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Colonel killed in front of mosque

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, 15 August — The Director of the Department of Investigations at the Political Security in Lahj governorate, Colonel Ali Abdulkareem Al-Ban, 40, was killed by unknown gunmen last Friday when he was on his way to the mosque.

According to security sources, 10 suspected people aged between 19 and 40 have been arrested. They added that

they found a raffle with five bullets at the crime scene and that the left front side of Al-Ban's Mercedes's been shot 30 times.

Al-Ban, who had two daughters and one son, had been exposed to a number of assassination attempts recently. Unknown men threw bombs at his house and farm in Al-Hamra, Lahj governorate six months ago but that assassination attempt failed.

A highly ranked source in the Southern Movement Council denied reports in the media that some of the movement's members had killed the colonel. He said that this was a criminal act and expressed his sorrow and condolences to the colonel's family.

Security forces in Abyan said three unknown men shot Sultan Abdulkareem Al-Shar'abi, the Director of Information at Al-Mahfad, Abyan governorate. He died instantly in the attack. The same sources indicated that the Al-Qaeda based wing in Yemen might be involved.

Around 37 soldiers and colonels have been killed since last May, according to unofficial statistics.

Southern Movement activities

The leadership of the Southern Movement is conducting events and seminars during Ramadan in the southern governorates.

Recently, the government released a number prisoners from the wars in Sa'ada and members of the Southern Movement in Hadramout.

Last May, President Saleh gave an amnesty to all prisoners from the Sa'ada wars and the Southern Movement to pave the way for dialogue instead of restricting rights and freedoms.

The Yemeni Organization for Human Right (YOHR) expressed happiness over the amnesty but demanded the government release all other detainees that are still in prison, and stop arresting people and give them more freedom to reveal their demands.

YOHR also called on all political parties, both pro- and anti-government to be ready for the national dialogue, and to spend more attention on the release of detainees.

According to the organization, the government only released prisoners who were arrested due to their participation in peaceful protests, but did not release Sa'ada's war detainees.

A dual insurgency

The World Tribune reported that the head of US Central Command, General James Mattis, warned that Yemen's security forces could collapse amid fighting two major insurgencies. He was referring to the Houthis insurgency in the north, and attacks by Al-Qaeda in the South.

In his testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Mattis reflected on his experiences in Yemen. The newspaper reported that he painted a dark picture of Yemen as having a failing economy, poor security and dwindling crude oil reserves.

"While President Saleh is able to manage these threats sequentially, a combination of spikes in the challenges... could stretch Sana'a's resources and military/security services to the breaking point,"Gen. James Mattis said.

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Awareness campaign to save the architecture of Dhamar



**By: Yemen Times correspondent
For the Yemen Times**

DHAMAR, Aug. 8 — Interested persons in Dhamar governorate have launched an awareness campaign to save the architectural heritage of the old city of Dhamar, 100 km south of the capital Sana'a.

The old city's buildings have been damaged or demolished, due to the modernization that has threatened the historical and cultural legacy that characterizes the city.

Dhamar is one of the oldest Yemeni cities. It was built in the era of the Sabae and Dhu Raydan states in the early first century AD. The town was then destroyed by the Abyssinians during the fourth century. Several factors helped the city's revival but among the most important were its location between the north and south of Yemen and on the caravan route, making it a large center of commerce, and its natural resources, especially water.

The El-Houdrani cultural forum last week in Dhamar city called for the protection of the old city's historical buildings during a symposium attended by specialists and representatives from relevant authorities.

The branch manager of the public authority for the conservation of the historic towns of Dhamar, Safwan Al-Dhibai, said, "The buildings of the old city of Dhamar have been replaced with modern buildings not related to historical and cultural heritage, and many traditional crafts related to the art of building with mud have disappeared."

"This is a serious indicator of the loss of priceless national wealth," he said. "It invites interested parties to protect the architectural heritage of the old city of Dhamar and to launch a distress call and support the efforts of associations working to preserve historical cities, to stop the disfigurements ... that threaten to erase its architectural heritage, which is not less

important than the heritage of the old cities of Sana'a, Shibam Hadramout and Zabid."

"Random construction not following the architecture of the old city of Dhamar has prevailed during the past decades without any control, which has destroyed 50 percent of the architectural heritage of the city," he continued.

Random construction, he explained, included the construction of modern extensions to the old buildings and modern buildings using the cement blocks, reinforced concrete, and red bricks manufactured in factories. Aluminum and iron has been introduced for the windows and doors of historic buildings, and the height of the modern buildings has increased, thus contributing to the breach of the norm. The facades of mud buildings have been built with stones and modern colorful materials, covered with advertisements and graffiti.

The branch manager of the General Organization for Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts the engineer, Ali Dhaifallah Al-Sanabani, said, "The preservation of historical monuments will not be excluded from the concerted efforts of various relevant agencies to raise awareness among the community about the seriousness of destroying historical monuments."

Al-Sanabani added, "Imbalances occur during the restoration of buildings, such as mosques and old markets, with modern materials, which has distorted the architectural and historical features [of the city.] There must be coordination with the Antiquities Authority to conduct this restoration according to specifications consistent with the historical and cultural position of those buildings and their architectural features."

The director of the Culture Office in the Dhamar governorate, Mohamed Ali Al-Umri, said, "Saving the model of architecture of the old city of Dhamar will be only happen through intensive awareness cam-

paigns involving a number of relevant authorities, as well as through taking deterrent procedures against random renovations and developing solutions for previous deformities, which all requires huge sums of money which the local authorities do not have."

Researcher Mohammed Saleh Ayyash said, "Maintaining architectural heritage requires ensuring that licenses for repair, construction and renovation in the ancient city of Dhamar are only given if it is under the supervision of associations for the conservation of historical towns."

He added that traditional building crafts required for conventional construction and restoration should be revived.

The area of Dhamar is well-known as a center of power for the pre-Islamic Himyarite state. Most historical sources agreed that it had an important role during the Islamic era, and that its big mosque was built by the Prophet's companion Dahya Al-Kalbi "in the era of the Prophet (PBUH) or in the era of Abu Bakr Siddiq.

A number of historical sources report that when the Quraysh demolished the Ka'aba, during the pre-Islamic era, they found a piece of stone on which was written, "Who will rule Dhamar? The good people of Himyar. Who will rule Dhamar? The bad people of Abyssinia. Who will rule Dhamar? The free people of Persia. Who will rule Dhamar? The merchants of Quraish."

Some people said that the city is named after Dhamar Ali Yahbar King of Sheba and Dhu Raydan whose bronze statue was found in Nakhl Al-Hamra near Dhamar in 1935 and is now on display at the National Museum in Sana'a. On the statue's chest were two lines of Himyarite words including the name of Dhamar Ali.

Himyarite ruins are also widespread in several locations near the city of Dhamar, such as tombs and water reservoirs in the Haran Mountain in Dhamar.

Six NGOs receive funding to combat qat consumption

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, 10 August — Hana Al-Adimi, 28, head of the Third Eye Center, expressed her happiness as she obtained funding to combat qat consumption.

The Third Eye Center and five other non-government organizations are being funded by the World Bank's Civil Society Fund. The organizations aim to combat qat consumption through producing advocacy materials such as brochures, sketches, songs, posters, caricatures, television adverts and documentary films.

Qat consumption causes a number of social problems in Yemen. It directly contributes to poverty as it consumes

a significant part of a family's budget in the place of other basic necessities. As many qat chewers are addicted to the leaf, they place the purchase of qat above that of other commodities needed by them and their family.

Qat consumption also has a negative effect on the national budget. In agriculture, qat cultivation consumes almost 30 percent of the available ground water, and dominates a large proportion of arable land as farmers plant it due to its quick returns. Land used in qat consumption cannot be used for edible crops that could feed the country reducing reliance on imports, or generate export income.

The financial support of NGOs intends to combat qat as part of the

government's third socioeconomic development plan for poverty reduction 2006-2010. The plan intends to reduce qat consumption in a gradual balanced way, encouraging people to voluntarily abandon qat for their own benefit.

The World Bank Country Director in Yemen, David Craig, stressed the important role played by NGOs in the development of their country, especially their dealing with issues such as qat. He explained that they are close to their own society and know exactly what points of deficiency their societies suffer from.

"The society trusts them because they have direct relations with it," he said.

Private businesses pay only 20 percent of mandatory tax, says Tax Authority

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, August 11 — The General Director of Tax Authority Ahmed Ghaleb told journalists on Tuesday that the private sector does not pay the full obligatory tax and that traders pay only 20 percent of required taxes.

He called this act by merchants a crime of embezzlement. He also warned that the law will take action against such crimes starting on August 21.

He said that many businessmen do not pay the tax and that, in the best case scenario, they pay only 30 percent of what should be paid.

However, he predicted that tax revenues would increase to three times the current figure after the implementation of the sales tax law. Tax revenues in 2009 reached about YR 130 billion.

Ghaleb made this statement during a training workshop for journalists on

the sales tax law organized by the Studies and Economic Media Center.

The final draft of the sales tax law was approved in 2006 after a long dispute between the government and businessmen. It was supposed to be implemented earlier, but due to disagreements between the state and businesses it was delayed until July of this year.

"If the sales tax law had been applied earlier, we would not have reached this bad phase in the economy," he added.

Businesses often do not like to reveal their real transactions and records in order to avoid paying the full income tax. The application of the sales tax law would mean that the businesses would have to record each and every transaction.

Tax evasion is a problem that harms the national budget, now suffering from an acute shortage of revenues.

Dr. Mohamed Jubran, professor of economics at the University of Sana'a,

told the Yemen Times earlier that tax revenues are being wasted.

He explained that before Yemen explored for oil, the government used to rely on tax revenues for expenditures and it was able to cover those expenditures with money left over afterwards.

Jubran accused the General Investment Authority of being an agent able to grant customs and tax discharges for traders not granted in any country.

In addition, telecommunications companies and banks in Yemen do not pay taxes or customs fees because they have obtained illegal discharges from taxes and customs from the General Investment Authority, according to Jubran.

Since 2001, businesses have been opposing the sales tax law. As many officials are themselves businessmen they have refused to apply the law for ten years since its issuance, according to Jubran.

Yemenis support flood-affected Pakistan

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, August 15 — The Yemeni people have expressed their full support for their Pakistani brothers in dealing with the aftermath of the floods that have hit Pakistan over last two weeks.

At a fundraising dinner held at the Pakistani embassy in Sana'a on Saturday, several Yemeni businessmen, social personalities, dignitaries, doctors and individuals made donations to the people of Pakistan.

The Yemeni Doctors Association announced it will send doctors to Pakistan to help in relief operations.

During the dinner, the Yemeni-Pakistani Brotherhood Association called on the Yemeni president to direct public and personal Yemeni organizations to stand with their brothers in Pakistan.

"We appeal to the President of the Republic to issue his directives to government and non-government bodies to help their brothers in Pakistan where floods have made millions of Pakistanis suffer," said Secretary General of the Yemeni-Pakistani Brotherhood

Association, Dr. Hussein Al-Hajiri.

The fundraising was held on the sidelines of a celebration for Pakistan's Independence Day on August 14 at an iftar banquet at the Pakistani embassy.

At the ceremony Pakistan's Ambassador to Yemen, Khwaja Al-Qama, said the floods are the worst catastrophe in Pakistan's history since the nation's independence 63 years ago.

"The floods have killed 1,384 people, injured 1,630 others and destroyed 700,000 homes," he said, citing statistics from the United Nations that also say that 20 million Pakistani people have been affected by the floods.

But he expressed his country's strong will to overcome this ordeal, saying that the nation of Pakistan is strong enough to cope with any challenge and would rehabilitate the millions uprooted by the devastating floods.

"The nation will confront the challenges as it did at the time of partition, with the blessings of Almighty Allah. This time too we shall succeed," he said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Deputy Ambassador to Yemen, Ahmad Ali Sirohey, expressed his appreciation for the generosity of the Yemeni attendees who graduated from Pakistani universities and institutes and who announced the fundraiser for their Muslim brothers in Pakistan.

He said that relief operations could be carried out by helicopters, boats and hovercraft. According to Sirohey, the hot and humid weather means that epidemics were a serious threat that could further compound the already grave situation.

