



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

Budget.

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recent events in the governorates of government protests during the last 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-

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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.

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.

to gain support from many citizens due

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.





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



Around the Nation



Sporadic clashes between army and Houthis

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

Sana'a, July 27 - Armed combat between the government and Houthi supporters in several areas ended on Saturday evening, according to tribal sources in Sa'ada.

The army forces attempted to control mountainous areas in Al-Hasama, near Haradh, which is on the border of Saudi Arabia. The government plan, according to Houthi sources, was to surround strategic Houthi-controlled sites with government soldiers. The sources said that the army is currently carrying out this plan in preparation for a sixth war.

"The army failed to take over the mountainous area overlooking the Haradh crossing due to the tightened siege imposed by the Houthis. The [government] soldiers were obliged to withdraw to avoid confrontations with the Houthis," said a source.

The Presidential Committee in Charge of Peace in Sa'ada resumed activities last Saturday, headed by arms merchant Faris Manna'. The committee visited Al-Mahather area, where fierce confrontations between the Houthis and the army had taken place.

The Ministry of Defense Web site, 26 September, also reported that the committee is resuming its tasks after a series of bloody confrontations broke out recently between the army and the Houthis in some areas of Sa'ada.

Violence in Al-Mahather area, near the capital city of Sa'ada, extended to other areas in Aal Khamis and Ketaf near the Saudi border. Six soldiers were killed and others were injured in the violence last Friday morning.

Local sources said that Aal Khamis area of Sihar district, located six kilometers to the northwest of Sa'ada near Al-Talh arms market, witnessed the fiercest violence when army forces attempted to control some high buildings in villages and surrounding hills under control of the Houthis.

"Violence broke out after the army sent soldiers accompanied by tanks and survey equipment to staff a military checkpoint in Aal Khamis," said another source. "The two sides had agreed to dismantle that checkpoint and others under the supervision of the peace committee."

Houthi sources told the Yemen Times, "The Houthis were able to take

53 soldiers as prisoners during the battles. Fifty of them were released and three leaders are still prisoners."

Tribal road-blocks still litter the Sana'a-Sa'ada road, stopping passenger cars, particularly government and private cars. It is not clear why the cars are stopped and government power is absent in the area. Dozens of cars have been seized, and travelers are forced to take alternate routes.

Last Saturday, the 26 September Web site reported that "The President of the Republic received two letters from the British government, including on from Prime Minister Gordon Brown. The letters expressed the "concern of Britain over the fate of the six missing foreigners in Yemen, including a British person, particularly after two Germans and a Korean were killed on June 16."

The Web site also said that Interior Affairs Committee of the British House of Commons urged the Brittan to increase aid to Yemen to 50 million pounds (more than USD 82 million) by 2011 in order to help Yemen enhance comprehensive and sustainable development in the country.

Yemeni lawyers learn to defend against human rights violations

By: Heather Murdock

SANA'A, July 27 – While touring prisons in nine districts in Hodeida, the National Forum for Human Rights found 92 prisoners they say are illegally detained, and noticed other human rights violations

"There were detention places that were not even suitable for animals," said Khalid Ayash, the organization's chairman.

Local lawyers often do not have enough knowledge of international and national human rights laws to adequately defend their clients against violations, said Mahmoud Qaiyah, the project manager for Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, a German non-government organization. And police often do know what rights

people have under the law, he added.

"I assure you that law enforcement officers need intensive training about human rights issues so they do not violate these rights," continued Qaiyah.

As a result of these findings, the two organizations are currently conducting intensive training courses in Hodeida to help lawyers defend people against what Qaiyah called "heavy violations of human rights."

The four-day course started on

Saturday, and is focusing on introducing 22 lawyers, including seven women, to international human rights treaties that Yemen has ratified and national human rights laws.

The course also examines places where Yemeni law does not conform to international standards. For example, a Yemeni person that converts from Islam to another religion can be sentenced to death, according to Human Rights Watch.

But according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which Yemen has included in its national law, "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion."

The treaty also says that freedom of religion "includes freedom to change his religion or belief."

The UDHR is the expression of the principles of the International Bill of Rights, which also includes the legally binding 1966 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the 1966 Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

They are the foundations of international human rights law, designed to protect the rights of the people in the signatory countries.

The treaties guarantee rights such as

the freedoms of expression, speech, religion, the right to own property, the right to marry, the right to a fair trial, and protection from torture, violence other kinds of inhumane treatment. They also require countries to guarantee people healthcare, education and a decent standard of living.

"Disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind," reads the 1948 document which was originally created in response to the human rights abused that occurred during World War II.

The laws, however, rely on signatory states to enforce them. And while most of the countries in world aspire to enforce these laws, no country is known to have accomplished this task entirely.

Yemen is a party to over 40 international human rights agreements. But according to lawyers participating in the training, teh country has a lot of work to do before it meets the obligations of the treaties.

"We can, here in Yemen, find violations of all kinds of rights," said lawyer Najib Mohammad Hashen. "Security violations, health violation, social violations, environmental violations, and economic violations."



SANA'A, July 22 - Dr. Mansour Al-Houshabi, the Yemeni minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, recently announced that he expects a decline in grain production starting in 2010. He called last week for reducing the consumption of wheat.

Dr. Al-Houshabi said that loans given to farmers by the government contributed to a 218,000 ton increase in wheat production in 2007. This represented a 46 percent rise as compared to 2006.

While wheat imports are expected to reach 2.5 million tons this year, the Ministry of Agriculture said that wheat production is expected to rise to 900,000 tons this year, up from 600,000 tons in 2008.

However, the minister noted that Yemen has one of the highest birthrates in the world and there is still a major shortfall of wheat. He added that the drought which has plagued the country since 2008 which may cause a decline in grain production in the coming years.

Yemen's economy is primarily agricultural, as farming and livestock remain the chief livelihood for most of the population who plant a wide variety of crops, including grains such as sorghum, wheat, millet and barley. A number of fruits and vegetables are grown as well, like grapes, tomatoes, papayas, bananas, limes, dates, and coffee. Yemen, however, is still importing 80 percent of its food, including 90 percent of the wheat consumed, said governmental figures.

Despite the variety of foods available for agriculture, the domestic agricultural market is dominated by the cultivation of qat. It is estimated that qat occupies 60 percent of the total arable land in Yemen and up to 25 percent of irrigated land. It is a large source of revenue for many farmers, but it cannot be exported to earn foreign exchange

The deteriorating agriculture sector Yemen reported a strong growth rate in the mid-90's with the onset of oil production. However, the high population growth rate, the current economic crisis, global climate change and internal political dissension complicate the government's task of reducing poverty, improving agriculture, and insuring access food commodities, said aid agencies.

According to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), more than one in three of Yemen's population is suffering from chronic hunger. The WFP recently appealed to international donors for an additional USD 23 million in funding, warning that the situation will deteriorate further if this amount is not made available.

WFP described the situation of food security in Yemen as "critical," stating that the increasing costs of imported food and the drop in global oil prices has put another burden on the government. In addition, Yemen does not have a strategic food reserve to face potential food shortages.

Oil revenue, which forms 75 percent of public revenue and accounts for 90 percent of export income, sank 75 percent in the first three months of this year, down to USD 365 million from USD 1.46 billion in the same quarter in 2008, according to the Central Bank.

