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Inside:  **5** Drug abuse in the shadow of Yemeni society

 **16** Most neglected disease in Yemen

 **18** Back to school with a dream

Ancient class system haunts Yemeni shantytowns

Human rights activists say land rights are a key to helping an impoverished and often isolated minority group known as 'akhdam' in Yemen. The group often lives in settlements that do not receive city services like water, sewage pipes and electricity.

By: Heather Murdock
Also reported by Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, Aug. 23 – Nassra Mohammad has raised eight children and buried two daughters since she moved into her single room home 25 years ago, but she does not know who legally owns the property.

The room has a tin door, stone walls and a hot-plate on the floor. There is no running water or windows, and a naked light bulb hangs from a wire on the ceiling.

Her home is no larger than the inside

of the back of a boxy delivery truck. She moved there after her family was evicted from a similar settlement on the other side of Sana'a city.

"People asked us to get out, so we came here," she said.

The land was empty when her family started building in what became a dusty shantytown known as a "mahwa" that now houses thousands of people who don't technically own the land.

But according to the law, they should, said Yasser Mubarak the Oxfam Coordinator for the Poverty Reduction Strategy Project in Yemen.

And with no land rights, he said,

mahwa residents become victims of human rights abuses.

Islamic law and Yemeni civil law both say that a person who settles on unclaimed land is its owner, added lawyer Abdulazeez Al-Samawi.

Land ownership for settlers is also a part of Yemeni culture, according Khaled al-Anisi, the executive director of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms.

"If they had documents, no one could take their land," he said.

And because they don't have the deeds to their properties, Mubarak said, they are denied basic city services, like water, sewage, telephones and electricity.

Nassra also still fears that she and her family will one day be thrown out of their homes again.

"There were rumors that the government wanted to take the place from us," she said.

She is part of a large, often isolated and impoverished minority group in Yemen known as "al-akhdam," which literally means, "the servants."

Surrounded by a pack of grandchildren, and her youngest child, 10-year-old Fatima, Nassra said that besides extreme poverty her family and neighbors are constant victims of racial discrimination.

She gently pinched Fatima's cheek. "They call us akhdam, they call us black, but we are all creations of God," she said.

Despite the fact that akhdam communities are Muslim with a Yemeni heritage older than Islam, they are often isolated, discriminated against and live in slums that are short of water, sewage, healthy food, available education and security.

Many of these injustices could be alleviated if families in mahwas like Nassra's, were granted legal ownership of their homes, said Mubarak.

But because the land was settled as opposed to purchased, residents do not have deeds, and the lack of city services makes them vulnerable to host of other



When the single water spigot that serves this community of about 300 people is broken, men bathe at the mosque and lug water home for women and children in plastic containers.

injustices. They suffer poor health from inadequate sanitation, which also harms their educations, said Mubarak.

One family he knew in Aden lived five meters from the school in a mahwa with no running water. They wanted to send their daughter to school, but the teachers refused her because she was dirty.

With no water to wash, she was considered a health risk to other children.

"Access to land would solve everything," he said.

Nassra's 31-year-old son, Ali Al-Rousi, did not know he might be entitled

to own his home. He is, however, keenly aware of the difference between living in the mahwa and living a few dozen meters away on Zubairy Street.

Thousands of residents share a single sewage pipe in the mahwa, while homes on the main road have running water.

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H1N1 limits Hajj and Umra for Yemenis

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, Aug 23 — Many less Yemenis will perform religious pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia this year as the government steps up measures to counter the possible spread of swine flu, correctly known as H1N1.

Only 11,000 Yemenis are registered to perform Umra, the lesser pilgrimage, during Ramadan this year, compared to 28,000 last year, according to statistics from the Ministry of Endowment and Guidance.

Over 2 million people usually go on the Umra pilgrimage to Mecca throughout the year, with extra numbers visiting in the holy month of Ramadan from August to September.

The number of Yemenis set to complete the annual week-long Hajj pilgrimage in late November, is around 5,700 only. Last year up to 23,000 people performed the pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

"This year over 3 million people from over 160 countries will perform the Hajj and Umra," said Abdul Hakeem Al-Kuhlani, director of combating diseases and epidemic observation at the Ministry of Public Health and Population.

"There is a great chance for the virus to mix and mutate, and there is also a possibility that it won't," added Al-Kuhlani, who also heads the Supreme National Committee for Combating Bird and Swine Flu.

Yemen is taking considerable measures to combat the spread of H1N1 and the World Health Organization (WHO) is coordinating the global response to human cases of the virus.

Yemen reported its first fatality last week in a 40-year-old man, living in the capital Sana'a. Although he had never been abroad, he was in close contact with relatives that had been.

His case was not immediately diagnosed as H1N1, which could have played a part in his death.

Earlier this August, health ministers from the Gulf countries held an urgent meeting, called by Minister of Public Health and Population Abdul Karim Rase'a, who chairs the Regional Committee for the eastern Mediterranean.

The ministers notably discussed guidelines for pilgrimages in Saudi Arabia.

Among them are setting the age limit between 12-65 years. No pregnant women are allowed, and neither are those suffering from chronic diseases such as uncontrolled diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, bronchial diseases and obesity.

Al-Kuhlani urges susceptible citizens in the country to delay their religious plans this season: "We do not want to create panic, but concern," he adds. "We want people to think twice before deciding to go on Hajj and Umra."

Swine flu in the region

This week, Saudi Arabia announced that

reported swine flu cases had reached 2,000 in the country since the first was detected on June 3. Since then 14 people have died of the virus inside the country.

Kuwait, hit by more than 900 swine flu cases, advised its citizens to postpone their Umra plans, and the country's health minister has advised people to stop shaking hands and kissing to stem the spread of the disease.

Earlier this month Iran imposed a ban on all Iranians traveling to Saudi during the fasting month in a bid to control swine flu.

This year, business in the holy city could be down 40 percent during the fasting month, which starts this week, because of fear of the flu virus, according to the Mecca Chamber of Commerce.

Deadly social customs

The last two cases in Yemen were a woman and child that were at a wedding attended by many people from neighboring Gulf states.

"We have advised that people should stay away from crowded places," said Al-Kuhlani adding that social customs such as kissing and hugging should be limited. "At a recent wedding, I saw a guest kissing the bridegroom 11 times."

In other countries in the West, they have cancelled checking for fever at airports and issuing the travel card. "Yemen will not cancel these checks yet," explaining that if the virus spreads rapidly those efforts would be wasted.

Symptoms

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to those of influenza and influenza-like illnesses in general, with chills, fever, sore throat, muscle pains, severe headache, coughing, weakness and general discomfort. The strain responsible for the 2009 swine flu outbreak in most cases causes only mild symptoms and the infected person makes a full recovery without requiring medical attention and without the use of anti-viral medicines.

The pandemic that began in March 2009 was caused by the H1N1 virus, a quadruple re-assortment of two swine strains, one human strain, and one avian strain of influenza. The largest proportion of genes comes from swine influenza viruses.

In March and April 2009, an outbreak of respiratory illnesses was first noted in Mexico, which was eventually identified as being related to H1N1 influenza.

The outbreak spread rapidly to the United States, Canada, and throughout the world as a result of airline travel, according to the WHO.

Yemen reported its first case on 16 June

As of Aug. 22, 2009, 3,128 laboratory-confirmed cases of the virus were reported to the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) of the WHO by 20 out of 22 Member States of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region.

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Aug 23 — The war in Sa'ada is escalating in most districts of the governorate and the army is bringing in more tanks and heavy and medium weaponry in several areas, according to tribal sources.

"Some sheikhs from Bakil and Hashid tribes are arming youth and send them to support the government army in fighting against the Houthis," said the source.

Abdul Malek Al-Houthi, the leader of the Houthis confirmed in a statement published by the Houthi website that air raids continue against the villages of Dhahyan, Haidan, Al-And and Al-Talh as well as other "different areas in the governorate."

The statement added that fighter planes launched air raids on Harf Sufian, Thu Saifan, Al-Hemma and the city as well as many areas in Al-Malahidh district including Ghafar and Talan Tehama. The raids resulted in large numbers of deaths and injuries, and caused massive damage in villages and on farms, according to the statement.

President Ali Abdulla Saleh renewed his call to the Houthis for peace on the basis of commitment to the six conditions the security committee requires for a ceasefire.

"Out of our respect for the holy month of Ramadan and our care to spare blood and achieve peace," said Saleh in a speech to mark Ramadan, "we grant those elements another chance to turn to peace and come back to the right path within the upcoming days on the basis of unconditional commitment to the six



The army is reinforcing its mobilizations with tanks and heavy and medium weaponry in several areas in Sa'ada

conditions we offered."

The conditions require Houthis to withdraw from all districts, lift all checkpoints that hinder citizens' movements, abandon a mountaintop site, stop road blocks and sabotage, hand over military and civil equipment, and disclose the fate of the six foreigners— a German Family and a British citizen— kidnapped last June.

Saleh said that information confirms that what he called "rebellious elements" were behind the kidnapping. The conditions also require the Houthis to hand over kidnapped citizens of Sa'ada, and

not intervene in the affairs of the local authority.

In response to the president's conditions for peace, Yahya Al-Houthi, a member of the parliament who is now living in Germany, refused on behalf of the Houthis in a statement to Al-Jazeera.

"Those conditions are terms of surrender and humiliation," Said Al-Houthi. "They basically don't solve the problem."

Before the speech, Saleh had already said that armed forces will continue their military operations, particularly in Sa'ada "until they eliminate the Houthis

completely."

Abdul Malek Al-Houthi's office said that "the solution to the Sa'ada problem is guaranteed by Doha agreement." However, the Houthis say that they don't want to control any areas but "demand to live a decent and safe life within equal rights, not under exclusion and assassinations."

The UN demanded a cease-fire to enable civilians to flee the areas of war. Around 100,000 people were displaced from their houses due to the ongoing fighting between the army and Houthis.

Amnesty International urged Saleh to take all the possible steps during confrontations with the Houthis to ensure that the major violations of human rights that took place during the previous wars are not repeated.

In a letter sent to Saleh, the organization held the government responsible for protecting citizens and upholding international law including "forbidding torture and respecting the right to live."

It further urged the president to make sure the military is aware of international human rights laws, specifically UN directives about the use of force.

It also urged him to hold murderers and other criminals accountable.

The organization demanded that the government supply it with information related to the number of detainees from the Sa'ada war and the places of their detention. It urged the government to provide them with protection against torture or maltreatment. It also suggesting that detainees be transferred to courts and tried as fast as possible, or be released.

Aden residents demand access to water

By: Abdulwahed Abdullah
For the Yemen Times

ADEN, Aug. 23 — Hundreds of Aden city residents protested yesterday, demanding relief from the sharp water shortage that has left three districts without water.

Seventy-five percent of the Aden water supply was re-directed to cities of Zunjubar and Ja'ar three months ago because of water crises in those cities. Now, residents of Al-Muala, Khower Makser and Alqlwa have no running water.

Masses of people from the southern governorates of Aden, Lahj and Abyan rallied last week, demanding water and that corrupt officials be held accountable for their actions.

Security officials met demonstrators with teargas and arrests.

Deputy Director General of the Aden Water Corporation Saeed H. Qassem has warned of what he called "an unusual situation that may deeply harm citizens," in reference to the water crisis that is devastating the coastal city.

"We have always raised the matter of random well digging," he said, "but no one would listen and the result is the present situation in Aden."

"The problem will not be solved unless random digging is stopped," he told the Yemen Times.

In Aden, the smallest governorate of Yemen, the water supply depends entirely on groundwater. As rainfall in Aden is the lowest in Yemen, according to governmental statistics, and the hot climate quickly evaporates any rain that does fall on its lands, this precious source of water is not recharged at the same rate that it is exploited.

