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Public employees demand Ramadan double salary



"Give us back the Ramadan bonus from the hands of those who snatched it," say the banners held up by these state employees from Dhamar.

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Sept. 1 — State employees nationwide have continued to demand that the government pay them the extra salary promised to them by the president in 2006 for each Ramadan.

In Ramadan 2006, in conjunction with the presidential elections, president Saleh provided public employees with additional salary in Ramadan as a bonus, while the opposition parties considered it to be a bribe to influence the voters.

Public employees praised this step, hoping such bonuses would be repeated every Ramadan. They obtained the same bonus in 2007 and YR 25,000 in 2008, but after that the government stopped giving such bonus under the pretext of an economic crisis.

Yemeni Teachers Syndicate staged several protests during Ramadan this year with thousands of teachers who gathered to demand an addition to their salary and the implementation of the national third strategy for salary and wages.

The government declared last June that it will implement this strategy in March 2011.

Last Tuesday, six Yemeni syndicates formed a civilian coalition to pressure

the government to pay the promised extra salary to public employees.

The coalition consists of the Doctors Syndicate, Engineers Syndicate, Teachers Syndicate, Educational Professions Syndicate, Sajeen organization, and National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD).

"It's a shame to talk about the rights of employees in the twenty-first century," Mohammed Naji Allaw, the head of the HOOD organization, said to protesters who had gathered last Tuesday to demand the promised Ramadan bonus.

Allaw wondered how the government expects employees to be impartial, although they obtain only about YR 30,000 (USD 135) a month.

Allaw criticized the state, accusing it of lying to the people and breaking the constitution. He also accused the ruling party of using all of the state's resources to win elections.

"The people who aren't within the ruling party will not receive anything," he said.

Lawyer and HOOD executive director Khaled Al-Anesi attended a protest demanding the Ramadan double salary at Freedom Square last Tuesday. He called the bonus a right.

"This bonus was used as a bribe and electoral propaganda in 2006 and now the government is washing its hands of it," he told the Yemen Times. "Employees always have to protest to obtain their rights."

"Employees should also ask for a higher salary," he added. "The constitution gives the people the right to a decent life. The government has breached the constitution and international laws."

"The government is interested in collecting taxes and zakat but not in protecting the weak," he said.

For his part, the parliamentarian Fuad

Dahaba, head of Yemeni Teachers Syndicate, on Tuesday called for escalating the protest against the government until the employees receive the additional salary.

He told the Yemen Times that state employees had sent two letters to the president and prime minister in this regard.

The letter to the president stated that all public employees are waiting for the additional salary, especially in light of the price hikes, their low income, and the advent of Eid.

Dahaba said that employees had organized 20 evenings throughout Ramadan in all governorates asking for the additional salary, but without response from the government.

"If the government had a clear intention of supporting employees, it would do it," he said. "The government is capable of supporting employees but it neglects this duty."

"I expect that employees will obtain additional salary in the coming days," he added.

"There is no hope in this nation as long as soldiers control it," Abdulqawi Al-Shameeri, the secretary-general of the Yemeni Doctors Syndicate, complained to the press on Tuesday.

Mohammed Al-Motawakel, the head of the supreme council for joint meeting parties (JMP) called on the civilian society organizations to be impartial and detached from political affiliations.

He said that the tribe and the army govern the country, indicating that these two institutions depend on violence and power. He confirmed that democracy will not be achieved as long as those institutions control our country.

As of now, the government has not responded to protesters as to whether or not it will give the additional salary to public employees this Ramadan.

New income tax law to promote private sector and employment

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Sept. 5 — A new income tax law to be implemented next December will decrease income profit tax for traders, companies and banks by more than 50 percent. The law will also mean a decrease in the employees' income tax and tie the taxation percentage to salary amount.

The new law approved by the government has reduced the income profit tax on traders and companies from 35 percent to 20 percent and on banks from 35 percent to 15 percent.

The income tax law was issued on August 29 by the president. The law was initially endorsed by the parliament at the beginning of the same month. It will be implemented at the end of next December.

The new law has canceled the previous law no. 31 for 1991 and its amendments.

Article number 16 of the law includes an additional incentive for businesses in which they can reduce taxes if they hire fresh graduates.

The article states that a business owner can demand a further deduction from the taxable profit provided he or she has staff members who are employed for the first time in their lives since the law will come into effect in December. The employer can write off taxes of 50 percent of the salaries of the new employees in their first year, 40 percent for the second year and so on until the fifth year of employment.

"This law encourages employees to recruit fresh graduates or people who don't have formal experience. If employers are smart they should start hiring younger people," said Maeen Al-Eryani, chief executive officer of the Yemen Education for Employability Foundation that aims at providing youth with skills to increase their chances in becoming employed.

He urged businessmen to give space to youth who have not yet had the chance to be employed and promised that the Yemen Education for Employability Foundation, which is a non-governmental organization, would be willing to provide CVs of potential candidates upon request.

Income tax on salaries

The law also decreased the income taxes whereby employees receiving less than YR 120,000 (USD 500) per year will not be taxed at all. The earlier law exempted those who received less than YR 36,000.

Also, the new law stated that employees with annual salaries of more than YR 120,000 and up to YR 600,000 will be subjected to a 10 percent income tax. Previously, the law said that annual salaries of more than YR 180,000 up to 600,000 would be taxed 15 percent, and annual salaries of less than YR 180,000 were taxed at 10 percent.

There is a contradiction in the new law between article 65 which states that anything beyond YR 600,000 will be taxed at 15 percent and article 62 which states that salaries more than YR 600,000 but below YR 840,000 per year will be taxed at 15 percent but if more than YR 840,000 per year the tax reaches 20 percent.

Previously the tax was 20 percent for any amount above YR 600,000 per year.

"The new law has imposed an equal tax on employees whose monthly salary is YR 10,000 (around USD 42) or less than YR 50,000 (around USD 208). The same tax is also applied whether you receive YR 50,000 per month or more YR

70,000 (around USD 290). This is not fair!" said Dr. Mohamed Jubran, professor of economics and financial analyst at the University of Sana'a, told the Yemen Times.

He argued that there should be more categorization and a real adoption of the vertical rule in tax. "The vertical rule in tax justice says that whenever the person's income increases, the duty tax on him goes up, but the new law goes against this rule by imposing a flat rate for all employees who receive more than YR 840,000 per year," he said.

Allowances are exempt from taxation according to article 49 of the law, however, an internal charter of the law has to be drafted within six months of the law to dictate how much the allowances comprise of the salary.

Mohamed Abdu Saeed, the chairman of the General Federation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry told the Yemen Times last month that the federation finalized the draft of the law with the government to reduce the income tax on traders and companies from 35 percent to 20 percent.

Saeed said this law would attract investors to do business in Yemen as they will not be charged to pay more tax.

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Yemen arrests 14 Al-Qaeda suspects in south

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Sept. 5- State security has arrested at least 14 alleged Al-Qaeda militants, said the Ministry of Interior on its website on Sunday.

Those arrested are believed to include Salah Al-Dabani, a top Al-Qaeda operative in Yemen. He was arrested as he threw grenades in front of the Central Security headquarters in Lawdar.

The ministry said in a statement on its website that the 14 suspects were arrested in a security sweep after "the terrorists were wholly defeated" by the security forces last month in Lawdar.

Lawdar is 550 km away from Sana'a. Its population is estimated at 100,000 people. It is believed to be a stronghold of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), especially since the civil war in 1994.

It is believed that gunmen from Al-Qaeda and other Islamic movements who came from Afghanistan and called themselves jihadists are positioned in mountains.

According to the statement, the security sweep against Al-Qaida suspects will continue around the clock. The ministry expected that they will soon surrender themselves to the security forces.

Despite the recent arrests, fighting continued last week in the southern governorates of Lahj and Abyan.

At least 14 people were killed in intensive fighting which broke out on Saturday between security forces and gunmen believed to belong to the Southern Movement in Al-Habelain, Lahj.

The Ministry of Defense said on its website that one soldier was killed and four were injured in two different attacks by unknown gun men in Abyan.

According to the website, two gunmen were on a motorcycle when they fired randomly at soldiers who were distributing food to people at 6 PM.

Four soldiers from Central Security were killed earlier on Wednesday in Zunjubar, Abyan.

According to the locals, an armed group snuck into the governmental complex at Abyan and shot at soldiers while they were eating iftar. Four of the soldiers were killed.

In Radfan district, Lahj governorate, dozens of people were killed as the security forces and the army exchanged fire with anonymous gunmen.

According to sources, the exchange of gunfire was the result of a dispute over the check points made during the last few days.

Recently, Radfan district in Lahj has been witnessing intensive security sweeps in which many check points have been set along the main road and near the entrance to the district.

In the same context, some Southern Movement members were arrested.

According to the local sources, the security forces arrested men who were behind the attack against the Political Security headquarters in Al-Hota, Lahj last Friday.

'Two faces of the same coin'

The Southern Movement and the Al-Qaeda wing in Yemen are believed to be two faces of the same coin, according to a source in the security forces.

The source added that the ruling party's website said that coordination between the separatists and Al-Qaeda is clear especially in the attacks which happened in Lawdar last month.

Some members of the southern movement helped Al-Qaeda terrorists last month but were later arrested after they were wholly defeated by the security forces, according to the source.

He added that both Al-Qaeda terrorists and the Southern Movement members "work only for their own interests and they are apparently against Yemen."

National Population Council approves study on population projections

SANA'A, Sept. 3 (SABA) — On Monday the National Population Council approved the outcomes of the study on population projections for 2005-2025 in accordance with the different alternatives of fertility and mortality. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Ali Mujawar.

The council stressed the importance of the projections in helping to clarify demographic changes and indicators relating to the population and its structure. The distribution characteristics will help identify future needs and plan for economic and social challenges that will arise from the changing population demographics.

