

1st armored division attacks protesters

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

Sana'a, June, 8 — The 1st Armored Division, soldiers loyal to defect general Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, attacked demonstrators staging a sit-in in front of vice president Abd Rabo Mansur Hadi's home.

Abdulsalam Al-Maili, Major Colonel of the 1st Armored Division told the Yemen Times that those protesters were "armed thugs" who wanted to disturb the peace.

"We caught them, armed with guns, Kalashnikovs, bombs and bazookas. These thugs are paid by suspicious groups that are known by everybody, by those who are anti-revolution" said Al-Maili.

The protesters who were attacked on the 60 Meter Road told the Yemen Times that Asker Zua'al, the spokesman for Major General Ali Mohsen, was the one who ordered the attack and warned the protesters to leave the area.

The peaceful youth protesters marched on Tuesday to the vice president's home. They also stayed the night in front of Hadi's house on 60 Meter Road. The marching youth gave Hadi 24 hours to form a Transitional Council to take power over the country until the next election.

The 1st Armored Division, who are protecting Hadi's house, said that it's their duty to protect Hadi's house whether he has accepted to be the acting president or not.

"Whether Hadi became the acting president or not, we are protecting him only because he is the vice president, but the talks on who will be the acting president is not our job, it's politics and we are military force that should ensure

people's safety" said Al-Maili.

Some of the protesters accused the division of trying to protect Saleh's regime and fooling the revolution.

"We agreed with the division that we will stay 24 hours from 5:00 yesterday until 5:00 today but the division attacked us today with live ammunition at 12:00" said Ali Hameed, one of the protesters camping in front of Hadi's home.

"The attackers were the division, not the central security forces, Asker Suhail was in their first line of the attackers, and they took four of our friends. Today they showed on which side they were the whole time." He added.

The independent protesters also asked all the political parties and the different social organizations in the country to form the transitional council with Hadi, otherwise they said the protesters themselves will form a presidential transitional council from the different aspects of the "peaceful revolution".

The banners they held were different than usual, most of it was showing the rejection of the possibility that Saleh comes back to the country after treatment. "Never return" one of the banners read. "The revolution is waiting, God bless those who determine it" another banner read, it showed that the protesters yet don't feel that the revolution met its aims, some are calling Saleh departure a "golden opportunity" that should not be wasted and the escalation should start.

The Joint Meeting Parties [the opposition parties' coalition] declared their approval that vice president Hadi should be the acting president in the transitional period.

A member from Islah party, the big-



Protesters marching towards the vice president's residence last Tuesday where they planned to stage a day-long sit it.



gest opposing party, that the JMP is implementing the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative as away to protect Yemen from a high possibility of a civil war.

From their side, the independent protesters warn that the revolution should escalate to withdraw the whole regime and to prevent Ahmed Ali, the head of the Republican guards and Special Forces from using his forces against the revolution.

The fear of the counter-revolution among the protesters is big, as too many players' aims to get benefit of the situation.

Mohammed Saeed Al-Shara'bi, journalist and activist said that the revolution is in a dangerous stage now and that the independent youth should get rid of the political parties' control. "The independent protesters went by their own to this march, it's their decision,

they challenged the JMP especially Islah party who is trying to play Taliban" said al-Shara'bi.

"The Independent Youth are ready for a second revolution, they get Saleh out of the country and they will get anyone and any political part that will try to steal the revolution" he added.

The youth from the JMP rejected the JMP decision in supporting Hadi and join their voice with the independent

youth that this is a onetime chance that should be taken the best way.

"Although the march wasn't as huge as usual, this is the best march I have participated in, a feeling of freedom all the time, the youth themselves are taking the lead and demanding what they believe the right thing" said Mohammed Al-Emad, a member of Islah party who participated in the March to Saleh's house.

AQAP, military fight pitched battles Abyan

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, June 8 — Pitched battles are currently taking place between Saleh's forces and armed Islamists who took control of Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan three weeks ago, local sources told the Yemen Times.

30 members of the armed group were killed on Tuesday's battles. The government says among them were "one of Al-Qaeda's leading member, known as Hassan Al-Uqili," state-run Saba news agency reported on Tuesday.

"Thousands from Zinjibar's more than 50,000 residents were displaced by the ongoing fighting are in dire humanitarian assistance," said Khaled Al-Abd, a local journalist.

He explained that internally displaced persons (IDPs) have fled the

city to their villages in the countryside while others who have no homes in villages live now in schools and farms outside the conflict area.

And despite the accusation from the opposition parties and defected generals against Saleh that he handed over Abyan to "terrorist groups to blackmail the international community to get their support to remain in power," Saleh's forces still fight the armed group and claim that it is Al-Qaeda who is trying to establish their Islamic state in Abyan.

"Those armed Islamists in Abyan were raised by Saleh himself - it is only a play taking a place in Abyan to change the world spotlight on Yemen from the popular uprisings to Al-Qaeda threat," said one of the locals in Abyan in a telephone call with the Yemen

Times. However, a local expert on Al-Qaeda who is close to the regime, Aysh Awas denied the accusation saying, "If that was true, the government would not attack them."

He explained that "the terrorism issue has been politicized and that is the thing that should be stopped because the USA and the west are not so naive to be extorted in such a manner."

He highlighted that, "Abyan has been known since longtime ago as one of Al-Qaeda's hideout in Yemen and the top leader of the organization, Naser Al-Wahishi is from the area itself."

"There are some religious and prophetic statements which urge jihadists to be in Abyan including the prophet's statement "12,000 Abyan-Aden army will come out from Aden", he said.



Saleh's army said that it killed 30 armed Islamists on Tuesday who took control of Zinjibar city, the capital of Abyan three weeks ago.

The expert also denied the news that the Counter-terrorism unit was pulled

out from Abyan some days before the Islamists took control of the city.

"The CTU was not pulled out because it is still only a branch in the area under construction that was announced to be created at the beginning of this year in the four governorates of Abyan, Shabwa, Mareb and Hadramout," Awas said.

The armed Islamists in the governorate who are now fighting the army are about 300 persons and they are mixed of Al-Qaeda members, former jihadists in Afghanistan, independent Islamic fighters and some bandits who are just looking to loot properties and steal money, according to Awas.

Government takes desperate measures to contain fuel shortage

By: Ali Saeed

Mohamed Hassan, 52, works as a mini-bus driver in Sana'a and is the main breadwinner for his 10-family members. He can no longer find gasoline now to fill his vehicle and continue working to feed his family due to acute nationwide shortage of the fuel that began more than two months ago.

Hassan is one of thousands in Sana'a who have lost their jobs due to the fuel crisis which has paralyzed most businesses, large and small, public and private.

The situation has forced hundreds of people in urban areas to go back to their ancestral villages and live a primitive lifestyle instead of the modern one in cities. In rural areas, they ride donkeys instead of luxurious land-cruisers or the latest model Hyundai cars.

While many are used to drinking cool water from refrigerators, they are going to have a cup of water that was made of soft clay some hundred years ago brought from an under-ground cistern which was built by their grandfathers or a natural spring which they used to go in the past for hiking during summer vacations.

"Now, I'm planning to travel to my village, because no other choices left for me after losing my source of income," said Hassan.

"There are no water pipes, electricity or telephone landlines in my village," he added.

Hassan who is literate and watches the news coming out of Yemen carefully, criticizing the people in power and in the opposition for the current dilemma, saying, "All of them do not care about the interests of citizens and are only competing for power."

Fuel shortages in many parts of Yemen worsened as the country's main

oil pipeline remained shut and tight funding hit imports, trade and shipping sources said on Monday. A blast in March on the pipeline, suspected to have been carried out by angry tribesmen, has stopped the flow of light Marib crude, which has forced the 130,000 barrels per day (bpd) Aden refinery to shut and hurt fuel supplies.

