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Dozens of Sana'a University students protested on Wednesday morning inside the university demanding the evacuation of "armed men" and "militias" from the university. Photo by Mohammed Al-Imad

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## National Coalition Parties call for end to transitional period

■ Bassam Al-Khameri

**SANA'A, Nov. 12**—The National Coalition Parties, which includes the General People's Congress (GPC), called on Tuesday for presidential and parliamentary elections to be held and the transitional period to end.

"The National Coalition Parties believe that ending the transitional period is the ideal and fastest way to overcome all problems in the country. It allows people to voice their opinions by way of parliamentary and presidential elections," read a statement released late Tuesday by the GPC mouthpiece, Al-Motamar Net.

The National Coalition Parties is composed of the GPC and 14 small parties, including the National Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party, the People's Democratic Party, the Popular Forces Union party, the National Democratic Front, and the Liberation Front Party. The coalition was formed in August 2008 and includes a number of parties affiliated with the GPC that were

formed in the wake of the 2011 uprising.

Abdulmalik Al-Fuhaidi, the head of Al-Motamar Net and a prominent member of the GPC, told the Yemen Times the National Coalition Parties want the proposed presidential and parliamentary elections to be followed by a national referendum on the new constitution.

Al-Fuhaidi said it is too early to discuss when the elections would be held or which candidate the party would nominate.

Rajeh Badi, the spokesperson for both the previous and newly established cabinet, told the Yemen Times "this is a sensitive issue and I cannot comment."

The National Coalition Parties also stated their objection to the new government, claiming it violates the Peace and National Partnership Agreement and the Gulf Initiative.

"The formation of the new government came late and was disappointing because it violated the Peace and National Partnership Agreement and the Gulf Initiative

and excluded several actors—including the National Coalition Parties—that signed these agreements," the statement read.

All of Yemen's political parties delegated President Hadi and Prime Minister Khaled Bahah in late October to form a new government. However, the GPC expressed its objection to the ministerial appointments shortly after their announcement on Friday.

Al-Fuhaidi explained that the National Coalition Parties, including the GPC, announced its opposite to the new government, because President Hadi failed to meet with all parties and consult them about the appointments prior to their announcement, as was stipulated in the Peace and National Partnership Agreement.

"The parties authorized President Hadi to form a technocratic government, but previous ministers associated with certain parties were re-appointed again in the current government," he said, referring to the Islah Party.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Sadi, Abdulla Mohsen Al-Akwa, and Abdulrazaq Al-Ashwal—all associated with the Islah Party—were part of the previous government and were also appointed in the newly-established government.

However, Habib Al-Ariqi, a leading figure within the Islah Party, told the Islah Net news website that his party played no role in the re-appointment of the three ministers.

"The Islah Party, like other political parties, authorized President Hadi to appoint a technocratic government, however didn't suggest certain names," he added.

Hussein Al-Bukhaiti, a prominent Houthi member and activist, told the Yemen Times that the GPC never objected to the government or any part of the transitional period until recently.

"After the sanctions were issued against Saleh, the GPC changed its stance and started demanding such things," he said, referring to the party's call to end the transitional period.

## Ceasefire in Al-Khibza village broken

Renewed fighting in Al-Baida between tribesmen and the Houthis

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

**SANA'A, Nov. 12**—Violent clashes erupted on Monday between Houthis and local tribesmen in the village of Al-Khibza in Rada'a district of Al-Baida governorate. The fighting violated a ceasefire agreement signed the previous day between the two sides.

The battle was still ongoing as of Wednesday evening, and extended to Al-Thalab Mountain, a strategic location which overlooks Rada'a city. The Yemen Times contacted representatives from the Rada'a Security Department, who refused to comment on the matters at hand.

Nasser Al-Sanei, official media spokesman for Rada'a district, told the Yemen Times that "battles between Houthis and tribesmen have been raging since Monday afternoon [in the Al-Khibza area], with 30 Houthis and five tribesmen having been killed by Tuesday night." He added that "tribesmen refuse

to return the bodies to the Houthis."

Al-Sanei said he has sources throughout Rada'a district and conducts regular inspections and sweeps of all areas. However, Al-Sanei could not confirm the total number of casualties as the fighting is still ongoing.

He did however confirm that a Houthi leader named "Ayowi" and a number of his followers who were gathered in his home were killed on Wednesday morning when a suicide bomber drove an explosive laden vehicle into his house in the village of Al-Qahra, two kilometers away from Al-Khibza village.

Al-Khibza village, which falls under the Al-Qarshia administrative authority, is located roughly two kilometers from Rada'a city and is home to roughly 400 armed

**بيان تحذير للمسلمين في رداع**

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على عبد الصالحين الأمين وآله وصحبه أجمعين.

أما بعد،

لقد وقع خائن من المسلمين في اليمن الإيماني والجمعة عامة وأطناً في "رداع" خاصة حقلية العدو الحزبي المنسحق الذين والذين هم وضع يد في يد المسلمين الأبرياء الذين طأوا بأرضهم وأرضهم وأرضهم إسرائيل كذباً واحتلالاً وتغريباً بالسياسة التي يفترونها ولقوبه وعينهم كاذبة يفتن في خندق واحد لقتل المسلمين. يسلمونه للذبح من الرماح ياتون أسويهم المسلمين يرمونهم في حفر الجور.

إن دمع خطر وفساد العدو الصهيوني الحزبي أصبح من أوجب الواجبات الشرعية على المسلمين في اليمن، وهو واجب يترتب عليه في حق من دفعه هذا العدو الفاسد -الذي لا يربح في حرب إلا ذلماً- بتأثيره وبتأثيره كاذباً الفساد، ونسف المساجد والنازل، وقتل وشرد وهجر، واستباح الحرمات.

ومن جانب آخر فإنه من العلوم من الدين بالضرورة أن من كان حاله من الأعداء فإنه يحرم على المسلمين معانته بأي شكل من الأشكال لعل الله تعال (يا أيها الذين آمنوا لا تتخذوا عدوي وعدوكم أعداء). وبناء على ذلك فإننا نعلن ونؤكد أن كل من وقف في صف العدو الصهيوني الحزبي وأو شقيق ثمره فقد جعل نفسه عدواً للمسلمين، وهذا مشروفاً في نفسه وبالله، وتنبه أيضاً أن كل من سيجح للحوثيين بخون أرضه ويؤذنه أو أراههم فإننا سنكون مضطرين لنقل الحرب إلى بلاده، وسيكون رقبته ممتلئة بدماء العرب.

وختاماً نؤكد لفتنا المسلمين في رداع العز أننا نطلبهم بالغيال والفتنيس ونسترحس أرواحنا فدائماً عن بينهم وأراضهم، ونطالبهم بضرورة الاعتناء بنقاط الحوثيين وجمعياتهم خوفاً من أن يصمموا منا أين دون قصد. ونؤكد للحوثيين أن قدام الأوامر حينئذ سنكون لهم وأمر من سابقها.

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Flier distributed by AQAP on Tuesday warning residents of Rada'a not to provide material, aid, or support to the Houthis.

tribesmen. Al-Sanei could not confirm if members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) were among them.