Directly preceding the rise in food prices in 2006, Yemen reported that 12.5 percent of the population lives on less than 1 dollar a day. In addition, 46 percent of Yemeni children under five are underweight, said the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The high price of food has led families to regularly skip meals while spending over two thirds of their income on food, forcing some to pull children out of school because they cannot afford it, according to a recent assessment by the WFP.

unemployment rate of 35 percent.

A study released in 2003 conducted by Yemen's former Agricultural Minister Nasser Adbullah Al-Awalki highlighted official concerns. With a 3.7 percent annual growth rate, Yemen's population will rise to 27.5 million by 2010, requiring no less than 8 million tons of grain annually.

Climate change

Since the 90's the government has planned to continue encouraging the agricultural sector as a follow-up to its newly introduced food security policy.

However, changes in rainfall patterns and acute water scarcity have affected agriculture dramatically in Yemen, according to the Climate Change Unit at the General Authority of Environment Preservation.

Normally the rains in Yemen start in March. However, this has not been the case this year, nor in the past few years, causing severe droughts, noted the authority.

According to the Agricultural Statistics Report released in 2007, Yemen had 1.3 million hectares of irrigated land in 2006, of which 661,152 hectares depended on rainfall for irrigation. However, there are currently no statistics that reveal agriculture losses and subsequent economic impact due to climate change.

Looking for substitutions

The Yemeni government, represented by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, started a campaign in 2008 to persuade people to eat bread made of mixed grains and whole wheat in a bid to tackle malnutrition and counteract high wheat prices. The results of the campaign have not yet been released.

A survey conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture revealed that many Yemeni consumers prefer white bread even though it is less nutritious than The 2007 UNDP report stated that 35 whole wheat. White bread is devoid of



Livelihoods Project Officer (Based in Hodaidah Governorate)

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

Make a difference where it counts

Are you ready to act with poor people as a force for change in addressing the causes of poverty, suffering and injustice, and alleviating their symptoms? Oxfam is looking for female candidate to fill the position of Livelihoods Project Officer.

Oxfam s office in Yemen is a part of the regional office of the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the Common Independent States (MEEECIS) and is working with Yemen communities and partners to implement Programmes in Health, Good Governance, Legal Protection and Advocacy, Safe Age of Marriage, and the Humanitarian Preparedness Programme.

As a Livelihoods Project Officer, you will be expected to have a good understanding of humanitarian and development work as well as poverty issues in the Yemen context. You should be able to show good understanding of the concept of livelihoods in development and in particular how access to finance can improve the livelihoods of the poor. You will proven knowledge of policy & advocacy as well as national polices related to livelihoods and women s access to the market and employment. As the Livelihoods Project Officer, you should have the ability to network and link widely with Associations, NGOs and government institutions working on women s economic opportunities and employment. You will be expected to have a strong understanding of local socio-economic development issues, institutions and communities. You will be expected to show commitment to respect and build the capacities of partners Associations and NGO s.

To be successful in this role you will have a degree in social sciences or a related discipline, at least 2 years working experience in a related project management role, preferably with national/international organizations working for women s economic empowerment. You will have a high level of personal organization, self-sufficiency and initiative. Demonstrable analytical, project appraisal, monitoring, impact assessment and reporting abilities, Proven research and training experience and the ability to work with others in a team and consult with a wide range of staff and alliances at different levels. You will have excellent communication skills in both written and orally in Arabic and English. Computer skills are essential while knowledge of financial procedures will be an added advantage.

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Closing date for applications is 03 August 2009.

needed for grain and other basic food Agriculture.

imports, said the Ministry of percent of Yemen's 23 million people bran which is nutritious and has a high live below the poverty line with an fiber content.

Tackling River Blindness in Mahwit

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, July 26 — The Islah Charity Organization held consultative meetings with around 71 volunteers in Mahwit trict with some 50 volunteers from the last week to discuss the objectives of the Onchocerciasis Control Program.

Onchocerciasis is the world's second leading infectious cause of blindness. Rarely life-threatening, the disease causes chronic suffering and severe disability according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Onchocerciasis is also known as 'River Blindness' because the transmission is most intense in remote rural agricultural villages located near rapidly flowing streams.

The disease is caused by a black flybite that results in Onchocerca volvulus, a parasitic worm that lives in the human body. When the fly bites, it deposits the larvae of a parasitic worm which matures to adulthood and produces millions of tiny worms, called microfilaria. Adults emerge after 8-12 days and live for up to four weeks.

When these worms die, they cause intense itching, creating more complications such as sores. Sometimes it destroys fragile body tissue such as the eye.

Around 20 volunteers gathered on Sunday, July 19 in Mahwit city in the

presence of the Health Office Director and the head of the program Isam Addin Awadh. The following day a meeting was also held in Khamis Bani Sa'd dissurrounding vicinity.

During both sessions, volunteers were informed of the objectives and strategies of the disease eradication program.

According to Awadh, the program carried out a survey in 2007 and the disease was found in eight governorates: Taiz, Ibb, Dhamar, Hajah, Sana'a, Raima, Hodeida, and Mahwit.

The new strategy of the program on combating Onchocerciasis will go through three stages. "First, volunteers should treat the entire targeted area, which includes every family member in every village in the area," said Awadh. "Second, the plan is to eradicate the vector from the targeted areas, especially where it breeds in high populations in fast-flowing water runoffs and streams. Controlling the vector is done by spraying black fly breeding sites with insecticides," Awadh continued. "Finally, we must treat the existing cases of Onchocerciasis in order not to infect others.

"There are 108 volunteers in the Onchocerciasis Control Program working at all the above-mentioned steps,

and every group works within its scale" said Awadh.

The Islah Charity Organization started tackling the epidemic in 2000. At that time, the percentage of the epidemic in Yemen was about five percent. Now it has dropped to less than two percent.

Mectizan is a drug provided free of charge by the Mectizan Donation Program to the Onchocerciasis Control Program in Yemen to combat the disease. "When women are pregnant and nursing they should not be prescribed the medication. Children under five are not prescribed it either," said Awadh.

This medicine is distributed every three months to citizens in the infected governorates by the Onchocerciasis Control Program in Yemen.

Awadh recommended residents of the fast-flowing valley areas to take a periodical dose of Mectizan, wear long clothes and keep legs and arms covered, and avoid going out when the vector is most active, especially during sunrise and sunset.

Onchocerciasis is an epidemic in 34 countries and 30 countries are in Africa. In Asia, it is only Yemen that has cases of Onchocerciasis and there are some regions of South America. Globally, there are now about 18 million people infected with this parasite and 300,000 of them are reportedly blinded by it.



Around the Nation

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 theatric 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 percent 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

VISA

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 governorate; 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 Shazab 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 the 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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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**

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

arrivals, noting that the Somalis and

Africans have been compiled and then

sent to a camp of the refugees at Kharaz

campaign to register Somali refugees liv-

ing in the country with the aim of creating

a government database and identifying

(UNHCR), there were 152,693 refugees

According to the UN Refugee Agency

Meanwhile, Yemen seeks to make a

area in Lahj province.

illegal African migrants.

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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.

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assisted by UNHCR in Yemen, of whom 143,998 were Somalis, 2,919 Ethiopians Yemen coasts Over 35 Somali refugees and Africans, and 672 Eritreans. including 17 women, have reached the

coasts of Taiz province. The security services in the province detained 6 Ethiopians were among the





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Report

A mission across a city of sounds and smells

By: Alice Hackman

o 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 foul 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 others voices, they fall into each others 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 foul, 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.

