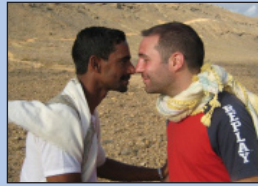




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**Inside:**  **5** Revolving for development  **7** Around the world in pictures  **10** Collecting alms in Yemen

## Tightened security measures in the capital 13 African migrants die at sea while receiving aid

**By: Mohammed bin Sallam**  
SANA'A, Sept. 29 — Following an attack earlier this week on Yemeni political security, the Ministry of Interior has launched a new set of security measures around the capital city, Sana'a. Security police are surrounding vital government and diplomatic premises as well as setting up random checkpoints on major streets.  
The security measures are being extended to the other cities and to highways between cities. A list of wanted men has been distributed to police stations and checkpoints, along with descriptions of wanted cars. Attention is also being directed towards unlicensed weapons found in vehicles or in public places.  
"Through these measures we aim to tighten our control over the city and catch the culprits behind the attack on a bus carrying ten political security officers last Saturday," read a statement from the ministry.  
Reports state that two of the security personnel on board the bus were killed and eight others wounded. The Ministry has neither confirmed nor denied these numbers. The attackers — rumored to be three masked gunmen — opened fire on the bus using AK-47 rifles before fleeing the scene.  
This is the first time a political se-

curity vehicle has been attacked. Usually security operations are classified as confidential. A source from the Ministry of Interior worried that this could be a sign that there is an informant to terrorist groups who has access to political security movements. The attack took place on Saturday morning on 60 m road near Al-Eman University, a conservative religious institution founded by Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani, who is on US Al-Qaeda wanted list. The Interior Ministry's wanted list includes eight men said to be members of Al-Qaeda and alleged to be part of Saturday's attack.  
According to state media five Al-Qaeda members were killed and 32 suspects arrested during last week's raid on Al-Hawta district, Shabwa governorate in south Yemen. Two soldiers are said to have died during the raid.  
A local source from Al-Hawta town who requested anonymity, said that the arrests are not real and that the alleged Al-Qaeda members are still free in the mountains outside the district.  
"These men are armed jihadis who came from Afghanistan long ago and have been living here all the time. The state knew about them before now and has made an agreement with them to leave the town in order to look good in front of the international community," said the source.



Girl scouts parade during the 48th anniversary of the country's Sept. 26 Revolution Day, in Sana'a, Yemen. Speeches and performances during the parade highlighted the country's unity and the government's intention to deal firmly with security problems.

**By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf**  
SANA'A, Sept. 29 — A boat carrying 85 African migrants who were receiving aid from the US Navy capsized in the Gulf of Aden last Monday drowning 13 of its passengers.  
The migrants -75 Ethiopians and 10 Somalis- were on their way from Somalia in an over-crowded boat when they were noticed by the American ship, which decided to help them with humanitarian supplies. The migrants rushed to the side of the boat nearest the US Navy ship, which led to their boat capsizing.  
Ironically, the migrants who survived the incident were taken back to the Horn of Africa from where they came just as they had arrived off the coast of Yemen. Eight of the 85 migrants remain missing and their chances of surviving are slim.  
Every month the Gulf washes to Yemeni shores the bodies of migrants who did not make the crossing. According to the UNHCR office in Yemen, the bodies of more than 30 Ethiopians were discovered in August alone in the proximity of Bab Al-Mandab, on Yemen's Red Sea coast. They had died from dehydration after reaching Yemen from Djibouti, mainly Obock. Another 30 sick Ethiopian new arrivals suffering from vomiting, diarrhea and dehydration were transported to Kharaz refugee camp for medical assistance.  
Yemen is host to thousands of African refugees who land up in in one of the five UNHCR refugee camps across the country.  
According to UNHCR's August fact sheet, since January 2010, 29,670 refugees have arrived to Yemeni coasts, around one third of which are from Somalia.  
Yemen is a transit point for most of those refugees despite the fact that they sometimes remain for many years in Yemen. Of the 29,670 refugees arriving this year, only 260 have been resettled to third countries.  
According to UNHCR, only 3 Ethiopians and 7 Somalis have voluntarily returned to their country of origin.

## Yemen's "youth bulge" and unemployment - an explosive mix

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Men at an intersection in Yemeni capital, Sana'a waiting for builders to take them to work on construction projects.

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## Yemen faces worst climate for press freedom since unification



"No enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests against journalists" read the banners at a previous protest at Freedom square.

By: Tom Finn

SANA'A, Sept. 29 — President's Saleh administration is creating 'the worst press climate in two decades' according to a damning report released on Wednesday by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

Extrajudicial abductions, intimidation, threats, and crude censorship have marked the government's record of repression for more than a decade but in the past two years Saleh's administration has taken legislative and administrative steps to further restrict free expression, according to the CPJ report.

"This is true - there has been a dramatic deterioration in press freedom in the country and the situation is getting worse, the number of arrests is going up," Mohammed Al-Qadhi, foreign

correspondent and member of the Yemeni journalist syndicate, told the Yemen Times.

Journalists like Al-Qadhi are alarmed by the Yemeni cabinet's attempt to amend the penal code and the Press and Publication Law.

The CPJ report carefully documents an array of legislative proposals - some of which are still pending - that would set prohibitive financial barriers for broadcast and online news outlets, expand the definition of criminal defamation to include virtually any form of criticism of the president, and increase prison terms, in some cases up to ten years.

"... the government's amendments, if they pass, give the authorities more ways than ever to restrict opposition journalists," said Samia Al-Aghbari,

one of more than 30 journalists, media analysts and lawyers interviewed by CPJ during its nine-day mission to the capital and the southern city of Aden.

Al-Aghbari also criticized the establishment of a Specialized Press and Publications Court in May 2009, an extraordinary tribunal to adjudicate media and publishing offenses.

The special court is in defiance of Article 148 of the Yemeni Constitution: "It is not permissible to establish exceptional courts under any circumstance."

In all, the court has handled about 100 cases since its creation in 2009, according to the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate.

The government has tried to skirt the constitutional prohibition by likening the press tribunal to courts dedicated

to such things as traffic violations and civil business matters, Mohammed Al-law, a former parliamentarian and lawyer who defends freedom of expression cases, told the CPJ.

The report calls for the abolition of the Special Press and Publications Court. It addition, it calls on donor countries to put pressure on Yemen over its harassment of the media.

"Donors to Yemen should consider that unless the press is protected, no one will be able to know what is happening here," Khaled Al-Anisi, the executive director of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, told the Yemen Times.

"With no independent judiciary, no strong lobbying, no independent parliament, no powerful opposition parties, a weak civil society... The regime doesn't care about anyone, the only thing they are afraid of is a negative reaction from the international community," he added.

"They know how to play the game, when they want to try a journalist, they put him in a special court where the laws can be manipulated, it's like a sort of decoration," said Al-Anisi.

"They want to send a message, we can banish journalists - or anyone we consider against us - we have the ability to attack journalists, with or without the law," he said.

There are fears that with numerous problems facing the country, such as attacks by Al-Qaeda and increasing levels of civil unrest in the South, that Yemen's press freedoms may be further diminished.

"The future is dark for Yemen's journalists, we are the ones who are paying the price for the current situation," concluded Mohammed Al-Qadhi.

In a recent case, Abdulrahman Shayi' and cartoonist Kamal Sharaf were held incommunicado without charge for more than 20 days after their arrest in Sana'a, according to lawyer Mohammed Naji Allow.

Last week, a judge released Sharaf but sentenced Shayi' to another 30 days in jail so that they could gather evidence against him. He has been accused of providing media support to Al-Qaeda.

## Intellectual property rights: an unknown concept

By: Malak Shahr

SANA'A, Sept. 29 — Abubakr Al-Mafahi, Yemen's Minister of Culture attended a conference in Geneva last week, chaired by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in order to discuss how intellectual property plays a vital role in economic development.

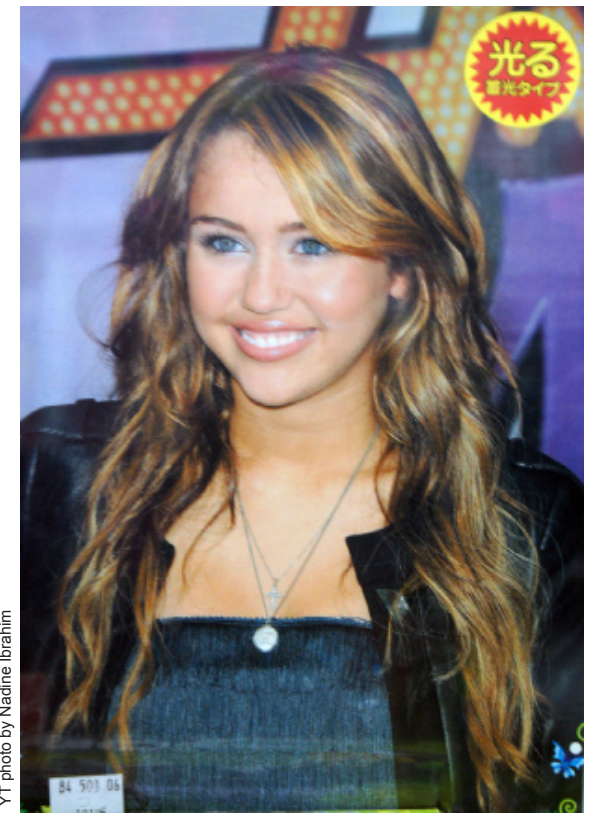
Shamsadeen Al-Zain, the head of Al-Zain Organization for Intellectual Property, told the Yemen Times that the Yemeni government struggles to protect intellectual property in a country where many have no idea what intellectual property and copy rights mean.

Yemen has ratified two international conventions on intellectual property rights, yet the illegal copying and stealing of other people's ideas is still widespread in the country, Shamsadeen Al-Zain, added.

Al-Zain said that intellectual property rights certainly play a key role in development, since people's creativity is better generated when they know their rights will be protected.

As the head of an intellectual property organization, he often witnesses people stealing trademarks and artistic creations such as songs DVDs and CDs, which according to him are widespread.

