

INSIDE

Report  
State-run media  
under a Houthi-  
run state



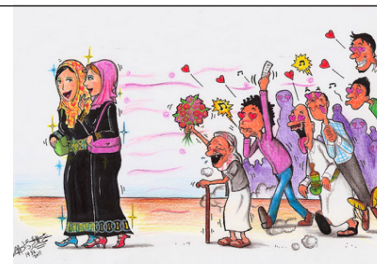
Page 3

Report  
How children  
are impacted  
by the Houthi  
slogan



Page 4

Culture  
Yemeni  
women  
face verbal  
harassment



Page 5

Opinion  
Development plan  
needed for peace  
in Yemen

Page 6

# Recharge To Win

The Biggest Offer  
In Yemen

200  
Monthly Prizes  
with the second Extra Surprises Offer

Send 80  
to 211 free



Grand dreams can come true.  
Win a prize of a lifetime with the second Extra Surprises Offer

- Recharge your line with one Extra scratch card, 80 units, and enter the draw on Samsung Galaxy Duos Mobile Phones , and Plasma 43" TV Screens.
- Recharge your line with two Extra scratch cards, 80 units, and enter the draw on Samsung Galaxy Note3 and 100g Gold Bars in addition to the previous prizes.
- Recharge you line with three Extra scratch cards or more, 80 units, and enter the monthly draw on a brand new BMW X3 car, and all the above mentioned draws as well.
- This offer targets all prepaid subscribers as well as postpaid subscribers excluding corporate accounts.
- The first draw shall be conducted at the end of April, 2014.
- This offer includes e-voucher of 80 units.

For more information please send ( 80 ) to 211 for free.

سابافون  
SABAFON GSM  
Heritage meets communication



**DOUBLE YOUR NET  
WITH  
THE SAME PRICE**

NEW  
DAILY PACKAGE

**50 MB**  
YER 350

~~100 MB~~  
NOW  
**200 MB**  
YER 1,500

~~40 MB~~  
NOW  
**80 MB**  
YER 800

ALSO AVAILABLE  
**1024 MB**  
YER 4,000

~~250 MB~~  
NOW  
**350 MB**  
YER 2,500

~~500 MB~~  
NOW  
**600 MB**  
YER 3,500



SabaFon brings you a host of exciting new GPRS packages for your postpaid and prepaid lines. Now you can stay connected whenever you like, wherever you are, with your SabaFon line.

To subscribe , send the proper keyword to package short code:

Package	Keyword	Short Code
Daily Package 50MB	1	2410
Monthly Package1 (80 MB)	1	4150
Monthly Package2 (200 MB)	2	4200
Monthly Package3 (350 MB)	3	4250
Monthly Package4 (600 MB)	4	4300
Monthly Package5 (1024 MB)	5	4500

Yemen's first and largest mobile operator



Heritage meets communication



“Valedictorians in other countries are honored and given jobs, here they protest!” reads one of the posters held by a protester outside the Ministry of Finance. Another one reads “why??! Does the Ministry of Finance stand against giving jobs to valedictorians, despite them having completed the necessary procedures in relevant ministries?” On Sunday top graduates from across the country came to Sana’a, demanding to be offered teaching positions at universities like previous valedictorians. Photo by Mohammad Al-Khayat

# Military thwarts attempt to seize power turbines

■ Bassam Al-Khameri

SANA’A, Nov. 17—Units from Yemen’s Protection Forces thwarted attempts by anonymous gunmen on Sunday to forcefully seize power turbines transported by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy officials in the Safer area of Sarwah district in Yemen’s Marib governorate.

The power turbines were intended for a gas operated power plant currently being constructed in Safer area. The station is being built to support an already existing power station located in the same area that provides electricity to six governorates in Yemen, including Sana’a.

The Ministry of Defense website quoted an anonymous military source in the area as saying “the saboteurs set up an ambush on the road between Marib city and the Safer area to try to seize the turbines, but soldiers from the Protection Forces backed by units from the 14th [Armored] Brigade and the 107th Infantry Brigades thwarted their attempts and helped deliver them safely to the station.”

The perpetrators of the attack withdrew following the clashes to the Al-Damashaqa area of the Al-Wadi district of Marib, where they then blew up an oil pipeline, according to the statement. “Some of the attackers were injured during the clashes, however all have since then fled the scene and are being pursued by the Protection Forces,” it read.

Taha Al-Zubair, director of the Public Relations and Media Department at the Ministry of Electricity and Power, told the Yemen Times that the second power plant currently being constructed would provide additional energy to support the first station. He expected that the construction of the station would finish by mid-2015, and

that “its generating capacity would reach 400 megawatts.”

This strike on the 37 kilometer oil pipeline in Marib is the latest in a series of attacks launched by anonymous gunmen in the governorate, according to Mohammed Al-Wels Bohaibeh, a Marib-based journalist who is in close contact with a number of tribal sheikhs there.

Bohaibeh was told by tribesmen in Marib that they received information saying the Houthis were planning on entering and taking over the governorate under the pretext of protecting oil pipelines

and electricity stations.

However, Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthis’ Political Office, denied these claims, telling the Yemen Times in an interview that “Houthis aren’t planning to take control of Marib.” He added, however, that “there are Houthi residents living in the area who have the right to protect vital institutions and facilities if the government fails to do so.” Not doing so, he said, would amount to “allowing the saboteurs to continue their campaign of destruction.”

A prominent tribal sheikh in

Marib, who spoke to the Yemen Times on condition of anonymity, stated that “local tribesmen are preparing for an anticipated attack by the Houthis to protect Marib’s oil pipelines and power plants.”

Both the sheikh and Bohaibeh said that on Monday afternoon local tribesmen set up Tomahawk missile launching pads in the Safer area of Sarwah district near the two electricity stations, threatening to destroy both facilities if the Houthis tried to take over Marib. The sheikh added that “although we’ve protected Marib’s facilities until now, we’ll destroy them if the Houthis try to enter the governorate.”

He added that the sheikhs of Murad, Al-Jeidan, Al-Jahm, Abeeda, and Al-Aqeel tribes of Marib have told residents to be on “high alert in anticipation of any attempt by the Houthis to enter or take over Marib governorate.”

Bohaibeh stated that tribal sheikhs have not yet told him about any Houthi gunmen arriving in the governorate.

The sheikh justified the actions of Marib’s tribesmen, pointing to a letter they sent to Office of the President last week, which called on the government to prevent the Houthis from entering Marib.

Hadi’s official response to the letter was sent by the Office of the President in the form of an official memorandum, dated Nov. 11, and addressed to the governor of Marib, the leader of the 3rd Military Command, and the tribesmen of Marib. It reads, “in response to your letter, received by us on Nov. 11, we grant you primary responsibility in defending and preserving the peace and security of Marib governorate.”

Marib is located east of Sana’a and is the main source of oil in Yemen, which makes up 70 percent of the state’s budget.



The Office of the President sent an official memorandum to Marib tribesmen and other actors in the governorate granting them “primary responsibility in defending and preserving the peace and security of Marib governorate.”

# Southern Movement prepares to secede

The movement launches TV channel, will set up checkpoints on border

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA’A, Nov. 17—The Southern Movement is poised to launch a new television station on Tuesday, called Sawt Al-Janoub Al-Hurr (The Voice of the Free South), according to public statements made by Rafdan Al-Dabis, official spokesman for the Al-Arood sit-in in Aden city.

The creation of the TV station is part of the latest round of escalations launched by the Southern Movement in preparation for the Nov. 30 deadline, according to Majid Al-Shoaibi, deputy head of the Media Committee for the Al-Arood Square sit-ins. On Nov. 30, “the Southern Movement will set up checkpoints along the previous borders with the north, after which a new southern government will be formed.”

Al-Arood is the square in which the Southern Movement was established in 2007, by military leaders who had been removed from their positions following the 1994 war between the south and the north.

Nov. 30 was set by leaders of the Southern Movement on Oct. 14 as a deadline by which all northern government employees and armed forces have to leave the south. The Southern Movement’s Nov. 30 deadline only applies to northern state employees, not citizens and residents of the north, who live, work, and own businesses in the south.

Al-Shoaibi told the Yemen Times that the TV station would begin broadcasting in Aden on Tuesday or “sometime within the coming week.” It will relay calls being made by southerners to secede from the north, and will, according to Al-Shoaibi, be broadcast throughout Yemen.

He claimed the channel would not be managed or run by any specific political party or faction within the Southern Movement, and it would receive funding from independent businessmen and protestors camped out in Al-Arood Square.

On Saturday evening, the Yemen Times obtained a copy of a press statement in which Abdul Raouf Zain Al-Sakkaf, a member of the Southern Movement’s Supreme Supervisory Committee, claimed that “most of the southern governorates

are now under the control of the Southern Movement.” He added that “Nov. 30 will be remembered as the start of a new revolution in the south.”

In the press statement, Al-Sakkaf added that a number of formerly exiled southern leaders, including former chairman of the Yemen Youth Coalition, Abdulrahman Al-Jifri, in addition to Abdulrab Al-Naqib and Yahya Ghalib, returned to the south last week, and that he welcomed their return.

In preparation for the Nov. 30 deadline, a source at the Ministry of Defense told the Yemen Times, on the condition of anonymity, that dozens of Yemeni special forces personnel were flown last week to the Badr military base in Khour Maksar city of Khour Maksar district in Aden governorate. Further reinforcements were transferred to the Al-Anad camp located 60 kilometers north of Aden city in Lahj governor-



Al-Arood square in Aden.

ate, he claimed. The Yemen Times was not able to independently verify these claims.