It ordered that the study outcomes be circulated to concerned authorities so that they can learn from them and enable researchers to have access to them.

Also, the council urged the secretariat general to implement the second stage of the projections at a district level. Concerned ministries are also

urged to provide periodic reports to the secretariat general on the implementation level taking into consideration operational requirements for coordination commissions in the governorates.

The meeting approved the request of the secretariat general calling for the Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministry and universities to finalize measures for presenting population issues in curricula to reinforce the importance of these issues.

Furthermore, the council asked the secretariat general to accelerate the review of the national population policy and its goals in the light of local, regional and international changes, as well as reformulating the goals in a balanced way to apply them easily.

The proposal of the secretariat general calling for the addition of the Local Administration Ministry as a member to the council was accepted and the report on the activities during the last period reviewed.

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New income tax law to promote private sector and employment

The law charges real incomes that come from a source in Yemen. It defines real income as any income that comes from services done in Yemen that contains salaries and wages including privileges and benefits, according to the article five of the law.

Moreover, the new law has canceled all the tax exemptions in all other effective laws, except for present investment projects that were given discharges according to the

investment law.

Those discharges will not be aborted until their periods are over, according to the article 160 of the law.

The new law charges mobile telecommunications providers to pay 50 percent of their incomes, according to the article 63 of the law.

The new law does not apply to charitable organizations and civil society organizations and all other non-profit organizations that rely on aids and grants.

It also exempted the interests of treasury bonds when they are paid to resident individuals.

Speculators contest CBY on exchange rate

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Sept 5 — Following several International Monetary Fund (IMF) directed reforms on the exchange rate regime, the Central Bank of Yemen's (CBY) new approach to managing the devaluation of the riyal has started to reap some fruits, mainly in the decline of the United States dollar from 257 riyals per dollar in mid-August to 214 in the first week of September. The IMF has publically indicated that the fund is pleased to see that the CBY is starting to adopt its recommendations on the fiscal and monetary policies in Yemen.

However, professor of economics at Sana'a University, Dr. Mohamed Jubran, is still questioning the soundness of the IMF reform program, indicating that the Yemeni economy is rather complex and the improvement in the value of the riyal should not be attributed to

the IMF's program, he stated: "Financial data from the CBY or the Ministry of Finance does not support the IMF's claim," adding that the IMF's program is focusing on the fiscal sustainability and diversifying the sources of revenue for the government rather than improving the value of the riyal. Therefore, a decrease in the US dollar against the Yemeni riyal is unjustifiable, as none of the economic indicators support this reduction.

To further to this claim, a renowned businessman who requested to remain anonymous, indicated that this fluctuation of the interest rate is extremely alarming and a primary cause for concern, warning that such fluctuations will push the business community to avoid dealing with the Yemeni riyal, given the associated risks resulting from uncertainty around its future value. This has the potential to devastate the value

of the riyal and corner the Central Bank into becoming helpless in managing the economy. He also added that the high level of fragility in the management of currency is a reflection of the chaos in the design and implementation of macroeconomic policies. He also pointed out that if a simple IMF recommendation results in such fluctuations, how devastating the implementation of the entire reforms package to the business environment would be.

Dr. Jubran has also highlighted that the primary challenge for the Central Bank is to control the currency speculators who thrive from such fluctuations, who play a major role in the supply and demand for the US dollar in the domestic market. Perhaps the Central Bank has acknowledged this by penalizing 20 exchange companies earlier this week, which were found to manipulate the exchange rates, countering the Cen-

tral Bank's efforts to stabilize the value of the currency.

Economist Raidan Al-Saqqaq has indicated that the role of foreign cash remittances which peak during the month of Ramadan, coupled with the influx of Yemeni immigrants and workers abroad vacationing in Yemen during the holy month are primary factors that increased the supply of foreign currencies in the country, and the demand for Yemeni Riyals for domestic spending, thereby aiding the Central Bank's efforts. He also added that the real test for the success of the Central Bank's new approach to managing the exchange rate regime will be in the six to eight weeks following Ramadan, when imports increase to match the consumers' demand which increases during Eid Al-Adha in accordance to the collective consumer behavior of the Yemeni market.

Determined to live with dignity Ramadan inside a poor family's home

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Lutf Abdu, 15, and his cousin Naji, 9, were collecting empty cans and water bottles at midnight in Sa'wan, Sana'a, to earn a little money. The place was dark with nobody in the area except drivers who drove their cars too fast. But they were not afraid.

They were exhausted from their hard work when the Yemen Times approached them asking about their family. They immediately led the way to their home, telling their father that a journalist was outside.

Abdu Ali Saleh, 40, father of five children and breadwinner for the four children of his brother, welcomed the Yemen Times, saying "Welcome to our modest home."

Inside the two rooms that make up their humble home, Abdu's wife and sister-in-law swiftly veiled their faces to join the visitor.

The two rooms were crammed with children. Five children in tattered clothes were sound asleep on old, torn mattresses. There were no blankets, pillows or clean sheets. One little girl woke up suddenly when she heard strange voices, wondering who the guest was. Two children who had been watching television with their parents also perked up when the visitor came in.

They live in a home that was granted to them by the president six years ago when he decided to provide housing for all marginalized people from the slums in the Asr and Bab Al-Yemen areas of Sana'a.

Abdu works as a street sweeper for the municipality and earns YR 20,000 (about USD 100) a month. His son Lutf also works with him to contribute towards sustaining the large family.

"This salary doesn't cover even the cost of clothes for my children. We barely get by," he said.

His wife, who is 28, is a housewife and was holding her daughter who she said was sick. She told the Yemen Times that they cannot afford to treat her illness although she has been sick for months.

She was working with her husband



Abdu's family laugh at a Hammi Hammak episode during one of the nights of Ramadan. He and his wife bought the television in installments for their children, but say that Ramadan has not been same this year after the price hikes.

after her marriage 15 years ago, but later she stayed at home to take care of the children.

"We don't want to resort to begging," she said. "We want to live with dignity."

Ramadan is different inside the home of this family. Even though they live in a bad situation, they say that they are happy and satisfied.

"We don't receive social security and nobody comes to ask about our circumstances. The rich people don't feel about the poor people," she said.

She bought a television to entertain her children and she pays for it by monthly installments.

"The cost of living increases in Ramadan. We need more food including meat, chicken, sugar, rice, juices and other desserts, besides, we need lots of money to buy clothes at the end of Ramadan for Eid," Abdu said.

"I'm determined to feed my children with the best food in Ramadan but sometimes I cannot," he said.

Every year in Ramadan up till now,

Abdu and his family had received aid from philanthropists, but this Ramadan they didn't get anything.

"Most rich people have got a heart of stone," the wife said. "We are poor people so no one gives us a chance to talk to them to describe our bad living situation."

In addition to their tough financial situation, they said that they always have to endure derogatory remarks from different people including their neighbors.

"If we complain about anything or demand our rights, we are described as vandals," Abdu said.

Abdu was responsible for his five children, but when his brother died in car accident one year ago he also became responsible also for his brother's four children. Despite it being expensive to support them as well as his own children, he said that he would never consider putting them in an orphanage.

Although Abdu wants to improve his children's situation and send them

to school, he says that he cannot register his children in school due to his poor financial situation.

Studying requires uniforms, notebooks, transportation, pocket money and many other things. "I cannot afford all these requirements," he said.

"I went with my wife to the clothes shops to ask about prices. We immediately went back home when we heard the high prices," he said.

Abdu remembered Ramadan in past years describing it as a time of economic prosperity. He said that the cost of living was less and the salary was enough to last till the end of the month. He was even able to save something from his salary.

"My wife and I were living in good conditions. We were eating the best food and wearing nice clothes. But now life has changed," he said.

In Ramadan, Abdu's family eats rice, soup, and stew. On normal days, they eat bread and beans for breakfast and supper, they eat rice and very occasionally chicken or meat for lunch.

Yemen to launch new tourism campaign

Western Europeans targeted in Yemeni bid to attract more visitors

By: Adam Gonn
The Media Line

SANA'A, Sept 2 — Western European residents will receive promotional material from Yemen this September as the country tries to convince more tourists to visit.

The Yemeni Tourist Promotion Council has decided to start its promotional campaign in France, Spain, Germany and the United Kingdom next month before approaching people living in the neighboring Gulf countries, local Yemeni media has reported.

Yemen is on the one hand known for its historic buildings in the capital 'San'aa and spectacular nature but it is also one of the poorest countries in the world. Tourism provides a vital source of foreign capital for Yemen, but tourist

kidnappings are not unheard of. In March 2009, four South Korean tourists were killed in an explosion while posing for a photo in a region known as a haven to rebel groups.

According to the Yemeni Ministry of Tourism 1.1 million tourists visited Yemen in 2009, of those 70 percent came from the Gulf.

Mohamed Shaif, director of Yamanat Tours in 'San'aa told The Media Line that the Yemeni government has made efforts to attract more tourists, "but it's not enough," he explained.

"The most important thing is security, if the tourists feel safe they will come," he said. "This is what's important, not only promotion but security."

Ibrahim Al-Attab, managing director of Yemen Explorers Com in the capital said that tourism was up, but added that he was worried not everyone could afford travel to Yemen with the economic downturn.

"The local tourism is increasing," Al-Attab told The Media Line. "Before people only came for one day, but now they stay overnight because there are good hotels and good facilities."

"One problem was restaurants that have public toilets, but now there is a new directive that all restaurants have to provide separate toilets for men and women," Al-Attab said. "This is very important because you want to feel safe when you travel."

Yemen was recently ranked 18th in the Failed States Index, put together by the American non-governmental organization Fund for Peace.

Fund for Peace defines a failed state as one where the government has lost physical control of its territory or does not have a monopoly on the legitimate use of force. Failed states also tend to have an inability to provide reasonable public services.

