

Armed tribesmen slaughter cow at ministry office

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, 24 — Tribesmen from the Ibb governorate slaughtered an ox at the office of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in Sana'a on Sunday, Rajeh Al-Kudami, a general manager at the ministry told the Yemen Times.

The slaughter, a tribal custom, followed an attack at the ministry on October 18, when a group of armed tribesmen stormed the building leaving two government employees seriously injured.

"We have resolved the problem, by traditional custom, with the armed tribesmen," Al-Kudami said.

In Yemen, due to the lack of state control, many disputes are resolved by tribal means. The Yemeni tribal

custom for dispute resolution is firstly that the attacker gives something valuable, such as traditional dagger [jambya], or a car to the victim and then, if the victim accepts the gift, the perpetrator brings seven oxen and slaughters them to appease the victim.

On this occasion, the general manager at the ministry waived the required six oxen. Instead the tribesmen were required to slaughter just one ox. The ministry donated the meat of the slaughtered animal to the Juveniles Care House.

Al-Kudami explained that people look to the tribes for physical protection and protection of their rights. Adding that if a victim has no tribal allegiance, his rights will be lost.

Dr. Mohamed Al-Qadi, a political

analyst and a correspondent for the Emirati National newspaper, told the Yemen Times that this is not the first time Yemeni officials have been insulted or attacked by tribesmen.

"There have been many cases in which senior officials such as ministers and parliamentarians have been assaulted by tribesmen," Al-Qadi said. "A former prime minister was shot in his office and a former minister of agriculture was slapped in the face by tribesmen and both cases were ended by tribal traditions," he explained.

Al-Qadi said these events showed that tribal law in Yemen is above state law and that the tribe remains more powerful than government.

Following the ox slaughter on Sunday, Rajeh Al-Kudami said it was

no longer his responsibility to pursue the tribesman and bring them to justice through normal channels.

The dispute between the Ibb tribesman and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor is believed to have stemmed from an employee dispute, according to an individual, who asked to remain anonymous, due to the sensitivity of the issue. The source told the Yemen Times that a female employee at the ministry was dismissed after failing to return to work after her 70-day maternity leave.

The incident last Monday, which left two employees in hospital, followed an attack by the same group at the head of Productive Families Center on October 16 according to a memo written to the head of military police and seen by the Yemen Times.



The slaughtering of oxen is commonly used to resolve tribal disputes.

Gender projects fail to improve women's situation in Yemen

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Oct 17 — For the third year in a row, Yemen ranked last out of 134 countries in the Gender Gap Index issued by the World Economic Forum. In its 2010 report, they ranked Yemen as the country with the widest gap between men and women following Chad and Pakistan.

The index assesses the difference between women and men in political, economic, education and health conditions.

"It is embarrassing for us to be the last country in the world when it comes to gender equality," said Hooria Mashour, deputy chair of the Women National Committee, the government body concerned with gender strategies in Yemen. "It is as if all our work is waste and none of the projects we carry out make a difference."

According to the report Yemen "remains the only country in the world to have closed less than 50% of its gender gap and it deteriorates further this year relative to its own performance in 2008."

This impression is shared by many



Closing In on the Gender Gap. The Gender Gap Index Report highlights the message to policy-makers that, in order to maximize competitiveness and development potential, each country should strive for gender equality — that is, to give women the same rights, responsibilities and opportunities as men.

other experts working in the development field. The International Labour Organization has spent around USD two million in gender projects in Yemen since 2001. The current ILO funded gender strategy

of the Ministry of Social Affairs, which ends in 2011, will not be renewed.

"The projects we fund are based on requests from our partners in Yemen," said Raidan Al-Saqaf, the ILO country

representative in Yemen. "The Ministry of Labor explained to us that their priorities now are more about youth, vocational training and gulf employment of Yemenis and not gender."

Development experts say a country's economic prosperity is linked to women's empowerment. Providing some explanation for why the situation for women in Yemen, as in other poor countries, is getting worse.

"The World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report shows a strong correlation between gender equality and a country's prosperity and economic competitiveness. It should be an indispensable reference for anyone who wants to advance economic, social and political progress worldwide or understand one of the critical reasons why some countries progress and others do not. I find the Gender Gap Report invaluable," said Melanne Vermeer, US Ambassador for Global Women's Issues.

In the Arab world, the United Arab Emirates (103) is the highest-ranking country, performing ahead of most countries in the region on education and po-

litical empowerment indicators. It is followed by Kuwait (105), Tunisia (107) and Bahrain (110).

The Middle East region in general ranked the lowest in most indicators even worse than Africa. The report states that the UAE gained nine places compared to last year's rankings.

The labor force participation rate of women has increased from 41% to 43% and the wage gap narrows relative to the USD 40,000 maximum value for men. New data showed that literacy rates for women are now higher than those of men, there are small gains in primary, secondary and tertiary enrolment data, and the proportion of women holding ministerial level positions has increased.

According to the report, issued annually by the World Economic Forum, Nordic countries Iceland (1), Norway (2), Finland (3) and Sweden (4) are the best countries for women to live in as they demonstrated the greatest equality between men and women.

The index assesses 134 countries on how well they divide resources and opportunities amongst male and female

populations, regardless of the overall levels of these resources. The report measures the size of the gender inequality gap in four areas: Economic participation and opportunity — outcomes on salaries, participation levels and access to high-skilled employment, educational attainment — outcomes on access to basic and higher level education, political empowerment — outcomes on representation in decision-making structures and health and survival — outcomes on life expectancy and sex ratio.

The rankings show the percentage of the gap that has been closed between women and men. The 2010 report features a total of 134 countries, representing over 93% of the world's population. Out of these, 114 have been covered since the first edition of the report five years ago.

Thirteen out of the 14 variables used to create the index are from publicly available hard data indicators from international organizations, such as the International Labor Organization, the United Nations Development Program and the World Health Organization.

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In Brief

NATIONWIDE

Yemeni scientific exhibition opened in Malaysia

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Saleh Ba-Sura opened on Monday the scientific exhibition of Yemeni graduate students held at the Malaysian University of Limkokwing, Malaysia.

Ba-Sura, who is currently visiting Malaysia, congratulated the students participating in the exhibition, hoping that their researches to be of value to Yemen. He called on the Yemeni students to take advantages

of their existence in Malaysia.

During his visit, Ba-Sura expressed his admiration for the experience of the Limkokwing University as model university to supply the labor market.

He invited the rector of the university to visit Yemen, asking his ministry to provide all the facilities to open a branch of the Malaysian university in Yemen.

In addition, Ba-Sura thanked the presidency of the Limkokwing University and organisers for hosting the Yemeni exhibition.

Yemen says it has 11.9 billion barrels of oil reserves

Yemen has 11.9 billion barrels of oil reserves in oil production fields, the head of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority (PEPA) has said.

Nasr Al-Humaidi said the figure was based on a study the authority had conducted on the reserves. He said that the study leads to the conclusion that more efforts should be made at these blocks to complete the extraction of these reserves.

Using modern technology will help report higher figures of Yemen's oil reserves in the future, he said.

The current production and exploration operations cover 25 percent of the total blocks with geological structures suitable for the presence of oil and gas, he said.

The operations are being implemented at 35 blocks, while Yemen has about 100 blocks, he made clear.

"There is still a lot of work ahead of us and Yemen remains at the beginning as an oil producer country," he said.

HODEIDA

Eritrea releases 68 fishermen

The Eritrean authorities freed 68 Yemeni fishermen who had been seized with their boats in Eritrean territorial waters, the Interior Ministry said on Monday.

The freed fishermen arrived in Khoka Port in Yemen's western governorate of Hodeida in good condition, but their boats and equipment were confiscated, it said.

An investigation into their arrest is underway, it said.

SA'ADA

Save the Children concludes training on life skills for Sa'ada girls

Save the Children concluded on Monday a training course on life skills for internally displaced girls aged between 14-18 in camps for the internally displaced in Sa'ada, northern Yemen.

In a press release, Save the Children said that about 40 girls from seven camps in the governorate attended the life skills training program in sewing, stitching and embroidery.

The course was organized in cooperation with the Sa'ada Women's Association.

"These girls have been given an opportunity to leave the camps where they live and to learn some useful skills alongside important child protection messages, the importance of education and the dangers of early marriage," the organization explained.

The course was part of a three-month training program from September to November 2010.

The program aims to build the capacity of internally displaced girls to empower them to be able to improve the economic condition of their families and communities.

After the training, an exhibition will be organized to show the participants' products. All profits will be used for the participants' interest.

In addition, the participants will implement the same training for more than 600 other girls living in the Sa'ada camps of displaced people in which every participant will train 15 girls to improve the economic and social situation of the internally displaced girls and their families.

Save the Children works to establish a child-lead disaster reduction in emergencies and to help all children affected by conflict or in conflict areas to have access to protection mechanisms including quality education and community centres in the camps for the displaced, where parents can bring their children to learn and play in a safe environment during emergencies. The organization also strives to support the children of the displaced with access to health and nutrition services as part of every child's right to survival and development.

MUKALLA

Over 50 unlicensed motorcycles seized in Mukalla

The security services have seized 53 unlicensed motorcycles in Mukalla city, Hadramout, the Interior Ministry reported on Monday.

This came within the framework of a security campaign to prevent unlicensed motorcycles from being used on the road.

Over 190 Africans reach Yemeni shores

The security authorities have captured about 193 people from the Horn of Africa as they tried to enter into Yemen illegally, the Interior Ministry said on Monday.

In a statement posted on its website, the ministry said that the Africans included 37



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women and 25 children, adding that about 131 of them reached the Yemeni coast of Broom in Hadramout on an unidentified boat.

They have been sent to a temporary camp in Maifa district of Shabwa province.

Construction work on the Sheikh Khalifa Housing City starts in Yemen

Construction work on the Sheikh Khalifa Housing City in Hadramout, Yemen, has started under the instructions of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

The 27-million-dollar project is being financed by the UAE Red Crescent Authority, and aims to build 1,000 homes, schools and other community facilities for people affected by floods in Yemen in October 2008.

The Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported on Sunday that the Sheikh Khalifa Housing City was part of a large scale humanitarian and relief programme implemented by the RCA in Yemen.

