

Terror grips Sana'a

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, June 1 — Terror spread in the capital Sana'a after a five-day ceasefire between loyalist military forces and tribesmen from the Hashid confederation was broken last Tuesday night at 1:00 AM.

Witnesses reported heavy fighting in the capital overnight as both sides blamed each other for breaking the ceasefire.

Latest reports from medics operating ambulances near Al-Hasaba put the number of dead at 41. However, the number is expected to rise as fighting continues.

Sounds of mortar -shells and machine gun fire broke the night time stillness of the capital amidst a complete power blackout in the entire city. The shelling is still ongoing between the two sides. Explosions in the north of the capital Sana'a shake the city every hour and smoke rising from burning buildings hangs in the sky of Al-Hasaba area.

The fighting broke out on May 23rd after Saleh's forces attacked Sadeq Al-Ahmar's house, an influential opposition tribal leader, provoking his armed supporters to occupy government buildings near his house.

The tribesmen claimed that Saleh was using those buildings to launch attacks on Sadeq's home.

In front of the home Sadeq al-Ahmar, Hashid's most prominent sheikh, lies twisted metal that has fallen from the headquarters of Yemenia Airways, the state run airline. The 10 story building had been shelled consistently. Its windows have been blown out and parts of the building's façade litter the street.

The headquarters of Saleh's ruling party, the General People's Congress, is located within the territory that was taken by the tribesmen. An enormous portrait of President Saleh adorns the entrance of the building, peering over a high stone wall, pock marked with bullet holes.

Locals in Sana'a have fled the fierce clashes to their ancestral villages fearing for their lives after more than 115 people were killed in previous clashes in the capital.

An eyewitness told the Yemen Times that yesterday clashes took place around the ministry of interior, the Sa'a roundabout, Mazda St and near the state television station.

Abdu Al-Qawi Al-Qaisi, an Al-Ahmar family spokesperson, told Al-Jazeera on Tuesday morning that their armed men are in control of the Ministry of Interior, standing committee of the ruling party, Water Corporation and the Al-Hasaba police station of located on a road leading to the Sana'a international airport.

"Saleh's obstinacy has failed mediation attempts to end clashes," said Al-Qaisi.

Al-Hasaba residents say that they are now trapped in their homes as the shelling continues to pound the area.

Business has been paralyzed completely in most streets of Sana'a amidst continuous power cuts and water shortages. Most commercial shops appeared closed on Tuesday in several streets of the city.

Employees in the public and private sectors stopped going to work on Tuesday after yesterday's violent clashes.

An engineer at a local company told the Yemen Times that he arrived at his office at 10:00 AM on Tuesday morning and none of his colleagues showed up. "It was only me alone in the office, so I left," he said.

On Wednesday, the Kuwaiti Embassy to Sana'a has closed its office and evacuated its personnel due to increasing violence in the city.

Saleh's military has been beset by defections, splitting his army effectively in half, leaving elite forces under the command of his relatives loyal to the regime. With three heavily armed tribal factions bearing down on the capital, Saleh's seat of power, he may stop at nothing to keep them at bay as civil war begins to engulf the Northern regions of the country.



Heavy smoke rises in downtown Sana'a, capital of Yemen, May 24, 2011. At least 49 anti-government armed tribesmen, 1 civilian and 15 government soldiers were killed in intensified clashes on Tuesday in the capital Sana'a as smoke poured out from buildings of the Interior Ministry, officials from both sides said.

Rebel moles infiltrate loyalist military units

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, June 1 — Loyalist military units have been infiltrated by rebel spies that are passing intelligence along to defected military divisions, according to a 1st Armored Brigade commander

The defected soldiers also claimed that most of the military under Saleh's command are loyal to the revolution but are frightened to abandon their units.

Instead, they are refusing orders to shell or shoot civilians. They also communicate with members of the revolution or defected soldiers to pass along vital information.

"We have moles in every military unit that inform us of coming attacks or any other plans loyalist commanders may be making," said Col. Hamdan Faris.

As violence rages in the capital, members of the 1st Armored Brigade are also saying that tribesmen are not the only ones falling under attack.

The First Armored Brigade, the defected military division loyal to Maj. Gen. Al-Mohsen, was also attacked by the Defense ministry as well as rebel tribesmen, according First Armored commanders.

As the ministry of defense denied that the division was attacked, Col. Hamdan Faris from the division confirmed to the Yemen times that the division was attacked for the third time since May 22.

"The division didn't respond except by using anti-air. The Air Defense attack started around 6:30 PM to 10 PM then it stopped. The fighting then resumed again for three hours" said Faris.

A weapon storage facility that belongs to the Defense Ministry was destroyed according to the same source. "The regime destroyed the storage facility so that rebel tribesmen or civilians couldn't raid the facility for weapons and munitions to use against the government," he added.

Major Yahya Al-Dheeb, who defected from the Republic Guard, told the Yemen times that some military locations were handed over to plainclothes gunmen in the last two days and that they were armed to get ready to a civil war.

"They are currently being armed with RPGs and LAW rocket launchers in Arhab, the interior ministry and some tribes loyal to Saleh in Attain" said Faris.

"The president is trying to marginal-

ize the military because he knows that most of them support the revolution."

Defected soldiers who joined the anti-government protest held a meeting on Tuesday and decided that they should be armed in case of the regime decided to attack the square.

After the third mediation committee failed to broker a truce between rebel tribes and government forces in Sana'a, certain locations in Sana'a came under heavy and continuous shelling, beginning on Monday.

As the tribes men loyal to Sheikh Sadiq Al-Ahmer took over most of the ministerial buildings in Hasaba, the government began shelling in an attempt to retake those buildings. Over 200 people were killed since the fighting began last week, including tribesmen, soldiers, and residents.

