

Inmates escape Aden prison

Ahmed Dawood

ADEN, June 27 — Eight inmates escaped Sunday from the prison in Al-Mansoura in Aden governorate. Security forces captured four prisoners within the prison compound. The other four remain at large, according to Sadeq Al-Haid, Aden's security chief.

Al-Haid said the prisoners are not linked to Al-Qaeda. He said conditions for inmates in the prison are extremely poor. The high temperatures and humidity prompted wardens to provide fans and refrigerators, though he said they are "not sufficient."

According to Al-Haid, some inmates imprisoned for less serious offenses could be released on the basis of the poor conditions.

Al-Haid did not talk openly about the number of the inmates in the prison, but he called on the Interior Ministry to better care for the prison.



Security forces managed to capture four of the eight inmates who escaped from the central prison in Al-Mansoura, Aden.

This is not the first time inmates have escaped the jail. Eight prisoners fled in May; security forces captured two.

Jihad Mohsen, an Al-Mansoura

local, said the prison, which lies within the vicinity of Al-Nakeeb Hospital in Aden, has witnessed low security measures in the past year, allowing two pirates to escape

from the prison two months ago. The pirates allegedly bribed prison guards.

Mohsen said a number of juveniles in the prison mix with adults; the former are subject to sexual harassment.

The prison manager, Colonel Adel Al-Sifiani, declined to comment.

Five Al-Qaeda linked prisoners broke out in Hodeida

Meanwhile, a security source who talked to the state-run Saba News Agency said five Al-Qaeda-linked men escaped the Political Security Prison in Al-Hodeida governorate, in west Yemen.

The source said the police are now pursuing the escapees in order to arrest them.

The fugitives' names were published as follows: Soleiman Mohammed Soleiman Atia, Abdullah Qaed Hassen, Nasser Al-Said Ismael Motahr, Haithm Hassan Afifi and Taha Mohammed Al-Tahtah.

Oman investigates infiltration of border by Al-Qaeda affiliated Ansar Al-Sharia

Muaad Al-Maqtari

SANA'A, June 27 — Badr Bin Hamad Bin Hamoud Al-Busaidi, Secretary General of the Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has said Oman's security services received information that Al-Qaeda affiliates have infiltrated Oman by way of Yemen.

He said the matter is being investigated.

On Tuesday, Oman Newspaper

quoted Al-Busaidi as saying Oman's security services follow everything that happens in the country to curb threats to the Sultanate and to all neighboring countries.

Al-Busaidi denied that security services caught any of the militants, saying the matter is very sensitive and must be kept between the two concerned countries.

He also said Oman is ready to confront any threats to the country and to its neighbors.

On June 13, the Yemeni military purged areas of Yemen's south of militants from Ansar Al-Sharia, a group affiliated with Al-Qaeda, forcing them out of a number of their strongholds in an all-out offensive.

Ali Hassan Al-Ahmadi, governor of Shabwa governorate, said some militants escaped to Al-Mahra governorate, located on Yemen's eastern border with Oman, after they fled Azzan this past Saturday.

Al-Ahmadi told the 26 September

news website, run by the Yemeni Defense Ministry, that the campaign to battle the militants was launched from the town of Ataq, the capital of Shabwa.

He added that Brigadier General Mohammed Hussien Al-Jumae, commander of the Ataq military region, with other units from the 21st Mechanized Brigade, the Central Security Forces, Military Police and tribal fighters, participated in the campaign.

UN: Binomar won't be Yemen office chief

Amira Nasser

SANA'A, June 27 — Abderrahim Sabir, senior political officer at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) denied yesterday news claiming the appointment of Jamal Binomar, the United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen, as head of the United Nations office in Yemen for one year.

"Binomar still works as the special advisor of the Secretary General of the U.N., in his office in New York," Sabir said.

He said Binomar will keep his monthly shuttles to Yemen to facilitate the power transition in a peaceful way and to limit the obstacles which hinder the political transfor-

mation through the National Dialogue for all Yemenis.

Sabir said Binomar will meet all the Yemeni parties as the head of the international mission to observe and follow the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 2014 and 2051, concerning Yemen.

Binomar arrives next Sunday, the first of July.

"There is an office in Yemen dedicated to the special political mission in Yemen, and it will increase the number of its experts," he said.

However, Binomar will not be one of these experts, and he will continue his work from his office in New York in parallel with his regular visits to Yemen, according to Sabir.



Jamal Binomar

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Details emerge of foiled bombing in Sana'a

Sadeq Al-Faqih

SANA'A, June 26 — Three Yemeni citizens, in cooperation with a post office worker, foiled a bombing attack last week at the Shumaila post office in Sana'a.

Around 6:45 p.m. on June 20, a man was discovered placing a bomb next to the post office.

Ansar Al-Sharia has been expected to use bomb attacks against government officials and military personnel after defeats in battles with the military in Abyan.

The attempted terrorist act comes after the recent assassination of General Salem Qatn, commander of the Southern Military Region in Aden, on June 18. Qatn, who assumed office in early March, led the military campaign to clear Abyan of militants.

Two days after the assassination of Qatn, 27-year-old Yemeni Mofeed Mohammed Mohammed Sheraha was found placing the bomb in front of the Shumaila post office gates.

This is another example attempted surprise attacks instigated by Ansar Al-Sharia against government institutions and military troops. The Al-Qaeda-affiliated group took responsibility for the May 21 bombing attack in Sana'a, on May 21st that killed about 100 troops and injured hundreds more.

Sheraha, who is from the Bani Soraih area of Amran governorate, claims he is a government soldier.

Arresting the terrorist

Mohamed Al-Nono, a officer at the Shumaila bus station, saw a man

concealing an object under his clothes and was suspicious when he started arguing with workers in the post office and other people in the street, pretending he had a psychological disorder.