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.

go in with my companion," replies Lutfiyya defiantly, standing tall in the

The man frowns and then lets out a both go in.

"May God keep you safe," whispers

Both girls enter the cordoned off

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 out-

side. 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 Lutfivya'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

"I am the blind person and I need to

face of her invisible adversary.

good-natured belly laugh. He shakes his head. "Alright," he says, "you can

Lutfiyya.

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 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 women in her family with a degree, inspiring aunt, philanthropist, daughter and advocate for better rights for the disabled.

She is also an aspiring businesswoman.





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 ioined 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?"

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



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Interview



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

he 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.

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-



demic 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 tant thing is personal hygiene. enough kits for 100 to 200 cases. After Sneezing in a tissue and disposing of it 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.



Dr. Mohamed Osama Mere

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 imporHowever, the UNHCR does interview them. Should they check them for swine flu to protect Yemen? Any refugee has to undergo a checkup and there are health services avail-

able to them. We have to measure their fever and check for other symptoms. And like everyone in the country, if you feel that you have a fever or flu, it's best to go to get a check-up. This is effective in identifying the seasonal flu, but to identify H1N1, it has to be done in the lab.

Islamic countries are limiting the hajj pilgrimage. However there's a British woman that just got flown out of Scotland to Sweden so that she could get the "best possible treatment." Could we see people from Yemen infected with H1N1 travelling overseas to also get the best possible treatment?

As I mentioned, Tamiflu is very effec-

tive 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

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.

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 proceproperly 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.

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 to2:00 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."





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Artistic Performance

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Religious ballad Band

Opinion



Words of Wisdom



Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system. Yemen need accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?

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



Desperate youth and desperate measures

ver the last three days around 16 Yemeni men have been killed in armed clashes between security and protestors in Abyan. The gravity of the situation in the south is growing at an alarming rate. And people - including myself- who predicted it would be a passing cloud are starting to change their minds.

We ran a story last issue in which we traced the Yemeni men, mostly younger than 25, who have participated in demonstrations against the state and been killed in the process. We counted up to 20 victims since 2007 even before the recent events, which will have dramatically increased the number by at least 16.

What drives people into the streets, brandishing the flag of former South Yemen and making themselves targets for confused security men with orders to shoot and kill? How desperate does a twenty year-old have to be to leave home knowing that he is more likely to be shot dead than return alive?

Background investigation shows that most Yemeni youth are jobless, struggle economically and have been brought up in a rough environment in which at least one male member - usually the father - was in the army.

Southern Yemen's culture was quite different from the north in terms of daily lifestyle, interaction with the government, and exposure to the world. Yemenis from the south did not have issues with foreigners and did not have a clear social class system such as in the north. They married into any family of any race and lived in a cosmopolitan culture, especially during the times when Aden was an active sea port.

But they also did not encourage entrepreneurship and business orientation. For decades, they were satisfied to rely on the socialist government for their every need. And although a majority of the people received little, they knew it was guaranteed.

Yemenis from the north lived in a harsher environment in which only the strongest survived and it mattered greatly what your family name was and to which class you belonged. Yemenis from the north lived scanning opportunities to become richer or more powerful to dominate others. This is why women in the north were severely oppressed compared to those

Questions that need to be considered

By: Nasr Taha Mostafa

hoever follows the weekly press conference held by the minister of information, who is the official spokesman for the government, realizes how media has been eager to see such conferences for many years. The government's information now appears regularly with regards to hot topics and recent developments in our country.

The minister of information weekly answers questions related to decisions that the government made as well as questions about security and political issues. Most questions from journalists are about security and politics, reflecting these issues' dominance over other issues such as economics, health and education. Even the questions posed about these last issues are not free from politicization and intrigues. The minister deals with questions that are intended to provoke him to engage in weekly battles with quarrelsome journalists.

Everybody knows that the govern-

ment has been attempting to nominate

an official spokesman for over ten years. However, none of these attempts have succeeded. This is perhaps due to the inability to make a decision or maybe because the government was searching for the perfect spokesman. It could also be that the government was hesitant that such an experiment might not be a success and was afraid of giving certain information to journalists, even when everything has been disclosed. Rumors also disclose information about vague issues, which is considered a disaster for the government. All these reasons hindered the decision to nominate a spokesman for the government until President Ali Abdullah Saleh made the decision which was revealed during his historical speech delivered at the fourth general conference of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate held last March. He directed the minister of information to hold a press conference following every meeting of the cabinet and present the necessary information about the results and developments of the government's meetings. With this decision, the president

really proved his insight and good choice. The weekly press conference has become the most important source for journalists to know about decisions taken by the government. Journalists recently found a spokesman for the government to inform them about recent developments on current security and political issues.

The question that imposes itself here is this: Why did the government fail to make a decision about this issue for over ten years, whereas the president made the decision in minutes? This was not a complicated issue.

This question may expand to encompass many other issues, as our government was given wide authority to make decisions. We can present the question in a different way: Why is the government slow to make decisions on important issues related to people's lives? This is the case with electricity and water scarcity as well as with other issues which the government is responsible for. Such questions need to be considered.

Source: Al-Haqiqa

H.E. needs to reset the power

By Abdul-Salam Al-Qarari

hirty-one years ago, when President Ali Abdullah Saleh came to power on July 17, 1978, Yemen was at a critical

bance in the north, guerrilla-war in the central highlands, and an armed and ideological conflict with an Adenbased Marxist regime.

When Saleh took office, three presidents had been assassinated within less than 12 months, and he was not expected to survive, let alone to do much to help the troubled country. However, the ambitious and adventurous young president proved to be too energetic, charismatic and pragmatic a leader to be put down. He has held the top post for three decades now, and this last week marks the first year of

Today, the nation is facing threats similar to those of 1978, but more lethal. There is rebellion and guerrilla war in Sa'ada, separatists and dissenters in the southern governorates, terrorists and aggressive political prosition and economic challenges Can the 70-year-old Saleh manage

again? Yes, he can! If decides to do sincerely. He is stronger today than in

eroded in the past couple of years, his popularity has improved recently, thanks to Ali Salim al-Baidh's address on the eve of the 19th anniversary of the republic of Yemen. The cold war that provided him unconditional support from Gulfs states is over, but terrorism remains a problem, and Somalia has served as an alarming example of a failed state in the region. Furthermore, his long experience,

track record and vast authority give him leverage nobody else enjoys. That is why he is in a position to right the wrongs. Particularly, he is quite aware of the things that have gone wrong under his leadership. The highly respected veteran politician Abdul-Salam al-Aa'ansi argued that president Saleh continues to hold 95 percent of cards.

Basically, he needs to reset the authority by regaining the balance of power and redistributing control. To this end, he ought to do what he did in his early years in office, when he adopted a constructive and comprehensive dialogue that included all political forces in the country. He should personally sponsor an inclusive national dialogue to come up with a united vision that can gear up a

regaining the balance of power.

He is the only one who can bring the power balance back by endorsing an appropriate electoral system and relinquishing the leadership of the ruling party, as suggested by the General People's Congress founding member, Abdul-Slam al-A'annsi.

"We want His Excellency to help us in the GPC to be a genuine political party, he ought to abandon his post as a leader of the GPC, and be a president of all political parties in the country" he said in an interview with Al-Nass Weekly last May.

