



## Human rights groups stand in solidarity with Al-Moayyad, Zayed



At the sit-in, attended by more than two thousand people, the Yemeni civil community organizations renewed their conviction that Sheikh Al-Moayyad is a pioneer in charity and humanitarian work in Yemen.

SANA'A, Jan. 19 — As many as 18 local human rights organizations and groups staged Saturday a huge demonstration in solidarity with Sheikh Mohammed Al-Moayyad and his companion Mohammed Zayed, who have been detained in a U.S. jail for five years. The event was organized in Al-Tahrir Square in downtown Sana'a.

The protesters released a statement saying that continued detention of the pair may force Yemenis, and Arab and Muslim citizens in general form a negative image about the U.S. Administration and increase Muslims' hatred and animosity toward Americans.

At the sit-in, attended by more than two thousand people, the Yemeni civil community organizations renewed their conviction that Sheikh Al-Moayyad is a pioneer in charity and humanitarian work in Yemen and has clear marks in helping the poor and the needy. They pointed out that releasing the detainees may help maintain positive relations between Americans and Arab and Muslim nations, and restore the American judiciary's seemingly

lost reputation.

Holding the sit-in on the five-year anniversary of the pair's capture at the German Frankfurt Airport and subsequent extradition to U.S. authorities, the participating NGOs demanded that the two receive fair compensation for the injustice and oppression they suffered over the past five years. They also claimed the Yemeni government should expend further diplomatic efforts for the sake of freeing the victims.

The organizations sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Justice Elbert Gonzales in which they strongly denounced the pair's sufferings and their disappointment with the American judiciary for giving the aged man and his companion unfair verdicts, demanding that it correct the mistakes and violations committed by its government against the Yemeni citizens. The sit-in involved hundreds of poor people and widows who raised pictures of Al-Moayyad and Zayed, as well as banners claiming that the pair must be released as soon as possible. The sit-in's supervisory committee

considered what happened to both detainees as a severe attack against the virtues of sympathy, kindness and solidarity with the poor, patients, orphans and oppressed.

Affirming that Al-Moayyad, described as "father of the poor and needy," has no connection with terrorism, the committee claimed the U.S. Administration should stop oppressing him and Zayed.

Before the sit-in's conclusion, the National & Popular Committee for Defending Al-Moayyad and Zayed, activist Sheikh Hamoud Hashem Al-Dharihi renewed his call for the U.S. Administration to immediately free his compatriots, expressing his gratitude to all the Yemeni NGOs that took part in the event and expressed their solidarity with the victims.

Many NGO representatives and Parliament members gave speeches at the event, stressing that Al-Moayyad is innocent and demanding that he and his companion be repatriated and compensated for the injustice and oppression they suffered in the U.S. jail over the past five years.

## Media vital in fighting corruption, say workshop participants

SANA'A, Jan. 19 — "The media must play a key role in fighting corruption," agreed participants at a workshop organized Wednesday by Women Journalists Without Chains (WJWC), in cooperation with the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI).

Attended by Supreme National Anti-Corruption Authority (SNACA) Chairman Ahmad Al-Anisi, Yemeni Parliamentarians Against Corruption (Yemen PAC) Leader Sakhr Al-Wajeeh, who is also a Parliament member, and UN Anti-Corruption Program Director Majdi Holmi, an international expert in fighting corruption, the workshop also shed light on the principles of good governance.

At the event, Al-Anisi stressed the necessity of establishing partnership and coordinating efforts with civil community organizations for combating the rampant phenomenon in Yemen, highlighting the tasks and duties of his authority, which he feels receives lavish official, popular and international support. He confirmed that the authority received tens of administrative and financial corruption cases through joint cooperation with Parliament, the judiciary, media and private sector.

Responding to questions and inquiries raised by journalists about the achievements made by the authority since it was established, Al-Anisi said

that his authority does not have "a magic stick", meaning it is difficult for the newly established authority to do multiple tasks within a short time period, particularly as it started with no previous foundation and its powers are limited. "There will be corruption as long as man exists, but our primary task is to identify where it is prevalent," he noted.

"Some corruption issues are difficult to judge on based on their complicated nature; however, the media can play a great role in diagnosing corruption and corrupt individuals," Al-Anisi added.

Some of the workshop attendees questioned the lack of transparency regarding senior government officials' accountability. They cited the Aden Lands Report, presented by Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research Dr. Saleh Basurrah to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, as an example of the lack of transparency in government procedures - no one knows what happened to the report after it was submitted to the relevant authorities.

They also uncovered the land confiscations in Hodeidah governorate, nuclear power scandal, as well as Marib electricity project handed over to a contractor by direct authorization without carrying out a bid, plus additional allocations to the government's budget.

Reacting to media criticism of the way such projects are implemented, Al-Anisi expressed that his authority operates according to the law of its establishment, adding that it never received the Aden lands file.

"We should not take this matter so easily, Sakhr Al-Wajeeh said, commenting on Al-Anisi's statements. "SNACA was given many powers and granted an independent budget. So it is entitled to follow up, observe and investigate any corruption cases published by the media."

The MP recommended that SNACA staff should start investigating the corruption cases disclosed by Central Organization for Control and Audit recent reports. He presented a paper highlighting the roles of Parliament's and certain NGOs in fighting corruption.

Majdi Holmi said in a statement that journalists are partners in combating corruption while the government is needed to provide the necessary facilities for NGOs to do their jobs in this regard.

A few minutes after the event began, WJWC Chairwoman Tawakul Karaman commented that discussions about fighting corruption and the availability of a political and administrative system in Yemen are merely for media consumption.

## Estate conference in Mukalla

MUKALLA, Jan.20 — Amidst the heightened presence of local and international media personnel, Mukalla officials announced on Jan.14 the launching of an estate conference which will be held on March 26- 27 In Hadramout.

The event was attended by Foreign Minister Saleh Sumaia', Tourism Minister Nabeel Al-Faqeeh, Salah M. Al-Attar, chief of the General Authority for investment, Taha Hajer, governor of Hadramout, Omar Bajarsh, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hadramout, and sheikh Abdullah Buqshan.

Omar Bajarsh first reviewed the idea of holding the estate conference in Hadramout, saying that it fits within the plan of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to consolidate partnership environment to attract regional and global investments. The estate conference is an extension of an investment opportunities

exploration expo which was held in the capital city of Sana'a, calling on investors to invest in infrastructure enterprises such as Mukalla port, airport, and electricity facilities among others, Bajarsh added.

Hajer stressed the importance of holding the estate conference to stimulate tourism, while Sumaia' was optimistic about the outcomes of the conference, saying, "It is a successful conference because it was held in a place where its citizens are businessmen in other countries such as Ethiopia, Tanzania, Djibouti, and Kenya, among others. We are striving to initiate successful investment to strengthen trust with expatriates."

The estate conference aims at ensuring serious and practical efforts of the government to achieve proper investment environment to attract regional and global investments. It also aims at creating real investment opportunities for busi-

nessmen as well as increasing awareness to promote and develop investment in Yemen, making use of other countries' experience in the field.

The press conference discussed three themes: the strategy of tourist development in Hadramout, tourist investment opportunities and components and obstacles of tourist investment.

Famous and prominent businessmen, officials, executive directors of local and international leading estate companies as well as experts coming from regional and international organizations and specialists from government and the private sector participated in the press conference.

In the estate conference, a fair will be held for all parties operating in the estate sector, like fundraisers and developers, to explore real estate which will be developed by national and international companies. Traditional and craft industries will be included in the exhibition.

## Germany and Yemen celebrate 30 years of cooperation

SANA'A, Jan 18 — A celebration was held at the residence of German ambassador Mickael Klor-Berchtold, for 30 years of cooperation (since 1978) between Yemen and Germany in archaeological and restoration projects.

Klor-Berchtold commented that joint projects between the two countries helped in the preservation of Yemen's most valuable ancient sites, such as the pre-Islamic temple Arsh Bilqis in Marib and Al-Maqah sanctuary in Sirwah.

Dr. Iris Gerlach, Director of Deutsches Archeology Institute in Yemen for 10 years, noted that the projects incorporate the wide-ranging cultural cooperation and development efforts Germany has been undertaking jointly with Yemen since the beginning of bilateral relations in the late

1960s.

She said, "We believe that Yemen has a lot of untapped history which has not come to light yet. Consequently, these projects, including studies and research, were conducted in order to know more about Yemen's civilizations, as it holds the missing link to the history of the Arabian Peninsula."

She went on to say that the projects will help increase tourism in the country. Moreover, she added that excavation and preservation projects will also serve the scientific field and purpose.

According to Professor Mult Hermann, President of Deutsches Archeology Institute in Germany, "Yemen's ancient history holds a very unique place in history which needs to be tapped and studied, as it yet remains a medieval land and modernist fantasy to be discovered."

Hermann went on to say that information about old civilizations like Egypt, Persia and Greek are known and have come to light. However, Yemen's civilization needs to be focused on, in order to fill a missing link in world history.

Hermann further stated that not only oil will be a main income for Yemen, but Yemen's ancient history will largely contribute to the country's revenue, as it will attract tourists from all over the world and thus stimulate Yemen's economy.

Mickael Klor-Berchtold saluted the 30-year cooperation between Germany and Yemen, saying, "It shows that both countries have a strong relationship with each other and we will certainly continue with more projects in Yemen, and this cooperation will continue to progress."

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#### Online Freedom of speech suffers setback in Yemen

However, blocking the whole search engine for that is absurd!" he added, mentioning that he was warned personally that there may be repercussions for allowing some critical content from blocked websites to appear on the search engine.

The incident comes amidst an unprecedented systematic filtering and blocking of websites dealing with news and opinions. Another website blocked on the same day was YemenHurr.net, whose managing editor Imad Al-Jarrash condemned the act by the Ministry of Telecommunication and demanded in an official statement that authorities reverse the blocks and stop "messing with journalistic freedom".

Yet another website targeted was Hour's News (hnto.net), whose administrators circulated a mass e-mail condemning the act and informing its readers about an alternative link.

Other news and opinion websites that have recently been blocked are hdramut.com, Al-Teef.com, and al-

yemen.org community forum. This is in addition to a host of other news sites blocked months ago, such as adennpress.com and soutilgnoub.com.

Some websites that were recently blocked seem to have been anticipating the government move and hence activated and publicized alternative domain names for their readers to continue following them.

Upon approaching the telecommunication authorities responsible for Internet access in Yemen, employees responsible for the blocking and restricting access to websites explained they were doing their job as normal. "I confirm that no website was blocked for any reason whatsoever," an employee at the Yemen.net public ISP told Yemen Times on condition of anonymity.

International organizations and donor countries advocating press freedom had expressed concern about a deteriorating level of press freedom in recent years, citing beatings of journalists, newspapers closures and more recently, blocking of political websites.

#### Government offers reward for info on Belgians' assassins

"They wanted to kill us, that's sure, because after the first bursts of machine-gun fire, they approached the vehicles and fired into the cars," she told Belgium's RTL-TVI television network.

At least 10 suspects have been taken into custody and all roads leading to the governorate have been blocked, said a Yemeni interior ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht identified one victim as Claudine Van Caille, 65. He declined to identify the other immediately after the incident because her family had not yet been informed.

"We don't have any precise information about the involvement of Islamists, but we have to note that the province of Hadramout is known for its Islamism and its extremist groups," the Belgian official further added.

He said the Foreign Ministry issued a travel warning singling out the region where the attack took place: "We have

indicated very clearly that this is a risky venture."

"The two women killed in the attack should have known the risks. Anyone who goes to Yemen knows that it is a dangerous destination," De Gucht told a press conference in Brussels. "When you travel with a group specializing in adventure holidays, you also know that there is a risk."

Eleven Belgian tourists who survived the terrorist assault in Yemen had an emotional homecoming in Brussels Saturday, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

"It was a very emotional event, and very sad, in that the family of the two victims were there," said spokesman Marc Michielsens, referring to the two Belgian women who were shot dead.

"Most of them already knew each other because they had traveled together in the past. The fact that there were two dead and one injured, that they knew each other, only intensified feelings," the spokesman said.

The tourists from Flanders, most of them elderly, were whisked away from the airport terminal, and members of their families, who had been awaiting

their arrival, were taken to an undisclosed location by bus to meet their loved ones, the Belgian press reported.

The bodies of the two women tourists, shot dead when gunmen opened fire on jeeps the tourists were using to travel in the eastern province of Hadramut's Do'an Valley, were to be returned to Belgium at a later date.

Earlier, the Yemeni Tourism Minister Nabeel Al-Faqeeh said 12 Belgian tourists would head home on Saturday. However, their guide remained in Yemen to be with the wounded Belgian, 65-year-old Patrick Coucke, who was shot in the stomach.

An Interior Ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said Yemeni authorities received e-mail and telephone threats of imminent terrorist attacks two days previous to the attack. The official said Al-Qaeda militants were pushing for the release of jailed comrades.

He attributed the attack to alleged Al-Qaeda fighters hiding in the Hadramout governorate, but the current situation of sharp social unrest in the south linked to unresolved issues dating back to the 1994 war of secession, combined with

the government's war against the Zaidite uprising in the northern Saada province are sufficient to make Yemen an unsafe place for any tourists even in the absence of al-Qaeda.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi expressed on Saturday deep condolence for the families of the Belgian victims who were killed and wounded in the terrorist Hadramout attack, Yemen News Agency Saba reported.

In a telephone conversation with his Belgian counterpart, Al-Qirbi labeled the attack that targeted a convey of innocent European tourists and their local drivers as a 'criminal and terrorist act.'

The Yemeni official confirmed that security authorities, which are currently investigating the incident, would not hesitate to track down and arrest the assailants.

In July, a suicide bomber in an explosives-packed car attacked tourists visiting a temple linked to the ancient Queen of Sheba in central Yemen, killing eight Spaniards and two Yemenis.

Yemeni authorities blamed the attack on an Al-Qaeda cell.

## WHAT IT MEANS...

*What it means is an analytical feature of Yemen Times, in which Yemeni topics are discussed and analyzed by Yemeni and international experts. Contributions and comments are welcomed, they could be sent to the feature's coordinator: Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih (dralfaqih@yahoo.com).*

## Yemen's water crisis

**T**he process of economic and social development faces a great challenge, i.e. scarce water resources and increasing consumption of underground water reserves. This exacerbates the water shortage year after year.