Mohammed Ali Al-Maqaleh, a Yemeni marine, and Moaen Al-Jawfi, a soldier in Sana'a's security department, passed by and saw the man arguing with pedestrians. The post office's employees ran when they realized the man had an object fastened around his waist.

"We realized that he had a large object under his clothes," Al-Maqaleh and Al-Jawfi said. "We approached him, and suddenly, he began to threaten us, saying that he would detonate what he had around his waist. He was insulting us, claiming he was a military commander. We told him that we are soldiers and promised that he would get a salary from the post office but he refused. He also said he is a leader of a battalion in the Republican Guard."

"We saw him placing the bomb next to the post office's door and connecting its wires. It was a strange, bullhorn-like bomb. My friend was holding his gun, threatening to shoot him but we didn't know whether to shoot him in his hands or legs. Fearing we would kill him, we decided not to shoot," Al-Maqaleh said.

"I jumped on him and held his hands. He took out his jambiya with his teeth and tried to stab me, but I dodged it. His strong body showed he was highly trained. He tried to escape but my friend put his hands around his neck and I

tied him up. After that I called the police," Al-Jawfi said.

Police officers and other soldiers rushed to the scene and started looking for other bombs. They also closed Taiz Street and stopped residents from coming near the building.

Brigadier General Rizq Al-Gawfi, security chief for Sana'a, ordered them to find out whether the bomb was connected or not. He also ordered them to place tires around the area where the bomb was planted so that if it exploded, it wouldn't hurt anyone.

Things found with the man

He was holding knives, screwdrivers, keys, a bomb fastened around his waist and cotton and metal bands.

The forensic department

Police officers called forensic investigators from Al-Sabeen, and they rushed to the scene. However, they were unfamiliar with the particular shape of the bomb and weren't able to remove it.

Therefore, a team was summoned from Sana'a's security department and the Ministry of the Interior to remove it.

The terrorist's confessions

The terrorist claimed he found the bomb near Al-Sawad, a Republican Guard military base south of Sana'a. He said he is a member of the Republican Guard and had a Republican Guard ID card, but it wasn't stamped with the Republican Guard's stamp or any other military unit.

It's unclear what unit he be-

longs to. Sources in the Political Security Organization in Sana'a confirmed that he was a detainee at the Political Security prison but did not say when he was released.

Sheraha was sent to the counter-terror department for questioning and investigation.

On May 28, 2005, police officers in Shumaila thwarted a similar attack against the U.N. building in Sana'a. The soldiers arrested a terrorist wearing an explosive belt and took him to the police station to remove it.

Statements from the investigator

"He claimed he has a psychological disorder," Ismaeel Al-Mahdi, an investigator, said. "Sometimes he says that he is a chief in the first battalion of the Republican Guard but then changes his mind to say that he is a trainer in the same battalion."

"The man said that he didn't intend to blow up the bomb but rather wanted to surrender to the police. We believe him to be highly trained and dangerous. He may have been trained by terrorist groups as he operates like them," he said.

Some military analysts said the bomb had aspects of photoelectric and smart bomb technology, which are only made outside Yemen.

A military expert in the Republican Guard said the bomb is considered a very dangerous explosive, as it contains large quantities of explosive materials.

Sheraha wanted to place the bomb and time it to go off any time he wanted, the expert said.

Saudi King's health delays the upcoming Donors' Conference

Muaad Al-Maqtari

SANA'A, June 24 — A source in the Yemeni government said Sunday that the Donors' Conference will be delayed until September because of the health of the Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz and the death of Crown Prince Naif Bin Abdulaziz.

The conference was scheduled to take place at the end of this month in Al-Riyadh.

The source said the Friends of Yemen group decided to postpone the conference because the Saudi King won't be able to attend.

"Saudi Arabia will play an important role in the program of aids that will be given to Yemen in the meeting," the source said. "Therefore, it is very important that the Saudi King attend the conference."

The source denied the conference will be put off because the Yemeni government didn't finish the conference's arrangements.

Saif Al-Asli, a Yemeni economist and former Minister of Finance, said the weakness of the Yemeni government and the nature of its relations with the donors are the reasons behind delaying the conference.

Al-Asli said postponing the conference proves the Yemeni government failed to present a program to revive Yemen's economy and convince the donors that it achieved the minimum level of citizens' dire needs as was agreed upon in the

Gulf Initiative.

"The donors informed the Yemeni government that they want projects that bring benefits for Yemen and can be subjected to transparency and accountability," he said.

"The government presented projects that cost USD ten billion, while it didn't achieve any projects with the USD five billion pledged before [2006]," he continued.

U.N. Security Resolution 2051 asserts that the government has to achieve its developing plan for the upcoming two-year transitional period to be able to specify the most important areas that need intervention.

The Gulf Initiative and the Security Council demanded that the Yemeni government issue legal and administrative orders to all government facilities and sections to follow the principles of good governance and respect laws and human rights.

In its program, the government pledged the implementation of good governance principles in its two-year transition period. It affirmed that it seeks to enforce the rule of law and improve its performance.

In front of the Yemeni Parliament, the government pledged to combat those who work for their personal advantage whether in state departments or government facilities and increase transparency.

Land mines take heavy toll on civilians and soldiers in Abyan

Ghaida Al-Ariqi

ABYAN, June 27 — Numbers of killed and wounded from land mine explosions are on the rise in Abyan governorate.

The mines were planted by Al-Qaeda militants before their withdrawal June 13. Up to 3,000 mines have exploded, killing many citizens and soldiers since the military started clearing the area mid-

June.

An official source within a military team specializing in land mine removal in Abyan said that they started removing land mines June 18, following the withdrawal of Al-Qaeda militants to Azan.

