

the exchange



2020

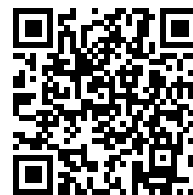
# The Yemen Exchange

An Intensive Online Course on Yemen

August 03 - 14

6

Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies  
The Exchange Foundation



[www.sanaacenter.org](http://www.sanaacenter.org)



# The Sixth Yemen Exchange

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is an abbreviated intensive online version of the Yemen Exchange organized by the Sana'a Center and The Exchange Foundation.

The course is designed to provide unique access to information, perspectives, updates and analysis on Yemen for both those seeking to develop a working background on the country as well as those already thoroughly versed in its dynamics. During the ten-day program conducted online, participants from around the world will listen to Yemeni analysts, academics, politicians, bureaucrats, business leaders and international experts to gain insight and rare first-hand knowledge about the country from a wide range of perspectives. Participants will have the chance to both virtually engage with speakers

during the sessions and connect with speakers individually after the Exchange.

The sessions themselves – totaling more than 25 hours – will dive into several specific areas, including but not limited to: Yemen's multifaceted conflicts, socio-political dynamics, internal divisions and alliances among parties to the conflict, the possibility of southern secession, military and political developments on the ground, the status of various armed groups, the regional battle for Yemen, the humanitarian and economic crisis, the UN-led peace process, impacts of the coronavirus as well as a variety of other topics.

*Accepted applicants will be provided with the full list of speakers as well as details on how to securely access the course prior its start.*

**Request an application form via:**  
[exchange@sanaacenter.org](mailto:exchange@sanaacenter.org)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

**JULY 17, 2020**

Applicants will be processed on a rolling basis



# EXCHANGE AGENDA





# Opening Sessions *(Optional)*

## Sunday, August 02



17:00 - 18:00 Sana'a  
10:00 - 11:00 EST

### Welcome Round

In this introductory session, participants will get the chance to introduce themselves.



**VICTORIA SAUER** —————  
Program manager of The Yemen Exchange and non-resident researcher at the Sana'a Center.



**NICHOLAS NOE** —————  
Director of The Foundation for Global Political Exchange, INC.

18:15 - 19:30 Sana'a  
11:15 - 12:30 EST

### Yemen for Beginners

This session is designed to introduce people totally new to Yemen to the country's basics.



**SANA'A CENTER EXPERTS** —————



# WEEK 1 EXPERT WEEK

## Day One

### Monday, August 03

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17:00 - 18:00 Sana'a  
10:00 - 11:00 EST

#### Introduction and course rules



#### FAREA AL-MUSLIMI

Chairman of the Sana'a Center and associate fellow at Chatham House.



#### OSAMAH AL-RAWHANI

Deputy executive director of the Sana'a Center.

18:00 - 19:30 Sana'a  
11:00 - 12:30 EST

#### Who is fighting whom, where, and why?

This session will be a deep dive into political alliances, divisions and conflicts within Yemen. Analysts will elaborate on current frontlines, armed groups and local and regional actors as well as other stakeholders and unexplored roots of the war.

The panel will be further refined based on the input and needs of accepted participants.



#### MAGED AL-MADHAJI

Co-founder and executive director of the Sana'a Center and regular commentator on Yemen for Arabic media.



#### ABDULGHANI AL-IRYANI

Senior researcher at the Sana'a Center. Prior to joining the Sana'a Center, Al-Iryani was a political and development advisor for many INGOs and international organizations in Yemen, including the Office of the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, UNDP and the World Bank.



# Day Two

## Tuesday, August 04

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17:00 - 18:00 Sana'a  
10:00 - 11:00 EST

### The war visualized

In this session visual data specialists will explain Yemen's conflict(s), notably illustrating frontlines and networks of political elites in Yemen.



**GHAIDAA AL-RASHIDY**

Researcher and visual data specialist at the Sana'a Center.



**ANDREA CARBONI**

Research analyst at ACLED and PhD candidate in geography at the University of Sussex, focusing on political elites in the MENA region.



**WALEED ALHARIRI**

Director of the US office for the Sana'a Center and fellow at the Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute.

*Facilitator*



18:15 - 19:30 Sana'a  
11:15 - 12:30 EST

## The Houthis and Salafis from an academic perspective

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### MAYSAA SHUJAA AL-DEEN

Non-resident fellow at the Sana'a Center where her research focuses on religious sectarianism, political transformation and Yemen's geopolitical role in the region.

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### LAURENT BONNEFOY

Research fellow at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and author of "Salafism in Yemen: Transnationalism and Religious Identity," London: Hurst, 2011.

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### EMANUEL SCHAEUBLIN

Anthropologist working for the Mediation Support Team at the Center for Security Studies (ETH Zurich) and member of the Sanaa Center Geneva Association.

