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Yemen approves external loans worth \$145 million

■ Ali Saeed

SANA'A, June 25—The Yemeni government on Tuesday endorsed three loan agreements worth \$145 million provided by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the state-run Saba News Agency reported.

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, in line with an agreement signed Feb. 3, will provide \$60 million for supporting community colleges that provide three year technical and vocational training programs for secondary school leavers.

The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development will provide

\$50 million to finance small and medium businesses in the agriculture and fishing sectors. The agreement was signed Jan. 28 between the Arab Fund and Yemen's state-run Co-operative and Agricultural Credit Bank (CAC Bank).

The Arab Fund will also provide \$35 million towards the "Abyan reconstruction project." The Yemeni

Creditor	Sector	Amount
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	Community colleges equipment	\$60,000,000
Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development	Abyan Reconstruction Project	\$35,000,000
Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development	Small businesses Micro-Finance Project	\$50,000,000
Total		\$145,000,000

Source: Saba News Agency

The government is expected to receive more than \$500 million in loan money over the next three years from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on condition that Yemen reduces fuel and energy subsidies, according to a statement that former Finance Minister Sakhr Al-Wajeeh made to Reuters in May.

The subsidies cost the government \$3.07 billion in 2013, about 30 percent of the state budget, according to Al-Wajeeh.

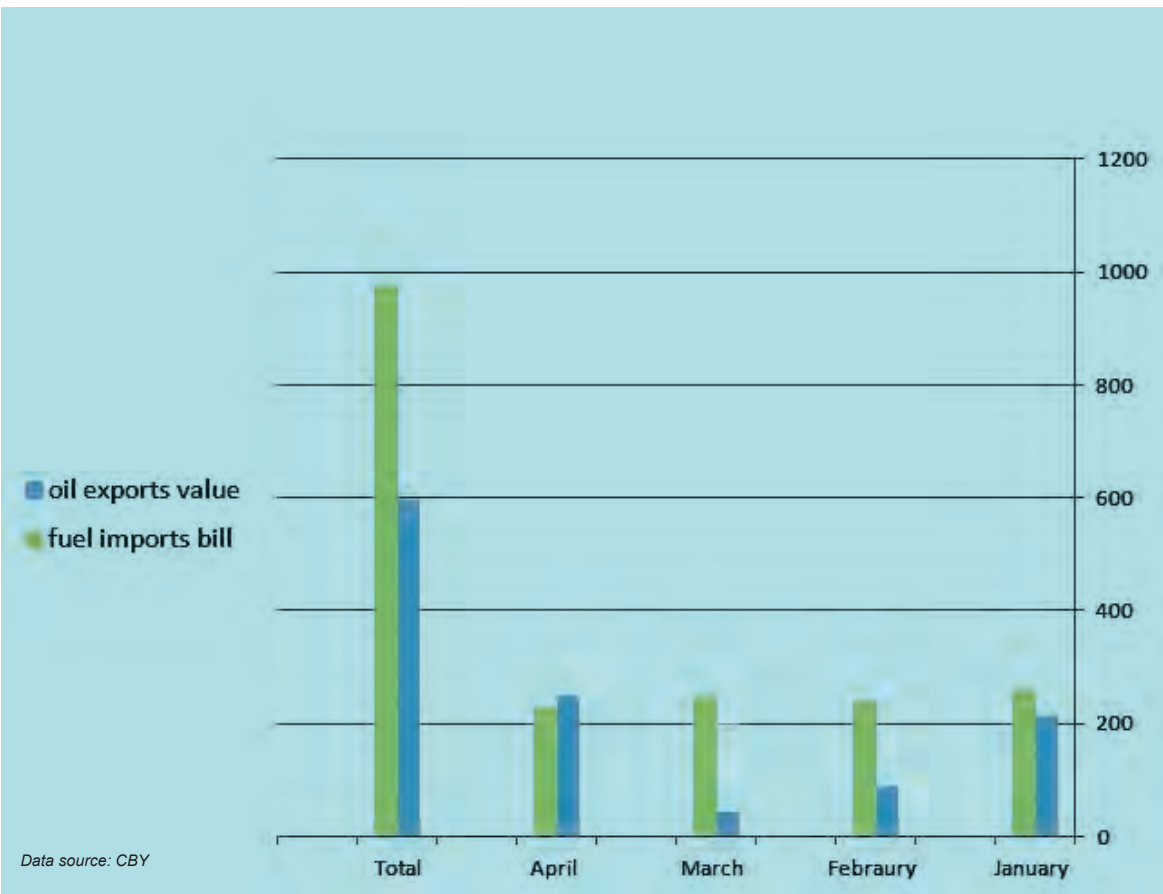


Chart of oil exports versus fuel imports in \$million during the first quarter of 2014.

army recaptured Abyan in mid-2012 after alleged AQAP militants controlled it for about a year. Violence in the area erupted again this year when a government offensive against alleged AQAP militants began in late April.

The loan agreements come amid worsening financial shortages faced by the Yemeni government. This is partly due to declining oil production after repeated attacks on oil infrastructure. Oil is Yemen's primary export.

Between January and April this year the government paid around \$975 million for fuel imports, according to the Central bank of Yemen (CBY), but for the same period exports brought in only \$597.24 million.

On Tuesday in Jeddah, the minister of planning and international co-operation, Mohamed Al-Sa'adi, signed a \$20 million grant from the Arab Fund. The grant will be used to cover the financial gap for finalizing a public hospital in Al-Ghaida city of Al-Mahra, east Yemen.

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Four killed in Rada'a clash

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, June 25—Four alleged militants and a civilian were killed and three others wounded on Monday in a clash between military forces and militants in Rada'a district of Al-Beidha governorate.

"A group of gunmen... intercepted a military vehicle which was carrying a number of soldiers," a senior security source from Rada'a Security Department told the Yemen Times on condition of anonymity for fear of being targeted. "The soldiers clashed with the militants, killing three of them and

injuring another one. One citizen was also killed as he was passing by the scene. Two of the soldiers were critically injured."

"I cannot say the militants belong to Al-Qaeda because there are many gunmen in Rada'a who do not belong to Al-Qaeda," said the source, adding that "at the time of the clash, some residents were protesting against the drone strikes."

Al-Sharea newspaper published the names of the victims on Tuesday: Abdu Rabu Hussein Al-Zooba, Ibrahim Ahmed Ali Al-Basiri, and Mohammed Ali Al-Sendi were the alleged militants, but the civil-

ian was unidentified.

Eyewitness Abdulrahman Al-Zooba, a resident of Rada'a, confirmed that four people were killed. He says that security forces began shooting at the protesters, who had staged a protest against the drone attacks, but the protesters fired back and clashes lasted for hours.

However, Mohammed Al-Madghari, another resident in Rada'a, said that gunmen started the clashes by joining the protest and attacking military vehicles and soldiers.

The security apparatus has not

yet apportioned blame.

Al-Beidha has witnessed several air attacks that many residents say were carried out by American drones. The latest strike occurred on April 19 and killed 14 people including four civilians, according to government sources.

Rada'a district is the largest district of Al-Beidha and was controlled by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula in June 2012. The group withdrew after reaching an agreement with the military, although the military has yet to fulfill its end of the deal by replacing soldiers with police officers.

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Fragile peace in Amran as field committees attempt to implement ceasefire

■ Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA'A, June 25—The Defense Ministry on Tuesday formed four field committees to visit Amran governorate to implement a second ceasefire agreement announced on Monday between the 310th Armored Brigade and Houthi rebels.

Ali Al-Qahoum, a member of the Houthi's Media Office, told the Yemen Times that the committees will supervise the ceasefire agreement and that both parties agreed to remove their outposts in Amran, Arhab, Hamdan and Bani Matar.

Within the last week Houthi rebels took control of military locations

in Hamdan district, to the north of Sana'a, and Bani Matar district, about 15 kilometers from the capital.

Mohammed Nabhan, security coordinator for various relief organizations in the area, said that despite the announcement of the ceasefire clashes took place on Tuesday over the control of Al-Janat Mountain. He added that soldiers of the brigade are in control of parts of the mountain. Clashes between the Houthis and government forces were ongoing as of Wednesday.

Nabhan also said that the soldiers of the brigade shelled Bait Badi area on Monday. The shelling

targeted houses that the Houthis were allegedly using. According to Nabhan, over 30 Houthi militants were killed in the shelling. He added that Amran governorate continues to witness clashes in the Al-Dhain mountain and Bani Maimon in Ayal Basuraiah district.

Ali Al-Emad, a member of the Houthi Political Office, alleged that the shelling targeted civilians.

Al-Qahoum said that reports of the Houthis taking over Ayban mountain in Sana'a are unfounded.

An agreement on June 4, which was also proposed by the Defense Ministry, failed to stop the fighting. The agreement came after the

Houthis attacked military locations under the control of the 310th Armored Brigade in Al-Mihshash mountain in Amran, according to local sources.

The Interior Ministry claims on its website that fighting initially erupted in March when the soldiers of the brigade prevented armed Houthis from entering the city.

The Houthis claim that the brigade effectively operates as an independent militia under the command of an Islah Party loyalist.

The Houthis have been expanding since March of 2011 after they entered six rounds of fighting with the military between 2004 and 2010.

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Traffic and security plans for Ramadan announced

■ **Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

SANA'A, June 24—The Sana'a Traffic Police Department on Tuesday announced its plan to regulate the movement of traffic in Sana'a and ease congestion during Ramadan, which is expected to begin on June 28.

The department prepares an

annual traffic plan during Ramadan because the daily routine of Sana'anis changes markedly—the city's streets become empty during the day and congested at night.

The plan is available to the public upon request to the Traffic Police Department in Sana'a. According to Abdulla Al-Nuwaira, head of media and communications at the Sana'a

Traffic Police Department, traffic police will intensify traffic patrols near markets, grocery stores, mosques, and qat markets, particularly prior to Iftar, when people break their fast.

According to the plan, the department aims to regulate traffic in more than 100 junctions with over 43 traffic patrol sites. To implement the plan they are adding about 22 winch cars, 22 traffic motorcycles, 5 traffic cars, more than 140 officers and 170 administrative employees divided into four shifts, as well as around 800 police officers.

The success of the plan, says Al-Nuwaira, depends mainly on the constant presence of police officers in all streets of the capital as well as intensifying traffic patrols in crowded streets and junctions such as Shumaila street, Bab Al-Yemen, Tahrir Square and Hayel street. The goal of this is to resolve the problem of random parking that causes congestion.

Qasim Al-Shamlani, a traffic officer who works on Taiz Street, says "streets become very congested prior to Iftar because people are in a hurry to arrive home."

"Some drivers assault the traffic officers and quarrel with them if they are stopped for a long time during Iftar," Al-Shamlani said. "Street vendors who occupy the sides of streets... worsen traffic jams, but we can avoid this during Ramadan if people co-operate with us."

Ahmed Jaber, a taxi driver in Sana'a, told the Yemen Times that



People's daily routines change dramatically during Ramadan, when streets are often empty during the day but clogged at night. Photo by Amal Al-Yaris

during Ramadan he loses a lot of his income due to traffic jams.