"The scale of the destruction by the floods was much bigger than the [2008 Boxing Day] tsunami, but the collective efforts of the people of Pakistan and the generous help from the Islamic world will alleviate the suffering sooner," said Sirohey.

According to the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki Moon, who is currently inspecting the destruction in Pakistan, the damage caused by the floods in Pakistan is four times bigger than that caused by the 2008 tsunami.

Cultural festival for refugee children in Sana'a

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, August 10 — Waiting from the fourth row for the show to start on stage last Sunday, Mohammad and Osama, two Ethiopian children, chanted their national anthem together.

They had come with their friends to attend the cultural festival for refugee children organized by The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). They clapped enthusiastically for the Oromo boys and girls with their distinguished white uniforms and colorful headbands.

The children performed songs from their own native cultures and songs in Arabic. Oromo Ethiopian children and Ogaden Somali children presented songs and dance. The event also included breakdancing, storytelling and questions with prizes for the children attendees.

Mohammad, 11, said was very excited for watching the performance by Oromo group and he expected them to be the best.

"I came here because I like to watch them singing our anthem and dance," he said.

"The aim is to expose the young refugees to their own culture," said the project manager of ADRA's Community Development Support Project for Urban Refugees, Soo-Rae Hong. "A lot of them came here [to Yemen] when they were very young. They don't know a lot about Oromo, Ogaden or Somali culture."

She added that it was an opportunity for children to be together and to share their culture with each other and with the Yemeni people.

Assli Taher, 39, is a Somali mother of seven children, five of whom participated in the event. They have been in Yemen for 16 years.

"I am very happy," she said, "my children participate in performing a song from our country and another song from Yemen."

She helped her children to rehearse for the event by helping them memorize the



Soo-Rae Hong from ADRA with Somali refugee children participated in the performance for children in Al-Saba'een Park in Sana'a.

songs.

"It was very exciting for us to see a lot of Yemenis starting to share in what they can do and understand that the refugees are not just cleaners and people who wash cars, they also have their own culture and language," said Hong.

"Children usually are locked in their homes, they don't really go to school, they don't have time to be together and sing, dance and play games," she added.

Obsa Ahmadi Sani, a 15 year-old Oromo Ethiopian, said "I am happy to wear our traditional uniform today."

Sani spent about two weeks preparing for the event in which he and his friends presented the Oromo Ethiopian culture.

Hong said that the program aims to promote livelihood skills and community development for the refugee population here in Sana'a. It is funded by the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.

"It empowers refugees to make their communities better," said Hong.

The program provides vocational training, literacy training, catering as well as handicrafts. The program also includes courses in English, Arabic and Somali languages as well as sports and cultural activities, according to Hong.

"We have five day cares including the one in our center for working parents and single mothers," said Hong, adding that the program can help refugees find jobs.

Hong appreciated the receptive attitude from the Yemeni government and people for the program, pointing out that one of the challenges in working in Yemen is to empower people to be self-reliant.

"There are not a lot of job opportunities," she said, "no matter the education you give someone, in the end they are not really getting the jobs that they need because jobs are not available and also Yemenis need those jobs too."

The cultural event was also combined with the United Nations Refugee agency exhibition for photos taken by child refugees. The agency representative in Sana'a, Claire Bourgeois, was also present in the event.

ADRA is an Australian global humanitarian organization. It is has been active in Yemen since 1995, focusing on primary health care, economic development, education and food security. ADRA Yemen's main target groups are women, children and the poor, as well as people with special needs and refugees.



JOB VACANCY

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Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY) is seeking qualified candidate to fill the following vacancy:

Position : Orphans & Child Welfare Programme Manager (Sana'a Based)

Reference : OCWPM/IPD/10.08.10

Job Purpose : The purpose of this post is to manage and develop Islamic Relief's Child Welfare Programme in Yemen in line with Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY) country strategy and the programme policies and procedures.

Responsibilities: The post holder will be responsible for managing and developing IRY's OCW programme which is orphans sponsorship and other child welfare projects. The main duties include managing and developing all aspects of programme (identification, preparation, implementation, development, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, and training).

Requirements:

- Must be a graduate in development studies or social sciences.
- A minimum of five years experience of working for an international NGO.
- A proven record of designing & implementing development programmes.
- Experience in programme planning, monitoring, evaluation and appraisal.
- Good understanding of development and relief issues as well as appreciation of cultural and social differences.
- Understanding and commitment to principles of child rights and child protection.
- An understanding of child development/ welfare / education projects especially within the
- Excellent programme management skills.
- Excellent networking, communication and interpersonal skills.
- A commitment to work on a team basis and the ability to lead project teams. Staff management and development skills.
- Development and implementation of appropriate policies, procedures and administrative systems.
- Report writing skills.
- Good numerical and problems solving skills. Experience of preparing and managing budgets.
- Excellent written and spoken English and Arabic.
- Excellent skills and knowledge of Windows, Office and Internet applications.
- Flexible & Patient. Ability to work on your own initiative as well as a part of a team.
- Sympathetic with aims & objectives of Islamic Relief.
- Must be able to travel extensively within Yemen.

Position: Media & Communications Officer (sana'a Based)

Reference: MCO/IPD/10.08.10

Job Purpose: The key purpose of this role is to assist and support programme & fund raising communication needs in IRY, IRW and for IR Worldwide partner offices needs

Responsibilities:

- To undertake a communication assessment and as a result develop and implement the organisation's communication strategy for the humanitarian crisis in northern Yemen and in consultation with the country team and the media department at IRW.
- To develop a long term media strategy for IRY.
- To lead in developing creative ways to document the progress (e.g. through photos/ case stories / video/etc).
- Ensure that the organisation's publications, photos, and videos are of high quality and are disseminated appropriately.
- To raise the profile of IRY in Yemen and worldwide. Draft press releases / blogs/ articles
- Assist in capacity building on communication and advocacy for national staff by providing relevant training and support
- To act as IRY's spokesperson and to represent IRY at external events.
- To contribute towards developing an effective country team and friendly environment.
- To participate in all orphan and child welfare programme activities
- To be able to intensively travel to all areas of Yemen as required
- To carry out other duties assigned by the line manager

Requirements:

- Degree in Communication, Journalism, Public Relations; or equivalent professional work experience in the communication area combined with university degree in a related field.
- 5 years of experience in managing development communication strategies.
- Excellent spoken and written English with ability to express clearly and concisely complex ideas and concepts in written and oral form in order to engage the public and other stakeholders.
- Experience of producing high quality media materials such as press releases and articles/stories for traditional and electronic media.
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Sabafon subscribers exceed 3.5 million

Sabafon telecommunication mobile company announced the expansion of its client base to exceeding 3.5 million in the third quarter of 2010.

CEO of the company Tareq Al-Haidari commended this progress and said that it is an implementation of a long term strategy for Sabafon since 2001 when it was established as the first and largest mobile phone operator in Yemen.

"This expansion is due to the great demand on the distinguished offers provided by Sabafon for its customers. We maintain the largest chunk of the mobile phone subscribers in Yemen," said Al-Haidari.

He added that this is a result of the company's marketing strategy which is based on quality service and niche performance through targeted advertising. Sabafon has four main products: Super Naba, Yalla Shabab,



Bilqees which are all prepaid services and bills based lines, in addition to the internet service sim card making Sabafon the first company providing an internet browsing service card.

Sabafon was established on February 14, 2001 as Yemen's first mobile phone operator in Yemen.

Arabia Felix launches Sana'a-Aden- Jeddah route

As a part of its investment plans and expansion projects, Arabia Felix airline has just inaugurated the first flight from Yemen to King Abdul-Aziz Airport in Jeddah city in KSA. With this route Felix airlines will have four destinations in KSA. Prior to this new expansion the airline already traveled to King Fahd International Airport in Damam, Prince Mohammed bin Abdulaziz in Al-Madina Al-Munawara and Abha Airport in Abha city.

Sheikh Saleh Al-Awaji head of board of directors of Arabia Felix Saleh Al-Awaji said that this is yet another expansion of the company and is a service not only for passengers in Yemen but also Yemeni in KSA.

This expansion is the seventh addition to the airline routes after it launched six regional flights including Al-Sharga in UAE, Djibouti and Salah in Oman. Al-Awaji promised new routes in the coming future.

Ahmed Al-Dhalae deputy governor of Aden for investment commented on the new route connecting Aden and Jeddah is an important facility to promote businesses and regional investment.



Success for FedEx Express As Memphis Hub Wins Prestigious Award

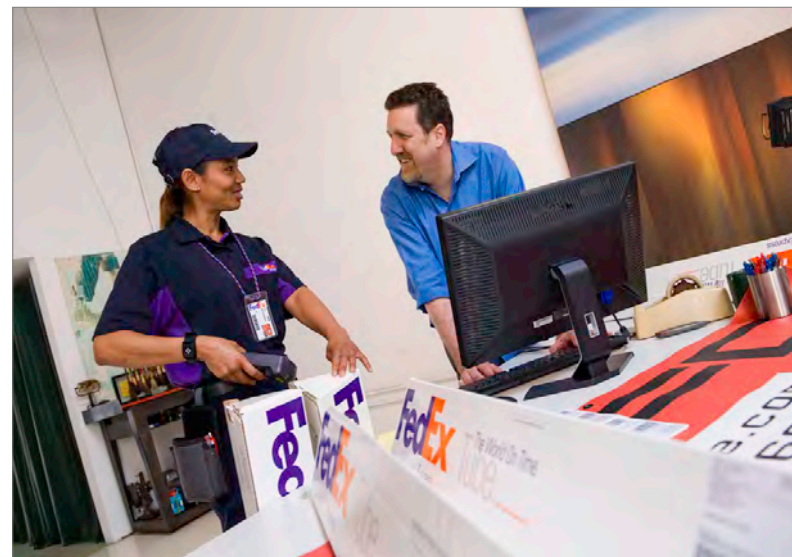
UK's Institute of Transport Management Awards FedEx Express Memphis Facility as 'Best Global Cargo Hub'

MEMPHIS, Tenn.,—FedEx Express, the world's largest express transportation company has won the Institute of Transport Management's "Best Global Cargo Hub" award for its Memphis World Hub. The Memphis hub, the centerpiece of the FedEx global distribution system, was given the award for standing as a shining example of delivery and distribution professionalism. The judging panel cited in particular its achievement of successfully uniting the disparate capabilities of the city of Memphis (road, rail, river and air) to create the linchpin of trade within the U.S.

"The FedEx World Hub in Memphis is the centerpiece of our global distribution and delivery operations," said John Dunavant, vice president, Memphis World Hub. "It's also one of the only places in the world where FedEx packages dropped off as late as midnight can still be delivered around the world as soon as the next business day. The Memphis World Hub offers direct connectivity between North America and Asia via the Boeing 777F, as well as access to the other economic centers through our FedEx "Aerotropolis" hubs in Paris and Guangzhou, and to points beyond. We are proud to win this award and it is a testament to the hard work of our employees at the hub and around the world, as well as to our commitment to our customers in offering an outstanding and reliable service."

The Memphis World Hub connects customers to more than 220 countries and territories on six continents. Situated on approximately 727 acres, the facility operates with a workforce of more than 15,000 people. More than 5,000 flights pass through the hub each month. The hub's sorting system contains more than 300 miles of conveyor belts capable of processing approximately a half million packages per hour. The small-package sort system processes up to 325,000 per hour, while the box sorting "matrix" system processes 160,000 per hour. Overall, more than two million packages move through the Memphis hub each business day. The Memphis World Hub is the oldest and largest facility in the FedEx Express network. It is strategically located near the heart of the continental U.S., providing overnight service to the entire nation and serving 95 percent of the global economy on a 24- to 48-hour basis.

Due largely to the presence of the FedEx hub, Memphis International Airport was again named the world's largest cargo airport in 2009. It reported landing 3,697,806 metric tons of cargo, up 4% from the previous year.



A critical crossroads in the U.S. highway system, Memphis serves more markets overnight by truck than any other central U.S. city. More than 220 freight trains go through Memphis daily, and its six rail yards have a total container capacity of 780,000+ annual lifts. Memphis is the fourth-largest inland port in the country and the Mississippi River allows access to major deepwater seaports. Critically, Memphis has the fastest, most agile and arguably the most connected airport on the globe.