Yemen produced a total of around 260,000 bpd of crude oil in 2010. Around 110,000 bpd of that is light crude, which is in short supply globally after Libyan output came to a virtual standstill due to a revolt there.

Not only mini-bus drivers who were affected by the lack of fuel, but thousands in different business sectors have lost their job and returned villages, said Mostafa Nasr, chairman of the Studies and Economic Media Center in Sana'a.

"People in different professions have lost their jobs due to the shortage of fuel including restaurants, banks, factories and the construction sector," he said.

All petrol stations in Sana'a ran out of fuel last after the care-taker government became unable to purchase oil derivatives from abroad after the country's oil-pipeline that transfers the crude oil from oil fields in Mareb to oil refineries in Aden has been dried up due to dozens of attacks in different times since the beginning of the popular uprisings in Yemen, according to Nasr.

He explained that since the supply of the oil pipeline was cut off from Mareb to Aden to be refined, the state adopted "wrong policy to contain the current shortage by importing refined oil from abroad using foreign national reserves."

A source at the Ministry of oil who requested to be anonymous, said that

ten days ago, the Ministry of Oil held a meeting with the Ministry of Finance to discuss solutions for the petrol crisis.

"They agreed to import petrol from some gulf countries and they pay the receipts from the national cash reserves," he said.

Using the foreign national reserves devalues the national currency and drives the national economy into a breakdown, according to Nasr.

Fuel shortage flourishes black market

The acute shortage of the fuel has thriven the black market of the petrol increasing the price of one liter fuel from YR 75 to YR 250-300.

Tribesmen in Mareb smuggle the petrol from the neighboring countries of Saudi Arabia and Oman to petrol stations in Mareb to be redistributed on retailing smugglers who transport it on 200-liter-barrels on five-pick-up trucks and Hilux cars from Mareb to Sana'a, smugglers told the Yemen Times.

Hundreds of fuel-retailing smuggles spread on most streets of the capital Sana'a. The Yemen Times interviewed some of these smugglers who were unafraid to speak on their trade.

Abdullah Al-Musalsal, a fuel-retailing smuggler from Mareb said that he buys the fuel from petrol stations in Mareb which had been smuggled from Oman and Saudi Arabia.

The petrol stations in Mareb sell one-petrol-liter to retailing smugglers at between YR 125-150 in which retailers sell it in Sana'a with a double price, according to Al-Musalsal.

A source at the ministry of oil confirmed that Mareb is the main gate of the smuggled petrol from Saudi Arabia and Oman especial at this time when Yemen's production of oil has been stopped with the nationwide uprisings



The fuel shortage has allowed for a black market to flourish in which the one liter of gasoline has increased in price from YR 75 to YR 250-300.

demanding an end of Saleh's 33-year rule.

The chairman of the economic media center explained that "the regime sometimes block the supply of oil on purpose to spark citizens' anger against protesters by claiming that it is the protesters who blocked the supply of the fuel."

He added that now with stoppage of the Mareb oil-pipeline the state is unable to buy a sufficient quantity of fuel to address the market's needs.

On Monday, the acting president of Yemen, lieutenant general, Abd Raboo Mansour Hadi held a meeting with a top military and security leaders who are mostly Saleh's sons and relatives

and promised to work on unifying efforts on providing the basic commodities to citizens including the fuel, diesel, cooking gas and the electricity.

"This news has somewhat reassured people in which the exchange rate of the Yemeni Riyal with the US dollar was reduced from YR 240 to 233 for one dollar," Nasr said.

Saleh is out, but Yemen's problems aren't over

By: Felice Friedson and Judith Spiegel For the Media Line

SANAA, Yemen — The pitched battles have given way to occasional gun and mortar fire. Stores have re-opened, even if water and electricity remain in short supply. The city is bristling with troops, but many of them have flowers sprouting out of their guns, courtesy of the joyous opposition protesters.

But even with its long-serving president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, out of the country, the future of Yemen remains as murky as ever.

After repeatedly turning down offers to step down as part of a negotiated solution with the opposition, Saleh ended up leaving on a stretcher after he was wounded in a rocket attack on his compound over the weekend. He leaves behind a country in disarray, with a figurehead vice president officially in charge while powerful tribes and Saleh's sons and nephews vie for power and Al-Qa'ida lurks in the background. The economy is paralyzed.

"We are looking at an extreme political vacuum. We don't know exactly how long his sons and nephews can stay in control of security forces," Christian Koch, director of the international stud-

ies program at the Gulf Research Center told The Media Line. "There are too many questions marks around. We're looking for a period of continued volatility."

A lot is at stake in the poor, perpetually unstable country. Astride a major route of world oil, Yemen risks devolve into a failed state and a base for Islamic radicals much like Afghanistan and Somalia. Yemen's Gulf neighbors, together with the U.S., struggled to force Saleh out of office and see an orderly transition to a new government.

Saleh was a victim of a strategy to take on the tribal groups, led by the Hashis, which had emerged as the biggest challenge to his continued rule. Two weeks ago, he dispatched his troops to besiege the Al-Ahmar family compound, setting off the worst violence Sana'a had seen since protests against Saleh's rule erupted in January.

Along with leaving more than 200 dead and bringing the city to a standstill, the violence touched the president himself on Friday when a mosque in the presidential compound was hit -- probably by a mortar shell. Not only was Saleh wounded seriously enough for him to be flown out of the country, but the attack also injured the prime minister, two deputy prime ministers and the

speakers of both parliamentary chambers, all of whom are now being treated in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

For now, Yemen is formally under the rule of Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi. But the real center of governmental power lies with the Saleh family, according to Jeb Boone, who is managing editor of The Yemen Times. They could employ that to ensure the president's return or take over the country themselves. Saleh briefly addressed the nation after the attack but didn't say he was relinquishing the power he has clung to tenaciously over the course of the unrest.

"His sons, who are military commanders of the Republican Guard and central security, are still in the country," Boone told The Media Line. "If he [Saleh] wanted to somehow secure his return through his sons as military commanders, I think they would have the ability to do that."

Two other contenders for power are Hamid Al-Ahmar, a millionaire businessmen and leader of the Hasid tribe. He is believed to have connections with Al-Qa'ida. Another is General Ali Mohsen who broke publicly with Saleh, his half-brother, sided with the anti-government opposition. Subsequently, he remained aloof from the fighting, but many Yemenis believe it was his forces

that hit the presidential mosque, and not those of Al-Ahmar.

In the remote regions of Yemen, other tribes have asserted their authority at the expense of the government. Koch of the Gulf Research Center said he is pretty confident that with Saleh gone they would be prepared to recognize the authority of the central government again.

"None of the tribes want to see the disintegration of the state -- it doesn't serve their interests," Koch said. "Most of them are interested in trying to find a working arrangement where their interests are respected."

The political arena, however, won't be left entirely to domestic players. The U.S. and, more importantly neighboring Saudi Arabia, are determined to ensure that stability returns to Yemen. The Saudis already have a trump card with Saleh and many of his top aides and family now in their sovereign territory.

Saudi Arabia and the other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have been running scared by the Arab Spring and its threat to the region's long-standing rulers. The GCC was quick to smother the only protests to break out among a member nation, Bahrain, by sending in troops.

Much bigger and more chaotic than Bahrain, a military option isn't likely in

Yemen, Abdelkhalq Abdalla, professor of political science at Emirates University in Dubai, told The Media Line.

"I don't think the Saudis will need to send any troops. That's not really an option, but the Saudis and the GCC will never give up in Yemen," he said. "It's in their backyard and its a strategic place. Whatever happens in Yemen is of immediate concern of the GCC capitals. They will do everything possible to restore some kind of normalcy with the help of America, Europe and others."

Analysts give relatively short shift to the Al-Qa'ida threat, which has been the biggest concern of the Washington policy makers. While the Islamic movement is active in Yemen and has chalked up

some notable successes over the years, including the attack on the U.S.S. Cole and the Saudi interior minister, Saleh probably exaggerated its influence in the country in order to win more aid and support from Saudi Arabia and the West, they said.

