

Revolution’s youth refuse to establish political party

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA’A, Apr. 24 — One week after the establishment of the new Justice and Development Party (JDP) by officials who resigned from the ruling General People’s Congress (GPC), Yemen’s young revolutionaries are determined not to establish any political party.

The new JDP was established after mass resignations from the GPC. Those who resigned included MPs, ministers, sheikhs, ambassadors and academics.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has repeatedly asked the revolution’s youth to establish a political party for themselves, but the youth have refused, believing that the president aims to convince any new youth party to halt the country’s sit-ins and to cause dissension amongst the protesters.

Jamal Al-Mulaiki, a political analyst and researcher living Qatar, told the Yemen Times that it’s better for the youth to remain without any official party or spokesman.

“The revolutionary activity is different from the political one. It’s wrong to ask youth to establish a party or to appoint a spokesman,” he said. “The Egyptian Revolution succeeded with spokesmen or youth parties.”

Sufyan Jubran, a youth activist, said

that President Saleh wants to end sit-ins in any way possible, indicating that the president has appointed spies from political and national security to infiltrate Change Squares across the country, with the aim of causing rifts between the youth. Fortunately, according to Jubran, the president’s efforts have failed.

“The youth are strong and nobody can make problems between them. They are more confident and coherent than ever,” said Jubran.

He also wished to convey a message to the President, saying: “We didn’t come here to get permission from you to establish a new political party. We are here to overthrow you and your corrupt regime.”

Ziad Al-Jaberi, a journalist and participant in the pro-democracy youth revolution said that establishing political parties for youth is not a good idea.

“Such political parties will cause tension between the youth in the country’s Change Squares. The national and political security will be able to penetrate these parties and cause cracks between the youth,” he said.

“We can succeed without being limited to any political party,” he continued.

Al-Jaberi called for the revolution’s youth to totally refuse the establishment of any new political entity, so as to retain the unity and strength.

Three shot, one brain dead in Taiz

By: Imad Al-Saqqaf

SANA’A, Apr. 26 — Clashes erupted on Tuesday afternoon between the security forces and the youth of change who were participating in a large march.

The fighting was spread around many streets in the governorate and eventually reached a climax on Madrasat al-Sha’ab Street, the main street linking the east of the city to the west.

The armed forces located in the Khalid bin Waleed military barracks, affiliated with General Ali Muhsin Al-Ahmar, fired live bullets into the air and used tear gas to break up the crowds of protesters, forcing demonstrators from the streets

Dr. Hamoud ‘Aqlan, working in the field hospital at Freedom Square in Taiz, told the Yemen Times, “The clashes, which lasted for more than five hours, resulted in the one person being injured after being hit in the head by a bullet, he is now brain dead. Two others were also injured.”

He also added that the man who was brain dead had been attacked by a soldier, who fired on him after an altercation, before the clashes occurred.

The crisis management team in Taiz city warned that they had information that there were plans to hold marches and protests in the coming days, and that



Taiz has been the hub of Yemen’s uprising since people began building tent cities in February.

the team warned all party leaders and political movements that these would be completely unlawful, as the protests and marches would be unlicensed.

They added that they also have in-

formation that the Joint Meeting Parties have a plan to storm many government institutions seize them, and that the JMP will start, beginning today, to move many of its armed men in numer-

ous governorates, especially Dhamar, al-Baidha, Ibb, al-Dhalie and Lahj and Taiz, in order to implement their plan and to cause unrest chaos and attack police forces.

Young Yeminis Are Sceptical Students of Human Rights Teacher faces uphill battle when freedom clashes with Islam

By: Judith Spiegel
The Media Line

It’s a Sunday afternoon in the Yemeni capital of Sana’a. Outside on the streets, tens of thousands are defying the government with calls for the president’s ouster and are met my gunfire, beatings and arrests Inside classroom 41A on the campus of a private institute of higher education the atmosphere is quiet and studious. But it’s no less controversial in this traditional and deeply religious society.

The students are studying human rights. The course is the only one offered in Yemen and the issue is so divisive that the university has asked that its name not be mentioned. Today’s lesson is about non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Mogib Hassan, a teacher and human rights advocate, explains why they are importance.

“You need them in order to pressure the government to accord human rights to the people,” he says.

“Locally you have to work diplomatically with as many parties as possible, the opposition, educated people,

even the ruling party.” Internationally, he says, it is important to be associated with international NGOs like Amnesty International or Human Rights Watch (HRW). “You can put more pressure on the government, and also find funding.”

Historically a serial violator of human rights, Yemen has come under increasingly criticism as President Ali Abdullah Saleh cracks down on anti-government protests. HRW said in an April 4 report that security forces have “shown a reckless disregard for protesters’ lives, shooting and killing them with impunity during largely peaceful rallies.” Freedom House dropped its rating for Yemen from “partly free” to “not free” in its 2010 report.

That may be about to change. Saleh and the opposition have agreed to a transfer of power that will bring an end to the leader’s 33-year rule. Although the two sides are still arguing over terms, the plan calls for Saleh to step down in the next 30 days and for a presidential election to be held 60 days after that.

Inside the classroom, however,

Hassan encounters scepticism about human rights and its advocates.

Rihab, a student who asked that her last name not be published, shakes her head in disbelief. “Where are all these NGOs nowadays?” she asks. “Every day there are more people killed. Look at Libya. I don’t get the impression that these NGOs can do much to prevent that.”

Hassan defends them: “Mind you, NGOs aren’t political decision makers, they just try to influence them,” he says. “They pass on a lot of information to their international counterparts. They are very busy. They hardly sleep.”

The discussion heats up. Some students believe that NGOs won’t work in the Arab world because regimes are too repressive to allow independent institutions. Hassan answers back, “The fact that it’s difficult doesn’t mean you should not try, does it?”