"We quarrel with police officers prior to Iftar because we are in a hurry to arrive home. Police officers are absent during this [Iftar] rush hour and this creates congestion," he added.

The Traffic Department called on the Mayor's Office to stop renting sidewalk areas to vendors and

halt the issuing licenses for any construction works on main streets during Ramadan.

On Monday the Interior Ministry announced that it has finalized a plan to strengthen security nationwide during Ramadan.

"The ministry stressed the need for a daily security campaign to confiscate unlicensed weapons, motorcycles, and cars, as well as main-

taining soldiers on continuous alert to avoid any potential attacks," the Interior Ministry's website reported on Monday.

Colonel Mohammed Hizam, deputy head of the Public Relations Department at the Interior Ministry, said that the plan will be implemented nationwide in accordance with the needs of each governorate.

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Two private firms threaten to suspend power supply to Aden

■ **Bassam Al-Khameri**

SANA'A, June 24—APR Energy and Altaaqa Global Company, two private energy suppliers, on Tuesday threatened to suspend power to Aden governorate within 48 hours unless the Aden Public Electricity Corporation pays \$15 million in outstanding bills.

Khalil Abdulmalik, director of the Aden Public Electricity Corporation, told the Yemen Times that he met with officials at the Yemen Central Bank on Tuesday morning in Sana'a to discuss the issue.

"The Central Bank of Yemen didn't pay the allocations for the Aden Public Electricity Corporation to enable it [the corporation] to pay the two firms. The governor of the bank will be responsible if the companies cut off power to Aden," he added.

APR Energy signed a contract with the Aden Public Electricity Corporation in June 2012 to provide 60MW during the summer using diesel technologies, according to the company's website.

"The corporation has \$15 million in debts because subscribers and public bodies don't pay their bills. For example, the Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Aden owes us YR450 million," said Khalil.

In an agreement with the Aden Public Electricity Corporation, Altaaqa Global Company, an international power solutions provider,



installed a 54 MW power plant in Aden in August 2013 to provide electricity to the governorate.

Khalil said that the corporation would organize a campaign to cut power from consumers who fail to pay their bills, whether individuals or institutions, and will start collecting overdue bills in order to fund diesel purchases to operate the other power stations in the governorate.

The state-run Al-Heswa, Al-Mansora, Khour Maksar and Al-Tawahi power stations in Aden have an output of 150 MW, according to Harith Al-Omari, deputy head of the Sana'a Public Electricity Corporation.

The Yemen Times contacted the Public Relations Department in the Central Bank of Yemen to comment on the issue but they declined.

Residents in Aden complain that power cuts in the governorate sometimes last for about seven to eight hours per day.

The Aden Public Electricity Corporation is supposed to pay about \$2.5 million per month to the two companies to provide power to the governorate. The corporation is especially reliant on the companies because the state-run power stations are outdated.

Power shortages in the country have been made worse by attacks on electricity infrastructure.



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From all your family and friends – May you continue from one success to another and reach the greatness which you deserve

Intelligence officer assassinated in Sana'a

■ **Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

SANA'A, June 25—Unidentified gunmen on a motorbike assassinated Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Mohammed Al-Khawlan, an officer working for the Political Security Bureau, on Al-Adl Street in Sana'a on Wednesday.

"The gunmen were masked when they shot Al-Khawlan as he exited his home to go to work at the Political Security Bureau.

They fled immediately," said Colonel Mohammed Hizam, the deputy head of public relations at the Interior Ministry.

Al-Khawlan was investigating the possible link between AQAP and recent killings and abductions of foreigners, Al-Jazeera reported.

According to Hizam, investigations are currently underway to identify the perpetrators.

In a press conference held late

April, the Interior Ministry said that 43 assassinations took place between early March and April 23, leaving 52 social figures and military and security personnel dead.

The Interior Ministry banned motorcycles in the capital late December in an effort to reduce the number of assassinations carried out by gunmen on motorcycles. The ban remains in effect, though its effectiveness is unclear.

UK ban on qat comes into effect



Yemen Times Staff

The UK's ban on qat went into effect on Tuesday, making the production, sale, possession or consumption of the plant illegal. The government has classified qat as a Class C drug, according to the Home Office.

Until this week, the UK tolerated the drug, unlike many other Western countries including Canada, Germany and the US. In America, qat is a Schedule 1 drug, in the same category as heroin or cocaine.

The move is both strongly supported and heavily contested within the UK's migrant communities.

The banning of qat in the UK comes after a recent move by Socotra Island authorities to ban the trade of qat in the island's capital, Hadibo.

"Checkpoints have been set-up at entrances to the city to prohibit commercial quantities of qat from entering," said Fahd Saleem, the deputy governor of Socotra.

Saleem had previously told the Yemen Times that the ban on the sale of qat in the capital was "an initial step" towards outlawing the drug completely across the island.

Like the UK government, Socotran authorities cited health as one of the considerations behind the ban.

"Qat contains natural ingredients which are already controlled drugs both in the UK and internationally because they are harmful," a Home Office leaflet read.

Qat users report feeling alert and talkative. Some have compared it to a strong cup of coffee, and many experts agree it is less harmful than tobacco or alcohol, and is also less addictive.

But the health of individuals is not the only concern for officials. They say they fear for the health and productivity of communities. In fact, many of the strongest proponents of the ban are elders and parents, who say younger generations have taken

the pastime too far and are chewing too often.

Though once largely the habit of first generation migrants with memories of chewing in their home countries, qat chewing has now been adopted by the children and grandchildren of migrants.

Nasir Adam, a community regeneration officer in Cardiff, told the BBC that he expected most of Cardiff's Somali community to welcome the ban, saying qat has resulted in the breakup of families.

He did express concern, however, that officials have not done enough to prepare the community for the law.

Police have been instructed to use discretion in enforcing the ban. The official guidelines from the Association of Chief Police Officers says officers should take into account that the drug has "historically not been a controlled drug and was part of the culture of certain communities linked to the Horn of Africa."

According to the Home Office, the penalties for personal use are a warning for the first possession offense and a £60 fine for the second offense. Users could face arrest and prosecution for a third offense, while those found guilty of distributing the drug could face up to 14 years imprisonment, an unlimited fine or both.

As the Guardian newspaper pointed out, the guidelines offer some challenges for the officers on patrol.

"They make clear that while any police officer can issue a qat warning or a fixed penalty notice they need to be or find an officer who is an expert in identifying the herb and who can do so without any doubt before a warning or a fine can be issued," the newspaper said.

"If the individual merely has a mouthful of what is suspected to be qat, it will not be permissible to issue a sanction, even with an admission without additional evidence, because the chewed pulp will not be

readily identifiable."

Some have questioned whether the drug's effects are severe enough to warrant a full ban and whether there was something else at play with the criminalization of qat.

British Prime Minister David Cameron emphasized what he believes are considerable negative effects on the entire community of qat chewers.

"[This] is a Conservative principle: that people who work hard should be able to reach their potential. And everything we do in Government—creating jobs, improving education, cutting taxes—is underpinned by that mission to help people succeed," Cameron said in a piece he penned for the Hiiran Online, a Somali news site. "But with many khat users up all night chewing, unable to function during the day, and stuck in a cycle of dependence, they are being held back from playing their part in society."

Critics argue that the ban may have more to do with the negative perceptions of the immigrants that the drug is associated with.

In her paper, "Khat: Is It More Like Coffee or Cocaine? Criminalizing a Commodity, Targeting a Community," Ezekiel Gebissa makes a case that the actual reason behind the criminalization of qat in the US was its association with the Somali community and the negative perception of that community following the Somali Civil War.

"In the United States, the reaction to khat has evolved over time from its being viewed as a "strange" immigrant habit that posed little harm to the host communities, to its being deemed a "harmful" drug that should be fought as part of the "war on drugs," finally to being treated as an illicit commodity financing terrorism."

The Home Office specifically cites as a concern the potential for the UK to become a "hub for international khat smuggling."

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Politics of Qat: The Role of a Drug in Ruling Yemen

By Peer Gatter

Book review and extracts
Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The cover page shows an old man with an apprehensive look in his eyes, half-smiling as he hands you a bunch of qat leaves. In the background there is a wild-eyed teenage boy, cheeks swollen from the qat that fills them, peering into the camera. This 862 page hard-cover book published by Reichert Publications is a

weapon in all senses of the word. Besides documenting the ever growing role qat plays in Yemen and in the life of Yemenis, the book also analyses Yemen's qat policy, the tribal qat economy, and the qat connections of our decision makers.

I had this huge publication lying by my bedside for months before I summoned the courage to pick it up and start reading. This was not only due to its intimidating size, but probably even more

so due to its topic. Qat, and the political and economic schemes around it, was to me as a Yemeni always a well known problem. I just was too afraid to read for myself and acknowledge how I as a citizen am part of a society that enables this culture of qat.

I don't chew Qat and personally I am ardently opposed to it. But I live in a society where Qat prevails. After years of research, Peer Gatter, the author of this

book, published it in 2012, offering to the world an insight into this drug and what it has done to my country. Gatter was working for many years for the World Bank and UNDP in Yemen and is now heading the Integrated Expert Program for Afghanistan of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ-CIM).

To read more about the book go to www.qat-yemen.com



PART 3/10

Qat politics in regional retrospect

Other than opium, whose properties have been discussed in Asian and European literature since the times of Avicenna, qat became a focus of international attention only with the colonization of Africa and the Middle East by European states. This was not only due to the geographical and political isolation of the African and Arabian highlands where the plant was grown and to where its consumption was initially restricted, but also due to the highly perishable nature of the chemical components of qat that made long-distance export of fresh leaves impossible then. Qat commerce has thus never reached the proportions of the coffee trade. Only in very small quantities qat was traded early on in dried form and exported as a powder to the coastal and desert lowlands of Arabia and eastern Africa.

Qat in colonial East Africa—A hopeless battle

After the First World War the qat phenomenon had reached proportions that increasingly plagued colonial administrations, foremost due to the outflow of monetary resources from the coastal colonies to highland regions of the hinterland that lay beyond European control.

British in Somaliland: The first colonial ban of the drug was spelled out by the British in Somaliland in 1921—that, despite being ruthlessly enforced, proved ineffective. In 1935 and 1936, the question of

qat was raised at the League of Nations in Geneva. During its 12th to 16th sessions, the league's Advisory Committee on the Traffic of Opium and Other Dangerous Drugs discussed two technical reports, submitted by Britain's representative. In small quantities, qat was grown and consumed in northwestern Somalia for centuries.

As early as 1921, the British administration identified qat as a problem in Somaliland—two decades before adopting measures in the Aden protectorate. Contraband was fought, offenders jailed, even shot, and vehicles they had employed for transporting qat were thrown into the sea.

Opening the border to the former Italian Somaliland—which was also administered by Britain from 1941 to 1950—led to an influx of qat to other Somali cities. In 1947, the colony's Governor Gerald Reece tried to counter this trend with a law commonly known as the "Khat Ordinance" in order to control, regulate and restrict qat distribution and consumption.