SOQOTRA

Two suspected Somali pirates arrested in Soqatra

The coastguard arrested two suspected Somali pirates on their boat in the Soqatra archipelago, the Interior Ministry said on Monday.

The pirates were handed over to the military base at Hadibu before being handed over to the authorities in the governorate of Hadramout, it said.



Vacancy Announcement


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Request for Expression of Interest

WFP Yemen wishes to establish an updated shortlist of selected agents/companies capable of providing logistical services to/within Yemen. The services that we require are cleaning, forwarding, stevedoring, fumigating, warehousing, Custom Exemptions and transport of humanitarian commodities.

Please note that short-listing of agents/companies does not bind WFP Yemen to offer a service award at any time.

Interested agents/companies should contact the WFP Country Office in Sana'a or WFP Sub-Office in Aden in order to collect a WFP Transport Questionnaire. Addresses for these offices are listed below. Completed WFP Transport Questionnaires should be submitted to one of the WFP offices along with the following documents:

1. A Letter of Interest
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3. An audited financial report of the company going back 2 years.
4. Copy of incorporation certificate/license to undertake business in Yemen
5. List of trucks and certificates of ownership of such trucks

The above listed documents should be submitted to one of the WFP offices below by no later than November 3, 2010.

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يسعى برنامج الأغذية العالمي إلى تأسيس قائمة تضم الشركات والوكالات العاملة في مجالات تقديم الخدمات اللوجستية من وإلى اليمن بما في ذلك خدمات الشحن والتفريغ ونقل المواد، وتغيير وتطهير المعاملات المصرفية الخاصة بالأغذية الإنسانية.

حيث أن تأسيس هذه القائمة لن يعمل على تضييق أو إغلق البرنامج في أي مجال من المجالات المذكورة أعلاه وفي أي وقت يراه البرنامج مناسباً.

وعليه فإن البرنامج يشترط بالضرورة الرضا في الانضمام إلى هذه القائمة التوافق مع المكتب الرئيسي للبرنامج في اليمن (الرجاء العودة إلى أرقام الهواتف المبينة أسفل هذا) أو التوافق مع مكتبه القريب بمدينة عدن، وذلك للحصول على نسخة من استبيان المشاركة الإلزامي وتعيينه وتسليمه إلى أحد مكاتب البرنامج المذكورة أعلاه. على أن يكون مرافقاً مع المستندات التالية:

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كل المستثمرين الأجانب مدعوين لإمتلاك مستشفى كبيرة في أثيوبيا

Yemeni human rights activists discuss Amnesty International report

By: Shadha Al-Harazi

Three brothers, Ameer, 32, Muath, 26, and Muhammad, 25, have been held in jail in Sana'a, two of them without charges, since June 2007.

The family's ordeal began late one night around three years ago when 20 members of Political Security arrived at their home in search of their brother Adil. Unable to find Adil, they took the father along with Ameer, Muath and Muhammad to a Political Security centre in Sana'a and held them in solitary confinement.

The father said he was interrogated about Adil, who was accused of being a member of Al-Qaeda. He was then returned to a cell and held for 30 hours without vital medication, including insulin, before being released. He said that his son Muhammad, who was studying Arabic and Islam at Sana'a University, was later charged and convicted in January 2010 for forging a passport and sentenced to five years of imprisonment. Muhammad did not appeal. Ameer, treasurer of the charity Al-Ihsan and Muath, a driver, remain held without charge or trial more than three years after they were detained.

The story of Adil's family is only one in hundreds that was collected by Amnesty International for a report it published last August in English and Arabic on human rights breaches in the name of counterterrorism in Yemen.

Last week, almost two months after the report was launched, a group of 300 participants including Yemeni human rights activists and journalists gathered to discuss it.

The Sisters Arab Forum (SAF), a non-profit organization defending human rights in Yemen, was one of the organizers. Majed Al-Madhaji, information officer at SAF, told the Yemen Times that interest in the report has been slow in Yemen.

"The report is not new as it was published in August," he said. "It got the international media's attention, but not the local. The response to such reports in Yemen is weak. It's a problem related to NGOs laziness or lack of experience. That's why SAF called for the discussion."

"We invited the Human Rights Minister and the Interior Minister, judges, and the general persecutor, but none of them came," he added.

Amal Al-Basha, head of SAF, told the Yemen Times that the discussion had not been organized before because "people are busy with their economic problems, fighting to survive in all of these circumstances and life's pressure," adding that this is why people don't pay attention to these reports.

"Fighting terrorism has been a justification to pounce on freedoms and rights for 10 years now and that is what the report says," Al-Basha told the Yemen Times.

The AI report in August said at least 113 people had died since the beginning of 2009 as a result of operations carried out by security forces that the government said were targeting "terrorists." In some cases, it noted, the security forces appear to have made no attempt to detain the militants and the killings may have amounted to extrajudicial executions.

Several months on, the situation is still very similar to what is described in the AI report. On Sunday, October 18, Al-Jazeera reported deadly air attacks on the Mawdia district in the Abyan governorate. The attack targeted alleged Al-Qaeda members in the area. Three hundred people have been evacuated from their houses as a result, according to Al-Sahwa net.

Amnesty International said at the time that it was not aware of judicial investigations into these incidents to determine whether the use of lethal force by security forces in these was lawful or not.

The report in particular called for an investigation into two of the most serious incidents - the killing of 41 people, including 14 women and 21



A makeshift market by the remains of shops and homes, Sa'ada, Yemen, March 2010

children on 17 December 2009 in the southern governorate of Abyan, in an attack targeting alleged Al-Qaeda suspects, and an attack one week later which killed up to 30 people, alleged to be linked to Al-Qaeda, when missiles were fired into a farmhouse in Rafadh in the eastern governorate of Shabwa.

In March 2010, the parliament called for a judicial investigation into the events of December 2009, but so far none has begun.

"Rashad Al-Alemi, who was minister of the interior at the time, was called to the parliament and he apologized to the families of those who were killed," said Al-Madhaji.

US involvement

Many of the participants at Sunday's discussion were more concerned about the US' role in these attacks than by the report itself.

Amnesty International has strongly suggested that the US was involved in the December 2009 drone attack that killed 41 in Abyan. The August report also noted that the US government has announced a USD 155.3 million security assistance package for Yemen, with USD 34.5 million earmarked for Yemen's Special Operations Forces to carry out counter-terrorism operations in early 2010, but with "little or no evidence of any concern about the impact such security operations can be expected to have on human rights."

"The un-conditional support that Yemen has taken to fight terrorism led to arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances and violations in conflicts zones," Al-Madhaji said at the discussion.

Human rights activists at Sunday's discussion criticized the Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights rejection of the report, saying that the report was neutral.

State media on September 2 quoted the Ministry of Human Rights as stating in a press release: "It is unfortunate that the report's authors describe Yemen as a country that represses freedoms and rights and that fights terrorism to the detriment of human rights, and that they describe the legal efforts as state terrorism."

The head of SAF strongly criticized Yemen's state security forces.

"The only growing sector in Yemen

is the security sector, yet still people are terrified," Al-Basha told the Yemen Times, listing the five branches of security in Yemen and describing them all as "irresponsible, killing outside the law, and not accountable to anyone."

"She [the Minister of Human Rights] read the report only to refute it, and not to do anything about it," said Al-Madhaji.

Over the past decade the authorities have detained hundreds of people suspected of having links to Al-Qaeda or other militant Islamist groups, according to Amnesty International.

"Around 200 such arrests were reported between December 2009 and March 2010. The true figure may be significantly higher, as some families told Amnesty International that they were too scared to report the arrest of their relatives or to contact a lawyer for fear of retribution by the authorities or stigmatization in their communities," write the authors of the AI report.

Most of these people were arrested arbitrarily and many have been held without charge or trial for months or years, generally denied access to lawyers and any means to challenge the legality of their detention. They have usually been deprived of contact with their families for weeks or months after arrest.

The sheer quantity of human rights violations over the last few years has made Yemen enter the spotlight as never before in the last 20 years, according to Majid Al-Madhaji.

Help from the UN

At Sunday's discussion, Khalid Al-Ansi the head of the national organization for defending freedoms and rights suggested that human rights activists and the NGOs in Yemen come together to put pressure on the United Nations to launch international investigations into the crimes mentioned in the report.

"The idea was to reach the International Criminal Court (ICC), and to seek for an official international investigation," said Al-Madhaji.

"We have enough reports to make us aware about how human rights and freedoms are violated in Yemen, what we need now is to stop these violations," he said.



Southern Movement mass demonstration, 2009

Vacancies Announcement

The Government of the Republic of Yemen represented by the Ministry of Public Works and Highways has received a credit from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of a Pilot Community-Based Rural Infrastructure Road project in highland areas. The project area include 12 highland governorates consisting of Al Baida, Ad Dakh, Al Mahweet, Amran, Dhahar, Hajjah, Ibb, Raymah, Sadaa, Sana'a, Lahj and Taiz.

The project aims to improve livelihood for the rural poorest communities, reduce isolation, improve overall mobility and institutionalize rural road community-based contracting within the Ministry of Public Works and Highway's framework to develop the national rural road network.

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH) represented by the Community Roads Unit (CRU) , now seeks applications from qualified and experienced candidates of Yemeni Nationality, for the following positions:

Rural Roads Engineer (1 position):

The candidate should satisfy the following minimum requirements:

- University degree in civil engineering
- Minimum of 8 years general work experience.
- Minimum of 6 years experience in roads engineering.
- An experience project management by community contracting procedures.
- Familiarity with the least-cost, labor intensive design standards;
- Should demonstrate an affinity and ability to work with communities and proven ability to communicate well with communities;
- Good command of English language (speaking, reading and writing);
- Good knowledge of computer, GPS and GIS applications.
- Working with projects financed by internationally.
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of team.
- Priority given to those who has an experience in harvesting rain water field.

Procurement Officer (1 position):

The candidate should satisfy the following minimum requirements:

- Applicant must have a B.S degree in Civil Engineering or B.A degree in Business Administration or any other relevant field.
- Minimum of 5 years of work experience in the procurement of works, goods, and consulting services.
- Excellent working knowledge of Yemeni and international funding agencies, preferably IFAD's procurement guidelines and procedures.
- previous knowledge of community-based contracting procedures is essential.
- Good Knowledge in the preparation of bidding and contract documents for civil works, terms of references for consulting services, and evaluation of bids and proposals.
- Good knowledge in community-based contract management and administration.
- Fluent in English language, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Good user of the latest computer software applications.
- Good inter personal skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of team.
- Women are highly encouraged to apply.

