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Refugees unite to enhance mobilization efforts

By: Yemen Times Reporter

SANA'A, Jan. 12 – Various refugee committees in Yemen met during a two-day meeting that ended yesterday to create an overall forum to establish and enhance links.

The meeting was hosted by International Relief and Development (IRD) in Sana'a and included representatives from the Somali, Ethiopian, Eritrean and Iraqi refugee communities from Kharaz Refugee Camp, Aden, Taiz, Mukalla, Hodeida and Sana'a.

They were also joined by a member of Yemen's Palestinian community. Palestinians represent the largest refugee community and the longest ongoing refugee crisis in the world.

One woman and one man came from each country's refugee committee was present at the meeting to ensure a gender balance was implemented. Hosts said that this was particularly important given that women and children constitute the vast majority of refugees in Yemen.

The refugees also issued a joint statement at the end of the meeting yesterday.

"We, the Nationwide Refugee Committees of Yemen, would like to thank the Yemeni government for the protection afforded to us and thank the Yemeni people for their hospitality during our displacement. We welcome the government's initiative of issuing ID cards to Somali refugees and we look forward to the registration exercise being extended to non-Somali refugees and expanded across the country so that all refugees can benefit from this right," read the statement.



Refugees representing various countries met for two days in Sana'a to face issues affecting them in Yemen.

As refugees we feel that we suffer a lot in Yemen but, at the same time, we recognize that Yemen is a poor country and that Yemeni people also struggle greatly. As such we are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the economic and social development of Yemen."

Claire Bourgeois, the UN's refugee agency UNHCR representative in Yemen, said that it was the first time that refugees in Yemen joined forces. The UNHCR estimates that there are more than 170,000 refugees residing

in Yemen.

"This event is particularly important as it represents the first time in the history of refugee affairs in Yemen that committees from all over the country have met under one umbrella to coordinate their activities in such a unified manner," said Bourgeois.

"While the committees are active in empowering their communities to take charge of their own affairs in their respective regions of the country, this event marks the beginning of the formation of a nationwide refugee identity rather than a Somali or Ethiopian or Eritrean or Iraqi identity."

The event's hosts said that refugees have been arriving in Yemen in large

numbers for more than two decades.

A representative from the National Committee for Refugee Affairs on behalf of the Yemeni government also attended the meeting. The Yemeni government puts the refugee figure between 700,000 and one million. The vast majority of refugees are from Somalia but Yemen also hosts significant numbers of Iraqis, Ethiopians, Eritreans and Palestinians.

The country is situated on an ancient migration route and continues to face specific and unique challenges characterized by flows of mixed migration whereby many flee war and persecution in the Horn of Africa and others search for economic opportunities in the Gulf States.

Opposition talks about meeting Clinton

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

Sana'a, Jan. 12 – The US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton held three meetings in Sana'a during her short unplanned visit that lasted only a few hours in Yemen this week.

Her first meeting on Tuesday was held privately with the country's President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The second meeting was also a closed one and was with the country's opposition party leaders. The third meeting was with civil society organizations and some media outlets.

Sultan Al-Atwani, leader of the Al-Nasry opposition party and former head of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) which is the opposition coalition, was one of the six opposition party leaders that met with Clinton. He told the Yemen Times yesterday that the main goal of Clinton's visit was to lobby Arab alliance against Iran.

"We can tell from Hillary's visit not only to Yemen but also to Oman and Qatar that it's not an innocent visit. The hidden purpose of this visit is to gather Arabic support against Iran," said Al-Atwani.

Some political analysts though rejected the claim that the US was trying to push for Arab alliance against Iran. A political analyst, Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi, said that might be a part of US interests but that "Yemen is not that important when talking about Iran".

"America will force more on Gulf countries for that," said Al-Qadhi.

But another political analyst, Aish Owais, told the Yemen Times that Iran might be an objective of Clinton's visit as the US was trying to create regional isolation against Iran. He said that the US might have reached out to Yemen for this but was relying more on Gulf countries. He said that the US mostly looked to Yemen for security reasons.

"All its interests have been about fighting Al-Qaeda. The US adopted a comprehensive perspective towards Yemen as the security problems among others need solutions," said Owais.

A source that accompanied Clinton for more than five hours during her visit in Yemen told the Yemen Times that the main reason behind this visit was



the political conflict over the upcoming April elections and proposed constitutional amendments.

The same source pointed out that what Clinton achieved with this visit with the different leaders would remain confidential and would be declared after January 20.

Al-Atwani confirmed that the meeting with the JMP leaders included discussions about the election and also on how to hold a fair and free election.

"We didn't go through small details but she came to discuss the political and security situations in Yemen. We discussed political updates and the importance of reaching stability," said Al-Atwani.

The Yemen Times asked Al-Atwani whether Clinton would support the ruling party or opposition parties in the upcoming elections. He replied: "Clinton confirmed her support to the people of Yemen and to Yemen's stability."

Al-Qadhi believes that the political situation in Yemen would concern the US "if the ruling party decided to go ahead with its decision to hold the election which would lead to serious political conflicts in the country".

Al-Qadhi said that Yemen was now under US focus more than ever because of Al-Qaeda. The presence of Al-Qaeda in Yemen is even worse than Pakistan and Afghanistan, he said.

He said that the US also wanted to improve its relationship with Yemen and might give the country more facilities to counter terrorism. It has reportedly sent four forces to four governorates in Yemen, which the latter has denied.

Yemeni opinions on Sana'a streets and on various websites indicated that Clinton's visit and the Yemeni-American talks were viewed as interference in Yemeni affairs.

Correction

In the news story 'Yemeni fishermen blamed for African immigrant deaths' by Malak Shaher, published on P1 of this newspaper on Jan. 6 2011, it was reported that the UNHCR said that Yemen has 1.5 million refugees. In fact, it was the country's Ministry of Interior that said there are 1.5 million refugees in Yemen. The Yemen Times regrets this error.



e-MEDIAT Program: TOOLS, TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING Job Vacancies

SOUL for Development is seeking qualified candidates, Yemeni nationals only, to fill the following Two positions: 1) Training Coordinator; and 2) Technical Strategy Advisor, both candidates will work under the general direction of the e-MEDIAT Country Director. The candidates will work under a highly effective and demanding work environment.

Position (1) Training Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Organize workshops and training logistics;
- Assist in program reporting and evaluation;
- Provide training and technical support for participating CSOs and NGOs;
- Conduct some of the e-MEDIAT training to NGOs and CSOs ;
- Provide assistance to partner organizations to design and implement trainings to the community;
- Assist with recruitment, coaching, digital infrastructure, and communication with partner organizations;
- Handle administrative tasks and ensure quality of outgoing correspondence;
- Translate short materials and arrange for translations of large documents.

Qualifications and Required Skills\Experience:

- A Graduate degree, preferably in IT is required;
- A minimum of three years practical experience;
- Experience in conducting training workshops;
- Experience in using a range of new media tools such as: Blogs, Facebook, Youtube, Twitter..etc ;
- Excellent computer skills, including proficiency in the Microsoft Office Suite;
- Excellent English and Arabic verbal and writing skills;
- Demonstrated skills and experience in report writing, presentation, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation;
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment, requiring frequent and timely email and phone communication with multiple partners;
- Ability to work independently and self-motivate;
- Ability to travel regularly outside Sana'a.

Position (2) Strategy Technical Advisor

Responsibilities:

- Assist NGOs in designing and implementing their new media strategic plan;
- Provide supplemental webinars;
- Create buzz on social web about the e-MEDIAT program;
- Contribute to collaborative blog;
- Organize and attend Local meetings of CSO, NGOs and communities and post resources on the Online Learning Community.

Qualifications and Required Skills\Experience:

- A Graduate degree;
- A minimum of 2 years professional experience;
- Very good experience in using a range of new media tools such as: Blogs, Facebook, Twitter, Youtube..etc;
- Excellent computer skills, including proficiency in the Microsoft Office Suite;
- Good English and Arabic verbal and writing skills;
- Demonstrated skills in coaching, planning and communication;
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment, requiring frequent and timely email and phone communication with multiple partners;
- Ability to work independently and self-motivate;
- Ability to travel regularly outside Sana'a.