"Fast, secure, reliable and cost-effective cargo delivery is vital for our 17,500 members across the different sectors of the transport industry," said Patrick Sheedy, media and public relations director, Institute of Transport Management. "They need to be able to rely on a global provider of such services who can deliver on time, anywhere and with an assurance of safe delivery – all at a price which adheres to budgetary constraints."

"I am pleased to be able to say that we have over a period of time received highly positive feedback from our members about FedEx Express," Sheedy continued. "We take the opinions of our members very seriously indeed and factor them into the objective research conducted by the accreditation team. Following the discussion of the available evidence by the ITM Awards Committee, I can confirm that FedEx Express has been judged to outcompete its rivals on all the critical points listed above."

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At the request of Yemenia (Yemen Airways) the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided Expert Training in Travel Document Examination at the Yemenia Training Centre on 12th and 13th July 2010 which was attended by over 16 participants. The trainees invited for this course were not only from Yemenia and Yemen Ground Handling Turkish Airlines, Saudi Arabian Airlines and Gulf Air.

The participants greatly appreciated the training as it provided them with detailed, up-to-date and useful information relating to travel document security and abuse. The IOM training forms a part of the implementation of a European Union funded project entitled "Empowering Government and Civil Society in Yemen to Address Mixed Migration".

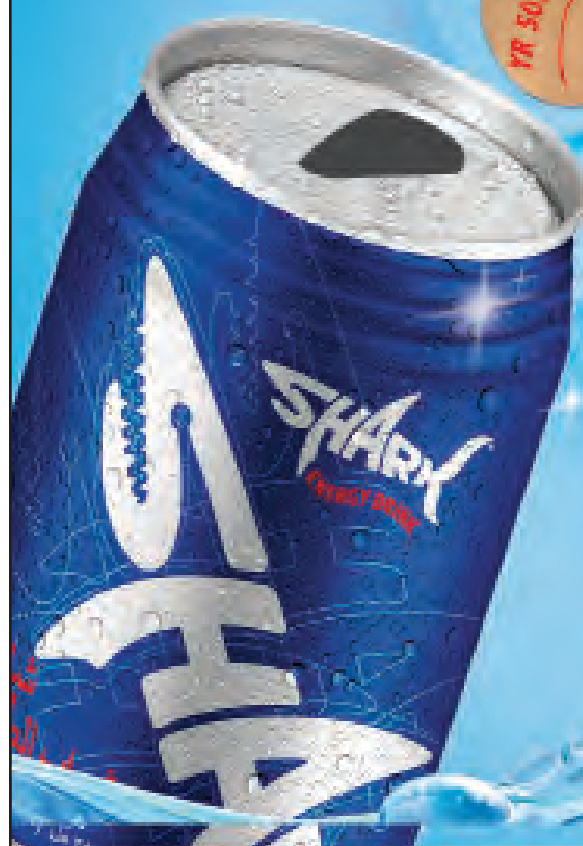
The Opening and Closing sessions were attended by Mr. Fawzi Al-Zioud the acting chief of IOM Yemen and Mohammed Y. Aljadabi Director Training along with Mr. Ali Jaffer Director Customer Service and Ground Operations.

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Chairman of the Traffic Administration in Taiz:

“Parents should make sure they teach their children the traffic rules.”

Everyone is concerned by the frequency of car accidents and by the official statistics that confirm an increase in deaths from these. These statistics raise questions about the reasons for such accidents and how to eliminate or reduce them. To do so, the community should be aware of the traffic rules. At the same time, traffic men should play their role so together we can reduce the high number of car accidents.

In the following interview, Chairman of the Traffic Administration in Taiz, Captain Qais Al-Eryani, talks about traffic culture and traffic rules, and the way these can save lives. It is also about the problem of traffic jams in Taiz and the efforts in solving the problem.

Interviewed by Ali Mujahed

First, welcome Captain Qais.

Thank you. I appreciate your concern about such issues. It's really important to talk about traffic awareness which is really a concern for us all.

Since you became Chairman of the Traffic Administration you have been calling on people for traffic community cooperation. What do you mean by this?

There is a connection between traffic men and all members of society, and as you know there are great developments in infrastructure and roads all over the country. We are calling for traffic community cooperation, because we care for the safety of society and because we want to make people aware of traffic rules. Actually, most accidents happen here because many people do not know the traffic rules.

So, where do we start in making the community aware of traffic rules?

Traffic has rules and there are roles for both drivers and pedestrians. The main conduit of information for these rules are the family, which means parents should instruct their children that when they go out or to school, they should walk on the footpath and be careful when crossing the street. Also the family should wear seat belts when driving so that children always see this positive behavior. It will become a habit for children so that accidents will be reduced in the future.

What has your Administration done in educating the community about traffic rules?

Our goal is to contribute to spreading traffic awareness among the

community. Despite not having the necessary finances, we seek to create a partnership with the community in cooperation with Education Offices and Universities by holding lectures or by writing traffic advice in commercial adverts. The traffic men also play their role during their duty by advising people. All these come as part of implementing instructions from the Interior Ministry as presented by Minister Mutahar Rashad Al-Masri. We also celebrate an annual Traffic Week which is a good event to educate people about traffic rules and roles.

You said that the Traffic Administration plays a role in making society aware of traffic rules. Are traffic men aware of such rules and roles?

The Traffic Administration is one of the Security Administrations and it is the most important one. In addition to preparing qualified traffic men at the Police Academy and High Institute of Officers, we hold a weekly lecture for all traffic men in the governorate to make them aware of their role. Sometimes we invite specialized lecturers to hold talks to discuss mistakes, if any, and find suitable solutions for any problems found.

You have mentioned that the family plays a great role in spreading traffic awareness. How can the family contribute?

The family is the foundation of the community. The family seeks safety for its members and makes sure that they don't get hurt. Parents should make sure they teach their children the traffic rules. Respecting traffic rules are our duty. When a child is taught how to cross the street, on which side of the street they should walk, the different

ignored all the other passengers. The driver quickly stopped the bus and he and all the passenger attacked the man, trying to get him off Fakhriah, but he was stronger than them all.

He grasped Fakhriah's neck with his two hands and strangled her until she lost consciousness. People gathered around the man and beat him until he was bleeding. Others took Fakhriah to hospital, but she died before she arrived. Fakhriah's life was ended by the hands of that strange bestial man.

The women were taken to their houses, exhausted from witnessing the attack. The criminal was arrested by the police until his and Fakhriah's family could come. He was referred to the court and the case remained there a long time under the pretext propagated by his family that he was psychologically ill.

They said he was ill and brought forged medical reports to show he was psychologically disturbed. But Fakhriah's family and husband never surrendered and followed the case in the courts until the verdict of death was brought down. The criminal was beheaded as an example of what awaits



Captain Qais Al-Eryani

traffic signs and other rules, the family has done its job in making its members aware of traffic rules.

We hear that the most common cause behind accidents are bad roads. What are your comments about this?

During my long years of work in this administration, I have not heard or seen that the road was the cause of any accident. The roads are designed perfectly in a way that fits with the tough geographical nature of Yemen. High speed appears to be the main cause of accidents. For example, there are signs on some roads stating "maximum speed 60kph" and yet some people drive in excess of 150kph. That is why accidents happen. How can we then blame the roads?

On the other hand, we don't deny that there are other causes for accidents besides high speed. For example, there may be holes, obstacles, fallen stones or other things that can cause a car to crash. Such things may be the cause,

but not the road itself. A driver is responsible if they don't follow the traffic rules. In general, there are many causes of traffic accidents, the main ones being: negligence, high speed, inappropriate overtaking and bad vehicle maintenance.

Taiz suffers from bad traffic jams. What are the reasons behind that? And what are the solutions from your point of view?

The main reason behind the traffic jams is the geographical location of Taiz. Taiz is built on Siber Mountain, so the streets here are too narrow. Many of the main roads in Yemen cross in Taiz, and lorries that are heading to the ports of Hodeida and Al-Mokha come through Taiz. In addition, Taiz is an important tourist location and has a large local population. At the same time, it is a commercial and industrial center. Taiz is ranked as the number one industrial city in Yemen. Those are the main reasons behind the traffic jams in Taiz.

We have started work on many important road routes to make lorries that are heading to other governorates pass by Taiz.

What is the exact number of accidents for the last year according to official statistics?

There were 2,055 accidents. The causes were various. 579 accidents were due to high speed, 283 because of technical problems, 490 from inappropriate overtaking and 702 for other reasons.

There are also statistics for the first quarter of the current year stating that there were 476 accidents, resulting in 95 deaths, 249 serious injuries and 331 minor injuries. The were 149 accidents due to high speed, 39 because of technical problems, 86 from overtaking, 1 case of driving under the influence and 201 for other reasons.

It is noticed that there are new model cars with old number plates. How does that happen?

This is legal. Sometimes a car might crash or become useless, so the owner buys a new one and comes to the Traffic Administration to claim the number from the first car or vehicle. After that they will be given the same number for the new vehicle. People do that because the old number usually is written in their documents or properties.

Some cars related to the military or police violate traffic rules. What are the processes against such violations?

All vehicles are subject to traffic laws regardless of who drives them. Cars from the military or police are like any other cars and will be subjected to the law if the driver violates it. In general, the fines from such violations in all governorates are sent to finance department at the Military Police Administration. In addition, there is a department in the Traffic Administration responsible for documenting all violations by cars related to the government. No one is above the law, whoever they are.

Traffic men work from early morning until midnight. They work very hard and not all people appreciate what they do. Why do you think that happens?

We are doing our duty and are happy to be close to society. Our job is people's safety and organizing traffic movement.

I don't think there is anybody who doesn't respect traffic men. On the contrary, all society respects traffic men, and if there is a traffic man who lacks respect, it would be as a result of that individual's behavior.

What is the use of having a technical center for testing cars?

A technical center for car testing is important for traffic safety. It determines how cars are defective. We need such centers because there are no qualified repair centers. The technical center for car testing saves money and diagnoses defects.

Some road repair companies perform roadworks without putting up a warning sign or anything and that can lead to accidents. How do you deal with this?

All road repair companies that work in Taiz are obligated not to start work on a road without first putting up signs. Any company that does work on the roads without taking people's safety into consideration would at first be warned, and sometimes they would be stopped from continuing the work.

How do you respond to citizens complaining about being extorted by some traffic men?

We are very strict with any traffic official found convicted of such behavior. To prevent this, we have made it easy for citizens to notify us by making the name and number of every traffic man visible on his uniform. We haven't received any complaints about this for 10 months.

Can you talk about the efforts in obligating drivers to fasten their seat belts and to not use mobile phones whilst driving?

Not fastening your seat belt shows a lack of traffic awareness. A seat belt is for the driver's safety. We have issued publications and hold many lecturers and forums about this. Using a mobile phone whilst driving is a major cause of traffic accidents. That's why it's not allowed to use a mobile phone whilst driving. We work 24 hours a day on obligating drivers to fasten their seat belts whilst driving and not to use their mobile phones.

This interview was first published in Arabic in the magazine Family and Development.



By: Nawal Zaid

She was strangled on a bus by a stranger

Fakhriah Hamoud Qasem, 40, was married and had four sons. She was a housewife and lived in Sana'a. She got into a bus to go to the market one day. She was wearing a light transparent black dress through which her chest could be seen.

There were many passengers on the bus, both men and women next to her. There was a man in front of her watching her all the time. He did not lift his eyes from her and he wanted to approach her without fear of the others in the bus.

Fakhriah started feeling scared and tried to avoid the looks from the man. She directed her attention to the women next to her. She thought about getting off the bus, but feared that the man would follow her onto the street and harass her.

As she remained in her seat, the man attacked her like a beast and started biting one of her breasts hard. His teeth sunk into her flesh and he completely

such evil men.

However, not everyone understands the lesson. Still the harassment of women continues on buses by such uneducated and mean people.

A man sneakily touches a woman on a bus

Nabila Mohammad Omer, 33, is married and has a daughter. She is a teacher. Her neighbor Najat Al-Hakimi, 32, is unmarried and lives in her father's house doing housework. They live in Sana'a.

