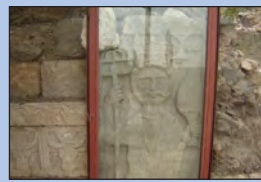


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Eight soldiers killed in Abyan

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, August 29 — Eight soldiers and an employee in the local authority were killed on Saturday evening in Abyan governorate where the government has been fighting Al-Qaeda for two weeks in a row, the Ministry of Interior reported on its website.

A local source in the governorate stated to the Ministry of Defense's website that an armed terrorist group believed to be from Al-Qaeda suddenly attacked a security checkpoint in Ja'r district after Al-Maghrib prayer.

The armed group attacked the checkpoint while the soldiers began the breaking of their fast on Saturday eve-



Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula announced on Saturday its responsibility for the incident and other incidents which took place in Abyan against security leaders and intelligence chiefs.

ning, according to the source.

"The armed group attacked the soldiers with rocket-propelled grenade and machine guns that led to the killing of eight soldiers and an employee working with the local authority," said the local source.

The Ministry of Interior published online the names of the eight soldiers as follows: Ali Hassan Farea', Abdulfatah Al-Yemeni, Mujahed Saleh Qitran, Ahmed Al-Ghader, Ghaleb Al-Hareq, Mabkhoot Ali Al-Azab, Derhim Saleh Al-Abood, and Ahmed Mohamed Shamsan.

In addition, Ahmed Mohamed Naji, the local authority employee who was employed in collecting fees for optimizing the governorate was killed in the attack.

The Ministry of Interior quoted people and social figures' condemnation of the incident.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula announced on Saturday its responsibility for the incident and other incidents which took place in Abyan against se-

curity leaders and intelligence chiefs, according to a statement by the organization published on the local news websites.

One of the major operations in Abyan that Al-Qaeda announced its responsibility for is the attack that targeted the political security headquarters in the governorate last month in which one soldier was killed and others were injured.

During that attack, the Yemeni government said that it arrested seven Al-Qaeda members and killed two of them.

However, in its latest statement Al-Qaeda denied this saying that none of its members has been arrested yet.

The organization congratulates Muslims with those operations saying that the Yemeni soldiers are the target now because the soldiers protect an apostate regime that replaced the Islamic Shariah law with democracy and human law.

It also accused the Yemeni government of allowing foreign powers to target Yemenis in their homeland.

Yemeni riyal recovers against US dollar

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, August 29 — The Yemeni riyal has registered a remarkable increase in its value against foreign currencies, especially the US dollar over the last two weeks.

The value of one US dollar has gradually decreased from YR 240 to YR 218.

The sudden recovery of the Yemeni riyal against the US dollar on exchange markets comes after an unusual increase in the price of the dollar last July when it reached YR 254, its highest ever level.

The Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) justified the unprecedented devaluation of the riyal at that time by merchants' great demand for the dollar to import goods for Ramadan.

The CBY said the value of the riyal continues to improve against foreign currencies because of the quick measures implemented by the government to correct mistakes in the exchange market, reported the Al-Masdar website.

Although the CBY puts the exchange rate as YR 215 for USD 1 for buying and YR 215.2 for selling, exchange companies and stores are not committed to the fixed price. Some of them buy the dollar for YR 218 and sell it for YR 222.

In its effort to fix the prices of foreign currencies against the riyal, the CBY fol-

lowed up foreign exchange companies, and imposed fines on those who played with the exchange rate and threatened to withdraw their work licenses.

The bank published in its press release on Saturday the names of seven exchange companies and 13 stores accused by the CBY of destabilizing the exchange market by practicing speculation and raising the price of hard currencies.

The bank took signed commitments from these companies not to repeat their violations after imposing fines amounting to YR 200,000 against any violator.

Although economists expect more improvement in the exchange rate, they are suspicious of the quick recovery in the value of the riyal against foreign currencies.

There are hidden hands behind the increase and decrease of the price of the riyal against foreign currencies, Mustafa Nasr, the head of Studies and Economic Media Center, told the Yemen Times.

Nasr said that this improvement in the riyal does not reveal indicators of a quick improvement in the economy,

and that the sudden increase in its value is because the markets are full of goods and the demand for imports has decreased. He also said that remittances coming from Yemeni expatriates and zakat played a significant role in the dollar's devaluation against the riyal.

However, he warned citizens to be careful of the sudden increase and decrease of exchange rates as this helps money merchants to speculate with the currency.

He demanded that the CBY strengthen its control on exchange companies and stores and update its funding policy to insure this relative improvement of the riyal against the dollar.

The head of the Studies and Economic Media Center demanded producers and traders reduce the price of goods to fit the new lower value of the dollar. He especially called on the great trade companies and groups headed by the Hayel Saeed Group, the Thabet Brothers Group and the Abdul-Jalil Radman Companies to reduce the price of necessary goods like food, taking into consideration the difficult conditions being endured by citizens.

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Yemen 'abandons human rights' in fight for security

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, August 29 — The Yemeni government is abusing human rights in the name of fighting terrorism, according to an Amnesty International report released last Wednesday.

The organization said that it documented human rights violations including the unlawful killing of people accused of having links to Al-Qaeda and the Southern Movement, arbitrary arrests, torture and unfair trials.

The report also said that Yemenis who are accused of supporting the Houthis, armed Zaidi Shiite rebels in Sa'ada in the north of Yemen, or Yemenis who are accused of supporting the Southern Movement in the south of the country, have also been targeted for arbitrary detention, unfair trials in specialized courts, beatings, together with journalists, dissenters, human rights defenders, and critics of the government.

"Some have been subjected to enforced disappearance for weeks or months by largely unaccountable security agencies that report directly to Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh," said the report.

The organization accused the Yemeni authorities of exploiting the pressure by the US to fight Al-Qaeda as a pretext to deal with the Houthis and the Southern Movement.

"All measures taken in the name of countering terrorism or other security challenges in Yemen must have at its heart the protection of human rights," stated Amnesty International.

It added that the number of death sentences passed in trials against people accused of having links to Al-Qaeda or to the Houthis has noticeably increased.

It said that in 2009, at least 34 people accused of links to the Houthis were sentenced to death.

The security forces have killed at least 113 people since 2009 in operations the government says target 'terrorists', according to the report.

"Attacks have become more frequent since December 2009 with security forces in some cases making no attempt to detain suspects before killing them," it said.

At least 41 people were killed, 21 of them children and 14 of them women, on 17 December 2009 when their settlement in the area of Al-Ma'jala in the southern district of Abyan was hit by missiles.

It quoted Malcolm Smart, Amnesty International's Director for the Middle East and North Africa Program as saying, "The Yemeni authorities have a duty to ensure public safety and to bring to justice those engaged in attacks that deliberately target members of the public, but when doing so they must abide by international law."

"Enforced disappearances, torture

and other ill-treatment, and extrajudicial executions are never permissible, and the Yemeni authorities must immediately cease these violations," Smart was quoted as saying.

"It is particularly worrying that states such as Saudi Arabia and the USA are directly or indirectly aiding the Yemeni government in a downward spiral away from [a] previously improving human rights record," has stated the organization.

Amnesty International identified the Southern Movement as a loose coalition of individuals, political groups and other organizations advocating for greater rights for people in the south, with origins tracing back to the 1994 civil war between northern and southern Yemen. Many factions of the movement now call for the south to break from the rest of Yemen.

The Houthis group was identified by the Amnesty as followers of Hussain Badr al-Din al-Houthi in the region of

Sa'ada. They have been fighting the government since 2004 in what initially began as a protest at the US led invasion of Iraq, but developed into armed conflict particularly after the killing of their leader by the government.

The Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) was created in the name of 'countering terrorism' in 1999, its remit expanded in 2004, and three additional "specialized criminal courts" were then established in 2009.

The SCC has been used to convict people such as journalists covering the conflict in Sa'ada, or grievances expressed by the Southern Movement.

Hundreds have been tried by the SCC since its establishment in 1999.

This court is now being used by the Yemeni authorities against a wide range of people whose activities or disclosures are considered hostile or harmful to the government, according to Amnesty International.

Government and Houthis sign new peace deal in Qatar

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, August 29 — The Yemeni government and the Houthis on Thursday agreed to renew a truce, according to the Houthis and the government delegation in Doha, Qatar.

The Qatari-sponsored peace deal would mark an end to fighting between the two sides in the northern governorate of Sa'ada since 2004.

The new agreement was signed in the presence of the Qatari prime minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Al-Thani.

After a Qatari mediation team became involved, they said that the war should be put to a terminal end and political dialogue initiated.

The delegations of the Houthis and the government signed the 22-article agreement in which both sides will be obliged to fulfill their commitments regarding the February 2010 truce.

Qatar mediated an agreement in 2008 between the Houthis and the government before the sixth war was fought in 2009 and Saudi Arabia became involved.

Since then, Yemen has been facing escalated pressure from Saudi Arabia and western powers to end the internal disputes and to focus on the growing activities of Al-Qaeda in Yemen.

In the agreement, there is an article in which the Yemeni government demanded that the Houthis return the weapons seized during the six wars to the Qatari sponsors in exchange for the government releasing Houthis arrested during the war.

Removing land mines was also part of the agreement so that those Yemenis displaced by the war in the northern governorate may return to their homes.

According to the media, on Thursday, Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani asked President Saleh in a phone call to solve the dispute which arose between the government delegation and the Houthi delegation.

The Houthi delegation was headed by Yosif Al-Fhishi, Dhaifualla Sulaiman, and Yahya Badr Al-Houthi.

The government delegation was headed by Colonel Ali Al-Qaesi, who is the head of the supervisory committee to implement the six point plan to end the war in Harf Sufian. Colonel Mujahed Ghashim, the head of Military Intelligence and Colonel Jalal

Al-Rowaishan, the deputy of National Security were the other representatives of the government.

Armed tribesmen attack civilians

In related news, from Monday to Thursday last week, gunmen from the Osaimat tribe in Hawt, Amran, searched the houses of people from the Hashimite family living in the area for weapons they accused them of storing for the Houthis.

The Osaimat tribe belongs to the powerful Yemeni Hashed tribe headed by Hussein Al-Ahmar that controls the area. The Hashimites are believed to be descendants of the Prophet Mohammed. Houthi leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi is a Hashimite.

The people denied such accusations and the attacking tribes imposed a cordon around the area.

For four days, residents there said that they were in panic as hundreds of armed men roamed the area arresting anyone who left his house.

Four of the attackers and seven of the attacked Hashimite people were killed.

Houthi spokesman Mohammad Abdulsalam denied any military presence of his men in Hawt. He accused the Osaimat tribes of attacking unarmed people, incorrectly assuming that they were Houthis. He said that the whole area of Hawt is under the control of the army and allied tribes and that Houthis do not exist there.

According to Sa'ada Online website, the attack was a result of a tribal dispute in the area.

Local sources in Hawt said on Friday that as soon as the Osaimat tribe left the area, life returned to normal.

According to news website News Yemen, 80 people were arrested and put in Al-Barqi jail which belongs to Hussein Al-Ahmar.

The executive committee of Al-Haq, a Shiite party head by Hasan Zaid who is known to be sympathetic to the Houthis, criticized the attack against unarmed people.

The committee said in a statement that the responsibility is the government's to take serious action against those who commit violations against the law and morals.

The party's committee also demanded that the government release all Sa'ada detainees, rebuild their houses, and return their plundered properties.

