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Business

Yemen still awaits external aid

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Heritage meets communication

The Houthis and government in talks

■ Khalid Al-Karimi

SANA'A, Sept. 15—The government and the Houthis entered a new round of negotiations on Saturday to try and find a diplomatic solution to the Houthis' demands. Negotiations between both sides are ongoing amid strong international condemnation of the Houthis.

According to a statement released online by the office of Jamal Benomar, the UN Special Envoy to Yemen, "a new round of negotiations [began] on Saturday in order to facilitate a peaceful solution to the current crisis in Yemen, at the request of the Yemeni parties."

"Senior officials from the Yemeni Government and representatives of [the Houthis] discussed the points of disagreement with the objective of reaching a viable political agreement that would enjoy national consensus as soon as possible in order to achieve security and stability," the statement read.

Mohammad Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthis' Political Office, confirmed that negotiations are underway, but said that they are facing several difficulties. Al-Bukhaiti said that the government is trying to go back and discuss things that have already been agreed upon, though he refused to mention specifics.

Houthi spokesperson Mohammad Abdulsalam released a statement online revealing the obstacles faced by the Houthis' in discussions with the government.

"At a time when discussions regarding fulfilling the national demands were ongoing with the government, the direct intervention by



A funeral cortege of six dead Houthi protesters passes Al-Khamsin Street on its way to Al-Shuhda cemetery, where the victims were laid to rest.

the ten states [G10 ambassadors] popped up to return the issue to square one, disregarding the national demands. This behavior confirms the keenness of these external sides to dominate the management of the country and [confirms] their neglect for right and fair national demands," wrote Abdulsalam.

"The people will continue their revolutionary movement and popular activities until their demands are met," he continued.

Violence escalates; conflicting narratives

On Saturday, President Hadi met with a number of sheikhs and leading figures from Hizyaz neighborhood and nearby areas. According to the state-run Saba News Agency, Hadi urged them to be on high alert given the concerning security situation.

The meeting came in response to clashes last Tuesday in Hizyaz that followed the occupation of Abdulatif Al-Hamd School, Al-Wihda School,

and Al-Hussein School by alleged Houthi gunmen.

Hizyaz resident Abu Wael Al-Amiri told the Yemen Times that his sons, who are enrolled at Al-Wihda School, have not attended classes since the breakout of fighting in Hizyaz. "They went to the school and they were told by the guard, 'go home'."

President Hadi said at the meeting, "according to the constitution and laws, the peaceful rallies are legal. However, attempting to break

Date	Event
July 30	Government removes fuel subsidies. Angry citizens, including Houthi supporters, take to the streets in protest.
August 17	Houthi leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi delivers a speech calling people to protest for a reversal of fuel subsidy cuts and topple the government.
August 18	Houthi supporters begin setting up encampments in and around the capital.
August 21	Presidential committee heads to Sa'ada for talks with Abdulmalik Al-Houthi.
August 21	Al-Houthi delivers another speech declaring "the second revolutionary escalation."
August 24	The presidential committee returns from Sa'ada after deliberations with Al-Houthi reached a deadlock.
August 29	UN Security Council issues a statement condemning the Houthis.
September 8	Al-Houthi delivers another speech declaring "the third revolutionary escalation."
September 9	Eight people are killed near the cabinet by government forces.
September 13	New round of talks begins between government and Houthis in Sana'a, UN Special Envoy to Yemen Benomar mediates.

into the government facilities or schools, police stations, and houses is forbidden and an act that we should not be silent on."

Initially President Hadi did not interfere or stop the Houthis' peaceful protests. However, recently there have been attempts to remove protesters and tents from Airport Road with security forces killing several unarmed Houthi supporters outside the cabinet headquarters last week.

The Supreme Security Committee (SSC) said in a statement that protesters tried to storm the cabinet and Sana'a Radio on September 9,

and that this sparked violence between both protesters and the security forces at the scene. The SSC claimed that the security forces did not use live ammunition, but that the deaths and injuries were caused by shots fired by armed protesters, a narrative that was adopted by state-run media.

This account of events is contradicted by Human Rights Watch (HRW) and the Houthis, who claim it is clear that soldiers used live rounds and killed the protesters, who were unarmed

Continued on page 3

Air force shelled civilians in Al-Jawf, locals claim

■ Bassam Al-Khameri

SANA'A, Sept. 14—Yemen's air force allegedly shelled civilians twice on Sunday afternoon in Al-Khalaq area of Al-Rawd district in Al-Jawf governorate.

Hameed Hashwan, an eyewitness in Al-Jawf, said that military warplanes targeted houses in Al-Rawd twice on Sunday afternoon, leaving one person dead and six others wounded. Of the six wounded, two were women.

"Nobody was injured in the first strike but then people gathered at the scene to see what happened. The second strike took place, and this resulted in several casualties and one killed," he added.

Hashwan told the Yemen Times that Al-Rawd is a densely populated area due to the recent arrival of displaced residents from Al-Ghail.

The popular committees, who back the government in its fight

against the Houthis, condemned the air raids targeting civilians in a press statement issued on Sunday.

"With the critical situation in Yemen and the attacks by the Houthi group that left houses destroyed, people displaced and killed, many residents of Al-Jawf were surprised by military warplanes striking residential areas far from areas of conflict, killing and wounding civilians."

The popular committees called on President Hadi to urgently investigate the unsolicited strikes within 48 hours, to compensate the victims, and to ensure that no such incidents occur in the future.

The Defense Ministry on Monday sent a fact-finding committee to Al-Jawf to investigate the air raids that took place on Sunday and allegedly killed civilians, according to Hassan Al-Suhail, the secretary of Al-Jawf's governor.

"The committee met with Al-

Jawf's governor on Monday morning," added Al-Suhail.

The Yemen Times contacted the Defense Ministry several times, but did not receive any response.

Faisal Al-Aswad, a journalist based in Al-Jawf, confirmed that military warplanes hit Al-Rawd twice on Sunday afternoon. "The wounded people were taken on the same day to Sana'a to receive treatment," he added.

According to Hashwan, two of the wounded people are the sons of Ali Al-Haji, a prominent sheikh of Al-Jawf. They were all admitted to the Science and Technology Hospital in Sana'a.

This grave mistake came only two days after another similar incident. On Friday, the Yemeni air force shelled an area in Al-Jawf that was controlled by the military, backed by popular committees. Two members from the committees were killed, and four others wounded.

The Yemeni air force has been launching air strikes on Houthi locations in Al-Ghail and Al-Masloob districts in Al-Jawf since September 7. Mohammed Bin Salem Al-Sharif, the governor of Al-Jawf, told the Yemen Times in a previous statement on September 9 that more than 80 Houthi fighters were killed in air strikes conducted on September 7 and 8.

This incident comes at a time when the Education Ministry announced the closure of schools in Al-Jawf due to the volatile situation.

Dr. Abdulla Al-Hamedi, the Deputy Education Minister, was cited on the Defense Ministry's website on Sunday as saying that classes have been postponed in Al-Jawf due to the ongoing clashes in most of the districts in Al-Jawf. "The clashes left many residents displaced. Teachers have also fled the area and about 75 percent of the schools are closed," he said.

Campaign to implement NDC outcomes

■ Ali Abulohoom

SANA'A, Sept. 15—The General Secretariat of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) on Monday in Sana'a launched a nationwide campaign named "My demand is to implement the NDC outcomes."

According to Afrah Al-Zuba, the deputy general secretary of the NDC, Monday's launch was timed to coincide with the International Day of Democracy. The campaign

encourages Yemenis to openly and freely ask the stakeholders, who participated in the NDC, to accelerate the implementation of the NDC outcomes.

The campaign is aimed at raising peoples' awareness of the importance of the NDC outcomes, the constitution, and engaging all Yemenis in paving the way for the outcomes to be implemented.

"The NDC outcomes will not come into effect unless all the Ye-

meni people move ahead towards their implementation," said Al-Zuba.

The campaign comes more than seven months after the NDC concluded on Jan. 25, 2014.

"The General Secretariat of the NDC has decided to launch the campaign now, as we realize that the only way to tackle Yemen's political deadlock is through the return to the major national project, which is the NDC outcomes. They

are the summary of what the political stakeholders who participated in the NDC agreed on," said Al-Zuba.

The final documentation of the NDC is comprised of 1,800 outcomes which were agreed upon by the conference's participants. "Not only the 565 of those who participated in the NDC are supposed to understand these outcomes, but all Yemeni people and this is what the campaign is held for," she said.

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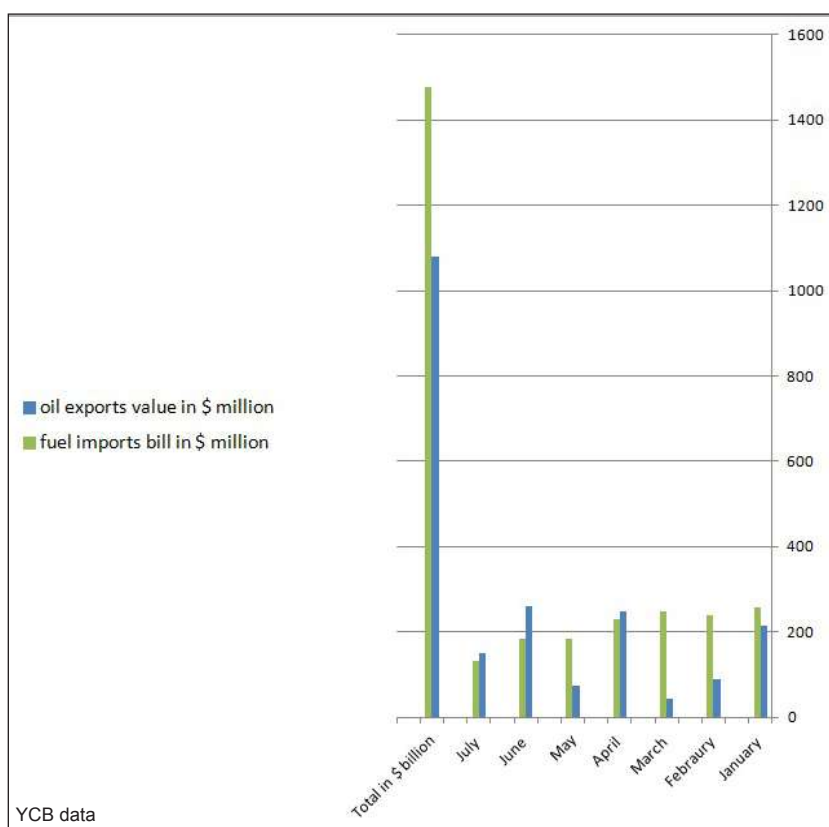
■ Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Sept. 15—The oil revenues made by the Yemeni government between January and July 2014 is \$481 less than it made during the same period in 2013, according to a report released this week by the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY).

The bank explained that the continuing decline in oil revenues comes due to the repeated sabotage of oil pipelines by different armed groups in Marib, Shabwa, Hadramout, and Sana'a governorates, and decreasing oil exports. The repeated sabotage of pipelines has had devastating consequences on oil revenues, which fell from \$1.560 billion between January and July in 2013 by nearly 30 percent to \$1.079 billion for the same period in the first half of this year.

The number of barrels of oil exported between January and July 2014 are 4.6 million less than the amount of oil the government exported during the same period in 2013, according to the state-run Saba News Agency.

Oil exports make up 70 percent of the state budget income, and a sudden fall in oil revenues is a serious threat to government spending. The sabotage of oil pipelines has resulted in decreased oil



YCB data

production for local consumption, compelling the government to import fuel to cover additional market needs.

