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انم بكير Ela Mubarak

Inside:



The many dangers of Yemen's water shortage



Directions to get you lost



Got any heart disease pills, mate?

US citizen faces death penalty in Yemen

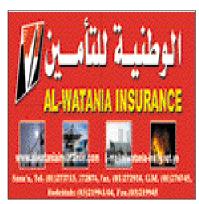
By: Shadha Al-Harazy

SANA'A, Nov. 11 - Sharif Mobley, the American citizen facing the death penalty for killing a Yemeni soldier, was interrogated and tortured by US secret service personnel, according to his wife and his US lawyer.

Mobley came to Yemen in 2008 with his wife and daughter to learn Arabic and study Islam. In January the American was arrested for suspected links to Al-Qaeda. During his arrest he was shot in the leg and spent several weeks detained in one of the capital's hospitals. In a March escape attempt, Mobley shot and killed a Yemeni security guard and wounded another.

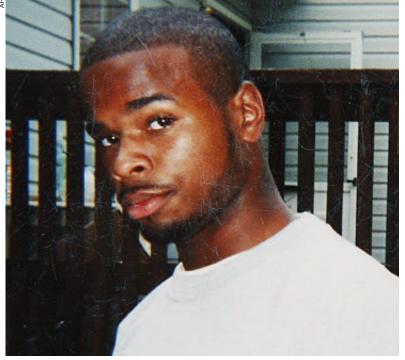
"After three weeks in the hospital they took out a reed from his genitals which had been used to torture him. He bled heavily," Mobley's lawyer, Khalid Al-Ansi told the Yemen Times. "He couldn't walk into the detention centre. They started to beat him and kick him until he passed out. When he woke up he found his cloths full of blood and they took him to the Jomhory Hospital."

The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedom (HOOD), representing Mobley, claims the American embassy wanted to recruit Mobley





UNITED INSURANCE



Sharif Mobley, 26, the American citizen charged with murder after shooting dead a security guard. Mobley was arrested for alleged links with Al-Qaeda.

to spy on the Muslim community in the US. Many Muslim Yemeni-Americans, who come to visit Yemen, have been investigated by agents at the US Embassy, according to HOOD. Some have been prevented from returning to the US when they refused to co-operate.

Mobley is not the only foreigner to have been arrested by political security. Several foreign nationals have been detained since the failed attempted to blow up a US bound flight, by Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, on Christmas Day 2009. Sixteen Nigerians have been imprisoned, nine French citizens, seven Bengalis, two Malaysians and two British nationals, all for supposed links to Al-Qaeda. The list of foreign detainees also includes two women, one of whom was arrested after her phone number was found on the cell phone of Mobley's wife, according to HOOD.

"It's clear now that whoever comes to Yemen to learn about Islam, is under the observation of the FBI which runs its political security from their office in the

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American Embassy," said Mohammed Alaw, one of Mobley's lawyers. "Yemen has no sovereignty in its land as long as there is the American guard."

Reprieve, a British human rights organization, is HOOD's partner in defending Mobley. "We all know that the US Department of Defense is targeting Yemen now and we do our best to reveal these kinds of cases," said Cori Crider, the Reprieve lawyer. "If this happens to an American citizen, then what could happen to the rest of us?"

Shaba, Mobley's wife, never imagined that learning about Islam would make her husband an Al-Qaeda suspect. "We came to Yemen because we knew what the Prophet Mohammad said about it as a country of faith and wisdom," said Shaba, who lived peacefully in Yemen for two years before her husband's arrest. "We enjoyed our time. Until our first visit to the embassy, then everything changed. It was after that visit to the embassy our troubles started and we felt we were being watched," Shaba

added. The family wanted to return to two American men assaulted Mobley the US because of the security situation in Yemen, and so that their family could meet their newly born son Yahia. Mobley visited the US Embassy regularly in the process of applying for passports for his children. There the 26 year old was interrogated. "They targeted him because he has a beard," Shaba said.

On Jan. 24, Mobley visited the embassy for the last time. Two days later he was kidnapped. "On Jan. 26, he went to buy food for our daughter Jouiri and he didn't come back," explained Shaba. "Later that day we discovered that 10 men kidnapped him and he was shot in the leg in front of a shop in Al-Asbahi Street."

Sheba Mobley, who can't speak Arabic, hesitated to call the family in the US. Instead she contacted the US Embassy. "They didn't even ask for his description so I knew they were not going to help. They told me to go to a local police station and they refused to send an Arabic speaker with me," she added. "We've had no response from the police since I reported it." The night following her husband's arrest more than 10 men in civilian clothes arrived at her house and took her and the children who were sleeping. Sheba was put through a full-body search and they took off and searched her daughter's diaper, and checked the two month-year old baby. A Yemeni officer then told her that her husband was in hospital.

Sharif was being held on the third floor of the Police Hospital, which is affiliated to the Interior Ministry. Mobley later described to his lawyers how his eyes were kept closed and he was chained to the bed unable to move, and only allowed to open his eye when they fed him. After four days in hospital, two Americans came and questioned him about Anwar Al-Awlaki, the American cleric now on the US 'kill or capture list' for acts of terrorism, including links to the 9/11 attacks. Mobley admitted to having spoken to him a few times, to seek his advice as a fellow English speaking Muslim-American, about which hospital was best for his pregnant wife. Crider described how and threatened him. "They told him that he would not see his family again, and they threatened to rape him and his wife," the lawyer said. "They also told him that he has no constitutional rights here [in Yemen]."

"If Sharif or Al-Awlaki are this dangerous, why didn't the Americans detain them there [in the US]? They want Yemen to do the American's job in murder and torture. This means that as long as they are away from the US the constitution does not apply," explained Khalid Al-Ansi, one of Mobley's lawyers.

"Every day I went to the embassy," said Shaba, "I saw one of the men who came to search my house at the embassy and pointed him out, but they denied it." When she asked for an emergency passport for her son the embassy refused. "The FBI questioned me about Sharif's friends and what he was doing in Ye-

men, and threatened me saying they would torture Sharif in jail if I didn't give them information." When Shaba finally traveled back to the US she was stopped at New York airport and held for questioning.

Mobley's mother, father, wife and two children travelled 7,000 miles to attend his trail on Nov. 10 in Sana'a. The charges of links to Al-Qaeda have since been dropped. The trial was postponed for the second time after deliberations over a translator for the non-Arabic speaking Mobley. "I will ask for his execution. He killed a Muslim man," said the prosecution's lawyer.

Crider said Mobley's safety can't be guaranteed, but believes that whatever happens to him now in the Central Prison, where he was transferred after his attempted escape, will not be as bad as what he went through in Political Secu-







Piracy costs Yemen's fishery sector | New security arrangements **USD 150 million**



Yemen's coasts guard authority has arrested more than 60 pirates, six of them are already sentenced to death.

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Nov. 14 - Yemen has lost around USD 150 million from the fishery sector in 2009 alone due to regional piracy in the Gulf of Aden and around the Horn of Africa, according to the Yemen's Prime Minister, Ali Mujawar.

The prime minister spoke during the opening of a regional conference on piracy held in Sana'a last week. He explained that several Yemeni fishermen and crews are still being held hostage by Somali pirates, in addition at least 813 sailors of different nationalities.

"Piracy is an international problem that harms the trading interests of many countries around the world, but Yemen's economic interests have been badly hurt by piracy," said the prime

Due to the lack of a functioning state in Somalia, piracy is increasing everyday and at present, Somali pirates are detaining 23 ships and oil tankers, according to Mujawar.

He indicated that piracy has weak-

ened Yemen's fishing activity. This is the main source of income for the majority of the population who live along Yemen's 1500 km coast on the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Despite human and material loses resulting from confrontations between Yemen's coast guard and pirates, the coast guard have been able to arrest a number of pirates. Currently 62 alleged pirates have gone to trial, of which six have already been sentenced to death, the prime minister added.

The directors of nine maritime authorities participated in the two day conference representing Egypt, Eritrea, Djibouti, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, UAE and the host country Ye-

The conference also was attended by monitoring countries including France, Japan, Kenya, South Korea, Tanzania, The Netherlands and as well as the EU delegation to Yemen and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Participants in the conference discussed arrangements for establishing a regional center for information exchange on piracy, that is expected to be launched at the beginning of 2011.

A circular released by the IMO in April 2009 stated that during 2008, "most reported acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the waters off the coast of Somalia... occurred in the Gulf of Aden." However, the same circular went on to say that for 2009: "The successful efforts of navies in patrolling and disrupting pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden may also have been a contributory factor in the increase in pirate activity in the Somali Basin and the Western Indian Ocean."

The IMO reported that pirates often use two or more small high-speed (up to 25 knots) open boats in their organized attacks against ships and fishing boats. They also often use a 'mother ship' – a large ship carrying personnel, equipment, supplies and smaller attack craft – that have enabled pirates to carry out successful attacks at a greater range from shore.

in airports and for Eid



The special security plan for Eid Al-Adha this year will designate security patrols to secure mosques and places where the Eid prayer will be done.

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Nov. 13 — The Ministry of Interior this week issued a decree to create a new specialized security unit for securing airports, the mouthpiece of the ruling party almotamar.net re-

This measure by Yemen's Interior Ministry comes after explosive-packed parcels were sent to the US at the end of October originating from Yemen.

This new unit will be responsible for training and qualifications of security personnel to provide advanced levels of security to protect airports and flights in Yemen against sabotage and acts of terrorism, sources from the Ministry of Interior told almotamar.net.

The unit also will develop and upgrade the search and customs facilities at Yemeni airports, the source added.

The Ministry of Interior also reported on its website that it has distributed a special security plan for Eid Al-Adha to police stations across the country. This is to enable people to enjoy their Eid entertainment and activities in a secure atmosphere.

Yemen, like other Arab or Islamic countries, officially celebrates Eid Al-Adha on the tenth of Thu Al-Hjja in the Hijjri calendar. This year Eid Al-Adha will begin on Nov. 16.

During Eid, all public and private departments' activities are suspended for the Eid holiday which continues for five to six days, starting the day before Eid day on Nov. 15 and continuing until Nov. 20.

The special security plan for Eid Al-Adha this year will send security patrols to secure mosques and places where the Eid prayer is performed. Security will also be enhanced at sites of entertainment, such as parks and gardens, as these areas are extremely popular during the holiday, the ministry explained on its website.

The plan also entitles policemen across the country to control and seize the private use of fireworks. Retailers, vendors and unauthorized users of fireworks face arrest in an attempt

to maintain tranquility during the Eid

The plan recommended policemen nationwide to take precautions to prevent any acts of sabotage or burglary against public and private properties. During the Eid holiday many families in the city prefer to spend vacation in their villages in rural areas, so many houses are vulnerable to burglary whilst empty.

The ministry confirmed that the traffic service will be on duty to reduce traffic accidents which often rise during the Eid period, as many workers and families travel from the cities to villages and back making roads and highways congested.

The ministry added that the antiweapons carrying campaign will continue during Eid to maintain security and stability, and that customs involving firearms in cities are banned.

The ministry has called on all citizens to cooperate with the police and security forces to keep the Eid holiday free of any sad and tragic incidents.

IOM training in immigration challenges

By: Yasser Alariqi For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Nov. 13 — The International Organization for Migration (IOM) held a training course to help illegal immigrants voluntarily return to their countries and provide them with assistance.

The program on 'Essentials of Migration Management' ran from Nov. 6 to 8 in Sana'a, as part of IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRAR) project, funded by the Swiss Government.

The aim of AVRAR is to assist the return and reintegration of migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in Yemen. Part of the training program is aimed to provide pre-departure guidance, transportation and post-arrival assistance to unsuccessful asylum seekers and migrants.

Yemeni authorities were represented at the conference by the Ministry of Interior, the Immigration Passports and Nationality Authority, the Ministry of Human Rights, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Immigrants' Affairs. The training covered issues such as the rights and obligations of migrants, authorities and responsibility of the state, irregular migration - an introduction to trafficking and smuggling, developing migration legislation, border management systems and refugee protection.

"This session is very important because we discussed many relevant issues," said Vice Manager of the Anti-Counterfeit Department in the Immigration Authority, Mohammed Al-Mahfadi. "The importance is when immigrants come with counterfeit documents through the port and how we should deal with them, particularly if they come from a war torn country like



Officer in Charge, Fawzi Alzioud.

Al-Mahfadi stressed the importance of coordinating various organizations' work with the relevant Yemeni authorities, and how the authorities needs to work together to aid and assist immi-

Illegal immigration is a growing problem in Yemen. "Yemen is suffering from an escalating number of illegal migrants from the Horn of Africa, which has now reached 800,000 refugees according to international organization estimates," said Minister of Expatriate Affairs, Ahmed Hussein before a similar IOM conference in February. "The economic and social burdens of illegal immigration makes it worse," he

UNHCR registered 77,802 new arrivals from the Horn of Africa in 2009,

a 55 percent increase from 2008, and for the first time Somalis were not the largest group. The number of Ethiopians making the dangerous journey by boat across the Gulf of Aden more than doubled to 44,814.