### Violating the ceasefire agreement

According to Al-Sanei, tribesmen and Houthis signed a ceasefire pact Sunday morning brokered by local security forces. Houthis agreed to not enter Al-Khibza area in exchange for tribesmen preventing AQAP forces from entering the area.

The ceasefire was then violated Monday afternoon, Al-Sanei said, when tribesmen encountered 16 Houthis approaching the village. An argument ensued in which tribesmen ended up killing the Houthis, whom they said were violating the terms of the ceasefire. Houthi forces

responded later by blowing up a mosque in the village which killed one tribal sheikh and injured four others, according to Al-Sanei.

Shortly after, tribesmen from other areas arrived in Al-Khibza to join the fight against the Houthis, he said.

Walid Al-Dailami, a Houthi member living in Rada'a who took part in the fighting, presented a different version of events. He claimed that the 16 Houthi fighters were merely walking in the mountains around Al-Khibza's periphery, when they were attacked by AQAP members. Several hours after the attack, Houthis entered Al-Khibza to find the perpetrators, who he claimed took refuge in a mosque. "It was a small mosque," he said, "it had no minarets and so it looked like a house. They fired on us from inside, and we returned fire." He denied

that the mosque was destroyed or blown up in the process.

Al-Makani Abu Yassir Al-Yemeni, an armed tribesman from Al-Khibza, denies Dailami's claim that those who attacked the Houthis were AQAP members. He said they were tribesmen protecting their village from incursions. He went further, claiming that no AQAP members took part in the fighting against Houthis in Al-Khibza.

Although the group did not claim direct involvement in the clashes, AQAP published a statement on its Twitter page on Tuesday addressed to "Muslims in Rada'a." It threatened to "bring war" to all those who "provide aid, refuge, or assistance to Houthis," both in Rada'a and other governorates of Yemen. On its Twitter page AQAP claimed to have distributed the statement to residents of Rada'a on Tuesday.

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## Committee formed over Sana'a airport clashes

■ **Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

**SANA'A, Nov. 11**—A committee was formed Tuesday by the Ministry of Interior to investigate the deadly clashes that took place Monday at Sana'a International Airport.

The clashes between Houthis and non-Houthi security officers at the airport left two non-Houthi Special Security officers dead and two Houthis in critical condition, according to Mohammed Al-Ansi, the director of the airport's security department.

"Special Security officers tasked with protecting the airport were killed in the clashes and two others injured," said Mohammed Al-Ansi. "Two Houthis also sustained injuries to the head and are cur-

rently in critical condition."

Al-Ansi declined to discuss reasons behind the clashes. "I can't comment on any information until the committee created by the Ministry of Interior is through with its investigation," Al-Ansi said.

Hasib Al-Amri, an officer with the Special Security Forces who works at the airport, told the Yemen Times that clashes broke out between an airport security officer and an armed Houthi who had been stationed at the airport since Sept. 21. The two engaged in a verbal altercation outside the arrival and departures gate.

"The Houthis gathered and began harassing one of our colleagues. [Our colleague] then went to the airport security sleeping quarters and rallied the rest

of the guards, Al-Amri said. "The Houthis then surrounded the room and attacked it. Clashes lasted several hours."

Khalid Al-Shaif, director of Sana'a airport, told the Yemen Times that flights were resumed after the clashes and that the situation is currently calm.

"Armed Houthis took over the airport on Sept. 21 and currently help guard it along with airport staff," said Al-Shaif.

The attack was between individuals, Al-Shaif said, and "was not an external attack on the airport." He claimed he was not aware that anyone had been killed.

Local residents living near the airport said that two separate series of clashes occurred at the airport over the last two weeks.

Mansur Al-Jarradi, who lives in the neighborhood adjacent to the airport, said the clashes on Monday lasted several hours, and that the airport was attacked the week prior.

On Nov. 5, armed men on a motorcycle attacked Sana'a airport firing a single light anti-tank weapon (LAW) rocket that struck a restaurant located in front of the airport's main gate. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula claimed responsibility for the attack the following day.

Sana'a International Airport is located 15 km north of downtown Sana'a and is the main center of operations for Yemenia Airways. The Al-Dailami air station, a base used by the Yemeni Air Force, is located next to the airport grounds.

## New details emerge in killing of AQAP commander

■ **Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

**SANA'A, Nov. 11**—According to a security source in Aden governorate and a statement by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Turki Al-Asiri, the AQAP commander in Lahj governorate, was killed last week Friday in Aden and not on Thursday in Lahj as previously reported.

The confusion is a result of a previous attempt on Al-Asiri's life in Lahj on Thursday. Security forces in Lahj thought they had killed the commander. It was later revealed that he had escaped and traveled to Aden. Once in Aden, he was killed on Friday by Adeni security forces, according to AQAP and a security officer at the Security Operations Department in Lahj.

Reuters, the Ministry of Defense, and Saba News Agency had all reported that Al-Asiri, also known as Marwan Al-Makki, had been killed Thursday in Lahj, a southern Yemeni governorate.

It was AQAP that clarified the series of events. On Monday, the group posted a different narrative on its Twitter page. The group said Al-Asiri's door was blown up by a small-sized explosive charge in Aden on Friday. Anti-terrorism forces then broke into his house, according to AQAP, and exchanged gunfire with Al-Asiri for a few minutes before killing him.

On Tuesday, Haitham Al-Hasni, an officer working in the headquarters of the Aden Security Department, confirmed to the Yemen Times AQAP's description of the event and discredited the other accounts.

"Al-Asiri was killed when anti-terrorism forces broke into his house in Aden governorate on Friday morning, after tracking him for weeks. He used to travel between Aden and Lahj governorates, and he came from Lahj [to Aden] on Thursday evening," Al-Hasni said.

An officer in the Security Operations Department in Lahj told the Yemen Times on condition of anonymity that security forces in the governorate pursued Al-Asiri in Tibn district on Thurs-

day and fought with him and his security escorts. "The clashes stopped suddenly and the security forces thought that he was killed, but he escaped to Aden," the officer said.

**An influential AQAP leader**

Al-Asiri was a Saudi national who was born in Saudi Arabia in 1975. He trained in Afghanistan in 2001 and fought against US forces when they invaded the same year.

Al-Asiri was known to have been close to Osama Bin Laden, who he fought alongside in the battle of Tora Bora in Afghanistan. In that battle he was captured and imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay for six years. He was handed over to Saudi authorities in 2007 and released in 2008.

That same year, Al-Asiri went to Yemen and became the commander of AQAP in Lahj. In 2009, he was included on the Saudi government's "most wanted" list of 85 alleged terrorists.

Al-Asiri's death comes days after two other AQAP commanders were killed: Nabil Al-Dhahab, the commander in Al-Baida governorate, and Shawki Al-Ban'dani, the group's commander for all northern governorates.

"The war waged by the Yemeni authorities—aided by the Houthis and US drones, have had major successes—they have paralyzed Al-Qaeda members' movements," said Saeed Al-Jamhi, an expert on Al-Qaeda and the head of the Al-Jamhi Studies and Research Center.

Al-Jamhi said the recent killings of prominent AQAP commanders will deal a significant blow to the organization.

An AQAP member in Al-Baida told the Yemen Times on condition of anonymity on Tuesday that while the organization still has thousands of men and will not be crippled by the recent deaths, "the killing of those men is a big loss for us."

