

Rada' locals fear American air strikes

By: Sadeq Al-Wasabi

AL-BAIDA, Jan. 22 — Residents of Rada', taken over by Al-Qaeda militants last week, expressed their concerns that the area could become a target for American air strikes.

Several families have left their homes, fearing that any strike would damage homes and that unarmed locals would be harmed or killed in the process.

They criticized security authorities that they claim are unable "to deal with the militants firmly".

Last Tuesday, Gen. Mohammed Al-Qawsi, Deputy Minister of Interior, said security forces had surrounded entrances to the area but did not attack the militants in case the historical Al-Amieria mosque was damaged. Al-Qawsi added that a military and security committee has been formed to make a decision of if and when to attack.

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Armed men, thought to be Al-Qaeda, give their religious pledge to Tareq Al-Dhahab, leader of the armed Islamists who took over Rada' in Al-Baida on Saturday January 14.

Saleh asks forgiveness and leaves

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Jan. 22 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh has left Yemen On Sunday to Oman after giving a farewell speech on Yemen TV.

In his speech he also asked his people for forgiveness and announced that he is leaving to seek medical treatment in the USA after being granted immunity from prosecution.

"I will travel and return for the next president's swearing-in ceremony," said Saleh. Elections are due to be held on February 21, though the parliament has already named Vice President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi as the sole candidate.

In the conference aired on Yemen TV, Saleh announced that all his authorities are now delegated to Hadi as well as promoting him to Field Marshal, head of the Yemeni military.

"I promote Hadi to the rank of Field Marshal as a reward for his loyalty," said Saleh in his farewell speech.

Associated Press reported that

Saleh will now head to Oman, en route to the United States for medical treatment. While, the US is not willing to offer him permanent leave to remain, it is reportedly trying to find a country willing to take the ousted president.

On Saturday the Yemeni parliament finally approved Saleh's controversial immunity law, after it was repeatedly postponed, and finally amended, since December. Prime Minister of the interim government Mohammed Salem Basundwa gave a brief, tearful speech prior to the vote, designed to motivate MPs to vote in favor of immunity for Saleh.

"I know that by asking you to approve this law I will be cursed by some people, and some others will be blessed but as I told you before I am ready to be killed in the street for this country," said Basundwa.

Following the law's approval, independent youth marched in Change Square, voicing their rejection of any immunity on Saturday night. A video produced by the SupportYemen campaign, called "take a wake in my shoes", sought

to highlight their demands to the international community, and explain why they cannot accept the immunity law.

However, before being approved, the law was amended to remove the blanket amnesty for Saleh's aids and regime over the last 33 years. The final version of the law limited the immunity to officials only, and only for "politically motivated" crimes committed while conducting official duties.

UN envoy Jamal Benomar welcomed the law in a press conference on Saturday but made it clear that the immunity does not cover certain crimes.

"The UN cannot condone a broad amnesty that covers UN classified

crimes against humanity, genocide, war crimes, gross violations of human rights, and sexual violence," said Benomar.

But according to the law, Saleh's now enjoys full immunity from prosecution in Yemen. However, the immunity only extends to the date that the law was passed. Even Saleh is accountable for any crimes committed from January 22.

A National Reconciliation and Transitional Justice project will also be set up by the government to offer compensation to victims' families.

"The immunity includes everything, even Al-Nahden explosions that targeted Saleh, as no blood is more expensive than another," said

MP Ali Abd Rabu Al-Qadhi of the independent bloc. "The National Reconciliation project will consider those who lost relatives or properties."

On Sunday, the air force protested at Sana'a International Airport, demanding the removal of Saleh's half-brother, Mohammed Saleh Al-Ahmer, chief of the air force. Many high-ranking officials are also members of Saleh's family — and campaigners have been calling for their removal as well.

Flights were delayed due to the protests, while arriving flights were diverted to Taiz, Hodeida and Aden, according to Colonel Ahmed Saleh.

"We will never give up our demands, if General Mohammed Saleh Al-Ahmer listened to us and gave us our rights we would have accepted, but now it is too late, we demands his departure above anything," said the Colonel.

According to Saleh, Al-Ahmer stole billions of rials under the name of air force employees' bonuses, nutrition packs and weapons. He also deprived them of promotion opportunities for years.

Minister of Defense Mohammed Nasr Ahmed met with Al-Ahmer to solve the situation, while Hadi promised to respond to their demands within two days.

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Power cuts heighten water problems

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Jan. 22 — Locals in Sana'a have been complaining that the city's regular power cuts are forcing them to buy water as the national water grid has become useless.

"The water network, which needs electricity to be pumped into homes, is now useless and so we buy water every week and the providers are taking advantage of our need to raise the prices," said Nashwan Mohammed, who lives in Bainoon Street, Sana'a.

Defending their position, Al-Qabli, one of the owners of Sana'a's water tankers explained they have been forced to increase prices as fuel rates have gone up. "But the prices have now settled so we have also been able to stabilize the price of the water tankers we sell," he added.

According to locals, the prices are affected directly by political tensions. Abu Jamal who lives in Khawlan said that since the creation of the coalition government matters have gradually improved.

"We used to pay between YR

6,000 and YR 7,000 every week on water, now we pay half because the water network has started functioning every now and then and the prices have gone down somewhat," he said.

Poorer families who cannot afford to pay to fill their water tanks send their children to fetch water in jerry cans from nearby mosques and neighbors.

Electricity, fuel and water shortages have most severely affected farmers in rural areas since at least 90 percent of Yemen's underground water is used for agriculture. Farmers use diesel operated pumps to retrieve water from underground wells but electricity and fuel shortages mean they have been unable to do so.

Sana'a's official water network has only 125 wells to provide the governorate's water network, a third of which are 1,000 meters deep. But according to the Ministry of Agriculture, there are over 13,500 wells dug without permission in Sana'a governorate, all of which affect the underground water level.

Abdulsalam Razaz, Minister of

Water, has warned that the ministry is on the verge of bankruptcy. "The ministry is owed over YR 33 billion by government bodies and people of power – if they don't pay up we will resort to the courts," he said earlier this month. Employee strikes, which caused chaos in the ministry and its branches, also added to its financial problems, he explained.

He added that Yemen also wastes a lot of water – something he described as "crazy" in a country threatened by drought. A lack of maintenance in the water grid accounts for some of the waste but the majority is caused by poor agricultural habits – especially among those farmers growing qat, said Razaz, who suggested importing qat from Kenya or Ethiopia to ease the water problem.

Anwar Al-Sahooly, a former water expert from the German development organization GIZ, said that in 20 years Sana'a will be a ghost town if water practices remain as they are. "Qat is the culprit and it will take the country to disaster," he said.



Many households in Sana'a have to fetch water from distant projects as the public water supply has been almost non-existent for months. Power cuts are increasing the problem, say residents.

Generation of Peace initiative aimed at Yemen's youth



A boy performs on stage at the USAID "Generation of Peace" opening ceremony on Saturday.

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Jan. 21st – A new initiative called "Generation of Peace," aimed at fostering understanding between 1000 youths from different backgrounds, was launched on Sunday.

The initiative is being held in co-operation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The "Generation of Peace" initiative aims at encouraging Yemeni youth to be more productive and constructive members of society.

To be conducted in training work-

shops, sports activities, and an art contest, the initiative's activities are designed to help youths resolve existing conflicts and reduce the risk of future unrest and conflicts during Yemen's transitional period. Workshop topics will include democratic processes, civic participation, community service, and tolerance.

"This initiative gives youths an opportunity to enhance relations in their society. This job is not only for officials," said Ahmad Al-Qubati, 23, from the Resonate Yemen institute.

"Such initiatives bring us together

and make us understand each other. We should not work separately without knowing how the other side is working," he said.

Nearly 300 youths from political coalitions and universities in Sana'a joined representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations as well as government and USAID representatives for the initiative's opening ceremony.

"Today's youth play an integral role in bringing about positive social change," said USAID Technical Director Charles Swagman in a speech delivered at the ceremony.

"This collaborative project will help maximize Yemeni youth's potential to contribute to civil society and steer their country towards a bright future."

"Generation of Peace" activities have been designed to encourage interaction, dialogue and to help promote an acceptance of differences among youth participants. "This job is not just for the officials; this is everybody's job," said Ahmad Al-Qubati, 23, from the Resonate Yemen Institute, a youth organization.

The initiative has been implemented through USAID's Community Livelihoods Project (CLP). Working closely with the government, CLP focuses on agriculture and water, health, education, governance and economic empowerment in communities. Through the "Generation of Peace" activities, CLP will encourage youths to contribute in those fields that are vital to Yemen's growth and stability.

It is hoped that the initiative will encourage participants to share knowledge acquired from their families and communities, as well as to be more positively engaged in the political process. The implementation of the initiative will be carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports as well as local civil society organizations.

"I hereby tell our youth that this is the time to work together and achieve our ultimate goal, that of peacefully living together in a country that enjoys stability through our collective work," said Mo'ammer Al-Eryani, Minister of Youth and Sports.

"For this purpose, we will support every work supporting an environment that builds the youth's capacities and talents, and work with them for a generation free of violence."

Norwegian hostage still in captivity

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Jan. 22 – Gert Danielsen, a Norwegian United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) worker, taken hostage last Sunday by tribesmen from Marib has not been released yet, despite efforts by local mediators.

A Norwegian journalist told the Yemen Times that both the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and the UN are negotiating with the kidnapers to free Danielsen, who is now in a remote area of Marib, 170km east of Sana'a.

However,

Sheikh Abd Al-

Rahman Al-Mar-

wani, director of

Dar Al-Sallam

Organization said

their involvement

was not helping.

"This is prolong-

ing the mediation,

because the kid-

nappers now are

increasing their

demands," he ex-

plained.

