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Opposition critical of Houthis' three day ultimatum

Story and photo by **Khalid Al-Karimi**

SANA'A, Feb. 1—A three day national conference convened by Houthi leaders came to a close on Sunday afternoon. Held under the slogan "Nation we build and save," discussions concluded with a nine-point program for moving forward.

Chief among these was the decision to grant political parties, which are holding separate discussions at the Movenpick hotel in Sana'a, a three-day grace period for putting forward their own solutions to the current political crisis.

If they fail to do so, the concluding statement read, "the conference has authorized revolutionary committees and the leadership of the revolution to take immediate steps necessary for organizing political authority and the transitional phase to move the country out of the current deadlock."

Members of opposition parties, who did not take part in the conference but held their own talks at the Movenpick hotel, were critical of the outcomes and their motives.

Mohammad Abdullah Al-Yadomi, the head of Islah Party's Supreme Authority, released a statement on the party's official website on Sunday evening. It stated the party's determination to "adhere to the language of dialogue" in the face of attempts to undermine the pursuit of democracy and reasoned debate.

Abdullah Naji, a founding member of the Southern Movement, told the Yemen Times on Monday that his supporters are not concerned with the Houthi conference or its outcomes. "Northern politicians have been using the southern issue as a slogan, making empty promises that haven't been kept," he said. "Now the Houthis want to impose themselves using whatever means

necessary."

According to Abdulmalik Al-Fu-haidi, editor-in-chief of Al-Motamar Net, the mouthpiece of the General People's Congress, the Houthi conference has only served to complicate the situation further.

"All of the country's political powers are engaged in dialogue, and the Houthi group is but one faction. A three-day grace period is only intended to create pressure, and I don't think any single political party or group will be capable of governing the country alone," he told the Yemen Times.

The Houthi convened "national conference" began on Friday, Jan. 30 and was held in the May 22 Hall of Al-Thawra district, in the capital Sana'a. Thousands attended the conference over three days, which ended with a concluding statement at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

"Authoritarianism, corruption and puppet powers have endeavored to work against what the Yemeni people want, which is a nation devoid of corruption and subordination—a nation that preserves the dignity of its people and the sovereignty of its land," the statement read.

Praise was reserved for military powers, however, and conference members acknowledged "the honorable role of the security and military forces and the popular committees for maintaining stability and security, preventing the country's slide into chaos and anarchy."

Additional points included in the statement reiterated previous demands made by the Houthis. These include calls to address disagreements in the draft constitution, to combat terrorism and reject foreign interference in Yemeni affairs, and to resolve crises in Marib and southern Yemen, among others.

Reactions by conference participants, many of whom had arrived



The Houthi-convened "national conference" began on Friday, Jan. 30 and was held in the May 22 Hall of Al-Thawra district in Sana'a.

from other governorates, were invariably supportive.

Murai Al-Amiri, a 35-year-old who came from Marib to attend the conference, considered it a "national duty" to attend the conference. "I am here to save the country from further deterioration. The situation isn't bearable, we want an immediate end to the political vacuum."

Abdu Rabu Al-Dalu, from Dhamar governorate but living in Sana'a, felt

the three-day grace period demonstrates a fair-handed approach by the Houthi leadership. "The [concluding statements] are reasonable, and three days are adequate for political powers to reconsider the situation," the 40-year-old said. "Abdulmalik Al-Houthi doesn't want to impose himself on the Yemeni people, he is just trying to put an end to corruption in the country."

The conference was convened

seven days after Cabinet members submitted their resignations to President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, who responded in kind on Dec. 22. The resignations followed clashes between Houthi militants

and presidential forces on Dec. 19, which culminated in attacks on the Presidential Palace and President Hadi's personal residence. The government has been in a state of limbo ever since.

Army, Southern Movement fighters mobilize in Radfan

■ **Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

SANA'A, Feb. 1—Clashes broke out on Thursday between security forces and Southern Movement militants in the Radfan district of Lahj governorate. Heavy fighting continued over the weekend, ending with brief skirmishes on Sunday morning.

Fighting took place around the cities of Al-Malah and Al-Hebailin, near the border with Al-Dhale government, and the situation in northern Lahj remains tense as both sides send reinforcements.

Naji Al-Areshi, chief of staff for the 201st Mechanized Brigade, based in the governorate capital Al-Hawta, claims the military has full control of Radfan. Mountainous terrain enables militants from the Southern Movement, also known as HIRAK, to move in suddenly, he explained, triggering clashes with the

brigade's battalions in Al-Habailin, Al-Malah and other areas of Radfan.

Three Southern Movement fighters were killed, one was injured, and four arrested, according to Al-Areshi, who says six of his soldiers were injured in the clashes.

One civilian was also killed in the fighting when he was hit by a stray bullet while tending to cattle on his farm, Al-Areshi confirmed.

He said fighting began when Southern Movement militants attempted to take over positions held by his troops on Thursday. By the evening they had besieged over 150 soldiers from the 201st Mechanized Brigade.

The brigade was tasked with securing roads in Al-Malah and Al-Hebailin, which lead into the governorates of Abyan and Al-Dhale.

"More than 250 armed men from HIRAK poured in from parts of Al-Dhale, Lahj and other southern

governorates such as Aden, Shabwa and Abyan, but we sent hundreds of soldiers and dozens of armed vehicles on Friday morning to break the siege," said Al-Areshi. "Heavy clashes followed in which RPGs, machine guns, tanks and Katyusha rocket launchers were used."

Abdu Al-Mutari, a spokesperson for the Southern Movement, confirmed the militants were fighting on behalf of the movement and claims they are defending locals against shelling from the security forces.

Abdullah Al-Malahi, an armed fighter in Al-Malah who identifies as a member of the Southern Movement, vowed to continue fighting as long as the south remains "occupied," even if "thousands of men are sacrificed."

"We are located in Radfan and our revolution to separate south from north will be the spark for all revolutions," he said. "Our armed men are

pouring in from all southern governorates to help us."

Ali Bamedhef, a resident in Al-Malah city and a witness to the fighting, said the military had re-established full control over Al-Malah city and had moved towards the eastern edge of the city, where Al-Raha camp is located, while other units moved towards Al-Hebailin city.

He said residents of Radfan remained in fear, however, believing clashes could erupt again at any time.

Al-Areshi shares these concerns. "Things are now under control, but the situation is very tense and clashes may breakout any moment," he said.

Radfan is well-known for its role in the October 14 Revolution in 1963, where efforts began to end the British occupation, which ended in 1967.