HRW, like Amnesty International, is especially concerned with the conflict in Yemen’s north, the treatment of separatists in the south, extrajudicial counter terrorism measures, women’s rights and freedom of speech and press. Arbitrary arrests, lethal force against demonstrators, obstruction to humanitarian assistance, arrests and expulsion of journalists, the lack of criminalization of domestic violence and marital rape are just some examples these organizations give.

Despite all this, Yemen is relatively open by the standards of the Arabian Peninsula. Sheila Carapico writes in her book Civil Society in Yemen that foreign and local researchers and human rights investigators are given “greater latitude than in most countries

of the region and Yemenis are remarkably candid in conversation.”

This certainly is true in classroom 41A. Nobody seems restrained from expressing an opinion. But then, NGOs are a relatively uncontroversial subject. What about subjects like women rights or freedom of religion? Can Hassan talk about them without restrictions?

“These subjects are very controversial because they come down to a clash between Islam and the International Declaration of Human Rights,” Hassan says in an interview with The Media Line in a café outside university. “I’m talking about things like the right to have four wives, or the rule that a woman only inherits half of what a man does. These topics cause many debates and disagreement.”

And indeed they do. One week later, the students are back in classroom 41A and this time the subject is women’s rights.

Hassan starts by tackling the subject of polygamy. “This is allowed in Islam but only under strict conditions. For example, the man has to be able to give all his wives exactly the same emotional and financial attention. If you read these conditions well, it is impossible to have more than one wife.”

Female student Rokaia is agitated. “Why does the West have problems with four wives? If the conditions are met, it’s allowed. What’s wrong with that? Are you against it?” she asks the teacher.

He explains that the rules regarding polygamy date from a time when women couldn’t survive without men. Marrying a second wife was meant to

help a woman who, for example, had become a widow.

Hassan, who lived in the Netherlands and Britain for years, is used to these reactions. “I’m introducing human rights from a global point of view. They are very sensitive about this. They feel I’m too Western. They feel that it is threatening their identity. There are even discussions if I use English terms.”

“I try to explain to them that the Quran and the sunnah are imposed on us, that they are a way of oppressing people in the name of religion,” he says referring to Islam’s holy book and the corpus of rules and practices ascribed to the prophet Muhammad. “I try to teach them not to look at everything from a religious point of view.” In his experience, it’s a challenge. “They are conditioned to think in certain ways and to distrust other ways.”

This is evidenced when Hassan asks the class on what they believe the constitution should be based. There seems little doubt as to the answer of that question. “On the Quran and sunnah,” his students answer in unison.

“All right,” Hassan says. “But then the law must see to the correct application of these sources. The problem is that the law doesn’t. Or when it does, tradition prevents women from getting their rights. Going to court is considered ayb (shameful). So, in fact, women aren’t protected against men who misinterpret or even abuse these religious rules. This is why the outside world has a negative impression about Islam.”

Rokaia is still not convinced and employs former U.S. President George W. Bush to make her point. “All wars

in the Middle East are about religion. George Bush entered Iraq in the name of Christianity.” It isn’t clear why the crusader argument has come up in the discussion, but Hassan is used to dealing with it. “We think in a very emotional way. We aren’t able to open up to other cultures.”

He turns to the example of arranged marriages. “We don’t have to be open like the Netherlands, but can you really live with someone you don’t like?” he asks the class.

“Yes,” the male students cry out. The female students laugh. “That’s easy for you to say, you can hang out with your male friends all day, do whatever you like,” one the women shouts. Omar, one of the male students, doesn’t see the point. “Why should a woman have her own personal life?” Omar asks.

Despite reactions like Omar’s, Hassan is optimistic. “They aren’t all like that. Slowly, slowly most of them start seeing the unfairness of these things. It’s nice to see this process. It takes time but it usually works. In my previous group, some students are now even starting their own NGO”.

This class isn’t there yet. They are only in the beginning of the course. Some students complain that teacher isn’t objective, that he is trying to convince them of his ideas. “The instructor should be objective, he should not try to brainwash us,” one says.

How does Hassan feel about this accusation of not being objective? He takes a sip of his cappuccino, thinks for a bit and then says: “To be honest I’m not that objective because I believe that part of my job is to convince them that something is seriously wrong with our society.”

Announcement of Second Extension for Public Tender No. (1) of 2011

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Bid Opening will take place at Chairman of Board office, 3rd Floor, Public Radio & TV Corp's Headquarters, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

Good Luck !

تمديد فتح مظاريف المناقصة العامة رقم (١ / ٢٠١١م) للمرة الثانية

تعلم المؤسسة العامة اليمنية للإذاعة والتلفزيون عن رغبتنا في إعادة تمديد موعد فتح مظاريف المناقصة العامة رقم (١ / ٢٠١١م) بشأن توريد وتركيب وفحص وإجازة وتشغيل وتسليم وضمان أستوديو تلفزيوني إنتاجي متكامل عالي الجودة (تسليم مفتاح) لقناة عدن الفضائية وذلك إلى يوم الأربعاء الموافق ١٨/٥/٢٠١١م الساعة الحادية عشرة صباحاً بالقر الرئيسي بالمؤسسة – مكتب رئيس مجلس الإدارة – الدور الثالث- بحضور مندوبي الشركات أو من يمثلهم.

YEMEN: Laid off construction workers join protests

SANAA, Apr. 11 (IRIN) — Faris Ubad, 34, is one of hundreds of day labourers who get up at the crack of dawn and make their way - with their shovels, hammers and other construction tools - to the Dar Salm intersection in southern Sana'a in the hope of finding a day's work from passing contractors.

But many wait all day in vain: Since the political unrest began a few weeks ago, the construction sector has all but come to a standstill.

