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## Inside:



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# Hijab, politics, fashion and identity in Sana'a

These images created by Yemeni photographer Boushra Al-Mutawakel comments on the relationship between some Western countries and Islam. Al-Mutawakel's work can be viewed as a dialogue between the countries depicted by the flags in the pictures – America, France and Germany – and especially Muslim women who face a backlash because they wear the hijab, or headscarf as required by Islamic law. The hijab has been politicized as a symbol of Islamic extremism in some Western countries.

These photos are not the actual exhibition images but photos of the original images taken by Yazeed Kamaldien. The original images contain more detail and are currently on show at the Sana'a Styles: Fashion & Identity exhibition at the House of Culture in Sana'a.

Turn to Page 10 to read more about this exhibition.



# Yemen in 'state of emergency' as human rights violations rise

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Dec. 15 — Yemeni human rights activists have called on donors to pressure the country's government to stop human rights violations under the pretext of combating terrorism.

The activists have also claimed that the country is in an unannounced state of emergency, used by the state to justify human rights abuses. They made these claims at a seminar on human rights in

Yemen on Tuesday this week. It was organised by the Delegation of the European Union to Yemen in recognition of International Human Rights Day, celebrated annually on December 10.

Yemeni human rights defenders and activists at the seminar discussed means to improve the application of human rights in their country. They also suggested ideas and mechanisms that could be used to promote such rights.

For the last five years, Yemen has

ranked last out of 134 countries in the annual Global Gender Gap Index which assesses the gap between women and men in political and economic status.

Michele Cervone D'urso, ambassador and head of the EU delegation to Yemen, said at the seminar that the low ranking of Yemen in this index and the eight cases of juveniles sentenced to death in recent years have raised the EU's concerns about the human rights situation in the country.

D'urso said that human rights is a key element of EU policy in its relations with Yemen and that the EU had been working with the country's government and civil society organizations to improve its

human rights status.

The ambassador also said that the EU was concerned about the new press and media project law currently under discussion. The law, if passed, will ensure that the ownership of visual and audio media is dominated by the state, by making it prohibitively expensive to license any private TV or radio station.

D'urso also highlighted the failure of Yemen's parliament to issue a law defining the minimum age for marriage. He

said that the EU respected Yemen's values and traditions, but that these should not violate fundamental human rights. He called on the Yemeni government to

meet its commitment to the many international human rights conventions that it had ratified.

(Continues on page 3)

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## Dust closes down Sana'a International Airport

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Dec. 15 — Sana'a International Airport re-opened yesterday evening after being closed for 24 hours, as a widespread dusty haze hit the mountainous governorates of Yemen. All flights were cancelled until the skies were clear enough to allow flights to operate again.

This dust storm originated in Saudi Arabia and lowered visibility to 500 meters on Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

"The minimum level of vision should not be less than 2,000 meters for flights to take off or land. This is why all incoming and outgoing flights were suspended," said Rasheed Al-Ariqi, head of the weather forecast department at the Meteorological Center.

Sana'a International Airport caters to an average of 30 flights per day according to Nabil Al-Kibisi of the Airport Authority.

The widespread dust, which is still completely covering all mountainous areas from Sa'ada in the north to Lahj in the south, is gradually clearing and is expected to be gone by Friday, according to Al-Ariqi.

Strong winds that moved from the south of Saudi Arabia into Yemen first appeared in the northeast of the Arabian Peninsula that includes Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait. They headed to the south through Saudi Arabia reaching Yemen's deserts on Tuesday morning, according to Al-Ariqi.

The northeast winds coming from the north of the Arabian Peninsula are often active in February and during summer each year, but the winds are early this year because of drought.

Professor of Water Resources Management, Abdullah Al-Noman, at Sana'a University explained that the seasonal shift in seasons in the Arabian Peninsula is caused by climate change. Yemen goes through similar dust



By Tuesday the widespread dust had completely covered all mountainous areas from Sa'ada in the north to Lahj in the south. It is expected to clear by Friday. The Meteorological Center warns citizens in areas where the dust is heavy to keep elderly people, children and those who suffer from lung diseases away from direct dust.

storms every year but they usually arrive in February. This year they have come early according to the Meteorological Center. Last year in February flights were transferred to Aden International Airport because of a dust storm that covered the capital at the time.

"This year there was no rain in the northeast region of the Arabian Peninsula that includes Iraq, Jordan, Palestine and Syria and that enabled winds to pick up the dust which has light particles," Al-Ariqi said.

The dust affected Al-Jawf and Marib governorates more because of their proximity to the source of the winds.

The Meteorological Center warns citizens in areas where the dust is heavy to keep elderly people, children and those who suffer from lung diseases away from direct dust. The center also warns drivers to take precautions while driving because of low visibility caused by the dust.

The dust may affect the lives of sea animals as it has reached the Arabian Sea. "The dust is deposited in the sea-water and covers the coral reefs destroying the food for fish and marine animals," Al-Ariqi said.

### Climate change

This is not the first time climate change has directly affected Yemen. In Oct. 2008, two governorates in Yemen suffered from flash floods that claimed the lives of 80 people, and displaced more than 25,000 people. It also destroyed or damaged 3,300 houses.

Yemen's Minister of Water and Environment, Abdul-Rahman Al-Iryani, participated in the United Nations Climate Change Conference that has just concluded in Cancun, Mexico on Dec. 10.

He said that the outcomes of the conference will hopefully enable the least developed countries to be provided with assistance in areas such as the environment, agriculture and energy.

## Yemen pushes for new coffee grading system

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Dec. 15 — To Al-Hasan Ahmed Amer, a 19 year old farmer from Hajja in the north of Yemen, this whole coffee growing promotion business makes little sense.

"How can you expect me to remove the qat trees which sustain my family's living and instead grow coffee, a risky business which requires both more time and more resources?" he asked.

Amer was one of 250 participants at the 2nd International Conference on Arabica Naturals coffee which concluded on Tuesday. The conference aimed to promote Yemen as a coffee producing country of Arabica Naturals, and provide a platform for exchanging information between Yemeni and international coffee markets.

The participants, who hailed from 25 countries, were involved in a tasting contest in which 26 varieties of coffee from Yemen and other countries such as Ethiopia, Indonesia, Tanzania, Brazil, and Mexico were sampled. A Tanzanian brand won first place, followed by a Yemeni coffee and an Ethiopian brand came in third. In total, Yemen held three of the ten most favored types of coffee tasted.

"The most important outcome of this conference is the demand sent out to international coffee institutions for them to create an alternative system for grading coffee based on 'Arabica Naturals' and not 'washed'," said Wesam Qaid, executive manager of the Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS) agency organizing the conference.

At present the international coffee industry uses a grading system for 'washed coffee,' a product produced by many countries but not by Yemen. Instead, Yemen produces 100 percent Arabica Naturals coffee, which is sun-dried for days before the coffee cherries are crushed and the beans collected. In the washed process the cherries are soaked in water until they peel off.

The natural sun-dried process takes longer, but allows the flavor to migrate from the shell to the core so the coffee bean is sweeter. With its many flavors, this makes Yemeni coffee better suited for the espresso industry, according to Manuel Diaz, a consultant with SMEPS in the coffee project, who has more than 20 years of experience in the industry.

The conference also enabled Yemeni businessmen to showcase their coffee products and organize business

appointments with potential business partners from other countries.

"I feel motivated. I see the businessmen who buy my coffee here, but I also see the foreigners who will eventually be buying my coffee from a store. I also discovered that they buy my coffee at a much higher price than what I sell it for to local businessmen," said Ali Yahya, a coffee farmer from Hodeida.

Yahya promised to improve the quality of his produce so that he gets a better price from the middle men. "I know now that if I grow high quality coffee, there is an international market that is interested in buying my coffee at a premium price," he said with a wide grin.

This attitude is exactly what SMEPS had hoped to create through the conference. On the one hand identifying where Yemen and Arabica Naturals' coffee stand in the international markets, on the other, opening doors for improving the art of growing coffee, whether it is about productivity, processing or holding onto traditional forms of agricultural wisdom.

"The farmers were getting a strong dose of buzz words like fair trade, organic coffee, speciality markets, etc..." said Mervat Haidar, senior officer at SMEPS and the dynamo behind the conference.

"It was amazing to see how some farmers who had not even travelled outside their village were sitting and listening through headphones to the translation of a presentation on Colombian farmers or Ethiopian coffee associations. I think we broke many barriers and brought them closer to seeing the potentials of this industry," she said.

The conference concluded with the 'Sana'a Declaration', which was signed by the participants. The declaration was a call for action, demanding attention and practical steps by international coffee organizations and markets to see Arabica Naturals coffee as an independent brand of coffee. It also called on all concerned authorities to promote Arabica Naturals coffee in the various speciality coffee markets worldwide.

See pictures from the two day conference on page 14.

# 4U

To learn more about the coffee conference or Arabica Naturals go to [www.arabicanaturals.com](http://www.arabicanaturals.com) or the facebook profile: [www.facebook.com/ArabicaNaturals](http://www.facebook.com/ArabicaNaturals)

## Electoral amendment sparks opposition protests

By: Shatha Al-Harazi and Iona Craig

SANA'A, Dec. 14 — The ruling General People's Congress Party (GPC) said on Tuesday it will hold parliamentary elections in April next year, despite threats of an opposition boycott.

Electoral amendment legislation was passed on Saturday by the ruling GPC, sparking a sit-in by opposition parliamentarians and calls for protest. The new law changes the make-up of the electoral committee, which will now be composed of judges rather than cross-party delegates from parliament.

"The General People's Congress is playing a dangerous game with the constitution and the law," said Shawqi Al-Qadhi, an MP for Islah, the opposition Islamic conservative party.

The parliament approved a list of 15 judges, including one woman, for the electoral committee, despite strong protests from the opposition coalition, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP). It is now up to President Ali Abdullah Saleh to choose seven judges from the list to replace the current committee.

"The law states that in order to create an electoral committee, two thirds of the parliament's members plus one must vote in favor, which is 201. But today 30 members withdrew, so only 180 were there when the voting started," said Al-Qadhi.

"At the time of voting, most of the General People's Congress members

were absent. Instead they let council employees vote in order to show as many hands as possible."

The ruling party denies that employees were allowed to vote in place of MPs. "This can't be true, as no one can enter the parliament unless he is a member. There were more than 230 members in the parliament today," said MP Al-Aji of the GPC.

Al-Qadhi argues that the pre-determined list of 15 names is against the law. "The council should vote for 15 names from a larger list of names, but they brought a prepared list of 15 names and asked us to vote for them," said Al-Qadhi.

The opposition JMP has refused to participate in electoral preparations as a result of the new election law, claiming that it had been agreed on Oct. 17 to postpone the discussion and refer the issue to the dispute resolution body of the National Dialogue Committee.

Adnan Al-Odaini, from the National Dialogue Committee, said "This is a pre-emptive step solely taken by the General People's Congress, ignoring the role of the National Dialogue Committee. We haven't discussed these issues yet within the National Dialogue Committee."

The opposition JMP started a protest outside Parliament on Monday, and handed out flyers saying the sit-in inside parliament's chambers would continue until the end of the month. It called on the people to demonstrate against the



Anti-riot forces were deployed in Sana'a on Monday against demonstrators supporting the opposition Joint Meeting Parties' outcry over new election laws.

GPC's violation of the constitution in front of the parliamentary buildings on Tuesday.

The planned demonstration failed to go ahead in the face of heavy security. Hundreds of protesters reportedly turned up in Tahrir Square early on Monday morning, but the area had already been cordoned off by riot police.

The majority of protesters left within an hour after being confronted by soldiers, according to local press. "Everybody has the right to demonstrate and the

ruling party has no right to stop them," said Sinan Al-Aji, MP for the GPC.

