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New edition of Al-Qaeda magazine threatens West and mocks President

By: Iona Craig

SANA'A, Nov. 21 – A new edition of the jihadist magazine Inspire, released on Saturday, outlines the plan of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) to "bleed the enemy to death" in a "strategy of a thousand cuts."

The English language 'special issue' provides a detailed account of the failed parcel bomb plot in October, called Operation Hemorrhage by the magazine's authors. The operation cost USD 4,200, according to a source quoted in Inspire.

"Two Nokia mobiles, USD 150 each, two HP printers, USD 300 each, plus shipping, transportation and other miscellaneous expenses add up to a total bill of USD 4,200. That is all what Operation Hemorrhage cost us," the magazine said.

This was the third issue of Inspire magazine, a title originating from a verse in the Qur'an, "Inspire the believers to fight", according to its creators. The publication, aimed at British and American readers, was launched in July and released by AQAP media



The Objectives of Operation Hemorrhage | Technical Details | Exclusive Images

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's latest edition of the English-language magazine Inspire was released on Saturday.

outlet, the Al-Malahem Media Foundation. The magazine is believed by US federal authorities to be edited by American Samir Khan. The second issue was released on Oct. 11.

The magazine went on to mock President Ali Abdullah Saleh with a photograph of the President and the words "What can President Ali Abdullah Saleh do about his failed state? Yeah, keep scratching your head."

This latest edition was devoted to explaining the technology and tactics of the failed parcel bomb attacks, although the authors claim the downing of a United Parcel Service (UPS) cargo plane in Dubai as a success for AQAP. Air accident investigators in the UAE deny that a bomb was responsible for destroying the plane on Sept. 3.

"In terms of time it took us three months to plan and execute the op-

eration from beginning to end," said the magazine. "On the other hand this supposedly 'foiled plot', as some of our enemies would like to call, will without a doubt cost America and other Western countries billions of dollars in new security measures. That is what we call leverage."

The attacks of Oct. 29 failed after a tip-off from Saudi intelligence, which provided crucial identification numbers for the packages, sent via UPS and FedEx. The AQAP magazine said the fear, disruption and added security costs caused by the parcels made the operation a success.

The magazine also gave descriptions from AQAP's Head of Foreign Operations Team and Ikrimah Al-Muhajir of the 'explosives department' detailing the construction of the bombs and how they were disguised.

Several photographs of the printer cartridge bombs were displayed, reportedly taken before the items were sent addressed to synagogues in Chicago, along with a copy of the Charles Dickens novel "Great Expectations."

A message to the US President was also included in the opening pages. "We would like to say to Obama: We have struck against your aircrafts twice within one year and we will continue directing our blows towards your interests and the interests of your allies."

"Terrorism emerges from Yemen and crosses into the Kingdom"

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Nov. 21 – Prince Turki Al-Faisal, former chief of Saudi Intelligence has been quoted in a number of international media outlets as saying that terrorism has emerged from Yemen and crossed into Saudi Arabia.

"Terrorism emerges from Yemen and crosses into the Kingdom," Al-Faisal told CNN on Friday.

He added that both the unrest in the south represented by the secessionist Southern Movement and insurgent violence in the north by the Houthis has enabled Al-Qaeda to operate and strengthen throughout the country.

He claimed that extremists in Yemen have been making deals with local tribal leaders for supplies and protection, creating a shelter for their activities in the country similar to that in Pakistan's tribal areas.

"Should the situation worsen, this would become an even greater security threat," he said.

Continued on page 2



Prince Turki Al-Faisal, former Chief of the Saudi Intelligence Service and ex Saudi Ambassador to the United States claims that terrorists are crossing from Yemen to Saudi Arabia.

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Southern Movement planning demonstrations during Gulf Cup



Southern Movement demonstration on Saturday Nov. 20. The movement plans for more demonstrations during the Gulf Cup tournament.

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Nov. 21 — The Southern Movement has amassed a number of protestors to gather for a demonstration in Aden on Monday, coinciding with the opening of the 20th Gulf Cup football tournament, according to Abdu Al-Maatari, the spokesman of the movement. Protesters from the southern governorates began making

their way towards Aden on Sunday. The planned demonstration follows a series of protests sparked by the arrest of the leader of the Southern Movement, Hassan Baoum, on Nov 11. He remains in custody at an unknown location.

The security forces arrested a number of southern movement members in Al-Dhale' governorate including two children, aged 10 and 12, on Satur-

day during a demonstration attended by hundreds of protestors. Around ten were arrested, according to Al-Maatari. The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) said that one person was shot and another beaten by security forces.

Security measures have been greatly increased in the build up to the 20th Gulf Cup. 30,000 soldiers from the security and armed forces were sent to the

southern capital. Security check-points have been set up and security cordons built around Aden, Abyan, and Lahj. These precautions were taken by the vice interior minister, also head of the security committee for the Gulf Cup.

"The Southern Movement is trying to utilize the Gulf Cup event to send political messages, especially as the media outlets are now focused on Aden," said Nashwan Al-Othmani a journalist from Marib Press who specializes on the Southern Movement.

"Everything has been stopped, the movement has been besieged," said Al-Maatari. "But tomorrow's protest will break the blockade, we will crawl to Aden if we have to."

The Southern Movement has not yet been affected by the recent security precautions, although security forces are trying to curtail their activities. The movement has planned a series of demonstrations and protests to coincide with the Gulf Cup, until the end of the tournament on Dec. 6.

HOOD condemned the arrest of the movement's activists, and said that no one knows where those arrested were taken to. HOOD considers them lost. The human rights organization demanded the prosecutor and interior minister reveal where they are being held and called for their immediate release.

"If the protests are held as planned there will be a reaction from the authorities. We hope the Gulf Cup will not be taken as a justification for suppression," Abd Al-Rahman Barman a lawyer at HOOD told the Yemen Times. "We are supporting the government's security procedures to protect the tournament as long as they are legal and don't harm the citizen's freedoms." Barman added that the arrests so far have not been carried out within the law.

The 20th Gulf Cup in Aden opens



The Yemeni Football Team in Aden before playing a friendly match against Uganda.

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Nov. 21 — Lights and the flags of Yemen, Iraq and the Gulf countries are on the streets and crossroads in Aden and Abyan to welcome the participating teams in the 20th Gulf Cup.

President Saleh will open the 20th Gulf Cup today at the '22 May Stadium' in Aden where the first match will be between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The second match will be between Qatar and Kuwait on Monday at 10 pm.

The matches will be played in Aden and Abyan which are ready to host the 20th Gulf cup as planned for. The cup is to start on Monday 22 Nov. continuing through to 5 Dec. 2010.

This is the first time since the Gulf Cup started in 1970 that it will be held in Yemen. In spite of rumors that Yemen is incapable of hosting the cup due to the unstable situation in the country's south, the Yemeni government has been working hard to guarantee the maximum possible security precautions.

President Saleh has been checking the hotels and tourist complexes for four days before the opening. Saleh met with the Yemeni team and urged them to play hard and win the cup, as all Yemenis wished them to win.

"Our hearts are with you. We trust your enthusiasm, your love for your country and that you want to lift its name high," Saleh said, according to

the Al-Arabia website.

The Gulf teams started arriving in Yemen on Friday and started training on the same day at the Al-Telal Club.

Along with the teams, around 12,000 cars have entered Yemen from the Gulf and more than 1,500 media representatives have come to cover the cup events, according to the Yemen Satellite channel.

The Yemeni ambassador to Saudi Arabia said that holding the 20th Gulf cup in Yemen would strengthen the ties between Yemen and the Gulf Council Countries and Iraq.

The head of the Referee Committee, Gamal Al-Ghandoor, told Saba news agency that the situation in Yemen is safe and secure in spite of what has been about Yemen in some media outlets. He also said that the Yemeni people are peace-loving and generous.

Yemen has been participating in the cup since the 16th tournament which was held in Kuwait in 2003. Since then it has participated in the 17th cup in Qatar, the 18th in UAE and the 19th in Oman.

Yemen's team is joined by seven others including those from Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

The Gulf Cup was founded by Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia during the 1968 Olympics in Mexico. The first Cup was held in Bahrain in 1970 and was won by Kuwait.

Unknown epidemic hits Hodeida

By: Ali Saeed

HODEIDA, Nov. 21 — An unknown disease causing bouts of severe fever has spread across several districts of Hodeida, 200 km west of the capital Sana'a, a local doctor told the Yemen Times.

"It's an epidemic which is now rampant, especially in the rural areas of Hodeida," Dr. Mohamed Abdul Rahman Al-Qadi, a doctor in Al-Marawa' district of Hodeida told the Yemen Times.

He explained that the disease, aided by falling temperatures at night, is seriously affecting Hodeida's rural areas, which are more exposed and vulnerable to the cold. Adults, especially those over 30 are more susceptible to contracting the disease.

A similar disease hit the same area last year, but this year its prevalence has been much higher hitting around 40 percent of Hodeida's population compared to the one percent of those infected in 2009, according to Al-Qadi.

No deaths have yet been reported, but the disease can cause paralysis. The fever causes an acute inflammation of the joints as well as severe headaches, the doctor told the Yemen Times.

He added that those with already weak immune systems are particularly vulnerable.



Hodeida is the poorest governorate in the country. Victims of a fever outbreak cannot afford medication.

Locals from Hodeida are reportedly alarmed by the disease, which has yet to be officially classified by doctors. However, officials from the Ministry of Health in Hodeida have told the Yemen Times that it is only a normal fever and that there is no need to panic.

"It is only a normal fever caused by the cold," said Dr. Othman Al-Baidani, Director of the Ministry of Health Office in the governorate. "Not a single death has been recorded yet."

