

Dismissed general challenges Hadi

By: Ahmed Dawood

SANA'A, April 8 — On Sunday Sana'a International Airport resumed its operations, after a halt lasting more than a day.

Director of Sana'a International Airport, Naji Al-Muraqeb, told Yemen Times that the airport resumed its flights on Sunday morning at 11am, with the first plane departing to Sayoon.

"The airport recommenced its work after threats posed by armed groups deployed around the airport disappeared," said Al-Muraqeb.

The airport's traffic was completely halted from Saturday morning until Sunday.

Mohammad Saad-Adin, an airport officer, said that there was no departure or landing in the airport during that period, affirming that all passengers had to leave the airport on Saturday, after hearing the sound of shelling from the Al-Dailami nearby military airbase.

He explained that incoming



Armed men affiliated to the dismissed general Al-Ahmar have closed Sana'a Airport from Saturday early morning until Sunday 11:00 am.

flights to Sana'a were diverted to Aden International Airport.

"The airport was closed after artillery shells were fired from a nearby air base towards the airport at 6am. Traffic was completely suspended after that," Saad Adin said.

Um Khalid, who lives in Wadi Ahmed, a neighborhood located close to the airport, affirmed that she heard sounds of shelling at 6am, but said she was not sure whether shelling fell on the airport or not. Further, she said that the trans-

portation inside and outside the airport irregular.

Sana'a Airport's was shut down after decrees were issued by Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi last Friday in which senior military leaders loyal to the former president Ali Abdullah Saleh were dismissed.

The decrees included the dismissal of Mohammad Saleh Al-Ahmar, commander of the Air Forces, and the appointment of Rashid Al-Janad in his place.

According to Marib Press, Al-Ahmar declared a rebellion against

Hadi and threatened on Saturday to shoot down any plane taking off or landing.

A large number of armed tribesmen loyal to the dismissed General Al-Ahmar were deployed on Saturday around the airport, eyewitnesses said.

Bilal Othman Al-Sahbani, an Air Forces officer said that armed tribesmen imposed a siege on the Air Base and the airport, and prevented anybody from entering the Air Forces headquarters.

He pointed out that forces of the Republican Guard and the Central Security forces were put in position around the headquarters of the Air Forces, confirming that tanks and vehicles concentrated close to the gates and main entries of the military airbase.

He stated that the armed men, estimated at 500, were ordered in by officers and commanders loyal to Al-Ahmar, pointing out that tribesmen commanded by Sheikh Naji Juman took control of facilities and offices of the base.

The last decrees of Hadi that included the dismissal of Al-Ahmar were met with international sup-

port and praises.

Ambassadors of GCC initiate witnessing countries including the five Permanent Members of the Security Council as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council resident in Sana'a, affirmed in a statement released on Saturday that the decrees "will serve to eliminate points of friction and reduce tensions as envisioned in the GCC Initiative and Implementing Mechanism."

"The Group of Ten Ambassadors considers that the Presidential decrees are fully consistent with both the letter and the spirit of the GCC Initiative and with the responsibilities entrusted to President Hadi by the Yemeni people in the election of February 21, 2012," the statement read.

They called on "all Yemenis to cooperate fully with the decrees, stressing that they will view with the utmost concern any steps to resist their implementation or impede the operation of the airport or other state institutions, facilities, or infrastructure."

Mohammed Qahtan to the Yemen Times:
"I have no problem with Ahmed Ali being commander of a brigade somewhere in Hadramout, Sa'ada or Al-Mahara,...."

Read full interview on page 6



محمد قحطان في حوار مع اليمن تايمز « ليس عندي مشكلة أن يكون أحمد علي قائدا للواء من الجيش في حضرموت أو صعدة أو المهرة »

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Fundamental changes in the Yemeni army

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, April 7 – President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi issued on Friday several republican decrees changing three military leaders and four governors.

General Mohamed Saleh Al-Ahmar, Ali Abdullah Saleh's half brother, chief of the Air Forces and Air Defense was dismissed after over 22 years in the same position. His removal came after a three-month strike by the personnel of the air forces demanding his resignation.

General Rashed Naser Ali Al-Janad was appointed as the new chief of Yemen's Air Forces and Air Defense.

Brigadier Tareq Mohamed Abdullah Saleh, Ali Abdullah Saleh's nephew, was moved from commander of the Presidential Guards to head the 37th Armored Brigade in Hadramout.

General Mohamed Ali Mohsen, leader of the eastern military region who supported the popular uprising against Saleh was also replaced by General Ali Al-Jayfi.

Rowis Abdullah Mujawar, one of Ali Abdullah Saleh's loyal military commanders, who was the head of Yemen's Marine Forces, was replaced by Abdullah Salem Ali Abdullah.

The Governor of Abyan, Saleh Al-Zawari, who had been one of Ali Abdullah Saleh's security allies was replaced by Jamal Al-Aqel. The two main cities in Abyan governorate were overrun by Ansar Al-Sharia, an armed group affiliated to Al-Qaeda, in May 2011.

Naji Al-Zaydi, the governor of Marib, who also stood with Ali Abdullah Saleh against the peaceful revolution, was replaced by Sultan Al-Arada, a tribal leader from the area.

Hamoud Al-Sofi, the governor of Taiz, was replaced by Shawqi Hayel Saeed, a prominent businessman in Yemen. Taiz was one of the starting points of the revolution against Saleh's 33-year rule.

Sheikh Ali Al-Qaysi was appointed as the new governor of Hajja governorate, in north Yemen. Hajja has witnessed prolonged sectarian conflict between the Shiite Houthis and local Sunni tribesmen.

The GCC power transition deal that was signed by the then ruling General People's Congress and the opposition late last November in Riyadh, stipulated the reorganizing of Yemen's army according to professional and national standards.

In early March, President Hadi had replaced the commander of the Southern Military Region, General Mahdi Maqwala, who has been one of Saleh's strongest supporters.

Political Security headquarters in Sana'a under fire

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, April 8 – The Political Security head office in Sana'a was fired upon heavily by unknown persons at 9pm last Monday resulting in the injury of several guards.

Media sources said that a number of explosions and a heavy gunfire exchange was heard after the attack on the building located on Djibouti Street, in the political zone in the south of the capital.

Many foreign diplomats as well as senior officials reside in the area. The same sources indicated that an unknown number of building guards were injured in the offensive.

Those who launched the attack or their affiliation are not known. Locals said they were scared when they heard the intelligence building's warning sirens.

Others locals said they saw an ambulance leaving the building carrying what appeared to be injured people. They added that it was not

far-fetched to assume there were casualties given the heavy firing.

Tension is rising in the capital with escalating accusations between the political parties of hindering the implementation of the Gulf Initiative. There are also indications of military movements by military units and tribal forces that had previously shown their willingness to remove themselves from the capital.

Sources at the JMP accused the former president Ali Abdullah Saleh's military and security leaders, especially Saleh's relatives in the Republican Guard and the Central Security Forces, of handing out arms to their supporters in the capital in an attempt to undermine security and create a state of instability.

Meanwhile, President Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi headed a meeting described by Saba News Agency as "exceptional" with the Military and Security Committee. During the

meeting, Hadi warned all parties against resorting to violence and called upon them to work towards total harmony in order to implement the duties of the Security Committee.

Hadi also said, "The committee still has defined duties and tasks that should be carried out in order to establish security and stability properly, open any roads that are still blocked between governorates or districts, and work to protect power wires as well as oil and gas pipes."

Hadi indicated that there is a strategy to be disclosed soon that would "promote the unity of the armed forces, create security and stability and perform the second phase of the Gulf Initiative and its scheduled executive mechanism supported by the UN Security Council's Resolution No. 2014 in order to get past the current state of disintegration." The president affirmed that "this is the responsibility of all."

Tribal negotiations fail to free Swiss woman

By: Amal Al-Yarisi

SHBWA, April 8- Martha, a close friend of Sylvia Abrahah, a 32-year-old Swiss hostage still being held in Shabwa governorate, has denied to speak in detail to Yemen Times about her friend.

The abduction of Abrahah in Hodeida, on Yemen's Red Sea, coast is still surrounded by uncertainty.

Martha, who is also a Swiss national, has only said that she will leave Hodeida to avoid the fate of Abrahah, who was kidnapped in mid-March by unknown armed men reported to

be from Shabwa governorate.

A local source from Shabwa told the Yemen Times that a tribal mediation headed by Mullah Ali Abdullah Zabarah in the Al-Saeed area of Shabwa failed to secure Abrahah's release, due to the unworkable conditions put forth by Ansar Al-Sharia, an Al-Qaeda-affiliated militant group in Yemen.

The statement came after Ansar Al-Sharia demanded the release of the widow of Osama Bin Laden and a number of others being detained in Aden. However, the government met the demands with refusal.

Local sources ruled out reports by Yemeni media outlets about the transfer of Abrahah to Abyan governorate, pointing out that the transfer would be extremely difficult due to tight security checkpoints.

The acting ambassador of Switzerland is in contact with tribal leaders in Shabwa, through whom he is attempting to secure Abrahah's release.

Abrahah was surrendered by armed men to Ansar Al-Sharia in Shabwa in return for US \$50,000 after the government refused to meet their demands.



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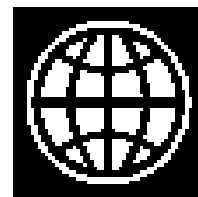
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Ansar Al-Shariah demands government to release 600 Al-Qaeda prisoners

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, April 8 – Seventy three soldiers from Yemen's army are still being held hostage by Ansar Al-Sharia, the Al-Qaeda affiliated group in Abyan. The troops were captured during violent confrontations with the army in early March.

Ansar Al-Sharia demands that the government free 600 Al-Qaeda prisoners currently held in political and national security jails. However, no response has yet been taken to meet the groups demands or to negotiate with them.

Abdullah Ali, the prisoners and negotiations officer for Ansar Al-Sharia, said in an exclusive phone interview with Yemen TV on Friday evening that the government has not yet contacted them in regard to releasing the captured soldiers.

He said that the group has re-

ceived media and human rights visitors from the HOOD Organization, Al-Karama Organization, France 24 TV and a team from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

"If the troops were Americans, the Yemeni government would be instructed by the US to release all Al-Qaeda prisoners," Ali said. "If the government of Yemen cares for the lives of its troops, they must free our prisoners."

He acknowledged that it was Ansar Al-Sharia who sabotaged the oil pipeline on April 3 in the Al-Saeed area of Shabwa governorate.