Parliamentary elections were originally scheduled for February 2009, but were delayed after an agreement was made between the opposition and the ruling party to carry out electoral reforms highlighted by European Monitoring Committee (EMC) observers in 2006. The last presidential election took place in 2006. President Ali Abdullah Saleh was elected to another seven-year term.

## Abu Dhabi joins forces in Yemeni oil exploration

By: Tom Finn

SANA'A, Dec. 15 — Mubadala Development Company, a state-owned Abu Dhabi investment firm, has signed an oil and gas exploration co-operation agreement with the Yemen Company for Investments in Oil and Minerals (YICOM).

The agreement, signed on Sunday, will deepen ties with Yemen's oil industry as the country looks to boost output from its dwindling oil reserves.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed in Sana'a in the presence of Amir Al-Aydari, Yemen's oil and minerals minister. It covers the sharing of technical information and a plan to assess potential joint projects, including the redevelopment and expansion of Yemeni energy fields.

Suhail Al-Mazrouei, the deputy chief

executive of Mubadala Oil and Gas, said that the Yemeni government has "created an attractive investment environment in the upstream sector".

"We believe that Mubadala can use its ability to act as a powerful catalyst, working with YICOM, to open up new oil and gas opportunities in Yemen," said Al-Mazrouei.

The MoU is an important stride for Yemen, which relies heavily on oil revenues to pay for government services. The World Bank and others estimate its wells could run dry as early as 2017 unless new reserves are found.

Yemen is an oil-dependent economy that faces rapidly declining oil production. On average, 85 percent of exports and 65 percent of fiscal revenues have been derived from oil exports and domestic oil trade since 2000, according to a recent report by

the World Bank.

If no new oil is found and current policies are maintained, including subsidizing domestic energy consumption, Yemen is forecast to become a net-importer, as opposed to an exporter, of petroleum products in 4 to 5 years, according to the World Bank.

Yemen's oil production peaked in 2001 and has since declined at a rate of about 3 to 4 percent per annum. Oil output fell by 36 percent between 2001 and last year, from 466,000 to 298,000 barrels per day.

The UAE government has this year promoted international efforts to help Yemen overcome its economic and security challenges, which many consider a threat to regional stability.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, the UAE's Minister of Foreign Affairs, told the UN general assembly in New York in Septem-

ber that his country was keen to offer its support to Sana'a.

"We call upon the international community to stand by the government of Yemen and extend to it the necessary assistance and support, in order to enhance its capacity to fulfil the requirements of fighting terrorism, restoring security and achieving stability and development," said Bin Zayed.

A parallel ministerial meeting was held in New York by Friends of Yemen (FOY), an international group formed to address political and economic conditions that threaten the country's stability. Participants, including the UAE, stressed the importance of international and regional co-operation with Yemen, especially on economic development.

Yemen's Prime Minister Ali Mujawar has argued that the country's "basic problem" was purely economic.

## Car accidents kill 26,000 in last decade

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Dec. 12 — "Car accidents are causing us more disaster than wars," said Dr. Hassan Abdul-Moghni, the dean of the engineering college at Sana'a University on Sunday during the first National Conference for Road Safety in Sana'a.

The two-day conference attended by the Prime Minister and several Yemeni ministries, stressed the importance of amending the traffic laws and imposing sanctions against people breaking these laws.

Every three hours, one person in Yemen dies in a traffic accident. More than 36,000 people have died in car crashes in the last 20 years. The financial costs associated with car accidents since 1990 is around YR 79 billion (USD 370 million). What is more, the number of traffic fatalities is increasing, according to a documentary shown at the conference.

An 11-year-old girl, Amat-allah Hassan, recited a poem about traffic accidents in Yemen at the conference. She talked about the absence of laws that limit the speed of cars, and described the tragic circumstances of orphans who had lost their parents through traffic accidents. She also asserted that some Yemeni officials did not respect the traffic system.

"The government has to give this is-

sue serious priority. The laws are useless if there is no implementing them," Abdul-Moghni said.

"Tackling this problem is crucial. We need to use proper scientific research if we hope to address this," said Sadeq Ameen Abu Ras, the deputy prime minister for internal affairs.

There were 18 research papers on traffic accidents prepared for the conference and the conference formed scientific committees to discuss the problems of traffic in Yemen, according to Abu Ras.

"We should reconsider the use of imported, and often dilapidated, vehicles that cause horrific accidents," said Dr. Ali Mujawar, Yemen's Prime Minister. He urged the concerned authorities to establish driving schools and provide technical inspection of used cars in all governorates.

Around 50 percent of traffic accidents involve vehicle collisions, 32 percent involve pedestrians, and 12 percent are 'rollover' accidents, according to Yahya Zaher, the general director of the Traffic Police Department.

Zaher also revealed that 30 percent of traffic accidents are not reported to the Traffic Police Department. He stressed that the negative impacts from these accidents extend to include the economic, social, and psychological problems of families who lose their only breadwinners.

# Prisoner families protest against Political Security officials

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Sana'a, Dec. 15 — Dozens of families protested yesterday in front of the Political Security building where their fathers and sons have allegedly been detained unfairly.

The Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms organized the protest. Amat-Alrahman Al-Hadi, 60, was among the protesters. She sat on the pavement outside the security building, under the scorching sun, with her face in her hands. She was there to protest for the release of her 23-year-old son Yosef Al-Madani whom she said had been imprisoned for more than two years.

She bitterly told the Yemen Times about her son's detention.

"My son had no political interests. He just went to work would come home," she said with a heartbreaking voice.

Al-Hadi said that the Political Security arrested her son while he was working at Al-Mutawakel Hospital in Sana'a.

"Unfortunately, my son's name is similar to a man who was wanted (by the Political Security). That destroyed our lives," she said.

She said that her son had been married for only six months when he was arrested.



'Our sons were unfairly arrested,' reads these protester's posters in support of prisoners allegedly detained unfairly.

"My son's friend at the hospital told us the bad news. We spent nearly two months looking for him until we found out that he was imprisoned by the Political Security," she said.

Al-Hadi obtained affidavits from businessmen and trusted persons who told the Political Security that her son

wasn't guilty, but they refused to listen to her.

Afrah Al-Wazeer, the sister of one of the detainees at the Political Security prison, said that her brother, Ahmed Al-Wazeer, 26, had been married for only six weeks when he was arrested.

"My brother was a new bridegroom when a group of people arrested him at a mosque due to the similarity of his name with another man who was wanted. My brother was a good student at Arhab University. His dream was to be an Arabic language teacher in the future," said Al-Wazeer.

"Saudi Arabia executed the man who was really wanted but my brother is still in prison."

Ahmed Al-Wazeer was working at a grocery store in Bany Hoshahsh district in Sana'a. His sister said that he had no political affiliations. He was sentenced in absentia to five years in prison.

Said Ali Al-Dailami, head of the Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, said that President Ali

Abdullah Saleh had "granted amnesty for all detainees last May but they are still in the Political Security prisons".

The detainees' families sent a letter to the head of the Political Security to ask him to respect the constitution and its laws as well as international human rights conventions that Yemen has ratified.

This letter stated that the children of detainees have been deprived from visiting their fathers, indicating that some children have never seen their fathers.

The families said in the letter that they will hold the head of the Political Security responsible for all violations against detainees, pointing to two detainees who were tortured to death while detained at the prison.

Prisoners were also deprived from reading, access to medicine, winter clothes and food from their families.

The letter also indicated that Al-Qaeda-linked prisoners were incited and empowered to assault other detainees several times.

## Continued from page 1

Yemen in 'state of emergency' as human rights violations rise

Khaled Al-Ansi, a lawyer who participated in the seminar as an independent human rights activist, said that the Yemeni government does not listen to human rights defenders in the country.

"The government does not listen to us. It only listens to donors who pay money... It listens to Saudi Arabia and to the EU and any donor who pays well," he said.

Al-Ansi explained that the EU, along with other international organizations including the UN, have been helping the victims of human rights violations in the country, but have never thought of tackling the reasons behind such increasing violations.

"They [international organizations] are only working on the results of human rights violations, and do nothing about the reasons for the violations," he said.

Al-Ansi said that Yemen nowadays is in an unannounced state of emergency which was very dangerous for human rights in the country as no one knows when this would end.

"Whenever the country is in an unannounced state of emergency, all rights will be violated," he said.

Al-Ansi said at the seminar that all the articles of Yemen's constitution, as well as the international human rights conventions that Yemen has ratified, were being violated. He said that the government only abides by those articles that entitle them to collect taxes and zakat duties.

Political and civil rights are also being violated, said Al-Ansi. He accused some civil society organizations in the country of being affiliated with influential powers. He claimed that some of these organizations were run by military generals who commit human rights violations and cover-up their violations.

Al-Ansi also accused all government departments of being controlled by small cliques of tribesmen and other influential groups. He claimed that the departments do not operate within their own laws and by-laws, but largely according to the whims of the heads of those departments and other influential men.

"Some military posts are monopolized by some families and no one outside the family can ever attain such posts," he said.

Al-Ansi said that human rights violations are taking place partly because of the absence of a free and independent judiciary.

"Because the judiciary is controlled by some military generals, human rights violations are on the rise," he said.

Al-Ansi also said that the judiciary and the media are two key elements for the development and protection of human rights, but that the media in Yemen is still monopolized by the state.

The political parties and NGOs in the country are still not open to the public, and leadership posts of such parties and organizations are still largely controlled by an elite group of individuals, according to Al-Ansi. He demanded that political parties, NGOs and public departments be opened up to a broader membership to create a better environment for human rights in Yemen.

Hana Al-Mutawakel, media officer of the Women's National Committee, said that since 2004 the committee had identified 66 articles within Yemen's laws and constitution that contain discrimination against women. The committee is a government body that is responsible for framing national policies and laws that will improve women's rights in the country. Al-Mutawakel said that only nine articles have so far been amended, but the rest remained unchanged including the article that fails to define a minimum age for marriage.

Three types of violence are being practiced on a daily basis against women in Yemen, according to Al-Mutawakel.

She explained that due to traditions and illiteracy, women in Yemen are vulnerable to physical punishment from their fathers, brothers or husbands. Women also are being discriminated against by all sectors of society, and are looked down upon by men just because they are women. In the workplace, Yemeni women do not share the same privileges as men, and are denied work incentives and promotions.

"On the streets women in Yemen are subjected to sexual harassment," said Al-Mutawakel.

She added that women's rights in Yemen are deteriorating due to the lack of laws that punish harassment or violations against women. However, Al-Ansi said that such laws will be of no use as long as the judiciary lacks freedom and independence.



'No to arbitrary arrest,' reads these posters of protesters. Included are photos of prisoners who are allegedly detained unfairly by Yemen's Political Security.

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- Finalizes all legal and Technical points and follows up until the contract is signed by both parties
- Prepare any Contracts amendment as required.
- Prepares Contract final report.
- Liaises with Company lawyers on legal issues such as updating the Company General Terms & Conditions for goods & Services, amending specific clauses of Standard Contracts.
- Assists in Contractors prequalification process: prepares standard prequalification form, meets with existing and new Contractors if necessary, assists with evaluation and ranking.
- Ensures that HSE rules and regulations in connection with procurement activities are promoted and applied (safety notice to contractors, documents for shipment of dangerous goods)
- Performs any other contracts related tasks as may be requested by the Head of Contracts from time to time

## Qualifications Required:

- Bachelor degree in engineering discipline or equivalent
- Minimum 10 years working experience in Contracts & Procurement activity and/or trading practices, law and contracts, shipping regulations, customs, preferably in the oil & gas upstream sector
- Excellent interpersonal, management and communicating skills
- Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English, Arabic a plus
- Excellent knowledge of essential computer software programs (Word, Excel, e mail)
- SAP experience a plus
- Well organized, methodical and meticulous

**Job Title:** Contracts Engineer  
**Department:** Contracts & Procurement  
**Reports to:** Head of Contracts  
**Work Location:** Sana'a Ref #: 303

## Duties &amp; Responsibilities:

Within the framework of Yemen LNG, the Contracts Engineer performs a variety of tasks in the contracts Department aiming at preparing and administering contracts. The job holder reports to the Head of Contracts, but he needs to display a certain level of autonomy. He has regular contacts with other staff working in the Contracts and Procurement Department and with all other divisions of Yemen LNG. Due to the sensitive nature of many Contracts and Procurement functions, the incumbent will be careful to strictly apply internal procedures, will display a high degree of business ethics and will ensure that confidential information is stored securely at all times.

