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President Hadi on Sunday gave urgent orders to the oil and finance ministries to oversee fuel imports within a week to cover demand for four months. This comes amid an unabating fuel crisis in the country. Endless lines of cars queuing for gas have led to severe congestion in the capital.
Photo by Ali Ibrahim Moshki

U.N. Refugee Agency calls on Yemeni government to strengthen search-and-rescue capacities

60 migrants and refugees dead after another boat capsizes off Yemen's coast

■ Ahlam Mohsen

SANA'A, June 9—The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) confirmed in a press release on Friday that a boat carrying 60 migrants and refugees as well as two Yemeni smugglers capsized in the Red Sea off the coast of Yemen on 31 May. There were no survivors, UNHCR told the Yemen Times.

It was the single largest loss of life of migrants and refugees attempting to reach Yemen's shores and follows other incidents in January, March and April of this year, according to UNHCR spokesperson, Adrian Edwards, at a press briefing on Friday in Geneva.

The victims, according to Edwards, were reportedly buried by local residents when their bodies washed ashore near the Bab El Mandeb area off Yemen's coast. The latest incident brings the total number of confirmed deaths-at-sea to 121 this year, according to the agency.

Individuals leave their countries of origin for Yemen for various reasons, including conflict, persecution, poverty, unemployment and natural disasters. Yemen is often a transit country for migrants and

refugees hoping to reach wealthier neighboring countries.

In March, 40 people died making the same journey when a boat capsized in the Red Sea. First responders previously told the Yemen Times that smugglers with overcrowded boats are known to throw passengers overboard to prevent capsizing and detection.

Migrants are vulnerable to trafficking and other abuses.

"UNHCR strongly believes that every life counts and is working to prevent the alarming loss of life at sea and indifference to people desperately needing protection," Edwards said.

More than 500,000 people have made the dangerous trip in the past five years, according to UNHCR.

"We are reiterating our call for governments in the region to strengthen their search-and-rescue capacities, their arrangements for securing safe disembarkation of those rescued and proper identification, and assistance and referral of vulnerable people in need of protection and assistance," Edwards added.

However, the number of refugees entering Yemen has fallen dramatically in recent years. About 107,500 African migrants and refugees entered Yemen in 2012. That number fell to about 53,000 in 2013.

Yemen saw about half the number of refugees and migrants enter-

ing the country the first four months of this year compared to that period in 2013. The migrants and refugees are mainly Somali, Ethiopians and Eritreans, the U.N. Refugee Agency said.

In November 2013, the Regional Conference on Asylum and Migration was held after calls from the Yemeni government. It involved representatives from regional Gulf and African countries and relevant UN bodies.

The Sana'a Declaration measures, which came out of the conference proceedings, include development of national action plans, the improvement of at-sea procedures for "life-saving, disembarkation, identification, assistance and referral". The declaration also called for the improvement of operational effectiveness of the Coast Guard in Yemen and other countries.

One of the measures called for the support of anti-poverty programs in countries of origin to address one of the root causes of migration. The programs should include job creation plans and social safety nets, according to the declaration.

According to a February report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the decline in the number of migrants and refugees attempting to reach Yemen has been attributed to a number of recent changes, including the continued construction

of a wall on the border of Saudi Arabia and Yemen, as well as changes to Saudi labor laws on foreign workers and efforts in Yemen to deter migration.

The changes in labor regulations have made it more difficult for undocumented workers to find employment in Saudi Arabia. In March 2013, Saudi Arabia adopted a new amendment to its labor law, which now stipulates that foreigners can only work for their original sponsors in the country. It has deterred migration not only to Saudi Arabia, but to Yemen as well.

Abdullah Al-Zurqa, the head of the department of deportation at the Migration and Passport Authority, told the Yemen Times in a previous interview that Ethiopia has tightened enforcement on illegal crossings and has more aggressively gone after traffickers after an official Ethiopian delegation visited Yemen in July 2013.

The Sana'a declaration also called for information campaigns in countries of origin to inform migrants of the conditions on the ground in Yemen, one of the region's poorest countries.

"Information campaigns in countries of origin are just as—if not more—important than what happens in Yemen," said Nick Stanton, UNHCR Yemen's Public Information Officer. "It makes Yemen a less attractive option."

Governor of Amran replaced amid fragile truce with Houthis

■ Madiha Al-Junaid

SANA'A, June 9—In an attempt to put an end to the ongoing violence in Amran governorate the government agreed on Sunday to replace Mohammed Dammaj, Amran's current governor, with Mohammed Salih Shamlan.

A recently brokered truce between the Houthis and military is set to expire on Wednesday and the situation remains tense.

Dammaj is widely perceived to be on poor terms with the Houthis, who have demanded his resignation. The Security Operations Office in Amran said the new governor has not been officially installed in his office in Amran yet and is expected to be by Tuesday or Wednesday.

"This step could be a solution for the war in Amran to end," said Mohammed Hasan, a security operations' officer in Amran. However, he warned that although fighting has stopped "the situation is still tense."

On June 4 a presidential committee was sent to Amran in an attempt to broker peace.

The terms of agreement stipulated in a statement by the presidential committee include "immediate ceasefire by both sides in all of Amran; stopping the reinforcements and forces from gathering; spreading neutral military observers to supervise the [process] and ensuring commitment by all sides; Houthis withdrawing from the central prison and the Sahab security point; and opening the Sana'a-Amran road."

"The new [Houthi] reinforcements and new barricades indicate that Houthi militants are preparing for new battles," said Hasan.

According to Mohammed Hizam, the deputy communications manager at the Interior Ministry, the Houthis are taking advantage of the tentative peace to regroup and prepare for the possibility of renewed fighting.

The presidential committee managed to get the Houthis to withdraw from various strategic locations the Houthis had taken since the start of their latest conflict with the military.

"The presidential committee got the Central Prison, and Sahab and Salatah security locations back," said Hasan. He continued, "the Sana'a-Amran road was secured and observation forces were spread along it after the presidential committee visited Amran."

Hizam said that local tribes opposed Houthis forces and prevented them from taking over the Sana'a-Amran road.

Hasan said that since the speech

delivered by Houthi leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi on Tuesday, June 3, in which he called for a ceasefire on the same day the Houthis met the presidential committee, fighting has largely died down, save for brief skirmishes on Saturday.

"The last day of [major] clashes was the day when the air force hit Houthi sites just prior to the presidential committee agreement," said Hasan.

Yahya Tawwaf, the public relations officer of the governorate, said the presidential committee is still in Amran seeking to implement what has been agreed on between the two conflicting sides.

Tawwaf said that on Friday the presidential committee met with observers from the two sides who are to monitor the truce.

Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the political office of the Houthis, said that replacing the governor of Amran is a helpful move as he was one of the main obstacles to a settlement.

"If the other side of the conflict will commit to what has been agreed upon, the situation is going to get better," Al-Bukhaiti said.

The Houthis' initial demands were for the removal of Al-Qushaibi, the commander of the 310th Armored Brigade in Amran, as well as Dammaj. Both men are members of the Islah party, which has especially tense relations with the Houthis.

"Although Dammaj was replaced, Al-Qushaibi is still in power in Amran. Therefore, he has to be replaced as well," Al-Bukhaiti said.

Tawwaf said although the area has been relatively calm since June 5, tension remains because "there are locations which have been taken over by Houthis, and the military police retrieved only a few sites."

Some observers are requesting more backing for the agreement, including the handing over of military locations as well as territory taken by both sides (the Houthis and Al-Qushaibi's military forces) to more neutral government bodies, according to Tawwaf.

"The central prison was taken over on June 3 by Houthi militants before the ceasefire agreement. Approximately 400 to 460 prisoners escaped," said Tawwaf.

Thousands of families have fled their homes and left the governorate since the outbreak of the conflict.

Tawwaf, who also has a leading role in Islamic Relief, commented on the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) saying, "we [Islamic Relief and other NGOs] haven't done a complete survey of the number of IDPs yet."

Continued on page 2

Defense Ministry claims 500 AQAP militants killed in Shabwa and Abyan offensives

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, June 7—Over a month after the Yemeni military's latest offensive against Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in Abyan and Shabwa began, the Ministry of Defense on Thursday claimed that the conflict left 500 Al-Qaeda affiliates and 40 soldiers dead. However, the claim has been met with skepticism.