"The mediation

should be going

through the Ye-

meni government,

so the tribesmen

[kidnappers] can-

not raise their de-

mands," Al-Mar-

wani said.

Ali Al-Minifi, a

local tribal leader

in Marib who also

works with Dar

Al-Sallam Orga-

nization added,



Gert Danielsen

"Mediation is still ongoing, but no agreement has been reached yet.

"I was told that the kidnapers have moved the hostage to a remote area in Marib for security reasons," said Al-Minifi. However, he added that Danielsen was "fine" and that he was negotiating with the tribesmen to be allowed to visit Danielsen and assure his health and safety.

Following his abduction, Marib Press published a number of photos showing Danielsen in captivity but alive and safe.

Shortage of technicians at Electricity Ministry

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Jan. 22 – Ahmed Al-Haydi is a power generation technician who left his job at the Ministry of Electricity 12 years ago despite having received professional qualifications in Germany in 1976.

"I left my job at the ministry after I found that my salary was not enough to feed my family and myself. So I quit, and several other technicians did the same," said Al-Haydi in a conversation with the Yemen Times.

He explained that most engineers who left their posts at the Ministry of Electricity are now working at private companies,

while others have started their own businesses.

"If the government gave engineers and technicians good offers, so that they would have an income to live off, sure, they would come back," he said.

On Friday, Dr. Saleh Samea, Minister of Electricity for the National Unity Government, said in a televised interview with local television channel Al-Saeeda that 19,000 people currently work in the electricity sector, even while the actual nationwide power output is no more than 300 MW.

Meanwhile, the countrywide minimum need for electricity is at least 1,200 MW, according to the

minister.

Only seven percent of the 19,000 workers in the electricity sector are technicians; the rest hold administrative positions, and a large number of them possess only a basic education certificate. Still others are barely literate.

Yemen has experienced severe power shortages since June 2011 due to political unrest caused by the nationwide uprising demanding Ali Abdullah Saleh's removal from power.

"A difficult path lies ahead, as the ministry is not in need of such people... We are looking for technicians," Samea said.

The 350 MW Marib Power Sta-

tion has been out of commission since June; the alleged cause of the inactivity is sabotage by local tribesmen locked in dispute with the government. However, the new minister said that the Marib station was supposed to be substituted by diesel stations in Sana'a and other parts of the country.

"The problem is that when the Marib Gas Power Station became active, all other diesel stations were neglected. Now all diesel stations in Sana'a are out of service because they are either without diesel or under maintenance," the minister said.

He added that the currently available 300 MW represents

power purchased from private firms. There are, however, plans to create three new government stations, with financial assistance from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

From 2006 until now, the government has paid around \$600 million to private power providers who rent out their diesel generators, with the government supplying the necessary diesel.

Abd Al-Elah Al-Qurashi, a renewable energy resources consultant at the ministry, told the Yemen Times in earlier statements that while every KW of purchased power costs the government YR 48, the ministry in turn resells it to citizens at a subsidized price of

YR 12-16.

The minister said that one of his ministry's top priorities at the moment is to re-open the Marib Gas Power Station by connecting the population of Marib to the station's grid. "If they [local tribesmen] attack it, they will be first affected by the sabotage."

"Tribesmen in Marib would be good citizens if the government treated them well. Dictatorship and the politicization of services are behind all of Yemen's electricity problems," Samea said.

The minister, though, concluded that "change and a new Yemen are coming soon and the situation will be better."

The need for psychological support during times of conflict

Photo by Shafiq Al-Harazi



Children have begun to mimic their surroundings with pro and anti-government games, pretend protests and sit-ins.

By Abdul Kareem Al-Nahari

Professor Salah Al-Din Ahmed Al-Juma'ee, a psychological consultant at Sana'a University, has warned that Yemeni children in the range of recent armed conflict have sustained psychological trauma, including extreme fears and phobias.

Armed conflicts take their toll on children's lives. This is especially true during early childhood years, which should be a time of growth. As a result of exposure to armed conflict, children develop an inability to think clearly, as well as a lack of confidence in themselves and a mistrust of others. They will constantly feel that they are living in an unsafe world as a result of the violence they have witnessed. They may also resort to aggressive behavior and acts of sabotage and violence as part of a psychopathic and antagonistic personality that doesn't observe laws or regulations.

Al-Juma'ee called upon warring factions to spare children, schools and universities from all types of conflict and to foster education rather than adopt policies of intentional ignorance through the closing of schools and universities.

Yemen has witnessed increased violence since the start of the uprising against Saleh's regime. Before that, North Yemen had witnessed six wars in Sa'ada between

Houthi insurgents and government forces. In Abyan in the south, violent clashes between suspected Al-Qaeda militants and the army have taken place since last May.

In the capital itself, people have experienced long nights of horror as a direct result of confrontations between militants loyal to tribal sheikh Sadiq Al-Ahmar and government forces. In addition, battles have taken place between opposition-aligned and government-aligned military forces.

Al-Juma'ee stated that the psychological effects of such conflicts can produce a "scarred" generation. He added that such children can be treated, but that such efforts can take years. Even then, children may not be able to shed all such damage, as the destructive bearing on children varies in degree and severity. "There should be a curriculum in place that responds to such cases, and psychological support should be synchronized with health and physical support. Specialized centers should be established to provide psychological guidance and to prepare and maintain files for cases."

A number of organizations are working on social projects to help people in conflict areas adapt to and recover from the emotional effects of war. This month, the Yemen Red Crescent launched the Psychological and Social Support in Armed Conflict Areas program. The program is intended to help

children and emergency workers who operate in conflict areas deal with resulting ill effects and trauma.

Mohammed Al-Faqih, an officer in charge of improving social health and a coordinator of psycho-social support at the Yemen Red Crescent (YRCS), told the Yemen Times that the program is part of an approach adopted by the organization "to alleviate the emotional pressure suffered by children as well as by workers, volunteers and others operating or living in conflict zones who have been affected by armed clashes and the impacts of the political crisis that has devastated the country since early 2011."

Al-Faqih adds that the program is a part of other psychological and social programs run by YRCS in collaboration with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, with support from the Norwegian Red Cross Organization. The program focuses on opening psychological support rooms at YRCS branches in various governorates and at a number of schools. The rooms are equipped with tools and toys intended to assist in dealing with emotional pressure.

"In its first phase," Al-Faqih said, "the program opened 12 support rooms, five of which are located at the organization's branches in Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Dhamar and Ibb. Meanwhile, similar rooms were opened at seven selected

schools in Sana'a, Taiz, Aden and Ibb in coordination with the Ministry of Education."

According to a YRCS officer, the organization has begun providing relevant training to volunteers at its branches as well as social workers at selected schools.

Al-Faqih said that YRCS management will work to further develop the program and broaden the range of target groups, as the program is a high priority for children who have developed psychological problems and tension because of their families, the society or media.

"The decision to equip support rooms at YRCS branches with sports gear and toys came after lists submitted by psychological support specialists were received," said Al-Faqih. "Meanwhile, rooms at schools were designed according to standards set by Save the Children, a Swedish organization. The children here will practice their favorite pastimes, including painting; their paintings will be analyzed and they will receive suitable psychological support."

On Tuesday, January 3, with Dhamar YRCS chairman Dr. Abdul Salam Al-Ahsab and representatives from Sana'a's head office in attendance, Dhamar's branch introduced a support room. The room contains sports equipment, projectors and other support apparatus.

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Photo by Gamel Raach



In Sana'a, people have experienced long nights of horror as a direct result of confrontations between militants loyal to tribal sheikh Sadiq Al-Ahmar and government forces.

Continued from page 1

Rada' locals fear American air strikes

Over the last week, mediations between sheikhs and Al-Qaeda militants ended in failure because of "Al-Qaeda members' stubbornness," according to Sheikh Ali Al-Tairi, in Rada'.

Hussein Al-Dhefri, a resident in Rada', said the situation in the area was fast deteriorating. "There are no security, no police and nothing except a group of armed men who claim that they want to enforce sharia," he said.

Al-Dhefri didn't rule out possible clashes between Al-Qaeda militants and tribesmen.

"The tribesmen and people here don't depend on government security to protect them," he told the Yemen Times. "I'm carrying my weapon on me now."

"All people here look panic-stricken and expect anything from those armed men," he added.

According to Sheikh Jahm Al-Jehmi, Al-Qaeda's sudden control of Rada' is a regime game. "The situation here is very critical and

people are terrified of American air strikes against Al-Qaeda members," said Al-Jehmi. "Any strike will damage everything in Rada', kill many innocent people and will flatten the Al-Amria mosque, considered as one of the most important historical landmarks in Yemen and the Middle East."

Al-Jehmi said he does not military action and still believes that talks with Al-Qaeda militants will lead to better solution.

Asked about the role of the area's sheikhs in tackling the problem, he said, "We're trying to establish a dialogue with those militants but if they refuse we will resort to force and all tribes will confront



Caption

them.

"All tribes are unified against those intruders," he added.

Questioning just how Al-Qaeda came to control the area, he said, "It's very strange that all governmental authorities have been handed over to Al-Qaeda. We want the Ministry of Interior to clarify what exactly happened."

For his part, prominent sheikh Al-Tairi, said the area's sheikhs tried to establish dialogue with the armed Islamists, but "they didn't respond with us and behave as if they own the area."

"We are ready to fight but we're waiting for the security to take part," he added.

Abdul-Wahed Al-Azani, the manager of the

deputy governor's office in Al-Baida governorate told the Yemen Times that Rada' is on the brink of real disaster.

"It was a town of education and culture but has turned into a ghost town because of the betrayal of the security forces that allowed these armed men to enter the most important landmark in Yemen," he said. "I'm sure that the historical landmark will be burnt to ashes and the blood of the innocents will be shed."