SOUL for Development only accepts candidates fulfilling the above criteria. To apply for these positions, please send a cover letter and CV to the following email: eMediatYemen@gmail.com by 20th January, 2011, applications received after this date will not be considered. Please note that only application by email will be accepted. Only short listed applicants will be contacted.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position which will support implementation of Recovery Action Plan in Sa'ada



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- Preparation of high quality briefing materials for supervisor for appointments, meetings, and missions
- Preparation of informal translations of incoming and outgoing correspondences and follow up
- Preparation of correspondence, directives, comments on behalf of Minister for his signature and making follow-up when required
- Coordinate, attend and report on meetings with UN Agencies and International authorities for the protection cluster.
- Coordinate with UN Agencies clusters specially Early Recovery, Shelter, WASH and concerned UN and other Agencies to ensure timely delivery of humanitarian & Recovery support.
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For further details on the job description and online application, please visit our website at <http://jobs.undp.org>

Response will only be made to short listed candidates

The deadline for receiving applications is Friday, 21 January, 2011

‘Harmonious’ relations between Yemen and Germany celebrated

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Jan. 12 — The Yemen German Friendship Association celebrated yesterday in Sana'a the 20th anniversary of its establishment. The celebration was attended by the German ambassador as well as many Yemeni officials and prominent German figures.

The German ambassador, Michael Klor-Berchthold, said that conventions, covenants and mutual visits between Yemen and Germany have developed relations at numerous levels.

He also indicated that the close inter-relationship between the two countries has developed significantly due to the efforts made by the Yemen German Friendship Association in Yemen and the German Yemen Friendship Association in Germany (established 40 years ago).

Prof. Yousef Mohammed Abdullah,



Cultural relations between Yemen and Germany include education. This image shows Yemeni students in a German language class in Yemen.

the head of the Yemen German Friendship Association said that there is a genuine partnership between Yemen and Germany.

He indicated during the event that many

qualified Yemeni doctors and engineers have studied in German Universities.

“Yemeni and German relations are harmonious. They have a successful partnership in history, culture and economy,” he said.

Exceptional relations

Abdulqader Sabri, a businessman, has been to Germany several times and has also written a book about his trips to Germany.

“I have attended plays and different events in Germany. It shares many common denominators with Yemen,” Sabri told the Yemen Times.

Sabri also discussed how German authors have regularly visited Yemen and have written books, stories and reports about it. They express an excellent understanding of Yemen, said Sabri.

“They have translated many books written by famous Yemeni poets and authors. They are more active in this regard than us,” he said.

Germany also highlights the positive image of Yemen against many of the negative stereotypes currently circulating within international news, according to Sabri.

We really need this special relationship to improve our economy, culture and tourism, he said.

“The relations between the two countries are exceptional. Germans really love Yemenis and I noticed that many houses in Germany have Yemeni handicrafts and antiques. I saw in one of the houses a menu from a Yemeni restaurant that was taken as a souvenir,” Sabri said.

“We urgently need convoys of German and foreign tourists to come back to Yemen,” he added.

Yemen denies deploying foreign forces to combat terrorism

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Jan 12 — The Yemeni government has denied the report published in the British Times newspaper on Saturday that the US and Britain will send Special Forces to train Yemen's newly established anti-terrorism units in Abyan, Shabwa, Mareb, and Hadramout.

The mouthpiece of the ruling party, Al-Motamar.net has quoted a security source on Tuesday stating that the news regarding the deployment of U.S and British forces in the above mentioned governorates is not true.

The source also claimed that such news is a part of an unfair media campaign against Yemen.

“Fighting against terror in Yemen is purely a Yemeni task carried out by Yemeni forces,” the source said.

The headquarters of Yemen's Anti-

terrorism Unit is based in Sana'a and the Ministry of Interior has recently announced it will create four new branches for the unit to be based in Hadramout, Shabwa, Abyan and Mareb.

Saeed Ubaid, an expert on Al-Qaeda told the Yemen Times that this move is the result of US pressure on Yemen to step up its efforts against terrorism and that these regions have witnessed intensive clashes between Al-Qaeda suspected elements and Yemen's forces.

Al-Qaeda in a recent copy of its magazine Sada Al-Malahem (Echo of Battles) announced that between May and October of 2010 it carried out 49 operations against Yemen's security forces and intelligence services.

Most of these attacks took place in Shabwa, Abyan, Hadramout and Mareb where many of Al-Qaeda's leaders and members are hiding, according to Ubaid. In contrast, only two of these operations were took place in Sana'a.

Wikipedia 10th anniversary celebration: Open invitation

Tens of Wikipedia fans in Sana'a will be gathering at the Mokha Bunn on Saturday at 5:00 to celebrate the site and its contribution to spreading free knowledge on the web.

For more information go to facebook event: http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=18133285523107&num_event_invites=0



Supreme Court to announce its decision regarding trade taxes

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Jan. 12 — Since October 2010, the Tax Authority has banned over 800 traders from collecting their goods that are currently being held at Yemen's ports. The authority has frozen the tax numbers of these traders and have therefore prevented them from continuing their business until they pay their taxes.

The Supreme Court is due to announce its decision this Tuesday regarding whether traders' tax numbers will continue to be frozen if taxes are not paid on time. It will also announce whether traders must pay their taxes directly at the port, as is currently stipulated, or of whether they will be allowed to pay them directly to the Tax Authority.

The chamber of commerce claims that tax numbers are not currently be-

ing frozen by the court but by the Tax Authority, as both Mohammad Zaid, deputy of the Chamber of Commerce and also Abdulsalam Al-Samawi, a legal consultant at the Chamber, discussed with the Yemen Times.

However, the head of the Tax Authority, Ahmad Ghaleb, said that the law is clear regarding this matter and that traders should pay the taxes as the law dictates and that any manipulation or attempts not to follow these rules will result in traders being banned from operating.

Money collected from tax payments make up 22 percent of the national budget, said Ghaleb.

Furthermore, more than 60 percent of traders are not registered at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, according to a study by Professor Muhammad Jubran from Sana'a University, Faculty of Commerce and Economics.

Continued from Page 1

While the world shuns Yemen, Turkey opens its doors

Currently there are 68 bachelor and higher studies Yemeni students on Turkish scholarships and every year Turkey offers 25 medical scholarships for Yemeni patients.

“Whether or not Turkey will become a favourable tourist or medical destination for Yemenis now that the visa requirement is lifted depends on the Turkish private sector's ability to compete with other destinations in the region,” explained Al-Eryani.

He said that for Yemenis the language factor as well as high prices would probably affect the general Yemeni public's decision when considering Turkey as a travel destination.

tion.

Among the agreements signed between Yemen and Turkey during Gul's visit is one between Anadolu Ajansi which is Turkey's official press agency and Yemen's official Saba News Agency. The agreement is an upgrade of a 2000 agreement for exchange of stories, pictures, audio segments and now multimedia. Turkey is now heading the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) which Yemen is a member of. According to Tahsin Akati, deputy director general of the Anadolu, Turkey's goal is to create a media pool from all countries.

“We want to make sure that Yemeni news is very much present in this pool. After all, Yemen is already in our folk songs,” said Akati.

أنشئ مشروع الأشغال العامة في عام 1996م ، من قبل الحكومة اليمنية وبالتعاون مع هيئة التنمية الدولية (IDA) كأحد المكونات الرئيسية لشبكة الأمان الاجتماعي في اليمن، وذلك لغرض التخفيف من الآثار الجانبية التي نجمت عن تطبيق برنامج الإصلاح الاقتصادي والمالي والإداري.

وقد قام مشروع الأشغال العامة بإعداد خطة الإدارة البيئية» والتي تستهدف من خلالها التخفيف من الآثار البيئية السلبية للمشروعات وذلك أثناء علمية التنفيذ وما بعدها في جميع محافظات الجمهورية اليمنية.

وفي هذا الصدد يتقدم مشروع الأشغال العامة إلى كافة المهتمين بنشاطاته وخاصة في مجال حماية البيئة لزيارة موقعه الإلكتروني: WWW.pwpyemen.org حتى يتمكنوا من الاستفادة من هذه الخطة.

The public works project has been set up by the Government of Yemen and the International Development Association (IDA), in 1996 as one of the main components of the Social Safety of the Economic Reform Program. The main objective is to alleviate poverty through creation of jobs.

The PWP has launched “The Environmental Management Plan”, which targets the negative effects of environment aspects during and after the mitigation of implementing the projects in different governorates of Republic of Yemen.

Accordingly, the PWP invites all the interested in PWP activities in general, and those interested in the environment protection in particular to visit the following web site to have the advantage of this plan.

www.pwpyemen.org

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Sometimes security uniforms mean danger

Yemenis talk about their experiences with people posing as law enforcement officers and being cheated in the name of the law.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf
and Ayham Al-Otoom

Aysar Hussein was stopped by three men in a navy blue car at 2:30 in the morning. He was heading home after a gathering with friends when the car blocked his path off Haddah Road in Sana'a.

"After interrogating me as to where my house was, they said they were secret police. Then they asked me to get into the car with them," said Aysar.