Yemen suffers an imbalance between annual rainfall on one hand and water demand on the other. Average renewable water resources are 125 cubic meters per capita, approximately 10% of the amount consumed by a Middle Easterner or North African, who use an average of 1,250 cubic meters each, and only 2% of per capita usage internationally, which is 7,500 cubic meters. These indicators place Yemen among the 10 water-poorest countries in the world.

**Development in peril**

The water volume in Yemen, or what is called in economic jargon as the total offer of renewable water, is about 5.1 billion cubic meters. Rainwater is the country's main source, comprising 93% of the current total water resources, while surface water, ground water and unconventional source waters (seawater distillation, reuse of sewer water, etc.) represent 4.86%, 2.08%, and 0.01% of overall water resources respec-

tively.

The total water demand is increasing rapidly, from 4.5 billion cubic meters in 1990 to an estimated 13 billion cubic meters in 2020. The current demand for water seems to be limited to three main areas: agriculture (95%), households (3.2%) and industries (1.8%).

Taking into consideration the volume of available water resources along with that expected to be consumed through 2020, water shortage is expected to reach 15 billion cubic meters in 2020, assuming that the country continues to produce basics such as grains, vegetables and fruits to maintain the food demands of its ever-increasing population.

The water problem is getting worse due to pollution resulting from human activity which negatively impacts water quality and may shrink the volume of available water resources. There is a possibility for increased untreated sewer water to make its way down to the water-bearing layer. The problem is going to exacerbate in the



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future, given the quick-paced population growth coupled with overuse of existing water resources, not to mention the sustained pollution and growing demand for fresh water.

Water pollution primarily affects the health and well-being of a large number of women, men and children, especially the poor and marginalized who are more vulnerable than others.

They are mainly herders and small farmers whose livelihood depend fundamentally on water. Similarly, considering the increasing population, the shortage and low quality of water affect the poor urban centers where it is difficult to find any source of water.

Water security is a pillar of national security of any country, particularly when such a country suffers a scarcity of water resources like Yemen. The importance of water is not only limited to its use for drinking and irrigation to produce crops and food but it is equally important for sustainable development because water availability is

inextricably linked to public health, unemployment, poverty, girl's education and development in general. Therefore, water scarcity and competition for it may be a cause for economic and social instability, harming social peace and national security, especially in light of the fact that 53% of Yemen's workforce is employed in the agricultural sector.

**Role of the government**

Consecutive Yemeni governments have adopted improper policies and measures for managing water affairs. Usually centralized, policy focused on cost management, which implies that the government provided fresh water at the lowest cost possible for households, agriculture and industry. It gave little attention to fair distribution, sustainability of water systems and quality of water.

The Yemeni government committed a mistake when it invested in the water sector. Estimates indicate that there are 1,459 water facilities (560 dams) with a storage capacity of 94 million cubic meters, with an average of 64.4 thousand cubic meters each. The cost of those facilities reached \$113 million, an average of \$1.20 per cubic meter, which is high by all means.

Qat, which covers some 40% of the irri-

gated area, consumes 60% of the usable water in Yemen, according to the figures of some experts. For example, the total volume of water used annually in qat irrigation in Sana'a province surpasses 60 million cubic meters, around double the volume of water consumed by the city of Sana'a itself.

With Yemen's freshwater being depleted, it is crucial to maintain water resources and optimize their use quantitatively and qualitatively. This could be achieved through water demand management (WDM), which means the adoption of a package of measures in order to urge individuals to regulate the quantity and price of water, the way they access it and the way they dispose of it, thus lessening pressure on freshwater reserves and ensuring water quality.

WDM can be achieved through a number of measures and practices such as awareness campaigns, the use of technology, incentives and pricing, regulations and laws, etc. It is necessary that WDM adopt a comprehensive view of water as an essential component of any good governance strategy, a crucial factor for environmental balance and biodiversity, and a vital element of public health. Water issues must be incorporated into school curricula and become a subject of scientific research and knowledge transfer activities.

## Their News

## Indo-Yemen bilateral relations

**India celebrates Republic Day on 26th January. On this occasion the Indian embassy in Sana'a will hold a flag hoisting ceremony on 26 Jan. at 9:30 at the embassy's premises.**

Indo-Yemeni relations date back to ancient times. The old and historical ties between India and Yemen are confirmed by the fact that even today there are about one hundred thousand persons of Yemeni origin in India in Andhra Pradesh and an equal number of people of Indian origin in Yemen, particularly in the South and the East of Yemen. Yemeni traders were intermediaries for Indian trade with the Roman Empire. Subsequently, contacts were intensified with the Haj route from India running through Yemen. In 1839, Aden became part of the British Empire, administered by the Bombay Presidency. The Aden administration was separated from India in April 1937 with the appointment of a Governor directly answerable to London. An India mission at the level of Commissioner was set up in Aden in June 1950. India was one of the first countries to recognise both the YAR after the 26th September, 1962 revolution and the People's Republic of Southern Yemen after its formation on 29th November 1967.

**Political Relations**

The foreign policies of India and Yemen have much in common. Both are committed to non-alignment, support for Arab issues and the PLO, and a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. Yemen has also joined the Indian Ocean Rim - Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) and participated in its first meeting held in MARCH, 1997 in Mauritius as well as in the Ministerial meeting in Mozambique in March 1999 and subsequent meeting in Doha, Qatar in 2001. During the outbreak of the Civil War in Yemen, Indian doctors and nurses were perhaps the only expatriates who stayed behind and rendered considerable services. In July 1994, following the successful conclusion of the Civil War, the Government of Yemen sought the help of the Government of India in admitting over 150 war-wounded persons for medical treatment in the hospitals in Bombay. India readily agreed to this request. The expenses for the treatment were paid by the Government of Qatar. The neutral stand taken by India during the Civil War and the services rendered by the Indian expatriates was highly appreciated by the people and the Government of Yemen.

**Economic and Commercial Relations**

In order to give a boost to the economic and commercial relations, an agreement for setting up a Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Co-operation was signed during the visit of Mr. Ahmed Zaif Ullah Alozeb, the then Permanent Under Secretary in the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 1993. So far, six JCMs have been held, the last one being in April 2007, which was co-chaired from the Indian side by Shri N. Ravi, Secretary (East). Both sides agreed



to intensify the co-operation in various fields mainly in the energy sector.

Ghalib Ali Jamil, Permanent Under Secretary (Political Affairs) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited India on 4th-5th March 1999 to hold annual Foreign Office Consultations. Foreign Office consultations are an on-going process and the last consultations were held in New Delhi in January 2005. In the year 2008, the next Foreign Office Consultations would be held in Sana'a.

Some of the areas in which there has been an ongoing cooperation are: telecommunications, oil & gas, minerals, power, education, health, electronics etc.

In December 2006, a total of 7 oil blocks were awarded to Indian companies by the Yemeni Oil and Minerals Ministry. Reliance Industries Limited has got 2 oil blocks, GSPC and IOC-OIL in partnership with foreign companies have got 3 oil blocks and 2 oil blocks respectively.

**Presence of prominent Indian companies/Indian experts in Yemen**

M/s. Punj Lloyd - M/s. Punj Lloyd, a well-established company, have strong presence in Middle East and South East Asia in hydrocarbon and infrastructure sectors. For the past 5 months, Punj Lloyd has been setting up LNG terminal at Balhaf in Yemen, in which Indian company's share of the contract of the project is worth US \$ 70 million. The total cost of the project is US \$ 2.4 billion and the other portions of the project are being set up by Turkey, Egypt and Yemeni companies. LNG terminal in Balhaf is an important project and Punj Lloyd are expected to finish it by October 2008. Recently, Yemen Government has been active in setting up LNG terminals in Balhaf and Lahj regions of Yemen. The Yemen Government also has plans to eventually link LNG terminal and gas reserves in Balhaf and Lahj to Aden and Mukalla ports of Yemen, which will offer further business opportunities for Indian companies. M/s. Punj Lloyd have come for the first time in Yemen and with their experience in laying oil and gas pipelines, infrastructure, buildings, transportation, etc., they can have more business opportunities in future as Government of Yemen is placing a lot of emphasis on the development of oil and gas sectors in Yemen.

M/s. Petron Engineering and Construction Limited, Mumbai - M/s. Petron Engineering and Construction Limited, Mumbai are presently working for the last six months near Aden for setting up of National Cement Factory as contractors for M/s. Hayel Saeed Group. The contract is worth US \$ 400 million. A total of approximately 1,000 Indians are presently working at this site, who have been provided camps and all other facilities on the site itself. This project is expected to be completed by May 2008.

Arab Yemen Cement Company, Mukalla (Yemen) - This factory is in the process of being constructed (commenced in 2006) at Mukalla by a Chinese engineering company, known as Synoma International Engineering Company. The consultancy is provided by three Indian experts. The cement company is having 85% shares by Saudi Arabia and 15% by Yemen at a total cost of US \$ 220 million and is expected to be completed by 2008. When completed, it will be producing 1.32 million tones of cement per annum. It would use limestone as raw material for production of cement, available on the site itself.

**Visits by prominent business houses from India**

M/s. Kirloskar Brothers Limited, Pune - Shri Vinay Vaman Joshi, General Manager of M/s. Kirloskar Middle East and resident representative in Dubai of M/s. Kirloskar Brothers Limited, Pune, visited Sana'a from 7-8 May, 2007. During his visit, he had meetings with the Yemeni dignitaries, officials as well as some of the leading businessmen of Yemen. At present, M/s. Kirloskar Brothers Limited do not have presence in Yemen. But, there is an immense potential for Kirloskar products, mainly water pumps and generators used in agriculture and irrigation as well as pumps for oil wells. It is hoped that M/s. Kirloskar Brothers Limited would have a significant presence in Yemen in the near future.

M/s. Cosmos International, New Delhi - Shri Arun K. Aggarwal, Director, Cosmos International, New Delhi paid a business visit to Yemen from 20-30 July, 2007. Cosmos Group is a well-established trading and supplying company in New Delhi dealing in agricultural equipment and machinery, food and processing, engineering and electricals, construction and hardware, chemicals and laboratory equipment, Information Technology, pharmaceuticals and hospital equipment, transformers and emergency supplies for use during natural calamities, etc. Shri Arun Agarwal met various Ministers/Deputy Ministers in the local Government and several Government corporations and also several Yemen leading private companies and heads of Indian projects established in Yemen. It is expected that in the near future Cosmos International would be having a significant presence in Yemen in the areas of their business activities. Shri Anil Agarwal, President of the COSMOS Group visited Sana'a from 17-19 November, 2007, as a follow-up visit, and

held discussions with various Yemeni dignitaries, leaders of industry associations and private businessmen.

SRTEPC, Mumbai - The Synthetic & Rayon Textile Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, organized an exclusive 'Indian Textile Exhibition' at the Sana'a Expo Centre, Sana'a, from 11-12 December, 2007, at which, 17 Indian companies represented by 29 representatives participated. TATA - A 2-member delegation led by Shri Alok Tyagi, Vice President (Projects), TATA, visited Sana'a from 17-20 November, 2007, to explore possibilities of investing in petrochemicals and fertilizers sectors in Yemen.

**Future cooperation**

The Government of Yemen is aware of Indian capabilities and is keen on seeing a greater interaction between the two countries. Specific avenues for cooperation are: Telecommunications, Highways and bridges, Civil engineering, Water Management and Irrigation schemes, Education, Health, Oil and Gas, Mineral exploration, Power projects etc.

Yemen heavily depends on import of all items except oil and fish. There is considerable scope for collaboration in set-

ting up small scale industries with Indian collaboration and know-how for manufacture and marketing/export of consumer durables.

**Expatriate Indians**

There are sizeable Indian and Yemeni communities in each other's country due to historical reasons. People of Indian origin, estimated to be about 100,000 are concentrated in southern part around Aden, Mukalla and the Lahaj provinces. Similarly, there are about 100,000 descendants of Yemenis previously employed in Nizam's forces, settled in and around Hyderabad. Both communities pose no problems as almost all of them have acquired local nationality and got assimilated into the mainstream. The Gujarati community, who lived during the British time in Aden, constructed several temples. Most of them have been occupied by the local people except four, which are somewhat in a dilapidated condition. The Mataji temple and the Shiva temples are used by the members of the Indian community in Aden to congregate on the second Friday of every month to offer Ayyappan puja. A television team recently visited Aden to film these temples on

the age-old links between India and former South Yemen. A consular team from the Mission in Sana'a visits Aden in the second week of every month to render consular services.


Indian expatriates, mainly hospital personnel, professionals, academic, skilled and semi-skilled workers, are estimated about 8,000, according to the Ministry of Labour and the Embassy of India, Sana'a.

The Mission runs an Indian Embassy School, Sana'a, affiliated to CBSE, which has classes up to 10th Standard. There are also Indian Schools located in Aden, Hodeidah and Taiz, run independently by the Indian communities in these towns.

**Cultural Relations**

During the Third session of the India-Yemen Joint Committee Meeting, a cultural agreement was signed on 20th July 1999.

India has been in the past providing about 30 scholarships every year through ICCR to Yemeni students and 30 scholarships under ITEC programme. Following a decision taken during the Fifth JCM, the ITEC Scholarships have been increased to 50 from 30. These scholarships have brought immense goodwill for India.



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##### Job Duties:

- Maintains the geology data base and constructs geological maps and reservoir geological cross sections from well logs and seismic data.
- Assists the geologist to maintain and update the static geological simulation models and geological data base.
- Becomes an expert on Petrel, Geolog, Petrosys, and related geological and petrophysical software applications and databases.
- Assists the team geologist with updating the asset management plan geological /petrophysical information.
- Prepares maps for regular reports as requested by the asset team.
- Prepares draft geological repots under direction of the team geologist or leader.
- Assists with static geological model development and updating under direction of the geologist.
- Participates in the annual evaluation and reporting of total field reserves.
- Assists the geophysical and reservoir engineering analysts during peak activity times or for vacation relief to balance the work load.
- Participate actively in technical meetings with partners and government representatives as required.
- Occasionally travels internationally and to the Operating sites.