Nineteen soldiers have died, with around 200 civilians and soldiers wounded from the mines. The first three days of removal saw the most deaths. A specialized team from

the Military Engineering Unit was in charge of removing land mines from the area, the source said.

Colonel Qaed Haithm Atif Halboob, the head of the Military Engineering Unit in the Southern Military Region, said, "Currently, the death toll is rising. We don't know exactly how many have been killed or injured by the mines. Two officers, one land mine specialist and a large number of civilians have been

killed in Zinjibar."

Halboob said, "The mines are homemade explosives. Militants use cylinders and refrigeration gases to make them. These mines aren't like traditional ones. They have been planted in roads and public places to intimidate people and kill bystanders."

He said, "Removing the mines will continue until the area is completely cleared. There are currently six teams. Two teams are in charge of clearing Zinjibar. Another team is clearing Al-Kood and Shuqra also has one team. Two teams are in Jaar. There are also two ordinance removal teams, one of which is in Zinjibar, and the other in Jaar.



Up to 3,000 of mines have exploded in Abyan, killing many citizens and soldiers since the military started demining the area in mid-June.

WFP pledges \$207 million for food assistance to Yemen in 2012

Amira Nasser

SANA'A, June 27 — The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) began distributing food rations to the most malnourished Yemeni governorates this past Saturday.

The WFP identified eight governorates as the most food insecure areas in Yemen. The governorates include Hajja, Mahwit, Amran, Al-Baida, Ibb, Taiz, Al-Dalle and Raima, according to Hamood Al-Ahazm, public manager of the School Feeding Project, Sana'a.

"Hodeida, Dhamar and Lahj are possible to be added to the list of most food-insecure areas" he said.

Around 101 people from the WFP and 106 people from the School Feeding Project, which is run by the Education Ministry, have been deployed to the eight governorates to distribute the rations.

The rations include wheat, flour, cooking oil and vegetables, according to the WFP.

Ration distribution is delivered to the schools in the selected areas,

which have been surveyed before a month and half, Al-Al-Ahazm said.

U.N. Special Envoy to Yemen Jamal Binomar said in his report to the U.N. Security Council in May that Yemen is in urgent need for humanitarian assistance, and so far only 43 percent of the \$455 million has been donated to Yemen.

Yemen today is witnessing a crisis of hunger involving almost ten million Yemenis, or half of the population. The WFP estimates 267,000 children under five are at risk of dying from malnutrition.

In the past two years, the number of people facing hunger in Yemen has nearly doubled, and about 22 percent of the population is suffering from severe food shortages.

Various organizations such as WFP, Islamic Relief and their Yemeni partners including the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, have attempted to decrease the effects of this crisis by providing emergency food aid to desperate Yemenis.

The WFP launched its program in

Yemen to tackle the season of hunger, which begins in May and continues until October. Its overall assistance in 2012 will consist of some 200,000 metric tons of food commodities, valued at \$207 million.

The WFP program aims to target 1.8 million severely food-insecure people living in the poorest 14 governorates in Yemen who are particularly hard hit by rising food prices. In rural areas, the WFP has implemented a 'pilot cash transfer scheme' whereby some 10,000 households will receive the cash equivalents of food rations.

In 2012, WFP faces an immediate shortfall of \$165 million, including \$97 million for its emergency operations, \$62 million for its protracted relief and recovery operations national safety net and refugee operations and \$5 million for its development programs.

"Should these shortfalls persist, WFP's ability to reach its targeted 3.5 million beneficiaries could be severely hampered," the WFP said on its website.



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

Senior Reporter
Mohammed bin Sallam

Editorial Staff

Sadeq Al-Wesabi
sadeqalwesabi@hotmail.com

Ali Ajlan
aliajlan.yt@gmail.com

Khalid Al-Karimi
khalidmohamada@yahoo.com

CEO
Khair Aldin Al Nsour

Managing Editor
Ali Saeed

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Sam Kimball
sam.r.kimball@gmail.com

Ahmed Ali Dawood
daod2009@gmail.com

Bassam Al-Khamiri

Mohammed Al-Samei
alsamei77@gmail.com

Muaad Al-Maqtari
muaaznagi@gmail.com

Offices

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
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Extremist groups entrap religious youth

Amal Al-Yarisi

Several analysts have attributed terrorist activity in Yemen to the education given to youths in some unauthorized religious schools and Holy Quran Memorization Centers.

The institutions have become common in Yemen, though many are unauthorized by the Ministry of Endowment.

Many of Yemen's Quran schools work without permits. In 2010, the Ministry of Endowment disallowed any Quran Memorization School in the capital unless a permit is obtained from the ministry's office.

Hamood Al-Hitar, former Minister of Endowment, said the religious centers do not provoke extremism.

"On the contrary, such centers help students graduate with moderate thoughts," Al-Hitar said.

Abdu Al-Rahman Al-Zalm, deputy head at the Memorization Department at the Ministry of Endowment, said there are more than 500 schools and religious centers that the government does not oversee. These centers work without a government permit and without reference to the ministry. Some promote extremism, partisanship and racism, according to Al-Zalm.

"If there are extremists, it is due to misunderstanding," Al-Hitar remarked said. "That does not mean the religious centers are the reason."

He said dialogue could convince extremists to change, adding that extremists receive much of their information from the internet.

The intellectual vacuum, the carelessness of national education and intellectual security are the reasons that render the youth liable to intellectual breaches and extremist thoughts, Al-Hitar said.

By intellectual security, Al-Hitar is referring to a trust in one's own thoughts.

"It is not strange that youth accept such mistaken thoughts because they are not immune from the beginning," he said. "There is no intellectual security; moreover, extremist ideas have spread particularly in modern days known for the uncountable number of media outlets that neither individuals nor the government can control."