Colonial Kenya: In Colonial Kenya qat has been grown for centuries in the Meru district on the northeastern slopes of Mt. Kenya and in the hill country extending to its north towards the town of Isiolo. It grows wild over a much more extensive area. Among the Meru and Embu ethnic groups the use of qat was strongly linked to tribal customs and is said to have once been restricted to their elders. After the First World War, however, qat use

started to spread to other areas, cross-cutting ethnicity and age-groups. In Kenya it was not the colonial authorities who first tried to limit the proliferation of the habit with restrictive measures, but the tribal population itself in fear of moral decline and a loss of traditions. In 1934 the Isiolo Native District Council unanimously adopted a resolution whereby "any person found in the possession of any portion of the plant in the Isiolo District shall be guilty of an offence." The Isiolo ruling was approved by the British Governor Council and the Meru resolution even became a law in 1935, which was still in force in 1959. In other districts the trade of qat was restricted by high taxes.

During the late 1950s qat was increasingly exported to neighboring countries, especially Somalia, Uganda, and Tanzania (including Zanzibar), but in smaller quantities also to the Comoros, Sudan, Congo, and Rhodesia. This trend further intensified after independence in 1963.

French Somaliland (Djibouti): Qat chewing had initially been restricted to Djibouti's Arabs, of whom more than 4,000 lived in the French territory by the mid 1930s, making a living mainly as merchants and port workers. After World War II the habit also started to spread among the indigenous Afar and Issa tribes and soon became a universal habit.

In the late 1920s the economic importance of qat had come to the attention of the French colonial authorities and from that time on qat shipments were included in official trade statistics. In order to discourage the trade in qat, the French government imposed high taxes on its import and sale in April 1952.

Following a WHO "Khat Mission" to East Africa in 1959 that reported that in Djibouti even ministers, women and children chewed qat, French authorities attempted a partial ban on the trade of qat in 1960 by limiting imports to four days per week only (Thursday to Sunday). However, due to popular pressure the ban had to be lifted in the following year.

In 1970 a new attempt was made by French authorities to curb the trade and consumption of qat in Djibouti. Law No. 701 320 of Dec. 31, 1970 declared that the punishments for the illicit traffic of narcotic substances are also to apply in the French overseas territories.

Italian Somaliland: Before the conquest of Italian Somaliland by the British in 1941/1942, the qat habit had been virtually unknown in eastern and southern Somalia. With immigrants from the north settling there after the opening of the borders during the times of British administration, the habit became established in urban centers.

After research, the Ministry of Internal Affairs emphasized that a ban would be most beneficial to the country because "Somalia would be paralyzed if khat were allowed." Consequently, Law No. 3 of Jan. 5, 1956 was enacted, prohibiting the import, transit, possession, and "all dealings in Khat except for the purpose of health and science." Nominally, this law remained in effect



Well-to-do Aden notables chew in their richly decorated *mafraj* (photograph by the American Consul Charles Moser).

until after independence in 1960. This ruling was however universally ignored and qat continued to trickle into the colony on back roads by truck and on camel back from Ethiopia, as well as aboard small vessels from Aden to the northern coast at Bosaso. By 1959 it was estimated that 5 percent of the population of the territory were using qat, while some 80 percent were chewing tobacco.



The qat caravan arrives in the crater of Aden, 1917 (Photo by the American Consul Charles Moser).

Qat policy in colonial Aden

In Aden—Britain's oldest Arabian and East African territory—the colonial authorities were confronted with qat first, but acted last. For over a hundred years they tolerated the spread of its consumption among the local population and drew handsome profits from taxing the qat trade. In the 19th century fresh qat leaves reached Aden from the highlands of Al-Dhale, Yafi', and Taiz by caravan, and in dried form also by ship from Zeila on the Somali coast.

After completion of the Franco-Ethiopian Railway between Djibouti and Dire Dawa in December 1902, small quantities of Harari qat also reached Aden's markets from across the Bab Al-Mandab.

The British had established their presence in Aden in 1839 and were governing the barren promontory henceforth from British India. The qat trade in the unhealthy port town that was then home to as many Arabs as Jews, played—if any—a rather

the Indian Empire to a crown colony in its own right in 1937, were the first qat policies drafted. Among the first known measures taken vis-à-vis qat was an administrative instruction to the effect that recruits for the police and military forces of the colony were to be selected only from those tribes of the hinterland among whom qat consumption was either unknown or frowned upon. The British also attempted to ban qat consumption in their prisons, but had to go back on this decision, fearing disturbances, since inmates became extremely irritable without qat.

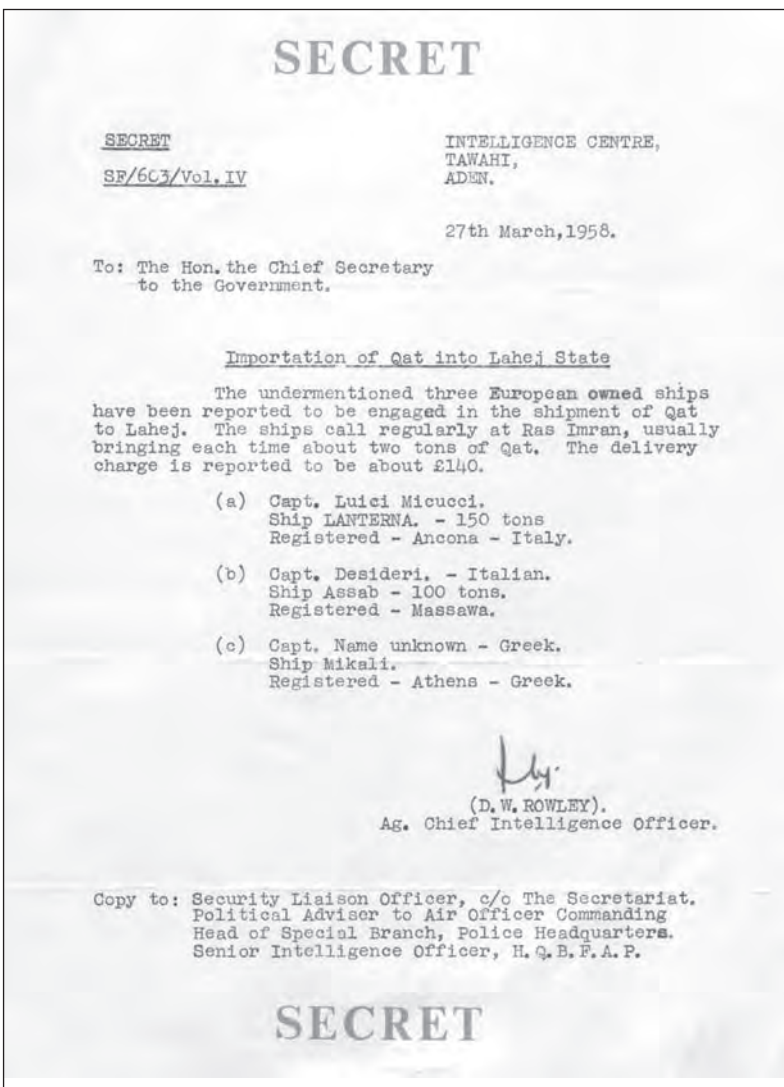
A motive for tolerating the drug for such a long time before introducing a ban in the 1950s may have been the fragile balance of power with the rulers of the interior who drew considerable profits from the trade—a balance the British wanted to maintain at all cost. When Aden had become a crown colony in 1937, the main landward imports were qat, firewood and fodder.

After the commencement of commercial air traffic between Ethiopia and Aden, Harari qat dispatched from Dire Dawa was introduced into the British colony. First deliveries by air reached Aden in 1949.

For Ethiopian Airlines, which was founded in December 1945 with the United States' surplus aircraft from World War II, qat deliveries were soon to become an important source of revenue.

Before long, Adenis developed a liking for the taste of the East African leaves and soon favored them over Yemeni qat. It thus did not take long for Ethiopian qat to dominate the market and by the early 1950's Ethiopian qat was delivered to Aden on a daily basis.

Owing mainly to a growth in population and purchasing power as a result of increasing salaries, qat imports to Aden multiplied by two and a half times between 1947 and 1953. The rise of qat imports was paralleled by a marked increase in prices for Harari qat.



Classified letter of the British colonial administration in Aden reporting on the subversion of the qat ban by European vessels (British Library, Asia, Pacific and Africa Collections, Records of the British Administration in Aden, 1839-1967, IOR/R/20/B/2899, File 10256-59).



YT vision statement

"To make Yemen a good world citizen."

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



OUR OPINION

Egyptian regime must pay for this latest miscarriage of justice

The latest tragic farce to play out in Egyptian courtrooms was this week's sentencing of Al-Jazeera journalists Baher Mohamed, Peter Greste, and Mohamed Fahmy to ten, seven and seven years respectively. The three were convicted of spreading 'false news' and aiding the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, while Baher Mohamed was given an even harsher sentence for being in possession of a bullet casing he had found at a protest.

The entire charade shows just how far the freedoms promised by Egypt's revolution are being rolled back by the military establishment in its offensive against critical journalists and media outlets. Last year Egypt became one of the three most dangerous countries for journalists, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Since the Brotherhood's Mohamed Morsi—also no friend of press freedom—was ousted by the military in July last year, at least five journalists have been shot dead and many others have been wounded by heavy-handed riot police.

Thankfully, Al-Jazeera Arabic journalist Abdullah Elshamy, arrested while covering the regime's ruthless crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood in August, was released last week on medical grounds. Although this came after 307 days of detention without charge, numerous beatings, solitary confinement, and a hunger strike that seriously threatened Elshamy's health, his release offered some hope for over a dozen journalists held by the regime for simply doing their jobs. That hope has since withered away with this latest ruling, which has nothing to do with justice and everything to do with making an example of journalists who dare go against the official narrative. After all, we're talking about the same judiciary that has handed down hundreds of death sentences in mass trials of protesters and Brotherhood supporters in the last few months.

Not only has Egypt's judiciary betrayed its cowardice in the face of political pressure, but its utter incompetence was laid bare over the course of what became a truly bizarre trial. Holiday photos of Greste's family, a pop song by the singer Gotye, and footage of prancing horses filmed for Sky News were among the totally irrelevant, weird bits of 'evidence' coughed up by the prosecution to support the trumped up charges. One would have thought that bungling on that scale would have forced even the most partisan court to back down. Sadly, that wasn't to be.

Since the Brotherhood was unceremoniously removed, the state's security apparatus has consistently pioneered new heights of absurdity. The case of Feras Shamsan, a Yemeni journalist who spent 36 days in an Egyptian prison earlier this year, is telling. Shamsan was covering the International Book Fair in Cairo, polling visitors on their favorite literature when an argument over politics broke out between two visitors at the fair. After Shamsan intervened to break up the fight he was immediately arrested on suspicion of political incitement. The case is hardly exceptional in Egypt—talk to journalists working in the country and they will offer up endless stories of arbitrary arrests and harassment of journalists, activists and anyone else the authorities get the slightest whiff of trouble from. These are the mundane, often unreported excesses that are the pulse of autocratic rule in Egypt.

