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Southern Movement sets up camps to continue protest

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, July 26 - While the Yemeni Parliament has summoned two ministers over the violence that hit southern Yemen earlier this week, the Southern Movement has set up camps in the south in solidarity with the families of the casualties.

The parliament was to question the Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior on Sunday over armed clashes between security forces and protesters in the southern governorates on Friday and Saturday, said parliament member Abdulrazzaq Al-Hijri, but the two ministers did not attend.

The session has been postponed to Monday morning, and will address the

recent events in the governorates of Abyan and Al-Dhale'e as well as the country's general security situation, he said.

"The situation has become very scary," said Al-Hijri of the recent escalation in violence.

In southern governorates, the Southern Movement set up 'solidarity tents' on Sunday to begin a new phase of demonstration against the government.

"The Southern Movement is aiming to launch a series of rallies and camps to show solidarity with the families of those who fell during the latest clashes," said a local source from Al-Dhale'e, one of the governorates that have been engulfed by violent anti-

government protests during the last two months.

The Southern Movement, which organized the protests, first appeared two years ago, when retired members of the military force from the south demanded higher pensions, complained of discrimination, and accused the government of corruption.

Their claims gradually extended to demand secession from the north, and to restore the southern state.

The government refuses to conduct dialogue with the movement, saying that it is merely upset because unification has harmed its interests.

During the recent demonstrations in the south, protesters waved flags of the former South Yemen, held up posters of its former leaders, threw stones, and shouted slogans calling for secession from the north.

The government forces replies with tear gas and by opening fire on the demonstrators, said witnesses.

Demonstrations on Thursday in Zinjibar, capital of Abyan governorate, took a new turn when armed men exchanged fire with police forces and tried to storm into the Central Security Prison in the city to try to release detainees from previous riots.

According to Ahmad Al-Maisari, the governor of Abyan, the fight erupted after protesters marched towards the prison and fired RPGs at the building in an attempt to release the detainees.

An eyewitness said that the fighting in Zinjibar continued for three hours, before the police gained control of the situation. The clashes left at least eight people killed and 20 others injured.

In return, security forces reportedly exchanged fire with guards outside the house of Tariq Al-Fadhli, a leader of the Southern Movement, in a vain



During the demonstrations, the Southern Movement's supporters wave and wear flags of the former South Yemen, calling for secession.

attempt to raid his house and arrest him.

On Saturday, one protester was killed and six others injured, including a soldier in Al-Dhale'e, as police forces dispersed the protesters.

Witnesses said that police used tear gas and opened fire on protesters after armed men from the crowd fired shots at policemen in the main street of the city. All of the injured protesters are unemployed men between 19 and 30 years old.

"The Southern Movement is starting to gain support from many citizens due to the way that security forces suppress

the protests," said a citizen from Al-Dhale'e.

The parliament has demanded an investigation into detention conditions, and called for urgent reforms to

address the demands of the unemployed and military retirees.

It has also recommended that a law to further regulate protests be activated.

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In Brief

SANA'A
May witnessed decrease in inflation up to 10.50

The inflation in Yemen decreased up to 10.50 percent in end of May compared to 17.69 percent in January of 2009, because of low in price of food and drinks, according to official statistics.

Since beginning of this year, the inflation has witnessed decrease, which would encourage the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) to reduce price of profits twice on disposes last May based on recommendations of the monetary policy committee.

The CBY's reduction aims at pushing other commercial banks to invest their surplus by granting loans and offering further insurance facilities for the investment projects in order to achieve stability in prices.

Report reveals woman low participation in culture and media sectors

A human rights report has called for cultural and creative corporations and the

Ministry of Culture to expand woman's participation in the cultural and media issues and to give her more opportunities enabling her reaching the decision-making positions in a number of Yemeni cultural and media institutions.

To enable her hold technical and administrative leadership positions that led to a positive impact on women's issues integration in various programs.

The recent report, made by the OWAM Development and Cultural Foundation in cooperation with the German Foundation Friedrich Ebert on the status of Yemeni women in 2008, revealed that woman is still suffering a lot of the absenteeism and abandon and the low participation in different cultural issues because of the prevailing culture of the community which opposes various creativity arts and cultural activities.

The report stressed on the importance of activating the public administration of woman in the two Ministries of Culture and Information, as she did not play her

role properly there. It also called for increasing the media programs that discuss woman issues.

The detailed report showed the gap between male and female workers in culture, media, creative and artistic sectors, pointing out that women departments there did not implement any cultural activities during 2008, due to the lack of financial resources that enable them implement such cultural activities or events to discover women creative profiles and develop their capacities.

It showed that the number of cultural participations that took place in the cultural center in the capital Sana'a in 2008 reached about 70 participation varied from "Festival celebrations, symposiums and theater and art shows" 17 ones of them were organized by the Ministry of Culture and the rest set up by more than one organization and female participants in all events reached about 20 per cent.

The annual report revealed the low level of official television broadcasting on the Yemeni women's issues in 2008, with 4 programs aired by 4 TV channels of Yemen by 0.7 per cent of the total annual broadcasting, at a rate of 12 minutes per day. It also said that about 90 per cent of the educated people did not read because of the high rate of illiteracy in the community and the lack of press access to all areas, especially in mountainous and rural areas and almost 10 per cent were interested to read newspapers, pointing out that the majority of newspapers are not interested in women's issues.

It also revealed that the gap between male and female workers at media corporations is wide where the number of the total employees in the official media in 2008 reached 435 women with 15.18 per cent of the total staff about 2429 employees

ADEN
YCHRS organizes program to raise awareness on human rights

Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies (YCHRS) is organizing on Saturday in Aden a training program in cooperation with International Future Corporation over raise awareness on human rights and monitoring violations as well as presenting legal assistance in field of economic, social and cultural rights.

The center said in its press statement that the five-day first course of the program would focus on issues related to the

economic, social and cultural rights and the second course - will be held from 1st to 5th August - would be focus building capacity.

The program would be concluded by a workshop over Yemen's woman and here problems, the center added.

It made it clear that the program targets five governorates; Aden, Lahj, al-Dali, Abyan, and Shabwa to discuss issues related to women, youths and children.

