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# On literacy in Yemen

SANA'A, Sept. 8 - Like most countries around the world, Yemen celebrates World Literacy Day on September 8. Eradicating illiteracy is one of Yemen's most challenging problems. Among other projects, the creation of the Illiteracy Eradication and Adult Education Authority was established under the Ministry of Education. It has many literacy centers spread across the republic and this past academic year 2009/2010 over 167,000 students enrolled two third of which were women. Here follow stories of how literacy affects lives and development in Yemen.

## Illiteracy hinders development in agriculture

By: Ali Saeed

Abdullah Hadi, 60, a farmer in Hodeida still remembers how he was unable to join the school in his village before the revolution in 1962.

"I did not go to that school because I could not afford to buy paper to learn how to write on it," Hadi told the Yemen Times.

"At that time there were no public schools or formal education, only kata-teeb [traditional schools] that used to teach children how to read and write using very primitive instruments," he said. "In the traditional school in my village, children were learning how to read and write by grinding coals in a can to make a liquid and using it as ink," he explained.

Hadi has spent his whole life since childhood in farming but cannot read or write.

When asked how he buys the right



Rural women learn about best agriculture practices in a session funded by the Dutch Embassy and organized by the Ministry of Agriculture.

pesticides, for example, he replied that he asks the salesperson how to use them. However, he says that sometimes he buys pesticides for vegetables and later discovers that they have expired.

Yemen's population is around 23 million people, and more than 75 percent of them live in rural areas and depend on agriculture as their main source of income.

Continued on page 5

## Education key to integrating marginalized poor

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Wadha Abdullah Rashid, 9, is excited to be able to read and write. On the doorstep of her two-room house in Asser, a shanty town to the west of the Yemeni capital Sana'a, she sits writing her name and reciting a verse from the Quran. Her mother, sitting on a tin inside washing clothes, looks upon her daughter with pride.

"All my brothers and sister go to school, but my mother never went to school," said Wadha who studies in the first grade.

Wadha was born into a class in Yemen called the "akhdam" or "servants," originally at the bottom of the social hierarchy at the time of the Imamate. Although the so-

cial class system has gradually become less important since 1962, it remains largely in place for matters such as marriage, employment and education. So does the discrimination linked to it.

In a country where only 59 percent of adults are literate, the marginalized poor need education to break the cycle of discrimination, but some complain that they are even discriminated against by teachers. Civil society organizations, the current mayor of Sana'a and international organizations are doing their bit to ensure that those politely called "the marginalized" enter and stay in the classroom.

Continued on page 5



Wadha Abdullah Rashid, 9, writes her name on the doorstep of her two-room home in the Asser shanty town.

## Learning religion through television

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

For more than 40 percent of the Yemeni population who are illiterate, their knowledge of religion comes from what they hear from others.

For Yemeni women in particular, whose literacy rate has not exceeded 30 percent especially in rural areas, they obtain their religious education from the male members of their family, or the local imam.

"There are tens of religious satellite channels and they give different answers to my questions and this makes me confused," said Amel Haidar, a 50 year old Yemeni woman who can hardly read or write.

Her confusion was mitigated by her educated husband who explained to her which channel she should follow depending on the Islamic sect they represent.

TV is the main source of religious in-



A Quran and religious learning session at the Ola Al-Majd Charity to educate Muslim women on their religion.

## Parliamentarians: Experience vs. education

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Around a third of the members of the Yemeni parliament don't have a university degree. This is perhaps due to the fact that the parliament is supposedly a representative of the Yemeni people where around 40 percent of the population are illiterate.

However, there is more to being an active

member of parliament than sophisticated education and high degrees. According to MP MD Abdulbari Al-Dughhaish who holds a master's degree in General Medicine, there are some parliamentarians who are not highly educated but who provide intelligent opinions and are much more active in discussions than others with university degrees.

Of the 301 members of parliament there are 46 whose qualifications are general knowledge and the ability to read. The parliamentarians are elected for a term of four years except for the existing one which will be concluding its sixth year by April next year due to a delay in the parliamentary elections.