And in the midst of the crackdowns, as the country sinks deeper into authoritarian rule and the three Al-Jazeera journalists face years behind bars, the response from the Egyptian press has been predictably hushed so far. Bar a couple of exceptions, the Egyptian media ranges from the timid to the sycophantic and has been complicit in fostering the climate of conspiracy and pumped-up nationalism that set the scene for this latest show trial. All the official talk of Qatari hands meddling in Egyptian affairs and stoking unrest, of journalists being part of "terror cells," is rehearsed by the media and embraced by supporters of the regime, who have given the regime the popular backing it needs to batter its critics.

The military regime is laagered and has so far been impervious to the international criticism the trial has brought, while President Sisi has said that Egyptian authorities will not interfere in the judicial process. Serious international pressure—the kind that materially hurts the regime—is what is needed now. But just before the verdict was handed down Secretary of State John Kerry met with Sisi, promising to turn on the aid taps again after the US suspended most of its \$1.3 billion in annual military assistance in the wake of Morsi's ouster. It makes US condemnation of the trial of the journalists ring hollow. But then again, what more could one expect from a government that itself locked up and tortured an Al-Jazeera journalist, Sami Al-Hajj, for years without a fair trial, before releasing him without charge from Guantanamo bay.

This issue's editorial was written by Micah Reddy, the Yemen Times managing editor.

Egypt: A new dawn for autocracy

Toby Cadman
aljazeera.com
First published June 23

Francois-Marie Arouet, better known by his nom de plume, Voltaire, is often attributed as having said, "I disagree with every word you utter but will defend to the death your right to say it." In fact, the remarks came from Evelyn Beatrice Hall, an English author describing Voltaire's passion for freedom of speech.

Freedom of speech is not just important; it is essential to any democracy. A free press does not simply report on issues of the day, it is there to ensure that governments are held accountable to its people and that the people have a voice.

The decision issued on June 23 in Egypt is a further erosion of that accountability. In fact, it is the last nail in the coffin for democracy in Egypt. The three Al-Jazeera journalists who have been detained in inhumane and degrading conditions in Egypt have been convicted and sentenced to serve at least seven years in detention on charges of aiding terrorists and endangering national security. The conditions under which they were tried were a flagrant denial of justice and demonstrate the military regime's iron rule.

There have been countless trials of late in Egypt that have flown in the face of justice. Numerous trials

have shown that the judicial system is being used as a tool of the state to silence dissent, and to punish those who may have a different point of view than the farcically elected government.

A new blow

This decision, however, strikes a new blow. The trial and subsequent decision to convict shows just how far along the road to an authoritarian state Egypt has reverted.

Arguably what is of equal importance perhaps is to assess how the international community has reacted to the descent into chaos and authoritarian rule. What Egypt needs now is for the international community to take note of the very dangerous path the current government is taking. Regrettably, it would appear that despite the concerns raised by the military coup, there is nonetheless shameful hypocrisy displayed by both the European Union and the US. Both applauded the cry for change in Egypt. Both applauded the first free and independent elections in which President Mohammed Morsi was elected, and yet, neither condemned the coup d'etat nor the subsequent military actions that have left hundreds, if not thousands, dead.

Thousands have been arrested and hundreds sentenced to death, yet where is the condemnation of the undermining of the rule of law, and dismantling of fundamental rights? No such condemnation was

forthcoming. Bizarrely, it appears that the position was seen as quite the opposite.

Baroness Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for the European Union, noted that she was happy with the steps taken by Egypt towards democracy. How is it possible that anyone can be happy with such steps, when the reality is that such steps mean the punishment of dissent, the restriction of the free press, and the arrest and detention of those who report something that the state does not like? It is shameful to advocate for such an approach.

Farcical process

This is the position that we are faced with in Egypt. The US and the European Union seemingly now support an authoritarian regime that seized power by force, that cannot argue that it now has a mandate from the people given that the election process was so fundamentally flawed to be rendered farcical.

One must ask the question as to how the West can support a regime that detains and imprisons journalists for merely reporting on the current situation. Is this really the sort of regime that the international community should be supplying weapons to?

It is noted that the US recently recommended the supply of military

aid to Egypt despite the oppression of its own people and despite the lack of basic democratic rights for its people. The foreign policy of both the US and the European Union towards Egypt is assisting authoritarian rule and is giving credibility, on the international stage, to a regime that has become dictatorial.

The decision today by the court must serve as a wake-up call for the international community. The three Al-Jazeera journalists were imprisoned for seven years and three more convicted in their absence were sentenced to ten-year terms. This is not a progressive government. The rule of law has now collapsed. The international community must raise its voice and diplomatic relations must be severed until the judgments are overturned and the journalists are released. The US must immediately freeze military aid. The European Union must immediately withdraw its support and publicly condemn the recent verdicts. The only reaction justifiable from the international community now, is a dramatic rethink of its policy towards Egypt.

There is no other option, because to tolerate is to encourage.

Toby Cadman is an international criminal law specialist. He is a Barrister member at Nine Bedford Row International Chambers in London and a member of the International Criminal Bureau in The Hague.

What do we mean by "Islamist?"

Elizabeth R. Nugent
washingtonpost.com
First published June 23

In last Wednesday's New York Times, David Kirkpatrick wrote that recent events in the Middle East suggest that violent extremist interpretations of politicized Islam are threatening to replace electoral Islamism. "Moderate" is employed to describe Islamists who contest politics through official electoral institutions, while "radical" is used to describe jihadi groups that seek to overthrow existing status quo governments through extra-political and violent means.

While there does not yet exist enough evidence or distance from current events to assess the validity of his claim, his linkage of dissimilar Islamist actors in the dissimilar countries of Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen is problematic and reflects imprecise language used in describing of Islamist actors. Jillian Schwedler has previously noted that adjectives such as moderate and radical only make sense when they are explicitly precised to refer to ideology, tactics or goals, and the meanings of these terms are conditioned by the national context within which actors operate. In addition, the terms only make sense in comparison with some baseline category, and require an appropriate basis of comparison—perhaps other actors using similar tactics or holding similar objectives, actors within the same political context, or other actors within the same interpretive tradition.

However, all the groups referenced in the article would qualify as "Islamist," and thus a larger question remains—how can so many different political actors, ranging from non-state reform movements to political parties to revolutionary groups and militias, be subsumed under one adjective? Rather than being a product of imprecise language, the significant variation in the nature, tactics, and

objectives of these groups suggests an ambiguity inherent in politicized Islam we often fail to recognize in contemporary debates about the subject—one that is increasingly important as the region witnesses continued multiplication of Islamist actors engaged in electoral, militant, and extra-political activities.

Anthropologists have long recognized significant pluralism and variation within specific religious traditions. All major religions encompass at least two significant innate divergences. The first divergence is between text and practice—what Robert Redfield called the "great" and "little" traditions. Actors operating within the same faith tradition can do debate which texts "count" as the great tradition and as legitimate sources of religious tradition, while the little-practiced tradition varies across groups and even individuals that may be considered part of the same larger faith tradition. A second divergence occurs within the practiced tradition. As Clifford Geertz noted, practiced religion differs significantly within different regional, national, or sub-national contexts, within different sects, and even across individuals within any of these given contexts.

Talal Asad accepts this complexity in order to allow for the inclusion of multiple interpretations under single faith traditions. He writes that "Islam is neither a distinctive social structure nor a heterogeneous collection of beliefs, artifacts, customs, and morals." Rather, it is a "discursive tradition"—meaning that "Muslim discourse that addresses itself to conceptions of the Islamic past and future, with reference to a particular Islamic practice in the present." As a result, all practices that relate themselves to a certain religious discursive tradition, however this relationship is manifested, should be considered part of that religion and studied as such. What does this mean for understanding contemporary Islamist politics? Islamism's definition as an ideology that locates

political legitimacy in the application of the sharia (often translated as Islamic law) and in Islamic tradition pegs it to complicated and unfixed concepts that are diversely interpreted in different manners by different practitioners. Various definitions of sharia draw from any combination of the prescriptions outlined in the Quran and the Sunnah related to larger societal issues of politics, economics, justice and social organization. The complexities arising from the translation of a multiplicity of practiced and interpreted Islams is manifested in the diverse range of actors that might fall under the rubric of an Islamist movement, party, or group. Islamists can range from those that advocate for quietism, effecting gradual political change through internal individual reform, to political parties advocating for societal reform through social welfare and electoral contestation, to revolutionary militants that seek to overthrow illegitimate states and implement revolutionary change. Islamists range from those who root justifications of their political behavior in personal and literalist interpretation of the textual tradition, to those who rely on interpretations derived from independent reasoning and decision-making with a firm basis in established schools of Islamic legal theory.

I further explore the importance of variation in defining Islamic tradition for politics in a working paper co-authored with Christine Fair and Rebecca Littman—though we look at public opinion (specifically, in Pakistan) rather than actor placement and ideology. We find that the relationship between supporting the implementation of Islamic law, and support for democratic values and militancy, depends on one's definition. Conceptualizing an Islamic government as one that implements sharia by providing services and security for the people predicts increased support for democratic values, whereas conceptualizing

an Islamic government as one that implements sharia by imposing hudud punishments and restricting women's public roles predicts increased support for militancy. These results suggest that depending on how individuals within a particular context and time period conceptualize a sharia-based government, public support for the multi-faceted sharia can either be a positive force for democracy or a predictor of support for militant politics. While we understand the limits and correlational nature of survey data, the results in combination with an understanding of sharia and the plethora of Islamist political actors throughout history suggests that varying definitions matter for what the descriptive "Islamist" means in different contexts. The relationship between a group's Islamist ideology and the nature and shape of its political engagement largely depends, and it depends on one's definition of sharia, how one draws from Islamic tradition, and which part of the Islamic tradition from which one draws, and in which national context one operates.

In many ways, this finding and the larger point are obvious and intuitive, but it's something that continues to get lost in contemporary debates. It means both actors and critics who essentialize Islam, and fault or credit the entire faith tradition for one politicized version contained within its discursive tradition, are incorrect. It's why militant actors as well as religious parties cannot claim that they speak for all of Islam or Muslims as a collective community, and it's why outsiders cannot condemn Islam as a monolithic entity. These differences in interpretation and practice are the fascinating and frustrating challenges in understanding religion in politics, and understanding the inherent multiplicity and pluralism contained with religious faith traditions is important for consumers of news about Islamism and its current political actors.