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Drone crashes in Dhamar hours after strike kills three in Shabwa

■ **Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

SANA'A, Feb. 1—A US drone crashed on Saturday in the Al-Hada district of Dhamar governorate, hours after three men were killed by a suspected drone strike in the Al-Naqaba area of Shabwa governorate.

Jamal Shenaizer, a resident of Al-Said district in Al-Naqaba, reported that a Toyota Hilux carrying three suspected Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) members was targeted in the strike. There were no survivors after the vehicle was completely destroyed by three missiles, he said.

Al-Said district, in the southwest of Shabwa, has witnessed an increased presence of drones since Thursday, according to Shenaizer,

who says locals are able to distinguish the humming of a drone from the sounds of other aircraft.

Those killed in the strike were confirmed as belonging to AQAP by a member of the group, Al-Batar Al-Sana'ani. Speaking with the Yemen Times, he said the victims included Abus Sayaf, a well-known communications and recruitment officer for the group who is from Sana'a governorate. The others were not named, but were said to be from Shabwa governorate and Saudi Arabia.

Al-Sana'ani said there were unverified reports that Sheikh Harith Al-Nadhari, a prominent cleric with AQAP, was also killed in the strike, but as of Monday evening the Yemen Times was unable to verify these claims.

Three hours later, in the Al-Hada district of Dhamar, another drone crashed for reasons that remain uncertain. No casualties have been reported.

An eyewitness to the crash, Mohammad Al-Ukaimi, said the drone came down at around 8 p.m. in an unpopulated area between the villages of Makhbara and Resaba, in the north of Dhamar.

Locals alerted security officials in Al-Hada following the crash, who called investigators from Dhamar's security administration to verify the claims. Abdullah Al-Sadi, the deputy security chief of Dhamar governorate, said the aircraft was confirmed to be a US drone.

American officials have thus far made no comment on either of Saturday's incidents. The American

government rarely acknowledges drone strikes or crashes in Yemen.

According to Mohammad Hezam, public relations officer at the Ministry of Interior, drones have been known to crash after flying too low in mountainous areas or getting shot down by tribesmen.

Two crashes were reported in 2014. On Jan. 16, a drone crashed in the Hat district of Al-Mahra governorate, in eastern Yemen along the border with Oman, and another came down near the Al-Saha village of Shabwa on Sept. 23. The first known drone crash was reported in Abyan governorate in 2011.

Saturday's attack is the second in a week, following a strike in Marib on Jan. 26 that killed three, including a 13-year old boy.



Unverified footage by AQAP obtained by the Yemen Times purports to show the damage of the drone strike in Shabwa.

Search operation ongoing in Al-Baida

■ **Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

SANA'A, Feb. 2—The 117th Infantry Brigade launched a large-scale search operation in Al-Baida city and its surroundings in Al-Baida governorate on Sunday, in an attempt to track down suspects accused of an attack on the brigade's military convoy earlier that day.

"We are checking houses in Al-Baida city and combing the surrounding mountains, where some of the suspects have fled to," said Adel Al-Mikhlafi, head of the brigade's Operations Department, who is convinced that members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) were behind the attack.

The search was still ongoing as of Monday evening and involved 350 soldiers aided by local police forces, according to Al-Mikhlafi.

Nijmat Deen Al-Haraj, the Al-Baida security chief, said police units are helping the brigade by setting up checkpoints, arresting suspects and carrying out background checks. "We are in constant communication with the military," he said.

Investigations have revealed five AQAP cells operating in Al-Baida city, each composed of around 50 members, according to Al-Mikhlafi.

Mokhtar Al-Naqib, editor-in-chief of the Al-Baida news website, says armed AQAP members began making public appearances in Al-

Baida city and neighboring areas in December 2014, brandishing the group's slogans in broad daylight.

According to Al-Naqib, units from the 117th Infantry Brigade have positioned themselves throughout Al-Baida city, controlling all entrances as well as the road connecting the city to the districts of Mukeras and Al-Suma.

Fighting broke out on Sunday afternoon in the Uwain area, east of Al-Baida city, following an attack on the brigade's military convoy.

Around ten vehicles were traveling from Al-Baida to the brigade's headquarters in Mukeras district, according to Al-Mikhlafi, carrying 50 men and large amounts of currency meant for the soldiers' salaries.

"The armed men ambushed the brigade's convoy, attacking it from many sides at once. They wanted to steal the soldiers' salaries, but our men resisted and they fled," said Al-Mikhlafi.

He estimated their number at 120, and said three of his soldiers were killed and another 12 injured in Sunday's attack. The Yemen Times was not able to independently verify these claims.

AQAP has not officially claimed responsibility for the attack, but a source with the group, who goes by the name Abu Al-Laith, alleges AQAP members were behind it.



The 117th Infantry Brigade launched a large-scale search operation in Al-Baida city (photo) and its surroundings.

More roadblocks to protect Marib

■ **Ali Aboluhom**

SANA'A, Feb. 2—Dozens of Bani Dabian tribesmen set up a road block in the Dabian area of Al-Juba district at the Western border of Marib governorate on Monday to fend off an anticipated Houthi invasion.

Saleh Mofleh, 37, a Bani Dabian tribe member, told the Yemen Times on Monday that dozens of tribesmen gathered to block the road from Sana'a to Marib city, which leads through Dabian area.

