



Need fuel? Get in line: Yemen has been witnessing a severe fuel crisis since March 30. Traffic in the capital has been heavy due to the long queues of vehicles waiting for fuel. Mohammad Al-Qasemi, a taxi owner in Sana'a, said he waited for ten hours in order to buy petrol from the Ministry of Oil fuel station. To forego the long wait, he sometimes resorts to buying fuel on the black market, which costs YR 5500 per 20 litres. At the state-owned station, fuel costs YR 3000 per 20 litres. "I want to work, I have a family to provide for," Al-Qasemi said.

Photo by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

Fighting in Abyan governorate continues as anti-Houthi forces advance

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, April 8—Military sources in Abyan's Lawdar district claimed on Wednesday that the 111th Infantry Brigade had cut off supplies to Houthi fighters and their allies in the governorate and had them surrounded since Tuesday. Shaker Al-Ghadir, an officer in the pro-Hadi 111th Infantry Brigade, said violent clashes with Houthi militants and their supporters in the 15th Armored brigade had killed at least 35 from either side since Tuesday.

Six-hundred men from the 111th Brigade based in Ahwar district linked up with 400 popular committee members on Tuesday and have since cut off all roads and supply lines, including the Abyan-Aden and Abyan-Shabwah roads, according to Al-Ghadir.

"On Friday the Houthis had entered the districts of Jaar, Lawdar and Shuqra. Soldiers from the brigade and members of Hadi's popular committees are fighting them on all fronts and are winning," he said.



A pro-Hadi officer claims that AQAP has pledged to fight alongside the group against the Houthis. An AQAP source confirmed the info, but clarified that the group was not loyal to Hadi.

Al-Ghadir also said Al-Qaeda leader Jalal Balidi and 600 of his

militants are present in Abyan, and that they have pledged to fight alongside forces aligned against the

Houthis and pro-Saleh forces.

Faisal Al-Saidi, a lawyer in Lawdar city, said Hadi's popular committees include large numbers of AQAP fighters who can be seen chanting the group's slogans. An AQAP fighter there who goes by the name Al-Zinad Al-Abyani has also claimed an alliance, but says his group are acting on their own initiative.

Speaking with the Yemen Times, Al-Abyani said, "we are fighting along with Hadi's popular committees as a means to defend our land in Abyan, and because we share a common goal of killing the Houthis and any soldiers loyal to them, but we are not commanded by Hadi."

Wadhah Al-Dhahmali, a soldier and Houthi supporter from the 15th Armored Brigade, said fierce fighting continues and that 20 fighters from his side had been killed so far. Al-Dhahmali said his units still had supplies coming from Al-Baidha governorate to the north and had made major advances the week prior.

The 15th Armored Brigade is based in Lawdar city and announced its support for the Houthi alliance on March 26, with the 111th Infantry Brigade joining forces loyal to Hadi on April 31.

Students killed in airstrike near Ibb school

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, April 7—Two students were killed and nine others injured Tuesday when an airstrike landed next to a school in Al-Sabrah district of Ibb governorate in central Yemen.

The shell landed close to Martyor Al-Rashidi School early in the day while classes were already in session. The Ministry of Education in Ibb released a statement on Tuesday confirming the casualties and condemning attacks near residential areas.

According to Fawaz Iskandar, a Criminal Investigations Officer in Ibb, the airstrike was intended for a nearby camp belonging to the 30th Armored Brigade, a unit loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Landing in an empty plot that separates the school from the camp, shrapnel from the explosion hit the school killing two brothers and seriously injuring other students, said Iskandar, who added that the military camp and its armory were partially destroyed in the attack.

Ibrahim Al-Badani, a local journalist, visited the school a few hours after the shelling and con-

firmed the casualties. The injured students were taken to the Nasser and Al-Thawra hospitals, according to Al-Badani, but the Yemen Times was unable to contact their staff for comment.

The head of the Houthis' media department, Sala Al-Ezzi, accused the Saudi-led coalition of targeting civilians in their attacks. "Coalition forces are targeting all Yemenis without distinguishing between young and old, a school or a camp or a factory. They want to destroy Yemen, but we will fight them and we will defeat them," he said.