IOM, a leading inter-governmental organization dealing with migration with offices in over 100 countries, has worked in Sana'a since 2007, with sub-offices in Aden governorate. The organization established a presence in Sana'a to reinforce and consolidate assistance to the Yemeni government in key migration issues including: the prevention of child trafficking, assisting the voluntary return of Ethiopian migrants stranded in Somalia en route to Yemen, and reinforcing the existing capacity of local authorities in migra-

Tax Authority to ban traders for failure to pay taxes

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Nov. 13 — Traders face a ban from importing and exporting source at the Tax Authority told the Yemen Times.

All traders are issued with one tax number used to import and export goods. Tax numbers of those traders who have not paid their taxes will be cancelled, preventing them from being able to trade. Goods will also be confiscated, according to the source who requested anonymity.

"If the trader does not pay the taxes imposed on him, a letter is sent to customs officials at the airports and harbors to stop the validity of the number," said the source. "In this case, they cannot import or export until the taxes are

Import and export duties account for goods if they fail to pay their taxes, a 20 percent of the national budget, the tax numbers and thus do not pay taxes source told the Yemen Times. Income lost from traders failing to pay taxes places development projects, government employee salaries and schools at

> The government started applying the General Sales Tax Law in 2009, imposing a 5 percent duty on sales. The Tax Authority demanded the delivery of a tax disclosure for July 2010 in Sept. 2010, as per Law No. 19 for 2001.

According to research by Professor Mohammad Jubran from the Faculty of Commerce and Economics at Sana'a

University, about 40 percent of traders are not even registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

"They do free business, do not have at all," said Jubran

If traders fail to comply with the law and present a tax declaration, a delay penalty of two percent of the unpaid tax is imposed for each month of nonpayment. Evasion from paying taxes can involve a penalty of 50 percent of sales, according to the law.

Tax evasion crimes involve acts such as selling taxable commodities without declaration, not paying the entitled tax, presenting false documents and records, and neglecting invoicing and accounting records.

Poor performance by the Yemeni parliament

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Nov. 13 — A recent report conducted by the Yemen Parliament Watch (YPW) criticized the 'poor' performance of the parliament over May-August 2010, indicating that the parliament discussed only 7.3 percent of questions listed on their agenda.

The YPW was funded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and implemented by the Yemeni Polling Center in Dec. 2009. It was setup to conduct opinion polls, release parliamentary performance reports, and run training workshops for parliamentarians, civil society organizations and journalists.

The report issued last week said that many MPs were absent during sessions, and that some of them come to the parliament only to quickly leave again.

Moreover, the parliament went into recess on three consecutive days due to lack of a quorum. The parliament approved only seven bills out of 27 during this period.

The report said that there were divisions among MPs about some issues and laws such as determining the safe age for marriage bill, and loan agreements. The parliamentary blocs did not present or suggest any new bills during the period. The report said that some essential issues were absent from the parliament's agenda altogether, like the Southern Movement and the war in Sa'ada governorate.

Boring and inefficient sessions

Parliamentarian Fuad Dahaba told the Yemen Times that this poor performance was due to the postponement of elections. "We confess that there is a big decline in our performance," he

"Most MPs hate to come to the parliament these days. They feel bored due to an absence of serious debate inside the parliament. Actually, I'm one of those MPs," he added.

According to Dahaba, most MPs have lost hope in the parliament and the government. He said that if the elections were postponed again, the parliament will be like 'dead body'. "I urge the government to allow urgent, free and fair elections," he said.

Dahaba indicated that the absence rate among MPs has been increasing, pointing out that many bills and important decisions have been postponed

"MPs have no strategy and their legal period has ended. The parliament has no role now," he explained.



Aid workers say children have reached IDP camps malnourished

SANAA, Nov. 2 (IRIN) — A new survey reports very high levels of child malnutrition in Yemen's conflicthit northern governorate of Saada, particularly in districts that have seen the worst of the fighting. The rate of malnutrition equals that of a survey in Southern Sudan earlier this year which attracted media attention as discovering "the hungriest place on Earth".

A UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)-supported survey carried out by the Ministry of Public Health and Population showed that 45 percent of the 26,246 children aged 6-59 months who were screened in five districts in western Saada (the governorate has 15 districts in all) were suffering from acute malnutrition.

"In one area, the proportion was as high as three out of four children. Overall, 17 percent of the children screened suffer from severe acute malnutrition [SAM] and 28 percent from moderate acute malnutrition [MAM]," a UNICEF statement said.



Aid workers say children have reached IDP camps malnourished

Multiple earthquakes off Yemen coast

By: Iona Craig

SANAA, Nov. 14 — A flurry of earthquakes, up to 5.0 magnitude, were reported off the coast of Yemen, Djibouti and Eritrea on Sunday, according to seismologists.

The first quake was reported at 07:34 AM, 120km north east of the Djibouti coast on Sunday morning. An unusual series of aftershocks followed including a 4.5 magnitude quake in an unpopulated area of Lahij governorate, according to The Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System.

In total up to 17 quakes were registered off the cost of Yemen by the United States Geological Survey. According to the US government's scientific agency depths ranged from 9.9 km to 13.2 km.

The surface of the Earth is broken into six or seven major plates. The Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden were formed as the Arabian plate separated from Africa, a process, which began 56 to 34 million years ago. Across both the Gulf of Aden mid-ocean ridge system and the southernmost part of the Red Sea the plates are moving, not only apart but also sliding past each other. Geologists believe the Red Sea is still widening and in time will become an ocean.

The East African Rift System, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden form what's know as the 'Afar triple junction' the centre of Sunday's swarm of earthquakes.

Adding the MAM and SAM together gives a global acute malnutrition (GAM) figure of 45 percent for those children screened. This is the same figure as a survey done by NGOs Save the Children and Medair in Akobo, Southern Sudan, earlier this year which led to media reports calling it "the hungriest place on

GAM and SAM are the principal indicators used in nutrition surveys. Prevalences of GAM and SAM are based on the proportion of children aged 6-59 months whose body measurements categorize them as acutely malnourished according to various statistical guidelines and bench-

The survey covered only a third of one of Yemen's 21 governorates, but other recent assessments and surveys from the camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the host communities affected by the Saada conflict also show very high levels of acute malnutrition, according to Wisam Al-Timimi, a UNICEF nutrition and child survival specialist. The Saada survey used the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) methodology, UNICEF told IRIN.

"Malnutrition is the main underlying cause of death for young children in Yemen, and therefore this grim situation could spell disaster for the children of Saada," said Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF representative in Yemen. "As winter approaches, thousands of children are at serious risk if we are not able to act immediately."

Al-Timimi told IRIN the community-based surveyors for the July 2010 Saada survey were trained by UNI-CEF nutrition consultants and master trainers from Saada Governorate health office (part of the Ministry of

"Food assistance not enough"

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rural Yemen as a whole, there is lack of awareness about proper nutrition; bread and tea is a typical breakfast and dinner meal for both adults and

A projection based on 2003-2008 national data using weight, height and age indicators suggests that across Yemen, 15 percent of children aged under five suffer from GAM - that percentage already at the level the World Health Organization defines as constituting an emergency situation. But the protracted conflict in Saada between government forces and Houthi-led Shia rebels seems to have worsened the situation in the north.

"Several children come to us in an advanced state of malnutrition, and therefore their treatment becomes costly and takes several months. Parents don't give their ailing children the right food to remain healthy, nor do they take them to hospitals early enough," Shihab Mohammed, a doctor at the government-run al-Salam Hospital in Saada city, told IRIN.

Samia Mohammed, a former health awareness campaigner at al-Mazraq I IDP camp whose population mostly came from western Saada, said hundreds of children were already malnourished on arrival at the camp. "Their mothers were malnourished too," she said.

"Food assistance alone is not enough to address malnutrition," said UNICEF's Cappelaere, adding that major efforts are needed to support household food security, change existing feeding customs and ensure safe water, sanitation and hygiene for populations affected by the conflict.

Despite a ceasefire in February 2010, the extremely volatile security situation has impeded access, and limited the reach of humanitarian agencies.

"UNICEF therefore calls upon all parties to the conflict in Saada as well as the international community, including the Qatari mediation delegation currently visiting Yemen, to ensure that immediate access for humanitarian actors is granted to the entire governorate of Saada to ensure children can receive necessary lifesaving assistance," Cappelaere said.

In Brief

WORLD

Yemen partakes in workshop on human rights in Geneva

Yemen is participating in a training workshop on International Law for Human Rights organized by the Geneva Institute for Human Rights (GIHR), in Switzerland on Nov. 9-14.

Ambassador to the World Federation of Childhood Protection for Yemen, Abdal-Hafez Mo'ajeb, Yemen's representative at the workshop, said he would give a presentation and follow-up the recommendations from the Arab region's presentation. The workshop will also include field visits to the United Nations and a number of international organizations concerned with human rights in the Swiss city of Geneva.

The World Federation of Childhood Protection is based in Palestine, and selected journalist and human rights activist Mo'ajeb as its ambassador for Yemen, in addition to five other ambassadors from Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Austria and the US.

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SANA'A

GTZ projects supporting agriculture in Yemen reviewed

Yemen and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) reviewed on Wednesday GTZ projects and activities supporting agriculture in Yemen.

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Mansour Al-Hawshabi, and a team from the GTZ sustainable food security program, discussed issues pertaining to projects GTZ carries out in Yemen. These include projects supporting Yemen's food security, palm trees and iwncreased cereal production as well as its support of the National Anti-qat

Al-Hawshabi praised the role the sustainable food security program plays in enhancing the government's efforts to upgrade the country's agricultural sector. The GTZ sustainable food security program supports a number of projects to help achieve food security in Yemen via assisting in the preparation of the National Food Security Strategy jointly with other donors. It also focuses on spreading awareness of the negative impacts of qat tree cultivation on food security in the country.

Yemen, Egypt conclude strategic dialogue session

Yemen and Egypt concluded on Thursday a strategic dialogue session cochaired by Deputy Foreign Minister, Ali Muthana, and the Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs, Mohammed Qasim.

The session addressed preparations

for the coming strategic dialogue between Yemen and Egypt's foreign ministers that will be held soon in Sana'a. It also dealt with common regional and international issues of concern, joint coordination between both countries in issues raised by international events, as well as bilateral relations and means of developing them.

A joint press statement affirmed full support of Egypt and its solidarity with Yemen in order to preserve its security, stability and unity, and praised Yemen's efforts in counter terrorism. It also called on all member countries in the Friends of Yemen group to bring success to the forthcoming meeting in Riyadh in Feb. 2011, emphasizing the importance of the meeting to arrive at decisions reflecting support of the international community for Yemen.

The GPC and the Chinese Communist Party hold talks

A session was held on Wednesday in Sana'a between the General People's Congress (GPC) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) over reinforcing cooperation and exchanging expertise between the two parties within a signed protocol between them.

The talks also discussed coordination between both countries with regard to the different international issues, in addition to expanding the current cooperation between the two countries, and encouraging investment in industry, agricultural and the exploration of oil and minerals. The two parties discussed strengthening their partnership

in combating terrorism and piracy, and protecting the international navigation routes in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden, as well as preserving security and stability in the Horn of Africa.

Laws on industry regulation and na-

tional production protection issued Law No. 20 for 2010 on Industry Regulation was issued on Tuesday. The law contains 28 articles in ten chapters covering industrial activity development, national industry promotion, industrial zones, small industry, industrial control, industry obligations, and sanctions. In addition, Law No. 21 for 2010 was issued on National Production Protection from Impacts of Harmful International Trade Practices. The law consists of 28 articles divided into six chapters covering the ministry's responsibilities, procedures and harmful practices.

ADEN

About 500 media to cover 20th Gulf

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information for the Radio and Television Sector and Head of the Media Committee for the 20th Gulf Cup, Ahmed Al-Hamati, expected on Friday the arrival of about 500 journalists and photographers from around the world to cover the competition.

In a statement to Saba News agency, Al-Hamati made it clear that facilities will be provided for journalists and reporters who are expected to cover the tournament events. Journalists will be provided information from the media center, a tournament booklet, as well as a guidebook covering historical, archaeological and tourism sites in the city of Aden and across Yemen.

Al-Hamati pointed out that a central media center and media centers in the two main stadiums have been equipped to help journalists perform their media and press functions to the fullest.

Yemen and Pakistan in anti-piracy cooperation talks

Aden Governor Adnan Al-Jafri met on Monday with Pakistan's Ambassador to Yemen, Syed Khawaja, and the crew of The Tariq, a Pakistani warship currently visiting Yemen. The meeting focused on the bilateral cooperation in fighting maritime piracy.