"Where are the tanks of the army?" he asked angrily. "We will not allow a repeat of the situation Abyan and will not allow the regime to sell Yemeni cities to such extremists."

Tareq Al-Dhahab, the man in charge of the armed Islamists in Rada', told Saudi-based Al-Sharq newspaper last week that any military attack against them will fail.

"Any movement from the army or Republican Guard will be faced with a violent response," he said.

Yemen journalists see light at end of the tunnel, but grave dangers remain

By: Naomi Hunt
Press Freedom Adviser for
Africa & the Middle East

A new coalition government is in place as Yemenis prepare for elections next month, which has been some cause for optimism. Two Yemeni chief editors told IPI they were hopeful that nascent reforms within state media and the recent appointment of a new information minister, Ali Al-Amrani, could herald overall improvements for the media community.

Journalists nonetheless remain wary. Demonstrations, most recently against a law that will provide immunity to the president and members of the old regime, continue to be met with deadly violence. Reporters and cameramen covering the protests and clashes that began in early 2011 have repeatedly been attacked and arrested. Six journalists lost their lives in the violence last year, according to IPI's Death Watch.

"Journalists are still afraid, because they know about the backlash from security," said Hakim Al-masmari, chief editor of the Yemen Post online news site. "Because of the turmoil, people are afraid of assassins and kidnappings."

Throughout the revolution, state media presented biased coverage of the demonstrators, calling them criminals, and played down the violent repression of the protests. Journalists told IPI that this was now changing, with journalists at some state media demanding reform – with the political support of the vice president and the new information minister.

"Al-Thawra newspaper is the

mouthpiece of the government; that was completely changed from the top to the bottom, Yemen's TV channels too," Al-masmari said. He added: "The information minister is a credible person, and with that there is hope that media is heading in the right direction."

But in some cases, their efforts have resulted in a backlash, reports said.

Since the start of the year, journalist Ali Al-Harazi of 26 September, an army weekly, has reportedly received death threats as a result of his protests against the former editor, who has now been replaced, the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate (YJS) said in a statement.

Staff at the official newspaper 14 October and at 26 September held protests and strikes late last year, demanding that the papers' chief editors, who are seen as being close to the ruling family of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, be removed, YJS reports said. YJS said that in response, the newspapers' staffs had faced dismissal, threats and physical attacks.

Speaking of the latest repercussions against journalists at 26 September, Al-masmari said, "[26 September's former chief editor, General Ali Hassan Al-Shater] was changed; after that, they tried to retaliate against those who had called for a free and credible media at the newspaper and tried to cut their salaries, benefits, interests in revenge."

But change is nonetheless underway, for both government and private media, Al-masmari and Yemen Times editor Nadia Al-Saqqaf told IPI.

"I am very optimistic and believe the best is to come," Al-Saqqaf said, adding that the biggest chal-

lenge in reporting the upcoming elections would be getting enough journalists out to cover it. "We had to let go of people because of the economic difficulty caused by the uprising, but in terms of security, I really don't think covering the elections would be a problem."

The Yemen Times reported on Sunday that Minister Al-Amrani had received anonymous death threats as a result of his contributions to the process of reform. Al-Amrani had been an MP with the President's party since 1993, but defected in March 2011 to join the revolutionaries, an early decision that now gives him credibility among those sympathetic to the cause.

According to Al-Saqqaf, the minister intends to "free radio and TV from the state monopoly, which opens the door for private stations, and also to allow foreign journalists to enter the country and report freely after they were prevented". But, Al-Saqqaf warned that progress would be slow: "This is a process that would take time, since he is trying to change a three decades-old way of working."

Since the uprising in Yemen began last year, journalists – who were already subject to censorship and attacks under the regime of President Saleh – have been further endangered by a climate of lawlessness and impunity. Those who set out to cover anti-regime protests and the crackdown against them were targeted by snipers and security forces. Media houses struggled with a lack of electricity and other basic services, and still do.

Media and media workers continue to be prosecuted.

A journalist with News Yemen website, Abdulkarim Thuael,



Two Yemeni cameramen were killed while covering anti-regime demonstrations in 2011.

spent 36 days in detention and was released three weeks ago on bail, YJS and Al-Saqqaf told IPI. According to YJS research, Thuael is from the Arhab tribe in northern Sanaa, and was arrested for taking pictures of clashes between Arhab and the Republican Guard for Al Jazeera without a license.

Nasser Al-Dhubaibi, the editor of a new weekly newspaper, Al-Hurra, spent nearly a month in detention before being released on 11 January, YJS quoted Al-Dhubaibi as saying. Al-Hurra began publication in late 2011. Al-Dhubaibi told YJS that he was picked up by a military vehicle, blindfolded and

eventually questioned about the paper's sources of funding and relationship to the Houthis, an insurgent group in the North that has been struggling against the central government for many years, and which is currently aligned with the revolutionaries.

The editor-in-chief and others from Al-Ayyam newspaper, which was banned in 2009 and whose premises were besieged by security forces in 2010, are still on trial for alleged crimes committed at that time, including "forming a gang", the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reported this week. But according to CPJ's review of

court documents, even two of the prosecution's witnesses testified in favour of the defendants during a hearing last month.

"We are heartened to hear that journalists are beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel, but continue to be concerned by the reports of threats, attacks and criminal prosecution of the media," said IPI Press Freedom Manager Anthony Mills. "We urge the Yemen government to implement reforms with the aim of allowing a free and vibrant media that serves the public, not the government, and which can operate without fear of censorship or attack."



Seerah Towers In The historical Aden City.



بنك اليمن الدولي
INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN
هدفنا واحد



Mountain view



Sea view

SEERAH Towers project:

With a finance from banks, and the main is the International Bank of Yemen, OCEAN BREEZE for Investment & Development Ltd., a Yemeni Company, is developing a high-standing large scale real estate project that stands tall upon the shores of the Seerah Bay in the historical Aden City.

The project is conceived according to international standards with a state of the art design scaled to the divergent tastes.

The project offers high standing apartments that suits the traditional Yemeni lifestyle yet it caters to modern style living with flexible layouts and unique services from multi-sized apartments to swimming pools (including an indoor Ladies swimming pool), upscale restaurants and fully equipped top notch health & sports club, for private and public leisure, with Ladies' services, and includes a cornice and a marina.



Club House

And a Health & Sports Club: an upscale health and sports club, for private and public recreation, is distributed over 1080 m2 of built up area, equipped with the latest machines for the health addicts, with an outdoor swimming pool and play pool for the children.



Restaurant

The restaurant is a 2 floors gourmet restaurant in a separate building with a separate access for the public for privacy purposes. The restaurant caters up to 464 persons indoor and up to an additional number of 272 seats is arranged outside.



For more information, Please Contact Tel: 01-407000 Mr. Omar MOUBINE (Projects Director)

Vacancy: Full Time LE III Press/ Projects Officer



The full-time post of Press/Projects officer in the Embassy's political section is available immediately. Working hours will be 35 hours per week.

The successful candidate will require proven experience in press and project work, good teamwork and communication skills, initiative and attention to detail, and a good working knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Word. He/she must also be a self-starter, be proactive and able to deliver a high level of customer service. He/she must be fluent in written and spoken English.

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- Develop strategies to increase awareness of UK projects amongst Yemeni public
- Develop a network of NGO/CSO contacts to assist in the identification of possible projects
- Maintain accurate financial records of project expenditure
- Serve as executive editor for the Embassy's website.
- With the Political/Press Officer, prepare daily press summaries
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- Strong organisational, analytical and time management skills, with very good attention to detail
- Flexible, resilient under pressure and decisive with a proven track record of delivering results to a high standard within tight deadlines

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British Embassy**

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- Lead on Investors in People (IIP) policy
- Knowledge of Local Labour Law would be desirable

The ideal candidate must have:

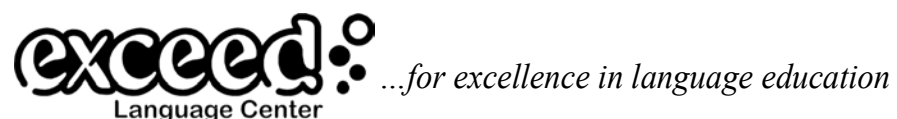
- The ability to work with contacts and colleagues at all levels
- Personal drive and the ability to be a self-starter, and strong teamwork skills to work well within Management Section and with the wider Embassy
- Strong organisational, analytical and time management skills, with very good attention to detail
- Flexible, resilient under pressure and decisive with a proven track record of delivering results to a high standard within tight deadlines

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- Select and develop supplementary activities to enhance the quality of learning.
- Evaluate student progress in all language skills and work individually with students as needed, providing counseling and advice in support of the program goals.
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Eligible candidates are asked to submit a cover letter and CV to Exceed, off Algiers Street near Sixty-Meter Road, or by e-mail to contact@exceededucation.org. For further information and background, please consult the Exceed website: www.exceededucation.org.

YT vision statement



"To make Yemen a good world citizen."

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

OUR
OPINION

Our youth's dreams

On a youth TV program I once saw the presenter ask a young Arab what his dreams were. The youth said, "I want a good job, good education, a good place to sleep and eventually get married and start a family". The presenter said to him, "I did not ask you what your rights are, I asked about your dreams!"

Shocking as it may seem, it is true that as Arabs our ambitions and aspirations have been reduced to basic rights.

We polled Yemeni youth in our weekly Youth Talk column and asked them what their aspirations for 2012 were. Some said they want to complete their education, some said they want better roads, and better phone services. One answered that he wishes for the bus fare to return to the pre-fuel crisis cost.

