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While some residents who were displaced within Sana'a have returned home, others continue to fear the persistence of insecurity. Residents who fled to neighboring cities or governorates have been slower to return. Read more on page 3.

Photo by Mohammad Al-Qalisi

Houthis hand back gained positions

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Sept. 22—The Houthis voluntarily handed back important government and military locations in the capital, which they seized control over on Sunday.

The Houthis' control over Sana'a was announced on Sunday evening. Brigadier Ali Mohsen, the president's military advisor and formerly the commander of the 1st Armored Division, was declared a wanted man. His house in Hadda neighborhood was besieged by Houthis and burglarized on Monday despite the presence of Special Security Forces.

The Yemen Times was told at

the scene by a Houthi member that they are waiting for orders from Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, the group's leader, to blow up the house. A member of the Special Security Forces, standing nearby the house announced that the forces would be unable to stop the Houthis.

Minister of Interior Abdu Hussein Al-Tarib directed all employees of the ministry to cooperate with the Houthis in protecting the security of the capital and not to oppose the group.

On Monday night, a soldier from the Reserve Forces Camp in Al-Sawad area of the capital told the Yemen Times on condition of anonymity that soldiers were gathered

by their direct superior and told, on behalf of their commander, that they were not to oppose the Houthis should they show up at the camp.

Violent clashes between the Houthis and the military, which began on September 16 and ended on Sunday, left approximately 200 civilians and soldiers dead and 461 injured, according to an announcement made by the Ministry of Health on Monday. The number of Houthis killed was not announced and remains unclear.

Timeline of events

At noon on Sunday a large fire erupted at the headquarter of the

6th Military Command, formerly known as the 1st Armored Division, when a nearby gas station blew up due to the fighting.

At 2 PM, soldiers from the 4th Armored Division and other armed men guarding Al-Iman University began evacuating the building upon the request of the Supreme Security Committee. The Houthis soon after took control of it.

At 3 PM, Aden State channel stopped broadcasting under orders from authorities in Sana'a. At the same time, Houthis stormed the Executive Office of the Islah Party in Sana'a, near President Hadi's house.

Continued on page 2

Peace and National Partnership Agreement signed

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Sept. 22—After having gained control over key government buildings in Sana'a, the Houthis signed the Peace and National Partnership Agreement on September 21.

President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, UN Special Envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar, and representatives of various political groups, parties, and movements all convened in the presidential palace in Sana'a on Sunday to sign an agreement with the Houthis.

The agreement stipulates the formation of a new government within a one-month period, during which the current government will act as a caretaker.

President Hadi is required to appoint a prime minister within three days following the signing of the agreement. Within the same time period, new Houthi and Southern Movement political advisers will be appointed to consult the president.

While the new prime minister has to be "neutral, without any party affiliations," other minis-

ters are appointed on the basis of recommendations submitted by political actors. Within 15 days following the agreement, the ministers of defense, finance, foreign affairs, and interior are appointed by President Hadi, after consultation with all political groups and movements.

Fifteen days after signing the agreement, the president must also issue a decree to expand the Shura Council and political groups are required to cooperate in preparing the electoral record for upcoming elections.

The new government is obliged to set its agenda within its first 30 days in power. Planned reforms will most notably include the implementation of National Dialogue Conference (NDC) outcomes and a decrease of gas and diesel prices to YR3,000 (\$13.96) per 20 liters.

Within its first week in power the new government will also have to establish a committee to study the economic and financial situation of Yemen and put forth reform proposition. In addition, two more committees are to prepare a plan to implement the outcomes of the

NDC's Sa'ada and Southern Issue working groups.

The document was signed by the GPC Party, the Islah Party, Houthi representatives, the Yemeni Socialist Party, the Rashad Party, the Development and Building Party, representatives of the Peaceful Southern Movement, the Al-Haq Party, the Popular Forces Union, the National Democratic Alliance Parties, the Yemeni Unionist Coalition, and the Al-Baath Party.

The Nasserist Unionist People's Organization withheld its vote, objecting that the Houthis did not sign the attachment of the agreement.

Houthis refuse to sign annex

The agreement contained an annex that the Houthis refused to sign. The annex specifically refers to "the military and security situation related to Amran, Al-Jawf, Marib, Sana'a and any other governorate."

It stipulates to resolve all conflicts through dialogue, demands that all hostilities inside the capital Sana'a and its surroundings shall be ceased, and to enable the state

to fulfil its functions.

It further demands the "re-establishment of state authority and the restoration of control over all the territory in line with the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference."

The disarmament of all parties, groups and individuals in the country and the recovery of state-owned heavy and medium weapons that were plundered or seized constitutes another important part of the annex.

Regarding the Amran governorate, the annex calls for political stakeholders to form a new joint-committee tasked with normalizing the situation, ensuring the state's control of the governorate. The committee is responsible for supervising and implementing the agreement, including the withdrawal of all armed groups coming from outside Amran.

The annex also called for an immediate ceasefire in Al-Jawf and Mareb governorate, requiring all armed groups coming from outside both governorates to withdraw.

Continued on page 2

Islah Party says not to use violence

■ Bassam Al-Khameri

SANA'A, Sept. 22—Zaid Al-Shami, head of the Islah Party in parliament, called on all party members on late Sunday to refrain from plunging into sectarian conflict and to remain peaceful.

Al-Shami told the Yemen Times that he called on members of the Islah Party to not use violence because the security situation in the country is very volatile at the moment and may get worse. "We want Yemen to get out of this situation with minimum losses."

In a statement published on the party's website, Al-Shami announced that Yemen reached a turning point and that Islah members should be patient, ignoring any calls of violence following the Houthis' control over Sana'a.

"The Islah Party is a political party and isn't responsible for protecting state institutions," Al-Shami said, continuing, "you shouldn't use violence even if some of your houses, headquarters, and institutions were looted. You have prepared yourselves for peace and development and not for war and destruction. You are aware about the local, regional, and international conspiracy and dishonesty. So, I warn you of repeating the devastating conflict that took place in other countries such as Syria and Iraq."

The announcement came after a number of attacks against the Islah Party.

The party's headquarter in Crater city of Aden governorate was targeted by unknown criminals on Sun-

day. In a press release on Monday, the Islah Party said that the bomb was put inside a plastic bag next to the entrance of the building at 10:30 PM.

"The guards were suspicious about the bag and moved it away from the entrance but it exploded five minutes later. A boy and his sister happened to be near the headquarters and sustained minor injuries," read a statement by the Islah Party, which added that the operation intended to take advantage of the unstable situation in Sana'a.

Additionally, a number of Islah Party buildings in Sana'a were taken over, allegedly by members of the Houthis, on Sunday. Al-Shami told the Yemen Times that as far as he knows Houthis stormed the headquarters of the Islah Party and took the guards' weapons.

"We have only furniture inside these headquarters. Members of Ansar Allah [the Houthis] living in the same neighborhoods where these headquarters are located entered the buildings and took the personal weapons of the guards. Those members promised that nobody from Ansar Allah would come again," he added.

Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthis' Political Office, said that his group did not storm the headquarters of the Islah Party, adding that the Houthis don't storm any headquarters or houses "without a logical reason."

He added that the Houthis do not storm headquarters "unless they have certain information that it contains weapons."

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Tribal Federation prepares security plan

■ **Khalid Al-Karimi**

SANA'A, Sept. 21—The Hadramout Tribal Federation held a meeting on Saturday to review security threats and establish a new committee to manage the governorate should the central government fall, according to the spokesperson of the federation.

"We are observing what is going on in Sana'a and Hadramout. Therefore, we are preparing a security plan to protect Hadramout in case the government collapses," said Saleh Dwaila, spokesperson of the Hadramout Tribal Federation, a powerful alliance of tribal leaders from the governorate.

