

## Yemen honors its workers, the backbone of the nation's economy



May 1 marks Yemen's Labor Day, during which we pay tribute to the country's workforce. Yemen Times would like to congratulate both public and private sector employees for their efforts in the workplace. Turn to page 3 for additional coverage of the day.

## Four leading Hirak members freed from prison after years of detainment

**Rammah Al-Jubari**

SANA'A, May 1 — On Monday, security authorities in Sana'a and Aden released four detainees belonging to Hirak including Bajash Al-Aghbari, a leading figure in the Southern secessionist movement. Al-Aghbari was arrested in 1994.

Abdu Rabu Mahraq, who has been imprisoned in Aden for the past year, was also released. Additionally, Hassan Banan and Khalid Saleh, were released from the central prison in Sana'a.

The prisoners were released as orders from President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi.

Representatives of Sheikh Ahmed

bin Fareed Al-Suraima, the deputy head of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), were in attendance during the detainees' release. Colonel Omar Hulais, the spokesperson for the security department in Aden, said.

Al-Suraima, another leading figure in Hirak, announced a temporary withdrawal from the NDC last month.

In a letter to President Abdu Mansour Hadi, Al-Suraima outlined 11 conditions that he wants to be met before he would rejoin the conference. The release of all prisoners belonging to the Southern Movement was one of them.

The number of Hirak members be-

ing held in prisons across the country is difficult to determine.

Nizar Haitham, a leading Southern Movement leader, considered freeing the detainees "a good step."

"Dozens of Southerners are still behind the bars of the prison of the security authorities," he said.

Haitham called for "the immediate release" of the rest Hirak members being held in Yemeni prisons.

Balqees Al-Labbi, the first deputy head of the Southern Issue Working Committee—one of the nine working groups of the NDC—said in a statement to the state-run Al-Thwara newspaper that the release of the prisoners is an important step towards reconciliation.

## No visa-free travel to Turkey for Yemenis yet, agreement postponed

**Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

SANA'A, May 1 — The Turkish Embassy in Sana'a announced on Tuesday that the previously-promised removal of travel visas between Yemen and Turkey will be delayed.

Both countries had agreed in 2011 to do away with visa requirements, meaning that both Yemenis and Turks could travel more freely.

The new agreement was meant to come into effect on Wednesday, but Fazli Corman, Turkey's ambassador to Yemen, said "legal obstacles" have forced them to change

plans.

The reasons for the delay are technical, and have to do with a clause about "readmission."

This means that if, for example, a Yemeni travels to Turkey and moves into another bordering country illegally, Turkey must "readmit" them, barring them from immigrating elsewhere without a visa.

Yemen has agreed to similarly keep an eye on its borders and monitor any potential illegal immigration into neighboring countries when visas are removed.

The readmission agreement

is still in the Turkish Parliament. Once it's been signed, Corman says, visa-free travel between Yemen and Turkey can begin.

In an earlier statement to Yemen Times, Corman said lifting visa requirements between Yemen and Turkey will boost economic cooperation between the two countries.

The embassy encouraged Yemenis wishing to travel to Turkey not to change their plans.

In the meantime, while travel regulations are in still in place, Yemenis need to apply for a visa.



## Stranded Ethiopians in Sana'a ask government to take them home



Many Ethiopians initially came to Yemen with the plan that they would later work in the Gulf.

Story and photo by Rammah Al-Jubari

SANA'A, May 1 — The Passport Authority says they are working on the case of around 60 Ethiopian migrants who have been sitting outside the authority's building for about a week, asking to be repatriated to their home country.

"I don't have [enough] money to pay for a smuggler to take me to Saudi Arabia, and I didn't find work in Yemen," said one of the protesters who asked not to be named.

Like the estimated 25,000 Ethiopians who have entered Yemen this year in order to cross to other Gulf nations to look for jobs and ended up stranded, the young man was unable to complete his journey.

Last week, Yemeni authorities deported more than 700 Ethiopians back to their home country via a Defense Ministry airplane.

But Colonel Abdulla Al-Zorka, the director of the Deportation Department at the Immigration and Passports Authority said they cannot keep up with the influx of migrants.

He described the process of repatriating people as complicated and drawn out. Because of this he could

provide no timeframe as to when the group of migrants outside his authority would be returned home.

The Yemeni government and the International Organization of Migration (IOM), a subsidiary of the United Nations, are paying for the repatriation of Ethiopian migrants. They work with the Ethiopian embassy to first confirm the nationality of migrants and then go about purchasing plane tickets to return them home.

The operations director for the IOM, Saba Al-Mo'lmi, said migrants are often subject to harsh conditions.

"They have been cheated, beaten up and raped," said a source at the Ethiopian Embassy, who asked to remain anonymous.

The smuggling of migrants is a very serious problem, he added.

Last week, Yemen's Interior Ministry announced they recovered 210 African migrants, the majority of whom were women and children from a smuggling ring located near the city of Haradh in Hajja governorate which borders Saudi Arabia.

The victims are slotted to be repatriated to their home countries, the Interior Ministry said.

## Fire destroys local shop



The Barcelona Center, in central Sana'a, is charred and vacant following a devastating fire.

Story and photos by Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, May 1 — A commercial shop sits in ruins one day after an assumed electrical short in wiring caused a building fire and thousands of riyals worth of damage.

In the early morning hours of Tuesday flames began to emerge from the Barcelona Center for International Decorations, located in front of the Standing Committee of the General People Congress' (GPC) headquarters near Sana'a's revolutionary-famed Change Square.

"The fire took everything," said Ahmed Al-Rumani, the building's owner.

No employees were in the two-storey center at the time of the fire, and there have been no reported injuries.

Al-Rumani believes the fire was caused by poor electrical

wiring, but he has not ruled out the possibility of foul play.

Colonel Mohammed Hassan Al-Fadli, the security chief of Al-Wehda area, where the building is located said investigations are under way to determine the cause of the fire. Al-Rumani estimates the cost of damages to his building at thousands of dollars.

The government may be able to compensate the shop, Al-Fadli

said.

Poor electrical wiring has been a growing concern at the Civil Defense Authority, Abdulla Al-Hameli, the deputy director of Technical affairs at the authority said.

He says 76 fires, 18 deaths and 28 injuries have been caused since the beginning of 2013 by a lack of safety procedures on the part of building owners and electricians.