"In this coming period we will be affected, not because there aren't leaders to replace them, but because they were some of the smartest leaders we have had," the source said.

## Gulf Cup of Nations kicks off

Yemen achieves its best ever performance against Iraqi national team

■ **Ali Aboluhom**

**SANA'A, Nov. 12**—Yemen's national soccer team will first face Bahrain in the Gulf Cup of Nations tournament scheduled to kick off this Thursday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Countries taking part in the tournament, which is held once every two years in rotating host countries, include Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Yemen.

This year, the team feels optimistic and expects to perform well, according to statements made to local media outlets. In a friendly match organized last month between Yemen and Iraq and held in Bahrain, the two teams tied at 1-1, the best Yemen has ever performed against the Iraqi national team.

Ayman Al-Hajri, a striker for the Yemeni national team, pointed to this as an indication that

the Yemeni team is improving, in statements made to the state-run Saba News Agency.

"We've brought some new players onto the team who were chosen carefully from a number of local Yemeni teams. They're all very enthusiastic and eager to start working and playing together," Al-Hajri said. "I'm personally optimistic that we could get at least second or third place in the competition."

This year will be the seventh time Yemen has participated in the competition since 2003. The tournament itself began in 1970. Yemen hosted the tournament in 2010 in the city of Aden. It has not yet, however, won a championship, or performed particularly well.

Mohammed Saleh Saeed, a member of the Board of Directors of the Yemeni Football Association, a government agency supervised by the Ministry of

Youth and Sport, said the team was provided with new training equipment in Dubai three months prior.

Jamal Al-Khorabi, the team manager, told Saba that the team hopes to use this tournament as an opportunity to put their skills on display and help gain regional recognition for Yemen's football teams. He said the team has new players and a new training staff, and that they were "ready to play hard and bring recognition to Yemen."

Rafat Al-Akhali, Yemen's minister of youth and sport, stated on his Twitter account that "the hearts of all Yemenis are with you guys and I'm positive that the team this year will perform better than previous teams."

However Ali Al-Ghurbani, a Yemeni sports writer and announcer, predicted the team would not do as well in the tournament as others predicted, pointing to the

ban imposed by FIFA in 2011 on hosting football tournaments in Yemen, a move that has negatively affected the team's morale and its ability to practice against other teams on its own turf, he said.

"How can Yemeni players play well when they're prevented from hosting regional and international competitions on their own soil?" he asked. Saleh Saeed added that FIFA representatives had visited Yemen several times in the last few years to consider lifting the ban. They concluded, however, that the security situation in the country would first need to improve.

Although the Gulf Cup of Nations is not officially recognized by FIFA, recent steps have been taken to help it gain recognition, including inviting influential figures in the field of international sports to attend, including FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

## Protests held calling for release of Tehama Movement leader

■ **Khalid Al-Karimi**

**SANA'A, Nov. 11**—Dozens of protesters gathered in front of the Houthi Political Office in Hodeida city on Wednesday, calling on the Houthis to release the Tehama Movement's detained secretary general.

According to local journalist Abdulhafit Al-Hatami, dozens of protesters gathered outside the office.

The secretary general, Abdulrahman Mukaram, was detained on Monday by the Houthis, who have accused him of being behind clashes between the Tehama Movement and the Houthis on Oct. 26, which left one Houthi member dead.

"Mukaram was arrested because he was the brain behind the attack on the [Houthi] popular committees that resulted in the death of one of the popular committee members," said Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthi Political Office.

Two weeks ago, clashes occurred in the Corniche neighborhood of Hodeida city between the Tehama Movement and armed Houthis, said security manager Al-Makaleh. The fighting followed the Houthi attempt to takeover over the Corniche Castle that left one Houthi dead.

The spokesperson for the Tehama Movement, Ahmed Hibatallah, said Mukaram was forcefully taken by armed Houthis on Hodeida University Street on Monday after leaving a Tehama Movement meeting. Hibatallah denied Al-Bukhaiti's claims, saying that the case was political and had nothing to do with previous fighting.

"Mukaram is a man with influence in Hodeida [governorate], who opposes the Houthi presence there," Hibatallah claimed.

Mohammed Al-Makaleh, the security manager of Hodeida governorate, said the Tehama Movement never informed local security forces in Hodeida about the detention of Mukaram. He only found out about it through local media reports.

"If the Tehama Movement [had] informed us, we would be able to negotiate with the Houthis to release Mukaram," he said.

Like Al-Bukhaiti, journalist Al-Hatami linked Mukaram's kidnapping to the death of the Houthi member two weeks ago. "Now the Houthis have kidnapped Mukaram, demanding that the movement's killer should be handed over," said

Al-Hatami.

The Tehama Movement is a popular movement, demanding greater regional representation for the Tehama people, located along Yemen's western coastline. The Tehama region includes Hodeida city, which the Houthis took control of on Oct. 14. Hibatallah said further protests calling for Mukaram's release were planned for Thursday.



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- 3- Contributes to the preparation of reports, project documents and submissions to government by providing information, preparing tables and drafting relatively routine sections. Prepares background information for use in discussions with government and other organizations. Participates in the briefing and debriefing of project personnel.
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- 6- Back stop for the Budget Control Assistant. Performs other duties, as required.

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- Completion of secondary education, preferably supplemented by technical or university courses in a field related to the work of the organization.
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ICRC Logistics, Mr Pazhohesh Sanai, psanai@icrc.org T.+967 1 467873-205  
Mr Mazen Al Kadi, malkadi@icrc.org T.+967 1 467873-249

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# Change Square:

## The last vestige of the 2011 uprising demolished

■ Nasser Al-Sakkaf

Almost four years after being established, Sana'a's infamous tent city was razed to the ground on Monday, Nov. 10. Along with it, went a visible reminder of Yemen's 2011 uprising.

Change Square used to offer provisional housing to Yemen's numerous political parties, tribes, and civil society associations. One tent for the Houthis, one for the tribes of Dhamar, one for the newly formed salafi association known as the Pioneering Youth Coalition for Change—the square was a buzzing, lively, and crowded center of political protest. It brought together a colorful range of diverse actors, all aspiring toward a common goal: The ousting of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Once Saleh gave in to rising internal and external pressure, signing the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative and stepping down from office, protesters began to gradually disperse and leave Change Square. On the morning of Nov. 10, only a few dozen tents, occupied by roughly hundred protesters, remained.

Those who stayed in Sana'a's tent city for the long haul used it as free accommodation. They lived in tents built on cement foundations, with entrances protected by padlocks, and walls reinforced by wooden boards or bricks. Many of these inhabited tents were equipped with modest furniture, and connected to Sana'a's power grid, while a few were adorned with shining white satellite dishes.

When the Yemen Times visited the square on Oct. 24, three weeks before its demolition, these improvised "homes" lay scattered among narrow alleys in-between a large number of empty and run-down tents. Change Square—looking empty and decrepit—had become a shadow of what it once was.

Yet, in the minds of those remaining, it continued to be the heart of the 2011 uprising. While the square's inhabitants admitted to have used the tent city as free housing, many continued to embrace a language of political protest and revolution.

Murshed Al-Masahm a former soldier who left the army in 1978 to work in Saudi Arabia, told the Yemen Times in late October that he would, "remain in the square until I am allowed back in the army, this has been my demand since 2011.