The Hadramout Tribal Federation was set up in 2013 to represent the people in Hadramout and call for their rights.

On Saturday, the federation established the Hadramout Wise People Committee to prepare for managing the governorate if the government falls apart.

"The committee comprises military and civilian personnel who work in different fields. They will propose a plan to avoid any potential security issues in the governorate," said Dwaila.

Saood Al-Shanaini, head of the media committee for the Hadramout Tribal Federation, confirmed that the federation is preparing a security plan to maintain peace in Hadramout governorate in line with the deteriorated security situation in the country. The plan will be finalized in two days, Al-Shanaini said on Sunday.

"The purpose of the plan is to prevent chaos, banditry and loot-

ing. We have requested a group of experts to prepare this plan," said Al-Shanaini.

The capital Sana'a witnessed days of fierce clashes between the Houthis and the government, resulting in a severely deteriorated security situation.

Al-Shanaini indicated the security and military forces are useless and cannot help control the situation in the governorate. "The security and military forces do not help thwart crimes," he said, adding that "even if they are evacuated, we are able to maintain security."

The meeting was held not only to review the situation in the capital, but also in Hadramout itself. The governorate is seeing sporadic clashes between the government and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian

Peninsula operatives.

During the Saturday meeting, the federation released a statement. "All the Hadramout locals strictly reject Hadramout to be a place of conflicts and bloody retaliations among the criminals, terrorists, looting gangs, and the gas and drug mafias in Sana'a," read the statement.

Saeed Al-Buraik, a resident in Hadramout, told the Yemen Times "the ongoing insecurity makes everyone think there is no military or security forces. Thus, the federation will be defending Hadramout."

"The army is divided and we do not trust them anymore. People are apprehensive of the situation. Consequently, thinking of a security plan is a wise step," said Al-Buraik.

New ten-party coalition established

■ **Ali Abulohoom**

SANA'A, Sept. 22—A new ten-party coalition named the "New Yemen Parties Coalition" was launched in Sana'a on Monday.

All of the coalition parties were established in the wake of the popular uprising in 2011, including the Development and Democratic Party, the Republican Party, and the Justice and Freedom Party.

Moahmmad Juzailan, the head of the Republican Party, said that the new coalition is an independent entity and was established to counter the challenges Yemen has been facing since 2011.

The coalition, according to Juzailan, will work hand-in-hand with people "faithful to their country" to "preserve the achievements, including the republican regime, gained after the 1962 revolution and the unification between the South and the North which took place in 1990."

The reason the coalition was formed now, years after the uprising and during an especially volatile situation in the capital is to help the political leadership move ahead toward the implementation of the National Dialogue Conference outcomes. Juzailan said new challenges facing the country—economically, politically, and militarily—made it seem as though the government could not overcome them without further help.

Juzailan added, the coalition was formed to help the government fight all kinds of violence, including sectarian-based strife, and to fight corruption which "is considered to be the trigger point for the popular uprising which took place in 2011."

He welcomed any party to become a member of the coalition, saying "their political performance within the coalition will be better and more effective than the work done within parties individually."

Bajash Al-Meklafla, the secretary of the Parties Affairs Committee in the

Ministry of Legal Affairs, said that after 2011 there was a great tendency toward establishing new political parties in Yemen, as "it became easier to establish a party."

"Before 2011 it was essential to have the permission of the Yemeni president to establish a party," Al-Meklafla said.

He confirmed that the conditions required by the ministry for the establishment of a new party are fairly simple. Among other things, the party has to outline its internal regulations, have at least 75 founding members, and have at least 2,500 registered members, for example.

In Al-Meklafla's view, these relatively loose regulations led to the establishment of 20 parties after the 2011 uprising. The total number of parties registered with the Ministry of Legal Affairs, according to Al-Meklafla, are 42—22 of which existed prior to the 2011 uprising.

Al-Meklafla stressed the importance of establishing new parties to support the democratic process, especially when the party's members abide by democratic principles through peaceful transfers of power.

"The people will learn democracy from being members of the parties," he said.

Abdulsalam Mohammed, head of the Abad Center for Studies, said that there are many reasons behind the establishment of new parties. The most important, in his view, is that the 2011 uprising encouraged youth with different ideologies to work in the political arena, both to establish new parties faithful to the change which occurred during the uprising, and to free themselves from the ideas of the old parties.

While Mohammed holds that the formation of new parties breeds positive political competition and improves the political process, he added that "the weakness of the democratic performance and ineffectiveness of the parties have led sectarian and extremist groups to exist instead."

Al-Dhale:

Security head kidnapped, GPC head killed

■ **Bassam Al-Khameri**

SANA'A, Sept. 21—Brigadier Mohammed Taher Al-Shami, head of the Political Security Bureau in Damt district of Al-Dhale governorate, was kidnapped on Saturday following the assassination of the head of the General People Congress (GPC) in Damt on the same day.

"Al-Shami was part of a patrol pursuing gunmen who kidnapped and killed Nasser Al-Awdi, head of the General People's Congress' branch in Damt on the same day," said a source in the Damt Security Department, who spoke to the Yemen Times on condition of anonymity as he is not allowed to share information with the

press. "The security patrol was surprised and kidnapped by gunmen in Mesaika area of Damt."

The source said that Al-Shami, two of his sons, and two security escorts were kidnapped by the gunmen at noon on Saturday.

Earlier that day Al-Awdi was kidnapped by gunmen in a Toyota car, Zamel Al-Sayadi, deputy head of the Investigations Department in Damt district, told the Yemen Times.

"After that, the gunmen took Al-Awdi into the car and fled the area. Residents pursued them and informed the security forces in Mesaika area. The soldiers there shot at the car and the militants fired back," according to Al-Sayadi.

Al-Sayadi said that after the exchange of fire the kidnappers threw Al-Awdi's dead body out of the car and fled. He adamantly denied the possibility that security forces accidentally killed Al-Awdi.

Al-Sayadi asserted that three soldiers were killed and one wounded during the clashes. Four militants were also killed in the clashes. "Investigations have found that the gunmen are affiliated with Al-Qaeda," he added.

Indeed, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula announced on Monday that its fighters have arrested "eight Houthis," including Brigadier Mohammed Taher Al-Shami and two of his sons.

In a statement on Saturday the

GPC condemned the assassination of Al-Awdi, saying that he has been working for the good of the people in Damt district.

"This incident is an attempt to make Yemen plunge into violence and conflict. It comes within the continuous and systematic targeting of the GPC's leaders and members since 2011," read the statement.

The GPC said it holds the government and the governorate's security apparatus accountable to pursue and try the perpetrators.

The assassination of Al-Awdi and the kidnapping of security officials in Al-Dhale governorate follows the killing of two GPC leaders by anonymous gunmen in Lahj governorate on August 29.

Nasserist Party refuses to sign peace agreement

■ **Khalid Al-Karimi**

SANA'A, Sept. 22—The Nasserist Party refused to sign the agreement between the Houthis and other political parties because the Houthis did not sign the annex of the agreement.

The agreement was signed on Sunday at the presidential palace in Sana'a following days of clashes between government forces and Houthi rebels in and around the capital.

Abdullah Dahan, the spokesperson of the Nasserist Party, officially known as the Nasserist Unionist People's Organization, confirmed on Monday to the Yemen Times that his party refused to sign the agreement.

"Ansar Allah [the Houthis] declined to sign the annex of the agreement. This led the party's secretary general to decline to sign the agreement," said Dahan.

According to the English version of the agreement posted by UN Special Envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar, the annex pertains to "the military and security situation in and the issues related to Amran, Al-Jawf, Marib, Sana'a and any other governorate."