## NDC Update

- United Nation's Special Envoy to Yemen Jamal Benomar arrived in Yemen on Tuesday for a brief visit to update the U.N's Security Council on the conference's progress.
- The Military and Security Working Group will begin its scheduled field visits next week to the Defense and Interior Ministries, Political Security and other national security organizations. It is also scheduled to visit military camps in Aden and Hodeidah in the coming weeks.
- The Good Governance Working Group began its field visits on Tuesday. It has met with the Central Organization for Control and Auditing and the Womens National Committee.
- The Presidium, the conference's oversight body, recently ranked the nine working groups based on their meeting of targeted deadlines. The State Building Working Group came in first while the Transitional Justice Working Group was last on the list.
- Ansar Allah, also known as the Houthis, threatened to boycott the conference next week if the president does not release two of their affiliates currently imprisoned. Both men, Mohammed Qasim Al-Hasimi and Hussien Al-Jabri were arrested last month at Sana'a airport in separate incidents.



## IN BRIEF

Security authorities in Marib rescued 40 families from the Serwah district who had been trapped for hours following area floods brought on by torrential rain. The families were airlifted to safety by helicopter. Brigadier General Hammed Al-Darab, security chief of Marib, told the Yemen Times they canvassed the area searching for anyone who may have drowned, but found no one.

An official report released by Yemen's Ministry of Tourism announced revenues generated from tourism in 2012 amounted to around \$848,000 up from \$780,000 the year before. In 2012, around 874,000 international visitors were recorded. In 2011, that number was about 829,000. Nearly a quarter of those visitors, both years, were from Saudi Arabia.

A team of German doctors who have been working at Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz for the last two weeks concluded their work on Monday. The team had performed around 50 operations—including skin grafts and plastic surgery—for children, many of whom were burn victims.

On Tuesday, armed men shot Ahmed Al-Ramah, the manager of Al-Beidha Post Office, and injured four guards. Abduljabar Al-Mirani, the deputy head of security in the governorate, said armed men made off with YR20 million, or about \$93,000. The perpetrators fled nearby mountains and have not been caught.

Security forces in Hodeida governorate confiscated on Tuesday 660 liters of locally-made wine in eight factories in Jabal Al-Nar area in Al-Mena district. Five people were arrested. Ali Obad, an information officer in the Hodeida Security Department, said the accused are being questioned and may have information about other small-scale, illegal factories making alcohol.

Since last week, soldiers of the Third Mountain Infantry Brigade have banned weapons-carrying in the city of Marib. Security checkpoints have been set up inside and on the outskirts of the city. This move comes following the death of four soldiers and the wounding of 12 others in clashes with alleged Al-Qaeda forces.

Reporting by: Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki, Nassar Al-Sakkaf, Mohammad Al-Hassani and Samar Al-Ariqi

## VACANCY NOTICE NO06/2012

**TITLE:** Assistant Cluster Coordinator  
**GRADE:** SMA (6 Months)  
**OFFICIAL STATION (COUNTRY):** Yemen-Sana'a  
**ORGANIZATIONAL:** Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO)  
**LOCATION/UNIT:** Office of the WHO Representative,

### OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME:

To ensure that effective WHO country presence is established to implement WHO country cooperation strategies that are aligned with Member State's health and development agendas, and harmonized with the United Nations country teams.

### THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE WILL:

Under the general supervision of the WHO Representative and the EMRO Coordinator, the incumbent performs administrative / technical support functions as indicated by the requirements and the structure of WHO. He/She performs the following duties:

- Assist the HCC in identifying and making contact with health sector stakeholders and existing coordination mechanism, including national health authorities, national and international organizations and civil society.
- Assist in organizing regular coordination meetings with country health cluster partners, building where possible on existing health sector coordination forums.
- Collect information from all partners on WHO's Where, since and until When, doing What, and regularly feed the database managed by OCHA(WFP) and assist the HCC in providing consolidated feedback to all partners and the other clusters.
- Assist the HCC in identifying humanitarian health needs through planning and coordinating joint, inter-cluster, initial rapid assessments as well as follow-on more in-depth health sub-sector assessments, as needed.
- Assist the HCC and contribute to the joint health cluster analysis of health-sector information and data and to joint identification of gaps and prioritization in the health sector response.
- Attend health cluster and relevant TWG and task forces meetings and activities, as required.
- Draft minutes of the meetings, memo and prepare reports and updates on the progress of WHO/EMRO Health Cluster Activities and Updating WHO website for EMRO activities.
- Other duties as requested by HCC and MR

### Qualifications

**Education:** Essential: Degree in medicine and/or Public Health.

**Experience:** Essential: Minimum of 2 years experience in international organizations, of which at least 1 in managing and coordinating health programs in emergencies.

### Skills:

#### Competencies

- Ability to prioritize, organize, manage and adapt management style according to need.
- Excellent communication and negotiation skills and ability to work in a multicultural environment.
- Excellent command of Microsoft Office: word, excel, and power point.
- Producing results.
- Fostering integration and teamwork.

#### Functional Skills

Knowledge of emergency relief practices within the UN, donor agencies, national and international NGOs;

#### Language:

Essential: Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English and Arabic languages

Please note that CVs must be detailed.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:** 13 May 2013

**APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING (Personal History Form World Health Organization) AND SENT TO:** World Health Organization, Al-Hazata area, Ministry of Health and Population building PO BOX 543, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

TEL: 01 252213  
 FAX: 01 251612

ONLY CANDIDATES UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION WILL BE CONTACTED FOR INTERVIEW AND TEST  
 ANY APPOINTMENT/EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT IS SUBJECT TO WHO STAFF REGULATIONS, STAFF RULES AND MANUAL.

## PROCUREMENT ENGINEERS REQUIRED

**QUALIFICATIONS: FIRST CLASS BACHELOR DEGREE IN CIVIL / MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

**EXPERIENCE : MINIMUM 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN WORKING WITH WORLD BANK PROJECTS**

**SALARY: NEGOTIABLE**

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Fax: 00967-1-284248, 272334

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[info@power-energy.me](mailto:info@power-energy.me)



# Laborers celebrate their day but unemployment rates mar celebrations



Story and photos by Samar Qaed

In 1955, Yemen's first labor unions were created in the South. Workers banded together in the state-run oil, salt and coastal industries and the privately-owned banking sector to gain clout against their then colonizing power, Great Britain.

Since that time, Yemen along with 11 other Arab nations have celebrated May 1 as Labor Day.

On Wednesday three ministers and the General Union of Yemeni Laborers Syndicates honored Yemen's working pool with speeches at Sana'a's Police Academy building.

