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Deported correspondents surprised at sudden change in treatment

By: Jeb Boone

SANA'A, March 16th – Foreign journalists writing for international media were taken aback by the sudden change of attitude by the Yemeni government towards their stay and reporting on Yemeni affairs. Four foreign journalists were deported from Yemen on Monday, March 14. In an article released by state news organization Saba, a minister of information spokesman denied that any journalists were deported while in the same piece, a different spokesman confirms that they were deported due to their, "illegal" stay in Yemen and "violation" of visa regulations. While the four were not on official journalist visas, they were often emailed press releases by government officials and, on more than one occa-

sion, invited to attend presidential press conferences. "We were all personally invited to press events -- including two in which we heard the president speak -- by the spokesman for the Yemeni Embassy in DC and by government officials. At all events, we were identified by our name and the publications we were writing for," said Haley Sweetland Edwards, correspondent for the LA Times and one of the journalists deported last Monday. Oliver Holmes, a correspondent for Time Magazine and the Wall Street Journal was also deported. "We receive press releases and my presence in Yemen was known, as a journalist, for over a year. I have been to the Ministry of Information to register," said Holmes. Ahmed al-Lahabi, public relations

director at the ministry of interior, denied that they have ever informed the ministry of their work as journalists. "They were never invited to press conferences and they were never sent press releases," said Al-Lahabi before hanging up the phone, refusing further questions. All journalists deported were covering violence against the protests extensively. Holmes, referred to as a "one man media empire" in Yemen by Foreign Policy Magazine, said that he was confident the journalists were deported because of their close coverage of violence being carried out against pro-democracy protesters. A national security officer told the Yemen Times that Oliver Holmes and Portia Walker, who were residing in Yemen on student visas, that their Arabic school complained to the ministry of the interior that they were not attending classes. However no such complaints were made, according director of Cales, Abdul Fatah Shamsan. "I knew Oliver personally and I also knew that he was a journalist, but we had no reason to complain to any authorities about him and never did," said Abdul Fatah. The other two journalists Haley Sweetland Edwards and Joshua Maricich were in Yemen on tourist visas. Five armed soldiers forced their way into the residence of four foreign journalists on the morning of March 14th, demanding passports and mobile phones. They were then taken to an Immigration office where they were detained for hours before being transported to the Sana'a airport and forced to leave the country. Joshua Maricich, writer, photojournalist, and climbing enthusiast, had been living in Yemen for over four years before he was deported. "They came in while we were sleeping, came into my room, and told us to pack our things quickly," said Maricich, speaking from the airport. Maricich also stated that the only reason given for their deportation was that it was done following "national security" concerns. The four journalists, two British citizens and two American nationals, included Portia Walker, reporter for the Washington Post and the Daily Telegraph, Oliver Holmes of Times Magazine and the Wall Street Journal, Haley Sweetland Edwards of the LA Times and Joshua Maricich. With only a handful of foreign journalists left in Yemen, native journalists have also been subject to harassment. The Yemeni Journalist Syndicate has recently received a number of threats of violence through emails and phone calls. Joshua Maricich has called Sana'a home for more than four years and is longing to return to his old city residence. "I'm desperately trying to get back to Yemen. I've lived in the country for nearly four years, I love the country and its people, and I tower house in the Old City is where I call home," said Maricich.

Protest security committee investigates alleged sniper, thug attacks

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Mar. 16 – The security committee of the pro-democracy demonstration has managed to arrest 30 assailants this week. Protesters were attacked on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon by the state security forces and pro-government thugs. Eyewitnesses also informed the Yemen Times that they were attacked by snipers on rooftops. A video uploaded by protesters to Facebook showed four men firing upon the demonstration from the roof of a nearby apartment building. When the protesters managed to arrest the alleged attackers, they were turned over to the security committee, which in turn checked their IDs and interrogated them. Following an investigation, the security committee turned the accused over to a group of lawyers who have taken up residence at the protest. These lawyers weighed the evidence against the alleged attackers in order to piece together their cases should they ever be taken to court. "Once we arrested two people who were carrying oil to burn the tents, we interrogated them and then referred them to the lawyers' tent to complete the procedure," said Adel Al-Ahjer, a representative from the protest security committee. Al-Ahjer confirmed that the security committee acts according to the peaceful revolution's rules and regulations, and that it has never used violence against the arrested attackers. "When we receive them, they have already been beaten by the other protesters. We are usually able to arrest them once they run out of ammunition," he added. After taking their statements and interrogating them, Saturday and Sunday's attackers were released, according to Al-Ahjer. "We aren't an official body and we aren't empowered to detain them. We are only a defensive committee that ensures the safety of protesters," Al-Ahjer explained. Salim Alaw, a lawyer who is currently based at the Sana'a University demonstration, told the Yemen Times that the protesters have arrested a few local residents who were caught attacking protesters alongside the military. "One of the attackers' mothers came and begged us to set her young son free. She pointed to another attacker and shouted, 'He is the one who told my son to attack! My son is young and doesn't know what he is doing!'," said Alaw. Alaw also said that some of the at-



Media association for the revolution youth tent, reporting the latest at the anti-government protest



Two men that were beaten at the security ambulance on Saturday morning

tackers that were sent to the lawyers' tent were found to have military IDs. This would suggest that they were sent by the state. One of the arrested assailants who was badly beaten by protesters after having been caught was shouting loudly, cursing his luck for having been involved in the attack. "God take Ali Abdullah Saleh, who got us all involved in this situation. We don't want to attack our brothers," he yelled, according to

eyewitnesses. The attackers that are beaten or gassed by mistake also receive treatment at the protest field hospital, which is located within the mosque at Al-Tagheer Square. "We treat everyone, whether they are protesters or attackers. Medicine is a very humane profession and has nothing to do with personal conflicts," explained Dr. Abd Al-Khalq, the head of the mosque hospital.

Continued on page 2

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More coalitions organized by pro-democracy protests

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Mar. 16 — More coalitions have announced their solidarity with the pro-democracy, anti-government demonstrations currently unfolding on Change Square in Sana'a. For example, some high-ranking soldiers joined the protests on Monday and gave a public speech about corruption within President Saleh's regime. The soldiers promised to announce a new coalition soon for soldiers who wish to resign from the military and join the protests.

The media centre of the pro-democracy movement told the Yemen Times that they suspect the soldiers of having been sent by national security, so as to sabotage the revolution from within.

"They came to us expressing the desire to be officially known as a new revolutionary coalition. They said that they would soon have a tent, and that they would be electing a director and a deputy for their group," said one media officer.

"We can quite easily tell that it's

a state trick. After a while, they may withdraw from the protests and tell the media that the revolution is not strong enough to succeed. This would weaken our side," he added.

Many groups are now organized as coalitions on Change Square. At one point in the demonstration's development, the youth began to suffer from excessive JMP control. Islah, Yemen's main Islamist party, was particularly influential, as it controlled the main stage outside of Sana'a University. In order to fend off this encroachment, the youth who started the Sana'a protests in mid-January decided to found the first Change Square coalition.

Signs of coordination are now starting to appear on the Square. The Youth for Peaceful Change is one of the demonstration's various coalitions and it is an umbrella organization for eight other movements. This coalition currently seems to enjoy the strongest position in the Square.

"The president addresses the Joint Meeting Parties and the Joint Meeting Parties address the president. Where are the youth in all of this? If the Joint Meeting Parties decided to boycott the

protest, we as youth would stay for sure. But we wouldn't be big enough and this is why we need to become a single entity," explained Amen Dabwan, the leader of one group called the Yemen Free Youth Coalition (YFYC), which was founded in reaction to the growing influence of the JMP on Change Square.

It was the YFYC that devised three of the revolution's main plans: how to topple the current regime, how to preserve the gains of the revolution and what happens after the disappearance of the regime.

The YFYC's chief motto is "Peaceful and Not Partisan" and it consists of five independent youth movements. "When we first announced our coalition, the Joint Meeting Parties were angry with us. They asked, 'Why do you aim to isolate us?' We don't isolate anyone. We just make sure that the parties don't isolate us and that we don't isolate them as well," said Dabwan.

Even Tawakkol Karman, the female activist who is widely seen as one of the revolution's most important leaders, recently announced her own coalition, called the Youth Student Coalition.

Some of the tribes are also organizing into coalitions and unions. The General Union for Revolutionary Yemeni Youth is one major tribal entity that includes approximately 1,000 members. "We still don't have any kind of coordination with the main political parties, but we are working on that. One of our major questions is: what comes next? After the regime withdraws, we aim to have some power as well," explained Majid Al-Awaj, one of the coalitions' leading members.

The Media Association for the Revolution's Youth is yet another group made up of the first young people to start protesting in favor of Tunisia's freedom. Zakaria Al-Sadda, a member of the association, said that at one point, the young were become "marginalized". "Now we have become a group of reporters, whose mission is to report objectively. We still don't have a representative at this stage, but we carry out most of our duties online and we distribute newsletters by hand," said Al-Sadda. This was, the association ensures that it won't be marginalized again.

Aden security head moved to Taiz

By : Emad Al-Sakkaf

TAIZ, March 16 — Thousands of teachers marched in a protest in Taiz city on Tuesday morning before heading to the protest square to join the existing sit-in. The teachers were protesting against a physical assault against a teacher of 26 September School at Al-Mudhafar district by the district director Dirham Abu Fare.

The director was visiting a number of schools in the district after teachers announced strike since Saturday demanding to be paid their due bonuses since 2005.

As a reaction to the protests, Taiz governor Hamoud Al-Sufi ordered an investigation into the assault and sus-

pension of the director until results are announced.

Simultaneously, citizens in Taiz conveyed their dismay at the appointment of General Abdullah Qiran as head of the governorates security. Qiran is accused by locals in Aden of orchestrating the mascaras against the protesters there when he was head of security. Taiz locals are now saying that they are anticipating similar violence to Aden since Qiran was brought from there.

A source in Taiz security said that Qiran predecessor Abdulkarim Al-Odaini was fired because he refused to attack protesters or carry out actions against them similar to what is happening in Sana'a and Aden.

In Brief

Soldiers join Sana'a University sit-in, says army

SANA'A, March 15 (Saba) - A military source has announced that the soldiers who have joined the sit-ins at the Sana'a University's and other protest areas are regulars in the Yemeni army.

Some of these servicemen are either retirees or expelled from the service because of infractions of the law.

The source said these personnel are not in the army, noting they continue to wear their military uniforms to convince other that they are still on active duty.

Premier meets newly appointed Ethiopian envoy

SANA'A, March 16 (Saba) - Prime Minister Ali Mujawar welcomed the newly appointed Ethiopian ambassador to Yemen Hasan Abdullah Ali on Wednesday.

During their meeting, Mujawar and Ali discussed deepening the cooperation between Yemen and Ethiopia, particularly in fields of economy, investment as well as developing the two sides' common interest.

The Premier noted to the mutual keenness to enhance Yemeni-Ethiopian bilateral relations, affirming to offer the required support for the Ethiopian envoy to carry out his diplomatic tasks in the country.

For his part, the Ethiopian ambassador pointed out to the distinctive relations of Yemen and Ethiopia, hoping to further promote them in the coming years.

Official denies Dalei local councils' members join protesters

DALEI, March 15 (Saba) - Dalei Governor Ali Qasem Taleb denied on Tuesday media reports that the governorate's local councils members have joined the sit-ins adopted by the Joint Meeting Parties (JMPs).

Speaking to Saba, the Governor said "no member of the local councils has joined the protesters except those, who belong to JMPs, particularly the al-Islah and Socialist parties.

Taleb called on media outlets to ensure credibility and accuracy and not to exaggerate the facts for political purposes.