According to Qassem desalination could be solution for the Aden's water shortage, but it would be expensive for consumers.

Water comes to Aden from three different aquifers: Bir Nasser with 37 wells, Bir Ahmed with 36 wells and Al-Rawa with 15 wells. The need for water has recently jumped in Aden due to the rapid increase in population and industry.

The private unregulated drilling of

wells in the locations of water production aquifers is still a challenge for water management.

Qassem added that Aden no longer receives water during daylight hours. The city used to get 1,400 meters squared of water a day, he said.

"The water supply is re-directed between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. to Zunjubar and Ja'ar to meet water shortage there. Aden then receives only 350 meters squared from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.," he explained.

He said that the corporation has all required financial, technical and human resources, "but the problem is in the water source."

Qassem made these statements two weeks after inaugurating new water lines for four districts in Aden, which cost YR 1.1 billion. However, locals say they did not notice any improvement.

The water corporation said that the drop in underground water level in all fields has resulted in this suffocating crisis. It attributed the problem to the random wells. Three thousand were

dug this year— 50 percent more than last year.

The corporation stated in its 2008 report that the solution requires "a presidential decree" to curb the wrongful waste of water.

The crisis began in 2004 when 19 wells completely dried due to misuse of water and haphazard digging of wells.

"We were shocked," said Qassem "to find out that Abyan and Bir Nasser fields have dried."

The latter with its 22 wells used to provide Aden with 30 percent of its water needs."

He expressed doubt about the corporation's ability to solve the problem. He said that they could meet up to 80 percent of the water needs, provided that unsystematic well digging does not expand to Al-Munasara District field that has been discovered recently and has 15 wells.

"Water and electricity are essential to people's life and the government should assume its responsibilities concerning this issue," Qassem said.

Government failed to honor fourth promise to operate Mareb 1

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, Aug. 23 — Despite the advent of the holy month of Ramadan and people's increased demand for electricity, the government failed to honor its fourth promise to operate Mareb Power Station before Ramadan. Mareb 1 was supposed to come online to ease people's suffering of repeated daily blackouts yet it remains nonoperational.

Government spokesman Hassan Allawzi promised last Tuesday at a press conference held after the cabinet's weekly meeting that Mareb 1 will be operational before Ramadan. The hope was that people this year will enjoy the holy month without power blackouts.

This latest government promise to operate Mareb 1 comes after three prior promises, none of which materialized. The first one was to operate the station in January this year, the second one was in June and the third one in late July.

Defending the Ministry of Electricity and Energy's failure to honor its commitment to enter the station into service this month, the Ministry's spokesman Muhareb Abu Ghanem said there are big problems in Mareb Governorate. Located 173 kilometers northeast of the capital Sana'a, Mareb is mostly ruled over by tribes.

Abu Ghanem, who did not go into detail about the nature of these problems, stated that the station will enter service

later on this week, a fifth promise people are waiting to be fulfilled.

"The station is ready for work and can be operated by the end of this week," confirmed Director of Mareb 1 Khaled Rashed. "We are currently conducting checkups on the transformers. Last week we carried out an experiment of counter feeding from Sana'a to Mareb to check the network's lines."

He refused to give more explanations because he and other electricity officials are not allowed, according to the ministry's directions, to speak to the press. Rashed said only the minister and the general manager of the Electric Corporation are allowed to talk to journalists.

While the station has been ready for operation for more than three weeks, the problem lies in transforming stations and transporting lines. "Today (Saturday), we started the trial run of transporting lines and transforming stations in Bani Al-Harith area in Sana'a and Safer in Mareb," said Mohammad Al-Thawr, the Director of Transporting Lines and Transforming Stations Project.

"The equipment arrived today and we have started installing them to operate the transforming stations. We are currently conducting counter feeding experiment." He said that they repaired the lines tribesmen fired at two weeks ago and that they installed the final required equipment in Safer station. The new equipment will

undergo trial experiments and checkups from today until Wednesday. "Transforming stations are 100 percent ready but the problem was in the three electric towers. They are currently being set up," he said. He explained that the problem was that land owners in Safer and Bani Al-Harith areas, where these towers had to be put up, created problems in receiving their compensation.

Seeking further information about the delay, the Yemen Times was able to meet a professional electric engineer who was authorized by the ministry to supervise work in operating the station. "It is impossible to operate the station in the beginning of Ramadan," said the engineer, under condition of anonymity.

He explained that there are several pieces of equipment required for operating the station which is composed of three generators, generating a total of 341 megawatts. These pieces of equipment are still in Hodeida, and other equipment has not yet reached Yemen.

"If the ministry can operate this station this week, it will only generate 130 megawatts because there is only one generator," he said. This output, he added, will not solve the current shortage estimated at 350 megawatts, and so the blackouts will remain. But he stated the station will be very good when put into use because it can be run by both gas and diesel. This means that if there is a sudden shortage of gas, it can run on diesel alone.

Continued from page 1

Ancient class system haunts Yemeni shanty-towns

More often than not, the pipe is stopped up, he said.

"It would be easy for the government to connect us with water and sewers," he said, "But they don't."

With 10 children and two wives, Ali struggles to support his family as a day laborer carrying cases of sodas from trucks into shops. At best, his income provides his family with about YR 150 (75 cents) for each individual per day. Many days, however, he does not find work.

Ali, who laughs easily and uses animated gestures when he talks, leaned on a dirty yellow jerry can and joked.

"The only opportunity our government gives us is to carry," he said.

Discrimination in the heart of Sana'a
Eighteen-year-old Rashad Hassan Al-Zabedy's lives in a settlement of about 30 families behind a black metal gate in the Old City.

The settlement has five bathrooms—one for about 50 people. His apartment is about 15 feet long and six feet wide.

When asked how many members of his large family sleep in the room, Rashad cocked his head while he counted silently. "Twelve or thirteen," he concluded.

He looked slightly embarrassed and laughed.

"Yeah, we sleep on top of each other," he added

Yemen is one of the poorest countries

in the world, according to a 2008 UN report and almost half of the people live on less than two dollars a day. But no group has suffered more— or longer— than the akhdam. An ancient, fading class system unites the akhdam as a group. Their collective identity appears to originate from Ethiopians who conquered and settled in 6th Century Yemen. They have, however, been in Yemen as long as any other group, and self-identify as Yemenis.

But besides being isolated from mainstream society in separate neighborhoods, they mostly work in dangerous, dirty and insecure sanitation jobs, like sweeping streets, which can pay as little as YR 300 (USD 1.50) a day.

Mubarak said that there are about 20,000 to 30,000 akhdam in Sana'a but mahwas all over the country that have the same demographics and the same prob-

lems. Estimates of the total population of the group in Yemen range from 500,000 to 1 million.

Most akhdam children do not finish school, and many drop out around fourth or fifth grade because of mistreatment from teachers and other students, according to Rashad. Others leave because they need to go to work to help support their families. Many, like Rashad, leave school before they are able to read and write.

Rashad also said teachers regularly fail akhdam children who deserve good marks.

"Even the teachers and students discriminate against us," he added.

Police also do not properly investigate crimes against akhdam, he said. Six years ago, his sister, Saeda, was stabbed to death by 10 men on the streets of the Old City. She was 15.

Rashad's older brother, Saeed, witnessed the murder, and identified the killer to the police. The police came late, and accused the brother of the murder. The killer remains free.

"We are, in their opinion, just akhdam," he said.

"We are Yemeni"

While akhdam is a common term, the group is also referred to as the main part of a larger group left over from the old class system. They are called "al-muhamasheen," which means, "the marginalized ones."

Many Yemenis prefer the term muhamasheen because it is not as stigmatizing as the inherently negative term, akhdam.

And according to one member of Nassra's family, 19-year-old Khaled

Sa'ad, akhdam is a cruel label.

But his family, he said, are not muhamasheen either.

"We are not marginalized," he said. "We are Yemeni like other people."

Ali agreed and said that the minority label is an excuse for racism.

"If somebody black is walking in any area, people call them akhdam."

And across town in the Old City, Rashad and his family agreed.

Rashad's sister, 17-year-old Hussnia Al-Zabedy said the label was simply a way for charity groups and NGOs to solicit funding. Her family, she said, are not marginalized. They are Muslims, originally from Zabeed, famous for its ancient Islamic colleges and scholarship.

"There is no difference between black and white," she said, "Only in worship."

In Brief

SANA'A
Yemen, DED discuss technical cooperation aspects

Yemen and the German Development Service (DED) discussed here on Wednesday the technical cooperation aspects and ways of enhancing them.

The meeting, held by Deputy Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training Alawi ba-Faqih and DED delegation head, Regional Director for Central Asia Andreas Schneider, discussed the study which has been prepared and implemented by DED.

The study focused on activating the follow-up system for graduates of the technical and vocational institutes as well as benefiting from experiences of some neighboring countries in this field.

The aim of the study is to measure advantages of the graduates of these institutes as well as the adequacy of the curricula and trainees to meet the needs of local and regional labor market.

The two sides also agreed on several issues which DED will provide to support the areas of technical and vocational education throughout the country's provinces, topped by developing the institute to train trainees in Aden, in addition to improving the training program for the technical and vocational institutes.

They also discussed the possibility of the participation of Deputy Minister in the training and developing the technical and vocational education conference which will be organized by the German institute Capacity Building International "InWent" in October.

Seminar on "Yemeni Woman, 2011 Elections" held

AWAM Foundation for Development and Culture and the US embassy organized on Wednesday, in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), a seminar entitled "Yemeni Woman and 2011 Elections."

Deputy US ambassador to Yemen Anji Brine made reference to the importance of women's participation in the political work in Yemen to achieve the objectives of democratic process.

She considered the real partnership of women in decision-making positions as the main pillar for the democratic action in the different countries such as Yemen.

For her part, Executive Director of AWAM Foundation Thuraya Dammaj affirmed the importance of combining efforts of civil society organizations and woman leaderships and political parties to empower women politically in the coming elections.

Dammaj reviewed challenges and difficulties that obstacle women empowerment in different political, economic and cultural fields, stressing the need to change the typical culture prevailing in

the community.

She called concerned bodies and the political parties to find honest governmental and society programs to activate mechanism of allocating seats for women in the elections scheduled to take place in 2011.

The seminar also included a display of a documentary film "Yemeni Will" prepared by AWAM Foundation in cooperation with the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI).

The film discusses obstacles and difficulties that face women partnership in the elections and the political and cultural reasons that reduce women participation in different political fields.

Yemen, France discuss oil, mineral cooperation

Minister of Oil and Minerals Amir al-Aydarus discussed on Wednesday with the French ambassador to Sana'a Joseph Silva ways of boosting cooperation between both countries in the field of oil and increasing French investment in Yemen.

Al-Aydarus welcomed the French investments in Yemen in various fields, affirming readiness of the ministry to facilities French investment and to promote mutual cooperation with France in the areas of oil and gas.

He pointed out to the first shipment of liquefied natural gas as the largest strategy project in Yemen of which the French Total company is the biggest contributor in the project.

For his part, the French diplomat pointed out to the deep bilateral relations between the two countries in the various fields.

Over 100 rebels killed, 300 captured in northern Yemen

Military operations are ongoing in northern Yemen with security forces seeking to uproot the subversives and the terrorists.

Well informed sources revealed that 100 rebels were killed over the last few days in Sa'ada province and at Harf Sufyan in Amran province, the state-run al-motamar.net reported on Wednesday.

On the other hand, security forces captured 300 of al-Houthi rebels in al-Malahedh, al-Mahadher and al-Taleh areas as well as other areas of Sa'ada after the rebels controlled those areas after they killed and displaced innocent citizens in those areas.

Security forces have took over several areas which Houthi rebels already controlled, sweeping the areas to chase further rebels, the source said.