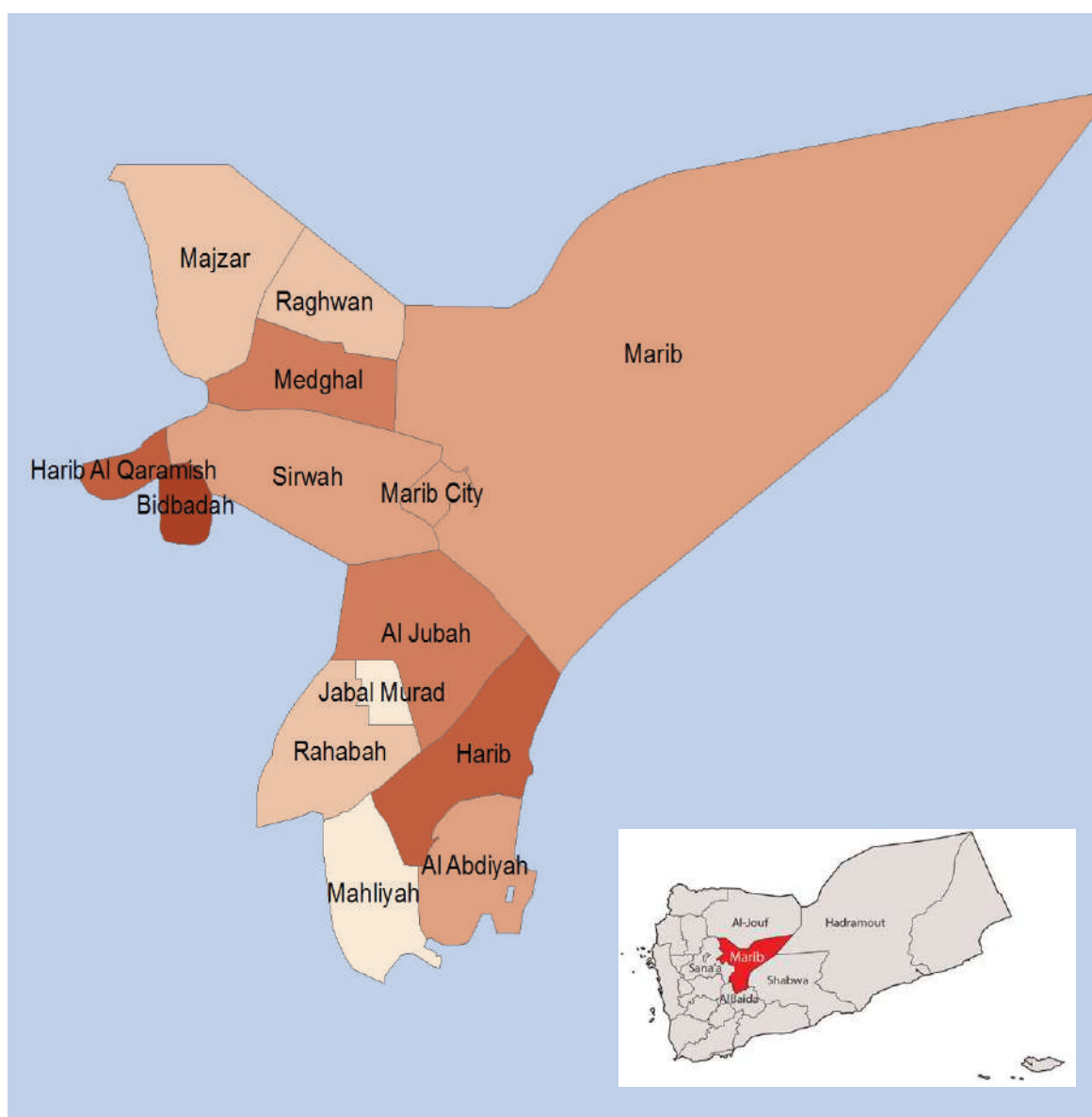
Mofleh describes the action as a precautionary move to protect the governorate against a possible Houthi assault. "Houthi threats are increasingly daily," he said. "We blocked the road in our area after other tribes did the same elsewhere."

For weeks, Houthis have emphasized the threat of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in Marib to underscore the necessity of invading the governorate. Only on Monday, Mohammad Al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthi Political Office in Sana'a, reaffirmed the Houthis' plan to invade Marib, telling the Yemen Times, "The tribesmen who recently entered Marib, allegedly to help protect it, are Al-Qaeda." He promised the Houthis would "free" Marib, but did not specify when.

Mohammad Al-Dabiani, one of Bani Dabian's tribal sheikhs, told the Yemen Times that the decision to erect a road block followed consultations with tribal sheikhs of the Murad and Obaidah tribes—the two largest in Marib governorate.

"The sheiks in Obaidah and Murad advised us to block the access road to the governorate in our area, because Houthis might try to enter Marib along its western border with Sana'a governorate. It is tribal custom to side with other tribes within the same governorate, so we followed their recommendation," Al-Dabiani said.

As early as Nov. 15 of last year, fears of a possible Houthi attack led armed men from Marib's various tribes to station themselves in the Wadi Nakhla and Wadi Al-Sahel areas, atop Jabal Hailan in the Serwah district, and in Al-Jedaan area. All these areas surround Marib city, and large parts



The roadblocks were established in Al-Jubah, which links Marib's southeast to Al-Baida. Sporadic fighting continues to take place in Al-Baida between the Houthis and AQAP.

of the governorate's borders have been under tribal supervision for months.

Mofleh said tribesmen guarding the border are equipped with light weapons, including sniper rifles, but are heavy artillery as well.

In case support is needed in the future, Al-Dabiani said they would ask neighboring tribes for backup. For the time being, however, he considers the number of Dabiani tribesmen sufficient to successfully guard the road in their governorate.

A second road block in Al-Juba district is monitored by members

of the Murad tribe, according to Mohammad Al-Baihani, a locally based journalist.

According to Naji Al-Obaidi, a member of Obaidah tribe, "Dozens of tribes entered Marib from neighboring governorates like Al-Jawf and Al-Baida a month ago to side with Marib tribes and support them in defending the governorate against Houthi rebels."

"This road block is very important because it links the Southeast of Marib with Al-Baida governorate, which is currently witnessing clashes between Houthis and Al-Qaeda," he said.

Ali Al-Fatimi, the deputy governor of Marib, told the Yemen Times that the governorate remains under government authority even following the president's and the Cabinet's resignation two weeks ago. "The tribes are mobilizing their men on their own," he said. "The government has nothing to do with it."

However, Al-Fatimi went on to say that, "In Marib we have about four military brigades which belong to the Ministry of Defense. The brigades will react to any possible attack and defend Marib's residents against any threat."

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One year after arrest in Egypt, Yemeni journalist struggles to move on

■ Ahlam Mohsen

When Fras Shamsan recounts his 36 days in an Egyptian jail, he does so in remarkable detail. The parts he can remember, anyway. There are periods lasting days that he has little to no recollection of, including the beatings and electric shocks he received at the hands of police.

Shamsan was arrested Feb. 1, 2014 while polling and videoing attendants about their book choices at the Cairo Book Fair. Shamsan planned to upload the footage to his arts and culture blog, Fantime.

Shamsan now suffers from depression, as well as a wide-range of medical issues, some of which require surgery.

He said he received permission from the organizers of the book fair, the Egyptian Book Authority under the Ministry of Culture, to video the day's events and to poll attendants.

"After speaking with the woman [from the book authority] on the phone, we met on the first of February. She and the manager of the fair both welcomed me."

