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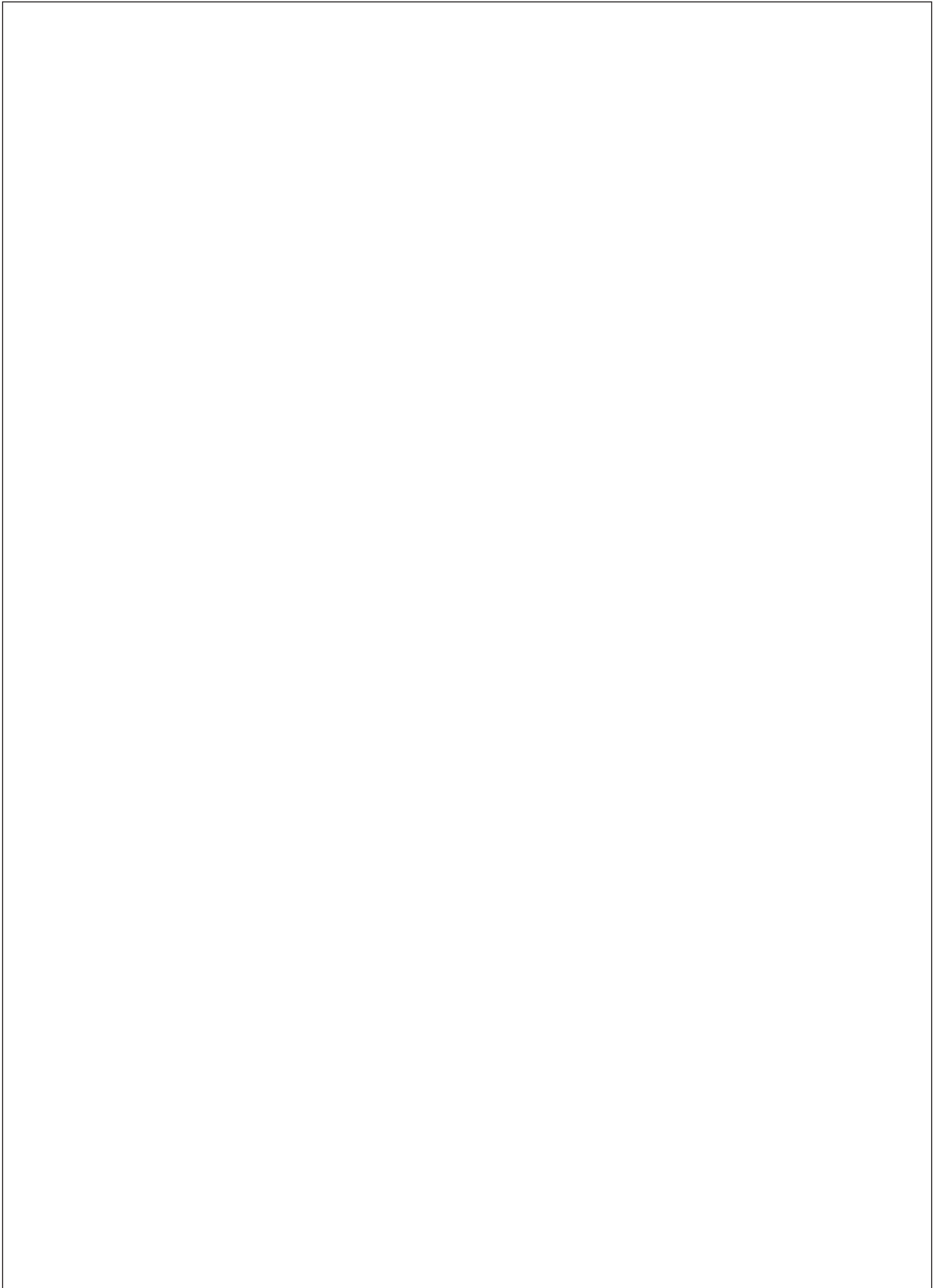
ADEN, September 20.—Silence surrounded the death of King Ben Yahya Imam, bearded patriarch of the mystic Red Sea kingdom of Yemen. Imam of the Yemeni Republic yesterday reported the death of the 86-year-old Arab monarch had given to Aden. The broadcast heard in Aden said Crown Prince Badr had been proclaimed Imam of the Yemeni Republic. One of the Imam's sons, the Grand A