The two of them went together to the market in the old city of Sana'a by bus to buy clothes and things. It was a wide bus carrying nearly 20 people. Najat sat near the window with Nabila next to her. There was a man at the end of their seat. Nabila's bag was between her and the man.

After about 15 minutes, the man started annoying Nabila by inserting his hand into his pocket and touching

her from the back of his pocket. His face was strange and harsh. He was chewing qat quietly and only looked forward. He never looked at Nabila or Najat.

Nabila felt annoyed, and then began to be frightened, then terrified and whispered to Najat, "This man wants to catch me, what shall I do?"

"Do not be afraid, come closer to me," Najat replied. Minutes later, the man redoubled his actions and took his hand from his pocket and directed it towards Nabila. She became even more afraid and wanted to shout. She edged closer to Najat in fear of the man.

The passengers, however, didn't notice anything and all was quiet in the bus. Nabila and Najat were afraid to shout and get the man in trouble with the rest of the passengers.

Then Najat thought of a trick to get rid of that man and told Nabila, "Come closer and you will see what shall I do with him. Do not be afraid." She took off her left shoe to avoid his sight and to carry out the job wisely. When the man's hand approached Nabila's leg, Najat hit his hand severely with her

shoe.

The man was in pain, but he did not dare to cry out. He remained suffering in pain and looking at Najat wondering of her conduct. Even as he left the seat and was looking at his hand and at Najat, the passengers did not realize anything had happened.

Minutes later, Najat and Nabila stopped the bus to get out and were still laughing at the man. Nabila wondered at her friend Najat's courage saying, "If you were not there, how would I have dealt with that stupid man?"

She gave up traveling on buses because of harassment

Nadia Hussein Al-Matari is a 35 year old married woman who has four children. She is a housewife. Once she wanted to go to her family's house and took her husband's brother, Nabil, with her.

They got into a bus and she and her children sat on one chair whilst Nabil

sat on another. There were a group of youths on the back seat. After about half an hour, Nadia felt harassed by one of the youths and his impolite words. She was silent and ignored him.

A short time later she felt something touching her legs under her seat. She felt very frightened and shouted "What is this you impolite and impudent one? Don't you have sisters or a mother?"

When Nabil heard her shouting, he hit the youth hard and made him bleed. The other youths were terrified and could not defend their friend. All the passengers and the driver supported Nabil. He stopped the bus and beat the young man.

People in the street were surprised and asked why this young man was being beaten. When they were told why, everyone of them said that he deserved more than just this beating. Nadia and her children were terrified and crying, and Nadia feared that if her husband found out, he would not allow her to leave the house again.

In this case Nadia and Nabil kept the incident secret. She decided that if she wanted to go out, she would only do so with her husband in his car.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Project Assistant

The food security information systems (FSIS) project is a joint initiative of the European Commission and the Government of Yemen (GoY) with technical assistance being provided by a Consortium (TA). The project aims to address gaps in food security information and provide a better basis for policy decisions and actions towards reducing food insecurity in Yemen. A national system has been established in Sana'a with a pilot project being implemented in Al Hodeidah Governorate.

The Project is currently recruiting for a position of Sana'a based **Project Assistant** on a 10-month contract, starting September 2010.

Position requirements

- Graduate degree in English/translation is MUST
- Excellent communication & translation skills in Arabic & English
- Proficiency in computer literacy (Arabic and English)
- Experience in book keeping & accounts, and administrative functions
- Motivation to work as a team member in an inter-cultural setting
- Willingness to travel to project sites in Al Hodeidah Governorate
- Ability to work independently, often times, with minimum supervision
- Ability to drive 4-wheel vehicle is an advantage

Those interested and meeting position's profile can forward their detailed Curriculum Vitae in **English** to **FSISYEMEN@GMAIL.COM** by close of business **22 August 2010**.

Remuneration is commensurate with relevant qualifications and work experience.

Job Vacancy

Safety Manager

An oil service company is looking for a certified Safety Manager. The candidate must have the following requirements:

- Fluency in both Arabic and English.
- BS degree in Health and Safety or a professional certificate in HSE.
- At least 3 years experience as Safety Manager.

Some of the duties of this post include:

- Designing, coordinating, and implementing safety programs and safety training.
- Conducting regular internal safety audits to ensure compliance with company rules.
- Improving company's health and safety implementation and performance.
- Preparing Safety plans and Preparing Safety Procedures.
- Preparing Emergency responses.

Interested Candidates are asked to fax their CVs and certificates to : 00967 1 613665.

Invitation for Bids
(IFB)

August 16, 2010
Republic of Yemen

Project: The Yemeni-Korean
High Technical Institute Project

1. The **Government of Republic of Yemen** has received a Loan from the Export-Import Bank of Korea from the resources of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of the Republic of Korea in the amount of US\$ 15,380,000.- toward the cost of **The Yemeni-Korean High Technical Institute Project** and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bid is issued.
2. The Project Executing Agency, the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training (MTEVT), now invites to present sealed bids from Korean eligible bidders for supply of goods and services comprised of following three parts as a single package:
 - Supply, delivery and installation of Vocational Training Equipment
 - Expert Dispatch in Vocational Training
 - Fellowship Training in Vocational Training.
3. Bidding will be conducted through Competitive Bidding (CB) method among Korean Suppliers, and in line with the Guidelines for Procurement under the EDCF Loans.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased at the office below between 10:00 hours (local time) and 15:00 hours on working days, up to **September 22, 2010** by any interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of US\$ 300. The method of payment will be cash, cashier's check, or direct deposit to account number **(1012-0010315), Central Bank of Yemen**. Those firms requesting the documents to be sent by courier service shall make pre-paid arrangement with a reputed courier service to collect and dispatch the documents to them. In such a case, the firm requesting the bid documents shall provide its courier service with a letter authorizing to collect the bid documents.
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 am on the closing date of bid submission, **September 29, 2010**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of no less than 2.5% of the Bid value. Late bids shall be rejected. The presented offers will include the documentation requested for eligibility.
6. The bidding documents to be submitted shall be:
 - a) One (1) original, three (3) copies, and one (1) soft copy (CD) of Technical Proposal in English,
 - b) One (1) original and three (3) copies, and one (1) soft copy (CD) of Price Proposal in English,
 - c) One (1) copy of Technical Proposal (excluding Attachment; List of Equipment) in Arabic version.
7. The bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders or their authorized representatives' at the place of bid submission at 11:00am on the closing date of bid submission, as mentioned above.
8. The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is either covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder and (ii) that violations are considered fraud, which is, among other remedies, punishable by potential blacklisting from participation in future EDCF-financed procurements.

Contact

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Words of Wisdom



In the final analysis, it is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful. It would be unfortunate if the change in Yemen remains merely a show or something superficial. Our politicians need to believe in preparing for the 21st century. To do that, they have to internalize some new values.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times

OUR
OPINIONAgainst Female
Genital Cutting

Every year more than three million girls worldwide have to suffer through Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting (FGC) in the name of religion or tradition. FGC endangers the lives of the victims and causes extensive medical, social, and spiritual damage.

FGC is practiced openly in 28 different African countries, as well as secretly in parts of the Middle East, Europe, Australia, and the United States. Over 130 million women worldwide have been affected by some form of FGC. Most children are subjected to FGC between the ages of four and ten.

Medical consequences of FGC include, but are not limited to: death through shock and/or excessive bleeding, infection, sepsis, urine retention, ulceration of the genital region, injury to adjacent genital tissue, scarring, infertility, cysts, painful sexual intercourse, increased risk of transmission of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, and a range of psychological and psychiatric problems.

FGC is virtually absent in many Muslim-majority countries, including Iran and Saudi Arabia, where it is found mainly among immigrant populations. It is performed by Christians, Muslims, and Jews, as well as by members of non-Abrahamic religions in areas where it is common.

The Yemen Times is a signatory to the latest statement condemning FGC as a harmful un-Islamic practice just released by the Muslim Women's Shura Council, a global council of Muslim women scholars, activists, and specialists.

FGC has previously been condemned by religious and political authorities worldwide, but the statement is the first coming from a global council of Muslim women.

The Council's statement condemns FGC as a harmful practice that contradicts the spirit and the letter of Islam, violates international laws on children's and women's rights, and endangers populations in need. The statement will serve as a tool for activists seeking to eradicate FGC.

This initiative is an attempt to draw attention to and limit FGC in Islamic countries, and is one that deserves support. In these holy days of Ramadan we must revert to our true principles and understand the real meaning of Islam, which bases its jurisprudence on five main principles: protection of life, mind, family, dignity and religion.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The chicken and the egg in Yemen

**By: Ali Ibrahim
Asharq Al-Awsat**

It was once said, "Sanaa must be seen, even if the journey is very long." Whatever the reasons were in the past for this quote, it is also applicable to the current situation in Yemen. Many of the problems from which Yemen is suffering, which are causing regional and international headaches, lie in Sanaa and the policies that are being made there.

It is clear nowadays that Yemen is one of the new but old hotspots in the region with its political, economic and security problems. It is new in the sense that there is the Al Qaeda threat as this organization tries to create an alternative base to Afghanistan and Iraq after it was besieged in those two countries. Other problems include the Houthis rebellion in the north and the tension in the south where there is a current that calls for secession and for a return to the days of the Cold War during which there were two separate states, North and South Yemen. On the other hand, it has old problems because political stability in its comprehensive strategic sense has not been based on its real meaning over the past four decades not even in the South and North states at the time. There were battles that were very bloody for example in the South when Ali Nasser Muhammad was overthrown or in the numerous struggles in the North that reached a climax in the civil war in 1994. But as usual nobody cares until the prob-

lem affects the rest of the world.

In London, a discussion on Yemen and the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states was held in a closed session. It was organized by Al Majalla magazine in collaboration with the Institute of Strategic Studies in London. In the discussion, there seemed to be a somewhat mutual agreement between analysts and observers concerned with Yemeni affairs that the root cause of the problem in Yemen is economic. This is represented in the low standard of living, high levels of poverty and unemployment rates and a weak infrastructure. These factors create an ideal environment for instability, extremism, and local tribal and regional battles over limited resources.

If there is no dispute that the long-term solution lies in the economy then the dilemma lies in the fact that the economy is also linked to politics. There can be no development or investment without political stability and without a strong state that can reassure investors and businessmen. The highest degree of transparency of government performance whether on the level of implementation or the economic way of thinking, is also required. The issue is a bit like the question of which came first, the chicken or the egg? In other words does reform begin with politics or the economy? This is the main point of contention among the opposition.

In difficult cases or in states that are facing exceptional circumstances, creative ideas and solutions are required. In Yemen's case, there is a

need for a blend of politics and economics; politics is needed to calm the situation in the south and to meet the requirements or handle the grievances so that those who call for secession can be deprived of their pretexts and in the north, a permanent solution is needed to prevent another insurgency similar to the one that emerged in recent years.

With regards to the economy, this is more difficult because the results do not materialize overnight; it requires patience and there is a need for thinking beyond merely sending labourers abroad. Also the country's relatively advantageous characteristics should be used to maximize its economy whether in tourism or by making the most of its long coasts and strategic sites by establishing free trade zones and ports linked to the wider world. The international community needs to be more generous with regards to its aid and needs to be more persistent towards getting the Yemeni government to present a clear and transparent program of its targets, policies and implementation; this is what is happening all over the world.

Discussing matters and providing analyses might be easy whilst the reality is difficult and full of complexities but is there a choice? People should ask themselves: will the region and the world be able to bear another failed state like Somalia?

**Ali Ibrahim is Asharq Al-Awsat's
Deputy Editor-in-Chief, based in
London.**

The scene... and the Saudi action

**By: Ghassan Charbel
Dar Al-Hayat**

This is the Arab scene, without any embellishments or exaggeration:
- The horizon of peace is blocked in the region.

The mission of Netanyahu's government is to keep away any serious negotiations, while continuing to impose new realities on the ground. The obstruction of the negotiations horizon moderates the reasons for its existence. If it happens, the collapse of power will offer Israel a golden opportunity to pretext the absence of an acceptable interlocutor on both the Arab and international levels. Hamas, in turn, lives in a deadlock. Ever since it turned into an authority in Gaza, it has a known address. Its return to military activity implies a war in Gaza. This does not negate the fact that de-

spair could facilitate the occurrence of surprises. Faced with this deadlock, the US administration does not seem to be able to take the difficult decisions that enable it to get rid of it. It is currently attempting to fill time by putting forth ideas and predictions.