One woman told Shamsan she purchased a cookbook. She praised him for taking the time to document the book fair.

"She said, 'I'm so upset with the Egyptian press. They only talk about Sisi and the Muslim Brotherhood.' And then an old lady came up to us and asked, 'Why are you talking about Sisi?'"

Shamsan said she grabbed his arm and accused him of working for Al-Jazeera. Following a lengthy quarrel between the two women, Shamsan said it was him that called the Egyptian police. He willingly went to the police station, thinking he was going to file a complaint against the woman.

Egyptian authorities have severely cracked down on journalists and activists, and Qatar-based news organization Al-Jazeera has been repeatedly targeted by the Egyptian government.

Egypt has accused Qatar and Al-Jazeera of supporting the Muslim



After falling victim to a government crackdown on journalists in Egypt, Fras Shamsan is trying to cope with his past by helping others who face arbitrary detention and abuse.

Brotherhood, which was declared a terrorist organization following the toppling of President Morsi's government in July 2013 by Army General Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi.

Critics of the Egyptian government say the news organization has fallen victim to a political game between the two countries.

Three Al-Jazeera journalists were arrested in December 2013 and sentenced last year to between seven and ten years on various charges, including aiding a terrorist group, a thinly veiled reference to the Muslim Brotherhood. One of the three journalists, Peter Grete, was released on Sunday.

Shamsan was accused of "broadcasting false news and rumors that disturb public peace and security," and, "using a recording device."

"In the police station I was dragged and slapped around. During questioning, if I denied working for Al-Jazeera, they would hit me.

Eventually, out of fear, I signed the interrogation records," Shamsan said.

Shamsan, along with four other men from his cell, were taken to a different cell following a number of altercations with their cellmates.

"We started banging on the door. An officer came—the good one, not the bad one—and asked what was wrong. We were in a cell with criminals and they were trying to rape my Turkish friend, who was 16."

Once inside another cell, Shamsan woke up screaming and crying.

"I didn't understand anything that was happening around me," he said. "I only remember opening my eyes to see I was outside and that there were soldiers around me kicking me. I opened my eyes again sometime later and I couldn't feel my body."

He woke up in a hospital, where he said he was given an injection that made him feel like his insides

were going to explode. He has no idea how long he was there.

He was released on March 4, 2014. Nearly a year later, he still requires a cane to walk, and has put off the knee surgery his doctors told him he urgently needs.

"People tell me I should be happy I got out. I think of my friends who are still in there every day, but I didn't do anything wrong, and I can't just move on and be content that I'm no longer there."

Shamsan wants the Egyptian authorities to acknowledge what happened to him, to apologize and to return his camera, which has footage from humanitarian missions that he valued.

"Of course I don't expect anything. They rape women in those jails, you think they're going to be sorry for beating a man?"

There has been some progress. Shamsan says he can now manage a few hours of sleep every night, though the nightmares still come. He sighs deeply before remembering what sleep was like in jail.

"Have you seen a can of sardines? We were like sardines in a can."

Shamsan said he was one of 35 people in the cell. There were no beds and there was not enough room for everyone to lay down and sleep at once, so they would take shifts.

"If it wasn't your turn to sleep, you would sit and try not to take up too much space."

What happened to Shamsan may have been senseless, but that hasn't stopped him from trying to make sense of it. He says since reflecting on his time in Egypt, he felt that he went to jail in order to know what happens to people.

Shamsan cries when he talks about the friends he made in his Egyptian cell who are still there, and despite the physical and emotional scars he walked away with, he says he is grateful for knowing, and that he doesn't want to look away from what he saw. "I'm trying to find the good in what happened to me," he said, trying to hold back more tears.

His friends and family, well-in-

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mentioned, tell him, "Khalas, forget everything."

"I realized that I went to jail to see what happens to people. I discovered that I have to act," Shamsan said.

He hasn't been able to find any help to recover his physical and mental health. Despite overwhelming support from friends—who started a public campaign to lobby the Egyptian and Yemeni governments for his release—the experience has often left him feeling lonely. Because of this, he wants to start an organization to assist imprisoned journalists and support them when they are released.

He tells a story about a homeless man on the streets in Sana'a. That was once a well-respected journalist, Shamsan said, who went mad in prison. He pulls up a photo on his computer of an old man with a white beard and torn clothes.

"You can see him wandering around the city now, he is a crazy. This shouldn't be the fate of journalists, and we have to support each other. We have to act, we are

under attack from all sides—from the military, from the Houthis."

The prescriptions don't help, he says, but fighting for something bigger does.

"It doesn't feel over. When I walk in the streets, I am afraid. When I am in public places I panic, I'm afraid I will be arrested."

He may be out of Egypt, but arbitrary detention and attacks against journalists and activists is only increasing in Yemen since the Houthi takeover and their consolidation of power following the government's resignation on Jan. 22.

The Houthis have attacked and dispersed anti-Houthi rallies in the capital, beating demonstrators with batons and stabbing at least one protester with a knife. There were 30 attacks against journalists between Jan. 24 and 28, according to the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS).

In Egypt, authorities have by their own accounts detained 22,000 people since July 2013. The actual number of detentions is likely higher, rights groups say.

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ROYAL JORDANIAN Crown



Marib: Mobilized for war



■ Amal Al-Yarisi

Rich in oil and with strong tribal customs, Marib has long posed difficult to control—first by the government, and now by the Houthis. Thousands of armed tribesmen have mobilized to deter any assault on the governorate. Should the Houthis invade, tribesmen have threatened to destroy the oil and electricity pipelines that supply much of Yemen's north with energy.

Marib has given refuge to Al-Qaeda for over decade, a fact the Houthis are using to beat the

drums of war. It has also led the United States to launch drone strikes in the area as far back as 2002—before the Houthis even existed as an armed movement. The most recent US drone strike in the governorate occurred on Jan. 26, 2014, and killed two members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), along with a 13-year old boy.

On Feb. 1 the Yemen Times travelled to Marib and spoke to the family of the child killed last week and to locals who have mobilized against the Houthis.



Pictured are some of the brothers and sisters of Mohammed Saleh Duaayman, the 13-year-old sixth grader killed last week by a US drone strike. It is the family's third loss: Another brother—17 years old at the time—was killed along with their father by a drone strike in October 2011.

