

More economic woes in waiting for Yemen

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Sept. 11 — Yemeni economists warned of a collapse of Yemen's economy, a rise in the unemployment rate, and food scarcity.

A recent document issued by the Yemen's Central Bank revealed that the bank made an emergency plan in anticipation of an increase in violence.

Mostafa Nasr, head of the Studies and Economic Media Center told the Yemen Times that Yemen is on the verge of an economic collapse.

According to Nasr, suspension of work in private sectors, random spending on weapons and fall in development projects in Yemen have led to this dangerous economic situation.

He indicated that despite the resumption of oil production during the last two months, the economic situation hasn't returned to its normal status.

"There is acute shortage of food in Yemen. Yemeni traders are afraid of importing more foodstuffs to avoid potential losses," he said. "Imports into Yemen fell to 80 percent due to the fears of Yemeni traders and weakness of purchasing power as well."

"Unfortunately, the tourism and construction sectors are badly affected. More factories will stop their work and



the unemployment rate in Yemen will increase," he said.

Nasr confirmed that the nation poverty rate has reached 60%. "We must stop this collapse that will worsen the situation in Yemen."

"Several Yemeni banks have stopped their domestic investment and they are still working because of foreign investment and usage of treasury bills," said Nasr. "I don't rule out that some Yemeni banks will declare bankruptcy in the coming days if this bad situation continues, especially those banks that depend on treasury bills."

Nasr severely criticized the performance of the Central Bank in dealing

with Yemen's economic crisis. "The monetary policy of the Central Bank during the uprising was unsuccessful. Unfortunately, this bank is incompetent to lead the country out of this crisis."

"If there are no urgent plans to save Yemen's economy by the Central Bank, we will witness a complete economic collapse," warned Nasr. "The Central Bank must find prompt solutions to avoid the risks of economic collapse."

Speaking about the performance of Yemeni economic staff, he said, "Our main problem in Yemen is the weakness of management that caused this economic crisis and other crises."

He said that Yemen has skilled local economic experts who can lead the country out of this economic depression. "Solving this crisis requires political reform and a serious intention to work together with the aim of ending this critical economic crisis."

Recently, many Yemenis expressed their serious fears of bankruptcy of Yemeni banks, leading some of them to withdraw their money to hide them in different places.

"I would rather save my money in my home than in such deteriorated banks," said one of the Yemenis who withdrew about 4 million riyals (USD 17 thousand) from his account.

Displaced to be moved out of schools in south

By: IRIN

ADEN, Sept. 9 — The government and humanitarian agencies are studying different options for relocating thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) sheltering in around 70 schools in the southern governorates of Aden and Lahj, ahead of the new academic year scheduled to begin on 17 September.

Up to 17 public places have been identified in Aden and are currently being assessed by the government and humanitarian organizations, Raul Rosende, head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Yemen, told IRIN on 8 September.

"Tents could be provided depending on the conditions at these sites as some have buildings with limited capacity or no buildings at all," he said. It is estimated that up to 100,000 people have been displaced by ongoing fighting between government troops and Islamic militants in the southern governorate of Abyan since May. Most fled fighting in the regional capital Zinjibar.

A recent report by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said some 3,800 IDP families (26,600 individuals) are sheltering in schools while the rest are living with host families or in rented flats. Some IDPs are afraid that leaving school accommodation may adversely affect their access to assistance.

According to UNHCR, in July 2011 there were nearly 56,000 IDPs in Aden Governorate.

Cultural constraints

Ahmad al-Kuhlani, head of the government-run IDP Office, believes the sites identified so far may not be able to accommodate all the IDPs currently sheltering in schools, and he was skeptical about setting up an official camp: A 1,000 tent camp would cost US\$1,000,000, he said. "Establishing a camp is the last option due to the lack of funds."



IDP children carrying food for their families in Mazraq One. Recent studies say wide-scale starvation looms over millions of Yemenis due to price hikes

Also, according to UNHCR, many Yemenis could not live in a camp for cultural reasons: In this conservative society, women are not allowed to be seen by men other than their close relatives. "It is a big shame if you allow your wife, sister or daughter to meet male strangers [from outside their own families]. Living alone in a desert is more tolerable than mixing together with other families," said Radhi Mohammed, 30, sheltering with his eight-member family in a two-room apartment in Aden for YR22,000 (US\$90) a month. "We can hardly afford the rent, but what else can one do... It is impossible for one to break this tradition so easily in a fortnight."

According to al-Kuhlani, many families currently sheltering in schools refuse to live with other families in the same classroom. "Each family wants its own classroom... How could they live in official camps where families often lack privacy?" he wondered. "If the locations being identified are not enough to accommodate all the IDP families currently in schools, giving financial assistance to the families to rent their own apartments could be a possibility," said OCHA's Resonde. "Under this option, families without income sources may need a monthly grant of YR10,000 [US\$45], which is 50 percent of the average rent of a low-quality apartment," al-Kuhlani said.

Who liberated Zinjibar?

By: Muhammad Bin Sallam

ABYAN, Sept. 11 — After defeating Jihadists in Zinjibar, Abyan governorate, Saturday, both the regime security forces and anti-regime demonstrations are taking credit for the operation.

According to a statement by the Yemeni Embassy in Washington, Yemen's armed forces and the citizens of Zinjibar recaptured the town from Al-Qaeda fighter.

However, security forces allied with the uprising against Saleh's regime in the 119 brigade, headed by colonel Faisal Rajab, claimed that they were able to enter the town Saturday morning after armed "Sharia" supporters had taken control of the town Friday night, according to local sources in Zinjibar.

The same sources claimed that Rajab's forces could end the siege upon the 25th mechanized brigade which is headed by Colonel Muhammad Al-Sawmali. The sources claimed that the

security forces had abandoned them in the field to fight Al-Qaeda when the clashes first broke out in July.

The local residents who were displaced by the jihadists started a sweep in the town in search of militants and were able to retake control of the headquarters of the Central Security Forces, the Police and the Rescue Police.

Former Ministry of Interior Brigadier General Husain Ahmad Arab, who defected from Saleh's regime and who is now a member of the National Council, said that the triumph against the jihadists would not happen without the help of the local people and the defected security forces.

He had claimed earlier in May that the Al-Qaeda militants took over the town after the leaders of the security forces left the town and abandoned the soldiers within.

Nevertheless, Abyan Governor Saleh Hasan Al-Zaw'ari said in the state news agency Saba that the town has been free of suspected Al-Qaeda forces since last

May.

"The security forces and the tribesmen could repel "Al-Qaeda" from Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan after they faced attacks from air and land raids. Dozens of them were killed and the rest ran away," said Al-Zaw'ari.

The fighters who call themselves "Sharia" supporters could take over the town and surrounded the 25th mechanized brigade.