Ramadan in Dhamar: Unique customs and high spirituality

By: Yemen Times correspondent
For the Yemen Times

Ramadan is a special month in which the lives of Muslims around the world change to include more spirituality and the strengthening the social relations. For Yemenis of Dhamar, Ramadan brings special traditions and practices in food, religion and even outdoor activities.

But even days before Ramadan starts, the streets of Dhamar are crowded with street vendors who sell special foods exclusive to the month of Ramadan.

Street colors change with the colors of the drinks, jellies, spices, and other Ramadan supplements. Most of the villagers around Dhamar come and buy whatever they need for this month, which is an event that merchants take advantage of by selling expired products in their warehouses.

Similarly, people store gas cylinders in case of any crises they might face. Street vendors are waiting for the season change to change their merchandise from Ramadan provisions to Eid provisions such as sweets, nuts and other Eid specialties.

On the first day of Ramadan sellers of samboosa, sweets, and traditional drinks are spread all over the city, along with rugs, a twig that acts as a natural toothbrush called siwak, and booksellers. Beside them, beggars are found on the street corner.

In Ramadan, appliances are in great demand, especially generators needed in the case of blackouts. "Ramadan supplement prices are increasing, so I have to work to handle these expenses," said Mohammad Muhsen.

Abdullah Al-Mithali, a food merchant, said that in Ramadan, shops receive new stock at the beginning of the month and other supplies are brought daily.



Fasting brings energy

Unlike many other areas in Yemen, the cool climate in Dhamar gives the residents more energy for outdoor activities and they do not complain from the pangs of hunger and thirst as much. Many youth practice sports such as football, basketball and table tennis, especially in the afternoon. Clubs organize many activities during this month in the daytime and hold competitions.

For example, the management of the international sports stadium in the city center considers Ramadan a sports season and design tournaments for this month. They receive hundreds of visitors and players every afternoon including former athletes and even military men who want to exercise and remain fit.

Even during the night Dhamar is different than the rest of the year. Dhamar is known as the city that sleeps early compared to the rest of the country and

shops in the city usually close down at nine at night. An unknowing visitor who passes by the city at night might think that this is an abandoned town. But during Ramadan the city comes to life at night and the streets are crowded until the early hours of the morning as lots of buying and selling takes place as well as social visits. The month for many people of the city represents a chance for better income and catching up with family and friends.

Mohammad Abdulmalik works in Ramadan to cover his studying expenses, to travel to his village, and to provide for his family's needs.

"Ramadan covers our expenses for six months because people demand luhuh a lot in this month, so we have to work around the clock," said Afrah a saleswoman who sells luhuh, a flat savory pancake made with red flour eaten with yoghurt and vegetables.

In the last days of Ramadan, streets

are crowded with people and cars. It's a special season, said Radman Al-Alawi.

As the Eid time approaches towards the end of the month, the dynamics of the market changes and the goods are tailored towards sweets and celebration clothes which will be used during the Eid time.

"Whoever who couldn't find work, he will in Ramadan," said Yusef Al-Mansoori.

In Ramadan the raisin market increases, especially in the second half of the month, said Majid Mohammad.

Demand for rowani, a flat sponge cake traditionally eaten during the holy month, increases in Ramadan with orders coming in daily, said Abdulkareem Mohib.

Daris Mahmood, an appliance salesman says that demand for appliances increased in the early days of this month, especially from villages that have recently implemented electricity projects.

Warnings about hosting the 20th Gulf Cup in Yemen

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, August 25 — As fighting continues between the government and Al-Qaeda in the southern governorate of Abyan, critics in Yemen and the Gulf have criticized Yemen's determination to host the 20th Football Gulf Cup in Aden and Abyan this November.

Bahrain and Kuwait are opposed to Yemen hosting this tournament because of the precarious security situation and weak organization by Yemen.

Bahrain declared some time ago its readiness to host the 20th Gulf Cup, but Yemen said that it was determined to host the event, confirming that all arrangements are going well, including the security measures.

On the other hand, the supreme council for the Southern Movement, a Yemeni group in the south who demand the secession from the north, asked last Tuesday that the Gulf countries not participate in this tournament due to bad security situations, pointing to the bloody war in Abyan governorate.

"The most important problem in this

tournament is the critical security situation in Aden and Abyan," said Tawfeeq Abdulwahab, the correspondent of Al-Jazeera sports channel in Yemen.

In addition to the security problems, there are other challenges that Yemen faces in this tournament such as technical problems and lack of hotels to receive visitors, according to Abdulwahab.

"Yemen has built an imposing building but in poor time. There are buildings and hotels that have yet to be finished," he told the Yemen Times.

There is centralization in decision-making. Only two Yemeni officials control all the decision-making in this tournament, according to Abdulwahab.

Some Gulf newspapers severely criticized the Yemeni preparations for the tournament describing the preparations as 'a scandal,' especially after the mistake at the official Gulf Cup draw in Aden last week, held to determine which teams would play each other.

The occasion of the Gulf Cup draw in Aden provoked harsh criticism due to its disorganization by Yemeni organiz-

ers and big mistakes during the drawing.

The Gulf delegations expressed their dissatisfaction during the event while some of them angrily withdrew amid the chaos.

Kuwait and Bahrain hinted that they may withdraw from the tournament. "If one team decided to withdraw from the tournament, this would negatively affect the tournament," Abdulwahab said.

Yemeni journalist Fathi Abo Al-Nasr slammed the organizers of the tournament describing them as 'stupid' in an essay on the tournament published last Monday.

"I wonder how the Yemeni officials can be determined to host such a tournament when they aren't ready. I feel deeply ashamed of my country hosting this tournament," Abo Al-Nasr said.

The budget of the tournament is USD 300 million. Three main stadiums were built and five stadiums for training camps were prepared. The construction of hospitality buildings will need to be sped along if they are to be finished on schedule.

Tribal kidnappers release foreigners

SANAA, Aug. 28 (Xinhua) — Armed tribesmen released two foreign workers on Saturday, a day after they kidnapped them in southern Yemen to press for the release of one of their fellows detained, the Interior Ministry said.

"Governor of southern province of Abyan, Ahmed al-Maisery, assigned the councilman of al-Mahfad district to convince the tribal kidnappers to release the foreign pair -- a Turkish and a Syrian, who worked with a foreign investment company," the ministry said in a statement posted on its website.

It said the councilman succeeded in helping the release and the two foreign workers have later arrived at the home of the governor safely.

Earlier, a provincial security official told Xinhua that Yemeni armed tribesmen in Abyan kidnapped two foreign workers late on Friday to press for the release of one of their fellows detained on charges of having ties with al-Qaida.

"The kidnapped pair, a Turkish and a Syrian, were taken by the kidnappers to a nearby region in al-Mahfad district of Abyan," the official said on condition

of anonymity, adding that "a tribal and security mediation has been launched to seek the release of the abducted."

In Yemen, kidnapping foreigners became a common practice as tribesmen in the lawless areas often resort to abducting tourists or foreign workers in a bid to pressure the government to meet their demands.

Abyan province is thought to be a stronghold of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula after it has witnessed a series of deadly attacks allegedly carried out by the regional terrorist wing since earlier this year, leaving dozens of security personnel dead or injured.

It is worth mentioning that on the same day when the hostages were released, the Yemeni Interior Ministry issued a high alert state of alert following intelligence's warnings of possible al-Qaida attacks, the ministry's website said on Saturday.

Security arrangements would be extra tightened around the potential targets amid growing activities of al-Qaida wing in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), according to the ministry. The ministry's move followed the reports that terrorist gunmen ambushed a patrol se-

curity vehicle late on Friday in Yafee city in the southern province of Lahj, killing two soldiers and severely injured another one.

A local police official said clashes occurred between the soldiers and the police authorities believed that al-Qaida militants were behind such attacks.

On Friday, the Defense Ministry said a senior Yemeni security officer died after being seriously wounded on Thursday in an al-Qaida ambush in the north-east province of Marib, home of Yemen's major location of oil facilities.

The impoverished Arab country has witnessed a growing active role of the AQAP regional wing since the beginning of this year, in which the terrorist group had claimed responsibility for a string of deadly attacks against army and security personnel in the south and east.

The U.S.-backed Yemeni government has intensified security operations and air raids against terrorist groups after the Yemen-based al-Qaida wing claimed credit for a botched attempt to blow up a U.S. passenger plane bound for Detroit in December last year.

Opportunities

Arab Fund Fellowships Program

The Purpose of the Arab Fund Fellowships Program

The Arab Fund Fellowships Program was launched in December 1997, with the purpose of providing Arab Ph.D. holders in different fields of specialization who have excellent academic track records with opportunities to conduct advanced research and/or lecture in the best universities in the world. The program is intended to build bridges and achieve mutual benefits between Arab and foreign universities, and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology to the Arab countries. Fellowships are open to Arab nationals who are currently working at a university in any of the member countries of the Arab Fund.

Since its inception, the program has awarded 66 scholarships to Arab researchers from different nationalities and various areas of specialization, 10 of which were awarded in 2010. During the period 1997-2010 the program has received more than 800 applications.

Nature of Grants

For selected candidates, the Arab Fund Fellowships Program provides fixed maintenance allowances, round-trip tickets for beneficiaries and eligible members of their families, and limited accident and sickness insurance. The grant is usually awarded for a period of twelve months, while shorter periods may be considered in very special cases.

Although applications are received on a continuous basis, they must be submitted at least one year before the expected starting date of the scholarship, based on a formal invitation from an internationally reputable university or host institution.

Eligibility Requirements

- Being a citizen of an Arab country.
- Holding Doctorate/Ph.D. Degree.
- Currently working at a univer-

sity in a member country of the Arab Fund.

- Having a distinguished academic career and strong publication record in international academic journals.
- Having a good university teaching experience.
- Being proficient in the language of the host country.
- Being medically fit.

Important Application Information

Applications must be submitted and completed at least one year prior to the expected starting date of the Fellowship. As applications are evaluated by yearly cycle, any application received after January 1st, will be considered for the next cycle.

All application documents must be in English and submitted electronically (not by regular mail) according to the pre-specified format. Do not send documents in un-specified formats or materials that are not requested.

How To Apply

Applications are to be submitted through the following website: www.arabfund.org/zamalat

International Young Interactive Entrepreneur (IYIE) Award 2010

As part of the expansion of the International Young Creative Entrepreneur programme, the British Council is running for the second time the International Young Interactive Entrepreneur (IYIE) Award 2010 – to champion and celebrate the importance of creative entrepreneurs working in the field of the interactive media. IYIE seeks to showcase international business innovation in the field of interactive entertainment and media using the UK as the nexus for cultural, creative and commercial exchange.

The award is running in 10 British Council offices; China, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, India, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

What is our definition of the in-

teractive sector?

For the purpose of this award participants can be drawn from any of the following areas in the interactive sector:

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- Interactive entertainment developers for the Internet, digital television, radio and mobile phones
- Digital and interactive multimedia
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- Interactive marketing
- Multimedia and interactive event production
- Experimental media
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What are the eligibility criteria?

- A participant must:
- Be aged between 25 and 35
- Already work in the interactive sector (as defined above)
- Be entrepreneurial and have shown their ability in the promotion of the interactive sector in their country, in either a commercial or public context, or both
- Through their character, drive and abilities demonstrate their potential to be a future leader of the sector in their country
- Have English language skills to IELTS 6 - 'competent user' or above

What will the award involve?

From 13-23 October, 2010, finalists will undertake a tour of the UK national interactive sector. The tour will comprise visits, meetings, seminars and trade events where it will be possible to meet leaders in the field.