SAADA
Child care program to be applied in Saada

The Saada-based Bureau of the Shazaf Foundation for Childhood and Development is preparing to apply a care program for children psychologically and behaviorally in order to develop and highlight their skills and capacities.

The program will also include awareness courses for parents and workers in the field of education on how to deal with children in the northern Yemeni province of Saada, a five-year warzone between the government forces and supporters of the al-Houthi rebel group.

Speaking to Saba, Abdul-Qawi Shayat, in charge of the Branch in Saada said on Friday that the program would be implemented during this summer holiday, pointing out that its aims are to improve and develop the children scientific and practical activities, especially in expanding their knowledge in child rights.

A study has showed that high proportions of children in Saada suffered from psychological and behavioral disorders. The study, conducted by the SEYAJ Organization for Childhood Protection, revealed that 45.5 per cent of Saada's children suffered from utmost fear as a result of the war.

The study warned that the negative psychological conditions may turn into behaviors and practices that could result in social, psychological and economic problems and impact upon the stability of communities and their future coexistence.

The study also pointed to a rise in the number of the children who feel a desire to cry, with 16 percent. The results of the study also showed that 21.5 percent of the children suffer from isolation which is a high compared to children living in normal conditions.

The study also said that 53.3 per cent of the children have become highly aggressive towards their peers, friends or rela-

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Sabafone fifth mass weddings for its employees



One hundred bride and groom from Sabafone Telecom Company celebrated their wedding last Thursday. This is the fifth mass weddings the company organizes and sponsors for its employees in an attempt to facilitate marriages and cover wedding expenses. Shiekh Hamid Al-Ahmar chairperson of the board of directors congratulated the newlyweds and expressed his delight that the company has been successful in facilitating the wedding parties for the fifth year in a row.

"Our religion calls on people to work together in order to eliminate signs of extravagant spending in the same time assist youth in establishing careers and starting up their own families," said Al-Ahmar at the wedding.

Worth mentioning is that Sabafone is a leading company in both the private and public sector to carry out this tradition of mass weddings assisting youth in their quest to settle down.

tives as a result of the Saada war.

The study concluded that the extent of the psychological and behavioral damage to Saada children is very high and serious, as 63.1 per cent of the children have often disturbing nightmares as a result of what they had seen during periods of the armed confrontations in their villages and regions.

TAIZ
Over 30 Somalis, Africans reach Yemen coasts

Over 35 Somali refugees and Africans, including 17 women, have reached the coasts of Taiz province.

The security services in the province detained 6 Ethiopians were among the

arrivals, noting that the Somalis and Africans have been compiled and then sent to a camp of the refugees at Kharaz area in Lahj province.

Meanwhile, Yemen seeks to make a campaign to register Somali refugees living in the country with the aim of creating a government database and identifying illegal African migrants.

According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), there were 152,693 refugees assisted by UNHCR in Yemen, of whom 143,998 were Somalis, 2,919 Ethiopians and 672 Eritreans.

A Yemeni official said there were 750,000 Somali refugees and more than 300,000 African migrants (Ethiopians, Eritreans and others) in the country.

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The way to the best future

A mission across a city of sounds and smells

By: Alice Hackman

No more math homework corrections for Lutfiyya Al-Rajawi, no more straining her ear to keep her students from straying away from their desks in class. School's out for the summer, and 28 year-old Lutfiyya is using her time productively.

The smell of spicy fowl wafts down the airy corridors at the Aman Center for Blind Women Care in Sana'a. It is 08:30 a.m. and a cup of milky cardamom-flavored tea is tempting, but breakfast will have to wait until she is ready for the day.

Lutfiyya has been blind since she was little. When she was six, her father, originally a farmer from Sana'a, brought her to the Nur Center for the Blind to make sure she received the education he and his wife did not have.

She completed her basic schooling in Braille before going to a mainstream secondary school where her fellow classmates and brothers recorded the lessons onto cassettes for her. She graduated with a bachelor's from the University of Sana'a, where she has now returned to complete her master's in social sciences.

But not content with being the first woman in her family with a university degree, she also teaches math at the Aman School for Blind Girls during the term and has attended regional meetings on the disabled in Oman, Egypt and Bahrain.

Today, she and her friend Fairuz, who she affectionately refers to as her eyes, are on a mission that will take them across town and into the offices of the most important decision-makers in the country. They have 20 invitations to deliver for a workshop on better laws for the disabled on Sunday.

Lutfiyya knows the Aman Center well. Swathed in black with her mobile in a bright embroidered pouch at her side, she walks from one room to another confidently, with her head slightly lowered and her hands alert at her sides.

She enters one room to pick up the last invitation, only to be leapt on by a teenage girl, who greets her with an enthusiastic pinch on the cheeks.

In the next room, she senses someone next to her. "Who is it?" she asks, only to hear her question echoed back at her. As the two girls recognize each other's voices, they fall into each other's arms laughing.

Outside, a human chain of young girls make their way lopsidedly down the corridor giggling. The last of them, a little shorter than the others, struggles to keep up.

Delicately dipping fluffy bread into fowl, she has breakfast. She pauses half way through. "Who is eating with us?" she asks. "It's Iman," says the sighted girl sitting at the end of the table, and smiles.



Lutfiyya's nephew Mu'ad often volunteers to accompany her on missions around town.

congratulating her companion on being so organized. Yesterday, they were both held up for an hour at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs because her 'eyes' forgot to bring ID.

"And what a soap opera that was!" says Fairuz.

Her arm loosely linked into Fairuz's, Lutfiyya walks into the council's building and announces herself to the man behind the desk. "This is the Aman Center for Blind Women Care," she says, and presses a brown envelope across the desk.

The motions will be the same in most of her ports of call today. Pushing past men's deep voices and hanging clouds of cigarette smoke, she walks up the stairs to the most important office in the building and invites the occupant to nominate someone for the workshop.

In the mayor's office, her phone rings. A screen picture of the president in military uniform and dark glasses is momentarily obliterated by Arabic numerals. In a slight Japanese accent, her phone's speech synthesizer announces the caller.

It's Lutfiyya's father, checking up on his only daughter.

Lutfiyya has six brothers, three of whom are also blind. When they were little, her father did his best to make sure that each of his blind children started school at the same time as a sighted child, so that they could help each other with homework.