Al-Hitar said the state should create programs for national education and for religious programs to prevent youth from being susceptible to extremist ideologies. The programs would help young people to differentiate between religious centers and extremist centers.

Jihad for the sake of God

"I do not believe that a scholar who has knowledge with regard to Islamic jurisprudence, the Holy Quran and Sunna may allow a man to carry out a suicide attack," Al-Hitar said. "Scholars know the saying of the Prophet Mohammed—peace be upon him—in which a man will be punished in the hereafter just by the same means he used to kill himself in this world."

He said he issued a fatwa more than a month ago that forbids suicide operations targeting Muslims, civilians and non-Muslims who trust Muslims, adding that terrorist operations have nothing to do with Islam. He said terrorism is punished both in this world and the hereafter.

He said those influenced by Al-Qaeda believe it is legitimate to kill non-Muslims.

"Islam does not allow the bloodshed of anyone irrespective of their nationality or religion." He cited the verse of the Holy Quran that says, 'Nobody is cajoled into religion.'

Al-Hitar said that friendship,

justice and kindness toward non-Muslims is required as long as non-Muslims show no aggression. He said this is based on religious ideals.

Abdulwali Al-Rumana, an Al-Eman University graduate and a teacher at the Holy Quran Memorization center in Al-Hodeida, said terrorists are people who have diverted from religion. They superficially view religion, thinking that Islam is simply long beards and short robes. They do not involve themselves in Holy Quran seminars and religious centers, he said.

He said he managed and supervised religious centers that enlighten youth and keep them distant from abnormal behaviors and extremist tendencies. These centers help spread religious moderation, Al-Rumana said.

Al-Rumana said many youths have been entrapped by extremism because of personal time mismanagement and because of some stray centers that pretend to apply Sunna and Quran values to students.

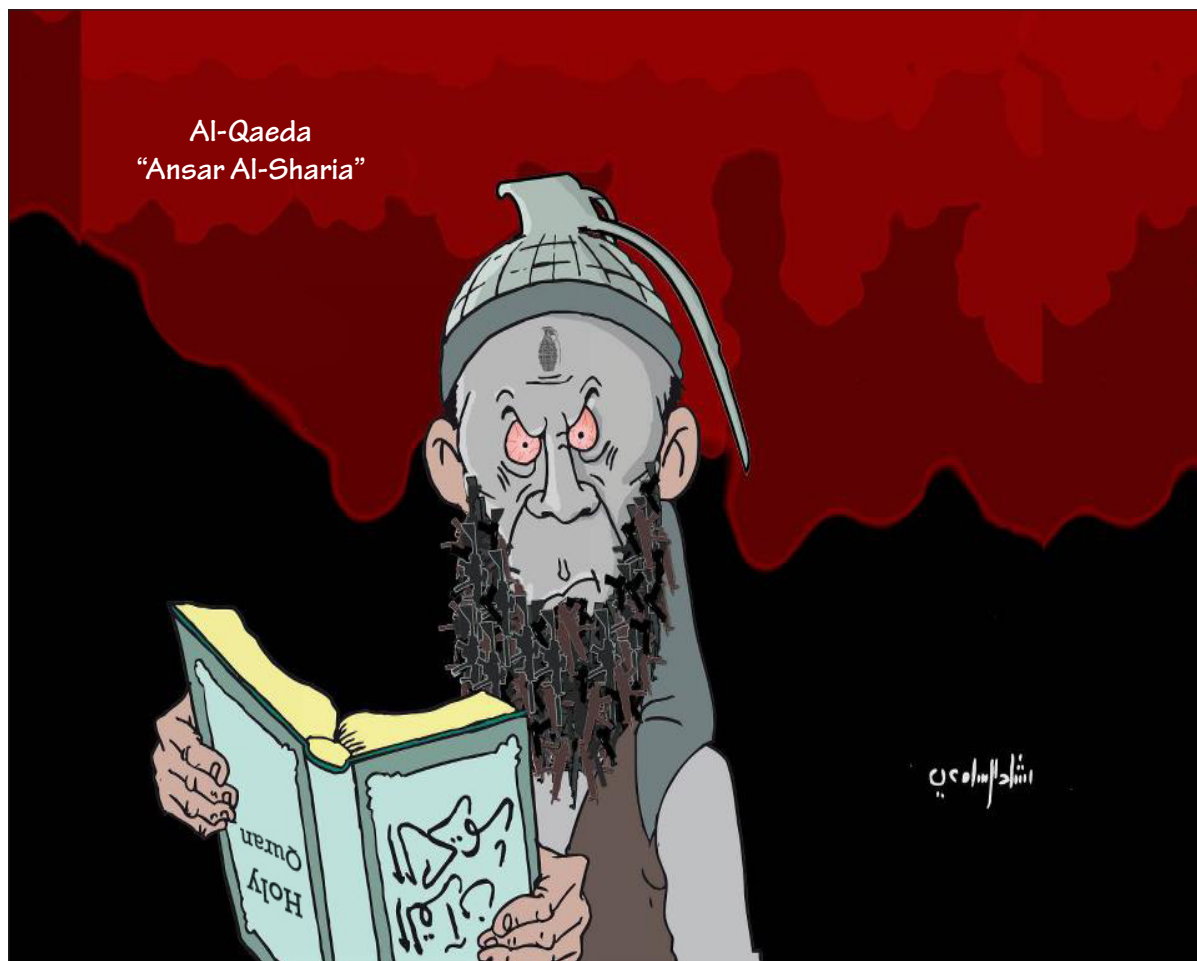
The responsibilities of the Ministry of Endowment are limited to supervising authorized religious centers and their curriculum.

The Ministry of Endowment gives licenses for centers based on moderation, according to Al-Zalm.