"Computer systems and software in Yemen don't have legislative protec-



An unoriginal poster of teen pop star Hanna Montana sold in a toy shop in Sana'a. Copyrights and trademarks are not yet understood or appreciated in Yemen.

tion and are always exposed to theft and piracy," he said.

The first intellectual property law in Yemen was issued in 1994 to protect trademarks, industrial figures, patents and copy rights.

According to Al-Zain, a person found guilty of intellectual property theft can go to prison for up to six months or be asked to pay damages according to what judge's specification. He or she may also be asked to apologize in a newspaper or on television.

Yemen signed the Paris Agreement to protect industrial property in 1997. It also signed the Bern Agreement in Switzerland to protect literary and art works in April 2008.

But most people still are not aware of intellectual property rights, he said.

## Corporate governance for better family businesses

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Sept. 29 — Family businesses that applied the principles of corporate governance were less affected by the world financial crisis, according to Ahmed Bazara, chairman of the Yemeni Businessmen Club.

This was the message Bazara gave on Wednesday during the opening of the second Regional Family Business Conference in Sana'a, an event organized by the Yemeni Businessmen Club.

The two-day conference aimed to

educate businessmen on how to ensure the sustainability and development of family businesses within the global economic system, according to Bazara.

He called on all family businesses to separate ownership from management, so as to better structure their firms and to be able to continue their businesses and contribute to the national economy.

The conference comes at a time when several family businesses have disappeared, either due to the absence of their founders or due to conflict between family members. Family disputes

can lead to family businesses splitting into separate businesses or disappearing altogether.

Officials from the General Investment Authority, the Minister of Legal Affairs and the head of the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry attended the conference.

The conference aimed to review corporate governance, social responsibility of family businesses, the role of founders in business sustainability, and the role of the new generation in developing family businesses.

Mohamed Abdu Saeed, chairman of the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said during the opening of the conference that 99 percent of licensed companies in Yemen are family businesses.

He added that a high percentage of those firms in Yemen are small and medium businesses. A large number of family businesses in Yemen are run by one member of the family on the basis of experience not studies, according to Saeed.

Many family businesses in Yemen

play the role of agent or distributor in promoting products for international companies without having any added value, according to Saeed.

Family businesses are the oldest and most prevalent form of business in the world, according to 2009 study, entitled «A comparative study: Corporate governance practices and attitudes in family owned businesses in Yemen and Canada.» They constitute over 90 percent of all businesses in most countries.

Communicating family values, the business' mission and long term vision

to all family members is often one of the major challenges faced in family businesses, whether small, medium or large, according to the study.

Keeping family members, especially non-executives, informed about major business accomplishments, challenges, and strategic directions, is one of the main causes of tension and conflict which can result in the demise of the business, the study suggests.

The study suggested that applying corporate governance in family business firms can solve this problem.

### Continued from page 1

#### Yemen's "youth bulge" and unemployment - an explosive mix

Maen Al-Eryani, head of YEFE, explains that while the unemployment rate in Yemen is a staggering 35 percent, the reality is even harsher for youth.

"We estimate that youth unemployment for the ages we deal with, 18-28, is about 50 percent," Al-Eryani said.

YEFE graduates have received specialized training in English language and computer skills which university graduates usually lack, and many will find a job within a few months of finishing the programme. But very few Yemenis have access to such opportunities.

A few blocks away, over 100 young men in working clothes mill about a busy intersection. They are waiting for builders to come by in pickup trucks and take them to work on construction projects around the capital.

"I wait here every day," says Nouf, a 27-year-old high school graduate. "I'll work with anyone who comes by. They pay 2,000 Yemeni rials per day [about USD9], but I only find work one or two

days per week."

Many of these men are high school graduates, and a few even have university degrees. If relatively well-educated Yemenis struggle to find just a few days of low-paid work per week, what does this mean for the future of the economy?

#### "Youth bulge"

The prospects for youth employment in Yemen are especially dire because the country suffers from a "youth bulge," a demographic phenomenon found in many developing countries as they move from high to low rates of fertility and childhood mortality. Mortality rates usually decrease first, and the temporary combination of low mortality and high fertility leads to a population bulge.

Yemen's high fertility rate, with an average of 5.4 children born per woman translates into one of the world's largest population growth rates, at about 3 percent. About a quarter of Yemenis are aged 10-19, suggesting that the unemployment crisis for youth could get even worse in the medium term, and with 46 percent of the population under 16, the long-term picture is equally bleak.

"By 2020 there will have to be two million jobs created just to keep unemployment rates at controllable levels," said Al-Eryani. He said the "youth bulge", combined with increasing unemployment, could destabilize the country. "Young people with no hope can be very volatile."

In recent years the "youth bulge" theory has become a more common lens through which social scientists study conflict. In a report for the Council on Foreign Relations, Lionel Beehner wrote that countries with youth bulges "often end up with rampant unemployment and large pools of disaffected youths who are more susceptible to recruitment into rebel or terrorist groups. Countries with weak political institutions are most vulnerable to youth bulge-related violence and social unrest."

According to Population Action International, 80 percent of new civil conflicts between 1970 and 1999 occurred in countries where 60 percent or more of the population was under the age of 30.

#### Unemployment, instability

Yemen has a history of instability and

whether it keeps a lid on the country's various conflicts might be defined by whether young Yemenis have access to economic opportunity. Raidan Al-Saqqaf, national coordinator of the International Labour Organization (ILO), believes unemployment will inevitably rise.

"I do see that there will be an increase in unemployment, given that the number of entrants into the job market is far bigger than the number of opportunities being created," Al-Saqqaf said.

Asked if higher unemployment would lead to increased instability, Yemeni political analyst Abdul-Ghani Al-Iryani said: "The obvious answer is yes. All these challenges have their roots in economic hardship. More of one will mean more of the other."

The worst case is that these young people will turn from an opportunity to a disaster. That would further destabilize the country.

Al-Saqqaf added that, while politics are an immediate cause of instability, unemployment is one of several structural causes, along with "poverty, poor quality of life, and lack of social services".

That the northern conflict in Saada has persistently resisted a political settlement is evidence that short-term political solutions do little to mitigate the underlying economic causes of conflict.

"I think the only real asset the country has is human resources," said Maen Al-Eryani. "If we are to survive, the government needs to allocate its resources to HR [human resources] development."

While many nations have benefited from a "demographic dividend" as a result of a population bulge, where educated youth have contributed positively to economic growth, in Yemen investment in human capital has been very low. A relatively small percentage of the population is educated (nearly 50 percent of Yemenis are illiterate) and even those with university degrees rarely have the skills needed to succeed in the modern workplace.

Al-Eryani has had students with IT degrees enter his programme, only to find they are not competent in Microsoft Office. English graduates often cannot hold basic conversations with English speakers.

#### Investment in education needed

To deal with these deficiencies, and thereby turn the "youth bulge" into an advantage for the economy, he recommends increasing funding for technical education and vocational training (TEVT). "With an extension of job-oriented training programmes, work opportunities will increase dramatically."

But with only 1.4 percent of Yemeni students currently enrolled in TEVT, there is a long way to go.

Al-Eryani also highlights the importance of Yemen's Gulf partners. "If we are to survive at all we need to create more jobs regionally as well, especially in the Gulf, where there is a big market. But we need to provide better education, because they will no longer accept any unskilled labour, which they can get cheaply from Southeast Asia."

As Yemen's major security crises continue to attract media attention, it is vital that the plight of Yemen's youth not be forgotten. "The worst case is that these young people will turn from an opportunity to a disaster," says Al-Eryani. "That would further destabilize the country."



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## Senior Executive Post –Second Announcement



Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank (CAC) is one of the largest banks in Yemen. CAC Bank is considered among the Yemeni distinguished banks as it adopts very modern technology in addition to using modern common banking practices. CAC Bank has the widest national network in terms of number of branches and electronic channels.

The Bank is currently implementing a comprehensive project for development and modernization including re-structuring the bank in a way that is compatible with the ambition of the bank and its strategic plan approved to the period until 2012.

As part of development and modernization project, the post of Chief Executive Manager has been developed. According to a decision of CAC Bank Board, the project of the Development and Modernization of the bank announces its need to fill this position to lead and manage the Bank's operations under its new strategic plan and under the management and guidance of the Chairman and the Back Board of directors

### The main tasks and duties will include:

- Managing and directing CAC Bank daily operations
- Developing and reviewing the overall strategies and objectives of the Bank and introducing them to the Bank's Board.
- Supervising all operations and activities being implemented effectively the head office and branches of the bank and ensuring these activities are in line with the strategies and policies in place and supervising developing action plans to ensure achieving the overall objectives of the bank.
- Managing the operations, activities and resources of the bank and achieving competitive advantage and maximizing profits.

### Requirements

- At least 15 years of experience in the banking including occupying different senior administrative positions.
- Bachelor degree in finance and banking or trade, business administration, statistics or economics, and Master degree or Higher Diploma is preferred.
- Experience in management and leadership skills
- Good skills in strategic and operational planning
- Effective communication skills and fluency in English and Arabic
- Ability to organize the duties and responsibilities and management of subordinates.
- Excellent knowledge of computer skills.
- Good working knowledge of financial management methods, and risk management and good knowledge of the legal framework for credit and banking services.
- Good knowledge of human resources legislation and regulations.
- Those who have knowledge of banking market or have worked in the Yemeni market are preferred.

### Required documents:

- To fill out the application form of the post of "Executive Chief Manager"
- All documents proving what has been mentioned in the application form.
- Curriculum Vitae with experience Certificates.
- Business Plan.
- Personal achievements in the work.

The applications will be assessed according to some terms developed within the project development and modernization of the bank. To obtain these terms and the application form and for further information, please visit CAC Bank website: [www.cacbank.com.ye](http://www.cacbank.com.ye) or e-mail us to the following e-mail address: [Res.project@cacbank.com.ye](mailto:Res.project@cacbank.com.ye)

Applications and CVs and supporting documents should be received on the period from 18-09-2010 to 17-10-2010 and sent by express mail to the following address:



Research Development Department, fourth floor, CAC Bank, Zubairy Street, next to Ministry of Youth and Sports, Sana'a - Yemen.  
Attention : Dhiya Alhubaishi .