The Yemen Times contacted the Ministry of Oil several times but received no response. Fuad Rageh, an investigative business journalist who reports on the sabotage of oil pipelines, told the Yemen Times that the political competition among the influential powers in Sana'a is one of the main reasons for continued oil pipeline sabotage. "The oil sector and other state departments, particularly the military and security forces, are still controlled by individuals linked with the old regime, who cooperate with the saboteurs," added Rageh. The government paid around \$1.595 billion for fuel imports during January and July in 2013 and \$1.477 billion was spent on fuel imports in the first half of this year, according to the CBY report. The fuel imports bill is supposed to decrease in the next period of this year after the government removed fuel subsidies on July 30.

The government failed so far to arrest or prosecute anyone suspected of sabotaging oil pipelines. In late August, the Special Criminal Court held a trial in absentia for 14 persons accused of having blown up the oil pipeline in Marib in 2011.

IN BRIEF

Yemeni author wins short story competition

SANA'A, Sept. 15—Yemeni author Marwan Al-Sharifi, along with Iraqi and Moroccan authors, won the 2014 short story competition organized by Sadana Foundation in the UAE.

"I participated in the short story competition and was ranked first with Wejdan Abdulaziz from Iraq and Malika Azfa from Morocco," Al-Sharifi said in an online statement.

Al-Sharifi's short story, titled "Sin of Society," is about Yemen's prevailing and endogamous social classes.

Al-Sharifi is originally from Al-Dhale governorate and is currently a student at the Arts College in Taiz.

AQAP executes alleged Houthi in Rada'a

SANA'A, Sept. 15—Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) on Monday released a 12-minute video showing the execution of an alleged pro-Houthi resident in Rada'a and the explosion of commercial stores allegedly owned by a Houthi businessman.

The words displayed at the beginning of the video are: "The Houthis in Rada'a carried out several crimes against the Muslims in the city. They killed two children and injured an elderly man. They also targeted Sunni mosques and centers with grenades and RPGs, detonated the store and house of the resident Nasser Al-Sakran..."

It continues, "this Shia group has committed these crimes against Muslims nationwide, particularly in Sa'ada and Amran governorates. We had to respond and punish them."

The video showed the detonation of commercial stores in Rada'a owned by Abu Ali Al-Hebsi, reported in the video as a leading Houthi figure.

Waleed Al-Askari, allegedly a Houthi resident, is shown to be shot dead due to his political affiliations.

The video threatened to target the Houthi anti-government protesters and requested civilians to stay away from the protest camps.

Governor reviews Hodeida's education sector

SANA'A, Sept. 15—The governor of Hodeida, Sakhr Al-Wajeh, visited some districts on Monday to review the governorate's education situation, according to the state-run Saba News Agency.

Al-Wajeh ordered that legal procedures should be taken against teachers who have been off-duty without permission—some have been absent from their workplace for more than a year. He also ordered that those teachers' salaries are to be returned to the Education Office in the governorate.

The money generated from this step should fund school activities and needs, the Saba News Agency cited Al-Wajeh as saying.

Meeting with heads of education offices in Al-Mina and Al-Hook districts, the governor discussed the governorate's overall educational system, the performance in schools, and these schools' needs, including teachers and visual aids.

Marib power station sustains new attack

SANA'A, Sept. 15—The Marib power station near the Al-Jawf-Marib road intersection sustained a new attack on Monday, a source in the Ministry of Electricity was cited on the Defense Ministry's website. "Electricity is out in several governorates because of this attack, which is the second during this week in Al-Jawf," said the source.

This attack took place amidst ongoing clashes in Al-Jawf between the military, backed by popular committees, and the Houthis.

The gas power station provides power to several governorates, including Sana'a.

The power station sustained a previous attack on Friday.

Six bakeries shut down in Aden

■ Ali Abulohoom

SANA'A, Sept. 14—Six bakeries were found to be violating the bread price set by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and were shut down in Aden governorate on Saturday.

Around 50 bakeries have so far been shut down across Yemen due to their breach of prices set by the government. On August 6, the Ministry of Industry and Trade announced that a kilo of bread must not cost more than YR240 (\$1.12), according to Mahmoud Al-Naqeeb, the manager of the Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Al-Naqeeb said that the price of one kilo of bread varies from one governorate to another. Differences in price are dependent on each governorate's location. If wheat needs to travel a long distance to reach bakeries, transportation costs are higher and so is the price of the wheat and the bread.

"A kilo of bread in Aden is worth YR200 (\$0.93) whilst in Sana'a it is worth YR240 (\$1.12), as the transport of goods in Aden is much cheaper than in Sana'a," said Al-Naqeeb.

Since the 2011 uprising "the price of one kilo of bread fluctuated between YR180 (\$0.84) to YR200 (\$0.93) in 2011 until it reached YR240 (\$1.12). Once the government enacted fuel subsidy cuts almost a month ago," said Al-Naqeeb.

Following the fuel subsidy cuts, the Ministry of Industry and Trade invited bakery owners to the premises of the ministry. They were asked to submit a

study analyzing the impact of subsidy cuts on the price of one sack of wheat. Based on their study, Al-Naqeeb said, the ministry planned to determine a reasonable profit margin for bakers.

"Instead they went to the Mayor of Sana'a's office and the capital endorsed a new price of one kilo at YR240 (\$1.12)." Although this price is not based on the bakers' study, Al-Naqeeb considers it to be fair "for both bakery owners and the consumers."

Fathel Mansour, the head of the Yemen Association of Consumers Protection, an NGO based in Sana'a, said, "we work in coordination with the Ministry of Industry and Trade to make sure that bakeries are committed to the new prices, if not we inform the court to launch legal procedures against them."

Once a baker is found guilty of selling bread at high prices, the court shuts down the bakery, which can only be reopened if the baker abides by the prices set by the government, according to Mansour.

Bread prices will be reviewed again as the government approved to reduce the price of 20 liters of both petrol and diesel September 4 by YR500 (\$2.33) to YR3,500 (\$16.29) and YR3,400 (\$15.82) respectively.

Yahia Ayoub, 35, a bakery owner in Dhamar governorate, said "two weeks ago the office of industry in the governorate shut down my bakery when I was found uncommitted to the new price."

"Actually I was unfamiliar of the new price and I used to sell the bread at random prices that I determined myself,"

he said. After the court decision, Ayoub was obliged to sign an obligation to abide by the nationwide bread price and his bakery was reopened.

The government had first determined the price of bread in 2007, when a kilo of bread was sold at YR120 (\$0.56), with 20 liters of petrol being worth YR1,500 (\$6.98).

"The association put pressure on the government in 2007 to

determine the price of bread in a bid to protect the consumers from greed," said Mansour.

Ever since the subsidy cuts, bakeries were shut down in several parts of the country, including Aden. On August 11, the Industry and Commerce Office closed 16 bakeries in the Al-Tawahi, Al-Muala, and Seera districts of Aden for not selling bread at prices set by the government.



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Military official killed in Hodeida

■ Bassam Al-Khameri

SANA'A, Sept. 14—Colonel Abdulmalik Saeed Farea, the commander of Al-Ghaida Airport's security personnel in Al-Mahra governorate, was found dead in Hodeida governorate early Saturday.

Colonel Thabit Qasim Abdulla, Commander of the Al-Mahra Military Air Base, which is linked with Al-Ghaida Airport, confirmed the killing, saying "Farea was stabbed with a jambiya on Al-Khamseen Street in Hodeida city. Then he managed to move 15 meters before a

motorcyclist saw him and informed the security there."

Not long after, eyewitness and Hodeida resident Najeeb Mohamed saw Farea on Al-Khamseen street at around 12:30 AM.

"Farea was able to move for about 20 meters from the place he was killed in. He was dead when the police officers arrived the scene," he added.

The Defense Ministry confirmed the colonel's death on its website on Sunday, saying he was killed by anonymous individuals in Hodeida late Friday night.

"The Defense Ministry asserts that this incident will not go unpunished and the perpetrators will be pursued by the security and military apparatus everywhere," added the ministry.

Farea's body was taken to Taiz, his home governorate, and investigations are still underway to identify the circumstances surrounding his death.

Abdulla said that "Farea worked at the Al-Mahra Military Air Base and left Al-Mahra about two weeks ago to travel to Sana'a and finalize procedures to go to Egypt for a

medical operation."

Abdulla said that it is not clear yet why Farea went to Hodeida but he might have gone to sell one of the plots of land he owns there to finance his travels to Egypt.

Since 2011, several soldiers have been assassinated by unidentified gunmen nationwide. Last week, two traffic officers were shot dead in Al-Baida governorate on September 7. Prior to that, a military major and the manager of the Relations and Guidance Office for Dhamar governorate's police were killed on August 26 by unknown men.

Continued from page 1

The Houthis and government in talks

On Sunday, HRW called on Yemeni authorities "to immediately investigate the use of unnecessary lethal force against demonstrators in Sana'a on September 7 and 9, 2014," adding the government "should hold military personnel and other security forces found responsible to account."

"Yemeni soldiers firing live ammunition into peaceful crowds is all too reminiscent of the killings of protesters that marked the previous government's attempts to crush the 2011 uprising," said Joe Stork, deputy Middle East and North Africa director, HRW. "President Hadi needs to take immediate steps to ensure full accountability or these killings will permanently stain his record," he added.

On Friday, thousands of Houthi supporters held a mass funeral for the victims who were killed near the cabinet headquarters on Tuesday. During the Friday prayer, Houthi supporters gathered along Airport Road demanding the perpetrators stand trial.

The funeral procession headed to Al-Shuhda Cemetery on Al-Khamsin Street, where the victims were laid to rest. Though eight were killed during the Houthi rally in front of the cabinet on September 9, only six bodies were seen during the funeral procession.

Houthi Political Office member Al-Bukhaiti told the Yemen Times that one of the eight deaths was an ambulance driver and the other victim was buried earlier.

HRW said that its researchers viewed three bodies of the dead to confirm their injuries. The researchers interviewed one protester who was injured on September 7 and three who were injured on September 9. Three had gunshot wounds and a third had lost the sight in one eye after being struck by water from a water cannon, according to HRW.

"The killings in Sana'a show just how important it is for Yemen to break with its repressive past," Stork said. "The clock is ticking for President Hadi to show that he has embraced the need for change and is committed to ending the long cycle of abuse that has threatened to split the country apart."

G10 ambassadors react

The Group of Ten Ambassadors (G10) released a statement on Saturday, September 13, denouncing the Houthis for the deteriorating security situation in Yemen. It specifically condemned the Houthis' public threat to overthrow the Yemeni government and urges the group to negotiate an agreement with the government.

The G10 ambassadors include 11

entities: The five permanent members of the UN Security Council (US, France, UK, China, Russia), the five Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative signatories (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman; Qatar is a member of the GCC but not of the initiative), and the European Union.

"The Group of Ten Ambassadors further condemns Ansar Allah [the Houthis]... for not fully withdrawing from Amran, and from engaging in armed clashes in Al-Jawf as provided in the UNSC Statements of 11/07/2014 and 29/08/2014," read the statement.

Al-Bukhaiti finds the statement to be biased and against Yemen's

national interests.

"We do not expect any good from such statements because the United States is the master of the situation," he said.

He also criticized that the statement does not make any mention of the "massacre in front of the cabinet headquarters on September 9."

Houthi spokesperson Abdulsalam commented on the statement by the G10 ambassadors in a phone interview with Azal TV channel, condemning what he sees as "interference in Yemeni affairs."

According to him, the suffering of the nation is caused by the external interference that gives no consideration to the people's interests.

Campaign to implement the NDC outcomes kicks off

The campaign includes a series of media and mass events which will target as many people as possible in both cities and villages across Yemen.

According to Al-Zuba, the campaign will last for 8 weeks and aims to target all Yemenis, wherever they are and through different media outlets, such as TV, Radio, newspapers, mobile phone messages, and streets billboards.