The sons of Dalei governorate are familiar with the plots hatched against Yemen and its stability and the media reports that aim to mislead the public opinion, the governor said.

Cabinet approves plan to increase employment

SANA'A, March 15 (Saba) - The cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Ali Mujawar, approved on Tuesday the executive plan to contain 25% of all applicant seeking government employment at the Ministry of Civil Service and Insurance and its offices.

The plan will define the number of employment positions specified for every governorate and will absorb 25% the total employment applicants holders of the following degrees; PhD, MA, higher diploma, BA, post high school diploma and post primary school diploma.

It will conduct the comparison approach on the applicants based on priority of graduation.

The cabinet formed a supervision committee to oversee employment procedures in every district of the country.

Riyal on the verge of collapse says local economist

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Mar. 16— The dollar has risen against the Yemeni Riyal after months of currency stability while Yemeni exchangers refuse selling any hard foreign currency.

Ali Saif, a professor of economics at Sana'a University told the Yemen Times that the riyals recent stability was only nominal. He also affirms that local control and price fixing of the Riyal was to blame for its seeming stability.

Saif said that Yemenis' fears of instability and collapse of local currency will lead to a run on banks and a depletion of foreign currency stockpiles, especially stores of the dollar.

He indicated that exchange companies currently refuse to sell any hard foreign currency because of increasing in demand.

However, he criticized such actions by exchangers, indicating that this action is illegal and needs to be tightly controlled by the government.

"Many Yemeni exchangers want to hide hard currency in light of difficult economic conditions and political instability. They know that the Riyal will collapse in the coming days," he said.

Saif revealed that in such conditions, a black market for foreign currency can thrive.

He also stated that if the security situation worsens in Yemen the dollar will rise in an unprecedented way against the riyal. He also said that prices of food will increase sharply.

Saif expressed his fears about the Yemeni Central Bank into the market. He said that businessmen will buy out this currency immediately and send it to foreign banks where they will feel it

is safer.

"It will be very momentous decision if the Central Bank decides to pump money to Yemeni market. Nobody will benefit from this decision except a small group of businessmen," he explained.

According to Saif, there are those playing a major role in collapse of local currency who stand to benefit from this collapse.

"Unfortunately, there is no outside observation of money exchangers in Yemen. Those exchangers now refuse to sell any hard currency under the pretext that there is a lack of it. They secretly sell hard currency to specific people for high amounts," he said.

"The Government must control and punish those manipulators of local currency, otherwise they will cause an economic crisis and this crisis will security and stability in the country."

Continued from Page 1

Protest security committee investigates alleged sniper, thug attacks as residents tire of demonstrations

According to Dr. Abd Al-Khalq, the security forces surrounding Al-Tagheer Square have their own ambulance vehicles, which transfer injured protesters to the Police Hospital.

"We know they are attackers when protesters bring them in and identify them. Once we finish treating them [as we would anyone else], we deliver them to the security committee which is responsible for investigating them," added the doctor. "Other times, we suspect that they are attackers on the basis of their attitude. For example, when we tell them to leave, they refuse, saying that they aren't feeling well, even if we know they are lying. They also complain about everything, while the real protesters don't."

Two of the protesters who were severely beaten by security forces and pro-government thugs were transferred by a security ambulance to the Police Hospital, where they were interviewed by the Yemen Times.

Khalid Qadam, 31 years old, was lying at the field hospital. His head, right hand and right leg were bandaged and he said that he was tear gassed on Saturday, while throwing rocks at security vehicles. "The security and the attackers gathered and started beating me. They sprayed me with some kind of poison and then I felt as if my body were burning. They thought I had died and two of them took me to the ambulance. I was about to pass out when I saw them bringing another injured protester inside the vehicle," said Qadam.

"At the hospital, security personnel brought me a certain kind of drug and I heard the doctor say, 'This is not the drug I told you to bring. This one will kill him,'" he added.

Allegedly, the security explained away Qadam's beating by claiming that he had been drunk and uncooperative during an interrogation. "When they interrogated me," said Qadam, "I didn't say that security had beaten me. Otherwise, political security would have kidnapped me. When I left the hospital, I managed to hide from them and return to the field hospital. I reported the various violations I'd experienced and I raised a case with a prosecutor, accusing the president and the vice-president of being responsible for what happened to me."

The second man that was beaten and taken to a security ambulance is 22-

year old Ali Al-Sawari. He explained to the Yemen Times that he, "was hidden with another protester behind a wall, but when security forces dragged a body to where we were hiding, they discovered us and started beating us. Many of them gathered to beat me. I was shouting for mercy, as we are all Muslims. Some of them responded and tried to stop their friends, saying 'Enough, he will die!' Then they sprayed me with poison that burnt my eyes and face. They took me to an ambulance and three of the security personnel that had beaten me accompanied me to a police station. At the station, the other prisoners helped to wash my face and treat me until an officer came."

Residents in the area surrounding Sana'a University has begun gathering as well - dividing tasks so as to protect their families and their property from protesters.

On Al-Adl Street, young residents came together to build a security barrier intended to prevent other would-be protesters from joining the demonstrations. They stand by this new wall, criticizing protesters as they go by. "You ruined our lives," said one resident to a protester. "Get out. We don't care about the regime. We only care about our lives, which are now in danger because of you."

Residents around Al-Qadisya, who also feel threatened by the encroaching conflict between the protesters and the state, have taken similar measures. They recently erected two insulating walls so as to protect their neighborhood from the "flu-like" spread of the demonstration.

"This weekend's attack started when more people joined the protest on Friday," explained one of the demonstrators. "The security wanted to stop the protest from getting any bigger and to testify the people. They urged all those who live in the neighborhood to react and to resist the protesters."

Said one shopkeeper in the area, who preferred to remain anonymous: "The state is encouraging some of the pro-government people living in the neighborhood to say that they are fed up with the anti-government protesters and that they are being forced to defend their own lives. I know the neighborhood very well, as I have lived and worked here for many years. The people who attack the protesters are probably paid by the state. Lots of people saw the snipers and those who used the roofs to pelt protesters below with rocks."



Pro-democracy demonstrations in Taiz have been the largest in the country



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Teachers strike in Taiz

By: Imad al-Sakkaf

TAIZ, Mar. 16 – An unprecedented number of protesters broke out into the streets of Taiz last week in response to reports of violence being used against peaceful pro-democracy demonstrators in Sana'a.

Teachers in the city also went on strike when it was reported that the Yemeni Teachers Union will postpone the payment of bonuses until July. These bonuses were originally scheduled to be distributed in 2005. President Saleh promised that the bonuses would be paid in March, following concessions made this past January.

The teachers' strike resulted in the closure of city schools. Consequently, more students have joined the pro-democracy protests calling for the ouster of President Saleh.

According to medical sources, 14 people – mostly children – were injured last week in the confrontation between protesters, the police and persons described as the "regime's thugs". In one bizarre incident, the headmaster of Ba Kathir School attempted to calm students by firing his gun in the air, as well as by throwing stones at boisterous pupils.

The police prevented one rally from reaching Taiz City Hall and fired live rounds at protesters, injuring some. Students then set fire to a police patrol car, in response to the excessive force being used against them. Following the violence, the students made their way to "Freedom Square", so as to join the other tens of thousands of pro-democracy protesters who have occupied the city's central square for

more than a month.

On the same day, angry demonstrators in Al-Mua'fer district, 32km west of Taiz city, seized a local administrative building after it had been evacuated of its employees and security. The demonstrators claimed that they took the building in reaction to the excessive and unjustifiable use of force by the ruling party and its thugs against protesters all across Yemen.

One well-placed security source commented on the events: "As for occupying the local authority building, this is against the law and it is a threat to the public interest." With respect to the demonstrations, he added that, "There is a square that has been set aside for use by protesters. Seizing government buildings are acts of sabotage that incite chaos. Security forces will fulfill their responsibility in protecting these buildings."

Thousands of people arrived in Freedom Square during the early hours on Friday, in response to a call for "a day of steadfastness" made by youth demonstrating in governorate capitals all across the country.

Due to the already enormous number of people in the square, thousands were forced to sit on nearby streets and some even called for the entire city of Taiz to become an open "freedom square", so as to generate enough space for all those who wish to exercise their right to free assembly.

President Saleh's latest initiative was launched during the National Dialogue Conference. Its main points included the establishment of a national parliament with checks and balances against the president, the drafting of a new constitution, the setting up of a

transitional government that would form a supreme election committee early next year, and the establishment of local governments with full powers based on a territorial system. These points were rejected by the JMP, who dubbed the initiative as being "lame", "too late" and "not serious" enough to meet escalating demands for the departure of the regime. The JMP suggested that applying superficial changes to a system that has lost its legitimacy in the eyes of the public will simply not work.

Revolutionary youth demonstrating on Freedom Square in Taiz said that Saleh's latest initiative does not concern them, as their only demand is the departure of the current regime. They also said that they are intent on carrying out their protests, in spite of the brutal way that they have been treated by security forces.

Aziz Ahmed Al-Raimi, a protester on the square, claimed that the president's initiative does not affect him. He said that he and his fellow demonstrators have only one goal: the toppling of Saleh's regime. "We'll never betray the martyrs of our revolution, who have sacrificed their lives for our cause," he explained. "It's either victory for the revolution or our deaths here in Freedom Square," he added.

Majid Qassem al-Sami'ee, another young protester in Taiz, said that, "We've left our homes, schools and colleges, and we will return only when the president is gone and the revolution is victorious."

Freedom Square was on high alert at 3:00am last Friday when an unknown person fired several shots into the air nearby.

Widespread dust covers Yemen



By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, March 16- An extensive dust wave has been blanketing Yemen since Monday due to strong winds carrying sands and dust from the middle of Saudi Arabia and the Empty Quarter, according to the Yemen's Meteorological Center.

Visibility levels have been lowered to 100 meters in Hadramout and 200 meters in Marib. Scheduled flights in Taiz were delayed for some hours at the airport due to low visibility, Rasheed Al-Ariqi, head of the Weather Forecast

Unit at the Meteorological Center told the Yemen Times on Wednesday.

The nationwide dust reduced temperatures across Yemen because the sun's radiation was blocked by the dust, according to Al-Ariqi.

He said that it is expected that dust will start to dissipate gradually on Friday.

The center recommended drivers to exercise caution in these low visibility conditions. They also warned elderly people, children, and respiratory patients to avoid direct exposure to the dust.

Demonstrations continue across Yemen governorates

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Mar. 16 – Pro-democracy demonstrations demanding the ouster of President Ali Abdullah Saleh are continuing in Aden for the third consecutive week. Media sources claim that at least four people were killed when protesters attempted to break into a police station in the Dar Sa'ad district.

A source at Al-Naqib hospital told Al-Jazeera that all four victims were shot in the head and neck, adding that although they had been rushed to the hospital as quickly as possible, they were dead on arrival.

Protests in Aden continued throughout Saturday evening, denouncing what was dubbed "the massacre" against

demonstrators at Change Square in Sana'a earlier that day. According to Al-Jazeera, the event in the capital left six people dead and hundreds injured.

The city of Al-Mansoura also witnessed a massive rally, in which hundreds of youth initiated a sit-in at Al-Shuhada'a (Martyrs) Square. They too condemned the disproportionate force that had been used against their countrymen in Sana'a.

The rally in Al-Mansoura toured all of the town's major streets. Protesters vocalized their desire for President Saleh to leave and expressed their faithfulness to the martyrs who have died during the country's demonstrations.