"We blew up the oil pipeline in Shabwa in revenge for the US airstrikes against Zinjibar, Jaar, and Azzan," said the official from Ansar Al-Shariah.

Bakil Al-Nuzaili, one of the captured soldiers talked to his mother and a journalist on Yemen TV on



The 73 soldiers have been in capture for over one month.

air.

"They [Ansar Al-Shariah] treat us well and they let us contact our families by phone once per week,"

said the captured soldier.

He added that he and his colleagues had now been held for over one month.

Acute cough epidemic kills three children in Hajja

By: Ahmed Dawood

HAJJA, April 7- Hadi Hajeni was happy with his 1-year-old girl. Hajeni now speaks in a pained voice because Suad passed away two weeks ago, after suffering from acute cough.

The acute cough epidemic has also killed two other children in Al-Khamisin district of Hajja governorate, and almost 30 others are still afflicted.

"Before the death of my little girl Suad, she was suffering from an undiagnosed disease. However, the symptoms of the disease were clear to me. It was an acute cough, with fast

breathing, and frequent fainting," Hajeni said

He explained that he took his daughter to the Hajjah's hospital in order to save her life. Doctors at the hospital told him that that Suad had inflammation in her chest.

"They could not diagnose the disease and they didn't give her the appropriate medications," he added.

Hajeni remained wary of his daughter's case until he lost her two weeks ago.

Hajeni's daughter Suad was the first child in the village of Beit Aqeeli in Hajja's Al-Khamisin district to die due to acute cough.

Several days later, the epidemic spread further among children in the village.

Hajeni says that in the same week, the epidemic killed Suad, Abdu Elah Mohammad Ibrahim Ghalib, eight months old, and Mohammad Ibrahim Mohammad Ghalib, three months old.

All the dead children had the same symptoms, according to Hajeni.

Hadi added that over the past two weeks the number of acute cough cases has reached 30.

He affirmed that the most of the afflicted children are under the age of two.

Abdulrahman Al-Madani, a nurse at Al-Maghsal Medical Center in the village of Aqeeli, said that the children who died never received proper treatment from Al-Maghsal due to the lack of necessary medications.

He explained that the reason for the spread of acute cough was due to a dust storm that hit the region several weeks ago.

He said that Al-Maghsal Medical Center informed the Ministry of Health office in Al-Khamisain District well after the epidemic had already spread among children.

But the medical team from the Ministry of Health came late to the

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affected area. They arrived only four days ago and distributed medications for children, according to Al-Madani.

The team helped more than 15 afflicted children recover and decreased the number of potential deaths resulting from the epidemic.

"No child has died since the distribution of medication began," he added.

Hajeni he claimed that though the team distributes antibiotics to the infected children, they don't apply medical tests.

For his part, Adel Al-Muayad, director of the Ministry of Health office in Hajja, said that they responded af-

ter being informed about the deaths of children in the village.

He added that they sent a medical team immediately to the village. The team arrived in the district four days ago. They found that three-month child, Mohammad Ibrahim Mohammad Ghalib, died earlier this week, according to the health official in the governorate.

He explained that what struck the village is indeed acute cough. He stressed that the medical team distributed medications to the nearly 30 infected children with this infection.

"We are completely controlling this epidemic," he said.

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OUR
OPINION

Hang in there Hadi

So much disturbance and threats of violence followed President Hadi's recent bold decrees including those removing some military commanders, especially the heads of the air force and marine force.

Sana'a International Airport was completely shut down on Saturday and Marib power connection to Sana'a was bombed again just four hours after it was repaired.

In response to the disobedience at Sana'a airport and the Dailami Air Force Base, President Hadi ordered an investigation and the arrest of all those involved. It seems the tough personality of Hadi is finally showing itself, which is great and long awaited.

Hadi started with the relatively smaller fish. Now the test is how well he can execute this stage so he can move on to the big ones. This is a very crucial test and he needs all the support he can get from Yemenis especially, but also from the world as a whole.

Hadi needs to know that he is supported. Not just by words but by deeds. It is said that Ali Mohsen has accepted his retirement from the military post as commander of the First Armored Division which supported the uprising last year. This is an excellent move because it shows good intentions with regard to building a new Yemen and having new blood in military positions.

This is the first stage of restructuring the army which is vital to the transition and dialogue. It will help the state re-own its military institutions instead of having them run by individuals and risking chaos like what happened on Saturday at the airport and air base.

Well done Hadi, keep up the good work. Rest assured we will support you.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf



What is behind US officials' overstatement of Al-Qaeda's threat in Yemen?

By: Aish Awais
aish@shebacss.com

Within the last few weeks, US officials in the Department of Defence and the CIA have declared a number of statements depicting a bleak picture of the situation in Yemen.

They claimed that Al-Qaeda in Yemen is posing the most alarming threat, its capabilities are constantly improving and its moves have become quicker and more violent.

Also, they tried to throw doubt over the Yemeni government's capacity to contain that threat on account of the reduction of its financial resources affected by its declining oil exports, the insurgency in Sa'ada and the secessionist movement prevailing in some of the southern governorates.

Now, the question is whether Al-Qaeda's threat in Yemen has really reached such an alarming level, or there is some exaggeration and fear-mongering? And if the latter is the case, what are the aims and ends behind that?

In fact, there is no one definite answer to this question. But, the author of this article holds that there are three possibilities. First, instead of only providing counselling, training and equipment for the Yemeni forces, the US administration intends to become involved directly in countering Al-Qaeda in Yemen.

To realise this end, the American officials' statements were issued to spread panic among the public in the USA and amplify their fears of the threat posed by Al-Qaeda in Yemen until the American citizens are psychologically prepared to accept and support the notion of direct US involvement in Yemen.

However, there are certain objective considerations that can diminish the credibility of this attitude. Washington has realised Al-Qaeda's threat since last year, to be precise, since the botched attempt to blow up the US passenger plane over Detroit on December 25, 2009. Had

Washington had any intentions to become directly involved in Yemen, it would have seized the opportunity at the time.

Furthermore, such involvement would be in direct contradiction to US President Barack Obama's foreign policies which are aimed at reducing the US interference in other countries' affairs and leaving the counter-terrorism missions to the concerned states.

A case in point of this policy is reflected through the US troop withdrawal from Iraq and Washington's trend toward tasking the Afghan government with maintaining security and fighting Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.

The second possibility is that the statements by the American officials were issued in a bid to put pressure on Yemen to compel it to adopt stricter policies concerning handling AQAP, especially after some Al-Qaeda's leaders successively surrendered themselves to the Yemeni security authorities such as Jumaan Sufyan, Al-Qaeda's leader in Al-Jawf, and Huzam Mujally, Al-Qaeda's leader in Arhab.

As a result of this, the US often had reservations about Yemen's policy towards Al-Qaeda's operatives and interpreted it as a relaxation of the government policies to counter terrorism.

However, such an interpretation does not stand to reason. In other words, this is not the first time Al-Qaeda's leaders and operatives have surrendered themselves to the Yemeni government; it has happened many times in the past. Also, it is very difficult to accuse the government of not being strict, especially at this moment when the number of casualties among the Yemeni government's forces has reached tens of lives as a result of the constant and open confrontations with Al-Qaeda operatives.

If more carefully examined, the signs existing at the moment can help us come up with a somewhat different interpretation. Within the last three weeks some American media pointed to a disparity among the viewpoints of US counter-

terrorism authorities, particularly between the viewpoint of the US State Department on one hand and that of the Department of Defense and the CIA on the other.

The officials in the Department of Defense and the CIA consider it significant and necessary to raise the amount of support for Yemeni forces to about USD 1.2 billion to enable the Yemeni forces combat terrorism more effectively.

On their part, the officials in the US State Department are opposed to this trend on the pretext that the Yemeni government may use the weapons and equipment given to it in order to quell the opposition in Sa'ada and the southern governorates, which would compound strained rela-

tionships and increase tensions in the country to an alarming level.

On the basis of all this, we can conclude that issuing the statements and overstating the threat posed by Al-Qaeda in Yemen may be an attempt on the part of the officials in the Department of Defense and the US intelligence agencies to strengthen their point of view before the US administration and urge it to allocate sufficient funds for supporting and enhancing the capabilities of the Yemeni forces.

Aish Awais is Strategic Studies Program Manager at the Sheba Strategic Studies Center in the capital Sana'a.
Source: www.shebacss.com

**Republic of Yemen
Minister's Cabinet
Economic Opportunity Fund (EOF)
Consultancy firms required for the
Preparation of EOF Comprehensive Operations Manuals**

The Government of Yemen represented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation has received a Grant from (IFAD) and co-finance from Islamic bank for Development and European union toward the Economic Opportunities Fund. EOF was created by the Presidential decree # 183-2010 dated 25/09/2010 as a public-private partnership working to improve the economic status of poor women and men in rural areas. Currently, the (EOF) seeks for a qualified firm to prepare comprehensive operating manuals for EOF which will include the following;

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Mohammed Qahtan to Yemen Times:

“There are no redlines in dialogue”

Interview by Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Mohammed Qahtan is a member of the Supreme Committee of the Islah Party and a leader in the Joint Meeting Parties. In a time when much controversy is spread over this Islamic conservative Islah Party, which is Yemen's strongest political party today, Yemen Times interviewed Mohammed Qahtan to clear some points on the party's and the JMP's position towards several current issues.

How is the dialogue progressing in light of the demands for the restructuring of the army before talks happen?

The national dialogue, which is currently at the preparatory phase and which will conclude with a conference that outlines the future shape of Yemen, is not related to the restructuring of the army as such, but rather a military issue.

But it is said that the Joint Meeting Parties are making the restructuring of the army a condition to any dialogue?

Not true. The restructuring of the army and ensuring security and stability are not tied to the national dialogue, but are rather the responsibility of the military committee, the president and the reconciliation government.

So even without the restructuring of the army, the dialogue will continue?

The restructuring is a long process that has initial and later phases. Removing signs of the military and armed tension from the streets, as well as unifying the army under the leadership of the Ministry of Defense and security under the leadership of the Ministry of Interior is an urgent mission.

However, the restructuring and reorganization of the army so that it becomes a national army in a democratic pluralistic system will take more than two years and longer than the transitional period. As for the three points I mentioned earlier which are removing signs of the military and armed tension, unifying the army under the Ministry of Defense, and security under the Ministry of Interior, are what we call the first phase of the restructuring of the army.