Despite the fact that Yemeni security forces have denied any help from the US to face the jihadists, the deputy Minister of Information Abdu Al-Janadi said on July 21st that the Yemeni army had received logistic support from the US. He also mentioned that they were able to send food to the brigade.

As the turmoil in the country increased, the brigade, which was a few kilometers away from the military barracks, were overtaken by militants in May.

The opposition in Yemen has been accusing the president of maximizing the "danger of Al-Qaeda" to urge the US and Saudi Arabia to support him.

In a related subject, the defected first Armored Brigade General Ali Mohsin confirmed that the success in defeating the jihadists belonged to the sects of army supporting the uprisings.

He accused the regime of trying to steal the achievement accomplished by the defected army and the people of Abyan, Lahj and Aden governorates.

The National Council, established on August 17th to support the peaceful demonstrations, praised the efforts of the army and the people of Zinjibar who have been trying to defeat the Jihadists.

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Confusion, desperation surround fuel and power shortages

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Sept 11 — Yemenis live in confusion as to what is actually occurring behind the scenes in the current political crisis. Mystery surrounds the capital, people who are not involved in the politics have stopped trusting any information they get from either parties, the government and the opposition.

"We hear the sounds of fighting in a regular basis but we never know what is actually going on because the power is always off," said Balqis Mohammed, Sana'a resident. "Even if the power is on we cannot trust the information we get

from television, all the news channels have their own agenda."

As both conflicting parties continue accusing each other for dragging out the current crisis, one will always find the public cursing either the government, president Saleh by name, or the opposition and, in some cases, both.

In Eid life seemed to be recovering as electricity was sustained for several days. There were no more long lines at gas stations for fuel. Last week life seemed to pause for one day threatening of going back to the previous crises of no fuel and no power in Sana'a.

"This crises was fabricated, all the fuel

and the electricity," said Abu Ibrahim al-Kibsi, a resident of Sana'a, many Yemenis believe so. As the opposing youth warned of marching to the presidential palace last week, the crises returned one day of long lines, gas is again sold of higher prices, long hours of power cuts, closing the entries of Sana'a, and a threat of civil war again.

As usual officials from the government accused tribes of attacking power lines while the opposition accused the government of depriving the public from power to mislead them or to torture them so they call for the return of president Saleh.

Engineer Abdurahman Saif, the executive manager of Marib gas station that provides 40 percent of the nation's power, told the Yemen times that the repeated attacks by tribes are the reason behind the continuous power cuts after Eid.

"The power lines that are always attacked by the tribes can't be protected. Anywhere along the line leading from Marib, someone can simply cut the cord," Saif explained.

According to Saif, the first power cut during the Eid week was on Friday before the prayer and the next morning it

was repaired after some negotiations with tribal leaders and the Marib governor. However, it was attacked again the same day. "We repaired it at 7:00 PM but they [the tribesmen] attacked it again at 9:00 PM," said Saif. The power cuts remained for the next two days. On Monday it was repaired again until Fridays morning, the power cut this time was not due to tribal attack it was because of an error in the web that links between Hiziaz in Sana'a and Dhamar that was fixed the same day.

"After we fixed the error the tribes attacked again at 8:30 PM last Friday," said Saif. The damage was fixed again on Saturday night.

As Marib station is not the only provider for electricity, the power cuts can't only be affected by the damages there. The second reason of the power cuts is the shortage of diesel.

The head of Hiziaz power station in Sana'a, eng. Ahmed Beshr told the Yemen times that during the previous crises in June and July the station stopped working for two weeks. These days he says the station only provides 50 percent of its "available potential". Hiziaz station is supposed to provide 90 megawatt but it

provides only 75 megawatt this time due to diesel shortage.

"The specified amount of diesel for electricity is no longer completely provided," said Beshr. "The specified is 400,000 liters a day now it is never the same each time there is no certain liters, sometimes they give us 200 liters sometimes less sometimes more," he explained.

The talk on the Gulf Countries Council (GCC) initiative that was proposed first in April to find a political solution for Saleh's ouster was discussed in Jeddah on Sunday by the foreign secretaries of the gulf countries.

Although this is the fifth time the initiative will be formally negotiated not Saleh nor do the opposition seem any serious about it.

High ranked Arab politician told the Yemen times that President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who is currently in the Saudi capital for treatment since June 3, has not been visited by any Saudi official there.

Ahmed Al-Sofi, the information adviser of the president said that is due to his "health condition" not due to "political reasons."

Yemeni wins entrepreneurship award in Canada

OTTAWA, Sept. 9 — Akram Saleh Al-Otumi is a Yemeni student who recently won the Sagewood Group Award for Entrepreneurship, a prestigious academic award from Dalhousie University in Halifax Nova Scotia. Akram was awarded the Sagewood Group Award for his outstanding business plan, his innovative idea and for his exceptional entrepreneurial spirit. Following a presentation to a panel of experienced judge's, Akram's name was put forth from a large pool of applicants to be considered for the award. One month later, following further review Akram received word that he had been awarded the Sagewood Group Award. Akram is one presentation away from completing the Entrepreneurship Skills Program at Dalhousie University. He is also in his final year of his Bachelor of Commerce degree at Dalhousie University where he is majoring in Marketing Management.

During his time in Halifax Akram has been very involved with both the university community and the greater Halifax community. He spent the past year work-



Akram Saleh Al-Otumi (right) receiving the Sagewood Group Award.

ing part time as a student ambassador with the Registrar's Office at Dalhousie University. Akram is also the newly elected President of (WUSC) World University Service of Canada at Dalhousie University for the 2011-2012 school year. WUSC is a non profit organization which is known in many countries for its Student Refugee Program. Many of the Canadian universities are involved with WUSC and every year Dalhousie University has two students arriving through this program and the committee that Akram oversees is responsible for getting them settled in Halifax. Through his involvement with WUSC Akram also acts as an organizer for many fundraising and promotional campaigns under the WUSC umbrella such as Bike for Aids and the Shine a Light campaign for enhancing women's education around the world. Additionally, Akram is a member in the Marketing society at Dalhousie University and is in the process of founding the Entrepreneurship society at Dalhousie University. Based on his own experiences Akram strongly encourages the Yemeni students to get involved and give back to their schools and communities.

Recently Akram started his own business, Azal Student Agency (www.azalcanada.com) a logistical, social and academic based agency for students in Halifax, N.S. as part of his summer work term. Akram recognized the need for these services as well as the opportunities that are available with the growing student market in Halifax.

"While the number of international students in Nova Scotia has doubled in the last decade, there has not been a large increase in the number of services available to them," says Mr. Al-Otumi. An international student from Sana'a, Yemen, Mr. Al-Otumi saw the need for a service that facilitated an easy transition for students from more than 100 countries who study in Halifax.