Back in Aden city, tens of thousands of people in Al-Tawahi, Al-Mulla and Crater districts joined similar solidar-

ity protests. The participants shouted slogans criticizing the brutal assault against protesters in Sana'a, as well as others demanding the downfall of the regime. 14 of the demonstrators sustained injuries, some of which were said to be serious.

In the northern governorate of Amran, tens of thousands of anti-government protesters took part in demonstrations, while tens of thousands of government supporters held their own rallies calling upon the opposition to respond positively to President Saleh's parliamentary initiative.

In Hodeidah, police and military vehicles surrounded Al-Tahrir Square so as to limit the activities and mobility of protesters in the area.

Other demonstrations continued in

Al-Baidha, denouncing attacks against peaceful protesters in Sana'a, Aden and Hadramout.

Marib Press claimed that thousands assembled at Al-Baidha's Abna'a Al-Thowar (Revolutionaries' Children) Square, including sheikhs, religious scholars, academics and members of the two educational unions. The protesters were said to have demanded that President Saleh stand trial for having "shed the blood of the innocent in demonstration squares" across the country.

The protesters said that the blood of the martyrs will not have been shed in vain and that, sooner or later, all of the major culprits would be held to account. They also affirmed that their peaceful struggle would continue at

any cost until the regime falls apart.

Also according to Marib Press, Al-Baidha has recently witnessed collective resignations from leading figures and members of the ruling party. Those who resigned have announced their solidarity with the protesters.

In Rada'a, a city within Al-Baidha governorate, tens of thousands of people flooded the streets, attempting to march on key government buildings in protest against the use of live ammunition and tear gas in Sana'a, Taiz and Aden. They called for the regime to be overthrown, as well as for Saleh's family members and alleged criminals within the security services to be prosecuted.

Some pro-Saleh ruffians tried to attack the demonstrators, but the latter

stood up to, captured and disarmed them.

During this rally in Rada'a, other resignations from the ruling GPC party were declared in Al-Riashia, Al-Arsh and Qaifa districts, in response to what was described as the bloodbaths taking place across the country. Those who resigned have called upon all "free" members of the GPC to follow their example. They affirmed that since innocent blood has been shed, there is no longer any room for negotiation with what they call the "murderous" Saleh regime.

In Mukalla, the capital of Hadramout governorate, Rami ba Rumaim, a young pupil, was killed when police shot him while breaking up yet another pro-democracy protest.

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Hadda, Al-Surmi ST . Beside Al –Diwan Restaurant
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Fax 01-425906
E-mail: fuad.alkhayat@yamaan.org

Deadline for submission of proposals **31 March 2011**

NOTICE TO ALL BRITISH NATIONALS

We advise against all travel to Yemen and we recommend that British nationals should leave by the commercial options currently available. You are strongly advised to avoid demonstrations and remain very vigilant in public areas.

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British Embassy, Sanaa.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following office positions

1. **Human Resources (HR) Assistant**

Under the guidance and direct supervision of the Head of the Human Resources Unit, the HR Assistant provides HR services ensuring high quality, accuracy and consistency of work. The HR Assistant promotes a client-oriented (consistent with rules and regulations) approach in the Unit.

Main Responsibilities

- Full compliance with UN/UNDP rules, regulations, policies and strategies in regards to HR processes;
- UNDP Staff and project staff leave monitoring;
- Preparation of job descriptions and vacancy announcements in newspapers;
- Arrangement of interviews and performing the functions of secretary in the interview panels;
- Arrangement and administration of tests for long listed candidates;
- Tracking of all transactions related to positions, recruitment, benefits, earnings/deductions, retroactivity and separations through Atlas.
- Maintenance of the Country Office (CO) staffing table s and update of the CO rosters;
- Maintenance of proper filing system for HR records and documents;
- Provision of information for cost-recovery bills in Atlas for HR services provided by UNDP to projects and other Agencies;
- Collection of information for comprehensive and interim local salary surveys;

Qualification Requirements

- Secondary Education with specialized certification in HR. University Degree in Business or Public Administration would be desirable, but it is not a requirement.
- 3 to 5 years of relevant HR experience is required at the national or international level. Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc) and experience in handling of web based management systems;
- Fluency in both Arabic and English Languages;

2. **Executive Assistant**

Under the guidance and direct supervision of the Country Director and Deputy Country Director (CD/DCD), the Executive Assistant ensures effective and efficient functioning of their offices, full confidentiality in all aspects of assignment, maintenance of protocol procedures, management of information flow and follow-up on deadlines and commitments made.

Main Responsibilities

- Management of the CD/DCD office, ensuring an environment of professionalism and teamwork at all times, and setting exemplary standards of conduct for the Country Office (CO) team;
- Efficient and discreet management of the CD/DCD schedules ;
- Organization of regular and ad-hoc meetings; preparation of minutes and summaries of actions to be taken; tracking of progress on planned issues; follow-up with focal points.
- Screening of all incoming communications, filter outgoing correspondence for supervisor's signature, clearance and further action by other staff;
- Adherence to appropriate protocol and correspondence guidelines by CO team when communicating with Government and other external partners;
- Use of automated office management system;
- Maintenance of the filing system ensuring safekeeping of confidential materials.
- Coordination of the information flow in the office and dissemination of corporate and interoffice communication to staff as required.
- Follow up on deadlines, commitments made, actions taken and coordination of collection and submission of the reports to the CD/DCD.
- Draft routine correspondence, interoffice circulars, general briefing notes, documents, reports, and minutes of meetings when requested, translations when required;
- Administration of travel, meetings, appointments and briefings of CD/DCD Including drafting of background notes.

Qualification Requirements

- Secondary Education with specialized secretarial training or office management. University Degree in Business or Public Administration would be desirable, but it is not a requirement.
- 3 to 5 years of progressively responsible secretarial, administrative, programme experience is required at the national or international level. Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc) and experience in handling of web based management systems;
- Fluency in both Arabic and English Languages;

Only Online Applications will be accepted

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 Saturday, 26 March 2011

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

JOB VACANCY

Ministry of Public Health & Population (National Health Demographic Survey Department) are seeking for a qualified candidates to join their team in the position of **Accountant**, this opportunity is temporary position (for 17 months) based in Sana'a.

Background

The increasing understanding of the importance of social dimensions in general and the health and population dimensions in particular in development resulted in the increasing need for appropriator information on several social attributes. This information is essential so to enable policy makers of better understanding the nature, direct and indirect relations between different variables. It becomes crucial to provide information that help in developing objectives and assessing progress taking into account the interlinked relations between different sectors. Development is necessarily a multi sectoral process requiring information on different socio-economic and demographic aspects for policy formulation for each sector. Ministry of Public Health & Population and donors implemented this project to get all data according to Health and demographic indicators.

Accountant tasks:

1. Follow up funding sources and approval of the budget
2. Follow up financiers, identify and classify survey expenditures
3. Prepare discharge documents and account review
4. Disburse remunerations of those working in the survey as per the financial regulation
5. Prepare a weekly financial report showing expenditures and balance
6. Develop financial regulation in coordination with survey technical management

The ideal candidate should fulfill the following requirements:

Professional Qualifications:

The professional qualifications of the consultant should be as follows:

1. Yemeni nationality
2. Academic qualification of BA in Accounting
3. A minimum of 3 years experience in working with surveys projects
4. Proficiency in written and spoken English and prepare financial reports in English language.
5. Competency in relevant computer applications
6. Familiarity with the government and donors financial and accounting procedures and guidelines

Interested candidates should submit their applications, consisting of a cover letter and curriculum vitae (CV), to the following address:

Fax: 00967 1 220590

Attn: Dr. Abduljabbar Al-Ghaithi

E-Mail address: agaithi@gmail.com

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www.alhmdani.com

Scrambling for a decent education in Mahwit

By: Ali saeed

Every morning a horde of secondary school students from the villages of Bani Mulaik in Mahwit, 111 km North West of Sana'a, scramble more than 1,000 meters up a mountain face to reach a school in an adjacent village.

They do this, they say, because the school in their village does not enough teachers, especially in science subjects.

Saddam Hassan, 17, a student in his final year of secondary education from Bani Mulaik, is among those who endure the two hour climb every day.

Saddam sets off at 6 am along with 12 other boys from his village, en route they converge with scores of children from other villages making the same trip.

Ibrahim Al-Sharif, principal of a secondary school in Bani Mulaik believes those students hiking to schools in other villages are doing so in search of better grades.

"The exam center for the school in our area had been blacklisted by the Ministry of Education because of students' cheating in exams. They (students) have moved to another school in search of better marks," said the head-



The ministry of education said that one of its policy priorities is to build schools in locations closest to population centers.

master.

With a population of 100,000, Melhan is the biggest district in Mahwit. Around 19, 000 students, 7,500 out of them girls, study in 76 primary schools and 22 secondary education schools, according to Abdulkareem Al-Kirdi,

director of the education office in the district.

With only 707 qualified teachers - around 30 students to every teacher - schools are running desperately short. Finding science teachers, most of who come from Yemen's major cities, is



The lack of good roads in the district forces teachers from outside the area to leave and seek better work environment.

particularly challenging. Many are put off by Mahwit's isolation, rugged terrain, and lack of basic amenities like electricity and running water.

"The minimal requirements for good living standards are not to be found here. Teachers from outside the district

rarely stay longer than two years," said Al-Kirdi.

Mahwit sits on the crest of a chain of soaring, jagged mountaintops, some of which tower 2,000 meters above sea level.

Its inhabitants are scattered across the district, residing in tiny villages nestled in the base of steep valleys or perched on the edge of cliff faces. In this fragmented social set-up, each tribal leader demands a separate school for his village and clan, according to Al-Kirdi.

The sheiks often intervene in the selection of teachers for their area hindering the decision making capacity of local education authorities.

"Job positions for teachers are being distributed here by tribal leaders, not according to community needs," Al-Kirdi said.

Education problems in Mahwit are part of wider problems affecting education in Yemen generally caused by overlapping decisions of the ministry of education, education offices in governorates, authorities of local councils and tribal leaders, according to Al-Kirdi.

Allegations of corruption in Central Statistics Organization

By: Malak Shaher

In the wake of the demonstrations that have been raging in Yemen since the middle of February, some 30 employees of the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) have begun raising a collective voice against corruption, which they claim is running rampant at their head office. These allegations are concerning, as the CSO falls under the direct authority of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

The employees gathered on February

22nd in front of the ministry, holding signs which demanded that the head of the CSO be tried for corruption. "In the civilized manner of the sit-in, we reject this culture of corruption," said Khawla Noman, an employee of the organization.

She said that since they began their sit-in and a small group of them met with the director of the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (SNACC), they have not seen their boss Mohammed Mohee Al-Deen. Noman believes that he does not want to "face the situation".

Despite the fact that the protesting employees claim their group has 70 individuals, Yahya Al-Jarmozi, the head of the legal affairs department within the CSO, said that the sit-ins usually involve no more than ten people at a time. He also said that if the employees are accusing the CSO of corruption, they should prove their case by offering real reports of criminal activity.

Rumors, which suggest that Mohee Al-Deen has presented a letter of resignation to the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, have been denied by Al-Jarmozi.

When the CSO employees began organizing their sit-in in the front yard of the ministry, guards initially stopped them from doing so and told them that if they wished to demonstrate, they should stand outside. They complied, but as their protest garnered greater media attention, they were permitted back inside the ministry grounds, so as to limit media exposure.

As a participant in the protests, Noman claims that she has all of a sudden found herself without an office, desk or computer. "They all disappeared two days ago due to my participation in the protests," she said.

Another employee of the CSO, who preferred to remain anonymous, told the Yemen Times that he and other protesting employees were inspired by other anti-corruption demonstrations taking place around the country.