Lutfiyya went through school with Mohammad, who is now in the army. Her elder brother Sadiq is the head of the Association of the Blind in Amran.



Lutfiyya (right) and Fairuz climb the steps of the ministry of culture.

Lutfiyya washes her hands, flips down her lithma [veil covering the face], and is off down the steps to the bus. At the gate, her 15 year-old nephew Mu'ad is waiting for her, neatly dressed up in trousers and shirt. He climbs up next to the association's bus driver, while Lutfiyya, Fairuz and a tall girl called Kifiyya pile in behind.

IDs and cigarette smoke

First stop is the Women National Committee. Fairuz rummages around her bag and proudly pulls out two ID cards. Lutfiyya holds one up to her ear,

Her other brothers who, like her read Braille, are studying at the University of Sana'a. All three sighted brothers joined the army.

Lutfiyya and Fairuz disappear back down the flight of stairs to the bus. On the way to the Ministry of Culture, Lutfiyya asks Mu'ad to buy everybody drinks.

"Buy Hadda [water brand]," she says. "It tastes better than Shamlan."

The minister's first secretary barely looks up as he scans the invitation she hands him and asks, "Do you want a normal or handicapped person?"

He ignores Lutfiyya's reply and hands the paper to his number two, before lightening up to greet a burly man in a white thowb [long white shirt] who leans over his desk to claim two minutes of attention.

Yemen up in revolution

Abdulqadir Qawza' is singing away on the cassette player as the bus pulls up outside the Yemeni Parliament. It's Tuesday, and dozens of protesters huddle around banners outside the assembly's main gate.

"Yemen sounds like it's up in revolution," says Lutfiyya. "Perhaps we came at a bad time."

Lutfiyya and Fairuz slip into a side door, past a soldier with a gun, to ask for permissions to enter the building. A man in a beret behind a desk directs them to another in beige uniform who is busy telling someone else they are not allowed in.

"No, only one can enter," he tells Lutfiyya when she asks for two permissions.

"I am the blind person and I need to go in with my companion," replies Lutfiyya defiantly, standing tall in the face of her invisible adversary.

The man frowns and then lets out a good-natured belly laugh. He shakes his head. "Alright," he says, "you can both go in."

"May God keep you safe," whispers Lutfiyya.

Both girls enter the cordoned off area outside the parliament's gate to the sound of protesters demanding better treatment for patients with cerebral palsy. Their visit is quick, and soon they are out again with one more invitation delivered.

But as they hand back their cards in the permission office, they hear an old woman moaning in the corner by the door. "The parliament is only on the television screen, not for the people," she says, picking herself up and wobbling out the door. "Haram!"

Outside, Lutfiyya stops her and asks her why she is sobbing. Her son was in the army, she explains, but while he was in prison they sold his job to someone else. She came all the way to Sana'a to seek justice, but they won't even let her into parliament.

Lutfiyya gives her the name of someone who might be able to help. Fairuz writes down his number on a piece of paper, but the woman asks her to punch it into the mobile hanging round her neck as well. As the women part, Lutfiyya slips some money into the old lady's hand to help her with her hotel bill.

"See how she was crying," she says to Fairuz.

A gallant escort

In the narrow alleyways behind Tahrir, unknown to Lutfiyya, a bus load of adolescents from the blind boys' association whooshes past.

The sugary scent of freshly-baked sweets seeps through the bus window. One ministry leads to another and soon it is almost noon. After the Ministry of Youth and Sports—a building with the distinct smell of an ashtray, Fairuz bids Lutfiyya, Mu'ad and Abdallah the driver farewell.

Now it is Mu'ad's turn to be Lutfiyya's escort. He is about a head taller than Lutfiyya, as he steps out

with her on his arm down the road to the Minister of Higher Education.

Inside, they visit one of Lutfiyya's friends in her office to say hello, then slowly climb up the spiral staircase to find someone to deliver an invitation to. The main office is crowded, so Mu'ad goes in while Lutfiyya waits outside.

The last stop for the day is the University of Sana'a.

Lutfiyya is excited because she knows the president of the university, as he was one of her college professors, but at the gate she is told he is not there. He is at a meeting at the Ministry of Higher Education—the building she just came from.

Mu'ad absentmindedly searches for Lutfiyya's arm with his little finger, and they step inside. In the secretary's office, a small room with a single window, up to 12 people are waiting their turn. As Lutfiyya approaches the man in charge, two more people enter and stand behind her. When she speaks, Mu'ad's eyes light up in pride of his aunt.

Before heading home for lunch, Lutfiyya asks the driver to drive around the back of the university's buildings to check on the phone and photocopier shop she has tried to set up with her brothers to support their studies.

Below a colorful sign, its two doors are padlocked. The shop looks out onto the

back of the university and, says Lutfiyya, there are not enough customers to keep it open. But she has found a different location, and hopes to start up the business again soon.

As she stands in front of the center, it is clear that Lutfiyya is not only a

teacher, master's student, first woman in her family with a degree, inspiring aunt, philanthropist, daughter and advocate for better rights for the disabled.

She is also an aspiring business-woman.

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WHO Acting Country Representative Mohamed Osama Mere speaks to the Yemen Times “Yemen is prepared for the H1N1 worst case scenario”

The H1N1 flu virus, commonly although incorrectly known as swine flu, has spread to at least 160 countries across the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) stated. The global virus was recently declared a pandemic by the UN health agency, indicating that large-scale outbreaks could be expected in multiple locations. Since it was first detected in Mexico four months ago and up until June of this year, the H1N1 virus has resulted in nearly 800 deaths worldwide, according to WHO officials in Geneva, Switzerland.

The World Health Organization says the H1N1 virus could infect up to two billion people over the next two years - about one in every three people in the world.

Mohamed Osama Mere, WHO's Acting Country Representative and Medical Officer in Yemen, spoke to Salma Ismail of the Yemen Times with regard to Yemen's readiness to the inevitable spread of the pandemic and to put the H1N1 outbreak in perspective.



Dr. Mohamed Osama Mere

Why is swine flu such a big deal when worldwide the annual death toll from the flu in general is estimated to be between 250,000 and 500,000?