The mediation committee warned that the situation was explosive and stated that the hold president Saleh responsible if the fighting should spread, causing nationwide civil war.

"We tried our best to end the fighting between the two parties, things looked promising until we reached Monday," said Sheikh Fahed Al-Swatti, one of the

mediation committee members, to the Yemen Times.

On Monday, tribesmen agreed to return control of government buildings back over to the government and also withdraw from the area, allowing residents to return to their homes with a feeling of relative safety.

"As we agreed, the Al-Ahmars gave back the Local Administration Ministry, at the same time the military should give the committee Al-Ramah School and the building in front of it at the same time" he explained.

"The military didn't give the buildings to the committee so the fighting started again," he added.

"The committee was called by Shaiekh Kahlan Abu Shawarb next morning to find a solution but we failed to, as the situation exploded and we hold the president the responsibility for this," he added.

The first two mediation committee meetings were attack as the met at the home of Sheikh Sadeq Al-Ahmar. Known as a "black shame" in Arabic, some tribes see the shelling of a tribal mediation as an offense punishable by death.

Following the shelling of the mediation committee meeting, an announcement was made at the Change Square main state stating that whoever was able to deliver Saleh's head to the square would be declared a "hero of the revolution".

Independent journalists who joined the protest warned the protesters of being part of the armed conflicts and also said that the opposition parties were weak and have no strong role in the uprising.



A soldier of the defected army stands guard on a street in Sana'a, capital of Yemen, May 20, 2011. Over a thousand soldiers of former government forces who have then defected took the street here on Friday to protect anti-government protesters.

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Taiz, a city under siege

By: Mohammed bin Sallam and Chiara Onassis

About a week ago, President Saleh addressed the nation, warning that he would retaliate against those who opposed his rule, his patience being worn out. He also said that that whatever blood would be spilled as a result, would be the tribes' responsibility.

On Sunday the President fulfilled his vows by unleashing his army upon the southern city of Taiz.

Taiz is the second largest city of Yemen after Sana'a and it has been for the past 4 months the centre stage of a massive revolutionary movement. Most of the protesters have chosen to plant their tents in "Freedom Square", vowing to stay until the departure from power of President Saleh.

Freedom Square

It all started on Sunday when the government Security Forces stormed the Square, attempting by all means to regain control of the grounds. The Republican Guards used water cannons filled with gasoline to set fire onto the tents. The tent of a group of handicapped people which had been camping out there caught fire while the men were still inside! Some burnt to death; others managed to escape but are now in the hospital in very critical conditions.

A doctor confirmed that many protesters got burnt during the attack. He added that an elderly had lost his life, burnt alive because he was unable to flee the inferno fast enough.

The Army also used tanks to force the protesters out of the square, de-

stroying the makeshift camp as they advanced.

"Bulldozers are headed towards Liberty Square," said one eye witness to Al-Jazeera.

As the tanks continued on their destructive path, the Republican Guards showered unarmed protesters with tear gas, toxic gas and live ammunitions. Many men and women fainted after inhaling the toxic fumes. Other thugs, armed with spiked batons started beaten up civilians indiscriminately. Snipers were spotted on the rooftops, aiming at protesters with their rifles.

In all this chaos, according to an activist in Taiz, 3 officers of the Central Security would have decided to join the Revolution after handing their weapons to the Youth

"Taiz city has become like a ghost

town, the protesters tents were burnt down while protesters were sleeping in them. Houses close by were shot by RPG and field hospital was stormed, bodies of injured and martyrs and medical staff were abducted by unknown people," said protester Nabeel Al-Bakari

Eyewitnesses confirmed to the Yemen Times that Saleh's forces have confiscated the corpses of killed protesters, arrested wounded persons, and did not allow any injured people to be taken to the hospital. Protesters who resisted the raid were detained.

Bodies of handicapped people who were in the camp were found burned on Monday morning as they could not flee the fire that inflamed in all the tents.

Whenever they attempted to gather again in the square, Saleh's forces shoot at them with live ammunitions. Seven people were killed among them three children while trying to reassemble in the square, according to eyewitnesses.

Relentlessly, units upon units of Republican Guards kept coming from all directions onto the Square while other government men were shelling the Square and its surroundings.

With the population unable to respond to the cries of help of the protesters due to the road blocks and presence in the adjacent streets of armed soldiers, one of the Mosques in Freedom Square decided to open its outside speakers. A man was heard chanting "...GOD is Great..GOD is Great..." Others followed suit by letting the crowd listen to the recitation of the Holy Quran...a heart ratching show of support to the protesters.

"Cars got burned, gas station got bombed, things got looted," said one local resident.

A protesters managed to call the TV channel AlJazeera, letting out his cry for help and depicting the horrifying scenes. "We are being attacked brutally. Protesters only have their bare chests. It is not an invasion attempt it is a MURDER attempt. If they want to take over, they'll have to run us over. We are holding on, and we will not give up. Injured are falling one after the other, we can't keep up with the numbers.

Hospitals are full and no space for



Debris of camps of anti-government protesters is seen after being burned during clashes, in Taiz, south Yemen, May 31, 2011. The death toll of clashes between anti-government protesters and security forces overnight Monday in Yemen's southern province of Taiz rose to at least 63, doctors told Xinhua.

more injured protesters- hospitals full of blood. Taiz is the heart of the revolution. Saleh didn't forget this. We've been continuous attacks since 4pm. Every two minutes we get a gas bomb thrown at us, we've been attacked by all kinds of weapons."

According to eye-witnesses, the Security Forces were also performing a campaign of arrests of protesters in the Square.