# Revolting for development

Thanos Petouris is a Greek student who has been in Yemen for the past ten months conducting research for his PhD about the nationalist movements against the British rule in Aden in the fifties and sixties. He has interviewed a number of prominent Yemenis who participated in the National Liberation Front (NLF) and the Front for the Liberation of South Yemen (FLOSY). He previously taught English in Aden for two years before choosing Yemen to conduct research for his PhD.

Interviewed by: Ali Saeed

## Why did you specialize in this topic?

My specialization is Middle East politics and I found that there are not many people in my country – I come from Greece – who have studied the Middle East although the two areas are very close together. I thought that more people should study the Arabs and their politics and history in order to educate more people when they go back to their country.

## You met people who participated in the revolution against the British. What are your first findings from those meetings?

Well, what strikes me is that what they described to me is a very well-organized and modern movement against the British. They did not just wake up one morning and decide to start fighting, but there was a long process of preparation for it.

A lot of very secret meetings and very secret organizations were working under the nose of the British who apparently did not know about it. The other thing is that the people who participated in these movements were highly educated for that time. There were people who traveled to Cairo, Baghdad and Damascus, and other places in the Middle East and Europe.

And the third thing was how at that time there were a lot of ideas coming into Yemen and getting out of Yemen to the rest of the world. Some people were supporting Nasser and his policies, some people were aligned with the Baath or the Movement of Arab Nationalists (ANM) in Lebanon.

So it is interesting to see how things that were happening in Palestine, or in Lebanon or in Egypt, were also affecting people who lived in Yemen who decided to take their history in their hands and get rid of colonialism.

## From your interviews, what were the key motives that the leaders of those movements used to convince people to rebel against the British?

Well, the only concern was the development of their country. At that time they were saying that Aden as a colony was taking all the attention and the money from Britain and all the support and the Protectorates outside Aden, like Hadramout, Lahj and Abyan and all these areas, they were left underdeveloped.

So a main concern of these people was to be able to take politics in their own hands and develop their own country

in a democratic, open way, not with British colonialists telling them what to do.

## Were they trying to establish an Islamic state?

It is a question that I asked people. I asked them, “Did religion have something to do with your movements?” They told me two things. Firstly they told me that they were fighting the British not because they were Christians, but because they were a power that came to their country without the local people wanting it. So they were fighting them as soldiers not because of religion.

And the second thing, Yemenis, especially people from the north, tell me that they had the imam there for many decades, who used religion to force people to obey him, telling them that if they did not follow him they were unbelievers. So they said, “We got rid of the imam in the north, we do not want to bring religion back with politics, we want to keep the two things separate.

The only point at which religion seems to have played a minor role in these movements was the use of mosques as a place to exchange their ideas or to meet. There was a famous occupation of the Asklani Mosque in Crater in Aden by women. The women of the people who were imprisoned by the British occupied the Asklani mosque and they used the microphones to deliver their message to the outside and of course the British could not go inside the holy place to arrest them. This is more or less how it was used, nobody used religion or a ‘holy war’ as we see it today.

## What about poetry? Did it play any role?

I know that poetry played more of a role in the north with Al-Zubairi and others. In the south, in the 1930s and the 1940s, at the beginnings of nationalist movement, there were a lot of literary clubs. People like Mohammad Ali Luqman organized clubs of literature and culture. They wanted to promote a local Arab culture as oppose to the culture that the British were bringing from their own country. The same thing was happening in Hadramout, there were clubs like Nadi Zahrat Al-Shabab and others who were bringing young people in to read poetry and literature to reconnect with their Yemeni and Arabic roots.

## After the British left Aden, were peo-



Petouris bids farewell to a friend on Soqatra. He said that he found Yemenis very friendly and hospital.

## ple happy?

Well, at the point when Britain left Aden in 1967, of course people were satisfied that finally they had achieved what they had been fighting for, for so many years.

If you ask people today, with hindsight, having seen twenty years of the Marxist regime in the south, they will tell you that we made some mistakes on the way, we should have been more open to Britain and other countries and not cut off relations with them, and of course we should have promoted our economy in a better way.

People in Aden will tell you that the Marxists came and took their land and their houses and gave it to poor people, so a lot of people didn't like that.

## So Marxism was a bad alternative after the occupation?

That is interesting question for my research as well. I think that at some point after independence people lost control of the situation and those who could control the army and power imposed their own ideas. Not all of those in the south had fought for this kind of a state.

## Previously you mentioned that people fought for their country's development. Did they achieve that or not?

Well, I suppose they did. I guess the main accusation against Britain was that there was only one road going from Aden to Lahj and then there was nothing. There were no roads going to Shabwa, to Hadramout, anywhere. So, I suppose in terms of infrastructure, schools, hospitals, roads, etc. South Yemen was later able to build these things.

And this is mainly because the Protectorates outside of Aden were not under the direct control of Britain anyway. They were building hospitals and schools in Aden, but the Protectorates

were not their direct responsibility and that is why they remained underdeveloped. The Protectorates were ruled by the local sultans and sheikhs of the south.

## Do you think your study will help forge links between the west and the east?

One of the reasons that I'm studying this topic is that there are a lot of books written about this period of history from the British point of view – the British diplomats, officials and soldiers who were in south Yemen at the time. But I've found that there are not many publications which talk about the Yemeni side. I'm hoping to be able to convey what the Yemenis wanted, what was their point of view, why they revolted against the British in the first place, what kind of a country they wanted to build, and what were their ideas at the time of their future.

The British have written about it, but they did not have the opportunity back then to get together with the Yemenis. If you look in to how the Colony worked, most of the British led their own lives in Tawahi and Little Aden and the local population lived in Crater and Sheikh Othman without a lot of connections between the two communities.

I also found that now the Yemenis who fought at the time are about the age of 60 to 80 years old. So they feel free to speak about this time, because a lot of time has passed and they feel that it's time for this history to be written as well.

## As a foreign researcher who has lived in Yemen for ten months, who has been in touch with Yemenis and traveled to many areas in the country, what is your message to foreigners who would like to come to Yemen?

First of all despite what you see in the news, Yemen is a safe country. Being in



Petouris wears local Adeni dress in Aden.

Sana'a right now, I feel that if there is any danger, it is the same kind of danger you might experience in a big city in Europe like in London or Athens. I don't feel as if when I leave this cafeteria and go outside something dangerous might happen to me. It is important to inform people that Yemen is safe. At least the big cities of Yemen are certainly places where tourists can come and enjoy themselves.

Secondly, a lot of people ask me about Yemenis themselves and what strikes me is that Yemen is a very hospitable and very friendly nation.

During my stay here, I've often had neighbors who used to bring food to me, especially during Ramadan, to my house. I've always made friends easily. Someone would come and knock on my door and say, “Would you like to be friends with us? Come and play football with us!” I never felt isolated from the community. I find that the Yemenis want to meet foreigners a lot, and they want to learn what life is like abroad. They are keen to practice their English with foreigners and they are very open.

And what is your message to Yemenis? To work hard for they have really a beautiful country. The country has a huge potential. We all speak about the business potential of the oil and gas sector but there is also great potential

for tourism. The safer the country becomes, the more tourists will come to Yemen. But I think the basis for of any real development will not come from sitting and waiting for the government or the rest of the world to give money and give aid. I've told my Yemeni friends you must stand up and start creating your own business, think of your future and think what you can do about your country.

## Can you tell us what places you have visited in Yemen?

I'm happy to say that I've almost visited the whole of the country. I've done the classic routes from Sana'a to Ibb, Taiz and Aden. I've also been to Hadramout, both Wadi Hadramout and Mukalla.

I have been to Soqatra and I have been to the most beautiful place in Yemen for me which is Yafe'. I found that Yafe' with its high mountains and tower houses is probably one of the most beautiful parts of Yemen. But what I like about Yemen is that wherever you turn your head, you find another image. Yemen is a very photogenic country and it is very diverse. Hadramout's architecture, culture and the people, although it is part of Yemen, it is different from Aden, and Aden is different from Sana'a. So it is exciting that you can travel from one place to the other and see so many different cultures and people.

## Stories from Real Life Street children

By: Nawal Zaid For the Yemen Times

### He mixed with bad youths and lost his future

Hasan Haddad, 10, does not go to school. He came to Sana'a from Hodeida six years ago when he was four years old. He came by a vehicle carrying fish from Hodeida to Sana'a. He started his life in Sana'a in a neighborhood near a fish market.

As a poor little child living and sleeping in the streets, the people in the neighborhood used to take care of him. He did not have clothes, food or money. People started giving him food and clothes.

When they asked him where he was from, he told them he came from Hodeida by a car carrying fish to Sana'a. He had fled his area to seek a better life in Sana'a. He had run away from miserable living conditions in Hodeida.

The people in the neighborhood helped him and gave him everything he needed. They tried to enroll him into a school to make him a good child, but

Hasan wanted the excessive freedom of living in the streets. He played with young and old, and started associating with strangers and many bad youths.

He remained in that neighborhood for three years. Every one knew him, but when people tried to return him to his family he fled the neighborhood for a week only later to return again. He remained in the streets of the neighborhood asking for food and money from people.

He disappeared from his first neighborhood and moved to another, which was worse and a hangout for bad youths with no morals. They drank and did many bad things like mixing with girls and women and sleeping with them. He fell in with the youths, and indulged with them in doing this and that. He began smoking, chewing qat and even drinking alcohol with them.

They were not satisfied with these acts and made Hassan have sex with them, and with younger children. Seeing all this, the locals became angry and beat Hassan. They took him to the police, trying to force him to return to his relatives. Unfortunately, he fled and hid with his friends.

Hassan has become a lost child, af-

licted with many diseases resulting from his smoking, drinking and practicing sex. He has not enjoyed any real childhood. His life has been that of a miserable child. Nobody now gives him food or anything, and he begs his food from restaurants. He still lives in the streets and sometimes with those lost youths.