"The war against Al-Qaeda in Shabwa and Abyan left 500 Al-Qaeda affiliates killed, 10 wounded and 39 others arrested. Forty soldiers were also killed and 100 others wounded," said Colonel Saed Al-Faqeeh, the spokesperson of the military, in a press release held on Thursday.

The Military, in cooperation with the Popular Committees—civilian militias established in 2011 to back the military in its campaigns against alleged Al-Qaeda militants—on April 29 launched an offensive against AQAP in Shabwa and Aby-

an, two AQAP strongholds.

"Al-Qaeda affiliates have taken several other corpses. We also have found three mass graves in Al-Mahfad district of Abyan where it's believed that Al-Qaeda members were buried but we don't know the exact number. We have photos to prove this," Al-Faqeeh told the Yemen Times.

However, the Defense Ministry refused to provide any photographic evidence to the Yemen Times.

In 2012, then White House counter-terrorism adviser John Brennan, said that AQAP had grown to over 1000 members. If the figure of 500 dead is true, this would represent a huge loss to AQAP, whose membership is thought to still be relatively small.

The ministry's claims, however, have elicited widespread skepticism, especially given that restrictions on journalists have hampered accurate reporting of the conflict.

Abdulrazq Al-Jamal, a journalist with insight to Al-Qaeda who

has interviewed leaders of the organization, said on his Facebook page on May 31 that only a handful of Al-Qaeda members were killed.

"The total number of Al-Qaeda affiliates who participated in the war in Abyan and Shabwa wasn't more than 300, so how could 500 of them have been killed?" he added.

The lack of reliable information has fed into propaganda from both sides

One Al-Qaeda fighter who says he fled from Shabwa during the offensive, told the Yemen Times that "the government has announced several times that dozens of Al-Qaeda affiliates were killed but months later we discover that they are still alive."

In response to the skepticism, Al-Faqeeh said that "we would have said dozens of Al-Qaeda affiliates were killed but we announced the exact number because we are sure of it. It's not good for us to report false information."

According to Saleh Al-Saribi, a tribal leader in Lawder district in Abyan, three mass graves discovered in the Al-Mahfad district suggest that the high casualty figures might be accurate.

The Yemen Times was not able to independently verify the information from residents in Al-Mahfad district. Reaching residents is especially difficult because telecommunications have been cut.

The Defense Ministry has in the past falsely reported deaths of alleged Al-Qaeda militants.

Last month, for example, the ministry announced that a member of Al-Qaeda from the Al-Shabwan tribe of Marib was killed in Sana'a, but the ministry was later forced to admit that the victim was not affiliated with the militant organization.

In 2010, the government also famously announced the killing of leading Al-Qaeda figure Qasim Al-Raimi, but it later emerged that he was in fact still alive.

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Fact-finding committee to look into violence at October 14 newspaper

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, June 9—Aden governor Waheed Rashid on Sunday formed a fact-finding committee to investigate the violence that took place the day before at the state-run October 14 Establishment for Printing, Press and Publication in Aden. The incident saw security personnel breaking into the establishment and injuring at least five protesting journalists. Employees at the establishment went on strike on Tuesday over alleged corruption by the company's chairman, Mohammad Ali Sa'd. The strike continued until Friday, with workers preventing Sa'd from entering the building.

Ayman Esam Saeed, the spokesperson for the striking workers, said Sa'd paid YR200,000 (\$930) to security guards to accompany him in breaking into the headquarters

of the establishment on Saturday. However, the staff prevented him from entering and in the ensuing confrontation between the strikers and security forces five journalists were injured.

The strikes were suspended after a committee was established to look into the matter. The committee consists of the deputy governor of Aden, Naef Al-Bukairi, and the head of the Aden branch of the Journalists Syndicate, Mahmoud Thabet.

It was initially agreed that the leadership of the establishment would be handed over to Sa'd's deputy or the finance manager until the decision to remove Sa'd from the state-run company was made.

According to Saeed, however, "the employees are still waiting for the outcome of the committee. But in case our issue continues unresolved, we will strike again."

Committee members did not respond to phone calls. Neither did Sa'd, despite repeated efforts by the Yemen Times since last week to contact him at his home. Saeed claims that Sa'd has not stepped down and is working from home.

Five Aden-based newspapers (Al-Omna, Aden, Al-Ghd, Al-Tareek and October 14) have been unable to publish since last Wednesday due to the strike. In addition to calls for the removal of the chairman, employees are also demanding salary increases.

"The October 14 establishment is the only newspaper with a printing press. If it stops, so do all the newspapers in Aden," said Majed Al-Shuaibi, an Aden-based journalist.

He added that Sa'd was removed amid a corruption scandal in 2009 but was reinstated through a presidential decree last year.

Gunmen attack government compound in Lahj

■ Nasser Al-Sakkaf

LAHJ, June 8—Gunmen on Sunday attacked the government compound in Alhawta district of Lahj governorate, leaving one security guard and one gunman dead. The compound houses governorate administration buildings and the local council.

Journalist Fuad Mused said the clashes close to the government compound renewed on Monday at noon between gunmen and soldiers. One civilian was injured, he said.

Ali Haider, the deputy governor of Lahj and the secretary general of the local council, said he suspected that the initial attack was an attempt to pressure the government

into releasing prisoners.

Two months ago, the security forces arrested dozens of the suspects wanted for a variety of reasons, several of whom were later released, according to Haider. He added that over the past two days, the security authorities released 21 prisoners from Sabir prison in Lahj governorate.

"The gunmen could not break into the compound so they ambushed the convoy of the governorate's security manager, Brigadier Othman Maooda, near the compound," said Haider.

One security guard was killed and the brigadier's son was injured, ac-

ording to Haider. No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

Sami Al-Bakri, a local journalist in Lahj, said he saw dozens of militants in the vicinity of the government compound. Since Sunday the gunmen have prevented employees from entering the area, he added.

The compound accommodates a number of government offices including the finance office in the governorate.

On March 23, unidentified gunmen attacked the compound with rocket-propelled grenades. Two people were injured and no one claimed responsibility for the attack.

Tension in Sanah district after Sunday clashes

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, June 9—There is a prevailing sense of tension in the Sanah district of Al-Dhale governorate after soldiers and armored vehicles were deployed in the streets following last week's clashes between the 33rd Armored Brigade and gunmen allegedly linked to the Southern Movement (Hirak). The clashes broke out late Sunday between the gunmen and the brigade lasting for about an hour. According to Mohammed Ahmed Al-Shuaibi, a witness and resident of Sanah district, the gunmen attacked soldiers with rocket-propelled grenades. Al-Shuaibi said that residents of the district fear the renewal of the sort of violence that took place three months ago.

This comes after about ten civilians were injured in recent days in shelling by the army on Al-Jalela, Al-Ribat, Al-Kebar and Al-Sumait villages in response to an attack on the convoy of Brigadier Abdulla

Dhaba'an, commander of the 33rd Armored Brigade, that the military claims was an assassination attempt. Sadeq Al-Hakami, the spokesperson for the brigade, said that the situation escalated after gunmen affiliated with the Southern Movement blocked roads and planted explosive devices along military patrol routes.

"They say that we have stationed our troops in new locations but this isn't true. We only man these positions during states of heightened alert and during clashes and then we withdraw to the brigade's positions," he added. Al-Hakami said that the military detained three residents on suspicion of planting bombs but they were released on the orders from Sana'a. He said that the brigade ordered a partial withdrawal to its base after a visit by a presidential committee to the area late March.

A presidential committee led by Brigadier Nasser Belakhsha, deputy interior minister, brokered a two-month truce between the gunmen

and the brigade in March. According to the terms of the truce, gunmen were to be evacuated and soldiers would return to their barracks, while victims of the violence would be compensated. So far, however, no compensation has been provided by the state.

Waleed Al-Khateeb, the media officer of the Al-Dhale Coordinating Council, said armored vehicles on Sunday morning stormed a Qat market in Sanah district and entered a school they shelled in December and removed all Southern flags.

"The brigade has established new locations and did not withdraw. Military vehicles and soldiers are heavily deployed in the streets of Sanah district," Al-Khateeb told the Yemen Times. He added that clashes are likely to break out any moment.

Al-Dhale witnessed sporadic armed clashes since late December up until mid-March after 15 civilians were killed in shelling by the 33rd Armored Brigade.

Regional conference convenes to tackle issues of political transition

■ Madiha Al-Junaid

SANA'A, June 9—The Regional Conference on Transitional Justice was held on Saturday and Sunday under the auspices of the Ministry of Legal Affairs and in collaboration with the UN Development Program (UNDP) and UN Human Rights Agency (OHCHR) to discuss the transitional justice law and its implementation.