It will also include a masterclass with an internationally renowned UK interactive sector entrepreneur during which the finalists will be able to question him/her about the development of his/her highly successful interactive sector business. They will also get the opportunity

to participate in the Mini-Bar event on 22 October which is a monthly tech meet up in London. It is an informal, but well attended, gathering of some of the smartest web entrepreneurs, developers, designers, investors and tech innovators and an amazing networking opportunity, so it will be of real benefit to interactive entrepreneurs.

How can you apply?

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/lebanon-creativity-creative-industries-iyie-2010.htm>

John S. Knight Fellowships

The John S. Knight Fellowships accepts applications from qualified journalists and journalism entrepreneurs from around the world for 20 Fellowships each year. Please review the eligibility and selection criteria for United States or international Knight Fellows.

If you are uncertain whether you should apply for a US or International Knight Fellowship, please don't guess. Send us an email with your work history to knight-info@lists.stanford.edu.

The US application deadline for the 2011-2012 academic year is Feb. 1, 2011. The international application deadline is Dec. 15, 2010. The application will be available in October 2010.

The program welcomes applications from all qualified international journalists, but will pay particular attention to international journalists who can have a direct impact on the development of a free press and flow of information in their countries. We will continue to seek international journalists from countries with a more robust press, especially those who would focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.

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awarded a fellowship.

One organization that provides funding for international journalists is the Fulbright Scholar Program. For more information, please visit their web site at www.iie.org/cies/.

In addition, some news organizations provide their employees with full or partial funding. Other sources of support come from the Knight Fellowship funds that are designated for specific purposes, including one that funds a journalist from Latin America. Regardless of the source of funding, all decisions to award fellowships are made by the

Knight Fellowships program.

Most Fellows live in rental apartments and houses near the campus. We help Fellows as they look for a place to live, we compile a list of available housing nearby, check out rentals you're interested in and offer advice on best areas to live. A number of landlords in the area know our program well and have happily rented to Knight Fellows for many years.

For more information go to: <http://knight.stanford.edu/application/>



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Finance Officer – Based in Sana'a
Starting gross salary per annum pro rata: \$16,146 USD
Contract Duration: 2.5 years

You will undertake financial and administrative matters in accordance with established procedures, monitor grants and programme management budget and update forecasts; Maintain float register and manage donor contract administration. Undertake and monitor all payments including partner organizations and prepare for internal and external audits.

We are looking for someone with at least degree in finance related subject or professional accountancy qualification, and three years experience of financial and people management in similar size organization, as well as ability to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing in Arabic and English, sound computer skills and ability to travel extensively in country.

Donor / Roving Accountant – Based in Sana'a
Starting gross salary per annum pro rata: \$16,146 USD
Contract Duration: 1 Year with possible extension

You will be responsible for preparing high quality donor financial reports and contributing to proposal writings in accordance to donor's requirements and guidelines. Prepare monthly monitoring reports for all projects under Yemen programme. Maintain and update funding grid, be in charge of donor contracts management and advise on cost effectiveness and on any area of significant current or future financial risks.

We are looking for someone with at least degree in finance related subject or professional accountancy qualification, and three years experience of financial and people management in similar size organization, as well as ability to work as part of a multi-cultural team and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing in Arabic and English and willingness to travel extensively in country.

Partnership Accountant – Based in Sana'a
Starting gross salary per annum pro rata: \$16,146 USD
Contract Duration: 8 months with possible extension

You will be responsible for developing and maintaining partners financial and accounting systems and procedures, review partner's budgets and financial reports, and ensure accuracy of financial transactions and documentation. Be responsible for partner's financial management capacity building through technical and training support.

We are looking for someone with at least degree in finance related subject or professional accountancy qualification, and three years financial and accounting experience, and ability to implement financial system and work to deadlines. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated communication skills and the ability to work well with others and as part of a team. You will have excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic, sound computer skills and willingness to travel extensively in country.

Finance Assistant – Based in Sana'a
Starting gross salary per annum pro rata: \$10,471
Contract Duration: 7 months with possible extension

You will be responsible for the overall aspects of cash management including monthly cash forecast and verify all payment requests and ensure completeness and accurateness of supporting documents and release payments in timely manner. You will input transaction in cashbooks and upload them into Oxfam's financial system on weekly basis and ensure proper filing system is in place.

We are looking for someone with at least degree in finance related subject or professional accountancy qualification, and two years financial and accounting experience in a similar role. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated communication skills and the ability to work well with others and as part of a team. You will have excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic and sound computer skills.

To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in either of these positions, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job you are applying for, to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk or send a fax to (91) 450170.

Closing date for applications is 07th September 2010

Yemen Community Livelihoods Project

The Yemen Community Livelihoods Project is recruiting for the following positions based in Sana'a, Yemen. Please note that housing will not be provided. If interested please send cover letter, resume and salary history to: recruitment@crea-clp.com. Please list the title of the position you are applying for in the subject line.

Information Officer

The Information Officer is responsible for managing the program's information and communication needs. The Information Officer will utilize the information in the CLP Activity Database and information from monitoring and evaluation reports in the field to compile appropriate reporting on program status and impact, including success stories, press releases, regular reports, and ad hoc reports on how the program responds to particular issues. Position requires: minimum of three years of demonstrated experience in related work in reporting on program implementation and results, experience in writing reports on short deadlines. Experience in reporting, political journalism, and political analysis preferred, must be familiar with USAID reporting requirements. *Must be a native English Speaker or at equivalent level.*

Value Chain and Productivity Specialist

Value Chain and Productivity Specialist will manage the implementation of agricultural sector activities including outreach; supply-side agricultural-related interventions with technology and production improvements; and domestic market development. The Value Chain and Productivity Specialist should have a background in agricultural production, domestic market linkages, and capacity building in niche agricultural value chains relevant to Yemen's ecological zones; Demonstrated success in increasing incomes for small rural producers highly desirable; Strong team leader with demonstrated success in developing national staff and local partner capacity; Advanced degree in a relevant field or at least five additional years of relevant professional experience required; English speaking and writing skills required.

Senior Agricultural Specialist

Senior Agricultural Specialist will be familiar with the crops, farming systems and marketing systems and channels prevailing in the region. S/He will: manage all aspects of the CLP agricultural component, identify appropriate community agriculture interventions and review small grants applications relating to the agriculture component. This position requires a university degree, at least 5 years of professional work experience in a related field, fluency in English and Arabic. Experience with USAID/USAID-funded programs preferred.

Micro-Enterprise Specialist

Micro-Enterprise Specialist will be familiar with the micro-business and micro-finance programs within the region. S/He will: identify appropriate community micro-enterprise interventions and review small grants applications relating to the micro-enterprise component. This position requires a university degree, at least 5 years of professional work experience in a related field, and fluency in English and Arabic. Experience with USAID/USAID-funded programs preferred.



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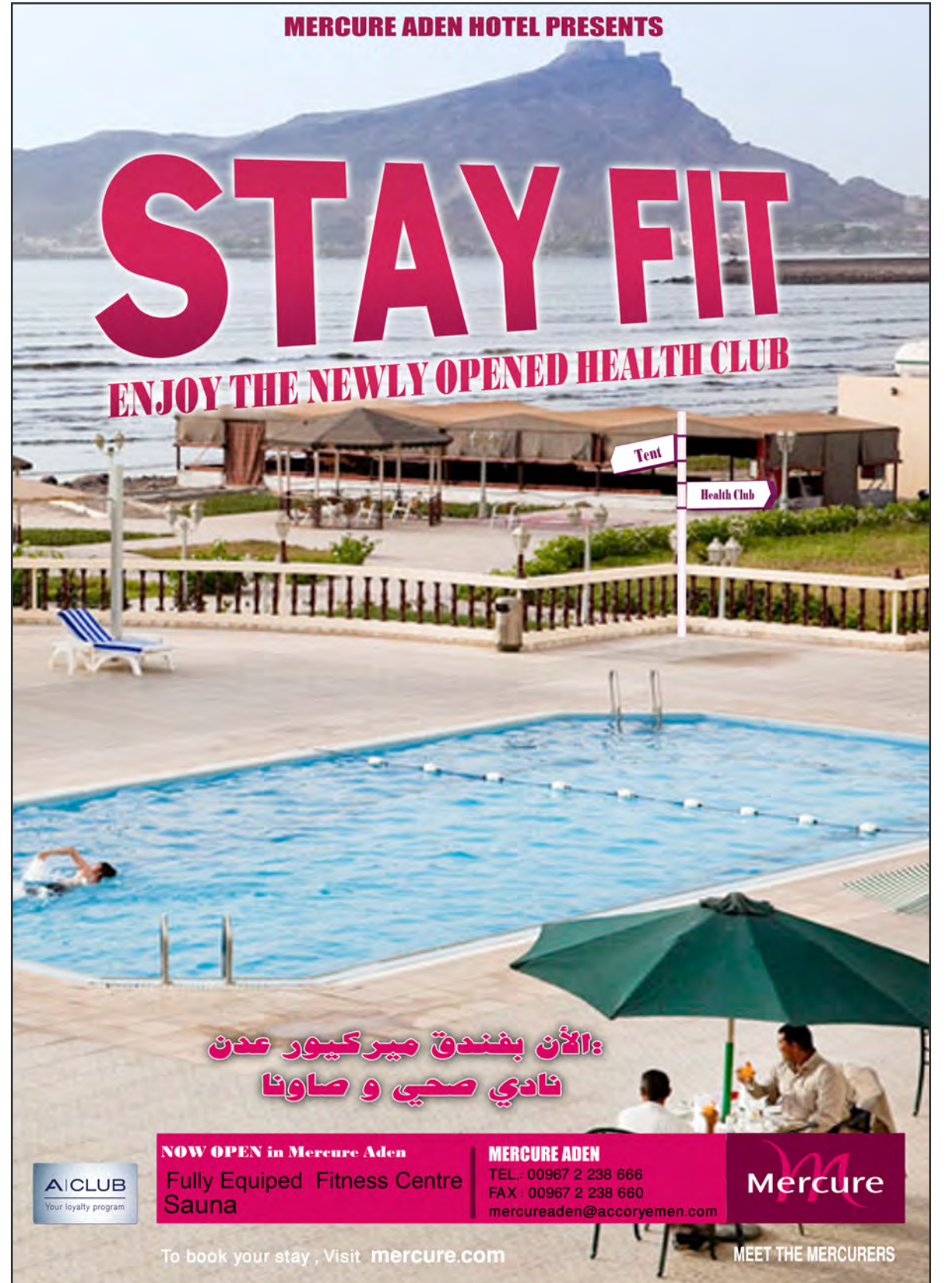
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Windows into international development work in Yemen:



ADRA Yemen

ADRA Yemen began humanitarian and development activities in 1995 and has been involved in numerous exciting projects such as:

- Child Survival Projects (Partnership with USAID)
- Midwifery Training
- Vitamin A and Iron Education
- Women's Literacy
- Small Enterprises Development
- Global Food for Education Project (Partnership with USDA)
- Basic Health and Education (Partnership with USAID)

ADRA Yemen's current projects include:

- Community Services for Refugees (Partnership with UNHCR and ADRA UK)
- Community Based Rehabilitation for the Physically Challenged (Partnership with ADRA Canada)
- Self-reliance for Refugees in Kharaz Camp (Partnership with ADRA Netherlands and ADRA Norway)

English Teacher Training Program

The LIR team has identified English language programs in Basateen as one of the strengths through which

the Basateen community can serve the local population.