The Hospital

Not content of having destroyed and massacred unarmed civilians, Saleh ordered his troops to assault the field hospital as well. Witnesses reported that the government forces used incinerator bombs and gas bombs right in the middle of the premises, with no regards to the injured. Republican Guards later storm the site, taking back with them the people present. Others if they could not move were allowed to stay but were denied medication and treatment.

Doctors in Safwa Hospital reported that thugs broke into the medical facilities, trying to kidnap the injured. They said that gun battles ensued when men attempted to stop them.

Identical scenes were repeated in Liberty Square's makeshift hospital.

As the power was cut off in the Square, doctors and protesters joined up in an appeal to the tribes, asking

them to come to their rescue.

On Sunday the death toll mounted at 20 dead and over a hundred casualties. On Tuesday, this number escalated to 57.

The Tribes

Military Governor Qairan, who is in charge of Taiz vowed on Sunday to kill tens of the youth and said that he, did not care. Although some of his companions pointed out to him he should turn off the electricity to avoid any news leakage, he refused saying that he did not care about Al-Jazeera or the world's opinion.

Upon hearing such a statement and following the plea of Taiz inhabitants, the tribes within the area have said to be studying the situation and are believed to be planning a revenge attack on the government. A Sheikh said that such crimes will not go unpunished.

The United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was quick to denounce the "attack on civilians" urging President Saleh to resign immediately. The EU and the UK soon joined in, calling the attack on unarmed civilians "unacceptable".

"What happened in Taiz today will be an important factor in the resolution of the Revolution," Political Analyst Jamal Al-Maleki said referring to the event.

Rebel soldiers engage Abyan militants

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, June 1 — The Yemeni army has continued its military operations against armed Islamists in Zinjibar, the capital of the Abyan Governorate, where the alleged members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula took control of the city last Saturday amidst local suspicion that Saleh was responsible of handing over the area to such "terrorist groups".

Defected military generals issued their first statement on Sunday stating, "Saleh is trying to divide the military forces in Yemen by leaving Abyan governorate to terrorists and to scream about the Al-Qaeda threat to the international community, with the aim of quelling the popular uprisings demanding Saleh's departure."

General Abdullah Ali Aliwa, former Minister of Defense, Major Hussein Arab, former Minister of Interior, Major General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, commanders of Yemen's northwestern region and General Mohamed Ali Mohsen, leader of the eastern area were the top defected military figures who signed the statement.

They vowed, "We will not let Saleh

use the army to achieve his ill-dream and will pay for his malfeasance."

They also called on their colleagues who are still loyal to Saleh to join them for "the best for their nation."

Saleh's media sources say that the Islamists who took over Abyan are "members of Al-Qaeda and they benefit from any instability to establish their Islamic state."

However until now, the armed groups have not yet unveiled their identity. They currently occupy two governmental buildings and carry out raids on security headquarters, targeting soldiers coming from other camps to fight against them.

The state-owned Saba news agency reported on Wednesday that the Yemeni Air Force bombed several sites in Zinjibar and killed dozens of militants, citing a military source in the area.

It added that 44 members of the armed group were killed on Tuesday, while they were attempting to attack the 25th Division Mechanic military camp in the area.

Amidst this tension and doubt of the reality of such ongoing battles in Abyan between Saleh's forces and armed Islamists, sources from the defected

army who announced its support for the youth revolution told the Yemen Times on Wednesday that they are preparing to send military units to Zinjibar to drive out these militants and bring back security back to the city, allowing local who fled to return to their homes.

Local sources in Lahj governorate in Southern Yemen told the Yemen Times in a telephone call that soldiers from the defected military camp located in Al-Milah district of Lahj under the leadership of Brigadier General Faysal Rajab have withdrawn their security-checkpoints in Lahj and went back to the camp to prepare themselves to go to Abyan.

Mohamed Al-Ahmadi, a journalist who conducted interviews with some Islamists in Abyan said that this step from the defected army to enter in battles with armed Islamists in Abyan is "a big mistake"

"They will open a new fronts for themselves that they are not in need, it is better for them to leave this job for Saleh as he always pretends to say that he is Yemen's safeguard against Al-Qaeda," Al-Ahmadi said.

"Opening new fronts will make it harder for them to protect protesters,"



Invitation for National Consultant

Oxfam GB programme in Yemen is planning to conduct a final evaluation of the project on **Good Governance** for implementation and monitoring of the third five year plan (2007-2011) in Yemen. The purpose of the evaluation is to highlight the approach, assess progress against project objectives, draw lessons learned from the project and provide suggestions for replicating the approach to a wider development community of civil society, donors and government relevant to the context.

What we're looking for

Oxfam GB invites individuals and/or relevant consultancy firms with advanced degree in relevant field (international development, social /economic development, etc). You will be familiar with the Yemen context, have a sound understanding of development issues including governance, civil society involvement and gender mainstreaming in development plans and policies(at planning, implementation and monitoring stages),have good analytical skills and proven research experience and skills especially in applying participatory research methods and tools. You should have excellent writing skills and are able to effectively communicate in English and Arabic.

The role

The Consultant will be responsible for planning and carrying out the evaluation in close coordination with Oxfam GB, including timely completion and submission of the final evaluation 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 the terms of reference as part of request for proposal.

Closing date-12.06.2011



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO, works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering. Oxfam has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancy for its Development Programme.

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The role

This role has a wide remit so you can expect to touch on all aspects of our work in Yemen. You'll support the planning, development and implementation of our campaigns and policies as well as helping to build our capacity for campaigning, advocacy and lobbying. However, your main focus will be on our Safe Age of Marriage component. Working closely with our own team and external partners, you'll be pivotal in raising awareness of the issues, and helping to change things for the better.