The director said that the Ministry of Health has recently formed a medical team and sent them to some of the affected areas.

In addition, the Health Office in the governorate has formed an operation team in all of Hodeida's districts to follow up on the strange epidemic, according to Al-Baidani.

Those suffering from the disease,

which is known amongst locals as "Al-Kritis" fever, do not recover until given a strong dose of antibiotics and vitamin injections, Dr. Al-Qadi said.

But many of those living in the infected areas of Al-Marawa', Al-Jarahi, Zabeed, Bait Al-Faqih, Al-Mansooriya and Hais are unable to afford the medication which costs more than YR 2,000 (USD 10). In addition to disease Hodeida, Yemen's poorest governorate, suffers from rampant levels of poverty.

More than half of Hodeida's two and half million people live in traditional houses built from wood, mud bricks, and straw. Their main source of income is derived from agriculture and livestock.

The director of the Health Office in Hodeida advised families to take care of hygiene in their houses and to cover water pools and swamps.

Cabinet agrees on new flag law

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Nov. 21 — After six months of the Yemeni parliament refusing to pass the national flag amendment bill, the Yemeni cabinet agreed on the bill last week and has asked the Shura Council, Parliament and the Ministry of Legal Affairs to complete all procedures to approve it.

The government stated that the new law will protect flags from negligence or insults, indicating that the current law doesn't mention the importance of the national flag and lacks some important items.

The new law stipulates that people are not allowed to raise any torn or dirty flags, add any text or remarks on flags, and imposes penalties for any breach of the law.

According to the new law, all private and state schools, security institutions, colleges, ministries, and other public facilities must raise the flag properly and in the good way. The new law also proposed a new presidential flag displaying a golden eagle. Many parliamentarians criticized this addition, describing it as a big mistake.

Six months ago, most MPs completely rejected the law calling on the government to enhance the financial situation for Yemenis and reduce unemployment instead of discussing use-

less and unnecessarily laws.

"I'm surprised by the insistence of the government on changing the current law," the parliamentarian Ali Al-Ansi told the Yemen Times. He said that when the parliament vetoes any new proposed law, the government doesn't have the right to discuss it again until after one year has passed.

"The current law was the first law passed after unification. This law is very appropriate and has no defects," he said.

He confirmed that most MPs will veto the law again, and urged the government to show more interest in important humanitarian issues.

"The government always enacts laws to fight some vandals or opposition groups. The government should encourage dialogue instead of making new laws to punish some minorities like the Southern Movements," he said.

The ruling bloc in the parliament also refused this law. "We don't need more problems. We must reject this law," said Sultan Al-Barakani, the head of the ruling bloc in the parliament whilst discussing the law six months ago.

Some members of Southern Movement have been raising the old flag of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen — the former South Yemen — in several southern governorates.

Continued from Page 1

"Terrorism emerges from Yemen and crosses into the kingdom"

An official source from Yemen's Ministry of Information quoted in the 26 September state-run newspaper expressed his surprise at Al-Faisal's statement.

The source claimed that such a statement was merely a personal point of view and does not express Saudi Arabia's stance and policies towards Yemen.

The source added that Yemen itself suffers because of terrorists who have infiltrated the country from abroad.

"A person like him who was once head of the intelligence service should know where the terrorist's came from

and the sources that feed terrorism," the source said.

"Terrorism has never been a Yemeni industry, instead Yemen has always been a victim of terrorists that crossed into our country," the source added.

At the beginning of 2009, Al-Qaeda combined its two arms in Saudi Arabia and Yemen and announced the creation of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). The organization now is based in Yemen and its top leaders and members are from both Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

AQAP recently announced responsibility for a pair of explosive packages sent from Yemen destined for synagogues in the US.

Beyond the Yemeni borders

By: Safiya Al-Jabiry
For the Yemen Times

For hundreds of years, Arabs have been a large part of the Kenyan population. Most of these Arabs are originally Yemenis. The stories as to how they came to settle in Kenya stretch so far that they almost seem like fairy tales.

These Yemenis moved to Kenya as early as the 18th century due to lack of food in their country and other difficulties they faced. They simply got in small canoes with no particular destination and hoped to settle in more secure and stable places.

Fortunately, some of them got to land on the beautiful East African Coast. That's how Yemenis got to settle in Kenya, a country that openly welcomed them.

According to the Yemeni Ministry of Immigrants Affairs there are over 70,000 Yemenis in Kenya today, at least 70 percent of whom hold Kenyan passport.

In 1952 Yemenis and Kenyans founded the Arab Charity considering that Yemenis were the only Arabs in Kenya at that time.

Sheikh Saleh bin Sharman a Hadrami who settled in Kenya in the late forties and founding member of the charity



One of the earlier mosques built by the Muslim community in Kenya.

built the first mosque in Kenya. It was erected in the early fifties in Mombasa and was called Masjid Al-Noor, or the Mosque of Light.

Following that, many Yemenis who worked as businessmen started building more mosques with affiliated schools and kindergartens for the Yemeni community.

They built their lives in this foreign country, carried out trade and soon established their businesses. They started

families and made this country their home.

They accepted to learn the cultures of the native people and they taught them their cultures. These Yemenis also spread Islam in some parts of the country.

Some of the Yemeni families have integrated so completely in Kenya that they participated in its political system, such as Najib Balala, a Kenyan of Hadrami origins who was born in 1967 in Mombasa.

Balala began his political career as the mayor of Mombasa and today is the Tourism Minister and a member of parliament from the Mvita Constituency.

He also served at various times as Minister for Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services, Minister for Labor, and Minister of State for National Heritage. He won the African Tourism minister of the year.

Legend has it that since Arabs and Africans could not understand each other's languages, they created a language called Swahili, which is currently the National language of Kenya. Swahili is mostly made up of Arabic words, some Portuguese words and words from the native Mijikenda tribe.

Although this explanation was never scientifically verified as such, the fact that the earliest known documents written in Swahili are letters written in Kilwa in 1711, in Arabic alphabet supports this legend.

As generations passed, some of the Yemenis remembered their country, their origin and decided to come back home. They wanted to come back to their roots and get to know where their fathers and grandfathers were born.

Fatma Ahmed is a 24 year old Yemeni who was born and raised in Kenya. She came with her family to Yemen when she was 16 years old.



Part of the Yemeni community poses for a picture at a local studio in Kenya, early 19th century.



Descendants of Yemenis and other Muslim members celebrate the 'Miladu Nabbi' festival. Mombasa, Kenya.

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"For me, Kenya will always have a special place in my heart. I still remember its people, its culture, its rich land, I even remember the smell of green, fresh leaves after heavy rains," she said. "On the other hand, I'm glad to come to my real home, the place where I know my ancestors lived and died. I have to say, I'm happy to have two countries I call home."

Others still continue living in Kenya. Faiza Saleh is also a Yemeni woman who lives in Kenya. Part of her family came back to Yemen while others still live in Kenya. She always comes to visit Yemen and see her loved ones. She goes all the way to her village in Hadramout to see her cousins and other family members. She says she cannot come back to live in

Yemen even though she loves the country. For her, like many others, it's too difficult to abandon the place she has been living her entire life and come to live in a new place. "I'm proud to be originally Yemeni, but I'm also Kenyan in so many ways," she said.

Those Yemenis who came back home will always treasure the experiences and value the lives they had in Kenya, the country that mothered them and gave their fathers and grandfathers homes when they didn't have any. As for those who are still beyond the Yemeni borders, they hold their heads high for being Yemenis and remember their roots. They keep Yemen at heart, the country where their ancestors lived long before they were born.

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Saudi women threaten to breastfeed their drivers if they aren't allowed to drive

In response to the Saudi cleric fatwa against driving by women. A group of Saudi women have threatened to breastfeed their drivers if they are not granted the right to drive their own cars.

Saudi women seem ready to adopt a controversial fatwa as they step up their campaign to achieve the right to drive in the conservative kingdom.

The fatwa, or religious ruling, allows women to breastfeed their drivers and turn them into their sons.

"We either be allowed to drive or breastfeed foreigners" will be the slogan of the campaign the women plan to launch, journalist Amal Zahid was quoted as saying in the newspaper.

Zahid said their decision follows a recent fatwa issued by a renowned scholar which said that Saudi women can breastfeed their foreign drivers for them to become their sons.

"As every Saudi family needs a driver, our campaign will focus on women's right to drive," she said.

A Saudi scholar last month suggested women donate their breast milk to men in an attempt to get around the

kingdom's ban on the mixing of unrelated men and women, and his words have sparked controversy.

Sheikh Abdul Mohsin Al-Abaican, a consultant at the Saudi royal court, issued a fatwa stating there should be symbolic bond between unrelated men and women who regularly come into contact with each other.

Breast milk kinship is considered to be as good as a blood relationship in Islam, Gulf News said. Saudi woman Fatima Al-Shammari, told a local Arabic daily, that the fatwa was "ridiculous and weird".

She added: "This fatwa has become a hot topic of debate among women. Is this all that is left to us to do: to give our breasts to the foreign drivers?"

Another Saudi woman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Gulf News: "Does Islam allow me to breastfeed a foreign man and prevent me from driving my own car? I have not breastfed my own children. How



Woman driving in the desert of Chahroura Saudi Arabia.

do you expect me to do this with a foreign man? What is this nonsense?"

Another woman said the fatwa should also apply to the husbands who should be breastfed by housemaids. By doing so, all will be brothers and sisters," she said.

It was clarified later that he meant that the breast milk is to be given in a cup! It came a little bit too late because this has become controversial news.

The bonding of families happened only when you breastfeed babies only till 2 years old or 3 times until the baby is full.

In all cases Saudi women living in the Empty Quarter region drive their cars by need and without any boundaries.