Report

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## SPECIAL SEPT. 26 REVOLUTION EDITION

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An employee at the Military Museum in Sana'a guides museum goers through an exhibit on the Sept. 26 revolution. The imam's rule may be long gone, but inside the walls of the museum, his controversial legacy lives on. Read all about the historic event inside. (Photo by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki)

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Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Sept. 25—Large celebrations are planned in Sana'a for the 51st anniversary of the Sept. 26, 1962 revolution, which brought an end to imamate rule over North Yemen.

Security is expected to be very tight in Sana'a, the capital.

An estimated 1,000 people are expected to gather at Al-Ordi Square in Sana'a for the national holiday. Al-Ordi Square begins at Bab Al-Yemen and ends at Zubari Street.

The gathering, usually held in

Tahrir Square, was moved to Al-Ordi—near the Defense Ministry—this year for security purposes, said Aish Awas, the president's chief of security.

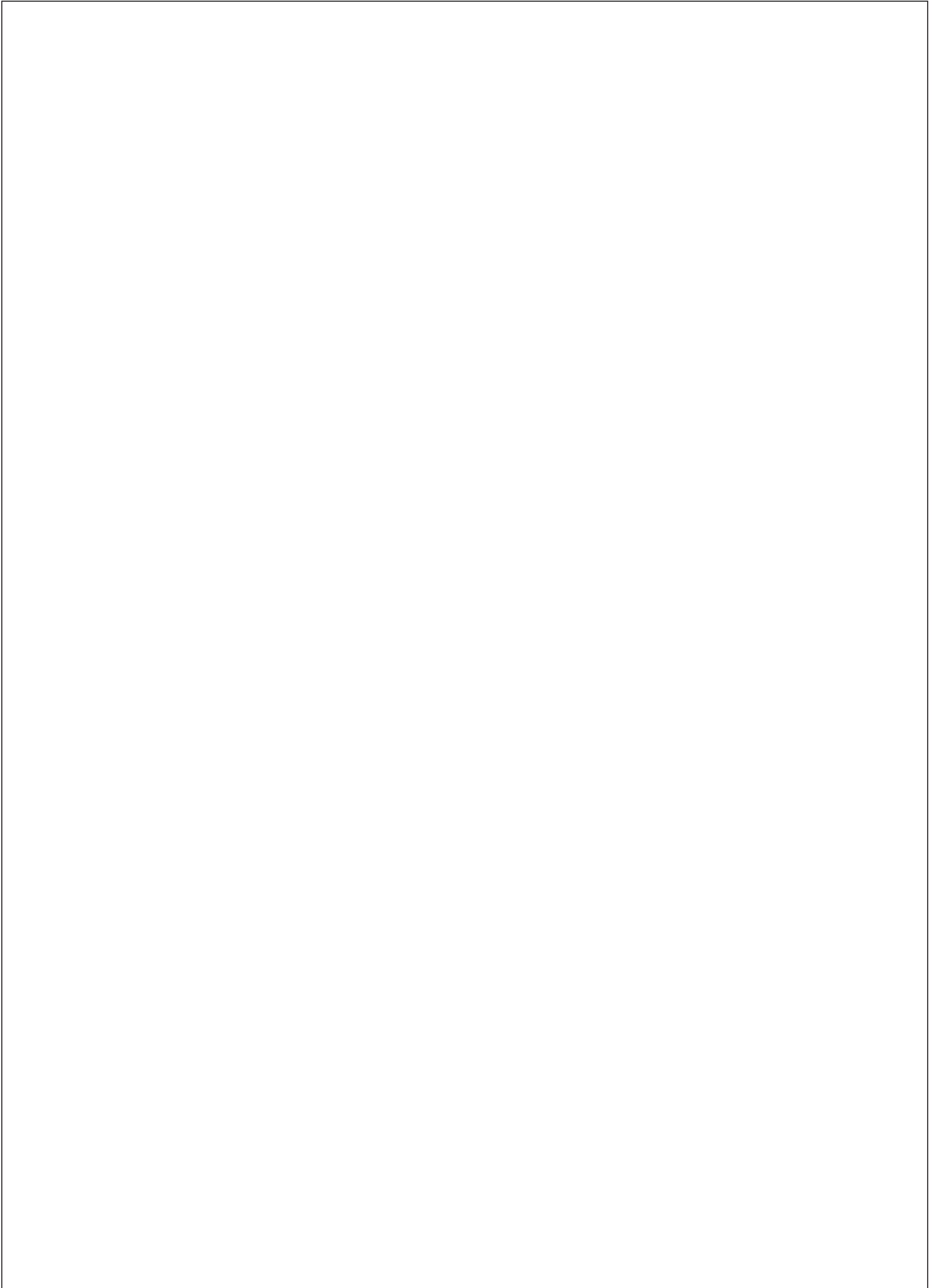
Following a period of explosions and assassinations around the country, Awas said they preferred an area with a strong military presence in case of suicide attacks.