### An orphan expelled by his uncle is adopted by a good family

Sami Ahmad is now 17. When he was a primary school student he was left without father or mother. He was left to an uncle who expelled him from his house. He left Hadramout to Sana'a when he was nine years old to seek work.

In Sana'a, Sami used to work in a building and ate what food was left over from the people who lived in the building. They were very rich people. Sami used to sleep near the building. No one knew who he was or where he came from.

He took money from this and that. He wore broken shoes, old and torn clothes. Everyday he went into the streets to beg and when he returned he found some food in the building to eat.

One day, a son of the building's owner, Ammar, took Sami to their house. Ammar was 25 years old, married and had two children. Ammar welcomed Sami into their house and brought him up. He considered Sami as a younger brother, gave him a separate room, clothes and money.

When Ammar brought Sami to the house and informed his mother about Sami's condition and his decision to adopt him, she welcomed him and felt happy to receive him into the house. She also decided to help him and gave him money to study.

The mother gave Sami some money and told her son Ammar to be good to him and respond to all his demands. The mother had seven sons and considered Sami the eighth. Sami felt very happy with this good family and decided to study harder.

As the years came and went, Sami studied harder and harder to become a good son to the family that took him

from the street. Sami now continues his study, and at the same time works with his brother Ammar transporting goods from one governorate to another.

Every Eid, Sami gives gifts to his new mother Latifa and kisses her head. He considers her the best mother he ever knew, as his real mother died while he was only a little child.

Ammar and the rest of his brothers love Sami very much because he is a good boy and obedient to God. In these days, it is difficult to find people like Ammar's family and this example of goodness, mercy, good treatment and loving charity. All this is rewarded by God.

### She worked as singer in a qat market to earn her living

Safa Ibrahim, 20, works as a singer and lives in Sana'a. She is an orphan without a father or mother, or even any brothers or sisters. When she found herself without family, she used to go to the qat market

and help qat sellers to earn her living. She used to go at noon when the market is full of people. She was harassed by some men and their immoral words trying to make her surrender to their desires, but ignored them and worked hard.

As a girl of good voice, she started signing and dancing in the market and all the people enjoyed this. She also performed folk dances. Everyone in the market encouraged her and gave her money, as they enjoyed themselves with her signing and dancing.

Youths used to gravitate to the market to see Safa and enjoy her singing and dancing while they bought qat.

Safa was living with a poor family in the neighborhood and remained in the market singing and dancing for eight years until some senior singers noticed her. One of the famous singers encouraged her and helped her until she became a good singer. Then Safa moved to the world of singing and finally left the market.

She began recording cassettes, selling and distributing them in the market. Now her financial conditions have improved, all of her life has changed for the better.

# Joint statement from the Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of Yemen

Following the Ministerial Meeting held in New York on Friday 24 September 2010, co-chaired by Foreign Secretary William Hague, the Friends of Yemen issued the following joint statement on outcomes and recommendations.

The Friends of Yemen met at ministerial level on 24 September 2010 to review progress since the January meeting in London, agree a course of action, and plan for the next meeting in Riyadh. They gave their unequivocal support to the unity, security and stability of the country and endorsed the principle of non-interference in Yemen's internal affairs. Ministers expressed their warm thanks to the Co-Chairs of the Working Groups on Economy & Governance and Justice & the Rule of Law for their energy and commitment. They endorsed the recommendations of the Working Groups.

The meeting praised the encouraging progress made since the high-level meeting in London in January, in a number of important areas:

- The agreement of the Government of Yemen to an IMF programme, bringing

vital fiscal discipline to the management of Yemen's serious budget deficit;

- Early introduction of measures to implement the IMF programme, including the gradual reduction in the level of Government subsidies on fuel, lowering a heavy burden on the budget, and the fast-tracking of important enabling legislation;
- Firm progress in the negotiations towards Yemen's accession to the World Trade Organisation, which they hoped would be concluded by the end of 2010;
- The launch of a comprehensive National Dialogue; and
- The announcement in February 2010 of a ceasefire in Sa'dah.

The meeting agreed that:

#### Economy, Development & Governance

- The Friends of Yemen considered the National Dialogue a Yemeni process, which they would encourage and support. It formed the best basis for building lasting security and stability. They agreed that the Dialogue should proceed speedily to substantive discussions between the main political actors and others of the issues that were sources of conflict and difference in the country. The National Dialogue was

the most effective forum to take forward the urgent work needed to secure free and fair multi-party elections in 2011.

- A focussed, prioritised Development Plan for Yemen for 2011-15, aligned with the National Reform Agenda and the Government's overall long-term budget planning, was the essential mechanism to guide donor contributions and enable the effective delivery of financial support to Yemen over the next five years. The Yemeni Government's commitment to make employment the central focus of their next Development Plan was warmly endorsed.

- Necessary economic reforms would have an adverse impact on the poor. Friends committed to provide additional support for social protection, and to continue to explore new long-term funding mechanisms to underpin Yemen's Development Plan, including the idea of establishing a Development Fund for Yemen.

- The Friends of Yemen supported the establishment of a GCC Office in Sana'a, which would help all donors to plan, co-ordinate and deliver assistance to Yemen more effectively and encouraged the participation of the Gulf funds.

- The Friends of Yemen should step up their assistance to the vocational and technical training sector and support a programme to increase the participation of skilled Yemeni workers in local and other labour markets.

- Continuing decentralisation of the planning and delivery of services was essential for inclusive government. The Government of Yemen agreed to produce a prioritised action plan based on its 2008 decentralisation strategy and to begin its implementation, with Friends' support.

- Support for the commitment of the Government of Yemen to implement the national water sector strategy and existing legislation in the water sector, while strengthening all efforts towards integrated water resource management

#### Justice, Security & the Rule of Law

- The efforts of the State of Qatar in supervising the implementation of a lasting peace settlement in Sa'dah were welcomed, building on the ceasefire announcement, the 2008 Doha Agreement and the work of the local Peace Committees. The safe passage of humanitarian relief to those affected by the conflict was vital. The friends of Yemen would support the long-

term rehabilitation and reconstruction of Sa'dah.

- The Friends of Yemen supported the Yemeni authorities' efforts to fight corruption, and urged them speedily to prosecute and try corruption cases. Corruption undermined development and investment, and contributed to social and political instability. Ministers welcomed Yemeni assurances that the first Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative report, addressing corruption in the oil sector, would be produced and validated by February 2011.

- The extension of the justice system to all Yemeni citizens was vital. The Friends of Yemen agreed to support the Yemeni Government's commitment to establish new courts in priority rural areas.

- The Friends of Yemen welcomed the commitment of the Yemeni Government to continue with the implementation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review at the Human Rights Council in May 2009.

- The comprehensive, cross-Government Counter Radicalisation Strategy for Yemen, announced at the meeting, provided a strong foundation for

tackling the underlying economic, social and political root causes of terrorism and extremism, and formed a good basis for partners' support and for the Government of Yemen's efforts to counter terrorism and radicalisation.

Work to prepare the new ten-year Development Plan for the Yemeni Coastguard and on the Sana'a-based Maritime Information Centre were excellent examples of effective co-operation between the Yemeni authorities and multiple donors. Friends of Yemen committed to continue their support to reinforce the capacities of the Yemeni security forces to protect borders.

The Friends of Yemen thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their offer to host the next ministerial meeting of the group in February 2011. The meeting would take forward work on key reforms, and give clear direction to future work. It would follow a donors' Consultative Group meeting to launch the next Development Plan for Yemen.

Heads of Mission in Sana'a should engage with the Government of Yemen to follow up on the outcome of the New York meeting and prepare for the Riyadh meeting.

## Yemen becomes terrorist haven

By: Drew Davis  
WISC NEWS

OYe men of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves? Could it be that Al-Qaeda has taken root in your mountains-north, south, east and west? Or could it be the secessionist divide among your peoples, brutally tearing at your weakened seams? Yes, the country of Yemen certainly has reason to doubt the future of its nation and safety of its people. The poorest country in the Arab world. Extreme civil unrest. Very little national unity. These are the cold, hard truths of the newest front in the war against Al-Qaeda, though I'd imagine they're not the punchy catch phrases Yemen is looking to highlight in its new tourism campaign.

Yemen has served as a safe-haven for terrorist networks since 2001 - most of which have Jihad in the title - and as US and Coalition Forces continue to drive insurgents out of Iraq and surge in Afghanistan, terrorists are seeking refuge in the ungoverned, mountainous swaths of northwestern and eastern Yemen: real dark corners.

For most of us, Yemen truly is a dark corner-unspeakable in casual dinner debates about politics; unknown in any depth or detail. However, as US Special Forces continue to work alongside Yemen's state security apparatus, we as citizens should begin to learn more about this terrorist haven that sits beneath the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In 1994, civil war erupted when the Yemen Socialist Party, with ties to Bin Laden, fought for the secession of southern Yemen. The Saudis assisted the Yemeni central government in defeating the socialists and have since remained active along their kingdom's southern border to ensure these Al-Qaeda offshoots do not attack Saudi villages.

Opposed to Yemen joining the West in the Global War on Terror after 9/11, the secessionists again became violent and sought to overthrow the central government and restore a theocracy-a form of government in which religion is recognized as the law of the land.

Armed by Yemen's neighbor Iran, the world's strongest theocracy, attacks against Yemen's government have been peaking since 2004.

It is fair to say the Yemeni government has been engaged in a full-scale, internal war since August of last year, displacing over 155,000 civilians; and perhaps

it goes without saying that a collapse of the government would create an extraordinarily dangerous haven for regional terrorist networks. It was this reality that prompted the United States to become involved by offering military aid and training in exchange for Yemen's assured cooperation in the war on terror.

Had the problems ended there for Yemen and the US, it might have been a rather manageable international partnership. Alas, complications quickly arose. US dollars followed more US dollars with little to no sign of improvement, stability or cooperation. The US provided Yemen with \$66 million in FY 2009, and President Obama had pledged to increase that support in FY 2010.

Additionally, the underground arms market in Yemen began growing instead of shrinking, and it was not long before heavy artillery pieces were the norm for front yard décor across the countryside.