Let me first talk about how this H1N1 virus came to be. In fact, this virus is a novel one new and we can say that the situation is evolving very rapidly. The H1N1 virus is a combination of human flu, swine flu and bird flu. When it becomes one virus, scientifically we call it reassortant. It was first produced in pigs in Mexico when a new virus strain was transmitted from the pigs to human beings. Unfortunately, it was then able to transfer from human to human. This is where the problem lies. We are still unaware of the full extent of the immunity of our bodies against this new virus.

Fortunately till now the virus is not very fatal. Although WHO has declared it a Phase 6 pandemic, we can say that it is only of moderate severity. It is spreading in an unprecedented manner in comparison to the 1918 virus pandemic where 40 million people died, as it is moving very rapidly.

Could we see the same number of people dying from the current H1N1 virus?

Let us say again why it is a big deal. If we compare the 1918 pandemic to the current pandemic, the spread of this pandemic is faster than the previous one - much, much faster. In 1918 it was in two waves, each six months long.

Currently we are in the first six months. So we can expect that this will continue in the next six months [because it will be winter].

We expect that a third of the world will be affected at the end of the pan-

demical if there is no vaccine. However, the whole pandemic is still under investigation. There are many questions yet to be answered and investigation is ongoing as to characteristics of the pandemic.

The world is more ready for this pandemic than it was in 1918. We cannot really compare like this because the health system now is so much better than it used to be, largely due to the preparation for the bird flu in 2005, when the world prepared a contingency plan. So we modified and updated information and have an even better plan than we did before.

Is Yemen prepared for the worst case scenario?

Yes. Yemen is prepared as are the other countries. We have the Higher Technical Committee chaired by the Ministry of Health which convenes weekly and discusses all these things. Yemen was very early in taking measures against H1N1, such as enhancing surveillance measures. The first cases found in patients who arrived from the US were detected and consequently treated.

What are the current surveillance systems currently in place?

We have established focal points in every governorate that are trained to investigate and take all precautionary measures, including nasal swabs. I myself participated in taking the first samples. WHO trained the National Public Health Central Laboratory's staff there to collect samples and identify the virus to confirm if a case is H1N1, and then to isolate the virus itself in order to be able to have a genotype to take to the reference lab.

What about the diagnostic kits? We hear they are expensive, around USD 30 each. Will we reach a stage where we will stop diagnosing suspected cases and just prescribe the medication?

In fact, WHO has provided Yemen with these kits. Let's say that there are enough kits for 100 to 200 cases. After a while, it is unnecessary to diagnose every single case because it will have spread throughout the country. Even WHO doesn't require a daily report of cases, but rather on a weekly basis. This is because by that time the number of patients will be large, and we expect something like this to happen. But these are just expectations.

For this pandemic we are trying to forecast and predict what will happen according to our previous experiences in the 1918, 1956 and 1958 pandemics. For more than 40 years the world hasn't been exposed to a pandemic. We are now dealing with this based on epidemiological investigations and we can predict, to an extent, what will happen.

The most dangerous thing that could happen is that the virus will mutate. Whenever a chain of frequent transmission.

Does this mean that medication will be ineffective if the virus mutates?

In this case, nobody can answer this because mutation can be of varying degrees. Because of this, we are trying to prepare for the worst scenario. We do not know how it will be in winter with the increasing number of cases.

How about medication, namely Tamiflu? Yemen has some reserves which we received from WHO. Will we reach a stage when Yemen can manufacture its own medication?

Let's say that Tamiflu is now very effective in treating and curing the cases. The country currently has enough to treat more than 70,000 cases.

WHO has approached manufacturers worldwide to produce Tamiflu. Manufacturing it involves many proce-

dures and we do not know whether or not Yemen will be able to produce the medication locally. In the meantime, WHO is trying to secure enough donations of Tamiflu and we have a lot of stock in our warehouses: millions of doses, in fact.

It seems that all the cooperation is between health professionals, WHO and the ministry, but the ordinary person on the street isn't aware of any of it. The ministry has said that it wants to print messages on water bottles and posters. Will this ever happen?

This is a very important point. During one of the higher committee meetings, I asked that a communication committee be formed to develop a communication strategy. What I know is that they did some of the activities, including interviews and posters that are present I assume at the health centers. At the higher committee they invited the religious ministry and during the last meeting they asked that the ministry be joined to the committee so that we can approach imams to be able to spread the messages. As you know, international mass media is talking about H1N1. I think that most of the people know about it, but more needs to be done for awareness.

Should the ordinary person go out and buy precautionary measures such as surgical masks, and will they protect against the virus?

Let's talk about prevention measures; one of them is the surgical mask, which we will come to later. The most important thing is personal hygiene. Sneezing in a tissue and disposing of it properly is important because the tissue becomes contaminated and could be an instrument to contaminate others. In addition to that, if you have a history of travel and make contact with people in an endemic country, you can bring the virus back with you. These measures also apply to the seasonal flu. We have to work on personal hygiene in normal situations, but now even more so.

Regarding surgical masks, WHO does not recommend that people wear them, but neither do we expressly forbid it. Even these surgical masks can sometimes pose a threat to the community if not properly disposed of. We recommend the N95 masks, especially for patients and immediate contacts.

Are these masks available at the pharmacy?

Yes, they are available.

The Yemen Times previously contacted the UN Refugee Agency to inquire whether or not they are checking African migrants arriving to Yemen by sea for H1N1. They said they had not received directives from the Ministry of Health and Population, and the ministry said it is waiting for directives from WHO. When will you issue the directive?

It's good to monitor all country entry points, but WHO says that we will not be able to prevent the entry of the virus. Our rule is just to reduce the morbidity and mortality of this virus. As you know with African migrants, the level of transmission is not at the community level, especially for Somalis, or wherever they may come from. They enter without any permission.

for the treatment itself, especially when started right away. There is no need at all to travel outside the country to seek treatment. But of course, some people are more vulnerable than others, as with the normal flu. Pregnant women are more vulnerable, as are the very young less than 12 years, the ill, and the elderly who are over 65 years old. Because of that, they do not allow vulnerable groups to go on the hajj so as to reduce the mortality because we are not at the phase to reduce the morbidity.