While the majority of Yemenis spent the day at home as all government institutions were closed with the exception of necessary facilities like hospitals and police stations,

the day also provided a chance to reflect on the current status of the labor force. Unemployment rates present a sobering reality. According to the latest statistics of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, Yemen's unemployment rate is at 35 percent, and even higher among youth at 60 percent.

The Yemen Times met with dozens of local workers to ask them about the challenges currently facing them. True to statistics, the majority were job seekers and young.

Many jobs seekers are after coveted government jobs as they provide job security and benefits.

Hind Ahmed, who graduated from Sana'a University's Education College two years ago, is one of them.

She registered her name at the Ministry of Civil Service, the government agency that all applicants must go through. The Ministry of

Civil Service allocates names for other government ministries when they need applicants.

Ahmed knows her chances of landing a job are scare. Some people have been on the ministry's list for over 10 years. In the meantime she is getting by.

"I worked for almost a year as a volunteer in a public school," she said. "I was given only \$100 a month."

Like in many nations, the young are also having to scrape by in internship-esque positions.

"Though I am low-paid, I am hopeful that I will have a permanent job," said Mohammed Hassan who works at a local television station as a sound technician.

Even those with the coveted government jobs had complaints this Labor Day. Of the estimated 500,000 government employees in Yemen, only about 10 percent of them have official contracts, according to Adnan Abduljubat, the head of the department for salaries and wages at the Civil Service Ministry. To have an official contract offers an employee and their offspring lifetime employment and benefits.

Sahar Al-Damari has been working at the General Postal Authority for five years, and although promised a contract, she is yet to receive one.

Other government employees, spent Labor Day on the picket lines.

At the government-run Al-Thwara Hospital, doctors and nurses have

been going on daily two-hour long strikes in order to lobby the hospital's administration for raises.

"They pledged to pay our annual bonuses in January but nothing happened," said Shafiqah Ahmed, a striking nurse.

Protestors say they planned the



## Notice Inviting Tender

Air India invites bids from interested parties to be appointed as a Passenger General Sales Agent.

Tender document with all details is available on the Air India website [www.airindia.in](http://www.airindia.in)

The completed sealed tender document (In English) along with all support documents should be forwarded to the address specified in the tender document by 31st May 2013.

strike to coincide with Labor Day as a symbolic demonstration.

Without or without a government contract, Zal Al-Hm Al-Sunidar, a library supervisor is happy to have a job.

She makes \$120 a month but counts herself lucky.

Private sector employees are also demanding more rights this Labor Day.

Akram Al-Sharjabi says the construction industry can be particularly indifferent to benefits for workers.

"If any of them are injured in an

accident, the contractor or employer doesn't pay for their medical costs," he said.

While General Union of Yemeni Laborers Syndicates has asked President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi and members at the ongoing National Dialogue Conference to put worker's rights at the forefront of their agendas this year, Mohammed Khamis is optimistic about the government to do so.

"We hope to celebrate achievements during the coming Labor Days, not just hopes for the future," he said.



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**Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Bin Sumait**  
Executive General Manager  
And all staff of

**Masila Petroleum Exploration and Production Company (PetroMasila)**

present their warmest congratulations to

**H. E. Field Marshal / Abdrabbu Mansour Hadi**  
President of the Republic of Yemen

And to all Yemeni people and laborers on the occasion of

**International Labor Day (May 1st)**

Wishing the Republic of Yemen and its wise leadership further achievements, progress and prosperity.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate the following outstanding employees honored this year 2013

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ALKHADHER OMER  
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HASSAN ALQUBATI  
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**Masila Petroleum Exploration and Production Company (PetroMasila)**

**"Building Yemen Together"**

**"معاً نبني اليمن"**



# Rural hospital struggles to serve community

Story and photos by  
Ryam Al-Qadi

**A**t the Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Al-Mahweet governorate, hospital staff are making do. They are responsible for serving the governorate's population, estimated at half a million, but they are doing so either without basic medical equipment or outdated devices and a lack of qualified staff.

In an area of the country where diseases like malaria, typhoid and schistosomiasis run rampant, and clean drinking water is scarce, the hospital is heavily burdened. But as a result of a lack of funding and an inability to properly cope with sick residents, people are entering the hospital and leaving worse off.

Mutahar Futaifa, a resident, described an experience he had at the hospital. He entered to donate blood, but the phlebotomist forgot to take off the plastic band around his arm. Futaifa says he didn't know to take it off and hours later it caused mild paralysis in his arm.

A lawyer who is waging a cam-



**A patient at the hospital rests where he can. There aren't enough beds to accommodate all of the patients in this crowded, underfunded hospital.**

paign to improve the standards at the hospital, Abdulla Al-Taweli, told the Yemen Times about medical errors that happen at the hospital every day.

He said caesareans take place without the use of heart and blood pressure machines which in the worst case scenario have led to death.

The hospital lacks even basic tools like scalpels, thread for surgeries and IVs. One doctor said if a patient needs any of the listed, they will have to buy it themselves and bring it into the facility for the doctor's use.

For a hospital in a rural governorate where many people lives hours away and on rocky roads, the hospital's has only two ambulances and both lack first aid tools, Al-Taweli said.

"The scant salaries, lack of regulations and incentives have contributed to the deteriorating medical situation at the hospital," said Dr. Faisal Al-Saheeli, Orthopedics specialist in Al-Gamouri Hospital in Al-Mahweet.

The hospital was praised as an achievement of unity when it was created in 1990, following Yemen's merger of the North and the South. But some say not much has changed since then as equipment like CT scanners and ECHO devices have not been replaced since the hospital's inception.

An aid agreement with the Chinese government to provide teams of trained medical specialists to serve in rural Yemeni areas improved the quality of care when the program began in 2004. But in 2011, following Yemen's popular uprising, the team serving the hospital left and have not returned.

Now out of 14 X-ray and lab technicians currently at the hospital, only two of them hold a Bachelor's degree, according to Dr. Hameed



**The hospital kitchen, where meals are prepared for patients, is seldom cleaned.**

Al-Mamari, the hospital's manager.

He said they try to find people with diplomas, but it is hard to attract qualified individuals to rural areas even if they are offered more pay.

"We met with the health minister who promised to provide solutions and now we are waiting," Al-Mamari said.

The hospital receives YR5 mil-

lion, or \$23,250, as their annual budget, but Dr. Ameen Juhaish, director of the Health Office at Al-Mahweet, said the figure is nowhere near enough.

Juhaish said due to Yemen's current economic climate he is not sure when the budget will be reevaluated, but the hospital has asked the Ministry of Finance to reassess their case.