The real challenge facing Yemen is the economy, which needs to be restarted if the country isn't going to slide into the ranks of the world's failed states.

"It's going to take a lot of work to bring it back to where it was before, to get oil production back up, to get foreign currency reserves back up and bring the devaluation of the rial and inflation back down," said Boone of The Yemen Times.

Youth optimistic about Yemen's future

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANAA, June 7— Most youth in squares across the country unanimously believe that the possibility that someone may seize power in Saleh's absence is slim, indicating that is no longer possible for powerful military figures to seize control of the state any longer, according to the newly-conducted poll by the independent Tamkeen Development Foundation (TDF).

The poll shows that the youth of today are eager to form a civilian, decentralized and democratic country based on political pluralism and social justice.

The poll conducted during two months in five governorates shows that 63.4 percent of respondents said that what's happening in Yemen is a popular revolution aimed at building a civil state.

The poll revealed that 89 percent of respondents are optimistic about the future of Yemen and they expect that the living situation will be improved, political participation will be reinforced and they expect also that the education will be better.

The poll indicated that the youth believe that the sectarian and tribal affiliations are beginning to fade.

More than half of respondents said that the current phase requires establishing political parties and civic organiza-

tions for the youth. About 73 percent of respondents indicated that the existing political parties failed to form a suitable institutional framework for the youth.

The parliamentary system is supported by 49.5 percent of respondents while 26.1 percent of them prefer mixed system (presidential and parliamentary).

Changing the Yemeni constitution is desired by 48 percent of respondents while 24.6 percent of them desire to amend some of the articles of the constitution.

Eighty percent of respondents believe that the current political events will contribute to fighting corruption and reinforce a culture of accountability, stressing the importance of urgent reforms for economic, political and educational crises.

Murad Al-Gharati, executive director of the TDF told the Yemen Times that if there is a democratic transition of power in Yemen the youth would be politically and economically empowered and they will gain great chances.

"The political leaders of opposing and ruling parties didn't empower the youth and they didn't support them. The youth should form new political parties and organizations to be really empowered," said Al-Gharati. "The youth should be empowered as decision-makers in the nation's future."

UNHCR worried about refugees and displaced people in strife-torn Yemen

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

GENEVA, June 3 (UNHCR) — Two refugees are among those killed in recent clashes in Yemen that have displaced thousands of Yemenis and refugees alike. The UN refugee agency has expressed alarm at the deteriorating situation, which is affecting its ability to help these vulnerable groups.

"In Al-Hasaba, north of [Yemen's capital] Sana'a city, two Somali refugees were killed in the fighting last week," said UNHCR spokesman Adrian Edwards at a news briefing in Geneva on Friday. "They were a 14-year-old boy and a young woman who had fled the violence in Somalia to seek refuge

in Yemen."

The escalating violence between security forces and armed tribesmen has forced dozens of refugee families to flee Al-Hasaba for the surrounding areas. Where possible, they are staying with relatives or friends. Those with no support network could be offered other shelter possibilities. For example, the non-governmental organization, Interaction in Development Foundation (IDF), is considering renting a building to provide temporary accommodation. UNHCR and its partners are supporting the refugees' relocation by offering emergency funds, water and relief supplies. Some 150 refugee families have so far received emergency assistance.

The clashes in Al-Hasaba are also affecting Yemenis already displaced by years of conflict in Sa'ada in the north. Among these internally displaced people (IDPs) living in Al-Hasaba, more than 80 families have fled the current fighting and returned to Sa'ada city and the surrounding areas. UNHCR has managed to locate 43 IDP families and is providing aid in the form of shelter and basic supplies.

In Yemen, the UN refugee agency cares for nearly 200,000 refugees and over 300,000 internally displaced Yemenis from the north. "The escalating conflict is affecting UNHCR's ability to protect and assist these vulnerable people," warned Edwards.

Meanwhile, an estimated 20,000 new IDPs have emerged in southern Yemen as people flee the fighting between government forces and militiamen in Abyan governorate's Zunjubar city.

"Hundreds of Yemeni families have fled the city of Zunjubar to the surrounding areas," said Edwards. "The majority of IDPs are being hosted in small villages near Zunjubar."

He added that UNHCR is working with its partners and local authorities to help 982 IDP families hosted in seven schools in Aden city to the west. Aid agencies are also working with the local authorities to assess the situation and provide urgent assistance to these newly displaced people.

‘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

Saleh's medical exit lessens risk of civil war in Yemen

By: Alistair Lyon

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh's departure to have his wounds treated in Saudi Arabia offers Yemen a precious opportunity to halt a slide into civil war and achieve a peaceful transition of power.

Much could go wrong. Young protesters eager to add Saleh to the list of toppled Arab autocrats have greeted his exit with euphoria, but they fear a come-back by the wily leader, who was wounded along with other senior officials in an attack on his palace Friday.

Vice President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, now Yemen's acting leader, was quoted by the state news agency Saba Monday as saying Saleh was recovering and would return within days.

The future of Yemen is uncertain. Lying next to Saudi Arabia and vital maritime oil routes, it hosts a virulent

Al-Qaeda wing exploiting feeble state control in an impoverished nation riven by rivalries among tribal leaders, generals and politicians.

"If Saleh remains out of the country and if his sons and nephews don't begin instigating or taking provocative action, Yemen can avoid all-out war," said Yemen expert Gregory Johnsen.

"At the same time, we have come dangerously close in the last couple of weeks to what could easily be classified as a civil war, so it's too early to say. It could go either way."

The attitude of Saudi Arabia, which has traditionally played an equivocal role in Yemeni politics, could be decisive. "The Saudis will seize the opportunity ... to extend his medical recovery into a political rest," said Yemen expert Khaled Fattah. The risk of Yemen descending into Somalia-style anarchy was "a nightmare for Saudi national security."

The kingdom took Saleh in for urgent hospital care on what a Saudi

official termed humanitarian grounds. "We don't interfere in his decision [to stay or return]," the official said.

That may be Riyadh's public stance, but the United States and its European allies will be quietly pressing the Saudis to ensure that Saleh's absence from Yemen becomes permanent.

"I don't think the Saudis or his people want him back," said a Western diplomat. "He doesn't have regional support. I'd be surprised if he came back and it's too nice a let-out for him."

Saleh, however, initially delayed travelling because he was seeking assurances from Saudi King Abdullah that he would be able to return after treatment, a Yemeni government source said.

Saudi Arabia is Yemen's main aid donor and has also long funded Yemeni tribes to maximize its own influence, but it has struggled to manage the crisis in its neighbor, failing to get Saleh to sign a Gulf-brokered plan

for him to relinquish power.

"I'm not sure Saudi Arabia is the infallible snake charmer people on the outside believe it to be," Johnsen said.

The president may have handed over to his faceless deputy, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, but some of his sons and nephews remain in charge of well-equipped military and security units.

They have the firepower to challenge General Mohsen Ali, a Saleh kinsman who defected to the opposition with his troops, or to take on the Hashed tribesmen who have fought Saleh loyalists.

Others who will demand a say include a disparate axis of Islamist and leftist parties, as well as the youthful protesters who want a "new Yemen" – a civil state ruled by democracy, not the corrupt patronage politics that stamped Saleh's rule.

"There is no single institution or individual in Yemen who is capable of exerting control," said Fattah. "Yemen's formal structures such as

political parties and government institutions are in no position to shape events. The divided military, on the other hand, is a reflection of tribal coalitions and elite struggle, not state power," he added.

A possible road map for transition would involve forming a national council of tribal elders, generals, clerics and opposition politicians – including representatives of rebels in the north and south – as well as the emerging youth movement.

The opposition coalition has endorsed the vice president's assumption of power as a first step in the transition, ahead of parliamentary and presidential elections.