Do you recommend that people carry around disinfectants to clean things like shopping carts or door knobs of public places before touching them?

That's not practical. But whenever you feel that you were in a crowded place or have shaken too many hands, you should take care of personal hygiene.

In your estimate, by the time it is all over, how many people in Yemen will be infected?

It's just a prediction. Perhaps 30 to 50 percent of the world will be infected, so that is 30 to 50 percent of the Yemeni population.

What will happen after Phase 6?

Phase 6 is the last phase. When the WHO announced Phase 6, it was because of the quick spread of the virus and not the severity. We have to bear in mind that the pandemic of the 1918 started slow with a mild severity, yet in the end 40 million people died. We hope this will not happen, but we are expecting something like this because this time it is spreading faster.

If I am travelling and I will be at international airports, could I take Tamiflu as a preventative measure?

There is no need for that. We do not want to give any opportunity for the virus to become resistant to the medication [Tamiflu].

Tamiflu is very expensive?

In Yemen it is only available at the government sector. When it is needed, the government will provide it based on its contingency plan which has been revised by WHO. WHO is supporting the Yemeni government and the Ministry of Health with this.

The Ministry of Health has taken a number of measures, the latest being the establishment of an operational room which will be used to receive information on any report and case.

The WHO is also in the process of connecting the operational rooms with our regional offices, with the headquarters and with other regional offices that can be broadcast online.

If you were to go to the operational room there are two LCDs. We want to connect it to the SHOCK room 24 hours a day, like our Middle East Regional Office (MERO) is connected. Now that Yemen has this facility, we can consult each other if and when cases arrive. The Ministry of Health and WHO can have an easier flow of information.

As I mentioned, we are doing our best to estimate and predict that something will happen. We have to be ready for the worst, but let's hope that the pandemic will continue like it is now.

On a personal note, since you have travelled so much since the outbreak, are you extra cautious or even worried if someone next to you sneezes or coughs?

I have the same feelings as anyone else. I don't like it when someone sneezes next to me, and not just because of H1N1. It's not even polite. But regarding H1N1, only if I have been in a country that is endemic would I be worried. However, keep in mind that most of the deaths from H1N1 concern people who were already vulnerable. Like the lady in Egypt. She died but this was because she was having heart ailments and many other problems.

Invitation for Prequalification

Country: Republic of Yemen

Project: Amran Aden Highway Project Section-I, Sana'a - Dhamar - Bait Al Komani, (6-lane, Dual Carriageway, 95 km)

Loan/Credit No: Credit No. (30/494)

The Government of the Republic of Yemen has received a Grant and Loan toward the cost of Amran Aden Highway Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this [loan No / credit No 30/494] to payments under the contract for construction of Amran Aden Highway Project-Section I, Sana'a - Dhamar - Bait Al Komani 95 km. The Ministry of Public Works and Highways intends to prequalify contractors for the construction of the above mentioned major dual carriageway project. The project is a 6 lane dual carriageway 37.7m wide, and includes huge quantities of works i.e. more than 28,000,000.0 m³ of earthwork, more than 100,000 m³ of reinforced concrete, more than 1,250,000.0 m³ of sub-base and base course, more than 300,000.0 m³ of hot mix asphalt concrete,....Etc. It is expected that invitations for bid will be made in Oct, 2009.

Prequalification will be conducted through prequalification procedures specified in the Guidelines for procurement of works for the borrowers of the Development Institutions, Members of the Cooperation Group, First Edition, 1995, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification document at the Ministry of Public Works and Highways from 8:30AM to 2:00 PM, Saturday-Wednesday, at the address below. A complete set of the prequalification document in English may be purchased by interested applicants (a) on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of YR20,000.0, or US\$100.0, plus the courier charges for overseas delivery of US\$ 50, if required, from the following address:

Ministry of Public Works and Highways

Head Office, 5 th Floor

Nuqum, Next to Berlin Public Garden

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Phone: 00967 1 545229

Fax: 00967 1 545373

Email: ifrpiu@yemen.net.ye

Attention: Assistant Deputy Minister-Roads Sector, MPWH

The method of payment will be in cash, or Cashier's check. The document will be sent by courier

The deadline for application submission is: **Sep 6, 2009**

Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address above by 11 AM, Sep 6, 2009, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for " The Construction of Amran Aden Highway Project-Section I, Sana'a - Dhamar - Bait Al Komani 95 km."

4U

Recognizing Symptoms: Getting Help

According to the WHO, you will not be able to tell the difference between seasonal flu and influenza A(H1N1) without medical help. Typical symptoms to watch for are similar to seasonal viruses and include fever, cough, headache, body aches, sore throat and runny nose. Only your medical practitioner and local health authority can confirm a case of influenza A (H1N1).

In Yemen, the number to dial is 01-562659 or 01-562658

Protect Yourself

The main route of transmission of the new influenza A(H1N1) virus seems to be similar to seasonal influenza, via droplets that are expelled by speaking, sneezing or coughing. You can prevent getting infected by avoiding close contact with people who show influenza-like symptoms (trying to maintain a distance of about 1 metre if possible) and taking the following measures:

- ¥ avoid touching your mouth and nose;
- ¥ clean hands thoroughly with soap and water, or cleanse them with an alcohol-based hand rub on a regular basis (especially if touching the mouth and nose, or surfaces that are potentially contaminated);
- ¥ avoid close contact with people who might be ill;
- ¥ reduce the time spent in crowded settings if possible;
- ¥ improve airflow in your living space by opening windows; practice good health habits including adequate sleep, eating nutritious food, and keeping physically active.



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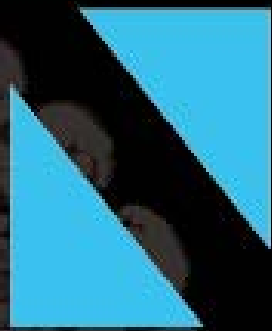
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Invitation for General Bid No. (10) for the year 2009

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (10) for the year 2009 for:

Importing, fixing, licensing, testing, operating and guaranteeing a mobile S.N.G satellite channel with its peripheries.

All the interested importers and specialized companies must apply with their written request for this bid during the official work time to the following address:

**The TV and Radio General Corporation
General Administration for Projects
Tel: (01/ 230752)**

Cost for buying the bid documents (YR 300) non refundable.
The deadline of selling the documents is: 16/8/2009.