Al-Masah, now an old man, hopes that a few more years service in the army could help guarantee him a pension once he retires.

His demand seems hardly legitimate, retired Brigadier General Ahmed Obaid said. Once a soldier quit his job, the military is in no way obliged to rehire him.

Al-Masah combined his personal grievance with protesters' demand for political change.

"In the beginning of 2011, I was a supporter of a political party," he



The tent city in Change Square, before and after its destruction.



said, refusing to reveal which one. "But when those parties didn't serve the interests of ordinary residents, and so I left. Now I don't support any party or political group," he added.

Claiming that the government has continued to ignore his demands, Al-Masah declared just a couple weeks ago that he would stay in Change Square for the rest of his life.

Abdulsalam Al-Moghliis, Al-Masah's friend and housemate and another ex-soldier, described himself as "a victim of the revolution." "Political parties cut backroom deals that left protesters out suffering."

Like Al-Moghliis, many occupants in Change Square referred to them-

admitted he was merely taking advantage of free living space. As a full-time student who is originally from Taiz, Al-Sharabi is not working, cannot live with his family, and cannot afford to rent a room.

Al-Masah and Al-Moghliis had previously told the Yemen Times that the free housing available in the square was the only benefit that came from the revolution.

Both Al-Masah and Al-Moghliis earn their daily income as construction workers and send money to their families in Taiz governorate.

One day after the square was destroyed, literally lying in ashes, a disillusioned Al-Masah told the Yemen Times he hated the word "revolution."



Al-Dhalei used to sell pens, water, and other assorted goods in Change Square.

selves as "victims of the revolution," insisting they would stay until their demands were met. However most of these demands were of a personal, rather than political nature.

When the Yemen Times went to Change Square at the end of October, there were also people living in the encampment who did not participate in the uprising and did not try to justify their presence in revolutionary terms. Dabwan Al-Sharabi, for example, who studies accounting at Sana'a University,

"I got nothing out of it, and I'm not going to participate in any protests in the future," he said.

### Unheard voices

Long before Change Square was destroyed, leading political actors had already distanced themselves from those who remained camped out in front of Sana'a University.

Shortly before the encampment was demolished, Mohammed Al-Bukhati, a member of the Houthis' Political Office, told the Yemen Times that those who remained in the square were not Houthis expressing Houthi views, but independents making personal demands.

"Ansar Allah [the Houthis] engaged in another form of escalation, spreading everywhere—not just remaining in the square," Al-Bukhati said.

Basem Al-Hakimi, a former member of both the National Dialogue Conference and the Organizing Committee of the Peaceful Revolution—the group that organized the Change Square protests—agrees with Al-Bukhati. "We still engage in revolutionary activity and protest when we feel it is necessary, but that does not mean we should only remain in Change Square," he said.

"The revolution has moved from the streets and squares into people's

minds. We don't need to remain in the square, even if the revolution is ongoing," he explained, adding that the promises made by President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi motivated most protesters to leave Change Square.

Although Al-Hakimi acknowledges that most revolutionary goals have not yet been realized and that many Yemenis still have not obtained their rights, he does not think that remaining in the Square will help.

"There are some protesters in Change Square who have their own demands, but they could not make their voices heard, and no one cared about them—although some have legitimate demands," he said.

### An inevitable fate?

In April 2013, protests were formally suspended by the Organizing Committee of the Peaceful Revolution, that helped organize protest activities in the square.

"In the wake of restructuring the military, we will evacuate the square while continuing to work towards achieving the goals of the revolution," read a press release by the committee in 2013.

Ever since, Al-Masah and Al-Moghliis claim to have received repeated threats from men sent by the Mayor's Office to forcefully evacuate the tent city.

The Yemen Times contacted multiple sources in the Mayor's Office one week before the square was destroyed, however no one commented on its impending evacuation, saying they possessed no information.

Contrary to Al-Masah and Al-Moghliis, Bakeel Al-Dhalei, who established two small kiosks in front of the eastern gate of Sana'a University in 2011, took the threats of evacuation seriously.



Protestor sets up satellite dish in Change Square.

Long before bulldozers flattened Change Square, Al-Dhalei was afraid of a sudden attack and was planning to relocate his two shops elsewhere.

Ever since the warning he received from the Mayor's Office, he was preparing to travel to Al-Arood Square in Aden city "in order to set up shops in that square, because Aden is near my governorate [Al-Dhalei]," he said.

While some welcome the destruction of Change Square, others see their lives in shatters.

"After the Mayor's Office evacuated the square, I went to one of my relatives' houses. This was hard for me," he said. "I feel like I'm a burden on them."

He added that the protesters could not do anything when the soldiers came to evacuate the square, so they surrendered and abandoned it. He said he will likely go back to his home governorate of Taiz.

Mohammed Ali, who owns of a bookshop in one of the houses surrounding the square, had previous-

ly complained that the continued presence of tents was harming his business. "I closed my book shop for two years then reopened it, however never made the same amount of money as I did in the past because of these tents," he told the Yemen Times just weeks prior to the evacuation of Change Square.

The tents, he explained, were blocking the street, allowing no cars to pass through, and resulting in less people passing by his shop. Prior to the uprising in 2011, Ali sold about YR8,000 (\$37) worth of books per day. However throughout October 2014, this number dropped down to YR2,000 (\$9).

The day after the camp was evacuated, Ali expressed his joy that he could resume working as he did before, although he noted it would take some time to get his customer base to return.

He did however, express some sympathy for the protesters. "Even if I'm happy, I also feel bad for the people who now have no shelter," he added.



Murshed Al-Masah in Change Square before its demolition.

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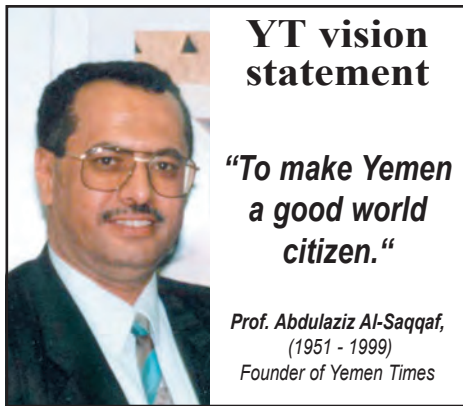


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## OUR OPINION

### Time to clean house

**Y**emen now has a new Cabinet, that now has eight months to turn things around—an ambitious goal if there ever was one.

The new government faces a number of challenges, including the economy, instability, insurrections, and a secessionist movement, among other things.

With all these urgent concerns, it's natural to want to prioritize reforms that would help alleviate the ones that are most pressing. In their (justified) rush to fix what is broken, the new Cabinet must prioritize transparency, and work to make it part of the work culture within their ministries.

Financial transparency is key to improving the economy. A major issue surrounding donor money is that the government doesn't have the capacity to absorb such large funds, or the necessary mechanisms in place to ensure that donor money is spent as it should be. The Executive Bureau (EB) is working to tackle this, and donor money for Yemen's political transition will be monitored and put online so that anyone can see how the pledges are being spent. The ministries should follow this example so that anyone can go to their websites and see how the ministries are spending their budget.