According to the eldest sister, whose name is being withheld to protect her identity, Mohammed was travelling from their home in Al-Zoor village to visit his father's second wife at the time of the Jan. 26 drone strike. He was in Wadi Harib when the drone hit the vehicle. Mohammed was travelling with two men who were members of AQAP, a source within the group previously told the Yemen Times. The sister said she is unaware whether the two men were AQAP members or not, but reaffirmed that her brother was innocent and was not a member of the organization.

The sister told the Yemen Times she fears her brothers might join Al-Qaeda because of their anger and lack of support from the government. The oldest sibling—and only one with a job—is 24 years old, while the other 24 siblings do not bring in any income.

The Duaayman family's house has a number of AQAP slogans wsisiter said the family does not support AQAP and that her brothers painted them on their house with the intent of upsetting the government. Al-Qaeda has given material support to their family, but the government has not.

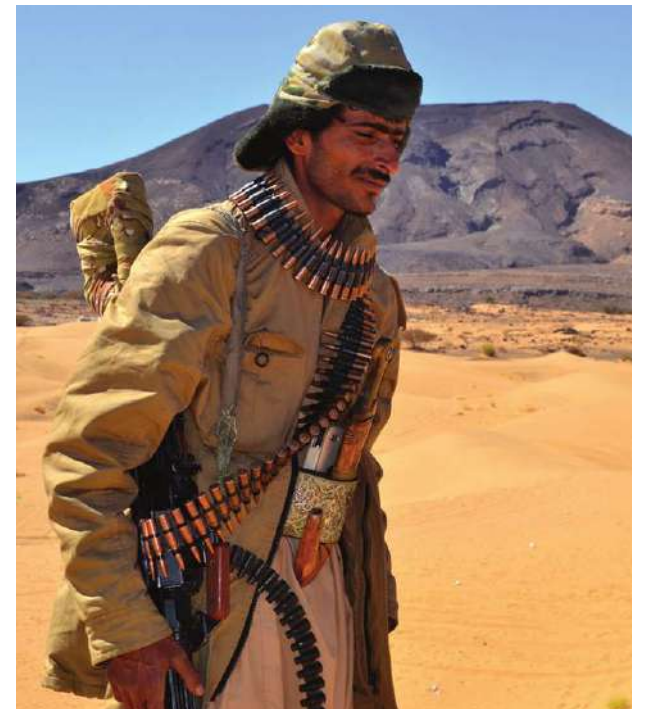
In the same village in Marib, Al-Zoor, there are residents who have lived in the area for generations and are pro-Houthi, openly showing the group's slogan on their houses. They are not fighters for the group, and members of the Duaayman family told the Yemen Times they continue to live peacefully together, despite increased tensions between Marib tribesmen and the Houthis. The Yemen Times was unable to talk to Houthis in the area, as upon encountering one the journalist had a gun pointed at her and was ordered to leave immediately.



Sheikh Hamid Bin Saleh Bin Wuhayt [2nd to left] told the Yemen Times that he and other fighters from his tribe have been stationed in a border area of Marib called Nakhlah and Al-Sahail for about six months, since around the time the Houthis' occupied Amran. He said they will not leave until the Houthis go back to Sa'ada, and confirmed the tribesmen will fight the Houthis should they try and enter the governorate. "We're trying to protect and preserve our governorate," he said. "It concerns all Yemenis. We say to those who signed the [Peace and National] Partnership Agreement, we reject it."



Three military transport vehicles were burned in clashes between the army and tribesmen at the beginning of January on Marib city's main highway. According to Saleh Lanjaf, a sheikh in the Nakhlah and Al-Sahail area, an army battalion headed for Sana'a was coming from Shabwa and there were Houthi slogans on the vehicles. The tribesmen at the checkpoint refused to let them to pass, believing they were reinforcements heading to Sana'a, Lanjaf told the Yemen Times.



When asked about being stationed under the burning sun, this Marib tribesmen said he fears the locals will lose their plentiful resources to the Houthis. Responding to claims by the Houthis that he and other tribesmen are members or supporters of AQAP, he adamantly denied having any affiliation to the group and said there were no such members in the area.



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ALMAZ SPIE
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JOB VACANCIES

Almaz Spie is a Yemeni incorporated company with two industrial shareholders: a reputable Yemeni contractor having offices, workshop and heavy equipment in-country and the UAE registered subsidiary of French Corporation, European leader in services to the industry, looking for qualified persons to fill the position below for her client

Painting Campaign Supervisor :

JOB PURPOSE:

To implement Painting Repair campaigns on all the plant according to inspection report and planning.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Prepare the work of his team, method statement, risk assessment, permit to work, confined space entry
- Lead the Tool box talk for every PTW of his team. Share the target of the day , the risks and the mitigation means associated
- Supervise on site direct and coordinate the activities execution of the maintenance department in the scaffolding, blasting, surface preparation, painting, coating, industrial HP cleaning areas with a view to ensure reliable works of the liquefaction plant equipment.
- Ensure that tools and equipment use are certified and in good condition for use by regular inspection.
- Ensure that personnel is trained and certified.
- Report and advise on integrity of equipment and on required preventive and corrective actions
- Update procedures with a view to applying most recent techniques.
- Supervises the organization and implementation of the necessary tools and resources.
- Carry out specific duties related to the job such as review of documentation, procedures, safety manual and other related documents in the blasting, painting, coating, scaffolding and industrial HP cleaning areas.
- Participates with the Maintenance Services Superintendent in solving technical problems for scaffolding, blasting, painting, coating, and industrial HP cleaning services.
- Ensure that quality is maintained during the execution of the works and verifies that they are in line with Company's specifications and standards.
- Follows-up the surface preparation, painting, coating, and industrial HP cleaning services activities in terms of cost, man-hour, spare parts and consumable consumption and ensures is correctly and adequately reported in the CMMS system.
- Provides information to the Method and Planning engineer for preparation of shutdown schedule with vendors, i.e. frequency, duration, work to be perform, etc.
- Monthly Reviews with contractor's coordinator of the contractor performance

Qualification:

- Painting certificate, NASE level II or equivalent.
- Passive Fire Protection certificate
- Scaffolding certificate, CITB or equivalent..