Al-Jafri described to the envoy and crew the developments Aden has made, mainly in the investment and economic sectors, as well as the efforts being made to tackle pirates in the Gulf of Aden. Khawaja praised the level of cooperation between Yemen and his country, and said Pakistan is looking forward to opening a Pakistani school in Aden. The captain of warship praised the facilities that Aden Port and the local Aden authorities provide for ships.

Taiz deputy governor named

Republican decree No. 211 for 2010 was issued on Thursday appointing Ali Aziz Ali Al-Hujairi as deputy governor of Taiz governorate.



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The many dangers of Yemen's water shortage

By: Malak Shaher

n the best case scenario water is carried on a donkey's back, but in most parts of Yemen, it is largely women who take up the burden of climbing up and down mountains to fetch water from springs and deliver it to their houses.

For Hanan Hizam and Bushra Aqlan, two teenage neighbors who live on the peak of a mountain in Same', Taiz governorate, getting water for their families is an arduous task.

Every day they clamber down the mountain side to reach a small river, where they fill their 20 litre water containers, place them on their heads, and climb back up the mountain. The number of journeys they must take each day depends on their families' needs, but each trip takes just over an hour.

The two girls were filmed by a French organization, What's Up Productions, that came to Yemen in June 2010 to conduct a study on the shortage of water. In the video posted on their website, Hanan said that a girl from their village had broken her leg and another had broken her arm on the same journey they do every day. She looks into the camera pleading to the government to help them get better access to water.

Water access in rural areas

Nearly 50 percent of those living in villages and remote parts of Yemen depend on springs, wells, or water trucks, according to a report by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation published in 2010. But wells and water trucks are not always good alternatives for those living in rural areas. Wells are often unclean and water truck deliveries are expensive.

"The water truck in our village in Taiz costs YR 10,000 (USD 50) because my family lives very far from the city centre. They struggle a lot to obtain clean water," said Mahmoud Saeed who currently lives in Sana'a.

A report titled 'The Voice of the Poor' released by Oxfam in partnership with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation has noted that water scarcity has placed enormous pressures on farmers, some of whom have had to abandon food crops for cash crops such as qat. This brings about additional threats to the country's food security.

The shortage and expense of water has also had negative effects on livestock production as farmers find it harder to water their animals and grow feed for them. This has led to an increase in poverty among communities in some

In the remote areas where people do not have easy access to water, girls are increasingly dropping out from school as they have to spend more time collecting water from wells far from their houses, according to Abdu Al-Kubati, a water activist. Furthermore, many poor people in rural areas have resorted to drinking unsafe and contaminated water.

Water shortages in urban areas

There is a growing concern about Yemen's rapidly depleting water reserves. According to a recent report published by the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED), one third of Yemenis lack access to safe water.

The Minister of Water and Environment, Abdulrahman Al-Eryani, attributes Yemen's water problems to its rapidly increasing population and to qat cultivation. Faced by shortages of water, those living in villages are leaving for the cities and contributing to Yemen's already increasing urban population. They also come to the cities seeking work and a better life.

The increase in urban population has gradually resulted in diminishing water reserves in the cities. For example, the Sana'a water basin is running out of water - nearly 40 percent of the underground water supply in the Sana'a basin has already been depleted. The current population in Sana'a is estimated at 3 million, over a million more than a de-

In the not too distant past, people in the Sana'a basin were digging down 100 feet to hit water, but now they have to dig as deep as 1,000 feet, Al-Eryani mentioned in a workshop held by the ministry in June. Over the last 20 years, the groundwater in Yemen has been



Hana and Bushra struggle to carry water to their families on a perilous mountain track near a village in Taiz

pumped up at a rate approximately four ters is fast heading towards depletion times greater than it can be replenished by natural recharge, the AFED report

Water, qat and conflict

According to Professor Abdulla Al-Noman from Sana'a University's Faculty of Agriculture, the planting of qat is increasing which further exacerbates the stress on water reserves, especially in Sana'a. There are approximately 13,500 wells in Sana'a alone that are dedicated to irrigating qat.

It is estimated that more than 90 percent of the water resources in Yemen are used for irrigation, with 36 percent consumed for watering qat trees alone. Wide-spread illegal well drilling in the Sana'a basin and elsewhere takes further unknown amounts of water.

The groundwater around the capital is depleting fast. The first layer of the basin from 30 to 70 meters has already run dry. Most of the second layer from 70 to 300 meters has been depleted, and the third layer which reaches 900 metoo, according to Engineer Abdulkhaleq Al-Wan, a public awareness specialist at the Sana'a branch of the National Water Resources Authority.

In fact, there is a real 'water war' in Yemen where in some areas people fight over water like the recent conflicts in Amran. Last year, in a small village in Amran governorate, qat farmers wanted to monopolize wells in order to irrigate their farms. As a result, many people were unable to obtain water from the wells they had been dependent on for their own domestic needs.

Arguments and acts of violence flared up between farmers and villages until an agreement was forged between the parties by local elders. Now anyone breaking the water sharing agreement has to pay a fine of YR 5,000 (USD 25).

In Rada'a district, Al-Baidh governorate, conflicts over water used to irrigate qat spilled over into deadly violence a few months ago. Conflict between the Wadi Thah and Al-Mas'oud tribes over a well irrigating qat led to attacks that left 11 people dead, six from Al-Mas'oud and five from Wadi Thah, according to Dhan Al-Rada'i, an eyewitness from a village overlooking the area.

According to a report by the Yemen Armed Violence Assessment (YAVA), violence over land and water kill far more people in Yemen than internal political conflicts. Around 4,000 people are killed over land and water disputes each year.

According to the United Nations, two to three litres of water are required per person per day for drinking, and 20 to 30 litres for other domestic needs. Nowadays, getting this basic minimum is becoming increasingly difficult for many

You can watch What's Up Productions' video about Yemen's water crisis on their website at: http://www.whatsup-prod.com

'I Love My Book' campaign – instilling reading in children



Students from Khawla school pose for the Yemen Times holding books provided by the 'I Love My Book' campaign. They all read books and want more.

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Sana'a, excitedly turning the pages of a new book. The shelves around her are stacked full of children's books, all provided by the 'I Love My Book' campaign, a project launched by the British Council.

Laila is an avid reader, her parents having encouraged her to read and write from a young age. She is one of the library's most regular visitors and an annual visitor to Yemen's Book Fair. The 11 year old is always asking her parents to provide her with new books.

"When I read any story I feel that I'm part of it. I like reading stories more than reading school text books," she said. "When there are no new books, it's no problem, I just re-read the old ones," she said jokingly.

Despite her young age, Laila is well aware of the importance of reading.

"Reading is very important. There is no good future without reading," she

Laila has been able to take her hobby aila Al-Abbadi sits cross- to new heights thanks to the 'I Love My literate parents fail to support their chillegged in the corner of Book' campaign. The campaign was set program called Global Change Makers, supported by the British Council. It aims to encourage 9-15 year olds in Yemen to read, and to raise awareness about the importance of reading, especially among parents. As well as distributing over 600 books, the campaign has set up a number of 'children's corners' in the school libraries of Sana'a and Aden, where children can sit and read

> "Books can become your passport to another world. They enable you to share dreams with other people and benefit from their wisdom and their experience," said Michael White, the British Council Director in Sana'a. "Books do indeed enable you to build your life."

The 'I Love My Book' corner in Khawla school library was packed full of eager students, some sitting at tables, others spread-out on the floor. But despite the large gathering, the library



Students come to the library spontaneously. They prefer the books in this library to those in the school curriculum.

child absorbed in a book. The school also lends books out, so that students can take books home with them after school. Entesar Al-Ameri, the

was completely silent. Each

school's librarian smiles with pride as she looks over her students busy reading. According to Entesar, the students spontaneously come to the library and read for hours at a time.

"The campaign has had a great response from our students. They arrive in flocks, many of them prefer reading here to studying the school's curricula."

Parents are often to blame for not encouraging their children to read at home, says the head of the campaign, Elham Al-Quhali, who criticizes Yemeni culture for not consider-

ing reading as important and essential. She said even educated and dren when it comes to reading.

do not instill in their children a love for reading," she said. "If we can increase the number of libraries, especially for children, we will have a very clever future generation."

Illiteracy rates among Yemeni children have increased, according to a recent report conducted by Yemen's Shura Council. Two million children are not enrolled at school, and a high proportion of students dropout from school during the early stages of their education. The literacy rate for 15 to 24 year olds in Yemen is 80 percent, according to UN figures from 2007.

According to Al-Quhali, the campaign has helped many students discover talents in reading and writing that they never knew they had.

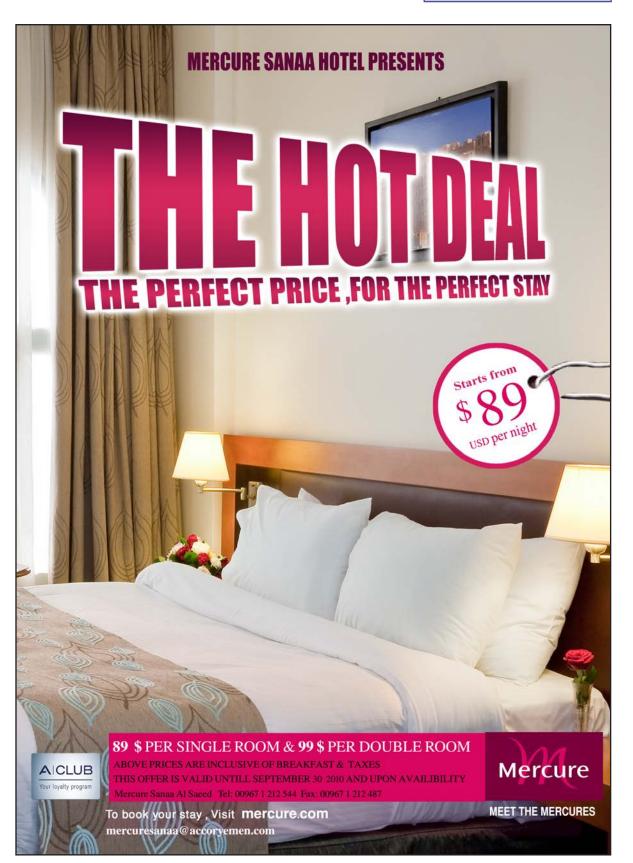
Laila Ba'alawi, 13, a student at the same school, said that because she has read so many stories she now wants to try writing her own. "I have taught my mother how to read and write because she is illiterate," she said proudly.

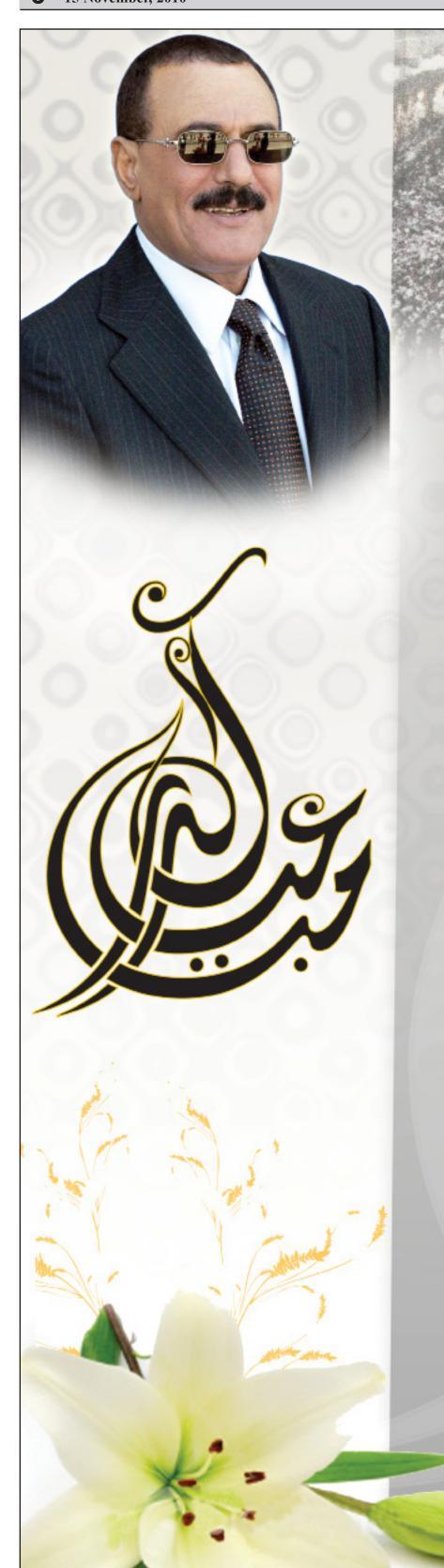
Laila said that she reads about five books a day and tries to encourage her younger sisters to read. When she is older she hopes to become a dentist and author of children's stories.

"I cannot reach my dream without reading," she said.

Reading stories is a great adventure, according to student Shams Sameer, 10, who likes to read adventure and horror stories. Shams wants to be a painter one day, and believes that reading creates many ideas and stimulates her imagination that helps her when painting.