What we're looking for

You're likely to have a degree in social sciences or economics, but what's really important here is that you have policy and advocacy experience in an international NGO. You should be skilled in programme development, lobbying and campaigning and, because we'll look to you to provide in-depth analysis on relevant issues, experience of academic or action research is important. Your ability to work alongside both our own programme staff and our partners is also essential. You'll need to be fluent in English and ideally Arabic, and willing to travel. Finally, you'll be fully committed to both gender equality and the wider aims of our work.

To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in either of these positions, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job you are applying for, to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk or send a fax to 01 450170.

Closing date for applications is **15th June 2011**

Please apply immediately as we will be interviewing suitable candidates before the closing date



JOB VACANCY

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), is an International Medical Humanitarian Organization providing medical aid to populations in distress, victims of natural and man made disasters and victims of armed conflict, regardless of race religion and political believe. Currently, MSF operates in more than 70 countries. For more information, visit our Arabic website, www.msfae.ae

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MSF only accepts candidates fulfilling the above criteria. Those should send their contact details, CV and a covering letter before 5th of June, 2011 at MSFE-SANAA-MEDCO@barcelona.msf.org
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Médecins Sans Frontières – Spain or contact our office located on the street behind Thiafco restaurant

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ANNOUNCEMENT FOR WASH CONSULTANCY WORK

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Specific Tasks

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2. The consultant will conduct field visits to the sites and meet partners and stakeholders, and facilitate UNICEF staff and donor visits as requested.
3. Will be providing technical support, monitoring and supervision of UNICEF WASH interventions including supporting government counterparts and partners in the preparation of Bid documents, cost estimation, and draft agreements.
4. Participate in WASH sector/cluster and other meetings to advance the WASH programme.
5. The consultant will coordinate with local authorities, local councils, community representatives and UNICEF partners in the planning and implementation of UNICEF WASH interventions.
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Expected background and Experience

- University degree in civil Engineering, environmental engineering or equivalent from a university recognized by UNICEF.
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- Excellent command of reporting in Arabic and acceptable level of English language (written, spoken, and writing).
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EMBASSY OF INDIA, SANA'A

Advisory to Indian Nationals in Yemen

May 27, 2011

Keeping in view the evolving situation and the increase in violent incidents in Yemen, all Indian nationals living in the country are advised to exit the country through whatever commercial means available.

Till such time they are able to exit, Indian nationals are also advised not to venture out except under absolutely unavoidable circumstances.

The Embassy of India and our Ambassador in Yemen will continue to function in Sana'a and can be contacted for any assistance by Indian nationals till such time they are able to exit the country.

New Delhi

This advisory is also available on websites: www.eoisanaa.org and www.me.gov.in. In case of emergency a member of the Indian community may establish contact on helpline: 711880938 or by email on helpline@eoisanaa.com

EMBASSY OF INDIA, SANA'A
27/05/2011

نصائح للمواطنين الهنود في اليمن

27 مايو، 2011م

نظراً لتطور الأوضاع وحوادث العنف المتصاعدة في اليمن، نحن ننصح كافة المواطنين الهنود المقيمين في الجمهورية اليمنية بالخروج من البلاد عبر الوسائل التجارية المتاحة لهم مهما كانت.

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سفارة الهند بصنعاء

Yemen's autocrat who has played on Western fears to cling to power

After Presidents Mubarak of Egypt and Ben Ali of Tunisia, could it be the turn of Ali Abdullah Saleh to be forced out of office by popular unrest? Yesterday, the Yemeni president made a Mubarak-like promise to stand down – but not just yet. The regime has been a key ally of the West in the counter-terrorist struggle against al-Qaeda; a slide into civil war, which is what Saleh is warning would follow his departure, would be a cause for alarm in Washington and other Western capitals. Yet, after 32 years in power, President Saleh's exit is surely overdue.

For seven weeks, his country has been in the grip of anti-government protests. The situation reached a crisis after a bloody assault by government henchmen killed more than 50 democracy protesters after prayers last Friday. Scores of high-ranking government officials, including five top military leaders, have defected. Among them are the president's half-brother and Yemen's envoy to the Arab League. President Saleh has reluctantly promised to stand down, but not until after parliamentary elections next year.

Dogged by poverty, tribalism and central government dysfunction – Yemen has been the base from which al-Qaeda launched attacks against tar-

gets in the US and Saudi Arabia. The groups known as AQAP (al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula) are regarded by Washington as a graver threat even than Osama bin Laden's affiliates on the Afghan-Pakistan border. Yemen was the source of failed plots to place bombs on board US airliners in 2009 and 2010 and a Yemen-based cleric has been held responsible for instigating the shooting rampage at Fort Hood in November 2009.

Yemen is the Arab world's poorest country. Its little oil and natural gas is running out, as is water in the north of the country. Many areas have no access to electricity. It is poorly developed, with high rates of illiteracy and unemployment at 35 per cent, and higher for young people. As a society it is violent, poor and tribal: its north has Sunnis and Zaidi Shiites; the middle has a mix of Sufis and hardline Salafis; the south has a separatist movement around the southern port city of Aden. President Saleh has for three decades attempted to manage all this by balancing tribal rivalries rather than through development, state-building or national unity.

But Washington's classic regional ambivalence over the choice between stability and democracy appears to have reached a tipping point after the massacre of protesters. Saleh, who has received millions in US aid for his co-

operation in the fight against Islamic militants, is on the point of being abandoned. The Yemeni president has remained defiant, insisting that he cannot stand down without knowing who will replace him, which is why he says he won't go until after elections. The problem is that Saleh has tried such ruses before. Last week he offered a new constitution giving more powers to parliament, and announced an array of handouts. But few Yemenis believe he will deliver.