The central government in 'San'aa has

been fighting with a militant group belonging to the Shi'ite offshoot Al-Houthi rebels in the northeast of the country since 2004.

In addition, the government is fighting a secessionist movement in the south, which accuses the government of unfairly diverting the oil wealth from that region. The movement is also calling for a return to the two-state division, in place before Yemen gained independence in 1967.

For the past two years, there have been increasing fears that Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula is taking advantage of Yemen's unstable political situation to strengthen its presence in the region.

The U.S. State Department currently has a travel warning in place for Yemen.

"The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the high security threat level in Yemen due to terrorist activities. The Department recommends that American citizens defer non-essential travel to Yemen."

In Brief

INTERNATIONAL

Yemeni caught with 30kg of qat leaves in Malaysia

Police nabbed a 21 year old Yemeni in possession of 30kg of qat leaves at a taxi stand in the Malaysian town of Changlun.

Media reports have quoted police chief Datuk Syed Ismail Syed Azizan as saying, following a tip-off the youth, a private college student in Kuala Lumpur, was arrested while trying to board a taxi.

"He was carrying two bags containing 199 tins of fresh qat leaves weighing 30kg. The street value of the leaves is estimated between RM40 and RM50 per kilogram... Early investigations showed that the suspect brought the plants into the country via the Malaysia-Thailand border and we believe he would have distributed them to his college mates in Kuala Lumpur," he said after launching the state-level Operation Sikap XXII at the Jitra toll plaza.

Qat is a plant known in the Middle East and East Africa for its hallucinogenic properties. The plant is illegal in Malaysia.

NATIONAL

Over 12,000 children benefit from Eid clothing

Al-Etigan Association in collaboration with the Islamic Relief office in Yemen distributed Eid clothing to over 12,000 orphans and poor children in seven governorates of the country.

Speaking to Saba News Agency, the head of Al-Etigan Association, Faisal Al-Salmi, said that this step aims at inculcating the values of love and compassion among the members of the community.

The total cost of the projects of the Association during Ramadan have reached YR 26 million, he added.

The Al-Etigan Association was founded in 2001 in the capital Sana'a. It has organized the Forum of Yemen and Arab Orphans with the participation of 250 orphans, including 50 orphans from other Arab countries.

159 people killed, 968 injured in road accidents during Ramadan

159 people were killed, including 32 children and 12 women, and 968 others were injured in road accidents throughout the country during the last twenty days of Ramadan, the Interior Ministry has reported.

According to a statistics issued by the Public Traffic Department, the 694 accidents included 303 crashes between vehi-

cles, 275 accidents involving a pedestrian, 105 vehicles overturning and 11 falling accidents.

According to the report the main causes behind the accidents were speeding, neglectful driving, and technical faults.

1299 Arab and foreign residents involved in crimes in Yemen

Nearly 1300 Arab and other foreigners have been involved in committing crimes during the first half of 2010, according to security statistics issued by the Interior Ministry.

The statistics indicated that of the 1299 people accused, 885 were Arab residents and the remainder are of various foreign nationalities including Africans, Asians and a few Europeans.

The number of victims from these crimes during the first six months of this year reached 211.

The crimes were distributed among 28 different categories, topped by intentional homicide, intentional abuse crimes and crimes of attempted murder.

SANA'A

Yemen, Comoros investigate Yemeni aircraft approaching French plane

Yemen and Comoros are currently carrying out a technical investigation on allegations that a Yemeni aircraft approached one belonging to France Astral Aviation off the island of Madagascar on August 24, an official source in Yemenia Airways announced on Wednesday.

The investigation is being carried out by the Yemeni civil aviation authorities and civil aviation authorities on the island of Madagascar and Moroni of Comoros.

The source added that Yemenia Airways had two flights on that date and that the aircraft crew confirmed that there were no convergence with other aircraft during the two flights.

The results of the Yemeni aircraft recording devices did not show that the alert systems had been activated during the two flights to suggest there were any close proximity between the two planes.

The two aircraft had not exceeded the permitted altitude until they got permission from the air traffic control authorities.

Yemenia Airways asked France Astral Aviation to carry out further investigations on the allegations, else it would reserve the right to legally prosecute the French

aviation company if the allegations were proved false.

AMRAN

Weapons and ammunition seized

Security services in Amran governorate have found weapons and ammunition inside a bus, the Interior Ministry reported on Wednesday.

The bus was detained in the district of Kharef over the past few days after being caught carrying crates of automatic weapon ammunition, sniper guns, a gun machine (Jeteri), as well as crates of Cique guns and handgun ammunition, the security services told the security information center of the ministry.

The security services explained that they found the guns and ammunition hidden under the seats of the bus, saying that they inspected the bus again in presence of the prosecutor and the three defendants from Sa'ada governorate who had been detained on board the bus.

An investigation is in progress to reveal all details of the case.

LAHJ

Two boats seized over smuggling Africans to Yemen

The coastguard in Khor Omeria, Lahj governorate, has seized two boats suspected of smuggling African refugees from Djibouti to Yemen, the Interior Ministry reported on Wednesday.

One of the boats was seized in the castle on Sirah Island and the other on the island. The police said that the two boats belong to a Yemeni fisherman who was arrested with his crew.

The two boats were taken to the Ras Al-Arah area and kept there by the navy for legal procedures, the police indicated.

ADEN

Completion of health projects for 20th Gulf Cup discussed

An extended meeting was held in Aden governorate on Wednesday to discuss the completion of health projects for the 20th Gulf Cup to be held in Aden between November 21 to December 5, 2010.

Minister of Public Health and Population, Abdul-Karim Rase'a who chaired the meeting, affirmed the need for good preparation for this championship, especially in health through rehabilitating hospitals and providing all required medical equipment.

A report on the results of field visits

would be submitted to the Council of Ministers next Saturday, said Rase'a, noting that his ministry would form a committee to follow up and submit regular reports on various rehabilitation projects.

In the meeting, a number of reports were reviewed by the director-generals of public health offices in the governorates of Aden, Lahj and Abyan on the achieved health projects.

In related news, Rase'a paid a visit to the 22nd of May Hospital and the Health Care Center in Al-Mansourah district, and the new hospital project of the Aden Refinery Company in Al-Buriqah area, within the ongoing arrangements for the 20th Gulf Cup.

Training course for woman leaders launched

A British organization launched on Tuesday a training course for woman leaders in Aden governorate.

The three-day course was held in collaboration with a number of woman's Non-Government Organizations.

It aims to acquaint 18 of the female leaders with skills and information in administrative and technical areas and methods of establishing and running small enterprises

HODEIDA

Eritrean pirates kidnap six Yemeni fishing boats

Eritrean pirates hijacked six Yemeni fishing boats with 60 sailors on board while in international waters, the Interior Ministry reported on Monday. The

Coastguard told the security information center of the ministry that the Eritrean pirates took the abducted boats at gunpoint to the Massawa area, where they confiscated five boats and all the boats' contents. The 60 sailors were then released on board one of the hijacked boats. The Yemeni sailors arrived Monday at the fishing port of Hodeida governorate, and their testimonies were taken. Procedures are ongoing to restore the Yemeni fishing boats held by pirates in the Massawa area, the police explained.

Five killed, three wounded due to floods

Five people including three children were killed and three others wounded in floods due to heavy rains that fell last Saturday over Al-Quenaos district, Hodeida governorate, the Interior Ministry has reported.

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triangle GENERATION HUMANAIRE

EUROPEAN COMMISSION Humanitarian Aid

TRIANGLE G.H. INVITATION TO TENDER

Supply and delivery of livestock food inputs and veterinary medicines for a TRIANGLE GENERATION HUMANAIRE (TGH) project

Al Mazraq area - Hajjah governorate - Yemen

- Publication reference**
Y33 Sup 01/2010
- Procedure**
Open Tender with Local Publication
- Programme**
Project Reference: TGH/YEM/EC/2010/001
- Financing**
European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office - ECHO
- Contracting authority**
Triangle Génération Humanaire, Haradh, Yemen
- Contract description**
Supply and delivery of livestock food inputs and veterinary medicines for an emergency project aimed at the conflict affected population of the North of Yemen.
- Indicative number and titles of Lots**
Lot 1: Livestock food inputs
Lot 2: Veterinary medicines
- Intended timing of publication**
The entire tender document can be obtained by contacting: Mrs. Nadia DHIFALLAH via haradh.yemen@trianglegh.org. All tenders will have to be submitted no later than the 20th of September 2010 to the following address:

Triangle Génération Humanaire - YEMEN
Hodeidah Land
HODEIDAH
Tel : 736 56 56 82
Email: haradh.yemen@trianglegh.org

For information concerning exclusion, selection and award criteria, please consult the administrative stipulations of the tender document.

The tender will be selected taking in account:

- The price of the tender
- The quality of the materials
- The delivery delay

- Additional information**
Any demand for additional information should be addressed to Mrs. Nadia DHIFALLAH.
- Legal basis**
Council Regulation 1257/96 for humanitarian aid

triangle GENERATION HUMANAIRE

EUROPEAN COMMISSION Humanitarian Aid

TRIANGLE G.H. INVITATION TO TENDER

Supply and delivery of construction material for a TRIANGLE GENERATION HUMANAIRE (TGH) project

Al Mazraq area - Hajjah governorate - Yemen

- Publication reference**
Y33 Sup 02/2010
- Procedure**
Open Tender with Local Publication
- Programme**
Project Reference: TGH/YEM/EC/2010/002
- Financing**
European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office - ECHO
- Contracting authority**
Triangle Génération Humanaire, Haradh, Yemen
- Contract description**
Supply and delivery of construction material for an emergency project aimed at the conflict affected population of the North of Yemen.
- Indicative number and titles of Lots**
Lot 1: Wells construction material
Lot 2: Shelter construction material
- Intended timing of publication**
The entire tender document can be obtained by contacting: Mrs. Nadia DHIFALLAH via haradh.yemen@trianglegh.org. All tenders will have to be submitted no later than the 20th of September 2010 to the following address:

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Windows into international development work in Yemen: GTZ



GTZ in Yemen

Yemen is a priority partner country of German Development Cooperation and a pilot country in the Program of Action adopted by the German Government to halve extreme

poverty by 2015. On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GTZ has implemented many different projects since 1969 in most of the country's governorates.