Gender specialist (1 position):

The candidate should satisfy the following minimum requirements:

- Must have an university degree in studies, community development, social science or related subject.
- Minimum of 5 years experience of working on gender issues with communities.
- She must have good communications skills and the ability to interact with policy makers at the highest level, both in some meetings and with large audiences.
- She must also have good analytical and report writing skills and be competent with computer applications for media presentations.
- She must have a good command of English (speaking, reading and writing).

Interested applicants may send his/her resume (CV) along with copies of their credentials, certificates and work experience in sealed envelope within two weeks after the latest publication date of this advertisement to the address below. Applicant should clearly indicate the position he/she is applying for.

Applicants may submit their applications during office hours 8:00 to 14:00 sat-wed at the following address:

Community Roads Unit (CRU) - Hadda st. Hadda office complex - First floor- building No. 4
Sana'a Republic of Yemen Phone: 00(967-1) 246582 Tel.fax: 00(967-1) 246591

إعلان التوظيف عن الاهتمام بالخدمات الاستشارية

(تسجيل استشاريين، مهندسين ومعماريين وأخصائيين اجتماعيين معتمدين دولياً)
حصلت حكومة الجمهورية اليمنية على قرض وبنحة مقدمة من الصندوق الدولي للتنمية الزراعية برقم ٦٩٩ - من تمويل وحدة الطرق المجتمعية التابع لوزارة الأشغال العامة والطرق في الجمهورية اليمنية وتلتزم استخدام جزء من حصة هذا القرض لتغطية تكاليف الأبحاث الاستشارية بتقديم خدمات استشارية للمهندسين والمعماريين ومدراء دراسات في اثنا عشر محافظة من محافظات الجمهورية، منها: - تعز - إب - ذمار - البيضاء - صنعاء - حجة - صراة - الضالع - المحويت - ريمة - الجب - وعلى المهتمين تقديم سيرة ذاتية على أن تليها فيها القبولية الآتية:

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فكس : (٩٦٧-١) - (٢٤٦٥٩١)
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Words of Wisdom



In the final analysis, it is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful. It would be unfortunate if the change in Yemen remains merely a show or something superficial. Our politicians need to believe in preparing for the 21st century. To do that, they have to internalize some new values.

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

The Yemeni State against its own people (part 1/2)

By: Subir Ghosh
Digital Journal

Yemen is now a classic example of how and why a government hemmed in by all sides militarily and economically takes it out on its own people.

It ought to be a cause for worry too, for there is more to it here than meets the eye. If you don't look for it, you won't see it.

Instability caused by internal conflict and religious terrorism, coupled with brazen corruption and merciless repression of freedom of expression make a heady and potent mix. See this in the light of the fact that nearly a third of the workforce is out of a job, and you know what you are reading about has only one word as a descriptor: trouble. More than 40 percent of Yemen's 23 million people live on less than \$2 a day. Now, that's a lot of trouble. A geo-political perspective will make it look worse still: Yemen is contiguous with top oil exporter Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf of Aden at its southern tip is the gateway to the Suez Canal through the Red Sea.

It's the link that you might have missed in America's War on Terror.

Secessionist movement in the South

North Yemen merged with the once-Soviet bloc South Yemen in 1990. It was this region that was oil-rich, and unified Yemen exploited the resources to the hilt. The result was a feeling of discrimination among the people, with euphoria fading away and development in the area remaining zilch. Alienation grew, and metamorphosed into a movement for secession.

It started out as a moderate movement, but turned mildly militant over the years after the Yemeni government, with tacit support of the West, repressed the voices of dissent. Another classic case of making people take up arms against the State when civil and civilized tact could have yielded less violent results at the onset itself. But then, the West needs oil. And the Yemeni government has only been too glad to oblige. Everywhere the battle is for natural resources.

A civil war in the South had briefly erupted in 1994. The rebellion, at that time, was ruthlessly crushed and its leaders were either silenced or thrown into prison. The government time and again offered talks, but these were usually interspersed with military forays. These in turn, instead of quelling the feeling of restlessness, only aggravated the situation.

As things stand, incidents of clashes between the separatists and the security forces have been on the rise. With a beleaguered Yemeni government trying to finish off the Southern Movement by hook or by crook, the collateral damage is more likely to make fence-sitters take up arms against the State. Poverty and unemployment already provide the fertile ground for that.

The government has been trying to discredit the Southern Movement by giving it a terrorist hue. Ironically, it was the Yemeni regime itself that had unabashedly used Yemeni fighters returning from Afghanistan to quell the 1994

rebellion. It was only natural that al-Qaeda soon began to establish a base in the area, which later became the largest in the Arab world.

The Southern province of Abyan has been the target of a series of brutal attacks over the last year. One of the bloodiest took place in December 2009 when the Yemeni army, with support from the US government, launched two air strikes on suspected al-Qaeda camps. Forty-two civilians were killed in these raids, most of whom were women and children. One can vouchsafe say no kin of those killed have, since, become American fans.

Islamic militancy of the al-Qaeda kind

The one that has made the most of the all-pervading bitterness and chaos has been the Al-Qaeda. It has locked horns with the Yemeni government since the US launched its War on Terror. But the group's operations have paid more attention to Western targets than home-grown ones. Not that they have left the government's forces alone.

Only last week, a rocket attack in capital Sana'a targeted a vehicle carrying the deputy chief of the British mission. Elsewhere the same day, a gunman fired at an Austrian-owned oil and gas firm, killing a Frenchman. In April, a suicide bomber from attacked the British ambassador's convoy, killing himself and injuring three others. The envoy escaped unscathed.

It was the December attack plan that made the Yemeni government take on al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, as the outfit is known in the region. The motivating factor was simple – Western nations and Saudi Arabia saw the al-Qaeda preparing Yemen as a regional launchpad. So the idea was to nip al-Qaeda's plans in the bud. Yemen declared war, and the US did what it usually does – supplied military and intelligence aid. The al-Qaeda did suffer reverses, but many civilians too were killed in what the US loves to describe as collateral damage.

The security forces, ill-equipped as they are, make for an easier target than Western ones. Since June, more than a score have been killed in militant attacks on State targets, including one on an intelligence headquarters in the port city of Aden, where 11 people were killed.

Though the al-Qaeda has had a presence for a while, it started asserting itself only after Saudi Arabia last year launched a crackdown on the group in its territory. The Yemeni arm assimilated the fleeing ones, and in the bargain consolidated itself. The outfit is now powerful enough in the southern provinces of Abyan and Shabwa to make even the US wince.

The West, like in many countries in the region, is not liked. And when it plays a dominant military role, it perpetuates the acrimony that the al-Qaeda is known to make harvest of.

The internally-displaced people (IDP) scene is grim. Only last month, clashes between al-Qaeda operatives and Yemeni security forces in the Shabwa governorate forced 12,000 civilians to flee their homes in Al-Hawtah town, 400 km east of Aden. The displacement continues to grow.

COMMON SENSE

What was Palestine before Netanyahu's "62 years"?

You heard it from the horse's mouth

God only knows how many times sensible historians and observers of the Middle East scene have been telling the world that Israel was a mischievous agenda, which came into being by the most ruthless and scrupulously planned ethnic cleansing campaign of the Twentieth Century. Before the infamous British mandate of Palestine after the First World War, there was hardly a Jewish presence of any significance to speak of.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

In fact, even the British, who issued the Balfour Promise for a "national home" for the Jews are ready to tell you that they had not intended to produce the existing outcome of one of the biggest headaches for the world left over from the British Empire. But, distorters of public opinion in the pro Zionist press and media have always tried to project Israel as a long standing entity and project the indigenous population of Palestine (and quite often all Arabs) as nomadic Bedouins, who have not crossed the Middle Ages.

But it is no mystery to anyone who delves deeper into the geography and the history of the region. Surely they will find that Palestine is part of the Levant, meaning Syria, Lebanon and Jordan and Palestine (now the West Bank, Gaza and the bulk of the area taken over by force by the Zionist settlers in the heart of Palestine: Judaea and Galilee and the Negev Desert). The area is known to the Arabs as Al-Sham or Al-Mashraq Al-Arabi (the Arab Orient, which would sometimes encompass the Arabian Peninsula and Mesopotamia, when discussed in relation to the Maghreb Al-Arabi - Arab North Africa).

Up until the British Mandate, there was hardly any Jewish character to the land of Palestine, nor did any one, God being the least one, suggest that there should be one! Not until some European Jewish venture capitalists came up with the Zionist project in the late part of the 19th Century did anyone visualize any Jewish state as an integral part of the Levant. These same venture capitalist went to the last remaining Sultan of the Ottomans Dynasty, which had control of the Levant and most of the Middle East at the time and offered money and to lobby in the Western Alliance (Britain, France, Italy, etc) to not fight the Ottomans before World War I.

Of course, as the Caliph of Islam, the Porte in Istanbul could never entertain such a baseless request. Jews were allowed to visit the Holy Land and many did live under the domain of the Ottomans in several parts of the Arab World, without any obstruction or hindrance, with probably some 2,000 in Palestine, according to some Jewish chroniclers, and the Porte understood that the intentions were beyond a "home for Jews to settle". The British obliged on the request in return for lobbying the United States to break the stalemate that had characterized the European war theater in WWI. The US did join the Western Alliance in 1917 right after the issuance of the Balfour Declaration.

There may have been a large Jewish community in Palestine in biblical times, but then there were significantly large Jewish communities in the Arab World, such as in Yemen (which before Islam was divided half Christian – half Jewish), but most converted to Islam voluntarily, as did most of the Levantine Christians and Jews. Those few that did not convert were allowed to maintain their religious convictions, without any problems or prejudice, as the existence of so many pockets of Jewish and Christian communities within the Arab World to this epoch is bound to stand as proof of Moslem tolerance. Compare that to what happened in Southern Italy and Sicily and Spain after the Christian takeover of the areas that were under Islamic rule for centuries.