Continued on page 5

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formation for many Yemeni families, even those who are educated, because it is easier to obtain information from someone who seems religiously authoritative on TV than to look it up in books.

"My sisters and I sometimes disagree and have heated debates on certain religious fatwas because we obtained our in-

formation from different sources, or you can say different satellite channels," said Rana Mohammad, a university college student.

The education system in schools does not emphasize or cater to a certain religious sect and therefore mainstream education does not create this religious confusion. However, many Yemenis, especially during summertime or those who could not obtain a job, tend to invest their time getting more education through the various religious institutes.

Continued on page 5

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# Securing the Saudi - Yemeni border

By: **Turki Al-Saheil**  
**Asharq Al-Awsat**

Jizan, Asharq Al-Awsat – Officials from the Saudi border guard in Jizan province – a district located in the farthest south-western corner of Saudi Arabia, adjacent to the Yemeni border – did not exaggerate when claiming that at least one infiltrator is arrested every “five minutes” in the border region.

If you happened to visit the border region of Tawal – where the largest official border crossing between Saudi Arabia and Yemen is located – you would find a constant stream of infiltrators being arrested. You would also be able to see dozens of infiltrators camped out on the Yemeni border, no more than a few meters from the Saudi border guards, waiting for an opportunity to infiltrate Saudi Arabia; however the Saudi authorities have no right to arrest them as they are still technically on Yemeni soil.

It seems that the infiltration problem is one of the biggest issues that Saudi Arabia is facing with regards to Yemen, and it has even been suggested that this “infiltration” phenomenon may turn into a case of “temporary migration.”

According to the latest official statistics, the number of foiled infiltration attempts over the past two years stands at 695,000. This is due to the huge number of Yemenis who attempt to cross the border into Saudi Arabia.

This is something that prompted the Saudi authorities to undertake a set of security precautions in the Tawal region – which shares a 53.5 km border with Yemen – in order to limit the number of infiltration attempts being recorded along the border.

However, no phenomenon such as this exists without a root cause, and perhaps the deplorable economic and security conditions in Yemen are behind the latest influx of infiltrators attempting to gain entry into bordering Saudi Arabia.

Of the massive number of Yemeni infiltrators caught illegally trying to enter Saudi Arabia, the majority are merely trying to find a simple job to earn some money and return home to Yemen in the same manner that they arrived in Saudi Arabia i.e. illegally. Many Yemeni infiltrators seek job opportunities in Jizan, which is a 35,000 square km province in south-west Saudi Arabia.

Jizan has a population of around 1.5 million, and is made up of 13 governorates, and 31 municipalities; it experiences a hot and humid climate throughout the year. Jizan’s inland areas, which are located relatively far from the sea and adjacent to high ground, experience a semi-continental climate; moderate in winter and hot in summer. In the mountainous areas, some of which are as high as 2000 meters above sea level, the temperature is extremely low in winter and moderate in summer.

Jizan is considered to be the gateway between land and marine trade in southern Saudi Arabia; the port of Jizan is the third largest in Saudi Arabia in terms of capacity. Jizan is also considered to be the south-western gateway for the country’s imports. Due to its geographic location, Jizan also serves as a rest stop for Yemeni pilgrims on their way to and from Mecca.

All of these features make Jizan a popular destination for infiltrators and smugglers coming from Yemen. As a result of this, the northern parts of Yemen have been suffering a state of tension due to the Huthi control of this region.

According to official statistics obtained by Asharq al-Awsat during its visit to the Saudi-Yemeni border, more than 82,000 attempted infiltrators have been prevented over the past seven months, in comparison to 273,000 attempted infiltrations prevented in 2009, and 340,000 in 2008.

The border area that lies within the jurisdiction of Tawal – comprising six border checkpoints – is considered an infiltration hotspot, and is located near-

ly 80 km from the city of Jizan.

The ages of the arrested infiltrators vary significantly. When Asharq al-Awsat asked a group of infiltrators seized by the Saudi border guards their age, the youngest answered that he was 15 years old whereas the oldest said he was 50.

