

Pro-government tribes block Sana'a-Hodeida Road

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A May 18- Armed tribesmen loyal to the Saleh government in Bait Ghawbr, 60 km west of the capital Sana'a, have closed the Sana'a-Hodeida road Wednesday morning amidst ongoing nationwide popular uprisings demanding an end to President Saleh's 33-year rule.

The 226km-long Sana'a-Hodeida road is a vital commercial and service thoroughfare for the capital Sana'a. All goods shipped to the port, including basic goods such as wheat, sugar and rice must be taken to Sana'a by way of the Sana'a - Hodeida road. With this major highway blocked, the capital is cut off from vital imports offloaded in Hodeida's ports.

"Now all vehicles travelling to Sana'a from Hodeida are turned back when they reach Bait Ghawbr. People traveling from Sana'a to Hodeida also are turned back at this point," said one local source.

The closure of the road in Bait Ghawbr, located in the Haima district, comes with increasing tension in the area between pro- and anti-Saleh tribesmen. Tribesmen in this area, a place known as a popular weapons dealing location, are heavily armed with small arms, machine guns, and heavier weapons.

A source in the area explained to the Yemen Times on Wednesday that the pro-Saleh tribesmen closed the road on Wednesday after another group of pro-Saleh tribesmen have failed to take control of a military base in the Bani Mater district, 35 km west of the capital Sana'a belongs to the First Armored Division last Friday.

Other tribesmen from the district who support the popular uprisings demanding an end to Saleh's 33-year rule were involved in the attack and fought against the armed assailants. Both sides exchanged fire using Kalashnikovs and machine guns, a local citizen told the Yemen Times.

The clashes left three dead, two from pro-Saleh tribal group and one from anti-government tribal group as well. Many others were injured in the fighting. No soldiers were harmed in the fighting, according to Al-Sayed.

Kamal Al-Sallami, a local journalist, told the Yemen Times that the Republican Guards under the leadership of Saleh's son seized a military site from the defected army in the same area over one month ago urged pro-regime tribesmen in Bani Mater to attack a base belonging to defected general Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar.

This is the second attempt by Saleh's son to occupy a military base run by the defected General Al-Ahmar after



Violence among Yemen's tribes, rebel military, and loyalist forces have increased in rural areas in the past two weeks across Yemen

his troops succeeded one month and half ago in seizing control of the Al-Manar military 1.5 km from the newly attacked camp known as Al-Qarn, according to Al-Sallami.

On Friday, Saleh addressed thousands of his supporters who gather every Friday from all around Yemen in front of his palace saying "We will face a challenge with a challenge."

Saleh described his opponents in Friday's speech as "bandits" and "Saboteurs" inciting his supporters to stand with him against the opposition in "every village, city and road."

Similarly, the state-run Saba news agency reported on Saturday that six soldiers from the Central Security Forces which is being led by Saleh's nephew were killed in the morning of the same day in Rada'a of Al-Baida governorate, 268 km to the south east of the capital Sana'a.

Dr. Mohamed Al-Qadi, a political analyst, told the Yemen Times that, "The regime is trying to trap protesters into fighting by creating problems with the defected army in order to end the peaceful stance of the youth-led revolution."

"The peace centered revolution has been annoying the regime as tribesmen have left their weapons at home and protest with the youth. That is the thing the regime does not like," he said.

JMP "optimistic" that Saleh will sign GCC power transfer deal

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, May 18 — Mohamed Salem Basandwa, chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the National Dialogue Committee, has expressed optimism that the GCC initiative for a transfer of power will be signed by President Saleh

and the JMP on Wednesday, 18 May.

"The regime has demanded that I cannot sign on behalf of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP). That does not matter me but the decision is in the hand of the JMP," said Basandwa to the Yemen Times.

"Leaders of the JMP will meet on

Wednesday morning and will make the right decision, I feel. I'm optimistic that the signing of the initiative will take place Wednesday evening," he added

Mohamed Qahtan, spokesperson of the JMP stated that their parties initially would not accept the GCC initiative to end Yemen's crisis following amendments made by Saleh and presented by the Secretary General of the GCC Dr. Abdulateef Al-Zayani on Wednesday.

The UAE's Ethad newspaper quoted Qahtan on Wednesday saying, "The opposition is ready to sign the initiative if Saleh signs it himself with his presidential title."

The JMP coalition and its partners announced last Monday their refusal to sign the initiative.

"There is an obstacle deterring the success of the initiative. The JMP demands that Basandwa must sign as he is the chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the National Dialogue," said one source close to negotiations over the deal.

Other sources explained that Basandwa has called for an urgent meeting of the JMP on Wednesday morning to discuss the recent development that took place in the late hours of Tuesday night, convincing President Saleh not to sign the deal.

After this meeting, it was decided that the signing of the initiative will take place on Wednesday evening by Saleh



Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh (R) meets with visiting Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Abdulatif bin Rashid al-Zayani (2nd L) in Sanaa, Yemen, April 21, 2011. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Thursday accepted the Gulf-mediated initiative, which stipulated him to announce resignation within 30 days, but his ruling party insisted to keep Saleh as "honorary president" for five months after he transferred power, a senior government official told Xinhua.

and the opposition in Sana'a, accompanied by numerous ambassadors, among them ambassadors from the US, Britain,

France, Germany and Gulf States who will also sign as witnesses.

Similarly, the capital Sana'a wit-

nessed on Tuesday evening diplomatic action by the US and the Gulf States aimed to push the GCC initiative into practice after Saleh has signed it.