I understand from your answer that the Republican Guards will also submit to the Ministry of Defense?

Everyone will.

“

I have no problem with Ahmed Ali being commander of a brigade somewhere in Hadramout, Sa'ada or Al-Mahara, etc.

But don't you think that it will be a difficult task to get the 37 brigades of the Republican Guard, which have more sophisticated weapons and better training and are under the command of Ahmed Ali, former president Saleh's son, to agree to this?

Everyone including the Republican Guards will have to unify and come under the Ministry of Defense. As for this high number of brigades, it is unheard of anywhere in the world to have this many without a formal structure. The trend is to have every four or five and in some cases seven brigades come together under what we call in military terms a “division,” a larger entity would be the “corps”, but to have 37 brigades just scattered around the country like this is unusual.

Why would Ahmed Ali submit to this new structuring and lose his prestigious position?

Ahmed Ali and the Republican Guards claim that they were protecting and obeying the orders of the legitimate and constitutional regime. The other side which is Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmed, head of the First Armored Division claimed – and it is

true – that he is protecting the revolution. Now we have a new legitimate rule and all must unify for protecting it and work under it.

In summary, you are saying the dialogue will continue regardless of what happens on the military front?

It means that we will not stop one process because of a delay in another. However, it may be difficult – not impossible – to carry out a dialogue and have the security situation as shaky as it is today.

There are steps in the dialogue that could take place today, however the national dialogue conference will not take place until the first requirements of restructuring the army is completed.

Back to the question of dialogue – dialogue with whom?

With everyone without exception.

Even Ansar Al-Sharia?

We have not yet, whether inside the Islah party or the Joint Meeting Parties or in the National Council, made a decision on this issue yet.

But in my view, we have to launch a call to all the armed groups to leave their weapons aside, and if they have political demands to come to the national dialogue and we will talk about them.

But what makes them, or the armed groups in the Southern Movement for that matter, abandon their weapons and trust the central government?

The question should be the other way around. We as citizens and people of Yemen need guarantees from those armed groups who carry weapons, kill soldiers and terrorize the people that they will stop. What do they want? Why do they do this?

Did you ask them?

All I know about Al-Qaeda is that they have a mission to free the Earth of US domination. Should we suggest to them that we move to the moon so that they free the Earth? They randomly kill people and this is unacceptable. If this is really what they believe in and have a global project for this, then they should look for another planet to exercise their mission.

Such a strong position on terrorism! So as Islah and JMP you are committed to fighting terrorism?

We believe that the war against terrorism is a national obligation and responsibility.

It means building a complete national strategy to rid the country of Al-Qaeda by all means possible.

The first step to establishing a national strategy to combat terrorism is through bringing new serious national leadership to lead the antiterrorism bodies and structures. What used to happen in the past is a sort of extortion of the West. We need to rebuild the situation based on a serious national foundation.

The new leaders need not come from the Islah Party or the JMP, but they need to be patriotic, serious and new.

We ask of our Western friends, especially the Americans, not to judge us based on their bad experience with the previous regime. They know well how in Somalia, for example, the strongest entity that stood against Al-Qaeda was Sheikh Sharif and his group and they are Islamists.

We ask of our friends not to use the same blackmail that used to be applied to them on us. We have a vision and a program and in fact all the political players in the scene today have visions on this issue. The entry point is through the state institutions that are tasked with fighting terrorism. They must be reformed.

As for Al-Qaeda in Yemen, let me remind you that they like any other armed group that adopts guerrilla

war tactics thrives on popular support and is given cover by the communities the armed group resides in. Therefore, if new national leadership came into play and the popular and political forces back it up, it will transform the communities from terrorist friendly environments to the opposite. This will tip the power balance in favor of the anti-terrorism bodies.

Simultaneously, when the Yemeni soldier feels that the entire Yemeni people is behind him and that he is not only following orders from the family in power, but is rather doing a patriotic mission, he will feel more powerful and more committed. The JMP can play a significant role in this mobilization.

“

We ask of our Western friends, especially the Americans, not to judge us based on their bad experience with the previous regime.

What if the US demands the current Yemeni government hands over Zindani as an Al-Qaeda member?

The Americans said so and so, and accused Zindani of funding Al-Qaeda, etc. In return he said that he is ready to stand trial in front of the national justice system in Yemen. This position should be credited to Sheikh Zindani and as such, let the Yemeni courts decide if he is innocent or guilty, and let him do the penalty if proven so, which in Yemen is much harsher than in the States for such a crime.

But don't you think it is impossible for Zindani to stand trial? His supporters will go mad and even act on it, which could prove dangerous?

The man says I am ready to stand trial and now we are saying it is impossible that he does so. Why? Let's test his statement. There are no dangerous consequences; the man says willingly he is ready, what more can you ask?

As a politician I understand that there are no real charges. Our internal charter in the Islah Party stipulates that any member who is proven to support or be affiliated to any other organization is automatically kicked out of the party. We have great suspicions that these are rumors spread by the former regime. And as the proverb says: “seeing is believing,” so give me evidence and let the justice system take its course.

“

I believe we will reach terms of agreement and eventually they will have to trust us because the reality is that we are the reconciliation government today.

Let's talk about another issue. How committed is the Islah Party to the protestors in the squares and why?

We are waiting for the government to complete the creation of its outreach committees for a dialogue with the youth in the squares. I hope this is done as soon as possible to sort out the squares because until now there has been no adequate communication with the squares.

For us in the Islah Party the squares

have been a heavy responsibility, not only security wise, but also in financing the meals and so on. There are people who abandoned their jobs and regular lives for over a year now just to attend to the squares.

The outreach committee created by the government will be responsible for reaching an agreement with the squares to come to terms and guarantees that would allow the clearing of the squares. The protestors' main demand is the creation of a modern state and so they should get a written agreement by the government endorsed by the prime minister that guarantees their demand – which is desired and legitimate – to be achieved through a series of steps. The protestors and others will create bodies to monitor this agreement from outside the squares.

For us in the Islah Party we have a commitment to the squares and no matter how exhausting this responsibility is we will not abandon them. It is not fair to ask them now to just pick up their stuff and leave and we will not tell them that they are on their own now. I believe they have legitimate demands and they should have an endorsed agreement to eventually allow them to leave the squares.

Why should the youth in the squares trust an agreement from a government many of them don't even recognize?

I believe we will reach terms of agreement and eventually they will have to trust us because the reality is that we are the reconciliation government today. Having a signed agreement endorsed by the prime minister should be a strong guarantee and we will encourage them to accept it. If anyone has any suggestions we are open to hear them. In all cases this is the responsibility of the outreach committee that will hold a dialogue with the youth and come to an agreement with them.

Who will sign this agreement on behalf of the squares?

The youth will create mechanisms whereby they have representatives amongst them for signing the agreement. Even those who do not wish to be affiliated under any umbrella can come and sign on behalf of themselves even if there were thousands of them.

I really don't believe this will be an issue because all the protestors agree on the one demand which is a modern state and will come to an agreement to achieve it.

You said that the Islah Party is operating through revolutionary frameworks including through the JMP. How long will the JMP remain together?

The Joint Meeting Parties is a voluntary collation that was created based on the convictions of its members, which are the same convictions that decide its continuity. Currently the agreement is that there is a need for the JMP to remain at least for the next ten years.

But what keeps the JMP together despite the vast difference in its members' ideologies?

We called ourselves accurately the Joint Meeting Parties because we meet on some common grounds and from this foundation we realize we need to continue longer.

In established democracies, political parties compete according to political agendas and you don't find in their campaigning programs issues like an independent justice system or a modern state, because the state institutions are there already established. The competition is for the stage thereafter.

For us in Yemen, the common concern which we all agree on is creating the state and so we realize that for this end we need to work together for at least ten years, or rather until the modern state which we all dream of is achieved.

The JMP and its partners that were yesterday's opposition are in today's regime. So who is today's opposition?

There is no opposition during the transition period because it is based on reconciliation. Even the “opposing” parties to the political process are not in opposition. They are just

late comers to the dialogue process. And we will not give up or stop trying to get them involved so that this transition is inclusive of all and that all are represented. This is the essence of the revolution through which the dreams of all Yemenis will come true.

There are signs of hesitation from some parties, I admit, but the early signs are positive that they would eventually join the national dialogue.

Including the Southern Movement chapters that demand independence?

There are no red lines in the national dialogue, even the unity is not a red line. No one has the right to limit the issues that should be put on the table, but the important issue is convincing the other and reaching an agreement. For example, I personally do not accept the separation and will not vote for it, but does that mean I exclude those who do and say no dialogue with you? Of course not. But rather I call for dialogue and reach an agreement.

I am convinced that the unity sentiment among Yemenis in the south is even stronger than in the north. I would imagine that if you pick up the phone and asked Ali Salim Al-Biedh [former president of South Yemen who is leading a secessionist movement from abroad], if you asked him: Sir, you are one of the pioneer Arab nationalists who fought for the Arab unity he would break down in tears. He would tell you: This is my dream that I lived for, but I was greatly wronged and this and that happened to me.

You said in the dialogue no one should be excluded, yet you in the Islah Party and in the government generally have deliberately excluded women from decision making positions!

Nobody can deny women and the youth's participation in the revolution. They have proven their position practically and those who ignore them will lose.

Yet you ignored them!

“

Women should head to the streets and start demonstrations just like they did against Ali Abdullah Saleh until they are adequately represented in the transitional structures.

Don't take the representation in the new government as the representation of the Islah Party but as the National Council as a whole. I agree with you that having only two female ministers from our side is not much. But you must realize that women gaining their rights will not happen overnight.

We don't have anything specific on women outside our program as the JMP and its partners. This is the 2009 National Salvation Program which we will present to the national dialogue process and conference.

During the national dialogue events, if women do not appreciate the way they are involved or represented they should head to the streets and start demonstrations just like they did against Ali Abdullah Saleh until they are adequately represented.

I admit that subconsciously we behave according to our culture and male dominated values. We don't remember women until the very end,



but women in the Prophet's time were respected and represented in all walks of life.

Moving on, does the Islah Party accept to work with people from the former regime outside the government?

We have no problem with anyone from the former regime except for Ali Abdullah Saleh and his family.

“

We believe that the war against terrorism is a national obligation and responsibility.

You don't have a problem with any of the military or political leaders that supported Saleh's regime? Your judgment is then not about what they have done, but rather their relation to Saleh. Isn't this duplicity?