Student Ashjan Ebraheem, 11, praised the books provided by the campaign, calling for all students to be good readers to obtain important information and a good future.





تتقدم شركة صافر لعمليات الإستكشاف والإنتاج بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى فخامة الأخ /

على عبد الله صالح حفظه الله رئيس الجمهورية وكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة عيد الأضحى المبارك

کل عام واننم بغیر

المدير التنفيذي ونائبه وكافة منتسبي الشركة

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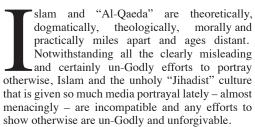
لافرير العام التنفيزي المهندس / محيد عبدالله العراشة

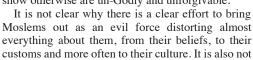


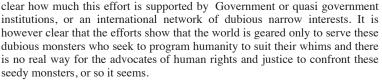
COMMON SENSE

The killings in Iraq are NOT ISLAMIC

Al-Qaeda jihadist culture & Islam







By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Moreover, it is clearly being done with so called "Moslems" being an effective instrument, knowingly or unknowingly, to make this distorted image physically apparent and mentally illustrated.

The world has truly retracted in human, social and cultural development and most people in the world would have lost control of their destinies by now, as well as their liberty and freedom and whatever discretion they had in deciding the courses of their lives. We are reliving the medieval period of history with a technological twist, no more - no less.

People do not seem to see how much decision making power they have lost over their lives' directions and indeed would soon become slaves of a diabolical world order that is fast becoming void of morals and ethical values, let alone healthy economic and social frameworks that all can benefit from.

It is truly unforgivable for human intellect to simply let it be and not care about the world where our descendents will have to live in, more as slaves than with any notions of the right of men (and women) to be free. Now it seems that only power dictates how people are ruled. Thus, laws and social contracts become meaningless in government as such and are in fact viewed as obstacles to the mischievous world being sought after by hidden forces that are beyond the reach of sane and responsible human beings, who do not fail to see the underpinnings of all this evil and mischief we see unfolding before our very

In this pathetic environ, it becomes even more difficult to defend Islam and project the final genuine monotheistic mission as it really is and how people should really see the religion of Islam. That is why the challenge is not easy and perhaps puts one on a long winding road, with rugged tracks to trod on, before realizing any meaningful successes. But then, if one succeeded in getting one distorted impression of Islam corrected, one can indeed feel a sense of pride, when considering the meager chances one has in countering all the technology and institutional frameworks that are geared to instill a misguided image of Islam, undoubtedly supported by substantial Zionist funding and organizational

This effort is no simple undertaking and demands much patience and intellect, so as to ensure that, no matter what efforts are made to state that Islam is the origin of misguided behavior, which is currently being subjected to widespread gross exaggeration as part and parcel of Islamic dogma and practice, there are convincing responses ("Debate with them, with what is bette"r - The Holy

There are of course answers to all the accusations one makes of Islam and all the false connotations that Islam is terror redefined, as the western media is seeking to project. Of course, the first response one has to make sure to point out is: If all that is badly portrayed about Islam is even 10 percent of its misrepresented image in western media and in particular the Zionist or pro-Zionist media in the West, then one would find a very miniscule population affiliated with Islam, which never, ever imposed the religion on any non-Moslems who were under Islamic domains. The existence of non-Moslems (Jews and Christians and others) in Moslem countries in considerable numbers

It is imperative to point in this context that any killing of non-Moslems (and, of course, Moslems) in Moslem countries, such as the recent sad and tragic murders of Christians in Baghdad is wholly the product of an evil so called "Jihadist" culture and has nothing to do with Islamic teachings or any modern social dictates. In fact the perpetrators of such heinous acts are bound to burn in Hell as they are misrepresenting Islamic teachings and working to make sure that the devious agenda of the narrow interests that thrive on human conflict are served. In fact, these are contractors of death upon whom these diabolical interests depend and who the latter provide all the methodology and financial, logistical and technological support they need before and after their evil deeds.

The discussion follows.

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

> literacy rate, and asking for both economic opportunities andmost awkwardly- the removal from their lives of Islamic fundamentalism.

A divided country would break Yemen and let Al-Qaeda flourish. Salih's brutish maneuverings could hasten that divide. Our desire to see Qaeda crushed might be interpreted greenlighting to that brutality. It gives one a headache. What the US

Words of Wisdom



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

(1951 - 1999) Founder of Yemen Times



By 2050 Yemen will rule the world

the year 2050 Yemen will rule the world. Not because we will have become the strongest country in the world. But because everyone else will have taken off to other planets, while we are still working on girls' education and employment opportunities for the youth.

By that time, the most powerful countries will have destroyed our beloved Earth with their industrial emissions and finished off all the oil and water in the world.

Then because of a new cold war that will have started in 2020 between the USA, EU, China, India and a resurrected Russia, countries will create space vessels using new technologies and set off in search of other planets to

Other semi-powerful countries will hop onto the flights, some stuffed in the cargo, but nevertheless they will manage to find their way into outer space.

Then suddenly behold, the globe goes quiet.

Except for the occasional spitting sound made by Yemenis chewing qat in the mafraj on the top floor, where they will have gathered to wave goodbye to the others. Then all activity will cease.

Of course there will be a few nomads and jungle people who were also left behind. We will discover them, or rather they us, because we really won't budge. They will come closer, poke our bulging cheeks and mumble in awe "green teeth man.'

High on qat we will look at them without really seeing. A long time will pass like this until one of the less numbed chewing men will throw them a qat branch as if to say "take

Banging on their chests the jungle people will announce triumph. At last they have found the magic tree! Then they will make themselves comfortable and start chewing qat

Then, and only then, will the Yemeni flag be raised high on top of the highest building on Earth, announcing that Yemen is now the master of the globe. Who got up and went to place it there I am yet to figure out. But nevertheless we made it.

I am also trying to imagine where the women and children of Yemen will be. My best guess is that they are in another room, also chewing qat, and receiving the women of the

In our dazed celebration of becoming masters, we will not notice the quiet extra-terrestrial desperately signaling "I love you" from his spaceship. He has been trying to get permission to land along with his other friends, after being kicked off their own planets by the former Earthlings who set off in 2050 on a quest to invade the galaxy.

A long time will pass until someone spots them, waves at them the green branch of peace, and once again proves that qat is the best thing that ever happened to Yemen.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Things we don't know

By: Gregory D. Johnsen Waq Al Waq

tudying and thinking about groups like Al-Qaeda can be an intellectually dangerous undertaking. Like most areas of study, the information one is dealing with is often heavily biased. Additionally, there is often comparatively little information to study. This means that constructing a coherent narrative about what is going on often requires reading much too much into too little evidence; piecing together disparate shards of evidence to create a comprehensive whole. Anytime anyone is basing so much of their analysis on such a precarious base of evidence the results can become quite skewed, which is, at least for me, one of the reasons that so much of the writing and "scholarship" on Al-Qaeda is

But this also means that it is important to still deal with the evidence that doesn't fit neatly into any narrative. And this brings us to the point of today's post. Two things that have been bothering me for some time about AQAP (there are many more, but I will only post on two) and for which I don't have good answers.

The first issue is why wasn't the hit list of 55 security officers released through Al-Malahim's media wing? This was the list that was distributed around Abyan in September on the authority of "Al-Qaeda" that the individuals ("spies") on the list needed to repent after Friday prayers in Zanjibar, the capital of Abyan, on September 10, 2010 or they would be fair game for Al-Qaeda. To the best of my knowledge, only one individual from the list, Ghazi Al-Samawi, has

It is difficult to be certain, however, as some of the names are only first names or first names and father's names, which could be almost anybody. For instance, I don't think yesterday's killing of Muhammad 'Abd Al-'Aziz in Mukalla was the same Muhammad 'Abd Al-'Aziz as is on the list as the list seemed to be restricted to Abyan

So this issues really raises two questions, which themselves beg a number more.

1. Why didn't Al-Malahim release this? If it

was an official AQAP directive, surely the media wing would have put it out by now. 2. Why in all the assassinations of security officials that have taken place in recent weeks has only one of them been directed at an individual on the list of 55?

Previously when AQAP distributed something locally - I'm thinking of the Tarbush video - it also distributed it on the Internet.

Speculation could lead down some interesting roads - some of which others are already exploring: Does Al-Wihayshi have as much command-and-control over the organization as some previously thought? Have all the new recruits over the past year-and-a-half made the organization too big to be effectively controlled by Al-Wihayshi, Al-Shihri, Al-Raymi, and Al-'Abab - (notice Anwar Al-Awlaki is not on that

2. What ever happened to AQAP's threat to execute the security official from Sa'dah, Ali Muhammad Salih Al-Hisam, it claimed to have in custody back in mid-September? At that point it gave the government 48 hours to release two prisoners or it would execute Al-Hisam. So what

To the best of my knowledge no who knows is saying. AQAP has not released a statement either saying Al-Hisam was executed or that its two comrades were returned, so where does this leave us?

If the prisoners are still in prison this should be verifiable (I almost wrote "easily," but then I remembered.) But mostly, I'm curious as to why AQAP hasn't followed this statement up with anything.

In 2010 there has been a wandering to the organization's media message, meandering statements on a variety of subjects that wasn't present in 2008 and 2009. Some of this may be attributable to the death of Al-Qahtani, the Saudi founder of Sada Al-Malahim. But I tend to believe both that this is one of the reasons for Sada Al-Malahim's faltering schedule and also that the removal of one individual like Al-Qahtani wouldn't have this much impact on the group's media strategy. So, again, where does this leave us?

Focus on rebellion in Yemen, not Al-Qaeda

By: Brian O'Neill

ollowing the attempted Christmas bombing, many in America realized that there was a major Al-Qaeda presence in Yemen, which was until then an only vaguelymentioned country. News stories began describing the wrenching poverty and looming ecological and demographic nightmare that Yemen was facing. There were many stories about a persistent rebellion in the north of the country, which only recently has seen a cease-fire. And now, news reports out of Yemen are dealing with an increasingly violent secession movement in the south Readers can be forgiven for thinking that governing Yemen is an endless routine of crisis management; after all, this is entirely accurate.

While these series of problems can be met with eye-rolling, as they are almost comical in their repetition, the rebellion in the south is a different animal altogether than the other rebellions. It, more than anything else, has the potential to tear this fragile nation apart.

The briefest of history is in order: North and South Yemen (terms that are geographically imprecise but politically expedient) have only been unified since 1990. Before that, you had a northern Republic and a Marxist southern state, whose main economic benefactor was the Soviet Union. Following the end of the Cold War, two poor states united, but uneasily. Political maneuvering and violence, much of it at the feet of still-President Ali Abdullah Salih, led to war in

The north won, and, in the southern narrative, essentially colonized their countrymen. In the battle, Salih relied on jihadis recently returned from fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan, and saw this as a chance to use their skills against a "godless" enemy. In return, the fundamentalists were able to impose their writ upon what had been a more free, secular people (they also destroyed Yemen's only brewery. an event which to this day causes the heart to break). Land was taken, and the south slumped into even deeper poverty.

Needless to say this chafed. What is now known as the Southern Movement began to coalesce in 2007, when army officers demanded their pension, and younger soldiers decried regional prejudice in promotions

- the army being one of the few avenues for social mobility. Salih cracked down, and what started as a peaceful call for more rights and less economic repression turned into a call for divorce.

This is of far greater importance than the immediate threat Al-Qaeda. Qaeda dangerous, both to Yemen and the West, but ultimately they do not pose an existential threat Yemen What they car do is both distract the government from dealing with its larger problems and take advantage of the distractions. As long as the southern issue festers, Yemen will not be able to deal with what we see as most important. It should go without saying that pressuring Salih to focus entirely Al-Qaeda is self-defeating.

But this movement puts the U.S. in a problematic position. Salih is our ostensible ally, and the cart to which we have hitched our wagon. We have done so tentatively, wary of his endless calculation and machinations, but in the end we need him. However, it is not in our interest, morally or strategically, to be allowing our ally to crush a movement demanding women's rights, decrying the crashing

has to do is withhold counter-

goes to the table with the leaders of the movement, and works out a peace deal (which, to me, would have to include a large degree of autonomy, if only to build a wall to re-establish trust). It is difficult to temporarily ignore what is our primary interest in Yemen, but helping to solve this endless cycle of crises is the only way to ensure that a defeated Al-Qaeda does not again resurrect itself from the fire.

terrorism money unless Salih

Eid Al-Adha K E T Look man! our lives have Н been spared E once again! D O P N 0 By: Hamid

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Financing the green economy

By: Meles Zenawi and Jens Stoltenberg

t the climate-change summit in Copenhagen last December, political leaders expressed a strong will to urgently combat global warming. As we approach the next climate-change summit in Cancún, Mexico, this December, the international community must deliver concrete results and move forward to address the challenge.