Mr. Al-Otumi hopes to develop Azal to become "the number-one student services agency in Nova Scotia." In the future, Mr. Al-Otumi would like to obtain a master's degree in e-commerce and own a multinational company. An avid volunteer, he would also like the opportunity to "support good causes in a business capacity." Outside of his business, Mr. Al-Otumi is currently collaborating with two of his friends to found the Dalhousie Entrepreneurship Society.

Akram Al-Otumi's best advice for entrepreneurs is to "be consistent," and Mr. Al-Otumi's consistent hard work has definitely paid off. The fourth-year commerce student recently received the Sagewood Group Award for Entrepreneurship, after successfully launching his business Azal Student Agency. Mr. Al-Otumi, a participant in the Entrepreneur Skills Program, developed the Azal Student Agency during an entrepreneurial work term. It provides services to international students who are moving to Halifax for the first time, from finding accommodations to picking them up at the airport to helping them decipher Canadian culture.

The Latest Buzz

- ▶ The first armored unit lead by Gen. Ali Muhsin Al-Ahmar accused forces loyal to the regime of trying to escalate the conflict by attacking the unit's location in Sana'a.
- ▶ Announcement of the UN Human Rights committee's report details scheduled for this month on violations against human rights in Yemen has been delayed indefinitely.
- ▶ Three legal experts left Yemen on Thursday heading off to Riyadh in order to contribute to the phrasing of any document that Saleh would sign to delegate his authority to his deputy.
- ▶ One soldier was killed and three injured at the security office in an RGB attack by unknown armed men in Al-Hawta district of Lahj governorate.
- ▶ According to an official from Yemen's costal guards, the two French yachts which reported missing after leaving Yemeni regional waters on Sept. 4th after entering Aden port in August 19th, 2011 were found in the Omani waters without its owners.
- ▶ Minister of Foreign Affairs Abubakr Al-Qirbi reclined to comment on information coming from Pakistan stating that Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Dhawahri is in Yemen currently.
- ▶ The gulf ministers of foreign affairs convened a meeting in Jeddah on Sunday to discuss the Yemeni situation and efforts to resolve it.
- ▶ The Yemeni Football Union approved in its meeting with representatives from football clubs the start of second-tier championship on Sept 25, 2011.
- ▶ The funeral of Yemeni singer and media person Ahmed Qasim Ali was held on Saturday in Aden. The deceased was head of the music center in Aden since 1990.
- ▶ French ambassador to Sana'a Joseph Silva has returned to Yemen and will recommence his work after spending a holiday back home.

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Concern over executive discretion over policy implementation

WASHINGTON, Sept 11 — Water subsidies in Yemen were allocated on a highly discretionary basis. This was the example expressed regarding Yemen in the evaluation report of the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG's World Bank's Country-level Engagement on Governance and Anticorruption released end of last month.

The report expressed concerns in Yemen about "executive discretion over policy implementation, particularly in environments permissive of patron-clientelism".

Recognizing the diverse patterns of governance across Regions, the report states that to be viable GAC efforts in the Middle East and North Africa region needed to take into account political economy factors. These factors include "pressures from population growth and urbanization [that] strained

state institutions, heightened perceptions of corruption, and in late 2010 led to unprecedented public protests. In addition to women, the youth and rural dwellers lacked basic access to services, markets, and jobs. Reforms targeting marginalized groups have met with limited success".

The report also found that as a result of the GAC strategy, the Bank's country programs in the Middle East and North Africa region "were most likely to identify and support GAC efforts (...) to improve governance in natural resources management".

It also states that the Middle East and North Africa region was the second-largest beneficiary of incremental bank budget (BB) intended to support, among other priorities, GAC processes. The Region also benefited, although in smaller percentages, of grant funding

provided by the Governance Partnership Facility (GPF), one of the tools intended to jumpstart changes in the way the Bank engaged GAC issues. The GPF supported "(i) innovative, country level governance programs; (ii) work on frontier areas of governance through single or multi-country and global initiatives; and (iii) global GAC learning and knowledge platforms."

Evidence indicates that well-governed countries can have a more successful path to development. The World Bank's 2007 governance and anticorruption (GAC) strategy reaffirmed its continuing commitment to the crucial agenda of helping countries develop accountable and effective states. IEG's current evaluation is an assessment of the effectiveness of the 2007 strategy and its first phase of implementation during 2008-10 period.

Yemeni journalist Ali Fakandash speaks to the Yemen Times “Yemeni artists are eligible to be enormously renowned and Yemen deserves to be one of the great Arab art centers.”

From crossword puzzle creator to one of the most prominent journalists in Saudi Arabia

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Ali Fakandash, 54, is one of the most well-known and respected journalists in Saudi Arabia.

He started his career as a crossword puzzle designer and gradually moved into sports reporting. In the early 1980s, Fakandash was influenced by several Saudi writers to achieve his dream of becoming an art journalist. His extensive connections with artists led him to become one of Saudi Arabia's most prominent art writers and critics. He was appointed as a head of the culture and arts department at the daily Saudi newspaper, Okaz.

Recently, he began a new phase in his journalistic career, working as a television announcer for one of the Gulf channels, Rotana Khalijiya. "My previous long experience in journalism benefited me a lot when I started my new experience as a TV interviewer."

The Yemen Times met Fakandash in his home in Jeddah, where he regularly invites singers, actors, writers, academics and artists to exchange opinions and ideas.

The most noticeable thing in Fakandash's home is his huge archive, which includes pictures, books, art objects, news media, and music. He considers his archive the most valuable thing in his life. "It's my professional history and my own library. Actually, this archive is my capital."

Over the last thirty years, Fakandash has written many books that document



Ali Fakandash

artistic, social, political, sport and cultural figures.

Fakandash is eager to help young people. He has discovered many aspiring artists and musicians, and his support has played a substantial role in their success. He is also well-known for encouraging many young journalists. Many in the Saudi press consider Fakandash to be their teacher and inspiration.

"He is the most active journalist for me. I admire him for his noticeable journalistic activity," said Abdulla Amin, one of the Yemeni young journalists in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

However, Fakandash said that he has noticed a serious difference in professional performance between the old generation of journalists and the new.

He advised young journalists to make greater efforts and take greater risks when they write. He urged them to avoid depending on the internet as a source. "The old generation of journalists was more diligent and more professional," he said.

Asked about the reason for his indifference toward Yemeni art and Yemeni artists, Fakandash said, "I'm a Yemeni person, but I'm a Saudi journalist. I was brought up in Saudi Arabia and I am more familiar with Saudi art and artists."

He added, "I admit that I've not written a lot about Yemen and Yemeni artists although I'm Yemeni. Actually, I have very little understanding of the arts climate in Yemen. I imagine any young Yemeni

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journalist could write about Yemeni art better than I could."