Our history tells us when the Republican–Imamate struggle took place, it took over seven years to reach a reconciliation, and that was only when the Hameed Al-Deen as the ruling family was excluded.

I am with excluding Saleh's family on a temporary basis. I have no problem with Ahmed Ali being commander of a brigade somewhere in Hadramout, Sa'ada or Al-Mahara, etc. But for him to control almost an entire army and we remain hostages in his hands like this, with him in command of hundreds of tanks, artillery and thousands of rockets is something we can't accept of Ahmed Ali or anyone else.

So you don't have a problem with him having a military ranking and remaining in the system?

No problem.

Despite what is being said that by not prosecuting them [former members of the regime] we should at least not have them in the system?

This was a wish we had but the national reconciliation and Gulf Initiative dictated otherwise, and we need to realize that politics is the art of achieving what's possible.

What if he runs for president in two years?

We will not accept anyone running unless he has abandoned his military post for at least five years.

What about Saleh and his family staying in the country?

It is better for the General People's Congress [Saleh's party] to remove the ousted president from its leadership if it wants to thrive politically. As for him staying in Yemen with his family, as long as he is not politically active it does not really matter.

There was an initiative [All Out] that was suggested by Ali Mohsen and rejected by Ali Saleh that ten from each side should leave the country. But with the internationally endorsed immunity I don't think Saleh will go anywhere, especially as there are others who will be disadvantaged if he leaves with all the money that he took during his regime, which is estimated at more than USD 15 billion.

محمد قحطان ليمن تا يمز:

في الحوار الوطني ليس هناك خط أحمر على أي موضوع يطرح

لقاء نادبة السقاف

في حوار مثير القى الضوء على العديد من التكهّنات المتعلقة بموقف حزب الإصلاح والمشارك بقضايا جوهرية محمد قحطان عضو الهيئة العليا لحزب التجمع اليمني للإصلاح والقيادي في اللقاء المشترك يتحدث لصحيفة يمن تايمز بشفاافية مطلقة في اللقاء التالي.

إلى أين وصل الحوار الوطني اليوم؟ بالذات في ظل المطالبة بإعادة هيكلة الجيش قبل الجلوس على طاولة الحوار؟
الحوار الوطني الذي يمر بعملية تحضير وتواصل وسيتوج بالمؤتمر الوطني مهمته تحديد شكل اليمن في المستقبل. وحاليا يجري التواصل في هذا الاتجاه ولا علاقة له بمسألة إعادة هيكلة الجيش والتي هي متعلقة بالدرجة الأولى بالناحية الأمنية.

ولكن هناك من يقول أن المشترك اشترط الجلوس على طاولة الحوار بإعادة تشكيل الجيش أولا هل هذا غير صحيح؟
نعم، غير صحيح. فمهمة هيكلة الجيش وإعادة الأمن والاستقرار غير مرتبطة بالحوار الوطني ولكنها مسؤولية اللجنة العسكرية، رئيس الجمهورية وحكومة الوفاق

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الحوار الوطني.. مع من يكون؟
مع كل الناس بدون استثناء.

انصار الشريعة؟
نحن لم نتخذ قرار بعد في حوار مع انصار الشريعة لا في داخل الإصلاح أو المشترك ولا المجلس الوطني. ولكن أنا راىي أننا يجب أن نطلق نداء لكل الجماعات المسلحة نقول لهم فيه أن لديهم فرصة أن يعلنوا التخلي عن العنف وإذا لهم مطالب سياسية فليعمل أن ينخرطوا في إطار الحوار الوطني وستكون محل دراسة.

ما الذي يجعلهم يثقون في الحكومة ويتركون السلاح من أجل الحوار؟ سواء هم أو الجماعات المسلحة في الحراك الجنوبي؟
نحن، كمواطنين وشعب، الذين نحتاج إلى ضمانات بأن هؤلاء الذين يحملون السلاح يقتلون الجنود ويمارسون الإرهاب والقتل العبيي سيكفوا. لماذا؟ ماذا يريدون؟

هل سألتهم؟
أنا كل ما أعلمه أن تنظيم القاعدة مشروعه تحرير الكرة الأرضية من هيمنة أمريكا إذا هل نفتح عليهم أن نذهب إلى سطح القمر ليتمكنوا هم من تحرير الكرة الأرضية؟ يمارسون القتل العبيي مقابل كلام ليس له معنى! إذا كانوا حقا مؤمنين بهذا ولهم مشروع عالمي فليبحثوا على غير هذه الأرض.

الكل يجب أن ينضم ويتحد تحت وزارة الدفاع، وبالنسبة لعدد الأولية الكبير فهذا الأمر لم يحدث في أي مكان في العالم أن تجدي ٣٧ لواء بهذا الشكل المتفرق غير المهيكل. لأن العادة في حال وجود الوية عديدة أربعة أو خمسة وفي بعض التسجيلات تصل إلى سبعة وتسمى فرقة، ثم أعلى منها فيلق. أما التنظيم الذي عليه الحرس الجمهوري هكذا ٣٧ لواء وبدون هيكلة فلم يحدث في أي مكان في العالم.

يجب أن نطلق نداء لكل الجماعات المسلحة نقول لهم فيه أن لديهم فرصة أن يعلنوا التخلي عن العنف وإذا لهم مطالب سياسية فليعمل أن ينخرطوا في إطار الحوار الوطني وستكون محل دراسة.

ولكن الذي يجبر قيادة الحرس الجمهوري الممثلة بأحمد علي والذي لديه عتاد أكثر من الجيش العادي أن يتنازل ويصبح تابعا لوزير الدفاع؟
الحرس الجمهوري وأحمد علي يدعون أنهم يحمون الشرعية الدستورية وينفذون أوامره. وكما أن الطرف الآخر بقيادة علي محسن الأحمر يدعي – وهو كذلك – بأنه يحمي الثورة. الآن

أن يتم بناء استراتيجية وطنية تتعبا جميع الموارد الوطنية معها.

معنى قولك أن في هذه اللحظة لا توجد استراتيجية بعد ذاتها ولكن انتظار لقيادات وطنية هي التي تشكل هذه الاستراتيجية؟
ما كان يحدث في الماضي هو ابتزاز عائلي لورقة الإرهاب. استخدمها صالح وأولاده لتثبيت حضورهم في الحكم. وبالتالي الجيش الوطني والشعب كانوا مغيبين عما يجري. نحن نعتقد أنه لا بد من وجود استراتيجية وطنية تحشد لها جميع الموارد.

أصرت على إعادة هذا السؤال بأكثر من طريقة لأن هناك تساؤل وقلق دولي عن مدى جدية وقدرة الحكومة الجديدة والتي تشمل من خلال التيار المتشدد في الإصلاح مثلا عناصر - مثل الزنداني - قد لا تتفاعل مع فكرة مكافحة الإرهاب بالشكل الذي تقوله.

نحن نطلب من أصدقائنا الغربيين وبالذات الأمريكان أن لا ينتموا من الأطراف الجديدة بسبب الابتزاز الذي كان يمارس ضدهم من قبل النظام السابق. هم يدركون جيدا أن أقوى من واجه القاعدة في الصومال مثلا هو الشيخ شريف وجماعته وهو إسلامي. نطلب منهم أن لا يكرروا نظام الابتزاز الذي كان يقوم به النظام السابق معهم مع الإصلاح أو النظام الجديد.

الأمريكان قالوا إن الزنداني فعل كذا وكذا ومول القاعدة.. إلخ. هذه تهمة. الزنداني قال أنا على استعداد أن أمثل أمام القضاء الوطني وهذا موقف يحسب للشيخ الزنداني. وبناء عليه في حال مثل أمام القضاء، فليبرأه القضاء أو ليدينه وبالتالي سيأخذ العقوبة والتي هي عندنا أشد من الأمريكية على مثل هذه الأفعال.

لدينا برنامج ولدينا رؤية وفي هذه النقطة بالذات لا يوجد قوة وطنية موجودة في الساحة ليست لديها رؤية حول هذا الموضوع. لكن ليست البداية هي الأجهزة الحكومية التي تتحمل مسؤولية ذلك يجب أن تصحح. والأطراف السياسية والشعبية ستكون رديف مؤيد ومساند لها لكن من غير المنطقي الطلب من الحكومة الجديدة أن تشكل أجهزة جديدة لمكافحة الإرهاب وإعداد جيش ومليشيات خاصة به. نريد إصلاح أجهزة مكافحة الإرهاب الحالية وبوجود قيادات وطنية جادة ليست عائلية ولا حزبية يمكن عمل خطط فعالة لمناقشة الأفكار حول هذا الموضوع.

أما جماعة القاعدة مثل أي جماعات مسلحة تلجأ في الغالب إلى أسلوب حرب العصابات الذي من المعروف أنه يقوم على التأييد السكاني ومجتمعاته المحلية تشكل له غطاء وحماية. وبالتالي إذا وجدت قيادات وطنية لمكافحة الإرهاب وتعبات الموارد السياسية والشعبية معها فأول مكسب هو أن البيئة الحاضنة للإرهاب والتي تسمح لهم بالتحرك في حروب العصابات ستفترق وتقلب عليهم وهذا يعدل ميزان القوى ويجعل قدرة الأجهزة الحكومية على الانتصار كبير.

ومن جانب آخر عندما يشعر الجندي أن الشعب اليمني كله معاً خلفه وأنه يقوم بعمل وطني وليس مجرد تنفيذ أوامر خاصة إذا كانت أوامر عائلية، هذا سيجعل أداؤه عاليا. وهذه المسائل يمكن للمشارك والقوى السياسية أن يلعبوا دور فيها.

ماذا لو طالبت الحكومة الأمريكية من الحكومة اليمنية الحالية تسليم الزنداني كمتهم في تنظيم القاعدة؟
الأمريكان قالوا إن الزنداني فعل كذا وكذا ومول القاعدة.. إلخ. هذه تهمة. الزنداني قال أنا على استعداد أن أمثل أمام القضاء الوطني وهذا موقف يحسب للشيخ الزنداني. وبناء عليه في حال مثل أمام القضاء، فليبرأه القضاء أو ليدينه وبالتالي سيأخذ العقوبة والتي هي عندنا أشد من العقوبات في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية على مثل هذه الأفعال.