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Reese Erlich: Variation on the theme "Terrorists"

Defining what a terrorist is and isn't is a major dilemma. What one may consider terrorism, another may consider resistance. So where does one draw the line? Reese Erlich tackles that topic in his latest book "Conversations with Terrorists: Middle East Leaders on Politics, Violence, and Empire". Erlich is a veteran journalist who has covered US foreign policy for decades. He has freelanced for National Public Radio, Radio Deutsche Welle, the Australian Broadcasting Corp. Radio, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. Radio, and writes for The San Francisco Chronicle and The Dallas Morning News.

By: Christian Avard

Drawing on firsthand interviews and original research, Erlich argues that yesterday's terrorist is often today's national leader and that today's freedom fighter may become tomorrow's terrorist. By branding all of America's opponents as "terrorists," it makes it more difficult to look beyond the individual or the political group and understand what they are really all about. I caught up with Erlich recently and here's what he had to say.

thinking if they could get one alleged terrorist.

Israeli officials do the same thing when they drop 500-pound bombs on apartment buildings in Gaza. They know that a lot of civilians were going to be killed. They make up stories about phoning people in advance, do Robocalls, and drop leaflets. They know perfectly well that civilians are going to die but they figure it is worth it. They think if they can get this one Hamas leader, so what if a bunch of Palestinians die? Maybe they won't support Hamas now. That's terrorism.



Reese Erlich

but they are seen in their countries as legitimate national liberation groups, such as Columbian Marxist guerrillas (FARC), Hamas, Hezbollah, and the PLO for that matter. All of them have taken up arms and the US condemns them as terrorists.

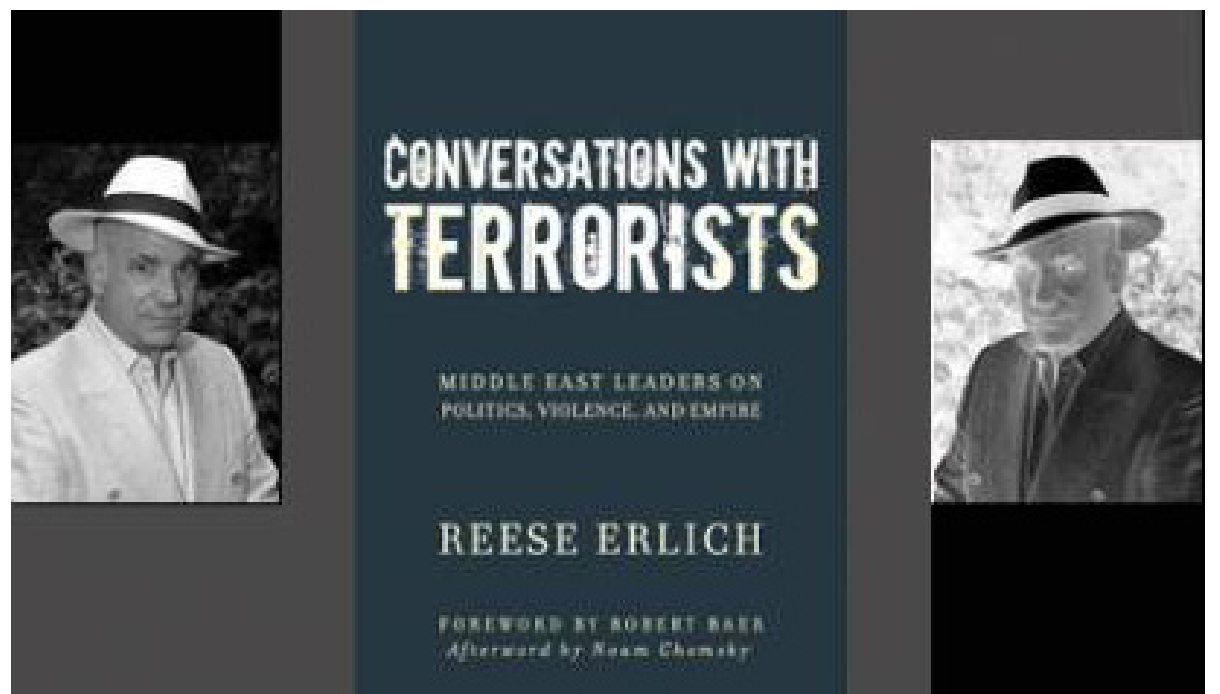
I have very sharp differences with Hezbollah and Hamas. They are, at the core, right-wing fundamentalist Muslim groups that want to come to power in their respective countries. I would never vote for them. But they are not mainly trying to kill civilians in order to seize power. They have certainly used violence and killed Israeli civilians and engaged in terrorist tactics, but they are viewed by their own people as national liberation groups.

In the case of Hezbollah, they are seen as the only group that is capable of militarily defending Lebanon against continued Israeli attacks. They have a lot of support among Lebanese Sunni Muslims, Christians and Druze.

Hamas won the 2006 elections fair and square in the Palestinian Authority, a little detail the US and Israel like to forget about. So it does no good to simply vilify them as terrorists. You have to deal with them politically. What do they stand for? Why not sit down and negotiate with them?

In your book, you meet with individuals that many western foreign leaders/governments consider to be terrorists. For instance, you talk with Hamas leader Khalid Meshal. The US considers Meshal and especially Hamas a terrorist organization. How is Meshal and Hamas misportrayed by American government elites and or the mainstream media?

I spend a fair amount of time going into Hamas in the book. It began as a distinctly rightwing fundamentalist group that was tolerated by Israel because



Cover of Erlich's book "Conversations with Terrorists," published by PoliPoint Press, 2010.

Israeli authorities wanted to split the Palestinians at the time, and they saw the PLO as the main danger. But Hamas has evolved and developed a sizeable base of support, as reflected in the elections. But then they faced the problem of "How do you actually govern?"

A lot of their fundamentalist ideology didn't work because the Palestinians, at their core, are secular. They aren't interested in a fundamentalist government running them like in Iran or Saudi Arabia. The US and Israel at that time should have acknowledged the changes in Hamas. It wasn't the Hamas of 20 years ago. There could have been some major breakthroughs.

All you have to do is look at the history of the PLO. I remember when Yasser Arafat was the "chief terrorist," when Israeli leaders called him another "Hitler." The PLO began advocating a two-state solution in the early 1980s. But the US and Israel refused to negotiate with the PLO "terrorists." Then boom, the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin comes into power and is willing to negotiate. Suddenly, they acknowledge what the PLO had been saying for 10 years. They sat down and negotiated the Oslo Accords. The same thing eventually is going to happen with Hamas.

Suddenly some Israeli politician is going to make a 180-degree turn and realize that Hamas isn't the horrible group they have been vilifying, and Hamas is willing to negotiate a two-state solution. Meshal made that clear to me, to former president Jimmy Carter, and numerous other people -- contrary to all the propaganda in the United States. Under certain circumstances Hamas would accept a two-state solution and agree to a long-term ceasefire with Israel.

Recently, some militant members

of Hamas killed settlers in Hebron. Were those acts of terrorism and how do you respond to that incident? How can we view that incident accurately and appropriately?

This is where I disagree with Hamas. They see all of these things as acts of resistance. I don't. I think there is a distinction between waging a guerrilla war against soldiers and political leaders and simply killing people because they are Israelis. Sometimes Hamas makes that distinction and sometimes it doesn't.

But what about the argument that the settlers are akin to Israel's reserve army because they are given weapons to use and what not?

I've been in Hebron. Some of these folks are armed occupiers and are no different from the military. I think that is true. I think if you went to other places like Ariel or other settlements, basically you have secular people who are looking for cheap housing and the Israeli government provides cheap mortgages for expanding suburbs. So I think Hamas should make that distinction.

CNN anchor Octavia Nasr was recently fired for expressing sympathy or remorse over the death of Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Fadlallah. How and or why is he and Hezbollah misportrayed in the American media and based on your experiences what is the truth of Fadlallah and/or Hezbollah?

In Lebanon, Fadlallah was considered a moderate on many issues. In the book I quote Lebanese leader Walid Jumblatt, who has gone to war with Hezbollah at various times. He said Fadlallah was quite moderate in many of his policies. He is not Hezbollah's spiritual advisor. He never was. He saw himself as a

Muslim cleric who was trying to unite Muslims of all different political and religious tendencies. On domestic issues, he was in favor of women's rights and democracy in Lebanon. He issued a fatwa against smoking and upheld science against superstition. Nasr was simply reflecting the widespread sentiment in much of the Arab world.

What other examples of terrorism stands out that Americans do not hear about or receive false information? What do Americans need to unlearn when it comes to terrorism and terrorist organizations?

There is a whole dirty war, basically death squads promoted by the United States around the world. They are called Special Operations. They engage in terrorist tactics. Imagine for a moment that an enemy of the US decided to come into US territory with undercover agents, to kidnap, torture, and imprison American citizens that it considered dangerous. Can you imagine the outrage inside the US? But the US does that. It was done very widely under George W. Bush, but it continues under Barack Obama. The Obama Administration defends it. Look at the most recent court decision not allowing any court hearing for people who were tortured by the US or sent to countries to be tortured. I think that is an important story that needs to be told.

What do people need to unlearn? I think as a practical matter, stop calling people or groups "terrorists." Just accurately describe what they are doing and what they believe. Then let people decide whether they like them or not. Just stop throwing around the epithet 'terrorist.'

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Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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

OUR OPINION

A third option for Yemeni youth

Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training explained that the problem with the Yemeni job market is that "for every one handyman there are 20 engineers, whereas the situation should have been the opposite as the market needs vocational workers more than engineers."