- Receive scope of work from End User/Requester Department(s) and issue appropriate Draft Contract for tender process including schedule of price.
- Prepares tender packages.
- Manage call for tender process (request for clarification, administration).

- Manage call for tender opening and evaluation.
- Under the supervision of the Head of Contracts, Issue recommendation to award in coordination with Operations department and in line with Company policy.
- Execute the contracts, prepare any amendment as required.
- Update Contractors feedback list.
- Participate to the Contract administration with SAP.
- Prepare Contract final report.

## Qualifications Required:

- Bachelor degree in engineering discipline or equivalent
- Minimum 5 working experience in Contracts & Procurement activity and/or trading practices, law and contracts, shipping regulations, customs in the oil & gas industry.
- SAP experience a plus
- Excellent written and spoken English.
- Well organized, methodical and meticulous

**Job Title:** Contracts Administrator  
**Department:** Contracts & Procurement  
**Reports to:** Head of Contracts  
**Work Location:** Sana'a Ref #: 304

## Duties &amp; Responsibilities:

The Contracts Administrator handles contract administration work within the Contracts team in the Contracts and Procurement Department and provides support in organizing the various steps of Contract bidding, evaluation and award process. Under the responsibility and guidance of the Head of Contracts, the incumbent prepares contracts documents, organizes their circulation for information and approval, dispatches them to contractors for signature and ensures that complete signed sets are returned in due time. The job holder manages the filing of all contracts and associated correspondence and data and compiles information to prepare activity reports as well as monitoring expiry dates of contracts and required renewals.

- Organizes and follows up internal and external Contracts correspondence.
- Under the responsibility of the Head of Contracts, provides administrative support to organize the various steps of tendering process. Assists in preparing call for tender packages, follows up on bids received and closing dates for receiving bids.
- At Head of Contracts' request, participates in clarification meetings and drafts minutes of the meetings.
- Provides administrative support to Contracts Engineer for evaluation of bids, contract award and contract drafting.
- Ensures that contract documents are circulated and approved internally in accordance with YLNG's procedures
- Makes sure that contract documents are signed by all parties and that original contracts are kept in a secure place.
- Distributes signed copies of contract documents to the Company representative in charge of the technical administration of the contract.
- Keeps track and files all contract correspondence, makes sure that files are up to date.
- Maintains the contracts register up to date.
- Assists the Contracts Engineers with any administrative work that is required within the Department.
- Compiles information and prepares draft of weekly/monthly/annual activity reports.

## Qualifications Required:

- Bachelor degree in business administration or equivalent
- Minimum 3 years working experience in contracts administration preferably in oil & gas industry.
- Excellent written and spoken English.
- Well organized with excellent interpersonal skills.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1 Visit Yemen LNG's website at ([WWW.YEMENLNG.COM](http://WWW.YEMENLNG.COM)).
- 2 Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
- 3 Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply.
- 4 Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.

- 5 Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- 6 Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.

# Graffiti brightening up streets and minds in Sana'a

Story and Photos By: Tom Finn

“Are you advertising?” the old man shouted across the street to the two Germans. “No” came the response. “Are you from the Islam party?” the questioner persisted. “No” the young men repeated. “Then what are you doing?” asked the man who had run out of reasons as to why two foreigners were spraying lines of silver paint on his next-door neighbors’ wall.

“We’re just drawing,” replied one of the boys smiling as he rattled his sprayer. There was a pause, “Can you do my wall when you’re done?” The two boys, dressed in scruffy tracksuits with Yemeni

scarves covering half their faces, chuckled. “We’ll see if we have time.”

The graffiti artists, who asked to be called ‘Tom’ and ‘James’, have been in Yemen for ten days visiting a relative. Instead of doing the usual tour of the Old City, they headed to the diplomatic quarter of Sana’a and, armed with three boxes of spray-paint, set about their work.

“We wanted to try out graffiti in Yemen and see how people respond, so far it’s been fascinating,” said James, a student from Frankfurt in his early twenties.

Their routine has been to knock on people’s doors and ask them if they would like them to draw graffiti on the walls surrounding their houses.

“At first people couldn’t understand what we were asking for or why, but



A young boy in Sana'a completes this city scene in where German graffiti artists painted murals in the diplomatic quarter during their stay in Yemen.



Rafi, a ten year pupil from a local school, adds a touch of paint to a graffiti mural.



A man rides past on a bicycle as Tom, a graffiti artist from Germany, draws his tag on the wall of a house in the diplomatic quarter of Sana'a.

once we showed them some photos of our work, they warmed to the idea.”

According to Tom, also in his early twenties, the most rewarding part of street painting in Yemen has been the interaction they’ve had with local people.

“You wouldn’t believe how many people we’ve talked to, it’s like everyone has an opinion which they want us to hear. We’ve had groups of people stood in the street debating our graffiti,” laughed Tom.

The attitude of Yemenis towards graffiti stands in stark contrast to people from their home country.

“In Germany it’s already been decided – graffiti is a form of vandalism and is therefore something to be frowned upon, but here people are willing to give it a chance.”

It seems that people in Yemen are more interested in the meaning of the art than its appearance. The most common question they’re asked is: “What’s the purpose? What are you trying to say?”

One passerby, a man named Nabil from Ethiopia, stood and watched for a while as the boys sprayed letters with dark black paint to emphasise their outline.

“I like the structure, but to me it has no meaning,” he said. “I think you should make the message clearer so people can understand what you’re trying to say.”

Others were happy just to enjoy the street painting at face value. Crowds of school kids, who had gathered to watch,

were soon trying their hand at graffiti.

“The young people just love it from the start, it’s generally the older guys who want some sort of explanation,” said James.

While there clearly are some graffiti enthusiasts lurking in the capital, their work tends to be confined to Islamic slogans and love notes in plain black scrawl. The Germans are hoping that their work might encourage people to take their scribbling to the next level.

“I hate it when people just scribble their names on the wall, but this is different. Those two are proud of their work, and will talk to anyone about it,” said Rafi, a tenth grade student at a local school, beckoning towards the two Germans.

In many countries in Europe there are strict laws concerning graffiti. Countries like Sweden enforce a zero-tolerance policy, where city authorities quickly remove

graffiti, usually within 24 or 48 hours. There are also sentences of up to two years in jail which can be imposed in serious cases.

In other countries very little distinction is made between vandalism and public art. In South Africa, house-owners do not have the right to give permission for any artworks on their walls besides a house number.

On the day of they were due to return to Germany, Tom and James both regretted not having had more time to draw.

“I have around 40 numbers on my phone of people who want me to draw graffiti on their house,” said Tom.

“We met some Yemeni guys at the Libyan centre, who said they’d started a graffiti club. We’re hopeful that Sana’a’s youth might soon find inspiration in this hobby, so watch this space!”

# Interest-free loans to help farmers combat food insecurity

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Dec. 12 – Yemeni farmers will have access to interest-free loans totalling around USD 200,000 to ensure food security in the country, confirmed an official from the Ministry of Local Administration.

Yemen’s Minister of Local Administration, Rashad Al-Alimi, said that food security also depended on many other factors. The most important factor was water used for irrigating agricultural crops, he said.

“Food security is a concern for the region and Yemen is one of the countries that is most affected by the global increase in food prices,” said Al-Alimi.

He was a guest speaker at a two-day symposium about food security in Yemen and the challenges it poses. The event was held at Sana’a University’s Faculty of Agriculture on Sunday, Dec. 12. The symposium was organised by the university’s Post Graduate Studies and Scientific Research Center and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). Its aim was to increase the possibilities of a successful strategy to end food insecurity in Yemen.

The Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Mansoor Al-Hawshabi, said that the government was sparing no effort



Henning Baur, principal advisor of food security at GTZ, said Yemen needs collective effort to stop food insecurity.

lion tons of crops this year, and that crop production had increased by 20 percent during the past three years.

Despite this, around 32 percent of Yemenis face food insecurity. This means that one third of Yemenis – or 7.5 million citizens – do not have enough food, according to a report published by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in June this year. The report was conducted with assistance from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

A survey by the World Food Program (WFP) this year confirmed that food insecurity affects rural citizens in Yemen the most. The program states that food security only exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

**Qat consuming Yemen’s water**

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation confirmed in June this year that qat irrigation consumes 30 percent of Yemen’s water. About 90 percent of Yemen’s water is used for crop irrigation.

The ministry also stated that Yemen should sharply reduce its qat consumption so that it maintains its current level

of food production.

Al-Alimi said that qat farming should be reduced and that Yemen should apply rain harvesting techniques, rather than continue to use decreasing ground water sources.

“Before outlining the solution for food insecurity, we should realize that we have a real problem regarding qat. It consumes the country’s ground water,” he said.

“Irrigation is directly related to food security. Yemen needs a political decision to reduce qat consumption. The president [of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh] now only chews qat on a few specific occasions.”

**Population, climate change and food insecurity**

Henning Baur, principal advisor for food security at GTZ, said that there will be a greater demand for food as the population increases. He said that in Yemen, the population increases by three percent annually, and thus food production should also increase by at least three percent.

Baur outlined the challenges of decreasing food insecurity in Yemen. These include the rapidly increasing population and global warming, which will mean that crops will need more water for irrigation. In addition, Ye-

men will also need to import oil in the future. This means that more money will be spent on oil and less on food.

Baur said that within one generation, or 25 years, the size of the population will double and ground water resources will half. However, he said that these challenges should not prevent Yemen from ending food insecurity.

“Everybody should work collectively in their different institutions because this issue concerns us all,” said Baur.

Clemens Breisinger, from the Development Strategy and Governance Division at the IFPRI, said that as Yemen’s agricultural output remains flat, agricultural exports have fallen. Food prices have increased and Yemen is considered to have a very low level of food security.

But Breisinger agreed with Baur that collective efforts were required by many institutions. He said that the strategy outlined by the Ministry of Plan-

ning and International Cooperation 18 months ago included other ministries as food security is a national concern. The Water and Irrigation Ministry will promote rain water harvesting instead of using ground water, the Health Ministry will encourage family planning, and the Tax Authority wants to collect more taxes to increase the national budget.



This cartoon depicts how wasting water at home can lead to dry taps and ultimately less water to grow food in Yemen.



## Stories from Real Life

By: Nawal Zaid  
For the Yemen Times

# Step-Mothers

## Married a widowed man to take care of his children

Samira is a 27-year-old school teacher. She married Ali after his wife died; leaving him two children aged 10 and 12. Samira decided that she would love the children and try and make them feel that she was their mother.

At first the children, especially the younger one, rejected her and cried a lot. Since Samira was an educated woman, she understood the children’s mindset and tried new approaches to win their trust and love.

With lots of affection, gifts and plenty of patience it took Samira three years to really win their acceptance. Now the children love her and call her ‘Mommy’. Because of her kind heart and good mind she was able to turn this into a happy family.

## His step-mother destroyed his life

Naser is now 60 years old. Contrary to the Yemeni tradition, he is unmarried due to a childhood ordeal.

When he was only seven years old, his mother died. He lived in a rural area. His father soon remarried an evil woman who would torture and beat him to the extent that he would faint. While his father was outside working, his step-mother would make him do chores and threaten him. She said that if he told his father what she was doing to him she would kill him.