- Barack Obama's administration adheres to the dates it set for the withdrawal from Iraq. It is a truly tragic scene. The occupation wants to leave and the country's inhabitants are unable to form a government based on elections whose results they acknowledged. The enduring governmental crisis reflects the depth of the crisis between the Sunni and Shiite constituents. The deterioration of the political climate offers Al Qaeda an opportunity for renewing its attempts to launch a sectarian strife and go back to entrenching itself in some Iraqi regions.

- The Iranian-Western crisis will probably escalate. The Iranian tensions give the impression that the international, American, and European sanctions could really harm the Iranian regime. The disparagement between Tehran and Moscow gives the impression that Ahmadinejad's policy might push his country towards actual isolation. The concerned Iran could choose a riposte on open or quasi-impose arenas, i.e. Afghanistan and Iraq, and maybe Lebanon.

- The Yemeni scene is even more a source of concern. Armed Al Qaeda men attacked an oil area, and the Huthis are broadening their influence following clashes with the army and the tribes. The awakening of the independentist and separationist trends in southern Yemen heralds tense and bloody times.

- Lebanon seems to be heading towards a crisis it cannot bear. Hezbollah cannot accept any indictment that involves some of its members in the

assassination of Rafic Hariri. Saad Hariri cannot be in charge of "national responsibility" if he appears to somehow yield to the threats in front of his supporters and the other parties concerned with the assassinations. This thorny crisis needs to be treated with an umbrella, care, climates, and measures that are mutual.

- We can also mention the US confusion in the region and the regression of the Arab role in the region.

It is amidst this painful and complicated scene that King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz began his Arab round, seeking to rekindle the reconciliation he launched at the Arab Summit in Kuwait. It is obvious that he is hoping to turn the page of asperity between Damascus and Cairo so that he can make progress on the Palestinian reconciliation track. It is also obvious that he is hoping to revive the Saudi-Egyptian-Syrian triangle that can only be based on moderation. It is an indispensable triangle, if Arabs want to get back part of their role in the region. Moreover, it is obvious that the Saudi king is wagering on a decisive Syrian role in avoiding a blast in Lebanon and helping it put together the conditions for its stability.

This is certainly no mean feat, but the Saudi king is counting on several cards: a great Arab sense of danger regarding the current Arab scene, which is open to uncontrollable collapses; the Saudi weight on the Arab, Islamic, and international levels; the king's personal credit in the countries he will visit and the relations of trust he has with their leaders. Still, the round reflects a decision to refuse to acknowledge that the Arab collapse is imminent and that the regression of the Arab role in the region has become one of the constants and part of the scene.

COMMON SENSE

Israel: Breaking the law is the
rule and not the exception

If there is any country in the world that has enjoyed full immunity from due process and from accountability for crimes committed, it is Israel. Of course, it is needless to say that a state with the dubious and suspicious foundations for its very existence can never hope on enjoying peace and quiet. Israel's founding came at the cost of the inhumane and criminal removal of the indigenous population of Palestine for millennia and Israel's continuity can only be guaranteed by a regime that must continue to violate every human right and every international law and convention, just so it can assure its vagrant settlers that it can guarantee for them eternal statehood based on wishy washy mythological contentions that they are only carrying out "God's" promise. Never mind that this kind of arrogant view of the justice of the Al-Mighty would certainly render the belief in Him subject to many questions by the vast majority of faithful believers. Most worshippers of God know for sure that God is much fairer and equitable in his outlook on all of His Creation and that there is no special favor bestowed on any ethnicity, except by the level of their obedience to his Commandments, of which the Zionist state is the most notorious violator. There is no reason to believe that there is any Heavenly blessing to all the crimes that the Zionist regime has inflicted in the Holy Land. There is also no reason to believe that Israel should enjoy full immunity from crimes it commits, whether in the Mediterranean (sinking of the USS Liberty in June 8, 1967 by the Israeli Offense Forces, in which Israel has yet to answer to the killing of 34 US crew members), the Turkish humanitarian aid vessel, Mavi Marmara, etc., abducted by the Israelis after killing 9 Turkish crewmembers and passengers earlier this year), or in Dubai in one of the most bizarre murder act ever carried out in history.

It is sad that the Federal Republic of Germany had to bow to the pressure of the International Zionist Establishment and their supporters in the United States and elsewhere and release criminals, even if its own laws and sovereignty are violated and dubious citizens carry out irresponsible acts that are in collusion with a criminal Zionist security apparatus. Moreover, it is sad that Germany had to waste all that time and effort to get Uri Brodsky, who helped secure at least one German passport for members of the gang that carried out the killing of a former Hamas leader in Dubai, extradited from Poland. They should have at least finished investigating the circumstances surrounding the violation of their own national documentation statutes and perhaps can enlighten the world on some of the demonic workings of the Mossad (The Israeli KGB), whose filthy crimes have trespassed all borders and violated all human rights including those of its own citizens (the nuclear scientist Mordechai Vanunu, who was subsequently lured to Italy by a Mossad spy, where he was drugged and kidnapped by Israeli intelligence agents. He was transported to Israel and ultimately convicted in a trial that was held behind closed doors. Italy has yet to explain how its sovereignty could easily be compromised). It is also amazing how the Zionist Establishment has such arm twisting leverage even against independent minded states like Germany (Belgium, Great Britain etc.) and then succumb to the arm twisting tactics that sovereign even when it comes to enforcing their own laws and civil rights. With this arm twisting and blackmail or bully tactics, Israel can just about get all it wants from great powers like the United Kingdom and even the United States, especially when avoiding any legal actions against Israeli agents or political leaders. Among the examples of such spoiled child's treatment is the case of the Summons on Ariel Sharon by a Belgian Court to answer to alleged charges of Genocide. Ariel Sharon is the former Israeli Prime Minister, who has been responsible for the killing of thousands of civilian Palestinians and Lebanese and whom and who was even the subject of protest marches by his own citizens when 400,000 Israelis demonstrated against the former Defense Minister after the Sabra and Shatila massacres engineered and supervised by Sharon himself, in which some 2,000 armless sleeping Palestinian men, women and children were massacred in Beirut in 1982 see Sabra & Shatila The Legacy of Ariel Sharon. By Robert Fisk From The UK Independent.

But then, even if CNN correspondents like Ben Weiderman of CNN (who was shot in the stomach by the Israeli Offense Forces in July 2006 in Gaza while standing against a lamppost), CNN would still succumb to the arm twisting tactics of the Israeli lobby and fire one of its most distinguished correspondents and reporters for expressing a harmless opinion of respect for a highly revered religious scholar, who passed away recently in Lebanon.

The world in a sense has given Israel the right to kill civilians by the hundreds, imprison, destroy, confiscate, murder, forge, steal, trespass, possess wmd, but watch out if any one dares to bring any Israeli or Israeli agents to justice for any crimes against humanity or even jaywalking.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years. He may be blogged at: <http://com-senfromyem.blogspot.com>

SKETCHED OPINION



By: Hamid

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Crown prince Reza Pahlavi in conversation with Felice Friedson, President and CEO

Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi is of the best-known Iranian personalities, standing in sharp distinction to the Islamic Republic's bellicose president and ayatollah. Crown Prince Reza is son of the late Shah of Iran and has lived in the United States since the revolution in 1979. He's known as an advocate of the principles of freedom, democracy and human rights.

The Media Line's Felice Friedson first met the Crown Prince when they shared the podium for a session on the Middle East at the Blouin Global Creative Leadership Summit.

By: The Media Line

The Iranian government says it has as much right as any other regime to have nuclear power -- even nuclear weapons. How should the international community be responding to that statement?

The matter is quite complex, but let's go back to the period before the revolution. At the time, Iran was a country that had already embarked on the pursuit of nuclear energy. Having signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, we had gained the ownership of ten percent of shares in a company called Eurodif, which was going to supply Iran with the rod to fuel our two initial nuclear reactors that had started construction -- my point being that at the time, nobody questioned the sovereign right of the Iranian nation to have access to nuclear technology. What has changed is that since the revolution, we have had for 30 years and counting, a regime that has been at the top of the list of the world's sponsors of terrorism, radicalism and extremism; constantly making violence in the Middle East and beyond, with very dubious intentions in terms of where it really wants to take the path of its nuclear research. From all indicators, there is very little question that if the regime was, from the very beginning, transparent and honest about its true intentions, it would not have been so much trying to conceal or hide its intentions. We have to understand why it is that such a regime would like to have access to nuclear weapons well beyond having the right to nuclear technology.

Iran insists it only seeks domestic nuclear power. Does Iran intend to create nuclear weapons; and if so, how far away from being able to do so do you think the Iranian regime is?

Well, this is an expert analysis that is required in terms of how far up the ladder of getting closer to the imminent ability to actually manufacture nuclear weapons the regime is. Because it's not just a matter of enrichment, as you know. It's a matter of delivering mechanism; ballistic technology; trigger mechanism; and a whole bunch of other things that go into it. Experts vary in terms of the time line of how close the regime is to it. But irrespective of the time line, it is the intention that we have to be quite wary and concerned about. In that sense, clearly, if there was no sense of emergency and alarm, the whole world would not be talking about this constantly, the issue making the headlines in just about every newspaper around the planet.

Is Mahmoud Ahmadinejad a mad man?

I don't think he's a "mad man." He's an individual who is very committed to his view and ideology. There's almost a sort of apocalyptic mentality that reigns here and he's not alone in it. Unfortunately, there are a few people who may sign up for that kind of a point of view. The problem is that we have this kind of regime represented by such individuals who have taken, first-and-foremost, the Iranian people hostage for the past 30 years and who are completely uninterested about the state of our own citizens. They are only interested to use Iran as a base from which to launch what was from the very beginning the exploitation of a theocracy and Islamic ideology across the planet as a challenge to the rest of the world.

How seriously should we be taking him (Ahmadinejad)?

I think you should take him very seriously. The last time the world was not quite sure about the final threat was at the time of Hitler in Nazi Germany and we know the rest of the story. If we look at these kind of regimes that have been completely merciless vis-à-vis their own population; who have been brutally shooting our youth on the streets simply because they ask for their freedom; and are willing to stop at nothing to intimidate the whole world to submit to their demand, I think we should take it very seriously.

Your Excellency, here in the West, we hear about young Iranians rejecting the Khamenai--Ahmadinejad regime. Could another revolution be possible?

It's already happening. If you look at the way society in Iran has reacted for years -- and not just because of what happened last summer -- but particularly as a result of what happened last summer during the election fiasco. Today, you see a generation of young Iranians who are committed to fight even if it means risking and losing their lives to ultimately get rid of this regime and achieve full freedom. This is no longer a debate over more moderation or for awhile being fooled by the idea that there is any reform possible by this regime -- not only from the domestic perspective but from the international perspective. Today, the fight is led by people who are committed to a campaign of hidden resistance. The discipline of non-violence has been for the most part observed by the protestors and I think at the end of the day, this movement could culminate into something that could be a well-organized or orchestrated campaign of resistance: perhaps even labor strikes that could in fact bring the regime to its knees and ultimately cause its demise. This is the best way for Iran to not only achieve its goal of freedom, which would immediately have a positive impact and ramification not only in our area, but on the rest of the world. It is the ultimate guarantee by bringing in democracy and secularism as a means to preserve our cultural and religious identities and to guarantee self-determination and human rights. Iran is a country that has always and throughout its glorious history been contributing to world civilization as opposed to a clerical regime that is asking for its demise under a very utopian ideology that only a few at the top believe in, and not the rest of the population.

Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi, there are some who argue that sanctions could have a negative backlash. One example that is given is that students seeking to study abroad -- including in the United States -- won't be able to do so. In the long run, do you think it's a good idea for young Iranians to be exposed to the West?