Job Experience:

- 10 years experience in oil and gas industry or equivalent industrial environment

Location: BALHAF Shabowa _ Rotation – 29 days ON / 27 days OFF (4x4)

Duration/contact: One Year

Proposed Starting Date: As soon as possible

The deadline for receiving the CVs is 18th Feb. 2015

Application Process:

Interested candidates should send their CV and the cover letter in English (indicating clearly the position applied for on the subject line) via email to hr-yemen.sogs@spie.com only the short listed candidates will be contacted



World Food Programme

Programme Alimentaire Mondial

Programa Mundial de Alimentos

برنامج الأغذية العالمي

Business Announcement

Subject: Invitation for Expression of Interest for the Provision of Goods, Services and Food Commodities for WFP-Yemen Vendors.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Yemen seeks Expressions of Interest (EOI) from established companies for the provision of Goods, Services and Food commodities.

Founded in 1963, the World Food Programme (WFP) is the United Nations frontline agency in the fight against hunger. WFP pursues a vision of the world in which every woman, man and child has access at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life.

Globally WFP staff work in 74 countries. WFP has been present in Yemen with its country office in Sana'a and other governorates since 1967.

In 2014 WFP food, goods & services purchases for Yemen went up to about US50.00 million in addition to in kind food assistance to about 5 million People.

Interested companies are encouraged to ask for the Supplier's Registration Form & the Questionnaire by sending their Expression of Interest to the email address: yemen.procurement@wfp.org. The completed Supplier's Registration Form and Questionnaire including all supporting documentation should be returned to WFP by [26th Feb, 2015], at [14:00] hrs. if your company wishes to be invited for 2015 tenders.

Interested Suppliers which have already registered with WFP are also requested to complete and re-submit the Supplier's Registration Form and the Questionnaire. Completed Supplier Registration Form & Questionnaire with supporting documentation may also returned in a sealed envelopes addressed as follows:

EOI#YEM15EOI001
Attn.: Procurement Unit
United Nations World Food Programme
Nowakshot St.
P.O. Box: 7181
Sana'a, Yemen

Any enquiries regarding this EOI must be addressed to: yemen.procurement@wfp.org

إعلان تجاري

الموضوع: دعوة لإبداء الرغبة لتوفير السلع الغذائية والغير غذائية والخدمات لبرنامج الأغذية العالمي للأمم المتحدة في اليمن.

برنامج الأغذية العالمي هو أكبر منظمة للإغاثة الإنسانية تُعنى بمكافحة الجوع في جميع أنحاء العالم. منذ نشأته في عام ١٩٦٣، يتبنى البرنامج رؤية تجارة العالم يتمكن من خلالها كل رجل وامرأة وطفل في كل وقت من الحصول على الغذاء اللازم لحياة نشطة وصحية. ونحن نعمل على تحقيق هذه الرؤية مع وكالات الأمم المتحدة الأخرى. وعلى الصعيد العالمي يعمل برنامج الأغذية العالمي في ٧٤ بلداً، وقد بدأ البرنامج العمل في اليمن من خلال المكتب الاقليمي في صنعاء والمحافظات الأخرى منذ عام ١٩٦٧.

في عام ٢٠١٤ بلغت مشتريات برنامج الأغذية العالمي للسلع الغذائية والغير غذائية والخدمات حوالي خمسين مليون دولار أمريكي، حيث وصلت المساعدات الغذائية المقدمة من البرنامج في اليمن الى حوالي ٥ مليون مستفيد. ومن أجل المشاركة في دعوات المناقصات لعام ٢٠١٥ فإن البرنامج يشجع الشركات المهتمة من خلال هذه الدعوة وطلب نموذج استمارة التسجيل مع الاستبيان وذلك عن طريق إبداء الرغبة في رسالة إلى عنوان البريد الإلكتروني: yemen.procurement@wfp.org. يجب إعادة استمارة التسجيل مع الاستبيان المعبئة معتمدة، بما في ذلك جميع الوثائق الداعمة الى برنامج الأغذية العالمي خلال مدة أقصاها الساعة (١٤:٠٠) تاريخ (٢٦ فبراير ٢٠١٥).

كما يشجع البرنامج الموردين المسجلين حالياً مع برنامج الأغذية العالمي أيضاً لاستكمال وإعادة تقديم استمارة التسجيل والاستبيان مع تحديث الوثائق الداعمة. يمكن إعادة نموذج التسجيل والاستبيان المكتمل مع الوثائق الداعمة في ظرف مغلق ومختتم علي العنوان التالي: :

EOI#YEM15EOI001

عناية: وحدة المشتريات
برنامج الأغذية العالمي للأمم المتحدة
شارع نواكشوط
صندوق بريد: ٧١٨١
صنعاء، اليمن

أي استفسارات بهذا الخصوص يجب أن تكون موجهة إلى البريد الإلكتروني: yemen.procurement@wfp.org

CBY economic researcher to the Yemen Times:

“I want to tell Yemenis not to despair”

It is no secret Yemen's economy is in tatters. The country's oil supply is being held hostage by groups with different demands: Local development projects, the release of prisoners, and for the Houthis to stay out of Marib, among other things. The education sector is struggling to prepare young adults for the work force and classes are constantly being disrupted due to fighting. Investments are being driven out of the country due to the volatile political environment.

Ahmed Saeed Shamakh, an economic researcher for the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY), spoke to the Yemen Times about these issues and why he remains confident they can be overcome.



■ Interview by **Khalid Alkarimi**

How do you evaluate the economic situation in Yemen?

The economic situation is being exacerbated year by year, month by month, and day by day, and it is really difficult to address because of growing insecurity in the country. Donors are also reluctant to provide aid to the Yemeni government because there is a lack of trust. It is critical to stabilize the security and political situation before anything can be done. It will require consensus amongst political elites because the country faces serious challenges in several areas that are interconnected—social, economic and security issues.

We have witnessed a significant

deterioration in the livelihood of Yemeni families. Prices can increase on a daily basis, while poverty and unemployment have been on the rise, particularly following the so-called revolution in 2011. Thousands of employees became redundant, especially in the private sector, due to insecurity, political conflicts, and the absence of the state. Social and political rifts continue and there is significant regional interference, and I think the majority of Yemen's decisions are no longer in the hands of Yemenis. A lack of security and political stability has caused a lot of investment to move out of the country, too.

Some in local media have reported that the state will not

be able to pay the salaries of government employees in the coming months. Do you think this could happen?

Indeed, there is a large decrease in the state's taxation and customs revenues. There is also a drop in electricity and water revenues, which citizens are expected to pay to the government. A large portion of this money goes to corrupt people, and little makes it into the state budget. Of course, the state pays the employees' salaries through means other than oil revenue. Though Yemen exports oil, there has been a decrease in exports. As a result, the state resorts to internal debt, the treasury bill for instance, to overcome the budget deficiency. This is an example of one thing the state

depends on to pay the salaries of civil servants, and it's not sustainable.