Sometimes the neighbors would hear Naser screaming in pain and they told his father about this. When his father confronted his step-mother, she always denied everything.

When Naser’s father saw his son’s bruises his wife would say that the boy fell and got hurt.

Ignorance and lack of attention allowed this woman to continue treating this child badly for years. One day Naser’s step-mother took a hot iron and kept burning him on his lower back and beat him on his private parts. When the father saw the burns she said he fell on the stove usually used for baking bread.

It so happened that Naser’s grandmother visited them soon after that incident and when she saw her grandchild she understood the situation immediately. She took him to the city to get treated at a hospital. Doctors said that he had incurred damages in his reproductive system and that he would not be able to have children.

The grandmother took him to live with her after that but the damage was done. Although it seems fate has avenged Naser, as

his stepmother died from a snake bite while in the fields, he still feels that his life was destroyed.

He married once but because was unable to have children he decided to give his wife her freedom so that she may live a better life with another man. Now he is 60 and has not had any real job or family. Even today, you can see him wandering in the streets and many people mistake him for a beggar.

**A step-mother kinder than the real father**

Yahya’s wife fought for a divorce because he was very aggressive with her. He got custody of their two children and remarried. His new wife Fatima wanted to take care of the two chil-

dren and treat them as her own.

But Yahya was violent with them and blamed them for any problems that he had. He would come home in a foul mood and start lashing the children.

But Fatima decided to protect the two children from their father’s wrath and instead always took the lashing. She had one child with Yahya and treated the other two the same as her own son.

She made sure that all three children did well at school and got a good education. She also made sure that they loved each other and took care of one another.

Now they have grown up to become successful individuals in society and are a source of pride for Fatima. The two children who are not her own give her credit for what they have become. They say that if she had not been there for them they could have become very negative persons, suffering complexes because of their father’s ill treatment.

# Yemen's double game

By: Ellen Knickmeyer  
Foreign Policy

Years of U.S. diplomatic cables show Yemen's president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, unswervingly determined to get more war materiel and cash from the United States. In some meetings, Saleh pushes the United States to join the fight against Yemen's northern Houthi rebels directly with gifts of helicopters, aircraft, and armored vehicles; in others, Saleh asks for specific weapons but pledges not to use them against the Houthis.

"We won't use the helicopters in Sa'ada, I promise. Only against al-Qaeda," Saleh told U.S. Gen. David Petraeus in a January 2009 meeting. Saleh made his pledge, apparently unsolicited, in reference to a northern Yemen city that is the base of a regional rebellion led by the country's Houthi Shiite dissidents.

In a September 2009 session with White House counterterrorism advisor John Brennan, Saleh, frustrated, presses the United States to give armored vehicles, airplanes, and ambulances specifically to his campaign against the Houthi rebels. "The Houthis are your enemies too," Saleh tells Brennan.

Brennan deflects that request. "The USG [U.S. government] is prohibited by law from providing military support to the [Yemeni government] to be used against the Houthis since the USG considers the group a domestic insurgency," he is quoted telling Saleh.

At that time, however, Saleh and his military chiefs were already diverting the U.S.-supported counterterrorism unit -- a commando group funded,

trained, and equipped by the United States and Britain from 2002 on to take a lead role fighting Al Qaeda in Yemen -- as well as possibly U.S. armored vehicles and Humvees, against the Houthis, then-U.S. Ambassador Stephen Seche notes in another cable. Seche uses the term ROYG to refer to the Republic of Yemen government, and CTU and CT to refer to the counterterrorism unit.

"The ROYG, desperate to defeat the Houthis at any cost, has largely ignored USG concerns regarding deployment of the CTU to Sa'ada," Seche wrote in December 2009. "The CTU has been unable to go after genuine terrorist targets like al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) while it has been tied down in Sa'ada."

The United States this year more than doubled its military aid to Yemen in a push to encourage Saleh's government to do more against what many President Barack Obama's administration see as the world's most aggressive branch of Al Qaeda.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), a Yemen-based union of Saudi and Yemeni Al Qaeda groups, has been linked to the failed December 2009 attempt to blow up a Detroit-bound jet and the recent printer-cartridge bombs, among several other successful and unsuccessful attacks targeting Americans and their allies.

The Yemeni Army and other regular forces are ill-trained, ill-equipped, and riven by corruption that has tens of thousands of "ghost soldiers" on the payrolls so that commanders, tribal leaders, and others can draw the salaries of the nonexistent soldiers and sell their gear on the black market, according to a 2006 assessment by the U.S. Agency

for International Development.

As a result, the United States and Britain have focused on trying to build up Yemeni commando units -- commanded by Saleh's son and nephew -- in hopes Yemen will use them against Al Qaeda. As one cable notes, the United States since 2002 has spent more than \$115 million equipping Yemeni counterterrorism forces, including \$5 million in training in 2009 alone.

In Seche's December 2009 cable, named and unnamed Yemeni military officials confirm that Yemen has diverted the counterterrorism unit in particular to fight Yemeni rebels. They shrug off U.S. protests that the commandos were meant to fight Al Qaeda.

"The war against the Houthis is not a distraction from the CT fight. It is the CT fight," a Yemeni colonel insisted to U.S. Embassy political officers in December 2009.

The Houthis are a family-led insurrection of Zaidi Shiites who began fighting Yemeni forces in 2004. The Houthis say they seek greater sovereignty for northern Yemen. The war has now gone through six rounds; though the conflict is currently frozen, no one is confident that it is over. At least 200,000 people remain displaced by the fighting.

Despite Saleh's frequent claims that they are linked to both Al Qaeda and Iran, no such evidence has surfaced against the Houthis. It is unlikely that Al Qaeda -- a Sunni Muslim group that sees Shiite Muslims as takfiri, or nonbelievers, to be killed -- would ally long-term with a Shiite group. U.S. officials are seen elsewhere in the cables denying that Iran is supplying the Houthis.

International rights groups and civilians from the area of the rebellion

accuse Saleh's government of using heavy-handed tactics that inflict heavy civilian casualties, including deploying helicopter gunships and warplanes to bomb and rocket civilian neighborhoods in the north. Saleh's government has barred journalists from most travel to Saada.

Saleh is also facing growing insurrection in Yemen's south. Both southern and northern Yemenis say Saleh's more than 30-year-old regime discriminates against their regions when it comes to jobs and development.

While the Houthis have used anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans, they are not known to have pursued any attacks outside Yemen. The United States for years has refused Yemen's requests to classify the Houthis as a terrorist group.

While Saleh has allegedly bombed towns harboring Houthi rebels, for most of the past decade he has been far more tolerant of Al Qaeda leaders in Yemen, pursuing a strategy of trying to co-opt rather than kill them. At lunch with a U.S. envoy in 2007, he blandly recounted having gotten together for a chat two weeks earlier with Jamal al-Badawi, the architect of Al Qaeda's 2000 bombing of the USS Cole, which killed 17 people. Saleh promised the U.S. envoy that Badawi -- freed by Yemen despite his conviction in the Cole bombing -- was under "house arrest" and "under my microscope." Badawi's whereabouts today are unclear, however. In his cable, Seche notes that the U.S.-trained force is said to be taking "heavy casualties" in the fighting against the northern rebels because U.S. special-operations forces helped train the commandos for lightning raids rather than

sustained fighting.

One source, whose name is redacted in the cable, says that the Yemenis want to adapt the counterterrorism unit's training to a style more like that of the Americans in Afghanistan, "suggesting the CTU expects to continue to use its forces in Sa'ada," Seche writes. "While U.S. concerns over diversion of troops and equipment have been acknowledged, they have clearly not resulted in a significant change of ROYG focus from the Houthis to AQAP," the U.S. diplomat says. Yemeni critics of Saleh's government have long warned that Saleh's security forces would likely turn any U.S. military aid against southern separatists and northern rebels rather than Al Qaeda.

U.S. military sources in 2009 privately cited repeated rumors out of Saada that Americans themselves have been spotted in the northern war zone -- though it's easily conceivable that Yemenis could mistake a well-armed Yemeni commando for an American. In an August interview in Sanaa, Yemen's capital, a leading Yemeni arms dealer told me that U.S.-made rifles and Humvees were showing up in the Houthi-government fight in Saada. U.S. and British diplomats played down that possibility, stressing in public comments in a November forum on Yemen in London that their governments were working hard to track the end use of Western-donated military aid in Yemen. As Seche's comments showed, however, U.S. diplomats already knew at the time that Saleh and his security forces were diverting U.S. training, funding, and, likely, equipment, against the northern rebels. U.S. diplomats are generally refusing

to comment on specific WikiLeaks cables. The U.S. Embassy in Sana'a didn't respond to an email asking whether anything had changed to keep Yemen from using U.S. training, funding, and equipment against its domestic opposition in the future. It's unclear whether it's illegal for the United States to continue tolerating Yemen's diversion of U.S. training, funding, and, possibly, equipment, as Brennan suggested. Hurst Hannum, a professor of international law at Tufts University, said the United States likely would violate international law only if it contributed U.S. troops directly to Yemen's fight against its rebels. U.S. law on the issue is "filled with ambiguity, loopholes, and executive waivers," Michael J. Glennon, also a Tufts professor of international law, said. If not illegal, it certainly seems unwise. Allowing Yemen to draw the United States into standing a mercenary army for Saleh against his domestic opponents, while hoping he uses it against Al Qaeda as well, implies a triumph of wishful thinking over experience. And though the Houthi conflict was long one of the world's most obscure conflicts, and rightfully so, it grows less so by the year. Saudi Arabia -- which may become a proxy conduit for more advanced U.S. military help for Yemen -- entered the conflict last year, using its warplanes to bomb Houthi positions inside Yemen (as the cables confirm).

U.S. diplomats worried then about Iran entering the conflict on the side of the Shiite rebels. Iran, by all evidence, wisely refrained. The United States, needing neither a third war zone nor a regional Middle East war, should be so disciplined.

## Does the U.S. have authority to target its own citizens for assassination?

By: Soda Head News

He calls on Muslims to kill Americans in YouTube videos and he has been linked to last year's deadly shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, and the attempted Christmas plane bombing in 2009.

From his hiding place in Yemen, New Mexico-born outlaw and anti-American cleric Anwar al-Awlaki is an enemy of the state who has earned a spot on Obama's "capture or kill" list, according to the Associated Press news agency.

And that's where he's going to stay, for now.

NPR reports U.S. District Judge John Bates rejected a lawsuit from al-Awlaki's father to take his son off this list. Nasser al-Awlaki, according to Bates, does not have the authority to sue to stop the U.S. from killing his son. Bates did not say, however, that the potential capture and killing of al-Awlaki was a legally airtight deal.

"The serious issues regarding the merits of the alleged authorization of the targeted killing of a U.S. citizen overseas must await another day or another (non-judicial) forum," the judge said in his ruling.

With the backing of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Constitutional Rights, Nasser al-Awlaki had filed a suit arguing that international law and the U.S. Constitution bar the administration from targeting his son for death unless they can prove he presents a specific imminent threat to life or physical safety and there are no other means to stop him.

The administration countered that the courts have no legal authority to review a presidential decision as the commander-in-chief has the right to make the military decisions he deems necessary to protect the country against terrorist attacks.

## The sunshine policy

The United States has quietly asked allies like Yemen and Pakistan for some extraordinary favors in its war on terrorism. Is it really so terrible if WikiLeaks forces them to explain those demands?

By: James Traub  
Foreign Policy

The most delicious aspect of the WikiLeaks cables is overhearing Mommy and Daddy gossip about the neighbors: Qaddafi's a nut, Prince Andrew a boor, Sarkozy a megalomaniac, and so on. Of course, we already knew all that -- and the fact that we did has given rise to the dismissive reception of the documents in some parts of the commentariat. In the New Yorker, Hendrik Hertzberg writes that because the cables offer "no grand revelations of epic lying, deceit, or criminality," the chief lesson we draw from them is that "the private face of American foreign policy looks pretty much like its public face."

