribution taking place at the UNMISS-compound in Malakal, Upper Nile State, South Sudan (May 25, 2014)

employees were scrambling just to provide basic services.

"We had many more people than we could house and we needed to find a way to still be able to operate the base, as well," said Derk Segaar, who heads UNMISS's protection team. In the early days of the conflict, as people flooded into bases across the country, "it was a matter of trying to get them in a sustainable space that would allow just enough space for them to be there."

Thousands of people are still living in shelters hastily constructed in the early days of the fighting, when issues like SGBV took a backseat to rescuing as many people as possible.

Tidial Chany is a community leader elected to represent one of the original parts of the Malakal camp, known as PoC 2. He works closely with UNPOL on security concerns in his area, but said it is nearly impossible to monitor all of the bogy, unlit alleys and has ultimately concluded, "it's no good for security within the PoC."

Aware of the problems, UNMISS started working to secure additional land and to construct more strategically planned sites almost from the beginning of the conflict, Segaar said, but their efforts were slowed by both bureaucracy and continued fighting.

New camps finally opened in Juba and Malakal in June. Within the new spaces, attention has been paid to the guidelines: Women's latrines are stationed near well-lit arteries and are separated from the men's, for instance. Another site is slated to open in the Jonglei State capital, Bor, later this month.

"It's not a matter of a few weeks or a few months and people will all be happy to go home," Segaar said. "That's why we built these bases. We need to be able to keep people safe and healthy for potentially a much longer period of time."

Space constraints

But, at least in Malakal, there is still not enough space in the new site for all of the displaced. When more people surged into the base on rumors of another attack last month, they had to take refuge in the same shelters people had recently left. In Bentiu, currently the largest displacement site with more than 47,000 people, ongoing rains have made it impossible to start work on a new PoC.

That has shifted the focus back to implementing other, more basic interventions to stop SGBV. And while the mission works closely with aid groups, issues including

lighting and latrine location are "a very clear humanitarian responsibility," Segaar said.

Ndeda said aid groups are constrained by the space issues—especially in Bentiu, where "really you cannot fit in one more tent." That means they cannot create permanent safe spaces for women. Instead, they have turned to temporary options, taking advantage of empty rooms in health clinics to hold temporary counseling sessions.

But she also acknowledged that, in her experience, it has been difficult to find the funds needed for interventions like improving latrines and shower blocks. "Very few people were coming out saying they want to provide lighting facilities," she said.

That is starting to change as more people become aware of the gaps. Oxfam, for instance, is providing 6,400 solar lamps to people in Malakal, which will make it safer for women to go to the bathroom at night.

After nearly nine months, Ndeda said it is past time for UNMISS, aid agencies, and camp leaders to figure out how to shore up their protection efforts. As peace talks between the government and rebels led by former vice-president Riek Machar continue to sputter in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, she warned, "there's no end in sight to the PoC world." And even if all of the camps are overhauled, security is going to remain a problem.

Not enough police

UNMISS has roughly 1,300 police officers—including Formed Police Units, who are specially trained to deal with crowd control—deployed across all of the sites. That is up from the 900 UNPOL originally assigned to the mission three years ago. But Segaar said by the time they assign officers across all of the camps and then further split them into three different shifts, only a handful are actually patrolling at any given time.

"I would say that's the biggest constraint we have," he said.

At the same time, the social structures that could have offered women some protection have broken down. "Many of the protective mechanisms that might have been in place before are not in place now," said Lea Krivchenia, a senior programme manager with Nonviolent Peaceforce, a non-profit helping protect and engage women in some of the camps, as well as rural areas. That includes community meetings and traditional justice systems, which have been difficult

to re-establish in the crowded camp environment.

Rachel Nayik, has lived at the Malakal base since February. The former secondary school teacher now organizes weekly women's meetings in the camp. She blames most of the SGBV on young men who have been traumatized by the violence that started in mid-December. She said their experiences have made them aggressive, which

is then fuelled by the alcohol they turn to to relieve the enforced idleness of camp life. "The traditions here don't allow rape," she said. "It is only because of the war that it is becoming rampant."

As SGBV continues, she told IRIN that women are worried that the attacks have become part of the fabric of camp life. So in the absence of more UNPOL patrols or redesigned camps, she said women living in the

camp are willing to take on the task of protecting themselves.