"It's difficult to write about Yemeni art because it is historically situated," he said. "You must know a lot about Yemeni cultural and artistic heritage to write about art here."

He noted that despite Yemen's ancient and rich artistic traditions, Yemeni art has not spread to other countries in the same way that other Arab art has done. According to Fakandash, economic woes in Yemen are to blame. "Yemeni artists could be enormously influential in Arab countries, but the negative economic situation leaves

them under-recognized," he said.

On the other hand, he indicated that there are several Yemeni songs that have been performed and popularized by Gulf singers. "I refuse to say that these Yemeni songs have been stolen by those Gulf singers as many people claim. I think those gulf singers have promoted the Yemeni art and brought it to light in other Arab countries."

"Yemeni artists are eligible to be enormously renowned. Yemen deserves to be one of the great Arab art centers," he said. "Unfortunately, Yemen's bad economy negatively affects many great and nice things."

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Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
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Founder of Yemen Times

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OUR
OPINION

Toys with boys

This expression was often made when talking about some men and their thirst for using arms and getting into wars. But this time I am saying this as a reaction to the number one toy bought during the Eid celebrations across the country for boys in Yemen: guns.

Of course toy guns but they were everywhere and many shapes and models. I have seen the small pistol, the rifle with ammunition belts and many other types I don't know their names.

There were street wars, espionage plots and raids... the boys were so whole heartedly into the violent game like I have never seen before. I have even seen some girls dragged into the battle grounds unlike the traditional stereotype that guns are for boys.

This says something. Not only does it show how the conflict in the country has gotten into the psyche of its children but it also means that there is a market exploiting this market. All the toy weapons were made in china and obviously imported by Yemeni businessmen. We used to have toy guns before but the variety and abundance this year is surprising. Also I have seen many broken guns in the streets where children play. I suppose the make was bad and the boys were a little aggressive with their toys.

Moreover, this year the children have easy access to all kinds of fireworks. Previously it was banned because of its risks on the children using them. But since they were used extensively to celebrate every time the president comes on TV, the fireworks dealers found it an opportunity to import more and more to make a quick buck.

It is an important issue in our children's development and we need to notice it and give it the attention it deserves. There will be a generation of Yemeni children who will look back on 2011 not only as a year for Arab spring, but most importantly as a year of violence and conflict, especially those directly affected by it.

This is not a new theory; we are already seeing the consequences in Iraq where the children who had lived through armed conflict in the last decade turned out to be aggressive insecure adults. It is visible in the African horn and I am sure Libyan children will also suffer.

The longer instability in any country stays the deeper the psychological impact it leaves on the communities going through it. We really need to make interventions, provide our children with positive constructive outlets especially those that encourage self expression.

And please, before you buy your child a toy gun think again.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The boss falls. Then what?

By: Gregory Johnsen
The New York Times

Late Thursday night, amid rumors that he was about to resign after almost 33 years in power, a defiant President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen went on national television to criticize demonstrators and declare a general amnesty for soldiers who had gone over to the opposition. His brief remarks were the latest act in a week of tense political drama in which scores of protesters in the capital were killed and Mr. Saleh's most important military ally defected.

The protests in Yemen have been building since Feb. 11, when Hosni Mubarak stepped down in Egypt. What started small has now grown into a mass movement uniting, at least temporarily, the varied interests of Yemen's fractured opposition around the single demand that President Saleh leave office. Tribesmen came together with student activists, while southern secessionists echoed northern rebels. Even clans at war for years put aside their blood feuds in favor of a common front.

The Boss, as Mr. Saleh is known by many in the country, survived three decades in the rough world of Yemeni politics by skillfully playing rivals off against one another. He tried to do the

same thing this time: political concessions, bags of cash and new cars to wavering allies; violent crackdowns on demonstrators. But late last week, he overstepped.

Shortly after noon prayers last Friday, snipers at what has been dubbed the "square of change" near Sana University opened fire, killing about 50 protesters and wounding hundreds. The bloodbath resulted in a wave of defections by diplomats and military commanders, including Brig. Gen. Ali Mohsin al-Ahmar, the head of the First Armored Division. On Al Jazeera on Monday — President Saleh's 65th birthday, no less — General Ahmar announced that he supported the protesters calling for the president's ouster and that troops loyal to him would protect the demonstrators.

The short statement by the most powerful figure in the military — a member of Mr. Saleh's own tribe — signaled a new stage in Yemen's revolution. The politically astute General Ahmar has long protected the president's interests in the military, and his statement was an attempt to get ahead of the curve. By coming out in support of the protesters, he split Yemen's armed forces, leading to a tense stalemate as troops loyal to each man squared off.

The United States and Saudi Arabia are quietly lobbying for a negotiated

agreement, hoping to avoid more bloodshed, and Mr. Saleh and General Ahmar met this week. But the fear remains that if the two old comrades fail to find a workable solution, the transition to a post-Saleh Yemen could be violent.

What is certain is that the day after Mr. Saleh leaves, the protesters' euphoria and unity will quickly begin to fade as they face rebuilding their country after years of misrule and impoverishment. The next government, whatever form it takes, will have to make difficult and unpopular decisions. The momentary alliances forged by common opposition to Mr. Saleh will not survive his departure; activists from the south, for example, say the revolution is the first step toward reclaiming an independent state for their region.

The United States and its international allies will have a limited window of opportunity to get things right in Yemen. No longer can the American government insist on seeing the country only through the prism of terrorism. Despite the Obama administration's insistence that it is pursuing a wide range of solutions to Yemen's multitude of problems, military and counterterrorism aid continues to dwarf all other assistance. The United States needs to do more to foster development in Yemen, to help create jobs and educate the country's young people, to help the rural villages that

have endured years of empty schools and no electricity.

Think of it as a strategic investment to defeat the current generation of terrorists and to prevent the formation of future ones. The story of one community, Rafdh, is instructive. It was so desperate for help that it petitioned Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula to send men to teach their children. After an American bombing raid, the Qaeda members fled, and today, Rafdh's school stands unused once more.

This may well be the West's last chance in Yemen. If Mr. Saleh falls and the international community fails this time, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula will be waiting in the wings to take advantage of the situation. Already, the organization has tipped its hand in recent statements, hinting at the argument it will be making in the coming months: Yemen, their ideologues have argued, has suffered under both monarchies and democracies. And now, they say, is the moment to finally return to the straight path of Islamic law.

If serious steps aren't taken to rescue Yemen from its downward trajectory, that argument will soon sound a lot more appealing than it does today.

Gregory Johnsen is a doctoral candidate in Near Eastern studies at Princeton and writes the blog *Waq al-Waq*.