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Tel: +967 (1) 268-661
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen
Letters: yreaders.view@gmail.com

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Offices

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

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- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.
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**NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL**

REQUEST OF AUDITING SERVICES

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has been present in Somalia since 2003 and has since expanded its Horn of Africa Programme to Kenya in 2006 and to Ethiopia in 2011. Since 2004, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has demonstrated a regional competence and expertise in working with displaced populations. NRC has mainly focused on Somalis who are displaced by the on-going conflict and more recently by the drought and famine. The Regional office is based in Nairobi, Kenya with offices and operations in Somalia (Puntland, Somaliland and Mogadishu), Kenya (Dadaab

and Kakuma), Ethiopia (Addis Ababa, Dolo Ado, Shire and Asosa) and Yemen (Sanaa, Aden & Haradh).

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is an International NGO with regional competence and expertise in working with displaced populations. The Regional Office is based in Nairobi, Kenya with country offices and operations in Kenya, Ethiopia and Yemen NRC has been present in Yemen since 2011 and has a country office in Sanaa with sub - offices in Aden and Haradh.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

The overall objective of this engagement is to perform a statutory audit of NRC Yemen for the year 2014 and provide an independent opinion on the same. The resultant financial statements shall comprise of statements of Income and Expenditure and Balance Reconciliation Sheet.

KEY SPECIFICATIONS AND PROFILE OF THE AUDITING FIRM:

To undertake this assignment, the Auditor is expected inter alia to possess the following core competencies

- Adhere to professional auditing standards as adopted in Yemen.
- Conduct the audit in according to the group audit instructions from NRC global external auditor.
- Demonstrate staff capacity to speedy audit process and sound knowledge of the INGO accounting and issues of complex multi-currency transactions and currency conversions.
- Knowledge of NGO sector operation and provide at least two references from a recognized INGO operating in Kenya for which similar services have been offered.

- Sound knowledge of project management issues both in humanitarian and development, campaigns and advocacy related interventions.
- Professional conduct by its staff at all times and willing to adhere to NRC's values, and code of conduct and other core principles
- Competitive cost or fees.

OUTPUTS:

An independent Audit opinion on the financial statements for NRC Yemen with a detailed management comments for Yemen Country programmes.

Focal Point and Contacts

The Country Director for NRC Yemen will be the focal point for the assignment while the auditors will be assigned key contacts in the audit.

NRC reserves the right to assign or delegate any other officer during the course of the audit and the Auditors shall be informed from time to time on any changes or delegations made.

TENDER SPECIFICATIONS:

All interested audit firms are expected to express an interest by 14th August 2014 clearly demonstrating

their ability to meet as a minimum the Key Specifications and Profile requirements listed above including;

- The audit fee and payment terms.
- Firm's competency and staff profile, capacity and at least 2 INGO referees.
- Company Registration, up to date tax and other statutory compliance certificates.
- Estimated duration. NRC does not expect this assignment to exceed 21 working days including preparatory work, designing engagement plans incl field travel where necessary, and performing the audit, exit processes and final reporting.
- Your earliest availability to commence the audit.

Important information

1. **Volume of work:** The total number of donor contracts are 17 and the approximate amount will be USD 14Million (North Yemen - 40% and South Yemen - 60).
2. **Accommodation and Travel:** Accommodation and travel costs will be covered by NRC.

LOCATION:

Audit will be conducted in Sana'a, Yemen. NRC is available to provide information to any audit firm for purposes of ascertaining the volume of work for this assignment and for costing purposes. This shall be with arrangements with the NRC Yemen Finance Manager and Country Director. All Enquiries can be sent to email: munier.mohammed@nrc.no

Additional Documents

For more information, please see the attached group audit instructions:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/153znqdDihLjQoTHCtviKLYWmqDiZaDpdnkIjSC48738/edit>

DISCLAIMER:

NRC reserves the right to reject any bid from any firm and is not obliged to disclose reasons why.

How to apply:

Expressions of Interests shall be sealed and be delivered to NRC Yemen in Sana'a (Hadda Street, behind Al-Fakher Restruarant) between 8.30AM-5.00PM and not later than 14th August 2014.

Republic of Yemen Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Position Vacancy Announcement for Economic Opportunities Fund Chief Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

The Government of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and several cofinancier for the Economic Opportunities Programme (EOP), Fishery Investment Program (FIP) and Rural Employment Programme (REP). These Programmes aim to improve the economic status of rural women and men through the creation of sustainable private sector-led economic opportunities. The EOP, FIP and REP as well as several future investments, will be managed by a Economic Opportunities Fund (EOF) which is created as a public-private partnership. The EOF is managing investments valued in the range of USD 150 million over the next six years. MOPIC now seeks qualified Yemeni candidates for the key professional positions of the EOF as outlined below.

GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Reporting to the EOF Board of Directors, the CEO is accountable for the EOF performance. He provides leadership and manages donors-financed programmes, in accordance with the mission, values and strategic objectives established and/or approved by the Board. The CEO sits on the EOF Board of Directors as an observer.

NATURE AND SCOPE

The CEO has the responsibility to:

- Lead and manage the EOF within the guidelines established by the Board;
- Report to the Board of Directors;

- Recommend the AWP/B to the Board and implement the corresponding operational activities;
- Direct and monitor the activities of the EOF in a manner that ensures that the strategic, operational and capital plans are met and that the assets of the EOF are safeguarded and optimized in the best interests of the programme;
- Develop and recommend to the Board the overall corporate organizational structure and the appointment of Executive Management;
- Manage and oversee the required interfaces between the EOF and the public and act as the principal spokesperson of the EOF. This includes the responsibility for managing the equity and other financial market interfaces on behalf of the EOF.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will lead the EOF to improve the economic status of poor women and men in creating sustainable economic opportunities in the programmes area. He/she will direct the EOF to stimulate the growth and technological improvement of selected value chains and the creation/growth of rural business activities and enterprises, promote linkages between producers' associations and markets through contractual arrangements; promote compliance with national and international food security and safety standards; develop public and private economic infrastructure in support to the selected value chains; expand the rural outreach of financial institutions; enhance access to sustainable rural financial services; promote alternative financial services to stakeholders of selected value chains.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Guide programme implementation in accordance with provisions of the Grant/Financing Agreement between Government and IFAD and the guidelines of the Appraisal Report;
- Ensure the coordination of all programme components and activities between project staff, implementing partners, command area communities and other stakeholders;
- Approve the appointment of other EOF staff, participate to their evaluation and ensure that they are fulfilling their terms of reference;
- Ensure that Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPBs) are prepared and submitted in accordance with the Grant/Financing Agreement and with the rule of the Ministry of Finance;
- Ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all programme activities and that women beneficiaries participate effectively in programme interventions and benefit in an equitable manner.
- Take responsibility for the overall use of the programme financial resources;
- Creating Account/s and the Special Account;
- Ensure that the terms and conditions of the agreements/contracts with all implementing partners are adhered to;
- Ensure that the necessary disbursement and reimbursement procedures and M&E activities follow those specified in the Grant/Financing Agreement;
- Submit programme financial and physical progress reports in compliance with the Grant/Finance Agreement, Government requirements and the Project M&E system.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- A graduate degree in business or financial management or similar subject;
- A minimum of 12 years managerial level experience in the private, and public sectors.
- Working experience in donor-financed programmes.
- Wide network of contacts with MOPIC, MAI and MOF and the ability to communicate with and motivate a wide range of people including ministers, Senior Government Officials and leaders and ordinary members of civil society;
- Initiative, commitment, breadth of vision and capacity for innovative, latent thinking;
- Leadership and team building qualities and experience;
- Fluency in English both writing and speaking.

General Information

- The recruitment process will be based on open competition and equal opportunity for women and men applicants. Only short-listed candidates will be informed and invited for detailed interviews.
- Interested candidates should submit their applications, consisting of a cover letter and curriculum vitae (CV), to the minister's office-Ministry of Planning and International Cooperating, Email (technical.mopic@gmail.com) - fax: 250665)

**The deadline for applications is
17.00hrs on 23 July 2014.**



A job for the inspector general:

Prosecute officials for abusing migrants

■ Belkis Wille

“They would tie my hands behind my back and lay me down on the ground,” was what “Said” told me, describing the torture camp near Yemen’s coast where he spent seven days before the traffickers holding him sold him to another gang. “Then they would beat me with sticks,” he said as he showed me the scars across his back. “I saw the guards kick the face of one man who was on the floor, breaking his teeth.”

A month ago, Human Rights Watch issued a report that I researched showing how traffickers abuse African migrants in isolated camps in the desert, with the complicity of Yemeni officials. We documented how networks of human traffickers coordinate with the boat crews that deposit the migrants on the Yemeni coast, hold the migrants in detention camps, and torture them to extort payment from their families for their release. We found that traffickers pay officials either to look the other way or to help them.

After extensive public discussion, the Yemeni government on June 6 began a series of raids on the traffickers’ “torture camps” in the desert. By June 13, the authorities had released 92 migrants and arrested 16 traffickers, according to a public statement issued by the International Organization for Migration. These raids are a good first step, but they are only a band-aid, not a long-term solution, for the deep wound of official corruption.

We found that government officials at multiple levels help traffickers to run the camps, and help them to escape prosecution,

conviction, and prison. As long as that climate of complicity persists, government raids will certainly help individual migrants, but they won’t stop the system of horrific abuses.

This is why our main recommendation wasn’t to prosecute the traffickers themselves—that is the second call—but for the Yemeni government to vigorously investigate and prosecute all government officials complicit in the abuses. I recognize that the government has a limited capacity, and it is unrealistic to expect authorities to do the whole job immediately. Yet an initial handful of well-chosen prosecutions will give the Yemeni people a sense that their government is prepared to act and will send a message to other officials that the authorities no longer turn a blind eye to this kind of criminal activity.

Yemen has an official who should be able to take this job on: the Interior Ministry’s inspector general. A presidential decree created the position a year ago to oversee the ministry’s staff, including its security forces, in light of alleged human rights abuses. Abdu Thabet Al-Sobaihi, the inspector general, has not yet announced a public investigation into the activities of any official, but the abuses against migrants would be a perfect place to start.

The Human Rights Watch report contains copious information about the mistreatment of migrants, and the complicity of officials. Given that this investigatory work was done with very limited manpower, I am confident that if the Inspector General’s Office has the will to tackle this problem, investigators could put together cases to bring implicated officials to trial.

Findings of the Report

The 82-page report, “Yemen’s Torture Camps,” shines a light on official complicity that supports traffickers’ camps constructed in recent years along the border areas with Saudi Arabia, and most likely elsewhere in the country. The traffickers pick up the migrants as they arrive by boat on the coast or “buy” them from security and military officers at checkpoints, charging the migrants fees on the promise of getting them to Saudi Arabia or other affluent Gulf countries to seek work. But instead, the traffickers take the migrants to their camps, where the traffickers inflict severe pain and suffering on the migrants to extort money from their relatives back home or friends already working abroad.

Except for some raids in 2013, the authorities have done little to stop the trafficking. Officials have more frequently warned traffickers of raids, failed to prosecute them, and then released those they arrest. In some cases, they have actively helped the traffickers capture and detain migrants.

My colleagues and I interviewed 18 male migrants from Ethiopia and 10 traffickers and smugglers, as well as government officials, activists, diplomats, aid workers, health professionals, and journalists between June 2012 and March 2014.