## JOB VACANCY Finance and Operations Officer

John Snow, Inc. (JSI), manages the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, a worldwide program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The USAID | DELIVER PROJECT strengthens the supply chains of health and family planning programs in developing countries to ensure the availability of critical health products to customers.

JSI is seeking a Finance and Operations Officer to be based in Sana'a, Yemen. The Finance and Operations Officer will be responsible for managing all day-to-day operations of the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT in Yemen, including finance, administration, procurement contracts, and human resources, and will report to the Country Director.

### Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

#### General Management and Compliance

- Ensure donor compliance through the development and implementation of a financial management system based on USAID and JSI policies and procedures and other donors' requirements.
- Under the overall direction of the Country Director, participate in the successful implementation of the Project assuring that all operational functions fully support project activities and are compliant with JSI and USAID policies and procedures.
- Provide leadership and management during project start-up with regard to the project office, bank account, operations and logistics, staff administration, telecommunications etc.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Country Director and Home Office team.

#### Accounting and Financial Management

- Oversee the timely and accurate preparation and submission of regular financial statements and other cost reports to headquarters.
- Review and process Field Office's monthly expenses and as well as enter them into QuickBooks.
- Oversee monthly financial reporting to Home Office, assuring accuracy and timeliness.
- Prepare the monthly financial packs and send them to the Home Office.
- Prepare monthly cash flow projection and submit to Home Office for processing and approval.
- Provide feedback to the Home Office on issues and corrections to the field accounts.
- Manage funds through local bank account, including balance monitoring, daily transaction posting and monthly reconciliations; review and approve expenditures in accordance with JSI and USAID rules and regulations.
- Process travel advance request and reimbursement for staff for field expenses and maintain advance records for all field trips.
- Provide necessary input during annual budgeting and work planning processes.

#### Procurement and Asset Management

- Establish and manage a project-wide system for the procurement of project goods and services, in compliance with USAID and JSI rules and regulations.
- Contract and manage local individuals/organizations for identified tasks according to donor and agency procedures, assuring best value in all transactions; negotiate consultancy agreements, provide training and/or develop capacity of local administrative staff and partners.
- Maintain and manage Project inventory according to USAID and JSI rules and regulations.
- Protect the organization's resources and assets and ensure efficient usage in accordance with project goals.
- Approve transport requests and schedule project vehicle use.
- Ensure that security guidelines and procedures are established, maintained, updated regularly and adhered to by the project team. Monitor the security situation and provide leadership for staff in emergencies.
- Establish information technology systems that are compatible with JSI home office IT systems, and operational facilities to support project staff and programming.

#### HR Administration

- Maintain an effective office country filing system including personnel files.
- Review and update, on an annual basis, the project's Local Hire Employee Manual, in compliance with JSI and USAID policies and local labor law.
- Develop management policies and procedures that comply with local laws and USAID rules and regulations. Enforce policies and procedures to ensure efficiency, quality of service, and availability of resources.
- Manage timesheets for office staff ensuring timely submission, approval, accuracy and filing.
- Oversee the preparation of local payroll and benefits, administer benefits plan and maintain current standing with all mandated tax and registrations, including submission of payments and required reports.
- Track and maintain records of staff leave balances.

#### Qualifications:

- Bachelors degree in accounting or management with a minimum of 5 years relevant work experience in accounting and/or financial management.
- Proven expertise with USAID rules and regulations on procurement and financial management.
- Demonstrated ability in analyzing financial documents, projections, expenditures, and accruals.
- Strong knowledge of Microsoft Excel as well as accounting software, preferably QuickBooks.
- Proven ability to manage, motivate, and mentor staff at all levels and create a positive team environment.
- Experience in successfully coordinating and collaborating with multiple partners, to achieve expected results.
- Excellent diplomatic, interpersonal, communication and presentation skills.
- Strong verbal and written English and Arabic communication skills.
- Yemeni citizenship.
- Ability to travel throughout the country as needed.

The exact terms and conditions are subject to change at the Project's discretion. JSI is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer committed to workplace diversity. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply. The Project shall respond only to shortlisted candidates for an interview and reserves the right to accept or reject any candidates.

Interested candidates should apply by sending resume and cover letter to: [Yemen\\_HR@jsi.com](mailto:Yemen_HR@jsi.com). Please include the job title in the subject line.

## An Opening announcement: Executive Unit Manager

**The Yemen Arabian Seaports Corporation announces an opening for a technical manager for the executive unit of Socotra Seaport project (Garma) financed by the unded by the Kuwaiti Fund for Arabian Economic Development.**

The project is under the supervision of the Ministry of Transport represented by The Yemen Arabian Sea ports Corporation.

Anyone willing to occupy this vacancy should submit his documents to the following address:

### The Yemen Arabian Sea ports Corporation

Headquarters, Mukalla Seaport  
Procurement and Warehouses Department  
Telephones: (00967-5-350740 – 320632)  
Fax: (00967-5-303508)  
Email: [info@portofmukalla.com](mailto:info@portofmukalla.com)

### Subject to the following conditions:

1. Applicant must be a national of Yemen
2. Holder of a Bsc. or a higher degree in Civil Engineering
3. Not less than 10 years practical experience, preferably in the field of civil and marine construction.
4. Fluent in English, writing and reading.
5. Computer savvy and handy
6. Applicant must be experienced in the coordination and communication with the financiers. He should be fully knowledgeable of the government's laws and financial control to ensure administrative competence of quality project execution. He should be conversant on the procedures and regulations of the regional and international financing institutions and the law No. 23 for the year 2007 and its executive chart relevant to tenders and bidding.
7. Applicant must prove to be of good and decent behavior and conduct (candidate will undergo a personal interview.)
8. Documents failing to meet above conditions will be disregarded.

- Assignments of the project executive manager will include:
- Step by step follow up of the Socotra seaport construction.
- Coordinate with the project financing parties
- Prepare technical and financial reports on the progress level of accomplishment
- Participate with the qualifying committees and assess technical and financial proposals.
- Execute and control other missions pertinent to the activities of the executive unit.

Deadline for the submission of documents and scientific and practicing certificates is at **eleven o'clock AM on Monday May 27th, 2013.**



# More than a language — Politics of local English media

Dina K. Hussein and Dalia Rabie  
Egyptindependent.com  
First Published April 25

“It’s Always the Fixer Who Dies” is the title of a seminal article by George Packer that appeared in The New Yorker in 2009 to mourn the death of Sultan Munadi, a local fixer who lost his life in a commando raid in Afghanistan.