By building the capacity of the community through improving the quality of their English language institutes, LIR seeks to provide Basateen with income-generating activities as well as a mechanism to interact and contribute to the

broader Yemeni society in Aden.

LIR has been conducting weekly English Teacher Training workshops that are open to all teachers or potential teachers in the Basateen community. Taught by the English Program Coordinator, this course includes lessons on classroom management, lesson planning, using media in the classroom, ESL games, and teaching beginning language learners. A total of 38 trainees attended this five-week course, with over seven English institutions represented. Upon completion of its first course, LIR hopes to extend the reach of the teacher training course to surrounding areas of Dar Sa'ad and Sheikh Othman.

Needle and Thread

The most important jobs for women especially girls in our village are collecting water, firewood and looking after sheep and goats. They consume around seven hours of their day performing these tasks apart from cleaning, washing and looking after to their younger brothers and sisters. Very few attend school due



to different factors such as distance, no female teacher, financial incapacity, and education is seen to be less valuable. The girls mostly in rural and mountainous area set their mind on getting married. They dream of an extraordinary wedding party, brilliant wedding gown and shining gold for their accessories. For almost a decade our dedicated sewing class

Vocational Training Program at NITI-Dar Sa'ad

Submitted by Admin on Thu, 06/25/2009 - 18:25

The LIR program began its vocational training program at the National Institute for Technicians and Instructors in Dar Sa'ad.

60 students from Basateen and the surrounding areas were enrolled in courses for Auto-Electrician, Auto-Mechanics, Electrician, and Air Conditioning/Cooling. These students were selected from over 570 applicants and include Somali new arrivals, Somali-Yemenis, and Yemenis with extremely difficult circumstances. Criteria for selection of the trainees was based on their financial situation, need, and commitment to learning. The LIR team has been monitoring the courses on a daily basis and have observed a steady improvement in the skills and knowledge of the trainees. Following these courses, students will be placed in a workshop apprenticeship where they will continue their training with more hands-on experience and the opportunity to experience the working environment.



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Words of Wisdom



Many countries hold elections. Even when these are not rigged, they tend to cement the old patron-clientele relations in a new grab. The reason is that the people in power use their connections (and state funds, media, bureaucracy, etc.) to achieve the election results they want. The result is that they create docile parliaments. Elections thus end up enabling those in power to hold on to it.

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



OUR OPINION

The recent journey of women's rights

Women in the developing world often complain that they are deprived of their basic rights especially in comparison to women in the west. At the same time many women in the west, especially the younger generations, are surprised at how disadvantaged many women in the developing world are, and shake their heads in disapproval when they hear our stories.

Perhaps it is human nature to forget. But thank God for historians and documentation that helps us remember and reflect on our journeys as individuals and nations.

Western women's struggle to achieve their rights is a fairly recent one. It was only during the last thirty years or so that most countries in the world recognized women's right to vote for instance.

In the United States of America it was only in the 1960s that American women made progress in achieving legal equality and ending gender discrimination. In fact, the modern women's rights movement began in the 1960s and gained momentum in the western world with the development of the scholarly field of feminist jurisprudence in the 1970s.

Looking further back in history almost all of the gains in women's rights took place during the last 100 years not more. In the UK, it was not until the 'Representation of the People Act 1928' that women were granted the right to vote on the same terms as men. In Canada at the beginning of 1919, the right to vote was extended to all women in the 'Act to confer the Electoral Franchise upon Women.'

New Zealand is probably one of the first countries in the world that allowed women to participate by voting in elections in 1893. Through the years various western countries started catching up at various intervals. Surprisingly communist countries such as Russia (1917) and Eastern Europe (1918) allowed women to vote earlier than many western countries.

Azerbaijan is probably the first Muslim country to allow women to vote in 1918, followed by Turkey in 1930, then Indonesia in 1945. Another surprise is that the first Arab country to allow suffrage for women was Syria in 1949, then Lebanon in 1952. The most recent Arab country to allow women to vote was UAE in 2006 leaving Saudi Arabia as the only country yet to allow women to vote.

Remembering these facts will help us women of the developing world not to be frustrated at the disadvantages we have and to push forward for more achievements without feeling bitter. In fact, the feminist movement did occur in the Muslim world earlier than we think. Just as the women's movement in the West began to pick up steam in the twentieth century, the same thing occurred, although to a lesser extent, in the Muslim world.

The difference is that feminists in the Muslim world in the twentieth century (until the 1980's) were generally upper class women whose feminism was modeled after feminists in the West.

Politics interfered in the development process for women's rights as well as the complexities of colonization and the struggles for independence. But if there was one single variable that affected and slowed down women's progress in the developing and Muslim world in particular it is poverty.

So let's not lose heart and say that there is so much to accomplish and our journey is long, because the women of the developed world also struggled and suffered until they became what they are today, and they are still struggling to fight a lot of gender discrimination practices in their own societies even today. The ambitions are high but they are achievable, and knowing our past and learning from other experiences will help us get there in due time.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

A covert assault on terror widens in Asia and Africa

By: Scott Shane, Mark Mazzetti & Robert F. Worth

At first, the news from Yemen on May 25 sounded like a modest victory in the campaign against terrorists: An airstrike had hit a group suspected of being operatives for al-Qaeda in the remote desert of Marib province, birthplace of the legendary queen of Sheba.

But the strike, it turned out, had also killed the province's deputy governor, a respected local leader who Yemeni officials said had been trying to talk al-Qaeda members into giving up their fight. Yemen's president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, accepted responsibility for the death and paid blood money to the offended tribes.

The strike, though, was not the work of Saleh's decrepit Soviet-era air force. It was a secret mission by the U.S. military, according to American officials, at least the fourth such assault on al-Qaeda in the arid mountains and deserts of Yemen since December.

Across countries

The attack offered a glimpse of the Obama administration's shadow war against al-Qaeda and its allies. In roughly a dozen countries — from the deserts of North Africa, to the mountains of Pakistan, to former Soviet republics crippled by ethnic and religious strife — the United States has significantly increased military and intelligence operations, pursuing the enemy using robotic drones and commando teams, paying contractors to spy and training local operatives to chase terrorists.

The White House has intensified the CIA's drone missile campaign in Pakistan, approved raids against al-Qaeda operatives in Somalia and launched clandestine operations from Kenya. The administration has worked with European allies to dismantle terrorist groups in North Africa. And the Pentagon tapped a network of private contractors to gather intelligence about things like militant hideouts in Pakistan.

While the stealth war began in the Bush administration, it has expanded under President Barack Obama, who rose to prominence in part for his early opposition to the invasion of Iraq. Virtually none of the newly aggressive steps undertaken by the U.S. government have been publicly acknowledged. In contrast with the troop build up in Afghanistan, which came after months of robust debate, for example, the U.S. military campaign in Yemen began without notice in December and has never been officially confirmed.

Obama administration officials point to the benefits of bringing the fight against al-Qaeda and other militants into the shadows. Afghanistan and Iraq, they said, have sobered American politicians and voters about the staggering costs of big wars that topple governments, require years of occupation and can be a catalyst for further radicalisation throughout the Muslim world.

Instead of "the hammer," in the words of John O. Brennan, Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, America will rely on the "scalpel." Yet such wars come with many risks: the potential for botched operations that fuel anti-American rage; a blurring of the lines between soldiers and spies that could put troops at risk of being denied Geneva Convention protections; a weakening of the congressional oversight system put in place to prevent abuses by America's secret operatives; and a reliance on authoritarian foreign leaders and surrogates with sometimes murky loyalties.

The May strike in Yemen, for example, provoked a revenge attack on an oil pipeline by local tribesmen and produced a propaganda bonanza for al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. It also left Saleh privately furious about the

death of the provincial official, Jabir al-Shabwani, and scrambling to prevent an anti-American backlash, according to Yemeni officials.

The administration's demands have accelerated a transformation of the CIA into a paramilitary organization as much as a spying agency, which some critics worry could lower the threshold for future quasi-military operations. In Pakistan's mountains, the agency had broadened its drone campaign beyond selective strikes against al-Qaeda leaders and now regularly obliterates suspected enemy compounds and logistics convoys, just as the military would grind down an enemy force.

For its part, the Pentagon is becoming more like the CIA. Across the Middle East and elsewhere, Special Operations troops under secret "Execute Orders" have conducted spying missions that were once the preserve of civilian intelligence agencies. Such programs typically operate with even less transparency and congressional oversight than traditional covert actions by the CIA.

And, as American counterterrorism operations spread beyond war zones into territory hostile to the military, private contractors have taken on a prominent role, raising concerns that the United States has outsourced some of its most important missions to a sometimes unaccountable private army.

A proving ground

Yemen is a testing ground for the "scalpel" approach Brennan endorses. Some American officials believe that militants in Yemen could now pose an even greater threat than al-Qaeda's leadership in Pakistan.

The officials said that they have benefited from the Yemeni government's new resolve to fight al-Qaeda and that the U.S. strikes had been approved by Yemen's leaders. The strikes, administration officials say, have killed dozens of militants suspected of plotting future attacks. The Pentagon and the CIA have quietly bulked up the number of their operatives at the embassy in Sana, the Yemeni capital, over the past year.

"Where we want to get is to much more small scale, preferably locally driven operations," said Rep. Adam Smith, D Wash., who serves on the Intelligence and Armed Services Committees.

Some security experts draw parallels to the Cold War, when the United States drew heavily on covert operations as it fought a series of proxy battles with the Soviet Union.

And some of the central players of those days have returned to take on supporting roles in the shadow war. Michael G. Vickers, who helped run the CIA's campaign to funnel guns and money to the Afghanistan mujahideen in the 1980s is now the top Pentagon official overseeing Special Operations troops around the globe. Duane R. Clarridge, a profane former CIA officer who ran operations in Central America and was indicted in the Iran-contras scandal, turned up this year helping run a Pentagon financed private spying operation in Pakistan.

Cooperation and control

The initial American strike in Yemen came on December 17, hitting what was believed to be an al-Qaeda training camp in Abyan province, in the southern part of the country. The first report from the Yemeni government said that its air force had killed "around 34" Qaeda fighters there, and that others had been captured elsewhere in coordinated ground operations.

The next day, Obama called Saleh to thank him for his cooperation and pledge continuing American support. Saleh's approval for the strike — rushed because of intelligence reports that al-Qaeda suicide bombers might be headed to Sana — was the culmination of administration efforts to win him over.

The accounts of the U.S. strikes in

Yemen, which include many details that have not previously been reported, are based on interviews with American and Yemeni officials who requested anonymity because the military campaign in Yemen is classified, as well as documents from Yemeni investigators.

As word of the December 17 attack filtered out, a very mixed picture emerged. The Yemeni press quickly identified the United States as responsible for the strike. Al-Qaeda members seized on video of dead children and joined a protest rally a few days later, broadcast by Al Jazeera, in which a speaker shouldering an AK-47 rifle appealed to Yemeni counterterrorism troops.

"Soldiers, you should know we do not want to fight you," the al-Qaeda operative, standing amid angry Yemenis, declared. "There is no problem between you and us. The problem is between us and America and its agents. Beware taking the side of America!"

A Navy ship offshore had fired a cruise missile loaded with cluster bombs, according to Amnesty International, the use of which was later condemned by human rights groups.

An inquiry by the Yemeni Parliament found that the strike had killed at least 41 members of two families living near the makeshift Qaeda camp. American officials cited strained resources for decisions about some of the Yemen strikes.