The messages will include the NDC outcomes being said by and attributed to ordinary people from the society through short clips on TV and radio or written on billboards, Al-Zuba explained.

Some of the phrases, according to Al-Zuba, are part of the prospective Yemeni constitution. "This campaign will help people understand the articles the constitution will include ahead of time," she said.

Sahar Ghanem, the manager of social participation in the NDC's General Secretariat, said the campaign will include festivals, which already

started in Taiz and Ibb governorates two days before the official launch in Sana'a. The campaign also includes poetry, plays, and traditional chants. "Today there is a poetry debate between poets held in Shabwa governorate," she added.

For his part, Mazen Al-Habshi, the media manager for the NDC's General Secretariat, confirmed that the outcomes that have been selected for the campaign are related to the rights and the freedom the people will enjoy.

"Freedom of expression is one of the outcomes that will be highlighted through this campaign in addition to others, which will be covered in the constitution, such as the criminalization of partisanship by the personnel of military and security forces," he said.

In Ghanem's view, "all of us as citizens are in charge of the implementation of NDC outcomes because we all are the ones who made the changes in 2011 which led to the NDC."

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Yemen still awaits external aid

■ Ali Saeed

Only 38.8 percent of Yemen's external financial aid has been disbursed since donors pledged the money in Sept 2012, the Executive Bureau for the Acceleration of Aid Absorption and Support for Policy Reforms, commonly shortened to the EB, announced on Saturday.

The EB is a governmental office

which was launched in December 2013. It is tasked with accelerating the absorption of donor aid pledges and supporting the preparation and implementation of donor-funded projects.

The announcement came during a meeting in the capital Sana'a the EB organized to follow up on the progress of aid disbursement by donors and policy reforms taken by the Yemeni government.

Government officials in atten-

dance included Abdullah Al-Akwa, the deputy prime minister and minister of electricity, as well as the ministers of finance and planning and international cooperation. The chief of the World Bank's Sana'a office also attended the meeting.

The meeting is one of four yearly meetings the EB holds every three months to update on the disbursement level achieved by donors and the implementation level of policy reforms by the Yemeni government. The last meeting was in June.

"I'm sorry to say that challenges increased since the last meeting and the level of threats to derail success of the ongoing political transition increased since late 2011," said Minister Al-Akwa.

He continued, "this has negative and destructive consequences on the Yemeni economy which results in bad living standards for Yemeni citizens and their access to a dignified life."

The total amount that donors pledged for Yemen in 2012 was reduced from \$7.9 billion to \$7.69 billion after some donors reduced their commitments following the two meetings in September, one in Riyadh and New York.

"The original pledge by the US reduced from \$563 million to \$346 million; Germany's original pledge reduced from \$80.4 million to \$34.5 million; and the Islamic Development Bank's (ISDB) original pledge reduced from \$101.7 million to \$100 million," reads a September 13 report by the EB.

The volatile political and security environment in the country is blamed for the slow progress of pledged aid disbursement, according to the report.

Disbursement of the pledges by GCC countries, which makes 57.4 percent of the total pledges, increased by only 1.2 percent since June of this year. A total 27.9 percent of the \$4.415 billion pledged by the GCC countries has been dis-

bursed as of September 2014.

Infrastructure remains dire in Yemen, particularly in rural areas where 75 percent of the total population lives.

None of the almost \$1.5 billion allocated by the GCC development funds for the infrastructure projects in energy, transportation, and water sectors have been disbursed, according to the report.

Saudi Arabia disbursed 31.1 percent since it pledged \$3.25 billion in September 2012. The disbursed money includes the \$1 billion deposit at the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY).

Saudi Arabia granted Yemen an additional \$1.9 billion in July as urgent financial aid to support Yemen's budget. The grant has already been disbursed, according to the EB report. This additional money was granted to Yemen during President Hadi's visit to Saudi Arabia following the Houthis' capture of Amran on July 8.

The report shows that only two percent of Kuwait's \$500 million pledge has been disbursed between the period of September 2012 to September 2014.

In contrast, of the \$500 million pledged by Qatar, 40.2 percent has been disbursed during the same period. Qatar also granted Yemen in November 2013 an additional \$350 million to finance a government fund aimed at reimbursing the forced retirees of the former South Yemen.

Hadi ordered in September that 795 forced retirees from the former South's military and security shall be reinstated.

The foreign aid pledged to Yemen in 2012 first goes to allocation, where a specific amount of the money is allocated for specific projects coordinated between the Yemeni government and the donor. Then, the donor must approve that amount of money to be disbursed.

Discussing the \$150 million in pledges by the United Arab Emirates, the EB report says that "no

Status update on the 13 shortlisted MAF policy reforms

	Policy Reform	Policy Decision Indicator	Policy Implementation Indicator
1	Energy Sector Reform	%	⊗
2	Budget Coherence	%	⊗
3	Civil Service Biometric Fingerprint	%	⊗
4	EITI Process Re-instatement	%	%
5	Anti-Corruption (New SNACC Board)	⊗	!
6	Yemen IMF Program	%	%
7	PPP Legislation	%	⊗
8	GoY-CSOs Dialogue	%	⊗
9	Labor Intensive Works	%	⊗
10	Malnutrition	⊗	!
11	Humanitarian & Reconstruction	%	⊗
12	Aid Pledge Allocation	%	%
13	MAF Timeframe	⊗	⊗

No or little work is being done on the reform priority !

Work on the reform priority is underway but not completed yet ⊗

Work on the reform priority is completed %

Source: EB

progress has been made... at all levels, i.e. allocation, approval, or disbursement, since the announcement of these pledges during the New York conference in 2012."

The EB, in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, communicated to the UAE authorities between June and September and "provided them with a number of proposed projects to allocate the pledges."

"The EB and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation are still waiting for the UAE's official response," the EB said.

Likewise, "Turkey and Italy did not record any disbursement progress of their original pledges since 2012 until the writing of this report," the report said.

Oman disbursed \$10 million in 2013 which is 66 percent of its total pledge of \$15 million.

"Donors' support is critical to complete the democratic and power transition in Yemen... because the economic solution is the key and the real exit for Yemen to get out of its current complicated crises," Al-Akwa said.

Humanitarian aid short-funded

Johannes Van Der Klaauw, the humanitarian coordinator in Yemen for the UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), called on the international community in March to provide urgent aid for 60 percent of the population in Yemen, who are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

The 2013 Humanitarian Response Plan was 47 percent under-funded, according to OCHA.

"The scale of current needs makes Yemen one of the largest humanitarian emergencies globally," Van Der Klaauw said during a regional meeting held in Cairo in March to discuss the 2014 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan.

According to the EB report, "the 2014 Humanitarian Response Plan, which requires an estimated \$592 million, is currently 41 percent funded as of August 2014."

"There is a critical need for additional funding of the plan's activities to deliver much-needed humanitarian relief to the citizens of Yemen," the report read.

DONORS - PLEDGE 2012 - STATUS AS OF AUGUST 2014

Donors	Original Pledge		Allocated		Approved		Disbursed	
	Sum	%	Sum	%	Sum	%	Sum	%
GCC Donors								
Saudi Arabia	3,250.00	100.0%	3,250.00	100.0%	1,594.00	49.0%	1,010.00	31.1%
Kuwait	500.00	100.0%	500.00	100.0%	220.00	44.0%	10.00	2.0%
Qatar	500.00	100.0%	351.00	70.2%	351.00	70.2%	201.00	40.2%
Oman	15.00	100.0%	15.00	100.0%	10.00	66.7%	10.00	66.7%
UAE	150.00	100.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Total GCC	4,415.00	100.0%	4,116.00	93.2%	2,175.00	49.3%	1,231.00	27.9%
IF Donors								
Arab Fund	553.00	100.0%	553.00	100.0%	553.00	100.0%	6.50	1.2%
World Bank	400.00	100.0%	400.00	100.0%	400.00	100.0%	127.50	31.9%
Arab Monetary Fund	305.00	100.0%	305.00	100.0%	305.00	100.0%	155.00	50.8%
UNDP	268.40	100.0%	268.40	100.0%	268.40	100.0%	268.40	100.0%
ISDB*	100.00	100.0%	100.00	100.0%	100.00	100.0%	66.00	66.0%
IMF	90.00	100.0%	90.00	100.0%	90.00	100.0%	90.00	100.0%
OFID	45.00	100.0%	45.00	100.0%	45.00	100.0%	0.00	0.0%
IFAD	45.10	100.0%	45.10	100.0%	34.10	75.6%	0.00	0.0%
Total IFP	1,806.50	100.0%	1,806.50	100.0%	1,795.50	99.4%	713.40	39.5%
OECD Donors								
USA*	346.00	100.0%	346.00	100.0%	346.00	100.0%	346.00	100.0%
UK	311.00	100.0%	311.00	100.0%	311.00	100.0%	283.00	91.0%
Germany*	127.00	100.0%	127.00	100.0%	127.00**	100.0%	86.00	67.7%
EU	215.40	100.0%	215.40	100.0%	215.40**	100.0%	123.00	57.1%
Japan*	34.50	100.0%	34.50	100.0%	34.50	100.0%	34.50	100.0%
Netherlands	100.00	100.0%	100.00	100.0%	61.54**	61.5%	78.80	78.8%
Turkey	100.00	100.0%	91.46	91.5%	91.46	91.5%	0.00	0.0%
France	88.10	100.0%	88.10	100.0%	88.10**	100.0%	3.10	3.5%
Sweden	46.90	100.0%	46.90	100.0%	46.90	100.0%	46.90	100.0%
Switzerland	24.00	100.0%	21.09	87.9%	21.09**	87.9%	21.00	87.5%
Denmark	30.00	100.0%	17.10	57.0%	17.10**	57.0%	15.20	50.7%
Australia	5.00	100.0%	5.00	100.0%	5.00	100.0%	5.00	100.0%
South Korea	2.00	100.0%	2.00	100.0%	2.00	100.0%	2.00	100.0%
Spain	1.50	100.0%	1.50	100.0%	1.50	100.0%	1.50	100.0%
Italy	45.00	100.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Total OECD	1,476.38	100.0%	1,407.05	95.3%	1,368.59	92.7%	1,046.00	70.8%
TOTAL	7,697.88	100.0%	7,329.55	95.2%	5,339.09	69%	2,990.40	38.8%

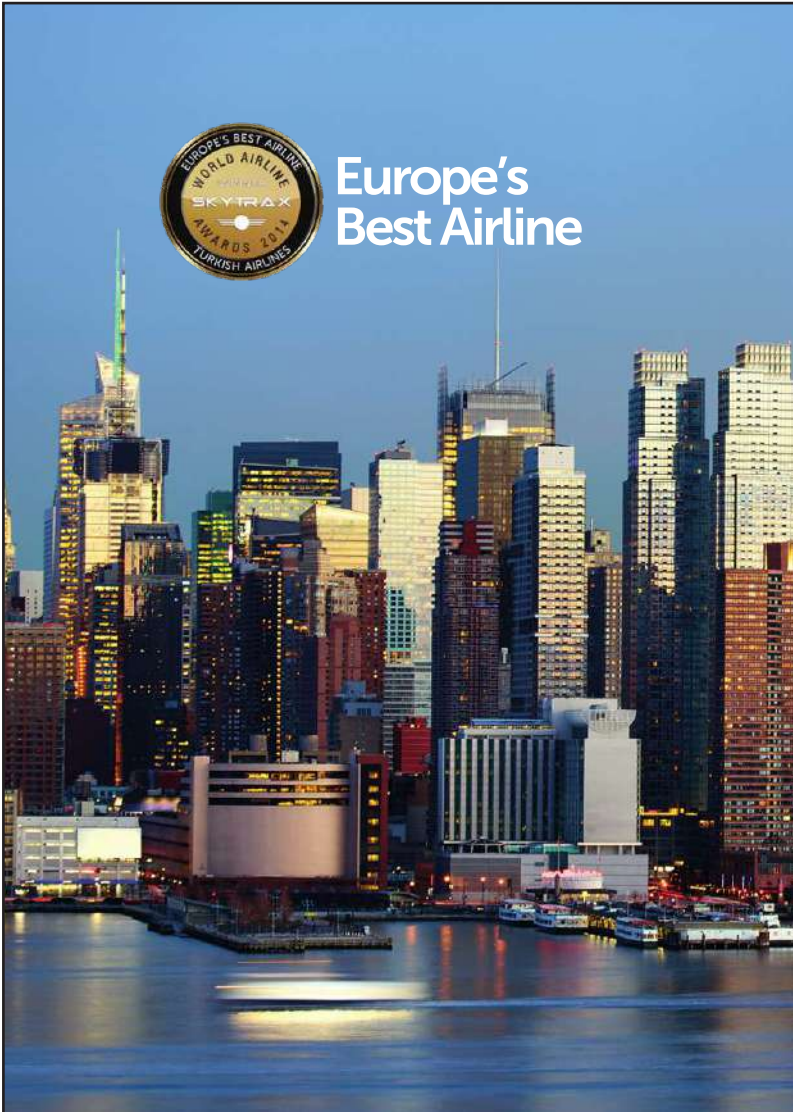
* Differences between the mentioned original pledge in Q2 report and the current report is due to the update occurred after the new baseline data received. However, the dropped/increased amounts are reflected in post 2012 pledges.
** Based on data from previous report as no updates were received since then.