A well informed source said that a meeting between the US ambassador to Yemen, Gerald Feierstein and the General Secretary of the GCC, Dr. Al-Zayani took place for the two men to discuss means to ratchet up the pressure on Saleh to sign the deal.

Local media outlets reported that the US ambassador informed Saleh on Tuesday that signing the initiative will be his last chance for a "honorable exit"

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New parliamentary coalition to support revolution



By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, May. 18— A new parliamentary coalition including more than 100 Yemeni MPs was founded last Monday in Sana'a with the aim of supporting pro-democracy protesters who demand president Saleh's ouster.

The coalition was established with the aim of uniting MPs' efforts to achieve desired change. It also aims to coordinate with other Yemeni coalitions and organizations, in addition to communicating with Arab and international parliaments and organizations to help Yemenis' aspiration.

MP Dr. Abdulbari Dughhaish, head of the coalition, said during the launch of the coalition that no one denies the importance of change in Yemen, including the regime itself.

"There is no choice for the regime except its acceptance of change," said Dughhaish.

"There is an impasse in a political

horizon and our dialogue with the state has turned to dialogue with the deaf," he said. "The role of the state was insignificant before the revolution but now it is simply absent."

Dughhaish said that president Saleh has failed in his attempts to drag Yemen into a civil war. "This regime constitutes a danger to peace and dignity. His departure will bring stability to Yemen as well as the region as a whole."

"President Saleh lost many opportunities to solve Yemen's crises. Instead of meeting the demands of the people, he resorted to crackdowns and sent his military machine to fight his own people," said Dughhaish.

MP Ali Al-Ansi told the Yemen Times that the parliamentary coalition will contribute effectively to the Yemeni revolution.

"This coalition brings together all independent and partisan MPs. The coalition will also invite some MPs from the ruling party to join," he said.

Al-Ansi indicated that the coalition's vision is different from the vision of most political parties.

"The coalition brings together several political entities, not just parties," he said. "We expect that some MPs from the ruling party will join us soon."

Al-Ansi said that MPs from the ruling party can join the coalition without resigning from their party.

"It's time for peaceful change to be achieved," said Al-Ansi.

Horiya Mash'hoor, who resigned from the ruling party last month in protest against crackdowns of peaceful anti-government protesters, said that Yemeni revolution is simply the byproduct of accumulated injustices and the marginalization of the people.

"Yemen's challenges and crises are worse than those of Egypt and Tunisia. Our revolution didn't come as an imitation of Egypt and Tunisia's revolutions. Our revolution started after accumulated crises," she said.

Timeline of Yemen protests from 5 April



SANA'A, 17 May 2011 (IRIN) - Several hundred people have been killed or injured since the start of a nationwide revolt against the 32-year rule of President Ali Abdullah Saleh in the first week of February 2011. Below is a timeline of key events from 5 April to the present:

5 April: Three killed and more than 400 injured in renewed clashes between thousands of protesters and police in Sana'a and Taiz.

6 April: Tens of thousands of demonstrators besiege Taiz Governorate's administrative HQ in protest against the firing of live rounds at them the previous day. Fifteen activists arrested in Aden following clashes with the police.

8 April: Hundreds of thousands of protesters take to the streets in about 15 of Yemen's 21 governorates on a day the protesters call "Friday of Determination".

10 April: Four killed, 43 injured in clashes between protesters and riot police in Taiz. Some 500 protesters taken ill after inhaling tear gas.

11 April: Saleh announces his acceptance of a 30-day exit plan offered by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states. The plan anticipates Saleh handing power to his vice-president in exchange for giving him and his family immunity from prosecution.

12 April: Hundreds of thousands of people take to the streets of main cities to protest against the GCC proposals.

13 April: Five soldiers killed, four injured in clashes between the First Armoured Division, which defected from Yemen's army, and government troops. Two protesters killed in Aden.

15 April: Hundreds of thousands of protesters go onto the streets in about 17 governorates on what they call "Friday of Tolerance". Some 13 protesters injured in Taiz.

17 April: GCC foreign ministers meet Yemeni opposition in the Saudi capital, Riyadh. Two protesters killed, 45 others injured in Sana'a. "Ambu-

lances taking injured protesters were attacked by pro-government thugs and their staff injured," Mohammed al-Qubati, deputy manager of the field hospital at the Sana'a University protest site, told IRIN.

21 April: Fifteen people, including 13 soldiers, killed in clashes between a contingent of the Republican Guards, led by Saleh's eldest son Ahmad, and armed tribesmen in the southern governorate of Lahj. "The clashes erupted after tribesmen moved to drive a Republican Guard contingent from a strategic position in their area," Mohammed al-Khalidi, a tribal sheikh, told IRIN from Lahj Governorate.

22 April: Hundreds of thousands of protesters take to the streets of main cities on what they call "Last Chance Friday". The president's supporters rally in the Sabeen area of Sana'a. Ten Republican Guards killed in an ambush by armed tribesmen in Marib Governorate.

27 April: At least seven killed and more than 100 injured in clashes between protesters and government supporters as the former advanced towards the state TV building in Sana'a.

29 April: Hundreds of thousands demonstrate in 17 of Yemen's 21 governorates on what they call the "Friday of Loyalty with Martyrs". Saleh dismisses Attorney-General Abdullah al-Ulifi for demanding there be an investigation into the former's relatives who lead the Republican Guards, Presidential Guards and central security forces, over the killing of 52 protesters on 18 March.