To accomplish this and minimize corruption, the ministries need to go through their ranks and make sure they have hired the right people. Everyone knows the most common way to get a job in the government is through wasata—or connections. This often requires a sum of money for those doing the "connecting." Each new minister should assess who is there that is competent and who made the cut for other reasons, and act accordingly.

Increasing transparency would be a legacy that would have an impact long after the Cabinet positions end.

**Ahlam Mohsen**  
Deputy editor-in-chief

# The blood antiquities funding ISIL

**Stephennie Mulder**  
aljazeera.com  
First published Nov. 11

**R**ecently, in an exclusive event at New York's Metropolitan Museum, Secretary of State John Kerry stood—with perhaps unintended irony—before the facade of the ancient Egyptian Temple of Dendur to back an initiative to track losses of Syrian and Iraqi antiquities, including the destruction of monuments and looting of precious objects from archaeological sites.

Kerry blamed "barbaric" practices of groups like the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), who profit by sponsoring highly organized groups of looters who sell the objects, fresh from the ground, to middlemen.

But one might ask: Who buys them?

It's politically advantageous to blame ISIL. But it is another barbarism, one that unfolds in the hushed and elegant showrooms of antiquities merchants and auction houses in the Middle East, Europe, and the United States, that is the true engine of this commerce.

Antiquities trafficking is a booming business in Syria and Iraq, and not only ISIL is to

blame. Syrian government forces have been filmed piling delicately carved funerary statues from Roman-era Palmyra into the back of a pick-up truck, and at the ancient site of Apamea, a capital of the successors to Alexander the Great, the sudden appearance of a vast, lunar landscape of over 4,000 illegal excavation holes indicate it was also looted while under the army's control.

#### Raising money

Groups affiliated with the Free Syrian Army have also admitted to looting sites to raise money for weapons. It is now clear from satellite imagery and reports from Syria's "Monuments Men"—a courageous network of informants risking their lives to report losses—hundreds of monuments and archaeological sites have been damaged, destroyed or dug up, in some cases using heavy machinery.

In Iraq, which has experienced a continuous loss of antiquities since the 2003 US-led invasion, nearly 4,500 archaeological sites are now under ISIL control. Looting of its archaeological riches is likely under way. The satellite study shows Syria's heritage—which represents over 5,000 years of humankind's foundational achievements in the cradle of civilization—is literally

being ground into dust.

Calling groups like ISIL "barbarians" makes for a fine sense of wartime superiority, but asking who they're selling to is less pleasant. For many hand-wringing officials, that market is flourishing uncomfortably close to home. Germany has become the "El Dorado of the illegal cultural artifacts trade," with Munich serving as Europe's transit hub. Meanwhile, US imports of Syrian antiquities have risen by 133 percent. Objects labeled "handicrafts" have been brought through customs with little scrutiny.

The sale of illegal antiquities is now estimated to be ISIL's second-largest revenue stream after oil. The recent naming of these looted goods "blood antiquities" or "conflict antiquities" and the adoption of the term "cultural cleansing" accurately reflect the bloody profit to be made. What, then, shall we call the sellers and collectors?

Call them what they are: War profiteers.

If the term seems too strong, consider an 11th century wooden synagogue panel, inscribed in Hebrew, attributed to Damascus by a paper label on the back. In 2011, its value was estimated at \$5,000, with questions as to its date and little information about its provenance.

Two short years later, following the well-publicized, near-destruction of the synagogue of Jobar in Damascus in 2013, the piece was put up for auction at Sotheby's, and had now acquired a lengthy exegetical commentary: "Once the most important Jewish pilgrimage site in Syria," reads the catalogue's explanatory text, "the synagogue has since been totally destroyed. This rare surviving artifact of the Jewish community at Jobar may be all that remains of this ancient and venerable community."

The piece sold for \$50,000.

#### Sales encourage looting

We should condemn auction houses' practice of playing up the connection of objects to lost or endangered monuments to boost sales. Even if legally acquired, such sales only serve to encourage looting and drive prices higher on the illicit market.

Collectors who imagine they are saving the artifacts from a worse fate delude themselves: Objects summarily ripped from the ground disappear into private collections and lose their ability to speak as material voices of history, robbed of the context that careful excavation by archaeologists and curation by museums can provide. The collecting pays for the looting. And in this case,

it also pays for the killing. Until they can be excavated properly, the safest place for these objects is in the ground.

A UN ban on the sale of antiquities will no doubt raise awareness. But the real solution lies in an honest assessment of the true driver of the international antiquities trade: Collectors and auction houses, facilitated by lax regulations. In some countries, a simple egg is better regulated.

Recent German legislation places the onus on dealers to demonstrate goods are legally obtained by demanding an official export license from the country of origin. We should also create an international database for monitoring and tracking. US officials are paying attention.

With aggressive policing, such legislation could stem the tide of these "blood antiquities" at its source: Not in the deserts of Syria and Iraq, but in the richly appointed homes of collectors and refined halls of auction houses in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States.

*Stephennie Mulder is a Public Voices Fellow and an assistant professor of Islamic Art and Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin. She is also an archaeologist who worked over a decade in Syria.*

## REPORT

# Huda and Arafat finally tie the knot

Kidnapped after a year in confinement, Huda is finally reunited with her lover

■ **Nasser Al-Sakkaf**

**F**ew thought there would be a happy ending to the story of Huda and Arafat. Dubbed a modern day "Romeo and Juliet" romance, the two lovers were prevented from communicating with each other for almost a year. Both were losing hope and threatened to kill themselves—"if we can not be together here we might as well die and meet in heaven," Arafat told the Yemen Times less than a month ago.

Huda's and Arafat's relationship took a dramatic turn last Wednesday, when Huda was kidnapped by unknown men. A couple of days later, rumors started circulating on local media that Huda and Arafat were reunited somewhere in Yemen, with several news websites claiming the couple had already gotten married.

The story of Huda and Arafat began about five years ago in Saudi Arabia, where Saudi national Huda Al-Niran, then 18 years old, met Arafat Radfan, a Yemeni citizen. In a case of forbidden love, Huda fled her home in late October 2013 to join Arafat back to Yemen. The two were caught at the border by Yemeni authorities and placed in jail. Although both were released on Nov. 24, Huda never regained her freedom. Instead, she was placed in a women's shelter called Dar Al-Amal (House of Hope), which she was not allowed to leave.

From that point on, Huda and Arafat were unable to contact each other directly, relying only on messages from their mutual lawyer, Abduraqeeb Al-Qadi. The case became stuck in the courts, being thrown around by judges who did not want to get involved in what essentially amounted to a court case between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Sheer incompetence, coupled with strong opposition from Huda's father and the lawyer from the Saudi embassy, meant there was little chance the legal system would reunite the two young lovers.

Then, seemingly out of nowhere, on Wednesday Nov. 5 everything changed. That evening, about fifteen armed men stormed Dar Al-Amal. The manager of the shelter, Fatima Gar Allah, told the Yemen Times the men took the guards' weapons,

broke through the doors, and kidnapped Huda.

Gar Allah informed the Yemen Times that armed men came to the office Dar Al-Amal the morning of the kidnapping. The men claimed they were members of the Houthis' popular committees and that they were there to guard the building. According to Gar Allah, they made no mention of Huda and it was impossible to determine if they were really Houthis.