Compare that to the tolerance that was exercised by the Zionist State in Palestine and look at the misery filled faces of the remaining Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. On the other hand the Hebrews were nomads of Ancient Times, whose patriarch Abraham (who is also the ancestral patriarch of the Arabs) came originally from Mesopotamia and the tribe of Israel settled in more than one locale and hardly had any memorable long presence in the Holy Land to speak of except for the Kingdom of David and his son Solomon (who are incidentally highly revered prophets of Islam as well, peace and blessings of Allah be upon them).

But one need not take this observer's word for the facts of history. The Prime Minister of Israel had admitted to the whole world that the Israelis have been there for 62 years:

"The best response to scorners was given in this auditorium 62 years ago," he said. "And since then, look at what a nation, what a state, what an army we have. We will continue to build and to create, and we will know how to protect ourselves as best as we can." This was in answer to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmदनijad, who suggested that Israel is bound to end, since it illegitimately arose at the expense of Palestine's indigenous population. Note that Ahmदनijad did not suggest he or Iran was going to eliminate Israel, he said that it is bound to come to an end by the nature of its irregular and cruel "creation and building and protecting themselves, with the most merciless "defense forces" any "state" has established.

The behavior of Israel in the West Bank and Gaza is clear testimony to confirm that Israel's behavior is neither biblically inspired or humanely acceptable by any genuine moral standards. Ahmदनijad is suggesting that Heavenly justice is bound to avenge the transgression inflicted upon the Palestinians, just so aliens can steal and occupy their land as the Israelis are doing now daily in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, where even cemeteries are being barbarically vandalized by Israeli settlers: (<http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-68595.html>).

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>



OUR OPINION

Illiteracy, Yemen's worst challenge

A few days ago, I was sitting among several Yemeni women who were part of Yemen's Hajj (pilgrimage) delegation to Mecca this year. The women were very excited that they would perform Hajj. Around 60 women were present and all of them were wearing the traditional black abayas and covered their faces with black veils.

Many of them were of a senior age, which is understandable as many Muslims plan pilgrimage when they are much older, probably because of financial, career or family reasons.

However, what really shocked me is that almost none of them were educated and a few could hardly read and write. And many of them lacked confidence to a scary extent. A woman needed to go to the bathroom and she approached me for help. She decided I would know better since I did not have my face covered. She also asked me to wait for her outside the bathroom and help her return to the hall where we gathered.

The women were given a small guide book describing the steps and giving advice on the process. The books were useless to most of the women. They were staring at the photos, and feeling sorry for themselves.

When there were speeches on the event, the women just sat there staring, trying hard to comprehend what the person with the microphone was trying to say.

Some of the speakers talked in the local dialect and this helped the women so much. I could see their body language change, and there was light sparkling in their eyes. They also commented from their seats. They had points to make and quietly voiced their approval or disapproval of what was being said.

But this happened only when the person speaking used simple colloquial language. It was disturbing to see how excluded the illiterate women were. They felt it themselves and expressed it through their sighs and shy questions. When they felt included they participated with passion and wanted eagerly to be part of the topic.

This was a simple example of an event which included only 60 women. How about the more than ten million women who are half of the country's population?

Yemeni women as it is are excluded from public life because of cultural, economic and political constraints. But what is worse is the 60 percent of the women's population who are illiterate. These are women who are not only deprived of the opportunity to participate in public life, but also deprived of access.

This means that even if the environment changes and the culture or politics allowed women to participate in public life, they can't, simple because they don't have enough education to do so.

Illiteracy is crippling. It prevents people from absorbing and enjoying and being part of their community to the maximum potential.

When you hear what many of the illiterate Yemeni woman have to say you can't help but be impressed. Despite their challenges they are trying to comprehend and participate. A lot of guess work takes place and the women develop their intuition to a remarkable extent.

If those women were given the tools they would be more productive members of society. They would be able to prevent disaster and avoid mistakes.

Sitting among these women humbled me and made me realize how privileged I am, but at the same time very sorry that Yemen is missing out on the potential of these great women.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf



By: Hamid

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Felix Airways continues its success in covering local and regional flights. The latest addition to its achievements, Felix joined on October 21, 2010 the Arab Air Carriers Organization

on this occasion, the airlines congratulates its cadre of pilots, engineers, air hostesses and staff on this excellent achievement, wishing them all more progress and success.

**Head of the Board of Directors
Sir/ Saleh bin Ali Al-Awajah**

**Executive General Director
Engineer/ Mohammad Abdullah Al-Arasha**



Felix Air network in 2011 when two additional CRJ900 airplanes join the current fleet



Felix Air network in its first days of operation in October 2008 with a fleet of two CRJ700 airplanes



Felix Air current network with a fleet of four Canadian CRJ airplanes





The Second National Millennium Development



1
ERADICATE
EXTREME POVERTY
AND HUNGER



2
ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL
PRIMARY EDUCATION



3
PROMOTE GENDER
EQUALITY AND
EMPOWER WOMEN



4
REDUCE
CHILD MORTALITY

In September 2000, the United Nations General Assembly organized the Millennium Summit which brought together World leaders from 189 countries.

The conference concluded with the Millennium Declaration which recognized the importance of peace and development for all peoples of the world. Eight goals, to be known as the Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs) emanated from this declaration, each of which was given a number of targets and indicators in order to measure the progress achieved within each one of them.

For the purpose of monitoring progress in achieving these goals at the national level, a number of review reports were prepared. The most important of these are the first National Report 2003, the Assessment Report of the Sectoral Needs to rehabilitate Yemen to achieve the minimum level of human development in 2005 as well as a comparative study to evaluate national development plans and strategies in achieving the MDGs in comparison with the Arab Region.

The report implies that Yemen has a potential to meet some of the MDGs such as (i) universal primary education; (ii) reduce child mortality; (iii) halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and

other major diseases if concerted efforts will be directed towards addressing some of the key challenges. Meanwhile, some progress was achieved in some goals but it remains below the desired level to reaching the specific targets. These include gender equity and environment sustainability. Conversely, the performance in some other goals relapsed, particularly goals related to extreme poverty and hunger eradication and reduction of maternal mortality.

Despite the dedicated efforts and serious steps the Yemeni government is taking to further consolidate its partnerships with all its partners in development with the view to achieve these goals by 2015, however, under the current structural challenges as well as the new challenges created by the negative effects of the global financial crisis, food crisis, climate change and the security problems (which have exhausted important portion of the country's human and financial resources and cast bleak prospects on investment climate), it is expected that Yemen will remain an off track country and will not achieve most of the MDGs by 2015. This is mainly due to limited available financial resources and the enormous size of the required funding (US \$ 48.4 billion).

Actual spending on the MDGs-based projects and programs could not go beyond 8.6% of the required funding.

reach 69.8% in 2008. And for girls it reached 61.5%.

It is evident through the above that the progress made remains far from reaching the target. However, the pace of progress made during the last four years brings hope of the possibility to get close to the target by providing access to basic education to all by 2015.

Basic Education Major Indicators
Table (2-1)

Indicators	1990	2004	2008	2015
Net enrolment rate in basic education (%)	52.7	62.5	69.8	100
Pupils reaching grade 5 (%)	65.3	68.7	70.7	100
Educated people in 15-24 age group (%)	61.0	69.8	n/a	100

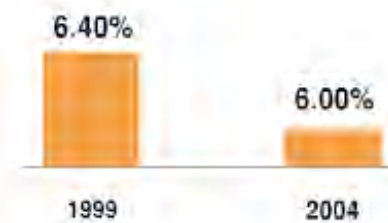
Source: Ministry of Education and Census December 2004. Year 2008 is based on projection by Ministry of Education

Yemen remains out of track especially in light of the continued drop out and repetition problems in basic education. Despite the decline in the drop-outs in the last period, it remains an evident challenge that is hard to ignore as it accounted for 7%, with a higher percentage in the boys classes reaching 7.8% for boys and 5.8% for girls in 2008. This requires more effective procedures to be taken to stop it.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

The Government has committed itself to the Beijing work approach which insists on enhancing women's position and removing all the constraints that prevent women from taking part in all walks of life in addition to adopting the concept of gender equality in the context of national legislation and the provisions of Islamic law. GOY supports women issues and is taking the necessary measures. The

National Women Committee was formed and Women Development Strategy was issued besides the establishment of women directorates in many Ministries aiming at mainstreaming gender concept in development plans and programmes. The number of organizations concerned with women issues has also increased. With this increase in the number of gender related institutions, gender disparities still persist in the country. However, the situation is improving compare to the previous period and the road is still long to bridge the gender gap.



Share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector. Source: Central Statistical Organization

The situation gets worse in the rural areas that lack the necessary infrastructure and basic services which burden the women with the responsibility of collecting water and firewood from long distances and under difficult circumstances. Due to the non-availability of statistic data on the type of work that women engage in the unregulated sector, their participation in economic activities seems low despite the reality on the ground.

In terms of the women's political participation, despite the rapid efforts made in the past to integrate women in the political life, such as equal vote rights, candidacy for the Parliament and local councils, their participation was more obvious in the voting process rather than membership itself as the latter remains very low during consecutive legislative terms.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

The health sector witnessed some improvement in health services to citizens in recent years. Health services coverage increased from 54% in 2004 to 67% in 2008. Basic services and outreach activities substantially improved. In 2005, only immunization services were provided, but by 2008, a full package of basic services is being provided in 64 districts.

Despite the government efforts to develop the health sector and improve services provided to the people and the notable improvement in some health indicators, yet Yemen is still among the group of countries substantially suffering from health problems and diseases. Therefore, there is a need for national solidarity to save the lives of children who die but could have been saved.

Generally, Yemen's ability to achieve the goal of child mortalities reduction by 2015 or beyond fully depends on overcoming the hindering challenges. One of these challenges is the widespread malnutrition where 53.1% under five children are dwarfed while 46% are underweight (mild and severe) and

The second Millennium Development Goals Report (2010)

Abdulkarim Ismail Al-Arhabi
Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation

This report is launched to assess the level of progress towards achieving the MDGs after a decade of the UN Millennium Summit held in September 2000, which was attended by His Excellency, Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen. Since then, the Government has implemented a number of development plans and strategies at the macro and sectoral levels including the second Five Year Development Plan (2001-05), Poverty Reduction Strategy, the third National Development Plan for Poverty Reduction (2006-2010) and the National Reforms Agenda. These plans and strategies serve as rings in the chain of the MDGs 2015.