For many Yemenis, the turmoil since January has compounded a struggle for survival in a land where rapid population growth has further stressed scarce water, food and other resources.

"In the very short term, the priority is demilitarization of public life, sum-

moning all military units back to barracks and pulling tribal militia from the streets of Sanaa," Fattah said.

Many Yemeni people, including those internally displaced, may need humanitarian relief until basic services can be restored.

A new government will struggle to rescue Yemen from economic disaster or to satisfy 23 million people seeking relief from crippling poverty, corruption and failing public services.

Ironically, the single most effective way to reduce unemployment in Yemen, would be for Saudi Arabia and other Gulf oil producers to open their doors to Yemeni migrant workers.

Johnsen said the United States and Europe could try to convince the Gulf countries fretting about instability in Yemen that this would serve their own interest, as well the West's.

"That would be a tough sell for the Obama administration, given historic Saudi fears about letting Yemenis in."

If Yemen falls, so does the dollar reserve?

By: Anthony Wile

How is it that the world's fortunes hang on the life or death of a murderous thug that the US has been supporting for 30 years? And why, in fact, if Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh is so important, isn't it common knowledge? Saleh was wounded yesterday when opposition forces blew up his palace. But as I'll discuss, below, there's more to the story. (Isn't there always?)

In my opinion, this story is so big it should be on the front pages of the New York Times and The Wall Street Journal: "US dollar hegemony hangs in the balance." Or how's this: "Future of the world's monetary system may be decided in Yemen's Sana'a."

How can one silly, little and desperately poor country full of people in ankle-length white robes be in the position to shake the foundations of the current monetary system of the Anglo-American empire?

First, context. It hasn't been a good year for the West's power elite. Yemen is only one country in tumult. Other countries verging on civil war are Bahrain and Syria. (Libya is already convulsed.) But in fact there are hundreds of places in the Middle East, Africa and Europe now where people are demonstrating and marching – or fighting with various levels of efficiency and organization.

In Afghanistan, the Obama administration is said to be desperately searching for Mullah Omar, the one-eyed leader of the Taliban, now and again reported dead or missing. US officials, in turn, wish to find Omar so that they can work out a deal where the US declares victory and Omar retains the territory. Some victory.

Libya is currently in a stalemate; China is Pakistan's new best friend; Pakistan's generals are again denying what Ms. Hillary Clinton – US Secretary of State – said only a week ago, that the Pakistan army was about to launch a significant attack against the Pashtun/Taliban. It's not true, the generals say.

Meanwhile, Egypt's youths sleep on the streets; Tunisian youth are no happier; Iran is gaining considerable regional influence because of the "color revolutions" that the CIA apparently triggered. Iraq is destabilizing again, and even the Palestinians are resurgent.

The Arab Awakening is truly a regional if not global phenomenon. Of course, we have our own name for it: The Internet Reformation. It's really the same thing. Just as the Gutenberg press spawned the Renaissance and Reformation, so the Internet has now spawned a truly significant social convulsion. The world

will never be the same.

America's CIA-sponsored AYM youth movements were behind the initial color revolutions. But notice how the mainstream press has stopped celebrating them. Perhaps they haven't worked out as planned. Either Western elites are encouraging a series of Arab Islamic Republics (so as to buttress what seems to be an essentially phony "war on terror") or they are trying to create controllable regulatory democracies that will likely be run by dependable militaries with a constitutional façade. Neither of these options looks to be feasible in the near term.

Alternatively, the West seeks generalized chaos for some reason – or, more intriguingly, it has simply lost control of the situation. As we've stated before, Yemen is important because it may well indicate how much control the West actually has over the Arab Awakening. So far, what's been most apparent is dithering. The West hasn't shown a firm hand. There are reasons why.

Yemen may be spinning out of Western control. After Saleh was wounded, he was quoted as saying, "I salute our armed forces and the security forces for standing up firmly to confront this challenge by an outlaw gang that has nothing to do with the so-called youth revolution." It's interesting that the words Saleh used were "outlaw gang" as the tribal opposition to his rule denied making the attack. Apparently, it was what one might call "an inside job."

That means that individuals nominally allied with Saleh tried to knock him off. And why not? He is a thoroughly despicable man. He has ruled Yemen for about 30 years through a mixture of truculence and torture; like Gaddafi, his favorite method of staying in power is one of "divide and conquer" in which he set various tribes against each other.

Yup ... Yemen is another "tribal backwater" like Afghanistan – a place where the Anglo-American elite (exaggeratedly) has no interest. It is like a kid kicking a stone past the house of a pretty girl. He just happened along the way ... and thus the US just "happened" into Afghanistan and Iraq. In fact, the US is intensely interested – mesmerized in a kind of Ted Bundy (bad) way.

How seriously does the Anglo-American empire take Afghanistan (as a speed-bump on the way to world government)? Try, probably, say ... US\$2 trillion in expenditures, thousands killed and tens of thousands wounded. True the total all-in cost hasn't been as much as Vietnam (50,000 dead and 500,000 wounded) but there's considerable evidence that the US has been undercounting the dead and wounded through a variety of manipulations.

Yemen has never presented the kind of problems as Afghanistan. In part that's because Yemen is even more difficult to subdue militarily than the stiff-necked Pashtun Taliban. The West has wanted as little to do with Yemen as possible (outside of controlling the coastline). Here's a description of Yemen by Paul Herman of the New Zealand Post in a recent article entitled "Cry, cry and cry again for my beloved Yemen."

So now my beloved Yemen is on the verge of going up in flames, on the verge of a cataclysmic civil war. I say "my beloved" because I had such an extraordinary time there on an Intrepid Journey a few years back. Not a lot of people actually know where Yemen is. I don't think I really did until I checked a map before we went there. It is essentially the bottom left portion of the Arabian Peninsula. And what I certainly didn't realise about the entire Arabian Peninsula is that a massive mountain range runs north to south down its western side, sloping down eventually to the Red Sea.

In fact, the Saudis move their capital up to the mountains, to Taif, during the ferocious Arabian summers. The Yemeni capital Sana'a sits in this same mountain range. The thing about Yemen is the architecture. There is nothing like it in the world. They seem to have engineering in their genes. They built skyscrapers when no one was doing it.

Osama Bin Laden's father, who got rich building roads in Saudi Arabia, was Yemeni. He got so rich he rebuilt the mosque at Mecca with his own money. Old Man bin Laden came from one of the most spectacular parts of the world I have ever seen, the Wadi Hadramaut. It is probably as vast and as breathtaking as the Grand Canyon. And all through this great and ancient valley are villages perched on high, impossible sites, above steep cliffs, and you look at them and marvel because they have been there hundreds and hundreds of years.

How in God's name did they do that, you find yourself asking time and again, round every corner. It's the same through the entire country, especially in that great mountain range, villages with slim, square buildings six or seven storeys on the most unreachable ridges and peaks. And, of course, that was the point. Defensively, they are brilliantly sited. The truth is, neither the Turks – of whom there are still some 10,000 in Yemen – nor the British ever really conquered anywhere but the Yemeni coast. You couldn't get near those mountain villages. The Yemenis simply rolled great rocks down on you.

As Afghanistan is the key to Middle Asia, so Yemen is the key to "Arabia." The tribes of Oman and the Arab Emirates flowed out of Yemen. The Saud family came from Yemen appar-

ently. And today Yemen is no less important than before in terms of the Great Game. It is perched on the edge of one of the most important waterways in the world and fronts the soft underbelly of Saudi Arabia – the part where many of the most profitable oil wells are located.

Yemen is formidable, and strangely important. But because of the mountains, because of the tribes, because of the weaponry (three rifles for every Yemeni), because boys are expected to be proficient with weapons from an early age, Yemen has not been high on the list of the Anglosphere's "civilizing" influences.