Finance is a key ingredient of the global response to climate change. In this regard, at the Copenhagen summit developed countries committed them-

selves to the goal of jointly mobilizing USD 100 billion annually by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries. These funds would be transferred to developing countries in the context of meaningful – and transparently implemented – mitigation measures taken on their behalf.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's High-level Advisory Group on Climate Finance (AGF), which we chaired, was established to identify practical proposals for how developed countries can mobilize this level of climate financing by 2020. The 21-member group included heads of state and ministers from both developed and developing countries, representa-

tives from international organizations, experts on public finance and development, and leaders from the private sector.

Admittedly, the current global economic environment has placed public finances in many developed countries under extreme pressure. Nevertheless, the AGF's report concludes that reaching the goal of raising USD 100 billion a year by 2020, while challenging, is feasible. It will require a mix of new public sources, a scaling-up of existing public sources, and increased private flows.

Among the AGF's conclusions, which we have presented to the UN Secretary-General, there are some important messages:

First, a carbon price in the range of USD 20-25 per ton of CO2 by 2020 is key to mobilizing climate finance at this level. Carbon prices expand the potential for both public and private financing by raising public revenue and creating private-sector demand for emission reductions.

Second, new public mechanisms can mobilize tens of billions of dollars annually, an important step towards the USD 100-billion goal. Examples include the auctioning of emissions allowances, carbon taxes, and the pricing of emissions from international transport. Policy instruments based on carbon pricing are particularly attractive, because they

raise revenue for adaptation to climate change in developing countries while creating incentives for mitigation in developed countries.

Third, international private investment flows are essential. It is the private sector that will finance most low-carbon, sustainable growth. Public funding should help leverage climate-friendly private investments. The multilateral development banks, in close collaboration with the UN system, can play a significant multiplier role in this regard.

Several sources of financing for adaptation and mitigation efforts in developing countries could be made operational relatively quickly. We need to make progress on establishing the Co-

penhagen Green Climate Fund, including, possibly, regional and thematic vehicles, such as an Africa Green Fund.

Ensuring economic growth and addressing climate change do not have to be opposing goals. They can and should go hand in hand; what we need is climate-resilient, low-carbon growth. It is now up to governments, international institutions, and the private sector to draw on our analysis in support of climate action.

Meles Zenawi is Prime Minister of Ethiopia; Jens Stoltenberg is Prime Minister of Norway.

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The cost of America's free lunch

By: Daniel Gros

or decades, the world has complained that the dollar's role as global reserve currency has given the United States, in a term usually attributed to Charles de Gaulle but actually coined by his finance minister, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, an "exorbitant privilege." As long as exchange rates were fixed under the Bretton Woods system, the nature of that privilege was clear: the US was the only country that could freely determine its own monetary policy. All others had to adapt to the policy dictated by the US.

This changed with the advent of floating exchange rates in the early 1970's, which allowed more stability-conscious countries, such as Germany, to decouple from a US monetary policy that they considered too inflationary. But, even under floating exchange rates, the US retained an advantage: given that the dollar remained the key global reserve

currency, the US could finance large external deficits at very favorable rates.

Today, the US Treasury can still borrow unlimited amounts at rock-bottom interest rates. Indeed, the interest rate on inflation-protected bonds has now become -0.5 percent, even for a five-year maturity. The US government is thus essentially being paid in real terms to take investors' money – a generous offer that it is accepting on a huge scale, in the hope that channeling these resources to American consumers will boost household spending and thus generate more jobs.

The US seems to have come as close as one can imagine to getting the proverbial "free lunch" – except that, as economists are fond of pointing out, there is no such thing. And that is true here as well: performing the role of reserve currency enables the US to borrow on the cheap, but at the cost of any significant influence over the exchange rate, which is determined by the rest of the world's demand for dollar assets.

Germany discovered this during the 1960's and 1970's, and resisted the Deutschemark's trend toward becoming an international reserve currency. The German authorities feared that the country's export-oriented economy would suffer from the wide exchangerate swings that are the norm for global reserve currencies. Given the weakness of other European currencies, however, and Germany's desire to keep markets open, there was very little that its offi-

cials could do.

As the DM became a major international reserve currency during the 1980's and 1990's, large gyrations in the dollar exchange rate did, indeed, have at times a dramatic impact on the German economy. One reason why Germany agreed to merge the DM into the euro was the hope that a monetary union would distribute the burden of the reserve-currency role over a wider area.

The US economy is still rather closed (imports and exports account on average

for only about 15 percent of GDP), and historically exports have never been the main engine of its growth. This is why the traditional US stance has been: "It is

our exchange rate, but your problem."
So why is the US now singing a different tune? The answer is obvious:
America's high unemployment rate, which hovers between 9 percent and 10 percent. This is the price that the US must pay for its lunch: Americans can continue to consume a lot, but the jobs are elsewhere.

Today, China has replaced Germany (and Japan) as the world's top exporter – but with one difference: it manages its exchange rate tightly, using capital controls and massive intervention in currency markets. As the only major economy with capital controls, China has created its own "exorbitant privilege": it can determine its exchange rate because no other big countries impose capital controls.

The two global economic superpowers resent each other's "exorbitant priv-

ilege." The US would like to have the Chinese jobs, and the Chinese would like to have better investment opportunities. Neither side is budging, although either could easily break the impasse.

The Chinese could abolish capital controls and let the renminbi's exchange rate float. But the US could easily end China's privilege by restricting sales of Treasury (and other US) debt to the Chinese monetary authorities. In doing so, the US would break no international commitments and would not start a trade war. Such a move is likely to be effective, given the sheer size of Chinese interventions (hundreds of billions of US dollars annually), which could not easily be recycled through offshore banks without exposing the China's central bank to many other risks.

Prohibiting the Chinese authorities from buying US debt would, of course, be tantamount to imposing capital controls, thereby breaking China's monopoly on such instruments. But it might also mean an end to America's position

at the center of the world's financial system – and thus an end to its own "exorbitant privilege."

There really is no free lunch. The US must choose between job creation, which requires a more competitive exchange rate, and cheap financing of its external and fiscal deficits.

While China and the US battle it out, each trying to retain its own "exorbitant privilege," Europe seems to be stuck in the middle, suffering from the same disadvantages of the US position, but enjoying none of its privileges. The euro is also a global reserve currency (albeit of secondary importance), but most eurozone governments' financing costs are much higher than what the US Treasury pays. This is one of the costs of the incomplete nature of financial integration in Europe.

Daniel Gros is Director of the Centre for European Policy Studies.

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The great game's new players

By: Jaswant Singh

wo "great games" currently roil South Asia. In the West, Afghanistan — and what Henry Kissinger calls "Islamist Jihadists"— challenges the international order. In the East, a large number of Chinese troops have entered Pakistani-held territory high in the mountain fastness of the Kashmir Karakorams, in the picturesque Gilgit-Baltistan region, not far from the glacial battlefield of Siachen, where India and Pakistan confront each other.

Senge Hasan Sering, from Skardu, the director of the Gilgit-Baltistan National Congress, believes that the number of Chinese People's Liberation Army troops now present "could be over 11,000," as there are also additional "PLA construction corps personnel" deployed. It is here that China is

currently investing "billions of dollars in mega projects like expressways, tunnels, and oil and gas pipelines." This, Sering says, is "surely not on account of any overflowing altruism."

The Chinese say that some of their troops are present in Pakistan because of another sort of "overflowing," of which there has been a great deal in this part of Kashmir and in the rest of Pakistan. This year's heavy monsoon rains have wrought havoc in the area, severing road connections, washing away bridges, and rendering over half a million people homeless in these mountains - without "dwellings, farmlands, moveable assets," or even "graveyards." This is over and above the many thousands in the Hunza region, who in January lost everything on account of a cloudburst that wiped out several villages and created a highly unstable artificial lake.

Rudyard Kipling's old "Great Game" now has new contestants. Instead of an

expansionist Russian empire confronting Imperial Britain, it is now a China hungry for land, water, and raw materials that is flexing its muscles, encroaching on Himalayan redoubts and directly challenging India.

China's incursion reaffirms the ancient strategic axiom that "geography is the real determinant of history" – and, as a result, of foreign and security policy, too. Robert Kaplan wisely observes that "Indian geography is the story of invasions from a northwesterly direction," and "India's strategic challenges still inhere in this fact," which is why Afghanistan, to Indian eyes, is linked to the sub-continent's history, and thus our future.

It is also why there exists an "organic connection of India to Central Asia," the key to that link lying in the Himalayas, which is where the India-China rivalry is currently focused. Fortunately, at least for the present, this rivalry is far

less emotional than India-Pakistan relations, having not been born of historical grievances.

The Chinese urge is to break from the confines of their country's history, and thus China's own geography. An assertive and relatively stable China, it seems, must expand, lest pent-up internal pressures tear it apart. A strong and stable India, on the other hand, will always be a status quo power.

It is against this backdrop that the latest contest between India and China must be assessed. Several thousand PLA troops are indisputably stationed in the Khunjerab Pass on the Xinjiang border to protect the Karakoram Highway, which PLA soldiers are now repairing in several places. The road, after all, is a vital link in China's quest for direct access to the Arabian Sea. But this is also Indian territory, wherein lies the rub, for the region is now victim to a creeping China acquisitiveness, with Pakistan

acquiescing as a willing accomplice.

Despite India's historically established territorial claims to the region, China terms the area "disputed," a description that it has now begun to extend to the whole of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. This sort of verbal trickery to hide a strategic objective has been seen before. Indeed, some years back, a planned visit to Indian Ladakh by the PLA's commander of the Lanzhou Military Region was canceled on the grounds that Pakistan had protested – implying that Pakistan had a legitimete doing to the area.

mate claim to the area.

It would be a mistake to presume that the vast expansion of trade between India and China, currently worth more than USD 60 billion annually (with China now India's largest trading partner), must lead to improved bilateral relations. Even while trade expands, China is attempting to confine India within greatly foreshortened land and

sea borders through its so-called "string of pearls policy."

This effort to encircle India by sea with strategically positioned naval stations from Hainan in the East to Gwadar in the West, and on land by promoting bogus Pakistani claims that undermine India's territorial integrity, takes the "Great Game" to a new and more dangerous level. Indeed, the pincer of Afghanistan and Gilgit/Baltistan poses the gravest challenge to India's statecraft since Independence.

More than that, the struggle now underway at the top of the world may well determine whether this will be an "Asian Century" or a "Chinese Century."

Jaswant Singh, a former foreign minister, finance minister, and defense minister of India, is a member of the opposition in India's parliament.

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The case for re-regulating capital accounts

By: Jose Antonio Ocampo

oday's debates over "currency wars" reveal two paradoxical features of the global economy. The first is that there is no mechanism linking world trade rules to exchange-rate movements. Countries spend years negotiating trade rules, but exchange-rate movements can, within days, have a greater impact on trade than those painstaking deals. Furthermore, exchange-rate movements are essentially determined by financial flows and may have no effects in terms of correcting global trade imbalances.

The second paradox is that monetary expansion may be largely ineffective in the country that undertakes it, but can generate large negative externalities on others. This is particularly true of the quantitative easing now underway in the United States, because the American dollar is the major global reserve currency.

So far during the financial crisis and

ensuing recession, the US has been incapable of kick-starting credit growth, the major transmission mechanism by which monetary expansion feeds through to domestic economic activity. But it is inducing massive capital flows to emerging markets, where they are generating asset-price bubbles. If this leads to a weakening of the dollar, it would also have negative effects on trading partners. (The same can be said of recent Japanese monetary-policy decisions.)

Some proposals would resolve the first of these paradoxes by allowing countries to use the World Trade Organization's dispute-resolution mechanism in cases of exchange-rate manipulation. But this is the wrong way to go, for it might serve only to erode one of the few effective mechanisms in place to make multilateral agreements binding.

Unilateral countervailing duties against countries that are hypothetically manipulating their exchange rates are equally bad. This does not mean, of course, that China should take no action to correct the undervaluation of its currency, though some recognition should be given to the way in which it is already contributing to solving this problem by allowing domestic wages to rise.

A much better way forward is to rethink seriously the role of cross-border capital-account regulations. One of the major areas of agreement during the recent crisis has been that deregulated financial activities can be a source of major macroeconomic disruptions.

The G-20, however, has largely focused on re-regulating domestic finance, whereas cross-border finance has been left entirely off its agenda, as if it required no regulation –and indeed as if it were not part of global finance. A particular linguistic twist is also involved here: domestic financial regulations are called by that name, but if they involve cross-border flows, they are called "controls."

A serious discussion of global capital-account regulations would benefit

both advanced and emerging-market economies. The effectiveness of monetary expansion could be enhanced in advanced countries by reducing the leakages generated by the carry trade and other short-term capital outflows.