Abdullah Noman Mohammed, the secretary general of the Nasserist Party, said the same as Dahan in a statement published on the party's online mouthpiece, Al-Wahdawi. The Nasserist Party, Mohammed said, did not agree to the accord designated to end the ongoing crisis in the country because the Houthis refused to sign the annex.

Among a number of articles,



Some praise the Nasserist Party for refusing to sign the agreement, yet admit that its stance is unlikely to make a difference.

the annex states "the parties pledge to defuse all elements of political and security tensions, to resolve any conflict through dialogue, as well as to enable the state to fulfill its functions" and that "the parties reaffirm the need for the re-establishment of state authority and the restoration of control over all the territory in line with the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference."

According to Mohammed, the Houthis' justification for refusing to sign the annex is that they demand that those who killed protestors near the cabinet building on September 9 stand trial.

Although Mohammed calls this demand legitimate, he finds it to be an "unreasonable" justification, given that the president referred the case to the prosecution for investigation.

Ali Al-Imad, a member of the Houthis' Political Office, said only that the Houthis declined to sign the annex because it was not an "original" part of the agreement.

Mohammed deemed the agreement incomplete, arguing that it does not guarantee that military conflicts will stop given that heavy and light weapons still exist outside government control.

Some praised the party for re-

fusing to sign, while concluding that its stance will not make a difference.

"All the political parties are poor. They signed while the guns were pointed at their backs. They unconditionally agreed, except for the Nasserist Unionist People's Organization. It was courageous and respected itself," Sami Noman, a political writer, told the Yemen Times.

He believes other political parties signed because they were concerned for their safety.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Benomar and President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Houthis hand back gained positions

At 4 PM, Mohammad Salem Basindwa submitted his resignation as prime minister. Presidential Guards took control of Al-Iman University and the 6th Military Command after the Houthis voluntarily gave them back.

Next, the Houthis took control of the headquarter of the Supreme Command of the armed forces in Al-Qiada street in the middle of Sana'a, in addition to the State Radio channel, the cabinet headquarters, the parliament, the Ministry of Defense, and the Central Bank of Yemen.

This came the day after the Houthis gained control of the state TV headquarters, a compound which includes the TV channels Al-Yemen, Saba News Agency, and Al-Iman. After three days of fighting it was surrendered to the Houthis by the 4th Armored Brigade.

On Monday, the Special Security Forces' headquarters was controlled by the Houthis, who later gave it back peacefully.

A high level source from the Special Security Forces told the Yemen Times that "the agreement was that we give the camp to the Houthis and they would deploy a number of armed men around the camp and not inside it. However, we are doing our job normally."

He continued, "the Houthis deployed their armed men at the gates of all the institutions and camps of the security forces; all that was done peacefully."

The Houthis said that they will hand over all government headquarters to the authorities.

Ali Al-Imad, a member of the Houthis' Political Office, told the Yemen Times on Monday that "all the headquarters are under our control, we are intensively negotiating with the government and the security forces' authorities, discussing how to hand these headquarters back gradu-

ally."

He told the Yemen Times that nothing was burglarized from those headquarters, because the popular committees which consist of local residents are guarding them.

Peace and National Partnership Agreement signed

In addition, the annex stipulates "normalizing the situation in the areas which held camps," without specifically mentioning Sana'a. It also demanded that "the establishment of military positions shall be prevented on the land vacated by the camps."

Authorities are also urged to refrain from punishing military personnel and civilians who participated in peaceful demonstrations.

The Houthis' refusal to sign the attachment indicates in the eyes of many that they are not ready to withdraw their militants from Sana'a just yet.

Ali Al-Imad, a member in the Houthis' Political Office, said the annex was not included in the original agreement and that Houthi representatives were surprised when they saw it on the table.

He added, "President Hadi did not insist on signing the annex, therefore we did not, but the agreement was a success whether the annex was signed or not."

During the signing ceremony president Hadi gave a speech saying the agreement represents a step towards implementing the NDC outcomes and, while ensuring an immediate ceasefire in Sana'a and other governorates.

Likewise, Benomar announced "this important agreement was concluded between all political parties and was based on the NDC outcomes." He expects the agreement to end the crisis, as "all parties must abide by the terms of the agreement and start a ceasefire immediately."



Fighting in Sana'a displaces hundreds

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Sept. 21—Hundreds of families were displaced and dozens of houses were destroyed or damaged during clashes that took place between the military and Houthi militants.

Between last Tuesday night and Sunday, a number of residential neighborhoods in Sana'a witnessed shelling and gunfights, forcing many residents to flee to safety.

Over the weekend clashes took place at the state TV headquarters, a compound housing three state-run TV channels, which the Houthis gained control of on Saturday evening. Fighting also occurred in Ma'een district, which surrounds 30 Meter Street, in Madhbah area, near Al-Iman University, and near the headquarters of the 6th Military Command, formerly known as the 1st Armored Division.

Areas in the capital including Shamlan, Al-Thawra, Ma'een, and 60 Meter Street witnessed widespread displacement to other governorates.

The Yemen Times visited Al-Thawra district on Saturday during the clashes. Most houses were wrecked and abandoned and roads were closed.

No soldiers or security checkpoints could be seen in Al-Hasaba area in Al-Thawra district. At the entrance to Soufan area a checkpoint was manned by armed Houthis, some of whom appeared to be less than 15 years old. The Yemen Times talked to a Houthi who claimed to be the head of the checkpoint. He said they are fighting the 4th Armored Brigade, which is part of the 1st Armored Division, located at the TV headquarters. Once they gained control over the 4th Armored Brigade, it will be handed to the military police, he said.

However, as of Monday the Houthis have not surrendered the compound.

The Yemen Times' journalist was then searched and warned to be careful as the Houthis have snipers on many of the rooftops in the area.

Near the state TV headquarters shells and bullets were witnessed hitting buildings indiscriminately. At the time of evening prayer, when clashes grew more intense, the Yemen Times' journalist found refuge with Jamal Al-Maliki, a resident near the headquarters. Many other residents refused the journalist the use of their houses to take shelter from the shelling, saying they were scared they would be targeted.

The windows of Al-Maliki's house were broken and the walls were cracked by multiple stray shells. "The war ruined my home. I had tenants but they left, we had to group all our women in one room in the basement in fear of the shelling."

"The 2011 war which toppled former President Ali Abdullah Saleh hit us very hard: Our house was destroyed, our children were killed, the state did not compensate us. Now the same thing is happening, who will support us?"

When asked about his neighbors, Al-Maliki said "most of them left, men only stayed behind to protect their homes. Those who were less lucky and unable to leave the area live in extreme fear."

The Yemen Times witnessed mortars, rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), tanks, and rifles being used.

In other areas as well, most residents have been displaced, while others are living in fear. In Madhbah area, for example, "shells are dropping day and night, and the loud sounds scare everyone," said Shaif Muqne'a, a local resident.

He added, "my grandmother is missing since Thursday. She is 70 years old. On Thursday she went out and the shelling started, she could have entered one of the neighborhoods and disappeared. So far, we have no idea about where she is."

Mohammad Hezam, deputy director of the Public Relations Department in the Ministry of Interior, said on Sunday "we cannot do anything for the displaced until the battles are done."

One day later, on Monday, Hezam told the Yemen Times that although the fighting has ceased, the ministry does not have the authority to help the displaced in any way, as the current government is in the process of being dissolved. It is up to the new government, which has yet to be formed, to repair the damage caused by recent fighting and to take care of displaced citizens.

Ali Al-Imad, a member in the Houthis' Political Office, said "the authorities are responsible for these events and the residents' displacement, [the government] targeted Houthis, and they responded."

During the 2011 uprising many clashes broke out in Sana'a, taking the lives of hundreds of citizens and in-

"The Houthis shelled us and used us as shields. I'm going to Aden now but I'm afraid war will spread to other governorates and then we will have nowhere to go."