"Despite the fact that we were inspired by the demonstrations currently taking place in Yemen, we are not against the regime. All we want is for corruption to be addressed," said the employee, who has presented reports which claim that Mohee Al-Deen, who has been the head of the CSO since 2003, has been stealing money from the organization's treasury.

He said that he and other employees have met with the head of SNACC, Ahmed Al-Anisi, and his deputy Balqees Abu Esba. They presented them with documents that allegedly demonstrate Mohee Al-Deen's criminality.

According to SNACC, the case has been given priority and it is currently under review. An outcome is expected on Saturday.

The CSO employees have been organizing a two-hour sit in every day for the past month, asking the government to form three committees - one financial, one administrative and one technical - so as to expose corruption within the office.

The allegations made by the employees against the people "in power at the CSO" include the suggestion that money intended for economic surveys is being used for personal purposes.

Until SNACC determines the outcome of the case, work at the CSO will be delayed. Students and other individuals may wish to obtain statistical information from the organization, but they will not be able to do so as all of the employees are out at the sit-in.

The CSO is the official organization in Yemen that prepares surveys, presents statistics and publishes national data on an annual basis.

Vacancies

A humanitarian Yemeni NGO announces the following vacancies:

- Child protection officer:**
Candidates must have a bachelor degree in psychology or sociology specialization in child issues is an advantage
- Community specialist**
Candidates must have a bachelor degree in sociology
- Cashiers**
Candidates must have at least commercial secondary education or diploma in accounting
- Nutrition specialist**
Candidates must have a bachelor degree in nutrition of public health
- Female Doctor**
Candidates must have an M.D. in medicine with at least three years experience in gynecology and reproductive health

General conditions

- Fluency in English and Arabic languages
- Between two to three years experience minimum
- Ability to use computer applications (MS Excel, MS Word and MS Access) and Yemenseft accounting program.
- Must not have another job in the public or private sectors

Please email your CV to info@interactionyemen.org



For three weeks, the employees of the Central Statistics Organization (above) have been calling on the state to look into their case as they claim that corruption is rampant



Supreme National Authority for Combatting Corruption in Tahrir Square

Oxfam

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO working with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering, has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacancy for its programme:

Logistics Assistant – Based in Sana'a
Contract Duration: 10 months

The role
You will be responsible to organize all logistic processes, including purchasing, warehousing, communications and transport, as well as the related administrative procedures related to the job. You will report all logistic activities to the Logistic Manager.

What we're looking for
We are looking for someone with at least 2 years experience in purchasing, warehousing, and vehicle management administration are required. You will have excellent diplomacy, tact and negotiating skills, as well as oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic, and will possess good computer skills.

To apply
If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in this position, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job you are applying for, to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk or send a fax to 01 450170.

Closing date for applications is **26th March 2011**

Please apply immediately as we will be interviewing suitable candidates before the closing date

Geopolitical Dimension of the Rebellion in Yemen

By: Gulevich Vladislav
Strategic Culture Foundation

A tide of extremism is sweeping across Yemen. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, the group seeking to overthrow the pro-Western regimes in Yemen and the nearby Saudi Arabia, is regarded as the number one terrorist force in the region. The group's activity increasingly bothers Washington whose list of priority zones includes the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa. In the past, the concentration of CIA agents in Yemen used to be a factor of several lower than, for example, in Pakistan but Yemen's peaceful atmosphere eventually proved deceptive as the country started to slide towards radicalization. The weakness of the country's central authority and the discord within its society contribute to the process.

So far protests in Yemen are upholding demands for social change. In some cities, the numbers of protesters reportedly reached at least 5,000. The administration is trying, albeit unsuccessfully, to rebuild the national unity: in February, Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh who has been running the country for 32 years rolled out a plan for a coalition government to which all opposition parties were promised entry tickets. If the attempt at compromise fails, the temperature of conflicts between Yemen's tribes will promptly climb to the point of boiling and the divided country will sink into the chaos of a civil war.

The opposition has no intention to soften its stance despite Saleh's openness to compromise. As a general strategy, the administration deliberately adds fuel to conflicts between tribes, and moreover brings hundreds of tribesmen to Sana'a from the country's peripheral northern regions where the current president continues to enjoy support. Saleh's main rivals are the Hashid tribe's leading Al-Ahmar clan, one of Yemen's wealthiest and most influential. The Hashid are inferior in numbers to their rivals, the Bakil tribe, but must be credited with being better organized politically. In February, Sheikh Husayn ibn Abdullah al-Ahmar and his brother

Sheikh Hameed Al-Ahmar urged Saleh to step down, using impressively strong language in their statement.

The standoff between the two top clans adds additional dimension to the unrest in Yemen. The Hashid are drawing ever greater numbers of supporters to their side, including even some factions from the Bakil tribe. Still, the Al-Ahmar clan's main allies are the heavily armed and Yemen's top influential Kavalan tribe living in the region east of Sana'a. Several other tribes from the Ma'rib province also joined the Al-Ahmar clan in opposing the regime. Ma'rib is the scene of the administration's particularly ferocious fight against Muslim terrorists, but the locals suspect that the anti-Al Qaeda campaign is a pretext for gaining control over the oil-rich province. Al-Ahmar's clan is likely trying to take advantage of the protests in Yemen to simply get rid of the country's president.

Until recently, Saleh could count on the US support and on the security of his positions in Yemen's capital, the latter also being a strategic asset. It is believed in Yemen that controlling Sana'a is tantamount to controlling the country. At the moment anti-government protesters are flooding the city streets while Saleh's and Al-Ahmar's clans are wrestling over the support from the tribes inhabiting the adjacent regions and accordingly capable of severing the capital's supply routes. If the strife between tribes spills over Yemen, Sana'a is bound to be the epicenter.

A question mark is hanging over the US support for Saleh who even charges Washington and Tel Aviv with inciting the unrest. Washington has been propping up Yemen's senior-aged leadership for years thus rewarding it for the war on Al Qaeda and for the overall pro-US policies. Nevertheless, Yemen faces a major instability. Washington is aware of the majority discontent in the country and can be expected to lightheartedly sacrifice Saleh to retain strategic control over Yemen.

The shakiness of Saleh's regime alarms the nearby Saudi Arabia no less than the US. Riyadh and Sana'a are allies and - obviously with a blessing from Sana'a - Saudi Arabia bombed the

Yemeni Shiites, a 42% minority in the country where 52% of the population are Sunni Muslims. There is concern in Saudi Arabia that the pattern set by the Yemeni Shiites will inspire its own Shia Muslims to rise against the government. It factors into the reckoning that the Yemeni and Saudi Shiites are oriented towards Tehran and that the Shia Muslims in Saudi Arabia inhabit Nejd, the region containing some of the country's most valuable oil reserves.

The Shia insurgency can trigger unrest in the neighboring Oman, where the Shiites are politically under-represented. A conflict of such proportions has a potential to translate into destabilization across the entire Arabian Peninsula, and to erode the US dominance in the region, and to empower Iran as a result. The US is worried about possibly ceding control over the Gulf of Aden to Iran which has already built a naval base in Eritrea, just across the Red Sea, and is backing Shia protests in Bahrain which hosts a US naval base and the US 5th Navy command. US and French soldiers are deployed in Djibouti which shares a border with Eritrea.

Iran is not Washington's only headache in the region - China is also in the spotlight. The US cherishes control over Yemen's Aden seaport which it can use to seal off the straits of Bab-el-Mandeb serving as China's main commercial inlet to the Red Sea.

The stakes running high, the US establishment is increasingly audible about a military intervention in Yemen. Congressman J. Lieberman said Iraq yesterday's war, Afghanistan - today's war, and Yemen would be tomorrow's war if the US showed enough foresight. It seems that Washington is trying to, massively dispatching intelligence operatives and military instructors to Yemen. US pilots disguised as local air force staff are known to have bombed the positions of the Shia insurgents. US drones and the technicians taking care of them are coming to Yemen, Djibouti, and Kenya in large numbers.

The impression is that for the US Saleh is a discounted figure. Even if he manages to hold out till the 2013 elections, his more distant political future hardly stands a chance.

Two different lessons from Libya and Yemen

By: George Semaan
Al-Hayt News Channel

As much as the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt have grown closer to their happy endings, the situations in Libya and Yemen seem to be getting more difficult and complex and are heading toward vague or foggy endings that might extend the suffering of the people. The reasons that have mobilized and are still mobilizing the street in these countries are almost similar, but the circumstances in them are different, as each enjoys a different history, social structure, relations, and a particular level of concord between the components of this structure. There are also different cultures and relations with the region and the international community, and this can clearly be seen in the Jamahiriya and Yemen. Therefore, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the outcome of the action in each of these two latter countries will have negative repercussions on the popular action of any of their neighbors. Consequently, the Algerians, the Moroccans and others, will not be able to know in advance the outcome of any uprising or revolution - as was the case in Egypt and Tunisia - and will have to draw the Libyan and Yemeni lessons.

It has become clear that the Libyan regime cannot be easily toppled due to numerous factors, namely regionalism and tribalism, which are strongly denied by the Libyans, as it used to be the case of the Iraqis who got mad whenever they were told they were growing closer to division, the Lebanese style. And here they are today, seven years after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, drowning in sectarian and denominational divide.

The rupture which currently exists in Libya between the East and the West, between Benghazi and Tripoli, brings back to mind a reality which prevailed not too long ago. Indeed, it revives the memory of the cultural, political and historical division between these two regions which were only unified mid last century, in light of the establishment of the United Libyan Kingdom proclaimed by King Idris as-Senussi to combine the three Libyan provinces. This is why the Eastern population rushed to restore the flag of the kingdom, leaving the flag of the Jamahiriya to the Westerners and South-westerners. This rupture dived the revolution of its peaceful character, as the Libyans aligned in two warring camps in a way rendering it difficult later on to come together again without there being bloodshed. Indeed, if the brigades and mercenaries of Muammar al-Gaddafi were to succeed - which is highly unlikely - the killing will continue. And if the revolutionaries win, they will also resort to retaliation against Gaddafi's supporters who governed the country with steel, fire and humiliation throughout 42 years. In both cases, a lot of blood will be shed on the altar of change in the Jamahiriya, especially since the rebels are now carrying weapons and are training with army units that have joined their ranks.

Libya has entered a stage of mutual vio-

lence, which might take the shape of civil war if this stage proceeds without the rebels being able to settle the battle in their favor, using the support of all the measures adopted by the international community and especially the United States and the European countries. The problem with the Libyan rebels is that they want international help but not if it is similar to the one seen in the Iraqi case. They want the United States and the European countries to support them, but not in a way that makes them look as though they resorted to foreign assistance to topple Gaddafi. They want interference, but at the same time do not want it. Some are even cautioning that a foreign military interference will lead the situation in a totally opposite direction, i.e. that it might prompt the Libyans to rally around Gaddafi again! And although the Americans and Europeans clearly expressed their wish to see Gaddafi leave and are seeking his sanctioning and besieging, they are also expressing the difficulty of establishing an umbrella over Libya to prevent the regime from using its air force without there being a direct military interference by land or air.

Libya might turn into another Somalia on the shores of the Mediterranean, unless a rift occurs on the regime's end at the level of the tribes which are still standing alongside it. Some Libyans - just like the Yemenis - are finding it difficult to relinquish a regime in which they have established power centers and secured the interests of the supporters, the fellow tribesmen and the sect. It is not easy for these beneficiaries to relinquish their interests, and they are as eager as the regime to defend the legitimacy which it no longer enjoys, neither domestically nor abroad. This is what implicated President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali and later on President Hosni Mubarak, who tried to resist during the first few days of the revolutions in their countries while pushed by these power centers and the army of beneficiaries. However, their resistance came late. Today, the situation in Tripoli is similar to the situation in Sana'a, as neither Colonel Muammar al-Gaddafi nor Ali Abdullah Saleh will leave power, as long as there are forces that still believe it would serve their interests to see these regimes remain, or at least to see the improvement of the conditions of their departure.