*Facilitator*



# Day Three

## Wednesday, August 05

17:00 - 18:00 Sana'a  
10:00 - 11:00 EST

### Status and reserves of the Yemeni rial



#### THE SANA'A CENTER ECONOMISTS

18:15 - 19:30 Sana'a  
11:15 - 12:30 EST

### The economic aspects of the war

This session will examine current and post-war challenges facing Yemen's economy, analyze how this war is - by heart and solution - an economic one, and introduce possible economic frameworks for post-war Yemen.



#### RAFAT AL-AKHALI

Former Yemeni Minister of Youth and Sports and co-founding partner at DeepRoot Consulting.



#### JEEHAN N. ABDUL GHAFFAR

International development expert.



#### OMAR AL-AQEL

Expert on Yemen's economy and development issues.



#### JAMILA ALI RAJAA

Chair of the Sana'a Center advisory board. She is a former Yemeni diplomat with the status of ambassador, senior analyst, lecturer and policy consultant, including for the UN and several European foreign agencies.

*Facilitator*





# Day Four

## Thursday, August 06

17:00 - 18:30 Sana'a  
10:00 - 11:30 EST

### Impacts of the war on gender

This session will explore how women, girls, men and boys have experienced the conflict differently, and how conflict is reshaping gender norms in Yemen.



**YASMEEN AL-ERYANI**

Non-resident fellow at the Sana'a Center, focusing on educational issues, and a PhD candidate in social anthropology at Tampere University in Finland.



**HANNAH PATCHETT**

Editor at the Sana'a Center and co-author of the Center's report on the gendered impact of the war.



**SHAMS SHAMSAN**

Researcher at the Sana'a Center and co-author of the Center's report on the gendered impact of the war.



**NADIM HOURY**

Executive director of the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI).

*Facilitator*



18:30 - 19:30 Sana'a  
11:30 - 12:30 EST

## Yemen's civil society



### FARAH FAHD AL-WAZIR

A civil society activist, focusing on community and women's issues as well as development projects.



### MEHDI MUHAMMAD BELGHITH

Chairman of Musaala for Human Rights and a human rights officer with OHCHR.



### LÉONIE NORTHEDGE

Acting Head of Middle East and North Africa Programmes at Saferworld.

*Facilitator*



# Day Five

## Friday, August 07

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17:00 - 18:30 Sana'a  
10:00 - 11:30 EST

### Armed groups

Using maps and other visuals, this session will cover the status and activities of non-state armed groups currently active in Yemen's civil war, including AQAP and ISIS, and their role in post-war Yemen as well as foreign counterterrorism operations inside Yemen.



#### NADWA AL-DAWSRI

Conflict analyst and non-resident scholar at Middle East Institute, focusing on Yemen's tribes.



#### GREGORY JOHNSON

Non-resident fellow at the Sana'a Center, focusing on armed groups in Yemen, and former member of the Panel of Experts of the UN Security Council on Yemen.



#### PETER SALISBURY

Senior Yemen analyst at Crisis Group and a former journalist.



#### HOLLY TOPHAM

Researcher and program manager at the Sana'a Center.

*Facilitator*



18:45 - 19:45 Sana'a  
11:45 - 12:45 EST

## Arms flows to Yemen



### WOLF-CHRISTIAN PAES

Arms Expert, UN Panel of Experts on Yemen.



### BENJAMIN VILLANTI

Policy analyst at Security Council Report, covering Yemen et al.

*Facilitator*

20:00 - 21:00 Sana'a  
13:00 - 14:00 EST

## Film discussion with Amr Gamal

In this session, participants will get the chance to engage in discussions with Amr Gamal, director of *Ten Days Before The Wedding (2018)*. A link to the film will be circulated by Day 1 of the Exchange.



### AMR GAMAL

Award-winning independent Yemeni film and theatre director, based in Aden.



# WEEK 2 STAKEHOLDER WEEK

## Day Six

### Monday, August 10

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15:30 - 16:30 Sana'a  
08:30 - 09:30 EST

#### Lessons for international peace- building in Yemen from Somaliland



**SARAH PHILLIPS**

Non-resident fellow at the Sana'a Center and associate professor in the Department of Government and International Relations at The University of Sydney.



**RYAN BAILEY**

Editor and researcher at the Sana'a Center.

*Facilitator*



17:00 - 18:30 Sana'a  
10:00 - 11:30 EST

## The regional fight for Yemen

This panel will analyze the role of key regional actors with a stake in the geopolitical fight for Yemen and examine the policies and interests of Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman and Qatar.



**JAMILA ALI RAJAA**

Chair of the Sana'a Center advisory board. She is a former Yemeni diplomat with the status of ambassador, senior analyst, lecturer and policy consultant, including for the UN and several European foreign agencies.



**MUSTAPHA NOMAN**

Former Yemeni diplomat and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.