The migrants described horrific ill-treatment in the camps. Beatings were commonplace. One man described watching another man’s eyes gouged out with a water bottle. Another said that traffickers hung him by wire wrapped around his thumbs, and tied a string with a full water bottle around his penis. Witnesses said the traffickers raped some of the women migrants they

held.

Aid workers told me they observed signs of abuse in migrants consistent with their accounts of traffickers ripping off fingernails, burning the cartilage of their ears, branding their skin with irons, gouging out eyes, and breaking their bones. Health professionals at a medical facility at the border town of Haradh said they commonly saw migrants with injuries including lacerations from rape, damage from being hung by their thumbs, and burns from cigarettes and molten plastic.

The torture sometimes ends in death. A migrant told me that he saw traffickers tie a man’s penis with string and beat him with wooden sticks until the man died before his eyes. Another said that traffickers killed two men in his group by hacking them with an axe. Migrants tortured to near death are sometimes dumped outside a migrant center in Haradh that is run by the International Organization for Migration.

Extorting money from the families of captive migrants brings in large sums of money in Yemen, the Middle East’s poorest country. Migrants told me that their family members and friends paid ransoms for their freedom ranging from the equivalent of YR43,000 to more than YR215,000. A trafficker who negotiates ransoms said that he is often able to extract YR279,500 per migrant from their families.

Traffickers transporting Yemeni and African migrants pay standardized bribes to officials to allow them through checkpoints in border areas, they and officials told me. But the complicity of officials goes beyond petty bribery. Smugglers and migrants alike said that some checkpoint guards had

intercepted migrants on the roads and turned them over to traffickers in exchange for payment.

One migrant told me that after he and a friend had escaped a torture camp last August, Yemeni soldiers apprehended them at a checkpoint near Haradh. While the two were fed bread and tea, the soldiers made some calls. In a short while, two men arrived in a car, paid the soldiers cash in exchange for the two migrants, and drove them to a torture camp.

Involvement in trafficking appears to extend to elements within various state security forces in Haradh, including the police, military, and the intelligence services. Traffickers, smugglers, and Yemeni officials provided me with the names of senior officials who they said were complicit in trafficking. Two officials also told me that traffickers had bribed them so they would not be raided or arrested.

On May 20, Human Rights Watch received a letter from the Defense Ministry responding to questions sent to the ministry in April. The ministry reiterated the military’s resolve to crack down on torture camps that it had identified but denied any government complicity, including by checkpoint officers, in human trafficking. The ministry also stated that no officials had been investigated on charges of complicity with traffickers.

The 2013 raids on traffickers’ camps were carried out from March to May by Yemeni security forces. The Defense Ministry said that the security forces discontinued the raids because they were unable to provide the migrants with food or shelter upon their release. Officials acknowledged that many of the camps that security forces had raided are functioning again.

A judge who tries lesser felonies in Haradh said that he had seen only one case related to migrant abuse, and that the prosecutor had botched it. Nor did I find any indication that more serious charges have been brought in the nearby higher criminal court. Interior Ministry and other officials could not cite a single case of disciplinary or legal action against officials for collaborating with traffickers. The Yemeni government’s failure to investigate and prosecute serious abuses committed against migrants by private parties and the involvement of government officials violates Yemen’s obligations under international human rights law to protect people from violations of their rights to life and to bodily integrity.

My colleagues and I were told by migrants, traffickers and Yemeni officials that Saudi border officials have also been complicit in the abuse of migrants by apprehending border crossers and turning them over to Haradh-based traffickers.

Creating the role of inspector general, in and of itself, suggests a new level of government commitment to curb officials’ illegal activities. But unless the Inspector General’s Office carries out actual investigations, the post remains merely symbolic. Government corruption relating to abuses against migrants in Haradh appears to be so rampant that anyone and everyone discusses it openly. The Inspector General’s office should welcome the opportunity to start investigating.

Belkis Wille is a Middle East and North Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch, has done extensive work in Yemen, and is the main author of the report.

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Dhamar makes progress in reducing open sewers

Story and photo by
Abdulkareem Al-Nahari

Sixty-three rural sub-districts were recently declared free of open sewage in Wesab Al-Ali, a district of Dhamar governorate, 240 kilometers southwest of the capital.

This development, announced late last month, follows inspection campaigns launched by the Social Fund for Development (SFD), a governmental organization. The campaigns lasted three months and included programs to educate men, women and children in the sub-districts of Kasht, Rima', Al-Jadla, Al-Qawati, Al-Manara, Ghaithan, and Himyar about health and sanitation.

The aim of the SFD is to rid these areas of open sewage and expand sanitation services. Under the title "The Perfect Sanitation led by Society," the program will enable local communities to play an active role in solving sanitation problems in their own community.

Before the campaign, the houses in these areas—in common with most houses in the country—did not have proper sewage pipes. Houses were equipped with a toilet, typically a hole in the ground, which would carry the sewage via pipe or trough a short distance from their house where it would be left exposed. The campaign introduced proper sewage disposal pipes to transport sewage from toilets deep into the ground.

The problem with open sewage
According to Mohammed Al-Khadm Al-Mansouri, an SFD Officer, a very large section of the country's predominantly rural population defecates into open sewers. This leads to the spread of diseases such as diarrhea and worms which in turn leads to malnutrition and stunted growth.

According to the World Bank, "there are two reasons why open drains are unsatisfactory for sewage transport. First, people can easily come into contact with the wastewater, with its potentially high pathogen content. Second, since it is almost impossible to keep storm water out of drains, any flooding will be flooding with diluted sewage."

UNICEF's report, "Situation Analysis of Children in Yemen 2014," states that "open defecation remains the practice for more than 20 per cent of the population and appears to be higher for young children... few schools have access to safe water, and most lack suitable sanitation facilities, with consequences for student health conditions and attendance, especially for adolescent girls."

"The risks to Yemeni children from both open defecation practices by households and from diarrhea-related mortality are overwhelmingly about WASH (Water and Sanitary Hygiene) standards and practices," the report reads.

Improper disposal of sewage can result in a variety of bacterial, viral,

and parasitic diseases. These can be transmitted directly, when an individual comes into contact with the sewage itself, or indirectly, when the disease is transmitted through animals, food, or water that carries the contaminants.

"Water and sanitation are among the most serious challenges confronting Yemen's development. With particular regard to children, the primary commitment is the target included within Millennium Development Goal 7: between 2000 and 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation will be halved," the report reads.

UNICEF's research indicates that "Yemen is considered to be unlikely to achieve its water and sanitation targets under the Goals. Progress towards the sanitation targets has been insufficient and progress toward the water targets has regressed."

A much needed campaign

Al-Mansouri told the Yemen Times that the SFD brings awareness of health risks associated with open sewage and the spread of diseases from human waste. He said the government has difficulty dealing with the issue of urban sanitation because residential areas are too big and sprawling, with populations of over 130,000 making it difficult to provide adequate sanitation for all.

Nashwan Maooda, a staff member, said the SFD team visited schools and houses to inform people of the potential diseases from open sewage and the costs of treatments.

Mahmoud Al-Arami, a member of the SFD awareness team, said that the team conducted a field survey in the beginning of the awareness process. For the initial survey phase, the team was divided into five groups distributed over five sub-districts. After finding that there were more sub-districts in need of improved sanitary conditions, they increased their efforts to seven sub-districts.

Through the collected data, it was identified that in most of the houses, people use traditional bathrooms and lack the means to dispose of waste in a sanitary manner.

According to Al-Arami, all data was collected for each house during



SFD teams raise awareness of the health risks of open sewers among villagers.

the first phase, after which the team organized a follow-up process in each village to ensure the villagers responded to the awareness campaign held in schools, mosques and communities with the help of tribal sheikhs and teachers.

Mohammed Al-Hatheq, a member of the awareness team, said they created a competition between the sub-districts, whereby the first sub-district to be free of open sewers would win a prize. The team gave out merit certificates to the successful sub-districts, and a clock was given to members of Qashat in Wesab district, which was the first to complete the objective.

Positive community response

Ibrahim Al-Yemeni, a teacher in Qashat sub-district, said the problem of open sewage was resolved in all houses in the area. "We worked hard to finish covering the open sewers before other districts and be honored," he added, referring to his sub-districts first place prize.

Abdulrahman Al-Shuaibi, direc-

tor of the Industrial Institute in Al-Sareh area of Qashat sub-district, said the initiatives of residents in Qashat made residents in other areas follow suit and begin to cover their open sewers as well, adding that the number is increasing day by day.

Faiza Saeed Abdulla, a student at the Industrial Institute, said that the residents in his area were co-operative and some of them collected money to help the poor improve their sanitary conditions as well.

The fact that proper sanitation requires a communal, rather than individual effort, is stressed in UNICEF's recent report: "The fact that one person in 50 in urban areas still practices open defecation exposes large proportions of the population to potential outbreak of serious illnesses such as cholera. This, in turn, emphasizes the importance of national efforts to improve hygiene knowledge."

Asmhan Saleh Al-Faqeh, the program officer in Dhamar and Al-Beidha governorates, confirmed

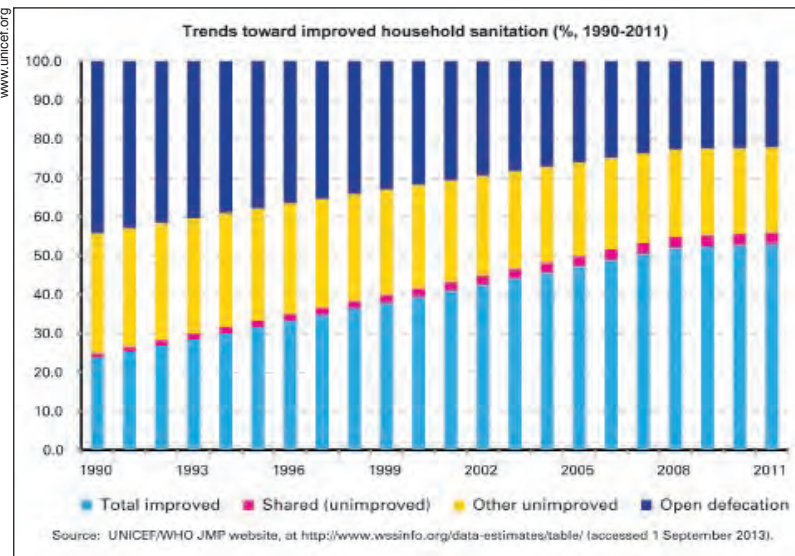
that local communities have been responsive to these campaigns.

According to Mohammed Al-Mizab, the head of Al-Jadla Association, teachers, academics and leading community figures played an important role in ending open sewage in their areas.

Despite the successes of the campaign, Yemen is a long way from achieving universal sanitary conditions.

"The decline in open defecation in rural areas—from 54 per cent in 1990 to 32 per cent in 2011—still exposes far too many households, especially their children, to a range of life-threatening diseases" the UNICEF report reads. "Access to improved sanitation for rural populations has improved since 1990 from 12 to 34 per cent, but this still falls well short of the 2015 target of 56 per cent."