But they want better options than shoving a bedframe in front of their doors or going to the bathroom in a bag.

Surendra Kumar Sharma heard the same thing during a listening campaign he helped organize in one of the Juba camps a few months ago. Sharma, the chief technical adviser for the UN Development Programme (UNDP), had some money available for a pilot project to improve conditions in the camp. So he asked the communities how UNDP could help.

"Security was absolutely one of the major issues which was of concern to everybody, especially for the women and children," he said. Leaders within the base had already organized themselves into community watch groups, but were looking for assistance to more effectively canvass the camp and prevent crime—especially SGBV.

Together with UNPOL, UNDP put together a week-long training on the basics of how to effectively monitor the camp and defuse potential aggression. They have been on the beat for nearly a month now. Sharma said it is too early to tell if crime has come down, but he is hopeful.

The community police groups fit the need to "find a solution to this problem within the existing parameters," Sharma said. He said they would happily export the training to other camps if they can get funding for it. "If a solution comes from within, if they want to do something themselves, and we support them in that, I think it's more likely to be sustainable."

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Shakespeare the Story in Short

By SHAIMA'A ANKAMAH

Shakespeare, the poet and playwright, generally considered the greatest ever is also one of the least known of all literary figures. Very little is known about Shakespeare personal life. His works were indeed created for the popular entertainment of his day with little thought to their immortality. Shakespeare did not take any steps to preserve his writings past their immediate use. Fortunately his friends did.

With all the academic study of Shakespeare and the trappings of fine culture that have been wrapped around productions of his dramas over the centuries, we often forget what a rollicking, bawdy, violent and entertaining spectacle his plays presented to their original audiences — and still can to modern audiences, in the right hands.

Not that his writing is not also profound and deeply moving. Like Chaucer before him and later great English writers like Fielding and Dickens, Shakespeare was able to engage the mind, the heart and more primitive parts of the human psyche all at once.

Key events and dates in William Shakespeare timeline:

Shakespeare was born and raised at Stratford-upon-Avon, the eldest son of a glover and a member of the local gentry. Contrary to those who claim such an ignorant country bumpkin could not have written the plays attributed to him, he likely had a good education for his time, attending a local grammar school giving him a grounding in the Latin classics and British literature, from which many of his dramatic plots were to be taken. At eighteen, he married Anne Hathaway, with whom he had three children: Susanna (born 1583) and the twins Hamnet and Judith (born 1585). He may have worked as a schoolmaster until moving to London in the late 1580s on his own under unknown circumstances, possibly to flee poaching charges, according to one legend—or possibly running off with a travelling theatrical troupe to escape the confines of small town, domestic life.

Nothing is known about how he became involved in the theatre and became a writer, but he apparently was becoming known as an actor and playwright by 1592, judging by a comment from a rival then about an “upstart crow”. From the early 1590s until 1611, Shakespeare wrote at least 36 plays, more if you count collaborations and plays conjectured to have been lost, plus at least two long poems and one collection of poetry. The plays are traditionally divided into three categories: histories, comedies and tragedies. These groupings are rough approximations however. Several of the so-called comedies are dark enough to be considered tragicomedies. The “tragedies” taking place in the ancient world are thematically similar to “histories”, but the latter term is reserved for British subject matter. And some of the “histories” are quite comical.

From 1594, Shakespeare was associated with a theatrical company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, writing the great romantic tragedy Romeo and Juliet; comedies including A Midsummer Night's Dream and As You Like It, and The Merry Wives of Windsor; histories including the two parts of Henry IV; and the hard-to-classify The Merchant of Venice. In 1596, Hamnet died at age eleven. It is unknown how closely Shakespeare had been in contact with his family or how deeply he was affected by the death of his only son, though the heaviness of his plays to come may not be coincidental.

In 1603 when James I succeeded Elizabeth I on the British throne, Shakespeare's company gained royal patronage and became known as the King's Men. In 1608 they took over the indoor Blackfriars Theatre, for which Shakespeare wrote his last romantic comedies, probably in some collaboration with other playwrights: Pericles, Cymbeline and The Winter's Tale. The final play written entirely by Shakespeare before retirement at the ripe old age of 47 is The Tempest in 1611.