The Yemeni government, represented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, signed in November a memorandum of understanding with the private sector. How will this positively affect the national economy?

In my opinion, the private sector is currently very fragile. The state should support the private sector and give it space for investment. But how can the private sector take part in the development process if the government is competing against it? The state is competing against the private sector through treasury bills, for example, which have reached approximately YR3.3 trillion (about \$13.9 billion) in government investments. This money ought to be invested in private sector industries, given that Yemen is struggling with unemployment. Private sector development has helped strengthen economic growth in numerous developing countries, such as India, Korea, and Singapore, to name a few.

Rather than helping the economy and addressing unemployment, the output of private and public education is creating a burden for the government. At the same time, these [government] employees are not productive, so the output of education should keep up-to-date with the labor market. There should be community colleges and technological institutes because the skilled workforce will compete and improve the future and strengthen the economy. This skilled workforce could be also marketed abroad.

How can the national currency be stabilized during this tough economic situation?

The Central Bank of Yemen has managed to prevent speculation and has created a balance between supply and demand. There has also been effective monitoring of banks and exchange companies, and this has played a large role in maintaining a stable currency. In spite of the armed conflicts since 2011, the national currency remains stable. Another factor is that the Central Bank of Yemen funded Aden Refineries to purchase fuel [from abroad] because of attacks on oil pipelines. Moreover, remittance payments from Yemeni expats have helped stabilize the currency.

How do attacks on electricity and oil lines affect the national economy?

The economy has received a big blow, and there has been a decrease in production, particularly in the export sector. Oil production used to make up 75 percent of Yemen's exports and provided the public budget with hard currency. De-

creased production is the result of attacks on the electricity and gas pipelines. I blame the state for not protecting these facilities. It is in the absence of the state fulfilling its role that such attacks occur. Yemen loses about three billion dollars per year because of attacks on oil and gas pipelines and electricity towers. This negatively affects the public budget of the state, making it resort to international loans and aid in order to meet its citizens' most basic needs.

You have said Yemen's economy is fragile. Is it because of a lack of natural resources or the absence of wise economic policies?

I think it is inaccurate to say that Yemen has no resources. The core problem in Yemen is the management of the country's resources. These resources are not handled efficiently, and many of the revenues aren't monitored and end up in the pockets of corrupt officials. Monitoring authorities exist, but they have proven ineffective. Those working in these authorities have a marginal role and receive fairly high salaries themselves.

Yemen has a range of resources that are not being exploited to their full potential. We have oil and gas, and if the state were to invest in the production of petrochemicals [chemical products derived from petroleum], the price of one barrel would be \$4,500, at least. The production process is costly, it's true, but there is still a benefit. Yemen also has 2,500 kilometers of coastline and numerous islands in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. There are 450 sea animals and creatures in Yemen's territorial waters, but only 65 of these animals are being exploited. It is thought that this sector is the biggest economic resource after gas and oil. We have agriculture, as well as growing human resources—with quality education and training, they could be marketed abroad. We are the 160th member of the World Trade Organization, and Yemen should benefit from this. We don't have to rely on oil to have a strong economy.

As an economist, in your opinion what urgent procedures should decision-makers take in order to avoid further economic deterioration?

There need to be long and short-term strategies. Short-term strategies is must involve an effort to establish stability and security, and to restore the authority of the state. Also, the state should protect the oil facilities, and this is a short-term strategy. In addition, we should focus on the resources we have in order to improve [national] income. The government should be serious in absorbing aid from donor countries. We should be clear and honest when dealing with the foreign aid

that donors pledged.

Why do you think the donors have not fulfilled their pledges to Yemen?

I think the donors are worried about the situation in Yemen. It is also a means to put pressure on the political elites to reconcile their differences. Otherwise, how would the aid be absorbed? Most aid would not be devoted to the economic and development projects it's intended for. The government should regain the trust of international donors, and it should have strong strategies in place with the help of local communities.

How do you describe the investment environment in Yemen?

The security and economic situation is not stable, and investments can not thrive in such an environment. Investors come to a stable environment where they know their rights will be guaranteed and they can be confident of a return on their investment. Now, there is no talk about investment in Yemen. The talk is about how Yemenis can subsist. The problem in Yemen lies with the political elites that have caused this national crisis. If natural resources were appropriately managed, Yemeni citizens would be better off than their gulf counterparts.

The government and the president both resigned. What does this mean for Yemen's future?

It has caused the situation to deteriorate even further. But in spite of that we should remain optimistic. We should not make people disappointed and frustrated. The government was really good, and we had high hopes for it. It was better than the previous governments. The few days to come will clarify every thing.

How does the Houthi group affect the national economy?

Any militant group which uses violence triggers panic among citizens, businessmen, investors, and employees. Such consequences affect the national economy, without doubt. God willing, Yemenis will overcome this situation.

What is your final word?

I want to tell Yemenis not to despair because after difficulty there is relief. Yemen is promising, and it will not continue living under such hard circumstances forever. Also, I want to say we should not depend on foreign aid from international banks and institutions. We should build strong relations with foreign countries in order to help us take advantage of our resources. We do not want charity. We want them to help us in the scientific and technological fields and to train Yemenis. Yemen is rich with national resources, and not just oil.

Senior Communications Officer (Social Fund for Development «SFD»)

Job Summary

Working as a member of the Monitoring and Evaluation Team, and under the supervision of the Unit Head (UH), the Senior Communications Officer:

Primary Duties or Responsibilities

- 1) Works with the SFD's management to define overall communication objectives and draft an annual plan based on SFD's targeted audiences' needs.
- 2) Communicates with SFD various units and branches to solicit communication materials and messages.
- 3) Maintains a list of SFD's upcoming, current and completed activities to keep the SFD's website and communication materials updated.
- 4) Co-ordinates, writes and manages the design, editing, printing and dissemination of promotional materials such as press releases, brochures, reports, newsletters and others.
- 5) Participates in producing SFD's Annual Report.
- 6) Disseminates SFD news to its audiences via various media channels including social media, website, exhibitions, workshops and others.
- 7) In consultation with SFD management, coordinates SFD's presence at exhibitions; identifies suitable opportunities and represents SFD as necessary.
- 8) Develops and maintains relationships with specialized media.
- 9) Establishes monitoring mechanisms to ensure that dissemination channels are reaching their identified target audiences.
- 10) Keeps SFD up to date with current developments within the key development activities.
- 11) Networks and shares knowledge with media and Information Officers and other counterparts in the country; creates opportunities for dissemination in newsletters, web sites, discussion lists, etc.; follows up on media requests and occasionally collaborates with partners to fill content gaps in the subject areas relevant to SFD stakeholders.