“It has been more than 35 days since I picked up any work... I was forced to sell our TV set last week to feed my wife and four children, Ubad, who in the past worked as a builder’s mate, told IRIN.

According to recent government

statistics, more than one million day labourers depend on the construction industry for a living, with most earning the equivalent of about US\$9 a day.

“The construction sector is currently experiencing unprecedented stagnation. As a result, hundreds of thousands of labourers are left without any income,” said Mohammed Ayish, an economist in the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation.

Investors and contractors have either suspended construction projects or are watching and waiting until calm returns.

“Project owners told us to stop until the political crisis ends,” Ali Sarari, a Sana’a construction contractor, told IRIN.

The devaluation of the Yemeni ri-

yal over the past couple of months has caused imported construction materials like iron and cement to rise sharply in price, and the riyal has fallen from 214 to 238 to the US dollar in the past month. The Central Bank of Yemen has not made any attempt to stabilize the riyal, Mohammed al-Hadhari, an exchange dealer, told IRIN.

Reduced demand for construction materials

Businessman Hefdhullah al-Ansi said demand for construction materials had declined by 70 percent. “I used to sell more than YR500,000-worth of construction materials a day, but now it is YR200,000 maximum,” he told IRIN, adding that he has had to lay off four of his six workers.

Instead of staying idle, many of the unemployed have joined demonstrations organized by the youth movement near Sana’a University. They see the protests as an opportunity to air their grievances.

“We need change. We need to have access to free health care. We need a new government with good economic policies,” construction worker Saif Ahmad, currently camping out with the university protesters, told IRIN.


Hundreds of casual workers are now camping out with the young protesters near the university, economist Ayish told IRIN. “They have found somewhere they can get food and express their demands; they spend their time participating in anti-government demonstrations.”

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Yemen: Open succession

By: Hichem Karoui

Unlike Tunisia and Egypt, Yemen's uprising was triggered by the opposition parties. A March 2011's report to the US Congress emphasises that well before unrest in these two countries, Yemen's opposition parties had been angry over President Saleh's plans to amend the electoral law, form a new Supreme Commission for Elections and Referenda (SCER), and amend the constitution to allow himself to stand for re-election—all without opposition agreement.

However, though opposition protests started in Yemen on Jan.16, 2011, it has acquired weight and popularity with key-elements of the elite and the tribes joining the protesters and more and more defections from the party of the president, included prominent members of his own family, particularly after the brutal reaction against the demonstrators.

Today, the urgent question is about succession. But it is not new. On Sept.17, 2005, a cable from the US Embassy in Sana'a (released by WikiLeaks) addressed the succession issue.

1. It admitted that "true power still derives from the military and

the tribes, and the next president would have to meet with their approval." This may be still the case in 2011.

2. It reported the belief that the next president will come from the inner circle of family and military allies. In 2011, several members of the president's family and clan defected, and as such, the future candidate for succession may be one of them.
3. It explained the long rule of A.A. Saleh by its dependency upon a cornerstone called "tripartite alliance": two powerful men were mentioned in this context as part of a tribal-military "power sharing" arrangement written in 1978, following the assassination of President Al Ghashmi: Brigadier General Ali Mohsen Al Ahmar, and the late Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar, then in his three qualities as head of the Hashid Tribal Confederation, Speaker of Parliament and head of Yemen's largest opposition party, Islah. Today, in 2011, this very alliance is no longer available: A) Sadiq and Hamid, the sons of Sheikh Abdullah have both joined the opposition.

Hamid was a major supporter of

the primary opposition candidate in the 2006 presidential election. In the summer of 2009, He appeared on Al Jazeera television and called on President Saleh to step down from his office. B) Brigadier General Ali Mohsen Al Ahmar has recently defected and joined the opposition.

4. The cable estimated that Mohsen "controls over 50 per cent" of Yemen's military resources and assets, which makes him "the second most powerful man in Yemen." However, what are the chances of Mohsen in the race for succession today? True, the opposition welcomed Mohsen support, but many among Northern Shi'ite rebels see him as a ruthless military leader who led the military campaign against them in a bloody civil war. Leftists and southerners worry that their goals for democracy will be overtaken in a military power struggle, while the Islamist opposition is thought to view Mohsen more favourably.
5. In 2005 the US diplomat did not see a potential rival matching Saleh. Today, it is no longer the case if we consider the fact that Ali Abdallah Saleh cannot deliver any more on the issue of stabil-

ity viewed by the Americans as essential in the fight against Al Qaeda.

But most interesting is the scenario the 2005 cable imagined for 2013.

Given that many Western observers (US included) expressed their worries about the future of this country, whose population is often armed, with some regions believed to be offering Al Qaeda a "safe haven," the placidity of the US diplomats in 2005 is just amazing. We read for instance: "Despite weak institutions and submissive political parties, democracy has permeated Yemen enough that the public will expect to choose its next President in open elections."

Similarly, we find the 2006 EU Election Observation Mission Report pretty positive, describing Yemen "as the only country in the Arabian Peninsula to have representative democracy enshrined in its Constitution, Yemen has been widely regarded as an important potential model for the development of democracy in the region."

For the report, the elections were successful. Yet, does it make sense to say Yemen is a democracy relying on tribal-military power sharing? These positive assessments of Yemen's democracy are all the most amazing that one can hardly ignore that the country's

history is troublesome and violent; and that Saleh himself played a major role since 1977 in the events which led to Ibrahim Al Hamdi's assassination (president since the coup of 1974), and Al Ghasmi's subsequent assumption of presidency. Eight months later, Al Ghashmi would be killed by a bomb and Saleh would take over.

Nonetheless, in the present situation, the country needs confidence in its institutions shaken by the brutal reactions of the regime, and without a democratic behaviour, Yemen cannot progress. But who is more likely to influence the events?