The Saudi spokesperson for Operation Decisive Storm, Ahmad Asiri, has repeatedly accused the Houthis and allied forces loyal to Saleh of storing weapons in residential areas. He said in a recent press briefing that he and his allies are "sorry for civilian casualties" but that "mistakes are bound to happen in any military activity."

The deaths at Martyor Al-Rashidi School came after two civilians were killed in the Al-Takhraf village of Sanhan district, Sana'a governorate, when coalition jets targeted nearby military installations.

Continued on page 2

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NDC Southern Movement faction calls for return to dialogue

■ Khalid Al-Karimi

SANA'A, April 7—Members of the Southern Movement who represented the group at the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) of 2013 and 2014 released a statement on Tuesday calling for an end to hostilities and a return to dialogue.

In spite of internal divisions, those speaking on behalf of the Southern Movement at the NDC characterize their movement as a pacifist one dedicated to the political process. "Our southern revolution is peaceful, and it believes in peace and dialogue as the way to resolve all disputes," the statement read, calling for talks to resume under the auspices of UN Special Envoy Jamal Benomar.

Ashjan Shuraih, a Southern Movement representative at the NDC, says her group's statement comes at a critical time as violence continues to escalate throughout the country. "Whatever we fight over, dialogue is

the solution. The longer we ignore peaceful talks, the more victims we will see," she told the Yemen Times on Tuesday. Shuraih added that a return to dialogue should not have any conditions attached. "There should be genuine goodwill before dialogue resumes. Imposing conditions beforehand is obstructive, we will find solutions during and after dialogue," she said. The Southern Movement does not have a united leadership and is composed of several groups seeking varying degrees of autonomy for southern Yemen.

Ahmed Yasin, a Southern Movement member originally from Aden but a resident of Sana'a, said he is supportive of dialogue but disagrees with Shuraih and other NDC representatives on the course new talks should take. "The southern people accept dialogue, but this dialogue should be a peer-to-peer one," said Yasin, adding that talks should only take place between south and north

Yemen as two sovereign entities.

Another member of the movement, Ahmed Bamualem, of Hadramout, said former NDC representatives do not speak for the Southern Movement. "It is acceptable if we have dialogue between southern and northern Yemen, but otherwise it is absolutely rejected. If any southern leader wants the southern people to side with him, they should adopt the stance of the southern people," said Bamualem.

Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthi Political Office in Sana'a, described the statement as "logical" and said his group supports a return to dialogue without conditions. "We have no issue with the Southern Movement," said Al-Bukhaiti, but called demands for talks based along a north-south divide "unrealistic."

"If we are two separate states, what is the need for national dialogue?" asked Al-Bukhaiti.

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Al-Arabiya and Al-Jazeera added to list of banned websites

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, April 8—Al-Jazeera on Tuesday accused the Houthis of blocking the network's website, signaling another stage in the group's aggressive clampdown on media institutions in Yemen.

"The Houthi group has blocked Al-Jazeera's Arabic website [nearly two weeks] after its armed men broke into the network's office in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a," a statement on the network's website reads.

It continued, "Yesterday the Houthis added Al-Jazeera.net to a list of over 20 local and Arab Yemeni news websites that were blocked after Operation Decisive Storm was launched on March 26."

Al-Jazeera claims that "directly after Operation Decisive Storm was launched armed Houthis stormed Al-Jazeera channel offices and soon after sabotaged the security cameras."

On March 26, the Houthis stormed a number of media institutions in Sana'a, including Yemen Shabab, Suhail, Al-Masdar, and Al-Jazeera, employees from the media organizations told the Yemen Times following the shutdowns. While the offices remained closed, operations continue from abroad.

Al-Arabiya, based in Saudi Arabia, was also blocked but as of publishing time Wednesday evening, the news channel had not issued any statements commenting on the incident.