For a few days no one knew where Huda was, or who kidnapped her. As early as Nov. 6 a few local news websites began writing about the couple, claiming they had gotten married.

#### Together at last

Arafat and Huda were married on Friday in Amran governorate of Yemen, one of Arafat's relatives told the Yemen Times on Monday.

The relative, who wished to remain anonymous, claimed the Houthis were responsible for the kidnapping.

"Arafat went to Ansar Allah [the Houthis] and urged them to help him and Huda get married. He described his problem as a political conflict between two countries, and for this reason Ansar Allah helped him," he said.

Referring to the Houthis' takeover of Yemen's capital on Sept. 21, the relative said, "Arafat took advantage of the recent situation in Yemen... The only bad thing was that Houthis stormed Dar Al-Amal, but this was the only way to free Huda."

According to the relative, although Arafat is not from Amran, he feels safe living there with Huda because the Houthis are protecting him. The group took over the governorate in early July of this year.

The Yemen Times was unable to contact Arafat who had switched off his phone. His relative said that many of Arafat's family members had suggested he do so, in order to be able to enjoy his life with Huda and avoid being bothered.

The lawyer for both Huda and Arafat, Abduraqeeb Al-Qadi, told the Yemen Times he was informed about recent



Arafat and Huda reunited together in Yemen.

events by the same relative, and that he had no additional information regarding the kidnapping or the couples' whereabouts. He did say, however, that Huda's court case was suspended after the kidnapping was confirmed.

The Yemen Times talked to multiple members of the Houthis' Political Office, including Ali Al-Qahoom and Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, but all rejected the idea that the Houthis were responsible for the kidnapping and declined to speak further.

Abdussalam Al-Nowab, the director of the Refugees Management Department in the Ministry of Human Rights, met Huda and Arafat on Saturday in a location he said he could only describe as "a governorate near the capital Sana'a."

The Yemen Times contacted Al-Nowab, who refused to comment said to use information he posted online describing the meeting.

Al-Nowab wrote on his Facebook page that he tried to contact Arafat by phone to investigate the news of Huda's kidnapping, but an unidentified man answered the call. According to Al-Nowab, the man on the phone said "Arafat is with his wife Huda." After explaining to the man on the phone that his job involves protecting Huda, Al-Nowab wrote, the man welcomed him to come and meet the couple.

"On Saturday morning I met the man

[who answered the phone] in the place specified [not mentioned]... When I was talking to him dozens of men came towards us, and when I told them I want to meet Huda and Arafat they asked me to blindfold myself as a precautionary measure," he wrote.

Al-Nowab continued, "after two hours of being blind-folded, I reached the location and I talked to Huda and Arafat." Al-Nowab wrote that both Arafat and Huda said "we are not detainees, rather we are guests of these generous tribesmen after our marriage on Friday evening."

The tribesmen did not identify themselves to Al-Nowab and he said it was not clear whether they were Houthis or had any links to the group.

The head of the Media Department in Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Osama Nokli, told the Saudi newspaper Okadh on Saturday there had not yet been any notification from the Saudi embassy regarding the kidnapping.

The newspaper also talked to Huda's father, Abdullah Al-Sokaini, who reportedly told Arafat "we do not marry our daughters off to Yemenis" when he asked for her hand in marriage over a year ago in Saudi Arabia.

According to the paper, Al-Sokaini blamed the Yemeni authorities for failing to bring his daughter back to him and accused Arafat of kidnapping Huda from Dar Al-Amal.

The Yemen Times contacted the Sana'a Police Department multiple times, but received no response.

Mohammed Hizam, the under-secretary of the public relations manager in the Interior Ministry, told the Yemen Times on Tuesday that "the Interior Ministry did not receive a notification about Huda's kidnapping, and they have no information about the issue."

Although it remains unknown who exactly kidnapped Huda and where the couple is right now, one thing seems to be certain: More than a year after being separated, the couple's dream of being reunited and married has finally come true.

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# TEDx Sana'a 2014

## Tales of success raise hope in troubled times

■ Khalid Al-Karimi

Nearly 600 people attended the third annual TEDx Sana'a conference held last Monday, Nov. 3, at the Movenpick hotel located in the city's Dar Hymyar district. TED, a non-profit organization founded in Monterey, California, in 1984, has been hosting annual conferences mainly in the United States since 1990, inviting prominent guests to speak on a variety of unique and thought provoking subjects. TEDx takes the TED brand global, hosting spin-off events in cities as far ranging as Beirut to Santiago, Chile.

According to its website, "TEDx are independent TED-like events, which can be organized by anyone who obtains a free license from TED, agreeing to follow certain principles. Speakers are not paid." Of the 300 speakers who applicants for TEDx Sana'a, only 15 were chosen, said Ghasan Shamsan, one of the event's organizers. The Sana'a conference has been managed and organized for the last three years by Mazen Al-Hebshi, a doctor by training who currently serves as the media director for the NDC Secretariat. He managed a team of 25 volunteers for TEDx.

Among those in attendance was Ahmed Awidh Bin Mubarak, chairman of the Office of the Presidency. "I've been following and attending all the TEDx talks in Sana'a, Aden, and Taiz for quite some time," he said. "Hosting this conference now in Sana'a considering everything the country is going through at the moment is a great indicator of the optimism that Yemeni's still have for the



Zakaria Al-Kainai grabbed peoples' attention with his talk about the lucrative potential of the internet to create a new class of entrepreneurs in Yemen.

future."

Laila Al-Hebshi, a recovering cancer patient who transformed her life as a housewife into being a successful author, was one of the speakers at this year's event. Since recovering from cancer in 2008 she has written six books.

She started off the story of her life on a rather somber note. "By 2007, I was suffering from extreme depression. My life consisted purely of cooking and house chores. I felt I was dead, and that my life had no purpose." Plagued by such crippling depression and a life of monotony, she claimed that at one point she contemplated suicide. "In 2007, I thought about killing myself. I prayed to God to take me." Her problems would get worse several days later when she would receive a troubling diagnosis.

"After several days of feeling suicidal, I felt very ill. I went to the

hospital, and found that I had contracted third class breast cancer. The doctors predicted that I would only live five more years. However, for me that was too long. I wanted to die as soon as possible," she said.

Shortly after being diagnosed, she traveled abroad and underwent an operation in Cairo, Egypt, to remove her stricken breast. Unexpectedly enough, for her, the trip proved to be life changing. The disease, which previously served to compound her depression, turned out to be what motivated her to change her life. "My husband and sons and daughters gave me the strength I needed," she said. "Their love and support reminded me of all I had to live for."

She returned to Sana'a shortly after and underwent six months of chemotherapy. It was there, after completing her treatment, that she decided to change the course of her life, writing her first book in 2008,

a cook-book titled "The Secrets of the Yemeni Kitchen," which has since sold 5,000 copies inside the country, she told the Yemen Times. "I took what had previously been a burden and turned it into a gift," she said, referring to her previous life as a housewife. Afterwards, she wrote five more books, one that detailed the stories of individuals who had survived their fight against cancer, and four about arts, crafts, and hobbies which have since become one of her passions.