Abdulaziz Al-Kardmi, a resident in Dhamar, said he hopes "the education programs will target neighboring areas...so that everyone benefits."



Ramadan drama series face setbacks

Story and photo by
Ali Abulohoom

With only a few days to go until Ramadan, the budget for the seasonal edition of the Ramadan drama Droob Shaeka has been delayed due to the 2014 government budget deficit. The state-run Yemen TV's Droob Shaeka only started filming the series on June 3.

The special Ramadan series usually lasts 30 days, with an episode dedicated each day of the Ramadan month. However, due to time constraints, this year's series might only last 15 days.

Abdulaziz Al-Harazi, the director of Droob Shaeka, explains that although there is increasing pressure to condense the series this year, the essence of the series will still be conveyed, despite having a shorter time-frame.

Droob Shaeka series deals with all sorts of pressing social issues, including the ownership of weapons, security unrest and patriotism. Each show in the drama series is unique—the characters and setting are different each time and there is no consistent plot running through the series.

This year's edition of Droob Shaeka was close to being canceled, with plans to just replay episodes from previous years. However efforts by Al-Harazi and other directors put an end to that decision.

"Ramadan drama [Droob Shaeka] is long-awaited by Yemeni people. There is no other drama production like it during the Ramadan period, so people are eager to watch this program. It gives people solutions to their problems," Al-Harazi said.

Al-Harazi says that there is high demand for drama series in Yemen, especially during Ramadan, when people spend more time at home. In Yemen there are over ten television channels, three of which are state-run, and most of these channels produce additional content for Ramadan. However, producers fear that they cannot keep up with rising popular demand, and budget constraints are a major problem.

Drama shows similar to Droob Shaeka are produced by other TV channels, such as the privately-run youth channel Yemen Shabab established in 2012. This Ramadan, Yemen Shabab is planning to run the show Al-Madinan Tareek, which will be similar to the popular Bab Al-Hara show—a Syrian production now in its fifth year that attracts viewers from across the Arab world.

Bab Al-Hara is set in the 1940s and addresses topics related to the French occupation of Syria. Al-Madinan Tareek features Bab Al-Hara actors and deals with Yemen's own history. The series is inspired by Zaid Damaj's novel "The Hostage," which tells the tale of a tyrannical Yemeni Imam who takes hostages from a tribe and threatens to harm the hostages if the tribe does not

follow his orders.

Abdulaziz Al-Badani, an actor for both Al-Madinan Tareek and Bab Al-Hara, says, "the series urges people to face today's challenges in the same way Yemeni people faced the challenges posed by a previous dictator."

The private TV channel Al-Saida is currently filming its sixth season of the popular series "Hami Hamak." The show previously addressed the daily concerns of Yemeni citizens through satire. According to Ahmed Al-Mamari, an actor in the series, this year the show will touch on the fuel crisis, assassination attempts and the attacks on electricity pylons. The aim of the show is to humorously reflect the discontent felt by ordinary Yemenis.

However, not all TV channels are planning special Ramadan shows. Anas Al-Kerbi, the public relations manager for the privately owned channel Al-Sahat, said that his channel will not produce a Ramadan series.

"The channel has priorities to stick to and series production is not among them. The channel has to produce political and social programs, which contribute to raising people's awareness of their rights and duties," Al-Kerbi added.

Nevertheless, despite this year's setbacks, many Yemenis look forward to Ramadan dramas.

Mona Saeed, 35, an employee at Sana'a University, said she is eager to see the different ways channels will present some of the pressing



Yemeni actress Amani Al-Thamari

concerns in Yemen.

Mohammed Al-Qasimi, an associate professor at Aden University, says he is interested in the perspective from which Yemeni channels portray issues based on who owns the channel and their particular agendas.

Yahia Suhail, 33, an accountant for a construction supplies company, says that he likes how Yemeni Channels tackle important societal problems in both tragic and humorous ways during Ramadan.

According to Mohammad Al-Dais, the deputy director of the Me-

dia Center for Monitoring Production in Sana'a, Yemeni audiences wait the whole year for the special edition Ramadan shows. "I think the people will still love the drama shows this Ramadan as they will express what they have been feeling," Al-Badani said.

Soldiers in schools

The impact of military occupations on education

IRIN
First published June 12

Schools are targeted in conflicts around the world—they might represent ideas viewed as controversial, the destruction of a civilian building that is important to a community inflicts terror, and a school reduced to rubble can rob an entire generation of education. But attacks are only part of the problem, as significant harm can also be done when educational buildings remain intact and armed forces move in.

“Attacks on educational buildings, students, teachers and academics have resulted in hundreds of students and educators being killed and many more injured,” Zama Coursen-Neff, executive director of the children’s rights division at Human Rights Watch (HRW), told IRIN. “Hundreds of thousands of people have been denied an education when facilities are destroyed or under threat, or when the facilities are occupied by armed forces.”

For example, the UN Children’s Education Fund (UNICEF) in South Sudan, where violence broke out in late 2013, believes that since the end of May, 24 schools affecting around 8,000 students are being used by armed forces. According to Aasmund Lok, a UNICEF child protection officer in Juba, “The majority of recorded incidents are related to different government actors.”

The military use of schools can violate a host of international laws. On March 7, 2014 the UN Security Council expressed in Resolution

2143 “deep concern at the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law... [and urged] all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools.”

“We have a well co-ordinated strategy both on a national and local level to advocate with armed actors who use schools for military purposes,” said Lok. “But we also advocate with relevant government counterparts like ministries of Education, Interior, and Defense, as well as local authorities.”

South Sudanese military directives specifically forbid the use of schools, giving UNICEF-South Sudan a powerful domestic tool in supporting the removal of government troops from classrooms, in addition to advocating along international standards. Protecting schools by forbidding their use as part of military policy contributes to much-needed reform, experts say.

On Aug. 14, 2013 the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA)—South Sudan’s military—issued an instruction: “under this General Order SPLA members are prohibited from...occupying or using schools in any manner.”

In its 2014 report, The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA), a group of NGOs and UN agencies, profiled 24 countries where armed groups were using schools.

GCPEA is attempting to focus efforts on the ground by publishing a roadmap—the Lucens Guidelines—that outlines how military occupations impact education, and encourages parties to armed conflict



A girl student leaves al-Furadh School at the end of the day in Yemen. Soldiers relax and chew qat outside the school walls. They lived in third-floor classrooms for several months, students and teachers said.

“not to use schools and universities for any purpose in support of the military effort.”

“The Guidelines are practical and can influence commanders who are making decisions in battle as well as policymakers who are shaping and enforcing laws,” said Steven Haines, professor of public international law at the UK University of Greenwich, who drafted the Guidelines in consultation with govern-

ments, militaries, UN agencies, and international organizations.

When troops come marching in

“We see everything from troops using schools as their bases, barracks and training grounds to classrooms being converted into weapons depots, detention centers and even places where torture is carried out—in some cases with children

witnessing or hearing it,” said Coursen-Neff, pointing to HRW research on the occupation of schools in Somalia, Yemen, the Philippines, Thailand, Iraq and India.

Veronique Aubert, senior conflict and humanitarian research and policy adviser at Save the Children in London, noted that “in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) we have seen all of the impacts of school occupations—increased risks

of killing and injuring students, child recruitment, sexual abuse, and parents who are simply too afraid to send their children to school once the troops are around.”

According to a 2013 Save the Children report, the armed group M23 put 250 schools out of use in 2012 by looting and occupation.

Continued on the back page

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

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The Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (CAMA) intendstopre - qualify contractors for the implementation of the construction works of the New Air field, Infrastructure and Ancillary Buildings and all its Related Facilities. The main Works included are as follows (but not limitedto):

1. Airfield & Infrastructure;
2. Airfield & Infrastructure (Electronic Package);
3. Ancillary Buildings (Air Traffic Control Tower, Technical Building etc);
4. Elevated Water Tank;
5. Environmental Works (Storm Water Drainage System, Sanitary Sewerage System, Water Supply and Fire Fighting Distribution Systems etc)

Prequalification will be conducted through prequalification procedures of the High Tender Board Committee Guidelines and it is open to all bidders from eligible countries as prequalification document.

Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information and inspect to collect the complete set of the prequalification document at CAMA (Project Implementation Unit) address given below or from our web address www.camayemen.com (The Offices -Tenders) from the day of this announcement.

Application for prequalification should be submitted to CAMA (Chairman Office)to the address mentioned below by Monday 04/08/2014 at 10:00 o'clock and be clearly marked “Application to pre-qualify Contractors for the construction of Sana'a New Int Airport Project – Phase2 – Packages -1A+1B, CAMA-TBD-2014ICBNO:Y0205/5/6”.

(PIU) address is:

Project Implementation Unit (PIU) Mohammed Y. Alyadomi
Behind Dr.Banaga Medical Center Abou-Obaidaha Zone,
near to Agel Mosque
Alhai Alsiasy, Sana'a
Republic of Yemen
Phone: 00967 - 442312
Fax: 00967 - 442312
E.Mail: nsiap@camayemen.com

(CAMA) address is:

The Chairman
Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority
(CAMA)
HEAD Office, Zubeiry Street
P.O.Box: 1042,
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Tel.Nr. +9671274717
Fax.Nr. +9671274718
E.Mail: chairman@cama.gov.ye



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Hodeidah office:	The Commercial Area, Tel: 03- 219635

Please report at the reception desk with official letter signed & stamped from your company. Tender documents will be issued at the Logistics Offices between 9.00 AM to 4.00 PM. Tender documents will be issued from 26/06/2014 to 03/07/2014.

All tenders have to be delivered back to Hodeidah Office directly within the specified period in the tender documents.

For more information please feel free to call on Tel numbers: 01- 444568/9 or 02-232271.

Oxfam is not bound to accept any application or give reasons for rejection or acceptance.

دعوة إلى تقديم العطاءات لإعادة تأهيل شبكة المياه في قرية كحيل - مديرية السخنة - محافظة الحديدة

منظمة أوكسفام، هي منظمة التنمية والإغاثة والجمالات المختصة لإيجاد حلول دائمة للفقر والمعاناة في جميع أنحاء العالم. ونحن نؤمن أنه لكل إنسان الحق في حياة كريمة. ونحن نعمل مع المجتمعات المحلية الفقيرة، والشركاء المحليين، والمتطوعين، والداعمين للمساعدة في جعل هذا حقيقة واقعة.

منظمة أوكسفام تدعو للمناقصة على ما يلي:

1. المرجع مناقصة رقم: OX/YE-HOD: SP/YEMA67/001 RefNo. تأهيل نظام شبكة المياه في قرية كحيل مديرية السخنة - محافظة الحديدة.

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- توريد وتركيب خطوط مياه بطول 15 كيلومتر مع المحابس.
- إنشاء 10 نقاط مياه.

وذاق المناقصة متاحة في مكاتب المنظمة باليمن كالتالي:

الجديدة، الحي التجاري تلفون 03- 219635
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جميع العطاءات يجب إعادتها إلى مكتب منظمة أوكسفام في محافظة الحديدة.