Al-Jazeera is owned by Qatar and Al-Arabiya by Saudi Arabia. Both countries are involved in Operation Decisive Storm, and both channels have displayed biased reporting on the war in line with their country's interests.

The Houthis portrayed their clampdown on media offices in Sana'a as a response to the shutdown of media institutions under Houthi control. Earlier on March 26, the administration of the Egypt-based Nile-

sat and Saudi-based Arabsat, two satellite communication companies, stopped broadcasts of the Yemeni state-run channels under Houthi control. The channels included Al-Yemen, Al-Eman, Saba and Aden TV.

Abdulmalik Al-Ujari, a member of the Houthi Political Office, said "Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya publish false news about successes achieved by Operation Decisive Storm which is launched by the countries funding those channels and news websites."

"Blocking those websites is a good thing for Yemen, they spread sedition between Yemenis."

Mansur Al-Jaradi, head of the Sana'a-based Wujoh Media Foundation, said the Houthis' policy of gagging media institutions is worsening the crisis in Yemen. "This is clear aggression against media professionals, and a flagrant violation of their right to spread information for people inside and outside Yemen," he said.

UAE revokes Ahmed Ali Saleh's diplomatic immunity

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, April 7—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) terminated the ambassadorship of Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh, son of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, on Tuesday and has revoked his diplomatic immunity.

A security source close to the former Ambassador said on Sunday that the UAE had officially notified Ahmad Ali that he was being relieved from his position and stripped of his privileges Tuesday.

"Ali is not concerned about the decision, he is still in his house and has not left Sana'a as media outlets are reporting," the source said.

Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi appointed Ahmed Ali Saleh ambassador to the UAE in April 2013. Considered by the international community to be the legitimate president of Yemen, Hadi announced Ahmed's dismissal following the outbreak of war, on March 29 of this year. Members of the General People's Congress (GPC), the party of former President Saleh, issued a statement the following day rejecting Hadi's decision because he "is not the legitimate president."

Speaking from Riyadh, Hadi's acting secretary of foreign affairs, Riyadh Yasin, told Al-Jazeera on Tuesday that

Ahmed Saleh's termination as ambassador had been confirmed by members of the UAE government. Both Hadi and Yasin have been in exile in Saudi Arabia since March 25.

GPC spokesperson Abdu Al-Janadi said the move is of no concern to the party, and that Ahmed Saleh "remains immune [in Yemen] because of the love and support he has from the people."

"The UAE only made the decision under pressure from other Gulf countries," he added. "We are confident Ahmed Ali will overcome the Gulf states' conspiracies against him."

Ahmed is the eldest son of former president Saleh, who appointed him commander of the elite Republican Guards while he was still in power. Ahmad Ali was removed from his position and sent to the UAE following Hadi's restructuring of the national military in December of 2012.



A security source to Ahmed Ali said Ali was not concerned about the revoking of his ambassadorship and that he is still in Sana'a.

Political analyst Yasin Al-Tamimi says the UAE's decision came at a critical phase of Operation Decisive Storm. He expects the UN Security Council to sanction Ahmad Ali's removal.

"Removing his diplomatic immunity will have a psychological effect on Ahmed Ali, he will feel under siege internationally and locally and it may well contribute to his defeat on the ground," said Al-Tamimi.

Military forces loyal to Ahmed Ali and his father have allied with Houthi militants in an attempt to take control of Yemen. The UAE's announcement came ten days into Saudi-led military operations dubbed Decisive Storm.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Students killed in airstrike near Ibb school

Abdulsalam Zanbara, a resident of Al-Takhraf, said the shelling appeared to target a Houthi gathering and the nearby Raimat Humaid Camp. Another fourteen civilians from two families, including several women and children, were killed in the Sana'a's Bani Matar district[when?] when an army was attacked near the village of Bait Al-Reajal. Five members of the Al-Ahnomi family were killed when a

house belonging to Hussein Daghfal Al-Ahnomi was hit, while nine members of Hussein Al-Akashi's family were also killed in the attack, according to the district's general administrator, Abdulatif Saleh Al-Lamdi.