Topics that were addressed include the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) and their relationship with immunity laws, transitional justice, democratic transition, and the role of international actors and civil society.

"The NDC's outcomes are binding for everyone," said Fouad Al-Salahi, a speaker at the conference. "The [UN] Security Council decisions discussed two major issues—forcing the Yemeni authorities to implement the law of transitional justice, and formulating an independent investigation committee."

However, Al-Salahi said, "the independent investigation committee became history before it

could become a reality... That is why we resubmitted its papers and documents, and we are awaiting president Hadi's renewal of the decision and renaming of its members."

Abdhussein Shaban, a speaker at the conference, said, "there should be a distinction between transitional justice and transitional revenge." He summarized the transitional justice project in three words: "forgiveness, justice, and peace."

Conference participants also discussed means of ensuring justice for the transitional period ahead, such as uncovering human rights violations that occurred in 2011 and protection for witnesses.

According to the session moderator of the conference, Eyyad Al-Barghuthi, Yemeni society faces a historical opportunity despite multiple challenges.

"Stability, national justice and social reconciliation cannot be implemented while the country is awash with weapons," said Al-Barghuthi. "Confrontations and competitiveness must be [channeled] peacefully."

Continued from page 1

Governor of Amran replaced amid fragile truce with Houthis

"On Thursday, various NGOs in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) met in Sana'a where all their representatives as well as the executive unit of the IDP Affairs [a government-run agency] discussed the strategy of the IDPs survey to start on June 8," Tawwaf said.

However, June 8 passed and the survey has yet to begin. Tawwaf says it will be conducted on June 10. He said the estimated number of the IDPs in Amran, which by some estimates is as high as 80,000, is only speculative.

Saddam Al-Badeeni, a food distribution coordinator at Islamic Relief, said the number of citizens fleeing Amran has been higher during the truce than during previous months of fighting. He believes "all locals are afraid of a more severe war after this" and that the ceasefire only means more time "for both sides to prepare."

Houthi leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi spoke on June 3rd for the first time about the war in Amran via the Houthi mouthpiece Al-Maseera Al-Quraaneyah.

He said the violence began when peaceful protesters demonstrating against the governor and commander were barred from entering the city and were attacked by security forces.

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Obama updates security strategy for a changing world

Barry Pavel
atlanticcouncil.org
First published May 28

While there was much continuity in President Barack Obama's West Point

speech [May 28], at least three new emphases represent an administration that is both learning the foreign and defense policy lessons of its tenure as well as reappraising where the world is headed and how to make sense of it. First, the president emphasized a shift in US counterterrorism strat-



President Barack Obama hands a diploma to one of about 1,000 graduating cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, on May 28. Obama's commencement address is one of several the White House plans to lay out his foreign policy vision for the remainder of his term in office.

egy. He highlighted the importance of partnering with nations from South Asia to the Sahara, announcing a request to Congress for a \$5 billion Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund to advance mutual efforts to reduce terrorist violence. Where needed, drone strikes will continue (albeit with greater transparency), but the administration will shift its efforts to enabling willing allies and partners to combat violent extremism on their own territories. In many ways, this is a return to the Bush administration's "Building Partnership Capacity" programs, oriented toward achieving exactly the same goals.

Second, the president reframed the Syria problem as a central counterterrorism concern for the United States. The president now understands clearly, albeit years later, that the longer this conflict festers,

the more likely it is to produce new violent extremists who will leave the battlefield to launch new terrorist attacks on the US homeland or those of our allies and partners. While much more is at stake in Syria for the United States, at least this narrow but critical US interest is generating new efforts by the administration to strengthen support for Syria's neighbors and arm the more moderate rebels in Syria.

Perhaps most important for long-term strategy and US security, the president took steps toward recognizing that we are in a new era in history in which individuals and groups with global awareness are becoming powerful actors, alongside nations, on a rapidly changing global stage. Both opportunities and dangers abound as a result of these trends, but the president's statement could not have been clearer: "...un-

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like other nations, America is not afraid of individual empowerment, we are strengthened by it." As a result, he said, the United States is now forming alliances not just with states but with peoples, and promoting individual empowerment and human dignity is in the national security interests of the United States.

Thus, with this speech, Obama has begun a global conversation with the American people and with people everywhere about our new

world in which change is the new normal and the pursuit of "stability" is insufficient for US foreign policy in an extraordinarily dynamic global landscape. On this point alone, if the administration follows up vigorously and thoughtfully, it will have made important strides toward a new and more effective US national security strategy.

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**NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL**

INVITATION TO BID

اعلان مناقصة

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is an International NGO with regional competence and expertise in working with displaced populations. The Regional Office is based in Nairobi, Kenya with offices and operations in Somalia, Kenya Ethiopia and Yemen.

**Type of Goods: Providing and constructing
A complete solar driven pumping system
Project: EC-YEFW1303**

The office of the Norwegian Refugee Council invites potential suppliers to make a firm offer for the Providing and constructing a complete solar driven pumping system installed at sites

Manner of Submission:

Bidders are advised to start collecting tender documents on 10/06/2014 until the final day 15/06/2014 at:04:00pm

(1) NRC Sana'a Office: Hadda Road - Behind AlFakher Restaurant-Off Ex World Bank Office. Tel: 01/425447

Offers should clearly include the following:

- Company registration and proof of payment of tax to - the relevant authority.
- Documented experience & references from other similar transactions specially on pumping & solar system
- Validity of offer and confirmed delivery period
- Net price for each item including transportation and installation.
- Mention the warranty of each offered item.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Norwegian Refugee Council Offices in no longer than 16/06/ 2014 before 4:00 pm.

المجلس النرويجي للاجئين (NRC) هي منظمة دولية غير حكومية ذات الاختصاص والخبرة الإقليمية في العمل مع السكان و النازحين. ويقع المكتب الإقليمي في نيروبي، كينيا مع مكاتب العمليات في الصومال، كينيا، إثيوبيا واليمن.

**نوع البضاعة: توريد وتركيب وتشغيل مضخة تعمل بالطاقة الشمسية .
المشروع: EC-YEFW1303**

يدعو مكتب المجلس النرويجي للاجئين الموردين المتمكنين و الراغبين لتقديم عرض جيد لتوريد وتركيب وتشغيل مضخة تعمل بالطاقة الشمسية.

طريقة التقديم

على الراغبين الحضور الى العنوان التالي لاستلام وثائق العطاءات وذلك من تاريخ 2014/6/10 الى تاريخ 2014/6/15

- مكتب صنعاء: شارع حده - خلف مطعم الفاخر جوار مكتب البنك الدولي سابقاً .
تلفون: 01- 425 447

وينبغي أن تشمل العروض بوضوح ما يلي:

- سجل الشركة التجاري وإثبات دفع الضرائب الى السلطة
- خبرة موثقة ومراجع من المعاملات الأخرى المماثلة خاصة في مجال الطاقة الشمسية.
- مدة صلاحية العرض وتأكيد على مدة التوريد والتسليم
- السعر الصافي لكل عنصر بما في ذلك النقل والتركيب
- ذكر مدة الضمانة لكل صنف يتم عرضه

ويجب أن تقدم العطاءات في ظرف مختوم إلى مكاتب المجلس النرويجي للاجئين في تاريخ اقضاه 2014/6/16 قبل الساعة 4:00 مساءً.

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL TENDER SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(Preparation of two actuarial studies as well as a feasibility study
of a proposed integration of GASSP and GCSS)

The General Authority for Social Security and Pensions (GASSP) and the General Corporation for Social Security (GCSS) have made budgetary allocation of fund for the preparation of two actuarial studies and intend to apply part of the fund for the procurement of consultant's services (The actuarial studies are fully funded by the two authorities). GASSP and GCSS also intend to conduct a feasibility study of a proposed integration of GASSP and GCSS into one entity.

GASSP and GCSS now invite eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. The information shall be submitted to the Unit of Insurance and Actuarial Studies at the address below and during the office hours. These must include the following:

1. Qualifications in the field of the desired assignment.
2. The technical, financial and administrative status of the consultant.
3. The field of the main job and the years of experience in the desired studies.
4. Previous contracts in performing similar tasks.
5. The qualifications of the main staff.
6. Reference entities to make sure of the implementation of the required assignments.
7. Valid (tax card + insurance card + almsgiving card + license to practice the profession (for local firms)
8. The administrative and organizational structure of the firms, licenses and legal records issued from the countries of interested firms.