He said he contacted police stations and local councils to compel private centers to request permits from the ministry's offices in all governorates. These centers must be committed to moderation, he said.

In 2007, Al-Hitar proposed a comprehensive national strategy based on the Quran, Sunna, effective laws, the constitution, moderation, patriotism and acceptance others.

He said the contents of the strategy were presented to the ministers' council, which convened a commit-



tee to look into it.

"The strategy needed collective efforts in order to establish the meanings and the points of this strategy," Al-Hitar said. "Unfortunately, it stopped because politics had no role to support this work in addition to the absence of the necessary financial backup for this strategy."

He emphasized that the strategy could help resolve many problems resulting from extremism.

Al-Hitar called on youths to commit to the instructions of the Holy Quran and Sunna. He said they should not heed any opinion going against the Quran, Sunna and the

Muslim scholar's fatwa.

Adolescence

Najah Saem, a sociology professor at Sana'a University, said family is the first institution to fashion a child's personality. The role of the school comes next, and friends also impact a child.

Al-Saem said extremist groups recruit adolescents, indicating that the weak family and school backgrounds help extremists recruit youths.

Abdulsalam Al-Yousifi, the manager of the Hiati (My Life) Foundation's Secure Adolescence Campaign, said adolescents pass

through a phase full of psychological changes that parents find difficult to handle.

He said mistreating young people opens opportunities for extremist groups take advantage them. Extremists give teenagers a sense of self-worth, he said, and give them names such as prince or caliphate. They promise young people paradise in the hereafter. Thus, youths accept the extremist thoughts, according to Al-Yousifi.

Al-Zalm said the Ministry of Endowment cannot stop unauthorized religious centers, adding that last year's political situation boosted extremist centers.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES CLIMATE INFORMATION SYSTEM

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
Pilot Program for Climate Resilience
CONSULTING SERVICES
Grant No.TF097544
Project ID No. P122687

Expressions of interest

This request for expression of interest follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this project that appeared in dgMarket on 10 November 2010.

Yemen is one of the pilot countries of the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR), under the Strategic Climate Fund (Climate Investment Funds). The PPCR is composed of two phases; phase I of the PPCR will allow the country to develop the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience. This preparatory phase will inform the design and ensure the development of key interventions under Phase II. One of the main components of the Phase I of the PPCR program is to develop and enhance the climate information systems in Yemen. This system will ensure Yemen's ability to anticipate, predict and respond to the climate variability and change.

The request for expressions of interest is for consulting services that include: (i) Data gap analysis for special temporal and quality of data (ii) Institutional information related capacity and gap analysis, including tech. software and hardware of main national and local institutions to be engaged in the collection, analysis and dissemination of climate related data and information systems.

The Environment Protection Authority, Republic of Yemen has received a grant from the Climate Investment Funds and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this to payments under the contract for the above consulting service.

The Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) within the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of the Republic of Yemen now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers* (Revised May 1, 2010).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during working days Saturday – Wednesday from 0900 to 1500 hours.

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The Republic of Yemen has received a Grant from the International Development (IDA) toward the cost of the **Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR)** and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Grant to payments for the services of an Information Technology Consultant in its PCU office in Sana'a.

The Consultant's key responsibilities would include, but not limited to the following:

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The Consultant should have the following qualifications and personal skills:

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Interested consultant must have the following conditions:

- Yemeni Nationality
- Any consultant if selected should take leave of absence without pay during the period of the contract in case the consultant is a government employee.
- Interested consultants may submit their applications with CVs and supporting documents to the address mentioned below within 14 days from the date of this announcement. Applications sent by fax will be ignored.

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Yemeni youth discuss life during chew meets

Ashraf Al-Muraqab

Ashraf Al-Muraqab
tif Maooda resides in one of Sana'a's neighborhoods. He graduated from the College of Mass Communication at Sana'a University, yet he is jobless.

"Being out of work is like hell. I wish I could find a job as soon as possible," Maooda said.

He wakes up late every morning and heads to the qat market. Maooda said qat is the "sole sanctuary" for him and his friends to "escape the bitter situation" they reside in.

Many young people in Yemen face unemployment. With nothing else to do, they fill qat sessions, chewing to pass the time.

Young Yemenis use qat because it provides happiness and comfort. A qat session distances them from life problems, they said.

Qat chewing phases

Qat gives the chewer a strong focus and a desire to talk. The leaves' effects are apparent early on in the chewing session, and young people start raising controversial issues.

Loud voices seem to dominate the session's atmosphere. Many issues are discussed without organization or order.

An hour later, the group calms down and quiets down. They start small group discussions and chat about various issues.

Different personalities arise when chewing qat.

Some people take the leaves greedily, squeezing the liquids into their round, swollen mouths.

Some chewers develop headaches, so they cover their heads to ease the pain.

By the end of the session, the qat has turned the chewer's teeth green. Lethargy has taken over their bodies, and they have trouble concentrating. Some talk to themselves,



Qat sessions help alleviate the boredom of unemployed youths, some say.

and some, by the end, prefer silence and solitude.

Topics of discussion

"These days, youth during qat sessions talk about the political situation in Yemen," Bassam Al-Khamiri said. "They also discuss problems facing youth. Unemployment is on the top."

Arfat Al-Utmi, who has experience with qat sessions, said, "Of course, we talk about several issues. If the qat chewers are soldiers, for example, the talk will be about military affairs. If there is a religious man in attendance, religion will be highlighted. Even doctors speak with regard to their major. In my opinion, this is the only advantage of qat sessions."

Abdulnasser Al-Reefi said he and his friends enjoy qat while watching soccer games together on television.

But chewing is not limited to young men. Girls chew, too.