Yemen is classified as one of the least developed countries in the world and faces numerous development constraints: a high population growth of three percent, grave water shortage, an inefficient educational system, high illiteracy amongst women in particular and insufficient access to public health services. Women are at a disadvantage when it comes to economic and social development. Forty-two percent of the population lives below the poverty line and 18 percent in absolute poverty. The private sector is slow to develop and

unemployment is high.

In response to these problems and after agreement between the German and Yemenite governments in the intergovernmental negotiations, GTZ activities are currently concentrated on the following priority areas:

- Water
- General Education

Apart from our priority areas, health, economic reform and aspects of Good Governance are important parts of our activities in Yemen. Moreover, transsectoral themes such as poverty reduction, conflict transformation and gender equality/gender issues are mainstreamed in the German Technical Cooperation projects – always with a view to poverty alleviation. Participation of the population, strengthening civil society and supporting decentralization are key challenges facing Development Cooperation.

GTZ has maintained an office in Sana'a since 1983. Since 2004, we are sharing an office building with the German development bank KfW

'New Ideas for more Employment': A competition organized by the GTZ project 'Employment-oriented development strategies'

Economic growth alone does not guarantee greater employment and prosperity. The employment situation in many countries must be significantly improved if poverty is to be reduced sustainably and Millennium Development Goal 1, the elimination of extreme poverty and hunger, achieved.

The aim of this competition was to learn more about innovative and effective approaches to employment promotion in German development cooperation. The relevance of employment promotion beyond the priority area sustainable economic development and the cross-sectoral nature of the topic is evidenced by the great number of entries from different fields, such as crisis prevention, water, environment and natural resources.

A six-person competition jury, made up of representatives of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German Development Institute (DIE), the World Bank and GTZ selected five winning projects from a total of 32 entries. The winners were presented in an awards ceremony during the GTZ theme day 'Employment: Better Prospects for Everyone' on 18 December 2008. Prizes take the form of professional presentation of the projects for media purposes and international publicity for them.

Many further innovative and effective approaches were proposed by other entries, even though these projects were not among the winners. These multi-faceted ideas and experiences concerning employment promotion are



being documented by GTZ as part of the knowledge management process and will thus be made generally accessible.

Yemen was one of the winners of the competition 'New ideas for more employment' 2010:

Winning project: Community Mobilizing Workers in Yemen

Since the end of the 1990s, Yemen's municipal water authorities have been training women and men as Community Mobilizing Workers (CMW) with support by the GTZ water sector program. The CMWs are prepared for a role as advisors and intermediaries between the municipal waterworks and the population.

The Community Mobilizing Workers conduct information campaigns on hygiene and water use, explain the water fee system to customers and advise low-income households on how to save up in advance so they can pay their water bills. About half of the CMWs trained so far are women. This means that despite strict gender segregation in Yemen, women, who are responsible for the household and the raising of children, become informed about water and how

to use it advisedly. After completing the training, about half of the trainees are offered an employment contract by one of the utilities which includes an eight-hour working day five days a week and a monthly salary of EUR 130 to 170. This is on par with an average salary in the country's civil service. In this strict Islamic country, a position as a CMW offers women, particularly, good prospects and a steady income. Meanwhile, the concept of CMWs has become established practice in other sectors as well, such as agriculture and health.

In the opinion of the jury, this measure is a good example of how sustainable employment impacts can be achieved in development areas other than sustainable economic development. It further demonstrates how two important development policy concerns – water supply and employment promotion – can be constructively linked. The measure is award-worthy because of its creation of decent employment for women in a country in which socio-cultural framework conditions pose difficulties for them, and because the experience gathered is proving to be replicable in other sectors.

Resocialisation of released female prison inmates: The social care house for women

Islamic law and traditional practices discriminate against women in Yemen by generally denying them equal treatment before the law and access to legal aid. Women are imprisoned for offences deemed in Yemen to be morally reprehensible. In many cases, women and girls who flee their husbands and families after suffering abuse end up destitute and living on the street. Dispossessed of valid identification papers, the path they take often leads from begging and prostitution to prison.

Conditions in Yemeni prisons are very poor, female offenders' children incarcerated with them receive little or no supervision or care, and inmates are ill prepared for release from prison. Considered social outcasts, women convicts are rarely accepted back into the family fold after serving prison terms. What is more, prison wardens will generally not assent to release female prisoners if no male member of the family is willing to meet and accompany them once they have served out their time. Such women have no other choice than to remain in prison, as they know of no alternative means of earning their own income and livelihood.

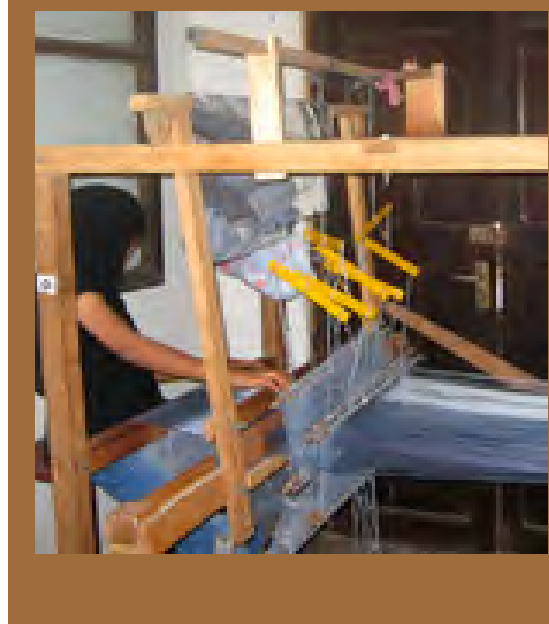
Objective

The Aden Social Care House helps current and former women prison inmates and victims of violence to earn their own income as an alternative to being dependent on their families, thereby ensuring their livelihood after release from prison.

Approach

The Social Care House is a care institution in Yemen's capital city Aden for current and former female prison inmates. Established in the project's first year and furnished with the necessary means and funding, this facility has been opening its doors since 2005 to women from throughout Yemen who have been become victims of violence and seek to take part in resocialisation efforts. House residents are offered educational opportunities and vocational training for promoting literacy and establishing livelihoods, for example in handicrafts such as weaving and sewing.

Social workers, physicians, psychologists and volunteers provide the women with continuous social, psychotherapeutic and medical support. Female lawyers working in cooperation with prison officials and judicial authorities of Aden counsel and aid the



women on legal issues.

Public outreach efforts and regular in-service training of representatives – both male and female – from the judiciary, police and prison personnel serve to raise awareness among relevant actors and the general public of the issues and problems facing female ex-prisoners and victims of violence. The project promotes networking between Yemeni non-governmental organizations (NGO) committed to strengthening the rights of women prisoners and ex-prisoners, as well as cooperation with local, national and international actors and other donors.

Results achieved so far

The Aden Social Care House was the first women's shelter of its kind not only in Yemen, but anywhere in the entire Arabian Peninsula. By serving as a pioneering model, the facility has contributed to the establishment of other organizations of further homes

of refuge for women. Applying the same concept, the As-Saleh Foundation set up a facility for young women and girl offenders on probation or parole in 2008, and in March 2009 the Yemeni Women's Union, Yemen's largest NGO for women's rights and issues, opened another women's shelter.

Thanks to coverage in the regional, national and international press, the Social Care House has become a well-known and respected institution. In a society where women offenders have traditionally suffered discrimination as marginalized social outcasts, awareness has also grown among the general Yemeni public, who endorse the support women are receiving from the Social Care House.

Since its opening, the shelter has taken in 52 women who had been incarcerated at various prisons

throughout the country, as well as four small children – one of whom was born within the facility's walls. Many women were ultimately able to return to their families after intensive dialogue with their relatives. Most of the women were also able to marry or re-marry. Five women, after receiving educational and training courses at the Social Care House, have found paid work in Aden and are now able to independently provide for their own livelihoods. All residents of the shelter have learned to read and write and acquired handicraft skills, such as the traditional Yemeni art of weaving, with which they can earn their own money. Their hand-fabricated products are presented at exhibitions throughout the region and offered for sale. Two residents are now studying at the University of Aden, and one girl who displayed particularly promising artistic talent has been admitted to the Institute of Fine Arts in Aden.



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INVITATION TO BID (ITB) (ITB/HCR/BO/10/SPU/07-08-09)

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), based in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, has an international mandate to protect refugees and to seek durable solutions to their problems. UNHCR plays a major role in coordinating aid to refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern.

UNHCR Branch Office in Sana'a intends to establish a Frame Agreement for an initial period of 2 years with the possibility of extension for an additional 1 year for the following Goods and Services.

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Sealed bids must be received by UNHCR Branch Office Sana'a at the above-mentioned address on or before 29th September 2010, latest at 16:00 hours. Bids received after the deadline or sent to another address will be rejected.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ
بِقُلُوبٍ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْرِهِ تَتَقَدَّمُ مُؤَسَّسَةُ يَمَنَ تَأْيِيزُ لِلصَّحَافَةِ وَالطَّبَاعَةِ وَالنَّشْرِ
بِأَحْرِ التَّعَاوُزِ وَعَظِيمِ المَوَاسَاةِ
لِلْأَخِ / طَارِقِ سَابِحَةِ وَالْأَخِ / سَامِي سَابِحَةِ
وَكَافَةِ آلِ سَابِحَةِ
لَوْفَاةِ المَغْفُورِ لَهَا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى
كَرِيمَتِهِمْ
سَائِلِينَ المَوْلَى عَزَّوَجَلَّ أَنْ يَتَعَمَّدَ الفَقِيدَةَ بِوِاسِعِ
رَحْمَتِهِ وَمَغْفِرَتِهِ وَأَنْ يَسْكُنَهَا فَسِيحَ جَنَاتِهِ وَيَلْبَهُمْ
أَهْلِيهَا وَذَوِيهَا الصَّبْرَ وَالسَّلْوَانَ
إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

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...