I'm glad you asked this question. First of all, clearly, it's a little bit like tuna fishing and when you want to do tuna fishing, you get some innocent dolphins that are caught in the net. The problem with sanctions is that it sometimes could have counter-effects. For example, not only the issue of restrictions on students coming abroad to study, but even to take an SAT or Kaplan exam, or be able to send money back home to help fellow Iranians: all of this is subject to restrictions because of the current policy



Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi

of sanctions. Now, I'm not suggesting that sanctions are not effective to some extent. If they are targeted smartly, sanctions, yes, could end up hurting the regime somewhat, particularly in the short term. However, I do have an issue with the policy of sanctions as an end in itself. The only way that actual pressure could be levied against the regime is ultimately to bring the element of pressure from within Iran against the regime, mainly from the hands of the people themselves, as opposed to relying solely on external measures of pressure such as the current economic sanctions. Let us not forget one thing: empowerment at the end of the day will render society better-equipped to fight the regime from within. But reliance on sanctions only will render a weakened society which will find it much more difficult to resist because you are not also really weakening the regime at the very end. Each instrumental coercion will have an easier time facing a helpless society than it will facing a better organized, better structured and better supported population.

I recollect that when we sat on a panel together at a Global Leadership Conference, you talked about the fact that the young students were able to glean a lot of information and education by being educated abroad and many of these were those who were in the revolution. So having said that, by being counterproductive, won't these sanctions boomerang?

Well, as I said, there is a whole wealth of assets and information that could be at better disposal of all those in the country who are struggling for their liberty and for their rights. People who have access to a variety of human or other resources abroad to connect with activists at home obviously reinforce the hand of the people. So if you restrict the people more than you restrict the regime, that will obviously be counterproductive. That's why we have to be very careful when we implement sanctions to make sure they target the regime and the regime only, with minimal damage and cost to the nation itself. It has to be carefully reviewed and assessed; and not only "one glove fits all." Every country has its own traditions and specifics, particularly a complex country like Iran.

American policy through the past two administrations calls for nations to choose sides -- with either Western-led moderates or Iran's axis. Is this policy feasible?

I would verbalize it in a different way. Is the choice between forms of regimes -- democratic regimes that is, that we find often in the free world, particularly in the West -- a path through which Iran can find its salvation? Here I under-

stand fundamentally that some of the values that are embedded in Western society -- liberty, equality, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, media, labor unions, human rights, a democratic establishment, a checks and balance system, a separation of religion from government -- are opposed to any system that is based on an ideology that is totalitarian or that is against fascist or discriminatory vis-à-vis a great portion of its own citizens. Obviously, if you give that choice to people, the choice is clear. I think that is the choice that the Iranian people today are faced with and it goes without saying that obviously they are up for the former rather than the latter if given the opportunity.

Some see the Saudis as reaching out to Tehran. Recently, Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faisal told a French paper that Iran deserves to be treated as a leading force in the Middle East and Iran's foreign minister has said that conditions are now ripe for expanding and boosting ties and cooperation with Saudi Arabia. Do you see this and why now?

If you ask me how respective governments in the Middle East have to react to or anticipate various scenarios in the months or years to come, what it really boils down to is an assessment of whether or not they are playing with fire. What has been clear all these years is that the regime from the get-go was antagonistic; was trying to and continues to try to foment instability -- ultimately to force the region to succumb to some kind of a modern-day Shiite caliphate under Iranian regional hegemony; all of it perhaps backed by the very deterrent we talked about at the beginning of the interview: forcing the world to submit to that as a fait accompli. I find it a little bit difficult for a lot of people to sort of agree to some kind of a fait accompli and say, "Well, there's no way we can change the course of events and Iran will undoubtedly under this regime demand to have its way." The question is the regime that is in Iran -- the regime that has now taken our country hostage and is willing to do anything for its own survival -- and not to be confused with Iran as a country.

Will this tip the balance of the region toward Iran?

Again, if indeed the regime's survival is what is willingly or unwillingly prolonged as a result of regional inaction or indifference; then clearly there will be some degree of balance tilting towards Iran. But understand one thing: contrary to what the country wants to project, its internal fragmentation continues to increase. Despite the fact that the regime is trying to tighten its screws; and despite the fact that the re-

gime is increasing its violence against its own people in an attempt to intimidate them into submission; and despite the fact that the regime is spending millions and millions of dollars financing its own war machine at the expense of hungry people or workers who haven't been paid their salaries for months, Iran continues to finance groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon and other places. And despite all of this, there's more disenchantment within the ranks in the regime. There are more indications of defections from within some of its coercive forces, all of which indicates a very delicate and fragile situation within the regime that has not been so vulnerable ever since its creation. That is, I think, an opportunity -- not only for the people, but I think in a way for the rest of the world. If we miss this opportunity and allow this regime to regroup and continue on its path, then we have with our own hands contributed to the regime's survival and then we have to live with the consequences.

Is Israel capable of launching a formidable attack on Iran's nuclear program?

I think this would be a very disastrous event if it were to occur. I have long stated that I think this would be a lose-lose proposition by and large, especially when there's a much better alternative in play, which will be much less costly and far more legitimate than trying to bring any change as a result of any kind of external measures, particularly of the violent and military kind. You have in place the best natural army in the world: namely, the Iranian people themselves, who have bravely fought this fight for years, without any help or support from anyone in the international community. Today, they are already committed to that struggle and I think this is a much better way to put pressure on the regime and abide by international rules. It's a much better way to help the Iranian people bring about whatever changes they want in Iran and nothing is being done about this while everybody contemplates striking the country just because they don't have faith in diplomacy, which was doomed from the very beginning. I think there's still a chance for a lot of serious fundamental change that will bring an end to all the threats if Iran wants to change from this regime to a democratic nation. If it invests time and effort in helping the movement of the young people in Iran today and be supportive of their demands; be supportive of what they want; engage them after 30 years of limiting engagement to only members of the regime and its representatives. I don't think that's far too much to ask for those of us who are fighting for freedom. What I am saying is that in my opinion, not using this opportunity and going straight to conflict would be historically criminal. That option has to be given its chance but the time is limited and the window of opportunity is now. I hope that many key governments will decide to commit some of their policies to give a chance for this movement to succeed before jumping to conclusions that the only familiars we're left with are either capitulation or attacking Iran.

Just to follow up on this thought, Admiral Mullen says the military option remains on the U.S. table. As an American and as an Iranian, do you believe this is really an option for the Obama administration?

Well, the [Obama] administration has spent, in my view, too much time, in maintaining its extended hand of engagement toward the regime without getting anything in return. Meanwhile, the clock has been ticking. Some countries in the area are becoming more antsy about the imminence of Iran's ability to be equipped with weapons of mass destruction. Obviously, the rhetoric and language from some key countries would be to mention the fact we are exploring this and this is an option on the table. I could not say otherwise. But that doesn't mean to me that there is a major change of policy. We need to think a little bit outside the box and perhaps

look at other avenues. It's not limited to the character of this administration because successive, previous administrations have fallen systematically into the same "loophole" -- and I'm not even saying the same "trap." Einstein said, if I'm not mistaken, that "thinking that doing more of the same will produce a different outcome is a sign of insanity." When I look at the overall diplomacy of the free world, particularly of the U.S., I can only see a repeat pattern of the same attempts made while hoping to obtain a different result. Something's got to change.

What will Iran look like in five years?

I hope it will take less than five years to have a fundamental change if our movement is successful and I believe it has every potential to be successful. But as I said and I hate to be repetitive, the time is really now. Because as much as the Iranian people can be empowered, and therefore heartened and therefore optimistic toward their future -- and I'm specifically speaking about today's generation -- these are tomorrow's leaders in Iran. These are the kids, the daughters, the sons of a previous generation who are left there to fight and fend for themselves with no possible help so far available to them and yes, they are resilient in their struggle. This could turn quickly to cynicism and deception if they think the world has abandoned them. Remember what the slogans were on the streets of Tehran one year ago. There were signs in different languages -- in English, in French -- and this was not for some Iranians practicing their language skills among themselves. They were clearly aimed at the West. And among those slogans were "Obama, Obama, are you with us or with them?" That warrants a response. We have yet to hear that response. That means Iranians could turn more radical as a result of their deception; as a result of their cynicism; and that doesn't bode well, not only for Iran but for the world. And it will be a testimony to the fact that no real help is ever given to nations that want to struggle for liberty because perhaps there are some other interests that no one really wants to talk about. If that is not true, then we need to see a genuine attempt to help the society. We are not asking the world to determine our fate—that is the business of the Iranian people alone. All we are asking is that today it is time to engage with the people of Iran; with the freedom movements; with those who are struggling for their rights for self-determination and liberty. We are fighting against those who have denied us these rights and it's about time that we are heard and have our "day in court," as the saying goes. This is an opportunity that we are facing right now as I speak to you. It's right in front of us. It's right under our noses literally, and I have yet to see a concrete policy -- whether it's the U.S. government or some of its other allies in the region or in Europe -- that will indicate that beyond attempting a few diplomatic negotiating tactics and besides posturing for the possibility of conflict, there is any real effort made to go beyond the regime and its representatives and try to connect and try to see how they can be of help to the Iranian people without having to attack our country and bomb our homeland.

Other than sanctions, what would you suggest?

There has to be proactive attempts made in facilitating better communication between Iranians at home; technological support; broadcasting capabilities; some degree of structure and organization within and outside; with the help of Iranians, activists, NGOs, civil societies, members of the Diaspora, political groups and organizations. A lot can be done, but this requires much more focus than simply thinking of the regime and engaging its representatives.

Thank you, Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi.

Thank you, Felice, and hope to speak to you again soon.

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Provides Junior Buyer support to the Buyer 1 position: reviews vendor quotations, prepares bid tabulations and issues purchase orders where supply agreements exist. Provides support to Expediting through vendor contact to ensure timely delivery of orders. Provides additional administrative support to the overall Procurement Section. Manages filing of purchasing documents to ensure appropriate documents are in order for cost recovery purposes. Provides direction to contract labor through the labor foreman to carry out clerical requirements on a daily basis.

Job Duties:

The incumbent shall:

- Directs contract labor through the labor foreman to carry out activities in the organization of procurement records.
- Performs Junior Buyer function by creating purchase order releases against supply agreements as directed by buyers. Interfaces with end user to clarify vendor queries on technical specifications.
- Manages filing of purchase records correspondence and associated documents for PSA compliance to ensure complete audit trail for cost recovery purposes.
- Receives, organizes, consolidates and files records from Dubai, Calgary and Sana'a for audit and PSA compliance.
- Responsible for faxing purchase orders, request for quotations, and bid clarifications to vendors. Follows up for receipt confirmation with vendors to ensure no undue delays in purchasing process.
- Maintains activity log for all priority code shipments and single source purchases.
- Assists in the filing and maintenance of the OS&D log and register. Provides support to the filing and registration of all export documentation.
- Participates in annual inventory audit.
- Assists Expeditor to ensure the timely delivery of materials. Contacts vendors for updated delivery information. Resolves shipping discrepancies, OS&D issues (Overage, Shortages and Damages). Advises end user on any late deliveries, and remains in close communication with vendor to minimize any shipping delays.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of grade 12.
- Minimum 2 years experience in an office environment. Knowledge of filing system's fax operation and basic computer skills.
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Bringing a Zabid guesthouse back to life

By: Malak Shaher

For a poor construction worker, the restoration of the 14 large rooms, two kitchens and two bathrooms of a two-storey building might have been no more than a way of earning a living. But he and his colleagues were in fact working on the conservation of one of the landmark buildings in the historical town of Zabid, western Yemen.

Around 90 years ago, Salem Shami, a famous Yemeni mason, constructed the building these poor construction workers were restoring.

He built Dar Al-Diyafa, literally “the guest house,” for Arabs and foreigners who visit the city of Zabid, famous for having over 200 mosques and madrasas, schools for those who seek Islamic knowledge.

Zabid is one of the oldest urban settlements in Yemen, in the western lowlands of the Hodeida governorate, about ten miles from the Red Sea.

Zabid was the capital of Yemen from the 13th to the 15th century, and was a city of great importance in the Arab and Muslim world for many centuries because of its Islamic university.

Today the city is in decline and in a very poor state of conservation. Around 40 percent of the city’s houses have been replaced by concrete buildings, and other houses and the ancient souq are in a deteriorating state.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2000 added Zabid to its List of World Heritage Danger to facilitate its preservation. At the time, Zabid beat the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary in Senegal and the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore, Pakistan, to the top of the list as the site most urgently needing conservation.