The source also said that security forces are about to eliminate the rebels and take full control of the province, adding there is no any choice before Houthi rebels except to surrender them-

selves to the government, otherwise they would be killed in painful strikes by security forces.

Sabotage acts by Houthi rebels ongoing

Houthi rebels in Saada have attacked the displaced people camps by missiles in al-Malahidh and Talh area at Sehar district and left many dead and injured of innocent citizens.

Local sources said that the Houthi loyalists have also kidnapped twenty citizens last week from several areas in addition to targeting a number of sheikhs of Sa'ada, according to Sadahtoday.net.

According to the sources, the Houthis have deterred the access of food and medicine to some villages, robbed the irrigation network and hijacked a vehicle of the International Red Cross in Bani Mua'ath district.

Yemen takes urgent actions to relieve displaced

Ministerial Committee has approved a urgent plan to provide all services to displaced people affected by the fighting between the Yemeni army and a rebel group in the northern Yemeni province of Saada.

The committee, responsible for receipting and accommodating the displaced in Saada, offered YR 30 million to the local authorities of neighbouring Hajjah province, southwest of Saada, to arrange camps of families displacing from the most war-affected districts of Saada.

Tens of thousands of Yemenis from various districts in Saada fled their homes as renewed clashes between the government troops and the al-Houthi rebels escalated over the past ten days.

The committee also called on the government-run Economic Institution to provide urgent requirements and needs to the camps of the displaced.

During its meeting in Hajjah chaired by Health Minister Abdul-Karim Ra'sa'a, the committee reviewed and discussed the tasks and duties of various official bodies and relevant ministries as well as international organizations, including UNICEF, WHO, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), World Food Program and the UN Refugees Agency (UNHCR) according to their capacities for offering food and medical assistances to the camps of the displaced.

Over the past days, a number of international humanitarian organizations, including ICRC, the UN Food & Agricultural Organization, UNHCR and Medicines Sans Frontiers, sent teams to the restive province but worsening security there has limited their effectiveness.

According to Saada Governor Hassan Manaa, 15 Yemeni Red Crescent Society

(YRCS) aid workers, including doctors and nurses, were kidnapped last week by the al-Houthi rebel group from a camp in the province.

Manaa said local authorities were doing their best to facilitate aid agencies' access to the displaced families.

But the fighting has shown no signs of letting up. The Yemeni government has offered the al-Houthi rebels a ceasefire on condition that they withdrew from conflict areas, removed their checkpoints and returned kidnapped foreigners, among other issues. The rebels rejected the offer and denied holding any kidnapped civilians.

The sixth war between the Yemeni army and the al-Houthi rebels broke out on 12 August after a year-old truce collapsed.

The government has been engaged in an on-off war with the al-Houthi rebels for the best part of five years. The new offensive is significant escalation in the government's war against the rebels, with the state's iron-fist approach.

In Hajjah, the authorities have set up a transit area between the towns of Haradh and Malaheet as thousands of camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) are scattered along the road.

UNHCR has been in Hajjah since last week to quickly assess the situation. It found many families fled, abandoning homes or previous displacement areas, to join refugees further south. Yemen informed UNHCR it plans to open a camp in the area to accommodate arriving IDPs.

UNHCR, together with other agencies, is undertaking several other assessment missions to areas of displacement including Hajjah, Amran, and Jawf provinces.

The al-Houthi group has killed more than 330 people, including 28 women and 10 children, and injured about 200 others last year in Saada. The al-Houthi followers' crimes have been bloodily raised in the province.

Since the fighting erupted in 2004, thousands of Yemenis, including soldiers and insurgents, have been killed in Saada, which lies close to border with Saudi Arabia, after the rebel group was founded by rebel leader Hussein al-Houthi.

Hussein, the eldest brother of the current group leader Abdul-Malik, was killed by the army in September 2004.

The Yemeni government accuses the al-Houthi group of trying to reinstall the rule of imams, which was toppled by a republican revolution in northern Yemen in 1962. Sunni Muslims are about 55 percent of Yemen's population of 23 million people and reside in the coastal plains and southwestern part of the country while Shiites are about 42 percent of the population and live in the highlands.

There are also a small numbers of Jews, Christians, and Hindus present.

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North Yemen gained its independent from the Ottoman Empire in 1918 and in 1967, the British withdrew from what would become South Yemen.

In 1990, the two countries formally unified as the Republic of Yemen.

TAIZ

Eritrea releases 34 Yemeni fishermen

34 Yemeni fishermen have been released by Eritrean authorities which detained them last Wednesday as they were fishing near the Yemeni island of Jabal al-Tair, security sources unveiled on Friday.

"The fishermen returned to Mukha port in Taiz province after they were being detained by the Eritrean authorities for one day. Their four boats and equipments have been seized by Eritrea", the sources said. The sources added that the Eritreans sent the Yemeni fishermen back aboard a fishing boat was returning to the Yemeni port of Mukha.

The security services in Taiz are currently investigating to uncover the circumstances of the incident in order to take appropriate actions.

HAJJAH

Five-year-old dies as torrential rain lashes northwest Yemen

A five-year-old child has died as torrential rain lashed northwest Yemen, www.alsahwa-yemen.net reported.

The mother of the child was also seriously injured when the rainfall, which lasted for almost 8 hours, destroyed their home. She was rushed to hospital.

Thunderstorms were reported to have hit the village of al-Duhuran in the district of Bani Jel during the heaviest ever rain in the province of Hajjah for years.

Lands were swept away and many houses suffered cracks.

Dozens were reported dead and injured as heavy rains hit many parts of the republic this year and huge damages of lands and houses were reported as well.

Last year, Yemen experienced the worst rainfall disaster when more than 90 people were killed and more than 2000 houses destroyed across the republic.

Losses were estimated at more than a billion dollars.

Their News

YCHR condemns Targeting Civilians in Sa'ada and Calls for Effective and Peaceful Solution to the Crisis

The Yemeni Center for Human Rights expresses its utmost concern and rejection to the renewal of the war on Sa'ada province, and feels sorry for the deliberate decision to use military option to solve the conflict raging in the province.

The Center follows, with extreme concern, the news of the many civilian casualties resulting from the use of excessive force and fire power. Moreover, disconnecting the telecommunication services and imposing siege on the province amplifies the tragedy and impedes rescuing the civilian casualties and providing the necessary care.

The Center condemns the killing of civilians in the villages and residential regions, and calls all parties to provide protection and assist to avert civilian casualties.

The Center appeals to local civil organizations and respected national dignitaries to carry out their duties to find peaceful solutions based on dialogue among the Yemeni people.

It also calls international and regional human rights organizations and associations, primarily The League of Arab States, The United Nations, The Islamic Conference Organization, and the international crisis groups to help apply pressure on the conflicting parties to seek dialogue and find an effective and peaceful solution to this crisis.

Social Media/Web Internship for Geneva Human Rights Org JusticeMakers is a new(ish) initiative of International Bridges to Justice that is seeking to become the world's premier online venue in support of criminal legal aid in developing countries.

The platform hosts global competitions for innovations that curb torture, sparks discussions among passionate defenders, and builds tools to assist legal aid lawyers in their monumental task. See <http://www.justicemakers.net> and <http://www.ibj.org>.

IBJ is looking for help to expand the JusticeMakers program for 2010 - conducting a second criminal justice innovation competition, building out an online training program, and better connecting the community with legal networks around the world.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES We are looking for entrepreneurial, self starters to:

- Work with the IBJ team to build connections between JusticeMakers and other blogs, websites, and organizations within the criminal justice and human rights community
- Roll out online tools and resources for the JusticeMakers community - such as training and accreditation materials for public defenders, discussions about criminal justice, etc
- Collaborate with web developers to improve the user interface and design aesthetics of www.justicemakers.net, and to build features that enhance the community
- Ensure consistency between the branding of the IBJ and JusticeMakers websites; ensure that the two websites are up to date with the latest information about IBJ's work
- Refine the content and branding of IBJ's promotional materials - both online (PowerPoint presentations, email newsletters) and offline (brochures, posters, postcards, Press Kit)
- Utilize social media tools to further publicize JusticeMakers Fellows; capture the personal struggles and triumphs of JusticeMakers, and use these narratives to better articulate the role

IBJ plays within the larger human rights community.

* Assist in organizing photo exhibitions, and propose other creative methods of marketing the work of IBJ's photojournalist interns

QUALIFICATIONS The ideal candidate is current student/recent graduate with a penchant for entrepreneurship and a passion for human rights. The ideal candidate must also have...

- Proficiency with Adobe Photoshop or other image editing tools
- Experience in HTML, CSS, or other web development software
- Knowledge of social media marketing and Web 2.0 technologies, such as blogging, Facebook, Ning, Twitter, etc. Experience in building online communities and social networks.
- Written and spoken proficiency in English and French/Spanish
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to propose and implement innovative ideas

ADDITIONAL SKILLS DESIRED

- Interest in international human rights and criminal justice reform
- Additional language reading and writing skills (Portuguese, Khmer, Urdu, etc)
- Knowledge of online marketing tools such as Google AdWords.
- Ability to work in a multicultural environment

COMPENSATION The opportunity would be unpaid, but many of our past student interns have had access to university funding for their pro-bono work.

ABOUT IBJ International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization that was founded in 2000 with a vision to end torture in the 21st Century through the just implementa-

tion of criminal laws. IBJ's experience has shown that legal counsel at the earliest stages of defense can reduce instances of torture. Thus, IBJ works with the public defender, or legal aid lawyer, to reinforce the protection for, and the individual dignity of, people facing criminal prosecution in developing and transitional countries. Since its inception, IBJ has pioneered this practical approach to human rights, and is now poised to catalyze legal transformation in countries worldwide. A recent CNN clip of IBJ's founder and CEO at the World Economic Forum is available here:

<http://tinyurl.com/bp6cgz>

Misc: Microsoft Phd Scholarships

The PhD Scholarship Program recognizes and supports exceptional students who show the potential to make an outstanding contribution to science and computing. This program supports PhD students in computing and those working at the intersection of computing and the sciences.

Only PhD supervisors should apply. If their project is selected, the supervisor has up to a year to find the best possible student for the project. Joint applications by two supervisors from different disciplines are especially encouraged.

- Application deadline: 16 September 2009
- Notification of results: December 2009

Eligibility Criteria We usually consider only one application per university department or per laboratory of a national research institution.

Only applications from countries in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East will be considered. Some additional criteria apply in some of these countries.

Only applications in research areas relatively close to the ones researchers at Microsoft Research in Cambridge focus on will be considered. These areas are:

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- Constraint Reasoning
- Machine Learning and Perception

- Online Services and Advertising
- Programming, Principles, and Tools
- Systems and Networking

Unless otherwise specified, applications may only be submitted through the online application tool (<https://cmt.research.microsoft.com/M/SRPhDScholarship2009/Default.aspx>)

First batch of Somali refugees graduates in vocational training



The Charitable Society for Social Welfare and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees celebrated the graduation of 18 Somali refugees who are the first batch on the vocational diploma education. The graduates studied carpentry, electricity and electronics maintenance and received diplomas in the respected field. Dr. Mohammed Al-Qubati general man-

ager of CSSW and deputy director of the UNHCR expressed their delight at the success of the diploma project for the first batch and hoped for next batches to be as successful.

This special education comes within the framework of the refugees' capacity building project in order to enhance their economic conditions through providing them with income generating skills as well as provision of small credits to start their small business.

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Drug abuse in the shadow of Yemeni society

By: Hamza Al-Abdallah and Marwa ba Abbad
For the Yemen Times

For a while, Yemen has been safe from the perils of drugs. However, the country has turned from a passage for smuggling into a trafficking area, according to Antonio Costa of the UN Office for Drugs and Crime during his visit to Yemen over a year ago.