While he was thinking of a way out, a police officer in uniform saw the commotion and approached the car. As he raised his rifle at his pretended plain clothes colleagues, they fled the scene leaving Aysar shaken but happy that he survived the incident in one piece.

"The real police officer noted down the car's number and told me that there had been several incidents when criminals posed as secret police and either extort money from citizens or even abduct them," Aysar said.

Sociologist and expert in socio-political science, Prof. Fuad Al-Salahi of Sana'a University, explained that in Yemen and in many countries with a similar history, the relation between citizens and law enforcement authorities is one of fear and distrust.

"The security personnel are a symbol of oppression in society, while the security services view citizens, especially outspoken ones, as a source of trouble," said Al-Salahi. It is easy for people, whether officials or criminals, to use this cultural fear for personal gains, he explained.

Article number 173 of the penal code states that anyone convicted of posing as a state official or unlawfully wearing an official uniform should be imprisoned for up to one year and pay a fine. However, the law has not deterred offenders, who often escape justice.

Residents of Madhabah area northwest of Sana'a can share a related experience. A man in their neighborhood who owned many types of weapons pretended to be

a security officer. The man terrorized his neighbors by threatening to lock them up if they did not give him money.

"We knew of incidents when innocent people had been put in jail for months and sometimes years just because they made an influential security person angry. So we paid whatever this man asked us to pay and tried to avoid him," said a 50 year old man from Madhabah area.

The sham was discovered when relatives of the supposed officer came for a visit and talked to the neighbors. The locals stopped paying him money, but he was not apprehended and continued to carry small arms in the city.

According to a national security official, his department recently arrested a man who pretended to be a member of the national security services using a fake ID card.

"Citizens must demand to see the ID if they are in doubt whether somebody is a security officer. If they are suspicious about this person, they should immediately call 199 and let the real police do the rest," he advised.

However, many Yemenis would rather drop the issue than raise it through official security channels.

"The problem is that we have no faith in the security or the judicial systems. Many times this is because people do not know about their rights, but the main reason is that officials abuse their power," said a woman who used to own a small grocery shop in Sana'a as Al-Hasba district.

She fell victim to two men who posed as undercover security officers and regularly demanded money in return for protecting her shop.

"They told me that if I don't pay my shop would be robbed. So I paid. Now because of that and other reasons I am out of business," she complained.

Abusing the uniform

While some pose as plain clothes security officers, others use real or fake uniforms and IDs to deceive their victims.

Most Yemeni families in Sana'a have a relative who serves in the army. While there are no official numbers, the total strength of the army is estimated at about 600,000 soldiers, who all have military IDs and uniforms.

The army and the police hand out of-

YT photo by Ayham Al-Otoom



Shops on Al-Qiyada Street in Sana'a sell all types of military and security uniforms.

ficial uniforms to authorized personnel, but it is also possible to buy them in specialized shops. On Al-Qaiyada Street in Sana'a, for example, a uniform top costs no more than USD 20.

Customers purchasing full uniforms usually have to show their security ID cards. However, one can buy a part of the uniform such as the vest or a cap without an ID.

"I'm a member of the traffic police and I have come here to buy new boots and a cap. I was not asked for my ID," said Ali Hassan as he was purchasing his items.

With the right demeanor, men wearing uniform coats over their civilian clothes can get away without paying for public transport or even meals.

N. M. works as driver of a public mini-bus. He has been denied his money several times by men wearing uniform or

only parts of it.

"They would get off without paying and if I shout at them they would flash their guns. So naturally I get scared and just drive on. I don't really know whether they are security men or not, I just know they wear the uniform and have guns," he said.

Weapons galore

Just as purchasing a uniform is unproblematic in Yemen, so is buying a weapon. Despite several state-run campaigns aimed at reducing the number of arms in the main cities, there are several markets where one can buy almost any type of gun.

At the outskirts of Sana'a there are three such markets: Al-Jamaia market in Arhab, Al-Hatarish market in Bani Hushaish and Juhana market in Khaulan. The range of weapons on offer includes

Yemen's intelligence bodies

In Yemen there are four intelligence and security services: the National Security Apparatus, the Political Security Office, the Military Intelligence Department and the Anti-Terrorism Unit.

The National Security Apparatus was established in 2002 by presidential decree to "collect and provide intelligence information on the national security issues of the country. It is responsible to detect and fight terrorism and protect the nation's borders from any exterior infiltrations."

The apparatus constitutes the information hub of security issues in Yemen and has control over the country's and cities' entry points.

The Political Security Office is the oldest security intelligence institution in Yemen. It was established in 1990 during unification as a merger of the intelligence bodies of north and south.

The office used to handle all intelligence issues prior to establishment of the National Security Apparatus. Today it focuses on internal political issues. However, being the oldest in the arena, it has the advantage of having more detailed historical or background files on the national security issues such as the Islamist movements. In addition, its staff includes high ranking officials from the two intelligence services of the north and the south while the National Security Apparatus is mostly run by newcomers.

The Military Intelligence Department used to perform various intelligence tasks. Today it mainly focuses on potential military coups, chain of command in the army and loyalty of soldiers to their commanders. The department is the principle reference during wars and armed conflicts.

The Anti-Terrorism Unit was established in 2003 in response to the international war on terror. It has a small section that deals with women.

The Political Security Office and the National Security Apparatus are financially and administratively independent and report directly to the president. The Military Intelligence Department is affiliated with the armed forces and reports to its commander-in-chief. The Anti-Terrorism Unit is affiliated with the Ministry of Interior and reports to the minister who in turn reports to the president.

YT photo by Ayham Al-Otoom



For a few dollars one can buy parts of a security uniform or equipment such as ammunition pockets and boots without an ID.

YT photo by Ayham Al-Otoom



A traffic officer examines a uniform. The shop owner checked his security ID and before selling a uniform to him.

hand grenades, machine guns, artillery guns and bazookas. The products are mostly made in Russia, Belgium and USA. Prices have doubled since the last outbreak of conflict in the north. Today, a simple gun can be purchased for a little more than USD 200, a Kalashnikov costs about USD 700.

The international weapons expert Dick Miller at the High Institute for International Studies in Geneva estimates the total number of weapons in Yemen at little more than seven million pieces. A report published by his institute in

November 2009 points to cultural norms and increasing population numbers that continue to raise the demand.

According to Miller 200,000 weapons are being bought in Yemen every year. It seems unlikely that respectable citizens are the only buyers.

4U

If you are suspicious that somebody is posing as a security officer immediately call 199

Stories from Real Life

By: Nawal Zaid
For the Yemen Times

Broken promises

Broken heart

Jameel is 35 years old. He isn't married now. He has three sons and two daughters. He has a certificate of a primary school. He lives in Saudi Arabia but he is of Yemeni nationality. He works as a clerk in a store.

Jameel had been in love with Nada for three years. Maybe he only thought he loved her. He proposed to Nada but her family demanded a high amount that he could not afford. Therefore, Jameel decided to travel to Saudi Arabia and work there. He planned to save his earnings and come back and marry Nada. He asked her to wait for him.

Jameel always called Nada from

Saudi Arabia. She loved him and believed in him so much that when somebody else proposed to her she refused. She loved Jameel so much she felt she could not live without him.

After several years, a friend of Jameel called Nada and said that Jameel had gotten engaged to another girl. Jameel did not dare to call her because he would not be able to bear her reproaches.

Nada was shocked. She had to be taken to the hospital. No one of her family knew what had happened. She suffered a lot and remained ill for five months.

Finally, she put everything in God's hands. She decided that she will never

forgive Jameel, forget him and never ever trust any man any more.

Lost love

Amirah is 26 years old. She is single. She has eight sisters and nine brothers. She has an average education. She lives in Sana'a with her family. She works in a dentist clinic.

Amirah was engaged to her cousin Rabia for 11 years. They loved each other so much that Rabia asked Amirah to wait for him when he went to America for work. Rabia used to call her always and sometimes sent some money and gifts.

One day, Rabia called Amirah and told her simply that he cannot continue with her. Amirah could not accept this surprising news; she tried to ask him why? What were the reasons? But he gave her no answers and changed his tone with her. Amirah was terribly shocked. She had to be taken to the hospital and stayed there for several days.

A month later, another man, Ahmed, proposed to her. Amirah accepted although she did not know or love him. Ahmed seemed so much better than Rabia: honest, respectable and very rich. They will get married soon.

When Rabia heard that Amirah prepared to get married to someone else

he became furious and jealous. He called her to tell her to leave Ahmed. He did not understand how she could find someone else so soon. He had not wanted her to change her feelings towards him so quickly.