The bids must be presented in a red wax sealed envelopes t the bids and tenders committee's secretariat at the corporation. The names of the bidding company and of the project along with the tender number and the bidder's name must be written on the envelop, which should contain the following documents:

1. An unconditional bank guarantee of (US 10,000\$) valid for 120 days as of the date of bid opening or a cashable check.
2. A copy of valid tax certificate for the year 2009 (feign bidders with no existing business activities in Yemen may furnish a copy of equivalent VAT registration document from their home countries).
3. A copy f valid insurance certificate for the year 2009 (insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefit from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen).
4. A copy of valid registration and classification for the year 2009.
5. A copy of valid Zakat certificate for the year 2009.
6. A copy of valid commercial registration valid for the year 2009.
7. A copy of valid profession license certificate for the year 2009.
8. A copy of valid sales tax registration certificate for the year 2009.

The deadline for receiving the proposals is at 11:00 am on Saturday 22/8/2009 at the corporation's main premises.



Invitation for General Bid No. (11) for the year 2009

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (10) for the year 2009 for:

Importing, fixing, licensing, testing, operating and guaranteeing TV cameras and two mobile montage units with peripheries.

All the interested importers and specialized companies must apply with their written request for this bid during the official work time to the following address:

**The TV and Radio General Corporation
General Administration for Projects
Tel: (01/ 230752)**

Cost for buying the bid documents (YR 250) non refundable.
The deadline of selling the documents is: 16/8/2009.

The bids must be presented in a red wax sealed envelopes t the bids and tenders committee's secretariat at the corporation. The names of the bidding company and of the project along with the tender number and the bidder's name must be written on the envelop, which should contain the following documents:

1. An unconditional bank guarantee of (US 7,500\$) valid for 120 days as of the date of bid opening or a cashable check.
2. A copy of valid tax certificate for the year 2009 (feign bidders with no existing business activities in Yemen may furnish a copy of equivalent VAT registration document from their home countries).
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WISE second conference: "Muslim Women: Building Institutions, Creating Change" Muslim women set the record straight

Strong spirited campaigns to promote women's advancement and to reform the image of Islam, especially from the Muslim women's perspective, overwhelmed the participants at the second Women Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE) conference. They pledged to fight violence and create change for Muslim women around the world.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Two hundred professional Muslim women from 55 countries travelled for hours and even days to congregate in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for four days to exchange experiences and plan strategies for change.

"Malaysia was the choice of venue because of the remarkable Malaysian experience in promoting women as equal to men while maintaining Muslim identity," said Daisy Khan, executive director of WISE at the 2009 conference.

The WISE program aims to empower Muslim women to fully participate in their communities and nations as well as to amplify their voices at all levels of political, economic, religious and social discourse. By creating the infrastructure and processes for Muslim women to join together and challenge the distorted interpretations of Islam and by increasing their social and economic self-determination, WISE aims to change the status of Muslim women around the world. This global network of individuals, groups, organizations, institutions and communities uses the teachings of Islam – both as inspiration and justification – for Muslim women's empowerment.

In 2006, the first WISE conference was organized in New York City, USA and was attended by 175 Muslim women scholars, activists, artists, and religious and civil society members from 26 countries.

Like any organization, it has grown over time through the efforts of courageous and dedicated people who believe in their objective and aspire to achieve their vision.

"I am a physician and I have seen so

much during my work. I realized that for women's development in poor countries, fundamental Islam needs to be embraced in the true sense," said Dr. Nafis Sadik, member of the WISE Team and Steering Committee.

She explained that the distorted image of Islam and interpretations conceived by traditional Muslim scholars have misrepresented Islam, saying that it is time for women to play a role in Islam to promote equality in humanity.

Daisy says she started this initiative because of 9/11. "Wherever I went, Americans would ask three questions constantly: Why is Islam such a violent religion? Why are Muslims so oppressive towards their women? And what are the Muslim leaders doing about this?"

"The issue of women's rights is more than an issue for women or about women. It involves everyone," said Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, founder and CEO of the American Society for Muslim Advancement (ASMA Society) and the Imam of Masjid Al-Farah, a mosque in New York City.

"The best of you are those who are best to their women. Consequently, the worst of men are those who are worst to their women," Rauf said.

Change through communication

Muslim woman across the globe work through communication and media to create change. The WISE conference specifically included a session on creating change through communication, in which two case studies were presented on how media can be effective in creating change. The first was Yemen Times' case study on early marriage taking up the story of the nine year old girl Nujood Ali who was

married off by her father and who eventually became the symbol of Yemen's fight against premature marriages. Yemen Times lead national and international media and worked side by side with advocates and human right activists to push for a law to prevent such marriages. After almost one year, in April 2009 a law was passed that prevents marriages for boys and girls under the age of 17. This law has yet to be implemented or have an endorsement mechanism, and women's institutions are working with parliamentarians on this issue.

The second case was of the campaign through Beliefnet, an online magazine originating from the USA that worked to explain and educate the American public on the issue of the hijab. Dilshad Ali who worked on this campaign explained how Beliefnet used its online pages to promote a better understanding of Muslim dress code. She narrated the various phases of the campaign and how the web magazine received positive feedback from many readers.

The presentations were followed by a question and answer session and then by group discussions whereby the participants commented on the case studies and identified ways to reflect the experiences in their work. The agreed that media stereotyping is of Muslims in general and Muslim women in particular is a barrier against change and that for women's image to change, the way media portrays them must change. They also agreed that friendly media icons and international figures can help in the campaign for change. Moreover, for communication to be effective in reforming Islam's practices, Sharia'a law needs to be translated into practical laws and not left to the Muftis, or religious preachers, to define what is allowed and what is not.

The creation of an online portal connecting Muslim women globally was appreciated, and participants agreed that it would be helpful to facilitate communication among the WISE community and for those who want to know more.



Muslim Women's Shura Council
Change must be created through the interpretation and reinterpretation of key Islamic texts. In response, WISE has created a global Shura Council for women consisting of Muslim women scholars and activists. Authentic to Islamic tradition and as an agent of the 21st century, this council promotes women's rights within an Islamic framework through education and advocacy activities.