That may be broadly true, but the "public face" of U.S. diplomacy does not include the following, from Sept. 6, 2009: "President Saleh pledged unfettered access to Yemen's national territory for U.S. counterterrorism operations." Or this, from a conversation in January between Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and then-Centcom commander Gen. David Petraeus: "Saleh rejected the General's proposal to have USG personnel armed with direct-feed intelligence present inside the area of CT operations, but agreed to have U.S. fixed-wing bombers circle outside Yemeni territory ready to engage AQAP should actionable intelligence become available." (USG is U.S. government, CT refers to counterterrorism, while AQAP stands for al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.) "Unfettered access" -- that's quite

a surrender of the sovereign authority that ex-colonies usually defend with furious passion. The documents show us that Saleh got a good deal for his open-door policy, as U.S. intelligence chief John Brennan, his interlocutor for the September 2009 conversation, arrived with a personal letter from President Barack Obama apparently pledging economic aid as well as an invitation to come to the White House -- "the prize he has been chasing after for months," according to the cable, signed by then-U.S. Ambassador Stephen Seche.

If Yemen were a democracy, Saleh would be in big trouble for letting those bombers lurk at the border in exchange for a photo-op. Of course, it's not. But the United States enjoys similar, if less sweeping, arrangements with democracies as well and will almost certainly be seeking to make more of them in future.

The supreme example of this sort of transaction is, of course, Pakistan, where military and civilian leaders have pretended for years to protest U.S. drone strikes in North and South Waziristan which, in fact, they have fully accepted. This cover, too, has now been blown. In an August 2008 cable, Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani is quoted as saying, "I don't care if they do it as long as they get the right people. We'll protest in the National Assembly and then ignore it." More damaging still, the cables reveal that Pakistan has approved the deployment of small units of American forces on the ground. An inflated sensitivity over alleged "neocolonialism" has made Pakistan one of the world's most

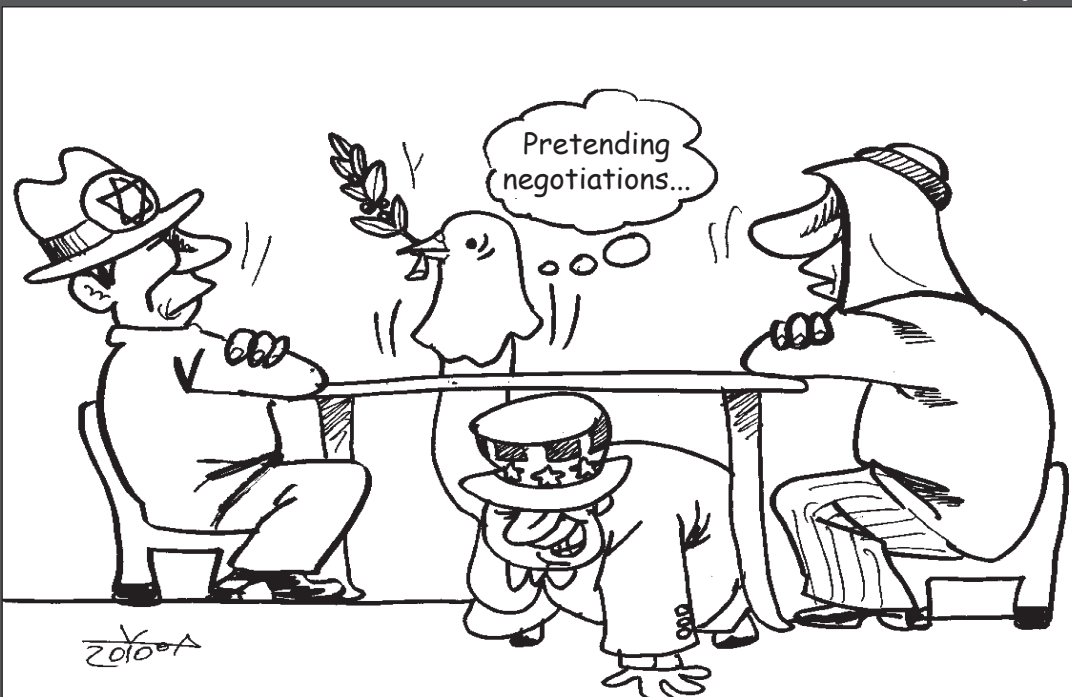
anti-American countries. So far, critics have focused their contempt on Pakistan's politicians rather than on the American presence, but political leaders have generally been able to redirect this venom toward the United States. Good luck with that now.

So yes, it may well be true -- and it would be a relief to know it -- that U.S. diplomats no longer routinely engage in epic lying, deceit, and criminality, as perhaps they did during the Cold War. But the war on terror has its own diplomatic exigencies, and the WikiLeaks cables remind us of the extraordinary demands that American officials now make of U.S. allies. Those allies accommodate American demands out of self-interest, of course: Cables printed by the Lebanese newspaper al-Akhbar, but not yet released by WikiLeaks, disclose that in 2008 Lebanon asked to have American spy planes conduct surveillance of Hezbollah at a time when the Shiite group threatened to overrun the state. But the Lebanese people would have been shocked to hear of Operation Cedar Sweep, as it was picturesquely known, and the revelation has already produced an outcry.

Operation Cedar Sweep took place during President George W. Bush's administration, which was hardly known for respecting the sovereignty concerns of other countries (see: extraordinary rendition). Obama's administration prides itself on its respect for international law and global public opinion, but the sort of consensual infringement of sovereign authority described in the cables has been a growth industry under Obama, as the examples of Pakistan and Yemen attest. And we are sure to learn a great deal more about such practices, in Southeast Asia and West Africa as well as in the Middle East, as more cables come to light.

### SKETCHED OPINION

By: Hamid



**YEMEN TIMES**  
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in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by  
Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661  
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276  
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen  
Letters: yteditor@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS:

Tel: +967 (1) 510306  
Email: adsyemen@yahoo.com

**Publisher & Editor-in-Chief**  
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

**CEO**  
Khaireldin Al-Nsour

**Editors**  
Yazeed Kamaldien  
Iona Craig  
Tom Finn  
Ross West

**Senior Reporter**  
Mohamed bin Sallam

**Head of Design Dept.**  
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

**Editorial Staff**

Ali Saeed  
Malak Shaher  
Sadeq Al-Wesabi  
Shatha Al-Harazi

**Offices**

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

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

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For subscription rates and related information please contact Majdi Al-Saqqaf, Subscription and Distribution Manager, on 268661/2 ext 204 or mobile: 711998995

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VIENNA, Dec. 13, 2010 — Zang Chunlin, Secretary of the China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA), speaks during a panda name-giving ceremony held at Zoo Vienna in Vienna, capital of Austria. The male panda was born on August 23 this year. It was named Fu Hu which means 'Happy Tiger'. Fu Hu was the second panda born at Zoo Vienna. Its brother Fu Long was born at the zoo in August 2007.



CAIRO, Dec. 12, 2010 — Tourists pass through a dust storm at the site of the great pyramids and Sphinx in Cairo, capital of Egypt.



HELSINKI, Dec. 12, 2010 — Children ride on a sleigh at the annual Christmas Park in Seurasaari of Helsinki, Finland.



PESHAWAR, Dec. 13, 2010 — People stand near a school bus destroyed in a blast in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar. At least three people including two children were killed while several others were injured in a landmine explosion that hit a school bus at Charkhana Road, Bahana Mari, at Peshawar on Monday.



MARRAKECH, Dec. 11, 2010 — Jury members pose with award winners at the closing ceremony of the 10th Marrakech International Film Festival in Marrakech, Morocco.



DOHA, Dec. 12, 2010 — Camels are seen on the outskirts of Doha, capital of Qatar. The camels will attend Qatar's National Day parade next Saturday.



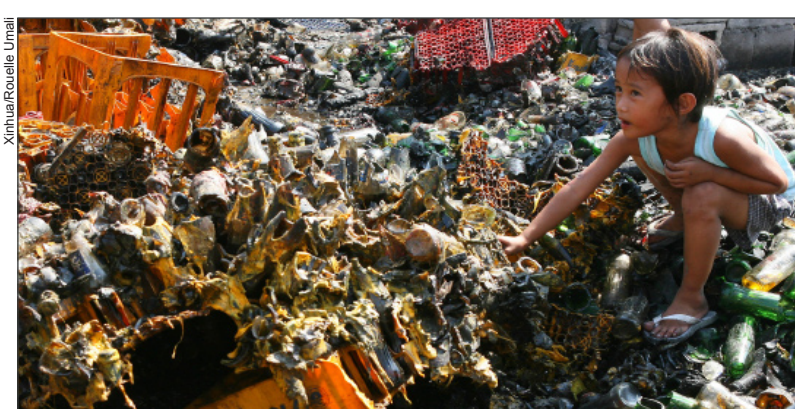
ALEXANDRIA, Dec. 12, 2010 — People search for survivors in a collapsed factory building in Alexandria, Egypt. At least three people were killed when a factory collapsed due to bad weather in Alexandria, officials said.



PORT-AU-PRINCE, Dec. 12, 2010 — Haitians carry a person with cholera symptoms to a clinic in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The cholera outbreak has killed at least 2,000 people and sickened nearly 100,000 in Haiti since October.



KUWAIT, Dec. 13, 2010 — A woman walks in a sandstorm in Kuwait City, capital of Kuwait. Dust and sand borne by winds had swept over Kuwait on Monday.



MANILA, Dec. 13, 2010 — A girl collects reusable materials from molten soft drink cases after a fire occurred in Taguig City, Philippines. The fire left more than 300 families homeless and at least three children missing.



HUAXIAN, Dec. 12, 2010 — A boy (bottom) of Hongwu martial arts club practices during a training session in Huaxian County in central China's Henan Province. More than 300 young students have learned martial arts at weekends and holidays at the club since it was founded two years ago. Through practicing martial arts, some of the young students dream about entering schools specialized in sports or performing arts in the future.



LOME, Dec. 12, 2010 — A model displays a creation of Senegalese designer Mame Fagueye Ba in Lome, capital of Togo.



NIZHNY NOVGOROD, Dec. 12, 2010 — Two women pose with their balloon work during the second New Year Charity Balloon Festival in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia.



SABAH, Dec. 12, 2010 — People visit the Borneo International Cat Competition in Kota Kinabalu in east Malaysia's Sabah province.



# DNO Yemen AS – Celebration Party



Sven Erik Lie, Managing Director of DNO Yemen AS



Colin Kramer, GM of DNO Yemen AS



Thursday, the 2nd of December 2010 at Mövenpick Hotel, Sana'a, saw the Norwegian Oil & Gas, Exploration & Production Company celebrate 3 highly significant milestones and achievements as it continues to grow its operations in Yemen;

- 10 Continuous Years as a Production Operator in Yemen
- The Production of 50 Million Barrels of Oil
- The Recognition of those DNO Employees who have achieved 7 Continuous Years of Service

The celebration was opened by Mr Sven Erik Lie, the Managing Director of DNO Yemen AS, who welcomed the company's distinguished guests from the Ministry of Oil & Minerals, PEPA DNO's Production Block Partners and the many DNO staff. Mr Sven Erik Lie, gave a short account of DNO's early introduction to Yemen and how its early operations came together.

Mr Nassr Al-Humaidy, Chairman of PEPA who mention that how DNO Yemen is a company that is so close to our heart at PEPA, the ministry, and the government as a whole. DNO is one of the few companies that can go in to blocks after big companies and make discoveries where others did not. We may disagree and argue sometimes but we know deep down that your commitment to Yemen is sincere.

