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Army mobilizes new forces in Lawdar

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Oct 10 — A convoy of tanks and other armored vehicles were seen heading towards Lawdar from Hadramout, a local source in Abyan governorate told the Yemen Times on Saturday.

The source said that the troops are currently stationed in the city airport in the north of Abyan.

These new military enforcements came due to the insecurity that the district of Lawdar witnessed last month in the form of battles between jihadists and the army. Dozens were killed from both sides.

The same source added that two soldiers and two citizens were injured in an ambush targeted security patrol on Friday morning in Lawdar. An explosion also occurred in the city around the same time, followed by intensive exchange of gunfire between unknown armed men and security forces.

In Lahj governorate, another local source said that armed clashes broke out on Friday between armed men from Al-Sabeha tribe and military forces from the armored brigade 33 in Karash area in Al-Qabita district. The clashes wounded several people from the security and the tribe.

The source explained that clashes erupted because armed men from the same tribe set up a checkpoint block-



Protesters in Lawdar. Because of recent clashes between the state and armed men, military reinforcements have reportedly been sent to the district.

ing the main road that links Taiz with Aden.

They were collecting money according to ID cards from citizens driving trucks and cars from the northern governorates.

In the same governorate, the Ministry of interior reported on its website that an armed man on Wednesday stormed the Martyr Laboza School in Radfan district. The armed man terrified students when he ordered them out of their classes.

The Imam of Al-Suna mosque in Radfan has invited citizens and parents after Al-Juma'a prayer to an urgent meeting for fathers' council to stand firmly against and try to prevent them in future. Such incidents have occurred frequently in Radfan and have obstructed students education in the district.

Al-Qaeda militants admit to deadly attacks

In Hadramout, the Ministry of Interior reported on its website that two unknown armed persons on a motorcycle fired several bullets on Friday evening at an assistant policeman, Abdulaziz Abdullah Bashraheel, 45, killing him on the spot. As of yet, security forces have been unable to catch the murderers, according to the website.

The so called, 'Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula' has recently claimed

responsibility for the policeman's assassination and other security chiefs in several southern governorates during recent operations a few months ago.

They also announced responsibility for the attack on a minibus carrying staff from the political security organization in the capital Sana'a last month in which one political intelligence officer was killed and others were injured, according to the interior ministry.

Al-Qaeda claimed that the attack killed 14 political intelligence officers.

Preachers in Al-Mukalla city denounce road blocks

In the same governorate, a group of preachers in Al-Mukalla city, the capital of Hadramout, on Friday denounced the road blocks currently in place from Aden to Hadramout where passengers are vulnerable to panic and money plundering by bandits.

The preachers were said to be disappointed at the security officials for not preventing the activity of bandits or maintaining security on the roads.

The preachers indicated if Islamic Sharia rule was applied properly in

the treatment of bandits in Mareb, Al-Jawf, Sa'ada, and other governorates, no one in Shabwa, Hadramout, or Abyan would dare to block the road.

Motocycle ban in Abyan

Security authority in Abyan banned the use of motorcycles as a means of transportation last June after recording 28 attacks by unknown armed men using motorcycles.

Security leaders said that those attacks have resulted in the killing of 15 soldiers in Abyan that has since turned into a hideout for jihadists and southern movement activists, according to an AFP report.

The deputy governor of Abyan, Ahmed Nasser Jarfosh told the AFP that most attacks against security officers, soldiers and military sites were done by activists who were driving motorcycles.

Ghasan Al-Sheikh, general director of Zunbar district said that the banning of motorcycles as a means of transportation will only solve part of the problem.

He asked the state to compensate some 2,000 owners of motorcycles who are now banned from their previous source of income.

Alleged bomb plotters should be tried in juvenile court, says lawyer

By: Shadha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Oct. 10 — Two minors currently being tried at the Specialized Criminal Court for "being ready to commit suicide operations" should be released or referred to the Juvenile Court, according to their lawyer.

Rami Hens, German with a Yemeni mother, and Abdullah Al-Rawi, Iraqi, are both 16 years old. Al-Rawi wasn't yet 16 at the time of his detention, ac-

ording to their lawyer Faisal Al-Majidi. Both accused should be tried in the Sana'a Juvenile Court, he says.

The two minors stand accused with Badr Al-Hassani, 22, and Saddam Al-Raimi, 22, both Yemeni, of "participat-

ing in criminal acts, damaging foreign interests in the country, damaging military establishments, facing the state in the Marib governorate, training with weapons, forming secret cells and being ready to commit suicide operations."

The evidence presented against them, said to have been found in their homes, included weapons, films of jihadists in Afghanistan and Iraq, and wills. The four accused have rejected the evidence.

Lawyer Faisal Al-Majidi now represents three of the accused, Al-Rawi, Hens and Al-Raimi. Al-Hassani has rejected any legal representation.

"Because they were accused in 2008 when they were under 15 years old, the law gives the jurisdiction to the juvenile court," Al-Majidi told the Yemen Times.

"There are advantages to transferring the trail to the juvenile court," Al-Majidi said. "It's possible to release them on bail which is better, and the sessions would be secretive."

Al-Majidi asked for his defendants' immediate release regardless of the

charges because of their age and their illegal detention.

"The capture was at dawn which is against the law, without a warrant from the persecution and without the capturers showing their identity," Al-Majidi said. "They were in plain clothes, which is also against the law."

Badr Al-Hassani insisted for the second time on bringing Abdallah Al-Ashwel, a colonel in Political Security, to testify. Al-Hassani declared in the group's last session on September 20 that the political security was aware of the group's activities.

The court on Sunday decided to call Al-Ashwal to the next session on October 17.

Al-Hassani told the court in the last session that he had previously been detained in the Political Security prison where he had met Othman Al-Sulwi, the 22-year-old who died in a suicide attack against the British Ambassador in April this year.

There are five juvenile courts in Yemen: Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Al-Hodeida, and Hadramout.

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Yemeni basketball team secures sixth place, readies for better results

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Oct. 9 — Yemen's national basketball team proved a worthy opponent in the second FIBA (International Basketball Federation Asia) Under-18 Championship held in Sana'a from September 22 to October 1.

Yemen made it to the quarter finals scoring sixth place, which was a first for the national team. According to the championship's rules the first three teams will represent FIBA Asia at the 2011 FIBA U19 World Championship to be played in Latvia from June 30 to July 10 next year.

Despite the fact that Yemen had played in FIBA Asia Under-18 Championships only twice before — finishing 13th in 2000 edition at Kuala Lumpur and 10th at Urumqi four years ago, the team has progressed rapidly.

The highlight of this tournament for Yemen was beating the much-favoured Lebanon 79-75 in the second round, according to the FIBA Asia news report on the match.

Yemen's coach Saber Al-Aghbari immediately termed it a "very special moment" in Yemen basketball history.

"Beating a strong team like Lebanon is very special. They have the system, talent and a great history in recent times. Playing well against them is good enough, winning is a great achievement," he said.

Al-Aghbari promised even better results in future championships and said that his team has done a good job so far. "I am proud of the way they played in the competition."

During the championship which included 16 teams, Yemen won five matches out of nine games beating Iraq, India, Philippines, Syria and Lebanon. By this score, Yemen has superseded all other Arab countries in the tournament. Finally China won first place followed by South Korea and Chinese Taipei.

Yemen's quarterfinals match with Iran (80-45) in favour of Iran, set the course in the tournament hindering Yemen from going to the semi-finals.

Yemen fought the Philippines for the fifth place but lost at a score (47-26). Ironically, Yemen had defeated the Philippines during the second round (69-76) just five days before the match, but it seems that the earlier defeat drove the Philippines team to its best and snatch the fifth place from Yemen.

"It was a different day and a different game altogether. We just want to leave



Yemen's under-18 basketball team lost fifth place to the Philippines on Oct. 1, leaving Yemen sixth in the 21st FIBA Asia Under-18 Championships.

everything on the floor," Eric Altamirano Philippine's coach had said before the game to FIBA Asia media which reported that his boys hit the floor really hard without giving Yemen any breathing time.

Commenting on his boy's performance in this match Yemen's team coach Al-Aghbari said, "I think the boys were a little tired and drained."

Sabri Sadaqah, the only player to score in double-digits for Yemen, was their highest scorer with 16 points, reported FIBA Asia.

Enrolment in technical education increases

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Oct. 10 — A record number of students signed up for technical education and vocational training in 2007-2008, but there are too few job openings to absorb these new graduates, according to the latest education status report by the World Bank.

Fifteen times more Yemenis enrolled in technical education and vocational training (TEVT) for the academic year 2007-2008 than for the academic year 2000-2001, according to the report.

In the school year of 2009-2010, about 26,000 students signed up to study in technical institutes and community colleges nationwide, Mohamed Wasel, press and public relations director at the Ministry of TEVT told the Yemen Times.

The sector has grown more popular due to opening of new community colleges and the expansion of existing technical institutes which are now able to receive more students, according to the Ministry of TEVT.

Because of the high unemployment rate among university graduates, especially in theoretical specializations, people prefer TEVT as a way to find a job, Wasel told the Yemen Times.

Low female enrolment

Only 4,000 to 5,000 out of the 26,000 students that enrolled for the year 2009-2010 were female, according to Wasel. However, Wafa Rasheed, director of girl's education and training at the ministry told the Yemen Times that this proportion represented progress compared to the past.

She added that the ministry provides the TEVT girls with one month free practical training in local companies to give them the chance to find a job

or to qualify them to look for jobs elsewhere.

Al-Wasel added that this type of education is growing in Yemen, but that the educational sector for the moment lacks resources to cope with the high demand for this kind of training.

Specified training

To help TEVT male graduates to find jobs, the ministry has two programs, one to qualify them for the local private sector and one to qualify them for the Gulf labor market, according to Wasel.

The ministry has already signed a contract with the Qatari Silatech foundation to train 20,000 trainees in skills that are needed in the Gulf labor market.

The Sana'a Community College with about 1,000 trainees learning specific skills for the Gulf, he said, and the ministry aims to train 120,000 in the coming five years.

What might they learn for Yemen and what for the Gulf for example?

Now, the ministry is opening training and qualifying centers in Aden, Sana'a and Hadramout to train skilled labor for the Gulf as a first stage. The program will then be expanded to other governorates, according to Wasel.