He need have no approval over who will succeed him. It is true that the struggle of competing visions for the future of Yemen will not end when Saleh leaves. But there is a greater risk of this strategically key country, which borders the world's biggest oil exporter and several major shipping routes, slipping into chaos if Saleh does not go soon and a bloody conflict ensues. That could even see the country split into separate zones along tribal, military or regional lines. A failed state looms.

The genuine participation by all sides in an open and transparent process that addresses the concerns of the Yemeni people is now required. Al-Qaeda has thrived in Yemen in opposition to the US-backed autocracy. Here, as in other parts of the Arab world, democracy is the best antidote to al-Qaeda.

Is Yemen the next Afghanistan?

By: Robert Barret
For the Huffington Post

The conflict crisis in the divided and impoverished coastal state of Yemen has taken a turn for the worse amidst reports that several hundred al Qaeda sponsored Islamic extremists have taken control of the oceanside city of Zinjibar. This is a deep setback and critical turning point in the so-called "Arab Spring." And while this armed siege shares little in common with the Spring's brave and noble calls for rights, freedom, and economic opportunity, this latest event may do far more to influence the movement's outcome.

To be sure, al Qaeda has clearly found a niche opportunity amidst the regional chaos. And yet, we would be wise not to underestimate their strategic endgame. As was the case with Afghanistan, al Qaeda may be leveraging its relative military disadvantage in the hope that it can lure the West into a fight. This poke-the-bear routine has worked well for terrorist organizations around the world, who depend heavily on winning sympathy for their expressed victimization when militaries retaliate.

There are several clues that this same strategy may be at play in south Yemen.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which has found a home in Yemen, has, in its short two-year existence, garnered the top spot as the number one threat to U.S. Homeland Security. Its charismatic leader, the English-speaking and web-savvy American, Anwar al Awlaki, has been instrumental in promoting the concept of micro-terrorism, such as the attempted bombing of Northwest Airlines 253 by Umar Farouk Abdulmatallab, on Christmas Day 2009.

If the boldness of this threatening

branch of al Qaeda is not significant enough, the location of their newly captured city is. Perched on the coast of the Gulf of Aden, the city overlooks the narrowing waterway that leads to the Bab-el-Mandeb strait, a narrow 20-mile wide shipping lane that ports some 11 percent of the world's oil. This oil chokepoint is of monumental importance to the global economy. Al Qaeda most certainly understands this, and it also knows that for Western powers, it would be an intolerable scenario to have AQAP be in control of the north side of the Gulf of Aden and Somalia's Al Shabaab be in control on the south side. This flanking maneuver of an economically vital waterway is an extraordinary provocation.

Al Qaeda also knows that its captured city is an easy target for the U.S. Fifth Fleet, which patrols the waterways from its base in Bahrain. However, with the recently added and enhanced Iranian fleet now sharing the same narrow waterway with the Americans, any U.S. Navy action on south Yemen could be construed by the Iranians as an attack on defenceless Shia minorities. Furthermore, Yemen has remained an eerily close confidant and supporter of Iran's Mahmoud Ahmedinejad and the leader's nuclear "energy" program. To the extent that Iran would wish to reward Yemen's support by providing second-strike capabilities against a U.S. navy attack cannot be ruled out. Is al Qaeda's capture of the city simply meant to secure a front row seat to the ensuing fireworks? To the extent that al Qaeda is capable of provoking a fight in which it does not need to take part has also been evidenced in Afghanistan.

Al Qaeda's ability to exploit anti-Western sentiment in Yemen -- especially if its new civilian city-base is attacked by Western missiles -- may be easily accomplished. Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the world. With

an unemployment rate of 35 percent, nearly half of its population lives below the poverty line. What is left of Yemen's economy is entirely dependent on its oil fields, which, by some predictions, are set to run dry in the next five years. Despite its disparaging economic forecast, Yemen has one of the highest birth rates in the world, with 46 percent of its population under the age of 15. The ability to harness grievance amidst such conditions would not be difficult.

So what can be done to avoid the al Qaeda trap? Continuing to work with, and through, nations that value regional stability is a good starting point, as well as working with significant border powers like Saudi Arabia (the recent recipient of the biggest U.S. arms deal in history). The Saudi Kingdom plays a particularly crucial role in policing Yemen's northern borderlands, which, being mountainous and deeply tribal -- are, again, not unlike Afghanistan's.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, despite his history of cheerleading for despots like Saddam Hussein, may prove to be a fair-weather friend for Western nations insofar as he has expressed his motivation to quash AQAP's activities within his borders. While some analysts believe that Saleh may have turned a blind eye to Zinjibar's capture in order to divert attention away from the street protests that call for his resignation, the claims have yet to be proven. Even though such accusations were made chiefly by Saleh's political rivals, the President has garnered a poor reputation for letting al Qaeda operate in his country, despite his professing that he remains capable of controlling them.

The situation is as complex as it is delicate. Much will depend on how the circling superpowers engage with each other in achieving common regional aims. In the meantime, we must be keenly aware of al Qaeda's strategic computations. We cannot afford another Afghanistan.

SKETCHED OPINION

By: Carlos Latuff



In Yemen, hardly a revolution

By: Isa Blumi

To Yemenis, violence in the streets and threats of state collapse are nothing new. Despite reports portraying the protests in Yemen as something of a revolution, democratic change has little possibility of success. President Ali Abdullah Saleh is essentially a figurehead; whether he stays or goes, the regime of technocrats and thugs he represents is unlikely to fold under pressure.

Since Mr. Saleh came to power in North Yemen in a 1978 coup, his regime has selectively used state violence to maintain its hold, often working through militias and other loyalists, including radical Sunni Muslims sympathetic to Al Qaeda. Predictably, the violence has come at great cost to a country struggling with high unemployment and widespread poverty.