It is thought he then returned to Stratford-on-Avon, presumably to live the life of a provincial gentleman with his surviving family in the town's second-biggest house purchased with his theatrical earnings. He does seem to



have continued to spend some time in London drama circles though, helping to write Henry VIII and possibly two other plays in 1613. He died in 1616. Centuries after the Stratfordian's death, movements have grown to claim he wasn't the author of all those plays and poems. But that's another story. And has little to do with the more important issue of what those works by him—or by someone using that name—told us.

What Shakespeare is really all about

Seven years after his death, Shakespeare's friends and colleagues published the first collected edition of his works, known as the First Folio. A dedicatory poem by playwright Ben Jonson in that book declares Shakespeare “not of an age, but for all time”. This comment has set the standard for all discussion of Shakespeare ever since. We are continually told Shakespeare is “universal”. He appeals to emotions and thoughts that are part of eternal human nature. He points out universal truths. His words transcend race and culture, as shown by their translation into every language on earth and by their worldwide popularity for four centuries.

Shakespeare isn't great because he dealt with critical and important issues when no one else did. Others certainly did. Shakespeare is great because he just wrote better than anyone else on these matters—delving more deeply, exploring more nuance, writing more eloquently and movingly than any other playwright then or since. To put it in a single sentence, Shakespeare was writing “Arise, the new human.” Or as he put it in The Tempest, “O brave new world that has such people in't.”

Today the new humanity he heralded is mature, if not outright old. But there resides in memory enough of youth to excite. There remains enough of our early character that we can still gain insight and comfort from Shakespeare, the sage of the old new human's youth. It is especially comforting now to think that those words and ideas from our adolescence, which once were challenging, are relevant still—appear still as universals for all time.

That's what I think Shakespeare is all about today. If all this is too heavy and you'd prefer some comic relief (and why not? Shakespeare is supposed to be entertaining), check out Mark Twain's travesty of a Shakespearean soliloquy.

Idioms: "English Wise Sayings"

By RABAB AYSAH

Every language has its own collection of wise sayings. They offer advice about how to live and also transfer some underlying ideas, principles and values of a given culture / society. These sayings are called “idioms”. These combinations of words (rarely complete sentences) have a “figurative meaning”.

English Idiom is a Station in the long way of language learning that all English learners should stop at and give careful attention to. Knowing about English idioms is one of the most important thing for English learners. Those who have no idea about English idioms usually suffer a lot and find many hardships in understanding others especially native speakers. As we all know about the nature of idioms, an idiom is an expression whose meaning has little, often nothing to do with the words in the expression itself. Idioms have hidden meanings that cannot be anticipated. An idiom is defined as a phrase or saying that has a deep meaning. We often use idioms as a way to giving advice to other people.

Behind each Idiom, there is a story that tells us the situation that the idiom was said in the first time, and knowing the story leads us to know the real or actual meaning of an idiom. An Idiom helps us say so many things in a single phrase. The use of idioms in a language adds color to it and makes it more interesting for the listeners.

In this article, we are going to deal with some common idioms used in the language which you can use in your day to day conversation to make it more effective and interesting. We will learn seven idioms. We will explain the meaning of each Idiom for you and then we will give you an example to show you how to use each idiom.

To practice them further and to get the intended benefits of this article, try to make your own sentences using each of them and read them aloud. Gradually, you will find that you are absolutely comfortable in using them in your day to day talks. Here are seven of the most common English idioms:

Cut the ground from under feet
When you cut the ground from under someone's feet, you do something which

weakens their position.

Example, When team India hit more than 350 runs in the ODI, they cut the ground from under the opponent's feet. He cuts the ground from under the boss feet, he becomes the boss instead.

Bot calling the kettle black
This is a common idiom normally used to describe a person who is blaming another for the same fault that they have. For example if A said to B that B is a lazy person and A is also a lazy person. B could say “Mr. A you are a bot calling the kettle black. To just say “A is the same as B”.

Don't beat about the bush
This means get to the point don't spend so much time explaining things.

All that glitters is not gold
Something that appears valuable at the outside may be in reality completely worthless.

Easier said than done
It is easier to talk about doing something than to actually do it.