Age limits impede learning

However the World Bank report criticized the structure of the TEVT system saying that the system limits students from moving between general education and vocational education and prevents lifelong learning.

For example, once a student has entered the vocational education track, he or she is not allowed to enter a university, even after completing a degree at a community college.

Fixed age limits for enrolment in

technical and vocational training further deprive some the chance of learning, as Yemenis who have repeated years at school are often too old to enrol.

For example, a 21-year-old who has repeated a few years of basic school will be too old to join post-basic training, but will not have had his schooling certificate for long enough to enrol in post-secondary training, explained the report.

Not enough new jobs

The World Bank report noted that graduates from TEVT could lead to an increase in the workforce by 3.5 percent or 200,000 new job seekers each year, but that job openings were too few to absorb this amount of labor at present.

The report warned that, even if Yemen maintained its annual rate of economic growth of approximately 4 percent, job creation would not be enough to absorb the increase in labor supply.

Between 2003 and 2007, the number of applicants for posts in the civil service and public sector almost tripled from 54,000 to 155,000, whereas employment increased only four percent during the same period, according to the report.

The rate of newly-created private establishments across the economy for each year is only 4 percent and job opportunities in these new establishments do not exceed 2.5 new jobs per 100 establishments.

In the oil sector that dominates Yemen's economy, jobs are limited, as in 2004, the sector provided only 18,000 jobs in total, according to the report.

It highlighted that job creation in Yemen is highly dependent on the private sector, but that this sector is still very small and the environment for good private investment remains weak.



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The Embassy of India, Sana'a invites applications from qualified/experienced interpreter-cum-translator interested to work as local staff of the Embassy. Candidates should be fluent in English and Arabic with excellent translation/interpretation/conversation skills. He should also be well conversant with use of computers and aptitude in public relations. Salary will commensurate with qualification with annual increment. Send application with CV, full contact details and a copy of latest photograph on or before 23.10.2010 to the Embassy of India, Building No. 12, Djibouti Street, Of-Haddah Street, Sana'a. (Tel. No. 441251, 441252; Fax: 441257; E-mail: indcom@y.net.ye or indembassy@yemen.net.ye).

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Request for Expressions of Interest Technical Assistance (TA) for Preparing a Mid Term Plan for Inclusive Education

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

The main objective of the TA is to i) Increasing the enrollment rate and provide high quality education for children with special needs in schools ii) Raising the community awareness in terms of the importance of education for children with special needs etc...

The Project Administration Unit now invites eligible Individual consultants to indicate their interest for conducting Technical Assistance (TA) for preparing a Mid Term Plan for Inclusive Education. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the service profiles, description of similar assignments and experience in similar assignment.

The selection of the Consultants will be made in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004". Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat. —Wed. From 08:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by October 27, 2010.

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Emergency aid delivery in Al-Jawf challenged by insecurity

SANA'A, Oct. 8 (IRIN) — Tribal conflicts, roadblocks, hijacking and unexploded mines are hindering effective aid delivery to thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northern Al-Jawf governorate, say aid workers and community leaders.

"Movement restrictions due to insecurity have repeatedly prevented assistance from reaching IDPs in Al-Jawf. While access to southern districts remains relatively secure, it is more difficult to reach the north so accessibility must be reassessed daily," Victoria Stanski, an emergency and post-crisis officer with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), said.

A 16 September report by the US Agency for International Development stated that since the resumption of fighting in August 2009, more than 13,000 IDPs — or nearly 80 percent of the governorate's displaced population — had received food assistance.

There are about 11,000 IDPs in Al-Jawf registered by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and its partners, but aid agencies estimate the total at 18,000.

IDPs moved from Sa'ada to Al-Jawf to escape heavy fighting between Al-Houthi rebels and the government. Most are reportedly living in open shelters near host communities and have very limited access to services or assistance.

According to a July update for the Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen 2010 by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), aid agencies have limited sustained access to many IDPs, particularly in Sa'ada, Al-Jawf and Amran governorates, although some aid is getting through.

IOM delivers shelter, hygiene items, and non-food items to IDPs and vulnerable groups in Al-Jawf with support from partner agencies in the area. There is not a regular schedule for aid distribution, according to Amr Taha, IOM's emergency coordinator, but kits are standardized according to agreements with other aid agencies.

Taha added that insecurity also restricted IDPs' movements between their



Child IDPs in al-Jawf pay the price for lack of access for aid workers to reach them with food aid.

settlements and local markets.

"Al-Jawf is one of the most remote and inaccessible governorates in Yemen, so the government maintains a limited presence as a result of its limited resources," he said.

Malnutrition fears

The former IDP Executive Unit representative in the governorate, Hassan Hadra, warned about malnutrition among IDP children as revenge killings and other security incidences hamper regular delivery of food aid.

"Several child IDPs are suffering acute or moderate malnutrition as a result of access problems. Immediate screening is required to assess the nutrition situation of child IDPs in Al-Jawf," Hadra said.

The governorate is notorious for complicated revenge killings, some of which date back 50 years, according to Hadra.

"Conflicting tribes never consider the suffering of IDPs. We find it too difficult to persuade them to allow aid workers to reach IDPs with needed relief items," Hadra said.

"Three months ago, the Yemeni government stopped registering IDPs because there was not enough aid," IOM's Taha told IRIN, adding that "the verification process was suspended in Al-Jawf amid lack of infrastructure and security".

According to Manaa al-Jabali, a police officer at Al-Jawf security department, the role of policemen in the governorate is challenged by citizen's illiteracy and their possession of various types of small arms.

"Several projects including the IDP verification process have been suspended as a result of security problems in the governorate," he said.

IOM and Adventist Development & Relief Agency International (ADRA)

are the two major agencies in the field. The former operates in the north of the governorate and the latter in the south.

Coping mechanisms

"To avoid security incidents, we send in low-profile staff familiar with the area and we change their routines and [schedules] often. They must remain aware of their surroundings at all times," IOM's Stanski said.

All activities are carried out by a dedicated team familiar with all key players, who balance an understanding of cultural negotiations, tribal dynamics and political domains with humanitarian aid objectives, Becky de Graaff, acting country director of ADRA in Yemen, told IRIN.

"ADRA believes that committed peacekeeping efforts are still able to make a difference for IDPs in Al-Jawf and should not be abandoned easily," De Graaff said.

In Brief

NATIONWIDE

Up to 1.7 million women to be immunized against tetanus in Yemen

The Ministry of Public Health and Population in collaboration with UNICEF will launch on Saturday a weeklong Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE) Campaign from 9-14 of October 2010.

In a press release, UNICEF said that the campaign will target 1.7 million women of child-bearing age (15-49) in 202 districts in 14 Yemeni governorates.

During the past decade, Yemen has succeeded in improving the under-five and Maternal Mortality indicators, towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. However, significant challenges still exist. Coverage of tetanus immunization for women of child-bearing age is still only 20 percent.

"During the campaign, 2,292 health workers in fixed facilities and 3,307 mobile teams will participate to cover more than 1.7 million women in the targeted districts. The campaign, which will be held under the patronage of Abdu Rabbo Mansour Hadi, Vice President, is a major step towards tetanus elimination in Yemen," said Abdul Karim Rasea, Minister of Public Health and Population.

Despite existing challenges, the Under-five Mortality Rate decreased from 102 per 1000 live births in 2003 to 78.2 in 2006. However, more efforts are needed to reach the goal of reducing maternal mortality.

"As Yemen continues to grapple with the challenges of human development, there is need for the government and development partners to accelerate efforts and increase investment in order to meet our MDG commitments and make a difference in the lives of the children and women in this country" says Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF's Representative in Yemen.

This campaign builds on gains already made during a targeted campaign carried out in 60 high-risk districts of four governorates during April and June 2008.

The current campaign is based on micro-plans at the district and sub-district levels and is expected to cover more than 90 per cent of all women in the

country in the targeted age group.

Micro-plans for a campaign in Sa'ada will be developed upon completion of a WHO review of functioning health facilities, available health workers and population figures. The participatory role of local councils is essential in reaching the elimination phase within five years.

In Yemen, where 77 per cent of births take place at home and 93 per cent of maternal deaths are as a result of home delivery complications, this campaign is crucial if any gains are to be made in reducing infant mortality and improving maternal health.

UNICEF has provided 3.4 million doses of vaccine to be administered nationwide by 2,508 health workers in fixed sites and 7,116 health workers in mobile teams; 1,142 supervisors will monitor the campaign's execution.

With the support of the Ministry of Endowment, imams and other religious leaders in the targeted governorates are also to include messages on the campaign in their Friday sermons.

Over 2,000 Africans arrested after entering Yemen illegally

Security services arrested last month 2,161 African nationals from the Horn of Africa who illegally entered Yemen territories, the Interior Ministry has said.

In a statement posted on its website, the Ministry said that 1791 were Somali nationals, including 357 women and 370 were Ethiopian nationals, in addition to one from Djibouti.

The Africans were landing on the coasts of the governorates of Hadramout, Shabwa, Abyan and Taiz in boats sailing twice daily from the Horn of Africa.

The Ministry expressed its concern at the number of Africans arriving to the coasts of Yemen in a single day.

It anticipated that in the coming days, Yemen would witness a large flow of Somali refugees to its coasts because of the continuing war in Somalia and the deterioration of the security situation there.

SANA'A

Training project for Yemen's judges
Justice Minister Ghazi al-Aghbari met on Saturday with Head of the Arab Cen-

ter for the Development of Rule and Integrity (ACRLI), Wassim Harb, who is currently visiting Yemen.

They discussed a mechanism for implementing a continual training project for judges in Yemen, which is implemented by the ACRLI and funded by the British Department for International Development (DFID).

Their talks dealt with preparations for holding three successive courses for 140 judges and prosecutors on fair trial principles, cyber crimes, money laundering, corruption and terrorism.

Al-Aghbari and Harb also touched on the possibility of holding training courses for national trainers and external courses for judges to enable them to know about the other countries' experiences and exchange points of view with their counterparts.

For his part, Harb reviewed plans and methodology to be implemented by the Center in its training courses for judges in Yemen in order to deepen the knowledge and skills of the judges to improve their performance.

Yemen celebrates World Post Day 2010

Yemen celebrated with other countries in the world, on Saturday, World Post Day, which marks 136 years after the founding of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in Berne, Switzerland.