—Anwar Abdulsalam, 40, Imam of a mosque

"We have been displaced by random shelling. My taxi was completely destroyed. I'm returning to Hadramout."

—Abdullah Al-Hadrami, 50, taxi driver

"Shelling civilians displaced us. I am heading to Ibb governorate, fearing that clashes will erupt in my own town [Sana'a]. People were displaced because of the lack of communications and no one helped us."

—Ali Al-Zumr, 38, restaurant waiter

"I have left my house with my family because of the clashes. I didn't want to leave because of the roadblocks and lack of transportation, but I'm afraid one of my family members would be injured or killed. I'm going to my brother's house."

Sami Al-Samei, 30, supermarket employee

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juring many more. Over 3,300 homes were destroyed and the damage was estimated at approximately \$14,000,000, according to government statistics.

So far, no compensation has been paid for the damage to residential buildings.

The fighting between the Houthis and military and security forces stopped Sunday evening. Some locals who were displaced within Sana'a have returned home, although many of them came back to destroyed houses. Residents who fled to neighboring cities or governorates have been slower to return.

Many displaced have stayed away from home, due to the persistence of insecurity and the fear that clashes could resume in Sana'a. Furthermore, the Houthis continue to maintain a strong presence in the absence of the state in many areas of the capital.

وَأُحَدِّثُكَ مَصِيبَ
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03/11/2014

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Impact Journalism Day:

40 newspapers share stories about initiatives for positive change

Christian de Boisredon

Day after day, the news confronts us with the world's troubles. This constant reminder can make us anxious, afraid—or even worse, anesthetized.

But now more than ever, citizens, companies, universities, and organizations are developing new ways to solve humanity's problems. We are witnessing an outpouring of social innovation and social businesses around the planet.

The job of the press is to keep us informed. And yet the time has passed when the media's greatest impact came essentially from "turning the pen in the wound," as the great French journalist

Albert Londres once wrote. Increasingly, reporters want to contribute to the common good by writing about solutions, thereby amplifying their effects and creating a sense of hope.

Nearly 40 leading newspapers from all over the world—including the Yemen Times—joined our effort and are publishing supplements dedicated to innovative solutions. Each paper contributed one or more original articles, then chose what to publish from the 100 or so stories we assembled. In a few days their editors in chief will gather in Paris to discuss ways to take this project even further.

Last year on Impact Journalism Day, a woman in Singapore read an article about adjustable eyeglasses that could correct more than half of the world's

vision problems for only \$4 a pair. She showed the article to her husband, an executive at a multinational lens manufacturer. He contacted the inventors, and now they are collaborating on a pilot project in India that could improve the lives of millions.

This is the kind of impact we set out to achieve.

Today, you are one of 100 million readers discovering our stories of hope. Imagine if every reader shared these stories with those around them. Choose one and tell it to your children, your colleagues, your friends. Become a part of the movement by motivating others.

There is more you can do to promote solution-based journalism. Take part in our "selfie" contest by posting a

photo of yourself and this newspaper via Twitter (#ImpactJournalism #@theyementimes) or the Facebook page of our founding partner, AXA (facebook.com/AXAPeopleProtectors).

Help the innovators and entrepreneurs in these stories to overcome the challenges they face by joining a brainstorming session (www.sparknews.com/ijd/makesense).

And feel free to suggest projects we might consider for next year's Impact Journalism Day (http://www.sparknews.com/ijd).

We hope you enjoy today's edition!

Christian de Boisredon, founder of Sparknews / Impact Journalism Day (impact@sparknews.com)

From tires to tiles

A local development initiative in southern Lebanon

Veronique Abou Ghazaleh

In Lebanon, burning tires has become part of a local culture prevalent in several regions, whether to express anger and protest in demonstrations and strikes, or to get rid of high volumes of used tires, considering it as the only available solution. However, burning tires is a crime against the environment because of all the CO₂ emissions that are released into the atmosphere. For this reason, some Lebanese municipalities choose to bury tires within garbage "mountains," not minding that the components of those tires are among the most resistant to natural elements, and that a tire needs hundreds of years to desintegrate. Lebanon is far from being the only country to face this issue: In fact, this is a global crisis, mainly in developing countries, where no means are available for safe disposal of used tires through recycling. Yet, there is still hope for a solution in the southern Lebanese town of Toula, the location of a tire recycling factory named Al-Oula and managed by Ali Issa, Ahmad Shamseddine, and Oula Issa, three young and creative entrepreneurs who have a sense of responsibility towards the environment.

"Don't burn it... shred it"

In 2011, the three young entrepreneurs decided to launch Al-Oula factory, taking advantage of long years of family experience in recycling rubber into various products sold to different shops. The main idea behind Al-Oula factory was to avoid burning or burying tires. Instead, those were to be shredded and then into floor tiles for pavements, playgrounds, sports clubs and kindergartens. The project needed a probation period since the young entrepreneurs imported the machinery and relied on the Kafalat program to finance their project. A year later however, the factory started its operations successfully, without any official support. Today, it fulfills two essential needs in Lebanon: First, it helps find use for disposed tires, which were a large burden. Second, it helps provide safe, locally-made rubber tiles to many facilities. Before, the products available in Lebanon were mainly imported from China. Because of the quality of their product and their prices, they have found themselves competitive in the market. Al-Oula has already started to export tiles to neighboring countries, mainly Jordan.

Partner Ali Issa explained to Al-Hayat newspaper that the project was mainly established to solve the tire burning problem and its cost to the environment. His factory has become the first of its kind in Lebanon. Before launching the project, the three partners studied the market and the potential need for recycled tiles that would come with a ten-year guarantee. They found that such tiles were imported and available at high prices. Then, they contacted municipalities, namely the Saida municipality, which is close to Toul, in order to secure a supply of tiles once machinery was set up. Today, Al-Oula factory is able, within five hours, to shred 200 tires and turn them into a powder that is sold to tradesmen unprocessed. The powder is then ready to be used for flooring in gyms, playgrounds, compressed tiles of various shapes and sizes, and other surfaces. Today, the factory is receiving orders from various Lebanese regions and even neighboring countries, which demonstrates that there is a demand for these eco-friendly tiles that are not affected by natural elements, such as heat and rain.

Issa noted that the only problem facing factory operations is the diminishing number of tires arriving from municipalities, especially Saida. However, this is good news for the environment. Issa is sending trucks to different Lebanese regions and collecting disposed tires from more areas. This helps expand business and provide support for municipalities outside Saida in solving the tire problem in their areas.

Development of the Project

Al-Oula factory is now growing and flourishing thanks to the individual efforts of its partners and the help of local workers who have made livelihoods off the tires. The project can be seen as a model to deliver development and provide job opportunities to those in regions around Lebanon.

Those involved in the project say the future is bright. Indeed, Issa spoke of ongoing efforts to build machinery that would produce large tiles, instead of being limited to small or medium-sized ones. This will allow the factory to participate in larger scale projects, and provide tiles for the coverage of wider surfaces.

Today, the three partners are role models for Lebanese youth who are interested in their local community and who are creating work opportunities for themselves and for others, while thinking of all the implications of their project, including environmental implications.

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Final selection of the scholarships recipients will be based on passing the DELF exam, receiving university admission, field of study, and the secondary school results.