Actually, this would imply a return to the IMF's founding principle: it is in the best interest of all members to allow countries to pursue their own full-employment macroeconomic policies, even if this requires regulating capital flows. This is why capital-account regulations are allowed under IMF rules, and why the attempt to introduce capital-account convertibility into the IMF's Articles of Agreement was defeated in 1997.

For emerging markets, the best way forward is to correct the incentives for interest-rate arbitrage at the source of capital flows. Such a reform would also serve as a mechanism of coordination at the international level, since coordinated capital-account regulations by recipient countries would be difficult to achieve. In the absence of such coordination, the unilateral approaches now

in place could generate further distor-

This type of correction would also allow emerging markets to pursue more restrictive monetary policies, which they now need, given their greater macroeconomic strength. Indeed, the world will be characterized for several years by the asymmetry generated by advanced countries' weakness and emerging economies' strength, which calls for asymmetry in these two groups of countries' monetary policies. That would be very difficult to manage without some form of capital-account regulation.

Many regulations make sense, as the IMF has recognized in several cases. A reserve requirement on cross-border flows is one of them. Mutual and other private-sector funds require minimum terms for investments, and such mandatory lock-up periods should be applied to capital inflows as well. High capital and provision requirements for certain transactions, or prohibition of such transactions, should also be introduced for prudential reasons. This is particu-

larly true with respect to lending in foreign currencies to economic agents that do not have revenues in those currencies

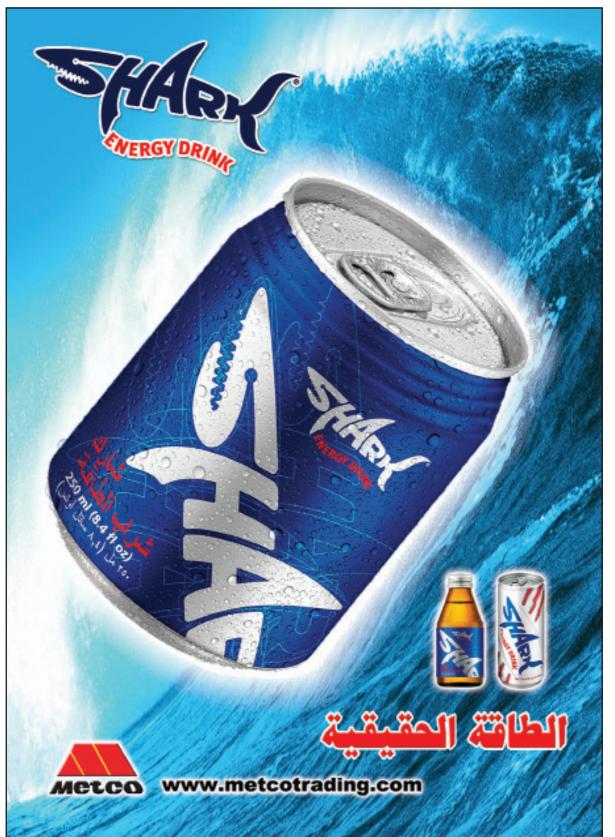
At the source, capital requirements for currency mismatches in portfolios, together with margin requirements on foreign-exchange derivatives, make sense. Non-deliverable forward contracts should be subject to close regulation and supervision in both source and destination countries. In fact, a tax on foreign-exchange transactions – the so-called "Tobin tax," advocated by the late Nobel laureate economist James Tobin – might be the simplest way to go.

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لشركة كنيديان نكسن بتروليم بمن قطاع المسيلة (14) و شركة كنيديان نكسن بتروليم شرق الحجر المحدودة

قطاع (51)

و الإدارة العليا وجميع موظفي القطاعين بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى فخامة الأخ/

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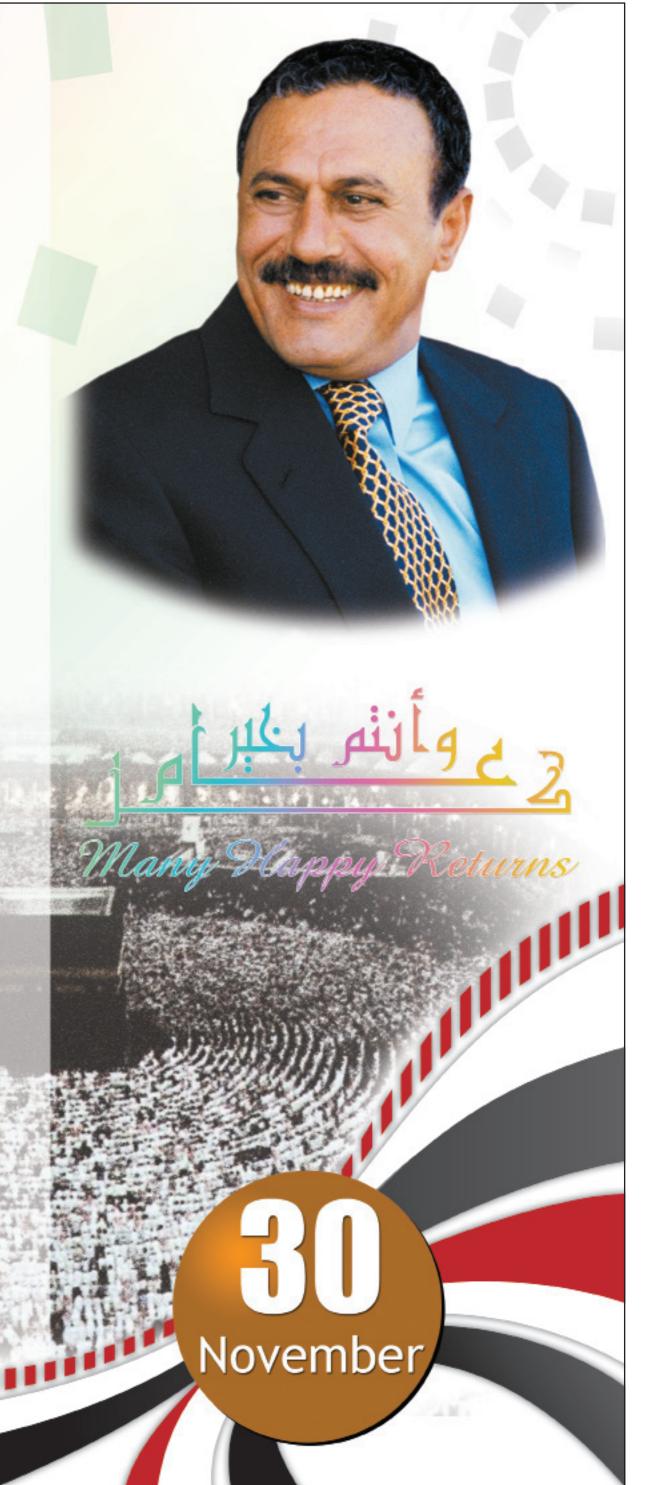
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H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen

e occasion of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubark and Anniversary of the Independence Day



Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al Hajr Ltd. Block "51"



Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen & its Masila Block "14" Partners By: Shatha Al-Harazi

or more than 45 minutes we were in a taxi trying to get to a well-known hospital in Sana'a. The taxi driver claimed he knew it when we first got into the car. Asking people in the street wasn't helpful either. For more than 45 minutes we were driving around the same two corners. As people kept telling us it was around the other corner we lost hope," said Amal Mohammad, an executive secretary in an import and export company.

People sometimes wrongly direct you with such confidence, that you put a lot of effort into going completely the wrong direction.

"Once I was trying to get to an official's club to attend a workshop. I was just in front of it when the taxi driver stopped me and told me to go from the back gate. I walked for 20 minutes to get there, but when I arrived the guard told me it's the wrong place, and I had to walk for 25 minutes to get to the right place. I kept asking everyone passing me by to make sure I was walking in the right direction, and I was surprised how people confidently gave me the wrong directions," said Khalid Al-Ahdel an English teacher.

The fact that people give wrong directions is well known in the capital Sana'a. "People think it's shameful to say they don't know a place. In fact they want to help you, but they don't realize that they give you hard time," said Mohammad, a driver who learned to find his way by calling people for directions on his cell

phone

People in Yemen are also not familiar to using maps if they need to visit someone for the first time. They don't Google it using the main bus station or the post code like some people do in developed countries. In Yemen, the only way to find a new place is by calling the person you are visiting and they will send you to a well-known place or landmark. Then they will give you directions from that place and you might call again and again until you finally arrive, or they will send someone who knows the route to pick you up.

At the moment the map of Sana'a on Google Earth is not that helpful, as only the main areas are labeled, according to Khalid Al-Nhmi in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) department. "The department has established 80 percent of a GIS database on Google Earth to implement the developed countries system and make it easier for anyone to know the directions they need," said Al-Nihmi. "We first need to arrange the streets signs and get that done, and then apply it on Google Earth. It will have all the details, will tell you if the street is one or two ways, and also if there is diversions," he added.

"The only maps available are tourist maps, which are only available in Arabic for now and can be found in the tourism offices." These maps contain only the main tourist places in the capital, and now we try to have them in as many languages as possible," said Al-Nhmi.

Some taxi drivers cannot get you to well-known places you want to go. Either they are new in Sana'a so they don't know the places yet, or they get you lost intentionally to keep you in the taxi longer

and get more money from you.

"The taxi driver rarely tells you honestly that he is new in the city. They always try to get the customer in the taxi whether they know [the destination] or they don't," said Amal.

Taxi drivers do not need to pass a special exam to prove that they know the streets, but there are still some procedures to get a taxi license. "It's not like if someone just turns up and asks for a taxi license he will get it. He should first have a private license for at least four years before asking for a taxi license," said Deputy Technical Manager at the Traffic Authority, Abd Al-Kareem Nahshel.

"The test for the license is what determines whether he gets one, but there are no specific tests to measure his knowledge of the streets," Nahshel added.

There are four kinds of traffic licenses in Yemen, for motorcycles, private cars, average-size transports, and taxis. If a taxi driver does not have any kind of license and he is caught, then he is fined YR 5,000 to 10,000. If he already has a license, but not for driving a taxi, then he has to pay a fine between YR 2,000 to 5,000, according to Nahshel.

"Even though this is the law, we are in Yemen and the law is not always implemented" he added.

"Taxis with meters most of the time intentionally get you lost to get more money. Once I was going to a place 10 minutes away so I took a 'Raha' [a meter taxi company] because it's cheaper. But I didn't pay attention to the road because I never thought the driver would take a 35 minute route to make me pay more money. I have learned to focus on the streets

ever since," said Rana Hassan, a student at the Faculty of Arts.

Adding to the confusion in directions is that many offices do not have signs on them. "I lose more money trying to get to the business offices I apply for, as most of these offices don't have sign boards, so people in the area rarely know about them. I lose money by calling the office to get directions, and more money on the driver for getting him lost. These offices don't have sign boards to evade paying taxes," said Marwa another student in Faculty of Arts.

"The addresses on business cards are not always clear. Some people just write the main street name which can be 200 meters away from their office," said Khalid.

Some neighborhoods have the same names and divisions. "I met a friend at the university living in Al-Asbahi Street near by Al-Talae' school, which is exactly the same neighborhood I live in. So we planned to meet the next morning by the school to share a taxi to the university. The next morning we kept calling each other. She said she was standing by the school, and so did I," said Abeer Abdoh, a mass communication student. "In the end we discovered that she isn't in the same neighborhood, she was in another one called Al-Asbahi, same as mine, and they have a school on a corner with the same

To give a street a name is not easy process as Al-Nhmi explains: "Now we are almost done with naming the main neigh-

borhoods and the secondary streets. We have been working on this since 2002, to have a comprehensive database. We are giving names to the streets and printing the signs. The names we give are historical places or events, unique names, the names of Yemeni heroes. The names have to be approved by the president of the country."

"The names of main streets or neighborhoods have to be unique and not repeated... so no one gets confused about them. But the secondary streets can have repeated names, usually because we give them numbers instead of names," concluded Al-Nhmi. The streets are divided according to width and length. The secondary streets have to be 12 m wide or less



Stories from Real Life

By: Nawal Zaid For the Yemen Times

Early marriage and its aftermath

A widowed mother marries off her two child sons

oriah Mohammad Al-Yarimi, 45, is married and has six children. She is housewife. After her husband's death, she lived a difficult life bringing up her children.

As life became more difficult she was forced to work in houses, leaving her children in the streets while they needed her care. Her only aim was to bring them food and other things necessary to live. She felt tired trying to juggle her work and managing the family.

She decided to marry off the eldest son Shadi, 15, and the younger Shawqi, 14. After she had them married, she used to go to work everyday leaving at home her children and the two wives of her sons, who were themselves still children. Karama, 13, was the wife of Shadi, and Hind, 12, was the wife of Shawqi.

When Noriah returned home, she faced many problems with her children and her sons' wives. She hit them under the pretext that she was bringing them up. When matters became worse, Karama and Hind went to their village in Yarim and each went to their father's house complaining about their mother-in-law Noriah.