Ironically, the Yemenis are very similar culturally to the Somalis – from the same Somalia that Western newscasters like to call a failed state. (A failed state is any country that stands in the way of the West's dash toward One World Government.)

What Western mainstream media isn't bothering to report, however, is that the Anglo-American power elite could already have done away with Saleh if it wanted to. He's their man and has been for all of his violent existence. It is reprehensible that that Western elites would rather let Yemen drift into civil war than cease to support Saleh. There have been no moves made in the UN to put pressure on Saleh, no sanctions – only apparently regular ammo and tear gas refills, which he has used to slaughter hundreds of Yemenis.

The Western elites have not moved to do away with Saleh because they cannot apparently find a thug to put in his place that will garner a modicum of tribal support. The result of all this is growing antipathy. Possibly, because Yemen is another funny "impoverished backwater," the US has handled the Yemen very badly. The whole country is inflamed. Saleh, now wounded, will likely never get his power back and the chances that the CIA will have the opportunity to create a new Saleh are growing slimmer by the minute.

The Saudis worked desperately to move Saleh out of power. It is easy to see why now; that was their leverage. But now the nightmare scenario has occurred: increasingly the Saudis are perceived as propping Saleh up (which they are doing actually by not removing him). Ultimately all this returns to the US and the Pentagon, which in turn does the bidding of the City of London. So, here is the answer to the question asked at the beginning of this article. The answer is ... SAUDI ARABIA!

The corrupt and vicious Saudi regime lies at the heart of Money Power. Without Saudi willingness to support the continued dollar-oil exchange (forcing the rest of the world to hold dollars) the dollar reserve currency system seriously degrades.

The current system was put in place in the 1940s, but it was elaborated on in 1971, when the US severed the last link between gold and the dollar and substituted oil. How did the Anglosphere elites manage this trick? Using Mao's observation: "power springs from the barrel of a gun."

The Saudis were willing accomplices, but in reality they didn't have a choice. The world's economy, when you come down to it, is a product of American military force. Use the dollar to buy oil or else ... But if the US and Saudi Arabia cannot control the spiraling disaster in Yemen, the next stop on the revolutionary train is Bahrain. And after that ... Saudi Arabia. And THIS time, events may

not be easily salvageable. The Internet has educated the Arab world about its history.

If the Anglosphere elites had only used their tremendous industrial and monetary advantages to build a free-market instead of a phony one (disguised as a free one)! But the elites chose to propagate a central banking economy in order to chase after world government, and now they are in danger of an eroding dollar reserve, which could eventually result in the creation of an entirely new (and uncontrollable) currency. Anyway, if Saudi Arabia falls, the dominoes may simply keep tumbling. Who pays any attention to funny little countries like Yemen anyway?

Yemen: The bidding begins

By: Michael Brenner

Anything associated with the so-called "war on terror" comes in a dramatic frame. Every reference, whatever its intrinsic significance, evokes 9/11 imagery. Threats of any magnitude are exaggerated correspondingly. So it is with Yemen. The prevailing attitude and imagery is that of President Saleh as a staunch ally of the United States in the frontlines of combat with a mortal enemy of America. That danger is personified by American born Imam Anwar al-Awlaki. What we know definitely about him is that he preaches violent jihad against the United States; is connected with al-Qaidi in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP); may have been in communication with the mentally unbalanced Nidal Malik Hasan who went on a shooting spree at Fort Hood; and that he had involvement with the amateurish "underwear bomber" Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab.

As for Mr. Saleh, his contribution to the nation's security has been to give permission for the surreptitious launching of cruise missiles that were aimed at and missed Mr. Awlaki. He also permits a handful of CIA operatives and Special Forces to prowl the Yemen outback in undefined missions against AQAP. AQAP is a regional outfit that has the House of Saud and related regimes in their sights. Yemeni security forces collaborate in their own way on an irregular basis as convenient. These activities are but one segment of the intricate pattern of Yemeni politics woven by dozens of tribal, sectarian and doctrinal actors. Mr. Saleh, in exchange for his services, receives abundant amounts of financial assistance -- some small portion of which

reaches his subjects. In his long and checkered past, he had similar arrangements during the Cold War with the Soviet Union and then with us. At the moment, Mr. Saleh is on the point of being toppled by forces unconnected to AQAP.

Now that he is on the way out, Washington worries that the ensuing unstable conditions may be to AQAP's advantage. We have no candidate of our own in a wide open contest for the next Yemeni strongman. So we revert to our rote formula. Earlier, we backed Mr. Saleh in the desperate hope that he could hang on -- against all odds. That stance has had the inescapable effect of feeding anti-American sentiment in the country and exacerbating our efforts to exercise some measure of influence in the future. Second, with Mr Saleh wounded and hospitalized in Saudi Arabia, we revert to our standard fall-back position. That is to place our hopes on his vice president, a cipher named Abd al Rab Mansur al Hadi, in order to conserve the old regime's outlook on matters that interest us. This is what we did in Egypt in backing Interior Minister Mr. Suleiman (who was anything but a cipher) as Mubarak's successor. That ploy failed. Mr. Hadi is being promoted as the ideal person to stitch up the torn quilt of Yemeni politics. The grounds for reaching that conclusion are non-existent other than the wishful thinking of the Obama people that he is a pliable personality who'd be congenial to playing footsie with us for a small remuneration. The usual 'highly placed anonymous sources' in Washington already are passing the word that Mr. Hadi in fact has latent statesman-like qualities previously invisible.

So the great game that we call the "war on terror" goes on -- and on.

YEMEN TIMES
www.yementimes.com

First Political English Newspaper
in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by
Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen
Letters: yreaders.view@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS:
Tel: +967 (1) 510306
Email: adsyemen@yahoo.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

CEO
Khair Aldin Al Nsour

Editors

Jeb Boone
Ross West
Iona Craig (Web Editor)

Senior Reporter
Mohammed bin Sallam

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff

Ali Saeed
Malak Shaher
Sadeq Al-Wesabi
Shatha Al-Harazi

Offices

Aden Bureau:
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347056
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaz@y.net.ye

Subscriptions

For subscription rates and related information please contact Majdi Al-Saqqaf, Subscription and Distribution Manager, on 288661/2 ext 204 or mobile: 711998995

Policies:

- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion, Op-Ed and Youth pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.
- Letters to the Editor must include your name, mailing address, or email address. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, style, and length.
- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.
- For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices

Gulf becomes fault line for Sunni –Shiite tensions

By: David E. Miller
for the Media Line

War of words grow sharper, increasing risk of becoming a real conflict

Being a Saudi soccer fan is no fun these days. The reason has little to do with the players' sportsmanship, but with the abuses fans have been forced to put up with in recent matches in Iran. "Death to Saudi Arabia," shouted the Iranian fans during a game between the Iranian club of Pirooz and the Saudi club of Al-Itihad May 3, as they tried to burn a Saudi flag.

On both sides of the Gulf – a body of water whose name is even a source of contention with a debate on whether it should be the Persian or Arab Gulf – tensions have risen both in the corridors of power and on the street. But rather than being defined as a struggle over national interests, both sides are determined to cast in religious terms – another chapter in a thousand-year-old contest between the Sunni and Shiite branches of Islam. And, unlike in the past, both sides are ready to talk about it openly, thereby fanning the flames.

"Arab Gulf countries have been concerned about Iran's hegemonic plans for some time, but as a result of the Bahrain situation some of that fear has come to the fore in openly hostile rhetoric," Salman Sheikh, director of the Brookings Doha Center, a Qatar-based think tank, told The Media Line.

The war of words in the Gulf is filled with risk for the West. The region contains the world's biggest reserves of oil and Iran is believed by the U.S. and Europe to be developing nuclear weapons to enhance its power. The U.S. has troops in Iraq and the U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet is based in Bahrain.