This change is evidenced by recent drug discoveries, the seizure of home-made drugs and the arrest of networks of drug abusers and traffickers in several governorates. The problem has led authorities prioritize drug fighting.

The magnitude of the plague is illustrated by the amount of drugs confiscated. According to Brig. Mutahar Rashad Al-Mesri, the Minister of the Interior, about three million illegal pills and two and a half tons of hashish were seized in the first half of 2009.

Over 15 million pills and 28.5 tons of hashish in 162 cases were seized in 2008, compared to half a million of pills and five tons of hashish in 2007.

Prof. Colonel Musa'ab Al-Sufi, deputy director of the Ministry of Interior Drug Office said that there was an increase drug activity between 2005 and 2007. Five hundred and twelve Yemenis, mostly between 18 and 35 years old were arrested during

even worse is that drugs like hashish and poppy are produced locally in Ibb and Al-Haima and other areas, which make the problem even more complicated."

New type of addiction

Taking drugs in terms of method and type depends on a number of factors including economic and social ones. Most addicts in Yemen are poor although, there are some addicts among the wealthy.

Addicts usually use drugs that are easily available. Thus the common drugs are medicines. A valium strip costs only YR 80 and the Restyl (Alprazolam) tape cost YR 150 and, when there is no prescription, the pharmacists just demand double the price.

The availability of such drugs and their "good" effect with qat, make them more common than other types, according to users. There are also the inhalants such as paint thinner, gasoline and adhesives in addition to alcohol-based antiseptic.

Medicine abuse

Sedatives and mind-altering medicines are controlled substances and not allowed to be sold without prescription. They are prescribed for people with pain or neurotic disorders. These are 12 types named in the UN convention for mind-altering substances in 1972.

They say that there is also addiction to cough medicines.

High demand for mind-altering medicines and sedatives

Al-Maqaleh says that illegal sale of sedatives exists in many areas although the governorates of Hodeidah, Taiz and Aden suffer the most. According to the Authority statistics, there is an increase in the imports of such substances. Last year 5,005 grams of raw and 5,500 grams of treated Alprozolam were imported, compared to 4,500 grams of the same substance imported the year before.

And 20,000 grams of raw diazepam and 8,485 grams of it in treated form were imported in 2008 compared to 14,000 grams of the substance imported the year before.

M.G., a pharmacist, says he has noticed a considerable growth in the demand for sedatives lately.

"There are at least ten people who come asking for such drugs." He adds that these people are 20-30 in age, and about third of them are women.

Another pharmacist, M.S. says that most of the people who buy such drugs without prescription take them with qat and that many of them come from neighboring countries.

A third pharmacist says most of the people who request such medicines are university students who take them to keep awake while studying.

Nature and effect of mind-altering drugs and sedatives

"Mind-altering medicines were called so because they affect mind functions and the way the mind controls emotions, feelings and various body activities," said Dr. Asa'ad Sabir, consultant psychiatrist at Al-Amal Medical Complex, KSA.

He adds that stimulants are more common among the youth because, when they are first used, they invigorate the body, lead to active work and improve mood.

But after a while, both the mood and production start to deteriorate gradually until addicts experience bouts of depression. The frequency of the depression depends on the drug quantity and period of use.

Other accompanying symptoms include lack of appetite, loss of weight and hostility. Long abuse of drugs can lead to more serious problems like weakness of heart muscles, sudden increase in body temperature, convulsions and disorders in the nervous system and high blood pressure.

Real addiction cases

It was not easy for us to reach persons with history of drug addiction who are ready to tell us about their experiences for fear of social stigma because many of them believe that the society looks at them as criminals and ostracizes them, even when they seek help and kick the habit. There are many addicts, but there no statistics.

M.T. says he gave up drugs a month ago.

"My addiction" he said, "began back in my village when I accidentally inhaled



An addict sniffing while chewing qat. Many drug addicts in Yemen believe that the society looks at them as criminals and ostracizes them, even when they seek help and kick the habit. Five hundred and twelve Yemenis, mostly between 18 and 35 years old were arrested during between 2005 and 2007 in cases related to drug use and trade. Thirty percent of them were of them were secondary school and university graduates.

gasoline deeply while checking the fuel tank of our water pump. I felt ecstatic. After that I used to go to the pump shed to inhale the fuel.

"After a while, I came to Sana'a and got acquainted with persons using illegal pills. For two years I was taking illegal pills commonly known as 'star' and 'bazooka.' My addiction got worse and I was taking up to 30 pills a day until my stomach and intestines sustained injuries."

As for his feeling when taking such drugs he says that he used to feel rapture and that things moved around him and he felt like walking in the air. He told us with clear regret about one of his friends who started with pills and then began drinking an alcoholic-based antiseptic mixed with water until his liver was damaged and his body swelled and now he might die in a few hours or, at best, a few days.

Another case is H.M. who started with cigarettes when he was only thirteen years old.

"I befriended a group of young people who kept inviting me to qat-chewing sessions during which they gave me unusual type of cigarettes. I got addicted to those cigarettes and my friends began asking for money in return for them. I had no choice but to steal to have the smokes.

"I failed in school. Then I moved to pills, which my friends gave me with qat and they provided a feeling of exultation. Now I've lost everything because of my addiction."

S.B. is a glue-sniffer. He had started inhaling gasoline and now he suffers severe problems in his respiratory system.

Turning to sedatives

Methods of obtaining these drugs vary because they are supposed to be controlled, and are not supposed to be sold without prescription.

"We get the drugs from pharmacies

by forging prescriptions," said M.T.

"One of us writes the prescription and another one goes to the pharmacy. Sometimes we do not have forged prescriptions, so we just go to the pharmacy and buy the drugs over the counter. In either case pharmacists sell us the drugs for higher prices because they know the prescriptions are bogus."

A pharmacist says that he usually sells controlled drugs in order to avoid being harmed, after he had been harassed and threatened.

Supervising and preventive measures

As for the measures taken by the government, Al-Maqaleh said, "The Ministry of Public Health represented by the Authority has taken a number of measures limit and prevent this plague, including publishing warnings on all locally produced and imported medicine packets to the effect that such drugs are controlled and therefore they should not be sold without prescription.

"The ministry also published a circular that regulates drug distribution from agents to pharmacists in order to prevent their being coming from many sources. The circular specifies only certain pharmacies and hospitals as being licensed by the ministry to sell these drugs.

"The same publication excludes traditional medicine centers, medical clinics and wholesalers. Also, it says, a prescription for sedatives should be in three copies: one to be kept in the patient's file, one goes to the pharmacist and one remains in the prescription book. The above circular was distributed and applied in the second half of 2009."

Some pharmacists say that they have not noticed any difference while others affirmed that there was a relative change.

Lack of statistics

When we requested accurate statistics of the violating pharmacies and the abuse of drugs, the Supreme Drug Authority told us that it needs months to produce such documents. We went back a few months later, but the statistics were still not ready.

In response to this, Al-Maqaleh said that the absence of statistics is due to the large number of agents who distribute large quantities of medicines, which has made it difficult to continue collecting data. Besides, he continued, on the work force at the Authority is very small.

Absent social role

The 1998 UN strategy to combat drugs provides that fighting drugs is a complementary mission between the society and law enforcement and customs on the other. The strategy has two sides: reducing the drug supply through tightening supervision on borders and hunting down smugglers and traffickers. This stands for only 30 percent of the fighting process. Seventy percent is supposed to be assumed by the society which can reduce demand by raising awareness, employing peer pressure and helping law enforcers, customs authorities and narcotics police in shrinking supply. The duty should not be that of NGOs alone. It is rather a mission for whole communities through responding to and supporting awareness-raising programs.

The press must also contribute by designing programs that educate people on the problems resulting from drug abuse.

The same applies to schools because they contribute considerably to shaping children's personalities. Curricula should include drug-related materials.



According to the Antinarcotics office at the Ministry of Interior there has been a growth in the use of Keptagon pills and amphetamines, while drugs like hashish and poppy are being produced locally.

that period. Thirty percent of them were of them were secondary school and university graduates.

Al-Sufi added that not all drugs quantities are seized because some of them escape capture and reach their destinations.

"Drugs cases have increased," said Judge Saeed Al-Aqil, chief of specialized prosecution, "to the extent that observers realize this is becoming more like a war."

"Lately there has been a growth in the use of Keptagon pills and amphetamines," he added. "What is

Dr. Taher Al-Maqaleh, general director of drug administration at the Supreme Drug Authority, believes that the most common and widely abused drug is Alprazolam, which is produced under various trade marks such as Restyl, Prazine and Zolam, which all contain the same substances.

He said that, according to the information provided by importers, diazepam comes in second. Pharmacists agree, adding that there are other less-used medicines like valium, Xanax, paltan and Rivotril.



Ministry of Interior destroys tens of kilos of hashish and pills in mid 2009. Around three million illegal pills and two and a half tons of hashish were seized in the first half of 2009. In the previous year, over 15 million pills and 28.5 tons of hashish in 162 cases were seized, compared to half a million of pills and five tons of hashish in 2007.



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عيسى عبد الله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية

والى الحكومة واعضاء مجلس الشورى ومجلس النواب وكافة
أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة حلول شهر رمضان المبارك..

وكل عبادنا ولانتم بخير



We present our warmest congratulations to

H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen,

and to the Government, Shura Council, member of
parliament and Yemeni people
on the occasion of the

Holy Month of Ramadan

Wishing all Blessing Month

Mr. Norbert Groeschner
General Manager of OMV
& all staff

نوربرت جروشني
مدير عام شركة أو إم في- اليمن
وكافة الموظفين



Invitation for Proposal

The Embassy of the United States of America announces its invitation to submit a proposal for quantitative and qualitative analysis and research that includes the collection of polling data and focus group information. Bidders who wish to participate in this tender may receive the solicitation package from the US Embassy by calling first, or bidders may send a request for the solicitation package by e-mail to

Sanaaprourement@state.gov

For any queries please call 755-2241.

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Proposal Enclosed, General Services Office, at American Embassy, Sanaa on or before 16:00 pm local time on September 3.



Job Vacancy

The Embassy of the United States of America announces for immediate job opening within its organization.

Voucher Examiner

This position reports directly to the Supervisor of the Voucher Group. The Voucher Examiner is responsible for handling the payments to the suppliers of goods and services to the US Embassy and also for the preparation of payment vouchers to the Embassy's employees who travel overseas and within Yemen.

The incumbent is also responsible for reviewing reimbursement vouchers submitted by the Mission's employees for medical claims and verify that they conform to regulations and the provisions of the medical plan.

Qualifications:

Education:

The equivalent of a 4-year degree from a recognized college, with course work in Accounting, Finance and/or Business Administration.

Have a minimum of a year's post graduation work experience in accounting and/or finance, with a sound knowledge of double entry and accounting principles.

Experience:

Experience in working with PC based financial accounting software packages — General Ledger and Accounts Payable modules, in particular. Possess a sound knowledge of the Microsoft Office software applications (Excel, Word, Access, and PowerPoint).

Language Proficiency:

Above average knowledge of both written and spoken English is required as this position requires the ability to read, understand and interpret the US Government regulations and also to communicate with American employees of the Mission. Must be fluent in written and spoken Arabic.

Job Knowledge:

Good understanding of Internal Control procedures and Management Control procedures, instructions and guidelines. Ability to read and interpret the Department of State's Standardized regulations such as 3FAH, 4FAH, 6FAH.

Skills and Abilities: Sound knowledge of Microsoft Excel and other Microsoft Office suite of applications (Word, Access, and PowerPoint). Ability to develop and maintain spreadsheets and database reports for payments.

Grade/Salary: Ordinarily Resident:

FSN-07 (Full performance Level) US\$ 9,531 plus \$1,500 in benefits and allowances.