This was followed by Mr Colin Kramer, the General Manager of DNO Yemen AS, who delivered a detailed and amusing speech on the many projects that DNO has undertaken, along with the challenges and highlights of his 10 years in Yemen as General Manager, for DNO.

Last speech was by Mr Magne Norman, DNO's Managing Director, of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The celebration was chaired by DNO's Yemenisation development Manager, Mr Alan McPhee, and DNO's Quality, Health, Safety and Environment Manager, Mr Ahmed Al-Wazir.

On behalf of the guests, Mr Nassr Humaidy, PEPA Chairman, thanked DNO for all their efforts over the past 10 years and wished them every continuing success in Yemen going forward.

The celebration continued with the presentation of Long Service Awards to those Yemeni employees who had completed more than 7 years of continuous and dedicated service to the company. DNO Yemen AS is particularly pleased to recognise the efforts and commitment of these special employees who have helped ensure DNO's success in Yemen.

DNO Yemen AS, a subsidiary of DNO International ASA, is an independent upstream oil and gas company, and has been operating in Yemen since 1998. During this time, DNO has steadily grown its Yemeni national employee complement, in both its Sana'a Headquarters and in its production fields in the Hadramout Governorate. This has been achieved in parallel with the growth of DNO's Yemeni asset portfolio, from one Block in 1998 to its current five Blocks and in conjunction with their continuing exploration and development activities.

This DNO Yemen AS celebration in particular recognises all the efforts and commitment of its employees who are associated with Production Blocks 32 & 43, and Exploration Blocks 47 & 72. In addition, DNO Yemen AS offers its thanks and appreciation to both JOC Block Chairmen, Dr Mohammed Al-Zubairy and Mr. Abdul Karim Al-Domaini, and their respective team members, for their commitment to the development of these production blocks, thereby ensuring success for DNO, PEPA, MOM and the people of Yemen. DNO recognises the importance, both in terms of human capital and sound business economics of utilizing and further developing a stable and energetic Yemeni labour force and as part of their development obligations, are committed to a strategy of employing and developing local Yemeni employees across their business departments. In our Field operations in Block 32 and Block 43. It is these people, along with our colleagues within the Ministry of Oils and Minerals, within PEPA and those numerous others who have and continue to contribute to the success of DNO's operations here in Yemen.

With the formal proceedings completed, dinner was served. The evening was concluded by welcoming to the stage, a group of well known Yemeni performers and entertainers, who provided the assembled guests with an excellent evening of traditional Yemeni songs and cultural dancing.



## Oil company awards for gardeners and engineers

By: Yazeed Kamaldien

SANA'A, Dec. 6 2010 – DNO Yemen AS, a subsidiary of the Norwegian-based DNO International ASA, marked its tenth year in the country by awarding its staffers for their service.

The celebration unfolded at the capital city's Movenpick Hotel. It also marked DNO's production of 50 million barrels of oil since it opened shop in Sana'a.

The company has 260 employees in Yemen and only 6 percent are foreigners. It is the fourth largest oil production company in Yemen where its biggest operation is based.

Sven Erik Lie, managing director of DNO Yemen AS, said the Long Service Awards were handed to staff – from gardeners, guards, drivers to engineers – because "they are all important".

"We need the guards, the

cook and the gardener. We try in this company to have a flat organisation and do not to distinguish between the different layers. We give the same recognition to managers and the gardeners," said Lie.

He said the company also operated in Mozambique and Iraq. It holds assets in the UK, Norway and is a public-listed company on the Oslo stock exchange. He said Yemen had been a profitable investment – but not without heavy capital injection.

"The money we have earned here has been

spent here. We have had dry explorations. We drill nine dry wells before we make a discovery with the tenth well. It costs money to find oil," said Lie.

Mariam Haider was the first woman employed at the company. Others have joined, she said, after accepting her service award. She said she started working at the company as a secretary but is now an administration manager.

"I don't deserve this award. It's weird for me to be awarded for something that I enjoy. I should award the company. I'm proud to be part of this big family," said Haider.

### Employees of Long Service Awards

1	Mohammed Alajil
2	Abdurahman Qashnoon
3	Moutasim Al-Maktry
4	Fuad Alawadi
5	Amin Al-Hakimi
6	Adeeb Bin Shamlan
7	Anees Alhetari
8	Saeed Bashamkha
9	Faisal Solaiman
10	Abdul Malik Al-Zubaidi
11	Abdul Hakim Shahr
12	Mohamed Al-Amry
13	Hassan Mohamed
14	Arafat Abdul Malik
15	Salim Basalmah
16	Mohammed Dhafer
17	Ibrahim Tarish
18	Ali Minwar
19	Mohammed Haider
20	Saleh Al-Ameri
21	Saeed Ibadah
22	Mansour Ubadah
23	Ahmed Alalee
24	Mariam Haider
25	Kabool Ismail
26	Abdul Hameed Al-Maktary
27	Nageeb Al-Mamari
28	Gallal Al-Saqqa
29	Mohammed Saeed
30	Saeed Al-Agbari
31	Abdurahman Al-Hamdi
32	Mansour Al-Ammari
33	Abdullah Al-Tayar
34	Salem Karamah
35	Aziz Al-Ashtal



Magne Norman, DNO's Managing Director of the Kurdistan of Iraq



Nassr Al-Humaidy, Chairman of PEPA



Alan McPhee, DNO Yemenisation Development Manager

## Terrorism no threat to oil industry

By: Yazeed Kamaldien

SANA'A, Dec. 6 2010 – Terrorism has not affected Yemen's declining oil business which desperately needs more foreign investors, said a government official at a recent oil industry gathering. Nassr Al-Humidy, chairman of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority (PEPA), said that the country's oil production has drastically dropped since 2002. PEPA is part of the country's ministry of oil and minerals.

Al-Humidy was a guest speaker at a celebration of the Norwegian oil production company DNO Yemen AS which has operated from Sana'a for the last ten years.

"It's well known that oil production in Yemen is declining. We used to produce in 2002 almost 450,000 barrels of oil per day. Now we produce 290,000 barrels a day," said Al-Humidy.

"We ask all our partners to find new oil reserves so that we can increase oil production. The country depends on it. Any company is welcome to come and work with us. They don't have to wait until we announce the bid process."

Al-Humidy said that Yemen is home to major oil companies from Europe, Korea, China and Malaysia. But it needed more investors.

"Less than 20% of the country's land has been explored. We have 80% still to explore. We have many (oil exploration) blocks open for investment. At least 80% of Yemen's

economy depends on oil," he said.

When quizzed on whether terrorism and groups such as Al-Qaeda, which is based in Yemen, has affected the oil industry's demise, Al-Humidy said "not at all".

"Terrorism is not a threat to oil production. We have been producing oil for almost 25 years and we didn't stop for a single day. We have more than 20 big companies in Yemen and they are all producing oil," said Al-Humidy.



Ahmed Al-Wazir, DNO QHSE Manager



Abdurahman Qashnoon



Abdullah AlTayar



Faisal Solaiman



Fuad Alawadi



Gallal Al-Saqqa



Hassan Mohamed



Ibrahim Tarish



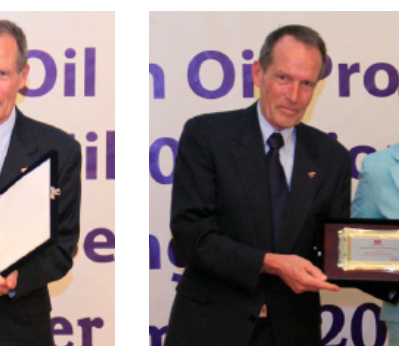
Kabool Ismail



Mansour Ubadah



Mansour Al-Ammari



Mariam Haider



Aziz Al-Ashtal



Abdulhameed Al-Maktary



Mohammed Dhafer



Mohammed Alajil



Mohammed Haider



Mohammed Saeed



Moutasim Al-Maktry



Nageeb Al-Mamari



Saeed Ibadah



Saeed Bashamkha



Saeed Al-Agbari



Salem Karamah



Mohamed Al-Amry



# Discovering fashion and identity in Yemen

Stories and photos by: Yazeed Kamaldien

A packed crowd swarmed around the Sana'a Styles: Fashion and Identity photo exhibition and art-works event earlier this week, when it opened at the House of Culture on Al-Qasr Street in Sana'a.

Striking photographic essays plastered the venue walls. Large color portraits of Muslim women wearing the hijab, or Islamic headscarf, photos showing women in black veils surrounded by contemporary fashion and snapshots of ordinary Yemenis making a statement with their everyday clothes.

Photographer Sophie Elmenthaler showed a series of photos under the title 'Hijab and High Heels'. These pictures showed fashion for women that would reveal skin if worn in public, but that Yemeni women would only wear in private. The images included clothes labeled the "cheapest goods from China and India" sold in Sana'a.

A short film showed Yemenis talking about the clothes they wear and what motivates their sense of style. Another series of photos showed women in various uniforms and cultural dress, commenting on how clothes ensured that individuals became part of the communities where they live.

"People with a strong sense of assertiveness accept identities of their social group," read the statement from this series of photos.

Yemenis depicted a range of viewpoints on fashion and identity via the photos and comments from ordinary citizens. The exhibition invitation stated that, "like us, they find themselves helplessly in front of their closet each morning."

Yemenis commented in the film about their clothes: "I choose my clothes according to my personal concepts. In Yemen there are lots of restrictions." Another said, "The form of clothes should suit the society and its culture."

Among those who had gathered for the exhibition opening were university students Ghanem Ahmed Ghanem and Mohammed Al-Afeef.

"I don't really like following fashion, but I like to wear something different,"

said Ghanem.

"This exhibition tells me that I should wear anything that I like. Some people in Yemen say that fashion is forbidden for girls. They should also be able to wear what they like, but not something that's against Islam."

Al-Afeef, whose photos were part of the exhibition, said that he mostly wears traditional clothes to weddings, otherwise he prefers to wear more contemporary fashions.

"In Yemen we have traditional clothes for some occasions and then fashion that we wear when we go out. This exhibition gives people who don't know Yemen the idea that we do not wear only traditional clothes. Some people are not wearing traditional clothes at all. Some only wear them at home," said Al-Afeef.

Rasha Al-Jundi, from Hebron in Palestine, has lived in Yemen for 16 months working with an international aid agency. She pointed out that the exhibition was also about gender issues. "It's about the roles that men and women play in society and how they are portrayed. Globalization has reached Yemen and it's not just about being in a black veil anymore. People want to express themselves differently with their clothes," said Al-Jundi.

"Human beings never fail to express themselves, whether they are wearing a burka or bikini. People should be able to wear whatever they want. I shouldn't be respected more because of a certain dress code. In Yemen, women are forced to have a certain dress code and not men. And that is portrayed in these photos."

Sana'a Styles: Fashion and Identity has been organized by the French Cultural Centre, the German House in Sana'a and Aden, as well as the Yemeni Ministry of Culture.

Guido Zebisch, director of the German House Sana'a & Aden, was the exhibition's art director. The exhibition was part of the German-French Cultural Project, based on the so-called Elysée-Fund shared between the two nations.

The exhibition runs until January 4 from 9am-1pm and 4pm-6pm during the week. Admission is free.

## 'We can mix traditional clothes with fashion.'

Abbas Ali was one of the participants for a photographic series depicting a young man wearing traditional Yemeni clothes mixed with contemporary fashions.

"I wore sunglasses and this T-shirt to show fashion. It's a good idea to mix traditional Yemeni clothes with fashion. Some people will think this is funny, but people should be allowed to do what they want," said Ali. "I am trying to give people the idea that one day many people will dress like this. Most people want to wear traditional clothes with fashion. This picture will make them think that they can do this."