"Girls talk about social problems," Reenad said. "They take advantage of each other's experiences during qat sessions."

Amal, a university student, said

that "good" youths discuss appropriate solutions for improving their living standards and building their society through developing their skills and exchanging experiences.

She said she personally knows young people who educate themselves through reading, and they share what they learned during chewing sessions. This is really positive, according to Amal.

Chewing is common in Yemen. It occurs daily. Sixty percent of Yemenis chew, according to a 2007 study conducted by the General Corporation of Radio and Television.

The study said imitation is a leading factor in the youth demand for qat: 40.5 percent of the study's sample said they chew because of their friends' behavior.

Yemenis consider this phenomenon as a part of their traditional inheritance that becomes a clear aspect in their daily lives.

Dr. Adel Al-Sharjabi, a sociologist at Sana'a University, said the only advantage of qat is to improve societal relationships due to the social aspect to chewing. Otherwise, the leaves have no advantage, Al-Sharjabi said.

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Rising costs of ice force fishermen to moor up in Al-Lohaia coast

Muaad Al-Maqtari

Boats in the harbor town of Al-Lohaia, on the coast of the Red Sea, have been moored at their docks since early June as the fishermen have stopped fishing.

Since the beginning of summer, the amount of fishing has continued to decrease, ceasing completely about a month ago.

Ali Khalofa, a fisherman, is the only one filling his 20 liter tank with gasoline from the Fishermen Assembly Gas Station. Despite the name, fishermen pay the same price for fuel as at other filling stations.

According to Mohammed Hadri, the manager of the station, Sheikh Ibraheem Issa, head of the Fishermen Assembly, has rented the station to an investor for 20 years.

The fishermen have a hard time affording fuel and ice to operate their boats and store the fish.

According to fisherman Ahmed Bajily, they used to buy ice from a plant in the Al-Khoba area near Al-Lohaia. Packages were sold for YR500; however, as there are no other ice plants in the area, the plant's owner raised prices to YR1000. The same amount of ice is

sold in Hodeida for only YR100.

Ahmed and his colleagues stopped fishing several months ago in protest against the high cost of ice. They have already found another ice plant in the Al-Kanawes area, 90 kilometers away from Al-Lohaia.

The new ice plant is owned by Saleh Mofleh. It sells ice for YR500 but the trucks that carry ice to Al-Lohaia are prevented from reaching the plant.

Mofleh said, "The ice plant owner in Al-Lohaia stops trucks from bringing ice from Al-Kanawes to force people to buy exclusively from his plant."

Ahmed Al-Shar'abi, Deputy Security Chief of Al-Lohaia, said that there are agreements between ice plant owners to monopolize the sale of ice to fishermen.

A shrimp company lays off 100 employees

The Ba Muslim Sea Creatures Company, located near Jabal Al-Melh in Al-Lohaia, is a shrimping company that catches shrimp off the coast of the Red Sea and keeps them fresh in storage tanks until they have matured enough to be sold at the market.

Fishermen on the Al-Lohaia



Photo by Mansour Al-Asbahi



Photo by Mansour Al-Asbahi

The price hike of ice from YR 500 to YR 1,000 has made fishermen in Hodeida stop fishing. The boats have been tied to their docks since earlier this month.

coast began to work for the company ten years ago. Due to last year's uprising and increasing oil prices, though, the company was forced to lay off a hundred employees.

The workers who feed the shrimp receive YR600 per day. They work without a formal contract with the

company, which means that they can be laid off at any time.

Aqeel Ibraheem, a former employee, said that the company laid them off without giving them any rights.

Ibraheem said that this happens every six months when the five to

six tons of shrimp finish maturing and are ready to be sold for millions of riyals.

Abduljabbar Maghfori, another newly redundant worker, said the company depends on a sheikh to bring workers. They are paid low wages without any unemployment

rights.

Workers reported that two employees died working for the company. One of them was killed in a tank accident, while the other died from the toxic odor of the shrimp food. The company never compensated their families.

Workshop to introduce a new system to facilitate investment in Yemen

Mohammed Al-Samei

A system of easily accessible information to facilitate potential investment in Yemen will be set up, called the 'One Stop Shop' system.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Ghashm, Undersecretary of Agriculture and Irrigation, said the new system will establish an information center that is easy to access where investors can find all the information they need to start a business in the country. This will include investment laws, business registration, buying land and importing raw materials.

The Ministry of Agriculture hopes the system will help facilitate the investment procedure, help investors obtain information quickly, increase transparency and eliminate financial corruption in the government sector. The new system will hopefully attract additional investment in agriculture due to the facilities it provides.

The Sona'a Al-Qarar forum of policy makers, in cooperation with the USAID-funded Response Project, held a workshop under the slogan, "the Ministry of Agriculture, a sample." This workshop was held to inform businessmen about the new system.

In the workshop, Dr. Al-Ghashm said, "Applying this system in the ministry and governorates will

meet the needs of the investors, facilitate solving their problems and uproot corruption."

He added that the system will connect all offices in all governorates via the internet to ensure that investors and businessmen get everything they need.

Younis Hazza'a, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Media, said that his ministry and its institutions are ready to help ensure the success of the system. He added that it will improve the work performance, prioritize work in ministries and facilitate dealing with investors.

He said that the system will attract more investment and will benefit the state as well as individuals.

According to the General Investment Authority's website, the system has been implemented in its offices nationwide. Additionally, some Yemeni ministries have signed a number of memorandums of understanding to use the system as well.

Mustafa Nassr, head of the Studies and Economic Media Center, said, "This system will reduce corruption and will affect investment positively if it is applied well."

He said that bureaucracy and corruption are dominant in government facilities which hinder investment by imposing high registration and licensing costs on investors.