##### Minimum Requirements:

- B.Sc. in Information Technology.
- Minimum 2 years of Oracle and LINUX experience is preferred.
- Oracle Assistant Certification is preferred.
- Must have at least the basic understanding of information systems and data base/bank software and configurations.
- Must be knowledgeable in the areas of decision analysis.
- Exposure to oil field operations would be helpful.
- Excellent presentation, team, interpersonal relations skills and business understanding is required.
- Good knowledge of English a definite asset.

#### Reservoir Engineering Analyst #0807

##### Job Duties:

- Maintains the reservoir engineering data base and constructs reservoir engineering maps and reports from production data, well tests and well logs.
- Becomes an expert user of OFM, MSEXCEL, and have working knowledge of Eclipse, Petrel, Pansys, and related reservoir engineering software applications.
- Assists the team reservoir engineer with updating the asset management plan's reservoir engineering information.
- Prepares maps and data analysis for regular production and injection reports as requested by the asset team.
- Prepares draft reservoir engineering reports under direction of the team Reservoir Engineer or leader.
- Assists with dynamic reservoir engineering model development and updating under direction of the reservoir engineer.
- Participates in the annual evaluation and reporting of total field reserves.
- Assists the geophysical and geological analysts during peak activity times or for vacation relief to balance the work load.
- Participate actively in technical meetings with partners and government representatives as required.
- Occasionally travels internationally and to the Operating sites.

##### Minimum Requirements:

- B.Sc. in Information Technology.
- Minimum 2 years of MS ACCESS, Oracle and LINUX experience is preferred.
- Microsoft MCDBA and Oracle Assistant Certification is preferred.
- Must have at least the basic understanding of information systems and data base/bank software and configurations.
- Must be knowledgeable in the areas of decision analysis.
- Exposure to oil field operations would be helpful.
- Excellent presentation, team, interpersonal relations skills and business understanding is required.
- Good knowledge of English a definite asset.

#### Geophysical Analyst #0708

##### Job Duties:

- Assists the geophysicist to maintain and update the static geophysical models in a data base.
- Becomes an expert user on SeisWorks, AVO, Strata, Emerge, and related geophysical software applications and databases.
- Assists the geophysicist with updating the asset management plan's geophysical information.
- Assists and work very closely with the geologists on development of the static geological models.
- Prepares maps and data analysis as requested by the geophysicist and other asset teams.
- Assists the multi-disciplinary teams following well drilling operations to evaluate results.
- Participates in the annual evaluation and reporting of total field reserves.
- Assists the reservoir engineering and geological analysts during peak activity times or for vacation relief to balance the work load.
- Participate actively in technical meetings with partners and government representatives as required.
- Occasionally travels internationally and to the Operating sites.

##### Minimum Requirements:

- B.Sc. in Information Technology.
- Minimum 2 years of Oracle and LINUX experience is preferred.
- Oracle Assistant Certification is preferred.
- Must have at least the basic understanding of information systems and data base/bank software and configurations.
- Must be knowledgeable in the areas of decision analysis.
- Exposure to oil field operations would be helpful.
- Excellent presentation, team, interpersonal relations skills and business understanding is required.
- Good knowledge of English a definite asset.

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# Private sector employees suffer when seeking their rights

By: Almgiddad Dahesh Mojalli  
Dahesh95@yahoo.com

Many employees complain of both unfair dealings by the private sector and procedures of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

In dismissing employees, some firms never grant them severance pay nor treat them if they become infected by disease or are injured on the job because doing so would cost them a lot, so instead, they resort to threatening and hurting those employees.

Then, when going to the Labor and Social Affairs office to lodge a complaint, the employees are socked with long and boring procedures, additionally discovering that they must stop seeking work and devote years to the courts. For this reason, such employees don't know where to find support for their rights.

Fuad Al-Jabal, 26, maintains that he worked four years at Al-Shifa Honey Press and suffered two slipped discs in his back due to the heavy loads he had to carry. When he requested the company treat him, it refused and asked him to resign.

When he went to the Labor and Social Affairs office to lodge a complaint seeking medical treatment and severance pay, his company manager abducted him and forced him to sign some unknown documents. Al-Jabal tells his story as follows:

"For four years, I worked at Al-Shifa Honey Press and was responsible for storage and production. They give me tons of honey, which I had to weigh, distribute, check and organize. My workday began at 8 a.m. and finished at 10 p.m. without a break, for which I received YR 25,000 or equivalent to \$125.

"The work was so hard, especially because I had to carry all those tons of honey myself. I asked them to provide another employee, but they procrastinated and never brought one. The company also doesn't provide its employees insurance.

## Injury

"I started working for them in 2003. After a year and a half, while working one day, I suffered a slipped disc between the fourth and fifth vertebrae of my back. It occurred as a result of carrying heavy loads of honey.

"Since this happened while I was on duty, I asked them many times to treat me, but they procrastinated. When I requested their permission to be treated at the limbs center where I had physical training, they permitted me to attend for one month, but then canceled it four days later.

## Hard times

"Because I needed a job, I returned and continued my work, despite the pain, which had spread to my neck and shoulders. When I asked the company to reassign me to another job due to my health, they refused, with the manager retorting, 'If this work doesn't suite you, you can resign!'

"I explained to my manager that the doctors at the hospital had barred me from carrying heavy loads, but it was to no avail. My manager asked me to submit my resignation, so I wouldn't be able to claim severance pay. So I resigned and paid all of my debts in January 2007, after which I went directly to the Labor and Social Affairs office and lodged a complaint against the company.

"Becoming crazy when he learned that I had lodged a complaint, the manager and one of his employees, Saleh Al-Wadiee, began threatening me. I knew Al-Wadiee had promised the general manager to bring me back dead. So they started chasing me. One day, my manager came to my zone and found me on the street. He started threatening and shouting at me and accusing me of embezzlement. I told him that I had left the job after taking inventory.

## Abduction

"While I was on my way to attend my niece's wedding party one Tuesday in July 2007, four men wearing military jackets and other civilian clothing emerged from a taxi and intercepted

me, waving a compulsory order from the prosecution and demanding I get into the car quietly.

"About 10 kilometers south of Sana'a, one of the men pressed his gun to my neck and told me to lie down in the car. I then asked, 'Is this a compulsory order to go to the prosecution or is this an abduction?' to which he replied, 'It isn't your business. Lay down!'

"So I lay down, he blindfolded me and then we continued driving for about an hour. We arrived at a building and the car entered the a building yard then I was taken to the basement where I was left for 20 days.

"I only ate every three days, with the food consisting of some cheese, halvah and a five-liter bottle of water. I was in an unfurnished underground room with a continuously-lit lamp. There was no toilet, so I relieved myself in a small broken room next to mine.

"During this time, my abductors came and asked me to sign some papers without reading them, but when I refused, they started beating and kicking me, eventually forcing me to sign them. They returned a week later, inquiring about my possessions and whether I had a car or not and then beat me again.

## Release

"They released me on a Friday, but before doing so, they demanded I sign some more documents. I protested, 'I signed once,' at which they immediately began beating me again. Because I couldn't stand such torture, I signed the papers.

"That night, they took and threw me out in a deserted area south of Sana'a. A taxi driver took me to the hospital where my family was contacted. I then proceeded to the southeastern prosecution, where I was accused of owing my former employer debts, as evidenced by numerous invoices I had never signed.

## No recourse, only games

"I'm now so hurt and no one has helped me, even at the Labor and Social Affairs office. I discovered that the previous judge completely neglected my lawsuit,



Private sector workers say they don't get their full rights.

which I've followed for 10 months, but with no result.

"When I came to look at the file for my lawsuit, I discovered that it was lost. Who benefits from losing my file? So, I lodged a new file, gave it to them and obtained a receipt for it. I eventually learned that it was a type of game between a judge named Al-Handani and his secretary, as my first file wasn't lost, but rather at the secretary's house.

"I'll continue following up my lawsuit until I obtain my rights from the company. I expect a lot from the new judge."

Judge Ahmed Al-Qubati notes that Al-Jabal's case is a criminal matter and that he should follow the procedures outlined by law. "Regarding his allowances from his employer, Al-Shifa Honey Press, we're continuing to investigate the issue, although so far, we've learned that he's resigned from the company twice, for which there's a document of acquittal between him and them."

Further, Al-Shifa General Manager Mohammed Al-Hamati denies abducting or even threatening Al-Jabal, adding

that his former employee embezzled funds, for which they now are involved at the judiciary, which has the right to judge the guilty.

## More victims

Another victim of private firms and labor office stalling is Taha Saleem, who worked for a contracting firm for seven years, but was dispensed by his manager when he sought a pay increase.

"I worked for Khalid Al-Hashedi's general contracting office for seven years, first as an accountant and then as an accounting manager. When I asked my manager to raise my salary, as happens in the public and mixed sectors, he dispensed me without a satisfactory reason.

"Following this dismissal, I requested what was due me from my annual vacation, but they denied that I had anything with them. Such behavior compelled me to lodge a complaint at the Labor and Social Affairs office, which called Al-Hashedi many times, but he paid no attention.

"My complaint then was transferred

to the labor office; particularly to the arbitration committee, which summoned him using the police, but to no avail. I'm now awaiting the arbitration committee's decision."

Although Parliament issued the 1994 Labor Law, Saleem maintains that it's actually against employees. "In addition to being against workers, the Labor Law isn't even applied. In short, the state is unable to apply it," he complains.

Judge Al-Qubati, who is the head of the arbitration committee, comments that Al-Hashedi seemingly neither recognizes the state nor the law. "We've summoned him three times – twice via personal phone calls and once through his firm's guard. We then turned to the police, but with no response. He didn't even send anyone to represent him before us. We find no justification for such behavior except to call it recklessness. We've now appointed a lawyer and given him all the case documentation."

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs refuses to divulge how many labor cases it received in 2007.

# "Who will win the million?" prize announced at Taiz celebration

By: Abdulqawi Sha'lan  
For Yemen Times

Shawqi Al-Qadhi, chairman of Yemen's National Organization for Developing Society, or NODS, has announced that all Yemeni students – both male and female – are eligible for the "Who will win the million?" prize to be awarded in 2009.

There will be three winners nationwide, with the most important criteria being that a student be designated as outstanding from first grade through high school. First prize is YR 1 million, followed by YR 500,000 for second and YR 250,000 for third.

The future prize's announcement came during a celebration honoring 550 outstanding Taiz governorate students achieving above a 90-percent average in elementary, high school, vocational and special education.

The large number of attendees at the event held at Taiz Tourist Club included students' parents and supporters, parliamentarians, media personnel and those from civil society organizations. Joy and happiness prevailed at the scene, reflecting the eagerness of Taizi citizens to attain the highest positions and make creativity come alive in that region again.

## The nation's hope

Al-Qadhi went on to say that Yemen's top students are its hope because it is they who will create an awakening and progress, but that such outstanding students require care and training before they can contribute to their society.

"A people's renaissance is based on its creative minds and youth; whereas, the backwardness of a nation is due to its people's ignorance. The purpose of this celebration first is to draw public attention to the brilliant segment of its society and then to pay tribute and appreciate

what they've achieved, presenting them symbolic gifts as a token of love," Al-Qadhi further noted.

## Opportunities still exist

The reality of education in Yemen – its policies, curricula and administration, besides other institutional components – requires a strong viewpoint in order to evaluate and revise it. Opportunities still exist, as education supporters are many and they can do something to rescue education from deterioration.

Al-Qadhi went on to note that now is the second specialization round, which requires more effort and planning by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in order to lead these outstanding students to the proper specializations according to their desires and abilities.

He maintained that the private sector must be engaged in this regard in order to support those students who don't receive scholarships to be staged at Taiz's Al-Shuhadaa' Stadium.

## Honoring student diligence

Taiz Deputy Governor Mohammed Abdulmalik Al-Hayajem remarked at the event, "Honoring our top students is a way to encourage them to develop their talents and abilities so as to contribute to society."

Numerous speeches cited the outstanding students' diligence as both fruitful and rewarding.

## For a better tomorrow

Anisah Dokem, director of NODS outstanding students program, stated that because the program is for everybody, it must be supported so that it can continue achieving prosperity and progress for Yemen through such students.

Dokem expressed her happiness stemming from the hopes pinned on these students, noting that their persistence and good performance ensure that those

hopes will be achieved, as well as creating a better tomorrow.

"Yemeni society is waiting for these outstanding students to contribute by joining our program to support their counterparts, who will come later," she added, further calling on outstanding male and female students to enroll in training courses funded by her program.

## An imposing occasion

Mohammed Abdulkarim, an outstanding student with a 96 average, gave a speech describing the celebration as "an imposing occasion" seeking to encourage outstanding and creative minds, as well as promote a progressively creative atmosphere.

He further noted, "Being an outstanding student requires four things: seeking God's help, having an attitude determining whether to be or not to be, participating in school activities and competitions and finally, the family, which plays a vital role in shaping students by providing them a proper study environment."

## Matchless gratitude

With an estimated 97 average and coming in fourth nationwide at the elementary level, Wafa'a Mustafa said on behalf of herself and her friends that they are unable to do as much as the program has done for them, highlighting that the organization "did a wonderful job and will be the guide to a better future."

## Efforts coming to fruition

Nada A. Salem Al-Shurmani, who has an estimated 95 average, indicated that her and her fellow students' struggles and persistence finally came to fruition, attributing this to their parents' efforts as well.

She called on all official parties to open and make ways for creative minds to contribute to Yemen's prosperity, as well as to make their aspirations and

dreams come true via rehabilitation and training through continuous support of NODS outstanding students program.

## Teacher care

On behalf of Hayel Sa'eed Anam Group, Zaid Al-Nihari, who is in charge of media for the group, delivered a speech addressing the issues of looking after teachers and how to improve the nation's education process.

Additionally, he urged NODS to register all of Yemen's outstanding students nationwide, including them in the president's program which cares about youths and creative minds. He further expressed his group's willingness to continue supporting Taiz's outstanding students.

## No wonder Yemen has outstanding students

On behalf of participants and attendees from Saudi Arabia, education supporter Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ghamadi commented, "It's no wonder Yemen has outstanding students because, after all, it is the country of wisdom."

Additionally, he affirmed that the celebration was exceptional due to its good turnout and the presence of the attendees. He implored the outstanding students not to stop learning once they receive their certificates but rather to continue obtaining knowledge in order to serve their community.