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



OUR OPINION

Pareto efficient policies

Economists call policies where no one can be made better off without making someone else worse off "Pareto efficient."

Developing countries are often advised (or instructed) to undertake reforms recommended by "experts" who are called "technocrats" and are often backed by the IMF.

One striking difference between emerging and developed economies is the size of the informal sector. Yemen is one of the emerging economies that has a large informal sector compared to the formal sector.

Stiglitz says that developing countries that impose a VAT perversely encourage production to remain in the informal sector, which often produces the goods that are consumed domestically or used as inputs in the developed world.

The good news is that Yemen has just done this by reforming its law on income tax. The recent income tax law was just signed off by the president after it was passed by the parliament.

This variation is probably a good sign of customizing economic reforms and adjusting them to suit the structure and dynamics of the local economy.

Another example of a tax that would be beneficial to Yemen is known as a luxury tax. This tax is applied only on luxury goods such as very expensive cars, jewelry, expensive electronic products and expensive real estate transactions for private homes and properties.

The point is when applying economic policies to developing countries such as Yemen we need to customize and accommodate the particularities of the local economies because there are fundamental differences between us as emerging markets and the developed economies.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf



SKETCHED OPINION

By: Hamid

Are Saudi dissidents preparing to overthrow the king?

Source claims Saudi dissidents training with rebels in southern Yemen

Benjamin Joffe-Walt The Media Line

It's an allegation almost too surreal to be real.

In a claim reminiscent of the most elaborate Middle East conspiracy theories known to date, a "reliable" source in the beleaguered Yemeni government has told the Yemeni news site Al Watan that a group of Saudi dissidents are secretly being trained by separatist Yemeni rebels in military warfare and covert communications so as to overthrow the Saudi king.

Analysts, however, think the source is a government official trying to disseminate false information to turn the Saudi government against the separatists in southern Yemen.

Why would the Saudi government support a separatist movement in southern Yemen in the first place? Well, the source claims, because Saudi Arabia is taking revenge on the Yemeni government over their failure to curb a separate rebellion that spilled over Yemen's northern border into Saudi Arabia late last year.

And how would the Saudi king's potential assassins help Yemen? The military analysts claim, the source probably leaked the information in order to convince the Saudi government to forgive Yemen for dragging its northern neighbor into a military conflict.

Confused?

On the southern border of Saudi Arabia, Yemen is home to almost 24 million people and one of the poorest nations in the Middle East.

Yemen's weak central government is engaged in active military conflicts on three fronts: a growing separatist movement in the South, a relatively recent rebellion led by the Al-Houthi tribe along the country's northern border with Saudi Arabia, and an increasingly active war against Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQIM). Around two-thirds of Yemen is under the control of separatist groups, rebels or local tribes.

Late last year Saudi Arabia was dragged into its first active military conflict in over a decade after the Houthi rebellion in Yemen's north spilled over into Saudi Arabia. Yemen and Saudi Arabia responded with extensive bombing campaigns throughout northern Yemen, leading to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Yemeni civilians.

Yemen's relationship with its

neighbors has cooled over accusations that other Gulf States have funded the southern separatist movement, and the source told Al Watan that the Yemeni government believes Saudi Arabia is supporting the southern separatist movement in Yemen in revenge for Yemen's failure to quell the northern Houthi rebels.

Gulf military analysts, however, were skeptical of the claims. "Everything is possible in this unstable area," retired brigadier-general and former program manager of GCC Defense Issues at the Gulf Research Center Musa Qallab told The Media Line. "But the idea that dissidents would train in southern Yemen in order to topple the Saudi regime is nonsense, as is the idea that Saudi Arabia would support the southern separatists in order to take revenge over the Houthi situation."

"Historically, South Yemen was communists and connected with the Soviet Union, so there is no history of Saudi support of southern Yemen," General Qallab continued. "Today, all Gulf countries want a more unified and stable Yemen, as instability in Yemen affects the entire Gulf, particularly Saudi Arabia."

"What's interesting, however, is why a Yemeni government official would leak this kind of nonsense," he concluded. "I see this as part of a political game, and it might be to push Saudi Arabia to be more aggressive towards the separatists in southern Yemen. Either way, there is something hidden behind this news."

Dr. Theodore Karasik is the director for research and development at the Institute for Near East Gulf Military Analysis.

"It could be true, it could be completely false, it's a little hard to decipher what's going on," he told The Media Line. "But it is possible that there are Saudis who, either based on Al-Qa'ida or on tribe alliances, are training in Yemen. The Yemeni government puts out this information to pressure the Saudis to do something," Dr. Karasik told The Media Line.

"There are also a number of rumors that Saudi Crown Prince Sultan [the Kingdom's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Aviation], who is responsible for the Yemen portfolio, is not doing so well, so there is a question as to who is making policy decisions regarding Yemen in the Saudi royal court," Dr. Karasik said. "So all this might be a test to see who is in charge of Saudi policy towards Yemen."

Dr. Stephen Steinbeiser, resident director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies in the Yemeni capital 'Sana'a, agreed that the Yemeni gov-

ernment was likely trying to send a message to Saudi Arabia.

"Official sources in Yemen are looking to discredit all these rebel movements in any way that they can," he told The Media Line. "But the southern separatist movement claims to be nonviolent, so it certainly strikes me as odd that a Saudi dissident movement which I have never heard of previously would be training with them."

"There are Gulf countries out there who would be in favor of a separate southern state, but I don't think there is any concrete public evidence of Saudi or Gulf support of the southern separatists," Dr. Steinbeiser continued. "There is bad blood between Yemen and the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia hasn't historically looked kindly on a strong Yemeni republic, but recently Saudi Arabia has realized that any instability in Yemen will spill over the northern border as it did last year."

Yemen has been divided into North and South for well over 150 years since a British colony was established in Aden. North Yemen gained independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1918 and South Yemen was established after the British withdrew in 1967.

North and South Yemen competed for over two decades from their respective capitals in 'San'aa and Aden. Backed by Saudi Arabia and Libya, the North invaded the South in 1972, and the South invaded the North seven years later.

With the fall of the Soviet Union and the prospect of oil profits, the two regimes witnessed a slow rapprochement in the late 1980's and, according to national legend, the two presidents decided to unify while driving through a tunnel in Aden in 1990.

The northern elite saw an opportunity in the unity deal to gain access to British colonial villas in Aden and southern oil revenues and trade. The unity deal soon fell apart and in 1994 the country descended into civil war. President Salah's army crushed the socialist south and its leaders went into exile.

Northerners have dominated the government and the economy since the civil war, leading to resentment and claims of marginalization by impoverished southerners.

The movement calling for Southern independence has grown rapidly over the past couple years. In response, government 'unity guards' have shut down a number of opposition newspapers, killed a number of movement leaders and arrested hundreds of separatist activists.

Obama's other surge — in Yemen

By: the Monitor's

The long struggle against Al Qaeda since the 9/11 attacks has taken many twists and turns. Now it has even led to the forced evacuation of an entire city of 80,000 people in Yemen, the ancestral home of Osama bin Laden.

The evacuation took place last week when the Yemeni military laid siege to the southern city of Loder in order to flush out a group called Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which may have 300 to 500 fighters.

The battle, which left dozens killed on both sides, is the latest escalation of a joint effort by the Obama administration and the Yemeni government to rid the country of this dangerous affiliate of Mr. bin Laden's core group in Pakistan.

The threat of AQAP to both Ye-

men and the West has grown over the past three years as Al Qaeda has suffered setbacks in Pakistan. The group trained the Nigerian suspect in the failed attempt to blow up a Detroit-bound airliner last Christmas Day. And it includes the American-Yemeni radical cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, who communicated with Fort Hood, Texas, shooter Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan and may be training many American-born Muslims for jihad.

The United States has poured millions in aid to Yemen's military, bolstering it with help from US Special Operations troops. Now the US is considering the clandestine use of armed drones by the Central Intelligence Agency inside this impoverished and tribal country of 23 million people that sits at the edge of Saudi Arabia.

The key to this escalation of a military approach is that the US also

needs to build up the weak Yemeni government and promote economic development. Otherwise, the increase in military assaults may simply drive many young, unemployed Yemenis to join the group.

Persuading the government of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to fight AQAP has not been easy for the US. But recent attacks on top Yemeni security officials has pushed the regime to see the group as a threat - to the point that it forced residents out of Loder for three days to help the military find key AQAP leaders.

Congress needs to carefully watch the administration's increasing involvement in Yemen, balancing the concern that Yemen may be a source of more 9/11-style attacks against this struggle becoming an American quagmire.

Keeping US public support for each new front of the war on Al Qaeda is critical to success.