In 2012, Al-Hebshi established her own handicrafts art institute, known as the Skills Building Center in Sana'a. The institute offers two-hour courses in sewing, cooking, and arts and crafts. Depending on the subject, courses last anywhere from one week to three months. Looking back on the experience, she says, "I'm grateful for all the hardships I faced." "If I hadn't had these experiences, I would not have accomplished all that I have since." She ended her speech by saying "after pain, there is always relief."

In between speakers, guests were entertained by dances performed by the Yemeni House of Music, a non-profit dance institute established in 2007 that seeks to document and preserve traditional Yemeni music and dances from all of Yemen's various governorates. Fuad Al-Sharjabi, general manager of the institute, described TEDx as a "source of light, hope, and ambition for Yemeni youth," adding "we've been partnering with TEDx for a long time and have also traveled to their events in Aden and Taiz."

Other speakers included Zakaria Al-Kainai, founder and creator of Yemenindex.net, a forum that provides



Laila Al-Hebshi moved the audience with her speech about how she transformed from a depressed cancer patient to a successful author of numerous books.

advertisements for housing, jobs, local services, and events, discussed the potential of the internet for Yemen's youth. More than just an instrument of recreation and leisure, Kainai urged Yemenis to log off of Facebook, Twitter, and other social media and realize the internet's lucrative potential to create a new class of entrepreneurs.

"300 news websites exist in Yemen, many of which were created in the aftermath of the country's 2011 uprising," he said, emphasizing the internet's potential to generate profit. "90 percent of these sites were established for the purpose of making money," he stated.

"Many of these sites make between \$1,000 to \$5,000 dollars in profits per month," he said. He added that most news sites attract revenue through advertisements and commission collected based on the amount of visitors, or "clicks," the

sites receive on Google. "The main thing that determines profit is content," he added.

He went on to describe a friend who started his own German social media site called "Mode Forum," a message board that hosts discussions about dresses, pants, and women's clothing. Through advertising alone, the forum's owner earns \$500 a month.

"I come to these events to be inspired," Bin Mubarak said. "I want to see these conferences grow and expand. Hopefully the government and influential businessmen can work to help make that happen."

Sami Al-Khowlani, a graduate from Sana'a University said after the event that "stories such as Leila's serve as an example of how to triumph over adversity."

"We won't be able to effect change in our societies without first doing what is necessary to promote such change," he said.

## Houthis playing police in Sana'a

■ Nasser Al-Sakkaf

Six years ago, Salab Misar, a Sana'ani tribal leader, tried to build a home near Sana'a's Sixty Meter Street in the city's Hadda neighborhood, near Misbah roundabout. He was opposed by his neighbors, members of the Toaiman family, who claimed the land belonged to them. Both sides possessed government documents claiming the land was theirs, and the issue was taken to court, where it has remained unresolved until now.

The issue came to a head last Saturday night, when gunshots erupted near the disputed territory and a thirty-minute firefight ensued between the two families. Fifteen minutes into the fighting, two police vehicles arrived in the area to put an end to the dispute. It wasn't long, however, before the tribesmen, equipped with AK-47s and heavy machine guns, were able to overpower them and force them to leave the area.

Fifteen minutes later, a military vehicle arrived at the scene, equipped with a 50-caliber machine gun and plastered with stickers proclaiming "Death to America." The occupants of the vehicle were Houthis, called in by their commanders who received reports from subordinates manning a nearby checkpoint that fighting had been taking place.

Saleh Abdulhammed, a resident in the neighborhood, said that "all the families in the neighborhood came out to the street when the Houthis showed up." He added that the two families stopped fighting each other when they saw the Houthi show of force. "They [the Houthis] gave both

sides a stern warning and that was it. The clashes ended and they left without firing a shot."

Abdulhameed stated that the Houthis were better at preserving security than security forces themselves, saying that "the two families didn't resume fighting again after the Houthis left," which wasn't always the case before he said, when the city was under the control of the central government forces.

However in the eyes of the Houthis, their mandate does not extend to managing civil affairs. "They stated very clearly that they came to the area to stop the clashes, but, regarding who owns the land, said that it wasn't their business to get involved in the dispute," Abdulhameed explained.

Hamza Al-Houthi, a member of the Houthis' Political Office, confirmed this, adding "the Houthis possess two mandates: To put pressure on politicians to reach political agreements and compromise, and to preserve security in the areas we control."

Over the past months, the Houthis have established themselves as an unrivaled military power in Sana'a and other parts of northern Yemen. While the Houthis have taken it upon themselves to preserve security in areas they control, in some instances this force has been used against citizens who don't tow the line in support of the movement. Abdul Satar Bagash, an independent journalist, was pulled off of a bus he was riding on Al-Dairy Street in Sana'a on Oct. 25 by a pair of alleged Houthis who had been told by the bus driver that Bagash was speaking ill of the Houthis, calling them a "militia." According to media accounts, he was beaten severely

and publicly for his statements.

However, Hamza Al-Houthi brushed off such accusations, claiming they did not reflect on the movement itself. "Houthis never attack citizens for speaking their mind. If some residents have been attacked by individual members of the movement, that reflects the actions of those individuals themselves, not the Houthis."

Since the signing of the Peace and National Partnership Agreement on Sept. 21, Houthis began to set up checkpoints parallel to the security forces in areas they came to control, or took over existing checkpoints altogether. They did so under the pretext of establishing "popular committees" to protect civilians. Eventually, security forces manning checkpoints disappeared entirely and were completely replaced by the Houthis.

Mohammed Hizam, the under-secretary of public relations for the Interior Ministry, said "the Houthis can not serve as an alternative to the security forces, as they have no legal authority to intervene and stop clashes." He described the Houthis as an "obstacle" that prevents security forces from performing their job.

The Houthis carrying out the duties of the police and serving as de-facto law enforcement in the streets and at checkpoints violates article 2 of the Peace and National Partnership Agreement's security annex, according to Hizam. The article points out "the need for the re-establishment of state authority and the restoration of [the state's] control over all the territory in line with the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference."

Continued on the back page

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## What To Say? On Someone Birthday

By SHAIMA'A  
ANKAMAH

**B**irthdays are so special days "especially for kids" which are celebrated every year to reflect the happiness of becoming a living being and taking the first breath in one's life. People celebrate their birthdays in a numerous ways according to the culture they belong to. Birthdays are a perfect chance for families and friends to meet and have a nice time together. The celebration takes place in the midnight after family members and friends gather usually with party, presents, cake and congratulations. When people are invited to such an event, they must give a gift and know the right or



suitable way to say "happy birthday". Saying happy birthday can be done using different phrases, these are some expressions that people can use when offering wishing and congratulating to someone on his/her birthday:

- Happy Birthday and a very happy year to come!
- Happy birthday with lots of love, I'm thankful that you were born, my friend. Happy birthday
- Happy Birthday to you. Wishing you always be healthy, happy and may you have many more birthdays to come!
- "Hope your day is as sweet, fun and all-around amazing as you are!"
- I know this is your special day - just wanted you to know that I'm remembering it! Hope it's special!
- This is the most important day for me, because it reminds me of the day you were born and came into my life to make it wonderful. Happy birthday.
- I want to wish you a very Happy Birthday and congratulate you on another fine year! Happy birthday! Have a pleasant day.
- To the world, you may be one person, but to me, you are the world. Happy Birthday!
- Warmest wishes for a happy birthday, hope you make your day a birthday to remember!