Al-Lamdi named the victims of Al-Akashi's family as Hussine Abdullah Al-Akashi, 60, Qataef Hussine Abdullah, 23, Murad Hussine Abdullah, 29, Sami Hussine Abdullah, 12, Samir Hussine Abdullah, 16, Mohammad Hussine Abdullah, 2, Akram Murad Hussine Abdullah, 1, Mutalq Yahya Hussine Abdullah, 8, and Tareq Yahya Hussine Abdul-

lah, 5. Another five members of the family survived with injuries, said Al-Lamdi.

A resident of Bait Al-Reajal, whose name is being withheld for his safety, claims airstrikes targeted the area after Houthi militants began storing weapons in a local school situated at the center of the village.

Political analyst Mansur Al-Jaradi, who heads the of Wujoh Media foundation, said all sides in the conflict are responsible for the high number of civilian deaths.

"Former President Ali Abdullah Saleh used to build camps inside

cities, near schools and homes. But the Houthis, who are storing weapons inside those schools and homes, and the coalition forces [carrying out airstrikes in Yemen] are also responsible for the deaths of innocent civilians," said Al-Jerradi

According to a report released Saturday by Bait Al-Hurriya, an independent organization based in the capital Sana'a, a total of 857 citizens were killed between March 26 and April 1. Those killed since Operation Decisive Storm began include 160 children, 32 women, and 13 seniors, according to the report.



Vox Pop

Should Pakistan join the fight in Yemen?

■ Brett Scott

Saudi Arabia has requested Pakistan to support coalition forces with naval ships, aircraft and ground troops in its military offensive on Houthi rebels and allied military

units in Yemen.

Fierce debates inside Pakistan's Parliament started Monday, and remain ongoing. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has already vowed to defend Saudi Arabia's "territorial integrity," but he has yet to expand on what steps he would take to do so.

Many in Pakistan feel it is their duty to protect Saudi Arabia, which houses Mecca and Medina, the two holiest sites in Islam. In Wednesday's parliamentary session, opposition Parliamentarian Shireen Mazari addressed this concern, saying, "The Yemen war is not our war... As Muslims,

we are duty bound to counter any threat to holy shrines but there is no such threat today."

At the same time, others are worried a move by Pakistan to militarily support Saudi Arabia could inflame tensions with neighboring Iran, commonly said to be backing the Houthis. The Pakistani

military is also heavily involved in operations on its own soil at the moment, as it seeks to fight the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in western tribal territory.

From the bustling streets of Lahore in eastern Pakistan, the Yemen Times asked locals whether they think the country's military

should join the Saudi-led coalition in its bombing campaign in Yemen.

Brett Scott is an editor at the Yemen Times. Scott was evacuated from Yemen Sunday and now works for the paper from Lahore, Pakistan.



Nasad, security guard

I think Pakistan should join because Saudi Arabians are our Muslim brothers. That is where the Kaaba is. Even if Yemenis are Muslim they do not have the Kaaba.



Aziriqbad, 31, elite forces officer

We can not support this military operation in Yemen through the Saudis. Our people will not support it. Yemen is a Muslim country and Saudi Arabia is also a Muslim country and we can not afford this, Muslim people trying to kill each other. The Pakistani government needs to find a compromise between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and Iran also.



Malik Sheah Ali Shems, 34, lawyer

Because our army is doing an operation against the Taliban [in Pakistan], I think we should focus on this first—eliminating terrorism in our own country. The Peshawar incident [school suicide bombing] was a big incident for the whole country. First we should eliminate terrorism in our own country and all other things are secondary.



Sajjad Hussein, 35, hotel manager

The main thing for Muslims is our Kaaba is there, in Saudi Arabia. This is the most important thing for us and for Saudi Arabia. If the Pakistan army goes it should be only for the nakaaba. In the Pakistani government, the prime minister of Pakistan has a good relationship with Saudi Arabia, [and King] Salman. We will send our military and you [Saudi Arabia] can go to war. I don't think it is good though, war. I think it is better if you sit at the table and talk and finish the problems. There are also many Pakistanis in Yemen.