But while Libya has entered the tunnel of mutual violence, the situation in Yemen might remain distant from the use of arms, as no one seems to want to resort to arms in a country featuring nothing but weapons. Moreover, no one seems to wish to engage in such an experience, out of fear of waking up the demons of tribal retaliations - both the old and the new - considering that if this were to happen, there would be no meaning for the change or the revolution. The situation in Yemen has its specificities since it has nothing to do with what happened in Tunisia and Egypt and what is happening in Libya. Indeed, the talk about civil war in Yemen is closer to an empty threat than to a reality on the ground, and even division seems highly unlikely. Moreover, the secessionism inclination which characterized the action of the Southerners was toned down, seeing how the secessionists are awaiting

the outcome of the change which will sooner or later be witnessed in the country. Anarchy might escalate if the regime is unable to conclude a deal with its opponents, considering that even the latter are being preceded by the street, which is increasing its pressures on them. Indeed, the angry people are now imposing their agendas, far away from the parties, forces and tribes, which is why these forces are changing, along with their positions, on a daily basis.

So far, President Ali Abdullah Saleh has been listening without showing any cooperation with the proposals of the scholars association, as he does not seem to want to help find an exit to salvage the country from chaos or help anyone find a formula that would secure an honorable departure for him and maintain the dignity of his supporters. He can, instead of insisting on staying in his post until the end of his term, propose a middle ground solution and announce he will relinquish power before the end of this term. By doing so, he would be taking one step closer toward the proposal of the scholars association for him to resign at the end of the year, in the context of a timetable that will feature measures which will lead the country toward a climate of reforms, freedoms and participation in the authority and pave the way before parliamentary and presidential elections. Stubbornness will not do the president any good, will prolong the suffering of the Yemenis and increase the problems of the authority which will not be able to continue governing no matter what it does and regardless of the enticements it offers - seeing how these enticements are no longer attracting anyone. Change in Yemen is inevitable, but in the context of a deal as it is recognized by the regime itself. Consequently, the question that is now on the table revolves around the timing of this change and the way it will be secured.

What is happening in Yemen may be getting wider international attention than what is happening in Libya, considering that the repercussions of the developments in the country on the entire neighboring region - from the Arabian Peninsula to the Horn of Africa - cannot be neglected. This is especially due to the fact that after Afghanistan and Pakistan, the country is almost becoming the number one base for Al-Qaeda organization. Chaos can only enhance the positions of the organization, which is something that cannot be accepted or tolerated by those engaged in a war against terrorism on the regional and international levels.

There is no arguing about the fact that the street will eventually win the wager, but at a very high cost. Neither Colonel Gaddafi nor Colonel Ali Abdullah Saleh can stand in the face of the international will and the people's desires. There is a particular social structure which is imposing its rules on the players in both countries, limiting their action, and setting difficult conditions in the face of the efforts to induce change. It also remains part of the balance of powers which extends beyond the domestic structure and affects the region that is subjected to an overwhelming storm of change which cannot be hindered by any obstacles or considerations, no matter how long it takes.

Gender issues crucial to Yemen reform

By: Lauren Serpe
Global Post

As people across the Middle East and North Africa continue to protest for greater freedom and equality under their repressive regimes, we must keep in mind that the struggle for liberty is not just about overthrowing autocratic rulers - it is also about personal freedom, and women in the region stand to gain the most from reform.

International Women's Day, March 8, is a particularly fitting time to acknowledge that women - and international actors supporting the stabilization efforts - have an unprecedented opportunity to capture some of the newly created political space and ensure gender rights are integrated into political and legal reforms.

This holds particularly true in Yemen where women face some of the greatest challenges of any females in the region, yet research by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) demonstrates the majority of both men and women are open to improving the status of women in the country. A prime example is establishing a minimum marriage age for girls, which Yemeni women have been visible in pushing for in the past few years. The current political environment is an ideal time to capitalize

on the desire for transformation.

The urgent need for improving laws governing the status of women in Yemen was made especially salient in 2008 when a ten-year old girl, Nujood, of the capital Sana'a, left her 30-year old husband and requested a divorce, saying she was married against her will. Her story exposed the world to the plight of women in Yemen and the challenges they face through the practice of early marriage, along with unequal access to education, employment, and participation in politics. The ramifications of this inequality not only affect females, but also the development of the whole country by stifling the ability of half its population to develop its intellectual capacity, contribute to the economy, and bring greater perspective to the political process.

While there is currently no law setting a minimum marriage age and there are few women represented in politics, a June 2010 IFES survey shows that many Yemenis are ready to buck the status quo. Nearly three-quarters of Yemeni women and men (72 percent) would support a minimum marriage age law. A majority of Yemeni men (58 percent) and women (57 percent) also support the introduction of gender quotas in the form of reserved seats for women in parliament. A sizeable percentage (64 percent) of Yemeni women and men say they support women as political candidates as well.

Additionally, women have made it

clear they are ready and willing to fight for reform. In March of last year, hundreds of women protested urging the government to pass a minimum marriage age law. During the recent anti-government protests, women have also been fervent demonstrators. In fact, a Yemeni woman activist was arrested for organizing some of the protests.

As the U.S. and the international community assist countries across the Middle East region, and Yemen in particular, in the stabilization process, they should keep in mind that this is a prime opportunity to advocate for women's rights - one of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's areas of focus and signature issues.

To seize the opportunity, the U.S. and other international aid and diplomacy actors must insist on gender inclusion in political and legal reforms and ensure Yemeni women advocates are at the table for all discussions. Ignoring women's issues during the reform process would be a missed opportunity for Yemen and U.S. diplomacy efforts.

Lauren Serpe is a Research Officer at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). She conducts public opinion surveys and focus groups focused on issues related to democracy in the Middle East and North Africa and other regions of the world.

SKETCHED OPINION

By: Hamid



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In lunch banquet for the winner of BMW 2010 Car Sabafon celebrates International Roaming Award



Sabafon celebrated last Wednesday delivering of an BMW car to the winner of International Roaming Award, in a lunch banquet that was held for the winner Jaber Suleiman Hassan, from Sa'dah governorate of. Mohammed Al-Shami delivered the vehicle's key to the winner, who spoke, saying: "I thank God who gave me this award and I thank Sabafon , the leading company in telecommunications in Yemen. I also extend my appreciation to all the staff in charge of the company."

In his speech, al-Shami stressed that this celebration coincides with the tenth anniversary of the company's establishment, asserting that Sabafon has provided many of the important products and services, including the international roaming service that was launched in 2001. "It is one of the major services that enables Sabafon customers to enjoy using their special numbers all over the world" al-Shami said noting that this step came for meeting the local market's demands, especially those of the finance and businessmen sectors, adding that, the international roaming service has undergone since its foundation significant developments due to

the continuous efforts that they would satisfy the customers' ambitions and aspirations. "This has led to diversification of services which started with the international roaming bill system, the international roaming prepayment which was considered to be an effective turn in the development of the service and then the company has launched the international roaming for GPRS which has given the customers the advantage of the access with ease to their businesses through the internet," Shami added.

The winner's name was announced in a big celebration and the draw for the award was held at the Aden Trade Mall in Aden governorate last December, 2010. The Award is a brand New BMW car.

The offer of the international roaming throughout the world was launched during Yemen's host of the 20th Gulf Cup Tournament in Aden and Abyan from November 22 until December 5, 2010 ■




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Yemen in need of psychological support

Dr. Bilqis Jubari has more than seven years of family counseling experience since completing her PhD studies in psychology in 2003. Even while studying at Towson University in the USA through a Fulbright Scholarship, she was practicing as Counsellor and Health Educator. Today she is the director of the Educational Psychological Counseling Center at Sana'a University where she teaches as a professor of psychology.

Dr. Jubari has just launched the first foundation for family counseling in Yemen with a team of four experts. Soon her foundation, in cooperation with 'Women without Borders,' will be launching Yemen's first help hotline for domestic abuse and extremism.

Interview by Nadia Al-Sakkaf

“There are many people in Yemen who desperately need counseling due to the pressures of life today,” says Dr. Jubari.

According to her Yemeni society is suffering from insecurity due to the turbulences in its economic and political environments.

Most of the problems patients face is anxiety. Many Yemenis do not feel stable and are depressed especially the youth.

A possession in the house

Also women face a lot of discrimination and are subjected to violence in their homes from male members of their family. It is the father or brother, even younger brother, which society dictates should treat women differently.

Women also suffer from violence from other women such as the mother or the mother in law.

But most of the ill-treatment, Dr. Jubari says, comes from their husbands. There is physical abuse and neglect.

“Sometimes the husband does not consider the wife as a human being. He treats the women like a possession in the house that is there to serve his needs,” she said.

Jubari has discovered that a large number of women are sexually abused by relatives. This abuse affects them throughout their lives.

“Some women in the university come to me and I am the first person they had ever told their secret to. It has been eating them up all their lives,” she said.

If this abuse happens to them at a young age the children can become de-

pressed and lose faith in people. They become less productive and sociable.

Qat and psychology

Studies have shown, according to Jubari, that there is a strong relationship between chewing qat and psychological disorders mainly depression. There is a narcotic substance in qat that activates the brain during the chewing session but when this stretches on for hours at a time it can bring depression. And when they feel this depression people often turn to other stimulants such as drugs and alcohol which affect the consciousness of the person.

“The person who mixes qat and drugs or alcohol or even power drinks appears unstable and not in touch with reality as if stoned,” she said. “Sometimes abusers start hallucinating depending on the person's psychological condition and vulnerability to such behavior.”

Dr. Jubari says that most people who are affected to this degree are the ones who already have problems in their lives. These problems are brought to the surface by the qat and drug mixing. The more stable users are not affected the same way.

“It is natural for a society with certain traditions such as qat chewing to resist any notion against this habit. But the consequences are more severe on the already suffering segments of the society,” she explained.

Terrorism and prostitution counseling

Dr. Jubari recalls a story she heard from a mother who was grieving her lost son.

The family was very poor. And when the son was a teenager his mother noticed he had joined an extreme Islamic group. Widowed and with no source of



Dr. Bilqis Jubari

income she did not pay much attention especially since this religious group covered the boy's meals and this meant one less mouth to feed. The boy told her mom that the group used to show him pictures of beautiful women on a computer and tell him that his brides in heaven would look the same.

One of her daughters also had a problem. The girl at 14 years old was lured by a woman into prostitution as means to earn money. The girl was ashamed by what she was doing but every time she tried to quit the woman threatened to hurt her.

The mother was not hugely concerned how her son and daughter were bringing money and food to the house. When she asked she got comforting answers and being uneducated and overburdened with poverty she did not

think much of it.

It was when the boy left home for good to join jihadis in another country and the girl tried to commit suicide that the mother realized how bad things had got in her family.

Dr. Jubari provided free counseling services to the entire family through the counseling center at the university. Through Jubari's support the girl felt empowered enough to leave prostitution. She even threatened to report on her boss if she did not leave her alone. The mother was helped to deal with her grief. She never heard back from her son who is considered to have died.

“The mother now realizes what went wrong. She saw the signs of her children's struggle but after it was too late. This is why we need counseling services as early warning system to help families in Yemen, especially now as we are facing difficult times,” said Jubari.

Family Counseling

With an accumulative experience of decades between them, Dr. Jubari and a team of five other experts have established Yemen's first counseling foundation in Yemen.