North Yemen and South Yemen were unified only in 1990, and quickly descended into a brief, bloody civil war in 1994, in which the north, aided by Saudi-financed Salafist groups, decimated the political order of the south, home to the country's best-educated, most cosmopolitan citizens. Two long-running conflicts -- a revolt in the northwest and a separatist insurrection in the oil- and gas-rich south -- have further fractured the society.

Societal fragmentation makes it hard for the opposition to move beyond its misleadingly simple goal of "change." It is true that the hundreds of thousands of mostly young people in the streets have common traits; certainly unemployment and poverty explain their persistence.

But they are not a unified opposition. Indeed, one factor that has kept the United States and its allies from openly embracing the protesters in the streets is the incoherence of an opposition com-

prising upward of 100 distinct groups.

While the Obama administration has now grudgingly called for Mr. Saleh's removal, it understandably does not want to undermine America's long-term investment in the Yemeni regime. Washington's inaction as dissidents were persecuted and civilians were killed has cost it credibility, as evidenced by the protesters' cold response to the calls by the United States and by the Gulf Cooperation Council for a peaceful transition of presidential power. These overtures -- too little, too late -- sound empty to leaders of the opposition, like the remarkable feminist activist Tawakul Karman, who has opposed the Saleh regime since 2007 without American support.

The lack of connection with the Yemeni people cannot be easily ignored by anyone concerned about American influence in the region. For years the Saleh regime has exploited the war on terrorism for all it was worth, masterfully playing on the security fears of the United States and Yemen's northern neighbor, Saudi Arabia, and branding its political opponents as terrorists, for financial and political benefit. It has also devastated the opposition; years of killing and intimidation have left Yemeni reformers leaderless and despondent.

Meanwhile, the two regional conflicts have forced hundreds of thousands of Yemenis to flee to the slums of the capital, Sana, and cities like Mukalla, Taiz and Aden, where many have become eager participants in the street protests. Unfortunately, recent defections by some top military officers have enervated, rather than energized, these protests.

The best known of the so-called defectors is Gen. Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar. But in supposedly joining the protesters -- many of whom are suspicious of his motives -- he has weakened the possibility of unity among them. It was

General Muhsin, after all, who commanded the forces against the rebels in northwest Yemen; for many, he is the hated face of the regime. In Egypt, where the army is widely admired, the defection of military officers from Hosni Mubarak's regime emboldened the opposition; in Yemen, distrust of the generals, particularly in the two conflict zones, means that the defections have had the opposite effect.

Paradoxically, the state's indiscriminate use of violence -- at least 100 Yemenis have been killed since early February -- has been the one thing that could potentially bridge the regional, class and sectarian divisions within the opposition. But in the end, the disparate protest groups face daunting obstacles. They are confronting an entrenched political class that is protected by a hard-core, fiercely loyal Republican Guard and by American-trained special operations units.

Yemen's brave youth surely must know that the government -- though perhaps not its figurehead, Mr. Saleh -- is insulated from regime change, forcible or otherwise. The regime's resources -- a mix of Western military aid and oil revenues -- give it up the upper hand.

True change in Yemen would require Washington to abandon its long-held aid programs for the country's oligarchs, given under the guise of counterterrorism, and support democratic processes, wherever they may lead.

Given the mistrust that permeates Yemeni society, an inconclusive repositioning of the fractured opposition is a more likely outcome. Those now putting their lives on the line for dignity, freedom and justice could be reconfigured into violent factions, leading to a new phase of hostility against the United States and its Saudi allies. Whatever happens to Mr. Saleh, Yemen's future looks bleak.

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Al-Safwa hospital in Taiz attacked and looted

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

A private hospital was looted and damaged in Taiz in recent clashes between protesters and Saleh loyalists, according to eyewitness. Some of the doctors working at the hospital were detained for hours. Wounded patients and dead bodies littered the streets of Freedom Square for hours as the hospital was under attack, according to pro-democracy protesters.

The anti-government protest that began in Taiz's Freedom Square was attacked for three consecutive days. Video footage taken during the fighting showed snipers in military and civilian clothes killing protesters at random.

In the most violence attack since nationwide protesters began in January, Al-Safwa hospital, located inside the protest square and only five meters away from the main stage, was also attacked.

The owners of the hospital were unwilling to speak to the press for fear of reprisals. Doctors working in the hospital are still detained after being arrested for speaking to the press.

"It's the first of its kind, never before has a nation's military looted a vandalized a hospital," said Dr. Waleed Hamud from Al-Safwa hospital.

"Yesterday, I tried to reach the hospital around 11:30 to check on my patients. When I arrived, I found that some of the doctors has been arrested and detained. Others fled when the attack on the hospital first began," he explained.

Dr. Hamud said that when he first arrived to the hospital, he found the medical equipment broken and strewn about the ground and patients with treatable wounds in critical conditions.

"When I got in I found an old man in the ICU who was not being treated," he said.

Plainclothes gunmen and soldiers looted expensive medical equipment and pharmaceuticals. Pieces of equipment that were too large to carry were destroyed.



Attacks against medical transport and facilities have increased as protesters are attacked indiscriminately

"They took everything. They even broke into the treasury and stole the hospital's money," said Dr. Hamud.

Protesters told the Yemeni times that bodies littered the streets. Doctors said that some of the bodies were taken by soldiers.

UN human rights head Navi Pillay condemned the intense use of force against anti-government protesters in Yemen, which has reportedly led to dozens of deaths and hundreds of injuries caused by the use of live ammunition over the past few days.