At the same time, increasing numbers of soldiers were reported by Al-Shoaibi to have joined the sit-ins in Arood Square in recent weeks. “The square is filled with protestors, whose numbers are increasing everyday. A number of southern military leaders, including former Republican Guards, are now camped out in the square.”

Nashwan Wesabi, a northerner working in the Ministry of Education, who claims to support unity and is against southern secession, confirmed that pro-secessionist sentiment is widespread throughout the south, saying that southern flags could be found hung on every street corner in the city. “In some schools, I’ve even seen students pledging allegiance in the morning to the southern flag, and reciting the southern national anthem,” he said.

Yemeni Qatari Insurance  
Clear Vision  
www.yqinsurance.com  
E-mail: info@yqinsurance.com  
Sana'a: Algeria St., Libyan Trade Center.  
Tel. 967 1 448 340/1/2, Fax. 967 1 448 339,  
Hodeidah Br.: Al-Mina St. Al Hamdi Intersection  
Tel. 967 3 204 400 ext. 225, Fax. 967 3 204 888

Moulinex  
life gets easier  
Multi-Function Food Processors ...  
Al Haiki Trading Corp.  
Artex Trading Co., Ltd.  
Sana'a: Algeria St., Libyan Trade Center.  
Tel. 967 1 448 340/1/2, Fax. 967 1 448 339,  
Hodeidah Br.: Al-Mina St. Al Hamdi Intersection  
Tel. 967 3 204 400 ext. 225, Fax. 967 3 204 888

# Houthis respond to UAE's "terrorist" designation

■ Khalid Al-Karimi

SANA'A, Nov. 16 — On Sunday, Houthis called the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) decision to label them a "terrorist organization" unjust and unwise, and say the designation will have no effect on the group.

On Saturday, the UAE's cabinet declared the Houthis a terrorist organization along with over 80 other groups from countries around the world. The list is new and was mandated by the implementation of Federal Law No. 7. The law focuses on combating of terrorism, according to the state-run Emirates News Agency.

The list did not accuse the group of any specific acts of terror.

"The United Arab Emirates made an unwise decision classifying the Houthis as a terrorist group," Mohammad Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthi Political Office, told the Yemen Times. "It is unjustified and this decision does not serve the national interests of Yemen."

"This decision will not affect us [the Houthis] because our actions are reasonable—[they are] acts of terror."

According to Majed Siraj, a political researcher at the Sana'a-based Sheba Strategic Center, the move by the UAE will not have any real impact on the Houthis as they possess

very little influence in Yemen. However, should the Houthis assume a more official role in governing the country, Siraj believes the terrorist designation could hurt the group.

The UAE is the second Gulf country to categorize the Houthis as a terrorist organization. In March 2014, Saudi Arabia gave the group the same designation.

"The UAE is hostile to the Yemeni people, and this move is proof enough for us," Al-Bukhaiti said. "This decision is a matter of pleasing some countries that oppose the Houthis."

Both Saudi Arabia and the UAE also classify the Islah Party, which includes members of the Muslim Brotherhood, as a terrorist organization.

Despite this, Zaid Al-Shami, a parliament member belonging to the Islah Party, was not concerned about the designation. "Our relations with our brothers in the gulf are good." He declined to comment further.

### Connections unclear

A number of indirect connections between the UAE and the Houthis brings into question why the group was named a terrorist organization.

In April 2013, Ali Abdullah Saleh's son Ahmed was appointed Yemen's ambassador to the UAE, a position he still holds. Ali Abdullah Saleh has widely been accused of having an

informal alliance with the Houthis and helping ease their entrance into Sana'a.

In November, the Houthis took part in a controversial conference sponsored by the Global Network for Rights and Development (GNRD), a Norwegian-based NGO run by Loai Mohammad Deeb, a lawyer of Palestinian descent. At the conference, the Houthis, the Islah Party, the GPC, and a number of other actors signed the Brussels Declaration for National Reconciliation, in an effort to bring different Yemeni political factions together. Many political commentators and observers question the legitimacy of the conference, due to the background of its primary organizer, the GNRD.

The GNRD maintains an office in the UAE, which has a history of cracking down on civil society groups operating in the country. Of the five organizations represented as sponsors on the GNRD's website, background information is only available on one, the UAE-based business known as Deeb Consulting. The GNRD ranks the UAE 14th in its league of human rights, a list that measures countries based on their adherence to and commitment to preserving human and civil rights. Similar listings made by the US State Department and Human Rights Watch have ranked the UAE much lower.

# GPC accuses Houthis of storming headquarter in Ibb

"Storming the GPC headquarters is clear evidence that there is no relationship or alliance between the Houthis and the GPC"

■ Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Nov. 16 — Al-Motamar Net, the mouthpiece of the General People's Congress (GPC), reported on Sunday that it was Houthis who stormed their headquarters in Mudhaikhirah district of Ibb governorate on Friday.

According to a statement released by Al-Motamar Net on Sunday, the armed men announced they "belonged to Ansar Allah [the Houthis]," during the storming of the GPC's headquarters late Friday evening.

Abdulmalik Al-Fuhaidi, a leading figure in the GPC and the editor-in-chief of Al-Motamar Net, told the Yemen Times that the "Houthi storming [of] the headquarters is not acceptable behavior, and we [the GPC] condemn any such actions by armed groups."

Al-Motamar also alleged that the Houthis stole documents from the headquarters.

Several members of the Houthis' Political Office, including Mohammad Al-Bukhaiti and Ali Al-Qa-

hoom, told the Yemen Times that they could neither confirm nor deny Houthi involvement in the incident. They declined to comment on any other accusations surrounding the event.

The Houthis have stormed several headquarters and organizations affiliated with the Islah Party, but if Al-Fuhaidi's allegations are correct, this would mark the first time the group has stormed a GPC institution.

Ali Al-Zanam, the head of the GPC in Ibb governorate, said "we do not know exactly what the armed men wanted from this raid, but we think they wanted to take [certain] documents relevant to the GPC in the district." Al-Zanam declined to specify which documents were taken.

Al-Fuhaidi added that this incident does not conform to the Peace and National Partnership Agreement, signed by the Houthis, the GPC, and other political groups the day the Houthis took the capital on Sept 21. The Houthis took control of Ibb city on Oct. 15 and have set up

checkpoints throughout the city.

Before this incident, the GPC and the Houthis have refrained from publicly condemning or supporting each other. However, it has been rumored that Ali Abdullah Saleh was implicated in the Houthis' quick and decisive takeover of the capital.

"Storming the GPC headquarters is clear evidence that there is no relationship or alliance between the Houthis and the GPC," said Al-Fuhaidi.

Mohammed Al-Hasani, the managing editor of Al-Taghir Net, an independent Yemeni news website, believes the storming of the GPC's headquarters likely happened without coordination with Houthi political leaders.

"There is an alliance between the Houthis and the GPC and if there is a dispute between the Houthis and them, it would begin in the political arena before it would move to the ground," Al-Hasani said. In his opinion, the GPC will try to use this incident to make people think there is no alliance between the Houthis and GPC.



### Yemen's football team doing personal best

SANA'A, Nov. 17—Heading into the third match of the Gulf Cup of Nations against Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, Yemen's national football team is doing its personal best after a 0-0 tie against Qatar on Monday.

With one point against Qatar and another point from its first match against Bahrain, which was also a 0-0 tie, Yemen currently stands in third place in its grouping of four. With two points, this is the best Yemen has ever done in the tournament.

There are a total of eight teams, divided into two groupings, participating in the tournament. In Yemen's grouping, Saudi Arabia holds first place with four points, Qatar is second with the same number of points as Yemen but with more goals scored, and Bahrain is in last place with only one point.

Despite its record score so far, Yemen TV sports commentator Ali Al-Ghurbani said "the problem with the Yemeni team appears to be on their offensive end—they do not have a striker. The Yemeni striker, Ayman Al-Hajri, who plays for Al-Mahraq Bahraini club, is badly injured and could not play."

Yemen is scheduled to play Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

The Gulf Cup of Nations is being held this year in Saudi Arabia and started on Nov. 13. The final is scheduled to take place on Nov. 26.

### Grenade explodes in Al-Baida, Houthis take over Khubza village

SANA'A, Nov. 17—The Khubza

village in Rada'a district has been relatively calm since Saturday when Houthis took control of the town, following two weeks of battles with tribesmen, according to Nasser Al-Sane', Rada'a district media spokesman. Twenty-five Houthis were reportedly killed in battles that took place Friday, at a checkpoint they were manning outside the village. Since then, he said, no one had been killed.

He added that the Khubzah area witnessed massive displacements as a result of the fighting, and that he feared a renewal of clashes could take place soon. Houthi sources alleged that AQAP members took part in the battle alongside tribesmen.

Meanwhile, three civilians were wounded when a grenade exploded in a Qat market in Al-Baida city on Saturday.

Al-Baida-based journalist, Fahd Al-Tawil, said that armed men approached a soldier stationed in the market and attempted to take his personal firearm. The soldier threw a grenade at the men in self-defense, causing the men to flee immediately after, according to Al-Tawil.

### President demands stop to Houthi expansion

SANA'A, Nov. 17—In a meeting Monday with the minister of defense and several high ranking military leaders, President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi demanded that Houthis cease all military operations.