Love before marriage

Mohammad Ahmed is 28 years old. He is a public employee. He has four brothers and five sisters. He completed the college. He lives in Sana'a with his family.

Mohammad met Maha seven years ago in the institute where he was studying. Their relationship turned into love. They used to speak on the phone ev-

ery day. She supported and encouraged him a lot until both of them finished school.

After that, Mohammad decided to propose to her. He talked to his family about Maha, but they didn't believe that he really loved her and thought that it was a passing crush of a teenager. But he insisted and finally they approved. They went with him to Maha's house to propose, and Maha's family accepted as well when they heard of Maha's feelings for Mohammad.

Mohammad and Maha are now married and live a very happy life together. He never intends to play with her feelings and has been honest with her from the beginning.

The tribes of Yemen: A threat to stability or asset to unification?

By: Michael Horton

“The tribes are Yemen and Yemen is the tribes,” is a saying that is often repeated by Yemenis from the north central highlands where the tribe and tribal life are most dominant. [1] In the wake of the “underwear bomber” and the “toner bombs,” Yemen has been the subject of intense and often simplistic media coverage. Newspapers and cable news networks have frequently described much of Yemen as a lawless patchwork of competing tribes. The headlines and erroneous descriptions lack real understanding of Yemen’s intricate social and cultural history. In much of Yemen, tribal affiliations and the complex social, cultural and legal structures that underpin tribal life define and shape families, communities and even regions. While parts of Yemen are not subject to the full control of the state, most are far from lawless. In many of these areas, it is the tribe and tribal government that predominate, just as they have for hundreds of years.

As the Yemeni government and the United States intensify their efforts to combat suspected al-Qaeda operatives in primarily tribal areas like Shabwa, Abyan and Ma’rib, it is essential that these efforts do not alienate and/or isolate potential tribal allies. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula’s (AQAP) attempts to enmesh itself within Yemen’s tribal matrix will be more successful if the Yemeni regime and its backers ignore the country’s tribal politics and history. The U.S.-led December 2009 attacks on suspected al-Qaeda encampments in Abyan and Arhab as well as the failed May 2010 attack that led to the death of Shaykh Shabwani in Ma’rib highlight the dangers of ignoring the tribal aspects of Yemeni society. [2] The attacks inflamed tribe vs. state tensions and acted as recruitment tools for AQAP and other Salafist-inspired groups. While the centrality and power of the tribes may be waning in some parts of Yemen, tribal identity and the kinship ties and allegiances that make up

a Yemeni’s identity remain paramount for many. Understanding how Yemen’s tribes contribute to Yemeni society is a prerequisite to ascertaining how AQAP can or could expand its influence in Yemen.

Tribes and non-State government

The term “tribe” (qabila in Arabic), is not easily defined but it is helpful to note that the verb from which the word is derived can mean to accept or to give a friendly reception. The idea of acceptance and the protection and honor of one’s guests and allies continues to inform much of what it means to be a tribesman (qabili) in Yemen. Use of the term “tribe” in English often leads to an oversimplification of what actually constitutes a tribe. Every tribe is made up of a complex network of families and clans that are knitted together by shared lineages, customs and alliances. The families and clans that belong to a particular tribe are further bound by shared traditions of government and law which regulate both inter-tribal and extra-tribal relations.

Yemen’s tribes have a long and varied history of self governance that, like the written history of states, is characterized by periods of both enlightened and tyrannical rule. Some tribes developed highly efficient systems of delegatory government while others developed forms of government that were less well organized and more reliant on individual leaders. The traditions of government that developed were often dictated by the terrain and the customs of its inhabitants. For example, the tribes of the Razih Mountains in northwest Yemen have a long history of settled farming that necessitated more elaborate forms of government and tribal law (‘urf). As a result, they have maintained written records of legal cases and disputes that are used to establish precedent in contemporary quarrels. [3] Other tribes such as the Dhu Muhammad, whose territory encompasses the desert and scrublands of parts of Ma’rib and beyond, are unlikely to maintain written records and often have a more fluid system of governance that reflects their traditional dependence on herding and seasonal farming.

While the finer points of tribal governance and tribal law are highly varied, there are certain commonalities. In most parts of northern Yemen as well as some parts of southern Yemen, villages are overseen by headmen or umana. Elders (ayan al-qabila) administer clans that may inhabit a number of nearby villages. At the top is the shaykh who oversees the entire tribe. While this may sound pyramidal, it is not. Traditionally—and in much of Yemen this is still the case—the shaykh’s continued power and his position are dependent on the consent and good will of the elders who themselves depend on the goodwill and continued support of their constituents. While elders and shaykhs are mostly drawn from what are called “shaykhly” families (those families that have long produced the clan or tribe’s leaders), the shaykhs and elders can be replaced if they fail to fulfill their obligations to their constituents. The shaykhs, elders and headmen depend on the respect of those they administer. If the respect for any village, clan or tribal leader is lost, then his ability to negotiate truces, act as arbiter, or rule in cases of tribal law is lost, and as a consequence, he will be replaced.

Inter-tribal relations and relations within the tribe and its clans and families are regulated by tribal law, which, despite regional differences, draws on a rich corpus of shared traditions and histories. As customary law, tribal law is adaptable, efficient and, in most cases, is preferred by tribesmen to both Shari’a (Islamic law) and constitutional law. In large swathes of Yemen, tribal law remains the primary code of justice. The government of Yemeni President Salih often falls back on tribal law to settle disputes between tribes and between tribes and the government. A recent example of Salih’s reliance on tribal law came when the Abida tribe and its allies threatened war on the government in the wake of Shaykh Shabwani’s death in May 2010 as a result of a botched missile attack.

The wings of the Imamate

Many of Yemen’s northern tribes belong to one of two tribal confederations: the Bakil and the Hashid. The Bakil is Ye-

men’s largest tribal confederation, but it is historically not as well organized as the smaller but far more politically active Hashid confederation. The Hashid, traditionally led by members of the al-Ahmar family, is an influential actor in Yemeni politics. President Salih’s Sanhan tribe belongs to the Hashid confederation. This and Salih’s reliance on tribal politics to consolidate and increase his political reach have ensured the continued prominence of the Hashid in all aspects of Yemeni society, especially in northern Yemen. Both the Hashid and the Bakil have rejected al-Qaeda efforts to recruit their members (Saudi Gazette, January 6, 2010).

Throughout much of Yemen’s history, the Hashid and Bakil confederations and the tribes that belong to them have acted as arbiters of power in northern Yemen, and in parts of southern Yemen as well over the last twenty years. The two confederations were often termed the “wings of the Imamate” because of the reliance of the Imam (the hereditary ruler and religious leader of the Zaidi Shiites of northern Yemen) on them to legitimize his rule and most importantly to expel invading forces like the Ottoman Turks in the 17th and early 20th centuries. However, the relationship between the tribes and the state (the Imamate in this case) was usually a balancing act between two powers that always threatened to overwhelm one another. The tribes, acting individually or as a confederation, often rebelled against the state when it was seen to be overreaching its authority, whether by imposing high taxes or infringing upon what was regarded as tribal territory or tribal spheres of influence. This tension between the state and the tribes has long characterized their relations in Yemen. The power of the state, like the power of the tribes and confederations, has waxed and waned. When the Imamate was able to finance a largely independent and loyal army, at times overseen by slaves who were often viewed as being more loyal because of their lack of tribal affiliations, the state was able to extend its reach well beyond the cities. However, the power of the state has never been even close to absolute in Yemen, where the mountainous

terrain and the traditions of independence and self-governance have always acted against a strong state. Yemen’s deserts and mountains are still seen by many Yemenis as refuges from a government that is often thought to be corrupt, indifferent and inefficient. AQAP has attempted to exploit this situation by urging the tribes not to cooperate with government forces (Yemen Post, November 3, 2010).