4 May: Tens of thousands of people in Sana'a, Taiz, Hodeidah, Ibb, Dhamar and other cities demonstrate against the government's bombing of Yafea District, Lahj Governorate. The government accuses the opposition of cutting off the tongue of a poet loyal to Saleh.

5 May: Tens of thousands of people demonstrate in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Ibb to press Saleh to step down. Protesters announce that 7 and

11 May are to be days of civil disobedience.

6 May: Hundreds of thousands demonstrate in almost all Yemeni governorates on what they call "Friday of Loyalty with People of the South" who were bombed from the air. Speaking to his supporters in Saneen area, Saleh vows to crack down on what he called "opposition-backed bandits" who hit oil pipelines and a power plant in Marib Governorate.

8 May: Three protesters killed, 20 injured in clashes with riot police in Taiz and Hodeidah governorates.

9 May: "Revolution youth" close government offices in Ibb, Taiz and Hodeidah. Four killed, more than 100 injured in Taiz after government troops try to disperse protesters besieging government offices in the city.

11 May: Twelve killed, more than 150 injured as thousands of protesters advance towards the Council of Ministers' building in Sana'a. Another eight killed in Taiz, Hodeidah and Ibb.

13 May: Three protesters killed by police in Ibb city as hundreds of thousands take to streets in almost all Yemeni governorates on what they call "Friday of Decisiveness". Speaking to his supporters rallying in the Sabeen area on what they called "Friday of Unity", Saleh says: "We will encounter defiance with stronger defiance." He urges loyalists to align with the army and security forces in defending government institutions. Clashes between the First Armoured Division and Republican Guards in Ban Matar District, 40km west of Sana'a, leaving three soldiers dead.

14 May: Five Republican Guard soldiers killed in an ambush by tribesmen in Marib Governorate, 180km east of Sana'a. Six members of the government security forces killed in Rada city, Beida Governorate, 150km southeast of Sana'a when armed tribesmen attack a security checkpoint at the city's eastern entrance.

Yemen MSF ambulance hit by stray bullet

Report— MSF

SANA'A/LONDON, MAY 13, 2011 — Amidst heavy clashes on Wednesday, 11 May, in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) ambulance being used to transport patients to surgical facilities throughout the day was struck by a stray bullet.

Clashes between pro-government forces and demonstrators led to intense fighting near Kuwait Hospital, as protesters attempted to march to the former prime minister's office. Throughout the afternoon MSF ambulances referred close to 30 severely wounded people in need of surgical care from the scene of the clashes to hospitals and private clinics. The vast majority of patients suffered gunshot wounds. At least one of those people died.

At around 10:30 PM, as one of the

MSF ambulances approached the conflict zone, the vehicle was hit by a stray bullet. There were no casualties among medical staff on board.

"The bullet entered through the back window," said Dr. Vipul Chowdhary, MSF's representative in Yemen. "Luckily, no patients were inside the vehicle at the time and the driver and nurse who were inside were not harmed. MSF reminds all parties of the absolute need to respect humanitarian medical work and staff in Sana'a and the rest of the country."

On Wednesday, MSF teams visited medical facilities in Sana'a, including public hospitals, private clinics, and health centers set up by demonstrators in order to assess needs and provide medical support. MSF continues to support a private clinic with donations of medical materials and drugs. Four-

teen severely wounded people underwent surgery in the clinic yesterday.

Since the beginning of unrest, MSF teams have been intervening in Sana'a, Taiz, and Aden to help medical facilities cope with the influx of wounded people. MSF is donating medical materials and drugs, providing training to Yemeni medical staff, and offering additional ambulances to refer severely wounded people to surgical facilities. In Taiz, where heavy clashes have also occurred over recent days, MSF ambulances referred eight people with severe gunshot wounds between Sunday evening and Monday morning, among whom five died.

In addition, MSF continues to operate regular medical programs in Sa'ada, Hajjah, Amran, Aden and Lahj governorates, as well as in the city of Sana'a.

"This initiative is the last chance, this is it. It is from the GCC, but it is supported regionally and internationally," added the source.

"The opposition received confirmed information that Saleh has agreed to step down in exchange for judiciary immunity in the GCC initiative," said Hassan Zaid, secretary general of Islamic Haq opposition party and prominent JMP figure.

"Saleh will not dare to maneuver or escape from signing this time. If he does so, he is going to be the first loser in this crisis. We hope Saleh promptly signs the initiative."

A spokesperson of the youth revolution in Sana'a said that the GCC general secretary informed revolutionaries during a meeting with Al-Zayani on Tuesday that his visit to Yemen is an effort to inform all parties involved that this is the last

chance for any of them to sign the initiative.

A number of youth revolutionaries met Al-Zayani in Sana'a after receiving an invitation from him. During the meeting the youth requested Al-Zayani to stand clearly with the Yemeni people's choice in toppling the regime. They also demanded that the GCC should not allow for Saleh to commit more massacres.

In a related topic, a well-informed source said that Saleh has requested that signing of the initiative to be on May 22nd and with two titles "president of the GPC" and "president of Yemen".

Saleh has also stipulated that following the signing, a delegation from the GPC and another delegation from the JMP must go to Riyadh to discuss practical mechanisms to implement the initiative.

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JMP "optimistic" that Saleh will sign GCC power transfer deal

Other sources close to the negotiations informed the Yemen Times that, "Al-Zayani presented a final counter-offer to the JMP that was laid out by Saleh and included the change of the initiative from an agreement between the GPC and the JMP into an agreement between the government of the GPC and the opposition known as the JMP."