He was referring to the common conviction that an academic degree is more prestigious and worthy than learning a technical or vocational skill, although real life has proven that it is those with skills who are successful. There is a saying in Arabic, "Ana ameer wa anta ameer faman yar'a al-hameer?" The rough English equivalent is "too many chiefs, not enough indians." This is exactly the reason why there are so many unemployed youth, yet ironically there is a severe lack of skills to cover local needs and market demands.

Now it seems that some authority figures, such as the Minister of Technical Education, are realizing this problem and are trying to do something about it. With the help of organizations such as the Social Fund for Development, new projects to bring workers to the labor force are starting to see the light. These projects help Yemeni youth to realize that they need not all be "chiefs," and that some should think about getting into non-academic trades or even starting their own service-related businesses.

The head of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce visited Sana'a two years ago and explained that Italy recovered after WWII through cluster economy, i.e. small businesses in various trades working together through corporations and unions.

The point is that Yemen's economy does not need multinational companies or multibillion dollar industries in order to thrive. It needs small and micro-enterprises in various fields. This is not only the solution for the economy; it is also the solution for unemployed youth who are waiting for either the government or the private sector to give them jobs.

In order to make this third option work and become attractive to youth in Yemen, work has to be done on three levels; first at the institutional level where community colleges, technical and vocational training institutes and centers are established and made accessible to the youth. Second, stories of successful entrepreneurs should be highlighted by the media so that young men and women have role models to look up to, and finally a gradual cultural change whereby the society does not look down upon a vocational worker.

I am sure when a Yemeni young person realizes their options, that he or she would rather be a rich plumber or tailor than a penniless PhD.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Watchdog: Yemen's press repression 'cloaked in law'

By: Elliott C. McLaughlin CNN: This Just In

Mohammed Al-Maqaleh told the Committee to Protect Journalists the government denied it had him in custody for five months, and now, he doesn't know if charges are still pending.

His crime, if it is one, was reporting on airstrikes that killed dozens of people in the Yemeni government's ongoing war with Houthi rebels in the north. Al-Maqaleh, the editor of the Aleshteraki website, who was released early this year after being targeted in a government-sponsored abduction, was one of 30 journalists, analysts and attorneys the CPJ spoke to during a nine-day trip to Yemen.

Al-Maqaleh's story is included in a damning special report headlined "In Yemen, brutal repression cloaked in law," which outlines how Yemen in the last two years has combined "extrajudicial abductions, intimidation, threats and crude censorship" with a quietly constructed legal apparatus to harshly dissuade negative media coverage.

Yemen, which the CPJ says did not respond to multiple requests for interviews,

released a denial Friday on its state-run Saba news site, calling the allegations "incorrect and distorted."

Saba, perhaps tellingly, quoted only an anonymous government source, who said the report's author, Mohamed Abdel Dayem, met with "malevolent" opposition figures who provided him with false information.

"Today in Yemen there are more than 160 press publications and dozens of media websites and blogs which work within the framework of democracy and freedom of opinion and expression and the practice of criticism, which sometimes exceed all limits," the source told Saba.

Al-Maqaleh's story, however, was one of many in the special report.

Salah Al-Sadiqi, editor in chief of the Gulf Aden website, was detained for a year without trial for "harming national unity." Munir Mawari, a contributor to the weekly Al-Masdar, was sentenced in absentia for describing President Ali Abdullah Saleh's leadership style as a "weapon of mass destruction." The US-based reporter also faces a lifetime ban on practicing journalism in Yemen.

The most disturbing CPJ example of Yemen silencing media is Al-Ayyam, an independent daily that's been in business since

1958. The walls of its Aden offices are scarred by bullets, the CPJ reported, and in May 2009, government agents blockaded the offices so staffers could not get to work and twice confiscated newspapers, 66,500 of them.

"It marked the beginning of a crude publishing ban that remains in effect today," the CPJ reported. "The government siege of the compound ... lasted another two weeks, ending only after a firefight between government forces and the paper's guards left one passerby dead and two guards injured."

The government has fired machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades at the office; charged employees with "instigating separatism" and "forming an armed gang"; and arrested the paper's editors, holding them for months.

The creation of a special court last year to try press offenses promises to worsen matters, journalists and lawyers told the CPJ. Mawari's lifetime ban marked the press court's first of about 100 rulings in the last year, and the court also handled a case against Al-Masdar Editor Samir Jubran, who was banned from managing a newspaper for a year.

Several journalists told the CPJ the sen-

tences have sent a strong message to the nation's press corps, and journalists with pending charges said they keep low profiles in hopes their cases will be dismissed.

Among the laws targeting journalists are bans on denigrating religious sects, "creating fear among the people," "harming the public good" and insulting the president, which is punishable by up to two years in prison.

Lawmakers are seeking stricter press restrictions, including increasing the maximum prison time for insulting the president to five years, expanding the definition of insult to anything that is "unbefitting or invites sarcasm, mockery, slander or injury" and erecting "prohibitive financial barriers for broadcast and online news outlets," the CPJ said.

These would be in addition to Yemen's unwritten "red lines" prohibiting coverage of the war with Houthi rebels, the repression of the opposition Southern Movement, failure to contain Al-Qaeda and widespread corruption, the watchdog reported.

"Taken together, the government's longstanding practice of violent repression and its new legalistic tactics are creating the worst climate for press freedom since the country's unification in 1990, CPJ's examination has found."

Top US goal in Afghanistan ought to be capturing bin Laden

By: Jack Devine The Washington Post

There is no doubt that Osama bin Laden is foremost on the minds of the courageous CIA and Special Forces officers in Afghanistan who are looking for him.

Where he hasn't appeared lately is in the debates about what the United States is trying to achieve in Afghanistan and whether our emphasis should be on counterinsurgency and nation-building or on counterterrorism.

It has been nine long years since bin Laden and his disciples attacked the United States, bringing about the catastrophic loss of American lives on Sept. 11, 2001, and more in the military battles that followed.

The debate about where we are headed in Afghanistan must include finding bin Laden. This should be our top priority as we wind down our presence there. We have entered into two problematic wars and have expended a great deal of blood and treasure since Sept. 11. What was it all about, if not capturing bin Laden?

It is amazing that bin Laden has disappeared not only physically but also from our Afghanistan lexicon. It is troubling to listen to media personalities and government officials talk about the war in Afghanistan without mentioning bin Laden. I can't re-

member the last time I heard him discussed as a centerpiece or even a component of our Afghanistan strategy. It is almost as though there is a conspiracy to play down his importance, even in the context of the latest terrorist threat in Europe.

The cognoscenti in the intelligence world have for some time felt that bin Laden isn't important because he is only a symbol for Al-Qaeda. Moreover, they believe that the real threat is elsewhere and that bin Laden has only indirect influence over the groups his message spawned. Only history will tell conclusively if he really is this benign. I don't believe it, and I would not like to be the one who has to explain this judgment if bin Laden or his close allies were able to engineer another major attack.

Even if one accepts that bin Laden is less relevant today and only a figurehead without organizational muscle, this judgment greatly underestimates the impact of removing him from the center of the radical terrorist movement. On the run, he is a symbol that terrorism can prevail and that its leader can survive despite our massive military power. If we end this myth, we stand a good chance of triggering a trend away from radical Islamic terrorism.

The fall of a charismatic leader traditionally deflates a movement's followers, and these leaders are seldom replaced with individuals

of even remotely similar presence and charisma. In the 1960s and '70s, for example, when terrorism and insurgency were rampant in Latin America, the Cuban-inspired ideological movement rippling through South America lost much of its luster with Che Guevara's demise in the mountains of Bolivia in 1967.

No one questions that the Afghan terrain is challenging and that many tribal considerations need to be confronted in traversing the region. But the United States and its allies have a 100,000-strong army there, and we are spending about \$100 billion a year on the war effort. We certainly have in place the resources needed to complete the task.

Equally challenging is working around Pakistan's national security politics. A few years ago, in a discussion with a senior leader of the US intelligence community, I asked why we hadn't captured bin Laden. The response boiled down to "it's complicated." The implication was that elements within the Pakistani government were an impediment to his capture. If that is still the case, we should forget about nation-building in Afghanistan and, like Sherman marching across Georgia during the Civil War, march our army across eastern Afghanistan, pressing forward even into Pakistan's Northwest Frontier, and continue the march until we capture him.

We should advise the Pakistani govern-

ment of our intention in no uncertain terms. While Pakistani officials would surely fuss, as they have done over a recent uptick in Predator drone attacks, it's a pretty good bet that we would have bin Laden's head on a platter before we got anywhere near the Pakistani border. This is not traditionally how we deal with important allies, and it is not a formula for routine diplomatic discourse. But in certain exceptional circumstances, hardball is called for. I also suspect the fallout would be far less damaging and more ephemeral than many might suggest.

It is hard to imagine an acceptable exit from Afghanistan without bin Laden's demise. Putting him to rest would provide a truly meaningful rationale for leaving. The most recent publicly available intelligence reports show that there are few Al-Qaeda terrorists remaining in the region; many have moved elsewhere, including to Yemen.

We need to move bin Laden back to center stage in our Afghanistan strategy. However the administration's coming policy review turns out, let's hope we won't still be looking for Osama bin Laden on Sept. 11, 2011.

The writer, a former CIA deputy director of operations and chief of the CIA Afghan Task Force from 1986 to 1987, is president of the Arkin Group, a private intelligence company based in New York.

Inspire: beyond the pale

By: Ian Black Guardian Newspapers Limited

Like many new publications it has a vivid mix: news, features, celebrity opinion pieces and a smart digital-era commitment to interactivity — keeping in close

touch with the readers. But for the casual browser of the internet, Al-Qaeda's new English-language online magazine may prove a step or two beyond the pale.