The Salih Regime: The patronage system and declining oil revenues

Yemeni President Salih differs from many of Yemen’s rulers in that he is a member of the tribesmen class rather than a member of the sayyid class (descendants of the Prophet) from which the Imams were drawn. Perhaps because of his tribal roots, Salih’s rise to and consolidation of power have both been characterized by adept management and use of Yemen’s tribes and tribal alliances (Reuters, August 31, 2009). Salih is said to have a prodigious memory when it comes to familial, clan and tribal connections. Arguably to an even greater extent than the Imams before him, Salih has maintained his grip on power by manipulating Yemen’s tribes. This manipulation has long relied on a patronage system that trades influence, money, jobs and government positions for loyalty. [4] The development of Yemen’s oil industry financed the largess that has allowed Salih to increase the influence and power of his regime. This is not unique in Yemeni history. In the 1600s, Yemen had a monopoly on the export of coffee that generated the revenue needed to finance an extension of state power by way of a resurgent Imamate. However, the end of the coffee monopoly marked the beginning of the end of expanded state control. Yemen and the Salih regime are experiencing a similar decline in state finances as Yemen’s oil production declines. Yemen’s oil exports account for more than 75% of state revenue. Since its peak in 2002, oil production has dropped by 40% and some studies suggest that Yemen’s oil reserves will be depleted by as early as 2017. The drop in revenue has already resulted in a contraction of the once generous patronage system (SABA, December 3, 2010). Shaykhs from less powerful tribes have already seen their benefits cut or eliminated by the regime in its attempt to reduce costs. During a recent trip to Yemen by the author, a number of shaykhs from “minor” tribes bemoaned the fact that the government payments for their bodyguards, most often their sons, had been reduced or eliminated. Others from more powerful tribes complained about the government trying to offer them Korean-made economy cars instead of the Land Cruisers they are accustomed to.

The reduction and in some cases elimination of government handouts has already resulted in increased tension between the state and some tribes. The curtailment of patronage is also seen by many shaykhs and their constituents as an assault on the honor of the tribe and its shaykh. While the Salih regime has long relied on policies that favor some tribes over others, the elimination of state subsidies to the heads of some tribes and not others threatens to cause increased tensions between the tribes themselves. The cuts in government largess are being further exacerbated by rising food costs fueled by global inflation and a devaluing Yemeni Riyal, which lost 30% of its value in 2010. While the cuts in state subsidies have increased tribal tensions, the patronage system itself has long acted as a destabilizing force among the tribes. The shaykhs who are supported by the Salih regime are often able to act inde-

pendently since they have the financial and at times military backing of the regime. The patronage system has also encouraged many shaykhs to live outside of their constituencies in Sana’a, where they are closer to the seat of power and better able to lobby for funds and jobs.

The Salih regime’s inability to continue to fund its elaborate patronage system has caused it to shift toward more confrontational policies to ensure the authority of the state. Under the guise of fighting terrorism, the state has often moved troops into tribal areas, bombed recalcitrant tribes and shut down roads to force tribes to comply and submit to its rule. In a strategy adopted from the British, who carried out punitive bombings preceded by warnings in the protectorates, the Salih regime uses aerial bombings to punish tribes who are largely beyond the reach of its ground forces. This is an ominous shift from a policy that was once focused on largely non-violent co-option in order to maintain power and is certain to further destabilize the country.

Michael Horton is an independent analyst who specializes in Yemen and the Horn of Africa. He writes for Jane’s Intelligence Review, Intelligence Digest, Islamic Affairs Analyst, and the Christian Science Monitor. Mr. Horton studied Middle East History and Economics at the American University of Cairo and Arabic at the Center for Arabic Language and Eastern Studies in Yemen. Michael frequently travels to Yemen, Ethiopia and Somalia.

Notes:

1. A discussion of the problematic term “tribe,” its genesis, use and connotations are well beyond the scope of this article. For the sake of simplicity, the article uses “tribe” to describe the various groups and communities in Yemen that, in many, cases have long histories of association and cooperation. However, it must be noted that most “tribes” in Yemen are far from being monolithic societal structures. In many cases the groups that make up particular tribes, and the clans and families that are the building blocks of the tribes, are fluid with shifting loyalties and agendas that are dictated by local needs and conditions. Clans and families can and do change their tribal affiliations. It must also be noted that while some tribes and clans may have common histories and lineages, that does not mean that the tribe or clan is in any way a cohesive political entity.

2. For more background on the attacks see: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/yemen-images-missile-and-cluster-munitions-point-us-role-fatal-attack-2010> and Andrew McGregor, “Tribal Resistance and al-Qaeda: Suspected U.S. Airstrike Ignites Tribes in Yemen’s Ma’rib Governorate,” Terrorism Monitor, July 16, 2010.

3. See Shelagh Weir, A Tribal Order: Politics and Law in the Mountains of Yemen, University of Texas Press, 2007.

4. See Sarah Phillips, Yemen’s Democracy Experiment in Regional Perspective: Patronage and Pluralized Authoritarianism, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008. Also note that the Government of Saudi Arabia has a long history of keeping many of Yemen’s most powerful shaykhs on its payroll, notably the heads of the al-Ahmar family.

SKETCHED OPINION

By: Hamid



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KHARTOUM – A referendum staff member counts the number of voters at a polling center in Khartoum, capital of Sudan, on Jan. 10, 2011, the second day of the country's tense secession referendum.



TEHRAN – Iranian woman walk through snow in Tehran, capital of Iran, on Jun. 10, 2011. The first snowfall after air pollution in 2011 hit Tehran on Monday.



GAZA – Palestinians participate in a protest at the Red Cross headquarters in Gaza City on Jan. 10, 2011 calling for the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails.



KUNMING – Warmly clothed locals feed black headed gulls in Kunming, capital of south-west China's Yunnan Province, Jan. 11, 2011. Kunming, dubbed as the Spring City, witnessed the first slight snow fall in this year on Tuesday. Due to a strong cold front, temperature here plunged to almost freezing point.



MANIZALES – The new titleholder of the International Queen of Coffee beauty pageant Sofinel Baez Santos from the Dominican Republic poses for pictures during the awards ceremony in Manizales, Colombia, on Jan. 9, 2011.



PORT-AU-PRINCE – Soccer players from the national amputee team celebrate a goal during a friendly match against Haiti's Zaryen team at National Stadium in Port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti, Jan. 10, 2011. Haiti marked this week the first anniversary of the earthquake that killed around 250,000 people and wrecked much of the capital Port-au-Prince on Jan 12, 2010.



DOHA – South Korea's Koo Ja-cheol celebrates a goal against Bahrain during their 2011 Asian Cup Group C soccer match at Al Gharafa stadium in Doha, capital of Qatar, Jan. 10, 2011. South Korea won 2-1.



MACAO – Customers select New Year decorations at a market in Macao, south China, Jan. 11, 2011 for the upcoming Spring Festival of the Year of Rabbit in the Chinese Lunar Calendar.

Yemen to launch new vaccination campaign

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Yemen plans to launch a vaccination campaign to control pneumococcal disease, an umbrella term for potentially deadly diseases caused by an infection with the bacterium Streptococcus pneumoniae. The campaign will be the first of its kind in a developing country and will target newborn children. Abdulnaser Al-Rabie, who is in charge of vaccines at the National Expanded Programme on Immunization, told the Yemen Times that the campaign will be launched towards the end of January. It will be carried out in parallel with the regular polio vaccination. “The newborn children will receive three pneumococcal vaccines within three months in conjunction with polio vaccines,” Al-Rabie said. The health expert explained that Yemen received USD 14 million from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization to carry out the campaign in 2011. Yemen also benefitted from a huge price reduction, as the cost of a single pneumococcal vaccine in the USA is normally USD 86. According to Al-Rabie, about 814,000 children are born every year in Yemen. In order to immunize all newborn children in 2011, health facilities in all governorates will participate in the campaign that will also capture rural areas. “We will reach out to rural areas that have no health facilities. We will carry out vaccinations, raise awareness about different diseases, consult patients and parents, and provide various other health services,” Al-Rabie said. The vaccination specialist was confident that the campaign will yield positive results in Yemen. “The vaccine will greatly contribute to control the disease, as it makes our newborn children immune against the bacteria,” he said.



Many children in Yemen have died from pneumonia, or the serious infection of the lungs, that is caused by pneumococcal bacteria. A cure for this disease for now seems improbable because it's a deadly disease and a great deal of funding would be required to halt it from spreading.

“Yemenis suffered from this disease for a long time. These vaccines will end the suffering from this disease,” he added. Dr. Mohammed Osama, expert in World Health Organization (WHO), stressed that the vaccination will help control the dangerous infection. He told the Yemen Times that pneumococcal bacteria can cause various potentially deadly diseases such as meningitis, pneumonia, as well as inflammations of the ear and the abdomen. Every year about 1,600,000 persons worldwide die of diseases caused by pneumococcal bacteria. 800,000 of them are children. The infection is also a major problem in Yemen, where families cannot afford the expensive treatment when their children are infected. According to the experts, vaccination at an early age has proven a successful tool to combat the infection and reduce child mortality. The National Expanded Programme on Immunization has launched several vaccines in the past, including against tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, hepatitis B, polio, tuberculosis, and measles. As Al-Rabie explained, the national programme thereby plays an important role in achieving the health-related Millenium Development Goals. “We plan to protect our generation from deadly childhood diseases and achieve the Millennium Development Goals,” he said.