ولكن ألا تعتقد أنه من المستحيل أن يمثل الزنداني أمام القضاء بدون أن تقصّب جماعته وأتباعه وربما يكون لغضبهم تبعات؟
الرجل يقول أنا على استعداد أن أمثل أمام القضاء. والآن نحن نقول مستحيل أن يمثل أمام القضاء؟ لماذا؟ لنضع كلمته محل الاختبار

نحن ننتظر حسب الآلية التنفيذية الانتهاء من تشكيل لجان التواصل مع الساحات والتي أتمنى أن تتم بأقصى سرعة من أجل حسم الموضوع. التواصل إلى الآن لم يتم بالشكل الكافي

ونجرب. لا توجد مخاطر أو تبعات. شخص قال أنا سأسئل أمام القضاء برغبته وقناعته. إذا أين المشكلة؟
ولكن أنا كسياسي أفهم أنه ليس عليه إدانة حقيقية. ونحن في الإصلاح نظامنا الأساسي يعتبر أي شخص ينتمي أو يوالي تنظيم آخر مفصول تلقائيا من حزب الإصلاح. إذا فليتم إثبات أن هذا الرجل ينتمي أو يوالي تنظيم من الحزب. ولكن تبقى تهم ولدنيا شكوك كبيرة أنها مجرد تسريبات من النظام السابق. ولكن كما يقول المثل اليمني الفرق بين الحقيقة وغير الحقيقة أربع بنان وهي المسافة بين السمع والبصر – أو ما بين السماع والإشاعات والدلائل المرئية. وبالتالي الفرق بين الإشاعة والحقيقة هي الأدلة. وإذا تمّ تقديم الأدلة إلى المحكمة المعنية في النطاق الجغرافي لمسكن الشيخ الزنداني، دع القضاء الوطني يأخذ مجراه.

لنتجه الى محور آخر - إلى أي مدى حزب الإصلاح متمسك بالساحات اليوم ولماذا؟
نحن نتنظر حسب الآلية التنفيذية الانتهاء من تشكيل لجان التواصل مع الساحات والتي أتمنى أن تتم بأقصى سرعة من أجل حسم الموضوع. التواصل إلى الآن لم يتم بالشكل الكافي وبالنسبة لنا كحزب الإصلاح فإن الساحات بالنسبة لنا مسئولية كبيرة من ناحية أمنية وتقويل من أجل الوجبات وهناك الكثير من الناس انقطعوا عن أعمالهم للفرغ من أجل الاهتمام بالساحات منذ أكثر من سنة.

لجنة التواصل التي تشكلها الحكومة ستكون مهمتها التناحر مع الساحات للإتفاق معهم على الضمانات الكافية التي تسمح برفع الاعتصامات من الساحات. إن مطلبهم الأساسي هو تكوين دولة مدنية وبالتالي على الأقل ينبغي أن يحصلوا من الحكومة على محضر فيه التزام بتنفيذ جملة من القضايا من شأنها في النهاية تحقيق الدولة المدنية والذي هو مطلب مشروع وطني. وسيكون هناك هيئات مشكلة من الساحات وغيرها للرفابة.

نحن لدينا التزام مع الساحات لا يمكن مهما كان مرهقا أن نتخلى عنه. لا يمكن أن نطلب منهم هكذا أن يعودوا إلى بيوتهم أو أن نرفع يدنا ونخلى عن مسئوليتنا لحمايتهم وتأمين الوجبات وغيرها. أعلم أن لديهم مطالب وأعتقد أنها يجب أن توفّق بمحضر يقره مجلس الوزراء. هذه المطالب ليست شخصية وعنوانها الكبير تحقيق الدولة المدنية.

وهل سيثق الشباب في الساحات بمحضر من هذا النوع تعطيهم لهم الحكومة التي -إلى حد كبير- هم معترضون على آلية تشكيلها؟

أعتقد أننا سنصل إلى صيغة اتفاق مع الشباب لإخلاء الساحات واستشجعهم على الثقة بنا كحكومة وفاق وطني، وتوقيع محضر يعتمد من رئاسة الوزراء سيكون ضمانات كبيرة وإذا لدى أي أحد مقترحات أخرى نحن مستعدين لدراستها. في النهاية نترك الأمر للجنة الحوار مع الشباب في الساحات الذين سيترحون الضمانات المطلوبة والتي سترضيهم.

المحضر الذي ذكرته من الذي سيوقعه من جهة الشباب؟
الشباب سيفرزوا من بينهم قيادات تنوب عنهم والذين لم يتفقوا أن يندرجوا تحت أي إطار تنظيمي يمكنهم التوقيع بالتفويض ولو كانوا بالألاف. وهذه ليست مسألة جدلية لأن جميع الشباب في كل الساحات متفقين على ذلك المطالب وليس هناك خلاف عليها. حتى أولئك الغير معترفين بالنظام الحالي أو لديهم مشكلة

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مع الآلية سيجمعهم بالنهاية المطلب الأساسي وهو الدولة المدنية.

الآن حزب الإصلاح يتحرك من خلال الأطر الثورية ومن خلال اللقاء المشترك. إلى متى يبقى المشترك متماسكا؟
المشارك هو كتل طوعي قام استنادا إلى قناعات مشكلية التي تتحكم في استمرارته. والقناعة المتبلورة لدى مشكلية حتى هذه اللحظة هي أن هناك حاجة إلى استمرار المشترك كمشترك إلى ١٠ سنوات إذا لم يكن أكثر.

ولكن ما الذي يضمن أن يظل المشترك متماسكا على اختلاف مكوناته صامدا بعد المرحلة الانتقالية بعد سنتين مثلا؟
نحن سمينا أنفسنا تسمية دقيقة كلقاء مشترك بمعنى أننا نلتقي على المشتركات فيما بينها، فهناك مشتركات متفق عليها ومن هذا المنطلق نشعر أن هناك بعض المشتركات تحتاج إلى أن نستمر إلى عشر سنوات إن لم يكن أكثر.

في البلدان الديمقراطية يحدث التنافس بين الأحزاب المختلفة وفي برامجهم الانتخابية لا تجدي من يتحدث عن قضاء مستقل أو دولة مدنية.. إلخ وذلك لأن مؤسسات الدولة موجودة وهناك تنافس سياسي لما بعد تأسيس الدولة. لكن بالنسبة لنا في اليمن هم تأسيس الدولة هو مشترك للجميع، وبالتالي الجميع متفق على بقاء المشترك إلى حين تأسيس الدولة المدنية كما نريدها جميعا وهذا أساس الاجتماع السياسي بيننا وما يطلق عليه البعض المتحد السياسي.

هل يقبل الإصلاح أن يتعامل اليوم مع بقايا النظام السابق في خارج إطار الحكومة؟
نحن ليس لنا موقف إلا من علي عبدالله صالح وعائلته. ما عدا ذلك فهم مواطنين يعيشون في إطار اليمن.

ليس لديكم أية تحفظات من أشخاص دعموا النظام السابق مثل حافظ معياد ومقولة؟ معنى هذا، بأنه لا يهم ما كان دور هؤلاء الأشخاص في ظل النظام السابق المهم هو قربانهم للرئيس السابق؟ أليس هذا فيه ازدواجية؟

إن تجربتنا السابقة عندما قامت الحرب الملكية الجمهورية لمدة سبع سنوات وجرت محاولات لمصالحة وطنية كلها فشلت إلا عندما أقروا استثناء بيت حميد الدين باعتبارهم الرؤوس الحاكمة. أنا مع هذا الاستثناء للعائلة ولكن بشكل مؤقت. وليس عندي مشكلة أن يكون أحمد علي قائدا للواء من الجيش في حضرموت أو صعدة أو المهرة.. إلخ. لكن أن يمسك بكل مفاصل الجيش وينبئ نحن جميعا مرتهنين بين يديه مئات الدبابات والمدفعية ومئات إن لم يكن آلاف الصواريخ، فهذا أمر لا نقبله لا من أحمد علي ولا من غيره.

في المرحلة الانتقالية الجميع شركاء وإن كان البعض متلكا في الشراكة ولكن الحوارات الأولية معهم تبشر بخير.

بما في ذلك الفصائل الجنوبية التي تتحدث عن الانفصال؟

في الحوار الوطني ليس هناك خط أحمر على أي موضوع يطرح. حتى الوحدة. ليس هناك حصر للمواضيع التي يمكن طرحها ولكن المهم هو ما الذي ستقتنع به الأطراف المتناحرة وبالتالي نتائج الحوار. مثلا أنا لا أقبل بالانفصال ولن أصوت له ولكن في نفس الوقت لا أقول للأخر أنت تطالب بالانفصال إذا لا حوار معك ولا يوجد لدى مكان لك. بل أدعو للتفاهة أنا وهو ونصل إلى اتفاق.

وأنا على يقين أن العمق الوحدوي لدى أبناء الجنوب هو أكثر منه لدينا نحن أبناء الشمال. اليوم يخيل لي أنك لو تحدثت مع علي سالم البيض عن الوحدة وقلت له: أنت يا أساذ من أولئك القوميين العرب ومن ناضل من أجل وحدة العرب يمكن أن يجهب بالكاء. ويقول لك هذا حلمي الذي عشت من أجله ولكن حصل لي وحصل لي كذا وكذا...

قلت ان الحوار لا يجب أن يهمش فيه أحد، ولكنكم في حزب الإصلاح والحكومة بشكل عام يهشمت النساء واقتصيتموهن بشكل كبير؟ استخدمتموهن في الساحات ولما جاء وقت التقاسم السياسي لم تات من حزب الإصلاح حتي وزيرة واحدة..

أعتقد أن المرأة والشباب كشرائح في المجتمع ومشاركتهم في الثورة لا أحد يمكن أن ينكرها وهم عمليا قد فرضوا أنفسهم على أرض الواقع ومن يتجاهلهم هو الذي سيخسر.

وانتم تجاهلتموهم..
لا تنظري على التمثيل على أنه تثيل لإصلاح ولكن في المجلس الوطني ورد تثيل للنساء فيه. وأنا أوافقك الرأي أن وجود وزيرتين من جبهتنا في الحكومة الجديدة هو قليل. ولكن انتزاع المرأة لحقوقها من الذكور لن يكون دفعة واحدة. في النهاية نحن لدينا تثيل كامل كمجلس وطني ولا يمكن أن تخصصي وتقولي بأن هذا كان

ليس عندي مشكلة أن يكون أحمد علي قائدا للواء من الجيش في حضرموت أو صعدة أو المهرة.. إلخ. لكن أن يمسك بكل مفاصل الجيش وينبئ نحن جميعاً مرتهنين بين يديه مئات الدبابات والمدفعية ومئات إن لم يكن آلاف الصواريخ، فهذا أمر لا نقبله لا من أحمد علي ولا من غيره.