The past 31 years have seen a dramatic centralization of power in the presidential office. The power has drained away, not merely from political parties, but also from parliament and government. Inadvertently, H.E. has established a president-centered power, holding the upper hand on all state's functions. The result is dysfunctional state's institutions and over-centralization.

Now, it is time for him to re-distribute the power from people to institutions, from presidential office to parliament and government, and from the capital to the suburbs. A parliament with teeth is badly needed to hold the government accountable. Shoura council should not be a high-paid think-tank, it should be given substantial legislative influence to serve as an effective chamber in bicameral legislature. Most importantly, he should re-distribute power from central government to local councils. Establishing local governing bodies that have more power is important. It is the best way to fight corruption, mismanagement and to address the deep resentment of the some of the people. Dr. Abdul-Kreem al-Irayani, former prime minister and political advisor of H.E. said, "Situations in the southern and various Yemeni governorates can be addressed only by establishing local governance with full authorizations and decentralization." This is the way to reset the politics and bring the ship back onto the right path, before it is too late. It is a mistake for H.E. to believe that electoral tinkering here and a bit of constitutional amendments there will do the trick. The increasing dissention in the southern provinces shows that deep change is required sooner, not later.

COMMON SENSE

Mr. Al-Beidh was much better with tighter lips

must say that I really had an extremely high respect for the former President of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY - Former South Yemen) and Vice President of the unified (now and forever) Republic of Yemen. I was almost convinced that he had a genuine patriotic rhetoric that truly had a sense of how the Yemenis in the street felt about affairs of state in Yemen used to



wait vehemently for his speeches, especially during the tense days of the political squabbling that led to the unfortunate Civil War of 1994. I am still convinced that he surely would have favored that the war did not occur and that he may have been railroaded into the war, by both the wily Northern ruling establishment led by the current President of the Republic, Ali Abdullah Saleh (may he recover soon to tend to the urgent security collapse of the country with a better realization that the current situation calls for drastic sincere and serious steps that would start with better accountability and transparency in the management of affairs in the Republic), not to mention the selfish opportunists that surrounded Ali Salem, who actually advised Al-Beidh that he could actually confront the more militarily experienced Saleh in a military showdown, in which he was outclassed and outgunned. When you add to that the sucker the Saudis made out of Al-Beidh with the belief that the Gulf States were right behind him, one can see that Al-Beidh was not oriented towards making wise and rational critical political decisions. Actually he should have known better that the Saudis (and the Americans) wanted nothing more than to see a former puppet state of the former collapsed Soviet Union fall down like its counterparts everywhere else in the world.

Mr. Al-Beidh is indeed commended for introducing democracy into the Republic, something that the Northern elite in the tight net regime of President Saleh (and their Salafi allies) were intellectually and politically not willing to fall into with much flare Nevertheless, Mr. Al-Beidh erroneously thought he could still salvage his crumbling state machinery, even though many of his colleagues and friends have advised him strongly not to go the path of secession. That may have been his suicide as a Yemeni leader, notwithstanding his somewhat convincing rhetoric against the corruption and the gross mismanagement that has characterized the Saleh regime almost from the start. However, his first declaration of secession completely took me by surprise. I really thought that he would not forget that he really had a lot of support among the population in the Northern governorates and thus would carry on the fight (in 1994) for all Yemenis, many of whom (North and South) had gripes about the Saleh regime. From the very beginning of that regrettable and somewhat naive call for a secession, this observer knew full well that the futile declaration for the reinstatement of South Yemen as an independent state was - simply put foolish and far from ever being desirable in the hearts and minds of most Yemenis. Oh sure, one could not help but wonder how such a call may have actually been the reason for the doom of the remaining elements of the fledgling South Yemeni regime. What one hoped for was that THE formerly popular Al-Beidh would try to maintain what ever elements of power he had then to keep an erstwhile fragile balance of power within the political configuration that made up the newly established Republic. That would have been more challenging for the Saleh regime to live with than what turned out to be a failed secession, which thank God never got a chance to get anywhere beyond the microphone by which the declaration of independence was made.

Having said all that, one would think that Mr. Al-Beidh was intellectually more mature than to be railroaded into a lost cause politically, militarily and historically. Perhaps this (http://www.yementimes.com/article.shtml?i=1257&p=opinion&a =1) would help make it clear that, historically and politically, there is simply no such thing as a Northern Yemeni identity or a Southern Yemeni identity (as the callers for secession are claiming) Moreover, nothing would been more helpful to the regime in Sana'a than the same foolish recent statement by the former Vice President of the Republic. One really feels astonished at the logic that such foolishness emanates from. How can Al-Beidh actually expect to achieve now at a distance, what he could not achieve when (in 1994) he had all the machinery of a state at his disposal and at close range? It is very difficult now to see how Al-Beidh can salvage any political hopes he might have had, either in the Republic of Yemen or in his hallucination that the PDRY could ever see a revival again, even given the almost failed state situation that the Republic of Yemen is now sadly enduring. It is also very difficult to see how President Saleh and his colleagues in the regime in Sana'a can hope to proceed with business as usual unless he carries out a serious and sincere program of REAL reforms, including the axing of several of the icons in his regime that have turned his regime into a pathetic state of failure in all facets of statecraft, considering the awesome challenges the President faces in both the north and the south.

moment. There was a political distur-

He had to deal with underground political opposition, fight insurgents in several regions in the north, and confront the Yemeni Socialist Party ideologically and militarily in the south.

the fourth one.

to steer the ship safely to anchor once 1978. He is older, but wiser.

Although his rating approval has

from the south.

But this cultural disparity does not really play a role in the mentality of most young men from the south who challenge the state -even at the cost of their livesbecause they grew up in a united Yemen where everything is different.

Leaders admit that when they achieved Yemen's institutional unification of the two parts of Yemen, they forgot about the cultural differences and today everyone is paying the price from this short sightedness.

"What we should have done," someone high up told me recently, "is create cultural integration programs to allow Yemenis across the country to adapt to the new notion of a united Yemen and a capitalist democratic system." But they didn't do anything of the sort, and are still not.

And what is left is desperate youth who see no hope but to fight their way out of an environment they don't understand and circumstances they can't accept. And while the state is tackling this social unrest with all its might -albeit in the wrong way, more and more desperate Yemenis join the fight which they never meant to become embroiled in.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

nationwide support to the needed political reforms as a pre-requisite to



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Press Review / Op-Ed





Al-Methaq.net, affiliated with the General People's Congress (ruling party) Thursday, July 23, 2009

• GPC's written message calls on JMP to start dialogue next Sunday The General Committee GC of the ruling General People's Congress Party (GPC) in Yemen on Wednesday approved addressing a written message to JMP member parties with regard to the proposed dialogue that led political parties to postpone parliamentary elections for two years, the website reported.

Those parties are represented in parliament and signatory with the GPC on demand of extending the term of the present parliament for two years, the website went on to say.

In its message the GPC's GC called on the JMP to hold the dialogue session next Sunday as per commitment to responsibility of the parties, signatory of the extension for finishing the tasks included in the agreement of Parliament term extension. The committee also confirmed

readiness of the assigned team, chaired by Dr Abdulkarim Al-Eryany - second deputy of the GPC Chairman - for dialogue and preparation projects with timetable and issues of the dialogue in general.