To preserve the unique architectural style of Dar Al-Diyafa, the US Embassy in Yemen in cooperation with the Social Fund for Development this July completed the restoration of Dar Al-Diyafa.

After the restoration, a collection of historic manuscripts from the town’s Al-Asha’er mosque were displayed in the house, and the house was to be open to the public soon after its restoration was completed.

In July 2010, the US Ambassadors’ Fund for Cultural Preservation granted USD 111,000 to restore the house. The funding is part of the wider United

States Ambassadors’ Fund for Cultural Preservation which, in 2006, donated USD 2.8 million to fund 87 projects in 76 countries around the world.

The restoration of Dar Al-Diyafa also included the provision of equipment for continuing reservation work and onsite conservation training for local experts.

This year, the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (NFIT) has also supported the training of Yemeni experts in conservation techniques for all of Yemen’s historical cities. The trust signed an agreement with the Government of the Netherlands and UNESCO to support the World Heritage Centre to help the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities of Yemen (GOPHCY).

This July, the latter started a training program to convey knowledge, values, skills, and experiences of architectural and urban conservation and management to Yemenis. Through coursework and field exercises, the training aimed to strengthen heritage conservation in Yemen.

The participants learned about the proper methodology to develop conservation plans for historic buildings and settlements.



My journey to the heart of Islam - Part 4

What is life like in a madrasa and why are young western women drawn to a life of strict religious discipline?

By: Rachel Aspden

The Dowra girls have come to Dar al-Zahra looking for an essence of Islam’s past. Tarim’s obvious differences from the west – the niqab, the authority of the scholars, the harsh desert surroundings – are, to them, precious marks of its authenticity. They speak of escaping the consumerism of home for complete simplicity. “This is the opposite of Oxford Street,” Asma says as we walk between the old mud houses. They are so dedicated to the idea of Tarim that they would not dream of criticising it. To me, Tarim seems full of contradictions. The Habibs’ male followers drive gleaming SUVs through the dusty streets. In the cemetery, the hababa hides her face in distress when the girls snap the tombs with slimline digital cameras. The local women endure poverty, segregation and a lack of healthcare, even vaccination for their children. But while the women’s hardships move them, my housemates see something beautiful in their lives.

“Their deen” – religion – “is so pure and strong,” they say.

The girls even welcome the ban on seeing or talking to men. “In Islam we understand that men are men and women are women,” Nur says. “If you’re praying or studying together, it’s natural that you’ll distract each other, and we want to avoid distractions.” The Dowra girls accept this as a simple truth that the secular west, in its pursuit of equality, has forgotten. In an environment so preoccupied by the quest for purity, the tiniest contact between the sexes, even the glimpse of a hand or a brief meeting of the eyes, becomes charged. After a few days in the madrasa, I catch myself instinctively flinching at the sight of a male taxi

driver. I understand why Samira says segregation feels “cosy and safe”.

“We’ve lost this kind of sisterhood in the west,” says Nur. “There, we just encourage women to compete with each other.”

Before class, we sit in a circle as the converts explain why they gave up the freedoms of secular life – which believers see as the temptations extended by the dunya (material world) to the nafs (ego).

“There’s nothing more free than a white Protestant female,” says Nur, who was studying Arabic at university in Scotland when a Sufi teacher introduced her to Islam. For the past 18 months, she has struggled to cover her hair, pray and avoid alcohol, parties and men. “My nafs was strong. But no matter how many times I slipped into my old habits,” she says, “something kept drawing me back to Islam like a fish on a hook.”

Beside her sits Sara, a clever, acerbic engineering student who spent her teenage years smoking, drinking and hanging out with bikers and musicians.

“Do you girls know what the Maliki position on tattoos is?” she demands, asking if one of the schools of Islamic jurisprudence has ruled that laser removal is halal (permitted). “I have them all across my back.” Looking at her demure house-dress and brown hair neatly smoothed back under her headscarf, it seems impossible. Like Nur, she says her old freedoms were empty and unsatisfying in comparison with the discipline she discovered when she began to read about Islam, and finally converted a few months before coming to Tarim.

“Before, my attention was scattered,” she says. “When you follow Islam’s rules, you finally feel clean.”

On my last evening in Tarim, Asma

hurries into my room, breathless. “Come with me, quickly – you’ve been asked to meet Habib Kadhem.”

I am amazed. Students who have been in Tarim for years long to sit in the Habibs’ presence. A private interview with them is considered the rarest of privileges.

In a bare meeting room, Asma and her friend Farida kneel silently, fully veiled, behind me. Asma’s two small daughters solemnly carry in trays of iced water and peach juice. The translator, a white-robed westerner with a thin blond beard and the stocky build of a rugby player, sits cross-legged, piously avoiding my eyes. At the head of the room sits Habib Kadhem. A heavy pale blue turban frames his high-cheek-boned face, and his robes fall in elegant folds around him. I can see the power of his presence over the other people in the room. The Habib raises his eyes to meet mine, smiles and greets me.

“Habib Kadhem wishes you peace and places himself at your service,” repeats the translator, in a faintly but definitely Australian monotone.

“First, I have to thank you for your coffee tin,” I say, and tell the Habib how it had come into my possession. He laughs. I had expected a scholar to be sober and grave, but his face, voice and gestures are full of energy.

“But that gift made me think that your women students are at a disadvantage. Do they have to be so strictly segregated?”

“Islam treats everyone equally,” says Habib Kadhem firmly. “Education is everyone’s right, man or woman. To disagree with this is completely contrary to our beliefs.”

He is sincere. But living in a separate, freer world, I wonder how much he knows about the female students’ lives. I remember the girls jostling to glimpse him drive by their classroom.

The Habib tells me that the scholars do everything they can to support their female students in the search for Islamic knowledge – which they will then pass on to their husbands, children and



friends. “We must encourage women in the most important thing: the real jihad, the search for understanding in order to share it with others.”

As soon as the door closes behind the Habib and his translator, Farida and Asma throw their veils back from their faces and rush forwards to where he has left his cups of juice and water.

“It’s always the men who get to do this,” Farida says happily, picking them up. “Mashallah, now it’s our turn!” She sees my confusion. “Have some – it’s full of the Habib’s baraka.” She hands me the cup and I take a small sip.

“Have more, and some juice,” Asma urges me, passing the water to her daughters. “Don’t waste any – drink right down to the bottom of the cup.”

At dawn the next day, as I step out through the heavy front door of the Dowra house, the air is cool and fresh. At the airport, I finally take off my veil and black robe, and stuff them into my bag. Without them, I feel light, but frighteningly unprotected. I wrap

a scarf over my hair and sit waiting, my eyes lowered against the stares of my fellow passengers. When I change planes at Dubai, the sight of loud, bare-headed women in shorts and vests eating Burger King meals shocks me. I try to imagine how they will look to my housemates on their journey home.

Four months later, in the short days of early winter, I meet Samira and Nur in London. We laugh when we see each other dressed in city clothes and bundled against the cold. Nur has even abandoned her headscarf.

“The Habibs said we should practise Islam in our home culture,” she explains. “And anyway, I was angry about having been locked up for so long.” Unlike the other girls, she admits that she struggled with the confinement, the segregation and the suspicion that women students were getting a second-class education.

“But was it hard to leave, even so?” I ask, remembering my shock at the airport in Dubai.

“When I came back, I felt like half of me was still there,” says Samira. “It’s difficult to find yourself back in a way of life that suddenly looks very alien.”

Back in the UK, they find themselves facing the complications of living as an observant Muslim in the west without the certainties offered by life in Dar al-Zahra, with all its hardships and restrictions. The Habibs do not encourage them aggressively to separate themselves from secular society – by wearing Yemeni-style niqab or refusing to work outside the home, for instance – but to maintain their spiritual purity through prayer and study. But this is hard, and most of the girls long to leave the struggles and temptations of life in London and return to Tarim.

“Before, I was living for guys, for my university, for work,” one writes to me. “Now all I want is to put my niqab back on and live as simply as a Yemeni woman. That’s where real Islam is.”

Source: The Guardian

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و الإدارة العليا وجميع موظفي القطاعين
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Water pools around Sana'a

YT photo by Mahmoud Assamiee



The biggest of the water pools dug in the Yemeni capital is Al-Saba'een near the president's residence.

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

Yemeni people have been known since the old ages to build dams and water barriers to secure their water needs. Now that the country has become one of the poorest in water resources, there is a new need to dig water pools to harvest rainwater.

In the capital Sana'a, where groundwater is dwindling but the population is increasing as Yemenis migrate to the capital for a better life, local councils under the direction of the Yemeni president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, have started digging water pools.

So far four pools have been dug in Sana'a to collect rain and flood water for immediate use, and to increase groundwater recharge. There is one in the Al-Saba'een area, one near the presidential place road, and two along the airport road. The plan to dig more is continuing.

These water pools have been dug in areas where rainwater pours in as high speed floods. The main purpose of the pools is to feed the groundwater of the Sana'a basin, though the water is also used for irrigating street trees.

"The idea of digging these pools is good and it does not cost a lot of

money to harvest rainwater to feed the groundwater," said Fuad Abdullatif, Chairman of the National Water and Sanitation Authority.

These pools are being dug on the recommendation of the Shura Council to the President after a study conducted by specialists. "This water is used to irrigate street trees and small islands at road intersections," said Abdullatif.

According to him, these pools are dug in lands with looser soil so that water is absorbed easily by the earth and descends to deeper layers underground to feed the groundwater. This helps counter water consumption from the wells dug in the Sana'a basin, the groundwater basin below the capital and surrounding districts.

Regarding the purity of this water, he said that these pools are far away from any sewage waste and so are not contaminated with sewage water. He said they even have a plan to filter the water in these pools to be used for drinking.

According to Abdullatif, the plan is to dig more pools in Sana'a and the idea will be extended to other governorates. The project is easier than building dams, as all one needs is a tractor to dig a big pool and then leave it open to receive rainwater coming down from the streets.

Excellent if there is maintenance

Water experts welcome the idea of digging big pools to harvest rainwater but argue about improving them and the need for continuous maintenance.

"The idea is excellent if there is maintenance of these pools," said Ashraf Al-Iryani, an expert at the German Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), a German development agency that in particular manages water projects in Yemen. "We are thinking of digging similar pools in other places and in a different way."

He explained that these pools need regular maintenance to remove clay deposits caused by rain. The clay forms a solid layer at the bottom of the pools that does not allow water to seep into the ground. The water is then lost in evaporation.

He suggested to German officials who work in the GTZ to improve these pools and ensure their continuous maintenance.

Environmental considerations

But Al-Iryani is also concerned about the quality of the water being collected for groundwater recharge. As open pools in the center of the capital Sana'a, they are exposed to pollution and this could affect the groundwater. As the water is used to irrigate street

trees, and motors are used to pump the water into tanks, diesel from the motors could potentially pollute the pools.

"These pools could be dangerous if polluted water seeps into the groundwater," said Al-Iryani, "A drop of diesel could pollute a whole lake."

Health considerations

Despite the benefit of these pools in collecting rainwater and feeding the groundwater, some say they might cause health problems for people living close to them.

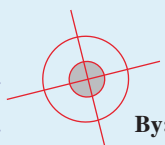
"They could provide a fertile breeding ground for malaria and other diseases and people may face health problems as a result," Qasem Omar, an official at Sana'a Health Office, told the Yemen Times.

He added that regular spraying of these pools must be done to kill any living organisms in the water to avoid epidemics.

The capital's new rain and flood water harvesting pools are but some of the initiatives carried out by the government since the 1980s to encourage groundwater recharge.

According to specialists in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, 1,500 dam projects had been completed across the country by 2007.

HEALTH WATCH



By: Dr. Siva



This weekly column is to disseminate health information to the readers in Yemen and outside. Dr. Siva is currently working at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Life style diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and naturopathy are his passions.