Entitled Inspire, and designed for aspiring jihadis who cannot read Arabic, it offers tips on bomb-making and encryption for beginners as well as heavyweight Koranic commentary and crude propaganda.

Inspire appears to be the brainchild of Anwar Al-Awlaki, a fugitive US-born radical preacher and key figure in Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), based in Yemen's remote tribal areas — and suggests a drive to recruit terrorists.

But the launch of its summer 2010 edition has so far been troubled. It advertised an article by Awlaki — "May our souls be sacrificed for you" — that failed to appear, as did all but the first three pages of the entire 67-page magazine. The rest of a PDF file posted on friendly websites showed only garbled computer code.

Other missing items, according to the contents index, included a "detailed, yet short, easy-to-read manual" entitled "Make a Bomb in the Kitchen of Your Mom," wittily bylined "the AQ chef." Another article, by "terrorist", was about "sending and receiving encrypted messages". Nor was there a promised "exclusive interview" with Sheikh Abu Basir, aka Nasser Al-Wahayshi, AQAP's leader.

Outside talent should have been represented by an Osama bin Laden piece on "The Way to Save the Earth."

Prompts suspicion

Inspire's partial appearance prompted suspicion in the jihadi community. Al-Qimamah, a website linked to the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Al-Shabab movement in Somalia, warned anyone who saw the magazine to delete it — without explanation.

It also alerted readers that Al-Falluja, a popular jihadi forum, had been taken over — an apparent reference to cyber-manipulation by hostile intelligence services. Inspire's problems could well have been caused by deliberate disruption such as infecting it with a virus.

Inspire looks similar to AQAP's slick Arabic-language webzine Sada al-Malahim (Echoes of Epic Battles) — and is also published by Malahim Media. It is subtitled: "Inspire the Believers." Its authenticity could not be confirmed, but it was not being treated as a spoof by experts.

It appears to have taken on board cutting-edge thinking about the media, urging readers to submit articles, comments and suggestions. "It is our intent for this magazine to be a platform to present the important issues facing the ummah [Islamic nation] today to the wide and dispersed English-speaking Muslim

readership," its unnamed editor promised. Inspire promotes itself as "the first magazine to be issued by the Al-Qaeda organisation in the English language", although Jihadi Recollections, published in the US last year, was a polished effort.

Awlaki, famous for his online sermons and video messages to Americans — in fluent English — is an official target for assassination by the US government because of his links to Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the Nigerian "underpants bomber" charged with an attack on a Dutch airliner over Detroit last Christmas Day, and to the Times Square bomber, Faisal Shahzad.

Other foreigners are said to have joined AQAP after studying Arabic in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a.

"This magazine is clearly intended for the aspiring jihadist in the US or UK who may be the next Fort Hood murderer or Times Square bomber," said Bruce Riedel, a former CIA officer now with the Brookings Institution in Washington.

Yemen expert Gregory Johnsen said: "The idea is that AQAP can reach, influence and inspire other like-minded individuals in the West. No longer do these individuals need to travel to Yemen or read Arabic in order to take instructions from AQAP. Now they can just download and read the magazine in English."



Look, a booby-trapped parcel ready to explode at any minute. Let's give it to our landlord and finish with him once and for all!

By: Hamid

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Running in place on trade

Meetings of G-20 leaders regularly affirm the importance of maintaining and strengthening openness in trade. June's G-20 summit in Toronto, although not very effusive on trade, did not back away from it. Yet talk is cheap, and the open-mouth policy of (generally pro-trade) pronouncements has not been matched by action.

The paradox is that this has been good for holding the line on protectionism. After all, actions are also necessary to "roll back" open trade. So we have largely stood still, in trade jargon. But lack of trade activism has also meant that we are not moving forward with trade liberalization. The long-standing Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations seems to have been put on indefinite hold.

That governments did not break out into protectionism after the global financial crisis hit surprised many. In retrospect, it is easy to see why. Policy is driven by three "I"s: ideas, institutions, and interests (i.e., lobbies). On all three dimensions, protectionist policy was hemmed in.

Progress in economic thought after 1929 initially led to the argument that, in a depression, tariffs are justified because they would divert insufficient aggregate world demand to one's goods at the expense of others. But all could play this game, saddling the world economy with tariffs that would likely hurt all while failing to revive growth. The solution was obviously to forgo protectionism and increase aggregate demand instead. This lesson has been well learned.

Institutions have also helped. Following the passage of America's Smoot-Hawley Tariff in 1930, countries raised trade barriers in a tit-for-tat frenzy, with no rules to constrain their behavior. The architects of the post-war global order therefore established the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947, which em-

bodied such rules – as does the World Trade Organization, which absorbed and expanded the GATT in 1995. Indeed, no country has defied WTO rules in the current crisis.

Of course, we might still have yielded to pressure for protectionist measures, especially as WTO rules leave open the possibility of such a response. Thus, for instance, bound tariffs (i.e., agreed ceilings) allow countries to raise actual tariffs, which are often lower, without restraint. What has prevented the eruption of WTO-compliant trade wars has been the changed structure of the world economy, which has created strong anti-protectionist interests.

Thus, when the United States Congress enacted "Buy America" provisions for public procurement, many US firms, such as Boeing, Caterpillar, and General Electric – all fearing retaliation in their foreign markets – lobbied successfully to moderate the legislation.

The Doha Round ought to profit from some of these fundamental forces that favor open trade and impede protectionism. Indeed, conventional wisdom holds that, during a depression, citizens become risk-averse and will not support liberalization. But, with many people now aware that their jobs depend on trade in a closely integrated world economy, polls in the US and elsewhere show continued majority support for free trade.

While the Doha negotiators have settled many important issues, the final negotiations first stalled last year, owing to America's refusal to cut its agricultural subsidies further and India's insistence on special safeguards to prevent exposing its millions of subsistence farmers to unfairly subsidized US competition.

Today, domestic politics in the US and India has left America as the only stumbling block to progress. The last election freed India's Congress Party of its coalition with the Communists, who opposed trade, and thus increased the flexibility of pro-trade Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh. But the last election in the US ushered in a Democratic congressional majority that is indebted to trade-fearing unions, thus constraining the pro-trade President Barack Obama.

Obama also faces falling support from business lobbies in manufacturing and services – sectors that are demanding more concessions from other nations. Were he to opt to close the Doha Round as it has been negotiated to date, he could become a general without any troops. His silence on Doha at the recent G-20 summit was deafening.

So, how do we move forward on trade? One solution, favored by some Washington think tanks, is to go along and ask for more. But that would mean several years of re-negotiation. The Doha Round would then be de facto dead.

The other option is to close the Round by resolving the US-India discord on agriculture. Mutual concessions can be crafted that ensure negligible political fallout for both leaders. This would also require marginal improvements in concessions by the major developing countries, and by the US and the European Union on services.

The problem is that lobbyists in Washington would reject this modest solution if the Doha Round were the end game. So, part of the solution would have to be declaration of another Round to negotiate new aspirations and demands. We could even call this the Obama Round. After all, Obama should have to live up to his Nobel Prize as a multilateralist!

Jagdish Bhagwati, Professor of Economics and Law at Columbia University and Senior Fellow in International Economics at the Council on Foreign Relations, is the author of Termites in the Trading System: How Preferential Trade Agreements Undermine Free Trade.

www.project-syndicate.org

Hillary's Kissinger moment

Hillary Clinton's recent trip to Asia may one day be seen as the most significant visit to the region by a United States diplomat since Henry Kissinger's secret mission to Beijing in July 1971. Kissinger's mission triggered a diplomatic revolution. Renewal of US-Chinese relations shifted the global balance of power at the Cold War's height, and prepared the way for China to open its economy – the decision that, more than any other, has defined today's world. What Clinton did and said during her Asian tour will mark either the end of the era that Kissinger initiated four decades ago, or the start of a distinct new phase in that epoch.

Clinton's tour produced the clearest signals yet that America is unwilling to accept China's push for regional hegemony. Offstage at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Hanoi, Clinton challenged Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi over Beijing's claim that its ownership of the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea was now a "core interest." By that definition, China considers the islands (whose ownership is disputed by Vietnam and the Philippines) as much a part of the mainland as Tibet and Taiwan, making any outside interference taboo.

Rejecting this, Clinton proposed that the US help establish an international mechanism to mediate the overlapping claims of sovereignty between China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Malaysia that now exist in the South China Sea. For China, Clinton's intervention came as a shock, and, given the warm response she received from her Vietnamese hosts – despite criticizing Vietnam's human-rights record – the US Secretary of State may well have raised the issue at least partly at their urging, and perhaps with additional prompting from Malaysia and the Philippines.

A general fear has arisen in Asia that China is seeking to use its growing maritime might to dominate not only development of the hydrocarbon-rich waters of the South China Sea, but also its shipping lanes, which are some of the world's most heavily trafficked. So it was wel-

come news when Clinton later deepened America's commitment to naval security in the seas around China by personally attending joint naval and air exercises with South Korea off the east coast of the Korean peninsula. Likewise, military ties between the US and the most elite unit of Indonesia's armed forces – suspended for decades – were restored during Clinton's Asia tour.

Those war games were, most immediately, a warning to North Korea of the strength of America's commitment to South Korea, following the North's sinking of the South Korean warship Cheonan earlier this year. Perhaps more importantly, they also confirmed that the US military is not too distracted by its Iraqi and Afghan engagements to defend America's vital national interests in Asia.

A later portion of the war games took place in the Yellow Sea, in international waters very close to China, bluntly demonstrating America's commitment to freedom of the seas in Asia. And this was followed by the visit of a US aircraft carrier to Vietnam, the first since the Vietnam War ended 35 years ago.