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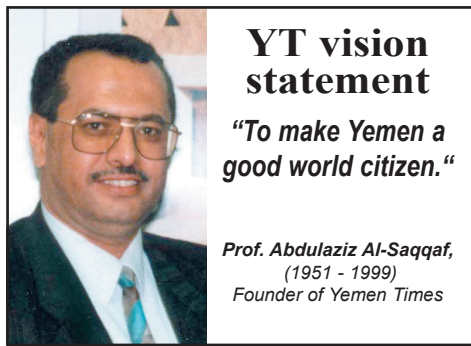
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OUR OPINION

Whoever 'wins,' Yemen loses

Poor Yemen. As the Saudis prepare for what appears to be an imminent ground invasion, the grocery stores are running out of flour. Lines for fuel are miles long, and drivers wait in their cars for up to ten hours to fill up. With a Saudi imposed naval blockade and a no-fly zone, the suffering will not be shouldered by the Sunnis or the Shias. There will be enough misery for all Yemenis, already the poorest in the region.

It's been said before, but here it is again: Yemen does not really have a history of sectarianism. If the Saudis have it their way, this will be history indeed. And then we have the Houthis, who are salivating at the thought that this will be the end of the House of Saud. When you try to bring them down to earth, remind them of the human toll of this war, they talk in abstractions about the freedom and dignity we'll gain once we've done away with our nefarious grandparents to the north. How very Houthi, to talk about freedom as they look up anyone who disagrees with them.

What about all the people who will die, I've asked Ansar Allah friends, who are clamoring for a ground war. People are already dying they say, and death is unavoidable. Everyone dies eventually.

Well, yes, that's true. Not very comforting to the families of those who have died in Aden or at an IDP camp struck by the Saudis, who last I checked are still waiting for confirmation that it was, in fact, an IDP camp.

Your father died during his shift at a dairy factory? Hate to break it to you kid, he was going to die anyway. Of course no one would actually say that to a grieving child, it's ridiculous. And yet, when you reduce the rhetoric on both sides to their logical conclusions, it is all ridiculous. The Saudis want to eliminate the Houthis? Totally doable, they'll just have to eliminate Yemen as we know it while they're at it.

What Yemenis need is peace. These days, we have very little; it seems that nothing is in our hands. We are spectators, waiting to see if the Houthis and Saudis will come to an agreement before a disastrous decision is made to send in ground troops.

But the Houthis are manly and brave and willing to sacrifice every last factory worker or IDP before they cover to the Saudis and make any agreement.

If the Houthis and the Saudis get what they want, a ground invasion, Yemenis will get hell on earth. The conflict will last years, and when it ends, men will gather in a room to sign a piece of paper and declare peace. Sign it now.

Ahiam Mohsen

Stranded abroad: Yemenis long to return home

■ Ali Aboluhom

Amjad Bahashwan felt very fortunate to be chosen for a media training course in Egypt, but the Saudi-led airstrikes on March 26 has left him stranded in Cairo. He had completed his course, his flight was booked and his suitcase packed, but because of the imposed no-fly zone, his flight never left Cairo for Sana'a.

Rather than stay at the airport for an unknown length of time, he received a kind offer to host him by a Yemeni university student studying in Cairo. Amjad said he and other Yemenis stranded in Egypt were granted permanent residency until the situation in Yemen approves. The Yemeni embassy in Cairo confirmed that Yemenis stranded will be given permanent residency.

Bahashwan and other Yemenis stranded in Egypt have organized daily protests in front of the embassy in Cairo in hopes of putting enough pressure on the authorities to arrange for their return to Yemen.

Ibrahim Al-Jahmi, the expatriates affairs attache at the Yemeni Ministry of Expatriate Affairs for Egypt and North Africa, said the Yemeni embassy is responding promptly to the needs of its citizens.

The Yemeni ambassador, according to Al-Jahmi, has ordered the formation of a committee formed by individuals from the embassy to follow-up on the cases of those stranded and to look into providing them with accommodation.