Ramadan and health - I

"O you who believe fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you so that you can learn Taqwa" (Quran 2:183)



Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic Lunar calendar. Muslims practice fasting for the entire month of Ramadan and abstain from all food, drink, use of tobacco, qat and conjugal relations from dawn till sunset. However, that is merely the physical component of the fast. The spiritual aspects of the fast include refraining from gossiping, lying, slandering and all traits of bad character. A fasting person's aim is to attain purity of thought and action. The act of fasting redirects the hearts away from worldly mundane activities, towards Allah - the Lord of the Heavens and the Earth. The month of Ramadan is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, recitation of the Quran, endurance and self-discipline. It is a month of training - training the soul and body- to be able to exercise self-restraint. The fasting Muslim is continuously tied with rules and regulations for an entire month and then released for 11 months to see whether the training has been adequate and effective. During this month the personality of a Muslim develops so that during the rest of the year, the trained Muslim does not commit wrong under unrestricted conditions. Ramadan is a month to purify ourselves. Fasting helps to overcome bad habits - either gradually for some of us or immediately for those with a stronger will power. At the onset of Ramadan Muslims all over the world start fasting from dawn to dusk daily for 30 days as ordained in the Quran.

Health is the key to happiness and what we consume directly affects our health. Islam encourages Muslims to ensure that they are mindful of their health. The blessed Prophet said: "Take advantage of good health before illnesses afflict you." He also encouraged Muslims to try their best to adopt a healthy lifestyle that includes a balanced diet, regular mental and physical exercise and a balance between material and spiritual needs.

Health surveys have shown poor health and lifestyle choices of the Asian community in general and Muslim community in particular. Compared with the 24 percent of men in the general population who smoked cigarettes, higher levels of cigarette smoking were reported by Bangladeshi men (40 percent). South Asian men and women had the highest rates of diabetes. Pakistanis and Bangladeshis were up to five times more likely than the general population to have diabetes, and Indian men and women were up to three times as likely.

The month of Ramadan is a great opportunity to focus on bringing back a balanced and healthy lifestyle in your life. Through fasting, you begin to learn how to manage your eating habits, how to improve self-control and discipline.

This month requires you to give the stomach a break and by doing so you are able to break down and expel the accumulated toxins from your body.

As a doctor, I will try to help you to understand the health issues related to fasting so that you are able to make more informed choices, minimize complications and maximize the benefits of your fast. I will guide you through physiological changes that occur when you are fasting, give examples of beneficial and harmful foods during fasting, discuss potential medical problems and remedies, and suggest a diet plan.

The physiological changes that occur during a fast

For many people, the key question regarding fasting is whether it is good or bad for your health. The answer to this requires a quick overview of what happens inside the body during fasting- the physiology of fasting. The changes that occur in the body in response to fasting depend on the length of the continuous fast. Technically, the body enters into a fasting state eight hours or so after the last meal, when the gut finishes absorbing nutrients from the food.

In the normal state, body glucose, which is stored in the liver and muscles, is the body's main source of energy.

During a fast, this store of glucose is used up first to provide energy. Later in the fast, once the stores of glucose run out, fat becomes the next store source of energy for the body. Small quantities of glucose are also 'manufactured' through other mechanisms in the liver.

Only with a prolonged fast of many days to weeks, does the body eventually turn to protein for energy. This is the technical description of what is commonly known as 'starvation', and it is clearly unhealthy. It involves protein being released from the breakdown of muscle which is why people who starve look emaciated and become very weak.

As the Ramadan fast only extends from dawn till dusk, there is ample opportunity to replenish energy stores at pre-dawn and dusk meals. This provides a progressive gentle transition from using glucose to fat as the main source of energy, and prevents the breakdown of muscle for protein. The use of fat for energy aids weight loss, preserving the muscles, and in the long run reduces your cholesterol levels. In addition weight loss results in better control of diabetes and reduces blood pressure. A detoxification process also seems to occur, as any toxins stored in the body's fat are dissolved and removed from the body.

After a few days of the fast, higher levels of certain hormones called endorphins appear in the blood, resulting in a better level of alertness and an overall feeling of general mental well-being.

Balanced food and fluid intake is important between fasts. The kidney is very efficient at maintaining the body's water and salts, such as sodium and potassium. However, these can be lost through sweating, to prevent muscle breakdown, meals must contain adequate levels of 'energy food' such as carbohydrates and some fat. Hence, a balanced diet with adequate quantities of nutrients, salt and water is vital.

(To be continued)

Ministry of Education (MoE)

Expressions of Interest

Secondary Education Development and Girls Access Project
Project Administration Unit (PAU)
(Cr. No. 4401 YEM, Grant No. TF 94223,
KfW Grant No. 2007-65-404)

Re- advertising

This request for Expressions of Interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in the UND Business and Dg Market dated of April 13, 2009. The Ministry of Education (MOE), Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and Multi-Donors towards the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Girls Access Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this to payments under the contract for the consulting service mentioned below.

The Project Administration Unit now invites eligible consulting Firms/institutes to indicate their interest in providing the service for conducting Technical Assistance (TA) to design training materials for English Language Inspectors and Teachers at the Secondary Education level and to train Master-Trainers.

The objective of the proposed technical assistance is to assist the MOE staff to improve the quality and the English Language Teacher classroom practices and related Inspection, leading to improve the student achievement in the English language. Interested Consulting Firms /institutes must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services profiles, description of similar assignments, experience in similar work in Yemen or other countries.

The selection of the Consulting Firms will be in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004" Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat.-Wed. From 08:30 AM to 03:00 pm at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by **August 29, 2010**.

Project Administration Unit (PAU)
60 m Southern Rd. - Bait Meyad
Tel: 00967-01-619163/4, Fax: 00967-01- 619219 or to
Email: The project Director: a.al-arashi@y.net.ye
Email: Procurement: yemsam71@yahoo.com

Ministry of Education (MoE)

Project Administration Unit (PAU)

Basic Education Development Project (BEDP)
Credit No. 33988-Yem & Grant No. TF-053721
& KFW2004 66 268)

Request for Expressions of Interest Technical Assistance (TA) to Assess the Whole School Improvement Scheme

This request for Expressions of interest follows the General procurement Notice for this project that appeared in the UN Development Business and Dg Market dated of Feb 2, 2005 .The Ministry of Education (MOE) ,Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), Multi Donor Grant and KfW Grant; intend to apply part of the proceeds of this to payments under the contract for the above -consulting service.

The Project Administration Unit now invites eligible Individual consultants to indicate their interest for conducting Technical Assistance (TA) To Assess the Whole School Improvement Scheme. Interested consultants must provide (two copies) of information indicating that they are qualified to perform the service profiles, description of similar assignments and experience in similar assignment.

The main objective of the TA is to assess the WSI Scheme in improving access, retention of boys and girls in school and reducing the drop out from school, improving the quality of learning, teaching and school environment. The roles and responsibilities of the MoE sectors, Governorates and districts education authority, mothers and fathers councils and coordination with PAU etc...

The selection of the Consultants will be made in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines : "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004" Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat. -Wed. From 08:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by August 30, 2010.

Basic Education Development project
60 m Southern Rd-Bait Meyad
TEL:00967-01-619163/4, FAX:00967-01-619219 or to
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A society that does not appreciate art

By: Ismail Sheikh Abdoh
For the Yemen Times

It was her first personal art exhibition. Despite the beauty and visible talent in her paintings, Altaf Abdullah Hamdi sat anticipating visitors who rarely showed up. Altaf has participated in many art galleries in Yemen and abroad. She even won the golden medal for fine art at the Sana'a Summer Festival 2010.

However, when it came to displaying her art at the House of Culture in Sana'a between August 4 and 10, reality proved that Yemenis need much more than fine paintings to appreciate art.

"Every painting tells a story," said Altaf. Her love for travelling has helped her to improve her skills and made her see the world from a new perspective. She paints hoping to share her impressions of the world around her with anyone who would stop to look.

Altaf likes movement. She loves exploring to gather new ideas for her paintings. Painting, she says, is different than photography. In painting, she can paint the feeling of the situation that she is observing, and it is a great way to express oneself, she says.

"I love to paint Yemeni society," says Altaf. "It's full of movement from when the dawn breaks till the end of the day."

This art exhibition was held under the auspices of the Minister of Culture Mohammad Abubakr Al-Maflahi in the House of Culture.

"I was afraid that, if I held my own art exhibition, I wouldn't get any encouragement from the people around me, so the minister's initiative to hold this exhibition here was beyond my imagination," said Altaf.

Waleed Al-Zabidi, a painter, "Nature's Artist" as he called himself, visited the exhibition and complimented Altaf's paintings.

"It's a nice exhibition and we have always known her to improve," said Al-Zabidi. "She is always changing and that is the key of her creativity."

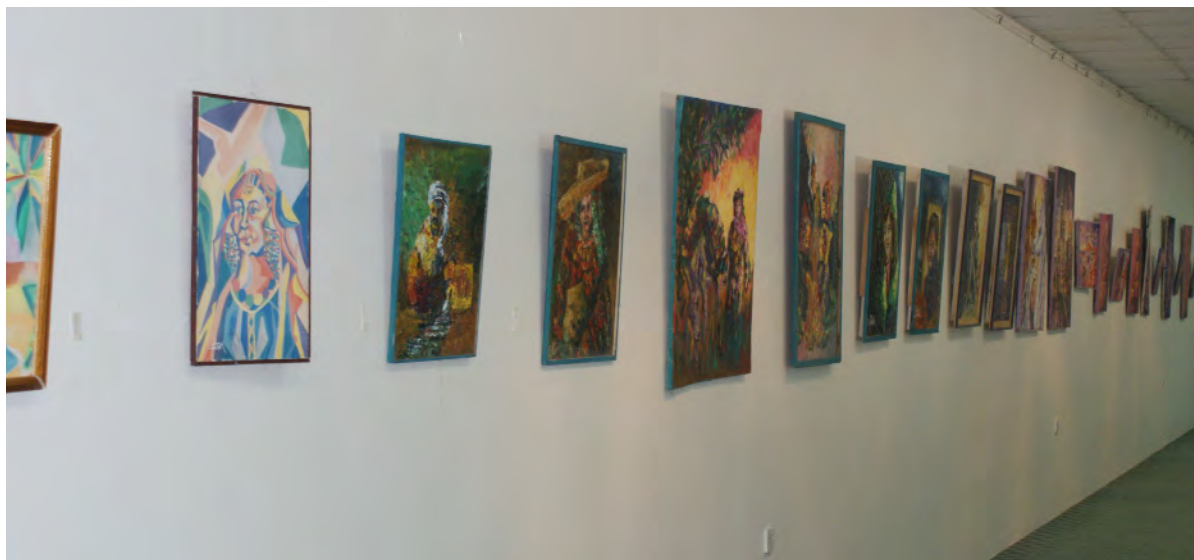
"Teaching is the best way to learn," said Altaf, who says that she teaches art to keep her talent sharp.

She tries to be different in every aspect of her painting, starting from the colors she uses, the ideas that she paints, and even the way she paints on the canvas.

For around six of her paintings at the exhibition, she first slanted the canvas sideways by 45°. The final results are exhibited at a slant in the exhibition.

"Change is something I seek in my life, so why not in painting?" she says.

Altaf is also a sculptor and four of her sculptures are on show at the exhibition.



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Yemen's got TALENT

The rapper

By: Nadine Ibrahim
For the Yemen Times

Zaid Salah Al-Mukhtar, 19, is from Iraq but has been living in Yemen since 2003. He loves to rap and sing, and one of his influences is a wrestler and rapper named John Cena. Zaid started rapping as a hobby in 2004 and he records and publishes his music with other rapper friends. His music is a little bit of everything, including party songs and others, but his main goal is to stick to the image of Yemen and improve its image.

"I try to make Yemen look good through my music because Yemen is the most beautiful place I have ever seen."

However, he had a very hard time becoming accepted in the beginning of his music career because many people thought that rapping was basically about dirty talk, drugs, and money.

He signed a contract with Pimp Muzzik Productions on May 29, 2009. They are releasing a mixed tape with him and the members of Pimp Muzzik Productions. Besides the mixed tape, he is planning to release a rap album and a rock album in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

"Yemen has the potential for being the most talent place in the world and I truly believe in that."

"I just really want to encourage everyone who thinks that they have any talent. Even if it's a slight 1 percent of talent, I want them to work on it," he said.

Every issue, this Ramadan, the Yemen Times will profile a young Yemeni with talent. If you are talented or know a young Yemeni who is, please send an email to youngtalents.yt@gmail.com