Intelligence collection soon revealed that Iran had transferred over \$100,000 to the rebels in Yemen and was supplying them with light artillery and small arms. Its motive, of course, was to threaten Saudi Arabia's underbelly and help overthrow the Yemeni government so its theocratic caliphate could spread.

Using shipments from Eritrea, the small African nation across the strait, as a cover, Iran has been underwriting Yemeni rebels for over a year. To protect this supply route, the Iranian navy has dispatched commandos and warships to the Gulf of Aden under the guise of combating piracy.

The manageable international partnership with Yemen has now deteriorated into a geopolitical fiasco that would give Henry Kissinger nightmares. If the scenario ended there, however, it would simply make for a nice doctoral case study. Today, the Saudi billionaire and half-brother to Osama Bin Laden, Tarek Bin Laden, is heading the construction of a new bridge that will connect the Arabian Peninsula to the African Horn; it will be the longest bridge in the world. A real terrorist crossroads.

Problems compounding, O Ye men of little faith. Stand fast, as Churchill implored. "Arm yourselves, and be Ye men of Valor." This could be your finest hour.

Drew Davis is a local resident who received his master's of international affairs and national security from the George H.W. Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University.

## Burning of Holy Quran could add to home-grown terrorism in US

By: B. Raman  
Eurasia Review

President Barack Obama, Gen. David Petraeus, the US Commander in Afghanistan, and other American leaders have rightly condemned the proposed burning of the Holy Quran by Pastor Terry Jones, who leads a congregation of about 50 followers in the city of Gainesville, Florida, on 9/11 coinciding with the ninth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist strikes in the US homeland.

There is still considerable anger in sizable sections of the US population over the 9/11 terrorist strikes by Al Qaeda and over the subsequent terrorist attacks on US citizens and troops in the Af-Pak region. There have also been attempts and thwarted attempts to indulge in acts of terrorism in the US itself, the latest being the unsuccessful attempt to blow up an American plane over Detroit on Christmas Day last year and in Time Square in New York on May 1 last.

The anti-US activities of the Yemen-based Anwar al-Awlaki (1971-04-22), a US citizen of Yemeni origin, who has been described as a made-in-the-US bin Laden, have added to the concerns of Americans and their sense of unease and discomfort in their relations with Muslims. Al-Awlaki's sermons, while he was still in the US, were allegedly attended by three of the 9/11 hijackers. He reportedly met secretly with at least two of the hijackers in San Diego, and one hijacker moved from there to Falls Church, Virginia, as al-Awlaki moved. His sermons were also allegedly attended by Major Nidal Malik Hasan, a psychiatrist in the US Army, who killed 13 persons in a shooting incident on November 5, 2009, at Fort Hood - an important military base located just outside Killeen, Texas. The "Christmas Day bomber" Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab had allegedly met al-Awlaki during his training by Al Qaeda in Yemen. In March 2010, al-Awlaki said in a videotape reportedly delivered to CNN that jihad against the US was obligatory for all Muslims.

The US Homeland has been targeted not only by Al Qaeda, but also by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, which is

believed to have had a hand in the conspiracy to carry out the unsuccessful terrorist strike in New York in May last. It has threatened more terrorist strikes in the US Homeland.

One cannot, therefore, blame large sections of the US population if their distrust of the Muslims remains high. This distrust—and the resulting resentment—has been further aggravated by the ill-advised attempts to construct near Ground Zero in New York what has been called the Cordoba House project — a 15-story community center that would include a performance-art center, gym, swimming pool, and a mosque. Imam Faisal Abdul Rauf, a Muslim cleric, who inspired the project, has projected it as intended to foster better relations between the West and Muslims.

How insensitive and uncaring Muslims can be to the feelings of others not belonging to their religion is evident from the way they are trying to go ahead with the project unmindful of the

protests against it and the concerns over its implications for peace and harmony in the US.

For large sections of Muslims — not only in the US, but also in the rest of the world—their feelings and sensitivities have to have primacy over those of others. They have a right to feel hurt and concerned, but not others.

The self-centred attitude of the Muslims and their unwillingness to take note of the sensitivities of others have created a feeling of revulsion against their community all over the world. Some express it openly. Many don't.

Pastor Terry Jones' threat to burn a copy of the Holy Quran is a reflection of this revulsion and the anger against the Muslims. No right-thinking person and no Government can support his plans. It could not only act as a red rag to the Al Qaeda/Taliban bulls and result in more terrorist attacks on US nationals and troops in the Af-Pak region, but could also drive more US Muslims into the arms of these organizations and result

in an aggravation of the threat of home-grown terrorism in the US.

The US Government should find ways of stopping his threatened act by persuasion or, if necessary, by invoking the law. At the same time, it is important to stop the Cordoba House project too, which would definitely add salt to the wounds of hundreds of thousands of non-Muslim Americans. The attempt of the Muslim sponsors of this project to project it as an initiative to heal the wounds and foster Muslim-non-Muslim harmony will not carry conviction. It will be seen as one more attempt by the Muslims to flaunt their right to do what they want unmindful of the feelings and sensitivities of others.

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By: Hamid

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Sept. 26** -- People attend the Walk-A-Mile activity held by the Heart Foundation of Malaysia during the World Heart Day in Titiwangsa Garden, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (Xinhua/Chong Voon Chung)



**ARIEL (ISRAEL), Sept. 27** -- Construction vehicle works as the building of a housing project resumes in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Ariel. The moratorium on Israeli construction in West Bank settlements, declared by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last November, expired at midnight on Sunday. (Xinhua/Yin Dongxun)



**PESHAWAR, Sept. 28** -- An injured policeman receives medical treatment at a local hospital in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar. At least one policeman was killed and five others injured in a hand grenade attack on a check post of Khyber Agency on Tuesday. (Xinhua/Saeed Ahmad)



**RIYADH, Sept. 27** -- Muhammad al-Jasser, Saudi Arabia's central bank governor, speaks during a news conference in Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia. Jasser said on Sunday that with the recovery of the global economy and the maintenance of the oil price, Saudi Arabia will witness an economic growth of 3.5 percent this year, much higher than 0.6 percent in 2009. (Xinhua/Wang Bo)



**BRUSSELS, Sept. 26** -- Rescue workers clear the ruins at the gas explosion site in Schaerbeek, Brussels, capital of Belgium. Two people were killed, one missing and dozens injured in the gas explosion which destroyed three buildings early on Sunday. (Xinhua/Wu Wei)



**NEW DELHI, Sept. 26** -- Army personnel reconstruct the collapsed foot bridge, in New Delhi, India. The Delhi government has asked the Indian Army to build a foot bridge outside the main flagship Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium to replace the one that collapsed last Tuesday, said officials on Saturday. (Xinhua/Partha Sarkar)



**LONDON, Sept. 26** -- Participants of the Great Gorilla Run run along the River Thames in London, Britain. Hundreds of people, in gorilla costumes, took part in the annual 7km Great Gorilla Run along the River Thames on Sunday to raise money for The Gorilla Organisation, a charity aiming to save the threatened gorilla habitat in Africa. (Xinhua/Zeng Yi)



**BOGOTA, Sept. 27** -- Police present the captured weapon in Medellin of Antioquia Province, Colombia. Colombian police captured 22 drug traffickers and gang members during operations in Yarumal and Valdivia in Antioquia Province. (Xinhua/Leon Solano)



**EL PROGRESO, Sept. 26** -- A boy walks with his bicycle in a flood in El Progreso after Tropical Storm Matthew landed in Honduras. (Xinhua/Rafael Ochoa)



**LONDON, Sept. 26** -- James Field prepares to receive his certificate after setting a new Guinness World Record for bungee jumping in London, Britain. Field bungee jumped 42 times from over 160 feet (around 55 metres) in one hour, breaking the previous record of 19 times. (Xinhua/Zeng Yi)



**PHNOM PENH, Sept. 26** -- Cambodians scoop rice to offer to Buddhist monks at a temple on the occasion of Pchum Ben festival, or Festival of the Dead, in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, on Sept. 26, 2010. The Pchum Ben festival, starting this year on Sept. 24, is a holiday in Cambodia which consists of 15 days of prayer for the deceased, visits to the temple and bringing food to monks. (Xinhua/Pearum)



**ANTALYA, Sept. 26** -- Marcin Dolega of Poland competes in the men's 105kg weightlifting competition at the World Weightlifting Championships in Antalya, Turkey. Dolega claimed the title by lifting 227kg in the clean and jerk and 415kg in total. (Xinhua/Cai Yang)

## Yemen without terrorism

By: Murad Abdu Al-Awasi  
Aden, Al-Mansoura

Life in Yemen has been constantly changing. It is full of challenges, especially in the present situation. I really feel sad and disappointed whenever I try to have a look at the security system of our country.

I don't know and I can't understand the mentality of those people who are behind these violent, criminal, and terrorist acts against our country. Who could perpetrate such dreadful, treacherous, and brutal crimes, which effect the country as a whole? Who has given them the right or the permission to conduct massacres against civilians (noncombatant) people and spread the culture of fear and worry among residents, interrupting the stability and security of our country?

These acts have not merely revealed the weakness of those terrorist elements but even their disloyalty to the whole Is-

lamic Nation. In fact, it shows that the soul of defeatism has really dominated their mentality to leave them criminals who do not fear Allah and have no values or morals. Ignorance is bliss for such idiots. They are crippled by ignorance which is a disease of the soul, a pernicious evil, the darkener of a man's life.

It's true that sometimes man can reach the level of angels by his noble deeds. However, he can also sink to the level of animals, depending on his achievements in this life. These terrorists who live for killing and assassination attempts against our soldiers, and do not have a noble purpose in their lives – they are like animals – but unfortunately animals are sometimes better than them in that at least the animal knows the purpose of its life.