Sana'a security manager Dr. Omar Abdulkareem told the Yemen Times that the area has been well-guarded this past week.

"We deployed soldiers and armored vehicles a week ahead of time to the area to guarantee that nothing will disturb the ceremony," Abdulkareem said.

During a rehearsal for the May 22 military parade last year in Al-Sabeen Square, a suicide attack left almost 100 soldiers dead and dozens injured.





# Yemen's imamate:

## No longer ruling, but the former leaders left a lasting legacy

Yemen Times Staff



A 1940s Ford that served as the Imam Yahiya's transportation in Sana'a.

A model of a man preparing food during Imam Yahiya's rule using kitchenware of the time.

The soldier on the right depicts the military uniform during the rule of Imam Yahiya, the one on the left depicts the uniform during Imam Ahmed's reign, and the one in the middle depicts the uniform of the southern state before unity.

Arabic text describing a model of prisoners being shackled during the imam's rule.

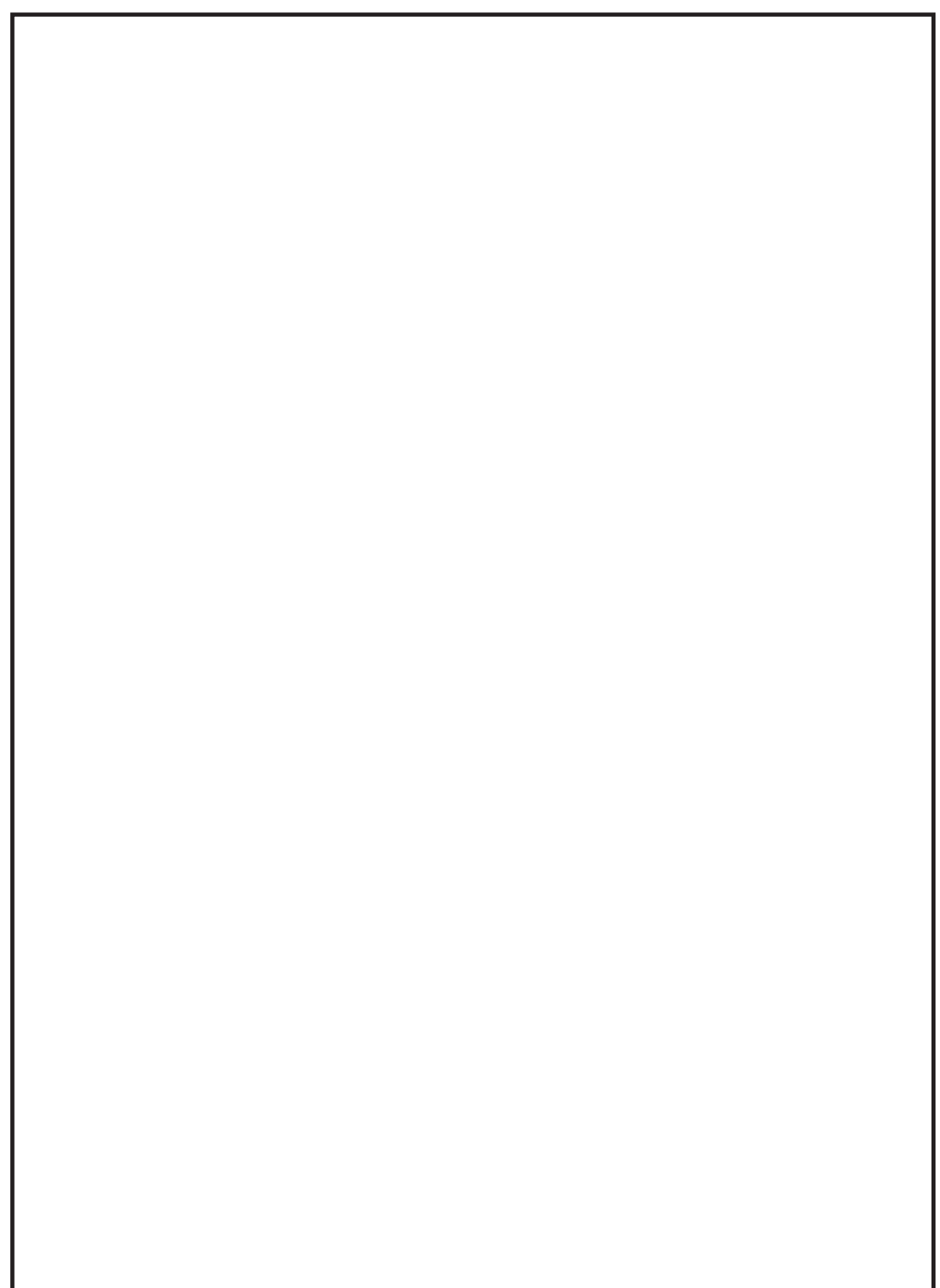
A model shows how prisoners were shackled during the imam's rule.

The staircase to a stage made 100 years ago that Imam Yahiya used to address people at Sana'a's

A verse praising the imam, written by a poet.