The Yemen operation has raised a broader question: Who should be running the shadow war? White House is debating whether the CIA should take over the Yemen campaign as a "covert action," which would allow the United States to carry out operations even without the approval of Yemen's government. By law, covert action programmes require presidential authorization and formal notification to the congressional intelligence committees. No such requirements apply to the military's so called Special Access Programmes, like the Yemen strikes.

Obama administration officials defend their efforts in Yemen. The strikes have been "conducted very methodically," and claims of innocent civilians being killed are "very much exaggerated," said a senior counterterrorism official. In Yemen, officials said, there is a dearth of solid intelligence about al-Qaeda operations. "It will take time to develop and grow that capability," the senior official said.

In part, the spotty record of the Yemen airstrikes may derive from another unavoidable risk of the new shadow war: the need to depend on local proxies who may be unreliable or corrupt, or whose agendas differ from that of the United States.

Weighing success

Despite the airstrike campaign, the leadership of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula survives, and there is little sign the group is much weaker.

Attacks by al-Qaeda militants in Yemen have picked up again, with several deadly assaults on Yemeni army convoys in recent weeks. As a test case, the strikes have raised the classic trade-off of the post-September 11 era: Do the selective hits make the United States safer by eliminating terrorists? Or do they help the terrorist network frame its violence as a heroic religious struggle against American aggression, recruiting new operatives for the enemy?

Edmund J. Hull, the U.S. ambassador to Yemen from 2001 to 2004, cautioned that American policy must not be limited to using force against al-Qaeda.

"I think it's both understandable and defensible for the Obama administration to pursue aggressive counterterrorism operations," Hull said. But he added: "To be successful in the long run, we have to take a far broader approach that emphasises political, social and economic forces."

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COMMON SENSE

The Yemen no one likes to talk about
A Yemen of frustration and despair

Yemen is embroiled in so much petty and senseless conflict these days that many of its citizens think that they have been cheated out of what could have been a half way decent life. Indeed Yemen had many promising economic and political goals to aspire for some three decades ago, when the remittances from its emigrant labor overseas, just across the border was enough to set off a rapidly developing resourced economy. Although these remittances were peanuts compared to the income received by the host countries where Yemeni labor was prized and welcomed, especially Saudi Arabia, which had the lion's share of Yemeni emigrant labor, nevertheless, most Yemenis were content and felt that development was obtainable. Yet for the Yemenis at the time, this hard earned minuscule income did allow for a period of relative prosperity and stability of the Yemeni Riyal and opened up new avenues that promised to make up for the centuries long deprivation that Yemen had been subjected to prior to this short lived blessing. At that time there were relatively a few obstacles that hindered the ability of any aspiring entrepreneur to begin the pursuit of a hopeful fortune to be made as Yemen's foreign reserves grew to well over the USD 1,000,000,000 mark, a heretofore unheard of amount.

In the robust 1970s Yemen had a healthy cooperative movement that was the next best thing to free democratic local government and the various local and independent cooperatives were able to launch local development schemes that promised to distribute development throughout the country. These cooperatives enjoyed a high degree of self rule and were subjected to stern accountability by their constituents. Had these cooperatives been allowed to maintain their independence and remain free from the destructive hardships brought on by centralization and strict and taxing government domination and control, the picture of Yemen would have been dramatically different. In the mid 1980s, the Ministry of Finance issued a memo demanding that all the cooperative organizations at all levels transfer their funds to the Government's General Account. This literally meant the end of equitable and widespread development of the country. It also meant that local participation in development projects was a thing of the past and the road was paved for a rise in cumbersome and a clumsy central bureaucracy that killed all sense of real local community authority. It meant that Governors had to come to Sana'a in order to beg for allocations for stationery for their officers and a rapid rise of tight net network of patronage and corruption that left Government under the mercy of a sleazy cut-throat civil service. Eventually this meant that the only path to meaningful livelihood for government employees would entail a redefinition of public service, where the motto, "the public be damned" prevailed over public service ethics and professional standards.

In those days of thirty years ago or so, government employees were getting salaries that actually allowed many to build their own homes from their savings or on loans guaranteed by their salaries. In addition public sector and mixed sector enterprises were granting their employees many incentives and bonuses for hard work and successful results from operations. The uniform civil service code and rigid salary and benefit structure introduced in the Early 1980s ended that and thus all those humming enterprises (the Public Electricity Corporation, the Military Economic Corporation, Yemen Drug Company, the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development ceased making record making profits from their operations after having to stop paying staff bonuses of four five or six salaries and other highly motivating incentives. Very few government employees found reasons to have to turn to corruption to meet the cost of living in those days when most government employees still felt like they were human beings. As the Government began to get intertwined in complex red tape for even the most simple of transactions and public petitions, the road was opened for bribery, blackmail, fraud and all sorts of public service infractions that were not subject to any deterrence or criminal proceedings and the sky was the limit for any sleazy bureaucrat who was able to find a niche in the complex network of corruption and patronage that became pretty much settled by the decade that preceded the entry of the Third Millennium.

On top of all these calamities, Yemen became the stage for countless domestic conflicts that brought on a healthy war merchant class of tribal chiefs, military brass and social dignitaries. This uninterrupted series of civil conflict brought on large scale dislocations, destruction of local habitats and a lot of the infrastructure that had been built, especially in many of the rural areas of the country. The causes for such conflicts varied from the fight against radical leftist groups in the Eighties, to insubordinate senior military officers, who went on a wild rampage to overcome their frustrations for lost positions or influence, to religious fanaticism, not to mention the rise of inter-tribal conflicts, which have not been heard of for four decades or so before that. In addition, the laxity with respect to the ownership of armaments and the unusual display of armed accompaniments to any official or social dignitaries literally turned Yemen into a theater for petty and devastating conflicts, which we now see all over Yemen's map, for which the people of Yemen will find no gain or benefit from whatsoever.

Surely, the Yemen we have now never entered the minds of people who were around in those blissful days when most Yemenis thought that Yemen was indeed reaching for the sky. On the other hand, there is still no light to be seen at the end of this dark and foreboding tunnel, nor is our Government appearing to be looking for such a light. As for the people of Yemen, hope and ambition have mostly turned to despair and frustration and there is where the real time bomb will be hidden until ... there is no way to let the steam out anymore.

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>



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Arabs distance themselves from 'ground zero' mosque

Arabs debate the 'ground zero' mosque, and skepticism is the name of the game.

By: David E. Miller
The Media Line

The recent statement by US President Barack Obama supporting the right of Muslims to establish a mosque and cultural center in lower Manhattan has stirred much debate in the United States.

But what do Arab Muslims think about the so-called "ground-zero mosque"?

"Many Muslims fear that the mosque will become a shrine for Islamists, which would remind Americans of

what Muslims did on 9/11," Dr. Gamal Abd Al-Gawad, director of Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo told The Media Line.

"Some people express concern that if the mosque will be built, it will harm Muslims and Islam in America. It's not good for Muslims and Islam to be in the heart of such a controversy," he added.

Abd Al-Gawad said that people in the Arab world prefer to keep their distance from the Manhattan mosque issue, viewing it primarily as an internal American matter.

"The prevalent trend is that it's about tolerance and liberals in the US, not about Islam itself," he said.

Abd Al-Gawad echoed the words of columnist Abd Al-Rahman Al-Rashed, general manager of Al-Arabiya televi-

sion. In a column titled "A House of Worship or a Symbol of Destruction?" published in the Arab daily A-Sharq Al-Awsat on Sunday, Al-Rashed criticized the wisdom of building a mosque so close to the "burial site" of 9/11.

"Muslims do not aspire for a mosque next to the September 11 cemetery," Al-Rashed wrote, doubting the motives behind the initiative to build the mosque.

"The mosque is not an issue for Muslims, and they have not heard of it until the shouting became loud between the supporters and the objectors, which is mostly an argument between non-Muslim US citizens," he added.

Samir Al-Saadawi, editor of foreign affairs for the Arab daily Al-Hayat said Arabs and Muslims were skepti-

cal about the initiative to build the mosque.

"This is an American issue, but Arab public opinion regards it with skepticism," Al-Saadawi told The Media Line. "The Americans [are] running the show, i.e. the right wing and the lobbies are viewed by Arab and Muslim public opinion as biased against Islam in general."

"The American society does not want to see a Muslim symbol near ground zero," Al-Saadawi added. "From an American perspective this may be right, but it has not helped the American image in Arab eyes."

Saadawi added that the involvement of President Barack Obama in the matter did not help in mitigating negative Arab sentiments.

"He was too soft in his approach. He should have defended the mosque more strongly. His position is weakening every day, and he seems to resemble his predecessor George W. Bush," Al-Saadawi said.

Some Muslims were more positive about the mosque. Shakib Bin-Makhlouf, president of the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe, lauded President Obama's endorsement of the mosque, adding that it could improve strained American-Islamic relations in the post-9/11 era.

"This may deepen American resentment of Islam, but it could also have a good effect. There is no room for pessimism," Bin-Makhlouf told The Media Line.

"Islam has nothing to do with the

events that happened on 9/11," Bin-Makhlouf added. "Unfortunately, the media has contributed in tying terrorism to Islam. When a non-Muslim commits an act of terror, no-one refers to his religion."

Unsurprisingly, the American debate surrounding the mosque has triggered some Arab self-criticism about freedom in the Arab world.

"This is the secret of their power," an anonymous Yemeni talk-backer commented on the Al-Arabiya website, referring to the United States. "It is their tolerance and acceptance of the other despite their placement in a position of strength. What would happen if Christians asked us, the Arabs, to build a church?"

Terrorists prove useful in Bahraini politics

As the Bahraini elections approach, two former Guantanamo Bay detainees may enter politics.

By: Sandeep Singh Grewal
The Media Line

Manama, Bahrain' In 2004 National Justice Movement (NJM) member Mohideen Mahmoud Khan and five other NJM members were charged by the U.S. for being part of a sleeper cell that planned attacks on civilians and targeted sensitive locations. He has since been arrested again on suspicion of terrorism.

But that did not stop the NJM mem-

ber from running in Bahrain's 2006 parliamentary elections after the courts dropped the charges.

Khan failed to secure a seat in the Chamber of Deputies, Bahrain's Lower House elected by citizens, but parliamentary and municipal elections are once again approaching, expected sometime before the Hajj (pilgrimage) begins in November.

NJM is once again expected to run alleged terror suspects, including former Guantanamo Bay detainees, as part of its electoral campaign.

NJM, also known as Al Adala Society, was founded in 2006 in the city of Muharraq and is the nation's largest secular political party. NJM has been vocal and active in supporting the resistance in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Party leaders say they have a few surprises in store for this election, and the party is expected to announce the list of candidates it will back in the coming weeks.

"There will be two special candidates we are planning to put on our list of candidates," said Abdulla Hashim, general-secretary of the Society.

Two former Guantanamo Bay detainees and active NJM members, Issa Al Murbati and Adel Kamal, are likely candidates to be roped into the hectic publicity campaign in the upcoming elections.

"They may be involved for our campaigns, but I do not want to disclose further information at this moment," responds Hashim, NJM general-secretary and a lawyer who has worked on

several terror suspect cases in the past.

Earlier this week, NJM members held a meeting to discuss election plans and the party's candidate list. The release of all Bahrainis detained in neighboring Gulf states on alleged terror charges is high on NJM's agenda these elections, as is inflation and demands for higher wages.

Bahrain's election rules stipulate that people sentenced to over six months in prison are disqualified from the race. In the case of Murbati and Kamal, both were accused along with four other Bahrainis by U.S. officials on charges of terrorism and recruiting for Al-Qa'ida, fighting for the Taliban in Afghanistan and association with the Philippine separatist group Abu Sayyaf. The men have denied all ac-

cusations.