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Requirements:

The below should be included in the application:

- 1- Completed scholarship application form (apply for one major only)
- 2- A copy of the DELF/DALF certificate (if available)
- 3- A copy of the secondary school transcript
- 4- A copy of the personal ID card or passport

The students should further:

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- 2- Meet the university/institution's admission requirements
- 3- Commit to return to work in Yemen after completion of the program

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- ▶ Public Administration
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- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Law
- ▶ Engineering:
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 - ▶ Industrial Engineering
 - ▶ General Engineering
 - ▶ Mechanical
 - ▶ Prevention and Safety
 - ▶ Production Control
 - ▶ Quality
 - ▶ Telecommunication

Eligibility:

Candidates must meet the following conditions:

- 1- Must be a Yemeni national residing in Yemen
- 2- Must be aged 28 years old or less
- 3- Must have earned their Bachelors (BA/BSc) degree with a minimum grade average of "very good" certified by the Yemeni Ministry of Higher Education
- 4- Must have at least one year work experience in Yemen
- 5- Must commit to attend intensive French language training to be able to pass the DELF B2 exam

Final selection of the scholarships recipients will be based on passing the DELF B2 exam, receiving university admission, field of study, and past academic performance.

Requirements:

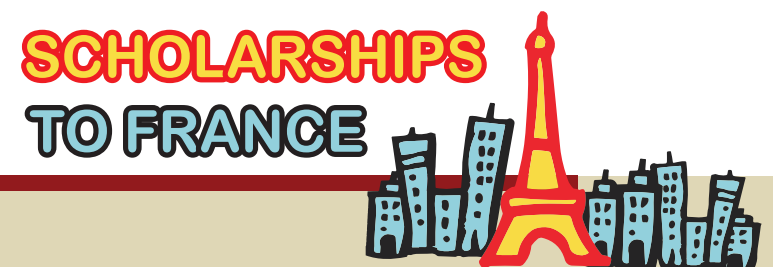
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- 2- A copy of the DELF/DALF certificate (if available)
- 3- A copy of the university degree and transcript
- 4- A copy of the personal ID card or passport
- 5- A copy of your CV

The students should further:

- 1- Meet the university/institution's admission requirements
- 2- Commit to return to work in Yemen after completion of the program

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Applications can be downloaded online from our website at WWW.YEMENLNG.COM/SCHOLARSHIPS, or picked up from the Head Office. The application along with the required documents listed above should be submitted in a sealed envelope no later than **2nd October 2014** to either of the following:

- ▶ Yemen LNG Head Office, Hadda Street, opposite Hadda Hotel
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Good luck to all!

An ideological pendulum in the Arab world

The tragedy of the Arab world is that people seem to be stuck between nationalistic and religious fascism

Sharif Nashashibi
aljazeera.com
First published Sept. 22

A few days ago, I was asked "do you believe, in view of all that has happened, that Bashar Al-Assad should go or stay?" My answer was not as straightforward as it used to be, but then again neither is the question.

"I've always believed Assad should go, but at this stage, whether he does or not, Syria will continue to be in turmoil," I replied. "I'm as opposed to the 'jihadists' as I am to Assad, and unfortunately the moderates have been sidelined."

This is the general tragedy of the Arab world, that people seem to be stuck between nationalistic or religious fascism. The Arab Spring has highlighted this morbid choice, with "jihadism" on the rise and dictators determined to cling to power at all cost.

I have listened in horror at Arabs, particularly the older generations, claiming that the people of the region are not capable of democracy, let alone prepared for it. While I still

vehemently believe this view to be not just wrong but deeply insulting, I can understand why such people feel vindicated by the apparent failure of the Arab Spring.

Dichotomy

However, the Arab Spring did not create this dichotomy. Rather, it brought it out into the open by challenging a rigid, stagnant, decades-old regional order. Jihadism was around long before the Arab Spring, and ever since independence from colonialism, the region's dictators have insisted that the only alternative to their rule would be religious extremism and national chaos.

That this has come to pass in several countries in the last few years does not necessarily prove them right. Various factors have led to the current regional fractures, not least the autocratic policies that have created or exacerbated the very radicalism they claim to be champions against. Both extremes have developed a symbiotic relationship of using each other's abuses to bolster their own ranks and justify their own repression.

Despite public statements to the contrary, this relationship is fos-

tered in practice by outside powers, whose regional influence benefits from division, as do their economies from ensuing arms sales and trade deals.

The current scenario can be viewed as a pendulum. The more extreme the ideology being challenged or toppled, the greater the swing the other way. The region has not had sufficient time for the pendulum to stabilize, which would enable a middle ground to be found. A varied, mature polity has not yet had the chance to develop. This is to be expected after decades of one-party rule.

Taking on authoritarianism, as difficult as this is, pales into comparison with the challenges of the aftermath: The very reinvention and rebuilding of states, infrastructure, institutions, and societies. Such a mammoth task was never going to be quick or easy.

Differing visions

With freedom of expression long banned, opposition movements have had to spring up out of nowhere, organize and articulate themselves almost immediately, in some cases learn to govern and de-

mocratize with no prior experience, and cooperate with, or challenge, other groups with different visions for the future.

"Jihadists" have taken advantage of the resulting uncertainty, chaos, and resentment. While they have never represented more than a fanatic fringe, their arms and brutality easily garner worldwide attention and territorial expansion. This is as much a concern for moderate "Islamist" movements that are conflated with "jihadist" groups, as it is for secular parties.

Populations are understandably impatient for change and mistrustful of authority. However, given the experiences of Syria, Libya, Yemen, Egypt, and other states, they are also fearful of the consequences of challenging it. It is only natural, under these circumstances, that the road will be as long as it is bumpy.

There is a belief in the West that Islam and Islamism are the same, and this is why the Middle East is in such turmoil today. However, communities and societies generally tend to rally around faith in times of hardship and when religious expression is repressed. This happened with Christianity in commu-

nist Eastern Europe, Islam in the Caucasus and Central Asian states of the former Soviet Union, and Judaism during its persecution in Europe.

In the case of the Arab world, where public protest has traditionally been banned and violently suppressed, the mosque has often been the only place where dissent could be vocalized and organized. Such restrictions invariably create the potential for radicalization.

No quick fixes

Furthermore, the region is experiencing a host of severe economic, political, social, and environmental problems that preceded the Arab Spring, and for which there are no quick fixes. Some of these issues have been exacerbated by the global economic downturn, over which regional governments have little if any control. Similarly, dependence on faith increases under poverty, creating the potential for radicalization.

Those who take the long view see the current instability, while deeply worrying, as part of the process of the region's countries finding their way amid their diverse communi-

ties and ideologies. Such profound change is seldom smooth, however much we would like it to be.

Critics say this view is naive, but I refuse to believe that Arabs—with their rich history, culture and resources—are forever doomed to choose between those who rule and kill in the name of religion, and those who do so out of personal greed and power.

As well as the anti-government revolutions and protest movements of the Arab Spring, there have been popular revolts against "jihadist" groups. Examples include Al-Qaeda in Iraq, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Shabab in Somalia, and slightly further afield, Ansar Al-Din in Mali and Boko Haram in Nigeria. This highlights a reality rather than blind hope: That the peoples of the region will not accept either option in the long run.

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

ANALYSIS

Gulf countries: Growing aid powers



The focus of Gulf aid has not been purely local; much money has been given to natural disasters in Haiti, the Philippines, and Pakistan.

Irin
First published Sept. 17

Gulf countries are ramping up their overseas aid spending by providing hundreds of millions of dollars to emergencies both in the Middle East and further afield while at the same time broadening multilateral engagement and joining global debates on aid effectiveness.

Saudi Arabia's \$500 million July donation to support the UN's ongoing displacement in Iraq accounts for 70 percent of all funding received for the appeal to date, ac-

ording to data from the online Financial Tracking Service (FTS), run by the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

This has taken the oil-rich kingdom's total humanitarian funding year to date to \$634 million, making it the fourth-largest donor after the US, the European Commission, and the UK.

FTS data accessed by IRIN also reveals that in 2013 and 2014 Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Qatar together accounted for around 15 percent of all aid money going to Syria, around half of the amount that came from the US, but still more than what was provided by countries giving under

the umbrella of the European Commission.