Weapons that date back to Ottoman rule in Yemen. Imam Yahiya seized this weaponry after the Ottomans left the country.

Chains and cuffs revolutionaries found at Ghamdan Palace where the imam imprisoned many opponents.











# Empire on top of the rock

Imam's former palace stand today as a tourist destination full of history

Story and photos by  
Ali Abulohoom

**T**housands of tourists visit Dar Al-Hajar, or the "rock palace," each year. It is an iconic part of Yemen's landscape and is admired for its architecture

and history by Yemen enthusiasts around the world. The palace seemingly grows out of the massive rock it lays on top of, combining nature and a human ingenuity.

Prior to the Sept. 26, 1962 revolution, the palace was a place to summer and vacation for the nation's ruler at the time, the imam. Just as

the revolution reclaimed the nation for the people, it opened the rock palace up for the public.

Imam Yahiya Hameed Al-Deen built the palace in the 1930s as a retreat from scorching summers in Taiz. It would remain in his family until his grandson was removed from power in a military coup, igniting Yemen's 1962 revolution. Located 15 km. west of Sana'a in the mountains. According to the imam's former guard, 90-year-old and still local Wadi resident, Ahmed Ali Al-Hamdani, the imam preferred Dar Al-Hajar to his palaces in Taiz, Sana'a and Hajja.