How to apply: Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualification requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Human Resources, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Fax No. 303-182 or email address hrosanaa@state.gov no later than August 31, 2009.

* NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.



Delft University of Technology



Delft University of Technology of The Netherlands (TUDelft) in collaboration with Taiz University and its Faculty of Engineering & Information Technology pleased to announce the establishment of a Master Degree in the following academic programs;

- Master of Information Technology and Management (IT&M)
- Master of Engineering and Management (Eng&M)

Applications and Registration for the academic year 2009 -2010 will start from **Aug., 25, 2009** to **Sep, 25, 2009**.

For those interested to enroll, please visit or contact the Registration Office located at the Graduate Studies Center of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology - Taiz University during official business hours.

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Job advertisements

An oilfield services company has an immediate opening for vacancies:

1- Commercial manager.

The Commercial Manager will report to the General Manager and he is expected to lead the company importing and procurement activities. The job holder will be responsible on supply chain optimization, balance internal clients' requirements, and preference. This employee will prepare and review contracts and agreements to ensure correct format and all related international terms and conditions of the undertaking are geared towards achieving the company's interests.

Main Requirements

- Minimum of 10 years experience in similar role.
- Excellent work experience on the international contractual agreements practices.
- Good understanding of Terms and Conditions relating to purchased items.
- Broad knowledge on structure and key points for the whole supply chain
- Pervious knowledge of how to reduce costs and improve delivery and quality performance..
- Should have highly developed computer skills in MS Office.
- Excellent negotiator, ideally with experience of claims arbitration
- Fluent in English and Arabic language skills.

2- Executive secretary.

The Executive secretary will execute all secretarial functions for the General Manager and office staff and provide supporting office administration services. The job holder will arrange meetings with high ranking officials both locally and abroad. This candidate will take dictation on a variety of subject matters and prepare correspondence, documents, reports, statistical tables or schedules some of which may be highly confidential and set priorities according to urgency or defined deadlines. Prepare agendas for the GM internal meetings, take minutes, prepare letters on agreed resolutions and maintain follow-up system.

Main Requirements

- Minimum of 5 years experience in similar role.
- Should have highly developed computer skills in MS Office.
- Excellent communication and time management skills.
- Excellent knowledge on the international commercial correspondence principles.
- Independently handle all correspondence that has no financial implications.
- Fluent in English and Arabic language skills.

To apply please send your CV with a cover letter to rabi@jannat-ltd.com The subject of your e-mail should be the job title you are applying for. Any application without the required information will not be considered for the role. The closing date for applications is 20 September 09.

Words of Wisdom



If more meaningful change is to be made in respect for human rights, the daily violations against the rights of ordinary citizens have to be addressed. This means introducing new values through education and re-education. One clear target is to train law-enforcement agencies and officers on the rights of citizens and how to respect them. Another has to do with re-training of prison wardens and personnel.

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

OUR OPINION

Candle in the dark

Yemen today has so many problems that depression and complaints have become the norm. Perhaps, if it wasn't for qat sessions, Yemenis might have revolted long ago. But as a sedative, qat has done the trick for now.

Despite all this gloom, there are a few individuals and organizations who still believe that they can make things better through development and charity work.

One of these organizations is the SEYAJ Organization for Childhood Protection. The word "seyaj" in Arabic means fence. The organization defends children whose rights are violated, by either defending them in court against their abusers, or providing them with psychological and financial support to help them recover and resume a normal life.

Child abuse in Yemen is both overlooked and underestimated.

Over 50 percent of the population is 15 years old or younger, but their concerns are not a priority for decision makers. Yemeni children are not only neglected at policy level, but also looked down upon at home.

Average parents do not pay attention to what their children are thinking or learning in and out of school. This is not only probably because they have too many children to look after -and too little resources to do so, but mainly because the concept of respecting children as individual human beings is unheard of in Yemeni culture.

Yemeni culture is very much about older people, respect not just for adults but also for older generations. Although this too is fading quickly, influence and respect still comes with age, and so the grandfather in a multi-generational family usually has the last say inside the home.

Children are just there to obey without discussion, and girls are even more oppressed than boys, living under greater pressure to be invisible.

Corporal punishment is common among Yemeni families because it is usually the only way known for discipline. Only very few understand or know about other non-violent techniques, and even fewer actually use them.

In fact, the Yemeni law says that if a parent kills his own child, he is not to be punished in the same way as if he killed another person. Apparently, the reason is that the parent is the reason behind the child's existence. The people who drew up and approved this law don't understand the meaning of renowned Lebanese American poet Gibran Khalil Gibran's verses:

"They come through you but not from you, And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you."

This is why I am a fan of all organizations that work for children, especially those organizations like SEYAJ that are not afraid to challenge accepted traditions and stand up for children and their rights.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Muslims – West Relations

US President Obama visit to Middle East

By: Sardar Muhammad Tabassum

US President Mr. Barack Obama recently launched a new beginning between the US and the Muslim world at the Cairo University Egypt. This relationship has been marked by ongoing mistrust, discord and suspicion since several decades. It has been particularly tense during the last eight years of the Mr. Bush administration. This was due to the fact that after the tragic event of 9 / 11, he started the so-called "War on Terror" in the Muslim countries of Afghanistan and Iraq along with many other notorious deeds against Muslim communities.

During the American election, the Muslim world had a strong hope that President Obama, if elected, would change the misdirected policies of Mr. Bush against Muslims around the world, especially the killing of innocents, along with human rights violations in Palestine and Kashmir. Everybody harboured rays of hope for the closing of Guantanamo Detention Center, which also fanned anti-American sentiment across the globe. Mr. Obama, however, didn't take any initial steps to stop the killing in Iraq and Afghanistan. Meanwhile America also initiated drone attacks in Pakistan and world media saying that America want to control Nuclear device and great Nuclear Scientist, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, but its impossible for Pakistani people.

President Barack Obama's recent visit to Saudi Arabia and Egypt offers hope for the resolution of the long-lasting Arab-Israeli conflict. Obama said that "he laid out a new blueprint for US-Middle East policy, vowing to buckle mistrust, forge a new state for Palestinians and to defuse the nuclear showdown with Iran". Obama's statement was greatly welcomed and appreciated in the whole Muslim world. He said that "the Palestinians are suffering for six decades. America will not turn our back on the legitimate Palestinian aspiration for dignity, opportunity, and a state of their own. The situation of the Palestinian people is intolerable. The two state solutions is the key to solving the decades-long Middle East conflict. At the same time, Israel acknowledged that just as Israel's right to exist cannot be denied, neither can Palestine's. Israel must also live up to its obligations to ensure the Palestinians can live, work and develop their society". The Obama administration is interested in promoting democracy and peace in the Middle East. White House official said "this trip is an opportunity to continue the President's outreach both in the Middle East and in Europe, and it follows up on visits to Washington on May 18 by Israeli Prime Minister and Palestinian Authority President on May 28 on how to resume the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process".

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Common problem, joint solution
The tension between Muslims and West started on 9 / 11 and garnered strength from the 7 / 7 event in London. Obama

said "he seeks a new start that is based on mutual interest and mutual respect. We share common principles, principles of justice, tolerance and the dignity of all human beings". The overall problem can be resolved through devising the best strategy for peace involving the Organization of the Islamic Conference, The Arab League and other influential Muslim institutions. President Obama delivered a very inspiring, strong and sometimes sugared speech at the Cairo University. He recognized the tension among Islam and the West but didn't apologize for the cartoon controversy in Denmark against the Holy Prophet MUHAMMAD (Peace Be Upon Him). Mr. Obama explained the concept of democracy, religious freedom and appreciated the practical efforts of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia through conferences on interfaith dialogue in last two years. President Obama said that "problems which the United States and Muslims worldwide confront must be dealt with through partnership and progress, and must be shared, sources of tension, he said, must be addressed directly".

He assured the removal of all US and allied military forces troops from Iraq by 2012. He appeared upset about the countless deaths of Muslims in Afghanistan and Iraq. Obama acknowledged Iran's right to have access to peaceful nuclear power.

The US President's speech marked a major change in American foreign policy, but we must wait patiently for its concrete implementation. He directly enlisted a religion to build global peace and to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, to end nuclear proliferation and to stop terrorism. After Mr. Bush, it is the first time that an American President didn't openly say the word "terrorist" to Muslims. He said US is not at war with Islam and Islam is not part of the problem in combating violent extremism. It is an important part of promoting peace.

The true reality is that Islam is a religion of peace and harmony. Islam also protects and promotes human rights, harmony and understanding. But, unfortunately, there are many violations in various Muslim states with Muslims killing Muslims. In Iraq there's a dispute between Sunnis and Shias. In Darfur, two Muslim tribes are killing each other. In Pakistan, there are dozens of terrorist and suicide attacks and thousands of innocent Muslims civilians have been dying as a result. The Taliban have disturbed 35 Lac civilian populations in Swat, Malakand, North Frontier Province of Pakistan, and many other places.

Islamic law as a solution
If we apply Islamic law, values and principles, peace can emerge in the world. We must indeed live up to the tenants of Islam and show that religious coexistence, understanding and an ideal relationship between all members of the family of ABRAHAM is possible. With the USA and the West engaging in a dialogue of understanding with the most influential Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, UAE, Egypt and Pakistan in a trustworthy way, it should gradually prove to be fruitful for the solution of all major and minor disputes and conflicts.

Islam guides the mutual relationship among people's movements and cultures. Muslim values, traditions and principles belong to all mankind. Islam also originally protects human dignity and human rights regardless of color, race and creed.

The importance of dialogue is indeed a strong necessity of our time. Firstly, dialogue must start among religions, then on a social, cultural, diplomatic level, and within military circles too. Arab countries must also establish democratic governments incorporating a responsible interactive dialogue between Islam and the West. Many Muslim governments and rulers are being more westernized by the day. They must adopt and apply Islamic law and democracy, not dictatorship. Dictatorship is the worst system of gov-

ernment and is not as good as democracy. If the family of Abraham (Muslims, Christians and Jews) adopt common religious, morals, social values and norms. If they also promote tolerance, harmony and understanding toward each other and respect all other religions' holy books and holy Prophets as well, much of the religious and social conflict we see now will be removed at once.

President Obama traveled to the Middle East to improve the image of the United States in the Muslim world. Further discussions included efforts to curtail Iranian influence in the region as well as the price and supply of oil. Time will indeed measure the success of the American President's tour to the Middle East. The world realizes now that Palestine and Kashmir are both burning nuclear flash points. World peace, stability and development are not possible without the resolution of these two dangerous conflicts Palestine and Kashmir. The Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu welcomed the speech that President Obama delivered at Cairo University. He stated that "the speech clearly confirmed the desire of the US and the Muslim world. He also felt that President Obama gave signals of a more balanced approach on the part of the US administration on the Middle East conflict. The Secretary General stated the OIC's readiness to implement all the necessary steps based on the Memorandum of Understanding, which was signed on this specific field between the OIC and the US State department in December 2008.

The UN, EU, OIC, Arab League and other influential institutions have a big responsibility to resolve these dangerous and long-lasting conflicts through dialogue. Israel and India must start a comprehensive and durable peace dialogue with Palestinian and Kashmiris legitimate leadership and representatives. Time is running fast and people are being killed every day in Gaza and Srinagar. Serious human rights violations, killing of children, abuse and rape of women are being committed there over six decades. Hundreds and thousands of innocent Palestinians and Kashmiris have been killed for their birth right to self-determination which the world has recognized. They are not terrorists, but they have been confronting terrorism since a very long time. US President Mr. Obama, EU President Mr. Barroso, UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki Moon and OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu and other worldwide institutions and organizations must play a role to stop all brutality and human rights violations around the world, especially in Palestine, Kashmir, Iraq, Afghanistan, Darfur, Congo, Chechnya, Kosovo and other places. Palestine and Kashmir, two major conflicts are the key points for the solution of the Middle East and South Asia. Without the resolution of the Palestine and Kashmir question, peace will not be possible anywhere in the world.