"We hope that Ansar Allah [the Houthis] will cease its expansion throughout Yemen, so that no more blood will be spilled, and because their continued spread throughout

the country might become sectarian in nature," the state-run Saba News Agency quoted the president as saying.

Hussein Al-Bukhaiti, a prominent Houthi member and activist, considers the recent statement by the president to be nothing new. Hadi has issued the same demand many times before, Al-Bukhaiti said, adding that Hadi is merely trying to please other Gulf countries who oppose the Houthis.

According to Al-Bukhaiti, the reason the Houthis are spreading their so-called popular committees in other governorates is to counter the presence of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in the absence of state forces. He said the popular committees will continue to "do their duty and don't care whether Hadi is satisfied or not."

### GPC leaders in Aden rejecting Hadi's exclusions from GPC

SANA'A, Nov. 17—Leaders of the GPC's Aden city branch announced on Thursday in a press statement that they rejected the decision made by the GPC's Permanent Standing Committee in Sana'a on Nov. 8 to remove President Hadi and Abdulkareem Al-Eryani from the party.

Abdulkareem Al-Shaif, a member of the local council of the GPC's Aden city branch stated that the move "contradicted the bylaws of the GPC." He added that the Permanent Standing Committee's decision was null and void and that both Hadi and Al-Eryani would retain their positions within the GPC as secretary general and first deputy chairman, and second deputy chairman, respectively.

### ADVERTORIAL

## Opening of the new Lexus Showroom & After Sales Center for LEXUS, TOYOTA & HINO Trucks in Yemen

Automotive & Machinery Trading Center (AMTC), the sole distributor of Toyota, Lexus & Hino Trucks in Yemen, has opened their new LEXUS showroom & after sales centre for Toyota, Lexus & HINO Trucks on 50th street in Sana'a.

Mr. Aidrous Bazara, managing director of AMTC, while dedicating the new state of the art centre, quoted that this largest facility in Yemen would enhance the customers' experience by providing world class service. The facility is conceived to provide an ambience befitting a luxury car, outstanding quality service and ensuring enriched car ownership experiences to automobile owners. Our new service centre is equipped with the latest high quality equipment and trained technicians to ensure quality service along with better parts availability.



Mr. Bazara attributed this new achievement to the support of loyal customers, Toyota Motor Corporation, and to the dedicated staffs. He once again conveyed his gratefulness to all of Toyota's valued customers for their support and confidence.

ago, is a highly recognized luxury brand in Yemen with the highest market share. The new LEXUS showroom has a dedicated customer friendly sales staffs to help in identifying models of their choice.

For particulars, please follow the link YouTube [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAT7bbWad\\_I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAT7bbWad_I)

LEXUS, introduced over a decade

# Family & Development

مجلة الأسرة والتنمية

العدد 123 - نوفمبر 2014

عماد السكاف

عندما يصعب المنهج الحكومي فرصة للنزاهة والشفافية

أهلنا، الأهل، كان قلبي وطناً

شكواوى القلوب: علاقة شات... تهديد بالفضيحة أومفقدان الشرف!

د. سميرة الحظي، د. مظهر القويم، د. عبدالله الحظي

البنكري والخصل - اجراءات امان - نبرد ملها

أفكار في التنمية البشرية: رائد السكاف، خالد بن خلف

ساعد زوجتك لتبقى أنتي دافئة

كيف تغير البرمجة الشخصية؟ شلوط النفضة ومعجزة سلخافورة

الأسرة والتنمية في ملف حصري: زاهد في وحاب الخالدين الحمدي قائد ذاب في أحلام البسطاء

Family & Development

The 1st Yemeni enlightening, cultural, social and developmental magazine focused primarily on family and development

الموقع على الإنترنت: [www.al-osra.net](http://www.al-osra.net)

مجلة الأسرة والتنمية: [www.youtube.com/alosraMag](http://www.youtube.com/alosraMag)

عنوان البريد الإلكتروني: [E-mail:aloslavemen@yahoo.com](mailto:E-mail:aloslavemen@yahoo.com)

الهاتف: +967-4-217156، فاكس: +967-4-217157

ص.ب: 55534 تمز

المركز الرئيسي: الجمهورية اليمنية - تمز حوض الأشراف - جوار مكتب اليمنية

# State-run media under a Houthi-run state

Once labelled “rebels,” now embraced as “revolutionaries”

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

As the wielders of power in the country change, so does the language used by state-owned media to describe those in charge. Previously referred to as “rebels” and “outlaws,” the Houthis—an armed rebel group that took over the capital on Sept. 21, are now described in more pleasant terms.

Mansur Al-Jaradi, a journalist and chairman of the state-run Saba News Agency’s Union Managing Committee, acknowledged the changes.

“If we ever did mention them,” he said, “it was always as ‘rebels,’ ‘armed militants,’ or ‘outlaws.’ Now we do the opposite,” he said. “We always refer to Houthis as either ‘revolutionaries’ or ‘popular committee members.’”

The Orwellian change in language didn’t start with the Houthis. After the outbreak of Yemen’s 2011 uprising, many of the country’s state-run media outlets remained firmly in support of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Following Saleh’s removal in November 2011, this support quickly shifted to current President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi and his allies in the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) coalition, particularly the Islah Party.

After the Houthis’ takeover of Sana’a on Sept. 21, the group was able to seize control of media outlets affiliated with the ministries of defense and interior. They also



The rhetoric adopted by state-run media has changed since the Houthis took over the capital.

took over the state-run Yemen TV, Saba News Agency, and Al-Iman TV channels—all located in a single compound in Sana’a’s Al-Thawra district. The compound was defended by security forces formerly under the command of Ali Mohsen, who led several wars against the group in the 2000s.

The Houthis’ ascent to power has led to a reshuffling in the staffing of management positions in some media outlets and caused several reporters to quit their jobs and flee the capital. In other cases, it was the Houthis’ inclusion in the new government that impacted the reporting of state-run media.

Mahmoud Al-Hajj, a sports news anchor from Yemen TV, told the Ye-

men Times that Yemen, Saba, Aden, and Al-Iman TV stations now have three or four Houthi overseers who put pressure on the station’s general manager to produce certain content.

His claims could not be verified by the Yemen Times and have been refuted by high-ranking Houthi member Ali Al-Emad and a member of Saba’s upper management.

“Ansar Allah [the Houthis] have not imposed their will on Yemen’s media landscape, whether private or state-owned,” said Ali Al-Emad, a member of the Houthis’ Political Office. “Media content has changed because the reality on the ground has changed. Before Sept. 21 the media was speaking on behalf of one

side, however now they’re speaking on behalf of the people,” he added.

Al-Jaradi agrees that no Houthi has been appointed to manage or supervise the network’s daily operations, or to work in its offices since Sept. 21. “We monitor ourselves,” he said. However, he acknowledged that Houthi control of Sana’a has had an influence on the Office of the President, whom Saba receives its news from.

“We publish news after receiving it from the office itself. That being said, the Houthis have come to control a number of ministries in the country, and are supported by the president,” he explained. “We are the spokespersons of the government and must publish what they say. Our coverage reflects the makeup of the government.”

Despite that, Al-Jaradi still insisted that Saba News Agency was a “credible” and “impartial” source of news that could be relied upon by other outlets.

Not only has increasing political influence of the Houthis changed the rhetoric adopted by state-run media outlets, it has also led to significant changes in personnel.

According to Hajj, a number of staff at Yemen TV have been replaced by alleged Houthi supporters over the last two months, with six or seven members being given senior positions within the station. Abdulrahman Al-Abid, a former reporter with the Iranian Al-Alam news outlet and a Houthi sympathizer, was appointed as Yemen TV’s administrative manager following the

## SANAA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



PROVIDING A HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION FOR 35 YEARS

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Beautiful purpose-built facilities on a spacious 34 acre site in a countryside setting. Sports facilities include soccer and softball fields, basketball and tennis courts. Large indoor multi-purpose area for volleyball, basketball, badminton, gymnastics, table tennis, musical and dramatic productions. Bus service available.

### Main Campus

- Performance-Based curriculum for 5 years of age through secondary school
- Personalized education/small class sizes run by highly qualified & experienced teachers
- Over 40 computers available for student use, and computer instruction for all ages
- Extensive after school activity program involving music, art, craft, drama, & sports
- Advanced Placement (AP) college level courses available for qualified students
- Graduates attend American, Canadian, European, and Middle Eastern universities

### SIS Pre-School

- Specific age appropriate experiences for 2, 3 and 4 year olds
- Attractive premises near the French Embassy including a garden and play area
- Certified experienced British teacher assisted by paraprofessionals
- School hours are from 7:55 a.m. to 12:00 noon (Saturday through Wednesday)
- Arabic program from 12:00 noon - 2:30 p.m.

Box 2002, Sanaa, Yemen  
Email: [sanaa@qsi.org](mailto:sanaa@qsi.org)

Phone: 370 191-2 Fax: 370 193  
Website: [www.qsi.org](http://www.qsi.org)



Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)  
Member of Quality Schools International

Houthi takeover of Sana’a.

In other cases, journalists and news anchors who worked previously with state-run news outlets, such as Jamil Ezz Al-Deen, deputy director of the Yemen TV channel, have gone into hiding since Sept. 21, despite promises by Houthi leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi that they would not be harmed. Al-Deen was known as one of the Houthis’ biggest opponents within Yemeni media, and fled following the group’s takeover of Sana’a. He allegedly received threats accusing him of

working with the Islah Party and sympathizing with radical groups such as the Islamic State (ISIL). His whereabouts are unknown.