On a side note, the government agreed in its cabinet meeting held on Tuesday on a draft republican decree over establishing and forming ministerial committee for local governance.

The committee will be chaired by Prime Minister and membership of deputies of the prime minister in addition to ministers of finance, legal affairs, civil services, education, health and information, as well as mayor of the capital.

The committee aims to support tendency for transformation into local governance and coordinating roles and efforts of all state and public components.

Earlier, the cabinet had discussed 1185 decisions and recommendations reached by the bi-conferences of local authority across the country last March.

These decisions and recommendations focus on many development, service and economic areas.

According to the ruling partyaffiliated news website, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigations FBI renewed stand of the United States of America supporting Yemen's unity and its security and stability in addition to its efforts in combating terror.

During his meeting with the General Prosecutor in Yemen Dr Abdullah Al-Ulfi, currently on a visit to Washington, the FBI Director Robert Mueller affirmed the US support for Yemen's efforts for fighting terror, indicating that a stable Yemen would serve security and stability in the region and the world.

He also praised the distances that Yemen has made in security and judicial areas. The FBI director also praised the

existing partnership and cooperation between the two countries and expressed appreciation of and greetings to the President of Yemen.

Al-Ulfi discussed with Mueller aspects of bilateral relations and areas of cooperation, among them cooperation in fighting terror. Dr AlUlfi has stressed Yemen's keenness on strengthening cooperation with the United States in the manner achieving the common interests of the two friendly countries and peoples.



NewsYemen.net, an Independent News Website Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Top Story

• Yemeni opposition: Yemeni house is not in order to resume dialogue

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) said they could not resume dialogue with the ruling party as the Yemeni house is still not in the proper order, the website reported.

In a letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh's political advisor AbdulKarim Al-Iryani in response to his call for dialogue on July 19, JMP said before any dialogue the authorities should stop military campaigns in the South, detentions and crack down on political activists, and suppression against

newspapers. They also demanded the authorities to allow the suspended newspapers and quit what they called the policy of agitating seditions and regionalism.

The statement said Al-Houthis in Sa'ada and leaders of the southern movement should take part in the dialogue.

Al-Iryani sent last Wednesday letters to leaders of opposition parties which have representatives in Parliament demanding them to come to dialogue on issues delayed for a long time.

On the occasion of assuming power on the 17th of July1978, President Saleh also called on the opposition parties to return to dialogue.

He also called sheikhs, dignitaries, scholars, and civil society organizations to overcome all difficulties and to look forward for reconciliation, tolerance, dialogue and understanding under the ceiling of the constitution and laws.

Last March, the ruling GPC and JMP agreed to delay the parliamentary elections scheduled for April 27 for two years. They also agreed to extend the term of the current Parliament more two years to have enough time for carrying out electoral and political reforms in the country.

The agreement came after JMP refused to participate in the elections which they considered as "illegal" and threatened to organize protests across the country against the elections if GPC insisted to unilaterally carry out the elections.

On a side note, the website reported that ten people were killed and other eight were injured in an armed clash between members of the Islamic Islah party and a group of al-Houthis in Al-Zahra district of al-Jawf Saturday and Sunday.

"On Saturday, al-Houthis raided the mosque and killed the Imam of the mosque, his son and another worshiper in an attempt to control the mosque," said the head of the Islah office in al-Jawf.

The Islahi official said that al-Houthis again attacked people who gathered for mourning the death of three people and shot dead more two members of the Islah party.

The official accused al-Houthis who belong to the Shiites of seeking to take over mosques to use them for circulating their ideology.

Let's talk peace with the Israelis

By: Shaikh Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa

MANAMA, Bahrain - We need fresh thinking if the Arab Peace Initiative is to have the impact it deserves on the crisis that needlessly impoverishes Palestinians and endangers Israel's security. This crisis is not a zero-sum game. For one side to win, the other does not have to lose. The peace dividend for the entire Middle East is potentially immense. So why have we not gotten anywhere?

Our biggest mistake has been to assume that you can simply switch peace on like a light bulb. The reality is that peace is a process, contingent on a good idea but also requiring a great deal of campaigning — patiently and repeatedly targeting all relevant parties. This is where we as Arabs have not done enough to communicate directly with the people of Israel.

An Israeli might be forgiven for thinking that every Muslim voice is raised in hatred, because that is usually

the only one he hears. Just as an Arab might be forgiven for thinking every Israeli wants the destruction of every Palestinian.

Essentially, we have not done a good enough job demonstrating to Israelis how our initiative can form part of a peace between equals in a troubled land holy to three great faiths. Others have been less reticent, recognising that our success would threaten their vested interest in keeping Palestinians and Israelis at each other's throats.

They want victims to stay victims so they can be manipulated as proxies in a wider game for power. The rest of us the overwhelming majority — have the opposite interest.

It is in our interest to speak up now for two reasons. First, we will all be safer once we drain the pool of antipathy in which hatemongers from both sides swim.

Second, peace will bring prosperity. Already, the six oil and gas nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council have grown into a powerful trillion-dollar market. Removing the ongoing threat of death and destruction would open the road to an era of enterprise, partnership and development on an even greater scale for the region at large.

That is the glittering prize for resolving the dilemma of justice for Palestine without injustice to Israel. Effectively, this is the meta-issue that defines and distorts the self-image of Arabs and diverts too much of our energies away from the political and economic development the region needs.

The wasted years of deadlock have conditioned Israelis to take on a fortress mentality that automatically casts all Palestinians as the enemy — and not as the ordinary, decent human beings they are.

Speaking out matters, but it is not enough. Our governments and all stakeholders also must be ready to carry out practical measures to help ease the day-to-day hardship of Palestinian lives. The two communities in the Holy Land are not fated to be enemies. What can unite them tomorrow is potentially bigger than what divides them today. Both sides need help from their

friends, in the form of constructive engagement, to reach a just settlement. What we don't need is the continued reflexive rejection of any initiative that

seeks to melt the ice. Consider the response so far to the Arab peace plan, pioneered by King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

This initiative is a genuine effort to normalise relations between the entire Arab region and Israel, in return for Israel's withdrawal from occupied territory and a fair resolution of the plight of the Palestinians, far too many of whom live in refugee camps in deplorable conditions.

We must stop the small-minded waiting game in which each side refuses to budge until the other side makes the first move. We've got to be bigger than that. All sides need to take simultaneous, good-faith action if peace is to have a chance. A real, lasting peace requires comprehensive engagement and reconciliation at the human level. This will happen only if we address and settle the core issues dividing the Arab and the Israeli peoples, the first being the question of Palestine and occupied Arab lands. The fact that this has not yet happened helps to explain why the Jordanian and Egyptian peace accords with Israel are cold.

They have not been comprehensive. We should move toward real peace now by consulting and educating our people and by reaching out to the Israeli public to highlight the benefits of a genuine peace.

To be effective, we must acknowledge that, like people everywhere, the average Israeli's primary window on the world is his or her local and national media. Our job, therefore, is to tell our story more directly to the Israeli people by getting the message out to their media, a message reflecting the hopes of the Arab mainstream that confirms peace as a strategic option and advocates the Arab Peace Initiative as a means to this end. Some conciliatory voices in response from Israel would help speed the process.