Look before you leap
This means to check out something before you do it. Make sure you know what you are doing before you begin.

Don't judge the book by the cover
Don't look at something and assume that is the way it is. Maybe a person who seems nice, kind and friendly really is not.

A BIT OF GRAMMAR

On Time \ In Time

By MKATIE CUMA

On time = punctual, not late.
If something happens on time, it happens at the time which was planned:
* The 11.4 train left **on time**. (=it left at 11.4)
* “I'll meet you at 7.30” “Ok, but please be **on time**.”
The opposite of **on time** is late:
* Be **on time**. Don't be late.

In time (for something \ to do something) =

soon enough.
* Will you be **in time** for dinner? (= soon enough for dinner)
* I must hurry. I want to get home **in time** to watch the football match on television (= soon to watch the football match)
The opposite of **in time** is too late:
* I got home too late to watch the football match.
You can say just **in time** (= almost too late):
* We got to the station just **in time** to catch the train.

Friendship from different viewpoints

By PETER RIVERA

A single rose can be my garden... a single friend, my world.
—Leo Buscaglia

Only your real friends will tell you when your face is dirty.
—Sicilian Proverb

The antidote for fifty enemies is one friend.
—Aristotle

A true friend never gets in your way unless you happen to be going down.
—Arnold Glasow

It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend.
—William Blake

A friend knows the song in my heart and sings it to me when my memory fails.
—Donna Roberts

Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival.
—C.S. Lewis

Constant use will not wear ragged the fabric of friendship.
—Dorothy Parker

The language of friendship is not words but meanings.
—Henry David Thoreau

Before borrowing money from a friend, decide which you need most.
—American Proverb

The tender friendships one gives up, on parting, leave their bite on the heart, but also a curious feeling of a treasure somewhere buried.
—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Friendship is a sheltering tree.
—Samuel Taylor Coleridge

A true friend embosoms freely, advises justly, assists readily, adventures boldly, takes all patiently, defends courageously, and continues a friend unchangeably.
—William Penn

It's not how many friends you can count, it's how many of those you can count on.
—Anthony Liccione

If you're alone, I'll be your shadow. If you want to cry, I'll be your shoulder. If you want a hug, I'll be your pillow. If you need to be happy, I'll be your smile. But anytime you need a friend, I'll just be me.
(Author Unknown)

Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive.
—Anais Nin

In the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, for in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.
—Khalil Gibran

Many a person has held close, throughout their entire lives, two friends that always remained strange to one another, because one of them attracted by virtue of similarity, the other by difference.
—Emil Ludwig

Without wearing any mask we are conscious of, we have a special face for each friend.
—Oliver Wendell Holmes, Journals, 1843

Hold a true friend with both your hands.
—Nigerian Proverb

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عفش منزلي كامل جديد للبيع. 733984178

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- المركز الكندي للتدريب وتنمية القدرات بحاجة إلى سكرتارية وإدارة شؤون الطلاب.
- لتفاصيل أكثر اتصل على ت: 467588, 406448, 406437 فاكس:

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مطلوب مندوبين مبيعات مواد غذائية، المؤهل لا يقل عن الثانوية العامة، رخصة قيادة سارية المفعول، خبرة لاتقل عن سنة في نفس المجال،

بكالوريوس محاسبه وإدارة أعمال ودبلوم لغة إنجليزية، خبرة طويلة في إدارة الحسابات والمراسلات التجارية باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية في اليمن والسعودية، مستعد للعمل فوراً، جوال: 715608677

مدرس متخصص يرغب في اعطاء دروس خصوصية للصف التاسع في الرياضيات والعربي والانجليزي والعلوم لطلاب المدارس الحكومية. 734680597

مهندس شبكات، شهادة بكالوريوس في الاتصالات والشبكات وشهادة Sisco في مجال الشبكات مستعد للعمل فوراً. 770497062

بكالوريوس محاسبة، خبرة في الحسابات والمراجعة لمدة 8 سنوات، دبلوم كمبيوتر، الاصدار السادس من يمن سوفت وكذك نظام الأونكس برو الشامل. 770705472, 733079882