Change through Philanthropy

For any change to happen, financial resources are needed. The WISE initiative launched the Muslim Women's Fund which will facilitate projects for change in Muslim communities worldwide, especially those projects that aim at enabling Muslim women.

In 2006, five women inspired by each other decided to create a financial program to facilitate change. The Muslim Women's Fund was created to strengthen women, benefit families and communities and build bridges to peace. It aims to enable women to become stakeholders in their society. Its mission is to enable women to reclaim their human rights in Islam through education and economic empowerment.

There are 600 million Muslim women in the world. The fund will prioritize education, economic independence and women's rights, aiming to create social change. Today, the priority is "Jihad against Violence." An aggressive fund raising campaign for the fund made donations very compelling, as the campaign was able to capture the stories of where intervention can make a difference.

Two case studies were presented in this session. Nani

Zulmarni from Indonesia talked about the Economic Empowerment to Social Movement and how it was used to achieve prosperity and dignity for Muslim women. She discussed how women need to change from dependant passive recipients of handouts to empowered women who solve problems and take initiatives, relating that in this way, women will stop being victims.

The second case study was presented by Shireen Zaman from the USA on leveraging corporate social responsibility for women's progress. She talked about private companies that dedicated money on regular basis to fund development projects aimed at empowering women, relating that a mind shift is needed from giving money as a form of charity which aims at helping an urgent need into philanthropy to empower and create sustainable development. The latter allows much more interactivity and connection between the donors and the beneficiaries.

One of the early projects of the Muslim Women's Fund was the successful elimination of Female Genital Mutilation in an Egyptian village. Eman Fawzy explained how she convinced the two people who carried out the FGM practice to drop it and take up another profession. "When we reasoned with them, we discovered that for them it was a job like any other job. In fact, they did not like doing it but it was their source of living. When we helped them establish their own small businesses with the support of the fund, FGM was no longer practiced in that community," she said.

The discussions following the presentations commended the two case studies and highlighted that Islam in essence calls for women's rights according to the Prophet Mohammed's saying, "See that women are maintained in the rights assigned to them."

Participants discussed how a lack of financial resources is a great obstacle against development and that women and children are usually the most vulnerable in any society and are the most victimized. Also discussed was that funding generally stays in cities or urban areas where the need is less compared to the rural areas. Participants were encouraged from the private sector social responsibility case and decided they will knock on company's doors to get them on board the campaign for women's development.



Daisy Khan, executive director of WISE welcoming Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah, Former First Lady of Malaysia to the conference. The Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE) is a global program. It is a social network and grassroots social justice movement led by Muslim women.

Change through Interpretation and through collaboration

In the last thousand years, not a single woman scholar appeared who could legislate and issue fatwas defining what is right and what is not right based on Islamic jurisprudence. Men held a tight monopoly over religion and interpreted Islam from their own point of view. This is why WISE launched the Shoura Council, an initiative that aims at creating a group of women Islamic scholars who are internationally qualified and able to present Islam from an unbiased angle.

Three women scholars talked about their personal experiences and their battles against the exclusion of women in the religious leadership sphere. Amina Wadud from the USA, Sa'diyya Shaikh from South Africa and Musdah Mulia from Indonesia told their stories proving to the attendees that in Islam, women can be a part of the religious ruling class and lead congregations or advocate for women in laws.

The Jihad Against Violence was launched in the session whereby women stood up and pledged to defend peace and reclaim the word 'Jihad,' which in essence means 'struggle' and has nothing to do with terrorism.

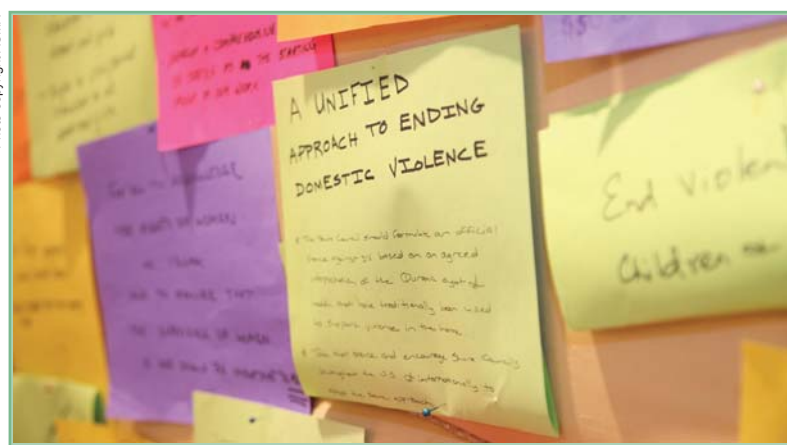
"It is time we did right by our religion and cleared it from the vast misconceptions advocated for by extremists. We pledge to defend Islam through peace and show the world that Muslim women are capable of being strong peace advocates," said Afra Jalabi as she introduced the concept of the Jihad Against Violence campaign and encouraged women to pledge for it.

Peace and development are not an issue limited to one faith or a specific religion. Muslims join hands with others of any faith or religion in humanity to achieve a common objective.

Three panelists from three different religions talked about how collaboration through different faiths can create change and have a strong impact on society. Rev. Serene Jones from the US, Rori Pickersneiss also from the US and K. Thilagawathi Kanagaretnam from Malaysia talked about their personal experiences and how in their work they reach out to communities of other religions to create change.



Muslim Women's Fund
Change must be created through enhanced access to resources for Muslim women activists. In response, WISE has initiated the first Muslim Women's Fund. By making grants to sustainable and context-specific grassroots projects within the WISE network, the Fund will enable Muslim women's organizations to create projects responsive to community needs and local contexts



Muslim Women's Portal
Change must be created through effective communication, both within the global network and without, to the media and to the larger public. In response, WISE has developed a state-of-the-art Muslim Women's Portal. This first web portal to connect Muslim women globally will serve as an authoritative source for Muslim women's issues and activism and will host all relevant information for WISE.