The 2014 Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) report published this month (September 11) by UK-based think tank Development Initiatives, which uses FTS data along with other government and agency sources, highlights the rise in Gulf aid spending, as part of a wider trend that saw record aid spending of \$22 billion in 2013.

The 150-page interactive report points out that Kuwait, which has staged several high profile donor conferences to raise cash for Syrian refugees, upped its assistance by over 2,300 percent from 2012 to 2013 (from \$14 million to \$327

million), becoming the largest Gulf donor that year and accounting for 2 percent of all global humanitarian funding. For 2014, FTS data shows Kuwait has already allocated \$326 million and pledged a further \$211 million.

According to the GHA study, the leading Gulf humanitarian donor over the 2009-2013 five-year period was the UAE, providing \$809 million of humanitarian assistance, making it the 18th largest government donor overall, while Saudi Arabia was the second largest, and the 19th globally, with \$709 million.

Only Qatar reflected a dip in its humanitarian allocations over the reporting period, with its spending declining from \$105 million in 2012 to \$69 million in 2013.

Power players

The decision by Gulf states to increase funding has been partly provoked by the geographic proximity of the humanitarian crises, Gulf governance expert Habiba Hamid told IRIN. The crises in Syria and Iraq have increased fears of knock-on effects across the Middle East that could reach the Gulf. "The scale of Syria's crisis is unprecedented and it has provoked a Gulf humanitarian response in contrast with Western inertia," Hamid said.


Charlotte Lattimer, a senior humanitarian adviser at Development Initiatives and a contributor to the GHA report, said Saudi Arabia's Iraq donation was particularly noteworthy. "It's an extremely large donation and I think a lot of people were surprised to hear about it when it was announced, especially given the context of how little funding Iraq had received up until that point."

UN agencies in Iraq, which had been struggling to attract donors for months, putting relief programmes at risk, are now in the unique position of being 183 percent funded, according to FTS.


This is because the \$500 mil-

lion from Saudi Arabia, which has already been dispersed to different agencies, far exceeds the \$312 million the UN had initially asked for in its Strategic Response Plan (SRP).

Continued on the back page



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Houthi presence revives popular committees

■ **Nasser Al-Sakkaf**

Born as a result of the 2011 uprising to protect civilians in local neighborhoods, popular committees are making a comeback in the capital.

"We used to protect our neighborhood back in 2011 because of the volatile security situation, but we stopped in 2012 when the situation improved," said Akram Al-Sharjabi, the head of the popular committee located in Al-Sabaeen neighborhood that also hosts the Special Security Forces camp.

It was the violence that broke out between soldiers from Al-Sawad camp in Hiziaz area and the Houthis in the first week of September that helped lead to the comeback of popular committees.

"We resumed our roles because of the recent attacks on the camp," Al-Sharjabi explained. "Potential

attacks on the Houthi camps pose a great risk to residential homes in the neighboring areas," added Al-Sharjabi.

In response to the recent Houthi presence, popular committees have since sprung up in several other locations of the capital, including 30 Meter Street.

How do the committees work?

Each committee is independently controlled by a designated head in an area and operates independently from popular committees in other neighborhoods. To coordinate efforts, the heads of the popular committees organize with residents and volunteers from within the area and establish shifts.

A committee, which mainly consists of volunteers between 25 and 40 years of age, often begins its work at 10 PM and finishes in the early hours of the morning. The structures of popular committees differ and many

of the volunteers are unarmed.

The job of the committee members mainly entails monitoring strangers who enter the neighborhood and conducting checks on their ID cards. During the day, the volunteers return to their day jobs.

Al-Sharjabi says he guards Al-Sabaeen area with six other men, all residents of the neighborhood, and limits access to strangers at night in fear of possible attacks.

"Strangers," according to Al-Sharjabi, are people that do not reside in the neighborhood or can not be vouched for by residents of the neighborhood. If those on duty do not know someone entering a certain neighborhood, they ask him or her to take a different route, he said.

"Citizens should not be deprived of peace because they live near security camps," Al-Sharjabi said. "[Residents] are always fearful because army camps are being targeted now more than ever."

There have been no incidents of violence against popular committee members yet, he added.

Sheikh Jabri Al-Aqel, a popular committee leader in the Al-Wahda neighborhood, established the committee to search people for weapons.

"If clashes break out between soldiers and armed men in Hiziaz again, we will not be able to do much. We will become casualties of these clashes."

As a result of recent violence in the capital between the Houthis and government, the committees have stayed put to prevent the expansion of armed rebels.

"The situation is going to get worse," said Al Aqel. "Tall houses were evacuated in Hiziaz and in the absence of the residents, the popular committee is guarding the houses, staffing each of the abandoned homes with a popular committee member."

Both Al-Sharjabi and Al-Aqel say they do what they do out of a civic duty to protect their people.

"As of now there is no coordination between the committees and government security forces. The committees operate independently," said Al-Aqel.

Ismael Al-Harazi, a resident in Hiziaz near the Al-Sawad military camp, told the Yemen Times that he feels more at ease knowing that the men on duty are from his neighborhood.

Retired army brigadier Mohsen Khosrouf says popular committees are used as a last resort when the state is unable to make citizens feel secure.



As tens of thousands of Houthis gathered in and around the capital, local neighborhood watches sprouted to provide security, much like they did during the 2011 uprising.

The Ministry of Interior told the Yemen Times that they were unaware of the re-emergence of the committees. However, deputy director of public relations for the ministry, Mohammed Hizam, said the ministry was not opposed to their existence.

IMPACT JOURNALISM DAY

An expedition to help Algeria's nomads

Young Algerians are using "caravans" to provide medical assistance

■ **Ali Boukhled**

In Algeria, a group of young people, many of them doctors, have drawn inspiration on a past practice to solve a current need.

In the past, caravans used to supply food to most remote populations. Today, the Terakaft association, created in 2006 by a group of young Algerians, has the daunting task of providing medical assistance to nomadic people who live in this vast desert region. In Tamachaq, the language of the Tuareg, a nomadic people that live in the desert regions of North Africa, the word "Terakaft" means caravan.

The principal founder of the group, Mr. Bilal, took time off from his busy day to explain the work of the association.

The caravans of the association began in 2006. This first trip, carried out with the assistance of the Ahaggar National Park, included a logistician and a doctor. It allowed members of the association to measure the exact needs of nomads in southern Algeria. "We especially noticed the poverty of these nomads. They suffer from malnutrition and many other diseases that

do not exist in other parts of the country," says Mr. Bilal.

To accomplish their mission, members of the Terakaft association, therefore, depart in a caravan, a kind of expedition in search of remote populations. In the region of Tamanrasset, accompanied by a multidisciplinary team of female doctors, the expedition of Terakaft has provided specialized care to women and children in the targeted regions.

"We were accompanied mainly by women because the target populations are very conservative and largely composed of women and children, in the absence of men left to work elsewhere," says our interlocutor.

In a sustainable development perspective, this expedition is also interested in the other aspects of the daily life of people. Thus, kits comprising seeds and irrigation systems (drop-t-drop) needed for Saharan agriculture were distributed to farmers, while providing them with accelerated training. "Sometimes it does not take much to [help these citizens produce needed products]," says the logistics manager of the association. Always within the framework of fair trade, the association distributes

equipment for crafting. The objective is to enable these populations.

In addition to these projects, Terakaft invests in purely humanitarian work. Relying on patrons, the leaders of the association distribute, whenever their resources allow it, medical supplies to local health structures or tools for the disabled. Sometimes, as it is as simple as distributing clothing for the poor of the Sahara.