## Laugh and learn

Mrs Amal, a primary teacher, was teaching her class about the difference between right and wrong. "All right children, let's take an example," Mrs Amal said. "If I were to get into a man's pocket and take his wallet with all his money, what would I be?" Little Tony raises his hand, and with a confident smile he says, "You'd be his wife."



## Smart Phones the "Up-To-Date" Teachers

By RABAB AYASH

**B**efore tackling the topic of today let all of us agree upon that "We spend lot of hours every day on our smart phones ; playing, having chats or simply staring at them". After having this agreement, the topic of smart phones " the up-to-date teachers" can be easily tackled.

Smart phones can be of great help for Arab learners of English. They can do a lot of learning tasks with the help of their phones .Let us start with one of the minor learning tasks namely, note-taking. Learners of English need to take note frequently. Many learners would find it hard to keep small notebooks in their pockets to write down the new words they encounter in their daily life but most of them find it even harder to go out without their phones. The point here is that

they can use their smart phones as notebooks and write down every new word they find at any time with few if any efforts. With smart phones, learners can have plenty of dictionaries so that they can translate whatever word they want and furthermore they can get to know how to pronounce that word an accessory that cannot be done with the hard copy dictionary. Moreover, smart phones can be learners' large library that they can visit the time they wish and they can have a look at it at any time; during break times, while standing in a queue, while exercising in a gym, or even while taking shower. Besides, smart phones can be learners' cinemas to watch the latest Hollywood films that are likely to help them improve their listening and speaking English skills .They can download all the films they wish to watch in a single click and enjoy watching these films the time and the place



they wish.

Smart phones can be the closest windows to the world of English learning, through them, learners can find many native English speakers and befriend them so that they can practice the language with them through written or oral chatting. Learners can request some native speakers help if they wish .They can ask the native speakers to show them how to do some tasks and call for their valuable advice on the best ways of learning English. Learners can join groups that are specialized in English learning on the social medias such as facebook. Learners can also install educational games and programs .They can download the English songs that they like and listen to them at any time .In short, if you have got a smart phone take hold of your phone, download all the weapons for your learning battle, recharge the battery of your phone and start learning.

### Selected Stories with life lessons

## The Good You Do Comes Back To You

**A** woman baked chapatti (roti) for members of her family and an extra one for a hungry passerby. She kept the extra chapatti on the window sill, for whosoever would take it away .Every day, a hunchback came and took away the chapatti. Instead of expressing gratitude, he muttered the following words as he went his way: "The evil you do remains with you: The good you do, comes back to you!" This went on, day after day. Every day, the hunchback came, picked up the chapatti and uttered the words:

"The evil you do, remains with you: The good you do, comes back to you!" The woman felt irritated. "Not a word of gratitude," she said to herself... "Everyday this hunchback utters this jingle! What does he mean?" One day, exasperated, she decided to do away with him. "I shall get rid of this hunchback," she said. And what did she do? She added poison to the chapatti she prepared for him!

As she was about to keep it on the window sill, her hands trembled. "What is this I am doing?" she said.



Immediately, she threw the chapatti into the fire, prepared another one and kept it on the window sill. As usual, the hunchback came, picked up the chapatti and muttered the words: "The evil you do, remains with you: The good you do, comes back to you!"

The hunchback proceeded on his way, blissfully unaware of the war raging in the mind of the woman.

Every day, as the woman placed the chapatti on the window sill, she offered a prayer for her son who had gone to a distant place to seek his fortune. For many months, she had no news of him.. She prayed for his safe return.

That evening, there was a knock on the door. As she opened it, she was surprised to find her son standing in the doorway. He had

grown thin and lean. His garments were tattered and torn. He was hungry, starved and weak. As he saw his mother, he said, "Mom, it's a miracle I'm here. While I was but a mile away, I was so famished that I collapsed. I would have died, but just then an old hunchback passed by. I begged of him for a morsel of food, and he was kind enough to give me a whole chapatti. As he gave it to me, he said, "This is what I eat everyday: today, I shall give it to you, for your need is greater than mine!"

"As the mother heard those words, her face turned pale. She leaned against the door for support. She remembered the poisoned chapatti that she had made that morning. Had she not burnt it in the fire, it would have been eaten by her own son, and he would have lost his life!

It was then that she realized the significance of the words: "The evil you do remains with you: The good you do, comes back to you!" Do good and Don't ever stop doing good, even if it is not appreciated at that time.

### GRAMMAR POINT

#### Verb + -ing or to

When one verb follows another verb, the structure is usually **verb + -ing** or **verb+ to...**

##### Verb + -ing

- They **denied stealing** the money.
- I **enjoy going** out .

Often we use **-ing** for an action that happens before the first verb or at the same time :

**Stealing** ← **denied**

##### Verb +to ..

- They **decided to steal** the money .
- I want **to go** out .

Often we use **to ...** for an action that follows the first verb:

**Decided** → **to steal**

## Learn through Hadith

The Prophet peace be upon him said,

**"A person is likely to follow the faith of his friend, so be careful whom you befriend."**

[Abu Daawood & Tirmithi]

Be with someone who reminds you of Allah .Ya Allah send Pious people in my life who will bring me closer to You



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

## Houthis playing police in Sana'a

Hizam said security forces were waiting for the day when the Houthis would withdraw from Sana'a and the territories they control, and allow the police and the military to resume their duties as they did in the past. When asked why security forces don't simply retake these territories and remove the Houthis, he justified their inaction on humanitarian grounds, not weakness. "We don't want to engage in clashes that put civilian lives at risk and further destabilize the region," he said. "It's better if we reach an agreement with the Houthis to



While some blame the Houthis for causing instability and call for them to leave Sana'a, others believe the group is doing a better job at keeping the capital safe than the government is capable of.

peacefully decide who should be responsible for maintaining security."

However, Houthis have reneged on previous promises to withdraw their forces from the territories they control following the signing of the Peace and National Partnership Agreement. Moreover, they have publicly stated they do not support the cabinet appointments made by President Hadi last Friday, a stance that

has further exacerbated the country's political deadlock.

Nabil Al-Shargabi, Professor of International Relations and Crisis Management at Hodeida University, said "the Houthis want to undermine and replace the authority of the state," adding that "even if this appears to be in their interest, it will backfire in the future, as a militia is incapable of performing the role of a government."

Despite the state's current inability to force the Houthis to abide by their obligations as spelled out in the Peace and National Partnership Agreement, Hizam is confident that security forces would be able to preserve peace and security in the capital and in other governorates in the event that the Houthis withdrew their armed forces.

Al-Shargabi, however, is more skeptical. "The government these days is weak, and isn't capable of preventing militias from threatening stability," he said. "On the contrary it is the militias forcing themselves on the government."

### ADVERTORIAL

## Sabafon celebration in Hodeida

The Sabafon Phone Company organized a lottery in Hodeida governorate, in which the winner of the Cards of Surprises II event was determined. Sabafon's general manager of strategy and business development Mr. Mohammad Al-Shami attended the celebration, in addition to a number of managers and employees, as well as press and media professionals.

The celebration featured presentations of Yemeni cultural heritage, and included a lottery draw for

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