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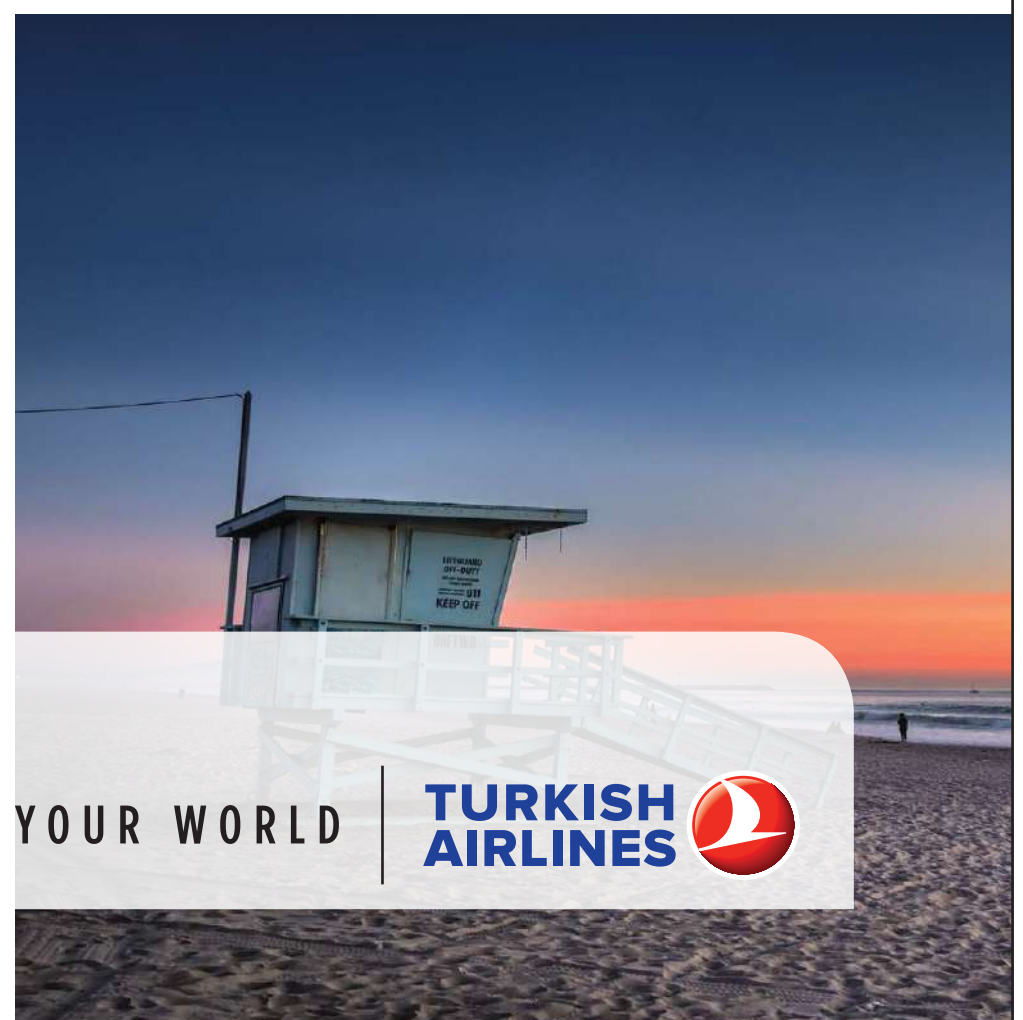
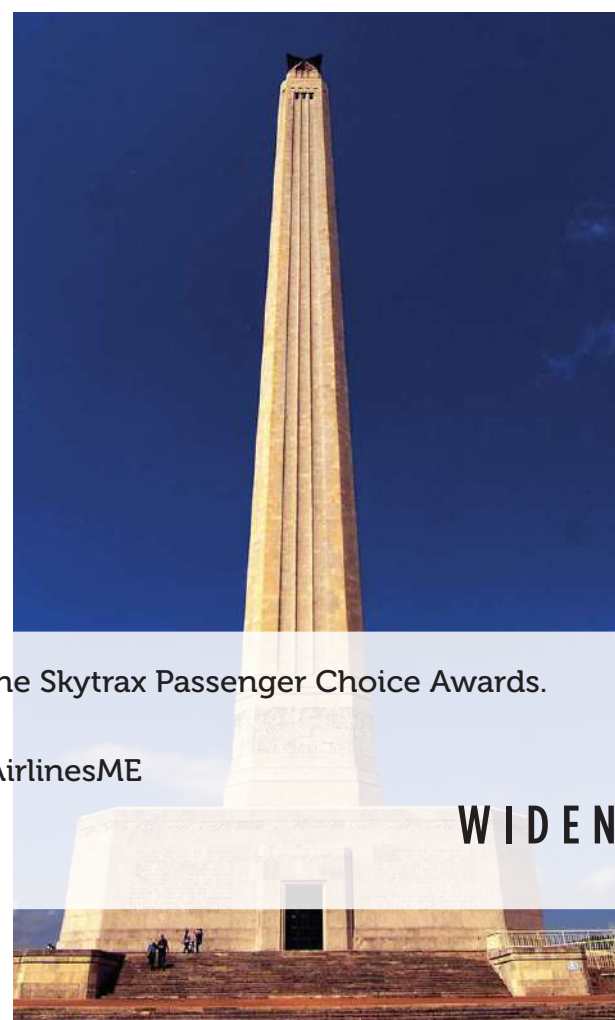
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WIDEN YOUR WORLD



Moderate Muslims' quandary about IS

Mustafa Akyol

al-monitor.com

First published Sept. 12

Since 9/11, one of the most frequently asked questions in the West has been, "Why don't moderate Muslims speak out against extremists?" This question was, in fact, a bit unfair. Many Muslim opinion-leaders did condemn 9/11 and other crimes of Al-Qaeda and its ilk, but they did not receive much coverage in the Western media. But it is also true that the Muslim world's "moderate" majority—those who oppose terrorism in the name of Islam—could have done a better job challenging the extremists.

A similar question is relevant for the so-called Islamic State (IS)—a ruthless group whose violence has even proven too much for Al-Qaeda. While many Muslim governments, from Saudi Arabia to Qatar, are now joining forces with the United States

to fight against this new threat in Iraq and Syria, it is worth asking again whether there is enough outcry from religious opinion-leaders against IS.

My answer is: No, there is not enough outcry against IS by moderate Muslims. But this is not because these Muslims are sympathetic to the group's actions. Rather, they cannot accept that the horrors perpetrated by IS have anything to do with Islam. They explain the group away as a Western conspiracy and condemn the West for creating such puppets.

Turkey is a good place to observe this line of thinking. Since the Syrian civil war, both the incumbent Justice and Development Party (AKP) government and its Islamist base have supported the Syrian opposition, paying little attention to the threat of extremists that so worried Ankara's Western allies. But, about a year ago, Ankara, too, realized that IS is a serious problem. As a result, gradually, the pro-gov-

ernment media began to cast IS as a threat to Turkey and the region.

However, the same media often denied that IS was a reality in itself—a group espousing a genuine Salafist-jihadist ideology. Instead, the group was portrayed as a Frankenstein intentionally created by the United States and its allies, first to "depict Muslims as terrorists," and then to create pretexts for new military adventures in the oil-rich Middle East.

These days, pro-government papers are full of articles that advance this conspiratorial argument. Many like-minded people share "evidence" on social media for this claim, such as a photo allegedly showing US Senator John McCain with Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, the self-declared "caliph" of IS. In the daily *Yeni Safak*, a leading pro-government paper, columnist Tamer Korkmaz summarized the common view:

"The US is now using IS, which it constructed and nurtured as it

did with Al-Qaeda before. It is now making IS a target, to descend on Iraq and the region once again."

A more careful observer could note that the United States, in fact, has been worried about IS and its precursor Jabhat Al-Nusra for years. One could also note that the Barack Obama government is actually trying to stay out of the Middle East as much as it can, rather than conspiring to "descend on Iraq and the region once again." But such facts are irrelevant for Turkey's conspiracy theorists. They are thinking wishfully and under the unquestionable presumption that IS is nothing but a Western puppet.

The logic behind this view, which is found not only in Turkey but the Muslim world in general, can be followed in a few steps:

- Extremist groups like IS and its ilk are doing horrible things in the name of Islam.
- True Muslims would never do such things.
- Therefore the extremists

must be fake Muslims manufactured by outside forces who have evil intentions about Islam.

In a sense, this line of conspiratorial thinking works because it keeps the moderate Muslim majority mentally at peace, but it has two negative consequences:

First, because of this line of thought, moderate Muslims do little more than condemn the West as the true source of the problem. This is perceived in the West as a lack of reaction to extremism and leads to the common question, "why do the moderates not speak out?" It only helps feed Islamophobia, which rightly concerns the same moderate Muslims.

Second, since moderate Muslims see groups like IS as mere Western puppets, they do not develop and voice coherent rebuttals of their ideology. This allows these extremist groups to more easily infiltrate the mainstream and gain new re-

cruits. While most of Turkey's Islamic opinion-leaders dismiss IS as a CIA project, the group continues to recruit Turks to its violent cause, as exposed in the *Newsweek* article, "The Jihadi Highway."

This does not mean that no Turks have taken IS ideology seriously or called for a serious ideological confrontation with it. Some notable pieces have been recently published. Yet, both Turkey and other Muslim societies need more voices that will take extremism seriously and discredit it with serious arguments.

Mustafa Akyol is a columnist for Al-Monitor's Turkey Pulse, a columnist for the Turkish Hurriyet Daily News, and a monthly contributing opinion writer for The International New York Times. His articles have also appeared in Foreign Affairs, Newsweek, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal and The Guardian. He is the author of Islam Without Extremes: A Muslim Case for Liberty.

The Islamic State threat is overstated

Ramzy Mardini

washingtonpost.com

First published Sept. 12

The United States has a tradition of misinterpreting the Middle East. President George W. Bush invaded Iraq in 2003 with misplaced certainty, misconstrued assumptions, and poor foresight. After the Arab revolts began in 2011, Washington misdiagnosed the problems and opportunities, and overestimated its influence to steer outcomes in its favor. Now, as the United States prepares to escalate military action against the Islamic State, misinterpretation is leading to another tragic foreign policy mistake.