Ahmed Abdulghani, an Islah Party member and former producer with Saba News Agency, quit following the Houthi takeover of Sana’a.

“Naturally, the channel’s political views change according to the status quo,” he said. “In 2011, the station went from supporting Ali Abdullah Saleh and his GPC party, to the JMP and President Hadi. Now they support the Houthis.”

## FLY DAILY FROM SANAA TO A NETWORK OF OVER 130 DESTINATIONS WORLDWIDE VIA DOHA

Effective 3rd December 2014, Qatar Airways flies daily from Sanaa to Doha. Enjoy convenient connections to over 130 destinations worldwide and experience award winning service with the world’s 5-star airline.

	Days	Flight No	Departure	Arrival
Sanaa > Doha	Daily	QR433	16:25	18:45
Doha > Sanaa	Daily	QR432	12:35	15:25

For more information, visit [qatarairways.com](http://qatarairways.com)

World’s 5-star airline.



# Impressionable youth

## How children are impacted by the Houthi slogan

Story by **Bassam Al-Khameri**  
Photo by **Brett Scott**

Plastered on the walls that line Sana'a's streets and chanted at dozens of rallies over the last couple months, one slogan dominates Yemen's political arena: God is great, death to America, death to Israel, damn the Jews, victory to Islam.

The Houthis' slogan, which proliferated when the group captured the capital on Sept. 21, has made its way into the life of Yemeni children.

"America's far away. I know nothing about it. I play with other children in the neighborhood and we all chant the slogan," said ten-year-old Osama Mohammed, who added that he "knows who [President] Obama is."

The third-grader, who lives in Al-Safia neighborhood of Sana'a, said that he and his friends "laugh when people pass by us and chant the slogan with us. It makes us feel happy."

Usually, the reason children chant the slogan is as simple as that: It is fun.

Yemeni children have been exposed to the slogan, from spray-paint plastered on walls to propaganda spewed in Yemen's highly partisan media landscape. However, they often do not understand the meaning of the message—they do not know where America is or why they should dislike it.

It is not uncommon to meet children who are both fan of the Houthis and think positively about America. Zeyad Ali, a 13-year-old boy living in Sana'a and originally from Ibb governorate, said his two older brothers are working in the United States and that he wants to go and work with them in the future.

"My mother always tells me that I'll go and work with my two brothers in America when I grow up. Several of my relatives are working there too," he added.

Despite this, a reporter for the Yemen Times spotted Ali manning what looked like a Houthi checkpoint in Al-Dairy neighborhood. It was not a real checkpoint—with a few of his friends, Ali placed a large cardboard box in the middle of the street, plastered a poster of the

Houthi slogan on the front, and was seen "checking" other children who passed by them, just as Houthis do at real checkpoints.

"Whenever I'm with my father, we pass by people with guns who check cars. I thought it was cool and started to do the same thing with the other kids in my neighborhood," Ali explained.

Some parents have taken measures to try and shield their children from taking part in such politically-influenced activities.

Abdulsalam Abdu Abdullah, a 35-year-old resident from Taiz and father of three, told the Yemen Times "I bought toys for my children and make them play at home, because, when they're in the street, they start to pick up and repeat certain political words and slogans."

"I don't watch the news with my children and am careful about the words I use in front of them. Despite that, one day I heard my seven-year-old child, Ahmed, chanting Houthi slogans at home," he said.

The Houthis have made their position on the slogan quite clear: They mean "death to" the American and Israeli regimes—most specifically their foreign policies—however do not wish harm against ordinary citizens.

"Foreigners are safe here and the Houthis don't harm them," said Ibrahim Al-Moayed, a pro-Houthi Sana'ani resident. "There are foreigners who work with foreign organizations in Sa'ada, [governorate] and nobody bothers them."

Despite this, a foreign editor for the Yemen Times has been singled out and shouted at by teenagers on multiple occasions since Sept. 21. The intent was clear, as the youth shouted "death to America" at the sight of a white-skinned foreigner, rather than the whole Houthi slogan.

"The children chant the slogan spontaneously and aren't aware of its meaning. I've even seen children chanting the slogan while being photographed by foreigners," said Mohammad Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthi Political Office, who denied that the slogan breeds xenophobia amongst children.

### Present in schools

Khaled Saeed, the vice-principal of the Al-Dailami School in Sana'a's



A child stands in front of a Houthi slogan that reads "boycott American and Israeli products" outside the Al-Dailami School in Sana'a's Hadda neighborhood.

Hadda neighborhood, told the Yemen Times that after the Houthis took over the capital, there have been incidents of students chanting the group's slogan in school.

One example, he said, was when "a group of students distributed fliers with the Houthi slogan written on them in school. However it was clear they didn't understand its meaning."

The school's administration is working on spreading awareness regarding political slogans among the students, Saeed said. Teachers advise students not to repeat the slogans, particularly during school hours, as they are still children, he said.

Asked about the slogans painted on the walls outside Al-Dailami School, Saeed said they have an impact on children but that the school

can not do anything about it because it is not within their control.

"We should work together in schools, streets, and houses to make the children aware. We want to spread awareness among the students in order to be able to differentiate between what is right and wrong in the future," he added.

Just outside Al-Dailami school, a group of students told the Yemen Times that although they sometimes chant the Houthi slogan for fun, that they are against America's foreign policy but not its people.

Furthermore, 12-year-old Aseel Al-Ansi said he chants the slogan with other children in the street but not at home.

"My mother tells me not to chant the slogan because it's a Houthi slogan, and we're not Houthis," he said.

Unlike Al-Ansi, 14-year-old Saleem Mutahar said he understands the Houthis' famous slogan as well as their lesser-known ones about boycotting products made by certain countries. Like other students, he passes the slogans painted near the entrance of the school every time he enters or leaves the building.

"This is the slogan of Ansar Allah [the Houthis]," he said, pointing to a spray-painted message that read, "boycott Israeli and Danish goods." "This slogan encourages us not to buy Israeli and Danish goods because they insulted the Prophet Mohammed," he said, in reference to a Danish cartoonist who sparked controversy in 2005 when he drew a picture depicting the Muslim prophet Mohammad. Another, similar slogan written on the wall, calls

for Yemenis to boycott American and Israeli goods.

In spite of understanding what the slogans mean, Mutahar knows little about their target. Asked about Americans and Jews, he said that "Americans are all those foreigners who come to Sana'a, while the Jews are those who kill Palestinians."

In the opinion of Salah Al-Deen Al-Jomaie, a professor of Psychology and Social Work at both Sana'a and Amran universities, the issue of children chanting political slogans and being influenced by political groups is not being taken seriously.

"Children constitute 60 percent of society and are the country's hope for a better future. We have to keep them away from politics until they're old enough to understand what is happening around them," he said.



**Hungry Bunny™ WOW Offers!!**

**Bunny Cheese Burger Meal**

**اشترِ وجبة تشيز برجر بـ 800 YR**

واحصل على الوجبة الثانية مجاناً

Fun City Sana'a Haddah  
www.hungrybunny.com.sa  
ISO 9001:2008 - 22,000:2005 certified

SPECIAL OFFERS  
عروض خاصة



YEMEN DIRECT INSTITUTES  
LICENSE NO. 302

**Yemen Direct**

الماجستير المهني المصغر في إدارة الأعمال  
Professional mini Master in Business Administration

**MINI MBA**

3 Months Duration	الزمن 3 أشهر
8 Specialization	8 مواد علمية
40 Hours /Month	40 ساعة في الشهر
1 Graduation Project	مشروع تخرج
1 Certificate approved	شهادة معتمدة

معتمد من وزارة التعليم الفني والتدريب المهني  
Supported by the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training

www.yemendirect.net  
Contact Person Representing The Organization: Dr. Ehab Alqurshi  
Email Address: y\_direct\_m@yahoo.com or info@yemendirect.net  
Mobile: 00967-777459231-01 210040 -00966530761333



**Embassy of Japan**



**VACANCY**

**Position:** Assistant in the Cultural Section and the Public Relations

**Requirements:**

- Must have, at least a bachelor's degree
- Fluent English, especially in writing (minimum TOEFL iBT 100/ IELTS 7.0 level)
- Excellent Communication and Presentation skills in both English and Arabic
- Excellent skills in computer (MS Word, PowerPoint)
- Excellent analytical skills
- Working experience in a relevant field is desirable

**Assignments:**

- Public Relations assistance, media communication
- Cultural events organization (e.g. school visits, speech contests)
- Consular affairs assistance
- Medical issues assistance

**How to apply:**  
Send English CV to the following address. NOT later than 27th November

**Embassy of Japan (Administration Section)**  
P. O. Box 817, Sana'a, Yemen  
Fax: +967(1)417850  
Email: aljabali@sa.mofa.go.jp  
atsushi.morita@mofa.go.jp

(Please write "Application for Vacancy" in the title of the mail.)

# Yemeni women face verbal harassment

■ Eman Al-Sharifi

“**M**ay God protect you and your family,” it begins. Perhaps not considered harassment to some, but to the women who experience it daily, the intent is obvious. “I want to know you.” “Good Morning.” “What nice eyes.” “Nice body.” “Let’s have lunch together.” Yemeni women are used to hearing phrases like these the second they step away from their homes.

Some women have become accustomed to such harassment and see it as an inevitable but minor daily annoyance. For others, it can be emotionally exhausting, leading them to change the kind of clothing they wear, the route they take to school or work, and the transport they take to get there.