Pillay said the UN human rights office has received reports that more than 50 people have been killed since Sunday in Taiz by the Yemeni Regular Army, the Republican Guards and other Government-affiliated elements who destroyed the protest camp in Freedom Square using water cannons, bulldozers and live ammunition.

Reports indicate that hundreds more have been injured. "Such reprehensible acts of violence and indiscriminate attacks on unarmed civilians by armed security officers must stop immediately," the High Commissioner said. "I urge all sides to cease the use of force and I remind the Government of its responsibility to ensure that the fundamental human rights of its citizens are protected."

Pillay also noted reports that security forces had occupied Al-Safa hospital in Taiz, that the field clinic in Freedom Square had been

burned and that there was little or no access to emergency medical care.

"Adequate humanitarian access must be provided to all who need it the Government is obliged to ensure this," she said. "Medical staff and facilities must never be targeted by security forces."

At least 100 individuals are believed to have been arrested over the weekend in Taiz, while dozens of others are unaccounted for. The High Commissioner

called on the Government to investigate cases of disappearances and the many reports her staff have received of ill-treatment, torture and killings, and to bring perpetrators to justice.

"The Government must not resort to arbitrary and illegal arrests," Pillay said.

"Individuals detained for exercising their rights to peaceful assembly and expression should be released without delay."

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (YEM11/PRG/002)

The Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Yemen is currently seeking a qualified candidate for the following post:

Post Title:	Programme Assistant
Duty Station:	Sana'a
UN Category:	SC
Duration of:	One year
Closing Date:	11TH June 2011

This position is open to both male and female candidates. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the National Programme Officer in charge of nutrition activities, the incumbent will:

- Prepare periodic projections of commodity requirements/commitments by project and by location based on incoming data from Cooperating Partners and Sub Offices and input data into the WFP Information Systems;
- Review requests for cash requirements and initiate remittance action through the WFP Information Systems;
- Review and reconcile a variety of financial and operational reports;
- Analyze and process requests for a variety of data;
- Participate in the assessment of the information need of the programme unit and management; take initiative to collect, sort and report on such information;
- Using WFP's Information Systems, enter new and revised data such as new estimates/budget revisions, funding requests and cost information;
- Monitor ongoing shipments, pipeline information, and other data;
- Prepare periodic reports, statistical information and tables;
- Draft correspondence and take notes at meetings;
- Make arrangements and provide administrative support for programme related missions, meetings and workshops;
- Liaise with other units to resolve issues and clarify or obtain additional information;
- Collect, sort and distribute correspondence, reports and other material and transmit correspondence, documents, etc.;
- Set up, classify and maintain accurate records and files within the field of work;
- Organize the archive system for the programme unit;
- Perform other related duties as required.

Expected Results:

At G5 level: Processing of work and related follow up done under general supervision. Use of own discretion to address unforeseen situations seeking advice from and/or reporting to supervisor as applicable.

Qualifications:

Education:	Secondary school education, preferably supplemented by courses in a field related to WFP programmatic activities.
Experience:	At G5 level: At least four years of progressively responsible support or secretarial work experience including at least two years in the field of accounting, transport, insurance, statistics, operations or other related field. At least one year at G4 level or equivalent.
Language:	Fluency in both oral and written English and Arabic.
Knowledge:	Good knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint).

To apply, please send your curriculum vitae with a cover letter by the deadline to the following address:

World Food Programme, Sana'a
P.O. Box 7181
Diplomatic Area, Nowakshot St, House No. 22, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Application should include copies of certificates and licences, and submitted in a sealed envelope.
Please indicate the reference number of the vacancy announcement on the envelope.
Alternatively, the application can be sent by email to Hr.Yem@wfp.org
The subject of the mail should indicate the reference number of the vacancy announcement.
Only short-listed candidates shall be contacted.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (YEM11/PRG/003)

The Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Yemen is currently seeking a qualified candidate for the following post:

Post Title:	Programme Assistant (Nutrition)
Duty Station:	Sana'a
UN Category:	SC
Duration of:	One year
Closing Date:	11TH June 2011

This position is open to both male and female candidates. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the National Programme Officer in charge of nutrition activities, the incumbent will:

- Prepare periodic projections of commodity requirements/commitments by location based on incoming data from Cooperating Partners and Sub Offices;
- Review requests for commodity and cash requirements and initiate remittance action through the WFP Information Systems;
- Review and reconcile a variety of financial and operational reports;
- Analyze and process requests for a variety of data;
- Using WFP's Information Systems, enter new and revised data such as new estimates/budget revisions, funding requests and cost information;
- Monitor ongoing shipments, pipeline information, and other data for nutrition activity;
- Conduct field monitoring exercise for the nutrition activity;
- Assist in conducting training of field staff and cooperating partner on nutrition;
- Prepare periodic reports, statistical information and tables;
- Draft correspondence related to the field of work;
- Make arrangements and provide administrative support for meetings and workshops in the related field;
- Liaise with other units to resolve issues and clarify or obtain additional information;
- Perform other related duties as required.

Expected Results:

At G4 level: Organized and precise records and well analyzed data with minimal supervision.

Qualifications:

Education:	Secondary school education, preferably supplemented by courses in a field related to nutrition.
Experience:	At G4 level: At least three years of progressively responsible support experience including at least one year in the field of nutrition and health. At least one year at G3 level or equivalent.
Language:	Fluency in both oral and written English and Arabic.
Knowledge:	Good knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint).

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The first martyr in Sana'a



Awadh Al-Suraihi is one of the first of over 200 peaceful protesters that would be killed in Yemen's more than four month long anti-government protest movement.

By: Amira Al-Arasi

A popular revolution called "the day of rage" was ignited in Yemen on Friday Feb. 11th, the same day that Hosni Mubarak's regime fell in Egypt. Mubarak's departure invigorated the uprisings in Yemen, which had already been inspired by the Tunisian revolution in Jan. 2011 that brought an end to Zine El Abidine bin Ali's rule.