COMMON SENSE

45 Park Place, New York

The Islamic center controversy



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Anything can be learned about the sensationalism and controversy that has arisen over a proposed Islamic Cultural Center to be built a couple of blocks away from "Ground Zero", the location that embraced the former magnificent architectural wonder that was the World Trade Center, it is that the terrorists have indeed got what they were after. In fact, one is inclined to believe that the terrorists were out to portray Islam in a way that fumigates the air with inter religious enmity and violence and creates hostility between believers in the same Divinity as called for by the three leading monotheistic religions of the world, Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

The horrific destruction of the WTC is as distant from genuine Islamic doctrine and proper conduct and practice by Moslems, as Hiroshima and Nagasaki are to Christian teachings and behavior of devout followers of Jesus Christ (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). To attempt to permanently affix the terrible crime of the unimaginable destruction of WTC as part and parcel of Islamic teachings and conduct of Moslem believers is really submission to the designs and objectives of whoever was behind this most horrific of crimes against humanity and human civilization. All the evidence and post Islamophobia that has arisen since that tragic day of September 11, 2001 point to the reality of the 9/11 incident as a clear project to unleash ethnic hatred and religious strife amongst human beings under cover of a well designed cloak of intentional religious misrepresentation. Needless to say, the phenomenal case of unholy mass murder is as much harmful to Islam and Moslems as any scheme to distort the teachings of Islam could be. Surely, informed and progressive minded people will not hesitate to point out that the Koran and the Prophet Mohammed are as innocent of 9/11 as the Bible and Jesus Christ are innocent of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Inquisition and the Serbian persecution of the Bosnians, not to mention the Holocaust, all of which involved the large - scale senseless and cold blooded murder of millions of innocent unarmed people for their religious persuasions, ethnic affiliation or both by those who supposedly engraved the cross in their hearts and often in their flags, even in its Swastika format. For sure, the Koran and the Prophet Mohammed are as innocent and free of blame for 9/11 as the Torah and Jewish Scriptures and Moses (PABUH) are of the horrible massacres and ethnic cleansing that the Holy Land has witnessed for the past nine decades by bearers of the Star of David. For a more thorough insight and comprehensive understanding of Islamic religious beliefs and practices readers are guided to click to this link (http://www.knowtheprophet.com/his-life/eternal_message.htm)

On a daily basis, the whole world is witnessing the horrible acts of terrorism inflicted on scores of Moslems by reportedly similar disoriented ideologues to those who are alleged to have carried out the 9/11 attack. In fact, the number of Moslems who have become victims of alleged Moslem terrorists has at least almost doubled the number of victims of the infamous 9/11 attacks on the WTC (aside from the hundreds of thousands of mostly civilian casualties of the wars that presumably were carried out to pursue the alleged culprits of 9/11, who are still at large!). Yet, hate mongers and political opportunists never fail to rush to associate Islam and all Moslems with 9/11, forgetting that Islamic religious tolerance is second to none as history has categorically shown.

When the Second Caliph of Islam Omer visited Jerusalem after its liberation from the chauvinistic Byzantines (with the support of local Christian Arabs), he went to salute the Patriarch of the Church of the Ascension. When the Patriarch invited the Caliph to pray in the Church (which incidentally is not forbidden in Islam), he thanked the Patriarch for his hospitality and went out to pray outside beside the Church. When asked why he did not pray inside, since churches and synagogues are viewed as Houses of God, he said: "Lest this becomes a precedence for future excessively fanatical Moslem leaders that they can enter churches and institute any violations of the sanctity of these churches as they erroneously might consider, while these churches still had large Christian constituents", or something to that order.

When Moslem states over the centuries failed in protecting Christian minorities in their midst, they abashedly refunded all the "protection levies" imposed on non - Moslems since the Zakat Islamic levy was not obligatory on non - Moslems. This is the Islam that reflects the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed and the Holy Quran and may be construed as having been violated by any Moslem, who is allegedly involved with 9/11, who will unmistakably be condemned to hell.

Those who insist that 9/11 is derived from Islamic teachings are as guilty of ignorance, if not outright bigotry based on blind prejudice, as those who stubbornly claim that the economic woes of the West are due to the manipulations of the financial and economic institutions of Jewish bankers and investment brokers. All genuine believers in Allah and followers of the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed are obligated to condone and condemn attacks like 9/11 and the ongoing terrorism by misguided fanatics and deviants of Islamic religious doctrine in Iraq, Pakistan and elsewhere in the Moslem World. The hatred witnessed by the antagonists of 45 Park Place in New York are not doing Christianity or Judaism any good by spilling the fuel of hatred for a seemingly routine, transparent and legitimate religious center.

Ironically, Islamic doctrine insists that Judaism and Christianity are themselves part and parcel of Islamic spiritual inclinations and represent important stages of development for the eventual culmination to Islam; i.e. they emanate from the same Divinity to which adherents of Judaism, Christianity and Islam have faith in and equally revere all the prophets of the Old and New Testament as deliverers of mankind from the arrogance, bigotry, chauvinism and hatred that have blemished the socio - political development of mankind in order to serve the narrow interests and demonic ambitions of those who insist on thriving from the propagation of misrepresented profiles of genuine religious inclinations and on the right to reject and persecute those who persist in declaring that the Lord Al-Mighty is one and the same for all monotheistic persuasions.

Incidentally there were reportedly some 60 Moslems who died at the WTC on that tragic day of 9/11 or .001% of the estimated Moslem population of the US if estimated to be around 5,000,000. The total number of fatalities of that day comes to 3,000 unfortunate souls, which also comes to 0.001% of the entire population of the United States.

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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Hammi Hammak: Yemen's problems on screen

By: Ali Saeed

Ramadan is the season of television dramas for most Arabs including Yemenis. Most series programed for the festive season center around themes of romance and comedy. But not Yemen's Hammi Hammak.

This season, Hammi Hammak or "Your worry is mine," tackles more serious political issues.

The lack of the rule of state, human rights violations, land confiscation, poverty, unemployment and piracy are the major themes of the 30 episodes that are being aired this month on Yemeni television channel Al-Saeeda.

The themes of the series were based on a survey conducted in the west coastal bar of Yemen that is known as Tehama, Fahd Al-Qarni, the author and main actor of the series told the Yemen Times.

The survey relayed 121 problems told by old men, old women, children, youth and men. All the problems were forms of social coercion due to the absence of the rule of the state, according to Al-Qarni.

This year, the second season of Hammi Hammak begins with a story of three Yemenis who find themselves lost on a deserted island in the Red Sea. On the island, each one of them tells of his misery during his life at home.

More than a quarter of the series is dedicated to the misery of Ja'far, a poor citizen who works as a fisherman from Hodeida. Ja'far grows up in a Tehami village with his parents, Shauter, his father, and Zabaqa, his mother, who is played by a male actor.



The sheikh's men take Ja'far's family's cows and sheep by force, because his father Shauter was not able to pay the fine imposed by the sheikh.



Sheikh Tafah and his men torture Ja'far and tell others to be nice to the sheikh or they will be beaten too.



Ja'far's parents lecture and beat him not to believe his uncle's advice to be free and rebel against oppression.

The village where Ja'far spends his childhood is firmly ruled by a sheikh or tribal leader called Tafah. The sheikh is a tyrannical character who uses his power to privately detain and torture citizens in the village and no one stands up to him.

Sheikh Tafah charges the people illegal taxes and extracts fines from them. If they are not able to pay, he takes their property such as their sheep, cows or the documents for their lands.

In addition, the feudal figure confiscates people's land and adds it to his own property or sells it to influential persons from the government.

Ja'far and his parents were vulnerable to all kinds of oppression by the sheikh. At the end they were forcibly displaced from their home because they filed a complaint at the police station.

All the people in the village stand helpless and terrified except Fiteeni, who is Ja'far's uncle, but his several ef-

forts to stop the sheikh's oppression of the citizens are in vain as nobody supports him.

Al-Qarni says that this oppression is not only in the Tehama region, but that Tehama is just an example of human rights violations and the lack of the rule of the state in every district in Yemen.

He recalled the story of the people from Al-Ja'ashin in Ibb who fled their village at the beginning of the year because they say they were being harassed by the henchmen of the local sheikh. Last Tuesday, they were still protesting in front of the Parliament to bring the tribal leader to justice.

The series aims to convey the voice of the oppressed to public opinion and uncover such coercion, according to Al-Qarni.

"It also aims to make people aware so that they rebel against fear and dictatorship and to educate them on their rights," Al-Qarni said.

In addition, the series aims to inform the attorney general and the state in the country about the situation of oppression and human rights violations in Tehama region, Al-Qarni added.

Al-Qarni said that drama is a window that can be used to reveal human rights violations in the country. He called on authors, actors and directors to tackle the issue of human rights in their works.

"Through Hammi Hammak we wanted to tell influential persons who think that their illegal actions are red lines and nobody can talk about them, that now there are no more red lines in Yemen," he said.

Many parts of the series also tackle the issue of piracy in the Red Sea where poor Yemeni fishermen and commercial ships have fallen victim at the hands of Somali pirates.

"The series did not tackle only the issue of human rights violations and

oppression in Yemen, but it also presented the regional problem of piracy that harms the national economy and threatens Yemen's sovereignty," Al-Qarni said.

"By bringing the theme of piracy to the screen, we want to say that Yemeni fishermen are the victims who pay the price of this problem," he said.

"However, we do not want piracy to be a pretext for international forces to be there and violate Yemen's sovereignty," he said. "The Yemeni government should do its duty in protecting its citizens."

The series has generated much heated discussion even among Somalis as it deals with pirates. Debate has reached newspapers and news websites.

Opinion writers vary in their reactions to the series.

Most opinion writers in opposition and independent newspapers admired the themes and characters of Hammi

Hammak, but columnists in newspapers and websites of the ruling party, the General People Congress, wrote aggressive articles against the author and main character of Hammi Hammak, Fahd Al-Qarni.

Al-Qarni said that those aggressive articles motivate him to continue his drama work in favor for human rights.

"We will continue our drama work for human interests, defending simple people against oppression, because we are part of the simple people," Al-Qarni said.

He added that he received a lot of short messages from locals in Tehama thanking him for the Hammi Hammak series and its characters.

"One of the citizens in Tehama called me and complained that his cow was seized by the sheikh in his village for tax he was not able to pay, and the cow was with the sheikh until his conversation with me," he said.