According to Al-Jahmi, there are about 3000 Yemenis in Egypt

asking to return. The embassy has collected donations for about 1000 individuals that met certain conditions. Among those conditions, he said, is that the individual or family must have traveled to Egypt in 2015 for medical purposes.

Yemenia airlines is coordinating with the Saudis in hopes of securing permission to fly into Yemen, Al-Jahmi said. The airline will also need permission from the International Civil Aviation Organization and will need to find an insurer willing to take the risk of insuring an airline flying into a war zone.

Oman has agreed to allow airlines filled with Yemenis to fly into Oman, where they could then be transported by land to Yemen, he added. A Yemeni businessman has already agreed to foot the bill. The move would require permission from the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has not consented thus far.

Mohammed Mahdi travelled to Cairo about a month ago to seek treatment for his young son, who suffered from liver disease.

Two days before the Saudi-led operations began, the child passed away. On March 26, the day the strikes started, Mahdi's wife was injured when the coalition hit a civilian home in the Bani Hawat district of Sana'a governorate.

Yahia Omar, a Yemeni university student in Cairo hosting Mahdi, said the man was still grieving the loss of his son when news arrived that his wife had been injured in an airstrike.

"He said, 'there is nothing worse than losing my son, learning that my wife was injured and being stuck in Cairo,'" Omar said.



A Yemeni guy among the protesters in front of the Yemeni embassy holding a placard reads "To UN: open the air space, we are homeless in Egypt".



Dozens gather in front of Yemeni embassy in Cairo demanding to be brought back to Yemen. Most of them traveled for medical purposes, Yemeni expatriates affairs attache.

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Challenges facing family businesses



The Yemeni Business Club organized last Saturday in Taiz a discussion seminar regarding "Challenges facing Family businesses", in the Charity Hall which is part of the Hayal Said Anam foundation for Culture and Sciences.

During the seminar Dr. Daoud Al-Hadabi, Yemeni Business Club consultant, said that over 98 percent of the businesses in Yemen are family businesses, highlighting the most notable challenges threatening to destroy this type of businesses, indicating that the history of this type of businesses show that many of them ended with the first or second generation of founders, and very few of them survived until the third generation took over, all this due to various challenges including the lack of a special legislation to organized matters of administration in them.

Dr. Al-Hadabi indicated the Hayal Said Anam Group's (HSAG) exceptional model reached the fifth generation, despite the fact that it is been managed by the second and third generations, adding that it represents a successful model for successful Yemeni family businesses, which has an explicit family constitution that has rulings regarding family issues and issues related to the group according to parameters that separate between family and business related problems.

The head of the Business Club divided the problems that face family businesses into two parts: the first is external factors related to politics, society, and economy. The second part, which is internal factors that carry a bigger effect and are more noticeable and represent great challenges that could affect the company's success.

Internal factors could take several forms such as disagreements between family members especially between second or third generation cousins, not having clear policies for

employing family members, which should be based on competency and specialization.

He emphasized other types of challenges such as relying on centrally-made decisions and not separating between ownership and administration and leaving the role of managing the company's affairs exclusively to family members, which leads to inefficient use of expertise and managerial capabilities from outside the family, in addition to not planning ahead for transferring wealth to the heirs in order to avoid conflicts between the second generation members of the family.

The head of the Business Club also touched upon the problems of mixing between the family and the company's affairs, and the lack of the interest from the founding generation to transfer their knowledge to the following generation, marginalizing the sons and discriminating between them, which would cause future conflicts between them, indicating the negative effects of the women in the family on making decisions and listening to outside opinions regarding the company's management.

Dr. Al-Hadabi thinks that all the previous challenges indicates a serious problem in the company's institutional structure which contributed in the lack of self-discipline and lack of responsibility amongst family members which leads to severe conflicts between them, and may even lead others into forming competing companies which is the beginning of the end for the family business.

Mr. Wael Abdullah Abdu Said, Head of the Business Club in Taiz, highlighted the role that the club plays in raising the business people's awareness, confirming the club's readiness to offer consultations and transfer expertise that would develop the private sector in order for it to play their role in national development.



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