Street harassment is not limited to Yemen, but is a world-wide phenomenon. The blame for harassment is often put on women instead of the male perpetrators. Because the harassers are not seen as the problem, or as a phenomenon that needs to be fixed, the role of the government in tackling harassment has thus far been minimal.

## Male perpetrators get away with it

Whether the harassers believe their behavior is acceptable or not, they know they can easily get away with it. Men are often excused for bad behavior, with some people reasoning that it’s simply ‘the way men are,’ while women are held responsible.

“I can’t inform my family if I hear humiliating words in the street,” Yasmin, a 20-year-old high school graduate, told the Yemen Times. “I

feel afraid of my family’s reaction and society’s reaction as well. They will not look at me as the victim, they will look at me as the reason for this problem.”

She explained that her family or other members of society “will think it is either because of my way of walking or my way of dressing—in all cases I’m the reason. Consequently, I keep this to myself.”

The shaming of women who have been harassed leads many to be silent on the issue and as a result, the problem continues to be ignored.

Some Yemeni women try to avoid harassment through modest and conservative clothing, yet, their attempts are not always fruitful.

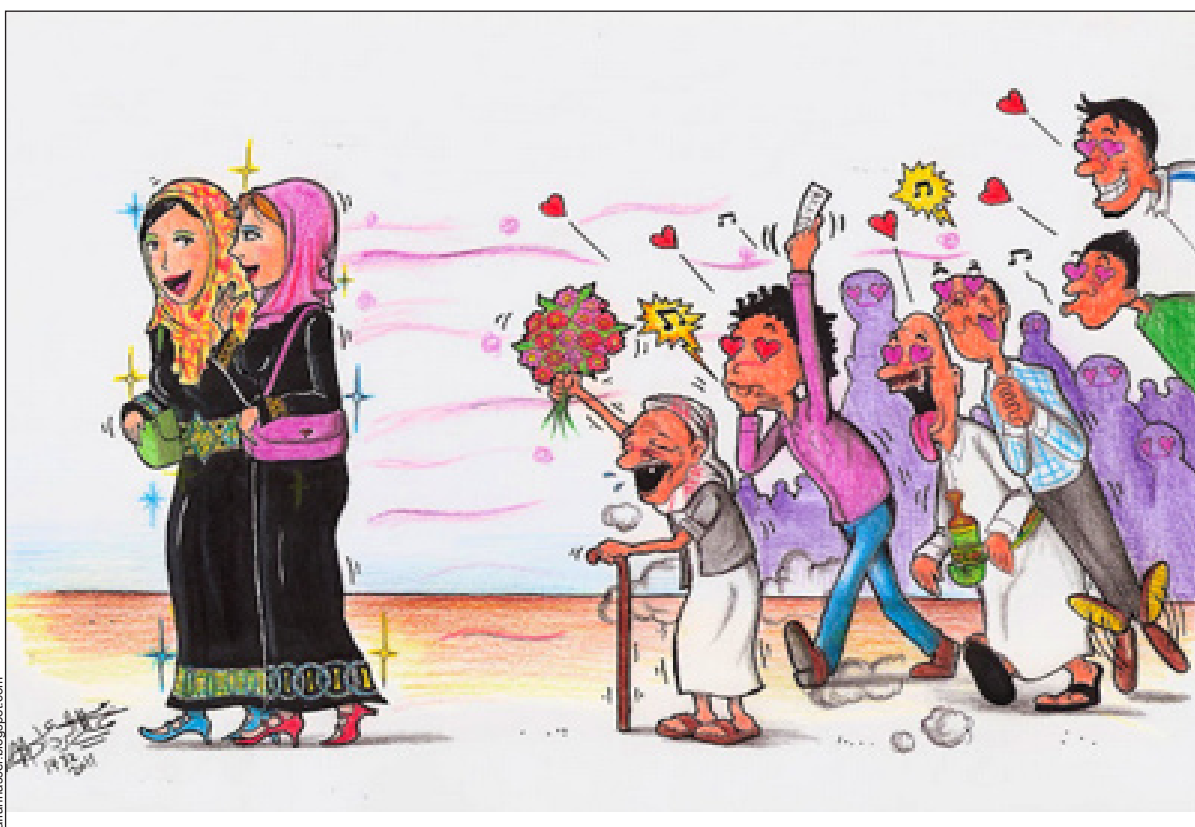
Take the case of Samia, a 23-year-old housewife who in public wears the niqab. In an effort to avoid harassment she covered up, but as a result a man called her “batman,” which she found very humiliating.

Asma, a 23-year-old English teacher, wears a headscarf at work but veils her face while in the streets for the sole purpose of trying to avoid verbal harassment.

“Unfortunately, wearing the veil doesn’t stop harassment,” she said. However, she has noticed that a niqab “minimized the problem.” Asma assumes that “maybe that is because I don’t stand out, I look like the majority of Yemeni women who wear the niqab.” Like other women interviewed for this piece by the Yemen Times, Asma did not want to give her last name for fear of her family and others finding out she is being harassed.

## Varying perceptions and reactions to verbal harassment

Many Yemeni women have learned to live with being verbally harassed by strangers. When asked whether it bothers her, Saher, a 20-year-old English student at Sana’a Univer-



When women are harassed, blame is often placed on the victims of harassment instead of those doing the harassing.

sity, plainly said “no, these words don’t bother me at all because they became a part of my daily routine.”

Mariam, 23, a Sana’a University student in the Faculty of Arts, shares a similar view. She is used to the harassment, she said. In fact, Mariam said that if she does not get comments on her way to university she doubts whether she dressed “properly.” In other words, for Miriam and her friends, phrases like “you look great,” “nice eyes,” and “you are very elegant” have turned into a reflection of their daily appearance, a “beauty check.”

For many other women, however, harassment can be very damaging,

especially when the harassers focus on the women’s size, their way of walking, or their way of dressing. Abeer Abdu, a 26-year-old pharmacist and journalist, recalled when a stranger shouted, “Are you athletic or malnourished?”

Most Yemeni women the Yemen Times spoke to said they do nothing when they are verbally harassed. They keep walking and pretend they do not hear anything in an attempt to avoid confrontation with the harasser, as well as their family, who they fear would pressure them to cover even more and possibly prevent them from leaving home.

Abdu constitutes an exception

to this rule. While she was walking in the street, a guy yelled obscene words at her which she said she could not repeat. She said she totally flipped out, found an empty glass bottle and threw it at the man’s head. When he fell, Abdu said she beat him ‘mercilessly’ with her hands and purse.

“The harasser did nothing because he knew that he did something wrong. Moreover, there were a lot of people around who would have protected me if he was willing to fight back,” she said.

Verbal harassment can not only be humiliating and insulting, it can also make women feel guilty and

ashamed, especially if their families know about it. Some parents or husbands would prohibit their daughters or wives from leaving the house alone, or at least place greater restrictions on them.

“I’m in my first year at university and I have never come to university by myself. I come with either my father or brother,” said Rawida, a 19-year-old Sana’a University student. “Hopefully I can find a girlfriend in my class to come and go with instead of my family members,” she said, adding “I am afraid I will face harassment.”

While teenagers are a major source of harassment directed towards women, middle-aged men are by no means exempt. Even children sometimes harass women in the streets.

Rawan, an 18-year-old high school student, said while she was walking in the street, a child, who she guessed was around the age of 12, approached her and said “Let’s have lunch together today.”

On the other side of the age spectrum, Lamia, a 22-year-old Sana’a University student in the Faculty of Arts, notes there are also a lot of middle-aged harassers. Lamia said she felt most afraid of this demographic compared to young men because they often say more obscene words and can be more persistent.

As the famous Yemeni proverb says, “what you don’t accept for your sister, don’t accept for others.”

While there are notable organizations in Yemen promoting women’s rights, there is a lack of effort towards discouraging and solving the issue of verbal harassment in the streets. At least that is Abdu, a pharmacist thinks. “I call on civil organizations, the media, policy makers, and the security personnel to join in solidarity with this issue,” she said.

## REPORT

## Is Houthi rhetoric to be believed?

# Alcohol confiscations might be symptom of something larger

■ By Ahlam Mohsen

Capitalizing on populist anger following the removal of fuel-subsidies this summer, the Houthis have transformed from an armed rebel group concentrated in the country’s north to a serious power-broker in the nation’s capital.

Beginning with their participation in the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) in 2013, Yemen’s 10-month long peace talks, the Houthis, also known as Ansar Allah, have garnered support beyond their traditional Zaydi base in Yemen’s Sa’ada governorate.

The group is calling for a modern, civil state and says they are finishing what they started in 2011, when they joined anti-government protests and took to the streets to demand reform, including the rooting out of corruption.

“Ansar Allah is for all Yemenis, not just Houthis,” said Hossain Al-Bokhaiti, a young Houthi activist based in Sana’a.

Some of the harshest criticism of the Houthis comes from those who approve of the groups’ professed goals but question their sincerity to follow through with them.

“They claim they only want to accomplish the goals of the revolution. If that were true, they would have all of our support, but we’re waiting to see if that’s all just talk,” said 37-year-old Anis Abdullah, a shop owner in Sana’a’s Old City.

Several points to recent examples in Sana’a as evidence that the movement’s public embrace of liberal rhetoric is just talk—a candy coating to make it more palatable to the public, while the movement actually intends to impose its agenda from the top down.

One such example has been the

confiscation of alcohol by Houthis at Sana’a International Airport.

The consumption of alcohol is illegal for Yemenis, but foreigners are permitted by law to bring up to three liters into the country for personal consumption.