The documents of the expressions of interest shall be submitted to the address below **not later than Sunday 20 / July /2014.**

**Republic of Yemen- Sana'a City- Across Saudi Arabia Embassy
General Authority for Social Security and Pensions
Sixth floor- General Administration of Planning and Statistics
Tel: 00967 -1- 242910, Fax: 00967-1-242926
E-mail: actuarialyemen@gmail.com
P.O. Box: 10558**

Only qualified consultants will be informed to submit their technical and financial proposals in accordance with law.

Muwaladeen activist to the Yemen Times: “We demand to participate in this country.”

■ Sara Al-Dubaei

On March 3, 2013, as a means of curbing illegal immigration, the Civil Status Authority implemented a ban on issuing identity cards to those unable to present legal documents proving their Yemeni nationality.

According to the ban, the provision of Yemeni identity cards for Muwaladeen (“mixed race”—in this case being the child of a Yemeni national and a foreign national) born in the Horn of Africa is to be stopped. However, Muwaladeen born in the Gulf, Europe, and Asia, provided their fathers were born in Yemen, can still be issued identity cards.

In a phone call to the Yemen Times, Ahmed Saif, head of the Civil Status Authority, said “it’s not an official ban but we have established a committee formed by the state minister in each governorate to support Yemenis or Muwaladeen to get identity cards when they provide their personal documents. As for the Muwaladeen who were born in Gulf Countries, Asia, the US and Europe and have their personal documents, they get the identity cards without any obstacles. This is meant to protect the country from illegal migration and isn’t considered discrimination.”

Khalid Ali Saeed Shanon, a 37-year-old mixed race activist and founding member of the Sons of the Migrants Muwaladeen Organization, spoke to the Yemen Times about the issue.

Ahmed Saif said it’s not an official ban but you say it is. What is your opinion?

First of all, they always say that it’s not an official ban. They said they are not allowed to issue identity cards to the Muwaladeen outside the country, particularly to those of African origin, except for the Muwaladeen who were born in the Gulf Countries. There is no need to differentiate between the Muwaladeen of African origins and those who were born in the Gulf.

Saif said there is no discrimination but, unlike many Muwaladeen who were born in African countries, most Muwaladeen in the Gulf have identity documents from the countries they were born in.

The Muwaladeen who were born in Africa can get documents from Yemeni embassies there for their identity card. However, I don’t understand why the ban made an ex-

ception.

But why do you oppose this law although it intends to protect your rights?

Those Muwaladeen who were born in the Gulf get the identity card easily but those of African origins should bring documents and then get approval from the sheikh of the village where their father or mother were born. Why don’t they receive equal treatment?

Don’t you think the reason some don’t encounter obstacles is because they might have identity documents?

Those Muwaladeen who were born in Africa also have identity documents.

Saif said this is a mechanism by the state to ban illegal migration into the country. What

do you think?

The government knows who are illegal immigrants and I don’t think a person will demand an identity card unless he is a Yemeni citizen.

Have you encountered any problems here?

I know people who left their properties and emigrated and when their sons came back and requested identity cards, they were asked to bring an approval letter from a sheikh in the village he belongs to. However, they encountered problems because the sheiks in the villages feared that the Muwaladeen may demand their properties and demanded that they concede their properties to get the approval letter. I know people who became mentally ill because of this.

Have you filed complaints about this?

Yes, and the state knows about it.

What is your opinion about the committee?

I heard that the committee comes [to the migration and passport authority] every three months and I think it’s impossible for people to stay here without identity cards for three months.

You are against getting approval letters from sheikhs in villages. Why?

Of course I’m against it because, as I told you earlier, a person may lose his rights to his property to get this letter.

Let us move on to talk about the organization devoted to protecting the rights of migrants and those of mixed raced descent. How was Sons of the Migrants Muwaladeen Organization established?

Many people talked and wrote about the suffering of migrants, especially those of mixed race descent. I also noticed the suffering of these

groups and this suffering continued to increase. The identification card cost them YR30,000 to YR50,000 (\$140 to \$233). This is a matter of extortion. This made me raise the question: why shouldn’t we have an organization to defend the rights of these people. Some people do not know what to do.

Could you give us a brief introduction to the mission, the vision and the goals of the organization?

The vision of the organization is that [migrants in Yemen] should have the right to run for election and the right to study at colleges. The message is that the rights of migrants should be recognized and they should not be discriminated against. Migrants are a big presence and they should not be looked down upon. Even if migrant wants to run for the presidential election, his demand shouldn’t be dismissed.

But the Yemeni constitution stipulates that candidates for presidential elections must have Yemeni parents.

This is the constitution of the pre-revolution period. After the revolution, there has been a need for a civil state. And the civil state should treat everyone equally. If a mixed race person has Yemeni origins or has been nationalized, he should be considered Yemeni. As long as there is a civil state, our participation should be recognized and we should be treated equally. We demand to participate in this country. Even the right to vote is not accessible to all.

Who mainly funds this organization?

So far, there has been no one to support us. We are supporting ourselves. We are still at the beginning.

Will the government cooper-



Khalid Shanon

ate with this organization to improve the situation of immigrants in Yemen?

Immigrants are Yemeni. If we do not try to improve their situation, who will? Okay, the man with mixed race descent is not allowed to have a leading critical position. The marginalized are originally Yemenis, but they do not enter colleges or occupy high positions. Why? The marginalized also cannot enter military academies. They work only as municipality workers or drivers. That is it. Because of this, their ambition is limited to such work. Why are their abilities and skills not used? In the south during the pre-unity period, everyone was accepted. There was no discrimination. But look at the present—even if the marginalized are educated they have to work in the municipality or be a driver. The situation is not right.

When establishing the organizations, did you have co-founders?

So far I am alone, but I had friends who helped including Mohammed Al-Shatibi and the late Mohammed Kamal. They supported many of my activities.

Do you think the organization will one day be promoting a particular partisan agenda?

The organization is devoted to demanding the rights of migrants in Yemen. I do not think it will work under the umbrella of a particular party. The parties have done nothing for us.

What is your message to the government?

We want to tell them to give us a chance. We are educated and able to understand. Why do you not take our views into account? What is the problem? We took to the streets calling for a civil state. The NDC also discussed the issue of a Yemeni woman marrying a foreigner. There was the suggestion that foreigners marrying a Yemeni woman should be granted nationality. Also, why are the sons [of the couple] not granted Yemeni nationality?

Finally, do you have anything you want to add?

I wish the NDC outcomes would be implemented. And I hope that everyone plays their role. Give the youth a chance and they will improve the situation.



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العالم 2014

المجموعة F

الأرجنتين 

البوسنة والهرسك 

إيران 

نيجيريا 

الأرجنتين	vs	البوسنة والهرسك	الإثنين 16 يونيو - AM 1:00
نيجيريا	vs	إيران	الإثنين 16 يونيو - PM 10:00
الأرجنتين	vs	إيران	الجمعة 21 يونيو - PM 7:00
نيجيريا	vs	البوسنة والهرسك	الأحد 22 يونيو - AM 1:00
نيجيريا	vs	الأرجنتين	الأربعاء 25 يونيو - PM 7:00
البوسنة والهرسك	vs	إيران	الأربعاء 25 يونيو - PM 7:00

المجموعة E

سويسرا 

الاكوادور 

فرنسا 

هندوراس 

سويسرا	vs	الإكوادور	الأحد 15 يونيو - PM 7:00
فرنسا	vs	هندوراس	الأحد 15 يونيو - PM 10:00
سويسرا	vs	فرنسا	الجمعة 20 يونيو - PM 10:00
هندوراس	vs	الإكوادور	السبت 21 يونيو - AM 1:00
هندوراس	vs	سويسرا	الأربعاء 25 يونيو - PM 11:00
الإكوادور	vs	فرنسا	الأربعاء 25 يونيو - PM 11:00

المجموعة H

بلجيكا 

الجزائر 

روسيا 

كوريا الجنوبية 

بلجيكا	vs	الجزائر	الثلاثاء 17 يونيو - PM 7:00
روسيا	vs	كوريا الجنوبية	الأربعاء 18 يونيو - AM 1:00
بلجيكا	vs	روسيا	الأحد 22 يونيو - PM 7:00
كوريا الجنوبية	vs	الجزائر	الأحد 22 يونيو - PM 10:00
كوريا الجنوبية	vs	بلجيكا	الخميس 26 يونيو - PM 11:00
الجزائر	vs	روسيا	الخميس 26 يونيو - PM 11:00