There are bedrooms, bathrooms, and numerous mafarajs, or living areas in the structure.

Imam Yahiya enjoyed spending time in a mafraj, a long, rectangular room with furniture along each of the walls. It was in this mafraj that he often received dignitaries who came from all governorates to discuss national issues.

Al-Hamdani told the Yemen Times that the imam had his own butcher, Hajam, who would slaughter a lamb every morning for the leader, his family and guests.

Imam Yahiya would take a walk around the palace orchards each morning. His gardeners and farmers would pick the ripest grapes, and the imam would take them back to the palace.

"There were small lands within the orchards that grew qat for the imam and his guests," Al-Hamdani said. Now, most of the orchards are

The rule of the imam is now only alive in the memories of men like 90-year-old Ahmed Ali Al-Hamdani.

used to grow qat.

"Imam Yahiya married four women," Al-Hamdani said. One of them belonged to the Al-Mutwakel tribe. She was very generous and treated people kindly, just like the imam—who considered himself a Caliph of Muslims."

Contrary to Al-Hamdani's opinion, the imam is often remembered by historians as a brutal leader who was intolerant of opposing political ideologies.

But Al-Hamdani has fond memories of one of the imam's wives. Once, when Al-Hamdani's wife approached him, though it was forbidden to appear in front of strangers, and asked him why he was down. She gave him money when she learned about his wife's illness.

The imam's three other wives were from Sanhan, Bani Hushais and Arhab.

When at Dar Al-Hajar, Al-Hamdani says the imam's wives had 50 maids.

Al-Hamdani said there are special passageways in Dar Al-Hajar to connect the kitchen to the maids' bedrooms. The imam's wives and children weren't allowed to come in contact with maids or male servants. The imam abided by strict class systems, historians say.

Many near Dar Al-Hajar do not have such kind things to say about the imam, who was known to be very authoritarian.

Ali Saleh Al-Hamdani, a 30-year-old resident of Wadi Dahr, is the son of a man who was the accountant for the imam.

His father was responsible for distributing monthly salaries to the imam's soldiers. Each soldier received YR3 per month, he said. Although that amount of money useless today, as a comparison, those who live near Dar Al-Hajar say a house could be built with YR6, about 3 cents today, at that time.

"My father was distributing salaries prior to Ramadan and [decided to give] each soldier a YR.5 raise. The imam found out and was going to punish my father, but my father was a clever man. He told the imam that he gave them raises to secure the imam a reward from God in the afterlife," Ali Saleh said.

Following the assassina-

tion of Imam Yahiya in 1948, his son, Imam Ahmed took over and moved the administrative capital of Yemen.

"Imam Ahmed knew that revolutionaries were planning on sparking a revolution in Taiz, where many intellectuals were studying because the concentration of schools," said Yemeni historian Hisham Damaj, so the imam went to keep an eye on the opposition, visiting the rock

palace far less frequently than his father.

Following the 1962 revolution, when Ahmed's son was forced to flee, Dar Al-Hajar almost immediately became a symbol of the past.

Today it is revered for its architectural beauty and a reminder of a family that ruled northern Yemen for close to 60 years.

Inside the palace are reminders of a more simple time, like this non-electric refrigerator.

Today the palace serves as a hot spot for tourists.





On the occasion of

National Day Anniversary (26 September)

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Governors and general secretaries and members of Local Councils  
Clergies, social figures and intellectuals  
And all Yemenis

May all have a happy anniversary and return in the upcoming years within a secure, stable and sustainable development in which all Yemenis, Islamic and Arabic nations witness prosperity, progress and well-being.