Yemen celebrates this occasion through holding several activities and distributing posters, brochures and publications to introduce the importance of postal services and their role in the economic, social, cultural and humanitarian development, Abdul-Latif Abu Ghanem, Director General of General Authority for Post and Postal Savings told Saba.

"Yemen's postal service has, in a short period of time, become a modern powerful institution effectively contributing to the countries development and serving society. It occupies a leading position among the institutions working in this area," Abu Ghanem said.

Using modern technology, it provides more than 25 high quality postal and financial services to over 335 offices across the country.

He added that the General Author-

ity for Post believes in its message as a point of contact between citizens and government and private institutions to achieve comprehensive economic and social advancement.

ADEN

Small enterprises course starts

A training course on the fundamentals of micro enterprises for businesswomen was launched on Tuesday by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Aden in coordination with the German Project for Private Sector Development

The three-day course will introduce the advantages and objectives associated with the ownership of small business enterprises. The importance of supporting business women and developing their skills through the establishment of such courses was affirmed by the Chairman of Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohammed Ba Mashoms and the German Project Manager Faisal Al Nadif.

BAIDHA'A

Japanese support for deaf, dumb society in Rada'a

Yemen and Japan discussed on Tuesday Japanese support for the Society for Care and Rehabilitation of the Deaf and Dumb in Rada'a city. Undersecretary of Baidha'a governorate Ali al-Mansouri and Project Coordinator at the Japanese Embassy reviewed ways to develop the society's activities to enable it to reach deaf and dumb people in remote areas in the districts of Rada'a.

The USD 84,000 grant includes training equipment and ten sewing machines.

The undersecretary hailed the Japanese support for educational and health fields in Rada'a city. He also voiced the governorate leadership's readiness to remove the overall difficulties and provide facilities for the Japanese.

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University (WISE) in Jordan signed a memorandum of understanding to provide graduate programs in some disciplines needed by the Yemeni market.

The memo included enhancing relations and cultural exchanges with regard to aspects of scientific research through supplying the University of Hodeidah with programs and qualified staff to teach in a number of disciplines that it lacks.

The memo of understanding was signed by Rector of Hodeidah University, Dr. Hussein Qadi and the WISE University's Advisor, Dr. Omar al-Rimawi.

Dr. Qadi said that this agreement aimed to meet the needs of the Yemeni market in graduate studies for master and doctorate studies in a number of disciplines.

He noted that the supervision of these programs would be shared between the two universities in accordance with the applicable regulations and terms of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

For his part, the WISE University's Advisor reviewed the achievements made by the university since its establishment before 30 years.

The university's programs at the levels of bachelor, master and doctorate degrees include more than 1000 students in the disciplines of Islamic law, business, special education, and information technology, Dr. al-Rimawi said.



Yemeni Media Top Management Training



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Yemen, through Transparency Advocacy Project for Media and CSOs holds the training course above in Sana'a during 4 - 15 December 2010.

Training will be implemented by International Center for Journalist (ICFJ) based in Washington, USA aiming at enhancing performance and capacity development by upgrading knowledge and improving skills of editors in chief, managers and/or owners of media institutions in Yemen.

Participants' selection criteria:

- Applicants should be editors or hold managerial positions at media outlets (print, radio, or website).
- Holds a relevant academic degree with minimum 5 years experience.
- Should have enthusiasm and well prepared to attend all training sessions from 8am - 4pm.
- Both; applicant and his/her institution must have necessary permission in the field of media in accordance with the country's regulations.

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For more info please contact the following address:

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Transparency Advocacy Project
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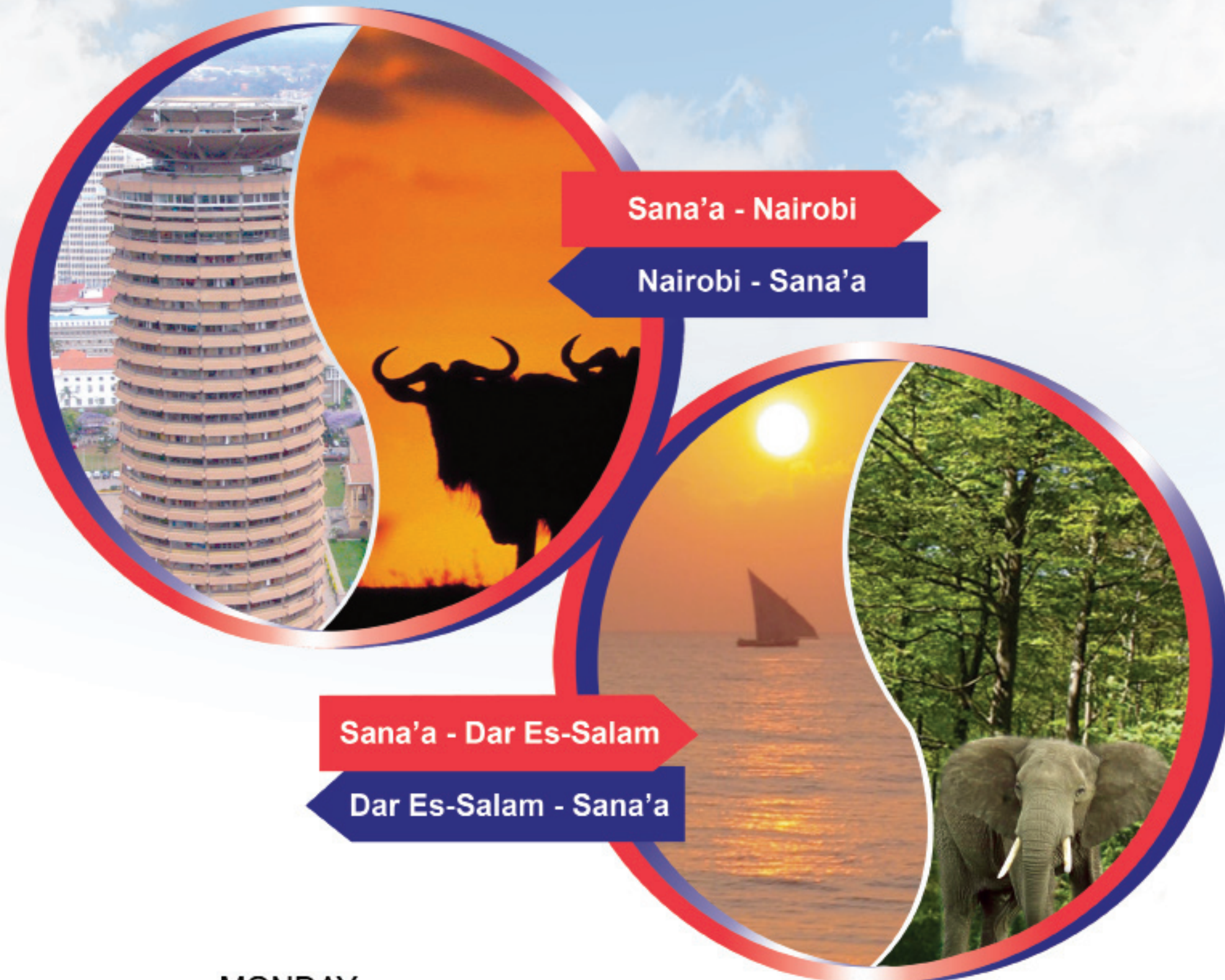
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Windows into international development work in Yemen: International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental partners.

With 127 member states, a further 17 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

The IOM Constitution recognizes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as to the right of freedom of movement.

IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management:

- Migration and development
- Facilitating migration
- Regulating migration
- Forced migration.

IOM activities that cut across these areas include the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration.



An IOM member of staff (left) with part of a group of 27 Ethiopian minors who walked hundreds of kilometers from the south part of Yemen to Haradh on the Saudi border to try to cross into Saudi Arabia only to be turned back. The Child Protection Center in Haradh, run by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the Saleh Foundation, is unable to accommodate all the Ethiopian minors and they are at increased risk of exploitation, trafficking. IOM is exploring opportunities to provide assisted voluntary return and reintegration to these and other stranded Ethiopian migrants.

IOM in Yemen
Yemen became a member of the IOM in 1999. Since then the organization's mission in Yemen works closely with civil society and UN agencies to support the Government of Yemen's counter-trafficking efforts. IOM also facilitates Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) for Ethiopians stranded in Yemen and is implementing projects focused on labour migration.

IOM has increased its role in the field of emergency and post-crisis assistance in northern Yemen following the cessation of hostilities in the Sa'ada province, which over the past six years has pitted armed Al Houthi insurgents from the northern governorates against Government of Yemen forces.

IOM is providing assistance to the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the conflict affected region, which according to government estimates totals some 350,000 people.

In June 2010, IOM distributed 500 hygiene kits and water filters to families in the Al-Jawf Governorate, with the support of in-kind contributions from UNICEF. This distribution follows successful operations funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the UN Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) in which 2,350 Non-Food Item (NFI) kits were distributed to 2,350 families in Al-Jawf, Hajjah and Amran. However, the security situation in the region remains tense.

Working with the NGO "Friends of Al-Jawf for Development", IOM has been able to effectively carry out relief activities and is poised to expand its operations. Through training and logistic support, IOM seeks to build local capacity to undertake humanitarian and development initiatives.

Emerging priorities for the IOM mission in Yemen include the distribution of additional non-food items and shelter materials, the establishment of a mobile health team and the provision of hygiene kits and safe drinking water for the displaced population and host community in Al Jawf. IOM is also discussing with the Government of Yemen to provide assistance for IDPs wanting to return to their communities of origin.