The issue that enraged the Iranian fans was Bahrain, a tiny island kingdom situated just off the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia – a potential tinderbox where Sunni and Shiites live side by side in a country adjacent to some of the world's biggest oil fields.

With an estimated 70% Shiite majority, but ruled by the Sunni Al-Khalifah dynasty, unrest erupted in the kingdom in February. The protestors demand political reforms and an end to discrimination, but in the eyes of the government and Sunni minority the rioters quickly revealed their sectarian nature.

Blaming Iran for sparking the unrest, King Hamed Al Khalifah, summoned Saudi and United Arab Emirates forces to quell the uprising in March, enraging Shiite Iran and failing to end the sectarian dispute. Dialogue between government and opposition broke down, and on May 17 seven Shiite parliament members from the Al-Wefaq party tendered their resignation, joining eleven Shiite colleagues who left parliament in March.

But the violence on the Iranian soccer court only expressed what many Gulf Arabs regard as Iran's deep-seated animosity to Arab culture. And now Arabs across the Gulf are starting to fight back.

Sectarian tensions have even spilled over into places like Kuwait, which traditionally enjoyed good inter-communal relations.

Three Kuwaiti Sunni Islamist lawmakers petitioned last month to question Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah, barely two weeks into the tenure of his new government. A local version of a non-confidence vote, the question was titled "the damage caused to Kuwait's national security as a result of his government's foreign policy alignment with the Iranian regime."

The move followed a visit by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi to Kuwait on May 18. Salehi was trying to calm Kuwaitis after an alleged Iranian spy chain was exposed in Kuwait. Two Iranians and a Kuwaiti were sentenced to death for forming the cell, reportedly associated with Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Senior Iranian diplomats, including the ambassador, were banished from Kuwait.

"Loyalty to Arab land ... is the common denominator defining the identity of the Gulf Arab, in spite of those who do not call it 'the Arab Gulf'," wrote Abd Al-Latif Al-Atiqi in an editorial in the Kuwaiti daily Al-Qabs on May 23, referring to the age-old dispute between Iran and the Arab world on the correct name for "the Gulf".

"I have lived in Iran for 40 days and I speak some Persian. When watching a play in Teheran I witnessed all too well their deep hatred for everything Arab. I will not forget it my entire life," Al-Atiqi wrote.

Sheikh warned that the failure to politically resolve the social unrest in Bahrain could lead to an open confrontation between Iran and Arab Gulf states.

"I'm worried that if the situation isn't handled carefully, it could spin out of

control," Sheikh said, adding that even military confrontation could be imminent – stimulated by a host of unresolved political issues. Among those are a territorial dispute between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iran over the tiny Gulf Islands of Abu-Mousa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb, which were allegedly illegally occupied by Iran in November 1971.

The political body spearheading the fight against what it dubs "Iranian expansionism" is the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Established in 1981 by six Gulf countries: Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE and Oman, the GCC set out to contain the increasing Iranian influence in the Arab Gulf both economically and militarily. The Peninsula Shield Force, led by Saudi Arabia and deployed in Bahrain in March to quash Shiite-led anti government protests, was the GCC's first tour de force in years.

GCC foreign ministers, traditionally cautious about arousing the Arab-Iranian tension, have broken their silence on Iran in recent months. In early March they condemned Iran's "blatant" interference in Kuwait's affairs after the spy chain was revealed. In April, the GCC condemned Iran again, saying the Iranian actions "aimed at

destabilizing national security and spreading division and sectarian strife in GCC countries."

Abdullah Al-Shayji, head of the political science department at Kuwait University, says Kuwaitis were growing increasingly wary of Iranian ambitions in the Gulf.

"We are in the midst of a cold war with Iran," he says.

"There is widespread belief among many Kuwaitis that Iran is causing a lot of mischief in the area," Al-Shayji told The Media Line. "It has supported the Syrian regime in its repression of its own people, as well as many non-state actors."

Al-Shayji noted that the GCC foreign ministers have met four times recently to discuss Iran, using harsher language than ever before. But he says the cold war with Iran was unlikely to deteriorate into a full-fledged military conflict.

"The Iranians are smart, they won't directly fight but rather continue to use their proxies in the region," Al-Shayji says.

However, the Arab Gulf is investing a whopping \$120 billion in military purchases, including advanced fighter planes and anti-missile defence systems over the coming years, indicating that military engagement with Iran is a very real scenario.

Palestinian statehood drive fraught with obstacles

By: David Rosenberg
for the Media Line

Scholars say practical impact would be minimal, risking new violence

The Palestinian drive to win United Nation recognition of statehood faces immense political and legal obstacles, scholars said at a conference on Monday. But they said that even if they succeed, the practical impact will be minimal.

"The world already sees us as an occupier of Palestinian territory. What would be the big change?" said Robbie Sabel, who teaches international law and the Hebrew University and advised the Israeli Foreign Ministry. "Since the world is going to accept a Palestinian state, I suggest to Israel that since we can't beat them, we should join them."

Some warned that a resolution by the

UN General Assembly – the most likely venue for statehood to be won approval – may spark a new round of violence by disappointed Palestinians.

"The occupation will not end in spite of the recognition of the Palestinian state. Then the Palestinian population will be utterly frustrated," Avi Primor, a former ambassador and Israeli Foreign Ministry official. "In daily life, if nothing changes, the frustration will have to break out. Will it be a new intifada? A Gandhi intifada? I'm not sure, but we're prepared for any eventuality."

With negotiations stalled, the statehood drive has become the focus of Palestinian plans and Israeli distress. PA President Mahmoud Abbas has said statehood would raise the Palestinians' status in the global community and give it the legal tools to pursue Israel in the international justice system. It's for those same reasons that Israel opposes statehood.

The path to Palestinians statehood could be thwarted by legal and political tangles.

With U.S. President Barack Obama publicly stating last month that he opposed the Palestinians declaring unilateral statehood, the Palestinians would face a U.S. veto if they tried to bring the matter to the Security Council. Analysts say the U.S. would be uncomfortable as the only council member casting a no vote and is therefore trying to get at least some European countries to join it, but it is likely Israel can count on Washington.

That means the Palestinians will have no choice but to use the UN General Assembly (GA), where they have two options.

The first is to try and bypass the Security Council by using a rarely invoked procedure calling "Uniting for Peace," which can be employed when the Security Council fails to maintain international peace and security. To do that, however, the Palestinians would need a two-thirds majority in

the GA, or 135 states, a number they have said they believe they can reach. For now, however, they are well short of that.

The second option, seeking an ordinary GA resolution, would entail a less forceful recognition of statehood than the Palestinians want. A GA resolution would be no more than a declaration, although it would be an embarrassment to Israel. Moreover, the GA could use the statehood resolution to upgrade Palestine's status from ordinary observer, which it has enjoyed since 1974, and assign it to committees where it could lobby more effectively for anti-Israel reports and resolutions.

Israel's Yediot Ahronot daily cited officials in the country's Foreign Ministry as saying the Palestinians will have to balance their goal of getting as wide support as possible with the conflicting goal of resolution that spells out the most concrete terms. They predicted that a resolution calling for a state inside the 1967 border of the West Bank and Gaza Strip could receive as many as 140 votes while a more vaguely worded version might win as many as 170.

Munther Dajani of the Palestinian Al-Quds University noted that the Palestinians declared their state in 1988, which has been recognized by large numbers of the international community.

"But they have yet to be accepted the major powers, namely the U.S. and the five major powers of Europe," Dajani said. "Some of the Europeans may recognize the Palestinian state, but some may not. It all depends on the U.S."

In fact, GA President Joseph Deiss expressed the view at a May 27 news conference that the GA had no authority to admit a member to the UN, although he added that this was a different matter than recognize a state.

Deiss said that under terms set out in the UN Charter a candidate has to declare its adherence to the Charter. The Security Council must then make a recommendation backed by at least nine "yes" votes and no veto. Only then can the GA vote on membership, which must be approved by a two-thirds majority.