However, a border guard officer who accompanied Asharq Al-Awsat on its tour of the Saudi –Yemeni border reported that some infiltrators are even younger than this.

The Saudi authorities do not keep the infiltrators they arrest in custody unless they are proven to be implicated in other crimes, such as smuggling.

However, before releasing Yemeni citizens who illegally attempt to enter Saudi Arabia, the Saudi authorities take their fingerprints and keep their data in an official registry.

Lieutenant Colonel Salem al-Shehri, head of the Department of Planning of the Saudi Border Guards stationed in Jizan, stressed to Asharq al-Awsat that in the case of an infiltrator being caught for a second offence, he is subject to the punishments stipulated by the “Border Security Regulations.”

Those wishing to cross into Saudi Arabia illegally usually spread out along the border [on the Yemeni side] and wait for hours or even days for an opportunity to sneak in. Certain geographic factors, such as the natural terrain in the Tawal border region, also facilitate successful infiltration.

Lieutenant Colonel al-Shehri informed Asharq Al-Awsat that “some infiltrators were using the floodwater drainage pipelines to cross into Saudi soil. This was something we were alerted to, and we acted accordingly.”

The huge number of trees present in this region also aid illegal border crossing into Tawal, as these can be used by infiltrators as cover.

However, according to Lieutenant Colonel al-Shehri, who accompanied Asharq al-Awsat on a tour of the Saudi-Yemeni border, the situation is different today. The border guard forces

responsible for securing this area have taken precautions to ensure that the entire area is subject to vehicle patrols and surveillance, with surveillance cameras being deployed along the border region.

Those who infiltrate Saudi Arabia via Tawal are usually doing so with honest intentions. However, this does not negate those who exploit the border villages in order to smuggle illegal commodities into Saudi Arabia, such as the illegal drug Qat.

A recent report revealed that between 2008 and today, over 6 million kilograms (6,000 tonnes) of Qat has been seized on its way into Saudi Arabia. Arms, explosives, ammunition, alcohol and drugs are also high on the list of contraband seized en route from Yemen into Saudi Arabia.

Over the past two years, the border guard authorities have confiscated 3,600 bottles of whiskey, 6 million kg of Qat, 4,086 kg of hashish and 387,000 narcotic pills. The number of smugglers arrested since January 2008 stands at 10,000.

Yet just as there is smuggling activity from Yemen to Saudi Arabia, there is also illegal trafficking in the opposite direction. However, this is not the smuggling of forbidden goods; but rather the trafficking of foodstuffs. This is due to the high prices that such goods can fetch in Yemen; therefore there is also an active smuggling industry from Saudi Arabia into Yemen.

The Saudi-Yemeni border has also witnessed other attempted smuggling operations, stopping a total of approximately 80,000 head of cattle from illegally crossing the border, in addition to 4,949 vehicles.

Saudi Arabia and Yemen share 802 km of inland and coastal borders. 7 Saudi security divisions are entrusted with maintaining and securing the 43 border checkpoints along the Saudi – Yemeni border. 210 land and coastal patrols patrol this region around the clock in order to tighten border security.

Borders of this magnitude inevitably

witness numerous trafficking and infiltration attempts, and in the case of the Saudi – Yemeni border, this is something that has developed into a significant problem. There is also the issue of “integrated” border villages, which is something that contributes to the infiltration and smuggling process.

All along the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia there are many shared villages, and the region of Jizan is believed to host the highest proportion of these villages.

These ‘border villages’ are considered to be a major obstacle, hindering efforts to tighten the border security against both infiltration and smuggling. Such villages have also posed a dilemma with regards to Saudi efforts to get rid of the Huthi presence [on Saudi soil], or the “armed infiltrators” as they were referred to during the recent military campaign against them.

Since 9 April 2010, a governmental commission called the “Border Commission” has been surveying the border villages present on Saudi territory in order to determine the number of houses and properties present on the Saudi Arabian side of the border.