Abdulrahman Hayel Saeed Anam  
Deputy head of The Supreme Spervisory Council

Ali Mohammed Saeed Anam  
Head of Supreme Supervisory Council



YEMENI PRESIDENTS

# Know your Yemeni presidents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Ali Abdulla Saleh</b><br/>(July 1978-May 1990), North Yemen<br/>(May 1990 – November 2011),<br/>Yemeni President</p> <p>On July 17, 1983, the People's Constituent Assembly elected him to a five-year term as the president of the republic. He also became the commander of the Armed Forces in the North. Unity was declared on May 22, 1990, and Saleh was declared as president. After 33 years of rule, Saleh stepped down after a popular uprising led by Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi.</p> | <p><b>Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi</b><br/>(February 2012-Present)</p> <p>Hadi was elected as the interim president in a one-candidate election, replacing Saleh. Hadi has issued presidential decrees restructuring the government and merging dozens of military commanders loyal to Saleh or other powers. He has also convened a National Dialogue Conference that kicked off on March 18, 2013. Hadi and his cabinet members are skeptical that elections will be held on February 2014.</p> |
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Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

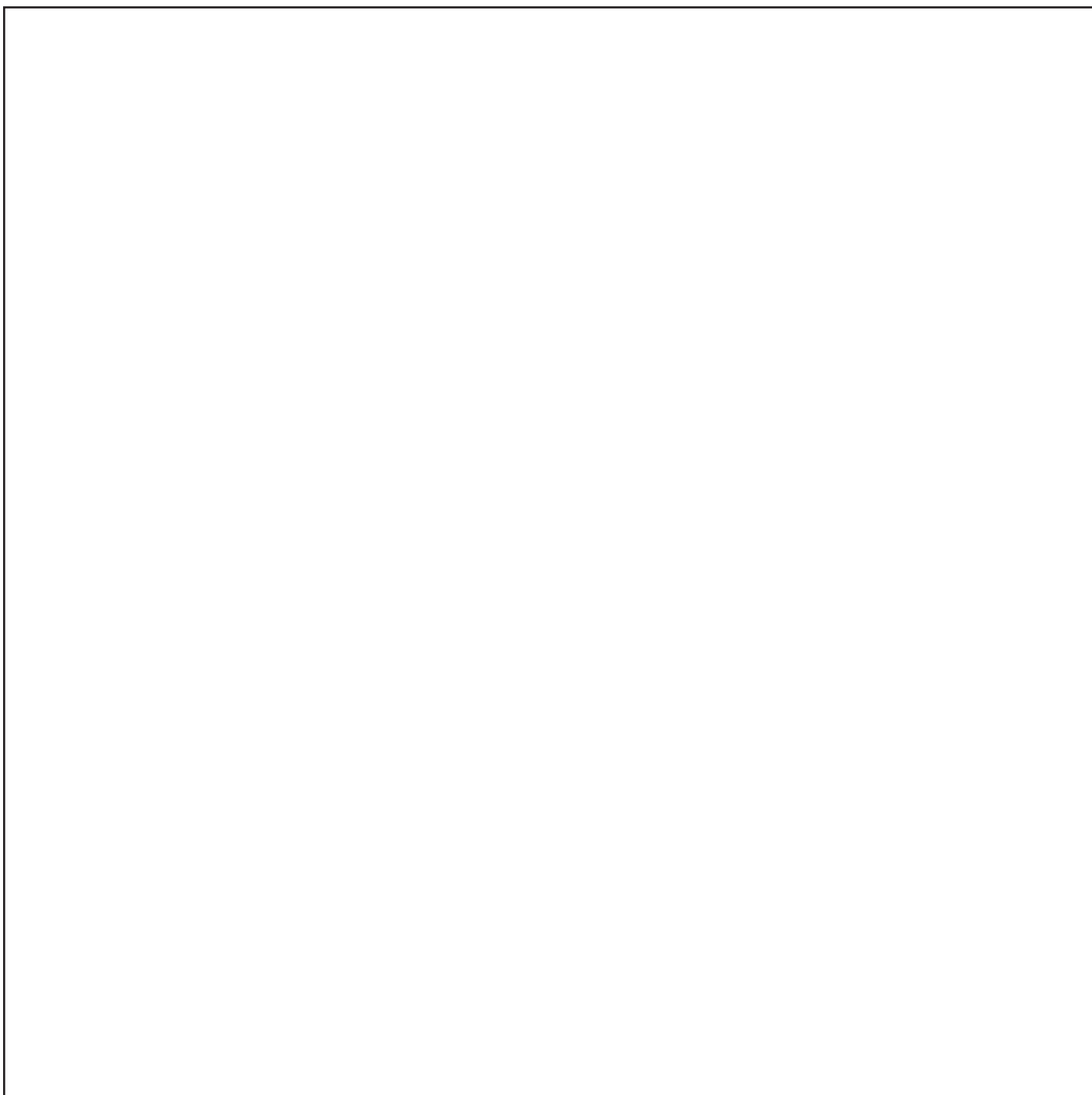
North and South Yemen struggled to liberate their countries for decades. In the North, it was against the imam rule. In the South, there was a call to end the British occupation. The Sept. 26, 1962 revolution ended imam rule in the North and the Oct. 14, 1967 revolution ended the British occupation in South Yemen. The following is a short guide to the presidency of Yemen, including both former North and South Yemen leaders.