Yemen's shaky Arab Spring

By: Tom Finn
The Daily Beast

As the Arab Spring staggers into its ninth month, most of the world's attention remains fixed on North Africa, where the 42-year rule of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi is rapidly succumbing to a Western-backed militia of rebel fighters.

Others are held rapt by events in the Levant, where the isolated Syrian President, Bashar Al Assad, continues to try and crush the country's burgeoning protest movement sending his country into a deeper bloody quagmire.

In the midst of all the mayhem, the uprising in Yemen—an acutely impoverished and deeply tribal country bordering oil-giant Saudi Arabia—has been all but forgotten. A grinding political stalemate and a virtual media blackout has meant that Yemen, which only a few months ago looked set to be the third Arab nation (after Tunisia and Egypt) to overthrow its leader this year, has slipped back into the shadows.

It was the precipitous downfall of Egypt's aged president, Hosni Mubarak, in February that first jerked Yemen's revolt into life as tens of thousands of youthful dissenters poured onto the grubby streets of the capital to yell for an end to the 33-year rule of their mercurial president, Ali Abdullah Saleh. In the weeks that followed, hundreds were shot dead and thousands maimed, as Saleh's troops moved in with water cannons, tear gas, batons, and bullets,

to try and put an early lid on the insurrection. The regime's brutality prompted a wave of mass defections as senior army generals, party officials, and even leading members of Saleh's own tribe jumped ship, declaring their support for the opposition and leaving the regime teetering on the edge of collapse.

But six months later, Yemen is stuck in an ominous limbo: caught between a seemingly irremovable president and a fractured opposition still struggling to form a transitional government.

When Saleh was airlifted to Saudi Arabia in early June for medical treatment after a suspected booby-trap explosion ripped through the mosque in his presidential compound, many assumed it would mark the end of the road for the strongman. It was said that Saudi princes and US diplomats (who'd been quietly nudging Saleh towards the door) would ensure that Saleh lived out the rest of his days in a comfortable apartment in Riyadh so that Yemen could press on with its search for a way out of its raging political turmoil. It was not to be. Rather than signing a deal to step down drawn up by the Gulf monarchies, Saleh, a master of political brinkmanship, opted instead to cling to power from his hospital bed and hand over the reins temporarily to his deputy, Abd al Rab al Mansour Al Haddi. Perhaps tellingly, Haddi, who's seen by most in Yemen as a politically crippled figure, has continued to work from his office in parliament, while Saleh's son, Ahmed Ali, has taken up residence in the presidential palace to hold the fort for his father. Saleh's sidestepping has

left Yemen's determined protesters in the lurch, amplifying growing fears grows that all their efforts might have been in vain.

In the absence of a president and a properly functioning government, the disparate groups who've been rallying against Saleh have set about the daunting job of forming an inclusive national council to consolidate their fledgling movement and steer the country through a political transition. This is no small task. The factions include, first, Yemen's formal opposition, the JMP, (largely dominated by the Islamic party Islah). Then there is a grassroots, non-partisan, youthful pro-democracy movement (those who first took to the streets back in February). As well there are secessionists from Yemen's oil-exporting south and Houthi Shia rebels from the northern province of Sa'ada. Both of these elements want guarantees of autonomy or at the very least to know that they will not face the same levels of discrimination and marginalisation in a new configuration as they did in the last.

The fact that all these groups have been able to unite under the rubric of a broad anti-Saleh opposition is a truly remarkable feat and will be of great disquiet to Saleh, who has ruled for decades by dividing his opponents and keeping the country in a semi-chaotic state. But with the president currently out of the picture and, therefore, no common enemy to rally around, the cracks in this fragile alliance are beginning to show. Last week, 23 influential politicians detached themselves from the 143 mem-

ber national council formed last week by the JMP, claiming it did not fairly represent the "needs and aspirations" of those in the south. While there seems to be a general understanding amongst them all that no one of them can rule Yemen, there is the very real risk that if they do not soon deliver a blueprint for an inclusive future government then the whole thing could fall apart.

A sudden re-appearance by Saleh might help gel the slowly splintering opposition but it could just as easily spark civil war. When he left for Riyadh back in June, street battles were haunting the capital, as Saleh's republican guard and rebel tribesmen loyal to Sadeq Al Ahmar fired mortars at each other over a heavily-populated residential area in the east of Sana'a.

With the fall last week of Tripoli to the Libyan rebels, unrest has started to simmer again in Yemen. On Friday a group of 200 young men and women took to the streets of the southern city of Taiz for a midnight march to celebrate the fall of Gaddafi's regime. Within minutes their demonstration had been violently dispersed. Chaos and confusion reigned as troops from the republican guard, an elite force headed by President Saleh's son, Ahmed, opened up on them with water cannons and green pistols loaded with rubber bullets. "With President Saleh gone, our revolution has entered a new stage," Taha Al Shami, a protest-leader from Taiz, shouted down the phone over the crackle of gunfire. "Things are far from over for here, in fact this is just the beginning, watch us!"

Unrest in Yemen could have "significant impact" on U.S. national security

By: Jared Edgerton
PoliticsPA

As many of his colleagues became more and more immersed in the debt ceiling debate last week, United States Senator Bob Casey took to the pulpit and the Patriot-News to defend President Obama's policy — in Yemen.

Casey, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Af-

fairs, convened a hearing last Tuesday to discuss the political and civil unrest in Yemen. The freshman U.S. Senator said the threat of radical Islam there is "not new, but it has grown increasingly worrisome in the past several years."

"Given the direct threat that AQAP [Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula] poses to U.S. national security — and taking into account significant gains made in U.S. operations against al Qaeda elements in Afghanistan and Pakistan over the past year — counterterrorism efforts in Yemen must be a central focus of our

national security strategy," Casey said during his opening remarks.

The Yemeni government has recently faced populist uprisings in which al-Qaeda is providing aid and support to the rebels. In response, the Obama administration has launched a series of predator drone strikes to help bolster the response of the fledgling government.

At the hearing, Casey outlined three obstacles to Yemen's long-term stability which he believes must be central to any U.S. involvement there..

"First, we need a better understand-

ing of the political opposition and prospects for democratic reform...Second, we must be prepared to address a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian crisis... Third, the U.S. and our international partners should develop a long-term strategy on conflict resolution in Yemen."

The hearing also featured testimony from Janet Sanderson (Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs), Daniel Benjamin (Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the Department of State), Christa Capozzola (Deputy

Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance at USAID), Christopher Boucek (Middle East Research Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), and Mr. Daniel Green (Soref Fellow at the Washington Institute on Near East Policy).