The latest amendments to the agreement state that Saleh must

sign as a president of Yemen and Dr. Yaseen Saeed Noman must sign as head of the JMP coalition to replace Basandwa who is chairman of the preparatory committee.

A source from the GCC was quoted by the AFP as saying, "This is the last chance for the GCC initiative to succeed in solving Yemen's crisis. This is Saleh's last chance - he must take it or leave it."

يولد جميع الناس أحراراً
متساوين في الكرامة
والحقوق، وقد وهبوا عقلاً
وضميراً وعليهم أن يعاملوا
بعضهم بعضاً بروح الإخاء.

'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.'

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 1

SKETCHED OPINION

By: Carlos Latuff



Yemen is the next big battleground

By: John Kiriakou
for the Huffington Post

Osama bin Laden is dead and Americans are rightfully taking a victory lap. But the greatest threat to the nation's safety and security over the past five years has not been from bin Laden's al-Qaeda, dug into Afghanistan and Pakistan. It's been from a Yemen-based offshoot called al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

Remember Afghanistan on September 10, 2001? Today's Yemen is worse. AQAP is holed up in the roughest part of a failing state with a collapsing central government, a non-existent economy and an anti-American population, a huge number of whom are wasted every day on qat, a narcotic leaf that is the crop of choice in the country. Clean water is running out, the birthrate is among the highest in the world and more than half the population is illiterate. It's enough to make Afghanistan look inviting.

AQAP came out of the remnants of al-Qaeda in Iraq. Its leaders, mostly Saudis and Yemenis, went to Saudi Arabia, but were driven out when Riyadh finally got serious about fighting its own chickens-home-to-roost terrorism. Since then, the group has launched several deadly attacks.

In 2008, AQAP militants attacked the US Embassy in Sana'a, killing 11 people. In 2009, a senior AQAP operative offered to surren-

der to Saudi authorities, requesting a meeting with Saudi counterterrorism czar Prince Muhammad bin Nayif Al Saud. Muhammad agreed to the meeting and flew the terrorist to Saudi Arabia on his private jet, only to have the man detonate homemade plastic explosives hidden in his underwear. Muhammad was seriously injured. A year later, Nigerian student Omar Farouk Abdulmutallab sewed a similar bomb into his underwear and tried to blow up a Northwest Airlines flight as it arrived in Detroit on Christmas Day. Late last year, AQAP tried to send bombs concealed in emptied toner cartridges to addresses in the U.S. via UPS and Federal Express, successfully getting them into aircraft cargo holds.

To make matters worse, as many as 36 American ex-convicts who converted to Islam in U.S. prisons went to Yemen in 2009, ostensibly to study Arabic. The FBI, however, believes that they went to undergo training in AQAP camps in eastern Yemen. Scary? You bet. And there's no way to stop them. They have valid U.S. passports, they've done their time and it's up to U.S. law enforcement agencies to prove that they were in Yemen for terrorist training.

A year ago, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee issued a report warning of terrorism in Yemen, an emerging failed state in every way. But in 2010 there wasn't a danger of the country's entire political system falling apart. Today that's the reality. Yemen's

President Ali Abdallah Saleh leads little more than the city of Sana'a. Most of the outlying areas are either engaged in rebellions, are ungoverned or are under AQAP's control. And Saleh spends most of his time shooting his own people who are engaged in peaceful demonstrations.

Couple that with Yemen's economic, demographic and societal realities and you have a disaster in the making. Yemen's oil -- the source of over 75 percent of its income -- will run out by 2017, and the country has no apparent way to transition to a post-oil economy. Water shortages are already acute throughout the country, and Sana'a may be the first capital city in the world to run out of water. The mix of a high birthrate, little education, and extreme unemployment is toxic.

Many counterterrorism experts believe that Yemen is beyond the point of no return. Drone attacks aren't going to destroy AQAP. A strong central government, democracy and economic opportunity might. But if the country continues to circle the drain, robust intelligence collection and boots on the ground may be required to crack AQAP. It's a task in which the whole world has a stake -- after all, bin Laden's al-Qaeda had Europe, Asia and Africa in its crosshairs for a decade, not just America. And if the United States does go it alone, it could find itself mired in another hostile environment for a generation.

The story of Nabil Ali Mohamed Abdo

By: FPA Journalist

In recent weeks the Regime has been accused of organizing mass kidnapping of protesters to destabilize the revolutionary movement and instill fear within the population. According to many reports, the young men and sometimes women, were snatched up from the streets and transported to unknown locations where they were then brutally tortured. This practice is actually quite common in oppressive Regimes and often the victims are never to be heard of again.

However, in this case the young man in question, Nabil Ali Mohamed Abdo survived the terrible ordeal and decided to share his tale with the World. This is his story:

28 year-old Nabil Abdo, a young man whose disillusion for the Regime led him to join the Youth Movement, became the latest victim of the state ap-

paratus when he was kidnapped by the Security Forces.

He was found on Thursday morning by passers-by who claimed he had been thrown out in a side street still blindfolded and unconscious. Just as they attempted to revive him, the young man asked to be transported to Change Square hospital where he knew he would be safe from the Regime thugs.

Upon his arrival to the field hospital he recalled having been abducted on Wednesday night (May 11th, 2011) as he was taking part in a march against the Regime. He said that while he was feeling faint from the toxic gas used by the Security Forces against demonstrators, men dressed as paramedics surrounded him and forced him into a car. Nabil clearly recalls other protesters being with him in the car as he was transported to an unknown location. "The trip took only 15 minutes" he said, unable to give more details.