The Yemeni youth and opposition parties joined in demanding an end to President Saleh's 33-year rule, and started to push for political, economic and social reforms.

Social media websites such as the Facebook contributed effectively in this revolution as opposition groups started posting pages with demands for reforms. The online forums overflowed with discussions outlining demands for the overthrow of the regime and negotiating what a new Yemen should be like.

Among these online groups was "the Yemeni youth revolution to topple the regime," whose pages played an essential role in organizing protests and demonstrations. They helped organize 17 protests in 17 governorates under the one demand: "The president should depart and be tried with his cronies."

One of those who heeded the call to protest was 30-year old Awadh Al-Suraihi. He lived in a small village – no more than a scattering of houses on top of a mountain – in the green governorate of Ibb. Here he lived with his parents and siblings and their families, all in the same house.

He helped his father farm and sell qat – a popular stimulant used widely all over Yemen. He was born in Al-Shirae village in the Jibla district. This is where he gained his secondary education in which he excelled.

His mum spoke with the Yemen Times on the telephone with a voice full of sorrow. She said she had six boys and three girls, Awadh being the youngest among his brothers. He lived a polite and quiet life among his peers in the village and everyone loved him.

He used to love teaching, so he worked as a teacher of the holy Quran. He graduated from the Religious Guidance Institute in the capital Sana'a and was recruited by the Ministry of Religious Affairs six years ago to work in the village mosque.

He used to consider himself a father to his young students. He used to watch their behavior and actions, and directed them to the right path. All the families in the village considered him as one of their assets. He was married one and a half years ago. On Feb. 22 he became the first martyr of the revolution in Sana'a, the capital of Yemen.

"He had a baby girl who is now seven months old. She does not know that she has lost her father and she lives now without him. If she understood that, she would be very sad and proud of his martyrdom, as the first martyr in the capital Sana'a," said Awadh's mother.

Despite Awadh being a quiet person, he did not hide his allegiance to the Islah Party and worked with them on election campaigns, according to his older brother Taha.

Majed Al-Suraihi, Awadh's cousin who spent the last two days with Awadh before he was martyred, said: "During the first demonstration, Awadh was in the village and decided to join the free youth and traveled to Sana'a."

"At the beginning of the protest in Sana'a, Awadh set up a tent for him and his friends who were graduates of the Religious Guidance Institute," he said.

"One day before his martyrdom, thugs loyal to the regime raided the protest square in Sana'a and he spent that day at his sister's home in Sana'a," explained Al-Suraihi.

"On Tuesday Feb. 22, the date of his martyrdom, I called him in the morning and we agreed to meet in the square in the evening of the same day. Indeed we met and spoke about the revolution and we left and met again after dinner on the same day," he said.

Before his travel to Sana'a, he asked his father not to sell their qat until he returned to the village so they could sell it together in Ibb city.

"But, on that day he called his father and told him to sell the qat as if he felt that he would not soon come back to his village" said Al-Suraihi.

"I spent that night with him and at 11:00 pm, we were surprised by a raid with live ammunition. While the protesters were crowding around, I lost him," he recalled.

"Later on, I saw him carrying one of the injured protesters to the field hospital. I was untying the tents of the regime's thugs that they were attempting to set up in the square. A short time later I saw him fallen on the ground. He had been shot by live bullets which went through his chest and I ran to him. Two youth carried him to the Al-Jumhori hospital in Sana'a, where he passed away."

His older brother Abdo said: "His wife called him many times that night to check on him, but he did not reply to her calls as he had already passed away... She did not sleep that night as she felt that something bad had happened to her husband."

Majed went on to say: "I could not follow him fearing I would be arrested. I waited until the morning of the second day and went to the hospital. I found that he was unidentified, so I wrote down his name and called his family."

Abdo Al-Suraihi said that "one of his colleagues told us on the afternoon of the following day in a telephone call that Awadh had been martyred. My mother, Awadh's wife and my father fell to the ground. The news was a shock to us. We traveled to Sana'a."

Majed added that "After his older brother arrived, we requested the prosecution to dissect the body to know how many bullets went through Awadh's body. Three bullets were clear on his body. When the forensic doctor came, he told us that the body was frozen at 25 degrees below zero and he could not analyze it as it was very solid. He told them to leave the body out the refrigerator to reach the normal temperature so he could analyze it. This was in the same week of Awadh's martyrdom."

"Outside the morgue we saw a car with the republican eagle on the plates instead of a number. We did not give

any attention to it and we left after we were told to come back on Saturday. When we came at the agreed time, we found out that the car with the republican eagle had taken Awadh's body away."

"One day after his martyrdom, a delegation from the regime came to us and offered us YR 30 million to accuse the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) of killing Awadh. They said they would perform an official funeral with very big media coverage, but we refused because we knew who the killer of our son was."

"Then they offered YR 20 million and requested us to bury him without praying for him at 'Change Square', but we refused. So they kidnapped his body and took it to the Al-Thawra hospital in Ibb. We only found this out after two weeks."

"So we traveled back to the governorate and we went to the Al-Thawra hospital. There we found Awadh's body. Procedures took another two weeks to obtain a license from the prosecution in Sana'a to take the body out of the refrigerator."

"On March 23rd, one month after his martyrdom, we held a funeral for him in Ibb City with tens of thousands in attendance. We transported his body to his village, about 50 km out of Ibb City. He was buried in his hometown in Al-Shirae village. In his absence, hundreds of thousands of protesters in 'Change Square' in Sana'a prayed for Awadh," recalled Majed.

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