North Korea, no surprise, wailed and blustered against the war games, even threatening a "physical" response. And China not only proclaimed Clinton's intervention over the South China Sea islands an "attack," but also held unscheduled naval maneuvers in the Yellow Sea in advance of the US-South Korean exercise.

Clinton's visit was important not only for its reaffirmation of America's bedrock commitment to security in Asia and the eastern Pacific, but also because it exposed to all of Asia a fundamental contradiction at the heart of Chinese foreign policy. In 2005, China's leaders announced a policy of seeking a "harmonious world," and set as their goal friendly relations with other countries, particularly its near neighbors. But in August 2008, the Communist Party Central Committee declared that "the work of foreign affairs should uphold economic construction at its core."

All foreign relations have, it seems, now been made subservient to domestic concerns. For example, it is fear of

spreading turmoil from a collapsing North Korea that has made Chinese policy toward the North so supine. And Chinese intransigence over the South China Sea is a direct result of the economic bonanza it suspects lies on the seabed. As a result, China is making the task of developing amicable regional relations almost impossible.

In Asia, the hope today is that Clinton's visit will enable China's rulers to understand that it is primarily in Asia that their country's overall international role is being tested and shaped. Strident rhetoric and a hegemon's disdain for the interests of smaller neighbors create only enmity, not harmony. Indeed, it is the quality of China's ties with its Asian neighbors, particularly India, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, and South Korea, that will be central to forging its international image, signaling not just to the region, but to the wider world, the type of great power that China intends to be.

A Chinese policy of pressure and great-power threats against Vietnam and/or the Philippines over ownership of the Spratly Islands, or deliberate intimidation of China's smaller South Asian neighbors, will continue to raise alarms across the Pacific and be seen as proof of the Chinese regime's hegemonic ambitions. Unless China demonstrates that it can reach peaceful accommodations in its sovereignty disputes with its neighbors, its claims to a "peaceful rise" will appear unconvincing not only in Washington, but in capitals across Asia.

Forty years ago, the US opening to Mao's China shocked Japan and all of Asia. Clinton's visit has done the reverse: it has shocked China – one hopes in a way that moderates its behavior in the region. And, if a shock can be said to be reassuring, this one certainly soothed Asian concerns about America's enduring commitment to regional security.

Yuriko Koike, a former Japanese Minister of Defense and National Security Advisor, is a member of the opposition in Japan's Diet.

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Who caused the currency wars?

The world is on the brink of a nasty confrontation over exchange rates – now spilling over to affect trade policy (America's flirtation with protectionism), attitudes towards capital flows (new restrictions in Brazil, Thailand, and South Korea), and public support for economic globalization (rising anti-foreigner sentiment almost everywhere). Who is to blame for this situation getting so out of control, and what is likely to happen next?

The issue is usually framed in terms of whether some countries are "cheating" by holding their exchange rates at an undervalued rate, thus boosting their exports and limiting imports relative to what would happen if their central banks floated the local currency freely.

The main culprit in this conventional view is China, although the International Monetary Fund is a close second. But, considered more broadly, the seriousness of today's situation is primarily due to Europe's refusal to reform global economic governance, compounded by years of political mismanagement and self-deception in the United States.

China certainly bears some responsibility. Partly by design and partly by chance, about a decade ago China found itself consistently accumulating large amounts of foreign reserves by running a trade surplus and intervening to buy up the dollars that this generated. In most countries, such intervention would tend to push up inflation, because the central bank issues local currency in return for dollars. But, because the Chinese financial system remains tightly controlled and the options for investors are very limited, the usual inflationary consequences have not followed.

This gives China the unprecedented – for a large trading country – ability to accumulate foreign-exchange reserves (now approaching \$3 trillion). Its current-account surplus peaked, before the financial crisis of 2008, at around 11% of GDP. And its export lobby is fighting fiercely to keep the exchange rate roughly where it is relative to the dollar.

In principle, the IMF is supposed to press countries with undervalued exchange rates to let their currencies

appreciate.

The rhetoric from the Fund has been ambitious, including at the recently concluded annual meeting of its shareholders – the world's central banks and finance ministries – in Washington. But the reality is that the IMF has no power over China (or any other country with a current-account surplus); the final communiqué last weekend was arguably the lamest on record.

Unfortunately, the IMF is guilty of more than hubris. Its handling of the Asian financial crisis in 1997-1998 severely antagonized leading middle-income emerging-market countries – and they still believe that the Fund does not have their interests at heart. Here, the West Europeans play a major role, because they are greatly overrepresented on the IMF's executive board and, despite all entreaties, simply refuse to consolidate their seats in order to give emerging markets significantly more influence.

As a result, emerging-market countries, aiming to ensure that they avoid needing financial support from the IMF in the foreseeable future, are increasingly following China's lead and trying to ensure that they, too, run current-account surpluses. In practice, this means fervent efforts to prevent their currencies from appreciating in value.

But a great deal of responsibility for today's global economic dangers rests with the US, for three reasons. First, most emerging markets feel their currencies pressed to appreciate by growing capital inflows. Investors in Brazil are being offered yields around 11%, while similar credit risks in the US are paying no more than 2-3%. To many, this looks like a one-way bet. Moreover, US rates are likely to stay low, because America's financial system blew itself up so completely (with help from European banks), and because low rates remain, for domestic reasons, part of the post-crisis policy mix.

Second, the US has run record current-account deficits over the past decade, as the political elite – Republican and Democrats alike – became increasingly comfortable with overconsumption. These deficits facilitate the surpluses that emerging markets such as China want to run – the world's current accounts add up to zero, so if

one large set of countries wants to run a surplus, someone big needs to run a deficit.

Leading Bush administration officials used to talk of the US current-account deficit being a "gift" to the outside world. But, honestly, the US has been overconsuming – living far beyond its means – for the past decade. The idea that tax cuts would lead to productivity gains and would pay for themselves (and fix the budget) has proved entirely illusory.

Third, the net flow of capital is from emerging markets to the US – this is what it means to have current-account surpluses in emerging markets and a deficit in the US. But the gross flow of capital is from emerging market to emerging market, through big banks now implicitly backed by the state in both the US and Europe. From the perspective of international investors, banks that are "too big to fail" are the perfect places to park their reserves – as long as the sovereign in question remains solvent. But what will these banks do with the funds?

When a similar issue emerged in the 1970's – the so-called "recycling of oil surpluses" – banks in Western financial centers extended loans to Latin America, communist Poland, and communist Romania. That was not a good idea, as it led to a massive (for the time) debt crisis in 1982.

We are now heading for something similar, but on a larger scale. The banks and other financial players have every incentive to load up on risk as we head into the cycle; they get the upside (Wall Street compensation this year is set to break records again) and the downside goes to taxpayers.

The "currency wars" themselves are merely a skirmish. The big problem is that the core of the world's financial system has become unstable, and reckless risk-taking will once again lead to great collateral damage.

Simon Johnson, a former chief economist of the IMF, is co-founder of a leading economics blog, <http://BaselineScenario.com>, a professor at MIT Sloan, and a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

www.project-syndicate.org

Can the Millennium Development Goals be saved?

The target date for fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals is 2015, and the world knows it is not on course to meet those goals. So world leaders are set to gather at the United Nations to undertake a comprehensive review, with the aim of agreeing on a roadmap and a plan of action to get to the MDG finishing line on schedule.

I was at the UN in September 2000, when world leaders met at the Millennium Summit and pledged to work together to free humanity from the "abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty," and to "make the right to development a reality for everyone." These pledges include commitments to improve access to education, health care, and clean water for the world's poorest people; abolish slums; reverse environmental degradation; conquer gender inequality; and cure HIV/AIDS.

It's an ambitious list, but its capstone is Goal 8, which calls for a "global partnership for development." This includes four specific targets: "an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system"; special attention to the needs of least-developed countries; help for landlocked developing countries and small island states; and national and international measures to deal with developing countries' debt problems.

Basically, it all boiled down to a grand bargain: while developing countries would obviously have primary responsibility for achieving the MDGs, developed countries would be obliged to finance and support their efforts for development.

This hasn't really happened. At the G-8 summit at Gleneagles and the UN World Summit in 2005, donors committed to increasing their aid by \$50 billion at 2004 prices, and to double their aid to Africa from 2004 levels by 2010. But official development assistance (ODA) last year amounted to \$119.6 billion, or just 0.31% of the developed countries' GDP – not even half of the UN's target of 0.7% of GDP. In current US dollars, ODA actually fell by more than 2% in 2008.

The UN admits that progress has been uneven, and that many of the MDGs are likely to be missed in most regions. An estimated 1.4 billion people were still living in extreme poverty in 2005, and the

number is likely to be higher today, owing to the global economic crisis. The number of undernourished people has continued to grow, while progress in reducing the prevalence of hunger stalled – or even reversed – in some regions between 2000-2002 and 2005-2007.

About one in four children under the age of five are underweight, mainly due to lack of quality food, inadequate water, sanitation, and health services, and poor care and feeding practices. Gender equality and women's empowerment, which are essential to overcoming poverty and disease, have made at best fitful progress, with insufficient improvement in girls' schooling opportunities or in women's access to political authority.

Progress on trade has been similarly disappointing. Developed country tariffs on imports of agricultural products, textiles, and clothing – the principal exports of most developing countries – remained between 5% and 8% in 2008, just 2-3 percentage points lower than in 1998.

The time has come to reinforce Goal 8 in two fundamental ways. Developed countries must make commitments to increase both the quantity and effectiveness of aid to developing countries. Aid must help developing countries improve the welfare of their poorest populations according to their own development priorities. But donors all too often feel obliged to make their contributions "visible" to their constituencies and stakeholders, rather than prioritizing local perspectives and participation.