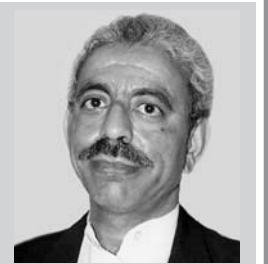
At last I strongly endorse the suggestion of Dr. Moon, founder of the Universal Peace Federation in America, to establish a Permanent Global Interfaith Council, like a United Nations, comprising of representatives of the family of Abraham as well as all recognized religious scholars, renowned intellectuals, religious and peace experts to discuss and resolve all religious, social and cultural conflicts and controversies in the whole world. I hope that time is not too far, the peace kingdom will be on earth as paradise and all kind of conflicts and problems will solve smoothly, but its need determent faith and commitment...

Sardar Muhammad Tahir Tabassum, Ambassador for Peace, and Executive Director of the Belgium (EU) based NGO Institute of Peace and Development (INSPAD) experienced analyst and writer on conflict resolution and interfaith dialogue since long time. Can reach email: tahirtabassum1@gmail.com

COMMON SENSE

From Sa'ada with tears: Weren't our leaders' children once?

"The Month of Ramadan, what a great opportunity to make amends with the Lord Almighty and look back to see where we went wrong" said Farid as he started to work on the family budget again.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

"What makes you think that we went wrong?" asked Aisha, as she began to prepare the Ramadan break-fast, speeding up her pace, as the alarm rang to alert her that it is one hour before sunset.

Farid was really upset about something: "Not WE, my dear Aisha, but rather our Government. How can our Government decide just before the beginning of the holy month of Ramadhan to contract for the annihilation of the people of Sa'ada? Aren't the people of Sa'ada Yemeni citizens, who have the right to worship Allah as they see fit, like all other Yemenis? Must they carry on life with the threat of screeching Mig-29s constantly looming in their minds? Aren't the children of Sa'ada like our children? Look at these horrible pictures of the poor children of Sa'ada not knowing that this month is not simply another month of the year, but rather the month in which they will see Armageddon?"

"How come the international community has not been stirred by these horrible crimes? Just imagine if the children of the War Lords inside our Government and outside were living under the threat of TNT packed ordnances randomly ramming at them from 50 km away." Aisha was definitely moved by the horrible pictures of children's feet and hands lying out in the fields after being severed from their owners by the horrible payloads of those Sukhoi and Mig fighters.

"I would think that they should sever the heads of all these generals, sheikhs and whatever they pretend to be for being so careless about the children of Yemen, who have yet to develop their loins yet!" said Farid.

"There is really no excuse for this madness in Sa'ada, is there? How many children must lose their limbs indiscriminately before they had a chance to even speak their minds, let alone call for the destruction of Israel or the United States?" Aisha was very disturbed by the pictures she saw.

Farid continued on: "Even when international organizations like Amnesty International cry out for the sake of the children of Sa'ada (see this: <http://com-senfromyem.blogspot.com/>), the international press and local press do not even cover the public statements of AI when it comes to the people of Sa'ada. Three days ago Amnesty International issued the statement deploring the attacks on civilians and the violations of human rights that are inflicted on the good people of Sa'ada Governorate. It seems that our Government has obtained immunity from international outrage at the violations of human rights it inflicts on its people."

Aisha also had her own views: "They were more interested in the weak offers of peace issued by the President, which simply stated that the Houthis should surrender themselves to the nearest Police precinct, just like the peace overtures we heard during the 1994 Civil War. We are seeing now that the fruits of that war are still being harvested to this day. Never mind that the situation now is slightly different, where the initiative is apparently on the Houthis' side."

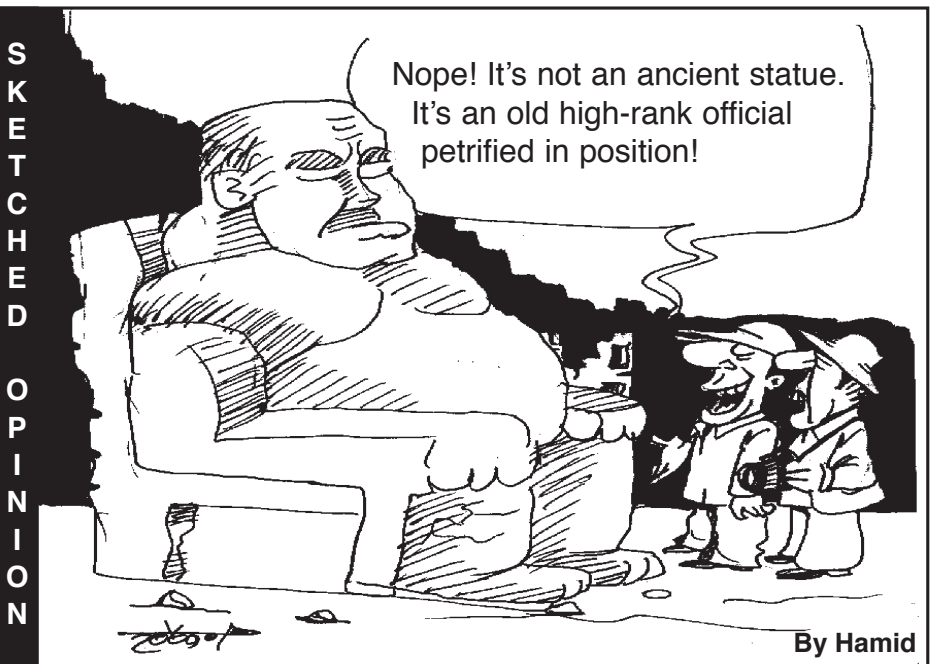
"Nobody really knows who is winning or loosing in Sa'ada. The Government is preventing anyone from the press or the outside world to visit the region. After all they will be kidnapped by the mysterious night crawlers, who find in kidnapping an art that can be perfected to drive the relatives of the kidnapped into madness, because the Government is not really looking hard enough for them or even cares about finding them. The officials are too busy collecting for the rewards of the Houthis they kill or capture, at least as the Government press is announcing. But then, what does it matter? Who is able to really verify that the reward is justified anyway?" said Farid.

Then Mahmoud walked in, just coming from one of the Ramadhan games he and his friends have gathered to play; he was looking at the photos his mother was talking about a while ago. He looked stunned: "Mom, whose children are those who lost their limbs in the photos? Could this happen to us in Yemen?"

"Now son, put that down", she said, while continuing in response to her son's statement: "Of course not. We have a civilized Government and civilized leaders who never would like to see our people 'corpse', as a recent dignitary announced. We even have a civil society that should be praised for supporting any war against the people of Yemen and are ready to give their lives in support of such madness. Didn't you hear that unbelievable declaration by our leaders who enjoy seeing corpses sprawled everywhere, for they only live to see people 'corpse', as Sadiq Al-Ahmar said a few days back, as he announced his pledge to aid the Government forces against tribesmen who were once under his father's custody. The Governor of Amran also announced his support and forgot that his father had sought to bring a peaceful end to the strife in Sa'ada."

The son wondered in amazement: "Weren't these hired guns children at one time in their lives?"

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years. He may be blogged at: <http://com-senfromyem.blogspot.com>



By Hamid

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Yemen Press Review



Al-Balagh Independent Weekly
Monday, August 17, 2009

Top Story

- Who ensnared the other: President Saleh or Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar

Nobody dared to accuse President Saleh of "Major Treason" except for Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar, who said so during his interview with Aljazeera without hesitation. Of course, Al-Ahmar returned home and he has been never questioned over what he said.

In order for points not to be counted in favor of the regime for not questioning the strong opposition leader, Al-Ahmar said during the interview that he would return home without any fear because he is backed by the Hashid Tribe and his elder brother Sheikh Sadeq Al-Ahmar.

Some analysts viewed this as a setback as Al-Ahmar returns to tribalism during the conversation. However, Sheikh Hamid was clever at that time since he wanted to confirm that his power protect him. If he is not backed by his own tribe and elder brother, he won't return to Yemen.

Behaving this way, Al-Ahmar wanted to withdraw an achievement made by the regime under the term "Democracy and freedom of expression" amid political crises between the regime and Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), coupled with escalating

rage in the southern and eastern governorates and the government conflict with Houthis.

All that we heard is nothing more than an objection to those policies adopted by Saleh or claiming some rights citizens are banned from practicing.

Like many others, I (the editor) would like to identify those reasons that made Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar vent his anger at Saleh this way, however, the latter played a great role in helping the former make the big wealth he is enjoying now. Saleh also did a big favor for other children of late Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar



Marebpress.net, an independent news website
Tuesday, August 18, 2009

Top Story

- Former President: the whole country, not only its unity, faces immense threat

Former President of once South Yemen Ali Nasser Mohammed said Yemen is on the way to unprecedented collapse as a result of deteriorating situations in all areas, pointing out that the 1994 Civil War and other numerous factors are responsible for the dire situation experienced by Yemen, the website reported.

He indicated that all those factors blamed on Yemen's dire situations are revolving around a single pivot, as the leader, having the most capable solutions to the crisis, never listen to advice of all political parties on the ground, nor does he engage them in suggesting solutions to the outstanding turmoil.

"Yemen is facing an immense threat... the southern and eastern governorates are undergoing escalated tensions and rage, which the authority encounters with violence and use of force...the authority shuts down mouths, closes up newspapers and violates the unity agreement, Mohammed clarified.

"There is a war in Saada...there is a protest in Tehama... other uprisings are machinated in the country's central areas. All these dire situations constitute an adequate alarm of pending collapse of the homeland."

Mohammed noted that his relation with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh remains normal, adding "As I care about the homeland and its unity, I direct to Saleh numerous messages, advising him to take quick actions to save the homeland before it is too late to do so."

Commenting on the call, recently made by Saleh to resolve the outstanding crisis in the country, the former Yemeni leader affirmed that the call for dialogue is very important, however, dialogue must be transferred into tangible actions on the ground.

He advised the authority to deal with the Southern Movement in a peaceful way and stop resorting to violence that only breeds violence.



Al-Sahwa.net,
affiliated with the Islah Party
Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Top Story

- Arab League follows up Yemen's troubles

Assistant Secretary General of Arab League for Political Affairs Ahmed bin Hili said that the Arab League is following up recently-erupted troubles in Yemen and that it continuously contacts Yemen's leadership and officials, the website reported.

He explained that the Arab League is concerned about Yemen's troubles and hopes the return of stability and that its unity remains solid as a historic achievement must be maintained.

On a side note, the website reported that media advisor of the Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has criticized what he called Arab media prejudice to the Yemeni government against al-Houthi rebels in Saada province.

The advisor Yasin Majeed said that Yemeni government's strikes against al-Houthi rebels remind them of the stage of Ba'ath Party rule in Iraq.

Members of Iraqi parliament had threatened to launch a headquarters of al-Houthi in Baghdad.

Head of Iraq parliament's Foreign Committee Sheikh Hamam Hamaudi has called for establishing a headquarters for al-Houthi rebels in Baghdad as a response to providing a shelter for

Ba'ath Party's members by the Yemeni regime, he went on to say.

Political analysts considered Hamoudi's call as pressures practiced against states that harbor Iraqi opposition activists

Yemen is embroiled in an intermittent war with a Shi'ite insurgency in Saada province led by Abdul Malik al-Houthi since 2003, and secessionist calls and tensions in the South.



Sabanews.net, website of Yemen's Official News Agency
Wednesday, August 19

Top Story

- Groups of tribesmen head for Saada to fight against rebels

Armed groups from many tribes of all the country's governorates are heading willingly for Sa'ada governorate to take part in the fight against the Houthi rebels.