In an accompanying op-ed that ran over the weekend in the Harrisburg Patriot-News, however, Casey was careful to note that Yemen "cannot be viewed through the single lens of counterterrorism." Though he pointed out that al

Qaeda maintains a "vibrant presence" there and has used the country "as a launching pad for terrorist attacks on the U.S.," the freshman senator ultimately concluded that any U.S. military action there must be accompanied by a humanitarian or civilian approach as well.

"In a country where vast political, security, humanitarian and development challenges continually converge, the U.S. must endeavor to formulate short-term and long-term policies to achieve our core national security goals," he wrote.

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

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

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

CEO
Khair Aldin Al Nsour

Editors
Jeb Boone

Senior Reporter
Mohammed bin Sallam

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff

Ali Saeed Malak Shaher Sadeq Al-Wesabi Shatha Al-Harazi

Offices

Aden Bureau:
Richwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347056
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

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

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An SMS from an Exiled Woman (Part 2)

By: Salwa Yehia Aleryani

It was raining in my neighborhood too but I heard him clearly. I sent him a text message. He doesn't need his ears to read. I typed, "(I am the patient who came yesterday. The doctor wrote me a medicine which high blood pressure

shouldn't take. Can you kindly- remind him of me and ask him whether I should take it or not?)" I waited for the reply. I didn't receive one. My knee was beating like pulse. I felt that pain was hitting my knee with an iron hammer. I felt like I was a camel in the middle of a huge dessert waiting NOT for a drop of water but for an answer!! My knee was

a must to treat and cure. I have no support -after Allah's aid- except my knee. It was my knight in life's battle especially after my husband's death. With my knees I stand, I work in my factory, I feed my kids, I receive my salary, I take care of my kids and house and I get all my duties done. My knee is honestly the engine which keeps me functioning! Especially because I have been a widow for a year and two months now so, my kids have no one in life to look after them except me. I have no one to rely on except my knee. Honestly it was the mountain I lean on. I decided to call again. The doctor didn't answer. I called the clinic and the young man answered, I pleaded, "Please, ask the doctor. What did he say? Should I take the medicine d...)" he interrupted me, "(Said what about who?? Who are you anyway?" There we go again!! I explained to him after taking a pill of patience, "I am an HBP patient and the doctor wrote me a medicine which HBP patients shouldn't take, can you ask him if it is ok for me to take it?" He answered, "(Well, if the doctor wrote it for you then he definitely meant that you should take it. What else did you expect, to take photos with it or what?)" I ignored his skilled mockery and said, "(No, I didn't take any photos, however, it is written inside the box

that HBP patients shouldn't take it. It is risky and may cause heart failures! So, should I take it?)" He reduced his rudeness, I guess because he heard signs of weeping in my voice, which I myself hadn't noticed. He said, "OK. Then take a pill for a day or two then come and see the doctor." I asked him, "A day or two, won't harm me?" He replied quickly, "NO!!!" He ended the conversation. I started suing my self! Who is this young man to tell me what to do and what not to do? He hasn't probably even finished school yet. Possibly he left school because of poverty and came to work in this clinic to earn a living. So, why on earth should I believe his advice or even listen to him? I was convinced that this doctor was no lesser than a criminal except that he doesn't wear a mask, nor a striped t-shirt! I took the decision! I am not going to take one single pill in a country where doctors kill their patients either due to carelessness, ignorance or by mistake!!

I don't know why I felt that a shower of insult poured on my head I looked at my clothes sticking onto my body. I was wet. I examined my straight legs nervously shaking of pain. Is it acceptable to tolerate all this insult + pain when your demand is only to receive an answer! I thought of a pharmacy it is

a good source of information. I called and explained the point. The pharmacist said with noticeable surprise, "Ohh! The note says heart failure? Ok ask your doctor then heart failures are serious."

Although it was no joke, but, I

laughed loudly. Heart attacks are serious? As if this was the information I was searching for now, this is funny! Hahaha. The next day, I couldn't go to work. I called the doctor, he didn't answer. I sent a text message he didn't reply.

A girl from the Beyond

By: Liqa Al-Sarori

I'm my Beyond, my horizon fades as seen.
In no place I'm found
I long to be untouched, I long to be unfelt, I'll die to be unseen.
I am just an Illusion, I will never exist ... till my dawn darkens on the edges of the fading smile, leave me behind where I belong there at the heath of my Beyond
A fish suffocated by the water longing for air to breathe out of her siege
Dried out of dueling on what's fake

alone as a root of madness,
so I should awaken, no time for breaking; and no need!!!
Talk to me through the shades of night,
through the day light falling on your window capturing my heart's shattered rims of broken glass..
Shards of a wrinkled tear trussed my eyes, I'm shielded of life and death, of fears, of what is not feared.
I'm seen right through, but no one can see through me, I'm fond of the pain that I don't feel no more.
Drawn along my lips words of wisdom that say "if the winds are unwanted, must to shut that door".



Oxfam

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO, works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering. Oxfam has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancy for its Humanitarian/ Emergency & Food Security Programmes.

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Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

You will be responsible for the overall aspects of cash management including monthly cash forecast and verify all payment requests and ensure completeness and accurateness of supporting documents and release payments on timely manner. You will input transaction in cashbooks and upload them into Oxfam's financial system on weekly basis and ensure proper filling system is in place.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least degree in finance related subject or professional accountancy qualification, and two years financial and accounting experience in a similar role.

The ideal candidate will have demonstrated communication skills and the ability to work well with others and as part of a team. You will have excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic and sound computer skills.

Finance Officer – (1 position)

Location: Hodeida
Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

You will undertake financial and administrative matters in accordance with established procedures, monitor grants and programme management budget and update forecast. Maintain float register and close donor contract administration. Undertake and monitor all payments including partner organizations and prepare for internal and external audits.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least degree in finance related subject or professional accountancy qualification, and three years experience of financial and people management in similar size organization.
As well as ability to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing in Arabic and English, sound computer skills and ability to travel extensively in country.

To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in either of these positions, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job you are applying for, to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk or send a fax to 01 450170.

Emergency Food Security and Livelihood Project Officer – (8 positions)

Location: Hodeida
Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

You will provide support and mentor livelihoods programme activities at the community level, work with the WASH team to ensure the EFSL and WASH programmes are integrated, facilitate building organizational capacity of partners within the formal and informal sector, and ensure monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of livelihood programme.

What we're looking for

We are looking for people with at least a 3 years experience in Livelihoods programmes and proven understanding of small business development; understanding of gender equity, development and poverty context in Yemen, ability to network and link widely with CSOs and government bodies, strong understanding of local socio-economic development issues, institutions and communities, considerable experience of training and capacity building, excellent written and verbal communication (in both English and Arabic) including representation skills, and report writing skills.