المجموعة G

ألمانيا 

البرتغال 

غانا 

الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية 

ألمانيا	vs	البرتغال	الإثنين 16 يونيو - PM 7:00
غانا	vs	الولايات المتحدة	الأحد 22 يونيو - AM 1:00
ألمانيا	vs	غانا	السبت 21 يونيو - PM 10:00
الولايات المتحدة	vs	البرتغال	الإثنين 23 يونيو - AM 1:00
الولايات المتحدة	vs	ألمانيا	الخميس 26 يونيو - PM 7:00
البرتغال	vs	غانا	الخميس 26 يونيو - PM 7:00



2014 FIFA World Cup

دوري الـ 16

الأول من B vs الثاني من A
3
الأحد 29 يونيو - PM 7:00

الأول من D vs الثاني من C
4
الأحد 29 يونيو - PM 11:00

الأول من F vs الثاني من E
7
الثلاثاء 1 يوليو - PM 7:00

الأول من H vs الثاني من G
8
الثلاثاء 1 يوليو - PM 11:00

الدور ربع النهائي

الفائز من 3 vs الفائز من 4
C
السبت 5 يوليو - PM 11:00

الفائز من C vs الفائز من D
2
السبت 5 يوليو - PM 11:00

الفائز من 7 vs الفائز من 8
D
السبت 5 يوليو - PM 7:00

الفائز من 2 vs الفائز من 1
PM 10:00 -

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المجموعة B

اسبانيا	vs	هولندا
الجمعة 13 يونيو - PM 10:00		
استراليا	vs	تشيلي
السبت 14 يونيو - AM 1:00		
اسبانيا	vs	تشيلي
الأربعاء 18 يونيو - PM 10:00		
استراليا	vs	هولندا
الأربعاء 18 يونيو - PM 7:00		
استراليا	vs	اسبانيا
الإثنين 23 يونيو - PM 7:00		
تشيلي	vs	هولندا
الإثنين 23 يونيو - PM 7:00		

المجموعة A

البرازيل	vs	كرواتيا
الخميس 12 يونيو - PM 11:00		
المكسيك	vs	الكاميرون
الجمعة 13 يونيو - PM 7:00		
البرازيل	vs	المكسيك
الثلاثاء 17 يونيو - PM 10:00		
الكاميرون	vs	كرواتيا
الخميس 19 يونيو - AM 1:00		
الكاميرون	vs	البرازيل
الإثنين 23 يونيو - PM 11:00		
المكسيك	vs	كرواتيا
الإثنين 23 يونيو - PM 11:00		

المجموعة D

الأوروغواي	vs	كوستاريكا
السبت 14 يونيو - PM 10:00		
إنجلترا	vs	إيطاليا
الأحد 15 يونيو - AM 1:00		
أوروغواي	vs	إنجلترا
الخميس 19 يونيو - PM 10:00		
إيطاليا	vs	كوستاريكا
الجمعة 20 يونيو - PM 7:00		
إيطاليا	vs	أوروغواي
الثلاثاء 24 يونيو - PM 7:00		
كوستاريكا	vs	إنجلترا
الثلاثاء 24 يونيو - PM 7:00		

المجموعة C

كولومبيا	vs	اليونان
السبت 14 يونيو - PM 7:00		
ساحل العاج	vs	اليابان
الأحد 15 يونيو - AM 4:00		
كولومبيا	vs	ساحل العاج
الخميس 19 يونيو - PM 7:00		
اليابان	vs	اليونان
الجمعة 20 يونيو - AM 1:00		
اليابان	vs	كولومبيا
الثلاثاء 24 يونيو - PM 11:00		
اليونان	vs	ساحل العاج
الثلاثاء 24 يونيو - PM 11:00		

دوري الـ 16

الدور ربع النهائي

1	الأول من A	vs	الثاني من B
السبت 28 يونيو - PM 7:00			
2	الأول من C	vs	الثاني من D
السبت 28 يونيو - PM 11:00			
1	الفائز من A	vs	الفائز من B
الجمعة 4 يوليو - PM 11:00			
2	الفائز من 1	vs	الفائز من 2
الجمعة 4 يوليو - PM 11:00			
5	الأول من E	vs	الثاني من F
الإثنين 30 يونيو - PM 7:00			
6	الفائز من 5	vs	الفائز من 6
الجمعة 4 يوليو - PM 7:00			
6	الأول من G	vs	الثاني من H
الإثنين 30 يونيو - PM 11:00			

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اليوم 13
2014
WORLD CUP
BRASIL
الأحد 13 يوليو

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SANA'A'S CONSTRUCTION WOES

Photo essay by **Ezzaddin Abdulsalam Alzain**

Due to the increasing number of vehicles slugging down Sana'a's roads and the expansion of urban areas, the capital city has become

overcrowded. Consequently, the government has built a number of bridges and tunnels to lessen traffic congestion. Many bridges have been built and others are still under construction. Those in use today include Al-Sadaqa Bridge, the Airport Bridge, and Al-Siteen Bridge, among others.

There is a bridge and tunnel under construction at the junction of Hadda and Beirut street. Construction began on October 16, 2013, and the construction manager of this project expects the construction to be finished on October 16, 2014. The bridge is 380 meters long and the tunnel is 500 meters long, according to the project ad-

ministration.

So far the construction is in full swing, but the owners of the neighboring buildings and shops say they have been facing problems since the beginning of the construction.

Wasfi Al-Bakri, an engineering consultant whose office is near the construction,

said at the beginning the construction progressed quickly and consistently. After two months, however, work got slower for a variety of reasons including poor management, Al-Bakri said. He said the construction covered the nearby streets with dust, and this is problematic for the shops and restaurant owners.



The construction of the tunnel has closed the entire road to private vehicles. Establishments adjacent to the tunnel can only be accessed by a dirt path.



During his break, Mohammed Salem carries a big umbrella to shade him from the scorching sun. The regular workers work from 7am to 11am, then 2pm to 5:30pm. Additional employees occasionally work throughout the night as necessary.



Carpenters Ali and Mohammed working on the entrance of the tunnel. They have been working in this field for over 25 years.



Many bridge columns have yet to be constructed. Workers digging holes for the columns struck a water tank, creating delays in the construction process.



Engineer Al-Bakri says the construction has negatively affected nearby shops and some restaurant owners moved their business to other neighborhoods.



Ali Al-Thaifi, the owner of a hardware shop said that by his estimates he has lost 80% of his customers. He says only his most loyal customers still visit him. He complains that too much dust is coming from the construction and he thinks the construction presents a public health hazard.



Despite being closed to the public, many residents still take the road for construction vehicles carrying supplies, blocking the trucks and creating delays.



According to the CEO Fahd Al-Sabahi [pictured] of Al-Twaiti National Corporation for Engineering and Construction, the company in charge of construction, there is usually a minimum of 250 workers, but this varies considerably.



According to the project manager Ali Hadash [pictured], the low-skilled workers make at minimum YR3,000 per day, the highest skilled workers make YR7,000 per day, and the engineers make up to YR500,000 per month. The workers usually receive additional overtime pay, though they are not entitled to annual leave.

Road construction dries up local businesses

■ Ali Abulohoom

Yemen for Kitchens, an appliance store on Hadda Street in Sana'a that has been operating for 17 years, recently laid off four of its workers because of the financial losses it has faced since early 2013.

The store used to turn a considerable profit, but that changed when construction on a long stretch of Hadda Street in front of the shop began a year ago, blocking off all traffic to the premises.

The store can only be reached by a long, bumpy pathway strewn with litter that skirts the construction.

Nowadays there are only two workers at Yemen for Kitchens—Abdualwhab Al-Masri, the store manager, and his mother, Om Abdu, who works as the cleaner. "Om Abdu's salary for April has not yet been paid. We also have not paid the electricity bill, which is RY27,000 (\$120)," Al-Masri said.

"After we realized our profits were spiraling and we were unable to afford the workers' salaries, we resorted to firing four workers," he said.

Al-Masri felt the company would quickly recover from any losses after construction ended and that the business' regular customers will come back.

"That's why we stayed when construction started and refused to move to another place. We thought that our clients would visit us again once the construction finalized," he said.