Scholars disagree on whether the Palestinians have the legal authority to go ahead with their statehood drive at all.

The 1933 Montevideo Convention set out the legal criteria for establishing a state: a permanent population, territory defined by permanent borders, effective government and ability to manage its own affairs.

In that framework, Sabel said the PA had met most of the criteria for a state. It has an effective government and conducts foreign relations. Its borders aren't fixed but other states, most notably Israel at its founding, were accepted as a state and joined the UN.

The main barrier the Palestinians face in legal terms is one they erected themselves.

"They haven't declared themselves a state and this is the key," Sabel said. "No other body declares you a state. They can recognize you, but the act of declaring yourself a state is unilateral."

Sabel said he couldn't say for sure why the Palestinians haven't taken that step, but he suggested that it was because they remain divided over whether they would commit themselves to the 1967 borders.

Others see more serious legal obstacles to a state. A group of 60 attorneys, including former Israeli Foreign Ministry legal adviser Alan Baker, said the statehood drive violated the 1922 San Remo agreement as well as the 1949 armistice agreement ending Israel's War of Independence. It also contradicts the Palestinians' own undertak-


ing in 1995 not to unilaterally change the status of the West Bank and Gaza.

"There's nothing we can do to stop, but there is something we can do to minimize," said Chuck Freilich, of Harvard University's Kennedy School. He doubted there was anything Israel could do to stop Abbas to go the GA. But Israel could position itself after the GA resolution supporting statehood itself with provisions.

"Let's say 'yes we're for a Palestinian state' ...but the 67 borders are a starting

point for negotiations and not the basis. And let's say that there will be land swaps. So let's say yes for once."

Netanyahu could offer to freeze settlement in exchange for suspending the statehood drive and returning to the negotiating table and offer to discuss a provisional Palestinian state. All of this would put the onus of the peace process' failure on the Palestinians, but Freilich said he doubted that the prime minister would be prepared to risk his coalition to make such moves.



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



Embassy of India, Sana'a

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS ISSUED AN ADVISORY TO ALL INDIAN NATIONALS LIVING IN YEMEN TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY IMMEDIATELY BY THE AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL MEANS.


ANY INDIAN NATIONAL, HAVING DIFFICULTY TO LEAVE YEMEN MAY CONTACT THE EMBASSY ON FOLLOWING CONTACT NOS. FOR ANY ASSISTANCE THEY REQUIRE IN THIS REGARD LATEST BY 15TH JUNE, 2011.

HELPLINE NO. (967) 734000657
711880983

Landline (967 1) 433629 (working hours)
425308 (weekend after office hours)

FAX NO. (967 1) 433630

SANA'A BRITISH SCHOOL




" Education is the Window to the World "

Sana'a British School SBS announces that registration for the 2011-2012 academic year is now open! Our school offers a unique opportunity for families to have their children experience a high quality private education coupled with a rich understanding of the British National Curriculum, taught with an open mind and open heart.

Sana'a British School helps educates children from Nursery aged 2 years through to Secondary School. Preparation for the Yemen Ministry of Education Examination is also offered in year 9. The IGCSE ("O" levels) is the basis for instruction in years 10 & 11. Sana'a British School is a University of Cambridge Examination Centre.

Our dedicated teachers and staff offer a warm, welcoming community which provides a nurturing, challenging environment that encourages the students to reach their full potential, and become self confident, responsible citizens with a strong connection to their community.

for more info and general enquiries please contact.
Tel: (967-1) 203 950 fax: (967-1) 206 134
mobile: (967) 736 010 501
e-mail: administrator@sbsyemen.org sbsheadteacher@gmail.com
website: www.sbsyemen.org



After more than four months of continuous protests throughout the country, Yemen hangs in the balance as Saleh recovers in Saudi Arabia. Protesters remain defiant, pledging that they will not let Saleh return to the country. Meanwhile, Saleh's son and nephew are still in command of the Republican Guard and the Central Security Forces, patrolling the city. We look back on the past four months of protests in these photographs to reflect on what the future may hold for hundreds of thousands of pro-democracy protesters.



QADAS FLY IATA
AN IATA APPROVED TRAVEL MANAGEMENT COMPANY

OFFERS
MEDICAL TOURISM PACKAGE
HOLIDAY PACKAGES
INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC TICKETS
HONEYMOON PACKAGE
HOTELS WORLDWIDE

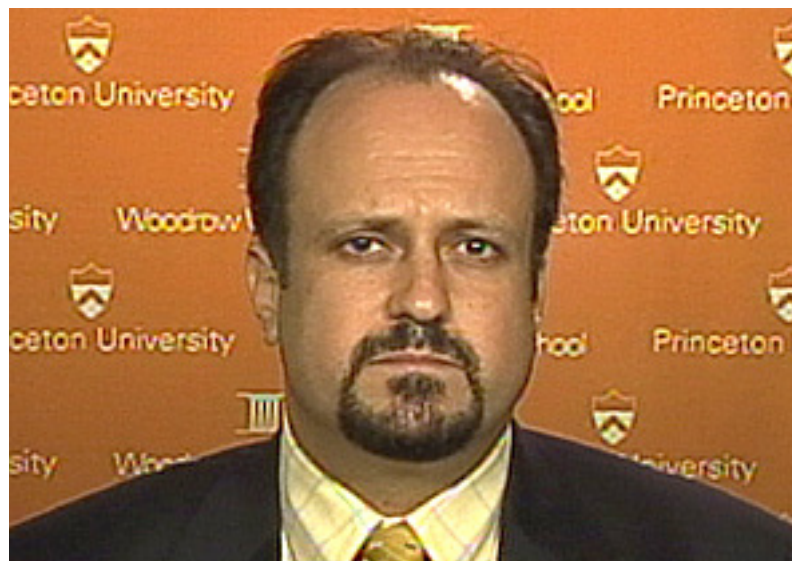
PHONES: +967-1-280777 / 274897 / 8 FAX: +967-1-280555
EMAIL: holidays@qadasfly.com

YEMEN TIMES

Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language newspaper

Interview with Bernard Haykel, Professor of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University Yemen's uncertain political future

President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen was wounded June 3 in a rocket attack launched by rival tribal leaders on the presidential palace. He was evacuated along with other wounded officials to Saudi Arabia, where he underwent an operation, and will reportedly return to Yemen soon. But there are questions about whether Saleh will actually return and whether Yemenis would accept it, says Yemen expert Bernard Haykel. There are also questions about who would succeed Saleh, who has "leveraged the potential chaos of Yemen, which he has himself fostered, to get money and support from outside governments, like the Saudis or the United States," says Haykel, adding that the United States has been myopic in its focus on the threat of al-Qaeda in Yemen and has been susceptible to Saleh's "tricks." While the United States and Saudi Arabia have been working together on managing the Yemen crisis, and the Saudis have favorites for replacing Saleh, Haykel thinks the best political solution right now would be a national unity council until elections can be held.



Bernard Haykel

What do you think will happen in Yemen, politically?

Vice President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi has taken over leadership of the country. The problem, though, is that one of President Saleh's sons, Ahmed, who leads the Republican Guard, is still in Yemen. One question will be whether this son and his military units will agree to be commanded by the acting president of Yemen, Hadi. There are two other big questions. One is whether Saudi Arabia will allow Saleh to return to Yemen as soon as he's better, if he does get better--because there's a question as to how serious his injuries are. And if he comes back, whether he'll want to resume the role of president. In the Yemeni constitution, if the president is absent for sixty days, elections have to be held. The last question is whether any Yemenis will accept his return, and the answer to that seems to be absolutely not. Neither the demonstrators, who are, by and large, leaderless in the streets, nor the opposition forces--and there are a number of them--will accept Saleh back as president.

Saleh was first president of North Yemen, and then of all of Yemen, since 1978, when he took over in a military coup. Why is he suddenly so unpopular?