I used to ask myself "Do you know where these people who don't have any basic human traits come from?" Answering this question is sometimes so disturbing to my mind that I feel myself

unable to answer it. To conclude, it is no a secret if I say that such stray terrorists want to turn people in this country into a herd to slaughter who they like, to displace who they want and to kill their opposers. They do such things in an unprecedented disregard for human dignity. In any case, Yemen wasn't and will not be a shelter for terrorists and saboteurs. It's a blessed homeland for everyone. That's the truth that should be understood by everyone, away from flagrant fallacies. No one has the right to destroy our country or hurt its people. Our country is our home and we cannot let anyone destroy it. We need to stand together, combine all our strengths and resist any calamity from harming our homeland. So the government is compelled to face these terrorist elements, in order to defend and save citizens' lives, blood, property and honor, and also to not be subjected to any complications preventing them from exercising their normal lives.

## Letter to the President

By: Najj H. Gazali

Dear president Saleh, I hope my letter finds you well and prosperous while I and my country's men and women lack such conditions. I decided to send this letter before the proposed national talks this month to remind you of our tear-jerking voice. In this letter, I will try to remind you Sir, of some issues that are causing us a lot of worries and concerns as Yemenis. Yet, I must acknowledge your Excellency that my suggestions or comments do not mean to be in anyway disrespectful to your foresight and sagacity. Rather, it represents our worries and concerns, and to let you know that we are putting all of our eggs in the one basket for these national talks to succeed. So, please don't let us down, and make the talks successful as the alternative will be not just our eggs not hatching, but rather the diminishing our hope. Here are my points if you don't mind:

The Sa'ada issue: since this issue started, you and the Houthis have not sincerely wanted to solve it, and decided to make it a reality show similar to the popular series broadcast every year that we enjoy at Ramadan (Bab Al-Hara) with a new plot, characters, and climax. The only difference between the Bab Al-Hara and The Sa'ada reality shows are that real people died in Sa'ada, and with their death their hope, love, unity, and brotherhood died with them. The Sa'ada issue became a model of toughness and of grabbing justice from the oppressor by the power of the sword from their perspective, and if I am exaggerating, read some of the Southern Movement articles and you

will see how ineffectiveness in one issue can lead to catastrophe. Also, as a result of this nonsense war between the Houthis and the government, the issue of religious harmony is no longer tolerated. We Yemenis have started to talk about the threat of the Persians via the Houthis, and feel intimidated by their religious gathering and celebrations, and at the same time their rhetoric has been accelerated to insult and belittle some of the Prophet's companions. In conclusion, this issue has been left untreated since its inception and it adds more controversy, problems, pains, and mistrust. The only way to remedy these untold consequences is to openly talk face-to-face on a national level with the Houthis and their supporters, otherwise we will turn into sects, tribes, and disunity amongst us will prevail.

The Southern Movement: I am really afraid that the peaceful Southern Movement is changing gear and direction and becoming – at least some elements of it – violence driven. Such a change must be understood as due to many factors, including how the government is handling such grievances, abuse, misuse of lands and property in our southern governorates. Let me go back to the Sa'ada issue, and remind you that the military solution has failed miserably, and it will fail in the south if you decide to continue to militarize the conflict. The Southern Movement must be empowered by the government in order to maintain its peaceful project, and not to be defeated or wiped-out as they are not invaders, but Yemenis who want to be heard. Please Mr. President, do not misunderstand me by thinking that I condone all the violence that some of

Southern Movement elements have engaged in, but we need not to be reactive but proactive. Leaders are supposed to be agents of change, and you have not proven to be such, with my sincere respects to you but I would be lying if I described you as such. I am asking you to try to be our leader in heart, not on TV or poster. Therefore, all elements of the Southern Movement must be engaged and their demands must be heard so we can be responsible. Stop calling them Al-Qaeda, as such claims will have awful consequences not just for them, but to the country as a whole. Remember Mr. President, that Iraq was destroyed because there was a link claimed between Saddam Hussein and Al-Qaeda. And as you have said repeatedly, Yemen belongs to all Yemenis, and must not be for sale by anyone whether on the government side or the Southern Movement side.

The opposition coalition: continuing to be patronizing towards those who are against you and your party is neither patriotic nor justified. Any strong leader must be contrasted with a strong opposition, otherwise his/her leadership is not tested. I must say that I do support the opposition coalition because of its approach of being inclusive, comprehensive and representative of all Yemenis. In fact, I think its strength is its willingness to concentrate on its unity, rather than concentrating on differences in ideologies, policies, and values. They decided to have one value, and that is Yemen and Yemen alone. I must acknowledge your patriotism and love of Yemen, but let us be a partner in rebuilding, loving, and advancing Yemen for all Yemenis.

## Job vacancies

A trade company is seeking candidates for the following posts:

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#### Responsibilities

- Prepare and present technical status reviews.
- Prepares the technical side of the tenders.
- Expertise with the power station's issues (at the mechanical side).

#### Requirements

- A Bachelors degree or higher qualification in mechanical engineering is essential.
- A minimum of 3-5 years experience in mechanical engineering activities.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills and interpersonal skills.
- Excellent in English language.
- Knowledge in the area of sales- engineering.

### Electrical Engineer

#### Responsibilities

- Prepare and present technical status reviews.
- Prepares the technical side of the tenders.
- Expertise in installation and operating Genset from 20KW-2MW.

#### Requirements

- A Bachelors degree or higher qualification in electrical engineering is essential.
- A minimum of 3-5 years experience in electrical engineering activities.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills and interpersonal skills.
- Excellent in English language.
- Knowledge in the area of sales- engineering.

#### HOW TO APPLY:

Interested candidates who meet the above qualifications should send their CVs and this email: [ghamdan2005@hotmail.com](mailto:ghamdan2005@hotmail.com) Telephone: 00967-713403033 Only short listed candidates will be contacted for an interview

## Promise me

By: Farouq Al-Khawliani

My love, promise me you will not let me alone,  
promise me you will accept me when I stand near you,  
promise me you will not stay lonely for me,  
promise me when you feel disappointed you will call me,  
promise me if you want to tell me anything, tell me by yourself, don't use a mediator between you and I,  
promise me you will let me help you in difficult times,  
promise me you will really be good with me,  
promise me you will let me do what I want,  
promise me when someone makes me upset you will make me simmer down,  
promise me when you want to visit me, you'll tell me not to come raid,  
promise me you will turn to me,  
promise me if I give you a gift you will not leave it out,  
promise me you will take my hand and bolster me in life,  
promise me you will be waiting for me,  
promise me you will be for me

## Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Alkholidy  
[maged\\_thabet@hotmail.com](mailto:maged_thabet@hotmail.com)



## The secondary school results and their impact

The results of this year's secondary school exams have been published after around two months of waiting. Many are shocked by this year's results with a high number of students receiving low grades and others failing their exams completely. Here, I want to underline some of the reasons behind these poor results and discuss the positive impact that they may leave on the education process. Last year, secondary school students received much higher grades than expected with a large number scoring in the 90s. This was a fantastic achievement and students were very proud. But on closer inspection it seemed that some of those 'high achieving students' had barely been studying at all. Some, for example, could not even write their names in English despite receiving over 90% in their English exams.

When queried, some were frank and confessed that they had cheated. These students are outwardly jocular about their final marks, but inside are, in fact, fearful and unconfident. They are hesitant to apply to universities, fearing that they will not be able pass the admission tests. This leaves me wondering how such students will be able to complete their educational and academic progression in the future!

The gulf between this years exam results and the last is shocking. One explanation is that educational offices in many governorates this year have taken severe precautions to limit the phenomenon of cheating. Whilst there was still some cheating going on in certain examination centers, the overall process of examination was far better controlled this year.

Initially many were dissatisfied with their results, but day after day they are realizing that it is better to get grades that reflect their true ability than false ones which will only bring shame and embarrassment on them in their future lives.

Many students have failed but others managed to score in the 50's and 60's. Unfortunately though,

these grades are of no use for those wish to attend university. For this reason many students have decided to study and re-sit the exams in order to obtain better marks. Students across the country have already begun preparing themselves for next year-joining new courses and studying hard. Bad results can also serve as a useful lesson for students, encouraging them to take their education more seriously than before.

In fact this year's results were a valuable lesson, not only for secondary school students, but for those in lower school too. Many of these students are similarly flippant about their studies, believing they can muddle through their lower school exams until they reach secondary school, where they will be able to obtain high grades by cheating. This year's poor exams results will hopefully shake off any such illusions and encourage students to start working now, not later.

Like many others, I felt pity for those who did badly in this year's exams, especially my younger brother who studied hard but did not achieve his expected high grade. But, now, I feel happy when I see my brother and many others students taking their studies more seriously. I feel happy, not because such students will spend another year studying, but because the education process itself will be better than its current bad situation. If education can be reformed then we have hope that the country as a whole can improve. For this, I wish to thank the Ministry of Education and its offices in the governorates for its great efforts in working to achieve such improvements. And I do hope and encourage it to continue such reforming procedures in the future.

*Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a contributing opinion writer from Taiz. He holds an MA in English, and is the former editor of Taiz University's English-language magazine.*

## Job Vacancies

RTI International, a US-based not-for-profit organization, is one of the implementing partners of the Yemen Responsive Governance Project (RGP). RGP is a USAID-foreign assistance project endorsed under Assistance Agreement by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to promote long-range economic and social development in Yemen. RTI is seeking qualified Yemeni candidates to fill fulltime positions based at the RGP Headquarter Offices in Sana'a but subject to travel within Yemen for up to 40% of time:

### Transparency Technical Officer

The Transparency Technical Officer will provide strategic technical and coordination support to the district, regional and national authorities where RGP will be implemented. S/he will provide technical oversight to RGP's accountability and transparency activities, support the initial technical assessments in target sites, and will conduct training workshops based on identified needs. S/he is expected to assist in developing, compiling and submitting weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports. Applicants should have a Bachelors Degree in public administration, political science, law, or other related field and a minimum of six (6) years experience in Accountability and Transparency work. Knowledge of Financial Management, Procurement and Auditing is preferred. A master's degree plus three (3) years experience would be an added advantage. Applicants should have strong organizational and interpersonal communication skills with the ability to perform multiple tasks simultaneously, competence in program management and proven ability to work in effective teams. Previous experience of working in a USAID-funded program is preferred. Good knowledge of English language (written and spoken) is required as well as willingness to travel within Yemen for up to 40% of time. The Transparency Technical Officer will report to the Senior Governance Manager and will supervise the Transparency Technical Assistant

### Gender and Youth Advisor

The Gender and Youth Specialist will ensure that women and youth - are integrated in the planning of policy reform and interventions in the RGP Program in a culturally sensitive manner. S/he will: conduct a rapid assessment of the current role of women and youth in the decision making process and identify their needs improve participation; review and assess the Government's gender and social inclusion policies; ensure that policy development programs address gender and youth concerns starting at the design phase of the project; and prepare a gender and youth development plan for the project. S/he will develop, compile and submit weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual reports as required. Applicants should have a Bachelors Degree in social development, psychology, political science or other related field

and a minimum of six (6) years experience in civil society development, gender and youth activities or related field. A master's degree plus three (3) years experience would be an added advantage. Applicants should have strong organizational and interpersonal communication skills with the ability to perform multiple tasks simultaneously, competence in program management and proven ability to work in effective teams. Previous experience of working in a USAID-funded program is preferred. Good knowledge of English language (written and spoken) is required as well as willingness to travel within Yemen for up to 40% of time. The Gender and Youth Advisor will report to the Program Policy Director

### Senior Sectoral Policy Manager

The Senior Sectoral Policy Manager will provide overall technical leadership and management of the Policy components of RGP namely: Health, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources and Economic Growth. S/he will oversee initiatives that strengthen ministries' policies and will provide regular visits to all implementing sites and provide technical support to the Sectoral Policy Technical Officers. S/he will work with the Sectoral Policy Technical Officers to identify training needs and design training programs for Yemeni officials in public policies, will be responsible for the development and compilation of monthly, quarterly and annual work plans, budgets and reports as relevant to the policy component and will participate in reviewing and developing training manuals, protocols and operational procedures for policy development. Applicants should have a Master's degree in public administration, political science or other related field, and at least six (6) years of experience directly working in the public sector on policy programs with managerial and supervisory responsibilities. S/he should have skills in planning, budgeting, supervising, mentoring and training of staff in addition to good interpersonal communication skills and willingness and ability to work around the country. Good knowledge of English language (written and spoken) is required. The Senior Sectoral Policy Manager will report to the Program Policy Director and will supervise a team of 3-4 Sectoral Policy Technical Officers in Health, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources and Economic Growth.

Qualified and experienced candidates could apply, including copy of their resumes, to [RGP-jobs@rti.org](mailto:RGP-jobs@rti.org) Deadline for accepting applications is 2 weeks from the date of this advertisement.

RTI International has worked for more than 30 years in over 120 countries. Our work focuses on policy support, applied research and analysis, strategic planning, institutional development, and training in international health, international education policy and systems, democratic governance, financial systems, information and communication technology and international environmental management.





## YEMEN LNG COMPANY 2011 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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##### Majors

- ▶ Marketing
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- ▶ Agriculture
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- ▶ Transportation (Deals with road rail, air, and inland water transport)
- ▶ Accounting
- ▶ Law

##### Engineering

- ▶ Civil Engineering
- ▶ Electrical Engineering
- ▶ Electronics Engineering
- ▶ Chemical Engineering
- ▶ Industrial Engineering
- ▶ General Engineering
- ▶ Mechanical
- ▶ Prevention and Safety
- ▶ Production Control
- ▶ Quality
- ▶ Telecommunication

##### Eligibility

Candidates must meet the following conditions:

1. Must be a Yemeni national residing in Yemen
2. Must be aged between 17 and 21
3. Must have a grade average of 85% or higher - Science section
4. Must have a secondary school certificate from the Yemeni Ministry of Education
5. Must commit to attend intensive French language training to be able to pass the DELF B1/B2 exam.
6. Must have a TOEFL score of at least 450

Final selection of the scholarships recipients will be based on passing the DELF exam, receiving university admission and the secondary school results.

##### Requirements

The below should be included in the application for the scholarship program:

1. Completed scholarship application form
2. A copy of the DELF/DALF certificate (If available)
3. A copy of your birth certificate
4. A copy of your CV
5. A copy of the secondary school certificate

The students should further:

6. Meet the university/institution's admission requirements
7. Pass the medical examination
8. Commit to return to work in Yemen after completion of the program

#### Postgraduate Degree (Master)

(8 Scholarships in English, 8 Scholarships in French)

##### Majors in French language (8 scholarships)

- ▶ Public Health
- ▶ Public Administration
- ▶ French Language
- ▶ Agriculture
- ▶ Engineering
  - ▶ Civil Engineering
  - ▶ Electrical Engineering
  - ▶ Electronics Engineering
  - ▶ Industrial Engineering
  - ▶ General Engineering
  - ▶ Mechanical
  - ▶ Prevention and Safety
  - ▶ Production Control
  - ▶ Quality
  - ▶ Telecommunication
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Accounting
- ▶ Law

##### Majors in English language (8 scholarships)

- ▶ MBA in International Hotel & Tourism Management
- ▶ Master of Science & Techniques in Urban Environment on Atmosphere, Water & Urban Environment
- ▶ Master of Science in Supply Chain Management
- ▶ Masters course in International Cooperation and Urban Development
- ▶ MSC in European Animal Management
- ▶ Masters degree in Industrial Biotechnology Management (Food Process Management)
- ▶ Master 1 "International and European Law" followed by Master 2 International and Comparative Law –M.I.C.L.E

##### Eligibility

Candidates must meet the following conditions:

1. Must be a Yemeni national residing in Yemen
2. Must be aged 26 years old or less
3. Must have earned their Bachelors (BA/BSc) degree with a minimum grade average of "very good" certified by the Ministry of Higher Education.
4. Must have at least one year work experience in Yemen
5. Must have a TOEFL score of at least 550 or IELTS score of 7.0 (for majors in English).
6. Must have a working knowledge of French (completed level 6 at the French Cultural Center) (for majors in English).
7. Must commit to attend intensive French language training to be able to pass the DELF B1/B2 exam.
8. Must pass the DELF exam (for majors in French)
9. Must have a TOEFL score of at least 450 (for majors in French).

Final selection of scholarship recipients will be based on passing the DELF B1/B2 exam (for majors taught in French) or TOEFL / IELTS score (For majors taught in English), receiving university admission and past academic performance

##### Requirements

The below should be included in the application for the scholarship program:

1. Completed scholarship application form
2. A copy of the DELF/DALF certificate (if available), or TOEFL / IELTS (for majors in English)
3. A copy of your CV
4. A copy of your birth certificate
5. A copy of the university degree and transcript

The students should further:

6. Meet the university/institution's admission requirements
7. Pass the medical examination
8. Commit to return to work in Yemen after completion of the program

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#### APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications can be downloaded online from our website at [www.yemenlng.com](http://www.yemenlng.com), or picked up from head office. The application along with the required documents listed above should be submitted in a sealed envelope no later than **9 October 2010** to either of the following:

- ▶ Yemen LNG Head Office, Hadda Street, Sana'a, Or
- ▶ By mail to: Yemen LNG Scholarship Program, P. O. Box 15347, Sana'a, Yemen

# Collecting alms in Yemen

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

Posters encouraging Yemenis to pay alms or zakat in Islam decorate the streets of Sana'a. The alms authority is especially active during Ramadan because it is the month when Muslims are the most charitable.

According to Islamic jurisprudence, capable Muslims who earn more than a certain amount are to take out 2.5 percent of their wealth once a year to be given to the poor. It is a form of taxation, although for companies there is a more formal taxation issued by the law.

The amount above which you should pay zakat in Yemen is currently USD 1150. This means that if a Yemeni Muslim has USD 1150 or more in his or her bank account for a whole year, they should take out 2.5 percent of it in the form of alms. This also applies to jewelry that is not used regularly or land that is not inhabited by the owner.

The justification behind zakat is to purify the soul of greed and to ensure a more balanced society where poverty is reduced through charity.

In Islam, there are two types of zakat: of material possessions and of people.

The latter happens only during Ramadan and the family head should turn in YR 200 (less than USD 1) per family member. The money goes to the authority directly or indirectly.

Fuad Ahmed is an accountant from Sana'a. He remembers the alms authority officers in the past going door-to-door during Ramadan demanding the zakat money of the family. "It was not a really organized system. For example, they did not keep track of who paid and who did not and they could not verify how many members in the family there were and so how much the family head should pay. They would leave it to the people's consciences."

It works relatively well, especially since Yemenis are rather religious and try to adhere to Islamic teachings to a large extent. The alms on people is called "fitra", derived from the Eid Al-Fitr holiday which follows Ramadan and before

which the alms must be paid.

Today the alms officers do not go to collect the money from families that much anymore. They go directly to the head of the neighborhood known as "aqil al-hara", or the local mosque's imam. These two collect the alms from their neighborhood and give it to the authority directly on behalf of their area.

Many Yemenis abstain from dealing with the alms authority and accuse it of being corrupt. "We lease an apartment and hence have to pay alms for it. The zakat people came to us and asked how much the rent is. They did some calculations and demanded we pay YR 15,000, but then they gave us a receipt for only YR 7,000. If we argue, they make more trouble for us," said Qaid Thabet.

This impression is quite common and many Yemenis end up taking out the zakat on their own and giving it directly to the poor themselves.

Mohammed Abdulrahman Kawkaban is the director of Alms Collection Authority in the Capital Secretariat. He admits that their work is dependent mostly on the community's cooperation and willingness to be part of the system.

"What we do is carry out awareness events and religious campaigns to encourage people to pay," he said. "We have been able to reach out to many communities today, more than in the past, and I can say that the attitude and interest in paying zakat is greater today than in the past."

During the first half of 2010, the alms authority in the capital collected more than YR 3 billion, which is less than 20 percent than the estimated amount that should have been collected according to the authority.

He added that there is a misconception that one can take out the alms on behalf of the family members and give it away to the poor directly. He said that this is charity and not zakat as Islamic jurisprudence precisely instructs that the zakat process should be handled by "wali al-amr" who is the person officially in charge.