What is original with Terakaft is its financial autonomy. The association, approved by the Algerian authorities in 2011, relies only on private donors who provide the biggest part of its financial resources. This resulted in a relationship based on mutual trust between the association and donors.

In all, just for the 2012-2013 season, the organization has assisted 818 people who received care and consultations. Dozens of others have benefited from screening of HIV and other pathologies and rare diseases. Mothers were also sensitized on the importance of breast milk in the development of the child.

Caravan after caravan, Terakaft strives to create other activities in the north, always for the needy and the poor.

A smart tap to save water

■ **Farouk Djouadi**

Mustapha Lakhdari is a civil engineer who is passionate about the development of software and electronic systems. In 2010, he participated to the Microsoft Imagine Cup competition with a water-saving solution.

His project is to put a meter to the output of each tap to measure house consumption in real time. With each use, consumption measurements from all taps are transferred to a storage device with a software analysis of consumption data. The device is used to tell the user how much water he or she consumed, at what time, and from what tap.

"These detailed statistics will help the user to economize water because the real problem is that we do not know where we consume much of our water, whether that is in the kitchen or in the bathroom, etc.," said Mustapha.

In addition to actual consumption, the software can also determine the level of ideal consumption (eg: 40 liters per day in the kitchen). The ideal consumption is calculated on the basis of several parameters including age and number of people in the household, the location of the tap (shower, washbasin...) and geographical location (country and region).

Coming in at 7th place in the Microsoft competition encouraged him to continue to try and realize his project. In June 2013 he founded a small company specialized in water services, and is trying to move forward on the development of a prototype smart tap. Mustapha and his team say they hope to finish the prototype by November 2014.

In terms of competition, the young inventor is not worried. Unlike his project, existing measuring systems, according to Mustapha, are not very effective. They only measure the overall household consumption, and does not tell you, for example,

if you consume two or four liters of water to wash your hands.

And that's not all. Most existing solutions are based on the principle of limiting the flow to slow the consumption. Smart tap, meanwhile, does not limit anything. It just gives the consumer the ability to control its consumption by providing detailed information. "Theoretically, the result would be between 30 and 80 percent of water reduction, but it depends on people's behaviors," Mustapha said. Information, Mustapha said, empowers people.

The company is in contact with two potential clients based abroad. Government agencies, including the Department of Water Resources, showed their willingness to support the project on the communication level.

As water prices continue to climb, Mustapha believes there will be an even greater push for alternatives. "When the water bill becomes even more expensive, Algerians will seek solutions to save money," he says.

PALM YEMEN Sana'a, Republic of Yemen Job Vacancies Announcement

PALM YEMEN-Sana'a a leading company for General Services and Consultancy is looking for qualified Candidates who are able to ensure hotel services standards are achieved in all departments. PALM YEMEN provides a good salary and benefits package. Professional experience in Administration, facility operations and maintenance is the most critical selection factors for all of the positions. Inter personal skills, time management and Fluency in English are also a positive selection factors.

POSITION	DESCRIPTION	MONTHLY SALARY
Assistant Controller	The Assistant Controller shall work with Controller to ensure that all financial transactions that occur by the vendors and subcontractors are completed and properly accounted for in the financial system. They will assist in coordinating the flow of all costs obligated. They will assist in ensuring that all staff members are properly paid and that subcontractor vendors are paid in a timely manner including any taxes or fees associated with those wages. Assistant Controller will work with Controller in managing and reconciling petty cash and ensuring purchasing agents have sufficient cash to carry out their duties. Above all tasks assigned, they must ensure that all financials activities transacted in Yemen are completed within the guidelines of the country and with the highest quality and business ethics. Ensure that all company bank accounts and balance sheet accounts have been reconciled monthly. Check Income statement on a monthly basis for reasonableness and accuracy. Review all income statement GL detail accounts/job cost detail reports for compliance to ensure costs have been recorded accurately to the correct accounts. Review the financial statements monthly with Controller. Assist in year-end audits and can speak English fluently, Five years' work experience and Bachelor degree in Accounting. All other duties as assigned by manager or supervisor.	\$2,500 US Dollar (Gross)
Physical Security and Safety Manager	Senior-level security professional who understands Yemeni culture, can speak the language, has existing contacts / can create new contacts within Yemen's various governmental organizations in order to conduct liaison and obtain timely and useful information in matters pertaining to the security of Palm Yemen Staff. Can communicate effectively with local and foreign staff, colleagues and counterparts. All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor.	\$600 US Dollar (Gross)
Lady Receptionist	Perform in a pleasant, professional, and efficient manner, a combination of duties mainly related, but not limited to, check-in and checkout of guests which contributes to an overall positive experience. Greets, registers, and assigns rooms to guests. Issues room key and escort instructions to Bell person or directly to guest as appropriate. Transmits and receives messages using equipment such as telephone, fax, and switchboard. Answers inquiries pertaining to hotel services, registration of guests and shopping, dining, entertainment and travel directions. Keeps records of room availability and guests' accounts. All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor.	\$400 US Dollar (Gross)
Hospitality Support Specialist (Waitress)	Presents menu, answers questions and makes suggestions regarding food and service. Writes order on check or memorizes it. Relays and/or enters order into POS system for the kitchen and serves courses from kitchen and service bars. Observes guest to fulfill any additional request and to perceive when meal has been completed. Totals bill and accepts payment or refers patron to cashier. May ladle soup, toss salads, portion pies, and desserts, brew coffee, and perform other services as determined by establishment size and practice. May clear and reset counters or table at conclusion of each course. All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor.	\$410 US Dollar (Gross)
Inventory Specialist	Compiles and maintains records of quantity, type, and value of assets, material, equipment, merchandise, or supplies stocked in an establishment: Counts assets, material, equipment, merchandise, or supplies in house and posts totals to inventory records, manually or using a computer database. Proper control of the physical inventory will add to a positive guest and staff experience. All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor.	\$410 US Dollar (Gross)
Human Resource Coordinator	A human resource coordinator is an executive responsible for carrying out several tasks related to administration. He/ She is a coordinator for all important functions such as hiring and recruiting, and development, maintaining employee records, etc. Generally, the coordinator works under the supervision of the human resource director. The coordinator is also responsible for consulting with managers and supervisors about company policies and procedures. The coordinator helps employees and their managers in performance and disciplinary matters. He/ She may even propose and develop a set of rules that would monitor the discipline and work of workers. The job also includes consulting with practice managers regarding employee turnover, absenteeism, changes in work settings, employee motivation and recognition, and other employee-related aspects. His/her responsibility also includes assessing, sieving, and interviewing candidates for available positions; and making referrals of well-qualified and skillful applicants to the respective department managers. Other tasks assigned to him/her include carrying out field interview campaigns and advertising, arranging for all essentials needed for the recruitment drive, coordinating work with other staff members, determining employee performance appraisals and developing plans and strategies for recruitment. All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor.	\$650 US Dollar (Gross)

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Will Yemen ban manual ID cards from October 1?

■ Ali Saeed

Started in 2000, the electronic identification document (ID) card will be the only official tool for personal, commercial, civil, and military authentication from the beginning of Oct. 1, 2014, according to Matash Mohamed Matash, the head of the Ministry of Interior's Civil Status and Registry Service.

The government says that electronic ID cards will be key to the development of a national database, used as a source of information for government policies on economic, social, and security affairs. It is also crucial for the electronic voting registry which is planned to be in effect by the time elections take place.

To oblige citizens to replace their manual ID cards with electronic cards, the government issued a cabinet decree on April 27 of this year, saying that the use of manual ID cards will be entirely banned at all government and private offices from October 1st.

Yemen is the only Arab country that does not have a civil registry for its citizens, which poses a challenge for the government to carry out development and service projects, Ahmed Sinan, professor of political sociology at the University of Hodeida, told the Yemen Times in February.