To have our youth's dreams reduced to bus fares and electricity is beyond sad. If we are always engaged in perusing our daily needs; food on the table and a good education for our kids, when we will ever get time to dream and plan for larger things such as new inventions or make luxury plans?

I remember reading a novel by Richard Bach called illusions. I must have been 18 and it was an amazing eye opener on how you need to let your mind imagine and think beyond the box.

Imagine an ant trapped in a box. The ant goes sideways and every time it hits a dead end. If only the ant could lift its head up and see that there is a third dimension and that it could scale the box and find freedom. This is us as humans; we only know of three dimensions while there could be a fourth one if we only raised our heads to see it – and who knows what we would be capable of?

The point is that there are so many potentials and possibilities for us as human beings that we could explore if we had the time and the right attitude. But if our daily lives are taken up with concerns about having enough food, or when the electricity will come on, or of having better roads or reducing the bus fare, when will we ever discover the new dimensions that could make so much of a difference to our lives?

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SKETCHED OPINION By Hajjaj



Fears of the Arab Spring becoming an 'Islamist Spring'

By: Raghida Dergham
Alarabiya.net

Mistaken are those who demand that power be handed over to the Islamists in the Arab region of change, even on the grounds that they have been brought to power by a democratic process that must be honored, and that there is no choice but to submit to the de facto situation until the Islamists are tested in power. This is because democracy has been abortive as a result of excluding women and the youths from decision-making, and there are dangerous indications that the personal freedoms of Arab women and religious minorities are being undermined in the age of the Islamist monopoly of power. The youths of the Arab Awakening launched the revolution of change, but the ballot boxes brought victory for the Islamist movements. While they had toppled their regimes jointly in 2011, they parted ways in a 2012 battle over the fateful choice between the modern state and the Islamic state.

This is not to say that the modernists reject the results of the elections, for they, despite their fear of the Islamists, are not opposed to democracy. Rather, the lack of clarity of the direction taken by the Islamists, and the uncertainty regarding the democratic nature of such a direction, is arousing terror, because no one is providing guarantees for the rotation of power, or indeed for the secular state and legislation that would ensure equality among all citizens. For this reason, when those who call for respecting the outcome of the democratic process, in terms of the Islamists coming to power, demand that we wait for the latter to be tested, they are insulting the women of the Arab region. Arab women are paying today the price of change coming through an abortive democracy, yet they are being demanded to remain silent and accept to be sacrificed in the name of democracy. This becomes even worse when a country like the United States is actively rushing to enable the Muslim Brotherhood to ignore the youths, excluded today from power, and ignore women, who are now being blindsided. The bottom-line of this American stance is placing the fate of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel ahead of the rights of over half of the Egyptian people, i.e. women and young people. The Obama administration may believe that in this manner, it is buying the loyalty of Islamist movements instead of their hostility, that the policy of containment and attraction is in the interest of the United States, and that it is inevitable for the Islamists in power in Egypt, for example, to turn to Washington, because they are in dire need of economic aid to remain in power. But the Obama administration is only repeating the clichéd American way of being ready to dispense with anyone, if this is in its interest, while turning a blind eye to principles and values. Abandoning the modernists, the enlightened or the secularists is indeed what the US doing, no matter how much Washington tries to provide explanations or justifications for it. If Washington had remained neutral, at an equal distance from both the

Islamists and the modernists, then it would have been above board. But by engaging the Islamists at the expense of the modernists, Washington is sending the Arab youths a message that is both wrong and dangerous, as the youths see this as betrayal – or American betrayal – as usual.

In spite of this, the Arab youths and Arab women do not intend to remain still under a new regional order being forged with Turkey's leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Arab region – whom the West labels followers of moderate Islam or enlightened Islamists. Turkey has its own interests in seeking influence, or in fact hegemony, in the Muslim region, under the banner of the "Turkish model", which the West has since come to terms with while warning that what is really happening is that secularism is being overturned. And it is also in Turkey's interest to be prominent in the balance of trust in the Middle East. But what brings Turkey, Iran and Israel together is the desire to neutralize the Arabs in the regional balance of power – if not by dividing the Arab region, then at least by sharing influence therein. This is what many young Arabs realize today, which is why young people have begun to take precautions. However, they are exhausted and this might require them to carry out another revolution, this time against the revolution of change itself. The Arab region is divided in its emotions, and not just in its assessment of what has come to it in the name of the Arab Spring. Part of it welcomes the victory of the Islamists, considering it to be the natural outcome of the demands of the region's inhabitants. Another part of it is expecting a struggle for power within the ranks of the Islamists, between the Salafis and "the Brotherhood".

Then there are those who are falling into the dark pit of pessimism regarding the future of the region, on the background of the Arab Spring turning into an Islamist Spring. Finally, there are also those who cling to their belief in optimism, because the nature of change in the Arab region has begun distorted. So what is happening then?

In Beirut, during the conference of Reform and Transitions to Democracy held by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), public and captivating talk and remarkable discussions took place behind the scenes, between Islamists coming to or seeking power, and modernists who want secular constitutions that separate religion and state. Optimism and pessimism were also mixed into the fray, sometimes negating generational differences.

Former Yemeni Prime Minister Dr. Abd Al-Karim Al-Iryani, for example, understood the pessimism but rebutted the arguments for it, by pointing to the vitality and meaning of the "collective movement" of the youths in Yemen, and to the fact that Egypt's youths still remain active because "the dynamic movement belongs to the youths alone". He came to the conclusion that youthful change will not be likely to retreat in Yemen because change in the Arab region has become an established international principle.

Change is coming to Yemen on

the 21st of next month with the election of a new president, and a historical event not witnessed by Yemen in a thousand years is likely to be recorded if a president from Southern Yemen is elected, as it is expected. Then there will be in power, for the first time, both a President and a Prime Minister who hail from Southern Yemen.

The importance of this is that this historical event may be the security valve to keep Yemen united and prevent its descent into conflicts that would lead to its partitioning once again. And that is cause for optimism, because then the path of change in Yemen would have led to fundamental and profound results that include the President stepping down, elections being held, and the division of Yemen being foreclosed. But in spite of this, democracy in Yemen is being abortive in a manner that is absolutely unacceptable when it comes to women. The likes of Al-Iryani call for respecting the democratic process whatever its results may be, and waiting for what history will lead to after the winners are tested. Yet the voices of young people and women have risen up in protest against the calls for patience, and have called for action now to cause the necessary shock to those who embrace the abortive democracy, so that they may not believe that the revolution of change has given them the authority to hold a new monopoly.

In Egypt, where the disappointment of modernists is great as a result of what took place with the ballot boxes in favor of the Salafis and the Muslim Brotherhood, there is a profound division with regard to the future and in the balance of optimism and pessimism. Indeed, Egypt, in the opinion of one seasoned politician in thought and in politics – who did not take part in the conference – represents the basis and the measure of what will happen in the Arab region. And he is optimistic.

He is optimistic because the situation will change within six months, when the time comes for change through a new constitution, wagering on the fact that Islamists are a minority in Egypt and that Egyptian thinking will not tolerate an Islamist monopoly of power.

Meanwhile, the presidential candidate in Egypt, and former Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Amr Moussa pointed to the importance of the "Al-Azhar document" that was recently issued, and which was characterized by lucidity, moderation, tolerance and modernity, and considered it to be a frame of reference. He said that the transition towards democracy "has an Islamist flavor" and that moderation is "the new Islamist flavor". Nevertheless, he stressed the necessity of keeping branches of government separate, and respecting the judiciary and other tenets of true democracy.

The election of a man like Amr Moussa, a non-Islamist, as President in Egypt may well be the safety valve for the country's stability, because the Islamists in power need a president who would speak the language of consensus, would nearly be a guarantee that the Islamists will not monopolize power, and would allow the West to extend essential aid to Egypt by insisting on respect for citizens' rights and refusing exclusion.

Behind the scenes, a remarkable discussion took place between the Islamist candidate for president in Egypt, Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, and an open-minded Lebanese cleric and expert on Islamic jurisprudence, Sayyid Hani Fahs. It is noteworthy that it was Fahs who demanded distinguishing between religion, the state and politics, and who challenged the Islamist candidate's interpretation of religion and jurisprudence, which spoke of Islam alone being the solution.

In the public sessions, a young Tunisian activist stood up and said that change in the Arab World was not an "event" that had taken place and had ended, but rather a course and a process that had just begun. He calmly and logically warned that the youth of Tunisia would not submit to the Islamists in power without holding them to account or without objecting. A female Moroccan human rights activist then declared, "It bothers me that we are asked to accept and surrender to" the results of the electoral process. At the present time, what is required of the youths and the women of change is full engagement, and organizing and preparing for the next round. A female Libyan judge then spoke of what Libyan women had done in the revolution against Gaddafi, only to be "surprised" by the stances of the National Council and the presence of only one woman in the council – "We then began to review what we had done". In addition, a Lebanese feminist organization organized the Sawa Sawa March called for by the New Arab Woman Forum under the slogan "No Spring without Women".

Most prominent in the discussions is the fact that modernists are raising their voices in saying that change would remain lacking and failed, as long as women and young people are not at the core of decision-making, as long as the state is not made up of legal and secular state institutions, as long as the constitution is not based on citizenship, and as long as the forces of modernity do not move today and now to organize, mobilize and refuse to wait silently until it is too late.

Also prominent is the awareness in the Arab region of the necessity of being vigilant about the regional balance of power. Indeed, both the Islamic Republic of Iran and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's Turkey are based on religious confessionism, and this limits their horizons. Neither of the two will be able to seize regional leadership, and together, they will not be able to share influence and divide the Arab region amongst themselves, no matter how much they try and how much they work towards this. For one thing, the Arab youth will not sink into slumber. Egypt is still in the process of sorting matters out, a process that may lead it to rise as a pioneering country in the Arab region.