Logistics Officer – (1 position)

Location: Hodeida
Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

You will be responsible to organize all logistic processes, including purchasing, warehousing, communications and transport, as well as the related administrative procedures related to the job. You will report all logistic activities to the Project Manager.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with at least 2 years experience in purchasing, warehousing, and vehicle management administration are required. You will have excellent diplomacy, tact and negotiating skills, as well as oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic, and will possess good computer skills.

The new Yemen's capital!

By: Naji Gazali
naji734@gmail.com

Ali saleh has been so much concerned about the loss of Jyzan and Najran to the Saudis who occupied our land in the thirty of the last century. Saleh has been always a patriot and believed in our ownership of that land when he spoke recently to us (supposedly) whether we are supporters of him or not and said "I am speaking to you from the political capital "Riyadh". When we were thought after the unification between south Yemen and north Yemen that Sana'a is the political capital and Aden is the economical capital; only to find out that it has been removed without any prior notice. I am glad saleh finally is making courageous claim and I wonder if he really

mean it or it is just some rhetoric like the train station project that he declared will connect al-mahra with al-hudeda or the nuclear power station to solve the electricity shortage. Finally to those who still are cheering him, I wonder for what! In fact, he is giving the revolution no choice but to put him in court for negligence and being an adequate and unable to hold such honorable position. Either he mean it that he is giving up his alliance to Yemen by declaring another capital his political capital or he is insane and does not know what is he talking about and in either cases, he deserve no place in our only Capital and must not reclaim my beloved capital SANA'A as his own capital for the rest of his life. Mr. Saleh; please stay in your political capital and let us enjoy our own and only Capital. Long live Yemenis and Long live SANA'A.

Closing date for applications is 31th August 2011

Job Offers will be contingent upon Oxfam receiving funds

What took so long? Why the World Trade Center still isn't finished

By: Claire Suddath
Time Magazine

It's an afternoon in September, a few days before the 10th anniversary of 9/11, and a young woman is standing outside the fence that surrounds the World Trade Center site, posing for a photograph in front of a construction crane.

Ten years is not a very long time. Most people who are alive today were also alive back then. We can remember where we were on 9/11 and what it was like to watch an airplane strike the second tower

on live TV. Victims' family members are still hurting. There are people in New York City who have gotten sick from the ash and debris that blanketed part of the city that day. And in the lower part of Manhattan, the World Trade Center — 16 acres of planned office buildings, subway stations, commuter-railway lines and a memorial museum and plaza — still hasn't been rebuilt. Nobody expects a wound this deep to heal swiftly, but after 10 years of fist-pumping speeches and patriotic promises, we are just now putting in the stitches.

But there is one thing we have done. On Sept. 11, 2011, New York City will of-

ficially unveil 9/11 Memorial to victims' families and invited guests. (It will open up to the public the following day.) It is a stone plaza peppered with 400 swamp white oak trees that surround two square reflecting pools and waterfalls, which are located where the original towers once stood. The names of the 9/11 victims, as well as the six people killed in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, are inscribed on parapets that run along the waterfalls' perimeters. Of the seven major construction projects currently going on at Ground Zero, it is the only one that's finished.

Even given its size and complexity, the World Trade Center has taken an unusually long time to rebuild. If everything goes according to plan, the site won't be finished until 2016. That's nearly 8 years longer than the initial projections offered by New York's then governor George Pataki in 2003. To give you an idea of how long that is, the original towers were completed in just five and a half years.

The site has suffered repeated delays, budget overruns, design changes and several serious lawsuits. After 9/11, it took nearly a year and a half for the city to even decide upon a rebuilding plan.

"It wasn't a normal project for me. This site isn't just a piece of real estate," says Libeskind. "I had to figure out a way to maintain a balance between the idea of memory and moving forward." His designs were heavy in symbolism: the 1,776-ft. structure was topped with off-center spire intended to mirror the Statue of Liberty's torch and aligned with the sun so that no shadow would be cast on the anniversary of the attacks.

Preliminary work on the tower began, symbolically, on July 4, 2004, but safety concerns and structural precautions necessitated major revisions. One critical problem was the issue of placement: a highway runs along the west side of Manhattan, and the Freedom Tower was set so close to it that the New York Police Department worried about security.

Things were moving slowly, and the 2008 financial crisis didn't help. (10 million sq. ft. of office space are tough when the economy is in a tailspin.) "At this point, five years had already elapsed and nothing was happening on the site," says Silverstein. "It became obvious that we had to get moving." To speed things along, Silverstein turned the Freedom Tower's construction over to the Port Authority in 2008. He is now in charge of only three buildings on the site: towers two, three and four. They are much smaller projects, between 72 and 88 stories tall, all scheduled to be completed between 2013 and '16.

As construction work started and stalled and started up again, the LMDC and the Port Authority continued with another project: the 9/11 Memorial. Libeskind's original designs included a memorial, but it was stark and dispiriting, an 8-acre area dropped 70 ft. below street level. So in 2003 the LMDC held a second competition and selected Israeli-American architect Michael Arad's "Reflecting Absence" design from 5,201 entries. But instead of quick construction, Arad, Libeskind, the Port Authority and transportation-hub architect Santiago Calatrava found themselves tangled in a seemingly endless web of problems.

One World Trade Center will cost \$3.2 billion to build — that's a lot more than its original price tag of \$350 million — but it's currently 83 stories tall and rising at the rate of a floor a week. In May, Condé Nast agreed to a \$2 billion lease, giving the project the financial backing that it has needed for so long. The building's rust-colored skeleton can be seen, creeping up slowly to take its place along the Manhattan skyline.



Request for Proposal

Procurement of Security Guard for UNDP Premises

The United Nations Development Programme in Yemen is seeking a professional security guard service to be provided to the UNDP premises located in Sana'a. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Yemen is willing to invite the interested professional companies to submit a proposal for the security guard services, as per the Terms of Reference (TOR).

The deadline for submission is Saturday 1st October 2011, 4.00 p.m. (Yemen Time). Your offer comprising of technical proposal and financial proposal, in separate sealed envelopes, should reach the following address

United Nations Development Programme
P.O. Box 551
Off sixty road, near Alawqaf complex
Sana'a, Yemen.

For further details on the RFP and downloading of the documents (RFP), please visit our website at:

<http://www.unqm.org/Notices/Item.aspx?id=16686>

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Nabilah al-Zubair

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

Nabilah Al-Zubair is one of the most honest voices in Change Square. Many describe her as a "revolutionary before the revolution". Nabilah is a distinguished poet, novelist, and writer. She was born in a village in the Manakha district of Sana'a Governorate in 1964 and she spent most of her life in the capital Sana'a where she finished her education in 1995 earning a degree in sociology from Sana'a University.

Nabilah won first prize in the Naguid Mahfooz writing competition in 2000 for her novel My Body. The novel was translated into many languages including English, German, French, and

Spanish. Big writers complemented her high sensitivity and the thoughts she disguises in her poems, all of which call for change.