Lieutenant Colonel al-Shehri also confirmed to Asharq al-Awsat that until now, “7 border villages have been surveyed. Of these villages, a total of 643 houses have been evacuated.”

Following his visit to the scene of the recent border operations against the Huthi rebels, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz decreed that 10,000 accommodation units be constructed for the residents of villages that were evacuated during the conflict between the Saudi Arabian army and Huthi infiltrators.

During the Huthi invasion of the Saudi border at the end of last year, villages along the border in the region of Khoubah were completely evacuated; however some border villages in southern Saudi Arabia remain.

Saudi Arabia was keen to evacuate all of its border villages during and after its clashes with the Huthi rebels along

the border, especially as the Huthi rebels laid a large number of land mines in the border areas. As a result of this, the local residents are in significant danger for the foreseeable future and it would be extremely dangerous for the evacuated religions to return to their homes.

In an effort to counter this, a joint force of the police, mujahedeen [volunteer fighters], and Jizan troops have been formed and given the task of securing the evacuated villages and preventing any potential infiltration.

The previous Saudi-Yemeni border demarcation resulted in some Saudi Arabian villages being officially classified as being inside Yemeni territory, and vice versa.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Salem al-Shehri, this problem caused by the new border demarcation was in the process of being resolved “prior to the [Huthi crisis].” He informed Asharq Al-Awsat that “there is a joint Saudi Arabian – Yemeni commission assigned to account for the property, operating on the Saudi – Yemeni border...this was in order to account for the Yemeni property on Saudi soil, and the Saudi property on Yemeni soil.” However al-Shehri added that this commission was forced to cease its operation after the armed conflict with the Huthi rebels began, and it has yet to resume its operations.

The Saudi border forces established certain checkpoints along the border with Yemen, to enable members of the Saudi villages located on Yemeni land to enter. These checkpoints contain records of names of Saudi families living on the Yemeni side. The checkpoints do not permit border crossings for those whose name are not recorded at that checkpoint.

The Saudi border guard authorities have deployed 120 checkpoints along the border, including checkpoints in al-Ardha, al-Dayer and al-Tawal, all designated to facilitate the entry of Saudi Arabian families [into Saudi Arabia] whose land or property have been designated to be on the Yemeni side.

## Analysing the Yemeni problem

By: **Brian Whitaker**  
**Al-Bab.com**

A couple of useful articles about Yemen in the September issue of The Majalla. In the first, Professor Fawaz Gerges of the London School of Economics discusses Yemen’s summer of discontent. He writes:

What is alarming about the growing brazenness and activism of [al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula] is its linkage to Yemen’s deepening social and political crises, cleavages and stagnant state institutions. For example, AQAP is manipulating and leveraging its tribal connections in the south to gain a foothold in the rising separatist movement there. This strategy comes at a critical time. A secessionist movement in the south has gained momentum, with a sizable segment of southern public opinion demanding a divorce from the forced union imposed by the north in the early 1990s.

What the al-Qaeda branch has tried to do is to submerge and embed itself in these raging local conflicts, particularly in the south, mainly in the Shabwa and adjacent Abyan provinces, and to position itself as the spearhead of opposition and armed resistance to the central government in Sana’a. For example, just a few days ago, government forces battled the opposition and al-Qaeda elements to regain control over the city of Loudar [or Lawdar] in Abyan province, leaving dozens dead from both camps and forcing thousands of people from their homes.

The Majalla also has an interview with the Yemeni-Swiss scholar, Elham Manea, who makes some pertinent

points about the Houthi conflict, the baneful influence of religious “scientific institutes” and the weakness of the Yemeni state:

The tribal sector has always complicated the Yemeni context and the problem has to do with the fact that Yemen has a weak state. This has led to a situation in which you have areas that are pockets of tribal rule. The central government had no authority over these areas. The tribal factor is a problem, but one can try at least to use the tribal system in an advantageous way. However, I do believe that it will not be possible to create a strong state in Yemen without breaking the tribal institutions as independent from the state. Yemen needs a coherent policy towards the tribal system.