The change coming from the Arab Awakening is going through a frightening phase that is causing much frustration, and yet there is something in the air preventing a downward spiral into pessimism – something that awakens frustration into the necessity of challenging monopoly.

The writer is a columnist at Dar Al Hayat, where this article was first published on Jan 20, 2012.

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Aden landmarks

Between sabotage and negligence

Photo by Shafiqe Jamal



By Fuad Mussed

Seera historical fort is poised to fall prey to an investor who wants to turn the landmark into a hotel and resort. Although the move has been temporarily halted, concern remains. Elsewhere in Aden, continued operations for the Arabian Peninsula's first museum are at risk because of surrounding faulty sewers.

The above cases are but two examples of the acts of neglect that Aden landmarks are being subjected to – some because powerful individuals are seeking to gain at the cost of such historical sites.

In response to such threats to Aden's natural and archeological landmarks, a number of NGOs and individuals in the fields of archeology and environmental protection warn against the consequences of the effacement and negligence of such sites for Aden's present and future.

Marouf Ibrahim, a geologist who chairs Aden's Geological Society, says that Aden's natural and historical landmarks face obliteration, defacement and destruction. He describes what is happening as "a blow below the belt," adding that most of the offenses are by powerful people and come as a result of orders from high places in the government.

Ibrahim refers to such acts and neglectful behavior as crimes that shouldn't be allowed to slip by quietly. "Some of Aden's landmarks that face malicious destruction are

unique; these include functional landmarks such as the Adeni water tanks, dams and waterways, some of which date back hundreds of years," he said.

Islamic architecture is evident in Aden's ancient mosques. One such example is Aban Mosque in Crater, named after Aban al-Hakam bin Othman bin Affan and originally built over 1,200 years ago.

Jihad Jamil, a journalist with an interest in archeology, says that the Grand Mosque, located at what is now known as Al-Hubaishi Square, was demolished and rebuilt in a style that bears no similarity to the original structure.

Preserving the past

Environmental activists have called for multiple events and more than one governorate to preserve what is left of such monuments.

Early last year an extended meeting that included university professors, NGOs, rights activists and journalists called upon civil society organizations both inside and outside Yemen to participate in a campaign to save Aden's historical and natural landmarks.

The same campaign called on international organizations – with particular attention given to UNESCO – to support an initiative to declare Aden a "protected historical area". It asked for an investigation into the plunder and destruction of Aden's historical sites, adding that local authorities in the southern port city have ignored such pleas for years.

Experts and activists warn that industrial activities, such as the

building of houses around them on nearby hills and mountains, are not taking Aden's landmarks into consideration.

Khaled Wahbi, director general of Seera district, says that there have been acts of negligence directed at Aden's historical sites, "Some are organized and some are not," he said, adding that such problems have become a daily concern for citizens, who are especially concerned as authorities continue to turn the other way, regardless of the harm being done to the city.

Aden's many landmarks

Aden has many historical sites, including forts, palaces, mosques, temples, churches, synagogues and museums as well as natural landmarks such as its mountains and beaches. The city is also known for its cafes, famous for their cultural roles during the British colonial era, when men of politics, literature and the press would convene.

Dr. Raja'aba Taweel, director of antiquities at the General Organization for Antiquities and Museums (GOAM), states that their office faces many problems, including denying it the right to supervise historical sites. Instead, the job of overseeing historical sites is distributed among various authorities that then simply neglected them, she said.

Seera is an example of this, explained Taweel, where non-specialists were given the task of restoring historical sites and works. "We complained to Aden's former governor, Yahia Al-Shuaibi, who ordered a halt to operations, but

Photo by Shafiqe Jamal



Seera fort

when he stepped down, the work resumed, which forced us to contact the ministry."

Taweel is demanding that the area's authority be rehabilitated

and that a relevant law be enacted to authorize the supervision of all landmarks. She also called on the relevant authorities to enact tough laws that match the importance

of Yemen's historical monuments and sites.

"Yemen has entered the third millennium, but our authority hasn't," she said.

Photo by Shafiqe Jamal



The entrance of Aden's harbour baviement

Photo by Shafiqe Jamal



scence of Seera castel from the beach

Yemen's battle against Qat

By: Arie Amaya-Akkermans
bikyamasr.com

“Qat, the cursed plant in Yemen,” was the headline in a five-part series published by the Yemen Times in 2010, documenting extensively the social problems associated with qat chewing in the country.

The practice goes back thousands of years, was widespread in the region long before the arrival of coffee, and it was first documented by Abu Rayhan Al-Biruni, a Persian scientist, who offered a description of it in his medical treatise “Kitab Al-Saidala fi Al-Tibb” in the 11th century.

It is thought that the plant was brought from Ethiopia because the works of Yemeni writer Hamdani, who extensively documented many aspects of his country in the 10th century, makes no mention of it.

Western images of Yemen never miss a reference to it, often charged with Romanticism, even though there is very little romantic about it and in modern times, it has become a major obstacle for social development in the impoverished nation.

Every travel guide informs travelers about the practice and one of them even offers an encouraging generalization:

“While not a food per se, something else to put in one’s mouth is the qat leaf. This is the Yemeni social drug and is chewed by almost all of the population from after lunch until roughly dinner time. The plant is cultivated all over the country, and most Yemenis are more than happy to offer visitors a branch or two. Actually chewing qat is something of an art, but the general idea is to chew the small, soft leaves, the soft branches and to build up a large ball of the stuff in a cheek”.

There exists a whole culture around qat-chewing and is embodied in the Yemeni institution of the “mafresh” or qat houses, that exist all over Yemen, some open to the public while some others operate as private clubs with membership fees. While the “mafresh” is a male, urban middle class institution, it is not exclusive, and is also used by many at home.

Qat is also part of the local business culture and Yemeni women do it as well during the “tafrika” or afternoon visit that begins following afternoon prayers. During the “tafrika”, held in private homes, they take off their veils, share snacks and many of them also chew qat.

But the reality is that qat-chewing has been for so long associated with health hazards, drains on the household budget, disincentive to the local production of food crops and an obstacle in economic development. Chronic consumption of qat leads to great social and economic damage to individual and community, great loss of working time, overspending and malnutrition.

Qat induces mild euphoria and a state of excitement, makes people become talkative and more relaxed.



Qat, chewed by the majority of Yemenis, is coming under fire.

However, the cathine contained in qat leaves, has been classified by researchers as an amphetamine-like substance that can induce manic behaviors, hyperactivity, dilated pupils and constipation, together with increased heart rate and blood pressure.

There might also be withdrawal symptoms, including mild depression, irritability and nightmares, among others. Long-term use is associated with liver failure, tooth darkening, ulcers and sexual impotence. Following from all of the above, it was classified in 1980 by the World Health Organization as a drug of abuse that can produce mild to moderate psychological dependence.

The strain caused by qat is not only social but also agricultural: In a country with reduced food production and little water available, the cultivation of qat – the most cultivated plant in Yemen – consumes much of the country’s agricultural resources. It is estimated that close to half of the country’s water supply is used irrigating qat and that one “daily bag” – that can be consumed by one person in one day – requires over 500 liters of water to produce.

Even though scholars everywhere – including the West – have declared the use of qat against Islamic law, it would be worthwhile remembering that in Yemen as early as the 16th century, Zaydi and Shafi scholars ruled that consumption of qat was permissible to Muslims. Yemeni Jews are also known to consume it.

The attitude of the government was generally negative and as early as the 1930’s there were a variety of initiatives sponsored by the authorities to clamp down qat consumption. However the state received a very substantial income from taxing crops and sales of qat, at the same time that it produced higher income to farmers than vegetables or fruits. Inside Yemen’s tribal order, many tribal farmers turned to qat cultivation that they considered of higher status than vegetables and fruits, often cultivated by people of lesser status.

The degree to which qat is part of the tissue of Yemeni society can be seen in the United Kingdom and Israel, with Yemeni exiles: Substantial quantities of qat are imported into the UK and in Israel, it is not only that

oluntary Yemen, and even though there are many bent on its continued use, a very large number of Yemenis have protested the tradition of qat for a long time now.

The argument that because it is a cultural tradition it should be maintained, can no longer hold in a world in which under the rubric of tradition, entire nations have justified xenophobia, violence against women, homophobia, theft, corruption and the like. The widespread cultivation is extraordinarily non-sustainable for a country that needs to be fed, grow its own food sources and all of that with very limited water resources, even though it is a very fertile land in which the possibilities for agricultural development and autonomy depend on stopping the dependence on qat.

Western analysts in previous decades have pointed out for example that qat is the building block of the Yemeni identity or that qat chewing acts as the replacement of the public sphere in Yemen. These studies, however interesting, must be dismissed now that it has been proven how art and deliberation are practiced in Yemen in the public space and that identity has become a concept by all means contested. Priorities should be placed on the social and economic sustainability of a practice now very well known to affect negatively the life of many.

On January 12, through social media, Yemenis are organizing an event called “I want Yemen to change – I will not store qat”. This event, organized by Hind Aleryani, a Yemeni activist based in Beirut and who made headlines with the “Shame Reuters” campaign, is a call for all Yemenis, wherever they are, to say no to qat, to not store any qat and to protest the cultivation and consumption of qat. International organizations should watch for this event and support the people of Yemen in making a transition that is much more difficult than any political process: That of building a new country in which the widespread cultivation and consumption of qat can be eventually replaced.

To be sure, it would be naïve to assume that this will happen overnight and that a large amount of financial resources will not be needed to make it possible, but it is important to raise awareness in all segments of civil society in Yemen and abroad, for the continued use of qat in Yemen will only slow the process of the revolution infinitely. Yemenis have proven to be capable of many things, and even though qat might be one of the greatest stumbling blocks in the social structure, the stakes for long-term change are very high.

the old generation of Yemeni Jews still chew locally-grown qat but also that the young generation consume it in the form of a drug nicknamed “Hagiga” in Hebrew (party) that is a cocaine-resembling stimulant, considered illegal but well known in Tel Aviv night life, together with other recreational drugs, now used also by non-Yemenis too.