HEALTH WATCH

This weekly column disseminates health information to readers in Yemen and beyond. Dr. Siva currently works at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Lifestyle diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and naturopathy are his passions.

By: Dr. Siva



Managing Asthma

Name
Asthma is an inflammatory disorder of the airways which causes attacks of wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and coughing. The first attacks of asthma usually occur in childhood, although it is not uncommon that it affects adults who have never before had respiratory problems. Asthma in children can be triggered by a cold. Recent studies indicate that children born from smoking parents and who have received lengthy treatment with antibiotics during their first year of life are more likely to have asthma.

Causes
Asthma is caused by inflammation in the airways. When an asthma attack occurs, the muscles surrounding the airways become tight and the lining of the air passages swell. This reduces the amount of air that can pass through and can lead to wheezing sounds. Most people with asthma have wheezing attacks separated by symptom-free periods. Some patients have long-term shortness of breath with episodes of even more increased shortness of breath. In others, a cough may be the main symptom. Asthma attacks can last minutes to days and can become dangerous if the airflow becomes severely restricted. Among sensitive individuals, asthma symptoms can be triggered by breathing in allergy-causing substances (allergens or triggers). Common asthma triggers include pet hair or dander, dust, changes in weather, chemicals in the air or in food, exercise, mold, pollen, respiratory infections such as the common cold, strong emotions, tobacco smoke, aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs etc. Sometimes the triggers can also stem from the kitchen area, such as smoke from burned food and gas from stoves. Many people with asthma also have an individual or family history of allergies, such as hay fever (allergic rhinitis) or eczema. Others have no such history of allergies.

Exams and tests
Allergy testing may be helpful in identifying allergens in people with persistent asthma. Such tests may include arterial blood gas analysis, blood tests to measure eosinophil count (a type of white blood cell caused by such allergic conditions as asthma), Immunoglobulin E (IgE) levels (a type of antibody that may increase when exposed to asthmatic triggers), chest x-ray, lung function tests, peak flow measurements (discussed below).

Symptoms
Breathlessness, coughing with or without sputum (a mixture of saliva and mucus coughed up from the reparatory tract), wheezing, a rapid pulse, sweating and occasional severe drowsiness or confusion and blu-ish color to the lips and face are all common symptoms. There can also be abnormal breathing patterns, chest pains, nasal flaring and the temporary suspension of breathing, all of which are serious symptoms.

Treatment
The goal of treatment is to avoid contact with the substances that trigger the symptoms and to control airway inflammation, for which there are two basic kinds of medication:

- Long-acting medications to prevent further attacks
- Quick-relief medications for use during attacks

Long-term control medications are used on a regular basis to prevent attacks, not to treat them. Quick relief, or rescue medications mainly come in the form of short-acting bronchodilators (inhalers) such as Proventil, Ventolin, Xopenex and corticosteroids such as methylprednisolone. People with mild asthma (infrequent attacks) may use quick relief medication as required. Those with persistent asthma should take longer-term control medications on a regular basis to prevent symptoms. A severe asthma attack requires a check up by a doctor and, possibly, a hospital stay, oxygen, and medications through intravenous therapy (IV). A peak flow meter is a simple device to measure how quickly one is able to breath air in out of your lungs. It can help you see if an attack is coming, sometimes even before any symptoms appear, and also when medication is needed or other action needs to be taken. Peak flow values of 50-80% of an individual's best results are a sign of a moderate asthma attack, while values below 50% are a sign of a severe attack. The peak flow meter is a boon to asthmatics and is not expensive. If any of the following symptoms occur, the patient must be rushed to the hospital immediately:

- An asthma attack that requires more medication than has been recommended to them
- Symptoms that are getting worse or that have not improved with treatment
- Shortness of breath while talking treatment
- Increased drowsiness or confusion
- A severe shortness of breath while at rest
- A peak flow measurement less than 50%
- Severe chest pain

If you are an asthmatic, always carry an asthma inhaler

with you wherever you go, try to remain calm and control your breathing as much as possible until it slows down. Do not lie down or sit with your hands on your knees for extra support as this restricts airflow. If symptoms do not improve within five minutes, visit your doctor.

Complications
The complications of asthma can be severe. Among them include a decreased ability to exercise and take part in other such necessary activities. It can also result in insomnia due to symptoms occurring during the night. Asthma can also cause permanent changes to the functioning of the lungs which results in persistent and serious coughing and breathing difficulties that require breathing assistance through a ventilator in order to avoid the worst possible scenario of death.

Prevention
Asthma symptoms can be substantially reduced by avoiding known triggers and substances that irritate the airways. Removing carpets from bedrooms and regular vacuuming is also helpful. Detergents and cleaning materials used in the home should be unscented and asthmatics should also avoid perfumes and bakhoor. Keeping humidity levels low and fixing water leaks can reduce growth of organisms such as mold. Keeping the house clean and food in containers and out of bedrooms also help. This reduces the possibility of cockroaches entering the house, which can trigger asthma attacks in some. Many people in Yemen keep cattle and also have cats as pets in their houses. If an asthma sufferer is allergic to a certain animal that cannot be removed from the home then the animal should be kept out of the individual's bedroom. Filtering material can also be placed over heating outlets to trap animal dander. Eliminating tobacco smoke from the home is the single most important thing that a family can do to help a child with asthma. Smoking outside the house is also not enough. Family members and visitors who smoke outside carry smoke residue inside the house on their clothes and hair and this can trigger symptoms of asthma. People with asthma should also avoid air pollution, dust, and other irritating fumes as much as possible. Also, make sure that you have proper ventilation in your home and office. There is no cure for asthma, although symptoms sometimes improve over time. However, with proper self-management and medical treatment, most people with asthma can lead normal lives.

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION IRRIGATION AND LAND RECLAMATION SECTOR WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM (WSSP) NATIONAL IRRIGATION PROGRAM (NIP)

(IDA GRANT: H-449 RY) CONSULTING SERVICES Expressions of Interest

This request for expressions of interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business No. (758) dated September 16, 2009 and updated on September 21, 2010.

The Republic of Yemen has received a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) and the government of Netherlands and Germany towards the cost of implementation of the National Irrigation Program (NIP) under the WSSP, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payment for consultants under multi-contracts. The required consultancy services shall include the following fields:

- Feasibility study and design of spate works (i.e. Weirs, Traditional Free Wadi Intakes, Canals, Cross regulator, Drop structures, Culverts, Aqueduct, Road Bridge on farmer roads, etc.)
- Feasibility study and design of recharge pool, check dykes,
- Feasibility study and design of Wadi bank training, flood protection works.
- Feasibility study and design of farm roads
- Construction Supervision of implementation of works (spate works, watershed management works, water harvesting works)
- Rapid assessment study for selection of potential Wadis to be developed under NIP.
- TA for introduction Participatory Irrigation Management. Process and formation of respective beneficiaries/community organizations including WUG's & WUA's...etc
- Institutional organization and capacity building for irrigation Sector.
- TA for introduction of Irrigation Advisory services with required new and appropriate methods that fits for Yemen conditions, field training and workshops.
- Strategic study to evaluate impact of investment in irrigation modernization by NIP under WSSP

The National Irrigation Program (NIP) now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services for any one or more of the above mentioned fields. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consulting firms may associate to enhance their qualifications.

Consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004 (revised October 2006).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below.
Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 31/01/2011at 11 a.m

Director of National Irrigation Program (NIP)
Irrigation & Land Reclamation Sector – MIA
Al-Mithak Street, Near Ministry of Planning and international Cooperation
Sana'a –Republic of Yemen
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الجمهورية اليمنية وزارة الزراعة والري قطاع الري واستصلاح الأراضي برنامج دعم قطاع المياه (WSSP) البرنامج الوطني للري (NIP)

إعلان ابداء الاهتمام لتأهيل استشاريين

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- تقديم الدعم الفني لادخال مفهوم ادارة الري بالمشاركة بما في ذلك تشكيل مجموعات وجمعيات مستخدمي المياه للمستفيدين
- في مجال البناء المؤسسي ودعم القدرات لقطاع الري
- تقديم العون الفني لادخال خدمات ارشاد الري في مناطق عمل البرنامج ويشمل ذلك ادخال الطرق الحديثة والمناسبة، وورش العمل.
- تقييم الاثر لانشطة تحديث الري من قبل البرنامج