The raid that ended Munadi’s life was instigated to free a foreign journalist who had been kidnapped by the Taliban. The foreign correspondent was freed, the fixer died and the operation was deemed a success.

This tragedy and Packer’s dramatic title are fitting curtain raisers to the struggle of local English-language media in Egypt.

For decades, local journalists who had the necessary language skills helped foreign correspondents working for Western news organizations to tell Egypt’s story to the world. Yet, as Packer remarks, this fixer-foreign correspondent relationship has always been tense, punctuated by a power imbalance.

This imbalance in the journalistic establishment pays homage to the classical inequalities of power that dictate who gets to produce knowledge. A plain analysis of this condition speaks of a Western journalistic establishment that possesses the power and money to send its correspondents to gaze at the troubled Middle East and provide the world with the knowledge base of this part of the world through narrating the story of the locals.

Local English-language media have played a vital role in partially mending this power imbalance by allowing Egyptian journalists to tell Egypt’s story to the world, not as fixers who might or might not get their due credit, but as primary storytellers.

These outlets have provided local journalists with an opportunity to tell their country’s narrative in their own voice. Additionally, these media outlets have created a unique space for local and foreign journalists, editors and translators to interact and work together to report critically and with integrity, breaking away from the rigidity of

foreign-local dichotomies and the associated power imbalance.

In the process, these outlets became a go-to source for international media organizations interested in covering Egypt, mediating complex realities about the country to the world.

Prominent publisher Hisham Kassem, who launched the now-defunct independent English-language magazine Cairo Times, considers local independent English-language news outlets a better resource for readers who seek to understand Egypt than the New York Times, for instance.

“Local journalists know the country inside and out. They have more credit,” he says.

Similarly, Rasha Sadek, reporter at Al-Ahram Weekly, believes local English media have an edge because these outlets are “locally made.” It requires, she says, “a certain degree of understanding of the mechanisms and dynamics of Egyptian society and culture to be able to accurately report on certain events.”

“Without this, foreign reports can often be misleading,” she adds.

For David Kenner, associate editor at Foreign Policy, it is also an issue of trust. He explains that the problems faced by foreign and local media are different, adding that foreign reporters often face the problem of access.

“It can be difficult to reach certain groups or parts of the country that an Egyptian journalist might be able to contact easily,” he says.

He explains that it also comes down to knowledge.

“A foreign journalist’s stint in Egypt is limited, and they won’t have the social and professional network that a local journalist would, by virtue of having spent his or her life in the country,” Kenner says.

Local English-language media outlets also produce a journalism that informs media practice in Egypt in the way stories are covered and issues are represented. Kassem attributes it to a higher professional level than Arabic media.

Rania al-Malky, former editor-in-chief of Daily News Egypt, also sees this discrepancy, pinpointing a difference in the newsroom culture.

“Arabic press has become more

partisan, as opposed to its English counterpart, which is more professional in covering stories,” she says.

But, these merits aside, local English-language outlets have faced numerous challenges over the years. While many of these challenges are financial in nature and pertain to the viability of their business models, there have also been critical political restrictions.

Even though English-language publications have enjoyed a higher ceiling of freedom compared to Arabic media outlets, they have often been intimidated by censors.

Cairo Times, which was the leading English-language paper in the late 1990s and early 2000s, was a pioneer in criticizing Hosni Mubarak’s regime, and often grappled with the censors.

“It came to a point where I was verbally banned to print in Egypt,” Kassem says.

He would fly to Cyprus and return with the copies as cargo.

“We would print and they would confiscate,” he says.

This tug of war continued until the powers-that-be shifted their attention to advertisers, and, Kassem says, starting threatening them. This took a toll on revenue, and, after seven years of printing, Cairo Times announced its bankruptcy.

This state of intimidation of media outlets is not a distant memory, since the state’s stifling of freedom of expression has not subsided with the revolution.

The struggle of local English-speaking media has intensified under the current administration for both political and economic reasons. The recent dismissal of Hani Shukrallah, former editor-in-chief of state-owned Ahram Online and a journalist known for his integrity and progressive views, is telling of the current administration’s heavy-handed policing of local English-media outlets.

“The deed is done: the Muslim Brotherhood has now fulfilled its resolve to drive me out of Ahram,” Shukrallah posted on his Facebook page, explaining that he hung on after decisions to cut his salary in half, force him into early retirement and cut the remaining half of his salary by two-thirds.

For many, this incident is telling of a quest to control the image that

English-language media outlets produce about Egypt abroad at a time when the Brotherhood administration, like its predecessors, is trying to preserve its relationships with strategic foreign allies.

While seemingly different, the cases of Cairo Times and Ahram Online meet at several intersections.

These lie in the fact that those on the forefront of successful English-language media in Egypt are often independent voices, regardless of their institutional affiliations, and that the precarious ecology of freedom of expression that preceded the revolution is persisting in our post-uprising times. And, most importantly, the two cases manifest an alarming lack of political commitment from media entrepreneurs toward the significance of this kind of journalism.

In a note of support to Egypt Independent, professor Nathan Brown wrote that “the vibrancy of the political debate in Egypt has become accessible through Egypt Independent.”

“Egypt no longer speaks in a single political voice, and Egypt Independent has become the leading medium for English speakers to hear and make sense of the new cacophony,” he said.

Similarly, scholar Yasmine Moataz wrote, “Egypt Independent has played an essential role in shaping, developing and nurturing debates about Egypt’s rapid political transformations.”

The preservation of English-language media outlets in Egypt today is crucial, especially at a time when the current administration and ruling party are hiding the truth from the world about their commitment to the revolution and its democratic aspirations. In this environment, local English-language media play a central role in representing and narrating the truth at a time when the road to freedom is plagued by historical amnesia and the manipulation of history by those in power.

*This piece was written for Egypt Independent’s final weekly print edition, which was banned from going to press last week, which appeared online. Dina K. Hussein and Dalia Rabie were both staff writers.*

## YT vision statement



“To make Yemen a good world citizen.”

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



## OUR OPINION

### Why Russia should be more involved in Yemen

Russia and Yemen’s relationship, especially in the South, dates back to the 1920s. Throughout regime changes in both countries their relations have continued. Although, recently Russia seems to have taken a more observational role in Yemen compared to other powerful nations.

In fact, it took President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi more than a year since he became president to visit Moscow. His reception was warmly welcomed.

When we think of Russia in Yemen, we automatically think of weapon deals. Although this is a reality - Russia gifts Yemen ammunition and maintenance for its air force crafts - we hope something else comes out of this relationship.