This progress report acquires its importance from being a tool to assess the effectiveness of policies,

programs and projects of development plans towards achieving the MDGs. It presents real and objective picture of the achieved progress, helps identify the bottlenecks and obstacles to implementation and, accordingly, proposes a number of prioritized interventions that need to be included in the future programs and work plans. This Report, therefore, can serve as a key reference document in the preparation of the fourth National Development Plan (2011- 2015), the implementation of which will coincide with the last five years of the MDGs remaining cycle (2010-2015).

In order to improve the state of the supportive environment related to MDGs, the Government has embarked during the past few years on implementing a wide range package of actions and interventions within the National Reforms Agenda. This package has contributed in improving the state institutional capacity to enhance transparency and accountability and improve effective and optimal utilization of resources. Government interventions focused on reforming the judiciary and enhancing its autonomy and separation of powers, issuance of an anticorruption legislation, a financial disclosure bill, overhauling public procurement system and issuance of the public procurement bill based on international best practices and joining EITI. Reforms also focused on improving the business-enabling environment.

A new investment law, an income tax law and amendments to the customs law have been also approved. Moreover, a land registration bill, public private partnership and special economic zones

legislations have been developed in accordance with best international practices.

Despite the importance of the efforts exerted by the government to reach the MDGs, the structural challenges and additional challenges, which the process of development in Yemen encounters, have undermined the ability to reach them. The MDGs, while being ambitious, are attainable if the national and international efforts work together and sufficient resources are available. Before being an international commitment, the achievement of these goals is a moral and human obligation of the government towards its people.

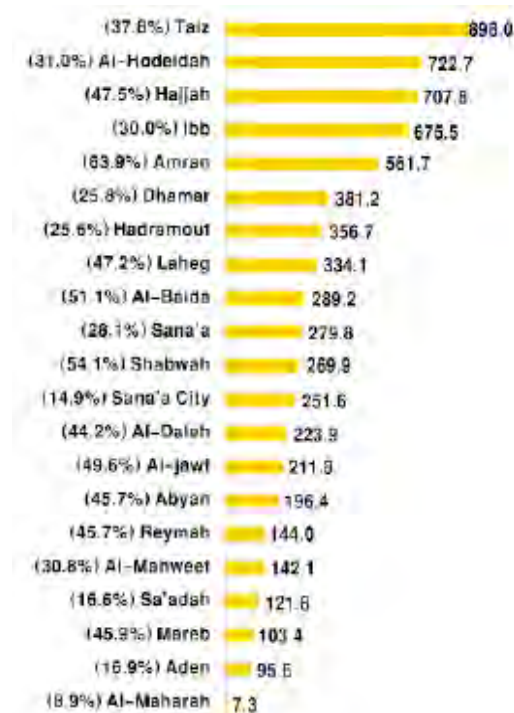
Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation for the outstanding effort of National Team in the preparation of this report in cooperation with UN System in Sana'a and the effective participation of

the relevant government organizations and Yemen's Partners in Development.



GOAL 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Development plans and strategies adopted a set of policies and programmes aimed to achieve growth, development and contribute to the poverty reduction. As a result, national poverty proportions declined from 40.1% in 1998 to 34.8% in 2005.



The number of poor under the national poverty line and proportion to the population in 2005 (Figures in Thousand). Source: Household Budget Survey 2005/06

programmes to reduce rapid population growth and on the same time raise economic growth beyond 8%.

The geographic distribution of poverty represents a major challenge for the government, as Yemen's population is scattered across 133,000 settlements across the rural areas, which undermines the efforts to provide basic services in the rural areas. The disparity in poverty reduction across rural and urban areas is explained by a number of reasons, the most important of which is that urban areas benefited more from economic growth based on the service sector growth against a modest role for the agricultural sector which is imperatively correlated with poverty in rural areas.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Government of Yemen has paid special attention to achieving universal primary education as part of its development trends and priorities of public expenditure. The school construction rate today is 3 schools per day. By evaluating the level of progress made in the enrolment rates in primary education, data indicate that the net enrolment rate has increased from 52.7% in 1990 to 62.5% in 2004.

In order to increase the enrolment rate of primary education, the National Strategy for Development of Basic Education has been implemented since 2004.

Ministry of Education works for the acceleration of achievement of the Public Education Strategy's goals through three integral programs; family incentive program, Inclusive Development of Schools and infrastructure program.

In response to such efforts, the enrolment rate has rapidly increased to

Notwithstanding the modest decrease in the national poverty proportions, the number of poor remained the same - at 7 million persons as in 1998. This was due to the high annual population growth of 3%, which absorbs three quarters of the annual increase in real consumption (4%). This means that the real increase in the per capita consumption is only 1% per annum. Keeping the above in view, Yemen can achieve MDG1 by 2015, only if there is an increase in real per capita consumption growth from 1% per annum to 4% per annum, which would not be easy to achieve in light of modest GDP growth projected for the coming period. This would require adoption of vigorous policies and programmes to reduce rapid population growth and on the same time raise economic growth beyond 8%.

Annual Report on the Millennium Development Goals 2010



12.4% are thin (severely underweight). These percentages increase in rural areas more than the urban ones.

U-5 Mortality Major Indicators Table (4-1)

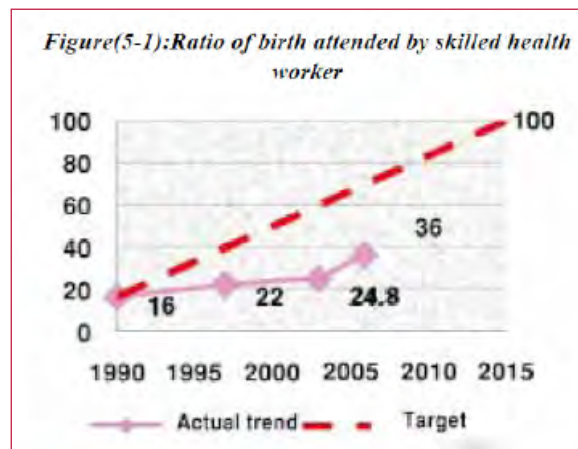
Indicators	1990	1997	2003	2006	2015
Under five mortality rates (per 1000 live births)	122	105	102	78.2	40.6
Infant mortality rates (per 1000 live births)	83	75	75	69	27.2
Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles	52	43	66	74.9	100

Sources: Demographic survey 1992, 1997. Family health survey 2003. Multipurpose Cluster Survey 2006

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

The health situation in the country witnessed an expansion in the provision of reproductive health, basic and comprehensive obstetric services. The number of health facilities providing reproductive health and obstetric services largely increased during past period. However, these achievements are not meeting the expectations in view of increased demands.

However, data in the above table indicate that maternal mortality rates worsened and kept away from its defined track. Maternal mortality rates increased from 351 cases per 100,000 live births in 1997 to 365 cases in 2003 with an increase of 14 cases. The reason for the increase is that the percentage of mothers not receiving health services was 55% in 2003.



On the other side, deliveries by qualified medical attendants increased from 16% of the total deliveries in 1992 to 24.8% in 2003. According to the multipurpose cluster survey 2006, the percentage of deliveries attended by qualified health staff was 36%. In light of that, the achieved level of progress is still insufficient to reach the target of this indicator by 2015.

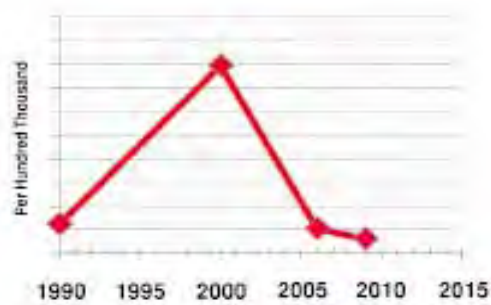
As the Yemeni government is committed to reduce maternal mortalities and make available reproductive health services, the government worked to strengthen reproductive health services and increased their scope through different interventions such as increasing the number of emergency obstetric centers under a comprehensive plan covering all governorates, approving the policy of free deliveries in government health facilities and the free distribution of family planning methods in these facilities. It is expected that these interventions will contribute to achieving the target and reducing maternal mortalities and will be reflected in the national health survey in 2010.

Best practices were introduced in some facilities leaving a positive impact on improving services provided to mothers and newborns under a quality improvement program in health services.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Yemen is a country with very low HIV/AIDS incidence level. However, the level of awareness of the seriousness of the disease is still insufficient. It is noted that the number of registered cases is increasing from 1 in 1990 to 2,882 cases in 2009. However, the registered cases may not reflect the total number of affected people due to the difficulties in surveying the disease as a result of the Yemeni traditions and customs that stigmatize the disease infected patient, leading many patients not to notify their conditions.

AIDS incidence among men is more than women with men representing 66% of all cases. There are several factors for the spread of this disease including the lack of religious motivations, the poor educational level and the inability of generating income especially in environments of widespread poverty, illiteracy and poor health level.



Ratio of incidence of malaria per 100,000

Regarding Malaria, generally speaking, available statistics indicate that the incidence of malaria declined from 35% of the population in 2000 to 26% in 2006. This comes as a result of the implementation of a national strategy by the government for combating malaria with quantitative and qualitative expansion in integrated and diverse prevention interventions such as spraying 283,825 houses with long lasting pesticides in malaria prevalence areas. The number of protected people is about three million by 2009.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental Sustainability

Yemen suffers from the limited stable arable lands that do not exceed 2% of the total natural area which is dominated by desert and mountainous areas. This is in addition to the continuous deterioration in the arable lands by 1.8% annually during the period 1999-2006 as a result of the water erosion, the creeping of sand dunes, desertification and salty soil, in addition to the expansion in road construction, industrial and residential construction and weak environmental awareness of the dimensions and impacts of natural resources deterioration.

Frame (7-1) Phenomena of fish depletion

The Government of Yemen ensure that the biodiversity of marine life is maintained, which contribute to the reduction of phenomenon of depletion of fish wealth through the preparation and implementation of management programmes for fishing, as well as training of fishermen on the technical operations and international standards on fishing and export of fish products. Moreover, the Government is also strengthening the supervisory role of the Coast Guard and introduced boat registration, in addition to training of local researchers on coastal marine ecosystems and biological.