But following the events of Sept. 21, Houthis at Sana’a International Airport began confiscating alcohol and dumping it into large bins. Not only were the Houthis wielding unprecedented power, but they’re also allowing their religious values to trump Yemeni law.

While this particular transgression regarding alcohol is virtually meaningless for most Yemenis, there are real fears that they will start restricting activities that are more widely enjoyed.

As part of their Sept. 21 peace agreement signed with the government to reshuffle the cabinet and create economic reforms, the Houthis were supposed to withdraw thousands of fighters from the capital and other main cities. Despite the formation of a new government on Nov. 9, the Houthis have given no indication that they’re ready to leave.

Many wonder if the Houthis are only waiting to solidify their control before forcibly implementing their other views. Of particular concern to some Yemenis, especially youth, is the potential prohibition of music, a practice that is known to take place in areas under Houthi control like Sa’ada and a neighboring governorate, Amran.

Since their takeover, the Houthis have been careful with their public image—a concerted effort to deflate rumors that they have come to restore the Zaydi Imamate, which ruled Yemen until the 1962 Revolution.

“The Houthis are playing nice now, they want to appeal to ev-

eryone,” said a 21 year-old Sana’a University student majoring in accounting. “But like Amran, they will soon ban music, and whatever else they think is un-Islamic,” she added.

But Houthis like Al-Bokhaiti discredit these concerns.

“This is Sana’a. The Houthis couldn’t ban music even if they wanted to,” he said.

It is clear that some within the movement support a music ban, but it’s unclear which wing of the movement has more clout. In terms of public relations, the liberals dominate the Houthis’ Political Office, serving as spokespersons for the movement.

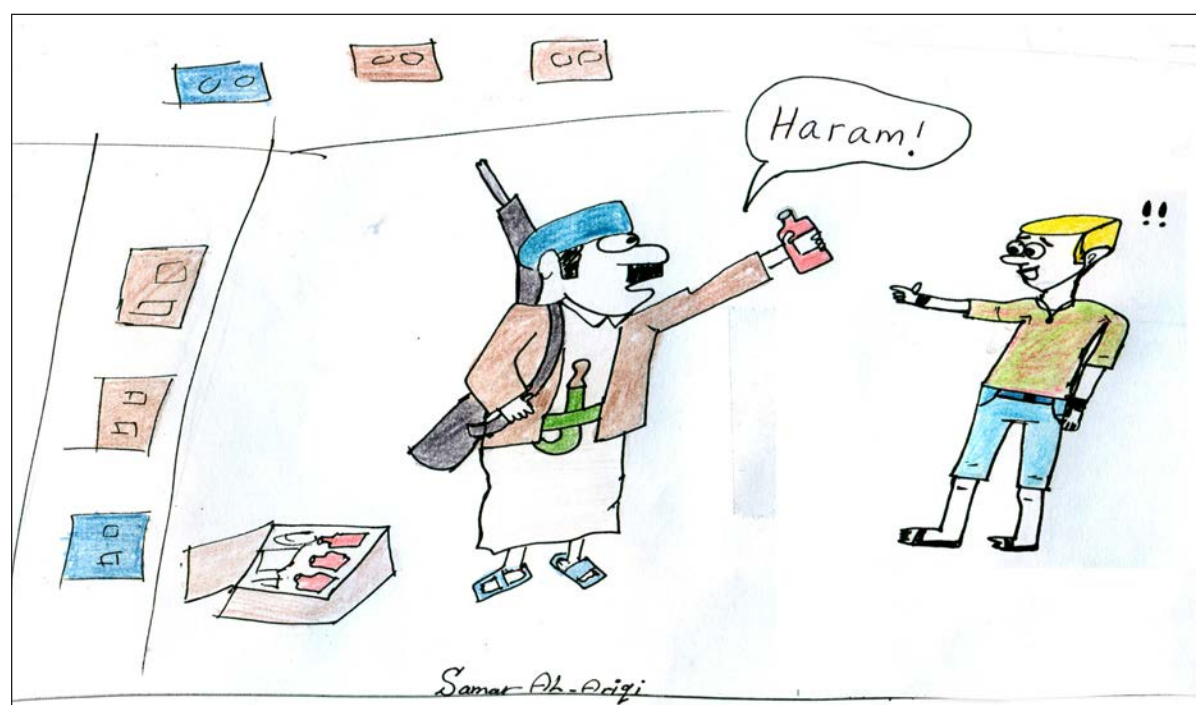
Despite fears by some Yemenis, Al-Bokhaiti maintains that progressive elements within the movement—those pushing for a modern civil state are gaining influence.

“We were the most liberal faction at the [NDC], more so than Islah and [the former ruling party, the] General People’s Congress [GPC]. We were even more liberal than the socialists,” he said.

“At the [NDC], Houthis said that women should be able to hold any government position. [Houthi leader] Abdulmalik [Al-Houthi] chose to side with the liberals because he believes the movement represents all Yemenis, not just the Houthis,” Al-Bokhaiti said. “He wants an inclusive Yemen.”

One of the most contested issues at the conference was whether Islam would be the main source of the law, or the only source of the law.

While the Houthis at the NDC ultimately adopted a liberal stance on this issue—for Islam to be the main source and not the only source of legislation—this was initially contested within the movement. What is not particularly clear is how disagreements within the Houthi



movement are resolved.

According to Al-Bokhaiti, the conservative, moderate, and liberal factions within the movement took the issue to Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, who, “offered them his opinion,” and allowed them to “resolve” their disagreements on their own.

It is unclear whether the final resolution was a top-down decision or whether the disagreeing factions came to a consensus after holding discussions.

Most of the disagreements within the movement are religious in nature, according to Al-Bokhaiti.

The Houthis and their political wing are impressively organized, despite being relative new comers to the political scene.

Shortly after their takeover of the airport, 20 new “employees” were hired, all from the Houthi movement, according to Kahled Shaif, the airport manager.

Like the capital itself, Sana’a In-

ternational Airport is witnessing its own power struggle. Airport management insists it is firmly in charge, but events there tell a different story.

The issue of alcohol confiscations from foreigners reveals the gap between the group’s public embrace of its liberal wing—which insists on respecting the country’s laws and legislating change—versus those who want a top-down imposition of the Houthi agenda.

The confiscations also demonstrate who is actually in charge of the airport.

Al-Shaif initially claimed that alcohol seizures carried out by the “new employees” were a result of a misunderstanding.

“They’re new and still learning,” the manager said.

But the new Houthi employees have been working at the airport for nearly two months, and the confiscations have continued.

Al-Shaif said the airport’s newest employees were informed of the rules and given warnings.

But no one has been disciplined, he conceded, and those individuals “are acting on their religious views and pouring out alcohol.”

Al-Bokhaiti, who says he is opposed to the confiscations, explained that he, along with other moderates and liberals within the Houthi movement, will not be making an issue out of it.

“There are bigger things to worry about. This issue is not worth compromising our reputations in the movement over.”

But Houthi actions at the airport raise questions regarding the sincerity of the movement’s desire for a civil, modern state. Will the Houthis respect the laws they disagree with and work to change them legislatively, or will they impose their views on the country, as they have done at the airport?

# Development plan needed for peace in Yemen

**Farea Al-Muslimi**  
al-monitor.com  
First published Nov. 14

Yemeni state institutions suffered a collapse after the fragile political process sponsored by Gulf states and the UN Security Council ground to a halt after three years. This collapse put a definitive end to Western praise for the Yemeni paradigm, considered by some as the model for solving conflicts in the region.

The Gulf Initiative succeeded in transferring power and ending armed hostilities in Yemen, but it has failed to instill peace. The cause of that failure stems from the core tenet being legally and in other ways flawed to the extent that it is difficult to rectify. Perhaps this difficulty stems from the unattainable desire to placate all factions at the expense of all other considerations, and irrespective of the Yemenis' dream to build a true state, or perhaps because the initiative did not include an economic or development plan that could win the Ye-

meni people's trust. Furthermore, the regional and international commitment to Yemen's unity, security, and stability was not accompanied by real, long-term plans, but by local anesthesia that numbed the pain here and there.

If Yemenis and others around the world truly want to save whatever and whomever remains in Yemen, they must adopt a new political and economic equation—a kind of Yemeni Noah's Ark—leading to an intelligent, technical, and economic Marshall Plan extending to 2025, during which time a state could be built. The plan should be similar to the one adopted for Germany after World War II in being an intelligent, nontraditional mechanism that intersects but remains unrelated to the plans of state institutions. In other words, it should employ permanent components, not piecemeal, expedient measures and committees.

What is needed is a political umbrella bigger than the one afforded by the Gulf Initiative. It must be more responsive, longer-lasting, and more realistic than its

predecessors. Such an initiative was lacking in the Peace and National Partnership Agreement signed by the political factions on Sept. 21. More important, there is a need for a balanced, ten-year economic and developmental plan for Yemen.

Despite the fierce battles raging in the Middle East, the countries of the region and the world still have a real opportunity to adopt a plan to build the Yemeni state and instill stability and security therein. Politically speaking, the chances for success this time around are significant, because the regional powerhouses, Saudi Arabia and Iran, have formed a united front against the Islamic State (IS). In addition, the Houthis are indebted to Qatar, sponsor of the 2009 Doha Agreement that gave them political recognition after their activities were outlawed by Sana'a. In addition, the Qataris established the Sa'ada Reconstruction Fund, which can be revived when needed.