Long ago Russian petroleum companies used to explore for oil and gas in Southern governorates such as Shabwa. We need them to come back and invest in Yemen.

Russia is one of the very few countries that is accepted by both Northern and Southern political figures. It can play a stronger role in mediating and helping political groups come together especially when it comes to the Southern Issue and national reconciliation.

Russia has the ability to reach out to Yemeni groups who historically used to have autonomous rule such as in Hadramout. Moreover, Russia survived the fall of the USSR. Yemen can benefit from its experience with state building and creating new political structures.

Russia’s political position on Yemen’s transitional process, which is in line with the rest of the international community, is key to helping the government move forward. Unlike Syria, for example, the international community is in agreement about Yemen, and it is important that Russia stays on board.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

# The Detainees’ Dilemma

Joe Nocera  
Nytimes.com  
First Published April 30

Fadel Hussein Saleh Hentif is one of about 100 detainees on a hunger strike in the prison in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. He was captured in 2001 by Pakistanis after crossing the border from Afghanistan, and, by 2002, he was in the American naval detention facility. He was 20 years old. He has been there since.

Although the Americans contend that Hentif left his home in Yemen to become an Al Qaeda jihadist, he has always insisted that he was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. A devout Muslim, he says he went to Afghanistan to do charitable work to honor the memory of his father — and that he then left Afghanistan for Pakistan because, as one of his lawyers, Rob-

ert Palmer, put it to me recently, “the place was a mess.”

Like most Guantánamo detainees, Hentif spent years in solitary confinement. He was subjected to “alternative interrogation techniques” as it was euphemistically called. He watched the Bush administration release more than 500 of the 779 detainees who have passed through Guantánamo. He learned about lawyers arguing in court that the detainees had the legal right to a habeas corpus hearing — that is, to try to prove that they were not enemy combatants and had been detained illegally.

And, in 2008, the Supreme Court ruled that they did have that right. That same year, a presidential candidate headed toward the White House, Barack Obama, promised to close Guantánamo. That never happened, though President Obama continued the Bush policy of releasing detainees who were not deemed

a threat to the United States.

Hentif, in fact, was among those set to be released. In late 2009, he was hours away from flying home to Yemen when a man on a flight to Detroit tried to detonate explosives hidden in his underwear. Because the man had purportedly been trained by an Al Qaeda affiliate with bases in Yemen, Congress demanded that the administration stop releasing all Yemen detainees. Obama complied.

And so it went: Hentif had a habeas corpus hearing in 2010, but, by then, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit had made a mockery of the Supreme Court’s ruling, establishing evidentiary presumptions that made it impossible for a detainee to win a habeas ruling. (The Supreme Court has declined to hear further cases.) Sure enough, the judge ruled against him in 2012, despite concluding, among other things,

that Hentif had never been to an Al Qaeda training camp, as the government alleged.

Meanwhile, along with 55 other Yemen detainees, he has been placed on a “cleared” list compiled by a commission composed of national security officials, meaning he could be transferred out of Guantánamo. But Congress, led by Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham, both Republicans, quickly passed laws that put impossible conditions on their release. Shamefully, President Obama signed those bills.

Is there any wonder that Hentif — and the other detainees — are on a hunger strike? “It is a total expression of despair and hopelessness,” said Brent Rushforth, who also represents him.

It is impossible to know for sure what triggered the hunger strike. Lawyers for the detainees say that the military, after years of loosening the reins — including eliminat-

ing solitary confinement for many prisoners — was tightening the screws again for no reason. The military insists that its procedures did not change but that the detainees had begun breaking and covering cameras and refusing demands that they stop doing so.

On April 13, with the hunger strike spreading, the military raided the prison and put the detainees back in solitary. It says it has done so because the detainees are more likely to eat if they are not surrounded by other hunger strikers. If so, it isn’t working; there are more detainees refusing food today than before the April 13 raid. To force food into them, the military now shoves a tube down their nose, in an extremely painful procedure it called “enteral feeding.”

Are there terrorists at Guantánamo? Yes. The government knows who they are and keeps them away from the other detainees. But the

hunger strike is a vivid reminder that Guantánamo remains exactly what it has always been: a stain on our country.

On April 13, Hentif was returning from morning prayers when the raid began. He was pushed up against a fence and shot with rubber bullets at such close range that five of them penetrated the skin. He was handcuffed and taken to the clinic. Now back in solitary confinement, he is worried that one of his wounds is becoming infected. Given their concerns about hunger strikers, the military medical staff haven’t been able to pay him much attention.

Thus it was that one more time, Fadel Hussein Saleh Hentif was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

*Joe Nocera is an Op-Ed columnist at the New York Times and a regular contributor to National Public Radio.*

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العمال في كل أرجاء الوطن بأزكى آيات التهاني والتبريكات و كل عام و أنتم بخير..

1 مايو  
عيد العمال



“Yemenis will accept ideas heard from the pulpit:”

# When religion and politics mix

Story and photos by  
Ali Abulohoom

Ahmed Hussein is a 28-year-old pharmacist and a devout Muslim. Last Friday, he visited his sister in the Beer Obaid area of Sana'a and—though he had never prayed in this neighborhood before—he went to the nearest mosque.

He didn't know that the mosque had a political affiliation.

The Shumaila Mosque was packed when Ahmed arrived. Those who arrived late were lined up in the streets surrounding the mosque. Hussein laid out his prayer rug on the pavement.

Ahmed listened as the imam praised Allah and the Prophet Muhammad. The imam reminded people of some religious teachings, but then the sermon veered in another direction, one that made Ahmed feel uncomfortable.

The preacher began accusing Yemeni women of stepping out of their social bounds, participating in the National Dialogue Conference, walking out on the street, traveling alone.

“People were nodding their heads in agreement with the imam,” Ahmed said. The imam accused women of “immorality and decadence.”

Ahmed couldn't sit still. He stood up and called the imam an extremist. Ahmad was silenced and forced out of the street.

But should he have known better? Many mosques in Yemen have political and ideological reputations. The mosque he had walked into was—unbeknownst to him—frequented by members of the Islah

Party.

There are mosques across Sana'a affiliated with the Al-Rashaad Party, the Houthis and the Muslim Brotherhood, among others.

According to Jaber Al-Ahdal, an imam at Al-Taqwa Mosque in Hiziz district, to the north of Sana'a, mosques have always been divided into different ideological camps. This trend can be traced as far back as to the time of the caliphates who succeeded Prophet Mohammed in 700 BC.

Al-Ahdal is a member of the Islah

“

*Some mosques supported the revolution and some others supported the state.*

Party.