Likewise, the sheikh advised parents and teachers to do their proper jobs and duty toward their children and students.

At the celebration's conclusion, rewards and prizes were presented to those outstanding students for academic year 2006-2007. Prizes included 13 computers donated by the event's main sponsor NODS. Other sponsors were the Cooperative and Agricultural Credit (CAC) Bank, Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and Tadamon Islamic Bank.

## Outstanding advice

With a 92 average, E'traf A. Mahmoud of Al-Wahda School in Wahdan said her feelings were indescribable and dedicated her outstanding academic performance to her elder brother. Regarding her program of study, she schedules time daily.

She and her friend Amar Muqbal, also with a 92 average, further asserted that neither chew qat frequently, advising their peers not to chew qat, to work independently and not to cheat on exams.

Amin Sarhan, who achieved a 95 average, attributed his good high school performance to scheduling his afternoon time. Furthermore, he doesn't believe that staying up late at night or drinking energy drinks stimulates him to study more.

With a 96 average, Za'ed Sultan asserted that relying on God and having self-confidence are two reasons for being an outstanding student, thanking his family members who helped him a lot. Further, Sultan advised his fellow future students to stop cheating because it creates worry and anxiety, which lead to failure.

Ghadeer M. Mohsen of Asma'a School said, "I dedicate my outstanding performance to my parents, who stood by me all the time," and further advised her not to copy off of others in her exams because cheating corrupts the mind and science as well.

## Indescribable joy

Finishing her elementary education with a 93 average, Fatma M. Al-Kamali said her joy was indescribable and thanked God, who allowed her to be among the outstanding students.

Observing his daughter being photographed, Mohammed Al-Kamali expressed his proud feelings by asking God to save and grant Yemen more outstanding and talented students in

order to keep pace with modern civilization.

## Thanks be to God

Abdulrahman S. Al-Majeedi, the top student at Taiz University's Law College, said, "Thanks to God and my parents, who facilitated the ways of success. I dedicate this success to Yemen, to the National Organization for Developing Society and the Hayel Sa'eed Anam Group, which supported us," further advising students that scheduling their time is the best way to perform well.

With a 96 average, Hanadi D. Muqbal of Zaid Al-Mushaki School noted that she'd been outstanding since her childhood and dedicated her success to her mother, who helped her a lot. She exhorted her fellow students to depend on God and exert more effort.

## Outstanding Iraqi

Wedd F. Sha'ban, an Iraqi student with a 96 average, noted that NODS honored her when she completed her elementary education. She dedicated her success to her family and to the Iraqi people, asking God to rescue her homeland.

## Dedicating success to Yemen

With a 92 average, Rashid S. Muthana of Al-Tawfiq School said he was extremely happy, maintaining that only outstanding students who exert effort will realize meaning from such diligence and performance. Like other honorees, he also advised students to refrain from cheating.

Brilliance is a wonderful thing Nesreen Shukri, who has a 93 average, urged Yemeni students to depend on God and follow a scheduled program of study, beginning at dawn.

Shihab Rawhan thanked God and also NODS, adding that "Brilliance is a wonderful thing in life!"



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سابح  
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# Yemen Times Readers' Opinion Questionnaire

**Dear Reader**

The Yemen Times editorial management would like to take a few minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire. It is important for us to know what you think about our paper, and how you think we might improve our performance. Either send your reply by post or submit it to Yemen Times offices in Sana'a, Taiz or Aden. Replies will be entered into a surprise draw. Thank you.

**Nadia al-Sakkaf**  
Publisher and Editor in Chief

## PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: ..... Nationality: .....  
 Age group: ☐ <15 ☐ 15-19 ☐ 20-29 ☐ 30-45 ☐ >45  
 Gender: (☐ Male ☐ Female) Marital status: (☐ married ☐ single) No. of children .... Occupation .....  
 Level of education: ☐ high school ☐ diploma ☐ university ☐ postgraduate  
 Contact information and email: .....

### 1. How often do you read the Yemen Times?

- ☐ Every issue ☐ Once a week  
☐ Occasionally ☐ Whenever it comes to my hands

### 2. How do you get the Yemen Times?

- ☐ From bookshop in ..... (street or area name)  
☐ From friends ☐ It is provided in my workplace  
☐ Subscription ☐ Online

### 3. What do you like most about Yemen Times?

- ☐ Availability ☐ Design and layout  
☐ Ads and vacancies ☐ News coverage  
☐ Language ☐ Features article  
☐ Quality of paper and size ☐ World news  
☐ Other.....

### 4. What do you dislike most about Yemen Times?

- ☐ Availability ☐ Design and layout  
☐ Ads and vacancies ☐ News coverage  
☐ Language ☐ Features article  
☐ Quality of paper and size ☐ World news  
☐ Other.....

### 5. Which section/s do you enjoy reading?

- ☐ Front page ☐ Local news  
☐ World News ☐ Polls  
☐ Opinion ☐ Op-ed  
☐ Business ☐ Culture  
☐ Community ☐ Health and environment  
☐ Press review ☐ Youth  
☐ Letters to the editor ☐ Editorial  
☐ Back page

### 6. Which section/s do you dislike reading?

- ☐ Front page ☐ Local news  
☐ World News ☐ Polls  
☐ Opinion ☐ Op-ed  
☐ Business ☐ Culture  
☐ Community ☐ Health and environment  
☐ Press review ☐ Youth  
☐ Letters to the editor ☐ Editorial  
☐ Back page

### 7. Have you ever written to / for Yemen Times?

- ☐ Yes, more than once  
☐ Yes, once  
☐ Never

### 8. If you have, was the feedback satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes, definitely ☐ Yes, to an extent  
☐ Not at all ☐ No feedback

### 9. Would you like to visit the Yemen Times and see its operation?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

### 10. Do you know any of the Yemen Times staff?

- ☐ Yes, I know (please give name/s)  
 .....  
 .....  
☐ No

### 11. How can the Yemen Times improve?

.....  
 .....  
 .....

### 12. What topics, features would you like the Yemen Times to cover in the future?

.....  
 .....  
 .....

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## Words of Wisdom



One issue that is so crucial that I can't exaggerate its importance is the need to catch up with the world in computers. I know it looks stupid to call for computer training and education when half the population is illiterate. But, we can't wait to become fully literate to start looking into computers. We can actually embark on multiple parallel efforts.

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

OUR  
OPINIONA country caught  
in a cross fire

Apparently it is Al-Qaeda in Yemen who was behind the murder of two Belgium tourists, and a Yemeni tourist guide, in a bus ambush last Friday.

At first, there were conflicting stories as to what really happened. Some reported that the tourists were caught in a gunfire exchange between tribes in the area. This explanation was probable considering the tribal structure in Hadramout, and the carrying of arms tradition in Yemen. Then speculations said that it was a reaction to the state's clamp down on the demonstrations in the south last Sunday, whereby two Yemeni protestors were killed.

However, the fact that a tourist bus was targeted clearly indicates that it was a terrorist attack, be it Al-Qaeda or not.

This is the first time a tourist group has been targeted since July last year, when eight people including six Spaniards were killed in a suicide car bombing in Mareb.

Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for both the attacks although no one really knows what Al-Qaeda is. It could be any body and no body. It could be angry or ambitious locals who are armed and want to break the chain of authority in the area by making a public statement; by cowardly attacking vulnerable tourists who took from their time and money to spend in Yemen. They could be former Jihadis who since their return from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bosnia, or Iraq, or God knows where else, have been searching for a reason to exist since the only thing they know how to do is Jihad.

It could be all of that together, or none of it. However, the issue here is that what are we going to do about it? The Yemeni government has surely proved once again that it cannot control the country after it has spread itself too thin fighting across so many frontiers. There is the rebellion in Sa'ada in the North, the greedy tribes men in Mareb in the mid East. The angry protestors in the South, and now the terrorists in the East.

The old ways, using the carrot or the stick, which the system used to deal with rebellion, is not working any more. Yemenis around the country want to be heard, understood, and appreciated.

The system is getting the return for its dealing with the public. Today, most Yemenis do not feel appreciated, and hence are not patriotic.

"Why should I be loyal to a country that has given me nothing? I am not proud to be a Yemeni, I would rather be anything else," is a statement I hear on and on especially from frustrated ambitious youth who are not allowed to be. They feel trapped between life's demands and available opportunities.

The solution to Yemen's problems whether AL-Qaeda or anything else is through gaining popular support. This way, people will be the first to fight any terrorist acts, and make those with bad intentions feel not welcomed. But now, most Yemenis are indifferent because they are tired of chasing their own dreams and not feeling fulfilled.

The answer to all these issues is good governance. It means providing good health services, quality education, water and sanitation, paved roads, good communication networks, satisfying jobs, equal opportunities, a neutral judicial system...etc.

Good governance means that the rulers do the job they were elected to do.

The other important factor that our government chooses to ignore is the role of media and access to information. The ruling system thinks that by sharing information it would lose control, as if it has any left.

Yemen's leaders don't understand that through nurturing free independent press they could rally the support of media to help make Yemen a safer and better place for both its people and its visitors. It's as simple as that, but how much longer must Yemen and Yemenis have to wait until the ruling system gets this?

*Nadia Al-Sakkaf*

*In the wake of Aden rioting*  
Which democracy do we want?

By: Ali Naji Al-Ra'awi

The most recent riots and vandalistic acts in Aden disclosed the irresponsible exploitation of Yemen's democratic experience by some unpatriotic elements. The majority of politicians, party leaders and civil community organizations strongly condemned the rioting that claimed lives of several innocent people. The way the so-called "Reconciliation and Forgiveness Rally" was staged reflected content of the request submitted to the relevant security authorities for obtaining a license to organize such a rally. The requesters had undertaken that the function will never go beyond the peaceful expression of opinion, which is constitutionally and legally ensured for all constituents of the Yemeni society. This is the request's content that had been dealt with by the local authority in Aden governorate with a high sense of responsibility.

However, what did happen in the field proved to be in total contrast of what was contained in the request, as it demonstrated a flagrant violation against the democratic values and principles.

The practices and addresses given at the event revealed that neither reconciliation nor forgiveness is the main objective of the huge gathering. Instead, the rally – which involved citizens from several governorates, who were deceived by some opposition

leader,s infected with the hysteria of extremism and adoration for reaching power even through illegal means – intended to provoke chaos and violence. It was also intended to create hardly removable hurdles to the economic and investment development in the port city.

Having a glance at such false exploitation of democracy, the situation necessarily requires a social compromise on the type of democracy we want and how we want to practice it, particularly as the experience uncovered that some unpatriotic elements are attempting to explain democracy according to their own desires, criteria and interests. This fact discloses the malicious intent of some party leaders and activists who never feel ashamed of their irresponsible conducts and behaviors. They only insist on fabricating facts and fuelling violence in different parts of the nation at the expense of security and stability. The just said conducts, we described as "irresponsible", are clearly manifested by opposition party's stances toward sit-ins and demonstrations that took place in many southern governorates. The situation produced a clear-cut proof that these parties are behaving according to a suspicious agenda and a conspiratorial plan, aimed at shaking security and stability, motivating defection and fragmentation, triggering animosity and hatred among people of the same nation, and damaging the social peace and national unity. Additionally, these agenda

and plan aim to hinder progress of development and investment.

What is more painful in this respect is that the opposition parties demonstrated disappointing behavior at a time the government was expecting them to take a clear stance about rejecting any practices targeting the national principles. Some opposition leaders deliberately provided a cover for the most recent sit-ins and protests that took place in the southern governorates. They also created a suitable climate helping instigators fuel rioting at the expense of the national principles.

We don't know how a man of reason can be convinced by the opposition's allegations that it is highly concerned about the nation and its security while its leaders and supporters never hesitate to walk on the path of hired elements, mandated to damage the nation and its unity via breeding violence.

How a man of reason can believe that the so-called "Reconciliation and Forgiveness Rally", which involved prominent opposition leaders, is justified and its goal is very clear since the very beginning. How patriotic individuals can be convinced that the rally has clear objectives, however, the banners raised during the function contained statements that have nothing to do with reconciliation or forgiveness.

*The author is Editor-in-Chief of the daily.*

*Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily*

Significance of trade and  
investment partnership

By: Fuad Al-Ghaffari

The international joint trade activities constitute a motivating factor for integration of states. They rather proved more capable to have strong influence on communities. The local capital sometimes gets integrated in the joint projects in the areas of advanced technology, making use of the western experience in this respect. The medical products are one of the prominent examples in this respect, mainly as reputable medical centers like Cleveland, Mambo and Harford clinics launched joint programs with Gulf Cooperation Council member states and inaugurated local health units in these countries. In our country too, there is a positive impression about trade activities and their key role in establishing the bilateral relations between Yemen and Canada. The Yemeni government recently received Chairman of Canada's Senate upon an invitation from the Shoura Council Chairman Abdulaziz Abdulghani during the latter's visit to the western country. The Canadian dignitary met with many Yemeni officials from the Shoura Council, Parliament and the local councils with the aim knowing about Yemen's experience in the economic and political development. The visiting guest then left Sana'a for Aden, along with a group of Yemeni officials, where they discussed the means of cooperation and bilateral relations between both countries in the fields of trade and fisheries.

Canadian officials visit to Yemen also reflect the fact of deep relations

between Yemen and Canada in the area of petroleum exploration and production. In the final days of 2007, First Chairman and Director of Canadian Nexen Petroleum Mr. Charles Fisher conducted a short visit to Yemen during which he meet with President Ali Abdullah Saleh. He told the Yemeni leader about his company's desire to initiate new projects in the areas of petroleum exploration and production, and electrical energy generation. Fisher briefed Saleh on how electricity can be generated from volcanoes like the Jabal Al-Tair's.

When the Jabal Al-Tair Volcano erupted, some Canadian divers helped rescue a Yemeni soldier and poll out corpses of the dead. They also contributed to the search operations, done by Yemen's coast guards. The bilateral relationship between Yemen and Canada is part of a package of mutual interests, due to culminate with opening the Canadian government's embassy in Yemen in the near future.

In general, trade transactions and communications between both friendly countries are due to lead to positive results in the long term. They may create better understanding between both governments.