Abbas Ali appears in photos about Yemeni traditional clothes and contemporary fashion

## Challenging stereotypes with a different hijab

Yemeni photographer Boushra Al-Mutawakel, who has lived in America for half her life, decided to respond through her work to what she feels has been an increase in discrimination against Muslims, particularly women who wear the Islamic headscarf or hijab.

Her portraits show women wearing the hijab – but with a difference. The hijabs that the women wear in her photos are flags of Western countries where Islam has faced bad press and Muslims face stereotypes. The countries she chose to represent were America, France and Germany.

"I'd watched all the news and there were just generalizations of Arabs. I did this work in response to that. I wanted to show the human side of Arabs," said Al-Mutawakel. "I am asking whether there is a contradiction between being Muslim and American. It's also very political."

Al-Mutawakel also wanted to address the growing fear of Islam in some European countries. France banned the wearing of face veils, including the niqab and burqa, earlier this year and in 2004 banned the wearing of the hijab in schools.

"They have this war in France against the hijab. I find it ridiculous and against freedom of choice. It's undemocratic and not in line with their moral beliefs and liberty," said Al-Mutawakel. "There are symbols of the hijab in France too. You see it

in paintings of the Virgin Mary wearing it. Nuns also wear hijab. There have been hate crimes against Muslim women who wear hijab."

"My photos are saying, 'look at yourself'. You talk about being more democratic and developed and I feel that they're going backwards. They're expecting Yemen to be democratic and developed. I feel the

finger is always pointed at Yemen. But they have sometimes far worse things going on in their country than ours. They have so much hypocrisy."

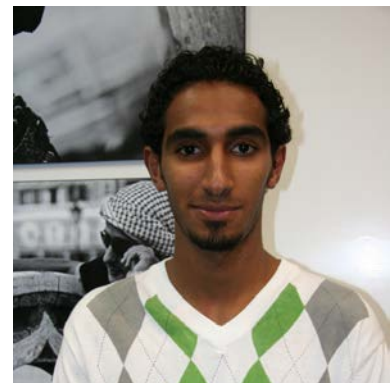
Al-Mutawakel also critiques in her photos the black veil that Yemeni women are expected to wear, rather than having a choice of wearing the more colorful traditional hijab.

"When I look at traditional Yemeni

veils I admire how unique and special they are, as opposed to the black veil which is so prevalent now. The latter lacks personality and identity. The traditional Yemeni hijab is really telling a story," said Al-Mutawakel. "Each village has its own colorful veil with different designs. Even if it's black, there's always a pinch of colour."



Mohammed Al-Afeef



Ghanem Ahmed Ghanem



Rasha Al-Jundi



This photo depicts a woman in black clothes worn by Muslim women in Yemen while she is surrounded by modern fashions in a clothing store



This photo by Boushra Al-Mutawakel shows a woman holding the French flag like a dead body.



Photographer Boushra Al-Mutawakel in traditional Yemeni hijab

**UN**  
Volunteers

**YACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni applicants to apply for the following volunteering position with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

**Post Title: Resettlement Assistant**  
Location: Sana'a

**Responsibilities**  
Under the supervision of the Assistant Representative for Protection, the UNV volunteer will be required to perform the following duties:

- Conduct resettlement interviews and prepare RFPs for referral to Beirut Hub and onward presentation to resettlement countries including emergency cases.
- Manage electronic and physical resettlement documentations such that their safety and security and the confidentiality of Individual Case (IC) information is assured and escapes files are regularly updated.
- Provide counseling to individual refugees explaining the process, prospects and problems involved in each of the durable solution options, in order to enable individuals to be realistic about their future prospects.
- Perform other tasks that may be required.
- Promote or advise local groups in the use of online volunteering, or encourage relevant local individuals and organizations to use the UNV Online Volunteering service whenever technically possible.

**Qualifications**

- University Degree in social work, law, community services or related field;
- Minimum 5 years of previous job experience;
- Good Computer skills (MS office applications);
- Fluency in English

Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to [recruitment@unv.org](mailto:recruitment@unv.org) Subject: Resettlement Assistant - Sana'a

National UN Volunteers are not paid a salary for their services. Instead, they are provided with a volunteer living allowance, \$ 600 per month in addition to hazard allowances.

UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.  
Deadline for receiving applications is 26 December 2010.

**UN**  
Volunteers

**YACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni applicants to apply for the following volunteering position with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

**Post Title: Protection Assistant**  
Location: Sana'a

**Responsibilities**  
Under the supervision of the Protection Officer the UNV volunteer will be required to perform the following duties:

- Support the Senior Protection Officer/cluster lead in the performance of the duties
- Arabic-English interpretation and translation
- Arranging and assisting with cluster meetings
- Supporting liaison activities with local actors, including Government and Yemeni NGOs
- Assisting field offices with co-ordination activities
- Assisting capacity-building activities, including participation in training events.
- To provide support in the field protection teams on protection work when needed.
- Support the planning, the development, coordination, implementation and monitoring of protection activities.
- Promote or advise local groups in the use of online volunteering, or encourage relevant local individuals and organizations to use the UNV Online Volunteering service whenever technically possible.

**Qualifications**

- University Degree in social work, law, community services or related field;
- Experience in a complex humanitarian emergency or post-conflict environment. IDP/refugee protection or relevant human rights and legal experience.
- Good Computer skills (MS office applications);
- Fluency in English

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# Saudi women fight for the environment

For over five years, a small group of young Muslim women have been hard at work in Saudi Arabia helping to fight climate change. Naqa'a, the environmental enterprise, was setup with the aim of introducing environmental practices to organizations and spreading Islam's green message to the masses. The founders of the group were even selected by the White House to participate in the Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship. Arwa caught up with Norah Magraby, a full-time nurse who manages the organisation in her spare time, to find out more about their work, the biggest issues facing Saudi Arabia and the role that all Muslims must play in protecting the environment.

By: Arwa Aburawa  
Green Prophet

### How did Naqa'a coming into being?

The idea of Naqa'a, or I must say the passion for improving our environment, started 5 years ago and it was shared between myself, Mona Othman and Muna Abdulkadir. We were inspired by environmental concerns during our undergraduate studies and as a result we established the first Green Society on campus to offer us an outlet for our passion. However, we have always wanted to have our own environmental business or project that would promote a greater positive change in our community as a whole so over a year ago (July 2009), we founded Naqa'a.

### What are the main aims of the organisation?

Our main target is to involve our community youth in the great mission of preserving our planet and promoting greenery. We want to be a living example of how young people can be the drivers of change in a country like Saudi Arabia. We also want to transfer our community to a whole new level of eco-friendliness across all age groups and sectors by providing practical environmental solutions combined with awareness.

### What work and projects have you been involved in so far?

We have successfully initiated and are currently managing the recycling system in Dar Al-Hekma College, and now we are planning to transfer the whole campus into a green one. We also helped to organize many green events in the city of Jeddah such as the Gulf Environmental Forum 2009 and the Jeddah

Environmental Forum 2008. Moreover, we have delivered environmental workshops in schools settings aiming to deliver our message to the younger generation. And last but not least, we are now implementing various green practices in different organizations and companies within Saudi Arabia in an effort to help them to be green.

### What have reaction been to the organisation? Where you surprised by these reactions?

We always receive positive reactions to our environmental projects and are appreciated by other organizations and by the media. Many people approach us offering their help because they appreciate the idea and most importantly because they are aware of the environmental situation in Saudi Arabia and want to be part of the change for the better. We find this really encouraging.

### What are the major environmental issues that you feel Saudi Arabia is facing?

Mainly it can be summarized by the major lack of water resources, the generation of a massive amounts of waste, the faulty disposition of general waste, massive materialistic consumption and pollution.

### What inspires you, personally, to be more eco?

At first, it was noticing and realizing the major need for such attention in Saudi Arabia that caught my interest and encouraged me to become more eco. However, what got me personally interested is the fact that this is an Islamic duty that I have to carry out since I came to know that knowledge.



Members of Naqa'a: Norah Magraby, Mona Othman, Muna Alamer, Elham Uthman, Reem Oudah, Amal Aljuhani, Wafaa Aljuhani and Shaima'a Al-hajj.

### So does Islam play a big role in your environmental awareness?

Yes sure, it is actually a vital part of our mission statement as well. Many Muslim scholars have addressed many verses from the Holy Qur'an and the Prophet PBUH statements that urge us all to save the earth, preserve our water resources and to reduce our general consumptions. Concepts that have been recently adopted around the world have been in our Islamic teachings over 1400 years ago. We are really proud of our Islamic teachings and spreading it in the best way possible is one of our major awareness goals.

### From what I can tell, Naqa'a is led by women. What role do you feel that women, especially Muslim women, can play in protecting the environment?

Naqa'a was first founded by 3 women; and then 5 more have joined us in the main team. We also have many male and female volunteers helping us in our events and activities. So yes, our core team consists of females only and unlike what most people think, it is not because it is a rule we adopted. It just happened that the most people who are interested in our cause are females. Which is in a way

supports the theory of 'Ecofeminism'. However, we truly believe that preserving our environment is a duty for every Muslim man and woman. Unfortunately, a lot of Muslims neglect that fact and go on with their lives messing our one and only planet. Also, our initiative is very small compared to the amount of effort needed in the Muslim world to promote the 'Green Muslim' concept.

### If you could get people in Saudi Arabia to do one thing for the planet what would it be?

Cut the usage of plastic bags! I truly believe that the consumption of plastic bags in Saudi is the highest in the world.

And finally, what changes do you hope to see in Saudi Arabian community in the next 25 years with regards to environmental awareness?

We would like for environmental awareness to start with the new generations at school. Moreover, having an environmental center for the community would be a great step to highlight the importance of environmental conservation. And last but not least, to have all institutions across Saudi Arabia perform recycling as a duty enforced from the government.

# Tehran to create Middle East's largest man-made lake

As artificial islands in Dubai start to smell foul, authorities from the Iranian city of Tehran are pushing for a giant artificial lake for the western side of the city. Debates on construction of a vast artificial lake in the west of Tehran continues: The critics believe that the environmental impact assessment of the construction has not been done in a correct way and that the method of assessment has become "personal."

Despite the debate, authorities at the Municipality of Tehran have announced that building the artificial lake (pictured above) will refresh Tehran's terrible air pollution and will improve the underground water supply.

Other advantages that the Municipality are counting on is the fact that the lake will improve tourism to the region, they hope; it will create jobs, control the flowing surface water in the city,

and will improve the ecology of the region. Plus they expect it to be eye-catching and photo-worthy. But will it be like Lake Geneva?

To be built next to Chitgar Park (which is famous for its bicycle routes) will be called Chitgar Lake and will have a volume of between 9.5 and 11 million cubic meters. According to the master plan of the 22nd region of Tehran, the area of the whole lake and the surrounding ground covers 330 hectares and the lake itself has an area of 220 hectares.

It is said that it will be the biggest artificial lake in the Middle East, and developers are already laying plans for new apartment complexes for the lake.

The greatest artificial lake in the Middle East, in Iran? Environmentalists in Tehran haven't decided how a giant artificial lake, Chitgar Lake, will impact their city. Developers already have their plans.



A graphic of the proposed Chitgar Lake in Iran.

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# Socotra's island's memorable guides



Small streams run from the mountain. People relax and drink at this stream.

Story and Photos by:  
Sadeq Al-Wesabi

The air was fresh and warm as we gazed at a great variety of unusual plants, including Socotra's distinctive Dragon's Blood trees synonymous with the unique island. Rare Egyptian vultures flew around us as we looked out on a calm blue sea,

with white waves.

We spent an exhausting but memorable four days on Yemen's famous and fascinating island of Socotra.

Five guides and drivers greeted our party of 16 on arrival at Socotra airport. They accompanied us day and night for four unforgettable days. Helpful, accommodating and patient, answering our often repetitive questions, the guides educated us for four long days.

"You're in Socotra now. You shouldn't close your eyes here, you ought to exploit the time and enjoy every minute in the island," said businessman Ameen Derhim, who arranged the trip.