The military-run 26sep.net quoted tribal sources as saying that the Houthi's claims, crimes and sabotage acts have provoked them to defend Yemen and its security and stability as well as the innocent citizens of Sa'ada.

The sources said that the tribesmen move to Sa'ada is freely to assist their bothers to encounter rebels' collusive plots.

Well-informed sources said that businessmen and traders have begun donating money to the security and

armed forces fighting against rebels.

Hundreds of thousands of youths from various governorates have announced their readiness to battle against the insurgents in the governorate of Saada, according to the website.

On a side note, the website quoted the government as saying that the al-Houthi rebel group had committed terrible crimes against innocent citizens in the northwestern province of Saada, where fierce fighting has broken out between the rebels and the government forces.

The government accused the rebel group of killing and torturing hundreds of citizens and kidnapping tens others as well as attacking the homes of citizens, schools, mosques and projects in the province, some 230 kilometres north-west of the capital Sana'a.

The military-run 26September weekly reported on Thursday some horrific crimes committed by the elements of the insurgency and terrorism in Saada, including the murder of people in many of the province's districts and the destruction, bombing and arson of more than 102 homes.

For the kidnappings, the subversive elements have kidnapped more than 182 citizens who being abused and tortured. In a case, three terrorist rebels have abducted and raped a girl in Haydan district of Saada.

The report also pointed to that those elements had taken over many schools in some districts of the province, ravaging documents, records and books of school pupils and abducting teachers and a number of students.

"At the Shrine of the Red Sufi"

A Fascination with Divine Ecstasy

Taliban refuge, nuclear weapons, terrorist camps, a sinister secret service, political killings – these will be the key words associated with Pakistan for those who follow media reports. But the Munich-based ethnologist Jürgen Wasim Frembgen presents a totally different view in this brilliant account of his experiences in the country, says Stefan Weidner

Frembgen's participation in the pilgrimage to the shrine of the "Red Sufi" Lal Schahbas Qalandar in the small southern Pakistani town of Sehwan provides us with a picture of Islam that is highly unaccustomed to our eyes.

If one wanted to somehow express it with Western imagery, the pilgrimage might be compared to the Rhineland carnival or the anarchistic potential of 1960s "flower power," while being equally imbued with a degree of superstition, asceticism, and spirituality no longer existent anywhere in the West.

At one point, Frembgen describes this annual pilgrimage festival as Dionysian. Yet, it is by no means a show of affluence, as poverty, whether chosen or imposed, is glaringly omnipresent. The excess is rather expressed in terms of the exuberance and apparent erratic nature of the activities.



Ecstatic dancing

The dominant spiritual tradition in Sehwan is that of the Qalandaria Sufi order, characterized by the free and unattached nomadic dervishes, and has little in common with the norms of orthodox Islam which have led to so many negative headlines.

In its archaic practices, including ecstatic dancing, the continuous consumption of intoxicants during the festival - hashish in particular - the presence of female dancers or prostitutes, and, occasionally, performances by the so-called hijras, the caste of hermaphrodites, transsexuals, and transvestites, the tradition blurs every

guideline set down by religious scholars. Frembgen, who has immersed himself in the Pakistani Sufi tradition for almost thirty years, is a sensitive and involved observer. His accounts are as far removed from journalism as they are from the sterility of a scholarly or theoretical treatise. Over the course of the book, his ethnographic investigations are thereby transformed into a work of literature.

The author succeeds in transporting his readers into the very heart of the ecstatic maelstrom, allowing them to experience the crush of the crowd, the overpowering smells, the fatigue, the deep emotion, and the confusion usually unavailable to foreigners.

"The whole of Sehwan seems to vibrate, filled with delirium, excitement, and overflowing emotion – a veritable orgiastic dance of movement, colours, and sounds.

The arena around us pulsates – this is truly not a place for contemplative spirituality, but rather of exuberance that, in part, borders on frenzy. More than a hundred men and women in the courtyard are engaged in an ecstatic dance, while their malangs, their burning hashish pipes, are brandished high in the air as if held in tribute to Qalandar."

Everyday difficulties

The authenticity of Frembgen's account is also highlighted by the fact that he

finds nothing too trivial or unimportant to be described. There is the difficulty of falling asleep in the gigantic, improvised open-air camp, how to have a bowel movement in one of the makeshift constructed toilets, the excessive fatigue and elation, and the mortal fear experienced in the crush of a hysterical crowd.

In the process, he juxtaposes the sublime and the repellent, and treats the incomprehensible as a valid experience – Frembgen remains non-judgemental in his involvement. His questions are directed not only at the culture he is observing, but also at his own.

Despite our living in a society in which everything is apparently accessible through the media, a more alien and simultaneously fascinating world is hardly imaginable.

At the end of the book, the reader is blissfully enriched and also somewhat envious of the experiences beyond the ken of everyday understanding which this still relatively unknown German ethnologist and quick-change artist has helped us to approach.

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At the Shrine of the Red Sufi. Five Days and Nights on a Pilgrimage in Pakistan, Waldgut Verlag Publishing, Frauenfeld 2009.



"At the Shrine of the Red Sufi" offers a rare view into the complexity of Muslim religious experience in Pakistan

What about American terrorism?

By: Yamin Zakaria
yamin@radicalviews.org

"Either way, my personal feeling is 85% that he is an innocent man - of this crime anyway - having sat through the whole of the trial in Holland." - Reverend John Mosey, father of one of the victims.

The events leading to the imminent release of the Lockerbie bomber Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi has made headlines, and jogged memories of the awful event of December 1988. His release is being considered on compassionate grounds as he is terminally ill, and this has raised passionate debate on the issue, primarily on two points; firstly, if he should be made to serve his full sentence and secondly, if the man was

guilty in the first place.

For many, there is serious doubt over the conviction of this man, but what is not in doubt is the earlier act of terrorism committed by the US forces in the Persian Gulf in July 1988.

The US Navy shot down an Iranian Passenger Plane (Airbus A300) 'believing' it to be a F14 Tomcat Fighter; the discrepancy between the two planes in terms of size and speed is obvious to any lay person, and yet, the US forces failed to make this basic distinction possessing the most advanced technology, is hard to believe.

Applying commonsense, why would the Iranians risk attacking the mighty US forces, and least of all with a single plane? Are the cowboys that trigger-happy?

The US simply ignored the event under the pretext that it was an accident. At the very least, it was manslaughter if not mass murder.

Nobody remembers or mourns these victims. Allegedly, they received some meagre compensation compared to the victims of Lockerbie, but why? I thought all human lives have the same value in our civilised world.

Naturally, many have speculated for years that the Lockerbie bombing was an act of retaliation by the Iranians, for the US action in the Persian Gulf, placing more doubt on the guilt of the Libyans. Therefore, the victims of Lockerbie may well have been alive if the US did not commit the act of terrorism in the Persian Gulf.

The imminent release of the Lockerbie bomber is part of the process of normalisation of relationship with Libya that has been put into motion for sometime. Libya is a sparsely populated country with huge oil reserves, makes it very tempting to remove the regime from the terrorist list.

Historically, Libya was always portrayed as a terrorist nation for giving support to the various Arab resistance groups. From their perspective, Libya was giving aid to these resistance movements, whilst the US has been funding Israeli terrorism and theft of Arab lands. Far from being a terrorist nation, Libya has been the victim of American Terrorism.

In 1985, the US bombed Libya in response to the bombing of the West Berlin disco, La Belle, which killed two American servicemen. The American response led to at least 40 people being killed including the 15-month daughter of the Libyan leader Muammar Gadaffi. The United States claimed to have 'evidence' based on some cable transcripts from Libyan agents in East Germany, but such 'evidences' were never presented to anyone. The US behaved as a judge, jury and an executioner, walked over the UN like if

it is a doormat for the Americans!

The more sober European allies refused to support the cowboy action to the extent that the US was denied flying permission over France, Italy, and Spain, as well as the use of European continental bases. As usual, the exception was the subservient British government, and the subsequent history is proving that they relish playing the role of butler to the American government.

No surprise that in many popular Hollywood movies the butler is often the man that speaks with a clear British accent. Even today, British soldiers are dying in Afghanistan and nobody really knows why. At least there were some lucrative oil contracts in Iraq but there is nothing in Afghanistan. However, the subservient butler must do his duty and serve his master well.

American terrorism has a long history that goes back to its origin,

when the Europeans began to occupy America. For decades, Hollywood has constructed the good Cowboys with the regular diet of "The Little House on the Prairie", "The Waltons" and "Bonanza", versus the violent Native Americans; the terrorist of that time, who are always launching ferocious attacks on horseback waving an axe, at every opportunity, without provocation: killing, raping and plundering.

Then it was turn of the African slaves, they were brutally exploited and in later years lynched as public entertainment. Indeed, the Wild West was partly built on terrorism, as the innocent civilians in Vietnam, Hiroshima and Nagasaki discovered years later.

The international victims of America say to the terrorist cowboy regime, do not lecture the world about terrorism just look at the terrorism in your mirror first!

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَبَشِّرِ الصَّالِحِينَ إِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ مِيثَاقَهُمْ لَعَنَّاهُمْ أَنْ يَأْتِيَكُمُ الْمَوْتُ مِنْ أَيْنٍ شِئْتُمْ فَقَالُوا لَا نَبِيَّ بَعْدَنَا وَإِنَّا لَاجِرُونَ

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره
نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة القلبية إلى

الأخ / صالح حسن صالح بجاش
وجميع أفراد أسرته

لوفاة المغفور لها بإذن الله تعالى /

والدته الفاضله

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيدة بواسع رحمته
ومغفرته وأن يسكنها فسيح جناته و يلهم أهلها و ذويه
الصبر والسلوان ... إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

المعزون:

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الأخ / حافظ البكاري

لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى / **والده**

عبد ه حسن قائد البكاري

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته
ومغفرته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته و يلهم أهله و ذويه
الصبر والسلوان ... إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

المعزون:

الأستاذة/ نادية عبد العزيز السقاف / م/ خير الدين النسور
الناشر/ رئيس التحرير / المدير العام التنفيذي

وجميع موظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَبَشِّرِ الصَّالِحِينَ إِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ مِيثَاقَهُمْ لَعَنَّاهُمْ أَنْ يَأْتِيَكُمُ الْمَوْتُ مِنْ أَيْنٍ شِئْتُمْ فَقَالُوا لَا نَبِيَّ بَعْدَنَا وَإِنَّا لَاجِرُونَ

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره تلقينا نبأ وفاة الشخصية الوطنية المعروفة

اللواء الدكتور / رشيد أحمد جرهوم

والد رشا و رنا و ريم و محمد

وبهذا المصاب الجلل نتقدم بخالص العزاء والمواساة إلى

كافة أفراد أسرة آل جرهوم

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته ومغفرته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته و يلهم أهله
وذويه الصبر والسلوان ... إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

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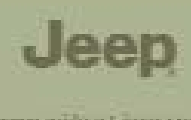
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محمد علي محمد البعداني
بمناسبة أطفاه شمعة الاول
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المهنون:
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محمد أحمد عبد الله - حسن محمد البعداني
وهي خاصة جداً من ياسين الاصبحي وجميع الاهل والاصدقاء

أجمل التهانى وأطيب التبركات نرفعا للاخوة/
وائل محمد الوجيه باسم ياسين الاصبحي
وليد احمد الاصبحي معاذ مبارك العيسى
محمد البرنيكرو الايدي
بمناسبة دخوله القمه القمه الذهبى
.. فآلك آلك مبروك
المهنون
ياسين الاصبحي واخواته

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Dhamar and Population office (DHO), wishes to recruit a senior Technical Advisor for the implementation of Dhamar Reproductive Health program me 2008-2012.