### On the Houthi conflict:

Until today, I would say that the government has not been part of the solution. In addition to the weak capacity of the state, if you look at the way the conflict started you realize that the Yemeni leadership supported the Houthis in the past before they rebelled against the government. The government did this as part of their own politics of survival. The Yemeni leadership was trying to weaken the Islah Party, an Islamic party that presented a strong opposition to the government at the time. In attempting to weaken the Islah Party by supporting a counter Zaydi group, the government’s policies backfired.

Today when you look at the issue of the Houthis in the Saada region you realize that those who were supporting the Houthis before were tribes that did not necessarily share the same sectarian belief of the Houthis. But they supported them as a response to the heavy-handed

policies of the army and their own perception that the government had not delivered services to their region.

### On the “institutes”:

In my opinion Yemen has lost a whole generation because of the type of education that was provided through what were called “scientific institutes.” These institutes were religious institutes preaching a salafi and wahhabi interpretation, which is extremist and pro jihad. We lost this generation also because this type of school came within a context when North and South Yemen were competing against each other. At the same time, North Yemen and Saudi Arabia were trying to combat the communist ideology of the South of Yemen. So now we have a generation that is more or less formed by the extremist ideology of wahhabism. I personally wouldn’t be surprised to see that there is a significant portion of young people who might be sympathetic to the message of Bin Laden.

These institutions were closed after 9/11, which was a good step. Nevertheless, what is very surprising is the example of a university like al-Imam. This university is led by Zindani, a well-known Salafia sheikh with connections to Osama bin Laden. He has been known for being sympathetic to Bin Laden’s message, yet the university is allowed to work freely and without any government supervision. I would be surprised if this university taught its students a message of tolerance. This is why I say that until today the government has not acted in a manner that corresponds to its words. If you are really serious about combating extremism in Yemen then you should address the root of the problem.

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By: Hamid

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## Continued from page 1 : On literacy in Yemen

**Illiteracy hinders development in agriculture**

Unfortunately there are no clear statistics on the literacy rate among Yemeni farmers. But from general indicators in education, illiteracy rates among farmers above the age of 40 is likely to be greater than 60 percent.

Abu Salah, 40, a farmer who rears cows and sheep in Mahwit told the Yemen Times that he believes that education is the key to the development of agriculture in Yemen.

"Farmers' illiteracy is an obstacle for agriculture development," he said.

Abu Salah learnt how to read and write in a traditional school in a mosque. He is very pleased that he is able to efficiently interact with others regarding his needs in agriculture.

He complains that illiteracy always leads to a lack of awareness of good practices in farming and that it negatively affects agricultural development.

He cited the example of an international organization working in his village to assist in improving its inhabitants' household incomes. It provided farmers with sheep, but as most farmers in his village are illiterate, they did not benefit from the project.

Some religious people told villagers that the organization was a Christian missionary one and that made the farmers return the sheep back to the organization.

Abu Salah added that agricultural development requires training courses for farmers on new and useful farming concepts. But how, he asked, would one train a farmer who is illiterate?

The Ministry of Agriculture has devised programs that aim at educating farmers through visual and practical tools.

Director of the training and agriculture guidance department at the Ministry of Agriculture said his department had completed 138 practical training sessions for farmers in eleven governorates. "Our people in the field know how to communicate with farmers and use illustrations and practical methods to directly show them how to improve their productivity and ensure safety."

He added that the ministry has distributed publications and graphic illustration guides to farmers on best practices and related issues.

**Parliamentarians: Experience vs. education**

The parliament includes 30 committees consisting of qualified staff who are government employees and whose job is to facilitate the parliamentarians' work and provide them with the technical, legal and logistical expertise to perform their duties as parliamentarians.

"The main requirement of parliamentarians is to know their constituency's needs and truly represent them in the parliament's sessions. We have the help of the committees' staff and we can also hire any consultants to help us with the technical information," said MP Ja'abal Mohammed Tuman of Marib, who is on the Finance Committee and who does not have a degree but is one of the most active members of the parliament.

Another example is MP Sheikh Sultan Al-Barakani who, because of his intellect and personality, became the spokesperson of the ruling GPC party although he does not have any degrees either.