Psychological and psychiatric support is not common in Yemen and there is a stigma against it amongst many Yemenis. The few available services available are provided either by individuals in private practices, or through one of the two mental hospitals in Sana'a.

“We need Yemenis to understand that it is ok for them to ask for help without being considered crazy. This is why a foundation such ours is ideal,” she said.

Her foundation in cooperation with an international organization Women without Borders are going to launch the first hotline for domestic abuse and extremism.

Dr. Jubari has come across many cases of domestic violence, many, she says, are solvable.

Take the case of the husband whose physiological instability lead to him beat his wife every night. Because he was unemployed and poor, he could not find treatment although both and his wife knew there was something wrong with him.

Dr. Jubari came to know about the family and offered to see the husband to discover that he suffered from a case of schizophrenia that could be controlled through pills.

His wife is now suffering from the damages of being heavily abused. She can't leave him because her family would not take in her children and she does not want to part with them.

“They say that a Yemeni woman would tolerate anything in order not to be separated from her children. The truth is about economic independence. If women can afford to support themselves and their children financially they would not stay in abusive relationships,” explained Jubari.

This is why there is a higher percentage among empowered divorced women, he added. Not because they don't appreciate the marriage, but rather because they will not need to be subjected to an abusive relationship and can break free and still take care of their children.

HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



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.

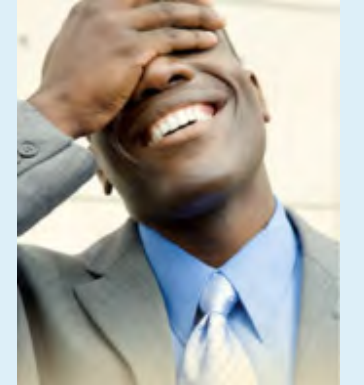
Forgetfulness

Rami's wife Rana often complains that he is very forgetful. It seems Rami never remembers his children's birthdays or his wedding anniversary. He often has confusion about his own mobile number. Rana is very lively and humorous. She narrated an incident about her husband's forgetfulness. It seems his father once requested him to buy him a tablet for headache, but he bought the tablet for constipation instead. Good thing, when his father took the tablet, it worked. His headache was gone, but there was just one minor side effect. His father literally spent the rest of the day in the toilet!

According to some recent studies, the boom in mobiles and portable devices that store reams of personal information has created a generation incapable of memorizing simple things.

A Japanese study has found that people are now becoming dependent on computers and mobile phones, resulting in our brains being understimulated, which can cause severe memory problems.

It's normal to forget things from time to time, and it's normal to become somewhat more forgetful as you age. However, it's not normal to forget too much. How much forgetfulness is too much? How can you tell whether your memory lapses are within the scope of normal aging or are a symptom of something more serious?



Healthy people can experience memory loss or memory distortion at any age. Some of these memory flaws become more pronounced with age. Unless they are extreme and persistent, they are not considered indicators of Alzheimer's or other memory-impairing illnesses.

Normal memory problems

1. Transience

This is the tendency to forget facts or events over time. You are most likely to forget information soon after you learn it. However, memory has a use-it-or-lose-it quality: memories that are called up and used frequently are least likely to be forgotten. Although transience might seem like a sign of memory weakness, brain scientists regard it as beneficial because it clears the brain of unused memories, making way for newer, more useful ones.

2. Absentmindedness

This type of forgetting occurs when you don't pay close enough attention. You forget where you just put your pen because you didn't focus on where you put it in the first place. You were thinking of something else (or, perhaps, nothing in particular), so your brain didn't encode the information securely. Absentmindedness also involves forgetting to do something at a prescribed time, like taking your medicine or keeping an appointment.

3. Blocking

Someone asks you a question and the answer is right on the tip of your tongue — you know that you know it, but you just can't think of it. This is perhaps the most familiar example of blocking, the temporary inability to retrieve a memory. In many cases, the barrier is a memory similar to the one you're looking for, and you retrieve the wrong one. This competing memory is so intrusive that you can't think of the memory you want. A common example is calling your older son by your younger son's name or vice versa, not remembering your close friend's name at times, not remembering your wife's mobile number etc.

Scientists think that memory blocks become more common with age and that they account for the trouble older people have remembering other people's names. Research shows that people are able to retrieve about half of the blocked memories within just a minute.

4. Misattribution

Misattribution occurs when you remember something accurately in part, but misattribute some detail, like the time, place, or person involved. Another kind of misattribution occurs when you believe a thought you had was totally original when, in fact, it came from something you had previously read or heard but had forgotten about. This sort of misattribution explains cases of unintentional plagiarism, in which a writer passes off some information as original when he or she actually read it somewhere before. As with several other kinds of memory lapses, misattribution becomes more common with age. Age matters in at least two ways. First, as you age, you absorb fewer details when acquiring information because you have somewhat more trouble concentrating and processing information rapidly. Second, as you grow older, your memories grow older as well. And old memories are especially prone to misattribution.

5. Suggestibility

Suggestibility is the vulnerability of your memory to the power of suggestion. In simple terms, information that you learn about an occurrence after the fact becomes incorporated into your memory of the incident, even though you did not experience these details. Although little is known about exactly how suggestibility works in the brain, the suggestion fools your mind into thinking it's a real memory.

6. Bias

Even the sharpest memory isn't a flawless snapshot of reality. In your memory, your perceptions are filtered by your personal choices — experiences, beliefs, prior knowledge, and even your mood at the moment. Your biases affect your perceptions and experiences when they're being encoded in your brain. And when you retrieve a memory, your mood and other biases at that moment can influence what information you actually recall.

Everyone's attitudes and preconceived notions bias their memories.

7. Persistence

Most people worry about forgetting things. But in some cases people are tormented by memories they wish they could forget, but can't. The persistence of memories of traumatic events, negative feelings, and ongoing fears is another form of memory problem. Some of these memories accurately reflect horrifying events, while others may be negative distortions of reality.

People suffering from depression are particularly prone to having persistent, disturbing memories. I know a woman who often cries whenever she passes by the casualty room of our hospital. She remembers about her son who was brought to the casualty of our hospital after a car accident and died several years ago. So are people with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). PTSD can result from many different forms of traumatic exposure — for example, sexual abuse, wartime experiences, fire accidents, tsunami etc. Flashbacks, which are persistent, intrusive memories of the traumatic event, are a core feature of PTSD. We will see about it in another issue.

Job Vacancies

Yemen Equipment & Supply Ltd (YES) is seeking qualified and experienced candidates to fill the following positions.



1- Commercial Manager

Requirements

- University degree in business or relevant specialization
- Minimum 5 years of experience in general commercial activities as a commercial manager or a similar position.
- Excellent knowledge in commercial procedures, formalities and policies.
- Excellent command of English & Substantial computer operating skills.
- Strong efficiency in local and international correspondence in both Arabic & English
- Leadership personality and Excellent inter-personal and communication skills
- Good team working skills & Ability to work under pressure.
- Ability to train others, create business plans and strategies and set up new divisions

2- Business Development Manager

Requirements

- University degree in business or relevant specialization
- Minimum 5 years of experience as Business Development Specialist/Manager
- Excellent command of English & Substantial computer operating skills.
- Good communication & writing skills in both Arabic & English
- Excellent inter-personal and communication skills
- Good team working skills, ability to work under pressure.
- Ability to train others, create business plans, strategies and set up new divisions.
- Efficiency in conducting SWOT analysis for entering potential markets
- Preference will be for those who have good knowledge in Quality Management Systems as per the International ISO Standard

3- Marketing Manager

Requirements

- University degree in business or relevant specialization
- Minimum 3 - 5 years of experience in Marketing
- Good command of English & Substantial computer operating skills.
- Excellent inter-personal and communication skills & good team working skills
- Efficiency in establishing and implementing marketing policies and preparing annual marketing plans and study market inputs
- Efficiency in developing marketing strategies, advertisements, leaflet, brochures, etc
- Ability to work with different divisions as a team work & Fast learner

4- Equipment Sales Engineer

Requirements

- University degree in relevant specialization
- Minimum 3 years of experience in sales of different commodities - preferable in equipment and heavy machines
- Excellent inter-personal and communication skills
- Substantial computer operating skills
- Speed ability to learn about new commodities

5- Sales Manager

Requirements

- University degree in relevant specialization
- Minimum 3 years of experience in sales of different commodities - preferable to equipment.
- Excellent inter-personal and communication skills & substantial computer operating skills.
- Ability to learn fast about new commodities and working under pressure.
- Efficiency in establishing and implementing sales plans
- Good knowledge in implementing market study and analysis
- Ability to prepare market strategies including advertising
- Excellent in managing sales and planning budgets and sales forecasts

6- Tendering/Bidding Responsible

Requirements

- University degree in business or relevant specialization
- Minimum 3 years of experience in Tendering activities
- Good knowledge in commercial procedures & formalities and regulations.
- Excellent command of English & Substantial computer operating skills
- Good communication & writing skills in both Arabic & English
- Efficiency in handling tenders activities and preparation of bids and all related procedures, correspondence and follow up
- Excellent inter-personal and communication skills
- Ability of working under pressure.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their application indicating the title of post applied with their CVs ONLY to Fax: 01 450973 or by E-mail: yes@yem.net.ye

Only short-listed candidates shall be contacted. Deadline to receive applications is 28 March 2011



Xinhua/Khaled Omar

GAZA, March 14, 2011 — Palestinians take part in a protest calling for reconciliation between the Islamic Hamas group in Gaza and its West Bank rival Fatah movement, in Gaza City on March 14, 2011.



Xinhua/Liu Su Wei (XW)

OFUNATO, March 14, 2011 — Photo taken on March 14, 2011 shows the ruins in Ofunato city of Japan's northeastern Iwate Prefecture.



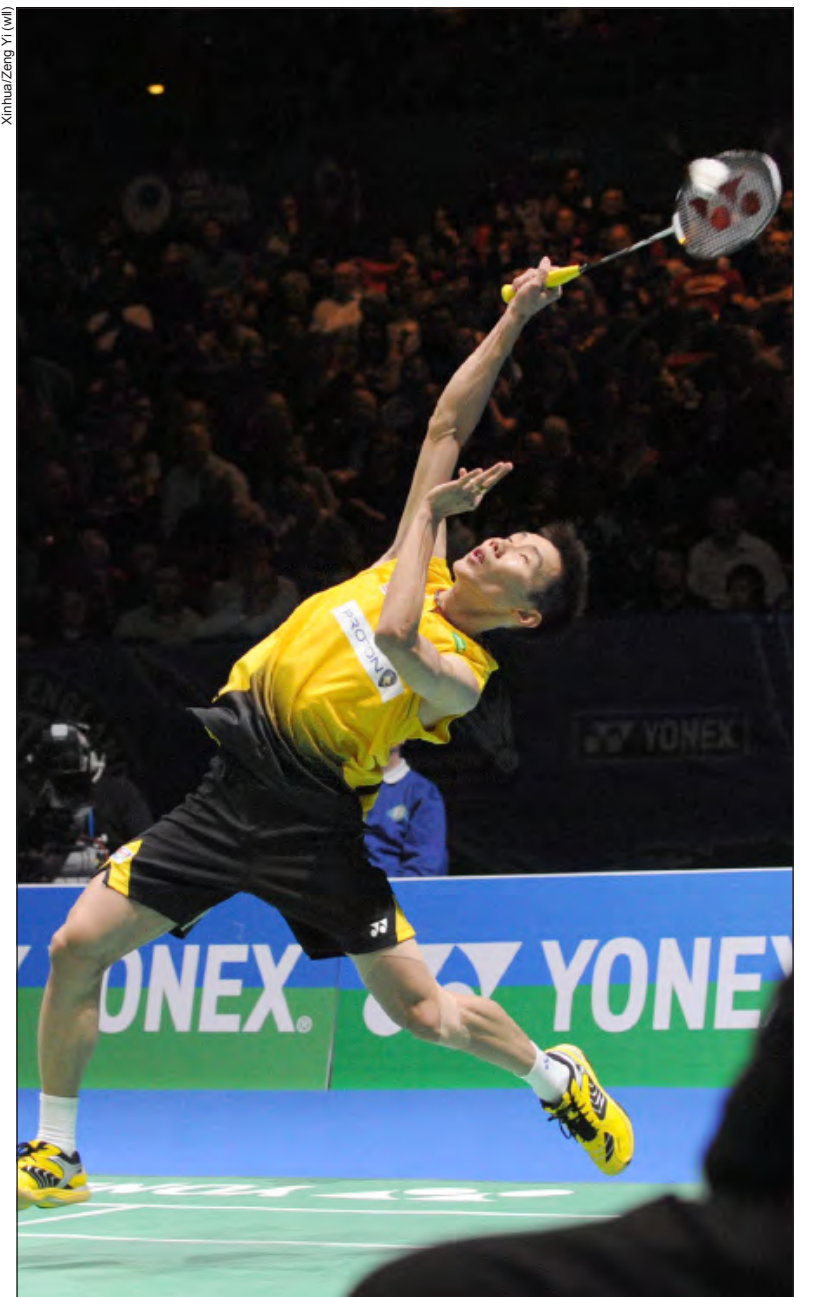
Xinhua/Li Yanguang (LY)