Nabilah was the first author in Yemen to write critically about President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Using his name clearly, she wrote continually in two of the most read newspapers in the country, leaving a great impression in readers' minds on the topics she discussed. Because of her brave prose, she was never far from the people in power and fought against them before the revolution when they stood in opposition to her writing.

"Although she is one of Yemen's finest writers she was always isolated from representing her country in national or regional contests due to her writing that was critical of the government. She



was marginalized by the cultural institutions," one of her colleagues told the Yemen Times.

"At the beginning of the Yemeni Revolution Nabilah used to come to Change Square, she was so familiar there. Nowadays she is less physically there," said Amal Mohammed, one of the protesters from Change Square. Mostly everyone that who knows Nabilah and was interviewed by the Yemen Times agreed on that.

Nabilah's role on motivating, mobilizing and correcting the revolution on Facebook is a leading role. Even though she doesn't appear at the square as often as she would like, it is still very important for her to continue participating in these historic times.

In her posts on Facebook, Nabilah discusses everything creating

more freedom of speech and more right for expressing different and opinions for everyone.

She stands for the independent youth whenever someone tries to ruin their messages or goals in the name of politics or partisanship inside the square.

"She has always been writing inspiringly trying to condemn all wrong deeds in her society by exposing facts and numbers and names, socially in her stories," said Mohammed Al-Rafidi from Change Square who is one of her readers.

"At the beginning she was one of the first women to attend the first Friday in the square, she goes into the tents talking humbly with the protesting youth, listening to them," said Sara Jamal, from Change Square. "After the regime's massacre in Al-Mansora in Aden that left Mohammed al-Alwani and Majid al-Bazeji dead, she went out with us in a march for Aden's Martyrs, she gave a wonderful speech that touched everyone very deeply."

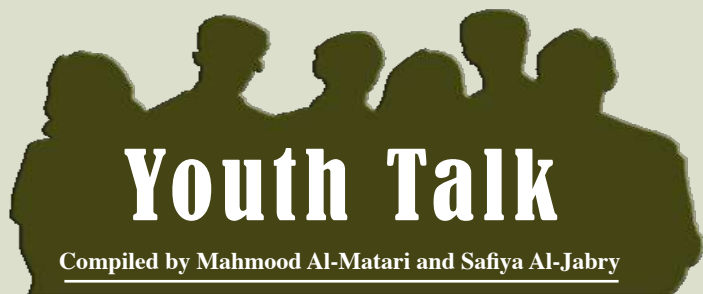
The speech was about Yemeni unity and the role of Adeni people in maintaining unity. She credited South Yemen with starting the revolution.

"Nabilah's first concern is to ensure that Yemen's revolution remains peaceful. She hates being in the spotlight, hates all the fame that comes along with the revolution. All that she wants is victory against any corrupt person and to keep Yemen away from the threat of the civil war," Sarah added.

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In this section we talk to young people about their concerns, hopes and dreams. Every week we hit the streets and share what young people have to say right here.

This week's question:

Was this Eid celebration any different that previous years? how?

Bashar Faisal

This Eid we did not go to Aden as we are used to every year. My family decided it is best to stay in Sana'a and try and enjoy the holidays here although most of our family are in Aden. It was boring but we managed to enjoy as much as we could.

Asma Abdulrahim

The best part of this Eid was the fireworks. In previous years it was banned because of security reasons but this year it was available in abundance and we bought huge amounts and made a fireworks party with our neighbours.

Yahya Al-Othrubu

Yes, this Eid is different because of the unrest. Can you imagine that there are families that couldn't buy Eid clothes for their children? Their parents may lose their jobs because of the crises. They are afraid to go to parks and spend Eid in any province. They are scared because of the problems.

Wathik Samawi

In my opinion there is no comparison between this Eid and previous years. It's well known that Yemenis save up some money and spend it during Eid. But, because of current situation, lots of people are struggling to save necessary amounts of food for their families. Our corrupted and despotic regime is behind all these crises.

Rashid Ali

This eid was different from previous eids because it had lots of crises involving water, electricity, and fuel. Nothing was reliable. We went to parks and it was so crowded in the free parks and in the paid ones there were less people.

Nuha Haidar

This Eid was very different for me as most of my family travelled to our village to celebrate with our larger family and I stayed at home alone. I felt great in a way because it was good to be on my own for once and enjoy easy time for me.

It was more fun that the electricity was there. I went out with friends and enjoyed the holiday time.

Taha Al-Yamani

I'm absolutely sure that this Eid is different especially the news which spread like wildfire among people in the last day of Ramadan about the explosion situation in Eid, I felt scared but I didn't want to show my fear as one of the civilians who could be one of the victims, but during the days of Eid I could see that all the dark clouds disappeared in a blink of an eye, the sun rose again looking down at the people who shaking hands with kisses and children playing happily. On the other hand there were tanks, rockets and guns were retreating when they saw this scene (weapons become paralyzed if love still live between people)I realized that this Eid is more beautiful than the previous because I appreciated the value of peace in life.

Ohail Al-Rubaidi

The Eid this year was so different and no one can deny that .At first eid mubarak to all Yemenis and Arabs people, all we know that the eid prayer and visiting relatives are very important, and these are the only things as the same as any eids before .Tow uncles of mine live in Al-Hasaba area it was bad look to see armed tribes men and the armed forces in the capital city they decorated the streets with ditches.Actually there was not any celebration aspects in most of Sana'a city.Also this eid no entertainment for children and no Journeys . Regardless of all these bad social and security situation the people in this eid knew what is the real meaning of (Yemen) we are concern about our country I think this is the main difference.Even illiterate people they knew their rights, they understood what should they do for their country. A lot of people now has learned many political terms which is one of the

rights they have not knew them before like (civil country,coalition government)and so on...I think we are so close from achieving a big change in our life not just in eid.

Abdulnasser Al-Abdali

As for me ,this Eid celebration was completely different for the following two reasons. First, it was the first time to celebrate such this occasion away from my family and out of my hometown, Taiz. The second reason is I touched something different and

unique in this Eid as I celebrated this occasion at the change square in Sana'a with different people from different parts of Yemen. I also saw the joy on the faces of all the people everywhere like the sun when it shines. Really, I felt as if we are one big family sharing everything together like the bees when they work. I also realized for the first time that the money can never buy us happiness and it can never make us all feel each other. Therefore, this Eid celebration was so nice that I can never forget it forever.

Next Week's Question:

Do you think this education academic year will start smoothly and compensate for the previous one?

Follow this section for a new question every week and feel free to reply with your answers or feedback by sending an e-mail to ytyouth@gmail.com. So this is your chance to share your humorous stories, poems or opinions with other young readers!