In his prime-time address Wednesday, President Obama said that US airstrikes targeting militants in Iraq over the past month "have protected American personnel and facilities, killed [Islamic State] fighters, destroyed weapons, and given space for Iraqi and Kurdish forces to reclaim key territory. These strikes have also helped save the lives of thousands of innocent men, women, and children."

A more accurate assessment would be that US military intervention has tremendous propaganda value for the Islamic State, helping it to rally other jihadists to its cause, possibly even Salafists who have so far rejected its legitimacy. Moreover, to the extent that the group poses any threat to the United States, that threat is magnified by a visible US military role. Obama's restraint in the use of military power in recent years has helped keep the Islamic State's focus regional—on its efforts to establish an Islamic caliphate in the Middle East rather than on launching attacks against the United States. It's only with the US military's return to Iraq and the prospect of US intervention in Syria that the group's focus has begun to shift.

The barbaric beheadings of American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff were intended as retaliation for US airstrikes in Iraq.

Instead, Washington has interpreted those events, along with the fall of Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, to Islamic State militants in June, and the siege of Yazidis in northern Iraq last month, as evidence that the group poses a threat of terrifying proportions to US interests.

It has become the consensus view in Washington that the militants are poised to bulldoze through America's Middle East allies, destabilize global oil supplies, and attack the US homeland. The Islamic State represents "to the United States, wrote General John Allen, a former

"Despite its territorial gains and mastery of propaganda the Islamic State's fundamentals are weak, and it does not have a sustainable endgame."

commander of US forces in Afghanistan, one that affects "the region and potentially the world as we know it." General Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, described the group as having "an apocalyptic, end-of-days strategic vision." Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel characterized it as "an imminent threat to every interest we have, whether it's in Iraq or anywhere else." According to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll, 90 percent of Americans view the Islamic State as a serious threat to vital US interests.

But Americans are misreading the recent Islamic State successes, which speak less to the group's invincibility and inevitability than they do to external factors beyond its control. Despite its territorial

gains and mastery of propaganda, the Islamic State's fundamentals are weak, and it does not have a sustainable endgame. In short, we're giving it too much credit.

Consider the fall of Mosul, which catapulted the impression that the group is a formidable force able to engage on multiple fronts simultaneously and overpower a US-trained army that dwarfs its size. In reality, it was able to gain such vast territory because it faced an impotent opponent and had the help of the broader Sunni insurgency. The Iraqi army, lacking professionalism and insufficiently motivated to fight and die for Sunni-dominated Mosul, self-destructed and deserted. The militants can be credited with fearlessness and offensive mobility, but they can hardly be said to have defeated the Iraqi army in combat. At the time, Islamic State militants represented less than 10 percent of the overall Sunni insurgency. Many other Sunni groups helped to hold territory and fight off Iraq's Shia government and Iranian-backed militia forces.

The Islamic State's capture of Sinjar in the northern province of Nineveh further added to perceptions of its dominance and helped precipitate Washington's decision to carry out airstrikes in Iraq. But that episode was also misinterpreted. Kurdish forces were not only taken by surprise, but since they had only recently filled the vacuum in Sinjar left by Iraq's fleeing army, they were stretched too thin and poorly equipped to sustain a battle outside their home territory. Lacking ammunition and other supplies, they conceded the territorial outpost and retreated within their borders in Iraqi Kurdistan.

This hardly means the Islamic State is in a position to topple the next city in its sights. Rather, the borders of its territory have, more or less, reached their outer potential. It's no coincidence that the militants' gains have been limited to areas populated by disenfranchised Sunnis eager for protection from Shia forces. It would require far greater power to hold territory

populated by a sect that didn't support their presence. The group's rapid growth has occurred in its most compatible regions — as a species proliferates within its natural habitat. It is thriving in the midst of sectarian cleavages, established insurgencies, and weak or nonexistent state institutions. Hence, its support in Iraq and Syria is not the rule, it is the exception. The combination of these conditions does not exist in much of the greater Middle East.

Despite being in its infancy as a declared caliphate, the Islamic State's extreme ideology, spirit of subjugation and acts of barbarism prevent it from becoming a political venue for the masses. It has foolishly managed to instill fear in everyone, thus limiting its opportunities for alliances and making itself vulnerable to popular backlash. For example, between late last year and early this year, its militants lost territory in the Syrian provinces of Aleppo and Idlib because of grassroots resistance and insurgent competition.

The key for a group like the Islamic State to survive and flourish is a deep connection with local populations. The Islamic State's core fighters are certainly devoted and willing to die for the cause, but its potential support across the region ranges from limited to nonexistent. This is one of the differences between superficial weeds such as the Islamic State and deeply rooted forests such as Lebanese Hezbollah.

The irony is that the Islamic State's greatest achievement — the capture of Mosul — may also be its greatest liability. Indeed, the sudden collapse of the Iraqi army catapulted the group far beyond its capacity to absorb and sustain its gains. Its meteoric rise in Iraq helped it consolidate the insurgent landscape in Syria but also made the group too visible a threat for regional powers. And while the seizure of US-made weapons and modern equipment has increased the group's capabilities and prestige, it has also made it more vulnerable to conventional adversaries.

For some time, regional power politics made Middle Eastern states reluctant to confront the Islamic State directly. Turkey appreciated that the influx of jihadists into Syria helped counterbalance Kurdish guerrilla forces there while undermining the Syrian regime's quest to re-conquer lost territory. Syria and Iran recognized that the militants diminished the threat to Bashar Al-Assad by radicalizing the opposition and making the West more hesitant to support it. Saudi Arabia and the Sunni Arab gulf states understood that the Islamic State served to counter Iran's Shia proxies in the

and Yazidis.

On the Islamic State's western frontier, Jordan's border is impenetrable to militant invasion. And even should the group find a way to conduct a terrorist attack inside the Hashemite Kingdom, the population (and the region's Sunni Arab states) would rally to support the Jordanian monarchy, while its highly capable intelligence directorate and armed forces would go on the offensive against the perpetrators. The fear that the militants somehow threaten the stability of Israel's eastern front is far removed from reality.

After Mosul, the Islamic State has also been more prone to resistance from within. As its acquisition of new territory has slowed, much of the group's focus has shifted toward consolidating power inside territory already acquired. Hence, before the United States intervened with airstrikes last month, the insurgency in Iraq had already begun fragmenting over power, prestige, and resources.

This doesn't suggest that the Islamic State poses no problem, nor that the United States should ignore it. However, any strategy that involves US airstrikes to contain the group is like searching for a beehive to swat, then assuming that the threat of being stung is somehow mitigated.

While some military action is necessary to defeat the Islamic State, that effort should be driven by regional actors, not a Western power. The United States is far better positioned to assume an active diplomatic role, facilitating consensus and cooperation among local and regional players. If the common threat could compel these actors toward local collaboration, national compromise, and regional rapprochement, there may emerge an opportunity to bring them together to finally settle the civil wars plaguing the Middle East.

Ramzy Mardini is a non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East.

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Offices
Taiz Bureau:

Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,

Telefax: +967 (4) 217157

P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz

Email: yttaz@y.net.ye

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Friday prayer: A call to protest?

Story by **Ali Abulohoom**
Photo by **Brett Scott**

For Yemeni Muslims and Muslims around the world, Friday is of the utmost religious and social significance. Sons and daughters come together on this auspicious day to greet their parents, friends, and family, exchanging greetings such as "Juma'a Mubarak," meaning "Friday blessings."

Hamoud Al-Matari, a Yemen preacher and employee in the Ministry of Endowment's Department of Preaching, spoke about Friday's origins, referencing a Hadith saying, "the Jews had Saturday, and the Christians had Sunday. Then Allah brought us and Allah guided us to Friday. So there is Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and thus they will follow us on the day of resurrection. We are the last of the people of this world but we will be the first on the day of resurrection, and we will be dealt with before all others."

According to the Hadith, those attending Friday prayer would be immediately absolved of sins committed during the week. Before prayer, Muslims who assemble at mosques listen to a sermon about the teachings of the prophet which is meant to empower them.

In Sana'a, as elsewhere, Friday is seen as a day for families to get together for prayer or family time. It is seen as the "weekly Eid of Muslims," and is hence observed as a holiday.

The streets in the capital are empty in the morning, as families ubiquitously prepare for the day. Men spend time preening themselves, while women put together their culinary best for the family and adorn their finest clothes and jewelry. In-

cence is burnt in most homes to welcome guests.

Friday: Not what it used to be
Since the 2011 political uprising, Friday's religious significance started to decrease, with more political dissidents using the day to mobilize huge crowds for their political gains.

Mohammed Baslama, a 39-year-old Sana'a-based taxi driver, said that he would frequent the public park with his children every Friday. "My wife and children would eagerly wait for Fridays to go out and spend time together in parks or restaurants," he said.

"Part of the rituals," he reminisces, "no longer exists since Fridays in Yemen and other Middle Eastern countries are nowadays largely associated with massacres and bloodshed." One that stood out for most Yemenis is March 18, 2011, at Change Square in Sana'a, remembered by most people as the "Friday of Dignity."

Baslama added, "since 2011 my children have been deprived from going out on Fridays because of the violence associated with marches. Even if it's not direct physical violence, I am afraid they might be negatively affected psychologically when they see soldiers cracking down on protesters."

"Religious rites have been distorted and attention has been diverted to political activities. People used to prepare themselves for Friday prayer in the mosques, instead, now they wait for a call to make Friday a day of demonstrations," said Al-Matari.

He added that since 2011, supporters from different political parties have joined rallies based on their leaders' call to attend public prayers in open areas such as Al-Siteen and

Al-Sabaen.

Baslama is not the only one who is apprehensive about Fridays. Mohammed Jubran, a 22-year-old student who studies at Sana'a University and lives nearby Change Square said that he was one of the eyewitnesses during the bloody massacre in March 2011. Since then he has not left his home on Fridays. What pains him further is the fact that his nephew was accompanying him during the Friday prayer on the day the violence erupted.

Minutes after the prayer was over, "we heard bullet sounds from roof tops," recounted Jubran, continuing, "we saw people falling down a few meters away from us. We were shocked and rushed to go home. My nephew since then has suffered from severe panic attacks and is terrified of Fridays. For me, I prefer to stay home all day long."

"The people don't regard Fridays as a religious day any more. Instead they have become interested in the political demonstrations that take place that day," Al-Matari added.

"They come to achieve a great goal"

During the events that led to President Saleh's downfall, Fridays were named after planned protests. For instance, the "Friday of Rage," or the "Friday of Threat."

But the names given to Fridays discontinued soon after the Gulf Initiative was signed between the General People's Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) in late 2011, thereby bringing down the rule of the former president which had lasted for 33 years.

However, the tension between different parties has not fully diminished yet, which is in large part due to the spread of the Houthis. In



Friday prayer is often used as a launching pad for political protest, a phenomenon currently taking place in Sana'a. Here, pro-government Sana'anis take a break from chanting anti-Houthi slogans to pray on Al-Siteen

the past month, Houthis have held protests in Sana'a every Friday, calling for their demands to be met. The Houthis, since August, have called for the ousting of the government, a re-enactment of the fuel subsidies, and the implementation of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) outcomes.

And again, each Friday was given a name according to the stage of the Houthis' escalation, such as "Friday of toppling the government." The following Fridays were called "Friday of Warning" and "Friday of Anger."

Similarly, other political parties, including the Islah Party, have participated in massive protests on Fridays in response to the Houthis' protests, as both factions have been at odds for a long time on political and religious grounds.

Indeed, some Yemenis are supportive of the idea of Friday being used for political reasons. Mohammed Naeem, a 42-year-old Islah Party member who helps organize the ongoing Friday protests on Al-Siteen Street, even says that the Friday of Dignity "is a great day. It reminds us about the dignity of Yemeni people when they took to the

street and offered their blood for the sake of Yemen."