The decision was not an easy one: "We decided to take the risk and stay where we are because it's hard to move to another place and start from scratch."

Others, like Yahia Basaleh, 55, a restaurant owner on Taiz Street, chose to pack up and leave. "Since the beginning of construction of the bridge on Taiz Street, few customers come to my restaurant, which used to host hundreds. I was forced to close it down three months ago when I realized I would sink into debt," said Basaleh.

As the capital has become increasingly populated, particularly after the unification between the north and the south in 1990, the need for bridges and tunnels to alleviate traffic jams has become ever more urgent. Sana'a has a growth rate of seven percent—the highest of any capital city in the world. Whereas only 60,000 people called Sana'a home in 1940, over two million people live here today.

Bridge construction was widespread in the late 1990s, when the Chinese-funded "Friendship" bridge and tunnel were built in Tahrir district in a bid to alleviate traffic in the area. According to Saleh Al-Suhaiqi, the deputy manager of intersections in the Sana'a Mayor's Office, the plan worked.

According to Al-Suhaiqi, 45 road construction projects got underway in 2008 in Sana'a alone. Despite some delays caused by the 2011 uprising, the last project was completed in 2013.

He said that the construction of five bridges and tunnels, including the construction on Hadda, that began in 2013 is projected to be finished by 2016, and eight more bridges and tunnels will be constructed from 2016 to 2020.

Those affected seek compensation

Al-Suhaiqi acknowledged the

losses incurred by businessmen as a result of the construction and confirmed that no compensation has been paid to them.

"The people have to tolerate the losses because we make bridges and tunnels for their own sake and the city needs to be modernized. Neither the government nor the contractors are required to pay compensation to people [who have been affected]," said Al-Suhaiqi.

But business owners have taken action, appointing Nasr Al-Farzai to head of the Affected People Committee. They hope to open negotiations with the government and reach an agreement to reduce losses that they say they are incurring.

Al-Farzai first started dealing with the issue of construction in 2009. He says that local businesses at Kentaki roundabout in central Sana'a lost huge amounts as a result of construction between 2008-2010.

Al-Farzai says that he keeps petitioning various government bodies to get tax-breaks and lower utility costs for businesses that have suffered losses. He says that while he is able to get tax exemptions, getting reductions in utility bills and compensation for losses has proven to be a lot more difficult.

Al-Farzai said that he distributed questionnaires among the businesses on Taiz Street, Dar Salam neighborhood, Bait Baws village and Mathbah Street to determine the losses incurred.

Saleh Humid, 44, the owner of a hardware store on Taiz Street, claims to have lost around YR5,000,000 (\$2,500) since construction of the bridge began last year.

"I have to stay here until the bridge is finalized as I have nowhere to go, especially since I have gathered loyal clients over the last 15 years. I expect no compensation and the building owner from whom

I rent the store even refused to lower the rent," Humid added.

Hussein Mosrea, 55, a landlord of a building on Taiz Street, said that he refused to lower the rent for a store based in his building. "What is my sin to receive such little rent? I need a person who pays the rent I am looking regardless of the situation, otherwise I would rather kick him out and accept someone else," Mosrea said.

The deputy manager of the Taiz Street bridge project, Sameer Mohammed, said that the project team is doing its best to meet the three-year deadline. "I know the construction causes damage to the people's interests, however we have no other choice, we work for their sake."

As for Yemen for Kitchens, Al-Masri says that these days they are lucky to see one or two clients in the shop. "It's not a problem for us only. Many shops here were forced to shut down because of bankruptcy."

ADVERTORIAL

Emirates A380 network to expand to Frankfurt A380 service to start on 1st September

Emirates, a global connector of people and places announced today that Frankfurt, the financial epicentre of Germany, will be the next destination slated for its flagship A380 aircraft. The daily A380 service will start on 1st September.



Thierry Antinori, Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer Emirates said: "Frankfurt was one of the first European destinations for Emirates and as the financial capital of Germany it continues to be strategically important. Deploying larger capacity aircraft, such as the A380, is central to helping us meet growing passenger demand between one of the Europe's busiest economic regions and the emerging economies of Asia, Middle East and Africa, through seamless, swift connections via our Dubai hub. The local economy will also derive substantial benefits from tourism growth with the increased number of visitors from the GCC region. We are proud to fly our flagship A380 aircraft to Frankfurt from 1st September and offer our passengers the Emirates on-board Shower Spa experience, our world-renowned on-board Lounge, and an unparalleled 1,700 channels of inflight entertainment across all cabins."

Frankfurt is currently served with a triple daily Boeing 777 operation. From 1st September, EK 45 becomes an A380 flight, leaving Dubai at 0825hrs and arriving in Frankfurt at 1315hrs. The return double-decker flight, EK46, departs Frankfurt at 1520hrs and lands in Dubai at 2335hrs.

Peter Feldmann, Lord Mayor of Frankfurt said: "Frankfurt welcomes the Emirates A380, an aircraft that is partly produced in Germany and that acts as a worldwide ambassador for European top-class engineering. Emirates' decision to deploy the A380 further strengthens Frankfurt Airport's position as one of the leading hubs of international aviation."

Dr. Stefan Schulte, Chairman of the Executive Board of Fraport AG commented: "Frankfurt was amongst the very first airports ever to be ready for the Airbus A380. The operation of the latest generation of wide-bodied aircraft at our airport further strengthens our role as international air traffic hub. We thank Emirates for the long-standing partnership and look forward to regularly welcome the airline's flagship at Frankfurt."

With 48 A380s in its fleet, Emirates is the largest operator globally of the Airbus superjumbo, which has carried over 25 million passengers since its launch in 2008. Emirates is also the largest A380 purchaser with 92 pending delivery – a share of the A380 programme which alone is estimated to support approximately 12,000 direct German jobs. German aeronautical businesses contribute to the production of the aircraft's engines, wings, ice entertainment system, lighting and On-board Shower features, and over €200 million is spent each year by Emirates for the operation and maintenance of these components, according to a study by the Institute of Air Transport and Airport Research (DLR).

Emirates also depends on small and medium sized German suppliers of aircraft products and services for parts like galleys, aircraft upholstery, paints and ground handling equipment worth hundreds of millions of Euros each year.

The A380 is known for its environmental credentials. Its Engine Alliance GP7200 engines are extraordinarily quiet and readily meet strict ICAO Stage Four noise level standards. In fact, the A380 offers the best noise footprint for very large aircraft, and is more than six decibels quieter on departure than the Boeing 747-400. In addition, larger aircraft mean fewer take-offs and landings - in many cases the equivalent of flying up to seven smaller aircraft types, for certain versions of the Emirates A380.

The 519 seat double decker that commences operations to Frankfurt on 1st September also represents a noteworthy advancement in reducing fuel consumption and emissions. Emirates' A380s contribute to a fleet-wide fuel efficiency that is over 15% better than the IATA global fleet average.

The flagship Emirates A380 continues to rouse customer interest wherever it is deployed. Just last month, over 13,000 people visited the Emirates A380 in display at the ILA Berlin Airshow. On the passenger front, the A380 also continues to deliver strong load factors wherever it flies.

Why is China interested in a volatile Yemen?

Muhammad Zulfikar Rakhmat
thediplomat.com
First published June 4

With much to gain from a growing presence in the Middle East, Beijing is making an all-out effort to strengthen its foothold there, including the most volatile countries of the region. Although not widely reported, China-Yemen relations exemplify this trend.

China's diplomatic ties with Yemen, a country that ousted its leader Ali Abdullah Saleh in 2012 during the Arab Spring, started in Sept. 24, 1956. Despite an ongoing Al-Qaeda-linked insurgency, widespread poverty, and severe water shortages, the relationship between the two countries has grown rapidly over the past years.

The oil business has unquestionably been the primary axis around which Beijing-Sana'a relations revolve. Although Yemen has fewer petroleum resources than its neighbors, China's growing energy needs are raising the profile and importance of all petroleum producers, including marginal producers such as Yemen. This is perhaps the main reason Chinese companies continue to expand their operations in Yemen, in spite of growing insecurity and other issues facing the country. Over the past few years, there have been several oil exploration and production agreements between the two countries. Since 2005, Chinese state-owned enterprise Sinopec Corp has been operating in Yemen's exploration and production sectors. Today, along with another Chinese

company Sinochem Corp, Sinopec has a combined equity production of approximately 20,000 barrels per day, eight percent of Yemen's total production.