DEQEN, March 14, 2011 — Photo taken on March 11, 2011 shows a Tibetan girl of Hongpo Village Elementary School stare at photographer in Deqen County, Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan Province. Since 2007 when the Prefecture started distributing educational subsidies, about 200,000 Tibetan students have benefited from the policy. The enrollment ratio of school-age children and the gross enrollment ratio in junior high school have both surpassed 99 percent here.



Xinhua/Fadi Ahsani (FA)

RAMALLAH, March 14, 2011 — Abdallah Abu Rahma (R), a prominent Palestinian popular resistance activist, is greeted by relatives upon his release from Ofer prison near the West Bank city of Ramallah, March 14, 2011. Israeli Authorities released Monday Abu Rahma after 16 month in jail with charge of organizing illegal protests against the Israeli Barrier in Bilin village.



Xinhua/Zeng Yi (ZY)

BIRMINGHAM, March 14, 2011 — Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei returns the shuttlecock during the men's singles final against China's Lin Dan in All England Open Badminton Championship 2011 at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, Britain, March 13, 2011. Lee claimed the title by beating Lin Dan with 2-0 (21-17, 21-17).



Xinhua/Feliam (FM)

CATAMARCA, March 14, 2011 — Provincial governor candidate Eduardo Brizuela casts his vote during provincial election in Catamarca province, Argentina, March 13, 2011. The provincial election of Catamarca was held on Sunday, marking the start of the election year in Argentina.



Xinhua/Gao Jing (GJ)

PARIS, March 14, 2011 — French President Nicolas Sarkozy (R) welcomes US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton prior to the Foreign Ministers of the Group of Eight (G8) meeting, at the Elysee Palace in Paris, capital of France, March 14, 2011.



Xinhua/Mohamed Kacdi (MK)

ALGIERS, March 14, 2011 — Algerian students from universities take part in a protest in front of the Presidential offices to call for reform of the Algerian universities in Algiers, Algeria, March 14, 2011.



Xinhua/Rouelle Umali (RU)

MANILA, March 14, 2011 — Members of the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Force from the Armed forces of the Philippines (AFP) stand in attention during a send-off ceremony in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, north of Manila, the Philippines, March 14, 2011. The 300 Philippine soldiers will be sent to Liberia and Haiti to serve as peacekeepers that will help safeguard the elections in the two countries.

Superstition

By: Ayham Al-Otoom

Sarah Ahmed is 21 years old, a college student. She doesn't believe in luck but with destiny. She said, "This is how life is going on, if anything good or bad happened it is all destiny."

Nuha Gamal is 25 years old. She studied in the English education college at Aden University. She said that she is a very lucky person because she had never wished something and it didn't happen. For example, she wished to study abroad and her wish was fulfilled and traveled to the U.S for six months.

Ahmed Mohsen is 23 years old. He has graduated from university and is looking for a job. He said that sometimes he believes in luck and sometimes he doesn't. For him, if he applied for a job and someone has gotten the job through his connections then he called this luck. And if something bad happened to someone then this is destiny.

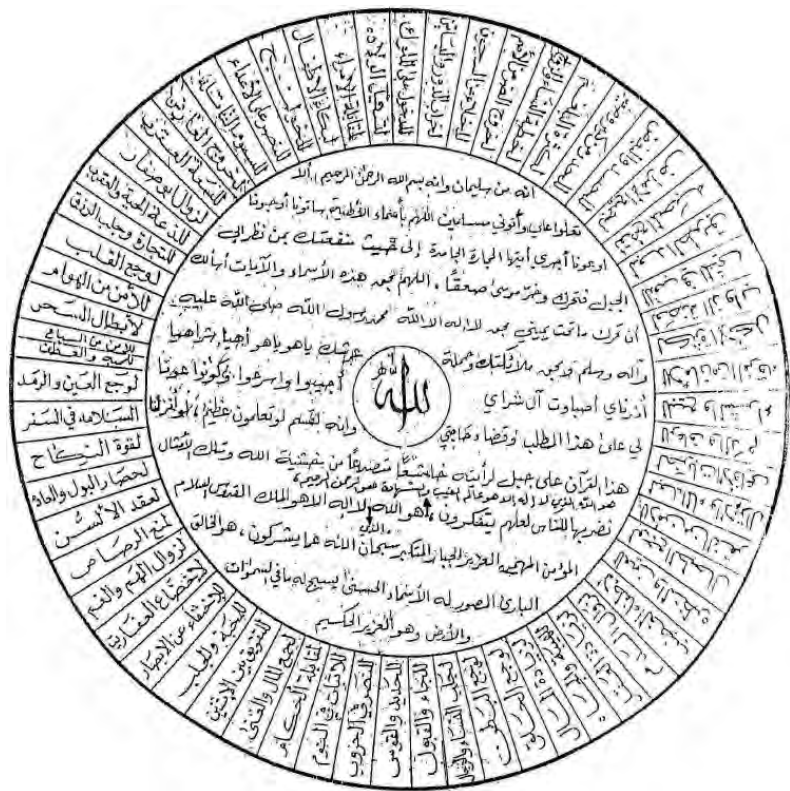
Judy Al-Asmer from Lebanon, she is a journalist and a social activist said, she believes in coincidence more than luck, because luck is an abstract expression while a coincidence has an association with certain moment weather positive or negative. For example, the lottery ticket and the joining of eight matched numbers all together and someone won all are coincidences. In her opinion, the luck is a word or expression used by negative people and ineffective ones.

Yaseen Ali emphasized that, he doesn't believe in luck and there are ways or reasons to fulfill anything and we should take in consideration these reasons to reach anything and everything is destined.

Fuad Nahshal said, "My life is all destined with knowing the goals that I want and taking reasons in consideration. We should believe in destiny not the luck because we will only get what Allah has destined to us."

The Yemen Times has viewed the opinions of some of the gems shops that were believed it brought luck and some of the gems put away stress.

Hamied Al-Shuaibi the owner of Al-Kalbani for gems in Shumaila Hari supermarket said, there are different kind of garnets some are red that people think can prevent them from envy. Also turquoise that people demand because



The scientific circle of gems

it gives them luck and put away stress and anxiety.

He added, "one kind of the sapphire with pink color can absorb poisons."

Ahmed Al-Zyadi a buyer said, he buys gems to bring for him the luck so he chooses the sapphire because he thinks it makes him lucky or bring the luck for him and when he bought it he lives a good day. And he added that, this prospecting old people have already reached it.

Moharm Al-Musli, brokerage of copper said, he sells the gems not secrets then he explained the kind of stone, that something pictured inside it, that some said it brings for them money and some to get protected of the bad eye and other for treating migraine and the one piece of gems cost YR 10 thousand. And he also said that such things are mentioned in books about gems and its benefits. And he added, that many people have come to him demanding for gems because of some prescriptions of healers.

Kaser Al-Ajaab, Yaseer Shalalah, Bab Al-Yemen said, I sell only gems and don't believe that gems bring luck but everything is up to the fate.

Afaf Al-Himi a professor in sociology said that when someone cannot accomplish something then he think of luck and say I have a bad luck.

She confirmed that, we should be reasonable about handling things in our lives and the high illiteracy rate has the role in thinking of luck. She said that Allah has created us and gave us brain and we should use it. Some as an entertainment read the horoscopes and wore garnets ring.

A scholar Abdulwahab Al-Himidani a member of Yemen Scholars said, "there is nothing in Islam called luck but we have a belief on fate that Allah has destined to us everything in our life." He confirmed that, "everything was created and destined to and has a definite fate so Islam declined the existence of something out of the power of Allah. Believing in fate makes the person believes on Allah abilities and that there is nothing out of the hand of Allah." He indicated that "asking for Luck and lottery is called astrology, and the science of stars is true about lunar eclipse, wind and rain and we don't say that the stars movement could affect over the creation or any relation to it."

Yemen's creatures of the night

By: Ola Al-Shami & Qasim Al-Lami

For most people the day is the time for earning a living or studying, the night is a time for resting and being with the family. However, there are those who prefer to do things the other way round and spend the late hours of the night not sleeping, but working. The Yemen Times interviewed a few of these peculiar creatures of the night to try and find out why they do this and the problems it causes them.

Hani Al-Abahi, a student said "sometimes I spend the night outdoors doing some private work. But I spend most of the night revising for my studies on the street as it is better and quieter than the day time."

Al-Abahi chews qat while he is studies at night, he says it helps him to focus.

"When the lights go out, I'm unable to study as I'm out on the street to escape from problems at home."

According to Al-Abahi there are no problems with his nocturnal way of life. The night helps him to "be comfortable and feel secure."

Waleed Ahmed Al-Anssi, a university graduate currently works fitting ceramic blocs in new buildings. "I feel night is the best time to get rid of the stresses of the day and I chew qat in the evening, it makes me feel more comfortable."

For others it's not a matter of choice. Ahmed Al-Hobaishi sells egg and potato sandwiches out of a wheelbarrow for a living. He used to go to work during the day but a need for money to support his family forced him to reverse his lifestyle. "My friend and I rented this wheelbarrow and he sells on it till 11 pm then I continue up to the morning," he said.

Al-Hobaishi says he has more customers at night, "Thanks to Allah, many people buy from me at night, especially after they spit out their qat, most restaurants are closed at that time."

M.W, a night guard, who refused to say his name to avoid any problems in his job said he loves the night because he's accustomed to it. He's says that even when he's on holiday he can't sleep at night and instead is forced to go out for a walk.