A center of Zaidi learning in Dhamar

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

When he built the Shamsiyya School in Dhamar 500 years ago, Shamsaddin bin Sharafaddin ordered for a well to be dug to supply its teachers and students with water. When the well was found to be dry, he called for some pious blind men.

Yemenis traditionally believe that the blind are blessed and that their blindness is a trial from God to test their faith to go to heaven. So the school's founder asked them to descend into the well and invoke God's mercy upon them so that there may be water in the well. He asked them to remain in the well until water flowed from it.

According to local folklore, God responded to their invocation and blessed them with water. The transparent liquid flowed up in the well to those who needed it, lifting the blind men out with the last one submerged in water up to his neck.

The school was supplied by water from a well dug in the north east part of the building. It is 35 meters deep and six meters diameter. This is a nice tale scholars always narrate to visitors about

the well.

Established in 947 AH, the Shamsiyya School is located in the heart of the old city of Dhamar between the old quarters of Al-Hotah, Al-Mahal and Al-Harafish. The school in Dhamar is one of five Shamsiyya schools in Yemen. The four others are in Sana'a, Shara, Thulla and Zabid.

In the days when they were important centers of learning, the schools built by Shamsaddin bin Sharafaddin used to teach students several sciences: the Quran, Islamic jurisprudence, classical Arabic, Zaidi doctrine, mathematics, and astronomy.

Zaidism is a moderate Shiite school of thought that is the closest to Sunnism in its theology. It broke off from the main Shiite movement in the ninth century AD, after the death of the fourth imam Ali Zain Al-Abidin. Unlike other Shiites, Zaidis recognized his son Zaid Ibn Ali as the fifth imam and are thus also called the "fivers."

After the Shamsiyya School was founded, students travelled from different areas of the country to study there, especially from the nearby areas of Ans, Anes, Assadah, Annaderah, Usab Al-Ali, Usab Assafil, Jahran and Khawlan. The school provided the students with

housing and meals. The meals were provided by people in the area.

According to Scholar Abdul-Karim Al-Jabri, one of the school's imams, the teaching sessions were held from early morning until evening. They started from the time of finishing the prayer at sunrise until after the evening prayer. They were held continuously and stopped only during prayer times.

There were several scholars in the school, every scholar sat with a group of students and taught them. There were several sessions held at the same time. A session could be held for two students with a scholar. Besides teaching older students, other sessions were held for teaching younger children the first sura of the Quran and the Arabic alphabet.

The teaching was free of charge. The scholars committed themselves to teach students for Allah's sake. They were getting food from the people to free themselves to teach.

Now there are rarely students or lessons in the school. But there are still several scholars in their seventies and eighties. These scholars are Abdullah Al-Dailami, Ahmad Abdul-Razaq, Ismail Al-Washali and Judge Ahmad Al-Ze'r.

Imam Al-Jabri says modern sciences



The Shamsia School's minaret

took away students from the school. Even the the teaching books of the school have been taken away by the endowment office to keep them from being stolen.

But a few teaching sessions are still being held to teach children above ten years the holy Quran and its science and rules of recitation before noon prayer and after sunset prayer in summer vacation. These sessions are being held under the supervision of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Although the Shamsiyya School is no longer the bustling center of learning that it used to be, its building nevertheless bears witness to its past role in education.

Inside the school, an engraving in gypsum adorns the top part of the wall. In Arabic letters is inscribed who built the school and when. It is written that the construction of this building started in 947 in Hijri calendar and finished in Ramadan in 949.

In the middle of the northern wall in the direction of the Kaaba, still adorned with inscriptions in Arabic, stands the mihrab or prayer niche. No maintenance work has been conducted since the

school's establishment, according to the imams of the school.

The roof of the school is held up by many stone columns. The roof is made of wood and covered with gypsum. The school has five entrances, two from the north and one each from the east, south and west.

The school has three galleries surrounding it, from the east, the south and west. It has a tall minaret estimated to be 60 meters high. In the south gallery, there is a pool that was once used for ablution.

Around the whole school building there are still many smaller buildings, some of them in ruins and others still complete, but closed. Many of them are rooms that were used to house the many teachers and students who came from around Yemen to study there.

Famous students

In one of the rooms north of the school, there is still one small building called Al-Baradoni house that was used by the famous Yemeni poet Abdullah Al-Baradoni. Around Al-Baradoni's house, the other rooms are destroyed.

Many famous Yemeni scholars, poli-

ticians and poets were students at the school. Scholars who graduated from the school include Mohammad Hussein Amer, Yayhya Al-Maghribi, Judge Ahmad Salamah, and Hussein Abdullah Al-Da'ani. All these were great scholars in Islamic Law and men who memorized the Quran. The politicians include former North Yemen president Ibrahim Al-Hamdi, Zaid Al-Moushiki, and Jarrallah Omer.

Al-Hamdi was the president of Yemen in 1976-78 and ruled the country by rule of law and eradicated tribalism and limited the role of the sheikhs. All Yemeni people still have a good memory on him and mention him positively. Al-Moushiki was a leader in the revolution against the Imam's rule in 1962. Jarrallah Omer was a thinker and the secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party. He was killed by a Muslim fanatic in December 2002 while delivering a speech.

The poets were Abdullah Al-Baradoni and Ibrahim Al-Hadhrani. Al-Baradoni was a blind Yemeni poet who is considered one of the most famous Arab poets of the 20th century. Al-Hadrani was a famous Yemeni poet and thinker from Dhamar.



In these rooms surrounding the Shamsia School used to live its students, some of whom became famous including poet Abdullah Al-Baradoni and former president of North Yemen Ibrahim Al-Hamdi.

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Yemen's Flora



Kathi: The queen of aromatic plants

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

There is almost no traditional Yemeni song that does not mention kathi in association with love and courting. Known as 'kathi' which is a variation of the Arabic word for fragrance, this plant is used by both men and women in Yemen.

"I don't really use it much, but both my mother and father enjoy it. My mom puts it under her ear and my father tucks it into his turban, especially on Fridays when he goes to the prayer. When I was a child I used to ask him how come he wears the flower like girls and he would say God is beautiful and loves beautiful things," said Saif Abdulkhaleq, a 26 year old from Taiz.

The scientific name is *pandanus odoratus* but it is more commonly known as fragrant screwpine due to its spiky leaves and beautiful smell. It resembles palm trees but is shorter. The male flowers are the part of the plant used. They are almost exclusively used in the form of an aqueous distillate called *kewra water*.

It is found all over the country in the mountains and valleys, and is also grown domestically. It mostly grows during the rainy season, which is also the wedding season, and is available in abundance. It is collected and sold cheaply, still covered in its sharp thorny leaves to keep it fresh.

Yemeni men also tuck it under their *jambiya* [a traditional dagger worn by Yemeni men] decorated belt for the grooms during weddings and also under the grooms head scarf. Some men from Hodeida place several kathi plants on their heads and wrap around them what is called *akkawa* – a silver colored head ring



– which makes them look like the Greek kings.

In his publication, the Yemeni Encyclopedia, Yemeni historian Mutahar Al-Eryani said that Yemeni women across the country were obsessed with wearing Al-Mashaqer, which is a bunch of kathi along with basil or other flowery plants. Even the shepherd who stayed hours under the burning sun wearing ragged clothes would take the time to tuck kathi under her scarf leaving the head of the plant showing beside her cheek.

It is also used during child birth celebrations which are usually 40 days after the baby is born.

Kathi is used naturally as a decorative plant with a beautiful fragrance but is also made into perfumes and

even soap and lotions.

Syrian historian Dawood Al-Antaki (1534-1592) documented this plant in his books and said that it keeps the mind alert, helps regulate the heart and its powder can be used to heal burns. Arab botanist and pharmacist Ibn Al-Bitar (1188-1248) who is considered one of the greatest scientists of Al-Andalus, said that kathi's leaves, oil, root and buds are medically useful and that it could heal leprosy and was helpful for stomach ache.

Its oil is said to be a sexual stimulant for men and when used as an ointment removes headaches and rheumatism.

Yemeni tradition dictates that it should be collected only during sun-



rise or sunset. The specific reason for this is lost in history.

Its fragrance sometimes lasts up to five days. It has become less popular with the youth due to the availability of modern perfumes, but it has found international markets and is being exported to neighboring countries.

Story from the Arabian folklore

Once upon a time the sultan was walking across the town of Dhafar. One of the cunning poor men decided to make use of this opportunity to make some money. He had lots of kathi in his house which he had put in water. So he poured the fragrant water outside his window just as the sultan was passing by.

The sultan was attracted by the beautiful smell and asked to see the owner of the house. "Why did you pour out this scented water as I passed by?" he asked. The poor man replied "I did not mean to disturb you, my beautiful daughter had just washed her hands and I threw that water outside."

The sultan was intrigued and wondered that if by just by washing her hands in the water had made it smell so nice, then how would the daughter herself smell. So he decided to marry the poor man's daughter and paid him lots of money.

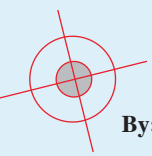
The problem was that the poor man did not have any daughters so when the wedding day came, he dressed up a wooden doll and carried her in a fancy parade on a camel to the sultan's house. On their way, they passed by a haunted house where a genie who was suffering from blisters around his mouth was living.

When the genie saw the parade for a wooden doll he laughed so much his blisters burst and he was healed. He felt grateful and decided to replace the wooden doll with his beautiful daughter after replacing her genie traits with human ones.

Eventually the sultan had his beautiful bride, the poor man his money and the genie was healed all thanks to the kathi plant.

Moral of the story: Always have kathi in your house just in case the sultan passes by.

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-IV

The Quran clarifies that people who have an illness, or a medical condition of any kind may not fast. To compensate for the missed fasts, they must fast later when they are healthy. If this is not possible due to long-term illness, they must feed the poor. The latter form of compensation is known as 'fidyah'.