Over the last few years, strict measures have been put in place to control charity and donations in an attempt to fight terrorism. Rich businessmen cannot donate



Increasingly more charities operate in Yemen through the work of volunteers such as these children here helping to distribute food to the poor. Many Yemenis end up taking out the zakat on their own and giving it directly to the poor themselves.

as much as they used to in the past to charities or to Islamic causes such as building mosques. The purpose of these measures is to prevent money from reaching Jihadi groups or Islamic fundamentalists.

However, there is no official way of finding out how much a person gives directly to charities. There are several thousand alms officers in the 333 districts

of the country and they use their intuition and word-of-mouth. Moreover, the Ministry of Endowments since 2002 has prevented the presence of charity boxes in mosques or public places except for a few endorsed organizations.

The Yemeni constitution has a specific article – no. 21 – that defines zakat, when it should be collected and how much it

should be. The part of this law concerning material possession alms such as for real estate or for a company contradicts business laws, and many companies or businessmen complain of double taxation.

It is also a problem for companies that have branches, because the headquarters end up paying for the branches while the branches pay again locally.

"This is a real problem, and we are dealing with it as we were prompted by a ministerial decree to solve this duplication," explained Kawkaban. "The decree states that if the headquarters of any company proves that it paid on behalf of the branches, then the branches are clear. We are following this decree and have returned some money to its owners accordingly."

# Far from their country, selling on the streets

By: Ismail Sheikh Abdoh  
For the Yemen Times

Ripped clothes, a broken phone, and a beating. That's what happened to Chen Ji, when last month she tried to defend two Chinese street vendors who were being arrested by the police.

Chen Ji is a Chinese shop owner in Tahreer next to the Chinese Embassy. When the police tried to arrest two street vendors last month, they headed for her store knowing she would be able to interpret for them. As both men came from the same village as her in China, Chen Ji volunteered to help them. But despite explaining that she was only helping to translate, the policemen arrested her too.

Street vendors are a common sight in Sana'a and until recently the peddlers were mostly Yemeni men and children. A little over a month ago however, a new nationality appeared on the scene. Despite the language barrier, the Yemen Times set out to explore the story of Sana'a's Chinese street vendors.

"They tried to arrest me without telling me why," Chen Ji told the Yemen Times. When she refused and tried to call her embassy, she said that they grabbed her and threw her phone on the ground.

The two street vendors were detained for four days. They told the Yemen Times that their passports were taken by an official who refused, without explanation, to give them back. According to Chen Ji, he confiscated their passports when they were arrested on August 19 and gave them back on September 2.

Despite the Yemen Times having contacted the official concerned several times, he has so far refused to comment.

According to Chen Ji, a few Chinese people began selling their goods on the streets some three weeks ago in order to explore Yemen's business viability.

"Some of them were here to start a computer shop, but Ramadan came and they decided to delay it until afterwards," said Chen Ji. "I didn't know whether it was legal or not to sell on the streets."

Currently there is no law that gives Yemeni vendors the right to sell on the streets, but non-Yemenis must have visas that allow them to work, not to sell on the streets, according to Hamza Al-Ashwal, general director of public works and highways.

"Whenever we catch someone selling on the street that is non-Yemeni, we contact the Immigration and Passport Department to deal with them," said Al-Ashwal. "They will fine them and then deport them."

## A blind eye to Somalis

But the authorities are not so strict with all nationalities.

Not far from Bab Al-Yemen are a group of old Somali ladies selling different kinds of homemade materials, such as spices and incense as well as henna and frankincense.

Zahra Abdullah, a woman of 50, sits absent-minded, reminiscing over her 24-year-old daughter that she left behind in Somalia, while the scent of her incense wafts over her.

She explains that she did not choose to sell on the streets. Rather, it was the only way to keep food on the table.

"I have never been kicked away or arrested by any authority because they are sympathetic knowing where I came from," said Zahra. "I just want to live."

"Whoever you trouble, will trouble you," she told the Yemen Times when asked whether policemen ever harassed her or confiscated her goods.

## Mixed Yemeni reactions

Yemeni street vendors vary in their reaction to foreign competition.

With a sad smile on his wrinkled face, Yemeni street vendor Khalid Al-Duba'i told the Yemen Times that his merchandise was confiscated while he went to pray. When he got back everyone's goods had been seized and the Chinese vendors next to him had disappeared.

He said in despair, "they are adding salt to injury," referring to the Chinese vendors next to him. "The Chinese vendors have the same merchandise we have, but sometimes with lower prices. Therefore, buyers will go to the cheapest one."

"They keep sitting in our places and we keep kicking them away."

Motlaq Al-Ganzi, 21, said that he was shocked to see a Chinese woman selling merchandise that does not differ from his own, but with a lower price.

But hurting them or even screaming at them is something that Yemenis will not do, because that's not how Yemenis are raised, he explained.

"They are few [Chinese vendors], but I think they will increase if we give them the chance."

Amr Al-Shamiri, a 23-year-old security guard in front of a major convenience store, was more understanding. He said that Chinese vendors come and are able to sell a variety of merchandise.

He said that when he once asked some of them why they needed to sell their goods on the streets, they answered, "We have no money to cover our expenses."

"We don't know their reasons behind them coming from their country to sell such things," said Al-Shamiri. "We don't kick them away, they are our guests."



Distribution of street vendors in Sana'a according to what they sell. Yemeni vendors say that foreigners have started creating competition for them.



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# Protecting animals

By: Mahmoud Assamee

A group of Yemeni animal lovers have launched a new animal welfare NGO, the Yemeni Organization for the Protection of Animals (YOPA).

The organization's nine founders include vets and persons who work in the Yemeni General Directorate for Animal Health and Veterinary Quarantine.

YOPA is a non-government and non-profit organization that aims to provide care and protection to animals in Yemen, and to reduce the number of abused animals country wide.

The organization will work on educating pet owners and those who use animals in their work, such as farmers, about animal welfare and veterinary services, said Mahmoud Abdulrahman, the Chairman of YOPA.

He told the Yemen Times that he and the other founders decided to start the organization because they witness violence against animals like dogs and cats in the streets every day.

"We always see dogs or cats hit by cars or beaten up by adults and children," he said.

He said that YOPA will work through media campaigns, educational sessions and scientific events to raise awareness in schools and society at large. Local communities across the country will be educated to have mercy on animals and deal with them kindly as argued by Islam.

According to Abdulrahman, the priority is given to stray animals that suffer from daily physical abuse and who are more likely to contract diseases. These animals will be vaccinated and separated from animals already ill.

"The organization will work on provid-

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Battery: Primary 4-cell 32WHr Li-Ion  
Graphics: Intel Integrated GMA 4500MHD  
Wireless: Wireless Label (Dell Wireless Card) - Core 2 Duo  
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ing shelter and healthcare to animals that need care whether they are pets, wild or domestic, whose owners no longer give them the love or care they need, or to find new caring homes for pets," he said.

He added that they endeavor to promote a responsible approach to pet ownership and a positive attitude to animal welfare, to strengthen the common bond between people and animals, and to help children share information about animal welfare.

Owners of pet animals will be provided with advice from the organization on how to take care of their animals.

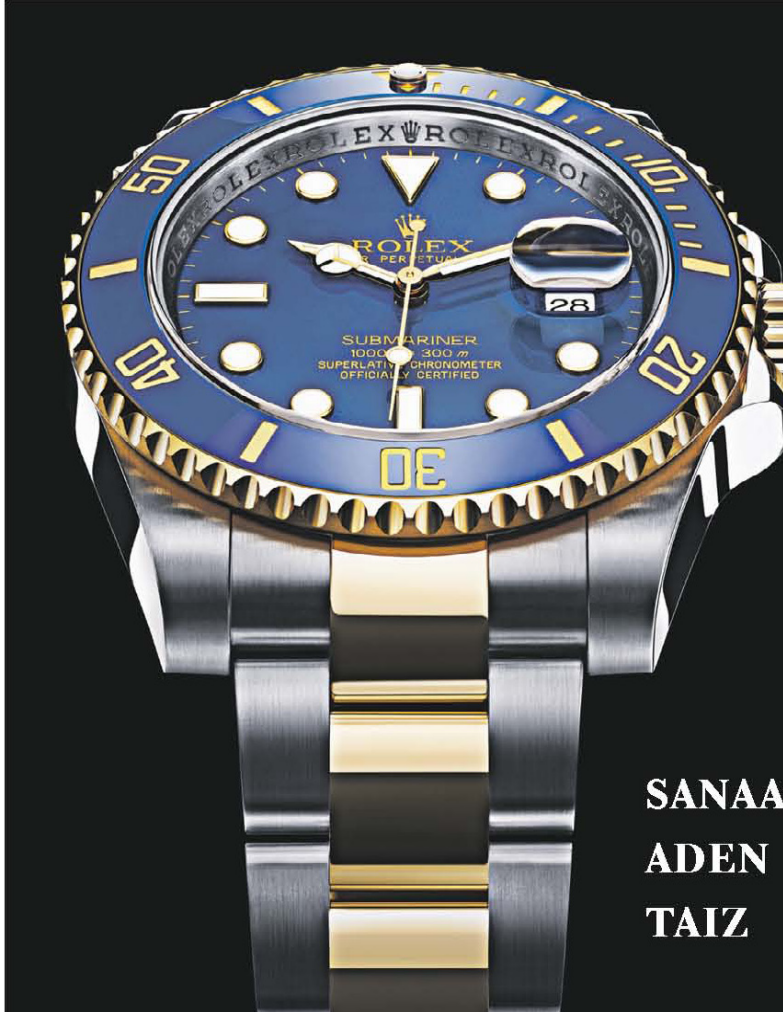
He further said that they will work with international organizations working in this field like the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).

He concluded that they will work on enacting new laws and legislation to prohibit violence against animals.

The first animal protection association in Yemen started in 2006. It was the Animal Welfare and Conservation Association, and was established under the auspices of the Netherlands embassy in Sana'a.

This association turned attention to the situation of animals in the Sana'a and Taiz zoos and created an educational program at Sana'a zoo to interest visitors in learning more about animals.

In addition to these two associations, there are the Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen and the Yemen Omithological Society among other associations concerned with animal and wild life protection.



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