"There is education and there is awareness," explained an active MP from the development and oil committee Abduljalil Al-Qubati. "You must know that all members of parliament read and write. But some of us were not privileged to get formal education. That does not make us any less smart or committed. In fact, you can find MPs with PhDs and still they are behaving as if they hardly have any education."

**Education key to integrating marginalized poor**

Wadha is lucky because she likes her teacher and says that she is nice to her. She wants to finish school and become a teacher herself when she grows up.

But not all the marginalized "akhdam" feel the same. Many of them say that they drop out of school by the end of the primary years because of corporal punishment, and the general discrimination against them by not only other pupils, but also teachers and principals.

Fatima Aysh, 30, is from the same old social class as Wadha. Although she is illiterate, her four children are in primary school. She thinks that school will improve her children's opportunities in the future, and criticized families who don't allow their children to get an education.

"Children should go to school in order to find jobs, improve their life and depend on themselves when they grow up," said Aysh. "Isn't it enough that we, the first generation are illiterate?"

Aziza Ahmad, 20, is one of the few women who completed high school in the Asser shanty town where Wadha lives. She now teaches children at the Assada Women's Association, an organization that works to empower the "akhdam" community through its women and children.

She believes that the main reason for marginalized people leaving education is poverty and their parents' lack of education: "Parents believe that their children begging is better than them going to school. If parents were educated they would not let their children go begging."

"My mission is make marginalized children love school because education will improve their situation," she said.

"Education has affected my life a lot," said Aziza. "Now there is a big difference in my understanding of religion, my manners have changed and the way that I deal with people has improved."

"I feel that all are proud of me and all the girls that live here want to be like me," she said.

Many children from the area drop out of school by the end of primary level. Some study only two or three years, and others never start school at all. It is very rare that any make it to university, she explained.

Eman Al-Raimi, 23, is one of the few who has. She graduated this summer from the Faculty of Education at Sana'a University. She lives in Asser, but not in the shanty town. All of her 10 brothers and sisters go to school.

Eman believes that the lack of awareness among parents about education is the reason behind children not completing school. She said her father was not educated but he was ambitious and managed to allow his children to study. Some of her siblings have graduated and found jobs, others are in university and school.

Eman says that if parents have the will to educate their children, they can. The difference attitude and education have made in her case is obvious.

"I don't feel marginalized," said Eman. She explained people marginalize themselves by being uneducated and living in communities away from society."

To give back to the community like Aziza has, Eman is being trained to become a teacher for the Assada Women's Association in Asser.

The association is headed by Hayat Al-Hibshi, who has been working with "akhdam" since 1993. She told the Yemen Times that most of the marginalized students drop out of school at the end of primary school, especially boys who leave to go and earn money.

"The association provides students before school age with courses to learn reading, writing, and math as well as guidance by our specialists to learn manners and cleanness," she said.

The idea is to give the children the best chance to integrate in school and stay there until they graduate.

"Part of the problem for marginalized people comes from themselves, because they don't take care of themselves. For example, some don't keep their clothes clean. This may make other people avoid them or stereotype them as unclean."

Al-Hibshi explained that in Sa'wan, a town built in 2005 for the "akhdam" by the government, there are many marginalized people who have changed their life. They achieved this precisely because they paid attention to their appearance and education, which enabled them to integrate into society.

"I know some girls who have completed their university studies and found jobs," she said.

Habits like chewing qat, smoking cigarettes and early marriage among marginalized people keep them in their own world refusing to change, she explained. There has to be the will to change.

Some are pessimistic and complain that even those who completed high school can only work as street cleaners, but education does make a difference, she said.

Al-Hibshi believes that there is discrimination from employers against the marginalized "akhdam," but that high unemployment is common among all young Yemenis anyway.

The first place discrimination must be fought is at school.

"Some schools refuse marginalized students, especially in the early grades. We go with the child to school and talk to principals who sometimes shock us with their stereotypes about marginalized students that they are rude and dirty."