Alone in a room with 6 other men,



Nabil was brutalized to the point of losing consciousness. His torturers took turn to burn his body with cigarettes

and pieces of hot coal. Nabil said that the men were accusing him of having killed one of their friends. They also wanted to know the type of weapons he had been using during the protests. Despite him telling them he had no weapon and that he was a peaceful protester, they went on torturing him for hours, adding some séances of beatings for good measure...

His body still bears the marks of this horrific ordeal: silent witnesses of the length this regime is willing to go to in order to remain in power.

Eventually just as the young man passed out again, his kidnappers got tired of him and decided to abandon him, almost lifeless in a back street of Sana'a.

But if, Nabil is lucky enough to have survived, no one knows what happens to the other men with him; we can only pray that they will be found alive.



Saleh clutching at straws

By: Louisa Loveluck

True to form, today's speech from Saleh was as fiery as it was predictable. As the months of protest have worn on in Yemen, these presidential appearances have become somewhat of a formality. Each week after Friday prayers, Saleh stands in front of a crowd of cheering (and likely, paid) supporters and condemns the protesters in increasingly colorful terms. Today's target: the JMP. The unrest, it seems, is their fault, and they must be careful 'not to play with fire'.

This accusation is worth unpacking, if only to expose how ludicrous it is. After a decade in which Saleh has turned the screw on formal politics, keeping the space for dissent to a bare minimum, the JMP have in fact struggled to gain a foothold in the protesters' affections. The party's obstacle has come in the form of history. Almost two decades of deference to the regime has rendered the party complicit in the perpetuation of Yemen's weak political system, and the demonstrators know it. According to Hamza Alshargabi, a Yemeni blogger: 'I, as many, perceive the leaders as a part of the regime; they have [been] stripped of their dignity.' As Alshargabi's comments suggest, the JMP's tacit alliance with the regime provoked anger amongst many of the demonstrators who would make it clear that they neither trusted nor felt represented by the JMP leadership. This is the legacy of a political process that has co-opted the formal opposition into the President's sphere of influence.

In pushing the label of protest 'leaders' upon the JMP, Saleh has only fueled the protesters anger and vindicated their sense of marginalization from political life. When the JMP finally decided to support the protests, it was widely interpreted as yet another display of the same political opportunism, rather than a principled decision to 'do the right thing'. Given this, it is interesting to note that figures such as Tawakkul Karman, a human rights activist who has adopted a high profile during the revolution and who is also a member of the Islah Party, have tended to emphasize the fact of their participation in a personal, rather than party-affiliated, capacity.

This newfound notion that formal politics is not an adequate forum for expression has presented particular problems for Saleh. Since the demonstrators have not mobilized along party lines, they now represent a diverse group of unlikely allies drawn together through informal links. This has been one of their biggest strengths: since the protests have no clear leader early on, the president was unable to target a figurehead and in so doing, halt them in their tracks. As a result, he necessarily had to pursue a strategy of (largely meaningless) 'dialogue' with the JMP as they were the only identifiable 'opposition' grouping he could be seen to engage with.

The claim that this uprising is the work of the JMP is further proof, if it were needed, that Saleh is clutching his final straws. The attempt to delegitimize a feeble political force is a sign of desperation.



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Local mosques go green



Designing a rainfall water harvesting and filtering system at mosque will motivate people to install it at their houses to decrease the gap between water resource charging and consumption.

Story and Photos by: Ali Saeed

The Al-Sallam mosque in the Al-Qa'a neighborhood of the capital Sana'a was equipped with a filtering and harvesting system for rainfall water draining from the roof of the mosque six months ago. This system also cleans the greywater that is drained from the washing yard of the mosque, used to perform ablutions before prayer.

Harvesting rainwater and cleaning the greywater are only two methods of several innovative systems that aim to diversify water resources in countries experiencing water crises. Yemen is no exception, according to reports of the Yemen's National Water Resources Authority.

The rainfall water harvesting project at the mosque was implemented by the Sana'a Basin water Management with a USD 10,000 grant from the International Development Association (IDA), Yemen's international funding partner of water projects in the country.

More than 300 people gather in this mosque five times a day for prayers and at least 1,000 people gather on Friday to listen to the sermon as well as prayer, according to the caretaker of the mosque, Ahmed Al-Ma'khthithi.

The harvested rainwater can be used for the domestically, agriculturally and in the industry sector, all of which are the main sources of water consumptions in Yemen, according to the Water Authority. A report given by the authority explains that the domestic and industrial sectors consume 7-8 percent of Yemen's water resources, while 90 percent goes to agriculture.

International reports deal with Yemen's short-term water consumption have warned that the country will soon run out of water. This has forced the Yemeni government and the Ministry of Water to devise new and innovative methods for water conservation across Yemen's vast landscape and varied climate.

Among those options was is desalination. However, Eng. Abdulkhaleq Alwan, director of performance monitoring and evaluation at the National Water Resources Authority says that, "This mechanism is costly to be applied in mountainous areas such as Sana'a and it can work out only in coastal areas."

Alwan explained that harvesting rainwater and the filtration of greywater are two good tools that can fill the gap between water supply and demand in Yemen, especially in areas where it is difficult to dig wells.

This was recycling system is set to be implemented in another mosque this year in different to promote the conservation system among locals and motivate capable citizens to begin using the system for their houses as well, according to the director.

In addition, the authority is planning to design small dams in valleys surrounding Sana'a's rural areas to mitigate the water flow during rainfalls and simultaneously recharge the groundwater supply in surrounding areas of the valleys, according to Alwan.