Two weeks or more passed and Noriah went to the wives' fathers to bring them back to her house. She gave the money she had saved for their needs to the fathers of Karama and Hind.

The clashes and problems continued because the two little wives did not know the real meaning of marital life, nor did their child husbands.

Time passed and Noriah became a grandmother. Karama had a son called Akram, and Hind had a son called Mohammad. The grandmother was very happy about the new comers, but the problems became more complicated and her responsibilities increased. She was working in more than one house each day to be able to feed her own children, plus Karama and Hind and their children.

Shadi and Shawqi did not get any work and they didn't even finish their school education. They just took the money they needed and more money for qat from their mother. If she did not give them the money they needed, they became angry with her, and Shadi even used to beat her, his brothers and his wife also.

Despite all these problems, Noriah never felt sorry. She was always pressing onto Karama and Hind the responsibilities of being good wives, and telling them that a wife should bear everything, even if life had become impossible.

She used to beat them and imprison them inside the house. And when either of them got the chance to run away back to their father's house, Noriah would buy a sheep to be slaughtered for their family and then take her son's wife back. Buying sheep and handing them to the family of an insulted person is a tribal custom that is practiced to settle any problem.

The problem for Noriah was that the situation would not improve whatever she did. Noriah started to beat Hind for the smallest of reasons until Hind bled. The mother created problems to justify hitting the two child wives.

Hind was imprisoned in her room for seven days. She ate her food inside the room and only left it to use the bathroom, and even then under the strict supervision of Nevich

Hind then thought of a trick, and told everyone that she would not complain to anyone about Noriah, and that she was ready to forget what had happened to her.

They finally released Hind from her room. The day after, Hind took her clothes and left for her father's house, leaving her child with his grandmother. She remained at her father's house for two years, refusing to return to Noriah, and hoping that her father would let her return to school which she had left at preliminary level.

Ultimately, Hind won a divorce, ridding herself of Noriah and putting an end to the marriage that had lacked any feeling or hope of success. After her divorce, she did not demand the return of her son, but left him to his oppressive grandmother.

Hind is still a child and needs someone to take care of her. She did not feel like a mother towards her baby, because she herself was still a child. The baby for her was like any toy she had fun with.

Karama says she loves her husband, but she does not like the conduct of his mother. She has decided to remain with her husband, bearing all the problems and sufferings only because she really loves

A child marriage ends up tearing a family apart

afsah Mohammad Taher is 37, was married and has four daughters and three sons. She traveled from the countryside to Sana'a City where she and her husband decided to work. She started working in houses and her husband worked as a vendor selling vegetables and fruit in the streets. Hafsah, her husband Ali, and their seven children all lived in one room with a kitchen and bathroom.

All of Hafsah's children were still minors, with only nine months between each of them. When Omer their eldest son reached the age of 12, Hafsah decided to marry him to a girl from their village in Rimah. She forced him to leave his preliminary school where he was in fifth

Despite their difficult living conditions, she wanted to marry off her son who was still a child. Her neighbors advised her not to do so. They told her that what she was doing was illegal, but she did not understand

She took Omer to her village and married him to a girl aged 11, a year younger than him. The family of the bride felt very happy as their daughter would go to live in the city with her husband and his family. They did not think about the consequences of the marriage.

After the wedding they returned to Sana'a, and all of them lived in the same room with the new bride Samira and her bushand Omer

A short time after they returned, problems started between Hafsah and her husband because of the crowded room they lived in and the difficult conditions of their lives. The father asked his son Omer to find some work to help him. The child looked for work but could not find any.

Omer wanted to return to school and finish his education so he could seek his future, but his father refused and forced him to work as car cleaner, a street seller of vegetables and other difficult work.

When Omer returned home without selling anything and without money to give to his father, his father became very angry and beat him before his wife and insulted him with bad words.

This treatment created a psychological complex in Omer, who was still a child

did not know anything about marriage and its responsibility. As the days came and went, the problems increased between Omer and his family. His father started beating him severely everyday until Omer left the house, leaving his child wife with

The problems then increased between Hafsah and her husband Ali. He started to beat her also, and holding her responsible for everything. The children were deeply affected by the scenes of their mother being beaten.

Hafsah's health had been deteriorating because of the difficult lifestyle and being beaten by her husband before her children. Her beauty had diminished and she was looking older than her age. Although she was still young, she suffered from chronic diseases

After a time, her son Omer returned home and decided to take his mother and brothers to another house. They went with him and left the father alone.

Omer returned to work in the streets selling gas cylinders to feed his mother and brothers, ignoring his dream of completing his education. Later on, Hafsah decided to return to her husband and forgive him. However, by this time he had already decided to divorce her.

After divorcing his wife, Ali returned to his village and married another woman. Then he decided not to return to Sana'a and left his family there. Poor Hafsah remained fighting life and bearing the responsibility of bringing up the children. Omer was helping her by working day and night.

His child wife had become sick, and her pregnancies failed. She miscarried several times. She was often hospitalized and this affected her health badly. All of this happened because of the illiteracy and backwardness of the parents.

A cruel mother-in-law destroys a child's health and happiness

aram Saleh Al-Matari was 15. She was still a child who did not know anything about marital life. She lived in a village, in the Bani Matar district of Sana'a governorate with her family, and was studying in sixth

grade at school. She had four sisters and

A woman from the neighboring village came to engage Maram to her son, who was still a child himself and did not know anything about marriage. When the two families agreed on the engagement, Maram was very sad because she wanted to complete her studies at school.

"I do not want to marry. I beg your pardon, let me finish my study," Maram told her father. But her father forced his daughter to accept the engagement. There were relations between the family of the groom and Maram's father.

He told his daughter: "You will live with my mother," who was married to one of the groom's family. To satisfy his mother, he gave her one of his daughters to take care of her as she was old.

"I want you to be near my mother to assure myself that she is looked afer," the father told his daughter.

Time passed, and the day of marriage came and Maram was still sad because she had left her school. She was not prepared for marriage, and she did not even believe she would be a bride.

But she hid her sadness within and did not reveal it to anyone because she wanted to avoid problems with her father. She was carried in a procession to her groom though she did not know anything about marriage. She only understood that she came to this house to take care of her grounders.

Two months after the marriage, problems started between her and the mother of her husband. She used to finish the housework and go into the fields to work with her husband and his mother. The mother was forcing her to mix with foreign men and to sit in the fields with them

Maram thought this was shameful to a women and that it was prohibited to sit with men. She was feeling very sad. Besides this, her husband was not treating her fairly. When he wanted to give her something, he first asked his mother whether to give it to her or not.

The mother was also interfering in their private life without any shame. She was annoying Maram by controlling her. She was a shameless woman and inquired about everything that happened between the married couple.

When Maram learned that she was pregnant, she began asking herself how she could be a mother while she was still herself a child. How could she endure the pain of delivery? And how would she take the responsibility of bringing up a baby?

The problems had been increasing between Maram and her husband's mother until one day the mother hit Maram so hard that she had a miscarriage. The father of the husband then called Maram's father to come hospitalize his daughter.

Her father came and took her to the hospital and when she left the hospital, her husband took her back to his house. She did not tell her father about what had happened to her, and even her poor grandma was unable to do anything but feel sad for her granddaughter. Maram did not reveal to anyone what had happened.

Two months later, the bad mother of the husband continued beating Maram and humiliating her, depriving her everything until she become very sick. She wanted to go to her family and rest for a week before returning. She had decided not to talk to her father about any of her problems. She would just spend seven days with her father and then come back.

Only a day later, however, the husband's mother came with a paper for divorce in her hand, and beat Maram and insulted her before her family. The divorced child did not understand this strange behavior. She thought she was dreaming.

She was psychologically shocked and became nervous. This led to psychological and physical diseases. She did not understand about the infant she had lost, and the treatment of her mother-in-law and being divorced in the end.

Days and months passed and Maram remained in a sad corner of life. She did know how to overcome this ordeal. She had developed a complex about ever marrying another man and this developed into a chronic disease. Her father finally felt very sad for his daughter.

4U

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Yemen's Flora



Safflower: Flowers from the sun

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

afflower, also known as 'fake Saffron', is a herb used both in food and cosmetics. While it is similar to the more expensive saffron, it is also very beneficial to ones health and popular in Yemeni cuisine. Two types of safflower are known in Yemen, one is yellow while

Traditionally, the crop was grown for its seeds, and used for coloring and flavoring foods, in medicines, and for making dyes. For the last fifty years or nated in an area bounded by the eastern

so though, the plant has been cultivated mainly for the vegetable oil extracted

"In addition to using safflower in our food, it is used as a paste to regenerate the facial skin," said Maymona Ahmed who works for a beauty salon in Sana'a.

In Yemen, safflower is used in traditional medicine as a paste to reduce melasma, labyrinthine, itching and herpes. It is also used as a mouth freshener after meals and the flowers are used in a special drink to ease period pain.

Safflower is believed to have origi-



The safflower has many uses in traditional medicine.

Nutrition and health benefits of eating safflower

- 1. Consumption of safflower helps in boosting immune system, thereby giving strength to fight against diseases and infection.
- It is useful for relieving the symptoms of fever and is used as a drug for treating measles. Safflower is known to be a good uterine tonic and hence, is used for treating premenstrual syn-

drome and correcting irregular

- menstrual cycles. Since it contains very low saturated fatty acids, safflower oil helps in reducing the level of
- cholesterol in the blood Safflower paste is applied on the skin to provide relief from mild skin inflammations, rashes, and
- Safflower oil is considered to be a good remedy for acne prone skin, reducing dryness of the skin and nourishing skin with
- Due to its richness in polyunsaturated fatty acids and essential fatty acids, safflower oil is used for massaging the scalp and the hair. This results in dilating the blood vessels in the scalp, improving blood supply to the scalp and supplying more nutrients to
- A teaspoon of safflower kernels, when mixed with six shelled al-

monds and honey is used for treating constipation. The same dose has also been beneficial for young, weak and pregnant women.

- Safflower is a very effective aphrodisiac and hence, helps in the treatment of sexual debility. For this, powdered safflower seeds should be mixed with pistachio nuts, honey and almonds. This mixture when taken with milk, every day before going to bed, improves sexual vigor and thickens semen.
- Infusion of the flowers when combined with honey and consumed helps in treating asthma.
- A mixture of 1/2 teaspoon of powdered safflower seeds and one tablespoon of honey helps in treating bronchial asthma. The mixture should be consumed once or twice a day.
- Safflower also acts as an expectorant and thus, reduces the spasms by liquefying the tena-
- 13. A brew made from safflower foliage is taken for preventing abortion and female sterility.
- Safflower is also known to reduce pain, fever and enlarged

Source: http://lifestyle.iloveindia.com

Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf. It has been identified, as growing in Egypt over 4,000 years ago and has since been cultivated across the Middle East, throughout the Mediterranean region, and in India, initially for the orange dye obtained from the florets. Safflower has also spread eastwards to China and Japan. The Spaniards to took Safflower to Mexico.

The list of uses of Safflower goes on... It is used as an antiseptic to clean wounds and reduce swelling. The Chinese believe that it reduces cholesterol and 'stimulates' the immune system - although it is not advisable to take saffron during pregnancy. In addition it used as an antidepressant and to remove obsessions and irrational fears, it is also said to help induce sleep and help you relax.

"I have personally used it and recommended it to friends who feel anxious. I mixed a spoon of safflower seeds in a glass of water then strained the seeds before drinking. After taking it a few times my friends confirmed that they feel more relaxed," said Radhadh Mumaiz a Yemeni herbalist.

Others advise that mixing it with curd, ground almonds, honey and anise seeds and eating a few spoons of the mixture has a cooling effect on the mood.

According to the Health Line and American health reference site, safflower oil lowers high blood pressure and coagulation in patients with chronic corpulmonale, although there is limited available evidence supporting this.

Safflower can also in fighting fevers. It was used for many years to treat measles before the vaccination was developed. It helped to relieve the fever and symptoms and allow the body to fight infection. While this is no longer necessary because measles is such a rare illness, safflower still remains a good treatment for fevers caused by other problems.

When it comes to women's health, safflower is an herb that can be used to help with menstruation. If you have problems with irregular periods, safflower can actually help to induce a period. This is a good alternative to pharmaceutical hormones that are often used for this pur-





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

Keep the V-bug at bay

student at Aden University. Two weeks ago, she developed fever and throat pain. She consulted a doctor. Farida was diagnosed with streptococcal throat infection and her doctor prescribed an antibiotic to treat the infection. Farida started to feel better soon after she took the



medication. The pain in her throat subsided and her temperature returned to normal. But then she noticed an unusual discharge in her underwear. To make things worse, her genital area felt very itchy.

Farida told her mom what was going on, and her mom took her back to the doctor's office. There, Farida found out she had a yeast infection. Although she had been nervous about seeing a doctor for such a personal reason, she was relieved to find out that diagnosing and treating a yeast infection is simple and painless.