ترغب وزارة الزراعة والري من خلال البرنامج الوطني للري في دعوة المكاتب الاستشارية المؤهلة للقيام بالخدمات المذكورة أعلاه . على المكاتب الاستشارية الراغبة ان تقدم معلومات عن أهليتها لتنفيذ الخدمات الاستشارية أعلاه (دليل الاستشاري، دراسات وخبرة في مشاريع مماثلة مع توفر المهارات الملائمة لدى الكادر الاستشاري الخ ..). وبالإمكان تضامن الاستشاريين لتعزيز مؤهلاتهم ستتم عملية تأهيل الاستشاريين وفقا للإجراءات المتبعة في دليل البنك الدولي "الاختيار والتعاقد مع الاستشاريين" الصادر عن مقرضى البنك الدولي (إصدار مايو 2004 والمراجع في 2006)، والدعوة مفتوحة لجميع الاستشاريين والشركات الاستشارية من دول مؤهلة كما جاء في الدليل . تقدم الطلبات في ظروف مغلقة تحتوي على نسخة أصلية وأخرى منسوخة وتسلم على العنوان أدناه في موعد أقصاه 31/01/2011 ومعنوناً بوضوح " البرنامج الوطني للري (NIP) طلب التأهيل لخدمات استشاريه يمكن للمهتمين من المؤهلين الحصول على معلومات إضافية من إدارة البرنامج الوطني للري (NIP) في العنوان المذكور أدناه في أوقات العمل الرسمية من الساعة الثامنة صباحا وحتى الثالثة عصرا

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Yemen Red Crescent Society

Vacancy Announcement



The Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following vacant jobs:

1. **Head of Project (full-time) based in Sana'a, YRCS Headquarters**
2. **Finance Officer (part-time) based in Sana'a, YRCS Headquarters**
3. **4 Project Field Coordinators (full-time) based in Sana'a, Dhamar, Taiz and Seyoun**

The YRCS together with the German Red Cross (GRC) will implement a 2-year youth project in 2011-2012 in 4 communities each in the governorates Sana'a, Taiz, Dhamar and Hadhramout. The objective of the project is to strengthen civil societies in Yemen by empowering youth to implement their own activities. Within the project framework 16 YRCS youth corner will be established in the target communities.

1) Head of Project

The position holder will be responsible for the overall management of the project.

Main Tasks:

- To ensure timely implementation of project activities as planned in the project documents.
- To ensure a correct budget management in line with the planned project budget.
- To ensure timely reporting and monitoring towards all partners.
- To support, coordinate and monitor the 4 Field Coordinators in the implementation process.
- To undertake regular supervisory field visits to the YRCS branches and projects' communities.
- To support YRCS and GRC in all other project and sector related tasks.

Applicants should fulfill the following requirements:

- University education in business or NGO management, master degree is preferable.
- A minimum of 5 years working experience in project management.
- Demonstrated ability of working in multicultural environment.
- Proven skills in leadership and team building.
- Fluent English and good computer operating skills.

2) Finance Officer

The position holder, under supervision of the Head of Project, will be responsible for the overall financial management of the project.

Main Tasks:

- To ensure a correct budget execution in line with the planned project budget.
- To ensure a correct accounting of all project expenses including checking of all invoices.

- To ensure timely financial reporting to all partners.
- To support and supervise the 4 Field Coordinators and the YRCS branches in the financial planning, implementation and reporting of the activities.
- To undertake regular supervisory field visits to the YRCS branches and projects' communities.

Applicants should fulfill the following requirements:

- University education in accounting or financial management, master degree is preferable.
- A minimum of 3 years working experience, preferably with EU-funded projects.
- Demonstrated ability of working in multicultural environment.
- Fluent English and good computer operating skills.

3) Field Coordinators

The position holder, under supervision of the Head of Project, will be responsible for the financial and technical implementation of the project in the respective governorate.

Main Tasks:

- To ensure timely implementation of project activities as planned in the project documents.
- To ensure a correct budget management in line with the planned project budget.
- To ensure timely reporting and monitoring towards all partners.
- To support, coordinate and monitor the 4 YRCS youth corner and the youth representatives in the implementation process.
- To undertake regular supervisory field visits to the projects' communities.
- To support YRCS and GRC in all other project related tasks.

Applicants should fulfill the following requirements:

- College education in sociology or management.
- A minimum of 3 years working experience, preferably with youth and communities.
- Demonstrated ability of working in multicultural environment.
- Fluent English and good computer operating skills.

Contract (all positions):

- One year contract with possibility of extension.
- Salary, according to YRCS salary scale.

Applicants should submit their CVs with a cover letter – clearly stating the exact position they apply to - to email address: salhabshizoo4ster@gmail.com not later than Monday, 31. January 2010.

Females are encouraged to apply. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

Women trained in traditional crafts at Sana'ani Heritage House



Amatalrazaq Ghaf, head of the Sana'ani Heritage House, displays hand-made items made by graduates of a recent craft production training course.

Story and Photos By:
Malak Shaher

The Sana'ani Heritage House held a traditional graduation party this week for the first group of young women who completed

their craft training at the house.

The course in traditional crafts lasted for three months from the beginning of July until the end of September. It was financed by the Liquid Natural Gas Company in Yemen (LNG).

The first 45 young women who participated in the training completed courses in a variety of fields, including

sewing, embroidery and making bags. For many it was also a unique chance to learn the arts of preparing traditional Sana'ani food.

"Despite the fact that I am a Sana'ani girl, I learned to cook different Sana'ani dishes that we no longer prepare at home. This experience took us back to a time when we were little

children and reminded us of our grand-mother's food," said Iman Al-Hamzi, 25.

Iman Al-Hamzi, her sister and two of her cousins were among the first 45 participants. At the graduation party this week Tuesday, Jan. 11 2011, they shared their joy and some of their newly acquired knowledge with the Yemen Times.

Hana Al-Hamzi said she had learned not only about cooking but also how food affects one's health.

"Beside the different dishes I learned nutritional facts about Sana'ani food," she said.

"For example, Al-Salta, a very famous dish in Sana'a, contains a lot of fats and we should not have this dish too often. I have learnt that fatty and sugary dishes should only be eaten once a week," the graduate explained.

Apart from the training, the girls enjoyed the particular and homely atmosphere in the Sana'ani Heritage House. They did not have to wear the face veil as there were no men around.

"Inside the house we were having fun as if we were in our own homes. This is the first time we had fun while learning something good for our future," the two sisters and cousins said.

The specific Sana'ani style was the particular focus of all aspects of the course, including the graduation ceremony. The girls received their certificates in a traditional Sana'ani room where they sat on mattresses embroidered in red and yellow threads and listened to two men who sang traditional Yemeni songs.

Amatalrazaq Ghaf, chairwoman of the house, explained that the 45 girls had intentionally been selected from the Old City of Sana'a so that they would be near the venue. The house will continue to supply them with the materials needed to practice their crafts. When tourists visit the Sana'ani Heritage House they will invite the girls to sell their products or prepare traditional food.

According to Ghaf, the link between the graduates, the house and its visitors is beneficial for all. While the house is in need of trained people who can help out at short notice when tourists are around, the girls have an opportunity to earn their living with traditional crafts. Ghaf is particularly excited about the idea that Sana'ani girls will prepare and serve traditional dishes to tourists.

"Food is not just to be eaten. Food means culture and it reflects the people's background," Ghaf said.

Apart from enjoying the dishes, visitors will therefore learn about the historical and cultural background of Old Sana'a where they were invented.

At the graduation ceremony, Ghaf was already looking forward to welcoming more tourists and receiving them with Sana'ani food and crafts.

"I am very happy indeed as we are more ready now to welcome visitors to this house," Ghaf said.



Two men in Sana'ni traditional dress singing at the graduation party for craft course trainees.

Women and murder testimony



By: Faisal Al-Safwani
Family and Development Magazine

The Yemeni judiciary system refuses to accept a woman's testimony in murder cases simply because she is a woman. Some consider this clear discrimination against women in Yemen.

On this legislation lawyer Saqer Al-Samawi said that according to article number 45 of the penal code states that the death penalty to be carried out two men must testify in murder cases. This means that a woman can testify as long as her testimony does not lead to the death penalty but rather to blood money and imprisonment.

"It is worth mentioning here that this article is a controversial one which was different before the 1994 civil war. It used to accept the testimony of two men or a man and two women. This is an example of violating women's rights in the developing world and Yemen in particular," he said, adding that there is a clear verse in the Quran that agrees with the article before it was amended.

Lawyer Nabeelah Al-Mufti, a lawyer, said that many Yemeni laws contradict each other. For example, article 35 of the penal code states that a woman can testify in issues limited to women such as when a murder happens in places where only women can enter, such as women's bathrooms, whereas article 45 does not accept women's testimonies in murder cases.