"Imagine that there is a shortage of school textbooks every year because there is no civil registry to help in forecasting how many students will enroll in each grade," said Sinan.

On August 10, the Ministry of Defense instructed military personnel in all of its departments and military brigades to replace their manual ID cards with the electronic cards by October 1. After this date, military personnel with manual ID cards will be unable to receive their monthly salaries, the ministry announced.

Air force personnel and employees of the Defense Ministry headquarters are already in possession of new ID cards, receiving their monthly salaries through banking accounts. This, according to Matash, helps to control corruption in government spending.



Yemen is the only Arab country that does not have a civil registry for its citizens, making it more difficult to conduct development and service projects.

Although less than one third of Yemen's 12.274 million citizens legally required to have ID cards have the new electronic version, the government will go ahead with its decision to ban the use of manual cards, Matash announced.

Abdulgani Al-Wajih, former nation-wide commander of the Patrol Police, said in a conversation with the Yemen Times that it is impossible for the eight million Yemenis who are still with manual ID cards to replace them with new electronic ones until October.

"The government through this decision probably wants to target its civil, military, and security employees to replace the manual ID cards with the electronic cards because it is them who are always in need of the cards," said Al-Wajih.

He explained, "other people who do not have government jobs—which represent the majority of people legally required to have electronic ID cards—often are not in need of the cards unless they want to apply for a passport."

The Civil Status and Registry Service sent several teams to villages and districts to receive citizens' applications for electronic ID cards, Al-Wajih said. However, the turnout has always been poor due to a wide-spread lack of awareness.

In 2009, the number of citizens

who possessed electronic ID cards was not more than one million. It increased in the last three years after the government purchased new printers for the Civil Status Authority.

President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi ordered the government in February of this year to immediately begin the creation of a nationwide electronic civil registry.

Unlike manual cards, the electronic card has a national number for the holder where the information on his or her documents and data is stored electronically and can be accessed by any governmental department when necessary, Matash explained.

The electronically stored national number prevents individuals from getting more than one ID card and facilitates the government's access to citizens' data, which assists in controlling crimes.


Electronic ID cards also prevent ID fraud at banks, money transfer shops, and the phenomenon of double jobs: Some people maintain two government jobs simultaneously, only showing up to work at one of the jobs but receiving paychecks for both. It will enable government departments to sort out databases of their employees and to have a shared network with other state or private institutions.

Local councils blamed


Hundreds of people line up every day in front of the Automatic Issuance Center, an office run by the Ministry of Interior based in the capital Sana'a that issues electronic ID cards.

Poor technical management forces many citizens to wait for two to three days until their request for a new ID card is finally dealt with.


"When I went to the Automatic Issuance Center, I lined up under the heat of the sun for three days until my turn came. There were hundreds of people who were applying for electronic ID cards and only one of




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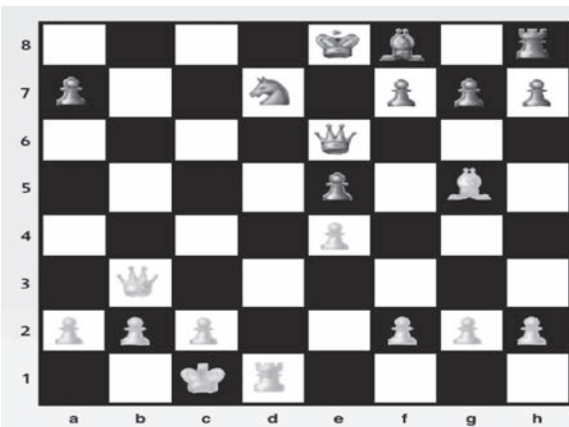

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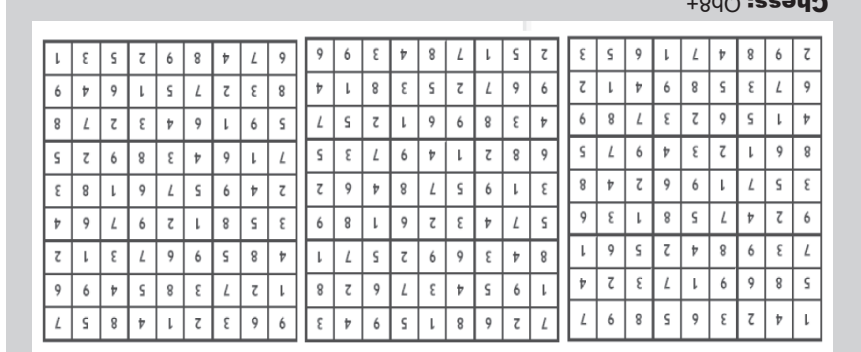
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Coffee Break

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 White plays and wins in the 2nd move

Sudoku Solutions



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Gulf countries: Growing aid powers

"The size of the donation does draw new attention to the importance of Saudi Arabia as a donor," Lattimer said, adding, "though I would say it is in line with the trend that we've been seeing over the past few years—of all the Gulf states, with the exception of Qatar, significantly increasing their humanitarian spending."

One other factor potentially increasing Gulf support for Syria and Iraq is a keenness to refute allegations of supporting—either tacitly

or explicitly—the extremist Sunni groups that have gained power. In recent months several reports have alleged that Gulf states have been covertly funding some groups inside Syria and Iraq, most prominently the self-proclaimed Islamic State.

As such, Gulf states are keen to show their commitment to humanitarian missions, Hamid said. "Following Syria, the Islamic State and charges against certain actors for funding terrorism, Gulf donors are concerned with overtly demonstrating that they are in step with internationally agreed norms and goals," she said.

"Following Syria, the Islamic State and charges against certain actors for funding terrorism, Gulf donors are concerned with overtly demonstrating that they are in step with internationally agreed norms and goals," she said.

Yet the focus has not been purely local. Lattimer pointed out that while much Gulf aid has been directed to Middle Eastern countries, they have also given generously to natural disasters in Haiti, the Philippines, and Pakistan, something also reflected in FTS tables.

Hamid stressed that Saudi Arabia was not a stranger to large aid gestures, having in 2008 given the UN's World Food Programme \$500 million to plug gaps caused by rising costs of fuel and food.

"It's not that the scale of Gulf funding has necessarily increased, because the Gulf has consistently exceeded other regional groupings, it is perhaps that scrutiny on the part of monitors such as the OECD is improving," she said, referring to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), a grouping of so-called traditional aid donors.

Formalizing agreements
As Gulf states become increasingly well-known as influential humanitarian donors, their position in the international humanitarian world is becoming more formalized.

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In 2013 the UAE was, according to DAC, the world's largest donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in proportion to Gross National Income (GNI), and in July this year it became the first non-OECD country to join the committee, though only as a non-voting participant.

The UAE's recently-formed Ministry for International Co-operation and Development (MICAD), which is due to publish its aid spending for 2013 next month, said the DAC membership "affirm[ed] the active and effective role of the UAE in the international development" and would "help to utilize the best practices in the development and humanitarian field."

The country, whose Red Crescent runs a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan, will in October this year co-host with the UN Refugee Agency a global conference about the plight of refugee children.

Erik Solheim, a former Norwegian government minister who has chaired DAC since January 2013, welcomed the UAE to the grouping.

"I think it's an important change for the DAC to have a new member like the UAE because it did have an image of being an exclusive club, and on the UAE's side, they can benefit from some of the standards and systems that we have established

over time," he told IRIN.

Solheim acknowledged that sometimes Gulf donors were perceived to have different approaches to aid—in terms of delivery, reporting and evaluation—but he said "if you want to run around the world looking for differences, you will always find them."

"But, if you want to bring the world together, there is also an opportunity to do that. We need a pragmatic discussion on what works and what does not work, when it comes to aid," he said.

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