Despite the fact that the joint activities may not provide short-term interests, the strategic value of both countries' long-term projects will surely be profitable for the concerned states. The joint programs alone can not settle any complicated strategic and political disputes, but they can play a pivotal role in strengthening bilateral cooperation and political determination. From another viewpoint, the shared programs mayn't provide immediate

cures for all the multiple political and social issues, particularly the complicated ones, but they proved to be capable enough for breaking the hurdles between the different cultures. Also, such programs helped create the kind of human partnership that can have positive effects on relations between states, even the conflicting ones.

*Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily*

Beheading is less painful  
than salary suspension

By: Abdurraqueeb Al-Anisi

To get out of the gloomy political tunnel and stop the terrible economic deterioration, the Yemeni government is advised to take a considerable package of quick practical steps and primary reformatory procedures. And, because the political and economic courses are organically correlated with each other and this correlation is crucial to reforming the country's situation, there is no possible way to separate between both vital courses.

The government and its agencies are not recommended to concentrate on repairing the two courses one by one or one at a time since this will mean a breakdown of their correlation. Neither course of the two can have a different context, particularly as the objective and logical goal behind making any political reform initiatives in the present or the future focuses on reshuffling the old institutional structure. The reshuffling needs to be based on new, scientific and practical technical rules that can ensure an effective and efficient management of the country's affairs. Also, these rules have to be dynamic enough so as to prevent financial and administrative corruption, and put a stop to bureaucracy, bribery and favoritism, phenomena that are ramplantly exercised in the various, military, security and civic institutions of the Yemeni governorate.

From another perspective, concept of the comprehensive political reform may be summarized in ensuring continuity of the political, unionist and democratic conduct, which in turn has to be based on the commitment to the principle of pluralism and respect for the peaceful transfer of power. Officialdom has to show more respect for the legitimacy of nomination and ballot boxes.

As an essential political demand, reform has turned to constitute a common denominator, which in principle, is agreed and backed by all Yemeni people irrespective of any technical, theoretical and tactical differences or any incompatible viewpoints. It goes without saying that the sought political reform process, expected to be undertaken

in the near future, may not have any value, significance or feasibility unless its effects and positively reformatory results are directly and evidently reflected in recovering the country's ailing economy and improving its citizens' living standards.

At this point, we can understand well the essence and nature of the prospective comprehensive reform program, as well as the risks associated with its relevant tasks, dimensions, horizons and goals. The matter requires all the existing political forces nationwide – government, opposition, parties and NGOs – to understand well that partial and slow reform procedures are impossible to achieve any positive, useful or meaningful results.

In the meantime, implementing the comprehensive reform program is the biggest challenge of the current historic stage to have been ever seen since the national unity was established on May 22 of 1990. Reform is a possible and easy task. It is also achievable and applicable if the government and opposition expend joint efforts and come together for the sake of reform, change and development.

I wrote this article in retaliation for the remorseful and shameful threats directed to me from time to time over my political articles, published in Al-Thawri weekly, which mostly criticize the Yemeni government's failed policies and repeated mistakes.

I have faced threats of beating, humiliation, imprisonment and reputation damage.

I had hoped that this is the limit of threats directed to me, but regretfully they included the suspension and deduction of my low salary if I don't stop writing such critical articles. If applied, such an inhuman and ruthless procedure will definitely lead to the starvation and death of my seven younger kids, who committed no sin. Then people will be shocked when it becomes clear to them that my kids have fallen victims of my critical writing. To behead me is less painful than to deduct or suspend my salary so that my children can survive.

*Source: Al-Thawri Weekly*



By: Samer

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# Yemen Press Review



**Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization**  
**Tuesday, January 15**

#### Top Stories

- NUPO leader: Yemen in urgent need for reconciliation and forgiveness to eliminate conflicts' consequences
- YSP: Government cheats the national project, attempts to fragment the nation
- Al-Qaeda Organization in Yemen vows to release jailed members
- US State Department: We can not trust Yemeni government to address Gitmo detainees' issues
- Joint Meeting Parties call on people to reject any price dose, demands government to review its failed policies
- News about Saleh's prospective meeting with exiled YSP leaders

Yemeni official sources refused to deny or confirm authenticity of news reports about a prospective meeting between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and exiled opposition leaders abroad among them the former Vice-President Ali Salem Al-Beedh, former Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al-Attas and former President of South Yemen Ali Nasser Mohammed, who is also a prominent Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) leader, the weekly reported. It quoted a pro-government paper as reporting on Monday that communications were made via mediators between President Saleh and opposition leaders abroad with the aim of allowing the lat-

ter return home and reoccupy their posts in the government.

Some government sources refused to comment on the published reports, saying that "Any meeting will be announced at the time when it is being held." The Ghad Newspaper, however, has reported that a meeting was held abroad between President Saleh and exiled opposition leaders. It quoted well-informed sources as saying that "The mediators reached positive results and such results due to constitute unexpected political surprise. The Yemeni people may view these results on the T.V. screens."

According to the NUPO's mouthpiece, the meeting is expected to take place in an Arab country, known for its strong relations with Yemen, if not in Aden, Sana'a or Mukalla. It went on to say that the purpose of forming the mediation team is to persuade the opposition leaders, residing abroad since 1994 Civil War, to return home and take part in a national coalition to meet any current challenges and prepare the country for a better future.



**Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party**  
**Thursday, January 17**

#### Top Stories

- HR Minister stresses increasing human rights awareness among judiciary staff
- HOOD condemns capture of one of its staff members by police in Hodeida
- Chairman: Supreme National Anti-Corruption Authority's powers

specified by the law

- Ibb Joint Meeting Parties' bureau demands authorities to stop oppressing any peaceful functions and activities
- Yadomi: We decided to continue peaceful struggle until government performs its duty in a required way
- Yemeni detainees constitute biggest hurdle to closure of Guantanamo Bay, Washington says

Yemenis held at Guantanamo Bay pose the biggest obstacle to closing the military prison, because the United States has little faith that Yemen's government will keep the detainees from turning to terrorism once they return, the weekly quoted Washington officials as saying. About 100 of the 275 detainees at the controversial prison camp are Yemenis, now outnumbering Afghans and Saudis. They have become the single largest nationality remaining at Guantanamo as the prison's population steadily declined from a peak of 600 in 2003.

The Pentagon has been repatriating detainees to their native or third countries after receiving assurances of humanitarian treatment, along with the enactment of measures to limit the likelihood that prisoners will resume terrorist activity. The Yemeni population at Guantanamo has not been significantly reduced for several reasons, including our concerns about the level of threat the detainees would pose to the international community and the track record of the Yemeni government in mitigating that threat," Commander Jeffrey Gordon, a Pentagon spokesman, said.

In a letter to President George W Bush delivered Saturday to the US embassy in Sana'a, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh urged that

Guantanamo be closed and the Yemeni detainees be sent home. Attempts for comment from the Yemeni embassy in Washington were unsuccessful. Bush has said that he wants the US prison camp in Cuba closed, but only if the prisoners can be responsibly returned to countries where they will not present a danger to the rest of the world. A US military official said the Yemeni population is the "main reason" Guantanamo is still open.



**26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army**  
**Thursday, January 16**

#### Top Stories

- General People Congress expands activities to protect national unity, foster development
- Security authorities collect over 70 thousand arm pieces over five months
- Negotiations with Gulf and Arab companies to implement projects in Yemen
- Yemen holds deliberations with Netherlands to discuss future support
- People injured at Aden rally will receive treatment at state's expense, say official sources
- President Saleh condemns Israeli assaults against Gaza

The Yemeni Army's organ reported in a front page story that President Ali Abdullah Saleh received a phone call on Tuesday evening, from Ismail Haniya in which he informed him of the latest development in Gaza after the

latest Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

The weekly added that during the conversation, President Saleh condemned the Israeli aggression and barbaric acts against the Palestinian people in Gaza strip, confirming that the practical reaction of the Palestinians can strengthen their unity within dialogue, overcome the domestic disputes and achieve reconciliation between the Palestinians, especially between Fateh and Hamas movements.

According to the weekly, the Yemeni leader pointed out that Yemen would continue to exert efforts with Arab League, United States, European Union, and International community for the sake of putting more pressure on Israel to stop its irresponsible attacks on the Palestinian civilians.



**Al-Wasat Independent Weekly**  
**Wednesday, January 16**

#### Top Stories

- Fighting continues in Sa'ada while government intensifies deployment of troops
- NDI Director attributes tribal conflicts and terrorism to poor management
- Hajja and Amran tribes threaten to organize mutiny while authorities resort to tribal arbitration
- Yemeni Consular in Dubai urges government to stop granting visas to compatriots
- Tribal clashes break out following discovery of ancient treasure in Ibb governorate
- Authorities refuse to free inmates detained over joining Aden Rally

## A letter to President George W. Bush

# Baby steps

By: Dennis Ross

Mr. President, no doubt you have received many briefings on this topic, but having negotiated with everybody you will be seeing this week and having just returned from the area, I would like to convey a few impressions that I hope will be of use to you.

First, it is good that you are going and are committed to trying to achieve a peace agreement before the end of your term. Seven years without a peace process has taken a toll on the psyche and expectations of Israelis and Palestinians alike. Cynicism is high, and the belief in peacemaking is very low. Annapolis, while promising a new beginning, was greeted by Israeli and Palestinian publics with profound scepticism. They have seen words and declarations before. They need to see something tangible if they are to believe again in the promise of peace.

Second, the expectations for your trip are not high; that's fine, but should not be used as an excuse to do nothing. Already the two sides are falling into a familiar pattern of using their negotiating forum to complain about the failings of the other, not to engage in problem-solving. If nothing else, your trip might be used to focus on a series of small-bore initiatives so some early signs of progress might become possible.

Third, the best thing you have going is that the two leaders—Ehud Olmert and Mahmoud Abbas—have developed a real chemistry between them. The worst thing is that they are both relatively weak politically. In my experience, weak leaders don't typically take on history and mythology. And yet, when you are asking them to resolve Jerusalem, refugees, borders, and security, you are asking them to address the core issues of the conflict, the issues that go straight to the heart of self-definition and identity.

Maybe they will do so anyway; they certainly have good intentions. But I

worry about their capabilities. At Annapolis, the joint understanding you read avoided anything controversial since neither side wanted to be seen as conceding anything. The purpose of Annapolis was to launch negotiations, and right now those negotiations don't even have an agreed set of principles guiding them. So the question becomes: How can you persuade the leaders to overcome the fears that have constrained them from making the concessions you've asked for—concessions, which if a permanent status agreement is to be reached this year, would be the hardest any Israeli or Palestinian leader has ever had to make?

My answer is that public context must change. Both the Israeli and Palestinian publics must be willing to take a second look at peacemaking. Today, their doubts overwhelm their hopes. A majority of Israelis and Palestinians say they believe in a two-state solution, and in almost equal numbers, they say they don't believe it will ever be achieved—not, by the way, because of their own unwillingness, but because of what they perceive as the inability or ill will of their neighbour.

I don't say this to argue against the effort. I support it. But I hope you will see that it is not enough simply to launch a process. There has to be a strategy to guide it. Exhortations won't produce a change in behaviour either. Nor will whitewashing the obligations or explaining away non-performance. Instead, why not ask each side to take steps they are capable of taking and that could still be meaningful to the other side? For example, on the Israeli side, a meaningful freeze on settlement activity is within Israeli political capabilities and would be recognised by Palestinians. On the Palestinian side, a sustained, public effort to stop incitement in the media, schools, and mosques, is something achievable that the Israeli public would notice.

Since the security issues cannot be wished away and won't come from

abstract plans, why not re-establish a joint Israeli-Palestinian security working group to develop a clear plan for dealing with Palestinian security responsibilities, like preventing terror and punishing those who would try to carry it out? The plan could be implemented incrementally, and if Palestinians were performing effectively on their agreed responsibilities, they would gain enhanced freedom of movement. Maybe such an approach could also restore the faith of the Israeli military in the readiness of Palestinians to assume security responsibilities.

Mr. President, you may feel this is all very mundane and that you want to focus more on vision than on nuts and bolts. That's fine, but you won't get to a peace agreement if you don't restore the faith of the Israeli and Palestinian publics in peace-making. The conflict is so awash with cynicism and distrust that absent a specific, grind-it-out approach, I fear that the two leaders—notwithstanding their obvious sincerity—will be unable to take an historic leap.

So, Mr. President, use your trip to ask each side to provide their own suggestions about what they can do that they think will be meaningful to the public of the other side. And ask them whether there are joint steps they can take on security. And, finally, ask them how they can be convinced to deal with the core issues of the conflict. By doing this, you can give the process you launched at Annapolis its best chance. It may, in fact, be your last one before the momentum you hoped to create is lost.

*Dennis Ross is counsellor and Ziegler distinguished fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and author of Statecraft: And How to Restore America's Standing in the World. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service, and can be accessed at [www.common-groundnews.org](http://www.common-groundnews.org). Source: The Washington Institute*

## UNICEF YEMEN

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### EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 02/08

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified Yemeni national for the following position:

**Title:** Child Protection Specialist  
**Level:** NOC  
**Type of Contract:** Fixed Term  
**Duty Station:** Sana'a

Under the supervision and guidance of the Chief Child Protection and HIV, the Child Protection specialist will perform the following main responsibilities:

1. Analyze existing information and data on child protection issues for advocacy, policy dialogue with Government, design of strategies and programme formulation. Identify gaps and devise ways to fill them. Contribute to updating the Situation Analysis, Common Country Assessment and other country programme documentation. Provide inputs to the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP).
2. Help build strategic partnerships with senior government officials, NGOs, non-state entities, including the private sector, UN agencies and young people in order to advocate for and support the Implementation of laws, policies and programmes that protect children from violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination.
3. Assist in defining strategies for child protection with programme colleagues based on UNICEF's comparative advantages in the country. Strengthen intersect oral linkages with the child protection and HIV programme as well as with other UNICEF programmes in order to ensure Optimal outcomes.
4. Develop creative child protection interventions and be responsible for their planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Work closely with programme staff to ensure inclusion of relevant advocacy and service delivery activities for vulnerable groups in existing and new projects in other programme areas.
5. Collaborate with communication staff and partners to develop effective materials and strategies aimed at bringing about change in social and individual norms, attitudes, behaviors as well as in laws and administrative practices.
6. Provide technical guidance to UNICEF programme staff and partners in relevant child protection areas. Plan and organize training and orientation activities for government and NGO personnel, community leaders and other target groups as appropriate.
7. In line with the UNDAF framework, ensure coordination and collaboration with other entities to help developing effective information and reporting systems, including useful indicators, to monitor and evaluate national and sub national efforts in the area of child protection. Special attention should be given to the monitoring and reporting of specific child rights violation including: killing and maiming, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, sexual violence, child recruitment and denial of humanitarian access.
8. Carry out field assessment visits for evaluating the effectiveness of UNICEF-assisted interventions, identifying problems and proposing remedial measures.