Education

1. University degree in Communications, Public Relations, Journalism or equivalent.
2. At least 5 years working experience in development agencies
3. Excellent academic record.
4. Good communication skills in both English and Arabic.
5. Edits and rewrites materials for different audiences.
6. Understands and applies communication and advocacy techniques including websites and social media.
7. Good command in Microsoft Office applications.

Acceptable candidates have to pass an English written exam before being shortlisted to the interview.

Interested candidates should mention the post title in the subject line and submit their application by email to: hr@sfd-yemen.org before February 14, 2015. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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المركز الرئيسي: صنعاء شارع الستين الجنوبي - جولة المرور
تلفون: ٠١/٦٠٦٠٧٣، ٠١/٦٠٦٠٧٣، باب اليمن ٠١/٢٩٧٤٧٤، موبيل: ٧٧٧٦٠٦٠٢٤

Job Seekers

▶ Indian, with 20 years experience in commercial correspondence and executive secretary, well versed in correspondence and all office routines, seeking immediate suitable placement. 733767686, nmdevan2003@yahoo.co.in

▶ Male, holds master degree in English and ICDL in computer, 6 year experience in teaching, available as a tutor or for any job that requires English. 77758466,

736974711.

- ▶ Nashwan Hasan, BA Accountant, 7 years experience, seeks to work in an organization where English is essential. 771580509, 777228719
- ▶ OSHA certified, with 20 years Gulf exp. in oil & gas, variety of HSE, safety fields, including fire fighting, health and safety, 2 years Gulf exp. in construction. jmsalem@yahoo.com
- ▶ Teacher of math, physics and chemistry in English seeks work at school. 735694439
- ▶ Male, bachelor's degree in English language,

diploma in marketing & computer science, experienced as an operations officer, treasurer and teacher. Looking for any job that requires English. 777004207

- ▶ Female, BA in Arabic literature, very good written and spoken French/English, seeks work as a babysitter for a foreign family (Aden or Taiz). 737168816

Job vacancies

- ▶ Rainbow School is requesting female teachers for Arabic, English and Maths, with no less than 3 years experience, to teach elementary grades. Fluent and non-accented English language is required. Contact: 733811430, 733406194. Email: emma5565@yahoo.com
- ▶ Required, experienced housemaid to work in

Sana'a. She must be able to speak English. Send an email to ccaruso87@yahoo.com, mention your full name, nationality, contact telephone, and how long you have been in Yemen.

- ▶ A Yemeni government body wishes to hire a full time media and PR person. Candidates must have experience in working with the media and presenting the authority in public. English is favorable. Applicants must send their CVs and cover letter to yasinsaif@gmail.com

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- ▶ **For Sale:** Galaxy 3 Sprint phones, brand new from USA for \$200 or best offer. 773691845
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The path to reform in Bahrain

By Ali Alaswad
LSE Middle East Centre Blog
First published Jan. 27

On a political level Bahrain's 2014 parliamentary elections were meaningless. Less than half of the local population voted in an ineffectual and unconvincing new parliament that continues to have no real power. Yet, its significance as a marker for the authorities in Bahrain to abandon any pretense of reform, and move directly into a security confrontation, can not be underestimated.

The elections of last November could not have come soon enough for Bahrain's power yielding hardliners. For at least two years, there was a growing feeling that a key strategy of the leadership was to

delay any substantive reform program, and wait for the election to be over. Thereby using the election as a show of reform and openness to appease the international community, but without ever having to make any solid changes.

Worryingly the strategy seems to have worked, with international governments showing support for the electoral process, including the UK ambassador visiting polling stations and the embassy's twitter account live tweeting throughout the day. The plan to portray the opposition as "rejectionists" and rally their international allies around this notion was a clever one. For the alternative would have been an equally limited choice for the opposition, being forced to rejoin a parliament we had resigned from, yet remaining as weak as the day we left.

With the new parliament only

days previously sworn in and confident from their newfound international backing, the Bahraini authorities began a fresh wave of repression in an attempt to crush dissent once and for all. For the first real time since the uprising of 2011 began our society, Al-Wefaq, has come under direct attack. This began at the end of October with the announced three-month suspension of Al Wefaq, although this was later overturned, the threat of suspension or shutting down altogether remains. At the end of 2014 Sheikh Ali Salman, Al-Wefaq's secretary general, was arrested and will stand trial at the end of this month, whilst the leader of Al-Wefaq's Shura Council, Sayed Jameel Kadhem, was sentenced to six months in prison for a tweet.

There is no coincidence between this aggressive targeting of Al-Wefaq and the end of the elections. It is more than simply a punishment for boycotting the vote, it is the culmination of a long-term strategy to first ride-out the protests and then crush them.

Yet, it is not all plain sailing for the authorities, with the attacks on Al-Wefaq stirring renewed protest. Sheikh Ali Salman is an immensely popular leader and the response from the local community has been uproar. Regular protests have taken on a fresh impetus and the people of Bahrain are

refusing to be silenced.

This leaves Bahrain in a continued state of instability and what the democracy-seeking people of Bahrain have proven is that they will not stop demanding their rights until they are achieved. The three-month period of martial law in 2011 failed to crush this movement, and any renewed attempts at repressing its way out of the crisis will prove unfruitful for Bahrain's authorities.

The only possible path towards stability is a genuine and clear reform proposal, leading towards a real constitutional monarchy and delivered in partnership with the opposition. This needs to be understood unequivocally by all sections of the Bahraini ruling family, but also its international allies.

Getting behind a reform program can deliver the stability for Bahrain that is so necessary in this time of upheaval across the region. Repression is not the answer and if Bahrain continues its post-election attacks on Al-Wefaq, the likelihood is a perpetual crisis with no end in sight. It is never too late, though, and it must start with the immediate release of Sheikh Ali Salman and the introduction of a real political negotiation for the future of the nation.

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Ali Alaswad is a member of Al Wefaq National Islamic Society and a former MP. He resigned from parliament in February 2011, along with his 17 other colleagues in protest at the crackdown against democracy demonstrations. He left Bahrain during the period of martial law after threats were made against him. He currently resides in London, with his family, where he continues his efforts to advocate democratic change in Bahrain.

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