In the upcoming elections, NJM will be competing against two of the strongest Sunni political blocs - Al Asalah Islamic Society and Al Menbar National Islamic Society.

NJM, Al Asalah and Al Menbar are all expected to field candidates in constituencies with high Sunni populations in the bastions of Muharraq and most parts of Riffa in the Southern Governorate of Bahrain.

The two Sunni blocs are already discussing a possible power-sharing agreement, mainly in Muharraq. Al Asalah and the Al Menbar cooperated in the last two parliamentary elections in 2002 and 2006, distributing constituencies between them.

NJM could end up forming an alli-

ance with any one of the contending parties, considering its mixture of progressive politics, anti-sectarianism and Arab nationalism.

Al Asalah is the main Salafist political party and has eight members in the 40-seat lower chamber, whereas Al Menbar, associated with the Muslim Brotherhood, holds seven seats. Al Wafaq is the largest Shi'ite political and religious group with 17 members in parliament.

Bahrain, a close U.S. ally, has a bicameral legislature, meaning it has two chambers or houses - The Chamber of Deputies elected by citizens and the Shura (Consultative) Council whose members are appointed by King Hamad Bin 'Isa Al Khalifa. Each house has 40 members, who serve a four-year term.

Tender Advertisement no. (28) Of 2010
Selection of Consultants Request for Expression of Interest for Providing Consultancy Services in the Field of Tender Evaluation for the Procurement of Diesel-Electric Straddle Carrier

YRSPC, Port of Hodeidah, announced a tender for the procurement of two Diesel-Electric Straddle Carriers dedicated for container handling. The opening session for this tender is 28/09/2010. Having realized the limited capacity to evaluate bidders offers, YRSPC thought of utilizing the services of a specialized consultant in this field. The scope of this consultancy shall also include study the Yemeni Tender Law, Regulations and Guidelines specifically for Procurement of Goods and evaluate the bids technically and economically as per the technical specification already set forth and is part of the tender document.

Hence, Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation (YRSPC) - Hodeidah Port, invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the necessary consultancy services for the above project. Interested consultants must provide their qualification information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc).

The consultancy services required shall include:

1. Evaluate bids' preliminary responsiveness.
2. Technical evaluation of the bids.
3. Economic evaluation of the bids.
4. Financial evaluation of the bids.
5. Recommendation for the preferred bidder and the rejected bids.

Period of the consultancy services is expected to be FOUR WEEKS from the date of signing the contract with the selected consultant.

The consultant shall submit the following qualification documents:

1. his qualification for the job,
2. his financial, technical and administrative status,
3. his major business activities and years of relevant experience,
4. key staff qualification,
5. references (for verification)

Expressions of Interest shall be made in duplicate hard copies along with a soft copy (CD) to the address mentioned below.

Finances: Self Financed

The consultant will be selected in accordance with prevailing laws (Tender Law 23-2007) and the procedures set out in the High Tender Board's Manual for the Procurement of Consultants Services. Interested consultant may obtain further information at the address below between 09:00 am and 14:00 pm from Saturday through Wednesday, excluding official holidays.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the address below:

Executive Chairman - Chairman of the Board
 Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation
 Head Office, Port of Hodeidah
 Hodeidah, Yemen

Tel: +967 3 211600/211603
 Fax: +967 3 211264/211261
 Email: pmo@y-rspc.ye
 requirements_purchasing@y-rspc.com
 Website: www.portofhodeidah.com

Deadline for submission is 12:00 hours noon on Wednesday 23/09/ 2010.
 No submission after the date above will be considered.
 Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

إعلان رقم (٢٨) لسنة ٢٠١٠
اختيار استشاريين للتقييم عن الاهتمام لتقديم خدمات استشارية في مجال تحليل مناقصة تصنيع وتوريد حاضنات بنظام الكهرباء - ديزل

إعلنت المؤسسة العامة لتصنيع وتوريد وتشغيل عدد (٢) حاضنات بنظام الكهرباء - ديزل بتصميم في حلولة الحوانت لبعثاء الحديدة. حيث أن الوقت المحدد لتقديم العروض هو بتاريخ ٢٨/٩/٢٠١٠م. وينظر إلى إمكانية الفدية المحصورة للتقييم بتحليل عمليات التشغيل، لهذا يُطلب المؤسسة ضرورة الاستعانة باستشاري مختصين في هذا المجال ليضطلعوا بالمهمة دراسة تفهيم الحاضنات البديلة والأجهزة الحفندية والأطدة الإرشادية والخاص بكعمال التوربينات وتحليل عمليات التشغيل من الناحيتين الفنية والاقتصادية وذلك على ضوء مواصفات الفدية الجيدة والمهندسة في وثيقة المواصفة.

وتلبيسك كمتكو مؤسسة مؤخر البحر الأحمر البعيدة (الحديدة) الاستشاريين المؤهلين للتقييم عن اهتمامهم في تقديم الخدمات الاستشارية المطلوبة وعلى الاستشاريين الراغبين في المشاركة تقديم كافة المعلومات والوثائق التي تؤكد أهليتهم لأداء الخدمات المطلوب تنفيذها من قبل المؤسسة العامة لتصنيع وتوريد حاضنات بنظام الكهرباء - ديزل، وتوضيح المهام التي سوف يقومون بها، وغير ذلك من الوثائق اللازمة للتقييم.

وتشمل الخدمات الاستشارية المطلوبة:

- ١- تحليل عمليات التشغيل الفنية من ناحية الإستراتيجية الأولية.
- ٢- تحليل عمليات التشغيل الفنية من الناحية الفنية.
- ٣- تحليل عمليات التشغيل الفنية من الناحية الاقتصادية.
- ٤- تحليل عمليات التشغيل الفنية من الناحية المالية.
- ٥- تقديم التوصية المناسبة والمهندسة بالإرصاد أو الإنشاء.

إن العدة المفروضة لتقديم هذه الخدمات الاستشارية هي أربعة أسابيع تبدأ من تاريخ توقيع العقد مع الاستشاري المختار.

على أن يتم تقديم المقترحات التقييمية:

- ١- المخططات في مجال المهمة المطلوبة.
- ٢- وضع الاستشاري الفني والمالي والإداري.
- ٣- سجل الأعمال الرئيسي وسجل الخبرة في مجال المهمة المطلوبة.
- ٤- مؤهلات الكادر الرئيسي.
- ٥- الجهات التي يمكن الرجوع إليها في حال الحاجة من تنفيذ الأعمال السابقة.

يجب تسليم مستخرج وثيقة وتصميم الكترونية (CD) من وثائق إهداء الرغبة إلى العنوان الموضح أسفل الإعلان.

المطلوبه- كالتالي:

مدرف عام اختيار الاستشاري لتقديم الخدمات وفقاً لأقصى وأفضل الأسعار والمهندسين المهتمين عنها في القوانين المنظمة (تفهم المواصفات والمواصفات والمشتريات الحكومية رقم ٢٣ لعام ٢٠٠٧م) واللائحة الإرشادية للمشتريات والمهندسين الاستشارية للجنة العليا للمواصفات والمهندسين المهتمين في الجمهورية البعيدة ويمكن لشركان الرامية الحصول على معلومات إضافية من العنوان أعلاه وذلك خلال أوقات العمل الرسمي من الساعة (٩) صباحاً حتى الساعة (٢) ظهراً.

تضم وثائق التصريح عن الاهتمام إلى العنوان أدناه:

رئيس مجلس الإدارة - الرئيس التنفيذي -
 مؤسسة مؤخر البحر الأحمر البعيدة
 المركز الرئيسي - مبنى المهندسة
 الأمانة العامة للمؤسسة
 محافظة الحديدة
 الجمهورية اليمنية

تاريخ موعد لاستلامها هو الساعة (١٢:٠٠) من يوم الأربعاء الموافق ٢٣/٩/٢٠١٠م. وإن كان الوثائق التي كود بها هذا الموكد كما إن يعلق إلى الوثائق اختير مستوطنة للشروط المحددة أعلاه.

تلفون: ٢١١٦٠٠-٢١١٦٠٣-٢١١٦٠٣
 فاكس: ٢١١٦٠١-٢١١٢٦٤-٢١١٢٦١
 بريد الكتروني: pmo@y-rspc.com
 requirements_purchasing@y-rspc.com
 الموقع: www.portofhodeidah.com

Zafar: A forgotten historical capital

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

Driving up the mountain from fertile agricultural lands below, a visitor's first glimpse of Zafar village is of a stone building to the left. Over its door hangs a large board and behind the building is a cemetery. On the right to the north there are old and new houses built from stone and concrete.

Venturing further in, you will see the ruins of very old buildings on top of the mountain. If you look closer, you will discover that they are the ruins of a palace and a temple.

Zafar was once the capital of the

Himyarite kingdom, a state that dominated Arabia until 525 AD. Established by the Himyarite king Dhu Raidan in 115 BC, it lasted for over 600 years.

Although the site of the pre-Islamic capital is today a protected area according to the General Authority for Preserving Antiquities, its buildings are now in ruins and the antiquities that exist in the area are often stolen and sold on the black market.

Tawfiq Al-Anabi said he guards the historical sites with his sons and his dog day and night. He complains that he does not receive extra for this and that his sons work with him without any reward from the concerned bodies.

He told the Yemen Times that people dig for antiquities in the Himyarite tombs and sell what they find to unauthorized traders in antiquities. He adds that people from inside and outside the area dig all over for antiquities because there is no efficient protection system.

Zafar is located in Assada district, Ibb governorate. Its castles and palaces were built on Raidan Mountain which at its highest is 2,700 meters above sea level. Zafar overlooks fertile valleys that extend over two districts famous for agriculture, Yarim and Assada.

The Himyarite kingdom dominated the Arabian Peninsula. At that time, there were two other kingdoms in Yemen, that of Saba to the east and that of Hadramout in the south. Marib was the capital of the Sabaen kingdom, Shibam the capital of the kingdom of Hadramout and Zafar the capital of the kingdom of Himyar.

The Himyarite kings continued their incursions to the south and east to control the kingdom of Hadramout. They then annexed the kingdom of Saba and unified the areas to form what was known as the "Kingdom of Saba and Dhu Raidan".

The kingdom was famous for trade and agriculture. The people used to export incense, perfume and myrrh along with other natural products to the west and the east.

Choosing Zafar as the capital of the kingdom was based on its militarily strategic location as the highest area in Yemen, and economically as it was on the trade route from Aden and Sana'a, and then on to the commercial center of Mecca.

But a visitor to Zafar today can see only the scant remains of the capital and the new houses of the villagers. All the castles and palaces have been destroyed. There is only a metal fence around the location of the big castle to show that it once existed.

A museum threatened with collapse
Zafar Museum was established in 1978. It is located at the entrance of Zafar village. The museum holds a collection of 300 antique pieces gathered by citizens from the whole historical area.

The stones contained in the museum are carved with drawing of birds and animals, as well as calligraphy. The museum also contains ancient coins and jewelry. Around 5,000 antiquities are also stored in a nearby warehouse.

According to Al-Anabi, the guardian of the historical places in Zafar, the remaining antiquities are in danger as the museum and the warehouse are at risk of collapse.

He said that the appropriate authorities do not pay attention to the area. People dig for antiquities in the old tombs of the Himyarites and sell them to illegal antiquity dealers as they do not get any reward from authorities.

There is no budget for the museum's maintenance and the director of the museum, who is also the director of the historical places in Assada, is always absent and does not take care of the museum.