Naeem assured that people still observe Friday rituals as thousands of people come to one place to pray together. "They feel as if they come to achieve a great goal when they flock to the open squares," he added.

Can Fridays be free of politics?

Given that politics and religion are closely intertwined in Yemen it is not surprising that religious holidays turn into days of political protests. Not only is Friday the only free day in many people's work week, but religious sermons are all too often political in content. Fridays have been a day of political demonstrations long before the 2011 uprising, according to Mohammed Al-Junaid, a sociology professor at Taiz University. At least since the 1962 revolution, political leaders in Yemen have used Fridays for political events, such as symposiums and speeches.

"Ibrahim Al-Hamdi, the former Yemeni president who ruled between 1974 and 1977, preferred to give his speeches on Fridays, taking advantage of people being at home that holiday," he added.

Given the historical overlap of re-

ligion and politics, it seems difficult to keep politics out of Fridays. Yet, this is exactly what many Yemenis appear to hope for.

While Al-Matari is optimistic about a Friday rid of politics in the distant future, others are not.

"Friday will have no political or national value once the situation becomes stable in the future. The people need to see Friday without protest, violence, and bloodshed. Personally, once the political transition elapses, Friday will become free of politics."

On the other hand, Hamoud Al-Aodi, a sociology professor at Sana'a University, ruled out the possibility of Friday regaining the spiritual value it once had. "Life has always changed, and what has changed is impossible to get back the way it used to be. Friday has long had a national value in addition to a religious one."

Sameeh Al-Ammari, a 31-year-old Sana'a-based pharmacist, echoed Al-Aodi's thoughts, saying, "Friday will not be back as it was before, as people have linked the revolution to Fridays in which a lot of marches, genocide, and massacres have taken place."



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
YEM2014/LOG011/Gen-055- Re Adv

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Job Title:	Logistics Assistant (Billing-Invoice Verification & fund Management)
Duty station:	Sana'a
UN Category:	Service Contract – SC-4 (SB-2)
Duration:	One Year (12 months)
Vacancy Number:	YEM2014/LOG011/Gen-055- Re Adv
Opening date:	04 September 2014
Closing date:	25 September 2014

Supervision received: The Logistics Assistant reports to the Logistics Officer and under the overall supervision of Head of Logistics

Accountabilities:
Within delegated authority, the Logistics Assistant will be responsible for the following duties:
(These duties are generic and thus are not all-inclusive nor are all duties carried out by all Logistics Assistants)

- Post daily dispatches of WFP food and non-food commodities in the corporate system; monitor the correct use and quantity as per loading orders;
- Respond to queries regarding commodities staff in the unit and elsewhere in the Programme;
- Receive and process the logistics service providers' invoices, immediately register the same in the invoice tracker, and efficiently and in a timely manner.
- Identify and recognize the data discrepancies among the physical documents and system and report them immediately to the supervisor.
- Produce organized, accurate and well-documented records with well-analyzed data and in accordance with WFP established guidelines and procedures.
- Establish effective communications with the internal and external clients and respond to their queries constantly and with a constructive feedback.
- Process the transport invoices via the WFP invoicing tool (COMPAS) and using the Transport instruction criteria.
- Respond to the service providers queries concerning their due payments professionally and in an efficient manner.
- Review and interpret the information of non-routine nature with good judgment and with the appropriate analytical approach.
- Ensure timely and accurate processing of payments for Logistics service providers within the specified timeframe.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Expected Results:
Produces organized, accurate and well documented records conforming to required format with well analyzed data. May provide guidance on office practices to staff in lower grades.

Critical Success Factors:
Ability to review a variety of data, identify and adjust data discrepancies. Identify and resolve operational problems. Ability to communicate moderately complex matters clearly and concisely. Ability to perform detailed work, work of a confidential nature and/or to handle a large volume of work possibly under time constraints. Ability to deal patiently and tactfully with people of different national and cultural backgrounds.

Qualifications:
(These are the standard minimum qualifications established by WFP for the effective performance of the tasks described in the Generic Job Profile. Corporate recruitment/workforce planning needs, in addition to local market supply may require changes or amendments to these, as appropriate. Any queries on changes for vacancy announcement purposes should be addressed to Recruitment and Reassignment Branch, Human Resources Division.)

Education: Completion of secondary school education.

Experience: At least three years of progressively responsible support experience including at least one year in the field of accounting, transport, insurance, statistics, operations or another related field.

Language: Fluency in both oral and written English and Arabic.

Knowledge: Experience utilising computers, including word processing, spreadsheet and other software packages.

Interested candidates are requested to apply by:

- Completing their resumes, the **Personal History Form (P11)** and a covering letter addressed to WFP HR unit indicating the VA reference number and the position title as per the vacancy announcement, **YEM2014/LOG011/Gen-055- Re Adv**.
- Send all above mentioned documents to the following email address **Yemen.HR@wfp.org** or in a sealed envelope no later than **25 September 2014**, to:
World Food Programme, Sana'a, HR Unit
P.O. Box 7181
Diplomatic Area, Nowakshot St, House No. 22, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

***The Personal History Form (P11)** can be downloaded from WFP HR Yemen site, <https://teamwork.wfp.org/232/YEHR/SitePages/Home.aspx>
Only short-listed candidates meeting the required qualifications will be contacted.

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Physical Security and Safety Manager	Senior-level security professional who understands Yemeni culture, can speak the language, has existing contacts / can create new contacts within Yemen's various governmental organizations in order to conduct liaison and obtain timely and useful information in matters pertaining to the security of Palm Yemen Staff. Can communicate effectively with local and foreign staff, colleagues and counterparts. All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor.	\$600 US Dollar (Gross)
Lady Receptionist	Perform in a pleasant, professional, and efficient manner, a combination of duties mainly related, but not limited to, check-in and checkout of guests which contributes to an overall positive experience. Greets, registers, and assigns rooms to guests. Issues room key and escort instructions to Bell person or directly to guests as appropriate. Transmits and receives messages using equipment such as telephone, fax, and switchboard. Answers inquiries pertaining to hotel services, registration of guests and shopping, dining, entertainment and travel directions. Keeps records of room availability and guests' accounts. All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor.	\$400 US Dollar (Gross)
Hospitality Support Specialist (Waitress)	Presents menu, answers questions and makes suggestions regarding food and service. Writes order on check or memorizes it. Relays and/or enters order into POS system for the kitchen and serves courses from kitchen and service bars. Observes guest to fulfill any additional request and to perceive when meal has been completed. Totals bill and accepts payment or refers patron to cashier. May ladle soup, toss salads, portion pies, and desserts, brew coffee, and perform other services as determined by establishment size and practice. May clear and reset counters or table at conclusion of each course. All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor.	\$410 US Dollar (Gross)
Inventory Specialist	Compiles and maintains records of quantity, type, and value of assets, material, equipment, merchandise, or supplies stocked in an establishment: Counts assets, material, equipment, merchandise, or supplies in house and posts totals to inventory records, manually or using a computer database. Proper control of the physical inventory will add to a positive guest and staff experience. All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor.	\$410 US Dollar (Gross)
Human Resource Coordinator	A human resource coordinator is an executive responsible for carrying out several tasks related to administration. He/ She is a coordinator for all important functions such as hiring and recruiting, and development, maintaining employee records, etc. Generally, the coordinator works under the supervision of the human resource director. The coordinator is also responsible for consulting with managers and supervisors about company policies and procedures. The coordinator helps employees and their managers in performance and disciplinary matters. He/ She may even propose and develop a set of rules that would monitor the discipline and work of workers. The job also includes consulting with practice managers regarding employee turnover, absenteeism, changes in work settings, employee motivation and recognition, and other employee-related aspects. His/her responsibility also includes assessing, sieving, and interviewing candidates for available positions; and making referrals of well-qualified and skillful applicants to the respective department managers. Other tasks assigned to him/her include carrying out field interview campaigns and advertising, arranging for all essentials needed for the recruitment drive, coordinating work with other staff members, determining employee performance appraisals and developing plans and strategies for recruitment. All other duties as assigned by a manager or supervisor.	\$650 US Dollar (Gross)

Interested Qualified applicants can send CV to hr.recruiter@palmymen.com
Deadline: 15 days after the date of published.

Foreigners line up to buy land in Socotra

■ Nasser Al-Sakkaf

In spite of Yemen's deteriorating security situation and a complete collapse of its tourism industry, Socotra Island continues to attract foreigners from across the globe.

The island's untouched natural heritage, beautiful beaches, and unique flora and fauna that appeal to both - national and international tourists alike.

In recognition of its natural uniqueness, the governorate of Socotra was declared to be one of an overall five protected nature reserves in Yemen in 2000.

Increasing interest in the island comes as a double-edged sword to most Socotrans. They welcome increasing investment in its tourism infrastructure and the jobs it creates. At the same time, investment projects run the risk of undermining the very foundation they were built on—Socotra's extraordinary nature.

Lacking in a notable industry—or service sector, most investment in Socotra has flown into the building of hotels or the funding of nature reserves.

While tourism in Socotra has existed for a long time, foreign investment in the island's tourism industry only began to boom five years ago.

Radwan Al-Socatri, the manager of Al-Socatra Tourism Agency, links this development to the island's tourism and a lack of government funding.

While essential to Socotra's tourism industry, there are currently only four hotels on the island, according to Al-Socatri. Three were built by Socotran residents, whereas the fourth one belongs to Yahya Mohammed Saleh, a nephew of the former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The number of existing hotels is not enough to host all of Socotra's tourists, Al-Socatri explains, highlighting the necessity of investing in the island's tourism sector.

The acute lack of government funding caused foreign investors to step in, buy land and build hotels in Socotra.

The spiralling foreign demand has prompted many Socotrans to sell land at higher prices to foreigners than they do to locals.

This, in turn, caused many foreigners, mostly from Gulf countries, to buy plots of land through local proxies, according to Salem Dahaq, the director of Hadibu district, the capital of Socotra governorate.

Mohammed Khalifa, a resident from Socotra, confirmed that so-called "mediators" spread throughout the governorate in recent years, buy land from locals and sell it to foreigners at comparatively cheaper prices.

The buying of land through local proxies is an indication that the building of hotels and the buying of land has gotten out of hand in Socotra, criticizes Al-Socatri.

"The country is busy with political issues which opened the way for foreign investors, whose investment in the governorate largely goes unchecked," he said, calling for more control.

To mitigate the risks attached to investment in Socotra's tourism sector, the cabinet issued a decree in November 2013 temporarily putting a stop to the selling of land to foreigners.

It also halted "constructions that were underway, which were located on the coast and in natural areas that are too close to or inside maritime or protected areas."

The cabinet decree clearly stated that it is only binding until a specially assigned committee comes forth with a catalogue of specific laws to regulate investment in Socotra.

Investment regulation

According to the head of the Land Authority in Socotra, Mohammad Joman, "the governorate of Socotra is a nature reserve; naturally it would have its own law regulating investment."

Although the cabinet's decision led "mediators" who were selling land to foreigners, to disappear, Khalifa agrees that further regulation is necessary.

In Joman's opinion, regulating the investment process is even more important than the attraction of investors.

"Currently we [the committee] are working on drafting a plan which will be profitable for both the governorate and the country; we will show it to the governorate authorities as soon as we are done with it."

According to Joman, the committee will complete its work in two months. "The committee has been given absolute authority, its solutions will be binding once they are approved by the governorate," Dahaq added.

Adel Al-Ashtal, the director of studies at the General Authority for Investment, agrees on the importance of clear investment laws, which he views to be of a mainly pre-emptive nature.