On the journey from the airport to our hotel in the island's capital Hadeebo, the guides explained the names of places to us. The air was fresh and warm as we drove in bright sunlight through clear blue skies.

We reached Adeb camp where we were welcomed with a meal of fresh fish with special Socotri sweet tasting bread and Socotri honey. After breakfast we returned to the cars to start the trip around the island.

The guides were the most important and essential part of the trip. Taking us to the best places in Socotra Such



Many people consider the historical Hoq cave as one of the world's wonders.



Some of Socotra's tour guides pose for a picture with a group of visitors.



Salem Saeed, a guide, with Corre Block, a Canadian visitor to Socotra who works in Taiz governorate.



Homhill is scattered with many Dragon's Blood trees and different bird and plant species.



Socotra tour guide Saleh Al-Socotri.

as Homhill reserve and the beaches of Dixum, and Calansia and Hoq cavern, considered by many visitors as one of the wonders of the world. Some of them guides invited us to their homes to drink strong tea.

Many guides in Socotra support their families from their job of showing tourists around their island. From teenage boys aged 15 to 50 year-old men, the guides are the backbone to the tourist industry on Socotra and the island's best-kept secret.

#### The youngest guide

Awadh Hajj, our youngest guide had worked as a guide and driver in Socotra since he was just 12 years-old.

Now 17, he appeared each day with a warm smile on his lean face, and offers of help in a soft voice. He also helped us choose gifts of Socotri honey, and incense and find the best fresh fish.

"Awadh is very keen to learn English to increase his opportunities, but learning English is expensive. "I hope to learn but I can't. I have to work to sustain my big family," he said sadly.

Socotri guides who speak English earn USD 20 a day. They are more fortunate, according to Awadh.

"I rent a car from my friend. I work day and night for only YR 1,500 (USD 7) a day," he explained.

The teenager quit school four years ago to support his 8 brothers and sisters. Awadh is a typical example of thousands of young Yemenis who have left school to work with low wages and face, as they describe "a difficult life".

"I hope to complete my education but it's impossible because I can barely provide for my family's needs," he said.

Although the number of Yemeni tourists remains small, because of the cost of traveling to the island, in 2009, about 4000 foreign tourists visited Socotra, most of them from Italy, America, and Austria.

Wajdi Omar, 26 started working as a Socotran guide five years ago and has been on an English and tourism courses in Sana'a, supported by the German embassy and a Yemeni businessman Ameen Derhim.

Wajdi believes the future of tourism in Socotra is increasing day by day. "I wanted to be a guide because I really enjoy the work," he said.

Windy days (from June to Septem-

ber annually) are bad days for the guides and leaves them without work for days at an end. "Socotra becomes like a desert in those days, no visitors, no work. Life stops and we stop to work as well," said Awadh.

Everyday, early in the morning Awadh was ready waiting for us. He was our shadow everywhere we went.

Other Socotra guides praised him. "Awadh is a clever and respect other

people. We all love him," said Hasan Al-Soqotri, 50, who works as a guide.

"He's a very bright and kind man," said Abdulqader Sabri, a businessman, who visits Socotra occasionally and knows Awadh well. "He is not just a guide but a friend too. He is an example of struggling teenager."

Awadh dreams that one day Socotra will be a developed island and all its people will prosper.



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#### **Job Duties:**

The incumbent shall:

- Oversees the construction of drilling sites and Civil Earthworks. Includes receiving general instructions from his supervisor, ensuring that surveyors are called to stake out the site, arranging with contractor for necessary equipment such as dump trucks, Caterpillar equipment and graders, etc., selecting the location from which fill material is to be taken, selecting access road, and supervising contractor's equipment on site. Verifies time tickets and provides regular status reports on construction progress.
- Coordinates and supervises equipment for the maintenance of the road network. Includes determining where material needs to be hauled in, using graders, loaders, trucks, water compactors, etc.
- Carries out other similar or related duties such as constructing fencing, putting up road signs, constructing security berms, etc.

#### **Minimum Requirements:**

- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or equivalent work experience.
- 2 years' civil construction experience.
- Good knowledge of English.
- Valid Yemen driving license.

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- ❖ Applications **should be submitted NO later than Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. Faxed applications will not be considered.
- ❖ Make sure that you mention the job title you are applying for in the email subject.
- ❖ Only **short listed candidates** will be contacted.

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المهثون:



# 2nd International Conference on Arabica Naturals

Photos by Abdulsalam Al-Najdi



Prime Minister Dr. Ali Mujawar at the launch of the conference. For once Yemen is making news for the right reasons.



The art of producing good coffee may start at the farmer's level but it is the magical touch of the baristas at the coffee shop that completes the experience.



Prime Minister Dr. Ali Mujawar (center in black suit), Minister of Planning Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi (on Mujawar's right), Minister of Civil Services Dr. Yahya Al-Shuaibi (on Mujawar's left) and Wesam Qaid, executive director of SMEPS (right hand side), watching the experts demonstrate the art of coffee cupping.



Arabica Naturals and the development of the international coffee market session where Europe, both North and South America and Asia came together to discuss Arabica coffee.



Proud Yemeni coffee beans were the center of the Arabica Naturals conference although these shared the limelight with many other brands from Africa, Asia and Latin America.



Yemeni coffee farmers, traders and specialists came together at one session to understand the science of Arabica coffee and exchange knowledge. In total, nearly 250 participants attended the conference which is the first in the region and only the second of its kind.



Trainer and coffee expert Manuel Diaz from Mexico sampling coffee at the coffee tasting workshop. Coffee tasting is called cupping and it is similar to the wine tasting process that involves inhaling, swelling, sniffing and examining the texture and color.



An exhibition took place parallel to the conference where 18 producers and traders competed for the participant's attention, displaying their products and giving away coffee drinks for free.



Heilmichael Mekonen, trainer and coffee expert from Ethiopia, concentrates at the coffee tasting contest. There were 26 samples that needed to be examined and ten winners that were announced at the end of the conference.



Public tasting for African Naturals coffee. Ethiopia may be Yemen's neighbor across the Red Sea, but it is certainly Yemen's first competitor when it comes to the first origin of Arabica Coffee. However, Ethiopia has done a better job than Yemen in coffee production which is currently 173,000 tons compared to Yemen's 18,000 tons.



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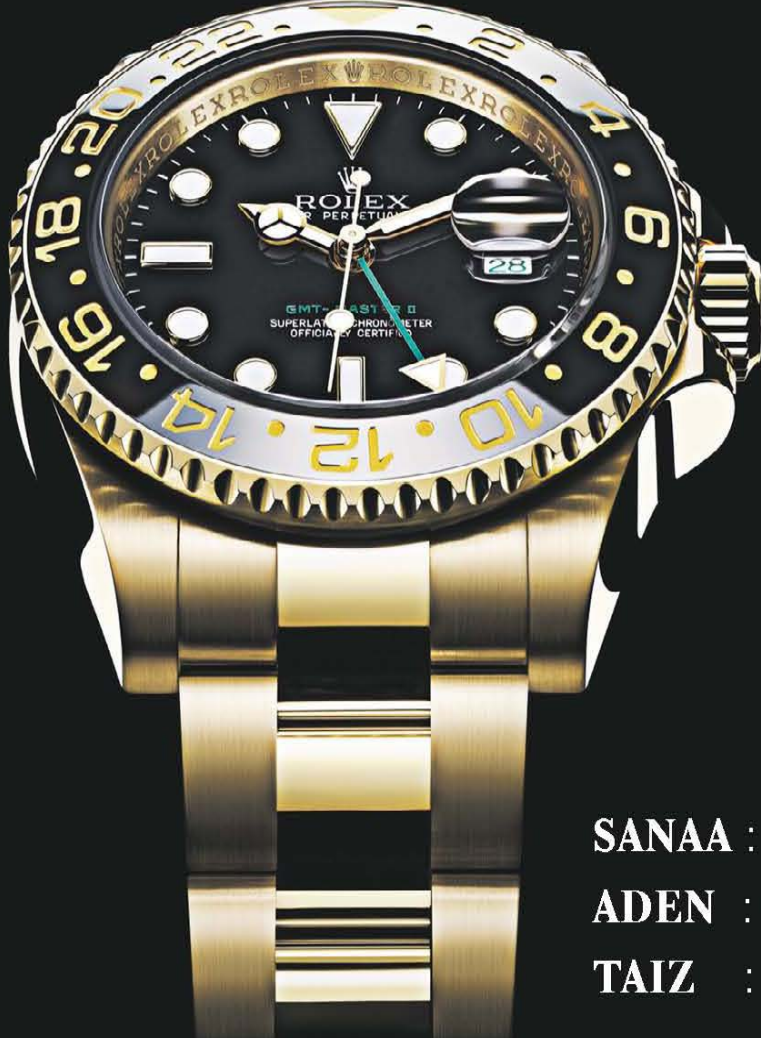
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## Personal development in 'fashion' but not quite right

By: Mahmood Al-Matari

Personal development is essential for most societies and in Yemen there are a number of initiatives that aim to assist individuals to grow.

Rayed Al-Abdaly, an independent training consultant in Sana'a, said that personal development was "necessary for building countries." He said that most young people in Yemen focused on personal development "to get a job or a promotion to a better job."

"Trainers should be specialists with university degrees, a diploma or practical experience. One of the courses that they can do is 'Training the Trainer'. They should have the ability to do presentations, control an audience, and they should have personal morals," said Al-Abdaly.

"The solution to improving personal development training in Yemen is to have an organization that regulates training. This will confirm the quality of the training."

Abdulwahid Al-Rougi, another personal development trainer, said that personal development in Yemen was influenced by the Gulf countries.

"The Yemeni government has no interest in personal development training. There is no observation of development and no reference centers. There are no rules for training, and the result is low quality trainers and poor personal development," said Al-Rougi.

"Trainers should offer the trainees information on how to discover their skills, improve their abilities and change their convictions. But only 20 percent of the trainees really get any benefit, while the rest just study to get a certificate."

Nauman Ahmed Babakri, executive



Abdulwahid Al-Rougi is a personal development trainer.



Rayed Al-Abdaly is an independent training consultant.

manager at Al-Madina Center HRD-IT-Languages, said personal development in Yemen needs to be improved.

"It's not going right because some of the trainers are not suitably qualified. That affects the trainees and personal development in general," said Babakri.

"Personal development is not a major subject at university. Most of the trainers studied some short courses. The difficulty then is that some personal development centers and trainers do not respect the job and they regard it as a commercial business. Some instructors distort the image of personal development."

Babakri said that they would organize courses for personal development.

"We need more than just evening lectures. We need proper courses. Lectures last for a short time and the trainees do not benefit. They don't choose the trainers carefully either," said Babakri.

Muwadda Khalid Al-Hady, a youth

activist and youth development trainer, said that personal development had become a 'fashion' in Yemen.

"There is a growing interest in personal development courses because there is a shortage of skills in Yemen. Many people also see a lot of fast-paced development around them, so most Yemenis need personal development to improve their skills," said Al-Hady.

"It matters to people because they want to succeed in society and organize their lives."

Individuals who are interested in personal development courses say that they believe it builds a strong character. Yasmin Al-Siri, an executive manager at the International American Institute, said that personal development was also about "improving skills."

"The trainer should be practical and realistic and not just talk a lot," she said.

Arwa Jarallah Gawbah, project coordinator at the All Girls Society for Development, said that personal development should be taught at schools because it would help students make their own decisions.

"It was rare to hear about personal development in the past, but now everyone knows about it. The media has played a role in exposing it," said Gawbah.

But she said that "most of the trainers are not qualified" in Yemen.

Aisha Jaffer Ayed works as a dentist and completed a personal development course that she said helped her "select my life's goals".



A personal development class with women trainees.

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