"We buy even the locks for the doors with money from our own pockets," said Ali Al-Zabidi, the guardian of Zafar Museum. The museum and the area



A carving of a man holding symbols of power is preserved behind glass on what remains of the temple's northern wall.

are protected by these two persons, Al-Anabi and Al-Zabidi. They receive the visitors, open the museum to them and show them every thing in the area.

According to Al-Anabi, there is also one German researcher and professor who helps in taking care of the museum. He has exerted great efforts to collect the museum's belongings. Every year he comes to visit the museum and inspects it.

Palace and temple in ruins

On Dhu Raidan mountain are the ruins of what was once the palace of the Himyarite king Dhu Raidan. Today all that remains of the palace, which used

to have seven fences according to historians, are several meters of ruins and a metal fence around the area the palace used to cover.

Beneath the palace there are two deep holes that were previously used as stores for the palace. In front of the palace there are two mountains, Al-Irr and Al-Asabi, that used to be a cemetery for the Himyarite people. Locals still call them the tombs of Himyarites.

Under the palace of Dhu Raidan to the south east, there is the ruin of a temple discovered only two years ago. The temple is estimated to cover about 170 square meters and its floor is paved with flagstones.

Only its eastern and northern walls remain. The eastern wall is one meter high and around ten meters long, while the northern wall is two meters high and around seven meters long.

On the northern wall, there is a row of stones adorned with carvings of the heads of animals like oxen and, above them, grape vines. In the middle of the northern wall is carved the figure of a man with a stick in his hand. It is covered with a frame of glass and wood.

Part of the temple is topped with corrugated iron. In front, a small room has been built, and tied in a corner of the room is a dog to guard the temple.

It is Al-Anabi's dog.



According to the guardian of the historical sites in Zafar, people steal antiquities from the Himyarite tombs in the mountain (above) to sell them on the black market.



The ruins of an old temple were discovered in Zafar a few years ago.

باقعة العيد من
الشركة العالمية للسياحة
السعر يشمل:
- التذكرة ذهاباً وإياباً
- الإقامة لمدة ست ليالي مع الإفطار
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والتي أسماها بسمله
جعلها الله قره عين والصبها
المهنتون:
جميع عمال وموظفي شركة صافر
لعمليات الإستكشاف والإنتاج

A reputable organization implementing a community programme in various governorates in Yemen is looking to fill up the following positions and is therefore inviting qualified candidates to apply:

1. Position: Human Resources Assistant Job Reference: VAC/001 – HR ASSISTANT Duty Post: Sana'a Overall functions: Responsible of all human resources matters of the program: timesheet, preparation of payroll, follow up with travel authorization, etc.	Duty Post: Sana'a, with at least 30% of time in the field Overall functions: Responsible of all Media related activities for the Community Program.
2. Position: Field Support Admin / Finance Assistant Job Reference: VAC/002 – FIELD ADMIN Duty Post: Sana'a (30%), with frequent travel to the field (70%). Overall functions: Carry-out all administrative and financial duties in direct support to the program sub-offices.	10. Position: Community Program Development Advisor Job Reference: VAC/010 – DA Duty Post: Various Governorate Capitals Overall functions: Responsible for the identification, development and management of community program activities in his/her area of responsibility (Governorate) in close coordination with government counterparts and communities. Serve as Main area of Responsibility for the program in his area of Responsibility.
3. Position: Grants Finance / Admin Assistant Job Reference: VAC/003 – GRANT FINANCE / ADMIN Duty Post: Sana'a Overall Functions: Financial tracking of all grant expenditures.	11. Position: Community Program Assistant Development Advisor Job Reference: VAC/011 – ADA Duty Post: Various Governorate Capitals Overall functions: Responsible for the identification, development and implementation of community program activities in his/her area of responsibility (Governorate) in close coordination with government counterparts and communities.
4. Position: Field Logistic Assistant Job Reference: VAC/004 – FIELD LOGISTIC Duty Post: Various Governorate Capitals Overall functions: Responsible for the bidding and procurement of grants-specific items in the field.	12. Position: Field Engineer Job Reference: VAC/012 – FIELD ENGINEER Duty Post: Various Governorate Capitals Overall functions: Responsible for the implementation of infrastructure activities of the Program in an assigned geo graphic area, including preparation of technical design and BoQs and monitoring of infrastructure projects.
5. Position: Field Grant Admin Assistant Job Reference: VAC/005 – FIELD GRANT / ADMIN Duty Post: Various Governorate Capitals Overall functions: Responsible of the general functioning of the administration in the field.	Salaries: Depending Upon qualification and experience. Required Qualification and competencies: All positions will require an advance degree with at least two (2) to five (5) years of professional experience in the field of the position / personal commitment, drive for results, efficiency, flexibility, respect for diversity / Must be able to work under pressure and should be willing to work overtime and on weekends when required / Must be able to travel to the field / Good level of computer literacy / For positions from VAC/001 to VAC/009: Fluent in Arabic and English required / For positions from VAC/010 to VAC/012: Fluent in Arabic and English a distinct advantage. Application: Interested candidates should send a complete resume and cover letter in English with the job reference on the subject line via email to: hrofficeyemen@gmail.com . For positions opened for "various governorate capitals", please confirm the geographical governorate capitals of interest as duty station in the title of the email (example: Al Hazm, Ma'rib, Dhamar, etc.) Only short listed candidates will be contacted.
6. Position: Translator Job Reference: VAC/006 – TRANSLATOR Duty Post: Sana'a Overall functions: Responsible of the general translating functions for the program office in Sana'a.	Closing Date: Monday, 6th September 2010
7. Position: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Manager Job Reference: VAC/007 – M&E Manager Duty Post: Sana'a, with at least 30% of the time in the field Overall functions: Responsible that a proper monitoring and evaluation system is in place and used for the Community Program. Based on the M&E reports collected through different means, the M&E-M provides recommendations on how program implementation could be improved.	
8. Position: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Assistant Job Reference: VAC/008 – M&E ASSISTANT Duty Post: Sana'a, with at least 50% of the time in the field Overall functions: Responsible of M&E field activities in specific geographical areas.	
9. Position: Media Program Assistant Job Reference: VAC/009 – MEDIA ASSISTANT	

إفتح و اربح فوراً

العديد من الجوائز النقدية

تبدأ المسابقة من ٢٠١٠/٦/١ وحتى نفاذ الكمية
استلام الجوائز من أحد فروع شركة متكو أو أقرب مركز استبدال

تلفون: ٢١٤٩٩١٠٠٠٠
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Cancer doesn't mean death

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Mohammed Al-Aleemi, 22, doesn't seem to have cancer. On the contrary, he seems very optimistic, happy, and faithful. He was diagnosed with lymph node cancer, a type of cancer that affects the immune system, in 2007 in Hodeida governorate.

"The cancer gave me resilience, energy and a smile, taught me about it, and makes me feel sympathy for other cancer patients," he said.

To forget his disease, Al-Aleemi decided to work for the National Cancer Control Foundation in Hodeida where he is currently being treated.

"When Al-Aleemi applied for a job with the foundation, I accepted his application immediately. The work made him active and more confident," said Dr. Yaser Noor, the head of the foundation.

Al-Aleemi's work involves supervising the maintenance of in-house machines and reporting back to the head of the foundation on patients' well-being.

"I'm punctual and that's why my employer and all the employees admire me," he said. "The work makes me happy and satisfied with myself."

Among Al-Aleemi's admirers is his mother.

"I was shocked when I found out that my son has cancer. I realized that he will die soon," said the mother of Al-Aleemi.

She is always by her son's side, even when he spends the night in the foundation's Tumor Center.

"It still amazes me how he challenged this serious disease," she said.

Al-Aleemi's doctor says that his optimism may even be helping him.

"His positive frame of mind and his optimism have affected his health positively," Dr. Jeehan Qaed told the Yemen Times. "Recently, the chemotherapy slightly affected his health, but in general his health is getting better."

"When the people come to the center and ask me about my patience I don't tell them that I have cancer because they will give me disappointed remarks," Al-Aleemi said.

Because he is so active, no one believes that Al-Aleemi has cancer.

"The people who visit the center think that I'm visitor or a patient who has a minor illness. It's impossible to recognize that I have cancer," he added.

He indicated that the cancer patients in his room are severely depressed and he tries his hardest to offer them hope. He thinks that he has succeeded in this mission.

All the cancer patients in Al-Aleemi's

room admire him because he always teaches them how to challenge cancer. The doctors in the center also like Al-Aleemi, confirming that he is a very distinguished patient.

"If my Lord grants me more time, I will become an activist in cancer control, helping cancer patients and writing a lot about this disease," he said.

Most people think that cancer has no cure and causes death and that's why most cancer patients seem so depressed, according to Al-Aleemi.

Lack of encouragement for cancer patients and absence of psychological specialists affect the patients here. Encouraging cancer patients supports them psychologically and has a more positive impact than chemotherapy, according to Al-Aleemi.

He has learned that cancer patients can treat themselves by optimism and practicing healthy activities. He urged cancer patients to read more about cancer to avoid anything which may negatively affect their health and to have knowledge of this serious disease.

"If my psychological state is bad I will vomit immediately and my state



Despite having cancer, Al-Alimi, here with his mother, is determined to be positive.

will get worse so I try my hardest to be very optimistic in order to improve my health," he said.

"The cancer has given me a lot and didn't take anything from me except a piece of my body and this piece was taken due to my sins," he said.

Shade and trimming to protect Yemen's coffee from climate change

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

As temperatures rise and rainfall patterns change to extreme floods or drought, climate change poses a threat to coffee, Yemen's strategic crop.

Yemen is highly vulnerable to climate change-related impacts such as drought, extreme flooding, and changes in rainfall patterns and changes in temperature, according to the Yemeni Environment Protection Authority. In Yemen, the temperature is expected to rise between 1.4 and 2.8 degrees Celsius by 2050. Rainfall patterns are reportedly already changing.

Amin Al-Hakimi, a coffee expert from the Faculty of Agriculture at Sana'a University, told the Yemen Times that climate change could cause out-of-season flowering of coffee trees, the spread of disease, or even crop ruin by flood.

Coffee requires specific temperatures and levels of precipitation, according to scientists. Extreme heat or drought in summer can diminish coffee production and quality. Heavy rain in spring when coffee requires a dry period can also disrupt flowering.

According to experts, if Yemeni coffee growers hold on to the traditional practices of their forefathers they could help buffer the effects of climate change. These include using shade to protect the tree from extreme temperatures and trimming the tree trunk to ensure it is more resistant against floods.

The Arabica coffee tree, which is the kind that grows in Yemen, is a shade-growing plant and in most parts of Yemen it grows under shade.

In studies on climate change worldwide, scientists have found that the introduction of shade trees in coffee plantations is a proven strategy to alleviate the potentially negative effects of climate change on coffee production, especially warmer temperatures. They have also observed more limited disease and pest populations for coffee trees grown under shade compared with those grown in full sunlight.

In Yemen, shade is already a feature of most coffee plantations. There are many valleys flanked by mountains that provide coffee trees with natural shade. Trees like cordia africana and ziziphus spina-christ, locally called tanib and sidr, are used in Yemen to shade coffee plantations, according to Al-Hakimi.

The long exposure to full sunlight causes sunburn on coffee fruits and affects the yields' quality, he explained. But shade not only protects coffee trees from excessive heat, but can also protect them from the cold. "Coffee shading protects coffee tree from cold weather in June and July," he said.