He's been unpopular for quite some time. The man has run the country by constantly playing different factions against each other as a survival tactic. He has maintained power by the old game of divide and rule, and also patronage and clientism. He has used oil revenues to pay off potential opposition and to keep the loyalty of certain groups and individuals with him. The problem is that over time Yemen's oil is running out and the population has exploded, and none of its developmental challenges have been really addressed. One consequence of the way Saleh has ruled is to prevent institutional forms of accountable governance from taking

place. There is no transparency in government.

The United States has poured millions of dollars into Yemen's military, particularly after the abortive attempt to blow up an airplane over Detroit in 2009 on Christmas Day.

There's been an American effort to support the unit that is also led by his son, Ahmed, which is a counterterrorism unit that has more recently been used against local enemies.

Has the U.S. government exaggerated the threat from al-Qaeda in Yemen?

The United States government has been myopic, in that it sees only the threat of al-Qaeda. In fact, al-Qaeda exists in Yemen because of the weak nature of the state in Yemen, and President Saleh has not wanted to crush al-Qaeda because they've been a useful tool in garnering American and other outside support. Al-Qaeda in Yemen consists of two hundred or three hundred individuals. They're not a real threat to the Yemeni people, and have been allowed to exist because the Yemeni regime sees them as useful for its own policies and politics. The Americans have fallen victim to the claims of Saleh and his tricks.

The Saudis know Yemen, which is on the southern Saudi border, very well. Do they have a favorite to replace Saleh?

The Saudis would like to see General Ali Mohsin al-Ahmar take over. But he's not a viable candidate. The problem with Mohsin is that he's very heavily compromised in the system that Saleh had in place until very recently. So, I don't think Ali Mohsin, despite his recent break with Saleh, is going to be acceptable to most Yemenis. Ali Mohsin is responsible for the killing of many thousands of civilians in the north of Yemen in the last four or five years, in a rebellion by a group called the Houthis. The Houthis, who control a good chunk of

northern Yemen, will never accept him as their leader. He is also responsible for the expropriation and appropriation of large tracts of land in southern Yemen, so he's heavily involved in the corrupt practices of Saleh. So the southerners are not likely to accept him either.

What about the vice president, Hadi? He's a southerner and a caretaker. He's not someone who has the charisma or the authority to rule Yemen beyond this transitional period.

Who is the leading candidate, then? I don't think there is one. The Saudis have a number of candidates: One of them is this general I just mentioned, Mohsin. The Ahmar family, the family of tribal chieftains [not related to General Mohsin al-Ahmar], has a candidate--one of their sons, a man called Hamid, who also is problematic for many Yemenis, because he was heavily involved in the system that Saleh had in place. The demonstrators in the street don't have a candidate, because they don't have a leader who's emerged. So it's not obvious that there's one person who would be acceptable to Yemenis, writ large. At best, you will have a national unity government with a number of individuals representing these different factions, which represent this very fragmented society in a very politically fragmented country.

Does the United States have a candidate?

I don't think so. The United States is now trying to coordinate with the Saudis on the future of Yemen. It's the Saudis who have the most influence there, both because they have the historical connections and the personal connections to various tribes and various leaders in Yemen and [because] they have the deepest pockets to be able to throw money at Yemen to help ameliorate some of the country's immediate economic problems.

Looking at the whole "Arab Spring," soon to be the "Arab Summer," you would think it's quite likely that Saleh will be the latest dictator to be thrown out, right?

Yes but that doesn't mean that now Yemen is going to turn into a democracy.

Is it likely to be even more chaotic in Yemen?

It's possible that Yemen might become chaotic. A lot will depend on whether these different opposition groups can work together. There is a question mark over the future. Whether we see chaos or not, a civil war or not, will depend largely on both what the Saudis do and what ordinary Yemenis are going to do. There are tens of thousands of them in the street who have been demonstrating for a long time, and there's a problem in that the opposition leadership and the people in the street are not one and the same group. So this opposition leadership is not necessarily in control of the people in the street.

Yemen is often described as the poorest country in the Arab world. Is that accurate?

It vies with the Sudan and Mauritania; it's one of the poorest, certainly.

Because it doesn't have the kind of oil that Saudi Arabia does.

That's part of the reason. It doesn't have much oil, but it also has a huge population--the largest in Arabia, about twenty-five million. It has limited natural resources; it has poor governance; all the developmental indicators of health, education, and so on are fairly low. And it's running out of water, in addition to running out of oil.

Are the Saudis very concerned about

شركة أمان للتأمين AMAN INSURANCE CO.

Marine insurance
Automobile insurance
Life insurance
Engineering insurance
Liability insurance
Medical insurance
Power insurance
Travel insurance
Property insurance
Others

تأمين نقل بضائع
تأمين السيارات
تأمين الحياة الجماعي والفردي
تأمين مسؤولية مهنية
التأمين الكفالت
تأمين الطائرات
تأمين السفر
تأمين الممتلكات
تأمينات أخرى

**New offices are available for rent
For call: 735870015**

Head Office: AMAN Tower - Zubairah street
Tel. +967 1 4697212334, Fax. +967 1 217351 209452
Branches: Sana'a: Taliz Street, Tel. +967 1 624971, Fax. +967 1 625714
Hodeidah: Tel. +967 3 201110, Fax. +967 3 201107, Taiz: Tel. +967 4 251454, Fax. +967 4 250832
Aden: Tel. +967 2 244295, Fax. +967 2 248237, Mukalla: Tel. +967 5 350997, Fax. +967 5 350829

Yemen?

They should be. As to whether they are, I think that they think that they can throw money at the problem and just kick the can down the road.

It's interesting how the Saudis have become extremely active in trying to work their way politically through this chaos.

They've been a force for what they call "stability," by which they mean no change, but in Yemen, they've become the stewards of change--even willy-nilly, despite their own desire.

But they haven't sent any troops into

Yemen, as they did in Bahrain.

No, they didn't. There have been troops deployed on the Yemen northern border, against the Houthis.

And does the United States have troops on the ground, or do we have trainers?

We have trainers.

President Obama has urged Saleh to step down, has he not?

He has, because of the Gulf Coordinating Council agreement that offered him immunity and asked him to step down. But Saleh promised to sign the agreement three times and reneged.

روضة وحدة الأطفال JUNIOR'S CASIS KINDERGARTEN

التسجيل الصيفي

حيث يتم تنمية الإحسان بالمسؤولية والتعاون بين الأطفال

Masrah Street behind Rabha al-Azma School
Tel. 01. 470250 Mob. 734133331

Promising Excellent Service for Energy Sector

HORIZON

Agent for well known multinational companies:

FMC Technologies, Solar Turbines, Petrofac Mechanical Svcs., Dresser Masonellari, MURPHY FW Murphy, FMC Technologies Fluid Control / Pump / Invalve / Manifolds, Honeywell Enraf Tank gauging & Inventory system, SEVERN Power, Desalination & Trent Coastal Seawater De NORA Electrochlorination, Dresser Consolidated Safety valves & Pressure Relief valves, KOBOLD Flow Products Pressure Products Level Products Temperature Products, BIOLUBE Designed collection of emulsifier, FMC Technologies WCCO / Chikkar Dyeator products, Honeywell Field Process Solutions, MALBRANQUE Water Valve - Relief Equipment, Turbine Overhauling, seko Pumps & Dosing Systems

First calibration and maintenance workshop for flow meters
In accordance with API standard - certified by SGS

Biological cleaning of wastewater for oilfield camps, office buildings and residential apartments (3 - 3000 persons)
(mobile and fixed system available)

الأفق للتوكيلات والخدمات التجارية
HORIZON AGENCIES & COMMERCIAL SERVICES (HACS)
SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN Tel. 967-1-421508, Fax. +967-1-421514
Email: info@hacs-yemen.com website: www.hacs-yemen.com