But help is at hand. According to Al-Hibshi, the current mayor of Sana'a, Abdurrahman Al-Akwa', is the most cooperative in regard to marginalized people in years.

He has warned schools against refusing students because they are from marginalized communities: "The mayor told us that any school, any principal that refuses to register a child will be fired from his job."

And parents have increasingly started to see the importance of educating their children so that they have a better life than their own.

Abdullah Ali Rashid, 38, believes in the power of education. Although he never had the opportunity to study when he was young because there was no school in his village, today his four children all study.

"Now schools are available and we live in Sana'a," he said. "Boys should graduate from school and girls study until they get married."

Although she can hardly write her name, Horiah Ali, 33, from the Raima governorate agreed.

"The pen is a blessing," she said.

She said she helps her children in their homework with what she can understand, and leaves what she cannot to her husband, a high school graduate and soldier.

But even with parental support, some children continue to drop out of school because of mistreatment by teachers and fellow pupils, continuing the cycle of discrimination and limited job opportunities.

Tariq Ali Al-Raymi, 13, who works cleaning streets in Sana'a, dropped out of school at the fifth grade because of what he called problems with boys in the neighborhood near the school.

"I depend on God," said Al-Raimi, "it has been two years since I left school, but I can use the computer at the internet café. I play games and listen to songs."

Al-Raimi's father is angry at the teachers who used corporal punishment on his child, dissuading him from ever going back to school.

"Schools become useless since teachers cannot tolerate their students and they make them hate education," said his father.

**Literacy and religion**

"I go to an institute that follows the religiously conservative sect affiliated to the Eman University. I know that it is one

of the most conservative religiously, but I believe it is the right path. I try to influence my family to think like me, but they have other more flexible religious principles," said Thana Al-Asbahi.

Because Yemeni society encourages men more than women to go outdoors and interact with others, Yemeni men are more influenced through interaction with people. They are particularly influenced by those they meet who seem religiously confident and have a long beard, or have a religious role in the community such as being an imam of the local mosque.

Hassan Al-Ba'adani is a grocery shop owner who does not know how to read or write so he relies on the help from his children to manage his shop. He admits that he prays because of acquired habit which he cannot leave because he got used to it. "I don't really know the real essence of prayer but I just can't leave it. The mosque is right next to my shop and invariably I go there for prayer and listen to the religious lectures, some of which I know by heart."

Al-Ba'adani does not have the time or the will to seek other answers from other places and he has decided that his main source of religious information will be the mosque next door.

Noman Al-Qadasi is a Yemeni man in his 60s. He can read and write but knows by heart a huge number of religious sayings and Qur'anic verses and adopts the extreme Wahhabi sect. "I would never pray in any mosque that does not follow my sect. The real religion is ours, others are pseudo religions that are driven by politics."

Al-Qadasi does not know how to defend his beliefs or argue logically. When push comes to shove he says he believes so because his sheikh says so and this is the way it should be.

Another religious reference for many illiterate Yemenis are cassettes that they either by buy from various stores or obtain free from certain religious schools that aim at spreading their beliefs.

Around mosques or schools of this sort, the students gather in groups in small rooms on the main street and listen to the tapes. Even women make use of the convenience of sending tapes and even CDs to be listened to at home and provide those who cannot read with some sort of religious guidance.

**TRIANGLE G.H. INVITATION TO TENDER****Supply and delivery of livestock food inputs and veterinary medicines for a TRIANGLE GENERATION HUMANITAIRE (TGH) project**

**Al Mazraq area - Hajjah governorate – Yemen**

- 1. Publication reference**  
Y33 Sup 01/2010
- 2. Procedure**  
Open Tender with Local Publication
- 3. Programme**  
Project Reference: TGH/YEM/EC/2010/001
- 4. Financing**  
European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office – ECHO
- 5. Contracting authority**  
Triangle Génération Humanitaire, Haradh, Yemen
- 6. 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.
- 7. Indicative number and titles of Lots**  
Lot 1: Livestock food inputs  
Lot 2: Veterinary medicines
- 8. 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 Humanitaire – 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