Some Arabs, simplistically equating communication with normalisation,

may think we are moving too fast toward normalisation. But we all know that dialogue must be enhanced for genuine progress. We all, together, need to take the first crucial step to lay the groundwork to effectively achieve peace. So we must all invest more in communication.

Once we achieve peace, trade will follow.

We can then create a "virtuous circle", because trade will create its own momentum. By putting real money into people's hands and giving them real power over their lives, trade will help ensure the durability of peace. The dayto-day experience would move minds and gradually build a relationship of trust and mutual interest, without which long-term peacemaking is impossible.

When stability pays, conflict becomes too costly. We must do more now, to achieve peace.

Shaikh Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa is the Crown Prince of Bahrain. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) with permission from the author.

Source: Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service, 18 July 2009, www.newsservice.com

By: Dr. Naif Al-Mutawa

hen I was 20 years old I boarded a train for Auschwitz. The year was 1992. Courtesy of 10 years at a predominantly Jewish summer camp in the White Mountains of

years at a predominantly Jewish summer camp in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, I was probably the only Arab child who ever grew up fearing the Holocaust. I took the initiative of seeing with my own eyes a place, the existence of which is held to be an absolute truth by some, so much so that its denial is punishable by law in some countries. Nonbelievers have told me that it didn't exist. Typically this debate is about heaven. What I saw was hell.

It was a dreary winter day. Having arrived in Berlin, I connected to Krakow where I took a cab to the camp. Walking around, I absorbed the unfathomable. That same winter I also visited Terezin in Czechoslovakia and Dachau in Germany trying to wrap my mind around what I had seen. I remember wishing I could go back to the days when the only Jewish camp I had ever set foot in was in New England.

Thirty years ago, I boarded a plane to Camp Robin Hood. My parents wanted me to work on improving my English. America was the future. I made friends at camp and I read and I wrote and I imagined. I became enamoured with fiction and the endless possibilities in the pages of books. I learned about the duplicitous nature of stories. I learned that some of what I had been raised with as true was false. And I returned the favour. The most salient lesson I learned was the importance of perception in shaping viewpoints. I would later solidify that knowledge in my education and training as a psycholo-

gist. In 1996 I met my Manhattan optometrist, Dr. Koty, for the first time. He asked me where I was from. When I told him I was from Kuwait, he asked me rhetorically if I knew what Koty was short for, replying that Koty is short for Kuwaiti. My doctor, it seems, is a fourth generation Kuwaiti Jew born in New York. Small world. He could have been, he should have been, my optometrist in Kuwait.

It is easy to forget that for over 1000 years the only place to be Jewish and safe was among Arabs. The terrible history of persecution culminating in the Holocaust wrought on the Jews in Europe shamed the world and hastened international acknowledgment of the need to create a safe haven for the Jewish people. But one people's gain would soon become another's loss.

There is no escaping the fact that the creation of a homeland for the survivors of one of history's most terrible tragedies was in itself a tragedy for the existing inhabitants of that homeland, any more than we can escape the horrible reality of those who were gassed in concentration camps. These are mutual truths. One cannot accept one without accepting the other. To do so would be morally and intellectually dishonest. And frankly, would be the worst kind

rned of fiction.

Concentration camps and comic books

My children now attend Camp Robin Hood. I hope they grow up fearing the Holocaust as I did. And I hope their Jewish counterparts at camp grow up fearing the idea of waking up one day only to find that a group that had survived a terrible massacre was now being allowed to take over their home using a holy book as their deed.

It is through these types of interactions that real change can happen. Perhaps the fifth generation of Kotys will move back to Kuwait to open up their businesses. I will certainly raise my children to welcome such possibilities.

But it will take more than individual efforts based on idiosyncratic experiences to make a significant difference. It will require concentrated efforts on the part of educational and entertainment industries in places where prejudice is institutionalised, where fiction is routinely peddled as fact, and fact as fiction.

When I created THE 99, an Islam inspired superhero series, I made sure that the heroes were from 99 countries to battle such prejudices. I thought I would have to work alone. I was wrong.

THE 99 and DC Comics' Justice League of America (JLA), have joined forces. By working with their American counterparts such as Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman, THE 99 will work hard to implement President Obama's recent message of cultural tolerance. THE 99 and the JLA are never identified by religious orientation but it is clear what archetypes they are based on. Together, they will likely explore issues of trust, multiculturalism, and how people, real and super, perceive one another. Imagine the good that can come from a frank conversation between THE 99's burqa clad hero, Batina the Hidden, and JLA's Wonder Woman the, well, not so hidden.

If we can show how perceptions are unfairly formed, we can take great leaps in a single bound towards transforming them. And what better characters to explore such issues than Superman and Batman who were created by Jewish young men from New York and Cleveland at the height of anti-Semitism and THE 99 who were created by a Muslim during the height of Islamophobia?

* Dr. Naif Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa is creator of THE 99, a group of superheroes based on Islamic archetypes. He is a 2009 recipient of the Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the World Economic Forum. This is a version of an article which appeared in Washington Post/Newsweek-On Faith and is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) with permission from the author.

Source: Washington Post/Newsweek-On Faith, 17 July 2009, www.newsweek.washingtonpost.com Copyright permission is granted for publication.

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Vacancy Announcement Women in Technology (WIT) —SOUL



SOUL for the Development of Women & Children invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following position: **Program Assistant/ Monitoring Officer** The Program Assistant/ Monitoring Officer, will work under the general direction of the Women in Technology Program Manager and will assist in overseeing, administerating and monitoring all activities of WIT. The candidate will work under a highly effective and demanding work environment.

Duties and Responsiblities include, but not limite to, the following:

- Follow up the implementation of WIT activities at partners organizations in various governorates.
- Travel outside Sana a to monitor the implementation of the WIT program at partners organizations.
- Conduct on the ground program publicity, recruitment and outreach
- Work closely with partners organizations to ensure quality of promotion material, news releases and a regular media coverage of all WIT events
- Update and develop the WIT website on regular basis.
- Identify contacts for internships and establish a list of interested participants
- Handle administrative tasks and ensure quality of outgoing correspondence.
- Translate program documents as required.

Qualifications:

- ¥ A Graduate degree, preferably in IT.
- ¥ Prior professional experience, preferably in a similar position
- ¥ Fluency in Arabic and English.
- ¥ Ability to travel frequently outside Sana a
- ¥ Excellent communication skills.
 - ¥ Very good ability in website design and development.

Only applicants that meet the above requirements will be considered, interested candidates are requested to send their CV along with an application letter to the following email: <u>wityemen09@gmail.com</u>, <u>only application by</u> <u>email will be accepted</u>. Female applicants preferable.

Deadline for receiving applications is **5** *August, 2009*. Applications received after this date will not be considered; only short listed applicants will be contacted.



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Environment

Water and sanitation across the country – Part 6 The fight for drinking water in Taiz

By: Alice Hackman and Mahmoud Assamiee

ith an ever-booming population and the level of groundwater decreasing at the alarming rate of four meters each year, according to the Water and Environment Center (WEC) at the University of Sana'a, the Taiz governorate is on the frontline of Yemen's looming water crisis.

In the city, people say they only have access to running water inside the house one day a month. For the rest of the month, they either send their children to fetch water from the bathroom of the local mosque, or buy water from the private owners of water trucks.

"We only have access to public water supply one day a month," says Sami Al-Sumari, 30, a lawyer. "People buy water from water tankers for the rest of the

tional to that expected for the country by the United Nations, it will have doubled again by 2025.