#### Qualifications and Skills required:

1. 7 years of progressively responsible professional work experience at national and international levels.
2. Knowledge of Arabic is essential. An excellent command of written and oral English is required.
3. Current knowledge of human rights issues, policies and International standards. Good understanding of child protection issues. Demonstrated ability to tackle sensitive issues.
4. Proven ability to negotiate and build consensus with Governments and civil society.
5. Excellent analytical, communication (both verbal and written) and advocacy skills
6. Ability to develop partnerships and network in child protection fields, supervisory and managerial skills Knowledge of computer management and applications

Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae to: **Chief of Operations, UNICEF Sana'a, P.O.Box 725**  
Applications received after 6th February 2008 will not be accepted. Only the short listed candidates will be contacted. Qualified women candidates are encouraged to apply.  
**‘UNICEF is non-smoking environment’**

# Your home can make you ill

**Cleaning products and mould can make you sick; poor ventilation, chemicals don't help**

By: MIKE FUNSTON

**L**isa Borden was at a loss over what to do about her newborn daughter's eczema, which persisted despite several months of treatment with a prescribed ointment.

It was her father, a physician, who suggested that the skin condition might be an allergic reaction to a household detergent or chemical.

So Borden eliminated a strong cleanser she was using for the bathtub along with some other household chemicals. Within three days, she noticed a dramatic improvement in daughter Joey's skin.

The experience opened Borden's eyes. The marketing consultant has since become a strong proponent of reducing the use of toxic chemicals in favour of greener alternatives. Now she counsels some of her clients on how to keep their indoor air fresh. She sells the Eco-Me line of green products for the home, body and even pets.

"We've become too afraid of dirt and germs," she says.

"Bacteria actually stick to chemicals. A clean dry surface without chemicals retards bacterial growth.

"You don't realize how bad some chemicals are until you eliminate them. I suggest going without them for a week. Use a cloth and water instead."

Borden does much of her household cleaning with an E-cloth, which is made of millions of tiny fibres that trap and absorb minute particles of dust and dirt. They're washable and may be reused. They retail for about \$8. (For GTA locations, see [lyndhurstnaturals.com](http://lyndhurstnaturals.com).)

The Ontario Lung Association suggests that, whenever possible, people should avoid using hazardous household chemicals, such as pesticides, air fresheners, aerosol sprays and cleaning agents. Concentrations of indoor air pollution can exceed outdoor levels greatly, because of the number of chemicals being used in the home, combined with poor ventilation.

Risks associated with indoor air pollution include respiratory problems, irritation of the airways, asthma, bronchitis, a reduction in the functioning of the lungs and even lung cancer, the association says.

Some people are more sensitive to household pollutants than others, particularly those with allergies or weaker immune systems, such as children and the elderly.

Gord Cooke, a professional engineer, is an indoor air quality investigator and owner of Air Solutions Inc. ([airsolutions.ca](http://airsolutions.ca)).

He'll go into homes looking for causes of indoor air pollution and detail a plan to reduce or eliminate it. Cooke does an inventory of every factor affecting the air, using everything from electronic instruments to his nose, and provides recommendations to follow. The process takes about two hours.

Indoor air pollution is a growing problem because of our modern lifestyle. People are spending more time indoors – 90 per cent, not the 60 per cent of a few decades ago, Cooke says.

"And houses are tighter," he says. They are sealed to prevent air leaks in the interest of energy conservation, and



Lisa Borden, top right, with sons Andy Storm, infant, Ryan Storm, 7, bottom, and daughter Joey Storm.

people don't leave windows open as often as they used to.

"Right now, mould is a big issue. If you have a moisture problem in the basement and a musty smell, you should have it looked at; mould can

cause serious allergic reactions in some people."

One simple way to improve ventilation is to run bathroom fans a few hours a day, he says. For most people, the presence of mould in the house has

no effect, just as pollen in the air does not affect everyone. For asthmatics and those with allergies, it can cause major reactions.

Source: The Star.com

## Job-related stress, illness all too common

**Juggling pressures at home with demands on the job, coupled with insensitive male bosses, make many women too ill and stressed to work**

By: Paul Dalby

**V**eronica Gibson and Jane Moore have had very different jobs in Canada's workforce. But their dreams of a successful career brought both the same lethal cocktail of job-related stress and illness.

Trying to meet impossible demands placed by their bosses, the two suffered acute lack of sleep, anger and depression that landed them both in their doctor's waiting room.

Their experiences are an all too common part of the occupational health hazard picture for women in this country, according to an intensive study of 31,571 workers, both male and female, conducted by Canadian researchers.

The survey on work-life conflict was conducted by Dr. Linda Duxbury, of Carleton University, and Dr. Chris Higgins, of the University of Western Ontario, on behalf of the Canadian Public Health Agency. It found:

More than half the people surveyed felt stressed.

One-third felt burned out or depressed.

One-quarter thought of quitting their jobs at least once a week or more.

And one in 10 reported high absenteeism due to emotional, physical or mental fatigue.

The price tag for this workplace epidemic is huge – Statistics Canada estimates the cost of work time lost due to stress in Canada is \$12 billion a year. Stress as a reason for absence has increased 316 per cent over the past decade.

Work overload and unrealistic demands were a recurring theme in the study that sampled Canadian employees working for medium to large (i.e. 500 or more employees) organizations

in three sectors of the economy: public (all levels of government), private and not-for-profit (health care and educational sectors).

Overall, a majority of the workers polled – about 58 per cent – were female, and the study provides a new insight into the particular stresses and strains experienced by women at work.

"A lot of the impacts of stress and burnout on women are caused by working in not-so-good jobs, jobs over which they have no control," Duxbury says. "Women can't say no, they need the income and yet they work for a jerk."

Duxbury, Canada's foremost expert on work-life balance in Canada, adds: "Women are more likely to be in the bottom or middle of the organization, men are usually in the middle or upper level. So, women are more likely to be in very boring jobs and that brings a high stress level."

Duxbury says the common denominator in many of the jobs is that women have no control over their work lives, yet must meet unrealistic demands from their bosses, often resulting in unpaid overtime at the cost of their home life.

Veronica Gibson (not her real name) experienced those kind of demands in her job at a Toronto TV media company, managed by men mostly unsympathetic to the extra demands placed on her because she is the mother of two pre-kindergarten children.

When she was ordered to work a four-month night shift in the control room from midnight until 8 a.m., she felt she had little choice but to "suck it up."

"It was one of the worst periods of my life," she says. "I didn't feel I could tell my bosses that this is much more than I can handle. They are the people who make all the decisions and not surprisingly, they were all men."

With her husband travelling for his work, Gibson, 35, hired a daycare provider to come into her home during the day to look after her children so she could sleep. It didn't work.

"After four months, I didn't know which way was up, I couldn't sleep, I was constantly fatigued, I was overwrought and I was an emotional wreck," she says. "I don't even know how effective I was at my job."

Gibson went to her doctor who immediately diagnosed chronic stress fatigue, and ordered a month of complete rest without work.

Duxbury says "job overload" is the number one reason for visiting a doctor, and that over the years repeated warnings to major employers have gone largely unheeded.

"In the '80s and '90s, because of the baby boom, there were more good-quality workers than good-quality jobs, so the employees had no bargaining power," she says. "Women found they simply couldn't balance their work and a family, so they delayed having children, and then when the time was right, they only had one child."

She might have been describing Jane Moore, now 48, (who asked her name be changed), who worked in a key post for a Toronto university, second-in-

command to a department chair and responsible for all undergraduate studies.

It was a dream job that she loved and at first she was prepared to delay starting a family. Then, university rules demanded her boss had to move after passing a five-year tenure and be replaced by one of his professors.

"I went from a very progressive chair who respected all our expertise and allowed us to do our jobs, to a new inexperienced chair who wanted to micromanage everything," she says. "We were put in an awkward position of having to correct him because he was violating university policy. But he became very aggressive to me. He criticized me for having an untidy desk and said I was incompetent."

Ironically, Moore had taken over the job from a staffer still on long-term disability because she had become ill from stress. Now, Moore herself began to suffer from a chronic loss of sleep, alcohol dependency and bouts of extreme anger.

"Worst of all, I had been trying to get pregnant but I couldn't and I'm sure it was because I was so stressed out," she says.

Moore tried to transfer to another job in the university but saw that her per-

sonnel file, which had rated her as "excellent" for six straight years, now carried a note reading "this person can be difficult".

"My career at the university was destroyed because of one man's ego," she says. Moore took the difficult decision of walking away from the job she loved and did temp work at a 50 per cent pay cut. She became pregnant two months later.

Duxbury singled out the two areas of the workforce that are dominated by women: health care and education – more than 90 per cent.

"Look at nursing," she says. "You are in a subordinate position to doctors who believe they have more education and think they are better than you. So, the nurse is left working in a high-demand, low-status job."

Occupational health worker Wendy Pearson gets to see first-hand the enormous toll that job stress takes on nurses in her front-line job at the Ottawa Hospital.

"There's nowhere in nursing that isn't busy and stressful," says Pearson, a 28-year veteran of nursing who is now part of a 17-member team looking after all the 10,000 workers at the hospital (three sites). "Nursing is a high-risk profession, predominantly female and

subject to many stresses – shift work, exposure to hazardous illness.

"You're always trying to catch up one your sleep. When I worked shifts, I would set my alarm to wake up after only four ours sleep just so that I could have some time with my family. Today, it makes me more sympathetic to people who are working nights."

Have Canadian employers learned any lessons from the past 20 years about their female employees?

Duxbury believes they still have some way to go, but says there are encouraging signs from Western Canada, where a booming economy has produced more skilled jobs than people to fill them and employers are "paying more attention to their workers."

"Toronto is the last bastion of the 'You want a job? You'd better work long and hard' business culture," Duxbury says. "This is no longer an option. If we don't value our human resources, where will that leave us?"

"Working women employees like dogs costs employers billions of dollars in sickness and absenteeism. We have told them this repeatedly but they were more interested in balancing their budget."

Source: The Star.com

*A leading multinational oilfield chemicals company plans to recruit Yemeni nationals ambitious to work as chemical engineer at various oilfields throughout Yemen.*

### Qualifications:

1. University degree in Chemical Engineering or Chemistry
2. Fluent English and Arabic languages, both verbal and in writing
3. Good computer skills

### Experience:

- Candidates with oilfield experience have preference

### What do they get:

- Good career prospect
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واليمن سعيد

# VACANT POSITIONS

An international oil and gas company based in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, seek to fill the following posts:

**Position: Senior General Ledger Accountant**  
**Location: Sana'a Head Office**

**Qualification Required**

- Accounting / Finance degree or equivalent professional qualification
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in accounting. Oil and Gas field are preferable.
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic
- Excellent experience of MS office applications (Excel, word, ...etc)
- Good level of analytical skills and high level of accuracy

**Position: Senior Accounts Payable Accountant**  
**Location: Sana'a Head Office**

**Qualification Required**

- Accounting / Finance degree or equivalent professional qualification.
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in accounting. Oil and Gas field are preferable.
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic.
- Excellent experience of MS office applications (Excel, word, ...etc)
- Good level of analytical skills and high level of accuracy.
- Strong communication skills.

**Position: General Ledger Accountant**  
**Location: Sana'a Head Office**

**Qualification Required**

- Accounting / Finance degree or equivalent professional qualification
- Minimum of 2 years' experience in accounting. Oil and Gas field are preferable.
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic
- Excellent experience of MS office applications
- Work well under pressure.

**Position: Accounts Payable Accountant**  
**Location: Sana'a Head Office**

**Qualification Required**

- Accounting / Finance degree or equivalent professional qualification
- Minimum of 2 years' experience in accounting.
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic
- Excellent experience of MS office applications (Excel, word, ...etc)
- Work well under pressure.

**Position: Cost Accounts Accountant**  
**Location: Sana'a Head Office**

**Qualification Required**

- Accounting / Finance degree or equivalent professional qualification
- Minimum of 2 years' experience in accounting. Oil and Gas field are preferable.
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic
- Excellent experience of MS office applications
- Work well under pressure.

**Position: HR Admin Assistant**  
**Location: Sana'a Head Office**

**The responsibilities for this position includes but are not limited to the following:**

- Business Administration degree or equivalent professional qualification
- Minimum of 2 years' experience in Human Resources Oil and Gas field are preferable.
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic
- Excellent experience of MS office applications
- Work well under pressure

**Position: Security Advisor**  
**Location: Sana'a Head Office**

**Qualification Required**

- Management training and experience of at least 10 years in Security Forces.
- Experience in designing and implementing security-related programs in differing environments.
- Understanding of International Security Standards and professional codes of practice.
- Thorough competence in designing, implementing and managing security plans and procedures.
- Computer skills including MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Good presentation and training skills.
- Should understand and be familiar with Diplomatic Protocol and be comfortable interacting effectively in diplomatic circles.
- Must be able to communicate effectively in both Arabic and English, both orally and in writing.
- Should have a professional bearing including tact, diplomacy, good judgment, initiative and discretion.

**Position: Procurement & Logistic Manager**  
**Location: Sana'a Head Office**

**Qualification Required**

- BSc Engineering or MBA with finance/IT
- Minimum of 7 years' experience in Oil and Gas industry experience in procurement and logistics.
- Ability to optimise teamwork with both subordinates and managers.
- Excellent man management and communication skills, proactive approach to problem solving.
- Should be commercially astute and have excellent negotiation skills
- Fluent in English and Arabic, written and oral.
- Excellent experience of MS office applications
- Work well under pressure.