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

**TRIANGLE G.H. INVITATION TO TENDER****Supply and delivery of construction material for a TRIANGLE GENERATION HUMANITAIRE (TGH) project**

**Al Mazraq area - Hajjah governorate – Yemen**

- 1. Publication reference**  
Y33 Sup 02/2010
- 2. Procedure**  
Open Tender with Local Publication
- 3. Programme**  
Project Reference: TGH/YEM/EC/2010/002
- 4. Financing**  
European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office – ECHO
- 5. Contracting authority**  
Triangle Génération Humanitaire, Haradh, Yemen
- 6. Contract description**  
Supply and delivery of construction material for an emergency project aimed at the conflict affected population of the North of Yemen.
- 7. Indicative number and titles of Lots**  
Lot 1: Wells construction material  
Lot 2: Shelter construction material
- 8. 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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MANILA, Sept. 2 -- Children stricken with dengue fever receive treatment at Amang Rodriguez Memorial Hospital in Marikina City, the Philippines. The Department of Health has recorded 62,503 dengue cases from January to August this year, 465 of whom have died. (Xinhua/Rouelle Umali)



BAGHDAD, Sept. 1 -- New Commander of US Forces in Iraq, Lieutenant General Lloyd Austin, speaks during a change of command ceremony at Camp Victory US Military base in Baghdad, Iraq. US Vice President Joe Biden said Wednesday that the US forces have begun a new "advise and assist" mission in Iraq, a day after US President Barack Obama announced the end of US combat missions in the country. (Xinhua/Xu Yanyan)



BALUCHISTAN, Sept. 3 -- A Pakistani flood-affected woman receives medical treatment at a mobile hospital set up by a Turkish rescue and relief team in Dera Murad Jamali, a southwest Pakistani province of Balochistan. The flash floods in Pakistan have left 1,710 people dead, millions homeless and caused a loss of over USD 43 billion, the government said Thursday. (Xinhua/Iqbal Hussain)



WASHINGTON, Sept. 2 -- (L to R) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Palestinian National Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas attend the launching ceremony of the direct negotiation between Palestine and Israel at the US State Department in Washington D.C. (Xinhua/Zhang Jun)



TEGUCIGALPA, Sept. 3 -- Relatives cry in Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras. During the funeral of illegal immigrants murdered in Mexico. Mexican marines found 72 corpses at a remote ranch near the US border, 16 of whom were Honduran illegal immigrants, the Mexican navy said on August 24. The coffins of the Honduran victims were carried back to Tegucigalpa on Sept. 1. (Xinhua/Rafael Ochoa)



MAPUTO, Sept. 2 -- A boy throws a tyre in a riot in Maputo, capital of Mozambique. At least 7 people were killed and 288 injured in the riots hitting Maputo and Matola over price hikes, according to the government spokesman on Thursday. (Xinhua)



BEIJING, Sept. 3 -- Chinese President Hu Jintao arranges the red ribbons of a flower basket, which is presented to honor the war martyrs who died fighting Japanese aggression during the Second World War, at the Museum of the War of the Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in Beijing, capital of China.



SANTOS, Sept. 03 -- Actors from Mexico perform during the opening ceremony of the Ibero American Arts Festival in Santos, Brazil. Artists from 11 countries attended the festival. (Xinhua/Agencia Estado)



BETHLEHEM, Sept. 2 -- Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad (C) attends the signing ceremony of renovating the ceiling of the Nativity Church, at the Presidential Palace in the West Bank city of Bethlehem. (Xinhua/Luay Sababa)



TRIPOLI, Sept. 2 -- Libyan leader Muammar Ghaddafi attends a gala dinner during a celebration for the 41st anniversary of the Libyan revolution in the capital city of Tripoli. (Xinhua/Hamza Turkia)



ROSARIO, Sept. 3 -- China's Gao Lihua (R) battles for the ball with Shelley Russell of South Africa during their Group B match at the 2010 women's field hockey World Cup in Rosario, Argentina. China won 4-1. (Xinhua/Alejandro Hacho)