Statistics point out that the percentage of lands covered by forests until 2005 remained around 1.5% of the total area of Yemen. Preserving green areas requires more attention to the Tree Day and make this day as a national day with various events.

As for CO2 emissions, there was a limited increase to reach approximately 1 MT per capita compared to approximately 0.7 MT per capita in 1990. Despite this increase, the share of the

Yemeni person of CO2 emissions is still among the lowest averages at global level, which goes up to 12MT in developed countries and approximately 3 MT in developing countries.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

The foreign commercial system has become wider and more open as evident through the data in table

(8-1). Constraints on commercial transactions have been lifted, custom tariff has been reconsidered, manipulation cancelled and competition reinforced.

A number of reforms have taken place to upgrade the efficiency of foreign commerce including the issuance of the foreign commercial law which allows foreigners to do business in Yemen without a local partner.

With regards to joining WTO, steps have recurred towards it, starting with Yemen obtaining membership as an observer in 1999 and the successive procedures that took place including the amendments on economic, financial and commercial laws to make them compatible with WTO rules and in order to pave the way for a full membership of the organization.

Hence, Yemen has made good progress towards being a member as it has almost concluded the multilateral negotiations and agreements signed with USA, China, EU and Australia while negotiations with the remaining countries are underway.

In terms of good governance the government endorsed the second phase of the National Reform Agenda for 2009-2010. Ten priorities have been approved in order to address the major bottlenecks facing the development work in Yemen and establishment of "friends of Yemen group" in London meeting of 27 January 2010 to support reform programme in Yemen.

Needs required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals

Status on MDGs Financing:

MDGs Needs Assessment Study that was carried out in 2005 indicated the

total investment required by Yemen to meet MDGs by 2015 would be at the magnitude of US \$ 48.4 billion over a period 2006-2015. The resources envelope of US \$ 30.7 could be mobilized from domestic and external sources and US \$ 17.7 billion was considered to be a financing gap over the next ten years (2006-2015) an average of 1.77 billion dollars annually.

The analysis indicated that Yemen is an off track country to attain the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, mainly due to decline in actual spending on MDGs related programmes and projects over the current third MDG-Based National Plan for Poverty Reduction (2006-2009).

Priority areas of focus:

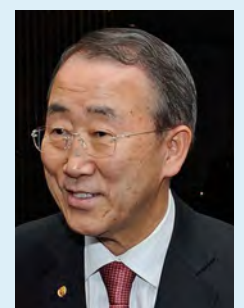
The priorities of development assistance aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals as follows:

- Support rural development through improved infrastructure and provision of education with specific focus on girls education, health services and access to clean drinking water.
- Supporting social projects aimed at developing the capacity of the poor and increases their productivity.
- Support projects aimed at raising the efficiency of the agricultural sector, fisheries and applying modern methods.
- Improve educational institutions in different levels and enhance education curricula and boost up absorptive capacity of educational institutions. Expansion of family incentive programmes to encourage girls and children from poor families to enroll in education, especially in rural areas.
- Support and facilitate the empowerment of women economically and politically and to reduce inequalities between both sexes.
- Support awareness programmes and enhance the potential of population, reproductive health and universal immunization of children and provide necessary health service (including family planning) in all areas of the Republic, with a special focus in the rural areas.
- Reorientation of medical personnel and rehabilitation of medical centers and facilities in to improve health status of the population in general.
- Support governmental efforts and strategies aimed at halting the spread of diseases, immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases and provide required technical assistance, financial and material resources to treat the sick and to minimize spreading of diseases, as well as raise health awareness among the population as means of prevention of diseases spreading.
- Strengthen the government's efforts to preserve environmental resources, water and building a database for monitoring and evaluation of environmental resources.
- Support Government efforts to expand coverage of safe water and improved sanitation, and study possible means for rational utilization of water resources and improve ground water tables in strategic catchment areas.
- Provide technical assistance to Yemen to qualify to join the World Trade Organization and granting special and differential treatment for least developed countries and give more flexibility in the accession negotiations.

Secretary General's Message for UN Day 2010

Ban Ki-moon the United Nations Secretary General
24th October 2010

On United Nations Day, I express my great appreciation to the millions of people throughout the world who believe deeply in our work for peace, development and human rights... and who uphold our ideals and help us achieve our goals. To all of you... friends and fellow citizens of the world... I say: thank you. Sixty-five years ago on this date, the founding Charter of the United Nations entered into force. Every year on UN Day, we reaffirm our global mission. We reassert the universal values of tolerance, mutual respect and human dignity. And we recognize the progress we have made together: gains in literacy and life expectancy... the spread of knowledge and technology... advances in democracy and the rule of law. But above all, UN Day is a day on which we resolve to do more. More to protect those caught up in armed conflict, to fight climate change and avert nuclear catastrophe; more to expand opportunities for women and girls, and to combat injustice and impunity; more to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Last month's MDG Summit at the United Nations generated political momentum... as well as financial commitments that are especially significant in these difficult economic times. I am determined to press ahead as the 2015 deadline approaches.



Despite our problems, despite polarization and distrust, our interconnected world has opened up vast new possibilities for common progress. Let us commit to do even more to realize the great vision set out in the UN Charter.

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JOB OPENINGS

SAFER EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION OPERATIONS COMPANY ("SEPOC")

SEPOC is the Republic of Yemen's leading national Oil and Gas Company. It is the upstream Operator of Yemen's premier Marib Block (18). SEPOC is currently seeking to recruit for the following vacancies talented, qualified and dedicated professionals who desire a fulfilling and rewarding career with a growing and outstanding organization:

1. Mechanical Technician

Description:

Work is performed under the direct supervision of the Mechanical Lead Hand. The job involves maintenance, trouble shooting and overhauling of Stationary and Rotating Equipments in the SEPOC Production Facilities.

Requirements:

- 1) At least 2-year Technical Diploma in related field from a reputable technical institute with 1st, 2nd, or 3rd honor grade.
- 2) Minimum of three years of experience in related field in Oil & Gas Industry is an added advantage.
- 3) Formal technical training in any of the above process equipments will be an added advantage.
- 4) Should be able to read and write in English.
- 5) Must be able to read and understand, service manuals and technical literature.
- 6) Computer literate with knowledge of MS Office products.
- 7) Must have a valid driving license.

2. Civil Engineer

Description:

Work is performed under the direct supervision of the Maintenance-Construction Supervisor. The job involves supervising surveying and construction equipment that build new oil drilling sites and roads in all block 18.

Requirements:

- 1) Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering from a reputable University with 1st, 2nd, or 3rd honor grade.
- 2) Minimum of 4 years experience in surveying and construction supervision in Oil & Gas fields or heavy civil projects
- 3) Basic experience in using Auto Level, Total Station and a basic knowledge of GPS systems.
- 4) Experience in metal frame buildings and concrete foundations for heavy and light static and rotating equipment.
- 5) Experience in using AutoCAD, MS office applications and designing by using STAAD PRO.
- 6) Should be able to read and write in English.
- 7) Must have a valid driving license

3. Control system engineer

Description:

Work is performed under the direct supervision of the CPU Control System Senior engineer. The job involves troubleshooting and maintaining All Major Rotating Equipment Control Systems, all Plants DCS and PMCS systems.

Requirements:

- 1) Bachelor Degree in Electrical/Control or Computer Engineering from a reputable University with 1st, 2nd, or 3rd honor grade.
- 2) At least 2 years of related experience in Oil & Gas Industry is an added advantage.
- 3) Should be able to read and write in English.
- 4) Computer literate with knowledge of MS Office products.
- 5) Must have valid driving license.

4. Workover Technician

Description:

Responsible for the execution of day-to-day maintenance, redressing, setting and testing of all downhole equipment; this includes; all retrievable hydraulic & mechanical set packers, permanent packers, fresh water injection valves, gas lift valves, seal assemblies, PXN plugs and prongs, fishing tools in accordance to manufacturer procedures.

Requirements:

- 1) High school plus 2- years' diploma in mechanic discipline.
- 2) Minimum 2 years of related mechanical work experience in the oil and gas industry is an added advantage.
- 3) Maintaining and servicing downhole equipment & fishing tools.
- 4) Willing to work independently and at remote fields.
- 5) Good knowledge in setup plans and schedules on equipment predictive and preventive maintenance.
- 6) Must be able to read and understand service manuals and technical literature.
- 7) Should be able to read and write in English.
- 8) Must have a valid driving license.

5. Electrical Technician

Description:

Work is performed under the direct supervision of the Electrical Lead Hand. The job involves maintenance and installation of all electrical equipment in the SEPOC Production Facilities.

Requirements:

- 1) At least 2-year Technical Diploma in related field from a reputable technical institute with 1st, 2nd, or 3rd honor grade.
- 2) Minimum of three years of experience in related field in Oil & Gas Industry is an added advantage.
- 3) Formal technical training in any of the above process equipments will be an added advantage.
- 4) Should be able to read and write in English.
- 5) Must be able to read and understand, service manuals and technical literature.
- 6) Computer literate with knowledge of MS Office products.
- 7) Must have a valid driving license.

6. Instrument Technician

Description:

Work is performed under the direct supervision of the Instrument Lead Hand. This is responsible technical work testing & calibrating instruments, controls, gauge, and all instrumentation equipment used in the SEPOC Production Facilities.

Requirements:

- 1) At least 2-year Technical Diploma in related field from a reputable technical institute with 1st, 2nd, or 3rd honor grade.
- 2) Minimum of three years of experience in related field in Oil & Gas Industry is an added advantage.
- 3) Formal technical training in any of the above process equipments will be an added advantage.
- 4) Should be able to read and write in English.
- 5) Must be able to read and understand, service manuals and technical literature.
- 6) Computer literate with knowledge of MS Office products.
- 7) Must have a valid driving license.

7. Mechanical Engineer

Description:

Work is performed under the direct supervision of the Senior Rotating Equipment Engineer. The job involves assist, control, plan and coordinate engineering activities of Mechanical Maintenance department for Stationary and Rotating Equipments in the SEPOC Production Facilities.

Requirements:

- 1) Bachelor Degree in Mechanical Engineering from a reputable University with 1st, 2nd, or 3rd honor grade.
- 2) At least 2 years experience in Oil & Gas Industry is an added advantage.
- 3) Technical training in any of the above process equipments will be an added advantage.
- 4) Should be able to read and write in English.
- 5) Must be able to read and understand, service manuals and technical literature.
- 6) Computer literate with knowledge of MS Office products.
- 7) Must have valid driving license.