## Presidents of South Yemen

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Qahtan Al-Shabi</b><br/>(November 1967-May 1969)</p> <p>At the end of the British occupation, Al-Shabi, one of the leading revolutionaries, became the South's president. In 1969, Al-Shabi was arrested by the opposition and he remained in prison for the rest of his life. Salem Rubei Ali succeeded him.</p>   | <p><b>Ali Nasser Mohammed</b><br/>(April 1980- January 1986)</p> <p>Ali Nasser Mohammed became both the president and the General Secretary of the Socialist Party. He also continued to secure a peace agreement between the North and South. The North won the war and unity continued.</p> |
| <p><b>Salem Rubei Ali</b><br/>(June 1969- 1978)</p> <p>7KH-QHORYHPHQWRYHPHQW led by Salem Rubei Ali to end Al-Shabi's rule, led to the announcement of Ali as the head of the Military Command Council. The council was characterized by the shift towards socialism, and included nationalizing industries. He was killed on June 26, 1978, after being overthrown by a military coup.</p> | <p><b>Ali Salem Al-Beidh</b><br/>(January 1986- May 1990)</p> <p>Ali-Beidh also continued to secure a peace agreement between the North and South. The North won the war and unity continued.</p>   |
| <p><b>Abdulfatah Ismael</b><br/>(June 1978- 1980)</p> <p>On April 22, 1980, the Aden Socialist Party accepted Ismael's resignation. Ismael had serious disputes with the leadership of the Socialist Party, including Prime Minister Ali Nasser Mohammed.</p>   |   |