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Teaching the Rules of Grammar

By JAMES M. SUTTON

The next stage in planning a grammar lesson, once the language analysis has been made, is to decide what method you are going to use to teach the new grammatical structures to the students. In this article we are going to deal only with teaching grammar through the explanation of rules. This is the most tedious form of instruction for the students to sit through; however, it is one of those things in life that some find is just too important to leave out.

There are many differences of opinion as to the benefit of teaching students the actual structures of grammar. One of the benefits of this style of grammar teaching is that it introduces students to a new form of language that might have been unknown to them before the lesson. With knowledge that students have the rudimentary basics of the main grammatical structures, you will not be confusing them by introducing them to a new grammar lesson by displaying the form for them to focus on. I would not make this the main focus of grammar lessons, however, especially for lower levels. By introducing students in lower levels to forms of grammar, you are simply inviting confusion into the classroom. It is much better to avoid this in lower levels and advanced levels. Therefore, that puts our focal point on intermediate levels.

Intermediate students have attained a level of proficiency in the English language where they crave more and more. Moreover, they have a bit of metalanguage that will allow them to understand certain terminologies in grammar instruction. Therefore, the basic way

of drilling and repeating will not suffice these students anymore. They need to be introduced into ways of understanding grammar and that is when we introduce the teaching of grammar through rules and forms.

This methodology finds itself on the ability of the students to deduce meanings of grammar and rules of grammar through the rules themselves. The lesson generally begins with the rules and forms of the new grammatical form being explained. For example, if we were taking a class on the Present Continuous, we would start with the basic explanation of:

Subject + have/has + past participle

The students will then be instructed on when to use 'have' and when to use 'has.' An example of this would be:

I, we, you, they or plural noun + have

He, she, it, or singular noun + has

Once the explanation of the rules of this new grammatical form is clear for the students, we might delve into the meaning of the Present Perfect, so the students will understand when to use it. For example, we would generally tell the students that the Present Perfect is used for an action that took place in the past at an unspecified time. If the students possess a bit of a strong understanding, we might even go into the differences between the Present Perfect and the Past Simple, so the students have a clear idea when to use one and when to use the other.

After the students have a rudimentary understanding of the

Present Perfect, they are then left to fend for themselves in coming up with examples they follow the correct pattern and meaning. This is what is meant by giving the students the chance to deduce for themselves how the Present Perfect is going to be used in real life situations. This of course is followed by constant monitoring by the teacher with error correction when needed. This is the standard method used by most teachers to introduce a new grammar lesson. And with all methods of language teaching there are advantages and disadvantages to this way of teaching.

The primary advantage is that this method allows the students to actually use their mind and come up with examples resembling the mathematical equation the teacher has written on the board. This in turn will allow the students some time to practice together and assist each other. Moreover, it encourages peer correction in that the students will be working together and they will have to correct each other. This of course is under the assumption that the teacher would follow up the mathematical like equation with time for the students to get real practice.

One of the main disadvantages of this form of teaching is that it sort of defies logic. What I mean by this is that we end up teaching grammar in a way that it is not used in real life situations. When a student is forced to apply his L2 in a real life situation, the last thing in the world he will be pondering upon is the grammatical structure of the words he wants to say. This in turn takes the student out of natural language use and takes them into a sort of robotic usage of the language. The majority of students will say that they are on

a quest for fluency; however, by teaching them in this way, we are actually taking them in the complete opposite direction. This method is completely counterproductive in regards to fluency.

Another major disadvantage of this approach is that it creates a sort of teacher centered environment in the classroom. This is fine if the subject being studied is Science or Philosophy; however, when we are trying to teach the students on how to use a language, the focus should be taken off the teacher and placed more on the students practicing. The teacher should limit his words to the limit of the understanding of the students. Once the students have grasped the point of the grammar and how to use it, they should be given the freedom to practice what they have learned in an attempt to get the language into their long term memory bank. The job of the teacher is to give the students the scaffolding they need to apply the target language in real life situations.

To conclude, I believe that the disadvantages of this form of language instruction vastly outweigh the advantages. It would take a lot of practice for any teacher to apply this method and still follow the protocols of the Communicative Approach to teaching. However, I will state that the benefit in this form of teaching lies in giving instruction to students who study in advanced levels and have displayed some sort of desire to become English teachers. In this case this methodology will come to fruition. But if our focus is on students who are simply studying language to apply the language in everyday scenarios, well, this style of teaching might become a bit of a drag for them, and the teacher will find the benefit very little.

The Conqueror Who Conquered All



By KHALID ZILBERG

William the Conqueror is remembered by many as a gifted general whose goals and dreams, sometimes cruelly executed, were far advanced for his time. He would have been more suitable of a character in future years to come. Yet, the Norman Conquest had introduced a third language to an already bilingual England. French would immediately take over as the supreme language supplanting Old English and Latin. William's death would spark a continued use of French spanning from England to Normandy, all the way to Maine.

Phonological change had started to become relevant before the Norman Conquest, but we cannot deny that the Norman Conquest had solidified these changes and the eventual downfall of Old English would become apparent. Take these changes as example;

OE	ME	Old English	Middle English
/æ/	/a/	pæt	that
/æ/	/e/	sæ	sea
/y/	/i/	synn	sin
/y/	/i/	hydan	hide
/eɑ/	/a/	hærm	harm
/eɑ/	/e/	stræm	stream
/eɑ/	/ə/	heofon	heaven (heaven)
/eɑ/	/e/	beon	ben (to be)
/a/	/ɔ/	ban	bon (bone)

Not only did the word structure change but the sound changes occurred simultaneously. Unfortunately William did not anticipate that only the south of England would see these changes as relevant or that they would occur.

The sound changes that are part of the chart above would eventually turn into grammatical rules which can be put forth under syntax. Some of the known phonological changes;

- Lengthening of words before the consonant combinations (ld), (mb), and (nd). Such as child and children.
- The shortening of words would be double consonants as in 'he kept'.
- Lengthening of a, e, and o in open syllables (such as nama to name).

Other examples of lengthening of words would be hate with the silent 'e'. This would later contradict words such as hat which had no silent 'e'. Other changes the Norman Conquest impacted in terms of word structure; OE hlud (loud) was shortened to lud, hneeca (neck) to necke, and hring (ring) to ring.

As William had learned, in order to conquer a country you must rid the land of all languages except your own. England had at least four main dialects of English. They were known as West Saxon, Kentish, Mercian, and Northumbrian. In order for French to succeed bloodshed and revolts would occur. The Anglo Saxon revolts ended around 1071.

After the fighting had stopped, England was loyal to William and his successors. Besides for the changes in grammatical structure, syntax, morphology, and phonology. It is deeply despised what William brought to England. This is because the Norman Conquest brought an aristocratic society in which the rich got richer and poor became poorer. Yet, what did the Norman Conquest do for society?

William had made the status of slaves higher and freeman would be considered as lower rank. In time slaves and freeman would become farmers and both would be considered lower class. In the end William had conquered England with precise cruelty which in turn established peace. We cannot excuse or take away the changes the Norman Conquest proposed and established.

A BIT OF GRAMMAR

The Present Continuous

By MICHAEL CHAVIS

The Present Continuous is one of the most used verb forms in the English language. It is generally used to express the idea of an action taking place at the time of speaking. More specifically, the Present Continuous is an ongoing action that began in the past, and will continue into the near future. The Present Continuous mainly expresses actions that are taking place for a small period of time. If you want to articulate an action that will go on for a longer period of time, you should use the Present Simple. For example there is a huge difference between the following two sentences:

I am studying at New Horizons.
I study at New Horizons.

In the first sentence, you are expressing an action that is taking place around the time of speaking and will continue for a small period of time into the future. However, in the second sentence, you are also speaking of an ongoing action happening around the time of speaking, but the action is expected to continue into the far future.

We form the Present Continuous by using the following formula:
Subject +am/is/are + verb -ing

e.g. *I am writing an article for the newspaper.*
He is sleeping on the couch.
Sayf and Mujahid are fighting in living room.

The next issue that arises is when we use the different forms of the verb 'to be.' If the subject is 'I', we use 'am.' If the subject is: we, you, they or a plural noun, we use 'are.' If the subject is: he, she, it or a singular noun, we use 'is.'

Exercise

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb 'be'

1. Melissa _____ drinking a soft drink.
2. Leah and Nathan _____ playing with their Playstation.
3. I _____ writing an article for Yemen Times.
4. We _____ studying English in New Horizons.
5. Yaqoob, Rami and Muhammad _____ eating ice-cream.

Answers

1. Melissa is drinking a soft drink.
2. Leah and Nathan are playing with their Playstation.
3. I am writing an article for Yemen Times.
4. We are studying English in New Horizons.
5. Yaqoob, Rami and Muhammad are eating ice-cream.

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Soldiers in schools: The impact of military occupations on education

Coursen-Neff says troops in schools not only interrupt education and expose children to inappropriate behavior, "when a military takes over a school building, it can turn the school into a legitimate military

target. Picture the fortifications—sentry boxes, razor wire, even trenches—these all can provoke an attack by opposing forces."

She also points out that "You can't use a school simultaneously

as an armed center and a civilian educational building," and that "a government's failing to continue education over time because a school is being used by troops can be a human rights violation."

Keeping schools for education

As armed forces maneuver to secure territory, schools can become attractive places to station troops—they often have strong walls, and plumbing and electricity.

Ending the military use of schools can pose significant challenges, including raising awareness about the harmful impacts of occupations on a case-by-case basis, as well as changing policy.

"When we work in conflict areas, it's important that our teams and local partners raise awareness among armed groups—state and non-state—that it can violate the right to education when they occupy schools," said Aubert.

The combination of strong legal support and the flexibility of the Lucens Guidelines chart the path for immediate implementation at all levels. "Because the Guidelines are not a legally binding document, it allows us to open up a practical conversation on a local and pro-

grammatic level with armed forces. We can explain the issues, show examples, and begin to build understanding about how military occupations are a problem," she said.

It's this practicality, says Greenwich University's Haines, that gives the Lucens Guidelines their potential for absorption into military policies around the world.

"It's important to... see that they're not a blanket 'no use of schools' demand, but rather instructions that, in line with international law, protect schools as what they are: structures used for education," he said. "We drafted them to speak to a military protocol audience in a way that they can be taken up and adopted quickly."

Haines, who served in the British Royal Navy for thirty years, recounted a personal experience from Sierra Leone: "I saw a brigade using an abandoned school to receive and disarm child soldiers. I can't see anything legally or morally wrong with that type of use."

Nonetheless, he points out that the Guidelines have stringent instructions for the use of even abandoned buildings, including their use only "for the minimum time necessary," that they must remain available for education authorities

to re-open them as soon as practicable, and that no evidence of military fortifications remain when troops depart.

"The Guidelines are short and clear and concrete," said Aubert.

"They make it clear that it's not only attacks that ruin education, but military use of schools as well."

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