Yeast Infections or candidiasis, affect around 75 percent of women at some stage in their lives. Yeasts are small organisms that live on human body in small numbers. However due to certain conditions, there may be an outgrowth of these organisms which may lead to an infection. Candida organisms can grow on moist, warm areas of the body like the female genital area. When they cause an infection in the vagina, it is known as vulvovaginal *candidiasis*. Normally, the slightly acidic environment of the vagina prevents yeast and other microorganisms from growing. If the vagina becomes less acidic, too much yeast can grow and cause a vaginal infection. Vaginal yeast infection is caused by a specific type of Candida species called Candida albicans. Trichomonisis is another common infection in many Yemeni women wherein the discharge will be thin, foul smelling and frothy. In addition there will be profound itching and irritation in the genital area.

An infection (thrush) is usually attributed to natural imbalance issues like indigestion, pH balances, acidity and also hormonal changes. With proper changes in your diet, hygiene and lifestyle, you can control these issues to a large ex-

Candida can overgrow for many reasons. Stress, pregnancy, and illnesses that affect the immune system may allow yeast to multiply, as can certain medications. These include some birth control pills and steroids. Or if you're taking antibiotics, such as for throat infection, the antibiotics can kill 'good' bacteria that also live in the body and normally keep the growth of candida in the vagina in check. Girls who have diabetes that isn't controlled are at a higher risk for

Many girls find that yeast infections tend to show up right before they get their periods because of the hormonal changes that come with the menstrual cycle. Clothing (especially inner garments) that is too tight or made of materials like nylon that trap heat and moisture might lead to yeast infections because yeast can thrive in this type of environment. And douching and using scented sanitary products can upset the healthy balance of bacteria in the private part and make yeast infections more likely.

Symptoms of Yeast Infection

Common signs and symptoms of yeast infections include:

- itching and irritation in the genital area
- redness, swelling, or itching of the genital
- a thick, white discharge that can look like cottage cheese and is usually odorless, although it might smell like bread or yeast
- pain or burning when urinating or during sex

If you have any of these symptoms, see your doctor or gynecologist. It's easy to confuse the symptoms of a yeast infection with those of some STDs and other vaginal infections. Your doctor can give you the right diagnosis.

With a little change in your daily habits and lifestyle, you can find a permanent way to cure thrush. A healthy lifestyle includes consumption of proper healthy foods. Junk food and alcohol should be avoided as much as possible.

Hygiene also is equally important. Take the necessary steps to keep your pri-

free from constant dampness and moisture.

Recurring thrush can also be treated by natural means. Many of these are available in your kitchen!

Taking dietary supplements like garlic, cranberries, yogurt (preferably with lactobacillus bifidus), cinnamon, washing the affected area with diluted apple cider vinegar (around 1 to 3 tablespoons in 1 liter water) is found to be effective in the prevention of yeast infections. Some recommend vaginal douching with dilute Tea Tree oil.

Oral and intravaginal homeopathic combinations are also found to be good. Unfortunately, they are not available in Yemen. (Calcarea carbonica for intense itching with thick white or yellowish discharge. Borax for burning pains with egg-white colored discharge that occurs midcycle. Sepia for burning pains with milky white discharge and pressure in vaginal area. Graphites for backache with thin white discharge that is worse in the morning and when walking. Arsenicum album for burning, offensive discharge.)

Prevention of yeast infection

Care should also be taken so that the area remains free from any type of yeast. Keep 'that' area clean and dry. Change pads often during your periods.

Do not use too much of deodorants or soap since they may damage the sensitive skin in that area. Shun bubble bath. Wear 'breathable' cotton underwear and loose pants. Say no to tight clothing or clothing made of synthetic material. Use antibiotics only when necessary. Keep away from simple and refined sugars, breads, pasta, baked goods, sweets, dairy products, alcoholic beverages, peanuts, and all known food allergens. Eat whole foods with plenty of protein, fresh vegetables, and grains.

Vitamin A (10,000 IU/day) enhances the integrity of the vaginal mucosa. Zinc, vitamin E and vitamin C improve immunity and help to restore the integrity of vaginal mucosa.

If you are facing chronic discharge, you should certainly take an opinion from your doctor. The test is simple and painless. It involves using a swab (like a cotton bud) to take a sample of cells from the vagina. The genital area will also be examined.

Treatment is very simple and involves using antifungal cream, pessaries, pills or a combination.

Got any heart disease pills, mate?

By: Ismail Sheikh For the Yemen Times

n old man yelled from the debab at a pharmacist across the street: "Do you have any heart diseases pills? The strong ones?" Sorry not today," replied the pharmacist as the bus rolled away.

After overhearing this strange encounter, the Yemen Times decided to enquire further into the role of pharmacies and the use of self-medication in Yemen. While the pharmacist in the previous scene refused to broach the topic of

For Mohammad Obad's, a man of 43, going to the doctors is not a priority. It won't fit into his busy schedule.

self-medication, a number of customers

were happy to share their thoughts.

"If I get seriously ill, then I'll consider the doctors," Mohammad said as he heaved a sack of newly prescribed drugs onto his shoulder. "I believe that pharmacists are just as qualified as doctors, for me it's a sensible shortcut."

Mohammad's refusal to visit a doctor stems from a lack of time, but for others it's a case of trust, or lack of it. Mabrook Al-Haimi, 58, is convinced that Yemen's doctors are untrustworthy. "I wouldn't trust them with my life," he shouted over the hustle and bustle of the pharmacy. Mabrook explained that the treatment he received for a lung infection from a doctor last year ended up making him considerably worse.

"I trust my wife who makes me mixtures of traditional medicine and I feel good after taking them. Besides, I cannot afford to just go to the doctors whenever I feel ill."

Fatima Ahmed, a women of 30, went to the doctors to receive treatment for a long-term stomach disease. Her friends were terrified after hearing that the doctor wanted to use a laryngoscope to examine her stomach.

"I couldn't live with the idea of hav-



Taking medication without knowing its side effects, might cause severe injury that cannot be reversed.

ing a surgery. Though afterwards I realized that they weren't cutting me open, they were just putting a tube down my throat to analyze my stomach."

Superstitious beliefs and a general lack of health awareness often leads patients to seek medical treatment elsewhere, said Dr. Abdullah Thawaba, a physician at the National Tumors Cen-

"The long treatment process might drive patients away from seeking doctors' help when it's needed," said Dr.

Illnesses which have been left until they reach a critical stage, where doctors can do little to help, is something that Dr. Thawaba witnesses on a daily

basis. "I think patients ought to consider seriously the consequences of not going to doctors early enough."

The process should be maintained as it is, that is, going to doctors first for a diagnosis and then to the pharmacists for medicine, explained Dr. Honaina Hamoud Honaina, a pharmacist in Sana'a. "People tend to try and shortcut these steps using traditional medicine but this may do more harm than good,"

"There is no problem selling sedatives and pain killers to patients. In addition we are obliged to point them to doctors if the situation is not under control," said Dr. Honaina.

"Narcotic medicines should not be

handed out to patients just because they know the name of the drug," said Dr. Honaina. "Narcotic medicines are given only by registered doctors and only in certain amounts."

Side effects vary from one medicine to another, according to Dawod Dwailah, a 26 year old medical school graduate. He explained how fatal a misuse of medication might be. "We are obliged to ask for a prescription for certain kinds of medication. We were taught that there are drugs we cannot handout without a doctor's signature and stamp."

Pharmacists can give medicine to patients as long as their condition is not so serious as to require a doctor's examination, explained Dwailah.

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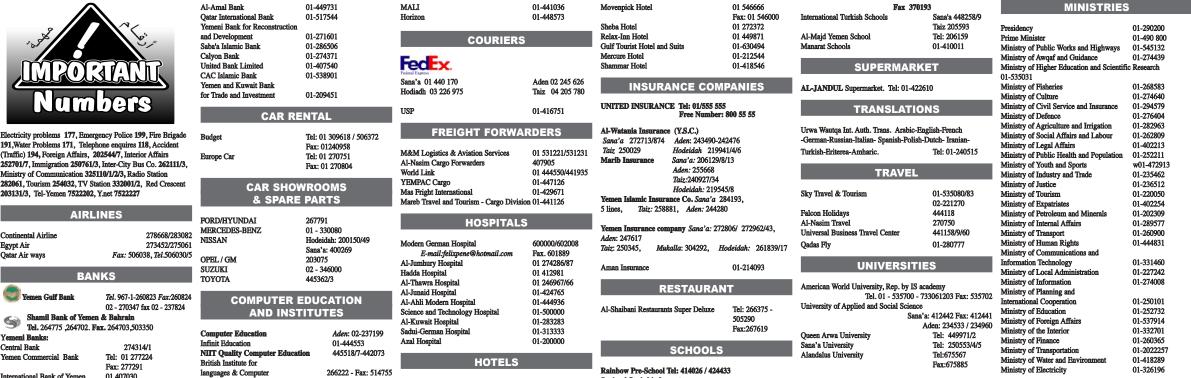
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Revenge killings keep children out of school



Carrying weapons is commonplace in Yemen

three of Yemen's 21 governorates have stopped going to school for fear of being targeted by revenge killings, according to international NGO Partners-Yemen (PY).

PY is running an awareness campaign in the governorates of Al-Jawf, Marib, and Shabwa which run from north to south in central Yemen and where the tribal system is paramount in social and political life. The presence and influence of the official authorities here is still limited.

PY has been getting children in schools that remain open to chant the slogan "To those who deprived me of my father; don't deprive me of my education", but thousands of children have stopped going to school for fear of crossing tribal boundaries.

"I haven't gone to school since 2005 when I was in grade six. I fear that armed tribesmen from Hamdan tribe may kill me," said 17-year-old Salim Yahya of the Al-Shulan tribe in Al-

housands of children in Jawf Governorate, which has been in conflict with the Hamdan tribe for 40 years now. Dozens of people in the two tribes have been killed in revenge killings over the past 20 years.

> The conflict between the two tribes first broke out in the early 1970s over disputed land, with each tribe claiming ownership. "Now, those plots of lands are no longer a problem. The problem is that of complicated revenge killings that continue to kill thousands of tribesmen and keep children out of school," Sheikh Sultan Al-Aradah, a chief mediator in the conflict from the governorate, told IRIN.

> Dealing with the conflict at this level is very complicated - even through traditional structures - as tribes consider it a "black shame" to remove the threat of a blood feud from the family or tribe of an individual who has committed murder, said a PY situation analysis paper.

According to Judge Yahya Al-Mawri, a member of the Interior Ministry-affiliated supreme national committee for addressing revenge killings.

revenge killings in the three governorates claimed the lives of 4,698 people between 1998 and 2008. He could not give a more up-to-date figure as no official records of revenge killings and conflict casualties have been released in the past two years.

The three governorates have a high illiteracy rate: "Fifty-six percent of the male population and 70 percent of the female population... are illiterate," he

According to 2009 statistics from the government's Central Statistical Organization, 1.3 million people live in these three governorates where the illiteracy rate is 63 percent, compared to the national average of 41 percent.

Schools closed

Revenge killings have led to the closure of several schools, especially in Al-Jawf and Shabwa governorates. The situation is not quite so bad in Marib,

Abdulhamid Amer, chairperson of local NGO Social Development and

Peace Association in Al-Jawf governorate, told IRIN that around 20 schools across the governorate are closed. "As many as eight schools in Maraziq and Al Sayda areas have been closed for five years now," he said, adding that thousands of boys and girls had dropped out of education as a result.

According to Naji Al-Sammi, conflict management officer with local NGO Brotherhood Society for Peace and Development in Shabwa governorate, more than a dozen schools in his governorate have been deserted for several years as a result of revenge kill-

"Al-Nabub School in Nisab District, where around 500 students were enrolled, has been deserted for more than five years now. Few students have moved to other safer areas to complete their education; most have stopped going to school since then," he said.

Mediation efforts

Many former teachers have started mediating between warring tribes: "As our school in Al Sayda District has been deserted for five years now, we found ourselves idle, so we started working as mediators to help end long-standing conflicts, district school teacher Khalid

The carrying of guns is common-



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place in the three governorates. "Parents teach their kids how to carry and use guns, as well as how to kill... They don't care about sending them to school," said teacher al-Qubati, who is from the central governorate of Taiz, but works in Al-Jawf governorate.

PY's awareness campaign is designed to ensure a safe environment for children in school and has reached out to over 50,000 local women in the three governorates to promote girls' and boys' education and the need to protect students from revenge killings, Nadwa Al-Dawsari, PY executive director, told IRIN.

"Our awareness activities have been well received in communities and that is because we frame them in a way that is appealing to local culture and builds on existing positive traditions," she

According to Al-Dawsari, the ineffective role of government institutions in these remote tribal areas, extreme poverty, and poor infrastructure are the key challenges facing awareness efforts. "If government institutions were involved, our campaigns could be much more effective," she said.

Source: IRIN