While saying that "the history of investment in Socotra is recent, and until now has not caused much harm," he highlights the necessity of the committee's work, explaining that the government needs to develop laws to prevent the future mishandling of investments.

One of the committee's goals is to specify places in Socotra that are open to investment and up for sale, according to Dahaq.

Al-Ashtal adds that the committee must also designate places for garbage disposal. It is of great im-

portance, he explains, that the pollution of the maritime and wild nature is avoided.

Investments stop momentarily Some worry that the cabinet decree and the committee's decision will decrease foreign investment in Socotra's tourism infrastructure.

After all, "foreigners prefer to buy land near shores and nature areas, which constitute a distinguished location for their hotels," according to Dahaq.

Dahaq used a Kuwaiti investor as an example of someone who wanted to build a hotel near the shore but had to stop his project once the cabinet's decision was made.

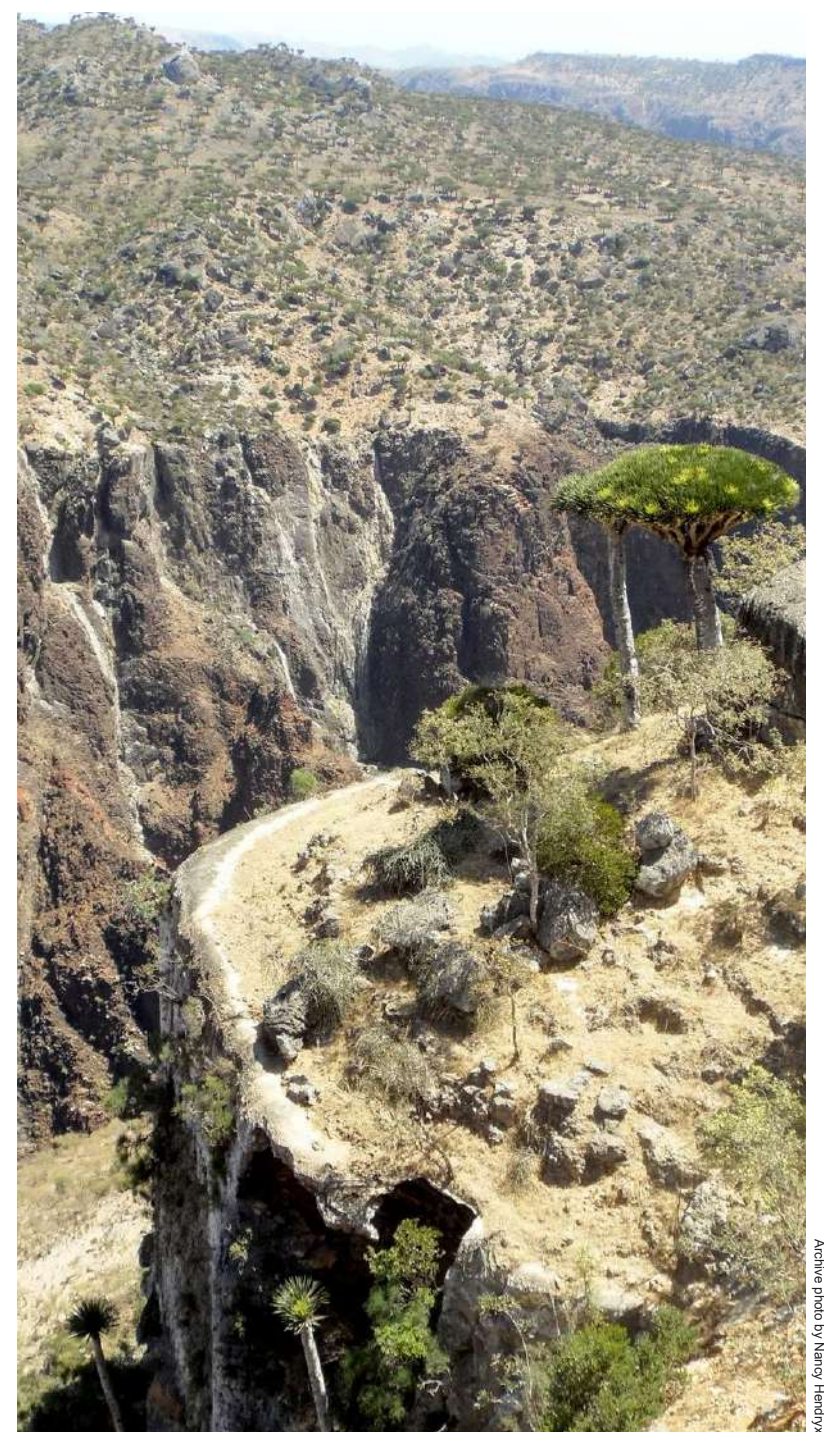
Like Dahaq, Al-Ashtal is aware of the negative economic implications of the cabinet's decision. Accordingly, he emphasizes the importance of the committee's early completion. "The cabinet's decision supports investment in the governorate but it has to develop solutions as soon as possible so that investors whose businesses have been stopped do not sustain heavy losses."

While the temporary hold on investment comes as an obvious burden to investors, Socotrans are not as heavily impacted by the cabinet's decision, explains Al-Khalifa, as most of the workers, especially in the case of larger projects, are not from Socotra.

Investors expect change in future even if they regret the temporary freeze on investments for the time-being. In anticipation of the committee's decision, they are registering investment projects with the governorate, indicating what land they wish to buy and where they wish to construct buildings.

Despite the decree, Dahaq reports that the number of foreign investors is increasing every day.

Joman confirmed that many foreigners have made official investment requests to the governorate waiting for the committee's decisions. Most of them are from the gulf countries, he said.



Gulf investors flock to buy property on the island, despite the challenges posed by investment laws.

Correction

In Thursday's (11/09/2014) Vox Pop "Why do people join AQAP?" the Yemen Times mistakenly published Sadam Obaid's photo in place of Khalid Al-Odaini's.

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Eligibility:

Candidates must meet the following conditions:

- 1- Must be a Yemeni national residing in Yemen
- 2- Must be a high school graduate of 2013 or 2014
- 3- Must be aged between 17 and 20
- 4- Must have a grade average of 85% or higher - Science section
- 5- Must have a secondary school certificate from the Yemeni Ministry of Education
- 6- Must commit to attend intensive French language training to be able to pass the DELF B2 exam

Final selection of the scholarships recipients will be based on passing the DELF exam, receiving university admission, field of study, and the secondary school results.

Applicants may have to take extra preparation classes and start their study programs latest September 2016.

Requirements:

The below should be included in the application:

- 1- Completed scholarship application form (apply for one major only)
- 2- A copy of the DELF/DALF certificate (if available)
- 3- A copy of the secondary school transcript
- 4- A copy of the personal ID card or passport

The students should further:

- 1- Take extra preparation classes and start their study programs in September 2016
- 2- Meet the university/institution's admission requirements
- 3- Commit to return to work in Yemen after completion of the program

Master Degree (10 Scholarships in French Language)

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- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
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| ▶ Public Administration | ▶ Civil Engineering |
| ▶ French Language | ▶ Electrical Engineering |
| ▶ Agriculture | ▶ Electronics Engineering |
| ▶ Transportation | ▶ Industrial Engineering |
| ▶ Law | ▶ General Engineering |
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Candidates must meet the following conditions:

- 1- Must be a Yemeni national residing in Yemen
- 2- Must be aged 28 years old or less
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- 4- Must have at least one year work experience in Yemen
- 5- Must commit to attend intensive French language training to be able to pass the DELF B2 exam

Final selection of the scholarships recipients will be based on passing the DELF B2 exam, receiving university admission, field of study, and past academic performance.

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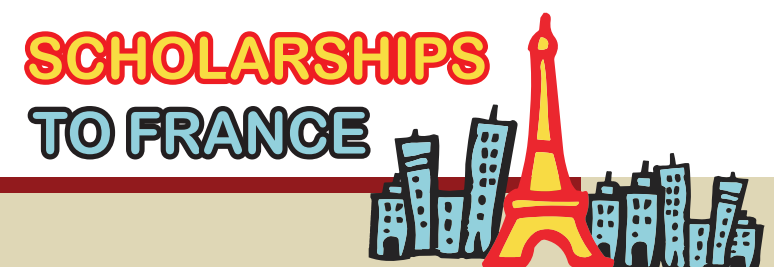
The below should be included in the application:

- 1- Completed scholarship application form (apply for one major only)
- 2- A copy of the DELF/DALF certificate (if available)
- 3- A copy of the university degree and transcript
- 4- A copy of the personal ID card or passport
- 5- A copy of your CV

The students should further:

- 1- Meet the university/institution's admission requirements
- 2- Commit to return to work in Yemen after completion of the program

DEADLINE: THURSDAY, 2ND OCTOBER 2014



APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications can be downloaded online from our website at WWW.YEMENLNG.COM/SCHOLARSHIPS, or picked up from the Head Office. The application along with the required documents listed above should be submitted in a sealed envelope no later than **2nd October 2014** to either of the following:

- ▶ Yemen LNG Head Office, Hadda Street, opposite Hadda Hotel
- ▶ Or by mail to: Yemen LNG Scholarship Program, P. O. Box 15347, Sana'a, Yemen

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Can legal changes stop trafficking in Yemen?

IRIN
First published Sept. 9

A Yemeni draft law envisaging strict penalties for those involved in trafficking migrants, including kidnapping them and demanding ransom, may finally bring an end to decades of exploitation.

To give the process a push, the International Labor Organization (ILO) co-hosted a three-day workshop from September 6-8 with Yemen's Ministry of Human Rights in Lebanon's capital Beirut, bringing together government entities, international agencies, and non-governmental groups to develop Yemen's anti-trafficking roadmap.

"Trafficking is a security problem—and a social problem, a human rights problem, a foreign relations problem," said Fouad Al-Ghaffari, director-general of the office of the minister of human rights. "It's about the rights of women, of children, of everybody."

As of July, 37,971 migrants and refugees had reportedly crossed the Red Sea to Yemen since the beginning of the year, according to the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS), many of them Ethiopians trying to reach job opportunities in Saudi Arabia despite a recent toughening of border controls and immigration rules in that country. Thousands of Somalis seeking protection also continue to cross every year, with 230,878 currently in Ye-

men, according to the UN Refugee Agency.

Migrants usually leave their home countries of their own free will, but are often sold to armed gangs by their smugglers upon arrival in Yemen. The traffickers transfer the migrants to holding camps, where they are held in horrific conditions, and women and girls are frequently subjected to sexual abuse. Both men and women report being brutally tortured and beaten until relatives pay a ransom for their release.

From the beginning of 2013, cases of migrants being held until they pay up rose drastically, according to RMMS. After being freed, migrants often work difficult, low-paying jobs or try to find their way to another country.

With support from ILO, Yemen's Ministry of Human Rights (MHR) has joined forces with the ministries of defense, justice, interior, and planning and international cooperation, among others, to establish a National Dialogue Committee on Combating Trafficking. The committee will work to see the new anti-trafficking bill become law, conduct research on the extent of trafficking in Yemen, and roll out a comprehensive national strategy by 2015.

"To have Yemen, which sees in its country serious violations of human rights, take this issue on, already speaks for itself as something we can commend," said Helene Harroff-Tavel from the ILO's regional office in the Arab states in Beirut.

She added, however, that progress

would not be easy. "The legislative challenge is a big one because there are so many competing priorities [for the government]," said Harroff-Tavel.

Alongside the proposed trafficking law, the government is also seeking to change legislation to set a minimum age of 18 for marriage in order to end the practice of Yemeni girls being married and exploited, particularly by visitors from richer Gulf States. Yemen is one of the few countries without a legal minimum age for marriage. The draft law on child marriage has encountered political opposition in Yemen's Council of Ministers; and campaigners say this will only complicate efforts to stem sexual exploitation of minors as part of a trafficking law.