Taiz grew faster after unification than anywhere else, said Ramon Scoble, water consultant for the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), who lived in Taiz for several years.

With Hayel Saeed building its factories there, the city saw one of the biggest economic boosts in the country. As each worker had a family of at least eight or ten in need of water and sanitation, economic growth happened at the expense of the rural areas where the water came from, he said.

The shortage of water in Taiz has repeatedly led to armed conflict, with the most recent clashes claiming the lives of eight and wounding four others at the beginning of July, as two neighboring tribes fought over a water source in Al-Wazi'iyya, according to the media.

Both in rural and urban areas, the daily

Taiz inhabitants buy their water from trucks as they only have access to public water supply once a month.

month."

Al-Sumari said that refilling the smallest water tank costs YR 2,000, which is barely enough to supply a family with water for a few days.

"The water truck business is very profitable in Taiz city," he said, complaining that sometimes the trucks are very noisy when they pump water up to people's roofs in the middle of the night.

Outside the city, the water crisis is just

struggle for water continues. Although rainfall is relatively high compared to the rest of the country, the water crisis in Taiz is widely acknowledged to be one of the gravest in the country.

Depletion and salty water

Taiz city derives its drinking water from wells in and around the city, as far as 40 km away, according to Dutch hydrologist Import gat from abroad Jan Hoogendoorn, who worked with the Local Water and Sanitation Corporation And if water cannot be collected from in Taiz for up to three years. "Some shallow aquifers are depleted or near depletion, or to say it in other words, the recharge during the summer rains is insufficient to refill the shallow aquifers," said Hoogendoorn. "Supported by foreign aid -and millions of dollars- a lot of effort has been put in the development of strategic water plans," he said. "For Yemen in general, this is covered by the National Water Sector Strategy Investment Program (NWSSIP) and, for Taiz in particular, by the Water Resources Management Action Plan for the Taiz Region (WRMAPTR)." "Also several laws and bylaws have been developed to manage the water reserves of Yemen properly, [but] the main obstacle is that these laws as well as the policies like NWSSP and WRMAPTR are hardly enforced and folthe bid: lowed," he explained. Ali Al-Sabri, 25, a worker, said that Taiz city has a water problem because the nearby water resources the city 2depends on are drying up. "The Wadi Al-Dhubab water point, one the city depends heavily on, is depleting fast and the city has to look for a new source of water." He said the water he receives through the public network is not clean or suitvalid zakat card able for drinking because it is salty. "This water has destroyed water pipes inside houses, because it is very salty.'

he added.

"We are replacing the old pipes," said Dr. Abdulatif Al-Munifi, head of the Local Water and Sanitation Corporation, when asked how the problem was being addressed.

Dr. Naif Abu-Lohom, head of research at the WEC, said that the level of salinity of water in Al-Haima is acceptable and that natural metals in the rocks make the water salty.

In the area of Al-Hawjala Al-Amiriyya however, he said, the level of water salinity is far higher than the recommended permissible limit by the World Health Organization for drinking water. The reason, he explained, is the lack of an organized sewage system.

Wastewater is dumped in large cesspits, where it seeps in to shallow aquifers and pollutes the groundwater, he explained. This leads to an unusually high level of dissolved solids and salinity in the water.

"It's a very big problem," he said.

Store summer rain

Excessive dependence on groundwater in Taiz has led to its depletion, but the relatively wet governorate offers another important source of drinking water - rain. In a speech to the Al-Saeed Foundation for Sciences and Culture in August 2007, Dutch hydrologist Jan Hoogendoorn stressed that Taiz lacking drinking water was a paradox in view of the relatively high rainfall in the area.

In 2006, total rainfall in the Taiz governorate was 493.9 mm, the fourth highest precipitation rate in the country, according to governmental statistics.

To his audience he showed a map of the area and pointed to a mountainous area next to Taiz city that received a yearly amount of about 4.5 times the water demand of the city.

"If we could catch 23 percent of this water, Taiz would have sufficient water," he said.

He explained that, with a simple water barrier, great quantities of summer rain could be caught and stored with limited evaporation in the 30-meter deep wadi bed of Wadi Hawgala.

But almost two years later, although parties have been invited to further study the idea, no barrier has been built yet, according to Hoogendoorn.

The second solution to increase drinking water in the city the Taiz-based expert pointed to was collecting rainwater from buildings' roofs.

As the total roof surface in the city of Taiz amounted to about 6 kilometers square, he explained, roof-top reservoirs alone could supply the city with about 20 percent of its total water need. The technique would require a lot of equipment, but it was something to think about.

the skies, re-direct water used to grow qat so that it becomes drinking water the city's children. Through a few calculations, he made his case.

The production of one kilo of qat needs about 1,000 liters of water, he told his audience. As each portion weighs about half a kilo, one single portion of qat consumes up to 500 liters of water. "Can you imagine?" he asked, "That is

50 jerry cans full of water." Step by step, he proved that Taiz alone

consumes 44,000 kilo of qat per day, which means that the city consumes 44 million liters of water a day just to chew the stimulant.

"Water consumption in Taiz by qat is about three times as much as the consumption of drinking water," he concluded, explaining that only 16 million liters of drinking water are available in Taiz city every day.

The solution, he said, was decreasing qat production by irrigation -either by importing gat from abroad or by encouraging Yemenis to chew less - so that more of Taiz' water resources ends up in the glasses of Taiz' next generation.

"By decreasing qat chewing a considerable amount of water can be saved," he said.

Up to 27 percent of Yemen's water is used to irrigate qat, according to the WEC and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation's latest figures.

Between 2006 and 2008, gat production in the country almost doubled from 156,000 tons to 290,000 tons, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Start a water market

If stopping a national pastime is not realistic, and governmental regulations cannot eliminate irrigated qat cultivation, he continued, then a "water market" can.

The concept is for people to offer to pay more for water for drinking water than they pay for water for irrigation, via the Local Water Corporation. By offering well owners a higher price, Hoogendoorn said they might sell more water for household use and less for qat

farm irrigation. However, he said, there is still a lot of discussion how to compensate farmers in a proper and fair way.

Pipe in desalinated water

The third solution is treating and piping in water from the sea.

University professors Dr. Towfick Sufian and Dr. Hussain Altowaie argue that unless desalination plants are built to address the water shortage, the whole city of Taiz will eventually have to be relocated to the coast.

They wrote, in a 2006 paper on solar desalination to save Sana'a and Taiz from drought, that the case of Taiz is even more pressing than Sana'a. But the crisis is easier to avert in



Taiz has one of the highest levels of rainfall in the country and storing it behind a water barrier could help to address the crisis.

"The pipe line solution would be much easier since Taiz is only 700m above sea level and not 2500m as Sana'a," they wrote.

"Using pipes to transport water [to Taiz] from Mokha is the only best and economical way of transporting a large amount of water," explained Sufian. "[But] as for the steps taken so far, it seems that nothing has been done, as far as I know."

"If nothing is done and Taiz's population has to be relocated by the sea, it will cost the government no less than USD 30 billion," he said, adding that even then a desalination plant would be necessary on top of the other new infrastructure.

"The cost of average 4 cubic meters of private supply has reached YR 2,500 to YR3,000 within the city, this means that the cost of 1 cubic meter of water in Taiz has reached about YR 800 [USD 5]," he continued. "Desalination of large quantity of water in Mokha and pumping that to Taiz will most likely cost much less than a half of that above."