A workable plan would embody a unified and genuine will to instill stability in Yemen and restore the conflict there to the previously

espoused mechanism, which was based on fair political and economic competition as well as shared interests without the threat of force. That Yemen is wracked by great institutional and social destitution actually facilitates the adoption of state-building projects, as societies and institutions are less resistant to change in desperate times. A sustainable peace plan for Yemen cannot succeed, however, without the adoption of an economic and developmental Marshall Plan capable of enduring irrespective of the faction in power while remaining largely unaffected by the prevailing security conditions.

The government led by Prime Minister Khaled Mahfouz Bahah was formed in October at a stage filled with difficulties but also with opportunities to build strong institutions. Given such opportunities, one could adopt a national, regional, and international project that restores the Yemeni people's faith in themselves and the world and through which local and foreign entities can expand on their efforts, making this a turning point for Yemen.

Yemen faces many challenges related to economic development, but it also has great potential. For example, why not transform the beautiful

island of Socotra into a world-class international maritime trade route stop and tourist destination? It is far removed from the events in the rest of Yemen and would give the entire country a glimmer of hope of things to come when peace prevails. Why can't Socotra become another Hong Kong or Hawaii? It possesses all the elements to transform it into a maritime or tourist attraction, with its location and unique, pristine environment. Knowing that Aden's ports competed with Liverpool's and New York's in the 1950s, why not transform Aden into another Dubai or Singapore?

In Yemen, men of politics and authority abound, but few men of state. Why not invest in an academy for higher education in governance, economics, public administration, and law? Yemen should build institutions within the framework of a comprehensive educational and university reform plan that trains future leaders and develop plans to assimilate them into state institutions, forming the vanguard of a strong and modern state administration.

In short, Yemen's fate is controlled by its politicians and the politics they practice, while other avenues of more comprehensive and useful intervention remain

untapped. Events indicate that no peace plan can succeed if it is not accompanied by a long-term, comprehensive and real rebuilding and development plan. If done otherwise, the result will be similar to that of the Gulf Initiative.

There are two avenues through which Yemenis and the rest of the world can make a qualitative leap forward: Smart investment in education and institution building in the medium term and the adoption of strategic, economic projects in the long term that will pave the way for the establishment of a Yemeni state worthy of local, regional, and international trust.

The way countries in the region and others are currently dealing with Yemen indicates that they feel that safeguarding Yemen and achieving a modicum of civil peace therein are luxuries that will endure. That is an inaccurate assessment, however, as this luxury is headed toward becoming a necessity. Soon, these countries will face Yemenis' wrath, as the first test of their agreement draws near and Sana'a, the city of Shem, son of Noah, is laid to waste, followed by the rest of Yemen. Yemenis will not be the only ones affected by its demise. Regional and international interests will also be harmed in this corner of the world.

## Fighting female genital mutilation

**Mona Eltahawy**  
nytimes.com  
First published Nov. 16

I am a 47-year-old Egyptian woman. And I am among the fortunate few of my countrywomen whose genitals have not been cut in the name of "purity" and the control of our sexuality.

Egyptian government figures put the rate of female genital mutilation among women ages 15 to 49 at 91 percent. Among teenagers 15 to 17, it is 74 percent. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that of the 125 million women worldwide who have undergone genital cutting in the 29 countries where it is most prevalent—mostly in Africa and the Middle East—one in five lives in Egypt.

Other than the tireless Egyptian activists who for years have fought to eradicate it, very few talk about a practice that brings nothing but harm to so many girls and women. In her books, the feminist Nawal El-Saadawi has long documented her own cutting at the age of six and her tenacious campaign against a practice that is carried out by both Muslims and Christians in Egypt. But why aren't other prominent women speaking out by sharing their own experience of surviving genital cutting? The silence comes at a great cost.

Many international treaties designate female genital mutilation a violation of the human rights of girls and women. On Oct. 30, the United Nations secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, announced a global campaign to end it within a generation.

Egypt first banned the practice in 1959, and then permitted it again in some forms. When Egypt hosted the 1994 United Nations Population Conference, it was embarrassed by a CNN report that showed a cutting procedure, despite official claims that it was no longer practiced. The government then allowed "medical" genital cutting—in which the

procedure is carried out in a medical environment or by a medical professional—until 2008, when a universal ban was imposed after a 12-year-old girl died the previous year during a procedure in a clinic.

Next week, in the first trial since that law was passed, the father of a 13-year-old girl, Soheir Al-Batea—who died during the procedure after an allergic reaction to penicillin—and the doctor who performed the surgery will be sentenced on Nov. 20. It seems we pay attention only when female genital mutilation kills a girl. Otherwise, we quietly ignore it.

The practice is sometimes erroneously referred to as circumcision. According to the World Health Organization, it "comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons." The procedure has no health benefits. We hack away at perfectly healthy parts of our girls' genitals because we're obsessed with female virginity and because women's sexuality is a taboo. This cutting is believed to reduce a girl's sex drive. And families believe their daughters are un-marriageable unless they are cut.

An Egyptian gynecologist I interviewed told me that all of her patients at a university hospital clinic were survivors of female genital mutilation; 70 percent of those at a private practice were. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the more educated a woman is, the less likely her daughters will be cut.

In a BBC report broadcast to coincide with the current trial in Egypt, a traditional midwife boasted that despite the ban, she had a waiting list of mothers who wanted their daughters to be cut. The Guardian reported that many in the village where Soheir Al-Batea lived believed that genital cutting was prescribed by Islam. The grand mufti of Egypt pronounced it un-Islamic in 2007, but some local imams persist in attributing the practice to a

saying of the Prophet Muhammad. Across Africa, Christians and animists follow the custom as well.

The 2008 Egyptian ban, which imposes sentences of up to two years in prison or fines of up to 5,000 Egyptian pounds (about \$700), has done little to curb the practice.


"Medicalized" cutting is at 77 percent—up from 55 percent 20 years ago. When I interviewed a 53-year-old survivor of the practice in Cairo for a BBC radio documentary about women in the Middle East, she told me "it must be carried out, because that's the way to maintain the purity of girls, to make sure that the girl is not out of control. We don't care if it's against the law or if they're trying to stop it. We know doctors who are willing to continue and have done so."

Laws are not enough. Countries that have succeeded in lowering the rate of female genital mutilation, like Senegal, have used varied methods: Alternative rites of passage into womanhood, campaigns in which brides and bridegrooms state that they both reject the custom, and the involvement of clerics and priests. Higher education levels, family relocation to big cities, and sometimes the death of the family patriarch can make a difference. Some of these factors helped my own extended family end the practice.

Mothers must not bear the blame alone. They subject their daughters to the same harm and pain that they themselves experienced because they understand what is required of their daughters in order to be married. Our society must learn to stop brutalizing girls in the name of controlling their sex drive.

We need nothing short of a recognition that ending female genital mutilation is part of the "social justice and human dignity" revolution that we began in Egypt in January 2011. We can better protect our girls when we recognize that those chants of our revolution are essentially demands for autonomy and consent—for all.

# NOW on Felix Airways to Jeddah



**Sana'a**      **Aden**      **Taiz**

Flights **3**

Every Monday - Thursday - Friday Weekly

Felix Airways Building, 60 Street Sana'a Republic 0967 - 1 577703  
Fax 0967 - 1 577702

www.felixairways.com

**YEMEN TIMES**  
www.yementimes.com

First Political English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661  
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276  
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen  
Letters: yreaders.view@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS:  
Tel: +967 (1) 510306  
Email: adsyemen@yahoo.com



BUSINESS FOR PEACE AWARD

Deputy General Manager  
Saleh Al-Khulaqi

Managing Editor  
Judith Kuschnitzki

Managing Editor Assistant  
Nasser Al-Sakkaf

Security Reporter  
Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

Senior Editor/Reporter  
Ali Saeed

Senior Reporter  
Mohammed bin Sallam

Creative Editor  
Charlene Rodrigues

Head of Design Dept.  
Ramzy Alawi

### Editorial Staff

Ali Mohsen Aboluhom  
Amal Al-Yarisi

Bassam Al-Khamiri  
Brett Scott

Khalid Al-Karimi  
Madiha Al-Junaid

### Offices

**Taiz Bureau:**  
Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf  
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,  
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157  
P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz  
Email: yttaz@y.net.ye

### Subscriptions

For subscription rates and related information please contact Majdi Al-Saqqaf, Subscription and Distribution Manager, on 268661/2 ext 204 or mobile: 711998995, email: majdi\_saqqaf@yahoo.com

### Policies:

- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion, Op-Ed and Youth pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.
- Letters to the Editor must include your name, mailing address, or email address. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, style, and length.
- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.
- For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

WIDEN YOUR WORLD

**TURKISH  
AIRLINES**

# Fly from **Aden** and **Sana'a** to **Europe** for exclusive prices

	DESTINATION	FARE	DESTINATION	FARE
<b>ADEN, SANA'A</b>	AMSTERDAM	138,323 YER	PARIS	124,652 YER
	BARCELONA	126,336 YER	PRAGUE	175,844 YER
	BERLIN	132,223 YER	ROME	149,997 YER
	BRUSSELS	137,904 YER	STOCKHOLM	224,855 YER
	BUDAPEST	137,289 YER	VENICE	161,104 YER
	COPENHAGEN	136,482 YER	VIENNA	131,187 YER
	DUSSELDORF	167,493 YER	ZURICH	138,273 YER
	FRANKFURT	136,810 YER	MANCHESTER	177,807 YER
	GENEVA	135,205 YER	BIRMINGHAM	190,122 YER
	LONDON	149,537 YER	ATHENS	151,690 YER
	MADRID	117,525 YER	MOSCOW	123,733 YER
	MILAN	137,675 YER	ST PETERSBURG	177,344 YER
	MUNICH	123,457 YER		