He highlighted that when they previously implemented these dams in some valleys of Nahm and Bani Hushaish outside the capital Sana'a, the nearby dried wells started re-producing water.

"That made locals happy and encour-



Treating gray water coming from washing yards at mosques and kitchens fills the gap between low water resources and high increasing demand on water.

aged them to ask us to expand the project into other valleys," he added.

No progress on desalination project
The Mocha desalination project on the Red Sea is currently on indefinite suspension. The project was proposed four years ago to supply water to around six million people in Taiz and Ibb, two of Yemen's most populated cities south the capital Sana'a.

This project was discussed and auctioned by the government several times but with no final actions from the state or by private firms.

The targeted population in the two cities is suffering acute shortage of water. In Taiz city, water comes to the pipe only once a month, according to local sources.

In November of last year, President

Saleh, who faces now popular uprisings demanding his ouster, formed a Supreme Desalination Committee to follow up the project. The Minister of Finance chairs this committee along with Ministers of Electricity, the Civil Service, Water and Environment, the two governors of Ibb and Taiz, the chairman of the General Investment Authority and the Minister of Transportation.

The committee is responsible for the preparation of documents to assist in project implementation. In its first meeting, in November, the committee requested the Ministry of Water to gather and examine existing studies and documents related to the Mocha desalination project, but no actions have been taken yet by this committee, according to Adel Al-Haddad, deputy minister of water ministry for water affairs.

UNICEF says rural poor lagging behind in health in Middle East and North Africa

Report— UN Children's Fund

AMMAN, 10 May 2011 – UNICEF said today that although a number of countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region have made considerable progress towards improving the health of mothers and children, disparities within these countries persist, making this progress inequitable.

"The health and well-being of mothers and children is often determined not by what country they live in, but by their income and where they live within a country," said Shahida Azfar, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the launch of a study on inequities in maternal and child health in the region. "If these countries are to meet the Millennium Development Goals by

2015, they need to ensure that access to health is equal to all."

The study looks at access to maternal and child health among two groups - the poorest and richest 20 per cent of the population, and urban and rural dwellers - in 10 countries and territories: Algeria, Djibouti, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, the occupied Palestinian territory, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

Data for five indicators are analysed: under-five mortality, measles vaccination among one-year olds, the proportion of births attended by a skilled health professional, antenatal care coverage, and contraceptive use.

The study finds that health inequities in relation to the wealth index are more pronounced than those between urban and rural populations. Children born to the richest 20 per cent of the population are more likely to survive

and be vaccinated than children from poorer households. Likewise, women are more likely to use contraception, see a doctor during their pregnancy, and receive professional medical assistance during delivery, if they are from the richest quintile of the population.

Sudan and Yemen have the highest inequalities, whether by income or place of residence. In Yemen, a child born among the poorest 20 per cent of the population is three times more likely to die before the age of five than a child from the richest 20 per cent. In Sudan, a child from a rich household is twice as likely to be vaccinated against measles than a child from a poor household.

The study puts forward a series of recommendations to reach the most deprived women and children with basic services:

Allocating more resources to health

programmes at the community and village level to strengthen the outreach of health services;

Training and deploying more community health workers with skills to work with simplified modern techniques and help deliver cost-effective and affordable quality services;

Providing incentives by eliminating user fees and covering or reimbursing transportation costs for the poor and marginalized segments of the population;

Strengthening data collection methods and tracking systems.

The study is part of UNICEF's global efforts to sharpen focus on equity, so that all children, particularly those who suffer the highest level of deprivation in a society, can have access to education, health care, safe water, adequate sanitation and other services necessary for their survival and growth.

HEALTH WATCH



By: Dr. Siva

This weekly column disseminates health information to readers in Yemen and beyond. Dr. Siva currently works at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Lifestyle, diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and naturopathy are his passions.

Get rid of that ugly paunch!

An ugly paunch (we can call it a 'beer belly' or 'pot belly') is a favorite subject for cartoonists. You have seen others sporting it and probably might have giggled at the sight of it whether it's your colleague, relative, boss, a politician, some police guys or a pedestrian on the street. A Beer or a pot belly is not only an unflattering sight but also an unhealthy asset not just restricted to celebrities but also the masses. These days, even young people in their 20s have become a victim to pot belly, which is certainly a bad sign. Read on to find out how to win the battle against this bulge in particular. People who carry an extra four inches of fat around their waists are more likely to suffer heart problems, even if they are the right weight for their height.

What is it?

A round, pot-shaped belly is often called a Beer Belly. This is more prevalent amongst males compared to females. Many people think that beer belly is caused by drinking beer. But it is a myth. It is caused by excessive accumulation of fat in abdominal area. It consists of subcutaneous fat, which is found underneath the skin. Two major types of fat depositions currently recognized are excess subcutaneous truncal - abdominal fat (android) and excess gluteofemoral fat (gynoid). The android is also known as apple-shaped obesity or beer belly."

Beer Belly is also called pot belly when the abdominal circumference in male is more than 90 cms and female is 80 cms as per the World Health Organisation (WHO) criteria. Even though it is called a beer belly, it is commonly seen in non-alcoholic people as well. If a person's Body Mass Index (BMI) is more than 30 and he has a beer belly, then the beer belly could be responsible for many chronic life-threatening diseases.



How is it caused?