IOM projects in Yemen

Regulating migration
IOM's main project in this issue is National Capacity Building Program to Counter Child Trafficking in Yemen. Yemen represents an origin, transit and destination country. Irregular migrants come from several countries in search of work opportunities, mainly as economic migrants from the Horn of Africa, particularly from Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea. The geographical location of Yemen, its permeable borders as well as its generous immigration policy, makes the country attractive and vulnerable to irregular transit migration towards the Gulf. In parallel to the ongoing UNICEF-IOM efforts in combating and preventing child trafficking from Yemen into the region,

IOM is contributing to combating trafficking of children in Yemen by increasing the knowledge and capacity of government and non-governmental organizations, officials and social workers to deal with actual and potential child trafficking victims, including shelter management, awareness raising of the general public on the risks and consequences of child trafficking, policy-making on counter trafficking, and a feasibility study on return and reintegration of child victims of trafficking. This intervention is funded by UNICEF and implemented by IOM in close coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

Migration research

IOM's main project in this issue is Dialogue on Migration in Yemen and the Horn of Africa. In line with recommendations of the Cairo Regional Conference on "Arab Migration in a Globalized World" organized in 2003 by IOM and the League of Arab States, the Republic of Yemen will host a Dialogue on Migration aimed to discuss with concerned countries the challenges posed by the increasing trend of irregular transit migration from the Horn of Africa across Yemen. The Dialogue will shed light on the advantages of regional consultative processes and will bring to the attention of the participants successful examples on how other regions deal with irregular migration. The event will gather government representatives from Yemen and concerned countries of the Horn of Africa, namely Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan. This intervention is funded by the 1035 Facility managed by IOM and will be implemented in close coordination with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Immigrant Affairs.

Migration, climate change and environmental degradation

Post-tropical Storm Humanitarian Aid in Yemen. After a tropical storm soaked Yemen with heavy rains on 24-25 October 2008, widespread flooding swept through the eastern Governorates of Hadramout and Al-Mahra causing major damage and prompted the Government of Yemen to declare them as disaster areas. Preliminary assessment by UNCT estimated that as many as 700,000 people may have been affected by the floods resulting in forced displacement. Livelihoods were seriously damaged after surging waters caused extensive destruction to local agriculture, fishing and honey production while infrastructure were considerably affected with at least 3,300 mud-brick houses totally destroyed and hundreds of others uninhabitable.

IOM intervention was designed to support the national and international community's efforts to address the urgent humanitarian needs of populations affected by flooding and induced displacement in the governorates of Hadramout. The project facilitated and contributed to the targeted and timely delivery of emergency and temporary shelter to IDPs in the various col-

lective centres and temporary housing facilities and included technical and logistical support as well as camp management.

As Disaster Risk Reduction can already start during the emergency phase, IOM is also distributing solar cookers and training a thousand of IDP families on how to use them. While directly addressing the immediate livelihood needs of IDPs, such measures not only aid to environment conservation but also help to prevent desertification and possible disputes over scarce resources resulting from large groups of displaced populations in a region already depleted. By targeting in priority women, it also contributes to their protection as they often face abuses while searching for fuels.

Recent activities

IOM ramps up operations in northern Yemen following ceasefire

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IOM Lays Groundwork for Identification and Referral System for Victims of Trafficking and Exploited Migrants

On April 26th, IOM conducted a workshop on Protection and Provision of Direct Assistance to Trafficked Persons and Exploited Migrants, in Sana'a. The workshop served as a first step in establishing an identification and referral system for trafficked persons and exploited migrants in Yemen, with over 55 stakeholders and service providers participating including the Yemeni Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, the Women's National Committee, civil society organizations, UN agencies and INGOs.

During the workshop, participants were introduced to IOM's four stages of direct assistance provided to Victims of Trafficking (VoTs): identification, recovery, return and reintegration. Participants also helped to map existing health, psychosocial, legal, educational and economic services available, and to identify challenges and capacity gaps.

IOM will repeat the workshop in mid-May in Aden, and seeks to bring together partners operating in the southern part of Yemen as well as to expand current identification and referral mechanisms for mi-

grants arriving to the Yemeni coast from the Horn of Africa.

IOM will also conduct further targeted trainings in Sana'a and Aden on victim identification, shelter management and the provision of medical and psychosocial recovery for trafficked persons and exploited migrants.

The workshops and trainings are funded by the Government of Switzerland, through the six-month project, "Empowering Yemen to Address Mixed Migration and Protect Vulnerable Victims of Trafficking along the Gulf of Aden Route".

IOM currently leads the counter-trafficking group of the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) in Yemen, which advocates for the development of necessary legal and policy frameworks, as well as the expansion and prioritization of direct assistance for VoTs.

IOM and UNHCR are co-chairs of the MMTF, a forum that unites organizations working for the protection of vulnerable migrants, and which aids the Government of Yemen in meeting management gaps involving mixed migrant flows.

IOM organizes Yemen's first workshop on human trafficking

IOM has just concluded a project aimed at empowering civil society and government in Yemen to address mixed migration and protect victims of trafficking in the Gulf of Aden Region.

As part of the project, IOM organized in the capital Sana'a a workshop that brought together 60 participants representing various diplomatic missions, government ministries, UN agencies, and

civil society organizations to discuss current trends in smuggling and trafficking in persons.

The event provided a unique platform to share and discuss preliminary findings of the Rapid Assessment of Smuggling/Trafficking in Persons, which was conducted by IOM in Yemen earlier this year.

Preliminary findings of the assessment pointed to the lack of an identification and referral system for victims of trafficking, and the need to enhance access to direct assistance for this vulnerable group. The report further highlighted the collective efforts needed to prevent human trafficking, along with measures to protect victim's rights. Following the presentation of the findings, workshop participants identified next steps to help strengthen the country's overall counter-trafficking efforts.

"There is a continuous large-scale influx of mixed migration flows from the Horn of Africa to Yemen," says IOM Counter Trafficking Program Manager, Emmerentia Erasmus. "Some of these are at risk of being trafficked on their way to Yemen, or once they reach Yemen. The assessment and related workshop also addressed the issue of Yemeni victims of trafficking," she added.

Both the workshop and rapid assessment were conducted within the framework of the comprehensive regional project, "Improving Protection of Migrants and Other Vulnerable Groups Travelling through Somaliland and Puntland to Yemen," funded by the Government of Japan.

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Words of Wisdom



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

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

Anwar Al-Awlaki: The new Osama Bin Laden?

Anwar al Awlaki, a preacher broadcasting his Islamist ideology in sermons on the internet, is a clear and present danger, says Philip Johnston.

By: Philip Johnston
Telegraph.co.uk

You may not have heard of him before – but this is the new face of international terrorism. His name is Anwar Al-Awlaki – and unlike Osama Bin Laden, who has not been seen in public for many years, he is loud, obvious and very dangerous. If there is an attack any time soon in London or in another Western capital, the chances are that Awlaki will be behind it. The CIA has put him on their hit-list of assassination targets, and in a rare speech on Thursday, Jonathan Evans, the head of MI5, name-checked Awlaki as the West's Public Enemy No 1.

"The operational involvement of Yemen-based preacher Anwar Al-Awlaki with al-Qaeda is of particular concern given his wide circle of adherents in the West, including in the UK," said Evans.

So, who is Awlaki and why are intelligence agencies so worried about him? To some extent, he is the creation of the West's success in restraining Al-Qaeda's activities in Afghanistan and the lawless borderlands of north-west Pakistan. Bin Laden's terror organisation, if not exactly beaten, has been scattered. Where, once most of the terrorist plots against Western targets could be traced back to Pakistan (specifically, the tribal areas of Waziristan), the proportion dropped to 75 percent three years ago and is now down to 50 percent. The reason is that a lot of Al-Qaeda's foreign fighters, especially the Arabs, have relocated to Somalia or to Yemen – and it is there where Awlaki rules the roost.

But he is not a gun-toting terrorist warlord like Bin Laden. Awlaki, 39, is a preacher, broadcasting his Islamist ideology in sermons on the internet. The web gives him a global reach – literally into the bedrooms of disenchanted and gullible young Muslims who may already have been radicalised by an extremist imam or friend. For the intelligence services, this poses a dangerous new threat because it is so hard to keep under surveillance. Plotters meeting can be watched and followed; but if the conspiracy is internet-based, with would-be terrorists acting alone simply because they have heard Awlaki's call to jihad on their PC, the chances of stumbling upon it are reduced.

The first time that many people heard Awlaki's name was at the turn of the year. It is said that he recruited and mentored Umar Abdulmutallab, the young African who attempted to blow up a plane carrying hundreds of passengers over Detroit on Christmas Day, by detonating a device in his underpants. However, Awlaki has been on Western intelligence's radar for some years, as his connections with terrorist plotters, including the September 11 hijackers and the July 7 London bombers, gradually became apparent.

Far from emerging like an Old Testament prophet from the mountains of Arabia, Awlaki is an American citizen. He was born, somewhat incongruously, given his brand of radical Islam, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. His father, a Yemeni, moved there in 1971 with his wife to attend the state university where he received a master's degree in agricultural economics. In 1978, when Awlaki was seven, the family moved back to Yemen where his father served as agriculture minister. Aged 20, Awlaki returned to the US in 1991 where he studied civil engineering at Colorado State University. He later lived in San Diego, where he obtained an MA in education, and then studied for a doctorate in Washington.

During this period, though not an Islamic scholar nor a trained imam, Awlaki began to take a greater interest in religion and politics, possibly linked to a trip to Afghanistan in the aftermath of the Soviet occupation. He began to acquire a reputation as a firebrand preacher at various mosques, though his devout image

was sullied by several arrests for soliciting prostitutes.

Increasingly, he came under the influence of radical Islamists, notably the Yemeni, Abdul Majeed Al-Zindani, an ally of Osama Bin Laden. He allegedly worked for a charitable organisation that the FBI believed was a front for funneling money to terrorists. Some of the September 11 hijackers reportedly respected Awlaki as a religious figure and two of the hijackers who flew American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon building attended a mosque where he preached.

His apparent connection to the September 11 attacks was one of many embarrassments for the FBI. Awlaki was under investigation in 1999, but the agency concluded he was not a danger and shut down the operation a year later. After the September 11 attacks, the FBI interviewed Awlaki four times, and one detective told the 9/11 Commission that he believed he "was at the centre of the 9/11 story". It is believed that he kept the hijackers "spiritually focused".

Despite the FBI's suspicions, Awlaki was able to return to Yemen in 2002. Perhaps unsurprisingly, he later turned up in London, where he stayed for two years, speaking at conferences hosted by British Muslim organisations. However, he did not come to MI5's notice until after he returned to Yemen in 2004. It was about then that Awlaki made the transition from preacher to operational terrorist mastermind, using his charismatic appeal and jihadi rhetoric to fire up potential recruits.