مهندس مدني، خبرة سنتين، لغة انجليزية ممتازة. 777055889

بكالوريوس ترجمة - جامعة صنعاء - خبرة في المراسلات التجارية والأعمال الادارية أكثر من 6 سنوات - يرغب في العمل في الفترة المسائية فقط. 777991248

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بكالوريوس - لغة انجليزية - دبلوم كمبيوتر - خبرة مراسلات تجارية سنتين. يرغب العمل في الفترة الصباحية. 733778849

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يوسف علي الرازقي - مهندس تقنية معلومات وحاسوب 771293966

معزز عبداللطيف حداد - مهندس تقنية معلومات وحاسوب 733984178

شركات التأمين

- معهد التبي ٠١/٢٦٤٢٢١
- المعهد البريطاني للغات والحاسب ٠١/٥٥٧٤١٥
- معهد أكسيد ٠١/٥٣٧٨٧١
- معهد مالي ٠١/٤٤١٠٣٦
- معهد هورايون ٠١/٤٤٨٥٧٣

شركات طيران

- ٠١/٢٤٦٩٦٧-٦٦
- ٠١/٢٧٤٢٨٦-٨٧
- ٠١/٦٠٠٠٠٠
- ٠١/٦٠٠٠٠٠
- ٠١/٤٤٤٩٣٦
- ٠١/٥٠٠٠٠٠
- ٠١/٢٨٣٢٨٣

تأجير سيارات

زاوية (Budget) يورب كار هيرتز لتأجير السيارات

بنك كاك الاسلامي

بنك اليمن والكويت للتجارة والانشاءات

وزارة الشباب والرياضة

وزارة الصناعة والتجارة
وزارة العدل
وزارة السياحة
وزارة المغتربين
وزارة النفط والمعادن
وزارة شؤون الداخلية
وزارة النقل
وزارة حقوق الانسان
وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
وزارة الادارة المحلية
وزارة الاعلام
وزارة التخطيط والتعاون الدولي
وزارة التربية والتعليم
وزارة الخارجية
وزارة الداخلية
وزارة المالية
وزارة المواصلات
وزارة المياه والبيئة
وزارة الكهرباء

Important Numbers

المتحدة للتأمين

الوطنية للتأمين
الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين
شركة أمان
الجزيرة للتأمين وإعادة التأمين
الشركة اليمنية القطرية للتأمين

طيران اليمنية

٠١/٤٥٤٥٥٥
٠١/٢٧١٢٦٦
٠١/٢٥٢٤٥٦
٠١/٢٠١٤٧٤
٠١/٥٦٥٥٦٦
٠١/٢٥٠٠٠٠

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NIIT لتعليم الكمبيوتر
البريد السريع

بنوك

بنك اليمن والخليج

بنك التضامن الإسلامي

بنك التضامن الإسلامي
بنك التجاري

الوزارات

رئاسة الجمهورية
رئاسة الوزراء
وزارة الاشغال العامة والطرق
وزارة الاوقاف والارشاد
وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي
وزارة الثروة السمكية
وزارة الثقافة
وزارة الدفاع المدنية والتأمينات
وزارة الزراعة والري
وزارة الشؤون الاجتماعية والعمل
وزارة الشؤون القانونية
وزارة الصحة العامة والسكان

مدارس

روضة واحة الأطفال
مدرسة رينبو
مدارس صنعاء الدولية
مدرسة التريكة الدولية
مدرسة مغارات

فنادق

فندق ميركوير صنعاء
فندق شمر
فندق مومبيك

شحن وتوصيل

مركز الندى للخدمات العامة
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مستشفيات

مستشفى الثورة
مستشفى الجمهوري
المستشفى الألماني الحديث
المستشفى الاهلي الحديث
مستشفى العلوم والتكنولوجيا
مستشفى الكويت

مطاعم

مطعم ومخازنة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
مطعم منابو الياباني
قطريتي

مطاعم

مطعم ومخازنة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
مطعم منابو الياباني
قطريتي

كلمات متقاطعة

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الكلمة المفقودة

١- تبدأ من الحرف القريب من الرقم (١) في الدائرة الكبيرة متجنباً مع السهم مسطوفاً يحمي الكلمات المضافة من كلمات القائمة.
٢- تبدأ الكلمة الكلية بأحد حرف من الكلمة السابقة.
٣- جميع الحروف الخمسة الموجودة في الدوائر الخمس الكبيرة على أطراف النجمة وتربطها بالتسلسل الرقمي القريب من تلك الدائرة لتتصل على حل ما هو مطلوب داخل النجمة.