Taxes and other fees included. Terms and conditions apply.  
Fares are subject to availability of the seats.  
Ticketing period starts on 27.10.2014 till 30.11.2014  
Flying period starts on 01.11.2014 till 31.03.2015

[TURKISHAIRLINES.COM](http://TURKISHAIRLINES.COM)





**Haier**  
Inspired living

**هاير**  
رفاهية الحياة

عبدالفتي علي الحروي للإلكترونيات والأجهزة المنزلية  
الوكلاء الموحدون: AGAH ELECTRONICS AND HOME APPLIANCES

**YEMEN TIMES**

Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language newspaper

**جزء لا يتجزأ من مكتبك قرطاسية**

ASHIBAMI AGENCIES  
وكالات اشبامي  
صنعاء شارع الزبيري / حدة  
الزبيري: 530000 206713 - حدة: 429555 414503  
e-mail: ashibami@y.net.ye

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

## Politics in Algeria is about more than just who's president

"[H]e [Bouteflika] presented himself to the army as its champion and defender, the main, if not sole, guarantor that its commanders would not be held to account for the 'dirty war' that was conducted against the Islamist insurgency. The persistence of international pressure on this point, fueled by a series of sensational revelations, enabled Bouteflika to bargain with the army commanders. In return for shielding the army, he sought to get it to withdraw from the political stage and also to reshuffle the high command and push into retirement the generals responsible for the 1992 coup and its bloody aftermath."

For many Algerians, Bouteflika helped put an end to the country's armed conflict, circumscribed the military's role in civilian affairs, and improved Algeria's relations with other countries. His economic policies have even been credited with declining youth unemployment.

Yet, the Bouteflika regime has also continued oppressing independent labor unions and tightly monitoring anti-regime protests, including those seen in the months leading up to and following the 2014 presidential election. While election boycotters were officially allowed to organize rallies, the regime kept a close eye on meetings and was quick to dissolve them.

### Algeria opposition groups and the potential for collaboration

The CLDT coalition meeting that took place in June included a variety of groups, such as the Islamist organizations Movement of Society for Peace, Jil Jadid, El-Nahda, and El-Adala, Berber/secular groups, like the RCD, and well-known, though unpopular, politicians such as Ahmed Benbitour, Algeria's prime minister from 1999-2000. While the meeting was important in demonstrating a shift from short-term opposition strategies to a more long-term and viable political platform, the opposition's very fractured and discredited image remains

unchanged.

There are currently four different trends among the opposition, and the CLDT coalition represents just one of these. One coalition is actually part of the CLDT and is composed of Berberists and Islamists that focus on identity politics. Others include the Socialist Forces Front (FFS) and political parties that are united around individuals, such as Ali Belfis, an unsuccessful presidential candidate in 2004 and 2014. Mouloud Hamrouche, Algeria's prime minister from 1989-1991 and a presidential candidate in 1999, leads a coalition that insists on including the military in any discussion about a political transition.

From amongst these groups, the FFS, Algeria's oldest opposition party, is the only group that has not worked with the regime, and, therefore, has not been compromised in the people's eyes. As for the rest of the opposition, many Algerians see them as part of a system in which power is abused and where the priorities of politicians have little to do with the people's everyday frustrations. During his presidential campaign, Ali Belfis claimed he would fight corruption and empower Algeria's youth, but these promises could not change the fact that he was once the leader of Algeria's most influential, status-quo institution, the FLN.

The opposition's focus on Bouteflika and his re-election also reveals the disconnect between the priorities of Algerians and the opposition's interests. Bouteflika's removal was not the goal of Algeria's limited Arab Spring protests, as most people do not see the president as the source of their problems. In Algeria, various presidents have come and gone, while the system continues on. This is different from other countries in the region, which have maintained a system based on a cult of personality surrounding an individual leader, as was seen in Ben Ali's Tunisia.

A study on Algeria by the Arab Barometer, a group founded in 2005 by scholars in the Arab world and the

United States to better survey Middle East public opinion, demonstrates that many Algerians are in no hurry to see Bouteflika go and are more comfortable with slow political reform. Though this percentage decreased to around 50 percent right after the Arab Spring, by 2013, around 87 percent of Algerians were in favor of slower-paced reform. By contrast, economic issues are a major concern for most people in Algeria. While Algerians differ in their conceptions of democracy, the Arab Barometer's statistics show that over half of those polled said that "the most important characteristic was economic in nature."

Even if Bouteflika was the target of Algerians' economic and political frustrations, the opposition would still stand little chance of overtaking the regime. The FLN is still the most popular political party in Algeria, as well as the best equipped in terms of mobilizing support and maintaining local patronage networks.

### Protests and the struggle for resources

In October, over one thousand police protested outside the presidential palace, calling for a pay raise, free housing, better working conditions, and workers' compensation. The police also demanded that the Director General of National Security, General Hamel Abdelghani, be fired. Abdelghani is accused of "hogra," or injustice and corruption. One regional specialist, who wishes to remain anonymous, considers these unprecedented protests to be an expression of the way in which the regime works, rather than a call to end Bouteflika's reign. While it is difficult to tell at this point, the protests are likely indicative of factionalism within the regime. Rather than calling for the regime's overthrow, the groups involved in these demonstrations are looking to secure their own access to specific resources.

Dr. Thomas Serres of Université Jean Monnet at Saint-Étienne also views

these protest as a form of in-fighting between different political "clans."

"The direction of the police has long been the center of the usual power struggles that reveal the highly fragmented nature of the Algerian regime. Ever since Bouteflika appointed Hamel [Abdelghani], he has been presented as a close ally of the presidential clan. He even seemed to be a potential successor to the president at the beginning of this year when there were doubts regarding the possibility of Bouteflika's fourth mandate. In the present situation, the speculations regarding the conflicts within the DGSN are booming. Some have posited that these tensions are the result of a struggle between the DRS and the presidency in order to establish a plan for the succession. Others echo the well-known chorus that unspecified actors have manipulated the police, a state of affairs that could lead to a dramatic destabilization of the country. As always, there is no certitude regarding the current balance of power or the exact nature of this threat. In other words, there is nothing really new under the Algerian sun."

### Continuity rules

The Arab Barometer reveals trends about the question of democratization in Algeria, and sheds light on the divide between the people's priorities and those of the political classes. Algerians understand that their country is crippled by systemic issues, including socio-economic problems, which have little to do with the president. They are waiting for more members of the opposition to take this into account and offer viable alternatives for the future.

Foreign media coverage on Algeria

consistently ignores the various power players and active factionalism between political groups. While the opposition is making inroads by adjusting its strategies and developing alliances, it has a long way to go. Algeria did not react to the Arab Spring protests like other countries and the regime remains solidly in tact. While protests surrounding the 2014 presidential elections, President

Bouteflika's deteriorating health, increased opposition coordination, and recent police demonstration give the appearance of an impending transition, a deeper study of these events reveals patterns of continuity, rather than rupture, in the regime's power and policies.

Republished with permission from Muffah.org.

**EPSON**  
EXCEED YOUR VISION

star net technology authorized agent  
ستار نت تكنولوجي وكيل معتمد

customer service 209581  
center almiat 208863/733050607

ستار نت تكنولوجي موزع معتمد  
**EMC<sup>2</sup>**  
where information lives<sup>®</sup>  
authorized distributor  
www.starnet-tec.com

**CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS GROUP S.A.L OFFSHORE (CCC)**

CONSTRUCTION OF MECHANICAL AND HEAVY CIVIL PROJECTS

- Petrochemical plants, refineries.
- Heavy, light industrial plants.
- Power and desalination plants.
- Fuel and water storage tanks.
- Oil fields ancillary installations.
- Air purification for industry.
- Marine docks, harbours, deep sea berths & refinery terminals.
- Offshore structures and underwater works.
- Pipelines construction and maintenance.
- Prefabricated accommodation & office facilities.
- Sewage treatment plants & collection networks.
- Airports, roads, highways, bridges & fly-overs.
- High quality buildings & sports complexes.
- Water treatment plants, reservoirs & distribution systems.

Sanaa  
Tel: (967-1) 441638  
Fax: (967-1) 441630  
E-Mail: ccc@cccymen.com

Aden  
Tel: (967-2) 377328  
Fax: (967-2) 377716  
E-Mail: cccaden@y.net.ye

**hp**

دع صديقك الذكي من اتش بي يكون مساعدك الشخصي

natco نتكو  
Technology التقنية

LINK: 777026296

فروعنا منتشرة في كبرى مدن المحافظات الرئيسية (صنعاء - عدن - تعز - الحديدة)  
صنعاء: شارع هائل، ت: 01 21373/2 / 01 218123 فاكس: 01 218121  
صنعاء: شارع حدة، ت: 01 454473/74 فاكس: 01 454475 تعز: ت: 04 285095 فاكس: 04 285097  
عدن: تلفاكس: 02 243482 الحديدة: تلفاكس: 03 205857 المكلا: ت: 05 314977/5 فاكس: 05 314973

الطاقة الحقيقية  
**REAL POWER**

الطاقة الحقيقية  
يقلّم باردا  
Serve Chilled

www.metcotrading.com

عبوة جديدة نفس المذاق الرائع