"Testifying in Islam is not a right, it is rather an obligation. This means that a person is obliged to testify what he or she knows and in fact the Quran says that withholding knowledge in such cases is a sin," she said.

"So how can the legislator accept women's testimonies in one felony and reject it in another. For example if the only witness to a murder was a woman, how can we rejected her testimony just because of her gender?"

Al-Mufti explained that this legislation was issued in previous times when women were not as involved in public life, but today the circumstances have changed.

Similarly, lawyer and human rights activist Khaled Al-Ansi emphasized that some Islamic scholars believe that women's memory is less capable than men's and therefore that women quickly forget.

"The context in which the Quran mentions one man's testimony being equal to two women's are in financial dealings which are generally outside of women's interests. But murder is different and a woman witnessing a murder cannot easily forget it," he said.

He added that if the justification of this legislation is that women's testimonies are not accurate then many murderers can get away with their crimes.

"This article must be reviewed," he insisted.

Sheikh Jabri Ibrahim Hassan, head of Islamic advocacy administration at the Ministry of Endowment, said that a lot of scholars do not accept a woman's testimony because they want to prevent men and women, especially those who do not know each other, from mixing in the same space.

"Even if a woman witnesses a murder she usually panics and closes her eyes and runs away terrified. So her testimony is not accurate and she cannot provide detailed account of what happened," he said, adding that a woman's testimony is perfectly acceptable in issues relating exclusively to women such as breastfeeding, menstruation, virginity, birth and other such women related issues.

He also said that if the crime took place among women only, then women's testimonies are accepted as long as they are credible witnesses.

Sheikh Hassan also added that women's testimonies are not acceptable even in adultery cases and that this is to make it easier on women and

to respect them so as they are not subjected to the criminal environment.

"Islamic jurisprudence decides on the capability of men and women and builds its legislation and this is not a violation of women's rights as some would like to claim," he said.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Reference ID: IRY/CTPB II/Baseline Survey 2011

Islamic Relief Yemen, a humanitarian and charity organization with headquarters based in Birmingham, UK is calling for researchers specializing on local conflict issues to carry out a baseline survey in some governorates in Yemen.

All interested consultants should submit a proposal indicating the research design, proposed survey tools, data collection techniques, methodology and approach they will utilize to undertake the consultancy work. The consultant should also indicate in the proposal the qualifications and expertise he or she holds that would make him or her most appropriate for the consultancy.

The survey consultant should also indicate their daily consultancy rates and their availability and possible starting dates. The consultant is expected to deliver the expected outputs based on the agreed Terms of Reference.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit their proposal, CV's and samples of previous work done to:

Islamic Relief Yemen at info@iryemen.org not later than 20th January, 2011.

or you can send it to :

**Islamic Relief Yemen
Behind Shammar Hotel and suites
Off Hadda Street
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen**

Telephone: 1 418 594.

**.Please indicate the Reference ID on your proposal/envelope
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following volunteering position with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), under Project: Climate Change/Environment Portfolio.

Post Title: Climate Change Officer (UNV)
Location: Sana'a

Responsibilities:

Under the supervision of Project Manager, the UNV volunteer will be responsible for:

- Promote Policy Dialogue on climate change with government and development partners, building on and ensuring consistency with international policy guidance on climate change provided by HQ
- Observe and provide information and support to national and international climate change policy debates within the overarching UNDP climate change policy framework
- Support a UN-wide approach to climate change and promote UNDP's role, including policy and programmatic initiatives, ensuring consistency and integration with regional and global approaches, methodologies, and strategies
- Promote cross practice collaboration (poverty, governance, CPR, gender, capacity development) within UNDP as well as within the UN system
- Support strategic partnerships and knowledge management
- Adapt global and regional technical and strategic position papers, presentations, advisory and briefing notes, for national circumstances
- Provide regular briefings on the status of international climate change negotiations and forthcoming events, using disseminated inputs from EEG and the Regional Service Centers. These inputs should contribute to the development and strengthening common UN positions regarding climate change issues.

Qualifications:

- University Degree or equivalent in related discipline, i.e. climate sciences, environmental sciences, earth sciences, natural resource economics, political science or related social sciences.
- At least 3 years of relevant work experience on issues related to climate risk, vulnerability reduction and capacity development
- Experience in working with government, donors or UN previously is an asset
- Proven track record in policy analysis, development work in the area of climate change and related issues
- Ability to engage in and contribute to high-level policy dialogues and advisory functions involving high level government counterparts and other stake-holders
- Thorough knowledge and understanding of the global debate on climate change and experience in multilateral environmental debates and dialogues and processes
- Experience in advising climate change adaptation and energy policy development a major asset
- Proven experience and knowledge of the country's institutional framework and policies of Climate Change is an asset
- Knowledge and experience with GEF and adaptation funds is desirable

Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to unvvc.info@undp.org Email Subject: Climate Change Officer -Sana'a

National UN Volunteers are not paid a salary for their services. Instead, they are provided with a volunteer living allowance, \$ 800 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 23January2011.

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Face to face with poverty in Sana'a

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

The two rooms where they lived were extremely filthy, with grimy rugs, broken windows, and dim light. The voices inside the home were loud and many children with ragged clothes were crying while feeble women bawled them out into silence. As I entered the house, pale-faced children stopped crying and rushed to shake my hand spontaneously. They were gazing at me wondering who this guest was.

The time was 7p.m. and cold wind was flowing through the busted window into the rooms where only a few blankets were available.

The children's father quickly gathered some rags for me to sit on while the rest of the family sat on the bare cold floor. He started telling me the tragic story of his miserable nineteen-member family.

"We are still without lunch. How can I feed this 'army'?" said Yahya Ali, 30, who works as a street sweeper for the Municipality Authority.

In addition to his three wives and nine children, he also accommodates his sister, mother, uncle and cousin with her two daughters.

While Yahya regretted marrying three women and having this "army" of mouths to feed, he claimed that the marriages were necessary.

"When I think about my three wives, I realize what a reckless man I am. I cannot provide healthcare for my sick family or give them enough food. I'm unable to give them anything," he said, letting out a sigh of regret.

Yahya told the Yemen Times that his low salary always goes to repaying debts. He receives only YR20,000 (less



This poor family lives in a cramped house and have little money and food each month.

than USD100) a month.

He said that his youngest child has liver failure and hemolytic anemia.

"Different diseases live with us. Almost all of us are ill and can't afford to go to the hospital," he said.

Yahya's mother, Senanya, helps her son in generating income. She is also a street sweeper and receives the same salary. But she complains about the job that requires hard work for long hours.

Senanya has no idea about her age but she thinks that she is sixty.

"When I finish my hard work I feel as if I was dead. I suffer from backache and pain in my knees. Unfortunately, our poverty compelled me to work at this old age," she said.

Senanya works from 7a.m. to 5p.m. She uses her two hour break to collect plastic bottles and cans to sell them for

recycling. She earns no more than YR 300 (less than USD 1.5) a day.

"During the day, I eat the leftovers of meals from restaurants," she said.

Yahya's cousin, Fatima Abdu, 29, was forced to live in his house with her two children after the death of her husband four years ago due to liver failure.

"All things changed after my husband's death. The situation was tough but bearable but now we ended up in the gutter," she told the Yemen Times.

Fatima has a problem in her retina but is too poor to pay for eye treatment.

Amena Ali, 24, Yahya's first wife, said that she goes every day to restaurants and asks for excess food from restaurants for her six children.

"We are really tired of this wretched life. There is no food, no good work, no

money, no furniture, no utensils and no clothes. I cannot even buy diapers for my children," she said.

Amena is nine months pregnant and needs to be admitted in the hospital urgently. She used to have a baby in her home but now the situation has changed.

"Doctors warned me about having a baby at home this time due to infections in my bladder. They told me that I could die if I don't have a caesarian in hospital," she said desperately.

Ali is Yahya's older son. He is only ten years old and studies at Al-Yarmook school in Sana'a. He does not have a bag for school nor does he have pencils or even shoes.

The family complained that many charity organizations visit them to register their names promising them aid, but nothing really happens.

"God only knows about our daily suffering. We dream that one day we can live happily as other people do," said Senanya.

A recent study about the situation and economic problems of marginalized persons, conducted by activist Noman Al-Hakeemi, revealed that 32 percent of these persons earn about YR2500 (USD12) per week while 10 percent of them earn only between YR1000 to YR1500 YR (USD7) per week. Some families have no income and depend on support from the Yemeni government's Social Fund for Development. The study also showed that marginalized persons that work at the Municipality Authority, as street sweepers, are paid about USD90. Marginalized persons who work in rural areas as farmers are paid with only milk and cereal instead of cash.

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