تثيل الإصلاح بشكل خاص، فحورية مشهور وجوهرة حمود مثل المجلس الوطني كله. سيتم بحث تثيل النساء من خلال الحوار الوطني. وفي فترة الحوار الوطني إذا لم تجد المرأة اليمنية نفسها مثلة بشكل مرضيها عليها أن تخرج وتظاهر وتثور كما ثارت ضد علي عبدالله صالح حتى تحظى بتمثيلها الكافي. أعترف أننا أحيانا باللاوعي لدينا نتصرف تصرف ذكوري بسبب تكويننا الثقافي، ومجتمعنا لا يذكر المرأة إلا في الأخير. ولكن المرأة في عصر النبوة عندما نقرأ عن الإسلام كانت حاضرة في كل الميادين والساحات.

هل يقبل الإصلاح أن يتعامل اليوم مع بقايا النظام السابق في خارج إطار الحكومة؟
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لن نقبل من أحد أن يترشح بما في ذلك أحمد علي إلا إذا كان قد ترك منصبه العسكري على الأقل خمس سنوات.

إذا ليس لديك مشكلة أن يبقى في النظام ويتحمل مسؤولية عسكرية؟
كمواطن عادي أو حتى قائد لواء عسكري في مكان ما في اليمن ليست لدينا مشكلة في حزب الإصلاح.

بالرغم من الطرح الذي يقول إذا لم نحاسبهم على الأقل يعزلوا من المناصب القيادية؟

كانت هذه أمنية ولكن جرت رياح المصالحة الوطنية أو المبادرة الخليجية بغير هذا الاتجاه وعلمنا أن ندرك أن السياسية فن الممكن.

وإذا ترشح بعد سنتين لثراثة الدولة؟
لا لن نقبل من أحد أن يترشح بما في ذلك أحمد علي إلا إذا كان قد ترك منصبه العسكري على الأقل خمس سنوات.

ماذا عن بقاء صالح وأسرته في اليمن؟
أما عن الرئيس السابق يبدو أنه من الأفضل للمؤتمر الشعبي العام من أجل استمراره سياسيا أن ينزل عنه علي عبدالله صالح. ولا أعتقد أن صالح سترك اليمن. وليس من الضروري إذا كان سينعزل سياسيا أن يرحل. مبادرة أرحلوا جميعا كان اقترعها علي محسن ورفضها علي صالح. ولا أعتقد أن صالح سيرحل وهو لديه الحصانة المعتمدة دوليا خاصة أن هناك آخرين سيتضررون من رحيله إلا إذا كان سوف يقاسمهم الأموال التي أخذها والتي يقال أنها لا تقل عن ١٥ مليار دولار.

Landmines trigger panic among Al-Hasaba residents

By: Ghayda Al-Ariqi

The residents of Al-Hasaba district in downtown Sana'a are afraid to walk the streets of their neighborhood, the scene of fierce battles last year between Saleh's forces and opposition tribesmen, for fear of stepping on a landmine. Several landmines have already exploded in Al-Hasaba, leaving people maimed.

In May of last year, an armed conflict broke out between security forces loyal to the former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and supporters of the powerful tribal chief Sadeq al-Ahmar. The war did not last long. However, tensions remained high for almost a year.

Some mines have exploded in the past several months in the neighborhood, leaving two military personnel with an amputated leg.

Abdulkhikim Al-Sharabi, the Chief Security Officer of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, located in Al-Hasaba, said that seven of his colleagues were wounded when a landmine exploded near the ministry.

Additionally, a boy lost his leg when an object he had mistaken for being a toy detonated near a wall of the ministry.

Abdu Al-Nahari, and Nabil Saed, both shop owners in the area, told the Yemen Times that there are landmines in Al-Hasaba. However, they stressed that the neighborhood is now more secure, after security forces demined some of the area.

"The ministry of Trade and Industry had been mined. But special teams demined the place in early March. Some mines were found in the ministry's mosque," said the guards at the gate of the Trade and Industry Ministry.



However locals believe that mines remain in some parts of Al-Hasaba.

The guards pointed out that the mines were being laid by security forces in a bid to deter Al-Ahmar tribal militias from seizing government institutions during last May's pitched battles. Despite this, Al-Ahmar's followers managed to take control of many government facilities in the area.

On December 4, 1997 Yemen signed the UN Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction in Ottawa, Canada. The UN convention was ratified in Yemen on September 1st 1998, according to Muneer Al-Saqqa, General Secretary of the Legal Affairs Ministry.

Mansour Ezzi, the director of Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC), told the Yemen Times that there are more than 828 type

of mines, 529 of which are anti-personnel. He pointed out that only nine types of mines have been used in Yemen so far.

The residents of Al-Hasaba noted that unlike most of the government institutions, the area within the vicinity of the offices of the Standing Committee of the former ruling General People's Congress is completely empty of mines.

"If we take into consideration the constant movement in the area, we realize that it's not mined. If it had been mined, you would not see anyone walking in the area," Ezzi said.

However, he noted that there are unexploded projectiles in the area and that they are potentially even more dangerous than landmines.

YT: Has Al-Hasaba been mined?

Ezzi: We were surprised when we heard that a mine had exploded in Al-Hasaba because its streets are paved and the area is densely populated.

Keeping in mind that the area has some of the busiest streets in Yemen's capital and is one of the most populated districts, I wouldn't think it had been mined at all.

However, there are unexploded shells in the area and these shells are likely scattered in Al-Hasaba.

So far, YEMAC has not started its job in Al-Hasaba, and we don't have adequate information about the situation there to do so.

Al-Hasaba is a very sensitive area that we cannot start sweeping until we have direct orders from the government.

YT: Do mines look different from shells?

Ezzi: Of course. The projectiles are the shells of rockets, artillery, or tanks. They were meant to hit a certain target, but sometimes they don't explode.

If these unexploded projectiles detonate, they are far more dangerous than landmines. Mines target the leg and maim whoever steps on them. However, the projectiles can hit many people at the same time, and they leave people dead, with their limbs scattered all over the place.

The projectiles represent no threat if no one touches them. The only ones who should deal with these projectiles are special teams from the YEMAC.

YT: Who is responsible for laying the mines?

Ezzi: Mines are laid when there is an armed conflict between two states or two armed groups. The mines are used for defensive purposes. Laying mines is easy, simple and affordable. A landmine may cost only \$3-13. But clearing a mine is very expensive, as we have first to sweep the whole area in order to find it.

YT: Based on your experience in the field of mines, what do they look like?

Ezzi: If I'm to talk about both the anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, there are more than 828 types of mines, 529 of which are anti-personnel. In Yemen, only 9 types of mines have been used across the country.



YT: Is it possible that some areas in Sana'a have been mined?

Ezzi: Sana'a has been declared a mine-free area. However, it's not clear regarding unexploded projectiles.

YT: Why has the mine-clearing program been suspended?

Ezzi: Actually, the program has not been completely suspended, as we have been working since 2010, but in a limited capacity.

Unfortunately, we are constrained by financial problems. Our limited work was due to deficient support from the international donors.

Although the support was not sufficient, I thank the USA, Germany, EU states and Australia, as they have been the only source of support recently.

YT: Would you like to say

anything to the new National Unity Government and the donors regarding the demining program or people's safety?


Ezzi: I urge the government to put the issue of landmines and projectiles on top of its agenda at the Friends of Yemen meeting, the Donors Conference and the UN, as they represent a very grave danger.

I would like to say to the donors of Yemen that your first package of support helped us go a long way. Hence, I call on them to continue their financial support during this difficult period and not to abandon us at this stage, especially since we are close to declaring Yemen a nation free of mines, in accordance with the Ottawa agreement.

Also, I would like to urge Yemen's citizens, whether they are in Al-Hasaba or elsewhere, to report any strange objects they find to the police and to YEMAC, and never to touch the objects.



Unexploded ordinance leftover from last year's battles.



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Medicinal herb clinics in Yemen: medicine or quackery?



The Ministry of Health doesn't regulate herbal clinic industry. Officials said that the Ministry doesn't have the authority yet to do so.

By: Ahmed Dawood

Along Taiz Street and in the neighborhood of Shumaila in Sana'a, herbal therapy clinics and pharmacies are spreading.

Near Sundus pharmacy, licensed by the Ministry of Health, there's another pharmacy selling herbal medicines. Mr. Abdullah Al-Nahari, owner of the herbal pharmacy, says that his store has remedies for many ailments. However, he admits that he does not have a license from the Ministry of Health.

At his Shifa'ee (meaning "My Cure") herb shop in Shumaila, Al-Nahari says that his medicines are prepared in a private lab belonging to an herbalist called Yahia Mohammed al-Shuraihi. Al-Nahari, however, says he doesn't know how they are prepared.

As an herbal pharmacist, Al-Nahari says that he asks people seeking medical herbs to get tested in standard medical labs. Based on the results from the tests, he gives them the appropriate herbal remedy.

On the shelves of Al-Nahari's herb store, there are some 73 medicinal items stored in small jars. According to Al-Nahari, the patient is given a jar of the medicine along with the user instructions. "Patients need a rather long time to heal," says he, "which can take up to three months."

The herb store also sells various kinds of honey. According to Al-Nahari, they can be administered to heal different diseases. Dawani honey (named after its place of origin, the Dawan Valley in Hadramout), retrieved from honeycombs on the sumor tree, is good for the liver. Sidr honey heals chest inflammations and asthma, and Salam honey is the proper cure for kidney disease. Honey mixtures vary in price; some are sold for YR2000, and others for as much as YR6000.

Al-Nahari insists that should the herbs prescribed not be helpful, they won't be harmful either. He says that many people who bought herbal remedies from his store are now well. He claims that his pharmacy

has medicines for the liver, teeth, tonsils, kidneys, chest inflammation, diabetes and hemorrhoids, among others.

Abu Amar, owner of Taiba, another herbal pharmacy in Shumaila, does not hold a university degree and never attended medical school. He says that he's developing expertise through experience and hands-on practice. "I've been working in this field for eighteen years. Herbal medicines are natural plants, so if they don't help the patient, they can't harm the patient either," he declares.

He explains that after herbs are collected from all around the country, they are preserved, dried properly and stored so that they're fit for administration and are rid of damaging side-effects.