Studies indicate that beer belly is highly co-related with insulin resistance, glucose intolerance, and hypertension. But the most important and risky cause is the metabolic syndrome which is a chronic condition of all the above disorders in the same person. Occasionally drinking beer will not cause beer belly. However, if you drink beer very often, you consume more calories and more fluid is retained in stomach until filtered and excreted by kidney through urine. This causes stomach to bulge for prolonged time and to lose its elasticity. Some quote other reasons like:

- Digestive disorders prevent food to be digested and excreted through feces.
- Consuming more calories than required because excess calories gets converted to fat and accumulates in ones belly.
- Sedentary life style reduces the basal metabolic rate and leads to people spending less energy than they consume.

In India, we believe that pot belly is caused due to the high-carbohydrate intake and a diet which includes fatty curries and masalas in our preparations. Also, the fast food intake with lesser activity and a stressful busy life. This is the main reason for making India the global diabetic hub. More than 90 per cent of Indian Type II diabetic patients fall in this category as per the WHO definition of abdominal obesity. Yemenis too, at least those who live in the cities, indulge on fast food and masalas. Furthermore, rice is a staple food in Yemen, as in India.

What are the ill effects?

A Beer or pot belly is a major cause of Type II diabetes. The other health risks include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, kidney disease and cardiovascular diseases. Let's not forget the damage it can cause to our hip and knee joints and back problems. These diseases are the most expensive health hazards; socially and economically many countries are facing.

Precautions to undertake

A combination of proper diet and exercise is necessary to get rid of excess abdominal fat. The average Indian or Yemeni man weighs between 60 to 90 kgs and woman weighs between 60 to 80 kgs. Their daily calorie consumption ranges from 1500 to 2000 calories. When ones' intake of calorie is this much, they must ensure to burn out calories too. In order to get rid of beer belly, one should not get bound to a particular exercise. For example, doing stomach crunches alone is not sufficient; one needs to incorporate activities like swimming, cycling or running to show results. Around 30 to 40 minutes of pure abdominal exercises is a must along with a combination of a cardio work out, to get good-looking abs.

The following exercises are good to trim a Beer belly:

Exercise 1:

Lie down on your back. Try to lift your upper body to face the sky. Stay stationary for some time and return back to the original position. Gradually increase the number of repetitions.

Exercise 2:

Hang yourself from a height. Lift up your legs, if this seems very difficult, try lifting up the knees. Begin with three repetitions and gradually increase them.

Exercise 3:

Lie on the floor on your chest. Lift up your body in a plank position, whilst resting your elbows and toes on the floor. Stay in this position for a while and return to original position. Gradually increase repetitions.

The following dietary precautions are recommended to get rid of the unhealthy pot belly:

- Avoid excessive eating.
- Avoid high calorie and high fat foods especially animal meat.
- Avoid foods made of refined products made up of maida (dakkeik abhyadh) and consume high-fiber foods.
- Avoid aerated drinks and sweets
- Eat small but frequent meals to help proper digestion.
- Leave a gap of two hours between your dinner and sleep time.
- Do not combine eating with other activities like reading or watching television.
- If you have digestive disorders or gastric problem consult a nutritionist to enhance your digestive system.

Get to know what is your calorie requirement according to your lifestyle and health condition.



MAINTENANCE PLANNER (Maintenance Department)
Position#06-039 (B51)-CPF/Terminal - Hadramout
For Yemeni Nationals Only

Basic Function:

Establishes and coordinates the manpower and equipment/materials required for all maintenance activities. Includes collecting and analyzing equipment maintenance data from the maintenance management computer system and manufacturers' manuals to plan equipment maintenance schedules for routine and preventative maintenance programs.

Job Duties:

The incumbent shall:

- Plans and coordinates manpower and equipment/materials required for routine maintenance work and major maintenance projects. Includes collecting and analyzing equipment maintenance data and manufacturers' manuals to establish equipment maintenance schedules. Refers to P+ID to plan for maintenance work, isolates appropriate area for work, plans for equipment shut down and coordinates all maintenance requests related to that area, to minimize production loss. Consults with Foremen to determine scope of job and estimates the materials, tools and manpower deployment required for the job.
- Generates daily work schedule. Includes attending daily planning meetings with functional Superintendents and Foremen, and other departments as required, to review and plan for maintenance work order requests.
- Administers the maintenance management computer system (MMS). Includes entering data and generating reports and historical data for analyzing performance statistics and trends. Oversees the Administrative Clerk in entering the daily timesheet data into MMS. Generates time-keeping and man-hour reports.
- Generates weekly and monthly reports to management. Reports, such as Maintenance Volume and Efficiency Report, are distributed to Operations Manager and other departments.
- Ensures that maintenance work progress is updated and on schedule. Includes updating the MMS with job status information obtained from Foremen. Advises supervisor of projects that are off-track.
- Carries out other similar or related duties such as creating and maintaining spreadsheets to produce statistics/charts for specific maintenance activities.

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree, preferably in engineering discipline.
- 6 years' experience in a maintenance trade including 3 years' manpower deployment and work planning in a process industry.
- Excellent computer skills including Word, Excel, database applications.
- Very good knowledge of English.

- ❖ To Apply for this Job please apply to: recruiting_yemsana@nexeninc.com
- ❖ Applications **should be submitted NO later than May. 25th, 2011**. Faxed applications will not be considered.
- ❖ Make sure that you mention the job title you are applying for in the email subject.
- ❖ Only **short listed candidates** will be contacted.



Invitation for National Consultant

Oxfam GB- Yemen Programme, is planning to develop a communication package for its **Good Governance project** in order to communicate and disseminate the Good Governance approach and tools developed by this project to the wider development agencies including other civil society organizations, government both at national and local levels and donor's experiences and approaches used by partner CSOs in engagement with government to respond to the needs of poor women and men.