Regarding the risks with working at



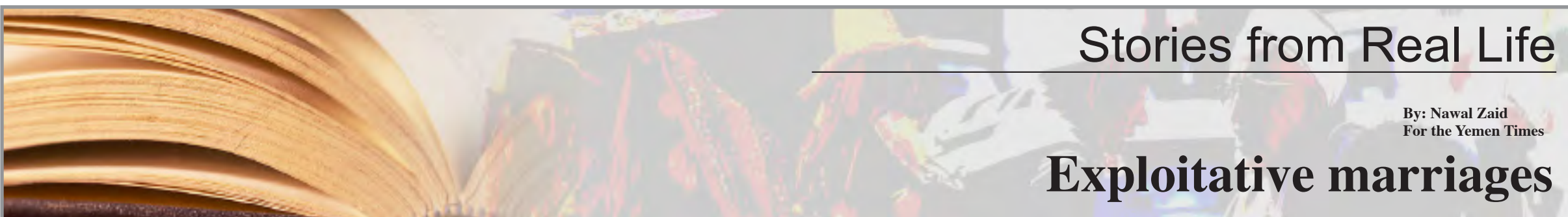
Waleed Ahmed Al-Anssi, a university graduate whom current work is to place ceramic blocs for buildings,



Hani Al-Abahi, a student flees to night on streets as it is quieter

night, Al-Hobaishi said that he sees the same people hanging around during the day as he does at night. Sometimes they get in arguments and he has to try and separate them. If there are bigger problems he calls the police.

Al-Hobaishi admitted his salary was dismal especially since living prices are increasing. But maintains that he would not be able to work during the day as he feels tired and lacks good qualifications.



Stories from Real Life

By: Nawal Zaid For the Yemen Times

Exploitative marriages

Forced into the sex trade in Saudi Arabia

Jaber Abdullah is 40 years old, divorced and has an average education. He works in Saudi Arabia in Jeddah city.

Jaber got married to a woman, Hifa'a, who is a distant relative of his from Ibb city. After a month he decided to take his wife with him to Saudi Arabia. Her family accepted this, and seeing that he was a relative they thought he would protect her.

When they arrived in Saudi, Jaber decided to stay at home for a while and not work. When Haifa'a asked him why he didn't go to work, he said that they would work together so they could help each other with life's demands. He said that when he had found a job for her he would tell her. She wondered what she could do because she wasn't educated.

After a while, Jaber took Haifa'a with him to work and said that he had made it a surprise for her. She was taken to a house where she found a lot of men drinking wine. She was very afraid and asked him what she was supposed to do. He said that she had to sit with them, and afterwards sleep with each one of them. Afterwards they would give her money. Haifa'a was terribly shocked and tried to run away, but Jaber locked her in the house with the men.

The next day, he came to take her back and collect the money she had been given. When she reached home she was crying hysterically and was psychologically damaged. She begged her traitorous husband to take her back to Yemen and divorce her, but he refused. He said that this had been his job since he came to Saudi Arabia, and if she refused to work he would kill her. Now he even started bring strange men to their house to sleep with Haifa'a. The situation continued like this for a while.

Haifa'a was thinking how she could get away from this situation. She thought that the best way to run away was to make her husband comfortable, to make him believe that she accepted the situation and even wanted it. Then, hopefully, he would start to trust her, and accidentally provide some opportunity to escape.

One morning Jaber was going out and said that he would come back at noon, leaving Haifa'a alone at home. She took advantage of her solitude and prepared herself. She ran away to the Yemeni embassy and asked for their help. She told them everything about what had happened and asked them to deport her back to Yemen, which they did.

When she reached her family's house she collapsed because she couldn't believe that she had escaped from the nightmare and was back with her family again. Then she told her family

about everything that had happened to her. She went to the hospital to check if she had been infected with any sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) like HIV. Luckily, her results came back negative. Then she went to court to get divorced from her husband.

Now Haifa'a has started her life all over again. She is studying and has got a job, but she cannot trust any man ever again. As for Jaber, he cannot return to Yemen because Haifa'a's family swears to God that they will kill him.

Rich predator buys young bride and abuses her in Saudi Arabia

Nadia Hasan is 16 years old. She is a student at high school and lives with her family in Sana'a.

One day in summer she was walking with her friend on a street in Sana'a. A fancy car driven by a seemingly rich man pulled along side the two girls. He said "Hi" to Nadia, but she didn't answer him. Then he asked her what her name was and where she lived. Nadia was very afraid and kept walking fast. However, the man continued following her until he stopped her. He said his name was Mohammad and he was looking for a wife from Yemen. Nadia

started to answer his questions and told him that she was still a student, that she wasn't thinking of marriage yet and that he should go away and leave her alone. But he kept following her until she got home and found out where she lived.

Shortly afterwards, Mohammad went to her family's house to propose to her. At first her father resolutely refused because Mohammad was a foreigner and his daughter was still so young. Nadia also refused because she was not thinking of marriage yet and wanted to finish her education.

Mohammad lured the family with money because he saw that they seemed poor. He gave them a dowry of YR 5 million and said that he would take care of Nadia and protect her when they went to Saudi Arabia. The family accepted his offer and forced Nadia to accept too.

Soon they got married, and after the honeymoon Mohammad decided to go to Saudi Arabia with his new wife. Her family said goodbye to her and let her leave with the strange man about who they knew nothing except that he was rich.

After four months Nadia called her family in tears and asked for help. The family appealed to the police and the authorities were able to bring Nadia back to Yemen. When she returned she said that Mohammad had left her in a house with strangers. He had beat her badly and locked her up in the house

and divorced her. Later he had taken her to a distant place and given her a phone to call her parents, and then was gone.

Nadia's father was extremely sad and regretted his fast decision to marry off his daughter. This failed marriage was a result of the father's greed.

She was left in limbo without husband or divorce

Samia Mohammad is 30 years old, married and has a son. She has obtained a high school certificate. She lives in Sana'a with her mother and three brothers.

After her father's death ten years ago, she lived a very hard life. Her mother used to torture her and beat her for the smallest of reasons. She didn't give Samia any money or food and only cared about Samia's brothers, because they were men. The mother left Samia to find food from the neighbors.

Samia started to wash dishes for rich people just to get enough money for food and other needs. She wasn't complaining to anyone and she tried to do her best. She once worked as a waitress at a restaurant in Sana'a, but one of her relatives saw her and tried to forbid her from working there saying that it is shame on her and her fam-

ily to work in such a job. However, Samia didn't care what he said because she was working just so she could eat and live.

During the election period, she went to work at a school. A Saudi teacher of Arabic, Ahmed, liked her and felt pity on her when he heard her story. He proposed to her. Samia was so happy she accepted him immediately. After a month they got married and lived in a rented house in Yemen. Then he told her that he was already married and had five children already in Saudi Arabia. She didn't mind at all. All she wanted was her husband not to leave her alone.

After six months, Ahmed decided to go to Saudi Arabia to visit his other family. He said he would spend the summer holiday with them before returning. Samia was pregnant at the time. She stayed at home until she gave birth to a baby boy, Nabeel. She kept in contact with her husband. The summer holiday ended and Ahmed did not return. A year, two, then four years passed and her husband did not return.

Samia always told him to come back and see his son. But he never wanted to come back to Yemen or see his son. Samia went back to work to pay for her and her son's needs. She thinks of divorce, but her husband doesn't want to divorce her or to come back. Samia's life has now become complicated and hard.

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Yemeni Jew brings native music to international ears

Long before revolutions gripped the country, Yemen was home to one of the oldest Jewish communities in the world. Almost the entire community immigrated to Israel between 1949 and 1950, when Israel airlifted 50,000 Yemenite Jews to the young nation in a mission named "Operation Magic Carpet."

Musician and rising star, Ravid Kahalani, is a descendant of that immigrant group. Born in Israel in 1978 to a Yemenite family from Khawlan near Sana'a, Ravid harks from a rich Yemenite-Jewish culture renowned for their singing talents.

Raised in a conservative family, Ravid remembers singing liturgy at the age of five in the Synagogue. The immense excitement he felt whilst performing, as well as the enthusiasm of those watching him were the first signs that singing would become a passion in his life. Today, he says: "music is my religion".

In the stormy years of his adolescence, Ravid 'took distance' from his roots and religion, turning instead to afro-american soul and blues music. But as time passed, he felt a growing desire to return to the Arabic Yemeni music of his ancestors. Ravid joined forces with Omer Avital, a well known Israeli bass player, and together they founded Yemen Blues, a group of top musicians from New York, Israel and Uruguay.

Yemen Blues play an artful and organically blended mélange of traditional Yemeni Jewish songs, Saharan blues, avant-garde chamber music and various percussion genres (even Latin). It is the powerful outcome of Ravid Kahalani's musical journey from his Yemenite



Ravid Kahalani

roots to western influences.

Jewish singers once enjoyed great popularity in Yemen, why do you think that was?

I think there are still some Jewish singers that are popular in Yemen today, Ziyon Golan for example. I know the Yemenite Jews had very unique melodies that are a bit different from Muslims, they also had incredible voices, very high and beautiful. I myself have learned many of the Yemenite chants and prayers and their beautiful melodies.

Do you use Yemeni Arabic in any of your songs?

I've been singing in Yemeni Arabic all my life but we never talked in Arabic at home. When my father first moved to Israel they stopped taking Arabic, firstly because they had the Zionist think-

ing that from now on they should talk only in Hebrew and secondly because the European Jews tried to make all the Jews from elsewhere learn the European culture. It was not so cool back then to be an Arab in Israel. That's why I don't speak Arabic that well.

Would you ever consider coming to Yemen to perform for the Yemeni People?

It is my dream to perform in Yemen to the Yemeni people, I have Yemenis coming to my shows, both Muslims and Jews, and it makes me so happy. My main goal is to play in as many places as possible to as many people and talk about a very important message that people needs now with the situation in the world more than ever! I also work sometimes with Aharon Amram the great singer! and Zchariya Yizhak

which he is from my family and one of the greatest unknown singers from Yemen, very old man and sing almost only holy things but was influence for Shlom Tzabari and more.

There are some Yemeni Jewish singers such as yourself who have never traveled to Yemen, do you think they can still reflect Yemen and its culture in their singing?

Of course! Lots of Yemenite Jewish singers that are still alive came from Yemen and grew up in Yemen. The Yemenite singing is still there with them very strongly even after they left Yemen. But it is slowly disappearing along with the whole Yemenite Jewish culture because most of the young Yemenites in Israel are not as strong as the old people were who lived in Yemen and in Israel. Also there are almost no Yemenite Jews left in Yemen anymore. But I am learning everything and trying to keep it going and teach it to the next generation.

What sort of people listen to your music?

All kinds of people! We are a new band and until now we've had people loving our music from all over the world: West Africa, North Africa, Yemeni, European, Americans, Koreans, all over! This is only the beginning, we will spread the word. The basic thing that people need to remember is that there is so much media for the negative things happening in the world but there are so many good things happening at the same time. People should remember that we all have a soul inside us as a gift from god and there is no reason for

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any culture to hate another culture. In music you can see it the most, people are coming to see a show and they don't even understand the lyrics but they are dancing and feeling the music as part of them. As I say in one of my songs, 'It doesn't matter where you come from, your language is your language, It doesn't matter to which god you pray, the melody is always coming from the soul.' Before politics and religion you are a basic human being like everyone else!

What led you to return to your Yemeni roots in your music?

I grew up as I said listening to Yemenite music and learning the Yemenite chants. But I left this and started listening to other things like jazz, American blues, funk, and even studied counter-tenor classical singing. Then about

5 years ago I started listening to West African and North African music and fell in love with it. I was singing songs of African artists and began forming my own blend of Yemenite rooted music and some African blues.

Then I met Omer Avital, the great jazz musician, we did a project together and I wrote two songs in Yemenite Arabic. We hooked up with some other Israeli musicians and it was magic! We slowly created some kind of musical language, and this was the sound of Yemen Blues. We had our first show in France a year ago, and then we got invited to perform in central park in New York this summer and more of the biggest stages around the world so we are have some really big things coming this year. I guess I love my roots and the beautiful way of the Yemen Blues with such an organic sound.

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