He speaks perfect English, unlike many Al-Qaeda leaders, which gives him a broader appeal. He also encourages his followers to think about mounting small-scale attacks that can cause widespread fear without always trying to stage a September 11-style "spectacular" which risks alerting the authorities.

As Evans said: "His influence is all the wider because he preaches and teaches in the English language, which makes his message easier to access and understand for Western audiences. There is a real risk that one of his adherents will respond to his urging to violence and mount an attack in the UK, possibly acting alone and with little formal training."

Awlaki is best known for "Constants on the Path of Jihad", a series of lectures available on popular internet forums, such as YouTube, where he has 1,900 videos. He reads the Arabic text and translates what he has read into English, offering his commentary on what the text means for Muslims. He maintains that violent jihad is an obligation for every Muslim. His lectures have been found in possession of almost every radical Islamist who has executed, or attempted to execute, attacks on Western targets.

They include the July 7 bombers in London, who used to meet in a bookshop that sold lectures by Awlaki. Major Nidal Hasan, who killed 13 people at the Fort Hood military base in Texas last November, had asked for Awlaki's advice in emails about a suicide attack. There is evidence that he had direct contact with the Canadian-based terrorists known as the Toronto 18 and court records show that three out of the five men convicted for plotting to attack soldiers at Fort Dix, New Jersey, were inspired by Awlaki's lectures and believed they contained a fatwa to strike in the US.

It is the accessibility of Awlaki's message on the internet that most alarms intelligence chiefs and the fact that his centre of operations marks a shift in the centre of gravity of al-Qaeda from Pakistan/Afghanistan towards Yemen and east Africa. MI5 has seen a surge in its casework related to Yemen – the headquarters of Al-Qaeda's Arabian peninsula affiliate. In April, the CIA named Awlaki as a specially designated global terrorist, which effectively places him on an international hit-list as someone who has declared war on the West.

He may not have the vaulting ambitions of Osama Bin Laden to cause massive carnage; but unlike the reclusive Al-Qaeda leader, he is a clear and present danger.

COMMON SENSE

An Arab world full of hopelessness

Perhaps the situation in the Arab World has never been as bleak as it is now and for sure never so hopeless. Here are 22 nations sitting atop the world's largest sea of oil and gas, but apparently this wealth was not meant in any way to improve the lot of the inhabitants of the region or further their causes. One cannot help but feel distressed that we are at a loss for leadership in the Arab World just when the interests of the nation are falling out of the control of the inhabitants of the region and literally used to benefit either the enemies of this nation from within or the neocolonialist powers and international cartels that have found an easily exploitable nation, as its leaders find themselves too busy to even forsake their primary duty as leaders of the Arab World to protect the resources of the land and channel them to the overall benefit of the people of the region. We have 22 Arab nations that cannot come up with a strategy to face up to all the challenges that have befallen the nation, which can be summarized as follows:

An enemy that has literally made fools of our leadership as it continues to plunder the Holy Land and prevent its indigenous population from enjoying peace and tranquility in their own territory or hope of ever being able to hold on to what still remains in their hand, as the enemy's Caterpillar's continue to unleash their destructive power on the homes and history of the Palestinians. Even as this enemy seeks to convince the world that it is opting for peace, all the Arab leaders can do is hope that America can come to their rescue and convince their Israeli puppet to «talk peace».

A nation that has fallen behind considerably in development, with most of the countries not showing any positive directions in terms of providing a venue of culture and progress, which will uplift the standards of living of the people of the region and create substantial opportunities that show our leaders have a knack for the sagacious use of our abundant resources. This use should go beyond filling up their private coffers and depriving their constituencies of even the most basic of returns as called for under the social contract they have snatched from their peoples.

The inability of the region to keep pace with the onset of globalization, as regional groupings replace the rigid sovereign status of individual states, while in the Arab World we talk of building wire fences and security walls along the boundaries between the different Arab States, whereas one could still remember when the movement of capital and people was so easy and without effort or even legal documents from one end of the Arab World to the other, north or south.

A cultural void that is creeping into the mindset of the nation, as the educational systems under the custodianship of the current impotent Arab leadership fails to produce the desired educational output that efficiently harnesses the nation's productive capacity and manages its natural and economic resources to ensure their equitable distribution for all the inhabitants of the region.

Needless to say, governance in the Arab World remains our weakest attribute as dictatorships and archaic monarchies continue to limit the ability of their constituents to have a say in the management of their affairs and resources and continue to insist that we must perpetually remain under their corrupt and/or inefficient government apparatus until the end of time. This also has created a big social fragmentation, and a large gap that allows a few of the population to harvest all the benefits of the economy to just a few of the privileged, who are either related to the rulers or serve to ensure the latter's perpetual stranglehold on their constituents' lives and sometimes on their necks.

The Arab leaders meeting in Libya are not showing that they have indeed grasped the pitiful situation they have put their nation under and the strong distaste that their 'subjects' have developed for them.

If the Arab leaders expect President Barack Obama to bail them out of the predicament that Netanyahu and Lieberman have set up for them, then they are still living under an aura of wishful thinking that only emphasizes their impotence and lack of self esteem and dignity.

It is really pathetic that we have tens of leaders but all that they can produce is dead meat leadership. We are falling behind rapidly and it appears that the Zionist enemy will continue to make fools out of the worst slate of leadership the Arab World has ever known, and will eventually gobble up the remains of Palestine, while they put their stakes on the only thing that Barack Obama can deliver, whether for us or his own nation – frustration and hopelessness, as he succumbs to the military industrial complex that shapes policy in the United States and to AIPAC, which ensures that the United States does not veer off its Zionist track.

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi



OUR OPINION

Why do we need a new religious committee?

Late last month the president decreed the establishment of a committee of religious scholars. This committee, supposedly made up of the country's finest religious men, will be responsible for giving advice on the country's national issues.

The decree, which was issued on Sept. 30, does not say to whom the committee is supposed advice and whether its "advice" is obligatory.

It does however, state that the committee will fight fanatical Islamic thoughts and provide a more moderate and tolerant point of view on disputable public matters.

The committee is said to have an 'independent budget' – provided for by the state – with which to carry out its research and cover its members' operational expenses.

Although on the face of it, this decree sounds harmless, if not useful, I have a number of burning questions about this committee. Firstly, what happened to the existing religious scholars committee in Yemen? Do we really need a duplicate and the extra costs that come with it?

Also how do we know that this committee is going to provide the best advice on disputable matters? What are the criteria for selecting these scholars, and why must they all be men? And is it only for discouraging jihadis from targeting foreign interests in Yemen, or could it – and should it – not expand to other controversial issues like early marriage?

According to the decree, the president will soon approve the committee's internal charter to organize its work. But what really concerns me is that this initiative could be an attempt to legitimize whatever actions the president is intending to take in the near future.

Perhaps this committee will "advise" that attacking citizens in the name of counter-terrorism as happened in Abyan last year, is perfectly legitimate. Or maybe they will produce a "fatwa" claiming that the Houthis are indeed infidels and should be wiped from the face of the earth.

These ideas are not farfetched. In 1994 the religious scholar Abdulmagid Al-Zindani issued a fatwa stating that Yemenis should launch a war against the southern secessionists.

In fact the President had already begun preparations for a war against the secessionists before the 1994 fatwa had even been issued. He did this, soon after returning from Amman, where he had signed a reconciliation agreement with Ali Al-Baedth his deputy and the former president of south Yemen.

Nevertheless, the fatwa gave a green light to more than 32,000 former Taliban jihadis living in Yemen to join the ranks of the state's army and fight against the southern socialist army.

Scholars today are whispering that the very same Zindani will lead the newly decreed religious committee. After all, he was present in the meeting with the president in Ramadan two months ago, when the idea to form this committee was first conceived.

Ironically, while this committee is supposed to issue fatwas denouncing Islamic fanaticism it may end up being headed by a man the US Treasury Department has deemed a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist." How the international community will receive this news I am still unsure. But then again who cares about the international community, we have the Saudis on board, don't we? After all, Al-Zindani is his man in Yemen, or let's say one of their many names on the monthly payroll list.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf



By: Hamid

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Fax: +967 (1) 268-276
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen
Letters: yteditor@gmail.com

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Tel: +967 (1) 510306
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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

CEO
Khair Aldin Al Nsour

Features Editor

Alice Hackman

Copy Editors

Ross West
Tom Finn

Head of News Dept.
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Sadeq Al-Wesabi
Shadha Al-Harazi

Offices

Aden Bureau:
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347056
Email: ytden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaz@y.net.ye

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Saudis aim for renewable energy revamp

Saudi Arabia wants 10 percent of their power output to come from alternative energy sources within a decade.

By: Rachele Klige
The Media Line

Possessing a fifth of the world's proven oil reserves, Saudi Arabia has long been synonymous with the petroleum industry, but this is not stopping the kingdom from striving to diversify its energy sources.

Renewable sources could account for up to 10 percent of Saudi Arabia's power output by 2020, an executive from the state-owned national oil

company Aramco said.

"The proposed target is between 7 to 10 percent of peak electricity generated by renewables by 2020," Ahmad Al-Khowaiter, director of new business evaluation department at Aramco told Reuters.

The renewable energy would most likely be solar energy, he said, and Saudi Arabia will start exporting solar energy by 2020.

Khowaiter said the "strategic move into solar" could be achieved in 10 years time, when the economy will be in favor of employing solar power.

The kingdom is facing a rapid increase in domestic power demand and is already looking at new ways of creating energy, including nuclear power.

Earlier this year, Saudi Arabia announced the establishment of a new

energy complex, in an effort to diversify its oil-based energy industry. The Riyadh-based King Abdullah City for Nuclear and Renewable Energy will be tasked with research and application of nuclear technology and will oversee all aspects of a nuclear power industry.

Saudi Arabia's economy is oil-based, with strong government controls over major economic activities. The kingdom possesses around 20 percent of the world's proven petroleum reserves and ranks as the largest exporter of petroleum in the world.

Saudi Arabia plays a leading role in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and has a petroleum sector that accounts for roughly 80 percent of its budget revenues, 45 percent of its GDP and 90

percent of its export earnings.

But the kingdom's population growth and energy subsidies have increased domestic consumption of oil and gas, fueling concerns about the future of its energy economy.

"Let us give credit where it is due," Meena Janardhan, a fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in Dubai told The Media Line. "This is an oil-rich region, and for countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE to announce renewable energy commitments and initiate work towards achieving these goals, are very positive steps. It is not just economic motivation that turns the wheel in this case."