المحاور الرئيسية للملتقى

المحاور الرئيسية لأوراق عمل الملتقى (صباحاً)

- الجودة الشاملة دورها الاستراتيجي في تكوين الصورة الذهنية للمؤسسات المعاصرة
- إدارة الجودة في العمل المؤسسي (منهج تطبيقي على مؤسسات دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة)
- نظام إدارة الجودة - الطريق الأمثل نحو مستقبل أفضل للشركات
- مستوى تطبيق أساسيات الجودة الشاملة TQM في الشركات الصناعية المطبقة لنظام ISO 9001 دراسة تطبيقية على شركات القطاع الخاص (الشركة اليمنية للصناعة والتجارة - إحدى شركات هائل سعيد أعم)
- واقع التقييس والجودة في اليمن
- جوائز الجودة العالمية (نشأة وتطور)
- هندسة الجودة في المجال الخدمي ودورها في تحقيق رضا العملاء والارتقاء بالمؤسسات والشركات الحديثة
- حلقة نقاشية مفتوحة بعنوان: التقييس والجودة في اليمن... التحديات والأفاق المستقبلية.

المحاور الرئيسية لورش عمل الملتقى (مساءً)

- الجودة ونظام إدارة الأداء في المؤسسات الحديثة.
- كيفية الحصول على شهادة الأيزو طبقاً للمواصفة الحديثة ISO 9001: 2008
- الجودة الشاملة وصناعة الاستراتيجيات الحديثة لتطوير المنظمات الخدمية.
- TQM and Producing the modern strategies for improving service organizations
- استراتيجيات تطبيق الجودة الشاملة في المنظمات الصناعية
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The world's eighth wonder Socotra's Hooq Cave



Scientists explored five kilometers of Hooq cave and couldn't reach its end.



By: Mohammed Ghawth
For the Yemen Times

Some reality-like myths indicate that the Socotra Island was once a settlement for cave people. Civilizations and religions of the old world later called the island "The Exalted Land" due to presence of incense, gum trees, and perfumes that added a pleasant odor to temples and palaces.

Consequently, many leaders, religious clerics, tradesmen and artists from Greece and Romania, as well as adventurers made voyages to the island. Traces of

its natural beauty, unique architecture and history. It is an ever-open museum for visitors of Socotra.

The island has as many as 52 caves, most of which lie at its center. Genia Cave is the biggest with a total area of more than 20 square kilometers, and lies in the island's center.

Hooq Cave is the most beautiful, but no accurate data on its area is available. Belgian scientists explored five kilometers of the cave and couldn't reach its end. They guessed that the cave has a multi-direction extension from inside, and therefore connects the Arabian Sea with the Indian Ocean. They see the cave

contains 80 percent calcium carbons. Penetration of such rocks helps us recognize types of rock structure, while the calcium carbons are the source of gas in the world.

"Black and white cement is key crude material for manufacturing construction materials," he added.

Asked about history of the cave, he said, "A study on caves and climate change take us back to a time of rainy weather when there was heavy rainfall on the island."

He pointed out that a study on rock layers and sedimentation is the key to exploring energy, oil and gas available in the cave.

The cave as a global museum

The naturally colored structures within the cave merge with man made colors. Inside the cave, we saw lime-coated and artistic statues that reflect significant natural changes and key stages in the history of cave dwellers on the island, and other parts of the world.

The cave was once used as a religious temple, sheltering travelers on their way to Asia or Africa. Visitors performed religious rituals inside the cave, where hundreds of scripts and paintings were found.

One of the paintings contains the words: "I am a genius Somali...I urge those finding the paint to read it and then drop it in its usual place inside the cave." The paint dates back to 500 BC.

The cave contains earthen plates once used for burning incense to freshen the air inside. This is a clear proof that Hooq Cave was used as a religious temple. It also served as a shelter for those that came to Socotra Island to trade and search for the exalted and unique trees highlighted by old religions.

There are numerous shapes in the cave in the form of mosque minarets, like those in the Holy City of Mecca. There are also the shapes of incense-burners that were made by man from rocks inside the cave. In addition, there are artistic depictions of leaves and sea animals,

signifying the diverse sea environment in the island.

Other forms have the shape of lions and terrestrial animals which relate to the religions of the east and west.

There are pictures of turtle head, ships and scenes of trade activities. Hundreds of the paintings contain images that reflect power and imitate creations of nature and man thousands of years ago.

The cave paintings reflect unique artistic actions with spiritual significance. With the passage of time, the upper layer of the cave turned black with some whitened areas. While touring the cave, you will hear water drops pouring from the ceiling, and as you go inside you will find small bodies of water that get bigger as you travel further inside.

The adventure

Touring the cave is a pleasant adventure due to its spacious area and height. You shouldn't forget to bring flashlight with you to see the cave's contents. And don't fear facing any harmful or horrible things during your trip inside the cave. There are no snakes, beasts or predatory birds evident on the island.

From inside, the cave resembles an extremely beautiful museum. It reflects an ancient time in Socotra and the power of man, as well as the old religious relationship between the cave and civilization. It also reflects the relationship between the cave, the tribe, the community and family in Socotra. While touring the island, you will find families and tribesmen, who live like their ancestors.

A view from outside the cave

Tourists and other visitors can also visit Hadibu city on their way to Hooq Cave in Halah, which is an area along a more than 50km coastal tarmac road.

The cave lies at the extreme end of Halah Mountain, nearly a two-hour walk from the tarmac road. The best time to visit the cave is the early morning when the pleasant weather helps you go up the mountain.

When you ascend into the cave, you usually pass through a road once used by nomadic people. There is a green plain, surrounded by smaller caves just under the Hooq Cave. The road leading to the cave is full of incense and gum trees, whose seeds, according to some people, help stimulate memory.



lime-coated and artistic statues that reflect significant natural changes and key stages in the history of cave dwellers on the island

antiquities in the Socotra caves close to the coastline remain as evidence of the ancient visitors.

The Socotra Island has numerous historical caves, which have become controversial among contemporary scientists and adventurers who attempt to understand the secrets, miracles and myths in the island.

Hooq Cave is sometimes considered the eighth wonder in the world, thanks to

as one of the world's wonders.

Cave Components

We accompanied the Yemeni geological expert Mohammed Najeeb to the Socotra Island and, during a tour of the cave, he explained the cave's properties from a geological point of view.

He also told us about the cave components. "The cave consists of lime and glass sedimentation, the latter

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