The Congress party might choose another candidate in case Saleh is ousted. Would it be Ahmed Ali, the son of A.A. Saleh? Another eventual candidate is Brigadier General Ali Mohsen Al Ahmar, Commander of the North-eastern region, cited as the most powerful of the military elites. Is he still the man of the Congress party?

There is also a question about whether the opposition would unify and choose another personality, as it happened in 2006. The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) covered the spectrum of opposition politics in Yemen including: the traditionalist Congregation for Reform Party ('Islah'), which is composed of various Islamic and tribal interest groups; the Yemeni So-

cialist Party (YSP), which formerly ruled South Yemen; and the Nasserite Unionist Party (NUP).

For the 2006 elections, the JMP announced common policies on political and economic reform and jointly selected Faisal Ben Shamlan as its presidential candidate.

Today, potential candidates of the opposition may include the second generation of Al Ahmars: Sadiq, the eldest of Sheikh Abdullah's ten sons, is the head of the family and may prove to be a key figure in the weeks and months ahead; and Hamid, who as head of the Al Ahmar group runs the family's considerable business empire.

Finally, although the ongoing revolutionary process may change the whole picture, we should all the same mention President Saleh's three nephews who hold senior positions in the military and intelligence services: Colonel Amar Saleh, Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh, and Tariq Saleh. And let's not forget the president's half-brother, Ali Saleh Al Ahmar, commander of the Air Force.

And before and beyond all those people there are the youth who form the core of this revolution, and who, like in Egypt and Tunisia, would like to have a say about the future of their country.

The paradox of Qat

By: Steve Caton

Among the challenges Yemen faces, none may be more daunting than that of water sustainability.

One of the glibber pronouncements about Yemen made by the international press is that the country will "run out" of water within a decade or so, unless something is done to alleviate the scarcity. But what does "running out" mean for a substance like water as opposed to oil, say, or gas?

Potable water comes from underground aquifers, it pours from the sky (my friends in Yemen report that the rains have been plentiful this year and crops are doing well), and it can be "manufactured" out of the sea (as in desalination plants). Yemen has access to all three, though not uniformly across the country, and therein lies the problem, as I shall try to explain.

With its long coast line along the Red and Arabian Seas, Yemen has ready access to sea water which it could (and does outside Aden and Hodeidah) desalinate. This has been the tactic of the Gulf countries which arguably have less fresh water even than Yemen.

However, the cost for such desalination is steep for a relatively poor country like Yemen (unless subsidised by donor agencies), the environmental impacts of desalination plants on its marine coasts will be deleterious (because of salt discharge that is put back into the sea, affecting corals and other marine life), and the energy required to run them – whether electrical, diesel fuel or solar – no less expensive.

There is also the challenge of delivering desalinated water to the mountainous and water-depleted interior (a problem not faced by the Gulf states with the possible exception of Oman), given that water is heavy and would cost a bundle to transport from the sea to, say, the capital Sana'a, more than six thousand feet above sea level. So,

while desalination, for all its drawbacks, might alleviate water shortages in coastal areas, it is not a solution for the rest of the country.

Many of Yemen's water basins have extremely low water tables, due to agricultural overuse and slow recharge, but not all of them. Wadi Hadhramawt, for example, arguably the most verdant wadi in the Arabian Peninsula, does have large quantities of underground water, as do some wadis north of the Arabian Sea port-city of Mukallah. If water could be moved from these areas to other, more parched ones (such as Marib) – again, a physically difficult proposition because of Yemen's topography – or people could migrate to them – a politically difficult proposition (though internal migrations have happened all the time in the past), then at least some of the problem might be alleviated.

The solution most often trumpeted by policy-makers concerns qat, a plant whose succulent leaves are chewed by many Yemenis, male and female, for their juices that can induce mild euphoria and mental alertness. The international order views qat as a narcotic, even though it is more socially than physically addicting (I chew it and have no withdrawal symptoms when I go cold turkey upon returning to the States, though I miss the social atmosphere that comes with the chew).

Qat cultivation takes up the lion's share of water used in agriculture (estimates vary but the most common figure is around 60%) and agriculture, of course, uses up most of the water consumed in the country (around 90%), so if one could prohibit qat cultivation (or more realistically scale it back), some argue, a substantial amount of water would be saved and could be used for more productive purposes.

What is not so often stated in such recommendations is that qat is an immensely lucrative cash crop in a country whose economy does not offer many viable alternatives for earn-

ing comparable incomes; prohibit or scale back its production and you impoverish farmers, a mainstay of the economy.

If those same farmers were subsidised not to grow qat, much as U.S. farmers are for not growing certain crops, you might provide an incentive, but given how strapped the Yemeni government is for cash, this is not a likely scenario -- unless international donor agencies stepped in. Would they do it, though, in this era of neo-liberal ideology? Capacity-building, yes, bailouts, no (if only Yemen had a stock exchange).

Water-purification, gray-water reuse, and state-of-the-art water conservation technologies are being introduced into Yemen, particularly in the agricultural sector, and these all help. But it should be clear that there is no one silver bullet (finding a new underground water source) or one approach (economic) that will significantly address Yemen's water problem, rather it is a combination of them, differently applied to each region of the country depending on its topography, existing water resources, and local economy.

Coming up with such solutions will require patient research and careful planning. At the same time, the international order (and here one must include the Gulf countries) can do more, not just in providing technical assistance but in providing jobs for Yemenis in their own economies (Yemen used to have a robust remittance system that helped the economy enormously) but also in funding solutions it might not find palatable given the philosophy of endless capacity-building leading to self-reliance -- a good thing, if you can manage it, but maybe not all can, or not all the time.

So to say that Yemen is "running out of water" is to obscure a reality that is, to be sure, complex but not intractable. We must not give up on a country where the rains have been plentiful this year, always a sign that better things lie around the corner.