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Erratum

In the June 14, issue No.1581, article, "Yemen, Ethiopia revive ties", the translator incorrectly translated into English a quote by Yemen-Ethiopian Friendship Association Chairman Ez-Al Deen Heba. The quote, "The political regimes of the two countries have broken up the economic, social and political ties between the two countries," should have read, "The political regimes who rules the two countries have scattered growth opportunities for economic social and political ties between the two peoples."

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OUR
OPINION

Yemen and the Muslim Brotherhood victory in Egypt

Although a close win, the victory of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt did not come as a surprise. Of the 25 million who voted, 51 percent wanted Mohammed Morsi to win because they believed his rule would be a natural manifestation of the revolution.

In a way, they are correct, and his first announcement to choose an independent prime minister seems like a step in the right direction.

Politically turned ideological parties, such as Islah in Yemen, have a larger chance at creating real change in the Arab world today than traditional politicians. This is because they started from the bottom up and have been in close contact with communities.

However, the risk of corruption as they come to power is still very high since there are no accountability institutions to keep whoever runs the country in line.

Take the parliament for example, or the judiciary system, or the police institutions or the media and civil society. All are too weak to be cared about and, yet, feared as watchdogs representing the people.

Change—any change—is good because it allows space to move and aspire for something different. The Muslim Brotherhood's victory in Egypt will definitely encourage Yemen's Islah Party. However, we need to ensure that whoever comes to power knows there will always be opposition to create balance.

Moreover, Islah, which is already part of government, needs to realize that ideological rule is no longer possible or wise. Even when the Islamic state was in its prime, there was no religious terrorism forcing those who are different to believe in the same way the powerful religious do.

The most important matter is that, while parties take turns holding power, it is a modern state with strong institutions that will take the country forward, no matter how strong a party leaders' religious sentiment is.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Yemen's problems run deeper than security

George Kosmidis
atimes.com
First published June 27

Below the surface of drone strikes and violence, Yemen is a country struggling with deeper problems. The end of bloody protests during the Arab Spring and a 33-year presidency gave some Yemenis inspiration that the road to socio-economic and political change is near.

This road however, is riddled with challenges deeper than Al-Qaeda cells and insurgents. The deeper problems in Yemen are the high-unemployment rates, widespread poverty, lack of food, and economic under-development. It is indeed a sad storyline that reminds the world how resource mismanagement can hinder economic progress and development. There are strategies and inspiration that Yemen can adopt to move forward in a positive direction.

Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the Arab world because of its economic under-development. This is a continuing problem that was not addressed under president Ali Abdullah Saleh and is continuing into Abd Rabbuh Mansur Al-Hadi's tenure as president.

Yemeni oil-production makes up 25 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) and almost 70 percent of the country's revenue.

Economic growth outside of oil was restricted largely to commerce and transportation. Yemen's oil years since the north-south unification in 1990 did little to stimulate the productive aptitude of Yemen's economy. Instead, the government became entirely dependent

on oil and revenue was put into the pockets of corrupt officials and not to updating infrastructure or social services projects.

Yemen has tried to harness and export reserves of natural gas out of fear that oil production in the country will peak within the next 15 to 20 years and ultimately run out, consequently removing a chunk of its export economy. Oil is not the only resource running dry as water in the country is also set to run out within about the same timeframe if not sooner.

To make sustaining resource development more difficult, Yemen's current population growth rate is at about 2.5 percent and its unemployment rate near 35 percent. At this rate, Yemen will ultimately begin to feel its economy totally collapsing. Natural resources are an asset for Yemen, but their benefit to the economy depends upon the government's ability to use the resources productively for long-term growth.

There are ways for Yemen to diversify its economy away from the oil and gas sectors. Yemen has a mining and mineral sector that could yield potentials in revenue if the security situation improves. If Abyan can be stabilized, then the use of Aden as a prominent port can be profitable in the future. Historically, Yemen had success using the city as a deep-water port and free trade zone. Tourism in the country has also decreased due to violence and turmoil.

The country possesses culturally pristine elements of architecture and natural beauty. The country remains under-developed and intriguingly provides a historic, virtually untouched environment by modern development. These

“Yemen has a mining and mineral sector that could yield potentials in revenue if the security situation improves.”

three sectors could also potentially increase Yemen's labor force and thus open up opportunities for domestic labor instead of unemployed Yemenis trying to flee to other countries such as Saudi Arabia for work. Exploiting these three sectors will not hinge Yemen's economy, however these sectors can further develop and coincide with current oil and gas sectors as a base for future development.

Internationally, it is important for Yemen to continue to work with international financial institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Temporary multi-lateral aid is not a permanent solution, however it is patchwork that Yemen needs to stand on its own two feet for the short term.

Yemen has received a multiyear \$370 million aid package on behalf of the IMF as of 2010 that will

expire at the end of 2012, but this is not enough to provide a permanent fix to its economic issues. Yemen has the potential to use its limited resources for multilateral trade deals. Underdeveloped nations such as Angola have made bilateral development agreements with economic powers such as China and the U.S.

In exchange for energy resources, Chinese or American companies will build roads, hospitals, and generally improve infrastructure under bilateral development agreements. If the security situation stabilizes, this could potentially increase Yemen's investment capital and give it a breath of fresh air to focus on economic issues that have benefits for the country.

If Yemen does not expand its approach to economic development through diversification and socio-economic reform, then the post-Saleh era will perpetuate the same problems during his reign. Yemen can look over the border to Oman for inspiration. In the 1970's Oman was an impoverished, corrupt, and volatile country filled with violence and socio-economic problems similar to Yemen's.

Oman has learned how to use its resources to broker multi-lateral trade deals and is currently focusing on developing advanced infrastructure and educational systems. The result is a fairly modernized country that has adopted serious reforms and put its disruptive past behind it. Yemen's problems go deeper than drone strikes but for inspiration for change it need not look far.