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**Qualified applicants should fax their CV + covering letter with the job title to fax # (01) 423580**

# Port Cities Development Program Position Announcement Local Team Leader/Director

The PCDP Local Team Leader/Director will work closely with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to organize and manage the functions in implementing and administrating the IDA Credit and any other funding dedicated for the port Cities Development Program (Aden, Hodeidah and Mukalla) and Coordinate actions with Government ministries, local government officials and World Bank and donors teams, and to Provide guidance, technical and administrative support in the PCDP activities.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Report directly to the Minster and will be responsible for overall implementation of the project and managing the staff of the Project.
- Carry out all duties required to direct project activities.
- Plan and implement project components.
- Guide and coordinate the work of all members of the project team.
- Interaction with MOPIC and line agencies at governorate level, WB,& Local Governorates/Local Councils (LCs) and other local agencies,
- Carry out procurement process and financial management under the credit agreement.
- Review all planning and programming activities to verify project activities.

**Qualifications:**

- Several years of experience (minimum of five years) in Implementing complex development Projects.
- Master of Science degree or PHD in natural resources and/or in management, economics, or relevant technical discipline.
- Professional experience is likely to be in the area of public demonstration, public policy, development economics and / or development project management.
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to motivate staff and promote team spirit in the unit.
- Strong local knowledge of relevant institutions, public sector polices and practices.
- Strong English language verbal and written skill.

Interested persons may send their applications (documents, certificates, CVs) in waxed envelopes within on week of this advertisement to the following address:  
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation / office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Minister of Planning & International Cooperation.

## JOB VACANCIES

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**Field Administrator  
Ref # 12****Job Description:**

- To liaise with Well Site Supervisor and client representative on all administration aspects of the operation.
- Process Material and Purchase/Service requests, Flight and Travel Requests.
- To maintain constant operating records and data cards for all maintenance and certification of all safety equipment.

**Required Qualification:**

- Bachelor Degree in any administration field.
- Effective English communication skills.
- Must be computer literate.
- Minimum 2 years experience.

**Receptionist  
Ref # 13****Job Description:**

- General filing and updating filing system.
- Answering phone calls, taking Appointment and follow up.
- Check all incoming and outgoing couriers and distribute accordingly.

**Required Qualification:**

- Bachelor degree in any administration field.
- Effective English communication skills.
- Must be computer literate.

**Cementing Engineer  
Ref # 14****Job Description:**

- Liaise with Drilling Engineers, Engineering Supervisors, and Engineering General Supervisors to discuss and prepare procedures for upcoming jobs
- Operations troubleshooting to address customers concerns and inquiries
- Liaise with Customer Engineering to identify opportunities for Trial Testing new equipment.
- Ensure sufficient numbers of properly trained service technicians to handle service jobs
- Advise clients of latest developments in technology, products and services.
- Know and participate in ISO and API "As required", and quality process, be a leader in development of ISO/API etc.
- Understand and comply with all safety rules and company policies of Weatherford.
- Supervise staff, training; prepare job descriptions, standards of performance and performance evaluations.
- Assure that customer down time is dealt with decisively and thoroughly.

**Required Qualification:**

- Degree in petroleum or engineering discipline.
- Knowledge and 5 years experience in running and operating different float equipment (float shoes, float collars, stage tools, inflates and surge reduction equipment).
- Knowledge and 5 years experience with different mechanical casing products, (centralizer, centralizer subs, different casing accessories).
- Familiar with Torque & Drag calculation software
- Familiar with Surge & Swab calculation software
- Familiar with centralizer placement proposals
- Candidate should be able to provide customers with recommendations and technical advice on different cementation equipment.
- Effective English communication skills, both oral and written are essential.
- Field experience between 3 to 5 years
- Competency with general MS Office application
- Computer literacy and mathematical skills

**TRS Service Technician  
Ref # 011****Job Description:**

- To report at the advised customer locations, at the required time and in a fit state to commence work or travel.
- Upon arrival at the location of work and in collaboration with the assigned Crew Leader/Job Supervisor, report to the Customer Representative and to establish detail of the job to be performed.
- At first opportunity and in collaboration with the Crew Leader/Job Supervisor check all Weatherford equipment to be in satisfactory condition to fulfill the specific job requirements.
- To attend on location pre-job safety meeting if so required and wear Personnel Protective Equipment issued be Weatherford during the job and when required by the customer.
- Report any operational problems which may occur before, during and after the job to the assigned Crew Leader/Job Supervisor as soon as possible.
- Make recommendations for the safe execution of the job and report any un safe acts or near miss accidents/incidents.
- Attend all monthly HSE meetings and initiate changes to existing HSE procedures or initiate new procedures.
- On completion of the job; rig down the equipment, clean and prepare for back loading.
- Report any short comings or status of non-conformance of equipment on the Weatherford equipment fault report.
- If assigned as Stabber in collaboration with the Crew Leader, inspect the stabbing board, safety line(s) and safety points. Before commencing the job, discuss with the driller on signals and procedure to be used and repeat this each time the drilling crew changes.
- To attend HSE training, equipment training and medical checks as required and arranged by Weatherford.

**Required Qualification:**

- Effective English & Computer skills.
- Minimum 2 years experience on rig.
- High diploma education or equivalent.
- Evaluation of at least "Satisfactory" as an Assistant / Operator.
- Valid driving license.

**Air Drilling Operator  
Ref # 14****Job Description:**

- Submit Service Delivery Tickets to Field Service Supervisor after completion of each well.
- To maintain constant operating records and data cards for all maintenance and certification of all Hammers and equipment used in the operation.
- To assist in the inspection and repair of Hammers.
- Accurate logging of parameters well drilling..
- Compliance of all Q&HSE procedures during the operational project activity
- Document and distribute to all parties Safety meetings, toolbox talks and SAFE start cards
- Submit Final job report to Field Service Supervisor.
- Maintain computer records of all pertinent information.
- To assist in the recording of consumables, in accordance with regular system checks during the operations, ensuring that relevant records are completed and up to date.
- To notify the need of any consumables, in accordance with regular system checks during the regular course of duties.
- To liaise with the Company man on all activities well drilling.
- To actively participate in the Weatherford Safety program.

**Required Qualification:**

- Effective English communication skills.
- Minimum 3 years experience on the rig.
- High diploma education or equivalent.
- Evaluation of at least "Satisfactory" as an Assistant / Operator.
- Valid driving license.

**Controlled Pressure Drilling & Test Services Operator  
Ref # 3/19****Job Description:**

- Co-ordination of equipment, during the rig up and rig down under the guidance of the Separation Supervisor.
- To oversee the operational staff activity ensuring that all safety precautions and practices are followed at all times.
- To oversee and document all maintenance that is suitably performed in the field. To prepare and discuss all repairs/ maintenance reports with the Separation Supervisor, prior to his signing and submission for filing.
- To advise and assist Separation Supervisor with pre-activity safety meeting preparation and action points to be discussed.
- To ensure further compliance, and assist the crew's implementation, of all Q&HSE procedures during the operational project activity.
- To oversee the crews, whilst assessing the correct ability is being applied during the operation of the various UBS system components during the project, relaying personal performance assessment information to the Separation Supervisor.
- To specifically co-ordinate all shutdown system, choke manifold, separation activity onsite, as per the drilling program requirements, and whilst under the direct guidance of the Separation Supervisor.
- To assist in the recording of consumables, in accordance with regular system checks during the drilling operations, ensuring that relevant records are completed for the Separation Supervisors post well reporting.

**Required Qualification:**

- Effective English communication skills.
- Minimum 2 years experience.
- High diploma education or equivalent.
- Evaluation of at least "Satisfactory" as an Assistant / Operator.
- Valid driving license.

**Wireline Senior Operator ( OH-CH)  
Ref # 2/15****Qualifications:**

- High diploma education or equivalent.
- Effective English communication skills, both oral and written are essential.
- Basic QHSE training, H2S and Firefighting course.

**Experience:**

Minimum of 5 years experience in the Oil Field Service Company

**Skills:**

- Open Hole and Cased Hole wireline logging operation including Winch operation
- Conveyed Logging Experience
- Should be able to assemble, disassemble, install and maintain pressure control equipment.
- Working experience with hazardous materials including Radioactive materials

**Wireline Hydraulic Technician  
Ref # 2/16****Qualifications:**

- High diploma education or equivalent
- Technical Institute Diploma in Electrical/Mechanical field
- Minimum 5 years of working experience on a similar position with a reputed oil field service company.
- Effective English communication skills, both oral and written are essential

**Experience:**

Minimum of three years experience in a similar position.

**Skills:**

- Open whole and cased hole logging operations.
- Working experience as Hydraulic Technician for at least three years if qualified otherwise minimum of 5 years experience
- Should be able to read the hydraulic designs and can work independently.

**Wireline TCP Specialist  
Ref # 2/17****Qualifications:**

- High diploma education or equivalent
- Minimum of three years work experience as a TCP Specialist
- Effective English communication skills, both oral and written are essential

**Experience:**

Minimum of three years experience as a TCP Specialist

**Skills:**

- TCP Operations
- Cased Hole wireline logging operations
- 10K Pressure Certified

**Wireline Field Engineer  
Ref # 2/18****Qualifications:**

- Bachelor of Engineering
- Minimum of two years experience as a Field Engineer in the Wireline Services with a reputed company.
- Effective English communication skills, both oral and written are essential.

**Experience:**

Minimum of two years experience in Wireline Services

**Skills:**

- Compact Memory Logging and Well Shuttle
- Pipe Conveyed Logging
- Open Hole and Cased Hole Wireline Logging

**\* Closing date February 15<sup>th</sup>**

**\* If you meet the above requirements please send your CV + covering letter with the reference number to fax # : 01 426 558**

# Government unconcerned about children's libraries

While there are two public libraries for adults in the capital city of Sana'a, the government hasn't established a single public library for children. To remedy this, civil society organizations have established 11 children's libraries, but with very few readers. *A report by Hamed Thabet.*

Ten-year-old Abdulmalik and his little brother Ahmed, 9, who live in the Hadda area, often cut school and miss classes to go to the nearby internet café to play games.

Asked about their behavior, the two brothers unanimously explain that they are bored in class, where there's nothing interesting for them to do. When asked by an adult at the internet café where they play why they don't spend time at the school library reading stories or looking at picture books, both brothers became silent, looked at each other and then laughing, asked, "What's a library?"

Their elder attempted to explain the concept very simply so they would understand, to which Abdulmalik responded, "I've never heard of a library for children."

Abdulfatah Al-Harazi, general director of the Rehabilitation Center & Educational Development an NGO., maintains that many Yemeni children know nothing about libraries or their advantages mainly because there's no encouragement by families or teachers to make them understand the importance of obtaining knowledge, which directly influences their character, their personality and their future.

According to Munthir Ishaq, director of the Sociology Department at Taiz University, most Yemeni families have no idea about the significance of libraries, simply concerning themselves with sending their children to school and then letting them play in the neighborhood the rest of the time.

He adds, "Unfortunately, it's normal for many Yemeni parents to protest, 'Just let our children play and enjoy their childhood. There's no need to tire them with books. When they become adults, then they'll take an interest in reading and expanding their knowledge.'"

Ishaq further explains that in the past, schools had libraries for specialized subjects, but unfortunately, they were removed because the librarians in charge weren't sufficiently qualified to encourage children to read and also to use the library's resources, coupled with there being no systematic way to encourage children to expand their knowledge, which is why Yemeni children gradually stopped going to the library, considering it a waste of time.

He affirms, "If children start to love reading, it surely will affect them positively by causing them to focus on their studies and think better about their future."

Librarian Abdullah Al-Sharafi, who just marked 20 years of working at the Yemen Center for Study and Research, explains ruefully, "The reason we have no special section for children's books at either library (Beit Al-Thaqafa and Yemen Center for Study and Research)

is that we once did have a section especially for children's books, but because no children ever visited the library and due to lack of space, we had to forfeit that section to make space for other books."

As Ishaq points out, children who don't read suffer negative effects. "If children don't gain sufficient knowledge during childhood, it will affect them adversely. Also, they'll hate books and reading, which is why many leave school, start working or just hang out."

An international report by ACCESS-MENA, "A recent report, 2005-2006 confirms that more than two million school-age children aren't enrolled in Yemen's education system.

Moreover, the report reveals that, according to the nation's 1994 census, 231,655 Yemeni children between the ages of 10 and 14 work – 51.7 percent of males and 48.3 percent of females. The report further indicates that these numbers have doubled – increasing at a rate of 3 percent – but noted that the figures don't include all children working in Yemen.

Librarian Mahmoud Al-Khameri, who has worked at the library at Beit Al-Thaqafa for nearly 16 years, also points out, "The nation's economic situation also plays a large role in not allowing citizens to get to libraries

## Children's libraries

Sana'a has 11 private libraries. They are small, simple, unqualified enough to be a real library for gaining knowledge and not up to required standards, but they are useful and provide an important service. While no information is available about them, as a result of research, the following are the details of the children's libraries around the capital city:

1. Next to Al-Balagh newspaper in the Tahrir Square, 4,000 titles, established 1998.
2. In the Al-Idha'a area, 3,800 titles, established 1999.
3. Bab Al-Yemen's Al-Yarmouk Club, 6,200 titles, established 2000.
4. Al-Jeraaf area behind Al-Kibsi School, 4,600 titles, established 2001.
5. Al-Safiah area next to September 26 Park, 9,300 titles, established 2002.
6. Mathbah's Al-Sha'ab Club, 7,200 titles, established 2005.
7. Nuqum Youth Council in Azal area, 6,120 titles, established 2005.
8. Al-Balily Center, 6,100 titles, established 2005.
9. Al-Safiah, 6,100 titles, established 2005.
10. In the Central Prison, 7,200 titles, established May 22, 2007.
11. Soon to open in Sa'wan's 22nd May Club.

because Yemenis can think only about how to provide for their families and themselves in order to survive."

Hamdan Dammag, vice president at the Yemen Research Center, believes the main problem rests with families themselves, who must teach their children to read from a tender age. He says the family must take the first step because it has the main responsibility for teaching children the importance of reading books, further noting that it would be good if there was at least a small library within the home itself.

Moreover, Dammag suggests the Yemeni government – particularly the



Shaima Al-Ashwal and 6-year-old Abdullah Jobran, who often visit the library at the Rehabilitation Center & Educational Development, are exceedingly happy to have a place where they can look at books and watch cartoons.