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“To make Yemen a cleft-free nation one day...”

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

An old woman was holding her brand new grandson, who had been born with a deformed cleft lip and palate. She was very depressed about the appearance of this 15-day old child.

She decided to speak with three doctors from Yemen Smile Organization (YSO) about the possibility of treating her grandson's deformity. The doctors reassured her that the child would be okay.

They told her that the boy will be treated for free in six months time, as operating on a child as young as her newborn grandson can be dangerous.

Mohammed Qaed also has a two-year old child with a cleft lip. His child was recently treated by the YSO as well.

“I cannot believe that the appearance of my child has gotten so much better,” said Qaed. “I’m very satisfied with my child’s new appearance. When I heard about the YSO, I immediately came from my village with my wife to treat our child.”

“I thank the YSO for bringing hope to me and my wife,” he added.

The YSO is a small charity devoted to giving cleft and palate surgery to Yemeni children. It has helped more than 1,000 Yemeni families with free surgeries for various facial deformities.

“Yemen doesn’t have any well-established cleft palate services. In order to establish cleft lip services, you must have a good hospital with a whole team that is trained in cleft lip treatment,” said Dr. Bona Lotha, the Founder of YSO.

Speaking to the Yemen Times, Dr. Lotha said that there are a few doctors in Sana’a that perform cleft lip and palate operations, but they charge astronomical fees in return.

“[For these doctors to perform a cleft palate operation] it costs between USD 1,000 and 2,000,” he explained. “This is why many Yemeni families cannot treat their children who are suffering from cleft lips or palates.”

Dr. Lotha said that the YSO has been granted a large operations section by Al-Junaid Hospital.

“The hospital has a good infrastructure, friendly staff and well-trained doctors,” he said.

He also indicated that approximately 25,000 children have cleft lips and palates in Yemen.

“Unfortunately,” said Dr. Lotha,



From left: Dr. Waheed Abdul Habeeb, Dr. Bona Lotha and Akram Al-Junaid

“there are no scientific studies about cleft lips and palates in Yemen.”

He explained that when children are born with cleft lips or some other facial deformity, their parents often feel depressed and disappointed.

“Young children with cleft lips also get angry with their parents,” explained Dr. Lotha, “especially when they see their sisters and brothers with normal lips. Some of these children will ask their mothers angrily, ‘Why was I born with cleft lips unlike my brothers and sisters?’”

“Until now,” continued Dr. Lotha, “nobody knew how to prevent cleft lips and palates. Indeed, there are about 10 million children living with cleft lips around the world.”

According to Dr. Lotha, children with cleft lips and palates require a minimum of twenty years of treatment.

“The child will require multiple procedures like cleft lip, dental, palate and nose treatment. Unfortunately, many parents are not aware of the severity of the problem,” he said.

“Some parents abandon their children [with cleft lips] in orphanages. They don’t want them because of their deformed appearance,” he continued.



Shams before



Shams after

Akram Al-Junaid, Director of the international NGO section at the Ministry of Health and Population, said that Al-Junaid Hospital gives free services to all children with cleft lips.

“We work with the aim of providing those who suffer from cleft lips and palates with free surgery and medical care,” said Al-Junaid.

He also stressed the importance of cooperating with NGOs to help children with facial deformities.

Dr. Waheed Abdul Habeeb Nazir, anesthetist and consultant at the YSO, said that the families of children with cleft lips play a big role in caring for their child after surgery.

“They should be careful about their child’s drinking and eating, as well as about their mediations,” said Nazir.

He also indicated that some cleft lip cases are more complicated and dan-

gerous than others. As such, some Yemeni surgeons make mistakes while treating cleft lips and palates.

“All doctors and families should know that children with cleft lips require intensive and special care after surgery,” said Nazir.

“Most young children with cleft lip,” he continued, “cannot go to school, meet relatives and attend social occasions due to their ‘ugly’ appearance.”

Nazir called for all families of children with cleft lips to be optimist and to deal with their children positively and carefully.

He indicated that some families have even resorted to selling their gold so as to treat their children. But he would like to remind families that these children can be treated for free at the YSO.

HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



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

An aspirin a day 5 things you need to know

Many people are taking an aspirin a day to keep the doctor away, instead of the proverbial apple. If you are among those taking aspirin daily, you should consider the drug’s effects on your body and its essential nutrient stores. Here are 5 things you should consider:

1. Increased loss of folic acid in urine as well as reduced blood levels of folic acid have been found in arthritics taking aspirin. Folic acid is necessary to help us deal with stress, to keep our immune system strong, and as a coenzyme that ensures the proper functioning of many biochemical reactions in our bodies. To counter the lost folic acid, most doctors recommend 400 mcg of folic acid daily for arthritics taking aspirin.
2. Aspirin can cause gastrointestinal bleeding that causes loss of iron from the body. If continued over the long-term, iron-deficiency anemia can result. Women, particularly those during the menstrual years, may be vulnerable to anemia. Be sure to have your iron levels tested. Iron supplementation may be beneficial in cases where iron deficiency is confirmed with laboratory tests.
3. Aspirin may also deplete vitamin B12 in people with heart disease. The drug can also damage the stomach in some cases, an organ that plays a critical role in vitamin B12 absorption. Vitamin B12 is necessary for our energy levels, balanced moods, memory and nervous system functions. Supplementary vitamin B12 may help address any deficiencies of this nutrient.
4. Aspirin may deplete vitamin C. Vitamin C is required for bone and tooth formation, digestion, and blood cell formation. It helps accelerate wound healing, aids with the production collagen which helps maintain skin’s youthful elasticity, and is essential to helping us cope with stress. Supplementation of a few hundred milligrams of vitamin C daily may counter this depletion.
5. Aspirin has been shown to decrease blood levels of zinc. Zinc is required for proper digestion and utilization of carbohydrate foods like grains, vegetables, fruits, and sugars, and protein foods like meat, eggs, and beans. Men typically have high zinc needs to support healthy prostate function. This essential mineral is necessary for the body to manufacture at least 200 different enzymes needed for various aspects of metabolism and life. Our blood, bones, brain, heart, liver, and muscles also depend on adequate levels of this important mineral to function properly. Supplementing with zinc may address these losses.