George Kosmidis is an International Security Analyst based in Washington, D.C.



OXFAM

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Roving IT Officer - (1 position)

Location: Sana'a
Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

You will be responsible for all the IT support functions for the Yemen offices like Sa'da, Abyan, Aden, Sayoun and Amran; provide hands-on support / training in mentioned offices whenever required; and deal with technical queries on operating systems and software packages. You will provide support to staff in IT-related work; undertake regional IT-related work as required as part of the regional Team; and actively take part in team meetings. You will provide training on E-mail and all software packages and to distribute training materials available from ISD on all corporate systems; be the first point of contact for IT coordinator, RISM, ISD, and the Yemen mentioned sub-offices for any IT queries; and will be responsible for submitting a monthly report to the IT Coordinator on IT issues for all offices with a copy to the CPM in Yemen.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with high level of competence in support and implementation of

computerized systems. You should have the ability to train and support staff on IT, meet deadlines, organize work effectively with significant travel to the field. Any additional experience in emergency relief would be an advantage, demonstrating your resilience and ability to maintain team work under pressure. You should have training skills. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated communication skills and the ability to work well with others and as part of a team. You will have excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic.

IT Assistant - (1 position)

Location: Hodeida
Contract Duration: 6 months

The Role

You will be in shifts and do logging calls to Service-now; check/repair any IT hardware issues of 3 local offices in Hodeidah; induct and train staff on Oxfam's computer systems; provide first line software support to all Hodeidah staff. You will manage contracts with external suppliers and services; provide first level hardware maintenance and upgrades; ensure that visiting staff have access to appropriate IT resources. You will provide technical assistance for users as required and keep an up to date inventory of all IT equipment.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with proven experience in basic hardware and operating systems. You

should have the ability to solve some of the hardware problems, provide good support on applications to the users, meet deadlines, and organize work effectively. Any additional experience in emergency relief would be an advantage, demonstrating your resilience and ability to maintain team work under pressure. You should have training skills. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated communication skills and the ability to work well with others and as part of a team. You will have good oral and written communication skills in both English and Arabic.

Personal Assistant to Country Director - (1 position)

Location: Sana'a
Contract Duration: 6 months

The role

You will deliver effective management of CD's office, including manage and coordinate the CD's diary and travel arrangements; maintain CD office—filing, archiving, record keeping, and managing mail (email, post); and handle confidential information and sensitive issues in an entirely reliable manner. You will arrange meetings, take minutes and write notes; support other Country Management Team staff in handling organisational and administrative tasks; brief the CD about issues relating to efficient and effective management of Country Programme; develop contacts database and external appointments for CD with the region and in Yemen, including government officials, donors,

media, academics. You will represent the CD at meetings and events as necessary, both internal and external to Oxfam and reporting on outcomes and contacts to CD. You will draft and write letters, documents, reports etc; undertake other project management and support work as required (e.g. researching topics, questions, preparing terms of reference for evaluations/projects); and attend, and where appropriate minute meetings, write conference papers, notes on behalf of the CD or CMT.

What we're looking for

We are looking for someone with very strong organizational and administrative skills; and ability to prioritize competing priorities, meet deadlines and deal with multi-tasking. Speedy and accurate worker, willing, energetic with good attention to details and willingness to take responsibility for seeing things through to the end, and anticipating what will need to be done. Any additional experience in emergency relief would be an advantage, demonstrating your resilience and ability to maintain team work under pressure. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated good negotiation and communication skills and the ability to work as part of a multi-cultural team; and communicate effectively, so you will need to be fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic. You will have high degree of tenacity and initiative combined with high levels of discretion and diplomacy; and ability to work with budgets. You will have the willingness to travel many times during the year and possess good computer skills (Lotus Notes and Microsoft Office).

To apply

If you believe that you have the qualifications and skills to excel in any of these positions, please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter, clearly stating the job and the location of the job you are applying for in the email subject, to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk.

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After 1 year, French Embassy resumes its cultural activities

Ashraf Al-Murqab

The Yemeni Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the French Embassy and the Cultural French Center in Sana'a, held an exhibition called "Paris and the contemporary Arab art" in the National Museum in Sana'a on Sunday.

The French Embassy announced it will resume cultural activities after more than a year's halt due to last year's uprising.

Ninety paintings of several artists from Northern Africa, the Mid-

dle East and Yemen were presented in the exhibition. They presented a view of mutual cultural relations between foreign and Arab artists.

The exhibition lasted from June 11 to 24. About 12 famous artists from different countries participated, among them Yemeni artists Amna Al-Nosairi, Nasser Al-Aswadi and Bushra Al-Mutawakel.

Frank Jules, the French ambassador to Yemen, said the exhibition aims to introduce paintings of the participants to Yemeni audiences and present the art of well-known Yemeni and foreign artists. Moreover, the exhibition aims to

exchange experiences between Yemeni and foreign artists.

In the exhibition, Abdallah Awbal, the Yemeni Minister of Culture, said, "The inauguration of the exhibition came within cooperation to deepen relations between Yemen and France, since it was the first exhibition to include paintings of Arab and foreign artists."

Awbal said the exhibition consolidated the historical relations between Yemen and France, particularly in the cultural and social sides. He praised the efforts exerted by organizers of the exhibition from the Yemeni side and the French side, represented by the Total French Company.

For his part, Ibraheem Abdullah Al-Hadi, secretary general of the National Museum, said that these exhibitions boosted the importance of historical and national identity among the visitors. They also widen the cultural knowledge and contribute to enhancing tourism and culture in Yemen.



The exhibit was organized by the French Embassy and is showcased at the National Museum.

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