"There is an ongoing shift in Saudi Arabia and in the region," Dr. Theodore Karasik, director for research and development with the Dubai-based In-

stitute of Near East and Gulf Military Analysis told The Media Line.

"It's significant, because the UAE has taken the lead on this, and of course, the other states want to follow on this path. It's part of the renewed interest in the environment, and the fact that they need to start moving towards the eventuality of when hydrocarbons run out. It's 50 years away but that's also why they're moving towards nuclear energy. These countries have the highest carbon emissions in the world per capita and so they want to improve that," he said.

Karasik and Janardhan agreed that the goal of making 10 percent of Saudi Arabia's power output based on renewable energy by the year 2010 seemed feasible.

Regarding nuclear energy, some

analysts say it is essential for meeting the kingdom's energy needs.

"Saudi Arabia is using 15 percent of its oil output currently for producing electricity and desalination of sea water, and in 10 years' time it will be using 20 percent of its oil output for this purpose," a Saudi political scientist, who asked to remain anonymous, told The Media Line. "Forty percent of the country's population is under 14 years of age, and will in the near future build families and require more electricity and desalinated water. The petrochemical industry is requiring ever more natural gas," he said. "Furthermore, nuclear energy costs 60 percent the cost of hydrocarbon resources, and the third generation [nuclear power] plants are said to be safer than their old[er] counterparts."

Europe's harmony overdose

By: Mojmir Hampl

One pillar of the European Union's single market is harmonization. At first sight, that makes a lot of sense. Harmonized systems of rules make it easier for capital and labor to move around in search of their best use.

Alas, some Europhiles' unifying zeal has all too often spilled beyond the bounds of economic reason, even common sense. More unification and harmonization does not necessarily lead to effective – or even reasonable – solutions to the EU's troubles.

The main point of the new European regulatory measures under consideration (apart from the so-called new Basel III rules) is to bring more stability to the financial system. The indirect effect will be to reduce the financial sector's size – in absolute terms and relative to the economy – and to hinder its growth in the future.

But these effects will also occur in EU countries whose financial sectors have maintained a high degree of stability in the current crisis. Delivery of financial services will be made more difficult and expensive everywhere, even though some countries' banks are financed by stable long-term deposits rather than short-term interbank loans, with few toxic assets and local loans that are more than comfortably covered by local deposits.

This is why one can hear many voices opposing the idea of a harmonized EU-wide bank levy or tax. This levy, strongly backed by those countries whose financial sectors are in tatters after the crisis, is hard to swallow for EU states that did not intervene to bail out their banks.

The levy is an easy way to spread the political and financial costs of the crisis from some to all EU members. If applied, bank capital will be scarcer, the flow of credit slower, and bank fees higher in countries with

pretty stable financial sectors, simply because others have spent a fortune to support their financial systems – and because the European Commission never misses an opportunity to unify rules across the EU.

The same is true, for instance, for the derivatives trading system. The post-crisis harmonization fervor in this area means that it will now be more costly everywhere in the EU to insure against currency volatility or unexpected changes in interest. But such harmonization is neither necessary nor justified in every EU country.

We are also soon likely to have a unified, harmonized, and enforced-from-above system for euro payments, be they intrastate or interstate. The Commission reckons that it is rather suspicious that every country currently has its own system, and that these national systems are used by more customers and for more transactions than the harmonized Single Euro Payment Area

(SEPA) system of payments.

The irony here is that, at its beginning, participation by private banks in SEPA was strictly voluntary. But many of the national systems have been evolving for many years. Millions of customers have willingly relied on them for their debit and credit payments, and simply have not found reason to switch to the SEPA system, with its different codes, abbreviations, and symbols.

This is the system that the Commission wants to prescribe for the whole Union, while banning all SEPA-incompatible products. Customers will have to change their payment orders and habits just because harmonization has become an end in itself for many in the EU. One simple rule should be applied as rigorously in this sensitive area as anywhere else: if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Dubious harmonization and unification is in the pipeline in another area as well: macroeconomic performance.

Over the last decade, we have watched as the Stability and Growth Pact (in which EU countries pledge to keep their public debts and deficits low) has dissipated in a mist of permissiveness. Recently, it almost looked as if the EU had finally come to understand that, given a lack of will, no pact – however commendable its purpose – can ensure sound fiscal policies.

But European institutions are now not only trying to repair the Pact, but are looking for ways to broaden its scope, making it possible to punish EU countries for "macroeconomic imbalances." Just look at some of the proposals of EU President Herman Van Rompuy's task force on economic governance. For example, if a poorer member country undergoes a period of real convergence and has a temporary current-account deficit – as is usual in such cases – it may be punished for not being sufficiently "harmonized."

The same is true of a country that undergoes a period of strong produc-

tivity growth because it has reformed its labor market or kept real wages low and has a current-account surplus. Being too innovative, too competitive, too flexible, growing too much, and exporting too much might become "a problem" in this perverted logic of harmonization. So, Germans and others, are you listening carefully to these voices? Aren't you afraid?

There are many areas of economic life in the EU where harmonization does help. But not every aspect of financial regulation and macroeconomic performance necessarily belongs in this category. We praise competition, not monopolies, in economic life. Competition in the rules that govern it might serve us better as well.

Mojmir Hampl is Vice-Governor of the Czech National Bank and a member of the EU's Economic and Financial Committee.

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Public Health Engineer Officer – Based in Haradh

Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

In this key role, you'll be working closely with Public Health Engineer Team Leader to identify, design and construct water and sanitation facilities that meet community needs. In some instances, this may involve re-commissioning existing systems. But in many cases, you'll need to create everything from ground up including the means of abstraction, storage, treatment and distribution as well as excreta and refuse disposal, vector control and drainage at the field level. You will set up programme impact/process monitoring systems and collect relevant secondary data relating to disease patterns, facilities and government programmes.

What we're looking for

Qualified in any Public Health Engineering related discipline, you should also have worked with water and sanitation systems. Any additional experience in emergency relief would obviously be an advantage, proving your resilience and ability to maintain team work under pressure. Diplomatic and tactful, you'll be a sensitive and practised communicator, able to keep a calm head and reassure those around you. You will have influential communication skills in both Arabic and English, and your ability to gain the confidence, trust, and respect of everyone around you.

Public Health Promoter Officer – Based in Haradh

Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

In this key role, you'll be working closely with Public Health Promoter Team Leader to access and analyse public health needs and support and strengthen the capacity of water and sanitation committees, as well as supervise and monitor the distribution and proper use of non-food items to IDPs. You will set up programme impact/process monitoring systems and collect relevant secondary data relating to disease patterns, facilities and government programmes.

What we're looking for

Qualified in Public Health Promotion related discipline. Any additional experience in emergency relief would obviously be an advantage, proving your resilience and ability to maintain team work under pressure. Diplomatic and tactful, you'll be a sensitive and practised communicator. You will have influential communication skills in both Arabic and English, and your ability to gain the confidence, trust, and respect of everyone around you.

Public Health Promoter Assistant – Based in Sa'ada

Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

In this key role, you'll be working jointly with Public Health Engineer Officer to supervise the implementation of Public Health Programme with Oxfam's partners, ensuring full compliance with required standards and support the community based public health promoters / water users access includes developing training materials.

What we're looking for

A suitable qualification and experience in a discipline related to Public Health Promotion. You will need to prove ability to work with local partners and understanding of community-based and gender-sensitive approaches to water and sanitation work in emergency relief Programmes. You will have influential communication skills in both Arabic and English, and your ability to gain the confidence, trust, and respect of everyone around you.

To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in either of these positions, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job you are applying for, to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk or send a fax to 01 450170.

Closing date for applications is 22nd October 2010

Please apply immediately as we will be interviewing suitable candidates before the closing date



JOB VACANCY

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), is an International Humanitarian Organization providing medical aid to populations in distress, victims of natural and man made disasters and victims of armed conflict, **regardless of race, religion and political believe**. Currently MSF works in more than 70 countries. For more information, visit our Arabic website www.msfuae.ae

Due to openings of projects in different governorates, MSF is urgently recruiting staff to take part in the project in different fields.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE EDUCATOR in Al Mazraq Camps, Hajjah Governorate

Qualifications and experiences:

- Graduate in General Health on University in Sana'a (diploma, bachelor)
 - Previous experience in health care setting or with health promotion desirable
 - Good communication skills, ability to follow the waste management (separation, storage, disposal), cleaning and basic hygiene habits, support and evaluate the medical staff in these activities
 - Good attitude and motivation
 - Able to cope with stress
 - Ability to work with computer
 - Flexible and willing to accept new tasks and responsibilities
 - Able to speak and write both English and Arabic
- To implement promotion of topics such as the advantage of breastfeeding, problems caused by use of alcohol and drugs, what does mean balanced and healthy lifestyle, personal hygiene, diarrhoea prevention, nutrition and hydration
 - Group and individual sessions with patients in OIC Hospital Al Mazraq and facility in IDP camp 3
 - Assist to the outreach team on health related issues, participate in the trainings and collaborate closely when designing health promotion messages
- Assisting the watsan expatriate with tasks related to water, hygiene and sanitation in the hospital al Masraq
 - Facilitating the communication with non Arabic speakers
 - Gain and apply the knowledge about all activities related with water, sanitation and hygiene in health care settings
 - Help to implement the basic waste management knowledge in MSF health facilities and make regular evaluations
 - Collaborate closely with waste area manager in MSF health facilities

Candidates fulfilling the above criteria should send their contact details, CV and a covering letter **before October 18th, 2010** at msfe-sanaa@barcelona.msf.org Médecins Sans Frontières – Spain Sana'a, Yemen

Candidates fulfilling the above criteria should send their contact; we strongly encourage females to apply for this position.

Bridging the patient-doctor rift

By: Hanan Abdulaziz Qassaa
For the Yemen Times

When Fathia, 30, fell ill she decided to go to a public hospital in Sana'a because it was cheaper than the private hospitals. She soon changed her mind.

On her first visit to one of the capital's largest state hospitals, she was dismayed by the lack of organization. After queuing for a long time in order to receive a referral to see a doctor, she then got lost trying to find the right room, without any staff to guide her. When she finally made it to the examination room, she was surprised to find another patient receiving treatment at the same time. The doctor's examination was a brief one.