The following questions frequently arise in many peoples' minds:

Should a person with diabetes fast?

People who have their diabetes under control, either by diet or taking oral medications, may fast. However, those who need insulin to control their diabetes are advised not to fast.

Should a person with severe migraines fast?

As we have seen last week, those with uncontrolled migraines are advised not to fast. However, adequate control of migraines is possible for most people with medications and alterations to lifestyle, and hence such avenues should be exhausted prior to deciding not to fast.

Should a person with high or low blood pressure fast?

Those with well controlled high blood pressure can fast. The treating doctor may alter their medications in order to help the patient to continue fasting.

A person with so-called 'low blood pressure', but who is otherwise well and healthy may fast. An adequate intake of fluid and salts in the diet is advised.

Is fasting harmful when a woman is pregnant?

It is not compulsory to fast while pregnant, but the woman will need to either make up those fasts later or, if unable to, should do 'fidyah'. There is some medical evidence to show that fasting in pregnancy is not advisable. If a pregnant woman feels strong and healthy enough to fast, especially during the early part of the pregnancy, she may do so.

Is Ramadan a good time to quit smoking and chewing qat?

Yes. Smoking and chewing qat are habits which are injurious to health. Ramadan provides a great opportunity to quit many bad habits.

From what age can children fast safely?

Children are required to fast from the age of 10, and this is not harmful. Fasting prior to this age is tolerated differently depending on the child's general health, nutrition and attitude. Fasting prior to the age of 7 years is not advisable, although initially young children may be trained to fast for a few hours at a time.

Can asthma inhalers be used during Ramadan?

Using an asthma inhaler is not classified as eating or drinking, and is therefore permissible during fasting. Poorly controlled asthmatics are advised not to fast until good control is achieved.

Is swimming allowed during fasting?

Having a bath, shower or swimming has no effect on the fast. However, no water should be swallowed during any of these activities, for that would break the fast.

Can a person fast if he is getting a blood transfusion in hospital?

A person receiving a blood transfusion is advised not to fast, on medical grounds. They may fast on the days when no transfusions are required.

Can a person on regular medication fast?

If such medication needs to be taken during the time of fasting, you should not fast. If this medication is required as treatment for a short illness, such fasts can be compensated for by fasting other days when well.

If medication is required on a long term basis as part of an on-going illness or condition such as high blood pressure or diabetes, then you may discuss with your doctor whether to change your medications to enable you to take them outside the time of the fast.

If your disease is unstable or poorly controlled, it is advised not to fast. Those who are unable to compensate later for missed fasts, due to the long term use of medications, are advised to do 'fidhya'.

Can a breastfeeding woman fast?

Islamic law exempts a breastfeeding mother from fasting. Missed fasts will need to be compensated for by fasting or 'fidyah'.

Can a patient take tablets, injections, inhalers or patches, while fasting?

Taking tablets are not preferred while fasting. However, injections, inhalers, patches, ear and eye drops, etc that are not comparable to food and drink do not break the fast, although it is advisable to avoid these if possible due to the difference of opinion amongst religious people on these issues.

Islamic law exempts the sick from fasting.

Can a person with dehydration as in severe diarrhea and vomiting break the fast?

Yes. Harmful levels of water loss could occur if the person was poorly hydrated before commencing the fast, and made worse by activities during the day and weather conditions like the summer months. If one produces very little or no urine, feels disoriented and confused, or faints due to dehydration, the fast should be broken in order to re-hydrate oneself.

Can a person fast while having regular dialysis?

Peritoneal dialysis requires the daily usage of fluid bags in the abdomen, and such patients are advised not to fast. The same applies for renal dialysis also.

"Khawatem Mubarakan!"

*Fidyah: is a method of compensation in Islam for a missed act of worship that must be otherwise fulfilled. If one is unable to fulfill a missed fast, for example due to an on-going illness, he should feed the hungry or the poor two meals per day.

EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07/10

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified Yemeni nationals for the following position:

Title:	Children & HIV/AIDS Officer
Level:	NOA
Type of Contract:	Fixed Term
Duty station:	Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Under the supervision of the HIV/AIDS Specialist, the incumbent will perform the following main key accountabilities and duties & tasks:

- Collect and ensure availability of accurate, complete and up-to-date information required for effective HIV/AIDS programme and project design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation. Draft sound HIV/AIDS programme budgets for review by the supervisor.
- Enhance project efficiency and effectiveness through implementation follow-on, including monitoring UNICEF inputs, local conditions and resources, flow of supply and non-supply assistance and HIV/AIDS project status.
- Analyze collected data and information and prepare progress reports; draft changes in HIV/AIDS project work plans and assist in identification of required supplies and equipment as well as in the drafting of Country Programme Recommendation and other project documentation, assuring accuracy and consistency with established rules, regulations and plans of action.
- Ensure the appropriateness of financial, administrative and supply documentation; verify that HIV/AIDS project expenditures are within allotments and that data is consistent with the project information and database (e.g., FLS, ProMS). Follow up on queries or initiate corrective action on discrepancies.
- Compile HIV/AIDS project implementation training and orientation materials to promote knowledge sharing with donors and media.
- Develop and maintain effective communication and networking through partnership and collaboration internally and outside the organization. This includes collaboration with Operations staff to implement internal controls systems and resolve day-to-day issues or discrepancies in financial or supply management. It also includes team with local Government counterparts to exchange information on Child Protection project implementation and status as well as movement and distribution of supplies. In addition, it also includes collaboration with NGOs, UN and bilateral agencies in the exchange of information relating to HIV/AIDS sector.
- Undertake on-going field visits to UNICEF project sites for the participation in, or observation of project activities and local conditions. Prepare routine information on results of visits and project progress and ensure adequate and timely follow up.
- Draft briefing notes, advocacy messages, sections of donor, annual and other reports as required by the Office, Regional Office and Head Quarters.

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- University degree in one of the disciplines relevant to the following areas: Social Sciences, Health, Public Health, Family Health, Nursing, or a field relevant to international development assistance in HIV/AIDS
- Fluency in English and Arabic is required
- One year of progressively professional work in Project Administration, including data collection and analysis in the area of child protection. Experience in advocacy and social mobilization an asset.
- Ability to research, analyze, evaluate and synthesize data and information and to make rational judgments.
- Proven organizational, planning, negotiation, networking and communication skills, including ability to express clearly and concisely, ideas and concepts in written and oral form.

Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae and copies of the performance evaluation report (most recent two reports) to - yemenhr@unicef.org. Applications received after **19 September 2010** will not be considered.

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Islamic hymn festival concludes in Sana'a

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
For the Yemen Times

A three-day festival in Sana'a for Islamic hymns, called "anasheed" in Arabic, concluded on Friday eve-

ning, with singers from Yemen and the rest of the Arab world.

Twenty-two local Islamic hymn associations from different governorates participated in the festival as well as guest singers or "mun-

shideen" from Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

The festival was held in the outdoor theater on the outskirts of the old city of Sana'a.

It was organized by the Ministry of

Culture and the Yemeni Munshideen Association as part of the activities linked to Tarim, the Capital of Islamic Culture 2010, according to Muaz Al-Shihabi, the executive officer of the Tarim program.

He explained that 286 munshideen from Yemen, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia participated in this year's festival, which is the ninth of its kind.

He pointed to the variety and wealth of Yemen's heritage in the Islamic hymns.

During the opening of the festival, the Minister of Information, Hassan Al-Lawzi, stated to the press that Islamic hymns play an important role in enforcing religious values that embody belief in one God and the meaning of loving the Prophet Muhammad.

He praised the talent of the Yemeni and Saudi religious singers.

For his part, Deputy Minister of Culture Dr. Ahmed Al-Qadi confirmed the importance of the festival in reviving and documenting the country's heritage in Islamic hymns.

He indicated that hymns are popular in Yemen in all segments of society and on different occasions.

Al-Qadi praised the efforts of the executive office of Tarim, this year's Capital of Islamic Culture for printing and publishing scholarly publications and for recently achieving the printing of 54 titles of old publications by Yemeni scholars.

For his part, Ali Al-Akwa'a, the director of Yemeni Munshideen Association said that the festival has been successful in documenting so many varied Islamic hymns.

At this year's festival, around 80 new Islamic hymns were sung.

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Yemen's got
TALENT

"Play it, love it"

By: Abdullah Bamoshmoosh
For the Yemen Times

Ahmed Tawfiq, 16, is a student at Sana'a International School and his talent is tennis. He even won second prize at the President's Cup this year.

How did you start playing tennis?
I started four years ago. My mom insisted that I play this game and then I met Captain Nabil. I became addicted to this game and started practicing it habitually. I love it now.

Where do you train now?
I now train at the Tennis Federation, near the Husain school, on 14 October Street.

Ok cool. What about your participation in the President's Cup?
The president's cup was held two weeks ago, and there were two hundred participants from all over Yemen and I came in second place.

Who is your model tennis player?
Sure, it's Federer, I think he's my model player.

What is your wadvice to all of the Yemeni tennis players?
I advise them all to continue playing this game because once they really start getting into the game, I assure you they will never leave it.

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"There is no such thing as impossible with me"

By: Nadine Ibrahim
For the Yemen Times

Ra'ooof Tofeq Taha Aklan, 19, was born in Germany but is originally from Yemen. He is currently in his second year at the Malaysian College. He loves graphic design and Photoshop, as well as singing. Two years ago, he started singing in a boy band with 3 members called Sky Seekers. The band began to take part in the music world by covering bands like Backstreet Boys, N'SYNC, and West Life. During that summer they started to compose their own songs and record them in private studios which they would perform live on stage.

In 2009 the band was awarded the best activity at the 2009 Sana'a Summer Festival. The band is still together today

and they are working on recording their own album that should be released at the end of the year. In addition, they plan to shoot their own independent video on television.

"There is no such thing as impossible with me," he said.

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