YT PHOTO BY HAMED THABET

Education Ministry – take up its role in teaching schoolchildren the importance of books and reading. "Each and every Yemeni school should have a library so teachers can guide students in learning how to use it to increase their knowledge, which will mold their future to become successful in life, both for their society and their country, but unfortunately, this step hasn't been taken as of yet."

Abdullah Jameel, president of the Educational Organization in Yemen, observes, "The awful fact is that Yemeni children receive no encouragement to read books and to use libraries from family, schools or society itself." Rather, he says, "The only knowledge approximately 90 percent of these children acquire is through

expand it because it's not big enough. Most of the 60 children we average daily are school students, particularly those from government schools."

While he believes the number of child visitors to the library surely is more than that, there's no real awareness in this field, noting that, "Families need to be made aware of the benefits their children can receive from the library."

Jameel continues, maintaining that "Lack of government support for private libraries causes great problems for them, while the government is well aware that this is its most important and foremost duty to its citizens and indeed, the nation. Any help requested either for an allowance or acquiring books has always been answered negatively due to budgetary shortfalls, so we've lost hope and stopped asking."

Al-Harazi notes, "It's been a long, slow process for us to bring to the public's attention – both through advertisements and talking to locals – the fact that such a library exists here for children. Even if we ourselves didn't have this during our childhood, we shouldn't let the same be the fate for our children, who are our nation's future."

Wanting to share its activities to benefit local citizens and the country itself, the Social Fund for Development faces several difficulties in doing so. While its services are free, the only assistance it is seeking is a place to establish a library; however, its efforts have yet to bear any results.

Al-Harazi mentions that two children, Shaima Al-Ashwal and 6-year-old Abdullah Jobran, who often visit the library at the Rehabilitation Center & Educational Development, are exceedingly happy to have a place where they can look at books and watch cartoons.

As Jobran's mother remarks, "In my day, there was no library to go to, so we just went to school and then stayed home cooking and cleaning. I'm really happy that my son Abdullah has an opportunity that I didn't."

Al-Harazi notes, "With small rooms, a shortage of books and other facilities, children's libraries aren't up to required standards. Every year, we buy new books at exhibitions so as to be updated, but it's certainly not enough because we lack funds. Still, it's better than nothing."

"The main problem is lack of awareness. I wish the culture and education ministries would show some interest in this matter by conducting an awareness campaign to make each and every Yemeni citizen and family understand the importance of reading and acquiring knowledge."

"The Information Ministry also should cooperate by taking on this responsibility and paying more attention to it because it rarely talks about such subjects. If and when it does, it's only in the headlines," Said Jameel.

Ishaq concludes, "Let's hope that with cooperation by all, this very important goal will be realized: Children constantly should be encouraged and made eager to reach for all the summits of human accomplishment, so that from their early years, they'll learn to aim high, conduct themselves well, have a good and undefiled character and have a firm purpose in everything. They won't jest or waste their time, but rather earnestly advance toward their goals and able to shine their light on their country and the world."

## CULTURAL SERIES FACES & TRACES

*Faces & Traces is a cultural series of concise biographies of local or international famous and obscure personalities in fields such as literature, arts, culture and religion in which these individuals contribute affirmatively. It is a short journey in contemporary history, attempting to tackle numerous effective characters in human civilization.*

## Claudie Fayein, a French-Yemeni philanthropic physician

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

French physician, ethnologist and intellectual Claudie Fayein was born July 17, 1912 in Paris. Because her sculptor father was killed in World War I, Fayein was raised by her grandparents and a French tutor and thus, had a particularly isolated childhood.

Fayein learned to compensate for her physical isolation through the mental enjoyment of reading, in addition to painting and playing piano. Being considerably affected by the poor health of her younger sister, who suffered from diphtheria, she had a powerful wish to devote herself to helping humanity.

Fayein attended Paris's Victor Duruy High School before joining the faculty of medicine at the University of Paris, where she was introduced to Melle Menant, who subsequently became her husband. During this time, Fayein made her first journey to the former USSR in 1934.

After graduating in July 1940, Fayein moved to the city of Saint-Sauveur-en-Puisaye in central France's Burgundy region, where she began her career as a rural physician. Due to a severe accident involving her husband, Fayein had to prolong her career in the country, returning to Paris later, where she worked in a hospital.

As the years passed with full knowledge that the number of Third World countries was increasing and remembering her noble life objectives, in 1950, Fayein decided to pursue a degree in ethnology (tropical diseases). At first, she'd never heard of many of the Third World countries, especially Yemen, but after reading about it, she was fascinated by its ancient civilization. She also was aware that other French physicians had worked in Yemen.

Consequently, she applied to France's Foreign Affairs Ministry in January 1950 to work as a physician in Yemen. After six months, she received her acceptance from the Yemeni ruler Imam Ahmed. While waiting to sign the contract, Fayein spent the remainder of 1950 learning Arabic, horseback riding and obtaining her second degree in tropical diseases.

Finally, without waiting to sign her contract, Fayein decided to come to Yemen in January 1951, first arriving at Kamaran Island coming from Cairo, then Jeddah, Asmara and Aden. She then traveled to Lahj and Taiz, where she made a short visit to the lone hospital there.

Fayein left Taiz for Hodeidah, passing through Zabid and Hammam Ali villages before arriving to Sana'a. During her stay in Sana'a, she visited numerous homes, mosques, streets and public markets. As she was a contemporary witness to the various social and daily life events happening to Sana'a residents from diverse social classes, she elaborately and



ethnologically documented all of these events.

For an entire year, Fayein worked at Sana'a Hospital (now Al-Jumhuri Hospital) with the assistance of a female French nurse. Additionally, she treated patients in her own home and sometimes visited them in theirs, concluding each day by riding her horse.

Other Yemeni cities she visited included Dhamar in September 1951, where she visited the ruins of an ancient Christian village. The next year, in January 1952, she visited Manakhah, followed by a March trip to Marib, where she photographed the remains of the prehistoric Sabaeen civilization.

She returned to France following the end of her contract in mid-1952, but returned to Sana'a in 1969 after the outbreak of the 1962 Revolution against the imamate, working in a governmental hospital until 1973.

At the same time, both the Musée de l'Homme and the International Council of Museums entrusted her with the responsibility to establish the Yemeni National Museum in Sana'a, which formally opened Feb. 6, 1971.

Having made 26 different visits to Yemen, Fayein was given Yemeni nationality in 1990 and one of the National Museum's halls was named after her. Additionally, she was granted a memento of Sana'a City as the 2004 Arab Cultural Capital, while a large medical center in Sana'a was named after her in November of that same year.

Her frequent question to any French visitor returning from Yemen was, "Are there still many girls going to school in Yemen?" and she became extremely happy when she received an affirmative answer.

Fayein authored numerous books about Yemen, the most prominent of which is 1955's, "Une Française Médecin au Yémen" (A French Doctor in Yemen), which was translated into 10 languages, including Arabic in 1958. Employing a subtle literary style, the book portrays various aspects of social, political and daily life in the Yemeni cities she visited during her work from 1951 to 1952.

Her book, "Yémen," (1975) includes a brief guide about Yemen documented with numerous tourist photographs. "Récits de Nagiba" (Tales of Nagiba, 2001) contains the memories of Fayein and her French Muslim nurse during their work at Sana'a Hospital.

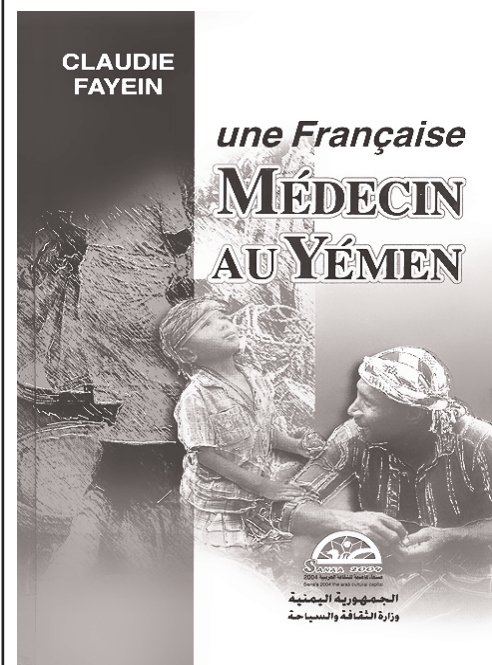
Written in 1988 and published only in Polish, "The Arabian Without Oil" tells the story of those Arabs who suffer from poverty, ignorance and disease despite the fact that their homelands contain many treasures.

Fayein's last book, "My Journey to Dhofar," which has yet to be published, describes her secret 1970 mission to Oman's Dhofar region to medically treat Omani fighters resisting British colonization.

Fayein maintained a private residence in Sana'a up until her Jan. 4, 2002 death in Paris at the age of 90. She has the distinction of being the lone French citizen granted the honor of holding Yemeni nationality during the 20th century.



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# Money dispute destroys new historical finding

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On Wednesday, Jan. 16, a group of around 80 to 100 unaffiliated tribal members went to Al-Asebiah area in Ibb's Al-Sada'a district with machine guns to fight security forces in order to take control of a royal ancient grave recently discovered in the area. According to Khalid Al-Ansi, director of Ibb's General Authority for Antiquities and Museums, locals were angry that antiques found at the site were sent to Dhofar's museum and the tribesmen wanted their antiques returned. "In fact, tribes wanted to take whatever they could from the grave," he claimed.

The tribesmen were divided into two groups, one of which fought with the soldiers while the other entered the grave in order to take whatever they could. In the process, they destroyed everything, including a bronze coffin, in their apparent search for gold.

The small army detachment at the site could not stop the tribes and surrendered. Nabil Al-Awathi, the head district director in Al-Sada'a, confirmed that most of the soldiers assigned to guard the grave received orders to leave the site due to an urgent matter nearby, resulting in only one sentry car instead of four, facilitating the tribal operation's success.

Al-Awathi added that some of the tribesmen who looted the grave were discovered, arrested and requested to return anything they stole. However, many of the culprits are still unknown.

## Government learns about tomb

Following these events, government officials came to know about the tomb, however only to learn that it had been looted for almost a year by local tribes.

The looting had reached a point where officials warned that a war might start between two tribes of Ezla'a Wadi Essam and Ezla'a Al-Jabel in Al-Asebiah because both claimed ownership of the ancient grave site.

Following these events, the government assigned a security force to guard the site and fenced off the area. "If the two tribes hadn't prepared to fight each other, we would not have known about the grave," he commented.

One bronze coffin was found in the grave and studies suggested there might be another coffin. Recent studies by experts claimed the coffin pointed to a



After digging for over a year, this 4-5 meters deep grave was found. The grave walls and floor are covered by marble. This bracelet (insert) is one of several golden items that disappeared after the Wednesday tribal dispute.



Because of the dispute, the site was destroyed. Experts anticipate that it might be of a royal family including a woman as female accessories were found.

royal grave. Experts noted that it might have been for a king and his wife, or for a queen, as there are all kinds of women's articles and materials made of gold.

Moreover, experts mentioned this was the first time such a grave was found in the area. In order to access the grave, a hole 4-5 meters deep had to be dug. The tomb walls were built of marble, while the floor was paved with tiles and bronze.

In addition to the bronze coffin destroyed by locals, the grave was full of gold; the government found 2 kilograms of gold and many vases made of bronze, as well as a sword with a gold handle.

Local council member Ibrahim Al-Ashwal, who was at the scene, noted that locals who started digging the grave found the gold artifacts, some of which were returned and placed in Dhofar's museum, while most remain with the locals.

Recently there were about 16 Yemeni experts in the site studying the grave. "But after the shooting, the excavation was stopped till we receive more money and security from the government. We asked the government to provide us with a military guard," said Al-Ashwal.

Al-Werafi, confirmed, "We cannot resume studies because the place is not safe. And in any minute another problem might happen by tribes. So we are waiting for more support from the government in order to protect the place. In fact, this tomb still has undiscovered artifacts and we cannot work while tribes are making problems. However, the government

agreed to our demands and we are waiting."

Al-Ansi expressed, "Some of the locals gave us more than 15 antiques, including a statue made of gypsum and bronze. Also, many other pieces of gold sculptured were sent to the museum. Many of the statues are in bad condition."

Moreover, after the incident security increased. Al-Awathi noted, "We asked the government to be serious about providing security in order for us to conduct studies more efficiently and also to save the tomb from destruction. This tomb was discovered for the first time in the area and attention must be given to it."

## Looting and smuggling is still a problem

Dr. Abud Al-Rahaman Jar Allah, the Deputy of Museums in the Antiquities General Assembly, noted that according to the law related to antiques before its amendment, "Anyone convicted of smuggling antiques or trading with them will receive a 2-5 year imprisonment sentence, which is not enough to frighten anyone who smuggles antiques." However, the new antiques law has not been published yet.

Jar Allah noted that locals are making problems and want the grave to be given to them because it is in their area. Also he went to say that "locals say they do not trust the government and are not sure that these antiques will be in a safe place or not. That is why they want it for themselves. But in fact this demand was only an excuse for them to take the antiques for themselves."

Al-Ansi said local citizens should coordinate with government authorities and help reduce the problem of smuggling.

Ahmed Shoj'a, a general manager of Museums in the Antiquities General Assembly, noted that it is important to encourage and reward people who hand over antiques to museums. "Those people who come to us with antiques they find through organized searching must be rewarded for handing them over to the authorities. The prize can be evaluated according to the value of each antique."

However, no one cares about those people; As a result of neglecting them, we end up in losing their further cooperation."

He added, "Smuggling related to economic and livelihood scenario is due to lack of coordination between the concerned authorities and local people to help them care for the fields and historical places and keep them from being destroyed."

Dr. Adbud Al-Razaq Al-Eiti, a sociologist at Taiz University, commented, "Illiteracy and cultural ignorance play a big role in neglecting history. Cultural illiteracy means that people do not have any idea about their past and history and only few are interested." Only in Yemen, the valuable historical information is lost.

Al-Eiti noted, "We are living in a stagnant time, because those without a past don't have a present, and definitely won't have a future. People should develop and progress to a higher level in order to realize their past, as it is an important part of their national pride."

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Bronze vases were found next to the coffin. Many had been shattered to pieces by reckless locals.

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