Back to the roots

Herbal therapists in Yemen believe that by using medicinal plants for remedies, they are adopting the healing practices of ancient civilizations which were applied by pioneer physicians such as Ibn Sina, Al-Razi and others.

"Since the very beginning of humanity," says Mr. Mohammed Abdul Hameed Al-Dhamin, one of the best known herbalists in Yemen, "medicines have been extracted from herbs, and when people come to these [herbal] dispensaries, they come to the origin of medicine."

Nevertheless, he believes there should be conditions for anyone practicing herbal medicine. "The herbal doctor should have sufficient experience, and conduct scientific research and experiments in order to perform his medical duties. He also must have a special lab where he extracts herbal medicines through modern scientific means."

He continues by saying that his Yemen-UAE Hikma House is the exception in the industry, because it is the only herbal pharmacy that has obtained a license to operate from the Yemeni Ministry of Health. "The House has provided many herb-related medical services, especially using rare herbs. We have treated countless illnesses, including 3,000 infertility cases," says Al-Dhamin.

Incompetence in the industry

Dr. Taher Idhah, kidney and urinary passages specialist, says that herbalists in Yemen work by way of half-baked methods. "An herbalist isn't a doctor or a pharmacist," he asserts, "but they control this field, using people's ignorance to rob their money."

On the other hand, Dr. Ma'amoun Al-Dalai, a dentist, believes that treatment with herbs is a trusted, time-honored practice. "Herbs are the essence of medicines and most medicines are extracted originally from natural herbs," he explains, adding that the whole process must be performed according to standards and stringent criteria, as the healing herbs themselves can contain harmful ingredients.

"This field of medicine should be restricted to people who have adequate knowledge and experience in it. However, in Yemen, we see unprofessional practices dominating this field. Many of the practitioners make use of people's inexperience and unawareness of the risks of herbal mixtures. We're also noticing that these herbalists distribute their brochures and advertisements in low-education areas," says Al-Dalai.

Dr. Hameed Muthaffar Ubaid, chest and abdominal diseases specialist, agrees with the above statements, adding, "Treatment with herbs may be beneficial if practiced in an orderly manner based on scientific study and using accurate and approved doses. What's appalling here is that in Yemen this work is done incompetently, in a way that can damage patients' health instead of maintaining it."

Fears and damages

Dr. Ubaid says that herbs can ignite allergies in some people. Such allergies may appear at the first use of the medicine or after several uses. Some allergy symptoms include swelling, rashes and difficulty breathing.

"Herbs can be very harmful to humans," goes on Ubaid, "since they can hurt both the liver and kidney, and the patient may suffer from kidney failure due to poisoning or overdose."

Al-Dalai says, that misapplication of herbal medicines can lead to health complications and, at times, can result in death.

"There's no medicine without side effects or complications," says Dr. Taher Idhah.

"Thus along with any medicine, be it chemical or herbal, we find a label that gives accurate information on the product," he said.

"As for the herbal preparations made in our country, neither we as doctors and pharmacists nor the patients know their exact composition or the people who made them," Idhah said.

He explained that existing herbal medicines in Yemen are not made according to scientific methods, nor have hygiene, sterilization or proper preservation been adopted. "Thus, as specialized doctors, we cannot advise any patients to take these drugs for the reasons above,"



said Idhah.

Helpless ministry

In the face of such risks, the Ministry of Health should be the sole body to regulate this profession, but it stands powerless and unable to take action.

Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Ham-madi, director of private medical establishments at the Ministry of Health, says that the Ministry never interferes when it comes to herbal clinics or pharmacies, nor does it follow up with them or have the authority to ban drugs or close

the pharmacies down.

He adds, frustrated, "The ministry bears the ethical responsibility concerning this issue, since what's happening is putting people's lives at stake, and I hold the government responsible for not drafting a law that regulates this business."



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 vacancies for its Development Programme.

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Location: Sana'a

The role

In this key role you will make an important contribution to formulating, refining, and implementing Oxfam policy related to Yemen, contribute to the implementation of the Oxfam Yemen country strategies 2011-2016 and programs, analyze the political and social economic developments in the country, work with the Oxfam risk management tools to assess risks and opportunities, monitor the progress and implementation of counterparts' programmes, and maintain direct contact with partner organisations and other stakeholders and institutions. You will coordinate, negotiate, and make agreements and plans, and follow these through, work closely with local partners, and facilitate the networking between them and relevant external actors. You will be responsible for contributing to the (further development and) implementation of the Oxfam Joint Country Analysis and Strategy, supporting humanitarian preparedness and response in relation to Yemen, developing proposals and reports to donors and monitoring programmes funded by external donors.

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Many herbal remedies in Yemen aren't made according to medical criteria.

Shaking hands between sexes still forbidden in Yemen

By: Safiya Al-Jabry

Hand shaking between genders has become a common gesture around the world, especially in business circles. It has and will for many years be considered a warm form of greeting and peace in many cultures, but it's still a taboo in Yemen.

In early 2007, a Muslim police woman in Britain sparked debates when she refused to shake hands with Britain's senior police chiefs. The woman insisted that it was contrary to her religious teachings for her to touch a man.

The debate took different forms throughout the world, with some Muslims supporting her decision, while others thought she was attracting unwanted attention by refusing to shake hands with a man whom they claimed was harmless.

Some historians suggest that the handshake may have been introduced in the West as a gesture of peace in times of war, demonstrating that the hand holds no weapons.

In the Muslim World, to shake hands with someone of the same gender is a welcome sign and considered to be the practice of the Prophet Mohammed. However, handshakes between men and women are mostly interpreted as inappropriate. A short Islamic Hadith narrates that the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said, "It is better for one of you to be stabbed with a metal needle than to touch a woman who is not halal (lawful) for you."

Some Muslims perceive hand

shaking between opposite sexes as forbidden by the religion while others don't see handshaking as linked to religion. The latter assert that globalization and the mingling of people from all over the world is making handshakes normal and acceptable.

In recent years, students in Yemeni universities and schools have been exposed to mingling of both genders in the same classes by way of the co-education system. Others have travelled to other countries where what is considered taboo in Yemen is thought of as a normal act.

"This mixed education system as well as TV shows and movies are writing a whole new guideline for youth on what should be right or wrong," said Muna Yahya, a Yemeni high school teacher. "Some things like handshakes are now seen as tradition and not religion."

Youth views on hand shaking

In the opinion of some Yemeni youth, hand shaking is just a sign of respect.

"I don't mind hand shaking with the opposite gender. It's a sign of respect; it has nothing to do with religion; it's a cultural and social thing," said Ghufra Al-Khayat, a youth in the capital Sana'a.

However, others still believe that hand shaking between men and women are out of step with Islamic practice.

"I think hand shaking between opposite genders is forbidden in Islam. But, it is sometimes necessary in the business world. It depends on the situation one is in; for example, it is necessary to



Some Muslims perceive hand shaking between opposite sexes as forbidden by the religion while others don't see handshaking as linked to religion.

shake hands when receiving a certificate from someone," said Ibrahim Al-Makhdh, a student at the Lebanon International University in Sana'a.

Others have suggested that shaking hands between sexes is

permissible when outside Yemen, but inside the country, the cultural rules should be respected.

"It depends on the culture. Here in Yemen, I'm against it [hand shaking between sexes] because it's not common, but I would shake

hands in other parts of the world where it's common and is seen as a sign of peace," Maryam Al-Zomier said.

Other women believe that shaking hands between men and women is totally forbidden in or outside

of Yemen.

"As a Muslim, I think it is forbidden to shake hands with the opposite gender and I agree with my Islamic teachings," said Maha Al-Matari, a university student in Sana'a.

Exporting Gulf oil through Yemen's ports on the Arabian Sea: Obstacles and opportunities

By: Aish Awais
aish@shebacss.com

Over the last few years, there has been some faint talk of intentions on the part of the GCC states to vary the routes they use to transport their oil exports to the world market.

This change in oil exporting ports outside the Arabian Gulf is intended to diminish dependence on the Strait of Hormuz, through which approximately 88 percent of the Gulf's oil exports is transported to Asia, Europe and the USA, and to reduce the risks that the Gulf states may face in case this strait is closed, especially if the American-Iranian dispute over the nuclear program reaches a point of military conflict and confrontation.

In this connection, it is rumored that Yemen's sea ports represent one of the alternative outlets before the GCC states and that there is serious thinking on the part of the Gulf states to construct two pipelines for transporting their oil exports through Yemen.

The first is called the Gulf Pipeline; it runs from Kuwait across the territories of Saudi Arabia, Emirates and Oman southward to the shores of Hadramout in Yemen.

The second pipeline will be built to transport oil from the world's largest oil station at Ras Tanura to the east of Saudi Arabia to the oil exporting facilities on the shore of Hadramout on the Arabian Sea coastline.

Regardless of the sources or credibility of the information stated above, such a great project stands a huge chance of success in principle, not because it is a feasible idea but rather because it is in both sides' interest.

In other words, Yemen would make generous profits that may amount to millions of dollars as duties for allowing the oil pipelines to run across its territories; the GCC states would, in return, have a safe pipeline to transport part of their oil exports, and they would also consolidate their position against any security threats in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

Furthermore, the project would act as a catalyst for developing co-operation mechanisms, boosting mutual trust between Yemen and the Gulf states, and deepening common interests.

Actually, it would be a significant step toward Yemen's fully joining the GCC and away from past disputes and negative legacies.

What more boosts our optimism in this respect is the fact that Yemeni-Saudi and Yemen-Omani border disputes, which would have been real barriers impeding the project implementation, have been settled years back with the conviction and satisfaction of all parties.

In addition to all this, the project is going to be in the vital interest of all superpowers in America, Asia and Europe, providing them with new and safe ways to transport the Gulf oil at less cost and faster speed, as the distance between the Yemeni seaports and the consuming states in Europe and East and South Asia is relatively shorter than that between these consuming states and the oil exporting facilities in the Arabian Gulf.

Thus, it is expected that these superpowers would encourage this project and help it come into existence.

However, there are, at least for the time being, certain obstacles that may prevent the project's implementation. The most noticeable

ones, of course, lie in the concerns and mistrust between the concerned parties. Thus, how can these concerns be overcome and dispelled?

Theoretically speaking, there are three alternatives to the problem. The first is that every government should be responsible for protecting and funding the part of the pipeline within its national boundaries.

But, the problem remains that some governments, particularly Yemen's, do not have sufficient financial resources to fund such a mammoth project.