According to members of the Yemenite and Ethiopian communities in Israel, the habit is harmless, yet in an interview with an environmental magazine in 2010, a Yemeni woman in Israel is reported to have said: “Qat is the bane of Yemen. The husbands go on it, while their wives and kids go hungry at home.”

As early as 1972, a Yemeni writer, Hussain Abdallah Al-Dhamari, wrote that “qat is anti-revolutionary and a major factor in the long isolation of the country”.

In 2007, long before any indication of a revolution, an organization named “Generations without Qat” was set up in Yemen, authorized by the Ministry of Social Affairs, with the purpose to educate people about the tragic fate of qat consumption. In line with the great protest art to be found in Yemen since the 1960’s, many cartoons and posters have been produced to raise awareness about this problem.

And in spite of the country having increased qat taxes by 200 percent and placing a ban on public consumption, the practice is still as widespread as always and as normalcy begins to return, farmers turn to qat cultivation once again.

On an interesting note, Shelagh Weir, a noted British anthropologist and expert on Yemen, noted that there is a tendency in Yemeni society that as prosperity and wealth increases, so does consumption of qat, rather than the other way around.

That being said, qat poses a terrible threat to the future of a post-rev-

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.

Tips to manage anxiety

Feelings of anxiety are a common experience. Anxiety is a normal part of life that affects every aspect of a person’s life. If you get nervous speaking in front of a group or have trouble sleeping the night before a big test, you will surely know that when anxiety attacks it can crack even the strongest amongst us.

Anxiety attacks can be one of the most stressful things anybody can go through. All of us experience some degree of anxiety on a fairly frequent basis. When an event in your life causes a certain unexpected and unpleasant reaction, such a circumstance typically results in anxiety. Your body reaction can vary from sweating and stuttering to sometimes heart palpitations, faster breathing and sometimes you may even faint. If such a pattern is repeated, then it becomes imperative for the person to cope with these anxiety attacks.

What is Anxiety?

Anxiety acts as a normal alarm system alerting you of danger. It can be a general feeling of worry, a sudden attack of panicky feelings or a fear of a certain situation or object. It is caused by pressure, stress and continuous worry or worrying thoughts. Anxiety isn’t always a bad thing. In fact, it can help you stay alert and focused, and motivate you to solve problems. However, when anxiety is constant and interferes with your relationships and activities, you may be suffering from an anxiety disorder.

What are the symptoms of anxiety?

Symptoms of anxiety include:

- Sweating
- Stuttering
- Muscle tension
- Shortness of breath
- Faster heartbeat
- Nausea
- Dry mouth
- Loss of sleep and not being able to concentrate

How to cope with anxiety?

Managing anxiety is a necessity in our modern fast-paced world. Here are some tips to help you with the same:

1. De-stress regularly: In the modern world, stress has become omnipresent. One is stressed out when at home, in school, or at office, which results in anxiety. One of the very effective ways of managing anxiety is to de-stress regularly. To begin, you need to identify what is causing stress in your life, and then look for ways to reduce them. You can take the help of meditation, yoga or even a walk in the park. Whatever works for you!
2. Get adequate of Sleep: Anxiety can cause insomnia, but lack of sleep can also contribute to anxiety. Sleep rests your body and replenishes it physically, mentally and emotionally. It also revitalizes your mind thus improving your general sense of wellbeing as well as your mood.
3. Laugh out loud: A great way to ease anxiety is laughter. Laughter can make you forget everything. When you laugh, your body secretes endorphins which relieve the nervous tension. Even in the strongest of anxiety attacks, if the patient breaks out in laughter he will forget that he had a panic attack. Anxiety is a mental state and the only way to conquer it is to get out of that state.
4. Stay organized: Most panic attacks occur because a person is unprepared for the situation. By organizing yourself, you will reduce your stress and anxiety. Having everything planned leaves no room for worries.
5. Take a minute: If you don’t have time and need to de-stress, do as follows: relax. Close your eyes and breathe deeply. Focus on your breathing, on your blood and the blood rushing through your veins.
6. Exercise: Exercise can help decrease feelings of anxiety and can give you a sense of well-being. It boosts the oxygen and blood flow to the brain helping it to relax regularly. It also enhances well-being through the release of endorphins, the brain’s feel-good chemicals. Research shows that as little as 30 minutes of exercise three to five times a week can provide significant anxiety relief.
7. Diet: Your diet should be filled with foods with a higher complex-carbohydrate concentration such as whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. Complex carbs not only stabilize your blood sugar levels but also boost serotonin, a neurotransmitter with calming effect. You can even add some anxiety reducing herbs like kava, ginseng and milk thistle to your diet. Limit the intake of caffeinated beverages (such as coffee, tea and soft drinks) as much as possible because they increase your sense of anxiety by stimulating the nervous system. Avoid alcohol and drug abuse; they may relax you in the short run but they make the situation worse in the long run. Also reduce the amount of refined sugar you eat. Sugary desserts and snacks can leave you feeling emotionally and physically drained as they cause your blood sugar to spike and then crash.
8. Relaxation techniques: Relaxation techniques such as yoga, Tai Chi, progressive muscle relaxation, mindfulness meditation, controlled breathing, and visualization can reduce anxiety when practiced regularly. They also increase feelings of relaxation and emotional well-being.
9. Confront: The only way to tackle fear is to face it. If some things have made you anxious in the past, go ahead and do them again and again till you see no nuance in them and get used to them. Totally accept yourself as you are and believe in yourself and you will observe that anxiety just flies away.
10. Cognitive behavior therapy (CBT): CBT is a common form of therapy used to treat anxiety. It is a type of psychotherapy that helps you to understand the thoughts and feelings that influence your behaviors. According to the theory behind CBT, you have automatic but inaccurate thoughts or beliefs in certain situations. For example, usually anxiety is a response to a belief in the worst possible outcome in a situation. Cognitive behavioral therapy helps you become aware of these inaccurate thoughts and beliefs. You learn to challenge and replace those beliefs with more accurate statements.

Although feelings of anxiety are scary, they are not meant to hurt you. They are a basic protective human response. The above tips will improve depression and anxiety reaction if followed religiously. Life has so many opportunities for you. Why wait? Just go ahead and grab them!

Courtesy: Lifemojo

JOB VACANCY

International Institution in Sana’a is looking for a competent Driver. Details are as follows:

Job Title: Driver

Qualification:

- Residents in Sana’a
- Local Driver’s License
- Experience of at least three years of Driver job
- Fluent speaker in both English and Arabic
- Good personality, with loyalty
- Preferably a person with experience in Security Guard

Office Hours: 08:30 – 17:30

- When necessary, obliged to staff’s instruction anytime.

Payment: upon personal capability (payment negotiable)

Interested applicants are required to submit a resume, personal introduction letter, and scanned passport photo through the e-mail (yemen@mofat.go.kr) no later than Jan 27, 2012 Applications are accepted in English and Arabic.



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MSIY exist in Yemen since 1998 based on the cooperation agreement between the Government of the Republic of Yemen (Ministry of Planning & Development) and MARIE STOPES INTERNATIONAL.

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Daud Iqbal Khan
Director finance and administration
Hadda, Al-Surmi St. in front of Al-Dewan Restaurant
Tel: 01 425 907 – 415 872
P.O. Box: 16160 Sana’a – Republic of Yemen.

Dengue fever spreads through Al-Kadan

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Residents in impoverished Al-Kadan are complaining that an absence of health services is allowing dengue fever to spread through the area.

Al-Kadan, north Hodeida, has a population of about 10,000 people, most of whom suffer abject poverty and a lack of health, education, water and other basic services.

Al-Kadan's farms and valleys create the perfect environment for the mosquitoes that spread dengue fever as well as other diseases such as malaria. Its symptoms include fever, headache, joint pains and skin rash and in a small number of cases can lead to fatal complications.

Ahmed Badr, 43, a resident in Al-Kadan told the Yemen Times that he and his 12-member family is infected with the disease as well.

"I cannot move my joints easily and I face difficulty walking normally," he said. "I've taken nutrients and vitamins to alleviate my pains."

According to Badr, the virus has been infecting people of any age. "Unfortunately, my 2-year-old daughter and my 80-year-old father are both infected with the virus," he said.

This is the second time he has been infected with dengue, he explained, after contracting he virus last year. "I suffered from a high fever that time and one of my friends died," he said.



Dozen of dengue fever cases have been reported in different districts of Hodeida governorate.

The health center in the area, which is crammed with patients, lacks medicines and skilled staff, according to Badr, and he called on the government to send more supplies and staff.

Mariam Al-Omari, a teacher in Al-Kadan, said that many students have been infected with the disease. "We advise their parents to keep them off school for a while," she said.

Dr. Ammar Ahmed Ezzi, health worker in Al-Kadan, said that the disease causes the hands and legs to swell and shares a number of symptoms with malaria so it is often misdiagnosed.

He called for the Ministry of Health to send teams to the "poverty-stricken area" to fight the dis-

ease. "Unfortunately, the branch of the Health Ministry in Hodeida is stagnant," he said. "The conditions of the area's residents are already harsh and this disease is further damaging their situation," he added.

Ezzi said that the health center had to give the patients painkillers to relieve their pains temporarily. However, he said the patients return only after one week seeking more medications.

"Until now, the government has taken no serious steps to fight this disease," he said.

In recent years, outbreaks of dengue fever have spread through different areas in Hodeida to reach the borders of Saudi Arabia, claiming dozens of lives.