On the slopes of Haraz, Manakha and Al-Haima to the west of Sana'a, there are usually no tall trees to provide shade but clouds provide enough.

Studies find that Arabica coffee has the highest yields under 35 to 65 percent of shade, and growing coffee under

shade also discourages weed growth, reduces pathogen infection, and protects the crop from frost.

People believe that coffee grown in the shade takes longer to ripen, and tastes better because the prolonged ripening contributes to complex flavors.

"It is necessary for our coffee trees to grow under shade," said Hameed Al-Awadhi, a farmer and coffee trader in Al-Udain in Ibb governorate. "Trees that shade our coffee plantations are cordia africana, ziziphus spina-christ and tamarind."

But changing weather patterns including drought can adversely affect the trees that shade the coffee plantations and put coffee plantations at risk.

Ali Al-Mulaiki, a journalist, told the Yemen Times that trees that used to provide shade to the coffee trees died because of a lack of water, so the coffee trees were affected and people had to remove them.

"Because of the drought in Melhan in Al-Mahwit governorate, farmers including my family uprooted coffee trees and replaced them with qat trees," he said.

Climate change upsets flowering. Coffee trees need much more water than qat and other food crops, according to Al-Hakimi.

In Yemen, the source of water varies according to the altitude at which the coffee trees are grown. An agricultural study from Zagazig University in Egypt identified three types of coffee production zones in Yemen: coffee grown on slopes from 1,600 to over 2,200 meters that are only irrigated by rain, that grown on intermediate plains between 1,400 and 2,000 meters that is irrigated the whole year from groundwater, and trees grown in valleys between 800 and 1,400 meters that are irrigated by flood diversion during the heavy rain season and underground water during the remaining months of the year.

According to USAID, rainfall is the main source for coffee irrigation in Yemen. Apart from the rainy season from March until August, rain is rare throughout the rest of the year in most areas.

According to the International Coffee Organization, the natural pattern of rainy and dry periods is important for growth, budding and flowering.

Farmer and coffee trader Al-Awadhi said that he grows his coffee in the Anah valley where a natural water stream provides water to his trees all year round. He says that the changed rain patterns directly affect the quality of his coffee.

"When it rains in season, coffee production is of better quality, but a change in rainfall patterns affects the quality of coffee," he said.

"When it rains when it is not rainy season, production is weak, because the blossoms fall early," he explained. "Late rain makes pests spread, but then the rain comes and removes them."

Coffee expert Al-Hakimi agrees with the Ibb coffee grower Al-Awadhi that less or no rain during the flowering season affects coffee production.

If the quality of coffee lies in timely



According to experts, if Yemeni coffee growers hold on to the traditional practices of their forefathers they could help buffer the effects of climate change.

flowering, then temperature is also a key factor in coffee production. Coffee in Yemen operates within a very narrow temperature range of 16-25 degrees Celsius, according to Abdulalim Khaled Saif, an agricultural researcher in Taiz.

High temperatures before and during flowering season may result in irregular coffee flowering and poor fruit set, according to Al-Hakimi.

Increased temperature and humidity combined, a possible consequence of climate change, increase the chance of the spread of coffee diseases.

"The increase in temperature and increase in humidity makes coffee diseases spread," said Al-Hakimi. "Coffee leaf rust for example has spread in the last humid years and is currently found in Taiz. This disease has greatly affected coffee in a number of countries like Indonesia."

Coffee diseases and pests have increased in the last two decades and drought has dried up valleys, ending coffee growing in some Yemeni valleys like the Yahar valley in Yafe', Al-Ahkoom and Al-Aabos valleys in Taiz and some valleys in Marib, according to the coffee expert.

Farmers adapting to change

The impact of climate change on coffee production and quality has forced small coffee producers and farmers in Yemen to turn to different crops, especially qat, in the absence of intervention by the government.

The level of awareness of climate change and its effect is very low in Yemen. Farmers in their local communities need to know about sustainable land use practices and efficient use of natural resources, especially water, to be able to cope with changes in climate.

Al-Hakimi believes that the most appropriate way for Yemeni coffee farmers to cope with climate change is to go back to the traditional practices used by their ancient forefathers, including growing coffee under a canopy of trees.

He referred to the necessity of finding adaptive strategies to help farmers cope

with the current and expected changes in climate. For example, he said that teaching farmers how to trim coffee trees to make their trunks stronger could prevent unseasonal floods from damaging coffee plantations.

"They can grow multi-trunk coffee trees, so when floods come and they destroy some of the tree's trunks, some others remain," Al-Hakimi said.

Better water management, especially traditional water management practices, will also be important.

In May 2010, the World Bank extended a USD 5 million loan to Yemen over the next four years to implement the Agro-biodiversity and Climate Adaptation project. The loan included a USD 4 million grant from the United Nations-backed Global Environment Facility.

The project aims to help local communities to cope with climate change through the conservation and use of agro-biodiversity. For example, it encourages water harvesting and irrigation efficiency.

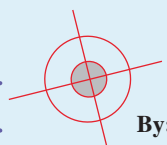
According to the bank, the project is based on the traditional knowledge of farmers and it develops an inventory of local agro-biodiversity to raise awareness of climate change at key national agencies and local levels.

It will also develop initial predictive abilities on weather patterns and long-term climate change scenarios, develop a climate resilient rain-fed agriculture strategy as well as establishing management and monitoring systems.

"Rain-fed agriculture is the primary means of livelihood and a safety net for a majority of the rural poor in Yemeni highlands, and it is critical that these communities learn to cope with climate change through win-win strategies and diversify their incomes through the use of the rich agro-biodiversity in the highlands", commented Kanta K. Rigaud, World Bank Task Team Leader.

Al-Hakimi demands climate change adaptive projects give special attention to coffee as the county's strategic crop because it is threatened with extinction as a result of climate change.

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-III



"Eat and drink freely: But waste not by excess, for He does not like the wasters." -Chapter 7 verse 31 - Qur'an

Potential health complications and possible remedies

One of my colleagues suffers from migraines which she says is triggered by hunger and lack of sleep. As far as she remembers, she has always had migraines in the first few days of Ramadan.

Some of my diabetic patients are brought to the hospital in the afternoons during Ramadan in hypoglycemic (low blood sugar) state.

It goes without saying that some adjustments have to be made with regard to the food habits, medicines, dosage or timing of medication. Let's see how we can tackle some health problems which we may face during Ramadan:

Hearburn or indigestion

The stomach secretes acid to digest food and kill bacteria. The stomach and oesophagus (gullet) are normally protected from this acid, by the body's own special juices. In addition, there are "valves" between these two organs. The valve does not allow the acid to come into the food pipe. If the valve is faulty, there can be backflow of acid and you may experience heartburn.

Fasting usually reduces the amount of acid produced, but the very thought of food or the smell or sight of it can lead to more production of acid. Production of more acid especially in an empty stomach can result in an agonizing heart burn.

Those who are on regular medication for indigestion, such as antacids or proton pump inhibitors (Gelusil, Zantac, Lomac etc.) are advised to continue taking them, at the pre-dawn meal. The control of heartburn or belching can be aided by eating in moderation, avoiding oily, deep fried or spicy food. Reducing coffee and stopping smoking can also be beneficial. Sleeping with your head raised on a few pillows and long term weight loss may also help prevent heartburn.

Diabetes

Type II diabetics may not experience problems when they fast, unlike the Type I. Those injecting insulin are to be careful with their dosage of insulin. It's wise for all diabetic patients to visit their doctor prior to Ramadan, in order to discuss any possible changes to their drug regime which would facilitate a safe fasting. Regular self-monitoring of blood glucose is strongly advised. As low blood sugar levels may have dangerous complications like fainting or fits, it should be strictly avoided.

Feelings of anxiety, dizziness, excessive sweating and disorientation may all suggest a low glucose level. If suspected, you should have a sugary drink, or place sugar or a sugar-rich sweet under the tongue, immediately.

Taking long-acting tablets like glibenclamide (Daonil) can increase the risk of inducing low sugar levels especially taken at 'suhoor'. Hence, a shorter-acting medication is preferable before fasting.

Diabetics with other complications, such as angina, heart disease, stroke, eye, kidney, and nervous system diseases should seek advice from their doctor before starting a fast.

Headache

This is a common problem and has many causes. Headaches during a fast could be due to dehydration, hunger, inadequate rest or sleep.

A balanced diet, especially not missing the pre-dawn meal, consuming adequate quantities of fluid and if necessary taking a dose of painkillers such as paracetamol, may prevent or reduce episodes of disabling headache. Other useful measures are avoiding direct sunlight, wearing a hat and sunglasses while going out in the day, gentle massage over the sore muscles on the head and practicing deep muscle relaxation exercises.

Those with a history of frequent migraine episodes should be cautious and consult the doctor if necessary.

Dehydration

Dehydration is a common occurrence during a fast. The body continues to lose water and salts through breathing, sweat and urine; the quantity of water loss will vary depending on the weather, how much you had to drink before your fast, the degree of physical exertion and the ability of the kidney to retain water and salts.

Prevention is always better than cure. However, if you do not adequately re-hydrate before a fast, your risk of dehydration is increased. This risk is higher in the elderly, and in those taking tablets such as diuretics. To strenuous work, heavy muscular work and working under direct sun have to be avoided.

Depending on the severity of the dehydration, you may experience a general feeling of being unwell, lethargy, muscle cramps, dizziness, disorientation and may even collapse.

If you have any symptoms of dehydration, take large quantities of water with sugar and salt. The electrolyte preparations which are available in pharmacies are helpful.

Hypertension and asthma

High blood pressure and asthma are controlled by medications that need to be taken regularly every day of the year.

Constipation

Constipation can be a very irritating problem for the person undertaking a fast. Maintaining good hydration outside the fast, eating healthily, with lots of fruit and vegetables in your diet, increasing the fibre content in the food and being physically active, all help to keep your bowel movements good.

If the problem persists, a short course of bulk laxatives may help.

Mental stress

Lack of food and water, changes of routine and shorter periods of sleep can all collude to increase stress levels. Simple measures like proper work planning, avoiding hot sun, meditation and relaxation will go a long way in helping. Say good bye to cigarettes and qat in Ramadan and forever!

Obesity

One of my friends always complains that his weight increases after every Ramadan. It is ironic that you become overweight or obese while you are fasting. Strange, but true! For those who throw caution to the winds and over indulge in sambosas and bhagyas obesity is the consequence.

Islam creates a sense of responsibility in people to live healthily. Fasting without spirituality is empty of blessing and fasting without wisdom can lead to health problems. If you do not approach fasting with discipline, the opportunity to lose weight and become healthier is wasted.

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TALENT

“Give music a chance!”

Mohammed Khalil Taha Al-Medan, 15, was born in Sana'a but is originally from Taiz. He has loved to play the piano since he was a young boy. He loves the piano because it has a different sound for him and a special feel different than any other musical instrument.

“If you learn how to play the piano, you can play anything and everything,” he said.

He is in a band at the “Yemen Music House” music institute which performs concerts and puts on different kinds of activities.

He wants people to know that music is an amazing thing if you are willing to learn and give it a chance.



“I love to learn everything”

Shihab Mohammed Al-Moday, 15, was born in Sana'a but is originally from Bani Matar. He loves to play the guitar, which has helped him through the passing of his father and a lonely childhood.

He is in a rap/hip-hop band called “Vaxinish” and he likes to rap because he thinks that you can talk about anything and everything.

“I love to learn everything and I want to be part of something important and meaningful that could impact something in a good way,” he said.



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