When Fathia decided to visit the same doctor in his private practice, his examination was far more thorough and attentive, lasting at least half an hour. She said that this was probably to attract patients to his private clinic.

As state hospitals struggle to cope with high demand, patients have increasingly complained that doctors do not have enough time for them. Even if they are more considerate in their private practices, this has created a crisis of confidence in the patient-doctor relationship. Patients feel they are not being treated as should be by their doctors.

"Some [doctors] work with a quarter of the conscience at the morning in state hospitals and with three-quarters of a conscience in the private hospitals and clinics [in the evening]," Ibtihal Salhi, a Yemeni journalist, told the Yemen Times.

"Public hospitals are very crowded and the doctors, if we see them at all, do not treat us like they do in private hospitals or clinics," Ameera, a patient, told the Yemen Times. She said that she hoped to be treated like a patient should be, with care and attention, not just like a source of income.

Four minutes of care

Dr. Eman Al-Azizi, a specialist in internal medicine who works at the state-run Kuwaiti Hospital, defends the doctors working there.

She explained that lengthy consultations are very hard when public hospitals are overrun with patients seeking cheaper

government-subsidized services.

Dr. Al-Azizi pointed to the example of the Thawra hospital, which is considered one of the best public hospitals in the country. Patients flock to the hospital from all over Yemen. The sheer volume of patients leads to overworked stressed doctors who may, as a result, be less friendly.

She explained that new doctors in public hospitals have to examine 60 patients in four hours, which translates to around four minutes per patient. Specialists like herself are less stressed. She only has 10 to 15 examinations in three hours.

Fast medical ethics

Dr. Al-Azizi said that, while medical students do study medical ethics at university, it is only a small part of the curriculum. Greater emphasis is placed on those courses that could improve their overall marks.

When Dr. Al-Azizi was a student, she studied the ethics textbook, but out of some 100 questions in the exam, only two were about ethics.

She stressed the importance of addressing what constitutes a good patient-doctor relationship in university, but said that in the end the way a doctor deals with a patient depends on his or her manners, not on what he or she reads.

"Some doctors don't behave well, even with their own family!" she exclaimed.

Despite the Kuwaiti Hospital lacking any clear guidelines on how doctors should relate to their patients, Dr. Al-Azizi said that she could not remember a single patient who had complained about the hospital's services.

"This is perhaps because they know in advance that they will not receive justice," she said, adding that patients first have the difficult task of successfully locating the right person to direct their complaint to.

As for the accusation that doctors examine more than one patient at once, she told the Yemen Times that the guard sometimes lets in more than one patient at once. The doctor cannot throw him out, she explained, but can instead ask him to sit away from the first patient to give him a little privacy.

What the doctors endure

Life is not always easy for the doctors. For example, Dr. Al-Azizi explained that she



cannot refuse to examine dirty patients as this would involve turning away some 90 percent of her patients.

Instead she reminds patients to take better care of themselves, explaining that most diseases are caused by lack of cleanliness. If the patient is disabled, she explains this to family members.

She said that patients should try to put him or herself in the doctor's shoes. According to Al-Azizi, there is only one doctor for the whole ER section at the hospital where she works who is stressed with many critical cases to follow.

In some cases doctors are simply not too blame for the hospital's mistakes. When the endoscopy department closed at the Kuwaiti hospital last year, patients blamed the doctors despite them having nothing to do with the decision.

Dr. Al-Azizi suggested that the Ministry of Health should conduct regular surveys to assess the satisfaction of both doctors and patients, supervise the quality of medical services in public hospitals and allocate money to improve them.

Ideal doctor conduct

Jihan Al-Nuzely, head of counseling for medic students at the University of Science and Technology, told the Yemen Times that trust and a feeling of safety are essential in a good doctor-patient relationship. This is not only reassuring for the patient, but also necessary for the doctor to successfully assess a patient's medical history for an accurate and rapid diagnosis.

She emphasized the importance of a doctor's positive body language to be understood by all patients, no matter what their social or cultural background. The doctor should address his patients according to their personality and in her view preferably be religious to remind patients of their faith in God.

Doctors should also be aware of the culture that they are working in. Ahmed Asery, sixth year medic student at the University of Sana'a, told the Yemen Times that he studied Medical Ethics and Patient-Doctor Relations in fourth year at university.

His lecturer, Dr. Marwan Shoga' Addin, who holds a PhD in gynecology, especially spoke of medical ethics in Yemen's conservative society regarding male doctors treating female patients, Asery wrote to the Yemen Times.

But students also discussed more general codes of conduct. These included taking

permission after introducing oneself to the patient, taking every step in the interest of the patient, asking for permission before physical examination, and not starting invasive measures unless the patient clearly understands them.

Training medic students

Dr. Eman Al-Maswary is a supervisor and general dental practitioner for in a private clinic at the University of Science and Technology. She works five hours a day and receives on average 15 patients during that time. She also trains future dentists from the university.

Dr. Al-Maswary says that creating a bond of trust with patients is important because dentists often have to gently advise their patients to take better care of themselves and their teeth.

"I have seen young people in their twenties who have had all their teeth pulled out because they neglect their health," she said.

In the university, she said she punishes those students found to be impolite with their patients, either by taking the case away from them or by deducting marks from their scores. She encourages both the patient and doctor to uphold their responsibilities.

She also reminds her interns that she refuses to examine two patients at the same time.

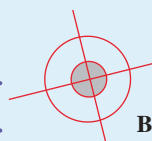
"One cannot concentrate on two patients at the same time," she said. "The dentist has to change everything after examining any patient. They must sterilize and change equipment. It's not just taking off the gloves!"

Dr. Al-Maswary recalled how misunderstandings between doctor and patients can even lead to violence. She told the Yemen Times that she had witnessed patients attacking their doctors. In December 2008, Dirhem Al-Qadasi, head of ER at the Science and Technology Hospital was stabbed to death by the relatives of an elderly patient who died while in his department.

She added that this type of scenario occurs less frequently in private hospitals because patients are better off and usually more educated. She attributed disrespectful attitudes towards doctors, including attacks on them, to illiteracy.

Of course there are limits. If a patient demands medicine, for example, that is not suitable and refuses to listen to her advice, she will ask them to leave immediately and will not continue treatment.

HEALTH WATCH



By: Dr. Siva



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

Know about cataract

Abdulla runs a travel agency at Ma'ala after retiring from a government job. He has difficulty in reading his documents. Whenever he read something on the computer monitor, he felt the words 'swimming' before his eyes! Added to this he found it difficult to drive at night.

The ophthalmologist examined his eyes and did some tests and concluded that Abdulla has cataract in both his eyes.

Cataract:

A cataract is a clouding of the lens in the eye that affects vision. Most cataracts are related to aging. Cataracts are very common in older people. A cataract can occur in either or both eyes. Cataract can cause vision loss which interferes with everyday activities, such as driving, reading, or watching TV.

The lens

The lens is a clear part of the eye that helps to focus light or an image, on the retina. The retina is the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye.

In a normal eye, light passes through the transparent lens to the retina. Once it reaches the retina, light is changed into nerve signals that are sent to the brain. The lens must be clear for the retina to receive a sharp image. If the lens is cloudy from a cataract, the image will not be clear.

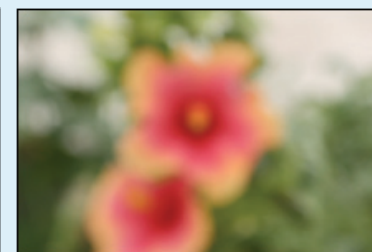
How do cataracts develop?

Age-related cataracts develop in two ways:

1. The lens consists mostly of water and protein. As we age, clumps of protein clouds the lens and reduces the sharpness of the image reaching the retina.
2. The lens slowly changes to a yellowish-brown color, adding a brownish tint to vision. At first, the amount of tinting may be small and may not cause a vision problem. Over a period of time, increased tinting may make it more difficult to read and perform other routine activities. In advanced lens discoloration, one may not be able to identify different colors.



Normal vision



Vision in cataract

Who is at risk for cataract?

The risk of cataract increases as we get older. Other risk factors for cataract include:

- Diabetes
- Life style (smoking, alcohol use)
- Exposure to ultraviolet sunlight

What are the symptoms of a cataract?

The most common symptoms of a cataract are:

- Cloudy, blurry and faded vision
- Glare when seeing bright objects
- A halo around lights
- Poor night vision
- Double vision or multiple images in one eye
- Frequent prescription changes in your eyeglasses

Cataracts can also form after surgery for other eye problems, such as glaucoma, prolonged steroid use, radiation, and injury to the eye. German measles in the pregnant mother can lead to congenital cataract in the newborn.

Treatment for cataract

Surgery is the only effective treatment. Surgery involves removing the cloudy lens and replacing it with an artificial lens. If cataracts are present in both eyes that require surgery, the surgery will be performed at different times, usually four to eight weeks apart.

Is cataract surgery effective?

Cataract removal is one of the most common surgeries performed in the eye. It also is one of the safest and most effective types of surgery. In about 90 percent of cases, people who have had cataract surgery have better vision afterwards.

There are two types of cataract surgery.

Phacoemulsification, or phaco: This surgery involves a very small incision on the cornea (the clear, dome-shaped surface that covers the front of the eye). The lens is softened and broken into tiny bits by ultrasound waves. These are later removed by suction.

Extracapsular surgery: Here, the cloudy core of the lens is removed in one piece through a longer incision on the side of the cornea.

After the natural lens has been removed, it is often replaced by an intraocular lens (IOL). An IOL is a clear, plastic lens that becomes a permanent part of the eye. Light is focused clearly by the IOL onto the retina, improving the vision.

The risks of cataract surgery are minimal. After surgery the eyes should be kept clean. Prescribed medications should be used to help minimize the risk of infection.

What happens after surgery?

Itching and mild discomfort are normal after cataract surgery. Some fluid discharge is also common. The eye may be sensitive to light and touch. After one or two days, discomfort will soon disappear. For a few days after surgery, eye-drops have to be used. You should wear an eye shield or eyeglasses to help protect your eye. You can walk, climb stairs, and do light household chores. In most cases, healing will be complete within eight weeks.