There are other problems with development aid. Reporting requirements are onerous and often impose huge administrative burdens on developing countries, which must devote the scarce skills of educated, English-speaking personnel to writing reports for donors rather than running programs. And donor agencies often recruit the best local talent themselves, usually at salaries that distort the labor market. In some countries, doctors find it more remunerative to work as translators for foreign-aid agencies than to treat poor patients.

Meanwhile, donors' sheer clout dilutes the accountability of developing countries' officials and elected representatives to their own people.

We must change the way the world goes about the business of providing development aid. We need a genuine partnership,

in which developing countries take the lead, determining what they most acutely need and how best to use it. Weak capacity to absorb aid on the part of recipient countries is no excuse for donor-driven and donor-directed assistance. The aim should be to help create that capacity. Indeed, building human-resource capacity is itself a useful way of fulfilling Goal 8.

Doing so would serve donors' interest as well. Aligning their assistance with national development strategies and structures, or helping countries devise such strategies and structures, ensures that their aid is usefully spent and guarantees the sustainability of their efforts. Donors should support an education policy rather than build a photogenic school; aid a health campaign rather than construct a glittering clinic; or do both – but as part of a policy or a campaign, not as stand-alone projects.

Trade is the other key area. In contrast to aid, greater access to the developed world's markets creates incentives and fosters institutions in the developing world that are self-sustaining, collectively policed, and more consequential for human welfare. Many countries are prevented from trading their way out of poverty by the high tariff barriers, domestic subsidies, and other protections enjoyed by their rich-country competitors.

The European Union's agricultural subsidies, for example, are high enough to permit every cow in Europe to fly business class around the world. What African farmer, despite his lower initial costs, can compete?

The onus is not on developed countries alone. Developing countries, too, have made serious commitments to their own people, and the primary responsibility for fulfilling those commitments is theirs. But Goal 8 assured them that they would not be alone in this effort. Unless that changes, the next five years will be a path to failure.

Shashi Tharoor, a former Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and UN Under-Secretary General, is a member of India's parliament and the author of several books, most recently Nehru: the Invention of India (in German).

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Yemen's Flora



Aloe vera: an effective remedy

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

It grows in abundance in the mountains and valleys of Yemen. For many Yemenis, aloe vera plants have become a regular feature of their agricultural landscape, to the extent they don't even think twice about it.

Yemen has 79 species of aloe alone and aloe vera's juice is used traditionally for everything from treating burns to being used as a natural laxative.

According to folklore, aloe vera even lured Alexander the Great's troops to the island of Soqatra to col-



lect its miraculous sap.

This medicinal-value plant has been discovered to be an effective remedy for a variety of diseases such as ulcers, heat burns, fever, digestive disorders, and several skin injuries such as burns and lacerations.

Whether it is used internally or externally, the aloe vera plant is highly beneficial for your health, as it contains a range of essential ingredients such as amino acids, enzymes, proteins, minerals, mono-saccharides as well as poly-saccharides, salicylic acid, sterols, and vitamins including vitamin B-12. Perhaps for these reasons, aloe vera is sometimes referred to as a "natural healer" or a "miracle herb".

The therapeutic benefits of aloe vera were revealed more than 4000 years ago. The reference of aloe vera on an Egyptian papyrus dating back to 1550



External Benefits of aloe vera:

- Since it has soothing properties, aloe vera is highly beneficial for healing burns and wounds.
- The application of aloe vera gel is considered very effective in reducing itching and pain due to psoriasis.
- Aloe vera is also considered valuable in alleviating chronic joint and muscle pains due to such problems as tendonitis and arthritis.
- As it can stimulate collagen as well as elastin synthesis, it is effective in preventing early signs of aging.
- Restoration of immune system, i.e., application of this therapeutic plant on the skin reduces the chances for developing skin disorders from exposure of the sun's rays.
- Above all, aloe vera is a good moisturizer, i.e. it possesses the properties to hydrate and soften the skin.

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BC and a Sumerian tablet dating back to 2100 BC are among the fine example of this. Some records reveal that it was used by Cleopatra in order to protect her skin from the sun's rays.

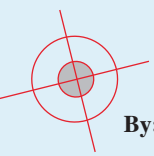
The properties of the aloe vera have also been found in ancient Chinese and Indian records. Likewise, legend has it that Alexander the Great conquered the Socotra Island, now a part of Yemen, in the Indian Ocean, primarily to ensure the uninterrupted supply of aloe vera, in order to heal the wounds of soldiers injured in battles.

According to ancient records, aloe vera was also used in some European countries as well. Nowadays, aloe vera is available in a myriad of forms including sprays, gels, lotions, ointments, and sometimes even in the form of capsules.

Internal Benefits of aloe vera:

- The intake of aloe vera juice is considered to be one of the more effective remedies for gastrointestinal, ulcerous, and intestinal-related problems such as diarrhea and constipation.
- Aloe vera juice is also considered effective in killing bacteria and fungus within the body.
- It is a treasure trove of several useful ingredients such as zinc and super oxide dismutases, and hence serves as a good antioxidant.
- Further, the presence of salicylic acid in the plant allows it to serve as one of the best medicines to combat inflammation and high fever.
- With detoxification properties, aloe vera is advantageous in preventing liver and kidney-related ailments.
- Due to its medicinal properties, the intake of aloe vera is even regarded as effective in preventing such devastating ailments as arthritis, cancer, and diabetes.
- In addition, this plant is beneficial in improving the blood's circulation throughout the body.

HEALTH WATCH



By: Dr. Siva



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

The painful bottom

Aref is a regular qat chewer and smoker. Last week he came to my clinic with severe pain and burning sensation in the anal region. He said that the very thought of visiting the toilet frightened him because of the pain that might ensue. He could not even sit properly on the chair. He said the pain was very agonizing and lasted several hours after he visited the toilet. I examined Aref. He had an anal fissure.

An anal fissure is a small tear in the skin around the opening of the anus. It can cause sharp pain, especially when passing stools. Anal fissure is a common disorder but many people don't seek medical advice for it.

Anal fissures are extremely common in infants but can occur at any age. Studies suggest 80 percent of infants will have had an anal fissure by the end of the first year. The rate of anal fissures decreases rapidly with age.

In adults, fissures may be caused by constipation, passing of large, hard stools, or by prolonged diarrhea. In older adults, anal fissures may be caused by decreased blood flow to the area.

In our country, anal fissure is one of the maladies of qat chewing. Qat can constipate the bowels leading to anal fissures. Smoking too can lead to constipation.

Anal fissures are also common in women after childbirth and persons with a chronic inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease). Very often, an anal fissure is confused with piles because the symptoms are similar.

Most anal fissures are at the rear aspect of the anus - in line with the cleft of the buttocks. A fissure can also occasionally occur at the front of the anus, especially just after childbirth.

Anal fissure usually causes a sharp, searing or burning pain in or around the anus. The pain is so severe like 'passing a piece of broken glass' in the anal region, and lasts for hours after a bowel movement. There can be a streak of bright red blood on the toilet paper or drops of blood in the toilet bowl. Sometimes, the fissure may discharge fluid and this can make it itchy.

The fissure can occur suddenly after straining at the stools. It usually heals in six weeks. Any fissure which lasts more than this time is a chronic fissure.

Diagnosis

In order to confirm a diagnosis of an anal fissure, the doctor will usually have to carry out a physical examination. They will need to examine the anus by gently parting the buttocks. In most cases, the doctor will be able to see a fissure.

Causes of anal fissure

In children and adults, anal fissures are mainly caused by constipation, when straining during a bowel movement can tear the skin of the anus. In adults, it can also occur after a bout of diarrhea. Women have an increased risk of having an anal fissure during the third trimester of pregnancy (week 29 to birth). An anal fissure can also occur during childbirth as the continual straining of muscles during labor can sometimes cause the lining of the anus to tear.

Prevention of anal fissure

The main aims are to prevent constipation and make the stools smaller and softer.

Fibers - You should eat a diet that is rich in fiber; include plenty of fruit, vegetables and wholegrain cereals. Drink enough water so that you don't become dehydrated, which can make your stools harder. Reduce qat chewing and stop smoking.

Laxatives - A variety of drugs and natural products are available for treating constipation. People are often concerned about the regular use of laxatives, fearing that they will not be able to have a bowel movement when the laxative is stopped. However, there is little to no evidence that laxatives are "addictive" or that using laxatives increases the risk of constipation in the future. Instead, use of laxatives for at least several months can actually prevent long-term problems with constipation.

Sitz baths - During Sitz baths, the rectal area is immersed in warm water for approximately 10 to 15 minutes two to three times daily. It is also possible to use the bathtub as a Sitz bath by simply filling it with 2 to 3 inches of warm water. Sitz baths work by improving blood flow and relaxing the internal anal sphincter.

Barriers - To protect the fissure from clothes rubbing against it, use a barrier cream such as zinc and castor oil. Painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen may help to ease the pain.

Physical activity - Physical activities like brisk walking every day will help regular bowel movements.

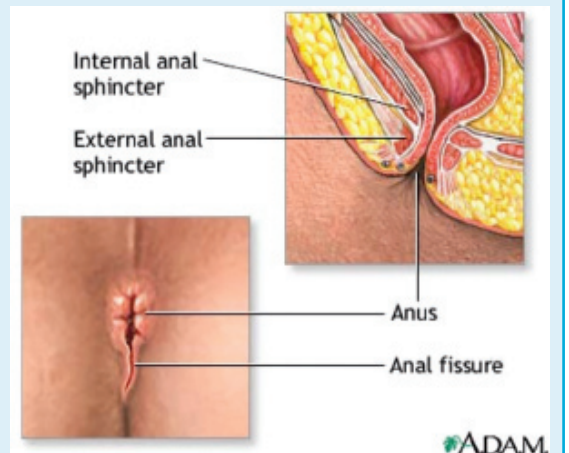
Topical preparations - Many topical ointments/creams are useful to treat fissures. A local anesthetic ointment applied around the anus two to three times daily and before and after bowel movements relieves pain and burning sensation. An anesthetic and steroid combination is good for fissures associated with itching.