Still, in his own lifetime, Al-Ahdal has noticed, mosques in Sana'a have become increasingly politicized. They played an especially political role after the 2011 revolution.

“Some mosques supported the revolution and some others supported the state,” Al-Ahdal said.

Imams used their roles as community leaders—and the mosque's central position within society—to spread their specific political agendas.

“When the revolution broke out, the Islah Party and the Houthis began to mobilize people in support of the revolution,” Al-Ahdal said. “However, the Salfi mosques were sympathetic towards the former regime.”

During the revolution, former President Ali Abdulla Saleh met with the Yemeni Clerics Assembly, an association of imams from various backgrounds, but all of whom supported him. They came up with a fatwa, an Islamic edict, banning disobedience of the leader. Using this fatwa as justification, the president increased state crackdowns on the revolutionaries.

From the pulpits of other mosques, imams affiliated with Islah for example, praised the revolution and helped plan marches, Al-Ahdal recalled.

“The mosque was not only for worship,” Khalid Al-Madani, a preacher of Al-Quba Mosque, which is affiliated with the Houthis, said.

“It was a platform for political education, a way to mobilize the audience.”

“We preached against injustice and indifference,” Al-Madani said.

Ali Al-Maghadi is an imam and member of the Muslim Brotherhood. During the revolution, he regularly preached at Al-Ghulaibi Mosque in Sa'ada.

“I delivered a sermon calling for a [Yemeni] revolution in February 2011,” Al-Maghadi said. “This was after former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stepped down. About 2,000 worshippers were there. Some of them, who were loyal to [Saleh], frowned at me, others attacked me.”

Al-Maghadi added, “The mosque can impact the ideology of people



Mosques throughout Sana'a are known for their political affiliations, something that upsets worshippers who want to keep politics out of religion.

in Yemen. They accept ideas heard from the pulpit.”

Mosques have long been loci of political and social transformation in Yemen, Al-Madani said.

“There was cooperation between the former regime and the Muslim Brotherhood in [the Civil War of] 1994. The Muslim Brotherhood issued a fatwa, calling the invasion of the South religiously legitimate.”

The Ministry of Endowment is the government body that is meant to monitor the performance of mosques—and the content of their sermons—throughout the entire country.

Mahmoud Al-Mukhtar works in the Guidance Office in the ministry and says they released notifications during the uprising, urging imams to make their speeches neutral, not provocative.

However, he said, the momentum of the revolution was too overwhelming. It was already out of their hands.

“We will fix the faults of the past,” Al-Mukhtar says. “We're carrying out training courses for imams in the next weeks. We're asking imams to make their speeches [about] national issues, like the attacks on oil pipelines and electricity towers.”

In post-revolutionary Yemen, Al-Mukhtar hopes that imams will deliver sermons that will bring the country together, not create further divisions.

Hussein—the young pharmacist who one Friday found himself in a Salafi mosque—doesn't know whether imams will adopt more neutral, less politicized, language. Sometimes, he says it feels like imams are becoming more polarized.

For now, Hussein will stick to the mosques that he is familiar with.

“I'll pray in my local mosque. The imam there is reasonable and fair.”

## JOB VACANCY Translator

John Snow, Inc. (JSI), manages the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, a worldwide program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The USAID | DELIVER PROJECT strengthens the supply chains of health and family planning programs in developing countries to ensure the availability of critical health products to customers

JSI is seeking an Arabic-English translator to be based in Sana'a, Yemen. The translator will be responsible for providing translation and interpretation services for the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT.

### Responsibilities:

- Translate a range of project documents from Arabic to English or English to Arabic and format those documents appropriately in Arabic. Documents can include technical reports, training materials, manuals, handbooks, website content, and other print and electronic publications.
- Interpret English-Arabic and Arabic-English during meetings and technical activities, as needed.
- Attend project meetings, take minutes, and distribute minutes to JSI/Sanaa and Home Office, as appropriate
- Assist the Administrative/Financial Manager with other tasks as needed

### Qualifications:

- Yemeni national
- Strong communication skills in English and Arabic (written and spoken).
- 1-3 years translation and interpretation experience
- Strong MS Office and Powerpoint skills
- Experience working with an NGO or USAID-funded project is preferable.
- Strong knowledge of public health and supply chain terminology. Experience translating for reproductive health and/or logistics activities preferred.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and positive attitude.
- Ability to work independently and to manage work conducted in teams
- Ability to multi-task and manage deadlines effectively
- Must be able to keep matters confidential when called upon
- Professional demeanor
- Ability to travel throughout the country, as needed.

The exact terms and conditions are subject to change at the Project's discretion. JSI is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer committed to workplace diversity. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply. The Project shall respond only to shortlisted candidates for an interview and reserves the right to accept or reject any candidates.

Interested candidates should apply by sending resume and cover letter to: [Yemen\\_HR@jsi.com](mailto:Yemen_HR@jsi.com). Please include the job title in the subject line.

## JOB VACANCY Receptionist/Secretary

John Snow, Inc. (JSI), manages the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, a worldwide program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The USAID | DELIVER PROJECT strengthens the supply chains of health and family planning programs in developing countries to ensure the availability of critical health products to customers.

JSI is seeking a Receptionist/Secretary to be based in Sana'a, Yemen. The Receptionist/Secretary will be responsible for supporting the operations of the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT through day-to-day secretarial duties in Yemen, including receiving visitors, operating telephone calls and faxes, document management, supporting office maintenance and coordinating meetings, among other secretarial duties.

### Responsibilities:

- Answer and transfers phone calls
- Receive visitors and maintain Visitors Log
- Assist the Administrative Assistant with ensuring availability of office supplies
- Supervise postal arrangements – respond to customs payments/issues, pick-up/drop off of mail, arrange for DHL service/payments, etc.
- Create and maintain filing system for all projects (hard copy and electronic)
- Perform general clerical duties to include but not limited to: photocopying, faxing, mailing, typing and filing
- Assist in organizing meetings and workshops, including inviting participants, arranging venues, catering, etc.
- Arrange hotel and transport for consultants from Headquarters and for in-country travel
- Manage reservations for the office's conference rooms
- Attend project meetings, take minutes, and distribute minutes to JSI/Sanaa and Home Office, as appropriate
- Assist the Administrative/Financial Manager with other tasks as needed

### Qualifications:

- Yemeni national
- Strong communication skills in English and Arabic (written and spoken).
- Experience with both hard copy and electronic filing systems.
- Experience working with an NGO or USAID-funded project is preferable.
- Strong attention to detail and organization desired.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and positive attitude.
- Ability to work independently and to manage work conducted in teams
- Must be able to multi-task to assist advisors and senior project staff
- Must be able to keep matters confidential when called upon

The exact terms and conditions are subject to change at the Project's discretion. JSI is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer committed to workplace diversity. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

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# Start your career with a great launch



## Considered the first of its kind Griffin Group launches IATA Authorized Training Center licensed in aviation, cargo, travel and tourism

In a festive celebration Griffin Group launched last Thursday IATA Authorized Training Center in Sana'a. The launch was under the slogan "Start your career with a great launch" to become the first center of its kind in Yemen providing significant skills for the trainees in air travel and cargo as well as travel and tourism. The training courses are conducted under the supervision of the IATA through distance learning.