**STEPHEN A. SECHE**

Executive vice president of The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington D.C., and former US Ambassador to Yemen.



**AMAT AL ALIM ALSOSWA**

has served as Yemen's Minister for Human Rights, Ambassador to the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States.

*Facilitator*



# Day Seven

## Tuesday, August 11

17:00 - 18:15 Sana'a  
10:00 - 11:15 EST

### Zoom into the south: Shabwa, Aden and Hadramawt



**AMMAR AL-AULAQI** —————  
Yemeni government analyst.



**HUSSAM RADMAN** —————  
Sana'a Center researcher and office director in Aden where he focuses on southern politics and armed groups.



**MOHAMMED AL-KATHIRI** —————  
Expert, trainer and advocacy specialist on peacebuilding, with a focus on Hadhramawt, and president of the Yemeni Peace and Building Foundation.



**GHAIDAA AL-RASHIDY** —————  
Researcher and visual data specialist at the Sana'a Center.  
*Facilitator*



18:30 - 19:30 Sana'a  
11:30 - 12:30 EST

## Local and tribal politics in Al-Mahra and Socotra



**AHMED NAGI**

Non-resident scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center.



**VICTORIA SAUER**

Program manager of The Yemen Exchange and non-resident researcher at the Sana'a Center.

*Facilitator*





# Day Eight

## Wednesday, August 12

17:00 - 18:30 Sana'a  
10:00 - 11:30 EST

### The future of the Yemeni state



**KHALED BAHAH**

Former Prime Minister and former Vice President of Yemen.



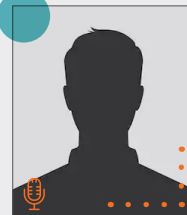
**OSAMAH AL-RAWHANI**

Deputy executive director of the Sana'a Center.

*Facilitator*

19:00 - 20:30 Sana'a  
12:00 - 13:30 EST

### The Houthi movement perspective



**HOUTHİ REPRESENTATIVE**



**TBD**

*Facilitator*



# Day Nine

## Thursday, August 13

17:00 - 18:00 Sana'a  
10:00 - 11:00 EST

### The Yemeni government perspective



**MOHAMMED AL-HADHRAMI**

Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs



**FAREA AL-MUSLIMI**

Chairman of the Sana'a Center

*Facilitator*

18:15 - 19:15 Sana'a  
11:15 - 12:15 EST

### The GPC perspective



**ABU BAKR AL-QIRBI**

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs (2001-2014).



**LAURA KASINOF**

Former New York Times correspondent in Yemen and writing mentor at the Sana'a Center.

*Facilitator*



# Day Ten

## Friday, August 14

17:00 - 18:00 Sana'a  
10:00 - 11:00 EST

### Developments in Hudaydah and frontlines on the Red Sea Coast



**HAMED GHALEB**

Office Director of Tareq Saleh.



**MAGED AL-MADHAJI**

*Facilitator*

18:30 - 19:30 Sana'a  
11:30 - 12:30 EST

### The Islah perspective



**ABDULRAZZAQ AL-HIJRI**

Head of the Al-Islah parliamentary bloc.



**RIM MUGAHED**

Sana'a Center researcher, focusing on women, transitional justice and various social issues.

*Facilitator*

19:30 - 20:30 Sana'a  
12:30 - 13:30 EST

### Evaluation and Q&A



**SANA'A CENTER FOR STRATEGIC  
STUDIES**



# Exchange Details

- All costs related to The Yemen Exchange are funded by participant fees, except for scholarships provided by both organizations (see below). There is no supplementary government or private sector support, a fact that allows us to assure participants of a relatively neutral platform for the exchange of information, open dialogue and understanding.
- All sessions are held under the Chatham House Rule with some sessions consisting of only one speaker in order to assure as open and unfiltered a discussion as possible in the context of a very sensitive topic. Simultaneous translation to English will also be provided when needed.
- Prior to the beginning of the course, accepted participants will receive a course syllabus as well as maps, visuals, and other informative materials. Those interested will also be connected with the experts and speakers to follow up with them for their own work and research.
- Applying for a scholarship – The Yemen Exchange currently has five scholarships (covering the conference fee) available for researchers who will deepen the social, political and geographic diversity of the Exchange and who can demonstrate both a lack of institutional or self-funding ability and a deep interest in Yemen. For any questions related to scholarships or to request an application with more information, email [exchange@sanaacenter.org](mailto:exchange@sanaacenter.org).

## • PARTICIPATION FEES •

**1500\$**

for governments and for-profit companies

**1000\$**

for NGOs and non-profit organizations

**500\$**

for freelance journalists, unaffiliated researchers and academics



REQUEST AN APPLICATION FORM VIA  
**[EXCHANGE@SANAACENTER.ORG](mailto:EXCHANGE@SANAACENTER.ORG)**