Yemeni natural energy reserves such as oil and gas may soon run out, but they are not needed to power a desalination plant, wrote Sufian and Altowaie in 2006. Instead, they suggested solar power.

They calculated that about 40 kilometers square of solar panels would be enough to desalinate and pump one billion meters square of water a year.

In the long term, desalination may be a solution after groundwater has run out, provided the population can pay for the water. But, stressed Hoogendoorn in his 2007 speech, relying on the desalinated water alone would make the city vulner-

"The desalinization plant and the water pipe up are easy targets and if destroyed, no alternative sources are at hand," he said.

Jochen Renger, head of the water sector program at GTZ, however, stressed that water must be better managed before supply is dramatically increased, especially through an extravagant water desalination project.

Between 30 and 50 percent of water is lost from badly-maintained water utilities and networks throughout the country, he said, and water loss in Taiz is one of the highest in the country.

"Increasing water supply in general by adding more resources only makes sense when you have well-performing water utilities," he said. "Otherwise, it's a waste of money."

Desalinated water for industries

Until seawater becomes a feasible source of water for all of Taiz's inhabitants, Taiz city's industrial giant, Havel Saeed, has started bringing in desalinated water for its factories by truck from a new desalination plant in Mokha.

Since 2008, the plant has produced 5,500 cubic meters of water per day for its factories at a cost of YR 1,200 a cubic meter, according to Abdulghani Abdurrab, deputy director of the industrial department at Hayel Saeed.

The industrial group started the project to decrease its load on the city's public water works, he added, but there are also plans for it to benefit more of the town's inhabitants, starting with the houses of its employees.

Hayel Saeed might eventually sell its desalinated water to the Local Water and Sanitation Corporation in Taiz and Ibb,

as apparent, especially in winter. In Same'a district, for example, some women and young girls spend the whole day fetching water.

Along the road from the district to the city, women and girls carry 20-liter water containers on their heads from the water wells to their homes.

Sometimes, when water is at its most scarce in winter, they are forced to scramble down very high mountains to the valley for water. With the heavy containers expertly balanced on their head, they then climb back up the mountain home.

Mahyoub Ali, 65, from Same'a district, says nowadays the water crisis is critical. Because he has nobody to fetch water for him, he buys water from a well owned by the district's sheikh.

Origins of the shortage

Taiz city started facing a serious water shortage in the mid-1990s as the public water supply was available only every 20 days, according to Yemen Times reports. Inhabitants now say the situation is much worse.

"Water shortage in Taiz is much more serious than that of Sana'a," explained Dr. Towfick Sufian, professor of Electrical Power Engineering at the University of Sana'a. "The Water Authority supply to the households in the city is in a rota of one day every three weeks to one month. This is how serious it is."

The first water project in Taiz was conducted in cooperation with USAID in the 1960s, when the city's population was less than 20,000. The population has since been multiplied by almost 30, and is expected to keep increasing.

If Taiz's population growth is propor-

Al-Sumari agreed that, after the Al-Haima water source dried up years ago, water from the public network has been salty, which has deteriorated its pipes.

"The city's water pipes are damaged, due to an increase in the number of houses depending on an old water network,"

Invitation for Bids

Tender Advertisement no. (15) of year 2009

(One Envelope System - Technical + Financial)

The Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation - Port of Aden here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (15) for supplying sheets of iron to manufacture mooring buoys which will be financed from the following sources:

1- Government sources.

2- Self financing

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to Tender committee Secretary to receive Bidding Documents for an amount 20,000 Y.R non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at

Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation - Port of Aden- Tawahi Tel : 00 967 02 200168 Fax: 00 967 02 201541 YGAPCplanning@y.net.ye

The deadline for selling BDs will be on 19 AUG 2009. Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden- Tawahi mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder procurement department. The following documents must be contained in

- 1- A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum of (6,000 \$) (Sixty Thousand American Dollars.) Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than (90 days) from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque
- Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country.)
- Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen)
- Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement forcontract effectiveness.)
- Samples (if required)
- valid soles tax certificate

A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate

- The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be Sunday 11:00 Am on 23 AUG 2009. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened.
- Bid Opening will take place at the hall of the Marketing Department and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
- Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period (35 day) starting from advertisement

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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).
- 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.



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Culture



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

14 27 July, 2009

wo 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.

lion 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

There are 600 mil-

Two case studies were presented in

this session. Nani Zulminarni 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 about this initiative go to: no longer practiced in http://www.asmasocietv.org/wise/ 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'divva Shaikh from South Africa and Musdah Muliah 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.



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.



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

المحاور الرئيسية للملتقى

المحاور الرئيسية لأوراق عمل الملتقي (صياحاً)

Q الجودة الشــاملـة ودورها الاســتراتيجي في تكوين

Q إدارة الجودة في العمل المؤسسي (منهج تطبيقي

Q نظام إدارة الجودة – الطريق الأمثل نحو مســتقبل

Q مستوى تطبيق أساسـيات الجودة الشاملة TQM

😡 واقـــع التقييس والجودة في اليمـــن

📿 حوائز الحودة العالمية (نشأة وتطور)

الشـركاتُ الصناعيَّة اليمنيَّة المُطُبِعَـة لنظَـام أَنْ09001 دراسـة تطبيقية على شـركات القطاع الخاص (الشركة اليمنية للصناعة والتجارة - إحدى شركات هائل سعيد أنعم)

Q هندسة الجودة في المجال الخدمي ودورها في تحقيق

رضا العملاء والارتقاء بألمؤسسات والشركات الحديثة

على مؤسسات دولَّة الإمارات العربية المتحدة)

الصورة الذهنية للمؤسسات المعاصرة

أفضل للشركات

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

To join the WISE group or to read more

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 Picker-Neiss 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.

الملتقى الأول للجودة QUALITY FIRST FORUM

الدور الاستراتيجي للجودة في المنظمات المعاصرة 9 - 10 أغسطس 2009م



برعاية معالى وزير التعليم الفني والتدريب المهني و معالي وزير الصناعة والتجارة

15

Classifieds

27 July, 2009



معنا..... وستقيلك من منظور حديد

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English-language newspaper



The world's eighth wonder Soccotra's Hooq Cave



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

By: Mohammed Ghawth For the Yemen Times

ome reality-like myths indicate that the Soccotra 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 adventurers made voyages to the island. Traces of its natural beauty, unique architecture and history. It is an ever-open museum for visitors of Soccotra.

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

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

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 vou 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 Soccotra 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 Soccotra. 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.



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

The Soccotra 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 Soccotra 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

also served as a shelter for those that came to Soccotra Island to trade and search for the exalted and unique trees highlighted by old religions.

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

"Black and white cement is key crude

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

layers and sedimentation is the key to

exploring energy, oil and gas available in

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

temple, sheltering travelers on their way

to Asia or Africa. Visitors performed

religious rituals inside the cave, where

hundreds of scripts and paintings were

One of the paintings contains the

words: "I am a genius Somari...I urge

those finding the paint to read it and then

drop it in its usual place inside the cave."

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

The paint dates back to 500 BC.

The cave was once used as a religious

The cave as a global museum

other parts of the world.

He pointed out that a study on rock

material for manufacturing construction

in the world."

the island."

the cave.

found

materials," he added.

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,



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