What we're looking for

The Oxfam GB- Yemen programme invites individuals and/or relevant consultancy firms with at least 5 years experience in editing developing communication materials in development in addition to experience in Microsoft applications. You will have expertise in development communication/ Journalistic management or a related discipline and have certifications in web designing or related fields would be desirable. You will be an excellent communicator in English and Arabic, be solution oriented and proactive in addition to a very good team player.

The role

The Consultant will be responsible for the planning and implementing of tasks in close coordination with Oxfam GB, including timely completion and submission of the final report (English and Arabic), according to the specific terms of reference (TOR) which could be obtained from Oxfam GB Office in Sana'a [Tel: (01)444568, 444569].

To apply

Applicants' complete offers could be delivered directly to Oxfam GB office in Sana'a, e-mailed to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk or faxed to +967-1-450170. Only those short-listed will be forwarded with terms of reference as part of request for proposal.

Closing date-26.05.2011



TOTAL E&P YEMEN
is HIRING

TOTAL E&P YEMEN, subsidiary of TOTAL,
World's Fourth Oil and Gas Company is Looking for:

TRANSLATION OFFICER - Sana'a

Within the Corporate Affairs Division, the job holder will report to the Head of Public Relations. The job holder will assist all relevant entities in the company in matters of translation and related external communication.

The Successful Candidate is responsible to:

- Work hand in hand with another Translation Officer to receive, register, translate, and complete electronically the whole registration process as per the Registry Office Procedure.
- Translate official documents and letters from all government entities from English to Arabic and vice versa
- Translate laws, agreements, MOUs, meeting minutes, reports, etc. into English.
- Translate into Arabic any inputs/updates on the company website and company publications.
- Translate, from English into Arabic and vice versa, documents that may involve specialized language and colloquial expressions requiring deep knowledge of both languages.
- Assist the Head of Public Relations in the public relations issues like organization of events, meetings and correspondences, and developing the public relations database.
- Serve as an interpreter whenever requested.
- Perform other duties when required.

Qualification and Experience Required:

- Bachelor degree in English with a specialization in Translation
- Minimum of 5 years experience in professional translation (preferably in oil industry)
- Minimum English Level of 5/5 (fluently written and spoken with good technical English and Arabic knowledge)
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Very good knowledge of MS applications

AUDITOR - Sana'a

Within the Corporate Affairs Division, the job holder will report to the Head of Internal Audit. The job holder is accountable for ensuring accurate analysis and information gathering is conducted through the audit process and provide accurate representation of facts and numbers on observations and areas of improvement.

The Successful Candidate is responsible to:

- Document, evaluate and test systems and controls to determine their adequacy and effectiveness, ensuring (i) compliance with policies and procedures, (ii) accomplishment of management's objectives, (iii) efficiency and effectiveness of processes, (iv) economical use of resources, and (v) safeguarding of assets.
- Provide a focused audit approach on administration and management processes.
- Participate and execute internal audits in accordance with audit plans and department objectives.
- Ensure a fact-based approach to searching for information, and clarifying records and observing live work operations of the different entities.
- Collect relevant information and documentation related to specific audit assignments; calculate, compute and verify data.
- Document all observations regarding operations and transactions audited, highlighting any weaknesses /discrepancies. Make recommendations for resolution of identified problems.
- Ensure completeness of audit working papers, which document the various phases of each audit assignment segments and support individual findings and recommendations.
- Draft and prepare audit reports for review by the Head of IA.
- Follow-up on the process concerning the implementation of recommendations and provide accurate progress on implementation of the different items for audited entities.
- Bring attention to the Head & Director of CA about audit issues requiring their attention.
- Compile a variety of pre-audit information for both financial and operational audits of specified operations and/or transactions.
- Assist in observing random physical inventory of property in various departments throughout the Organization.

Qualification and Experience Required:

- 7 years experience out of which, 3 years in an auditing function.
- Bachelor degree in Finance or Business Administration. Auditing Certifications are a plus.
- Strong communication and writing abilities.
- Adaptable, Committed with Strong Integrity and Ethical Values.
- Team player, self disciplined and methodical work abilities.

PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVISOR - Site

Within the Corporate Affairs Division, the job holder will report to TOTAL Site Manager and Head of Public Relations. The job holder will conduct public relations duties and organize external visits to Block 10.

The Successful Candidate is responsible to:

- Be mainly and effectively in charge of PR activities in the company's operation site, Block 10, Hadramout.
- Oversee, in liaison with Site Manager and the Head of Public Relations, the logistical preparations for external visits to Block 10 to ensure a smooth and organized reception of visitors on site, particularly VIPs.
- Assist the CA team in Sana'a in the production of information materials with an emphasis on Block 10 and the communities around it.
- In liaison with the different CA departments, work as a point of contact and coordinator in issues related to Government Affairs in Hadramout.
- Assist in the implementation of the company's PR Strategy and work plan.
- Perform other duties as and when required by hierarchy.

Qualification and Experience Required:

- Bachelor degree in communication, journalism or other related field.
- 3 - 5 years experience in Public Relations, Communication or related fields.
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic.
- Strong administrative, interpersonal and communications skills as well as a strong sense of judgment.
- Ability to take initiative and work with limited supervision and be an excellent team player.
- Proven inter-personal and presentation skills.

To apply, please visit www.total-ep-yemen.com and register your application no later than **Thursday, 26 May 2011**.

Faxed or handed-in applications are **not** considered.