Patients with anal tightness will benefit from using nitroglycerin ointment (eg. Rectogesic). This is a rectal ointment that relaxes the internal anal sphincter muscle. This also improves the blood flow to the anus, helping the fissure heal. Nifedipine and Diltiazem preparations have a similar action. Some doctors prefer Botulinum toxin injection to relax the sphincters. Most anal fissures heal with the use of medicines or by changing the diet.

Surgery - The aim of surgery is similar to that of medicines - to relieve the pressure within the anus. You may need surgery if you have a chronic anal fissure that doesn't get better. It is also an option if you have recurring fissures.

The usual operation is to make a small cut in the muscle around the anus (lateral internal sphincterotomy - L.I.S). This permanently reduces the tone (pressure) around the anus and allows the fissure to heal. This is a minor operation which is usually done as a day-case under general anaesthetic. The pain from the sphincterotomy is usually mild. It is a very effective treatment with a success rate of about 95 percent, but there's a small risk of some incontinence occasionally, mainly to wind. It's also possible that your anal fissure may re-occur after surgery.

The best way to prevent an anal fissure is to have regular bowel habits and avoiding constipation by eating enough fiber and drinking enough water.



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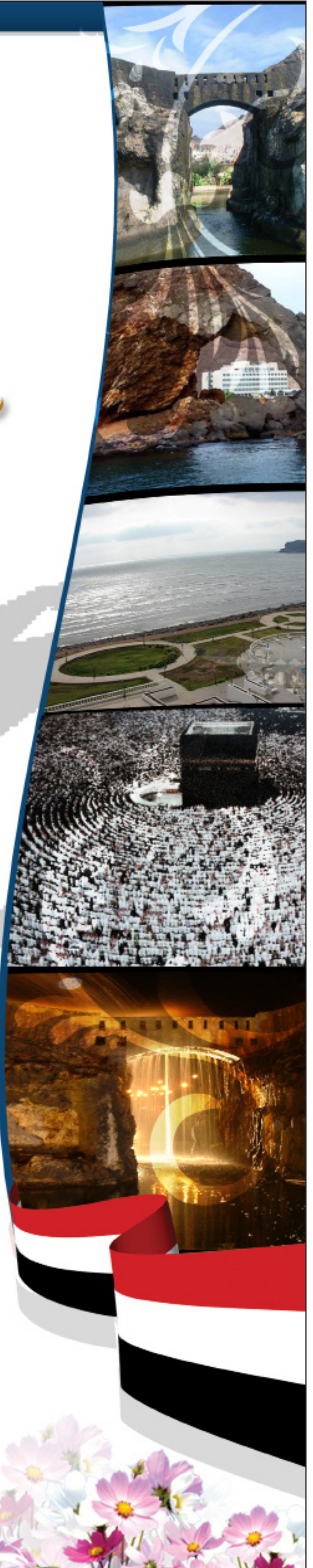
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**مهرجان مفاجات
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Abuse at home can lead to life on the street

By: Sveinn H. Gudmarsson
UNICEF

Life on the street can be very hard, especially if, like Khaled, you are only 16 years old and have no money and nowhere to go. For this teenager, however, anything seemed better than living at home with his family.

"My father was always beating me for lots of different reasons," said Khaled. "Once he even broke my arm." Pointing to scars on his ankles he recalled that his father once "asked a welder to put shackles on my legs. The metal was so hot they had to pour water over it, but I still got burned."

Eventually, Khaled ran away from his home in the mountains west of Yemen's capital. When he left, he took his brother Hamed, 7, with him. "I just wanted to go anywhere," Khaled said, remembering that he thought "perhaps somebody would adopt us."

Seeking better lives

Khaled and Hamed didn't make it across the border, though many other children do. Some get there by their own means, while others are aided by people who specialize in human trafficking. In a project supported



Since its opening in 2004, the Harad reception centre in Sana'a has received more than 10,000 children, almost all of whom are boys.

by the European Union, UNICEF is working with the Government of Yemen on legislative reforms to impose stricter penalties against traffickers and increase accountability for parents who abuse their children.

In Yemen, the poorest country in the Middle East, nearly half the population lives on less than USD 2 per day, and one in five people fall under the international poverty line of USD 1.25 per day. According to recent UNICEF figures, 94 percent of Yemeni children between the ages of

2 and 14 have experienced some form of violent discipline. Not surprisingly, many dream of a better life elsewhere – perhaps with their more affluent neighbors in Saudi Arabia.

But far from the sweet life they might have imagined, most of the children who end up in Saudi Arabia are forced into begging or household work. Many are reported to be physically or sexually abused.

Children in safe hands

On a hot day in July, the Harad

reception centre was sheltering nine boys, including Khaled and Hamed. The centre is an unassuming building on the outskirts of Sana'a, just kilometers from the Saudi border. Established by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour with financial and technical support from UNICEF, it is run in cooperation with Al-Saleh Foundation, a national non-governmental organization.

Since the centre's opening in 2004, it has received more than 10,000 children, almost all of whom are boys.

All the boys who were at the facility with Khaled and Hamed said they had run away from home to escape abuse. Although none of them had been involved with child traffickers, about 60 per cent of the children who come through the Harad centre do report such encounters.

"Children are brought here having been taken into custody by either the Yemeni or Saudi police," said Nabil Shalif, who directs the centre. "They are given shelter and food, medical care, education and psychological support."

'They should not have to suffer'

Mr. Shalif's staff works to reunite children with their families as soon as possible, provided the child's safety is guaranteed. If not, the children are transferred to a more permanent care

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facility in Sana'a.

"If we did not do this work, these children would probably still be on the street," he said. "They do not know their rights and they do not understand that they should not have to suffer abuse at home. When they come to the centre, they start to think about this. They know that abuse is wrong, and they know their legal status."

Khaled's future is still unclear, but after a short stay at the centre he had

gained a better understanding of his options. Going to Saudi Arabia by himself was no longer one of them.

"If I go back home, I would very much like to stay with my grandmother," he said. "If that is not possible, I could perhaps live in a children's centre in Sana'a." He paused, looked briefly at his younger brother and added in a solemn voice: "Whatever happens, I just want someone kind to take good care of us and help us go back to school."

A less painful approach to planning for emergencies

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Yemen office was an ideal candidate to pilot the organization's new emergency planning package. Facing conflict, insecurity, refugees, drought, serious food insecurity, the Yemen operation is a microcosm of all the challenges WFP faces.

By: World Food Programme
WFP

Yemen Country Director Giancarlo Cirri was less than thrilled about having his team be the guinea pigs for a new package designed to enhance planning for emergencies, fearing that it would use up precious time and produce a document that would be forgotten about when an emergency actually happened.

But after going through the process, he

now praises the package for establishing clear, concrete steps to take. "It's also proving to be a management tool. It's a workplan, making us collectively review our analysis of a very complex emergency country more formally and regularly, taking steps as we need to." The package integrates the three processes that existed independently before: Contingency Planning, Business Continuity Planning and Risk Analysis.

Risk analysis

But it is Risk Analysis that really underpins everything. "We sat down with the staff in Yemen and identified and ranked each risk as to likelihood and impact," explained Andrea Bagnoli, a Rome-based Emergency Preparedness and Response Officer. "Then we worked with each of the Country Office units to guide them through the 'Minimum Preparedness Measures' which are compulsory under the new Package."

This approach generated staff ownership of the process. "Staff from Human Resources and Finance, for example, told us that they had never been involved in emergency preparedness planning before and it's clear they so really need to be. For example, who would be the person you would turn to find extra drivers and cars in an emergency – someone from one of these units." The Yemen Country Office staff then went through a series of Checklists, which helped assess the level of preparedness.

Information available

"In the past the information for those extra cars and drivers would have been in someone's head or on their computer, and if they can't get to the WFP office, even such simple information might not be available," said Jonathan Campbell, an EP officer based in Cairo. "A simple, sensible step is therefore to have this information more widely accessible and to be clear who is respon-

sible for it."

Bagnoli adds that establishing firm timelines for the actions shown as necessary by the which the Checklists is very important. "This is what lifts the Country Offices to the minimum preparedness level. But this is only one part of the Package. Next comes Emergency Readiness – helping staff decide when to step up operations from the Minimum Preparedness Measures after a warning flag is raised. There is also a set of Standard Operating Procedures for critical actions in the all-important first 72 hours of an emergency." Further testing needs to be done in other Country Offices to reflect the range of countries in which WFP works, but roll out and training is planned for the start of 2011 in the Regional Bureaux.

Piloting the package

The Emergency Preparedness and Response Package was piloted in Yemen by the entire Country Office team and by Emergency Preparedness and Re-



Facing conflict, insecurity, refugees, drought, serious food insecurity, the Yemen operation is a microcosm of all the challenges WFP faces.

sponse Officers Andrea Bagnoli from Rome and Jonathan Campbell from WFP's Regional Bureau in Cairo. It had been developed by Andrea in Rome working together with WFP's former

Country Director in Russia, Inge Breuer, team member Lisa Biederlack, Diego Fernandez before he was deployed to Afghanistan, and valuable help from the Regional Bureaux.

ROLEX

AL EKLIEL

SANAA : Ali Abdul Mughnee street
ADEN : Al Maidan street - Crater
TAIZ : Al Saeed Commercial Center - 26 September

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Made in Japan