In the launching celebration carried out by Griffin Group with the participation of airlines and travel agencies' representatives as well as the cultural attaché of the French embassy, Mr. Ahmed Badr director of IATA Authorized Training Center said in his welcoming speech that we all agree on that there is need to in-

crease self development opportunities in our community to become productive citizens.

He added, "We hope that the center in partnership with Rowad Al-Mustaqbal that the trainees will make use of this opportunity for a better life for them and their children. You must agree with me that we are in a rapidly changing world whether positively or negatively and sometimes unexpectedly. The best way to control change is to anticipate and prepare for it. And there is no better way to do this other than through education. And there is no better investment for a society than investing in higher education. As Nelson Mandela said "Education is the most powerful tool used to change the world."

IATA Authorized Training Center will provide aviation, cargo, travel and tourism diplomas as well as certificates from Stanford and Harvard Universities.

The center also aims at doubling the number of qualified personnel and spreading positive attitudes and work ethics among IATA affiliates.

Concluding his speech he gave special thanks to all the people and organizations that supported Griffin in this endeavor. IATA head quarters in Montreal, Mr. Ismail Al-Baidhani, Rilend, Ivica, Griffin Group, amadeus, Mr. Ashraf Mughalis for distinguished partnership "Go Social", Mr. Ilyas Habib for organizing this event. And of course our local IATA group who displayed amazing enthusiasm: Satish Nair, Mona Al-Haifi, Yaser Alwan, Ibrahim Al-Hubaishi and of course our mentor Mr. Haitham Al-Aini. I wish you all unforgettable pleasant times with us.

Attendees in the ceremony displayed their interest and great administration of the initiative and the center with all its equipment and facilities. Saying that it will carry the aviation a huge leap through qualifying the trainees and the aviation, cargo, travel and tourism industry as a whole.



Mr. Ahmed Badr: We all agree that there is need to increase self development opportunities in our community to become productive citizens.



### Most advanced international certificates

IATA Authorized Training Center provides the most advanced internationally recognized certificates in academic circles such as Stanford University for aviation management which combines management and aviation courses. It aims at creating a generation of new cadres who are highly skilled in the aviation filed.

Another example is Harvard University which provides a diploma in management and combines Harvard University's courses with International Aviation Transport Authority to provide internationally recognized branded courses in travel, aviation, cargo and tourism.



## Congratulations to Yemen and its workers

**Congratulations to Yemen and its workers on the occasion of this 1st of May.**

Today, all over the world, we pay tribute to all of the hard-working, dedicated labor workers who construct countries and establish civilizations.



**On this special occasion**

### **Hayel Saeed Anam Group and Companies**

is pleased to extend its heartiest congratulations to all Yemenis both inside and outside, on top the judicious political leadership represented by

**Field Marshal President Abdu Rabu Mansur Hadi  
and**

Heads and members of the parliament, Cabinet and the Shura Council

Presidential advisors and security and military leaders-  
Governors and secretary-generals and members of the local councils

Clergies, businessmen, political and social dignitaries  
and political parties' leaders

We are also pleased to express our reverence, appreciation, heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to our dedicated workers inside and outside Yemen.

May all have a happy day and return in the upcoming years within a secure , stable and sustainable development in which all Yemenis witness prosperity, progress and well-being.

**Many happy returns**

**Abdulrahman Hayel Saeed Anam**

Deputy Head of the Supreme Supervisory Board

**Ali Mohammed Saeed Anam**

Head of the Supreme Supervisory Board











The majority of flowers being grown now in Yemen are from imported seeds.



At Mohammed Al-Dwa'asi's nursery in Sana'a he has set aside a plot of land just for growing local varieties of flowers.

## Yemeni flowers in danger of extinction

Story and photos by Samar Qaed

At the Ardh Al-Jantein Nursery, Mohammed Al-Dwa'asi has dedicated a small space to growing local flowers.

They're just budding now, organized in rows of plastic and metal pails.

But in the rest of the nursery on Al-Sabeen Street, Mohammed grows imported flowers. Aside from Mohammad's greenhouse, there are

20 others like it in the city.

In the majority of these nurseries, the florists prefer to grow imported flowers. They're cheaper to grow, Mohammed says, and he can make more of a profit. On top of that, the flowers are sturdier and bigger.

In the shops, the flowers sell for around YR200, about \$1, each which is about four times more than local varieties.

Yemeni flowers take longer to mature and—because there are fewer local species—they are not as varied in color as the ones that are imported from abroad, Mohammad says.

Yemen is importing an increasing amount of flowers from abroad, according to the statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The ministry estimates that 70,000 tons of flowers were imported in 2012 from Ethiopia in addition to 10,000 tons from Kenya. The ministry estimates \$300,000 is spent annually on imported flowers.

Certain regions in Yemen are famous for their flowers, Abdulaziz Al-Qadasi, the general secretary at the Agricultural Research Center in Dhamar, says. For example, the jasmine grown in Lahj and Tehama is famed for its fragrance. Men and women will often hang it in their car or in their homes.

Some local flowers, like amaryllis, or those known locally as zant haisi, al-juri and al-quromful, are still popular.

"I prefer the foreign flowers because they grow faster," Mohammad said. "The Yemeni flowers take a more effort to be raised. [We have to use] protective umbrellas, greenhouses and fertilizer."

One shop owner, Saleh Mahdi, said he sells more foreign flowers than local ones.

"The imported flowers are popular because of their long stems," he said. The Yemeni flowers don't have as long a shelf life, he added. They're much more fragile.

Still, Mahdi will admit, the local ones smell much sweeter.



The al-juri flower, Yemen's closest cousin to the rose, is among the best-selling local flowers.



Due to higher yielded profits and shorter growing periods, florists in Yemen are turning to imported flower varieties.



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