8. Production Facilities Operator

Description:

Operates and monitors oil, gas, and water separation thru train of vessels, manifolds, and utility equipment at central production unit, Includes responsibility for three power generators, air & gas compressors, etc...

Requirements:

- 1) University degree in petroleum engineering or High School plus 2 years formal training leading to a Diploma in Oil Production Operations or equivalent.
- 2) Minimum 5 years work experience in related position in the oil & gas industry is an added advantage.
- 3) Ability to read and interpret engineering and manufactures drawings, P & IDs and blue prints is essential.
- 4) Should be able to read and write in English.
- 5) Must have a valid driving license.

9. IT Clients Services Technician

Description:

The primary duties include performing IT help desk technical support to Safer E&P Operations end users in accordance to the IT procedures, follow up with service requests until fulfilling the services requirement. Follows safety instructions and procedures.

Requirements:

- 1) Bachelor Degree in the field of Computer Sciences..
- 2) Experience working in a Help Desk/ Call Center Environment (desired but not required).
- 3) Data processing/Information Technology training and education.
- 4) Windows 2003, windows XP/2000, Microsoft Office experience and Windows Vista.
- 5) Knowledge of Networking and TCP/IP protocols.
- 6) Experience on troubleshooting and fixing servers problems Hardware/software.
- 7) Requires strong knowledge of LAN communications (Cisco devices).
- 8) Analytical and Logical trouble shooting skills.
- 9) Good general communications and problem solving skills.
- 10) Knowledge of systems, hardware, operating systems and application products used by users.
- 11) Ability to analyze confidential data of major importance and respond accordingly.
- 12) Ability to manage stressful working environment and changing customer requirements.
- 13) Adaptability and willingness to continually learn new skills.
- 14) Self-starter and self-motivated.
- 15) Ability to work well in a team environment and as part of a team.
- 16) Customer service attitude and orientation.
- 17) Proficiency in English, both spoken and written.

10. Plant Operator

Description:

The primary duties are operating hydrocarbon liquid recovery Gas Plants, associated compression and utility systems.

Requirements:

- 1) Bachelor degree in Chemical engineering from a reputable university with 1st, 2nd, or 3rd honor grade.
- 2) Applicant must be under 35 years old.
- 3) Should be able to read and write in English
- 4) Computer literate with knowledge of MS Office products.
- 5) Must have a valid driving license.

11. Assistant Rig Mechanic

Description:

Responsible for day to day routine preventive and corrective maintenance to ensure that rigs' machinery and equipment continue to run smoothly (Rig-100, Rig-101, Rig-218, and Rig102); Including carrying out inspections & repairs of motors, diesel engines, air compressors, pumps, draw-works, derricks, power transmissions, B.O.P. Checking fluid levels, replacing filters and performing other maintenance actions

Requirements:

- 1) Bachelor degree in Mechanical Engineering OR high school plus 2-3 years diploma in mechanic discipline such as City and Guilds training or equivalent.
- 2) Minimum 3 years of related experience for Engineer applicant & 5-10 years for Non-engineering applicant.
- 3) Willing to work independently and at remote fields.
- 4) Good knowledge in setup plans and schedules on equipment predictive and preventive maintenance.
- 5) Good background in equipment fault findings.
- 6) Must have good knowledge of safe work practices including hot/cold work permits.
- 7) Should be able to read and write in English
- 8) Computer literate with knowledge of MS Office products.
- 9) Must be able to read and understand service manuals and technical literature.
- 10) Must have a valid driving license.

Other job details of the above positions are posted on 'Careers' at SAFER'S Website: www.sepocye.com. To apply and process your application and CVs for the above positions, please visit SAFER'S Website. Applications must be submitted online no later than 3 December, 2010. Faxed, mailed, or handed applications will not be considered.

ONLY shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Author of Red Book to the Yemen Times:

“The idea of the novel comes from the suffering in society around me.”



A Yemeni novel that discusses the tyranny of sheikhs, corruption, the condition of women, terrorism and even sexuality has created a stir. The writer says that his book was banned from this month's book fair in Sana'a, but its organizers deny this and accuse him of orchestrating a publicity stunt. Ibrahim Aljaadi interviewed the novel's author for the Yemen Times.

When Muhammad Al-Qarbi Omran's novel, *Mushaf Ahmar*, or 'Red Book,' was published in Lebanon in January 2010, he had not anticipated what would follow.

Two months after his novel was published, Omran was fired from his job as deputy head of the municipality of Sana'a. The municipality accused him of corruption despite the fact he held an administrative position that had nothing to do with finance.

"I had never signed a check during my job in the municipality and I was accused of corruption," Omran told the Yemen Times.

"What could I do? I am only guilty of speaking the truth. I'm pretty sure they fired me because of my novel but I'm not afraid and I'll keep on saying the truth as long as I live."

Omran was born in 1958 and has a masters' degree in history. He has published five short stories, but *Red Book* is his first novel. In the four years it took for him to complete it, he travelled to all of the towns mentioned in the novel to make sure that he described them accurately.

"The idea of the novel comes from the suffering in society around me," he said. "Corruption, woman's struggle and terrorism are problems that we all as Yemenis suffer from."

Red Book is a story told by a female narrator called Samparia. Spanning across the last three decades, it begins with Samparia bidding farewell to her only son at the airport as he is about to leave for studies in Iraq. At the airport, she has arranged for him to meet his father for the first time in his life.

Samparia's story is that of a woman who has always struggled with a man to support her. Her love affair with the boy's father is short lived after he flees to escape the sheikh of the village they were both brought up in. She raises her son proudly, despite the absence of his father who is away fighting for the National Front in pre-unified Southern Yemen and later hiding from the government.

The novel's main themes are the unity of Yemen, the condition of Yemeni woman and extremism. It also deals the abusive power of sheikhs in some parts of the country. Much of the narration focuses on the sheikh of Samparia's village and his private jail.

In the novel, when Samparia's uncle refuses to give the sheikh his land deeds, the sheikh locks him up in his private jail.

Red book of wisdom

Red Book takes its title from a red book in the story which Samparia's family has combined the wisdom of all great religions. According to legend, her family started collecting this wisdom to reverse a curse on the family. Passages from the

Quran, the Bible and the Torah, collected in the red book, are quoted throughout the novel.

The novelist has read all three holy books, and keeps a copy of each in his personal library.

"Believing in the three holy books is essential in our religion," the novelist explained. "In a hadith collected in the books 'Sahih Al-Bukhari' and 'Sahih Muslim,' Prophet Muhammad explains, 'Faith is to affirm your faith in God, His angels, His books, His messengers and the Last Day, and to believe in divine destiny whether it is good or bad.'"

"In the history of Islam, there are many examples of how non-Muslims lived with Muslims in peace and harmony," Omran explains. "We have to accept others and to be tolerant with them."

According to the novelist, in writing this novel, he wanted to tell people about the importance of unity not only in Yemen but in the whole world.

"What's wrong with being a friend with all people, Muslims or non-Muslims? Why do we have to fight or hate each other? We all are human beings after all."

A female narrator

The writer chose a female narrator to tell his story to highlight the plight of Yemeni women. Samparia tells her story in the form of letters to her son after he has travelled to Iraq. She tells of her love affair with his father from when, aged 12, she helped him to escape from the sheikh's jail.

She brings up her son without a father. After her son travels to Iraq, she meets a girl who becomes her lover.

According to the novelist, it was the desperate situation this woman faced which drove her towards her relationship with another woman.

Some readers have objected to certain content in the novel including an erotic scene in the middle of the book involving two men which takes place in a mosque.

"I respect all readers' opinions but that doesn't necessarily mean I should agree with them completely. When I finished my novel, I showed it to some of my friends for revision. Most of them said they thought it was great and others differed, but it's their opinion. I respect them all."

Book fair controversy

But Omran says that his own opinions were not respected, when earlier this month his book was banned from being exhibited at the Sana'a Book Fair, according to Al-Qarbi.

"The Sana'a Book Fair, from September 25 till October 5, contained many books inciting religious extremism that were not banned, but when it comes to a book like mine which tell the truth, they banned it."

Early this month, a group of Yemeni intellectuals boycotted the 27th session



published without any problem," said Suhair Al-Saman.

Literary club

Omran is now a chairman of El-Maqah, a Yemeni literary club established in 1999. With a limited budget, the club's members are doing their best to reflect the true image of literature in Yemen especially in writing stories.

"The main goal of the club is to en-

courage and support story writers. In Yemen the story is not as popular as poetry," he said, explaining that few in Yemen have succeeded in this genre.

Omran and some of his university friends had had the idea of establishing a club while they were studying, but the idea did not materialise until 1999.

"All people who are interested in literature are welcome to the club. We hold some activities from time to time. Some-

times we have critical sessions where we review someone's book, while at other times we have discussions with academics. When a member of the club brings out a new book, we promote it by holding book signing events."

"We as writers and intellectuals believe in a bright future for all human beings living together in peace and harmony."

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برعاية معالي وزير التعليم الفني والتدريب المهني د. إبراهيم عمر حجري

المهرجان التدريبي الشبابي الأول نحو تدريب عصري يكسب المهارة ويمتج الخبرة

ينظم مركز الاستشارات والتنمية بـ جامعتنا العلوم والتكنولوجيا

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Yemen's Flora



Another (healthier) leaf to chew

Photo by Alice Hackman



Uthrub, here outside the town of Hajjara in the Haraz mountains, grows up to 2 meters on high slopes between 1,500 and 2,900 meters altitude.



On a Friday up in the Haraz mountains, outside Sana'a, this man climbed over a wall to pick uthrub to lay down on the grave of a relative.

By: Alice Hackman

At the qat market in the Yemeni capital Sana'a, a qat seller in his sixties grins to bear healthy pink gums and sparkling white teeth. His secret? He says he chews a little uthrub.

Recognizable by its tiny orange-pink flowers, uthrub or *Rumex Nervosus Vahl* is a wild plant that grows in

the Yemeni mountains, notably on the slopes of Sana'a, Ibb, Dhamar, Amran and Taiz.