But human rights activists warn that even if the challenges of getting the law passed are overcome, the country's political divisions and insecurity could limit its impact.

Hurdles ahead

In May, Human Rights Watch's (HRW) Yemen office released a report alleging the complicity of government officials in trafficking operations.

The report documented cases of payoffs at checkpoints and bribes to criminal investigation departments and security forces to ensure they turned a blind eye to traffickers, and even the involvement of government officials in holding migrants in captivity before turning them over to traffickers for money. According



African migrants in Yemen

to the report, not a single trafficker has been successfully prosecuted. "This industry cannot exist without government complicity on multiple levels," HRW's Yemen researcher, Belkis Wille, told IRIN. "So when you're having a discussion about this, you have to be discussing corruption among officials."

According to Wille, none of the government deliberations thus far have included an admission of complicity in the trafficking trade, although such discussions would be "essential to the strategy to combat [trafficking]."

Further challenges lie in accessing areas outside the government's control. After arriving on the Yemeni coastline, victims are often transported in buses through northern portions of Yemen that fall under the control of tribal groups.

"The traffickers in the north are tribal sheikhs—they are incredibly powerful, well-connected families... with their own political clout," Wille

said. The transitional central government has struggled to impose its will on the country, particularly in the north and east.

Despite these obstacles, those involved in drafting the law remain optimistic. "The government has adopted this totally," said Al-Ghaffari. "Yemen faces a lot of challenges, but I think there's no excuse for not following up on this." Workshop participants were optimistic that the new bill could become law before the end of the year.

Roadmap

The first step—submitting a bill on combating human trafficking to the Yemeni parliament—has been completed.

Although it still requires further review, the draft law is a vast improvement on Yemen's current infrastructure for dealing with trafficking, says ILO. Drawing on international protocols and ILO conventions, the draft law addresses

multiple kinds of trafficking, including for purposes of sexual and labor exploitation, with prisons sentences of 5-15 years and heavy fines for those found guilty.

The participants in Beirut agreed to bring the draft law into line with ILO Convention 29 on Forced Labor as well as the International Protocol on Trafficking.

According to Torsten Schackel, ILO's senior international labor standards specialist, the draft law importantly includes provisions that put an end to the prosecution of victims. "The victims are victimized twice—first with being trafficked, then being faced with sanctions for being illegally in the country," said Schackel. To rectify this, the new law includes articles on identifying victims and dealing with them through the lens of protection, rather than prosecution.

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The road to the Middle East's first World Cup is paved with migrant labor

Rafa Morales
muftah.org
First published Sept. 12

"The overall picture is of one of the richest nations exploiting one of the poorest to get ready for the world's most popular sporting tournament."

—Pete Pattison, the Guardian

Labor migration is a global phenomenon, as millions of people leave their homelands every day to find better opportunities in foreign countries. This is particularly true in developing states where issues like poverty, inequality, and political instability are the main drivers of emigration.

Labor migration results in the mobilization of human and capital resources around the world. The former occurs primarily through the transnational movements of low-skilled workers, while the latter is reflected in the amount of money workers send back to their home countries. According to the World Bank, in 2014 migrant workers from developing states are expected to send \$436 billion in remittances to their home countries, representing an increase of 7.8 percent from 2013.

It is far from surprising, then, that remittances from migrant workers play an important role in the development of countries like Nepal. As the World Bank has reported, in 2013, remittances made up 25 percent of Nepal's GDP, making it among the top one-third of countries receiving such funds.

But foreign employment opportunities come with significant risks for many laborers. The situation facing Nepalese migrant workers in Qatar has attracted substantial attention from the international community thanks to allegations regarding the mistreatment, abuse, and exploitation of construction crews working on infrastructure projects for the World Cup, which Qatar will be hosting in 2022. These realities highlight the importance of protecting these workers, both as a good in and of itself, and as a critical element in ensuring the development of both host and home countries.

The Nepalese Labor Situation

Over the past decade, the emigration of Nepalese workers has increased, as a result of an internal armed conflict that impacted the country's economic and political development. The lack of economic opportunities, widespread poverty, social inequalities, and caste/ethnic differences exacerbated the unemployment situation in Nepal.

According to the country's Department of Foreign Employment, more than half a million people abandoned the country in 2013 to search for job opportunities abroad. This represented a 16 percent increase in comparison to 2012. These trends have been steadily increasing since 2007, when only 250,000 workers migrated from Nepal.

Official data fails to capture the significant number of workers employing illegal channels to obtain jobs abroad. A study conducted in 2013 by the Asia Foundation found that "Nepali migrants increasingly rely on individual 'agents' rather than formal recruitment agencies to guide and facilitate their migration process."

Unfortunately, these individual "agents," as well as other illicit labor mechanisms, increase the risk of abuse and exploitation by employers. Lack of access to the formal recruitment process and proper labor contracts makes it even harder to improve poor working conditions, low wages, and mistreatment. These abusive practices are reinforced by the absence of Nepalese embassies in many destination countries. As a result, migrant workers from Nepal often fall outside the government's sphere of protection.

Because of their precarious legal status, many migrant workers are unable to take legal measures to remedy the severely exploitative conditions they face. Some of the most egregious, documented practices facing Nepalese migrants include the withholding of passports, restrictions on leaving jobs, and non-payment of wages. In the worst cases, workers have faced sexual exploitation and become victims of human trafficking.

Migrating to the Gulf

Over the last few years, Malaysia and the Gulf States, particularly Qatar, have become the most attractive

destinations for Nepalese workers. Purna Chandra Bhattari, former Joint Secretary of Nepal's Ministry of Labor, observed that even though Nepalese people are authorized to legally work in more than a hundred countries, ninety-five percent of migrant workers prefer the Gulf.

High demand for low-skilled laborers to work on infrastructure projects coupled with booming Gulf economies has contributed to the region's attractiveness. Qatar has become a particularly appealing destination, given the urgency to finish projects for the World Cup.

A report titled "The Case Against Qatar" prepared by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) estimates that more than 1.4 million migrant workers are currently in Qatar. Approximately 400,000 of these laborers are Nepalese and mainly employed in the construction of railroads, stadiums, airports, and hotels.

A September 2013 investigation, led by Pete Pattison from the Guardian, exposed the situation facing Nepalese migrants in Qatar. The investigation found forced labor conditions on work sites, the withholding of salaries, confiscation of passports and denial of IDs to prevent workers from running away, and lack of access to drinking water in extremely hot weather conditions.

Several other journalists have also reported on the "shocking-conditions" terrible circumstances facing migrant workers in Qatar. These include long working hours (10 to 14 hours a day) under extremely hot temperatures, living accommodations in which 12-14 people are crammed together in small, unsanitary structures, and scarce amounts of food.

Alarming, Pattison's investigation revealed that an increasing number of Nepalese workers have died, under suspicious circumstances, in Qatar. According to Nepal's top Foreign Employment Promotion Board, 672 Nepali workers died in Qatar in the last five years, most from sudden heart attacks. The ITUC estimates that, given the mortality rate among migrant workers, the Middle East's first World Cup could be responsible for the death of approximately 4,000 people before 2022.

Continued on the back page

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT Monitoring and Evaluation Consultants

The USAID's Yemen Monitoring and Evaluation Project (YMEP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the position below.

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YMEP requires the services of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Consultants to undertake short-term consulting activities related to monitoring of the activities of USAID Implementing Partners in the following areas: agriculture, health, education, democracy and governance. The YMEP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Consultants will carry out monitoring activities within the framework of YMEP according to the YMEP Standard Operating Procedures for Third Party Monitoring.

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2. Prepare end-of-event questionnaires to monitor the perception of participants regarding the respective activities;
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- Excellent observation and analytical skills
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3	9	8	5	4	2			
							5	
	1	4		6	7			9
2		5			3		9	1
			7	9				
9	3		1			8		6
1			4	8		2	5	
4								
	5	2	3		9		6	4

Easy

					8			
7		2	5			1	6	
8	1			9	2			
			7			4		
6		8			4	5	1	
	5		8	1				
			7	1		3	5	
1	6				3	7	2	
					9			

Intermediate

								1

Difficult

		3	7						
				4	5	8	9	7	
									2
									6

Chess

Solutions

8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
h	g	f	e	d	c	b	a

Black plays and wins in the 4th move

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

The road to the Middle East's first World Cup is paved with migrant labor

The kafala system

In Gulf countries, like Qatar, one of the main mechanisms for worker exploitation is the sponsorship employment or "kafala" system. In essence, kafala binds workers to employers that sponsored their visas. As Amnesty International explains:

The system binds foreign workers to a single "sponsor" who must, under the law, also be their employer—either an individual or a company established in Qatar. A migrant worker cannot change job without the permission of their sponsor. Once a migrant worker leaves Qatar, he or she cannot return

to Qatar under a new sponsor for two years. Sponsors therefore can have a significant influence over the lives of migrant workers.

Workers rely on this system not only for their legal status, but also for job mobility within the region. In this way, the kafala system creates perverse incentives to exclude workers from the protection of labor laws and maintain abusive power relations between employers and employees. Many international organizations, like Human Rights Watch, have claimed the system is a de facto form of slavery.

Efforts to combat migrant abuse

Although significant work is still needed to improve the situation of migrant workers, the Nepalese government has created programs to begin tackling the problem. Among these is the country's Foreign Employment Act (2007), which regulates labor migration according to extensive analysis conducted by the Center for the Study of Labor and Mobility (CESLAM). There are also several other national laws, rules, bilateral agreements, and international conventions that enhance this regulatory framework, such as the Human Trafficking and Transportation Act (2007), Foreign Employment Rules (2008), and the Foreign Employment Policy (2012), to name a few.

The Foreign Employment Act is a major attempt to consolidate previous norms and laws, in order to establish regulatory protections for migrant workers. The Act introduces social protections, like the establishment of safe homes in countries of employment, government-issued insurance, free legal aid, and scholarships and child-care centers for the children of migrant workers laboring in foreign countries. Some of the most important provisions established by the Act include the creation of a welfare fund, the presence of labor attachés in countries with over five thousand Nepali workers, compulsory pre-departure training, and the designation of Nepal's national airport as the only official exit for migrant workers.

According to the Center for Inclusive Growth, the Act creates an overly centralized decision-making process, has an opaque institutional structure, and fails to foster either policy coordination or capacity building. Amnesty International has pointed to the government's failure to effectively enforce the regulation; recruitment agencies regularly flout the rules and

workers are ignorant of their rights, as well as the mechanisms for lodging complaints. CESLAM's analysis also underscores the regulation's weak implementation, especially its ineffective utilization of the Foreign Employment Welfare Fund.

Other voices have advocated for a more preventive approach to migrant labor abuse. Shaktida Singh, a program officer in Nepal from the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has stated that "the social cost to families is high. Foreign employment should be an option, not a forced choice."

In this regard, the government has launched the Micro Enterprise Development Program (MEDEP) as one way of developing in-country employment opportunities. MEDEP is an attempt to contribute to Nepal's development by promoting the growth of micro enterprises among impoverished communities. The program is the result of a joint effort between several partners, including the UN Development Program (UNDP) and the Australian Aid Fund. According to the UNDP, the program has generated 9,464 new micro entrepreneurs in 2013, of whom 68 percent are women, 36 percent are indigenous, and 23 percent are from the lowest cast (dalits). The micro enter-

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prises created through MEDEP have generated 12,144 new jobs in Nepal.

A long, but important, journey

The road to the 2022 World Cup seems long, but the path Qatar takes will have huge implications for the people and countries contributing to the migrant workforce, which is essential to preparing for this important sporting event.

More advanced countries, like Qatar, must recognize that migrant workers are critical to their success. These countries must appreciate the need to work together with developing states, like Nepal, to continue their respective paths toward economic progress.

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