For the Chinese, Yemen offers a way to access untapped consumer markets for its exports, as well as lucrative investments. The government in Beijing has been encouraging Chinese companies to start investing in Yemen. Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei has been operating in Yemen since 1999. The two countries have also established several cooperative projects, such as the Chinese-Yemeni steel company Star.

Interestingly, China's economic footprint in Yemen is most pronounced in the development and construction sectors. Historically, China was one of the earliest foreign countries to participate in Yemen's development projects. As early as the 1950s, Beijing took part in the construction of a 266 km road between Sana'a and Hodeidah. This involvement has continued, and in 2012 China National Corporation for Overseas Economic Cooperation (CCOEC) agreed to develop three natural gas-fired power plants in the country. In addition, China recently agreed to help build four 5,000 megawatt power plants using coal and diesel in the cities of Belhaf and Ma'abar. According to the agreement, the Chinese were also responsible for the installation of power cables and Safer-Ma'abar gas pipeline. Last year, Beijing was also selected in a \$508 million (YR109 billion) project to expand two container ports in Aden and Mokha, in which China reportedly agreed to also provide a soft loan to finance the projects.

"For the Chinese, Yemen offers a way to access untapped consumer markets for its exports, as well as lucrative investments."

To strengthen its foothold, the Chinese have also been generous in other offers to their Yemeni counterparts. In 2009 for instance, China provided relief aid of \$800,000 to displaced Yemenis who fled the fighting between the government army and Houthi rebels in Sa'ada province. The government in Beijing also donated \$5 million in medical supplies to the Yemeni-Chinese Friendship Hospital, a collaborative project that was initiated before the regime change in 2012. Besides an earlier deal to allocate \$8 million to promote its economic and technical partnership with Yemen, late last year China also decided to offer a \$8 million grant to Yemen's defense ministry, along with a \$16.4 million general purpose grant, and a \$30 million long-term interest-free loan.

There are other factors besides the economy and energy which led

to China's growing interests in Yemen. For Beijing, Yemen's strategic position provides it with an opportunity to implement one of its larger ambitions: to project power in the Horn of Africa. Beijing's growing connection with Khartoum and Nairobi are a crucial part of this strategy.

Meanwhile, as Chris Zambelis argued, Yemen's position on the southwestern side of the Arabian Peninsula, and near the Suez Canal, appeals to politicians and policy-makers in Beijing. As is manifest by the Chinese presence in the Panama Canal and Egypt's Suez Canal, "the Chinese place a premium on strengthening footholds in or near strategic communication and commercial chokepoints across the world. Yemen's position fits this larger pattern of Chinese strategic thinking."

Taking into consideration these factors, Yemen will remain an important partner for China in the coming years. At a time in which the West has been reluctant to develop ties with this vulnerable nation, Beijing will continue to harness the momentum of bilateral relations to bolster its position in the region. This direction was signaled by Xi Jinping during Yemeni President Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi's diplomatic visit to Beijing last year, in which the two leaders vowed to take their ties to a new level. Both countries' military leaders have also stated that this relationship might expand into military cooperation.

Muhammad Zulfikar Rakhmat holds a B.A. in International Affairs from Qatar University and is currently a research assistant at the same university.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

January 2nd, 1994

OUR VIEWPOINT

When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Get Going!

Let me start by expressing how happy I am that our Publisher is out of town, and could not make it back in time to write his editorial. He called in to say he will fax his piece, but I discouraged him telling him that he should let go, at least this time. He hesitated, but he did.

So folks, you have me write this piece this week. The Republic of Yemen is going through a very critical period of its recent history. There have been quite a few of these, lately. But the hardships could also be a blessing in disguise. They could be the elements that would increase our stamina in interacting with difficulties. That is why I like the American proverb, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

What I am saying is that hardships give us a stronger personality and a more durable collective strength. Societies which have never witnessed hardships and have had it easy all along, buckle under in the first problem. Some of our neighbors know this for a fact.

Therefore, our difficulties, provided they do not get out of hand, have a clear silver lining. In this sense, we should not be overly frustrated with the difficulties that face our young republic.

By now, you have gathered, I am an optimist. I am sure we will make it through these complications and we will come out of the crisis much stronger, and hopefully, more cohesive. In addition, the fact that the ride was not an easy one, should make us value our unity and democratization process much more than in the past.

I take this opportunity to also urge our people not only to fight secessionist tendencies among our politicians, but also to fight the anti-democratic elements in government who use various excuses to put brakes on our freedom of the press, human rights, freedom of political participation, etc.

We are a tough nation, and the Yemeni individual has shown he/she can endure a lot. Which other society would have endured the extreme economic hardships, political uncertainty and security lapses without rising against the politicians responsible for them. Not many.

Therefore, I am sure we can overcome the current crisis with a minimal cost to society. Let us take on a positive attitude towards the crisis and it will be resolved.

The Political Editor

The west is not helping Sudan's people free Meriam Ibrahim

Nesrine Malik
guardian.com
First published June 08

Sudan's recent history is tainted by the names of women that have fallen victim to the country's arbitrary sharia and public order laws. Lubna Hussein, sentenced to a flogging for allegedly dressing indecently in public by wearing trousers; Intisar Sharif, sentenced to death by stoning for adultery; and now Meriam Ibrahim, sentenced to death for reportedly turning her back on Islam—her father's religion—and converting to Christianity. Of all the throwbacks to medieval religious legacies, this has been the most bizarre, and the most emblematic of religious confusion in the country.

But there is a risk that the intense western reaction to Ibrahim's case might undermine local efforts to secure her release. In the days immediately following the sentence, reporters from Sudanese TV channels went out on the streets to gather vox pops asking people what they

"There is now a risk of the Sudanese losing ownership of their own cause, one that goes to the heart of the tension between conservative religious values and a lack of appetite for heavy-handed state execution of religious law."

thought of the judgment. Many opposed it.

Others were incredulous, finding it hard to believe that such a case could even make it to the courts.

People assembled outside the court buildings chanting support for Ibrahim and calling for religious freedom. TV discussions and newspaper columns took up the apostasy debate, and in private gatherings her plight dominated conversation. The case has forced a national self-examination and appraisal of the version of Islam the Sudanese want to practise, and, more important, has boosted support for the view that religion is a personal matter.

But as international media attention has intensified it has eclipsed this internal dissent, which arguably has a better shot at securing Ibrahim's release. Inevitably it has resulted in predictable Sudanese preciousness over sovereignty, which risks hijacking the initially healthy national deliberation about sharia law. Indeed, the Sudanese government was so alarmed by the force of the backlash that it attempted to ban any comment on the case in the media.

For a chippy, isolated and beligerent regime, saving face is more important than saving lives. Moreover, the details of the case

have been misreported in much of the western press, particularly the claim the death sentence was for marrying a Christian, when it was for the charge of "reversion" from Islam. David Cameron's condemnation in particular went down very badly in Khartoum. The wisdom of a private phone call—a sensitivity often extended to, say, Saudi Arabia or Bahrain—has been absent.

There is now a risk of the Sudanese losing ownership of their own cause, one that goes to the heart of the tension between conservative religious values and a lack of appetite for heavy-handed state execution of religious law. There is an increasing awareness of, and frustration with, the Sudanese authorities' hypocritical application of Islamic law, one that has been increasingly lax over the past few years.

If you were to visit Khartoum knowing nothing of the country except these tales of religious fundamentalism, you would be surprised and confused. Men and women mingle freely on public transport and in cafes, and dance together at wedding parties. Sudan has histori-

cally practiced a softer, Sufi, spiritual form of Islam, one that finds an easy rhythm with the country's unique Afro-Arab traditions.

When the current government came to power in a 1989 coup, it brought with it an intense Islamicization campaign. But this was less an ideological vision and more of shortcut to power. Despite 25 years of the Islamic experiment, this version of Islam has simply not taken—even if vestigial anachronisms such as the apostasy law remain. When these cases are brought to court, authorities in sudden fits of piety pass the harshest sentences, ones rarely carried out, to prove that the Islamic project still exists. It is no coincidence that the most egregious of these cases feature women, and vulnerable women at that. They are low-cost collateral in the religious

credentials game, and it is easy to mobilize mainstream opinion against them.

But fewer and fewer people are buying it. Instead they see a government beset with allegations of corruption and a judicial system that preys on the weak.