The second alternative is that the Gulf states undertake funding and implementation of the whole project, even the part within Yemeni territories, and they should be granted a payback after the termination of which Yemen can regain the ownership rights of the part within its national boundaries providing that the Yemeni government rents the pipeline out to the Gulf states in return for certain agreed upon duties.

It is expected that this proposal would face some reservations on the parts of some parties.

The third alternative is that a shareholding company should be entitled to run, operate and safeguard the oil pipelines and tankers.

This company should be funded and shared by Yemen, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states and international oil companies that would benefit from the project. This alternative is the best of the three, as it ensures the implementation of the project and dispels all concerns and doubts.

Aish Awais is Strategic Studies Program Manager at the Sheba Strategic Studies Center in the capital Sana'a.

Source: www.shebacss.com

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4. Scrutinizes plans of operations, exchanges of letters and takes appropriate follow-up action. Assists in the administrative process of government requests for assistance.
5. Assists field officer in preparation of meetings, maintains contact with partner institution and individuals towards programme implementation. May be required to carry out specific administrative operational / control tasks for project/programme activities.
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kitchen, two bathrooms and a hall. Location in Mujahad street. Contact: 711440184

- Apartment without furniture. contains 3 bedroom, hall, 2bathrooms, kitchen. Abo Ali: 777448617



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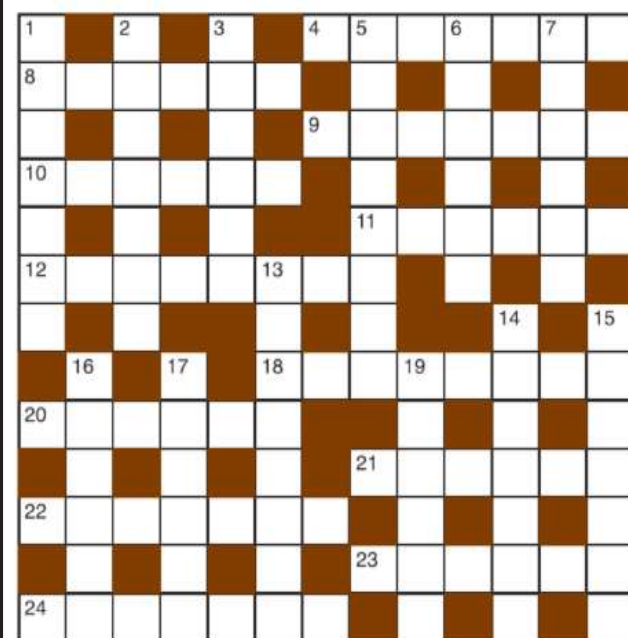
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Coffee Break

Crossword



ACROSS

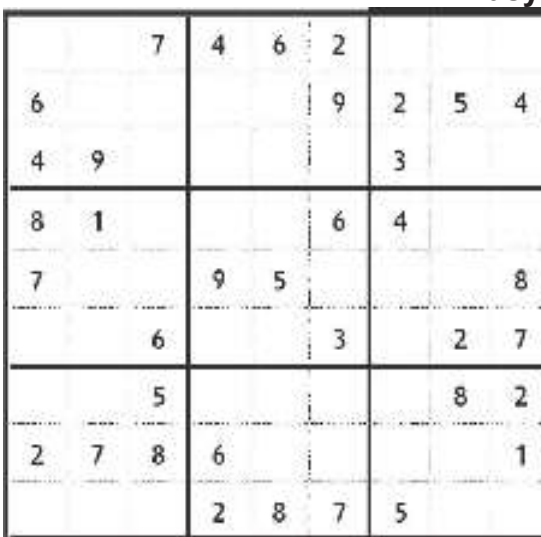
- Desert (7)
- Shakespearean play (6)
- Extinct woolly elephant (7)
- Keep (6)
- Zoo worker (6)
- Fatherly (8)
- Keyboard player (8)
- Genial (6)
- Trifling (6)
- Savoury dish (7)
- Revoke (6)
- The ---, former pop group (7)

Down

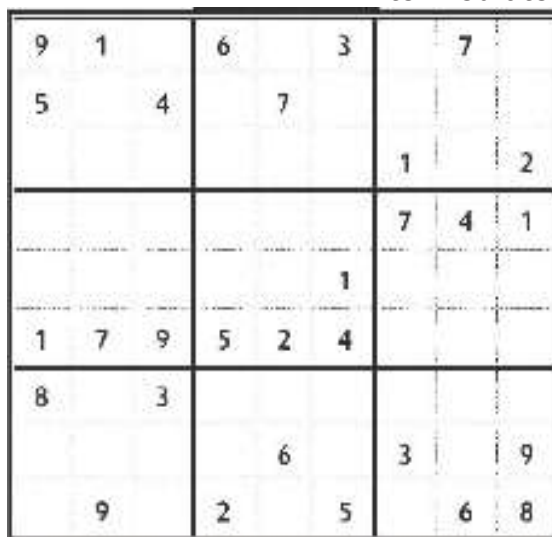
- Treatment (7)
- Impersonate (7)
- Elder (6)
- Scab (8)
- Digit (6)
- Start (6)
- Middle of the day (8)
- Vest (7)
- Dignified (7)
- Slander (6)
- Deflect (6)
- Slumbering (6)

Sudoku

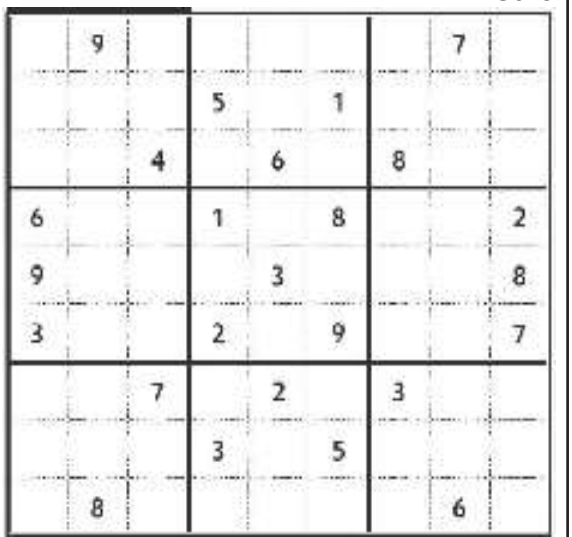
Easy



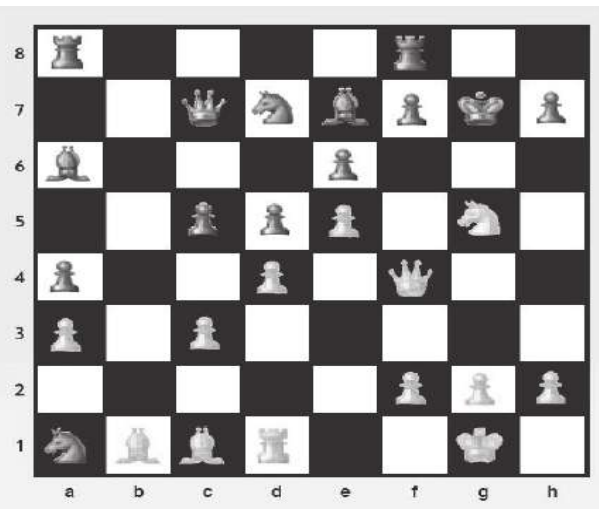
Intermediate



Difficult



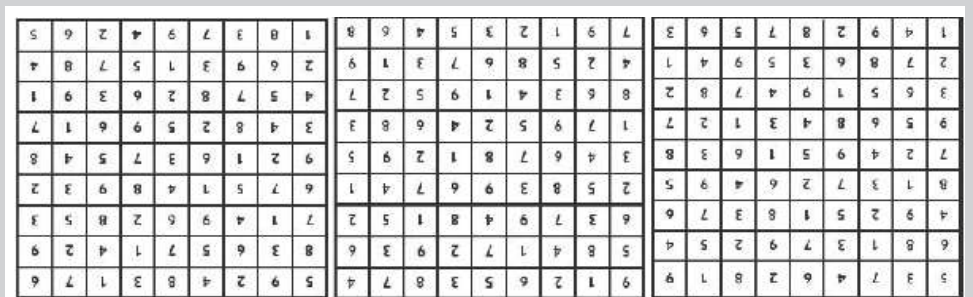
Chess



White plays and wins in the 4th move

Solutions

Chess: Nx6e+
Cross Words: Across: 4 Abandon; 8 Hamlet; 9 Marmoth; 10 Retain; 11 Keeper; 12 Paternal; 18 Organist; 20 Benign; 21 Slight; 22 Rarebit; 23 Repeat; 24 Beatles.
Down: 1 Therapy; 2 Imite; 3 Senior; 5 Blackleg; 6 Number; 7 Outset; 13 Noontide; 14 Single; 15 Stately; 16 Defame; 17 Divert; 19 Asleep.



Sudoku

Right awareness campaign launched in Sana'a

By: Nadia Haddash

Seraj Organization for Development with support from the Canadian Fund, the Creative Youth Forum and the Thimar Initiative launched on Saturday March 3, the "Haq" (truth or rights) campaign in the capital Sana'a.

The campaign aims to help citizens identify violations practiced by security and military personnel against people. The project also aims at raising people's awareness of their rights and legal protections.

The reason behind the growing number of violations by security and military personnel are people's ignorance of their rights under Yemeni law, according to the organizers of the campaign.

The campaign began with a

training course from March 3 to April 5, 2012 which included a lecture on the essential principles of penal procedures.

A Facebook page will soon be created to promote equal citizenship and the respect of people's rights, and also a blog with the participation of human rights and youth activists.

This page will be open to discussion and participation in raising the awareness of legal rights for thousands of people through the implementation of the "Know your rights" campaign.

"Know your rights" campaign

During the training course, the concept of the "Know your rights" campaign will be discussed among the trainees and they will be involved in preparing and implementing the cam-

paign's activities that will last for a month and ten days.

The mechanism of the work will include printing brochures and leaflets to raise rights and legal awareness, and sending messages and slogans via social communication websites. The campaign's team will also be hosted on TV and radio channels.

Effective Participation

The campaign targeted 20 media activists aged between 18-35 years to take part in the training course and 100 other activists and media practitioners from different categories and ages will take part in the "Know your rights" campaign.

Chairman of the project, Ahmed Al-Samee, said in a speech that the project will be the first phase. Later phases will cover clauses on rights in Yemeni law.



Opening ceremony for the project Right that will be continued for a month on the campaign of know your rights



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