4U

No vaccine is available to prevent dengue fever, and there is no specific medicine to treat the disease. Those who become ill with dengue fever can be offered medications (acetaminophen) to reduce fever and may require oral rehydration or intravenous fluids and in severe cases, treatment to regulate their blood pressure. As a viral disease, antibiotics cannot be used to treat dengue fever.

Source: www.wikihow.com

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In line with corporate policies, TOTAL E&P Yemen believes in making positive contributions to the communities where we operate. This approach is defined by TOTAL Group where corporate social responsibility and accountability are central to our operations and activities.

METHODS INSTRUMENT ENGINEER - Site (1 Position)

Within the Production and Maintenance Department, the job holder will be reporting to the Head of Maintenance Methods. This position is based in Block 10 sites (Kharir and Atuf), located 600 km East of Sana'a, and will work in close cooperation with field maintenance, commissioning & project personnel to ensure that production and maintenance activities are performed as per plan in a cost effective manner and in compliance with HSE rules.

The Job Holder is to:

- Prepare and validate instrument maintenance programs in line with production plan and strategy adopted.
- Supervise and monitor implementation of above programs in liaison with site teams (no backlog).
- Act as a focal point for all Yokogawa DCS, ESD and fire and gas systems installed in Block 10 as well as manage DCS maintenance contract interfaces.
- Provide support to production and maintenance activities on site and assess the quality of the site operations through regular audits and inspections.
- Establish & develop procedures and guidelines for specific and major maintenance and ensure implementation of some.
- Analyze the functional parameters of the equipment.
- Advocate improvement solutions for optimizing maintenance tasks
- Evaluate technical solutions to problems/issues encountered with equipment manufacturers/suppliers.
- Identify critical spare parts and ensure their availability in stock.
- Manage and optimise instrument spare parts stock (definition of min /max stock).
- Monitor and track equipment conditions
- Participate in tendering contracts for technical services operations
- Participate in technical analysis and operational audits and maintenance
- Evaluate / Train maintenance personnel & Contribute to instrument personnel awareness of new technologies.
- Conduct fiscal metering conformity checks and certification inline with 3rd parties.
- Ensure compliance of major maintenance plan for PSV protective devices.
- Analyse failures and suggest solutions to correct the problem associated with failures
- Analyse shutdown reports and assists production and maintenance teams in troubleshooting issues.
- Ensure CMMS is updated following modifications and new projects, creates new equipment stocked items.
- Develops Instrument Maintenance procedures
- Assists the Head of Maintenance Method in the definition of modifications: review modifications requests from Production and Maintenance teams, prepares technical dossier.
- Participate in equipment selection as well as maintain engineering of new projects and upgrading of major plants.

Qualification and Experience Required:

- Bachelor of Science in instrumentation Engineering.
- A minimum of 10 years in oil and gas industry, with a previous experience in Instrument Method
- Be a self motivated individual with a strong desire to impart knowledge to others
- Good knowledge of international codes and standards (API, ASTM, ISO, NF...).
- Be proficient in English (reading, writing, and spoken).

METHODS MECHANICAL ENGINEER - Site (1 Position)

Within the Production and Maintenance Department, the job holder will report to the Head of Maintenance Methods. This position is based in Block 10 sites (Kharir and Atuf), located 600 km East of Sana'a, and will work in close cooperation with field maintenance, commissioning & project personnel to ensure that Production and Maintenance activities are performed as per plan and in a cost effective manner and in compliance with HSE rules.

The Job Holder is to:

- Prepare and validates Mechanical Maintenance programs in line with production plan and strategy adopted.
- Prepare the Major overhaul and Top End overhaul planning of diesel engines, including spare parts requests.
- Supervise and monitor the implementation of above programs in liaison with site teams (no backlogs).
- Provide support to production and maintenance activities on site and assess on the quality of site operations through regular audits and inspections.
- Make recommendations to improve and optimise mechanical tasks.
- Develop mechanical maintenance procedures.
- Analyse failures and suggest solution to correct the problem associated with failures
- Identify critical spare parts and ensure their availability in stock.
- Manage and optimise mechanical spare parts stock (definition of min /max stock).
- Perform cost analysis of mechanical activities and propose solutions to reduce costs.
- Analyse shutdown reports and assist production and maintenance teams in troubleshooting issues.
- Ensure CMMS is updated via following modifications and new projects as well as create new equipment stocked items.
- Participate in equipment selection as well as maintain engineering of new projects and upgrading of major plants.

Qualification and Experience Required:

- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- A minimum of 10 years experience in oil and gas industry (Engineering, Construction or Maintenance).
- Be proficient in written and spoken English.
- Working knowledge of relevant international standards (API, ISO, ASME, EN etc)

METHODS ELECTRICAL ENGINEER - Site (1 Position)

Within the Production and Maintenance Department, the job holder will be reporting to the Head of Maintenance Methods. This position is based in Block 10 sites (Kharir and Atuf), located 600 km East of Sana'a, and will work in close cooperation with field maintenance, commissioning & project personnel to ensure that production and maintenance activities are performed as per plan in a cost effective manner and in compliance with HSE rules.

The Job Holder is to:

- Prepare and validate Electrical Maintenance programs in line with production plan and strategy adopted.
- Supervise and monitor implementation of above programs in liaison with site teams (no backlog).
- Act as the Responsible Person Electrical (RPE) for electrical installation and infrastructure in Block 10.
- Evaluate technical solutions to problems/issues encountered, with equipment manufacturers/suppliers.
- Provide support to production and maintenance activities on site and assess the quality of the site operations through regular audits and inspections.
- Develop electrical maintenance procedures
- Analyse failures and propose solution to correct the problem associated with failures.
- Issue and maintain electrical equipment records.
- Identify critical spare parts and ensure their availability in stock.
- Manage and optimise electrical spare parts stock (definition of min /max stock).
- Make recommendation to improve and optimise Electrical tasks.
- Provide support to production and maintenance activities on site and assess the quality of the site operations through regular audits and inspections.
- Ensure that equipment overhauls are executed according to company requirements, safety rules, and good practice.
- Review any work carried out by contractors to ensure it has been efficiently executed to an acceptable standard
- Analyse shutdown reports and assist production and maintenance teams on troubleshooting issue.
- Ensure CMMS is updated following plant modifications, create new equipment stocked items as necessary.
- Participate in equipment selection as well as maintain engineering of new projects and upgrading of major plants.

Qualification and Experience Required:

- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering with a minimum of 10 years experience in oil and gas industry (Engineering, Construction or Maintenance).
- Knowledge of electrical equipment (generators, VSD's, motors, distribution, UPS, HVAC, transformers, switchgear...)
- Knowledge of international codes and standards (IEC, CENELEC, UTE, BSI, VDE...).
- Electrical certifications relevant to oil and gas industry.
- Proficient in English (Reading, writing and speaking)

To apply, please visit www.total-ep-yemen.com and register your application no later than **January 31st, 2011**.
 Faxed or handed-in applications are **not** considered.

Youth Talk

In this section we talk to young people about their concerns, hopes and dreams. Every week we hit the streets and share what young people have to say right here.

This week's question:

What are your aspirations and dreams for the year 2012, personally and for Yemen?

Samer Mohammed, 22, university student

Personally, I hope to be more liberal, and my family accepts my personal choice to complete my degree. I wish if could walk through the rainfall and play with it freely but it's difficult to achieve this wish in Yemen.

For my country, I hope to increase the awareness of the Yemeni people through the lessons of the revolution so that people strive to be better educated. And Sana'a streets fixed so we can walk comfortably.

Hamzah Alqwaas, 21, high school student and employee at Yemen Mall

2012 is starting well. I want to start collage this year to study graphics – it is my dream to be a good graphic designer. Another of my dreams this year is to become engaged to the girl I love. For Yemen, I am sure this will be a good year as we are starting on the right steps.

Saleh Ali Awad, 28, store employee

Personally, I want us to have a happy year. I guess my first dream for 2012 is to marry my fiancée – I also want to gain my parents satisfaction and to improve my financial position. For Yemen I hope that fuel prices will drop to their original level so that bus drivers can decrease the transportation cost from YR 50 back to YR 20 as it was before.

Amal Alyarisi, 20, final year collage student

I dream about graduating this year with high marks and that I find a job in my field of study; press and media. This year I also hope to be engaged or married to the man I see as my life partner (A.A) and to bless my mother by making her happy.

I want to see a happy Yemen, one that is safe and away from political problems and crises.

Ashraf Almuragab, 20, university graduate

Frankly, I see 2012 as a special year because I initiated the first steps to the success of my dreams and my wishes and I am very optimistic about this year. As to my beloved Yemen, I hope for a bright future with peace and safety to all our people and an end to the conflict between us.

Afrah Al-Attas, 24, university graduate and employee at USAID

My dream is to always have dreams and something worth fighting for. As a Yemeni lady I hope 2012 is a cheerful year full of peace and success for all but that definitely won't come true if we neglect the hard work and perseverance that is needed. We need to understand each other's point of view without aggression and make Yemen a priority. We are young Yemenis and we love Yemen.

Eman Tahama, 23, final year collage student

This year I hope the dreams I couldn't achieve in 2011 come true. I want to pay off all my debts, to graduate with high marks and to find a job in my field of study.

For Yemen, I want Yemenis to commit to three things this year; organization, hygiene and punctuality.

Abdulnasser Alabdali

The dreams and aspirations I hope to achieve this year are as follows; to find my better half, to prepare for an MA in linguistics and to participate in helping poor families, the disabled and orphans in my country. Regarding my homeland, I hope to see Yemen improve, to become a modern state with civilized people. I ask Allah to make my dreams and aspirations become true this year.