The problem is that global attention focuses on these cases intensely and then moves on. But this must not become another lost opportunity. Meriam Ibrahim has become a metaphor for Sudan's predicament, a country shackled to a legal system randomly borrowing from a version of Islamic law around which there is no consensus. She also presents a potential moment for the Sudanese to come to their own national reckoning, and ensure that there will be no more names on a long roll-call of shame.

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Lack of transparency raises legal questions over killing of alleged militants

■ Ali Saeed

Although a military offensive against alleged Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) militants appears to have quieted down in recent days, the legality of state-sanctioned targeted killings has come under increasing scrutiny and the recent killing of two suspected AQAP operatives raises serious questions about the government's conduct and lack of transparency in its fight against what it claims are AQAP militants.

On May 27, the Ministry of Defense reported on its website the killing of two alleged AQAP militants. Abdulkhaleq Mohamed Al-Kibsi (known as "Salman") and Yahya Mohamed Nasser Sanhoob (known as "Qasim") were accused of murdering a spate of motorbike assassinations in Sana'a. However, the government has not yet provided any details surrounding the two men or their deaths save for the names of the deceased and the district where the killing took place.

Colonel Mohamed Hizam, deputy director of public relations at the Ministry of Interior, confirmed their deaths to the Yemen Times. He said both men were killed in Arhab district, Sana'a governorate, but refused to give more details, saying the ministry is preparing a report on the issue. Sanhoob's full name was previously mentioned in a fact-finding report submitted to President Hadi on the bombing of the Unity Day parade rehearsals on May 21 that left around 100 military personnel dead.

A copy of the report was circulated by local newspapers on July 10, 2012. According to the report, Sanhoob prepared the suicide bomber, named Haitham Mufrih, and transported him to the scene of the attack, Al-Sabaen Square, by motorbike.

The report said both Mufrih and Sanhoob left Sana'a earlier in 2011

and traveled to Shabwa governorate, where they received training from AQAP and fought for the militant group in Shabwa and Abyan governorates against the military.

No legal proceedings took place authorizing the government to kill these citizens, no information about Al-Kibsi's alleged involvement in AQAP has been released, and the events surrounding their deaths remain a secret.

Little transparency, many questions

Two days earlier, on May 25, the state-run Saba News Agency quoted a source from the Supreme Security Committee saying that two alleged AQAP members were killed and two injured in a security raid on a house in Arhab district, north of Sana'a.

The names and nationalities of those killed were not published and evidence supporting the action was not given. And just a day before that, on May 24, the Defense Ministry's website quoted a source from the 1st Military Command in Al-Mukala, Hadramout, saying 15 alleged AQAP members were killed the previous day in Seyoun. Of the 15 people killed, 13 remain nameless and no proof has been given for their alleged guilt. Only two names were published: Feisal Al-Afifi and Fawaz Al-Harbi, who according to the ministry's website were Saudi nationals.

The fact that the government often puts forward the names of Saudi nationals indicates that a lack of information is not the cause of its lack of transparency. Rather, given the apparent selective release of names, it is more likely the government is trying to control peoples' perception of its combat missions—claiming those they kill are members of AQAP and, more specifically, not from Yemen.

Abdurazaq Al-Jamal, a journalist who has conducted exclusive interviews with AQAP leaders, said the Ministry of Defense releases the

names of foreign fighters killed in order to mobilize the public for its offensive against AQAP. "This was clear when President Hadi said that 70 percent of AQAP militants are foreigners," Al-jamal said.

Additionally, Ali Al-Asimi, a member of the Yemeni Lawyers Union, explained that "some of these alleged [AQAP] people who were reported dead turned out in the end to be alive." Since the military offensive against AQAP began in April, numerous government reports detailing the killing of alleged AQAP militants have been circulated. According to Ahmed Al-Rehabi, a lawyer and human rights activist at the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD), many of these reports raise legal questions regarding the way in which Yemeni security forces deal with alleged militants.

According to Al-Rehabi, belonging to a militant organization does not warrant one's killing.

"Killing anyone on suspicion of being a member of an organization [alone], whether this organization is legal or illegal, is an illegal killing," said Al-Rehabi. "The law states that every suspect is innocent until proven guilty. So how can the government kill a person who has not been legally tried, but only suspected of belonging to an organization?"

Military forces may well have just cause for engaging in fighting and killing—as a last resort—the people they allege are AQAP militants. They may have evidence of this, or they may kill in self-defense. However, without releasing such details to the public, it cannot be assumed that this is the case.

Anti-terrorism law proposed

Interior Minister Abdu Hussein Al-Tareb has repeatedly said that Yemen does not have an anti-terrorism law that "criminalizes joining terror groups." In May he requested Parliament prioritize the creation of such

a law. According to Al-Rehabi, "it is illegal to kill a person for being an AQAP member unless there is a law that criminalizes that and the person had a fair trial in front of a judge. They [the Ministry of Defense] do not present evidence on those who were killed of being AQAP members."

Some AQAP suspects who stood trial in Yemen have been prosecuted for joining "an armed group" as well as for "other criminal acts, and not because of their ideology," Al-Rehabi said. So why is the government seeking a more specific anti-terrorism law?

Yemen's penal code states that the punishment for joining an armed group is no more than 10 years imprisonment. An armed group constitutes by law a group that attempts to take over land or loot property (state or private) by force, or anyone who by threat of violence prevents military forces from carrying out the law.

Spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior Dr. Mohamed Al-Qaedi said Yemen's penal code is overly general and there is a need for a specific anti-terrorism law that suits the current situation in Yemen. "When Yemen's penal code was issued in 1994, terrorism used to not exist in such a form as today," said Al-Qaedi, adding that "the anti-terrorism law will be strict and accurate."

Al-Qaedi explained that when the general law fails to achieve its purpose, a special or more specific law is often required to deal with the crime. For example, in 1998 Yemen issued a new anti-kidnapping and banditry law. "The penalty for kidnapping in the anti-kidnapping law was heightened from five years of imprisonment to 12, and capital punishment in certain cases," he said.

While the government says they are merely creating a more specific law to deal with a more specific problem, others think the proposed anti-terrorism law might open up more room for excesses and abuse on the

part of the authorities and might be used against civilians who are suspected of being sympathetic to Al-Qaeda. Lawyer Al-Asimi said the anti-terrorism law the government is trying to pass "will be a justification for the killing of civilians."

"We strongly reject this law... They [the government] can modify the article on joining an armed group in the penal code, but we reject a special anti-terrorism law because it will be dangerous for the lives of the people," Al-Asimi concluded.



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ADVERTORIAL

ATM maintenance training course concluded

A training course on Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) maintenance was concluded last week. The course was organized cooperatively between Natco and NCR companies to educate customers on how to deal with ATMs, to resolve technical problems encountered with these machines, and to facilitate services provided to the customers. Forty-five trainees from various banks in Yemen participated in the four-day course.

In a speech delivered during the concluding ceremony, Eng. Medhat

Al-Helali, training manager of NCR in Africa and the Middle East and the person in charge of this course, thanked all participants for their discipline and commitment during the course, hoping that they would apply the skills and information they acquired to serve the company and customers.

He expressed willingness to resolve any obstacles that face the participants, adding that the course will include technical developments in banking services.

Khaleel Al-Asbahi, manager of the



Customer Service Center in Natco, Aden Branch, Yasser Al-Khayat, the officer of the ATM network, Engineer Anees Abdulqawi Mohammed, a representative of Yemen Kuwait Bank and Engineer Osama Abdulrahman Al-Sharji from the CAC Bank, said the training course was excellent and constructive. The information obtained during the training course will help to solve many problems that occur with the ATMs, they said.

Forty-five trainees took part in the training course, representing various banks.

Fadhil Abduaziz from Natco, Aden Branch, Yasser Al-Khayat, the officer of the ATM network, Engineer Anees Abdulqawi Mohammed, a representative of Yemen Kuwait Bank and Engineer Osama Abdulrahman Al-Sharji from the CAC Bank, said the training course was excellent and constructive. The information obtained during the training course will help to solve many problems that occur with the ATMs, they said.

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Loctite® 55 Pipe Sealing Cord is a general purpose threaded pipe and fitting sealant

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- Allows re-adjusting up to 45° without any fear of leakage

Henkel Excellence is our Passion

Clear vision and target

Our vision to extend our business activities both, horizontal and vertical has been reflected by our continuous growth over the last decades and we take a strong approach to offer our partnership to local and foreign firms to complement our own skills.

- Keep project on track
- Value delivery in every phase
- Deadlines are fixed values
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- experience with proven track record
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