"It's all over the farm," Ahmad Ghazi, 50, a qat and coffee farmer from Al-Haima, an agricultural area an hour and a half's drive outside Sana'a, told the Yemen Times. "The little children pick the leaves off, clean them and then eat them."

The slender uthrub leaves are sour and tangy. They are not very juicy, but

their health benefits are multiple. Every Yemeni approached by the Yemen Times had a different ailment to add to a long list of conditions that the plant cures.

The question started to be, What does uthrub not cure?

"If someone eats peaches and it makes their teeth funny, then they can eat uthrub," explained Ghazi, a father of eight sons and four daughters. "And if a child falls over and cuts himself on a

stone, then they can put uthrub on it."

Uthrub is a popular coagulant in traditional Yemeni medicine. It stops all bleeding, including hemorrhage at birth and bleeding of the gums, according to Medicinal and Fragrant Herbs of Yemen by Abdulrahman Saeed Al-Daba'i and Abdulbari Ahmad Al-Kholeidi.

It even stops too much bleeding during the menstrual cycle, according to Muhammad Al-Du'ais, professor of natural products at the University of Ibb.

Uthrub contains organic acids, potassium, and even vitamin C. People who suffer from kidney problems or severe diarrhea should not ingest it, but it is good to cure toothache, constipation, achne and can help cleanse the eye, according to Medicinal and Fragrant Herbs of Yemen.

The wild mountain shrub also has its uniquely Yemeni uses. Wrapped around bunches of qat freshly picked from the tree, its stalks can keep the leaf so prized by Yemeni chewers fresh for over a day.

"Milhani qat from Mahwit always comes wrapped up in uthrub," Hasan Mohammad, 52, told the Yemen Times, as he clutched a bundle of qat he had just bought to get his son, a policeman, through his night shift. "To keep the moisture in, they use uthrub or banana plant stalks."

And then uthrub has its culinary uses.

"You can put it in yoghurt," said Amir Abdulhamad Ismail, a gardener in his thirties from Taiz. He grinned and tapped his nose with his index finger in the typical Yemeni gesture that means it's delicious.

One person told the Yemen Times that you can use it in sahwuq, the popular Yemeni fresh tomato and green chili salsa eaten with rice.

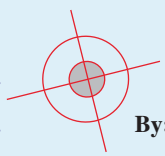
But small quantities of uthrub go a long way.

Dentist Ali Al-Sharabi warns that, like lemon, too much of the plant is not good for the teeth. "It can lead to hypersensitivity because it is sour," he said. When boiled, such as when it is prepared like tea for a sore stomach, most of the acid is however removed, posing less of a threat to the teeth.

Rumex Nervosus Vahl also grows in Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania, according to Flora of the Arabian Peninsula and Socotra by A.G. Miller and T.A. Cope.

In Ethiopia, where it is called 'embwacho' in Amharic and 'thiteh' in Tigrinya, the charcoal of the plant's stem mixed with egg yolk is used to dress skin burns, according to an online compilation of articles about the plants of Africa. Butter is added to prevent flaking and drying of the wound. The roots, coated with honey paste, are a cure for stomach ache. And in powder form, uthrub is applied to warts.

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.

A spicy route to good health

Ginger has been used as a natural remedy for many ailments for centuries. Apart from flavoring your morning cup of tea, ginger works wonders to treat a whole lot of illnesses. Ginger works wonders in the treatment of everything from cancer to migraine.

Ginger has been an inseparable part of human lives owing to its aroma, flavor and medicinal attributes. Ginger is widely used all over the world because its numerous health benefits.

Ginger has been cultivated since the early days of civilization and is widely used in a variety of culinary preparations all over the world. Ginger is aromatic, pungent and spicy; it adds a special flavor and zest to Asian stir fries and many fruit and vegetable dishes. Fresh ginger root is available year round in the local market.



Apart from being used for cooking, the benefits of ginger also include serving as an important ingredient in many of the cures related to alternative medicines like Ayurveda, Naturopathy, aroma therapy and herbal therapy, getting to the health benefits of ginger.

It is considered to be a universal remedy which could be present at home at all times. The health benefits of ginger are listed below:

Ginger has enjoyed the status of being the traditional medicine for the treatment of cough, cold and congestion in the fields of ayurveda and naturopathy.

The medical form of ginger, popularly known as 'Jamaica Ginger', is used for treating dyspepsia and colic diseases and is especially recommended to people who suffer from gall stones. This is due to the fact that the intake of this herb triggers the release of bile from the gall bladder and thus causes the problem to heal over a period of time.

The pungent constituents of ginger namely shogaols and gingerols are believed effective in controlling vomiting and nausea because of their ability to control the movements of the gastrointestinal tract, a great health benefit of ginger for many people. Ginger root and ginger oil is often used for stomach upsets. It is one of the best remedies for indigestion, stomach ache, dyspepsia, colic, spasms, diarrhea, flatulence and other stomach and bowel related problems. Ginger or ginger oil is often added in numerous food preparations, especially in India, as it helps in improving digestion. Ginger tea is also used for relieving stomach problems. Further, it increases the appetite of a person.

Ginger is antiseptic and carminative. As a result, it can be used for treating food poisoning. It is also used for treating intestinal infections and bacterial dysentery.

It is strongly believed in China that ginger boosts and strengthens the heart. Many people use ginger oil as a measure to prevent as well as cure heart diseases. Preliminary research has indicated that ginger may be helpful in reduction of cholesterol levels and prevention of blood clotting. With reduced cholesterol levels and blood clotting the chances of blockage of blood vessels decrease thereby reducing incidences of heart attacks.

It can be taken by people who have diabetes and also by those who suffer from heart problems because it is believed to have the health benefit of lowering the cholesterol content of the blood.

Ginger has been used by pregnant women to ward off the morning sickness. Some people believe it can be used in the treatment of external wounds and snake bites as well as for internal disorders like ovarian and colon cancers.

Fresh ginger juice if applied to minor burns as well as skin irritations provides immediate relief. Ginger oil is used in spas and saloons for a perceived refreshing effect on one's mind and a potential ability to reduce arthritic pain.

Extract of ginger is often used in traditional medicine to reduce inflammation. Research has now proved that its anti-inflammatory properties can be attributed to the presence of the substance named Zingibain. A new study has suggested that daily doses of raw or heat-treated ginger are effective for relieving muscle pain following strenuous exercise. It is analgesic in nature and reduces pain caused by muscle aches, arthritis, rheumatism, headache, migraine, etc. Ginger oil or paste of ginger is often massaged on aching muscles to remove muscle strain. It is further believed that regular use of ginger leads to reduction of prostaglandins which are the compounds associated with pain. Hence ginger helps in pain relief.

Ginger can also be used for reducing toothache and the discomfort which arises due to the infection in the upper respiratory tract due to its antibacterial and antifungal nature. Since ginger root and ginger oil is a good expectorant, it is effective in various respiratory problems such as cold, cough, flu, asthma, bronchitis and breathlessness. Ginger is very effective in removing mucus from the throats and lungs and hence it is often added with tea in India. The health benefit of honey and ginger in treating respiratory problems is well known.

Ginger is added as a ginger seasoning or flavoring agent in a number of recipes and food stuffs which vary according to the region in which they are prepared.

Ginger may be powerful weapon in the treatment of ovarian cancer. A study conducted at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center found that ginger powder induces cell death in all ovarian cancer cells to which it was applied.

Ginger oil, being an essential oil is stimulating and therefore relieves depression, mental stress, exhaustion, dizziness, restlessness and anxiety.

Ginger is useful for hair care as well. Usage of the juice of ginger is useful in controlling dandruff.

Some of the most common ways of having ginger include using it as a flavoring for a variety of culinary preparations, as an essential component of ginger cake, gingerbread and ginger biscuits, in ginger tea, and gingerbread cookies and for the preparation of ginger ale and ginger beer and as a spice which can be added to tea. A word of caution! Ginger should be avoided in the first trimester of pregnancy; and also in those who are awaiting surgery.



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

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By: Malak Shaher

On the second floor of the National Museum, hang the visions of eight young Yemeni photographers. A photographic series of little children playing with cars tires and having fun in the street is called 'The Pirates of Safia.'

The series is the work of Abdulrahman Taha, 20, a Yemeni who lives in the Safia neighborhood in Sana'a, where many refugees live.

"I find that these little children live the lives of pirates," said Taha. "Free to play whenever they want, they live the life of pirates. They live without chains."

The young photographer is currently preparing a documentary about refugees in the Safia neighborhood. It will cover their rituals for birthday celebrations and weddings.

Taha, who studied veterinary sciences at university, said that three years ago he started taking photos of everything around him and reading books about photography.

Taha was one of eight young photographers who participated in an exhibition called "Words of Eyes" opened last Tuesday at the National Museum in Sana'a in cooperation with the French Embassy.

The perspective of each photographer was different.

For photographer Asia Al-Sharabi, women are not just beautiful human beings, but have minds and have to be respected. For her sister, who also focused on women in her photos, covering a woman's face is to gradually exclude her from being active in the world she lives in.

For 24-year-old Ameen Al-Ghaberi, women can participate in activities and be good at them whether they are veiled or unveiled. He sent his greetings to each ambitious Yemeni girl who proves herself in the position she occupies.

The conflict between men and women vanishes in the eyes of photographers Wael Al-Anisi, 26, and Iman Al-Awammi.

Iman expressed her happiness in displaying her photos for the first time in her life. "This is a life dream I have been thinking of for years. I am grateful for everybody that has helped me."



The Pirates of Safia playing in the street by Abdulrahman Taha



The Yemeni father is also overwhelmed by feelings toward their children, by Iman Al-Awammi.

she said.

In the photos she took, she gave fathers a central role because, she said, Yemeni fathers are overwhelmed with feelings towards their children.

Wael Al-Anesi said that a mother's sincere feelings are embodied in the warm bread she makes. For Al-Anesi, he has previously participated in a photography exhibition at the German House in Sana'a, which promotes cultural exchange.

Words of Eyes is part of the French-Yemeni celebrations held on the occa-

sion of 40 years of friendship between the two countries. On the first floor of the museum, photos and documents are displayed that trace the relationship between Yemen and France over the past 40 years.

4U

Words of Eyes is on at the National Museum until Nov. 1, from 9 am till 1 pm, and from 4 pm till 7 pm.

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