You can quickly return to many everyday activities. The healing eye needs time to adjust so that it can focus properly with the other eye, especially if the other eye has a cataract. After IOL, the colors may seem very bright. Within a few months after receiving an IOL, you will become used to improved color vision. When your eye heals, you may need a new pair of glasses or contact lenses.

Can problems develop after surgery?

Problems after surgery are rare. Even if they occur, with prompt medical attention, they can usually be treated successfully.

Sometimes the eye tissue that encloses the IOL becomes cloudy and may blur your vision. This condition is called an after-ataract. An after-ataract can develop months or years after cataract surgery. An after-ataract is treated with a laser.

Ways to protect eyes

Good nutrition including green leafy vegetables, carrots, fruit, and other foods rich in antioxidants, wearing sunglasses and a hat with a brim to block ultraviolet sunlight may help to delay cataract. Researchers have proved beyond doubt that spinach (sabanah) is very effective in preventing many eye conditions including Age Related Macular Degeneration. Nicotine can do a lot of damage to the eyes; if you are a smoker, stop smoking. The benefits of eye exercises should never be underestimated.

If you are 50 or older, you should have a comprehensive eye exam every two years. Early treatment for many eye diseases may save your sight. As you know, of all the senses given by God, eyes are the most important!



Three interns (left) at the Science and Technology Hospital in Sana'a learn how best to listen to a patient by observing a consultation.

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Zainab Salbi, the story of a Muslim who knows of war but strives for peace

Zainab Salbi is one of the extraordinary examples of how passion coupled with hard-work can move mountains. Because of sheer will she transformed herself from a victim to an agent of positive change. She is an Iraqi American activist who founded an organization Women for Women to support female victims around the world. She is also an author of two books and has received the 2010 David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership, the Forbes Trailblazer, and Time Magazine's Innovator of the Month awards, among many other nominations. In a profile interview, Nadia Al-Sakkaf introduces Zainab Salbi as an example of a successful world leader.

She is only 40 years old, but already she has more than 17 years' experience in development and is the CEO of a foundation which has distributed more than USD 79 million to more than 800,000 family members.

Salbi started Women for Women when she was only 24 years old. The idea started when she read about the suffering of Bosnian women being gang-raped by Serbian soldiers as a part of an intimidating strategic military tactic as part of the Balkan War in 1993.

Salbi was a victim of marital abuse herself. Although she was brought up in a modern educated Iraqi family close to Saddam Hussein's regime, her mother shipped her off to the US while she was in university to be married to a much older Iraqi man. While she was still a new bride, her husband became abusive and raped her.

Later in life when she confronted her mother as to why she had married her off like that, her mother confessed that she wanted to protect her from Saddam Hussein who wanted her for himself.

Zainab Salbi's mother was a strong influence in her life. She had brought her up to be the strong independent woman she is today. And because of her strong personality she was able to pick herself up and leave the abusive husband.

"While raising me, my mother encouraged me not to be a prisoner. She encouraged me to speak my truth, live my truth and values and not let cultural concepts prohibit me from my dream and truth," she said.

After leaving her husband she could not return to her family Baghdad because the Gulf war had started. So she settled in the US and remarried. In 1993, when Salbi read the Time Magazine's article, she empathized with the Bosnian women and with her own money and with support from a Unitarian church, she and her second husband started fundraising to help Bosnian women.

Women for Women International

Gradually the foundation's work expanded to include women suffering from war consequences worldwide and Women for Women International was created.

Since 1993, the organization has helped 250,000 women survivors of wars access social and economic opportunities through a program of rights awareness training, vocational skills education, and access to income generating opportunities, thereby ultimately contributing to the political and economic health of their communities.

In its 17-year history, the



Zainab Salbi, CEO and founder of Women for Women International

"War is not a computer-generated missile striking a digital map. War is the color of earth as it explodes in our faces, the sound of your children pleading, the smell of smoke and fear. Women survivors of war are not the single image portrayed on the television screen, but the glue that holds families and countries together. Perhaps by understanding women, and the other side of war... we will have more humility in our discussions of wars... perhaps it is time to listen to women's side of history."

—Zainab Salbi

The Other Side of War: Women's Stories of Survival and Hope

Women for Women International was awarded the 2006 Hilton Conrad Humanitarian Award, becoming the first women's organization to receive this honor.

"Our mission is to provide women survivors of war, civil strife and other conflicts with the tools and resources to move from crisis and poverty to stability and self-sufficiency, thereby promoting viable civil societies. We're changing the world one woman at a time," said Salbi.

Giving back to Iraq

After struggling to support women from other war-torn countries around the world, Zainab Salbi turned her attention to her home country, Iraq.

Women for Women International started a program to help Iraqi women. And while Salbi acknowledges that the Iraqi government is working towards restoring order and creating a working

are learning from the past and will rise again. "I don't think that is true that Iraqis will not be able to rebuild themselves and their nation again. There is an African saying: Culture is water not stone. Iraqis like all people can evolve, learn from their mistakes and rebuild the country for a better future," she said.

Changing the world one woman at a time

Women for Women is now working in eight countries around the world. The foundation has grown amazingly and from only USD 2,000 as its capital in 1993, the foundation today manages millions of aid money to support thousands of women.

One woman at a time, says Zainab Salbi, is how she and her colleagues at the foundation's board of directors, global management teams and advisory board will create positive change.

"If there is one thing I would change about the world, I would change the inequality that exists between men and women. I want equality between women and men: equality of education, equality of political rights and access, equality of economic opportunities, and equality in decision-making," she said.

The foundation is taking long strides to achieve this. In 2009 alone, Women for Women oversaw the graduation of over 25,500 women from its programs in all countries, trained over 880 women in organic farming and techniques in Sudan, and broke ground for the first ever Women's Opportunity

democracy, huge challenges remain for women's rights.

In a ten-day visit to Iraq, she returned back with a sad heart and more determination to help her own people. She wrote a report on her journey which she called "Please tell Mr. Bush..." Through this report, she hoped to convey the situation and fundraise for projects that would eventually help Iraqi women overcome their ordeal.

There is a high level of chaos, anarchy, frustration, and even anger in today's Iraq, according to Salbi. This is triggered by the lack of electricity, water, food, medicine, and most importantly security. Not only is the looting continuing, but so is the killing. Children as young as ten have real guns and Kalashnikovs, which they point at anybody at any time. A driver is vulnerable at any moment to a gunman forcing him or her out of the car. People are witnessing killings in public streets and in the middle of the day. Women are afraid to leave their houses for fear of rape and kidnapping. Mothers are afraid to let their children walk to school on their own.

"Iraqis are not only dealing with today's chaos, but also with the trauma caused by the oppression they have faced for 35 years during Saddam Hussein's regime. Tears are constantly dropping from everyone's eyes," she said in her memoir of the trip to Iraq.

Women for Women International's programs in Iraq have received a grant totaling more than USD 970,000. The grant will provide job-skills training and rights awareness programming to Iraqi war widows and female heads of households—a total of 2,500 women. The latter make up 60 percent of Women for Women International's programs in Iraq and care for an average of three children and live in poverty.

Salbi believes the Iraqi people



Women for Women Bosnia, where it all started, trains Bosnian women in a variety of areas, including sewing, knitting, and farming.



"Run for Congo" in Chicago 2007, an annual fundraising event for the women in Congo organized by Women for Women.

center in Kosovo.

"My aspirations for Women for Women International are to keep connecting women to each other and

building bridges of peace. I continue to get women access to money and knowledge for them to be able to lead to create lasting change," said Salbi.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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For more information on Zainab Salbi or Women for Women Foundation go to:
<http://www.womenforwomen.org/>

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Yemen as a successful host of FIBA Asia championship

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Excerpts from 21st FIBA Asia U18 Championship Interview

In the alphabetical directory of FIBA Asia member federations Yemen comes at the end of the list.

But in the last few weeks, the anomaly of the alphabet has changed. The name of Yemen has come to the forefront, with the Western-most nation in Asia hosting their maiden FIBA Asia event. All thanks to the determination and dynamism one man – Al Khader Al Kazani, the president Yemeni Basketball Federation – and his team of dedicated workers.

"I know there won't be too many claps, because this is our first event. But I don't want any complaints, just because this is our first event," the 47-year-old Member of Parliament from Albeida when this correspondent got into a conversation with him at the famous "If you haven't eaten here you haven't visited Sana'A" Hameda restaurant during a sumptuous Yemeni traditional lunch on the Rest Day.

His philosophy for the event is simple. And this is what he has told his team too: "We don't expect many claps. But we shouldn't be hearing too many complaints."

"We are organizing an event of this nature for the first time. There are bound to be shortfalls, but we are learning every day."

Yemen chose to host an event because it needed to give the Yemen sports fraternity and fans a chance to watch top Asian basketball at home.

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This event is the future of Asian basketball and some of the players will be superstars tomorrow. We thought we should create a legacy for Yemen basketball fraternity that "they were the first to witness many a superstar in the mak-



ing." That is the kind of good will we intend to create for basketball as well as the sport fans.

Al Kazani describes Yemen hosting this event as tremendous and exciting. "We have managed to pull this off

thanks to the support of many people. On top of that list is my team of dedicated people.

Our people didn't know how to organize an event. And we have been honest to accept it and learn. It is here that I must thank with FIBA Asia, who have been extremely patient with us and guided us every step. I am really grateful for that," he said.

Al Kazani was proud of Yemen's basketball team. "But we have a dream to achieve in basketball. This is not the time for me to comment about what exactly our target in terms of winning a medal or anything like that. But we surely have a dream for moving into the top 10 teams in Asia over the next 5-6 years."

"We have also shown the fans in Yemen that our team too can perform and produce results, of the right platform is created.

This result will help us popularize the game better and also get more patrons. We need both."

JOB VACANCIES



Overseas Oil & Gas Services Company (OOGS) - Yemen, is seeking individuals for the following positions:

1. Commercial Representative

Good experience, fluent English, good communication skills and good correspondence skills. Internet and computer skills required. (Indian nationality preferred).

2. Civil Engineer (Steel Structure)

Good Experience, fluent English, AutoCAD skills.

3. Executive Secretary

Fluent English, good experience in this position, experience in computer, correspondence & purchasing coordination.

4. Accounting assistant

Fluent English, good experience in this position, experience in computer & accounting systems.

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