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استراحة العدد

النجمة

عجائب وغرائب
أصيب أحد المواطنين بحالة من الدوخة والاستغراب عندما استيقظ باكراً ليجد أن سيارته قد سرقت من أمام منزله ويجد سيارة أخرى متوقفة مكان سيارته، فانتجحه إلى قسم الشرطة وقدم بلاغاً لهم وأخبرهم بوجود سيارة أخرى إلا أنه فتاحاً بأن الشرطة أخبرته بأنه لا يوجد بلاغ في سجلاتهم لتلك السيارة.

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٢- ١١١١١
٣- ١١١١١
٤- ١١١١١
٥- ١١١١١
٦- ١١١١١
٧- ١١١١١
٨- ١١١١١
٩- ١١١١١
١٠- ١١١١١
١١- ١١١١١
١٢- ١١١١١
١٣- ١١١١١
١٤- ١١١١١
١٥- ١١١١١

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ناتكو الإلكترونيات

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Yemen, the forgotten front

3. Much as Hezbollah did before them, the Houthis launched their civil disobedience campaign inside the capital to give themselves the ability to paralyze the government and, in the Houthis' case, block airport traffic. While not admitting publicly to the presence of Hezbollah trainers among them, the choice of yellow headbands—the same shade yellow as Hezbollah's flag, does raise the

question.

4. The Houthis' threat to escalate should their demands not be met clearly implied the threat to take over Sana'a by force. As if reading from Lebanese Hezbollah's playbook, the Houthis' military plans include dividing Sana'a into a grid and the occupation of the capital, square by strategic square, allowing them to take control

with a relatively small force, freeing up the bulk of their fighters for strikes that would inevitably be launched against them elsewhere in the country.

President Hadi has responded diplomatically to the Houthis' advance on Sana'a, accepting their demand to change the government and promising to launch political and economic reforms, demanded in any case by

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the NDC but derailed so far by bureaucratic lethargy and tough security conditions. The Houthis promptly rejected Hadi's plan and organized a large demonstration blocking the roads leading to Sana'a International Airport. Their rejection of a patently reasonable offer by Hadi reveals that their publicly announced demands belie their real goal of securing a dominant role in a new central government in Sana'a.

The Iran Connection

Iran's media, which had ignored Yemen and the Houthi movement for years, has taken fresh interest since 2011. On Twitter, the English service Press TV, and the Arabic service Al-Alam, Iran has pushed the theme of Zaydi Yemenis as a downtrodden and oppressed minority rising against Saudi funded oppression by the central government and by Salafi Jihadis in Yemen. The demands of the Houthis are described as the demands of the people of Yemen. The public affairs campaign, and the timing of it, link events in Yemen to what's happening in the region further north. In its cold war with Saudi Arabia, Iran already has the upper hand in Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. With a Shia rebellion still simmering in Bahrain and a potential Shia rebellion in eastern Saudi Arabia, a Houthi-dominated government in Yemen gives Iran the ability to squeeze the Saudi monarchy from north and south. Iran's growing influence in the region also gives it the upper hand in any negotiations with the Saudis over the settlement of regional conflicts.

The time for the US and the west to play a leading role in determining Yemen's future has come and gone. The only thing left is to draw the right lesson: In allowing coordination of strikes against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Iraq with the US, Khamenei is being anything but generous. The defeat of ISIL is totally to Iran's advantage and the US strikes come at no cost to Iran, since he is now assured of no American boots on the ground. US agreement to coordinate with Iran, in the absence of any political discussions on Iran's broader agenda in the region, is a total cave-in. US policy makers would do well to keep their eyes on the broader picture: ISIL is a passing phenomenon, bound to be defeated ultimately by regional players with

some international help. Iran, on the other hand, is in the region to stay and its dominance of the Middle East is not to the advantage of the US and its allies.

Nabeel Khoury is senior fellow of Middle East and national security at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a visiting scholar at the Middle East and North African Studies Program at Northwestern University.

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