Smoke affecting your apartment?

What do you do when you are stuck with a neighbor who smokes? Maybe you are a smoker and don’t want to damage your apartment or your relationships with other neighbors. Here are a few suggestions to help you when either you or a neighbor smokes.

Talk With Your Neighbor First

While you may have a fear of confronting your neighbor, talking with them is often the easiest solution. Make no mistake; most smokers have very strong feelings about their need to smoke. Also, depending on where you live in the country, some smokers feel frustrated with the growing increases in no-smoking ordinances. (However, these do not exist in Yemen). Awareness has grown about the dangers and destructive properties of cigarette smoke and your neighbor may be more polite than you think. It’s possible you may be able to work out a compromise about where smoking takes place and when.

A solution is to convince your neighbor to buy an air purifier and a window vent fan. The air purifier will be more effective in his apartment than in yours, and if he is polite he probably won’t mind using it.

When Your Request Falls on Deaf Ears

Talk to your (or their) landlord or apartment manager about the problem. Find out if their lease addresses smoking. If the lease does not address smoking there are no real legal options to pursue that would be cheaper than you moving to a new apartment. If you live in a condo or in a co-op, you can bring a complaint to your board. Do not expect miracles, and be prepared to persist.

Seal Up Your Home

If all negotiations fail and you can’t or don’t want to move, the next step is to seal your home. In case you are living in a rented house, you must report and document all alterations or repairs you make to your landlord or you run the risk of losing your security deposit. Keep receipts, as some landlords may be willing to reimburse you for your efforts.

The rule of thumb is that anywhere where air can enter, so can smoke. This includes ventilation and heating ducts, doors, windows, floors, electrical plates and outlets, and ceiling-mounted light fixtures. Bear in mind that air circulates from floor cavities to ceiling cavities (and back to floor cavities), so your challenge in sealing your apartment is sizable, since smoke can enter from all angles.

Keep air moving in your own apartment with extractive window fans or ceiling fans.

Air purifiers can help, but don’t always solve the problem.


For the Considerate Smoker...

If you want to keep peace with your neighbors and/or want to minimize the damage to your own home, here are a few suggestions: You will need to work harder than the non-smoker in keeping your home clean. Tar and nicotine affect every surface they come in contact with. Clean all flat surfaces at least twice a week, vacuum often, use deep cleaning rug shampoos, and occasionally wash your walls with a mild detergent.

Run an air purifying filter in your home, and install a window vent fan. It is courteous to install HEPA filters in your heating ducts to prevent your smoke from exiting your apartment through your ducts.

You can also smoke outdoors. In fact, more and more landlords are requiring tenants to smoke outdoors due to the cost of cleaning up cigarette smoke damage as well as fire hazard and insurance issues.

And if you are really considerate – you can quit smoking.

**Vacancy announcement**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following volunteering position with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), under Project: Climate Change/Environment Portfolio.

Post Title: Climate Change Associate (UN Volunteers)
Location: Sana'a

Responsibilities:
Under the supervision of Environment officer, the UNV volunteer will be responsible for:

- Administration and implementation of programme strategies, simple processes and procedures
- Support in management of the CC programme
- Administrative support to the Programme Unit
- Support in creation of strategic partnerships and implementation of the resource mobilization strategy
- Facilitation of knowledge building and knowledge sharing
- Proper control of the supporting documents for payments, rollout of MEK projects
- Financial Reports
- Maintenance of the national expenditures control system which ensures that vouchers processed are realistic and completed; transactions are correctly recorded and posted in Atlas.
- Timely corrective actions on unprocessed vouchers, including the vouchers with budget check errors, match exceptions, unapproved vouchers.
- Strengthening their knowledge and understanding of the concept of volunteerism by raising relevant UNV and external publications and taking active part in UNV activities for instance in events that mark MDG.

Qualifications:

- University Degree in related discipline, i.e. Business or Public Administration, Economics, Political or Social Sciences.
- At least 3 years of progressively responsible administrative or programme experience in required at the national or international level. Relevant work experience on issues related to climate risk, vulnerability reduction and capacity development is an asset.
- Strong background in performance building will be an asset.
- Experience in working with government, donors or UN previously is an asset.
- Understanding of the global debate on climate change and experience in multilateral environmental debates and strategies and processes is an asset.
- Experience in advising climate change adaptation and energy policy development is preferred
- Proven experience and knowledge of the country's institutional framework and policies of Climate Change is an asset.
- Knowledge and experience with GEF and adaptation funds is desirable

Additional considerations: are requested to send their cover letter and CV to: recruitment@undp.org Email Subject: Climate Change Associate - Sana'a

National UN Volunteers are not paid a salary for their services. Instead, they are provided with a volunteer living allowance, \$ 500 per month in addition to housing allowances.

UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Deadline for receiving applications is 01 May 2011.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following positions with its "Local Governance Support Programme"

Title: Gender Specialist
Type of Contract: Service Contract – SB4/SB5
Duration of Assignment: 1 year renewable
Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen

Responsibilities:

- Technical support to mainstream gender in the National Programme design and implementation
- Provide support to the GWD and WNC to contribute to the design and implementation of National Programme based on analysis to ensure that the Programme adequately addresses gender issues
- Support to the GWD, WNC, women organizations, to participate in the Legal Reform Group and mainstream gender in the constitutional amendments, new LG law, its executive by laws and policies
- Support capacity building in awareness raising and advocacy on women's participation for GWD and General Directorates for Women's Affairs (GDWA) at Governorate Level
- Design and conduct of capacity building and capacity development programmes, including workshops, seminars and other activities to support gender mainstreaming for the national counterparts and LGSP staff in the context of the National Programme and LGSP implementation
- Support to establish and make functional the Community of Practice for Gender in Local Development at the MOLA, including development of mechanisms and systems to ensure regular knowledge building and sharing between relevant stakeholders at the subnational level
- Identification and synthesis of best practices and lessons learned in gender mainstreaming directly linked to LGSP programme goals; production and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned papers.
- Creation of partnerships with key government partners and local authorities at the central and local levels, to ensure their engagement and relevant input in gender mainstreaming and women empowerment
- Close collaboration with UN Women and other UN agencies to develop proposals for joint programmatic planning and implementation, including joint funding for gender mainstreaming for local development programmes and projects.
- Liaising with the UNDP Country Office gender focal point, civil society groups, academic networks and external specialists for advisory services, and sharing of information/best practices.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor Degree in Gender, Development Studies, Public Administration, Law with 6 years experience in relevant field is required. Courses in gender studies, gender analysis and/or gender mainstreaming is desirable.
- Master's Degree with at least 2 years of relevant experience in dealing with issues of women's rights and gender mainstreaming within public institutions, UN agencies and/or international system experience is desirable.
- Good knowledge of governance and development issues at the local level in Yemen.
- Fluency in English and Arabic

Only Online Applications will be accepted

*For further details on the job description and online application, please visit our website at <http://jobs.undp.org>
Response will only be made to short listed candidates
The deadline for receiving applications is May 04, 2011*

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Water and Environment
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Water Sector Support Program
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Water Sector Support Program (WSSP) is a multi-donor initiative designed to support the implementation of the National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Plan (NWSSIP). WSSP will provide funds of about US\$340 million on a sector-wide basis over a five year period (2008-2014) to be financed from the Government of Yemen and their Development Partners (WB - Germany - Netherlands).

Now the ministry of water and the concerned Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation invite Qualified and experienced local specialists to apply for the post of: WSSP Team Leader for the Coordination Secretariat (CS).

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the supervision of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee, chaired by H.E. The Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, observing the legal, administrative, financial directives, and adhering to the project's rules and procedures included in the Project Implementation Manual (PIM), the selected Team Leader's scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the following during the life of the project:

Serve as Secretariat to the D-ESC, prepare relevant agenda and call for meetings of the D-ESC and call for meetings of the PIMC (Program Management Committee) according to the proposed agenda mentioned in AOP/CS or as needed;
Act as WSSP Coordinator for all program aspects during implementation (including procurement, financial management, M&E, Social and environmental management, and anti-corruption activities);
Coordinate M&C inputs to the WSSP;
Manage the team at the Coordination Secretariat which will include Internal Auditor, an M&E Specialist, a Social and Environment Specialist, and others as necessary;
Review and update as needed all project related documents, including among others, PIM and AOPs;
Lead the efforts in amending the Project Implementation Manual as necessary and preparation of Annual Operating Plan consistent with the Project Appraisal Documents and the Financial Agreement;
Support NWRA, GAWSP, NIPMAI and the Urban P&U in preparation of ACP following a basin planning approach;
Support NWRA, GAWSP, NIPMAI and the Urban P&U in implementation of WSSP activities as outlined in the PIM and the Annual Operating Plan;
Assist in timely preparing, finalizing and submitting the Annual Operating Plan for the subsequent years to D-ESC for approval—consistent with the process described in the PIM;
On an annual basis, review the aforementioned plans and furnish same to the development Partners within 10 days thereafter;
Ensure that Yemeni teams nominated by D-ESC for participation in the Supervision missions between GoY and Development Partners;
Lead the review and finalization process for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GoY and Development Partners;
Develop TORs for various management consultants to be hired to support the CS and sub-sector components as needed;
Conduct overall project progress reviews and site visits in coordination with the implementing entities as necessary;
Ensure that the appropriate PIM, Annual Operating Plans and all Financial and Procurement arrangements, and Subagreements are followed;
Act as principal counterpart from the GoY side to Development Partners co-financing the program; and
Actively participate in quarterly meetings of the D-ESC as secretariat, and monthly meetings with implementing entities in agreed locations.

Qualifications and Requirements

Advanced degree (Master and above) in engineering, water, environment, natural resources, and/or related field;
Over 15 years relevant experience of which at least 10 years is in the management position;
Relevant experience with water institutions and stakeholders;
Good knowledge of international procurement principles;
Demonstrated experience in team leadership and complex project management; and
Excellent interpersonal and communication skills in Arabic and English.

Duration of assignment

Initially for probationary period of three months, then onward contracts will be offered thereafter.

Applications accompanied by CVs and supporting documents shall be delivered to the project address as follow:

The Water Sector Support Program (WSSP) Coordinating Secretariat (CS) Office
Western Ring Road (Old Residence of Dr. AbdulKarim Al-Hayani-Sana'a opposite of MAM Show Room)
Phone: (+967) 1-499449/288444
Fax: (+967) 1-4978811

E-mail: wssp-cs@yemen.net.ye or tws@qib009@gmail.com
Latest Date for receiving application is (14 May 2011)

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION
HEALTH POPULATION PROJECT (HPP)
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION UNIT (PAU)

Announcing Vacancy for the Post of Executive Secretary - RFP # (2) - 2011

The Health and Population Project, seeks applicants for the position of Executive Secretary at the Project Administration Unit (PAU) who will work under the direct supervision of the Project Manager. The Executive Secretary will report and be accountable to the Project Manager, and will work closely with other PAU staff, relevant departments of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, and all other relevant/ related parties or organizations as necessary.

SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Executive Secretary will be responsible for the following:

1. Under the supervision of the (PAU) manager the executive secretary will provide overall office management for the (PAU).
2. Act as the focal point for all dialogue, monitor project activities and follow up on all pending matters with relevant bodies and parties.
3. Provide administrative and secretarial support to the (PAU) manager and (PAU) staff including but not limited to verbal and written communication, documentation and archiving.
4. Ensure high quality and appropriateness of outgoing correspondence, communication and other related documents/paperwork.
5. Manage the filing system, records, and security of all (PAU) documents.
6. Schedule appointments of the (PAU) manager and (PAU) staff and handle the logistics of conferences and workshops.
7. Monitor, regulate and supervise the daily attendance of (PAU) employees and generate a monthly report on this.
8. Write the minutes (PAU) meetings or other meetings as required by the (PAU) manager.
9. Ensure that the (PAU) has an adequate stock of office supplies, stationery, consumables, refreshments, etc.
10. Provide support to visiting specialists and IDA missions.
11. Manage, implement and supervise all the day-to-day work of the (PAU) such as repairs and maintenance.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. A minimum of bachelor's degree or equivalent.
2. A minimum of bachelor's degree or equivalent.
3. A minimum of five years experience in executive office management.
4. Very good experience with computers and office software and programs.
5. Fluent in Arabic and English.
6. The ability to supervise and motivate others to achieve positive results.
7. Very good interpersonal and communication skills.
8. Previous work experience with international organizations and preferably with the World Bank projects.

Applications with CV's, and copies of supporting documents, should be submitted to the Project Administration Unit by 12th May 2011 to the address below:

Ministry of Public Health and Population - Program's Building
Attn: Dr. Ali Jabbar, Project Manager - Project Administration Unit
Al-Haramiah - Maraka Street - Sana'a - Republic of Yemen
Tel: +967 1 234572 - Fax: +967 1 234559
E-mail: aljabbar@yphm.gov.ye

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A tale of two squares

By: Amira Al-Arasi

While demonstrations at Tahrir and Change Squares in Sana'a are entering their third month, many families living around the epicenters of protest are suffering behind the walls of their homes.

Fatima (who asked to remain anonymous) said, "I live at Al-Tahrir and I feel very worried. When the square was first occupied, I went to my village and stayed there for about two weeks, hoping that I would come back to find that they [the protesters] had gone. Unfortunately, they were still here."

Fatima adds that the demonstrators annoy the area's residents.

"Now I can't go to visit my relatives," she said, "for fear of harassment by the tribesmen in the square. Nor can we receive visitors for the same reason. We're also worried that something unpredictable will happen that might cost us our lives."

Fatima complains that the protesters cause them particular grief at night.

"I have a two-year old son," she explained, "who can't sleep because of the loud music and all the chanting. This makes me annoyed all the time, wishing that the whole situation would end immediately."

Sama Qaid (who also preferred to remain anonymous) is another resident of Tahrir Square. She has been married for three years and although her husband used to let her visit her family and friends whenever she wished, things have recently changed.

"When the demonstrators decided to camp at Al-Tahrir," said Qaid, "he [my husband] would no longer let me leave home alone."

"We don't feel that the tribesmen in

the square are human," she continued, "because they behave like animals, in a way that we have never seen before. They even fight over lunch!"

Qaid explains that when the protesters first arrived, they had Kalashnikov automatic weapons. They have since replaced their guns with wooden and iron rods, as if preparing for an attack from protesters at Sana'a University's Change Square.

"I'm searched every time I go out," said Qaid, "and the same happens to any woman who comes to visit people in this area."

Qaid is also afraid for her family. She said that, "My husband is a clerk who works for Central Security. Clerks are not allowed to have guns and he is no longer able to wear his uniform, for fear of being attacked. Yet because of the security situation, clerks are expected to be armed, so as to defend themselves."

"At the beginning of the demonstrations," said Waleed Al-Seraji, who lives near Tahrir Square, "there was deafening noise because the protesters used

to dance to loud music day and night, without considering the feelings of the residents. We complained to competent authorities and the dancing has since stopped. Now their activities are restricted to speeches, poetic recitations and chanting on the main platform, which is away from our houses."

Al-Seraji warned that men should be subject to more rigorous searches, "... so that we can feel our lives are safe. Right now, if the youth from the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) were to come to the area and clash with Al-Tahrir's demonstrators, the worst might happen."

He also said that due to the presence of tribesmen and the lack of any sanitary infrastructure, the smell at Tahrir Square has become unbearable. The area's children are no longer allowed to play outside because it is not considered healthy and safe.

Some residents living in the area around Sana'a University's Change Square also shared their views with the Yemen Times.

Warda Awn, who lives at the end of Al-

there is heavy gunfire, but we realize that any revolution requires sacrifices, so there's no harm in hearing gunshots."

Awn also said that she has had no problem interacting with the youth at Change Square: "I go to the square, which indicates that we are not annoyed by or afraid of the presence of youth. We merge with them and believe in their just cause, which should be the cause of every young Yemeni man and woman."

As for Irsal Al-Absi, she has been having problems with her mother, who now considers their area unsafe.

"We live at Roundabout 20," said Al-Absi, "which is close to a security cordon established by the protesters. Everyone is searched by them when they enter either the square or their own homes. This doesn't both me, though, because these procedures have been put in place to ensure our safety."

While covering this story at Tahrir Square for the Yemen Times and after having completed a number of interviews in people's private homes, I wanted to take a few photographs of the area. I



Photo by Yousef Al-Jarrah

Pro-government protesters in Tahrir Square



Photo by Adnan Al-Rajhi

Pro-democracy protesters in Change Square

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