## Presidents of North Yemen

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Abdulla Al- Salal</b><br/>(September 1962-November 1967)</p> <p>Abdulla Al-Salal was the commander of the Royal Guard of Imam Mohammed Al Badr. The imam only ruled for one week before rebels launched a coup and declared a republic on Sept. 26, 1962. It was Al-Salal that leaked information about the imam's military strategy. Al-Salal was, in turn, deposed by Abdulrahman Al-Eryani.</p>  |
| <p><b>Abdulrahman Al-Eryani</b><br/>(November 1967-June 1974)</p> <p>After the coup that deposed Al-Salal, Al-Eryani set up a republican council. Four members of the council rotated as its heads. He also formed a national council and a legislative assembly. He was overthrown by Ibrahim Al-Hamdi.</p>  |
| <p><b>Ibrahim Al-Hamdi</b><br/>(June 1974-October 1977)</p> <p>Al-Hamdi came to power after Al-Eryani's resignation. He issued the Shura council electoral law, set up the Supreme Committee for the Shura Council. During his rule, an agreement was reached to integrate the educational curricula of North and South Yemen.</p> <p>On October 11, 1977, Al-Hamdi was assassinated, along with his brother, Lieutenant Colonel Abdulla Al-Hamdi. They were assassinated in the home of Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Al-Ghashmi.</p> |
| <p><b>Ahmed Al-Ghashmi</b><br/>(October 1977-June 1978)</p> <p>After Al-Hamdi's death, Al-Ghashmi took the helm as the nation's new president in October of 1977. He was the predecessor. He issued a presidential decree, establishing the People's Constituent Assembly. On June 24 1978, he was killed when a bomb exploded in his home.</p>   |
| <p><b>Judge Abdulkareem Al-Arashi</b><br/>(June 1978- July 1978)</p> <p>After Al-Ghashmi's assassination in Sana'a on June 24, 1978, a 10-member military command council was set up. Al-Arashi headed the council and also became the General Commander of the Armed Forces. The council issued a statement on June 24, 1978, announcing that another president would be chosen after 40 days. Forty days later, Saleh was announced as the new president.</p>   |





# Sana'a Military Museum documents the revolution

## Special Sept. 26 display

Story and photos by Amal Al-Yarisi

At the entrance of the Military Museum in Sana'a, six life-size statues are strategically placed on the ground, depicting the imam's forces.

The museum courtyard is a line of parked, vintage vehicles, all dating back to the imam's reign in North Yemen. The museum has 11 halls, many named after national occasions such as the Sept. 26 revolution.

Photos hanging on the Sept. 26 Hall depict revolutionaries who fought against the imam's rule. Old guns and weapons lay against walls and on the ground.

Visitors' attention is captured as they move slowly from one photo to another, reading descriptions and taking everything in.

Secondary school student Osama Adel Mana stares into a glass box sitting in the middle of the hall. In it is an old map used by revolutionaries, marking the battle front during the Sept. 26 revolution.

more about this revolution that was fought by great people," Mana said.

The Sept. 26 revolution ended an imam reign that last from 1918 to 1962 in the North.

Located in the Tahrir district of Sana'a, the Military Museum displays photos and objects from the days of the revolution. It is a destination for many schools and universities who arrange trips for their students.

Museum guide Ahmed Ali told the Yemen Times that more than 1,000 students visit the museum every year.

"The number of visitors has increased this year," he said. Many of the museum's collectables are items belonging to the former imam's and revolutionaries, as well as items from the October 14, 1963 armed struggle that was the beginning of the end of British occupation in the South.

"Some of the photos are of Egyptian revolutionaries who support the Yemeni revolution [against imamate rule]," Ali said.

Another hall focuses on the 70 day siege on Sana'a by royalists following the Sept. 1962 revolution.

When Egyptian forces left Yemen during Egypt's six-day war with Israel, royalists took advantage of their departure to launch attacks in Sana'a and other governorates in the North. Revolutionaries still had the

support of Egypt, Syria and Algeria and were ultimately victorious.

Museum attendee Jamal Al-Sifyani criticized the museum for not giving more information and context for the photos, telling the Yemen Times he does "not know what" he is looking at.

"There is not enough information to describe the events of Sept. 26. You wouldn't know what happened by looking at these photos, unless you witnessed the revolution," Al-Sifyani.

Ali said visitors should approach museum guides and ask questions if they want more information.

"We are here to tell the history of Yemen," Ali said.

The museum was constructed in 1902, initially as a school named Al Sana'e.

The building was transformed into a prison in 1918 after a decree issued by Imam Yahya Hameed Al-Deen. It was later the headquarters of the Iraqi military forces that trained the Yemeni army in 1940.

In 1945, the building underwent another transformation, being used as the Interior Ministry headquarters from 1962 through 1984.

It has been used as a museum since 1986 after former President Ali Abdullah Saleh issued a decree ordering it be turned into a military museum.