Khalid Mohammad Al-Karimi

Aspirations goad us into exerting our utmost so as to experience our desired life. We all dream of success, yet few make it reality. For me, I aspire to commence working on an MA degree touching on my domain, the English language. Of course, this aspiration is realistic and obtainable. Besides, I desire to contrive to star as a creative writer. Ergo, I necessitate perspiration and inspiration simultaneously.

Concerning Yemen, I dream that the whole country will be devoid of political havoc and problematic mobs. I wish to see Yemenis understand the genuine meaning of freedom.

Ali Al-Hawami, 24, university graduate

I want a job I deserve according to my qualifications and not through nepotism. I want to feel secure in my health and finances through being a citizen taken care of by a good state.

I wish for clean, beautiful streets for Yemen. I want Yemen's water problem to be solved. I want equal citizenships between all people regardless of who they are or the job they do. I want to live in a community that is calm, secure and relaxed.

Abdulaziz Sharaf, 19, university student

I want to achieve success in my education and practical life. I want to become an important person this year to influence my society. I want to be in good health throughout 2012. I also want Yemeni to live in prosperity and security and that people can speak their minds freely.

Mohammed Al-Mansoub, 23, university student

This is a chance to forget all the bad experiences of the last year. To have the blessing of my parents and to achieve the pans in have made for this year. I hope for Yemen that this is a happy year and that the public and private sectors do their jobs in the right way to serve the people and do their duty. I hope for Yemen to be much more developed and happy. I am very optimistic for this year.

Next Week's Question:

Do you believe in the law of attraction (you bring into your life whatever you think about). Have you ever thought something will happen and it does? Or remembered someone and then they call? Share your stories.

Send us an e-mail with your name, age, occupation or university course to tyyouth@gmail.com. This is your chance to share your humorous stories, poems or opinions with other young readers!

Picture of the Week



Displaced children from Sa'ada who were forced to flee to Sana'a during the sixth round of war between the government and Houthi rebels in 2010.

Photo by Ali Saeed

Yemen's educational system

By: Rawdha Alansi

Yemen's educational system has suffered for years. With the situation it is presently in, the system is unable to encourage students and is unable to cope with today's challenges. It is far removed from society's issues and interests.

The educational system is only getting worse and worse over time. In the past, Yemenis cared about becoming educated; now, however, both the general situation and poverty only make people think about making money. An education in Yemen must be free for all people. The Education Ministry must build schools – not just in cities, but in villages too.

Illiteracy in Yemen has increased, and especially so in rural areas. All people have the right to receive an education, not just the highest rungs of society. Furthermore, Islam encourages education for both men and women.

Women are the main victims, especially those in villages. Yemeni women strive to be educated. In my own village, Jarf Esbeel, women have many jobs – as opposed to the men, who only care about the fields. Women work the land, and take care of children and the home. How can women go to school with all this pressure?

The government must look for solutions and find ways to motivate girls and boys to go to school. Youths and adults who don't have access to a formal education and increased

employment opportunities cannot contribute to the alleviation of poverty. We all must work together to rescue Yemen's educational system and find solutions for this huge problem.

Rescue women's education

For girls and women living in poverty, education is not only the key to a brighter future it is also a key to survival.

The Ministry of Human Rights must help examine women's problems. As a wise person said: "If you educate a man you educate a person, but if you educate a woman you educate a nation". Our new government should make laws to end illiteracy.

Child marriage jeopardizes Yemeni girls' access to education and keeps them as second-class citizens.

The government should set 18 as the minimum age for marriage to improve girl's opportunities.

The Ministry of Education should set laws to force families to let the girls study. Most families don't want co-education, so the ministry should build many schools to separate girls and boys.

A Yemeni study found that many parents remove girls in rural areas from schools at age nine to help in the house, land and sometimes to get married.

The education of girls reduces poverty and improves the quality of life for all citizens. Education for girls and women translates to higher economic opportunities and productivity, reduced child mortality, improved family nutrition and health.

It's time to educate girls.

A Story of my own imagination: The Cursed Tree

By: Gamal Alghazaly

"Have a nice day". A young man with good stature threw these words on Saeed, an old man on whose face time had signed its curly signature.

He was sitting beside a little rock resting his head on an elbow, with a humped back that pushed his

forehead to the level of his raised knee.

Saeed replied: "You too. How is it going with you Ahmed?"

"Good, as you can see," said Ahmed. "I am going to do some training and after that I'm gonna read some books in the library."

Saeed with his green teeth, swollen cheek and cracked heels shouted: "Why don't you stay with us and enjoy chewing this magic tree? You will fly over clouds and

build the world in no time, and you will..."

But before Saeed could end his crazy speech, he fell to the ground as if he was kissing the sand.

Ahmed cried: "Saeed! What happened? What happened?"

But there was no response, quickly he picked up the smelly old man and carried him on his back to the nearest hospital.

"It's a hopeless case, qat has eaten his liver and spleen," the doctor

declared. "No one can help him, his soul will leave after few hours – this is the end for qat chewers."

The scene astonished Ahmed and he whispered to himself: "I'll never, ever chew qat, the cursed tree that kills people."

Even as time passed, Ahmed couldn't force his mind to stop thinking of Saeed. He established an organization to help rid Yemen of qat. Now the government considers qat as a kind of drug.

Internet in Yemen

By: Mubeen Esam
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The world is but a small village – the ongoing telecommunications and information technology revolution has proved as much. This revolution has in fact produced many advanced means of communication. Primary among them is the internet, which the world's nations are racing to utilize. A limitless resource

Considered to be a central feature of our era, the internet has opened doors to success, providing opportunities to conduct research and exchange ideas, no matter the field. Qualitatively speaking, the internet represents an important ad-

vancement in the tracking of information. It allows for the exchange of a limitless pile of information from different cultures and thus accelerates progress and the movement towards modernization. There is a day-by-day, worldwide increase in the number of people accessing the internet.

Internet's accession in Yemen

Concerning Yemen, the rise of the internet coincided with major technological advancements in the fields of communication and information technology. Many difficulties have been overcome along the way in raising awareness of the internet in Yemeni society.

September of 1996 can be traced as the time when the internet was in-

troduced to the country. The service later expanded, with larger numbers of users and internet cafes in all governorates to follow. It is now rare to find an open computer in internet cafes. The cafes are crowded with students, employees, and even women; such places present an easy way to connect with the information revolution.

The internet was first introduced in Sana'a, with a connection speed of 28.6 kilobytes per second. In 1999, the speed was increased to 36.6 k/b per second. A number of routers were also connected to Yemen's main cities, thereby connecting them with the network in Sana'a.

The major development for the country's internet service was

achieved in 2000 through the introduction of new routers for the grid which provided modern, advanced systems of protection. Accordingly, the connection speed was raised to 56.6 k/b per second. However, service connections using the digital phone line "IDSN" provided high-speed connections at 64 k/b per second, a rate that has only grown over the years to follow.

For better or worse

The internet is a double-edged sword that can have either positive or negative effects on just about any field – economic, commercial, political, moral, educational, social, and literary, to name a few. To my mind, it's like an empty cup that can be filled with good or sour milk.

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Fighting for Yemen's morals



By: Marwa Najmaldin

In a hall in Sana'a, on International Volunteers Day last month, a whiteboard was hung with words often used by men to harass girls. A room full of young boys were told to throw arrows at the board and when full, the words were pulled back to reveal a picture of a girl. On the picture, pocked with arrow marks, was written the words, "I am your mother, I am your sister, I am your wife, I am your daughter."
 "We started this campaign because we feel that this problem [of harassment] is getting worse and the results will be harmful to individuals and to our conservative society," said co-founder, Amani Abd Al-Qader, 21, a student at the University of Sana'a.

Under the slogan "Are there any morals anymore?" Al-Qader, explained the campaign was against any form of harassment – whether directed at women or men.
 "Yemenis are committed to morals and this campaign was designed to remind people of their principles and their virtuous roots."

The initiative, which now has 25 members, is aimed at combating all forms of harassment including verbal and physical teasing, which can give victims a bad reputation, according to Abd Al-Qader.

Its activities include educational programs to raise awareness and to get men and women recognized the scale of the harassment problem,

discuss reasons it might have become more common and look for solutions.

Finally, the organizers carried out a public awareness campaign highlighting related laws and Yemen's morals values.

Some 5,000 pamphlets were distributed on public transport, offering contact details for the victims of harassment and highlighting the seriousness of the issue. Organizers now plan to set up awareness boxes at Sana'a University to target perpetrators, victims and the "silent group". They also plan to produce a number of awareness videos for YouTube.

Arbil Nasr, 22, a female student at Sana'a University and a co-founder of the initiative, said they decided to take action after witnessing harassment on a daily basis.

She encourages women to carry weapons or any other means of self-defense, arguing that if girls start to defend themselves, men will stop harassing or teasing them.

Amina Hisham, a student, said, "Harassment has become more of a problem than we realize, where many men passing beside a woman



The 'morals' initiative, which aims to reduce harassment against men and women, has gained the support of around 25 members.

throw out a collection of bad words, maybe to make up for their frustration when they see women as managers or teachers."

And it's not just women who are the victims of harassment, explained Anas Al-Sharjabi. "Men are also exposed to this problem, particularly children and teenagers, who risk becoming the victims of homosexual relations."

He explained, "Nowadays child harassment is on the rise, with some men insisting the child chews qat or accompanies him in his car, claiming

he needs directions, but this is only a trick leading to something else.

"Some parents are worrying about their boys now more than their

daughters because of this growing threat so laws must be enforced to stop these kinds of crimes," he concluded.



Girls stick Arabic phrase over their mouths asking, 'Are there any morals any more?'



Awareness activities are organized to highlight the scale of the harassment problem in Yemen.

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