Senior Technical Adviser

The Senior Technical Adviser is responsible for:-

- Providing technical assistance and in-service training to the DHO and the District Health Management teams on Health System Strengthening, Reproductive Health and Primary Health Care.
- Contributing to comprehensive planning and integrating vertical programmes while encouraging team work.
- Preparing and coordinating high quality training and workshop activities.
- Coordinating the hiring, timing and inputs of consultants and assisting in the preparation execution of their assignments.
- Assisting with the further introduction and improvement of quality assurance, HMIS, supervision and monitoring, logistics support, etc, and with the incorporation of new policy direction and successful experience from elsewhere.
- Assisting with the preparation of annual and quarterly plans and reports and the monitoring of Quality and progress of implementation.
- Writing reports, minutes of meeting, letters and notes.
- Any other duties as assigned by the DG/DHO.

Essential competencies and skills:

- Health specialist, preferably a public health specialist with a minimum 5 years of relevant experience.
- Prepared to participate in field visits and in-country travel.
- Good communication skills, good team skills and flexibility.
- Fluent written and oral Arabic and English.
- Computer literacy.

Please send your application in English, including and up-date contact details, to:

Tel: 06/ 509251 Fax: 06/509259 E.Mail: dhamarhealth@hotmail.com

Deadline for application: 30 August 2009.

Only short candidates will be invited for an interview.



Vacancy : Temporary LE III Visa Assistant

The post of visa Assistant at the British Embassy is available immediately. The position is full time (35 hours per week) on a temporary contract for six months.

The successful candidate will require a good working knowledge of Microsoft Word, good teamwork, communication and drafting skills, initiative and attention to detail. Candidates must be fluent in English and Arabic and have a high standard of written English. Knowledge of spoken Somali would also be desirable.

The main duties will include:

- Processing Visa Applications including taking fees and preparing daily and monthly accounts
- Drafting written responses to enquiries and answering telephone enquiries
- Responding to enquiries from the UK Border Agency and other UK Government offices
- Maintaining databases
- Preparing files and linking incoming correspondence
- Interpreting for UK Based Officers

A good deal of the work involves dealing directly with our customers through face-to-face interviews, or the telephone. Good communication and judgment skills are a must, a high standard of customer service is essential.

The salary range for this grade is YER 138,950 starting salary will depend on experience.

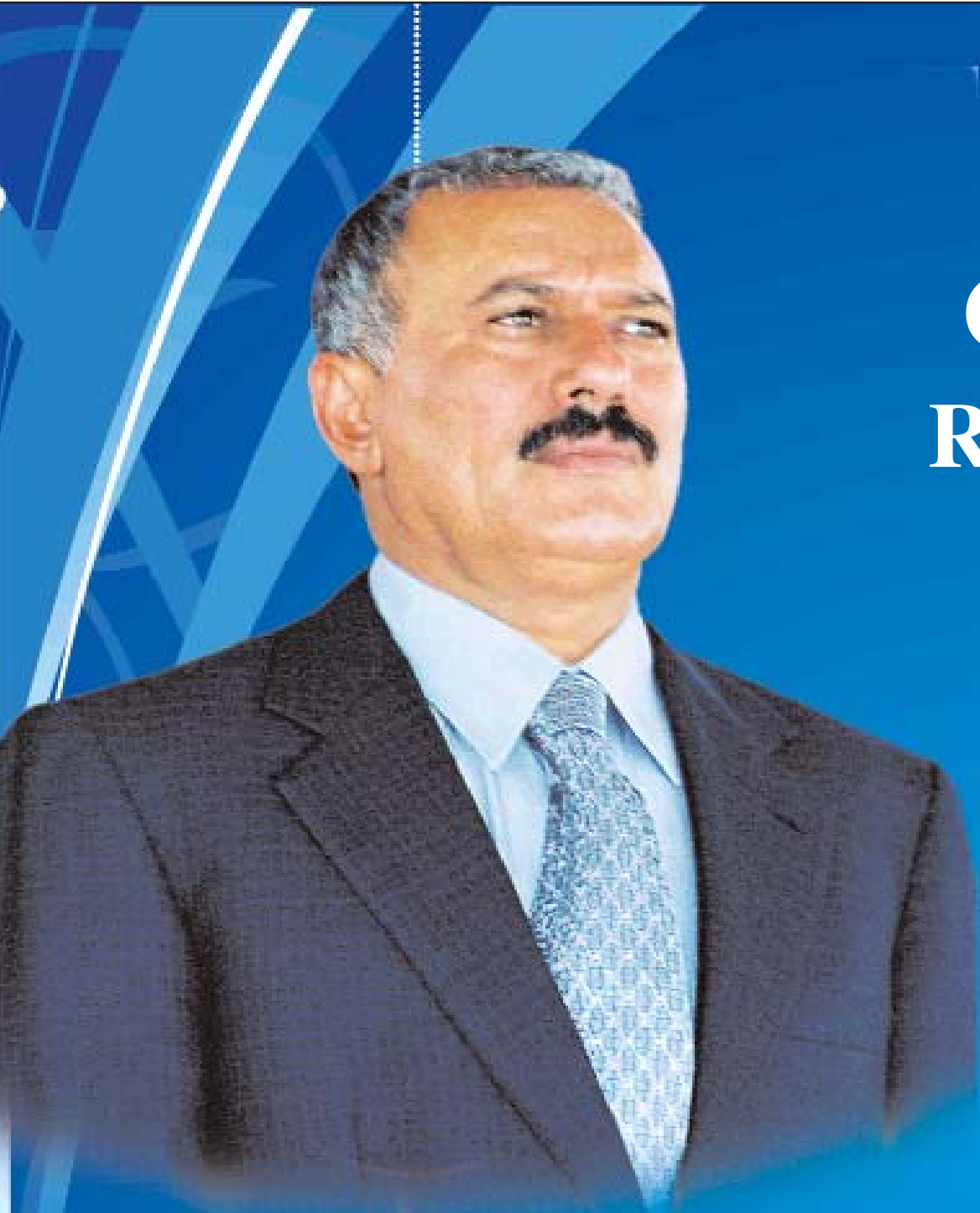
Applications should be made enclosing a full CV, in an envelope addressed to:

Management Officer
(Visa Assistant)
British Embassy

Applications should be received on or before 26 August. Only those applicants called for interview will be contacted.

happy Wedding to
Belete Tseqaye
&
Frehiwot Assfaw
From:
Lemlem Sabhtue

سلاما لكم من أرض مأرب
مبروك يا العزيز محمد
مايلمي البارق وراعد
تحياتا لآل النويرة
سرورك في كل ليلة
وأسقى بلدكم يا النويرة
مع أجمل عقود الفل وعين الرياحيه نعدبها أجمل وأغلي التهانى الصادقة إلى فارسه بني النويرة
محمد أحمد علي النويرة
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Congratulations Ramadan Mubarak

**Warmest congratulations to
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والتمويلات
Development of Credits & Finances



Jordanian Minister of Health Dr. Nayef Al-Fayez to the Yemen Times: “We will do our best and give our best medical expertise to Yemen to help it improve its health services”

During his latest visit to Yemen last week, Dr. Nayef Al-Fayez Jordanian Minister of Health not only followed up on new high-scale health projects in Yemen, but also increased medical scholarships for Yemenis by 30 percent. Khairaldin Al-Nsour interviewed Al-Fayez for Yemen Times.

This is your first visit to Yemen. What is the purpose of this visit?

I was invited by the Yemeni Minister of Health Dr. Abdulkarim Rase, who is a dear friend and colleague, to visit the country, and become acquainted with the health and medical sectors and potential cooperation projects. I am happy to be here especially as you said this is my first visit to Yemen and long due as Jordan and Yemen have strong bilateral relations. Also don't forget that we receive many Yemeni patients who seek health treatment in our hospitals.

It is said that Jordan is interested in establishing a hospital in Yemen. Is it true?

The Jordanian private sector could be interested in potential investment in the medical sector in Yemen, but as I am the minister of health -which is government- we are not involved in such investments.

I have visited a number of Yemeni hospitals during my current visit and have seen how highly-equipped they are with latest medical technology, although I have noticed that there is a lack of highly-qualified medical staff.

And this is an issue we want to help Yemen with, through providing professional training for Yemeni doctors in Jordan.

I have been to Taiz as a part of my visit to Yemen and agreed with the administration of Taiz Jumburi Hospital, and realized that they have a cardiac section but qualified doctors were not enough. So we agreed to provide special training for this section as part of cooperation between the two countries. We will do our best and give our best medical expertise to Yemen to help it improve its health services.

Is this training through scholarships or are there any fees?

Yemeni intern doctors will be treated the same as Jordanians and they will have to adhere to the standard procedures applied in the various medical institutions whether in terms of fees or duties. The Yemeni government takes responsibility of the living costs for the trainees and we provide them with the training which is free for some specializations.

We do provide scholarships for Yemenis to study medicine in our universities, but the above training is for

mid-career professionals.

What about the Al-Saleh Medical City project and Jordan's involvement in it?

We have discussed this project with Yemen and we are ready to provide the medical personnel with training and technical support whether in Jordan or Yemen. We have bilateral meetings through which we identify specific needs to make Jordan's assistance to this project useful.

You mentioned that many Yemenis travel to Jordan for medical treatment. Did you notice the prevalence of any specific diseases?

Like any other people, Yemenis suffer from many diseases. We have however noticed that, in addition to chronic diseases such as heart problems, diabetes and cancer, there is a prevalence of contagious diseases, probably caused by underdeveloped provision of services, and lack of adequate medical care.

We have increased medical treatment grants from 70 to 100 this year.

Is there an idea of sending Jordanian medical staff to conduct operations in Yemen?

Definitely, we will soon send a group of cardiac doctors to carry out a number of surgeries in Yemeni hospitals as direct support from the Jordanian government to the Yemeni people.

Many Yemenis prefer to go to Egypt for medical care rather than Jordan

because of the relative difference in cost. Is there competition between Jordan and Egypt as destinations for medical treatment?

You must realize that the Jordanian medical care sector has developed greatly over the years and is now one of the best in the world. The high standards of treatment and care are acknowledged and praised by Yemeni patients who had been in Jordan as well as other places.

A good indicator of the advancement of the Jordanian medical sector is the fact that we do not send any of our people for treatment abroad. In other words Jordanians of all levels -even VIPs and state officials- trust their own medical care system and know that they do not need to go anywhere else for treatment.

We are not competing with Egypt or any other country, our aim is to provide the best services to our people and visitors.

There aren't many Jordanian medicines in the Yemeni market. Why is that?

There are some Jordanian medicines available in Yemen, and we realize the potential of increasing the quantity and variety of our medicines in the Yemeni market.

However, you must realize that the presence of Jordanian medicines in Yemen has increased significantly over the last three years, and today hold the fourth position in terms of presence and demand.

How is Jordan dealing with N1H1,



Jordanian Minister of Health Dr. Nayef Al-Fayez

or swine flu? Do you think this disease is over-rated, especially since deaths caused by normal flu worldwide exceed 800,000 while N1H1 has so far only claimed the lives of around 1,700 people around the world?

N1H1 is a serious disease and, although in our region we have not seen many deaths, the numbers are increasing dramatically and we must take all precautions against this virus, especially during the coming Hajj season when millions of Muslims come from all around the world for pilgrimage.

Moreover, as we approach winter, the risks of infection by this virus increases and we have to take it seriously.

Jordan was ready for this disease from the beginning of its outbreak, and we have developed a strategy to face it

in case the epidemic spreads in Jordan.

We have also equipped mobile clinics and special centers to deal with the disease and, while we take the patients to the specialized hospitals, we send medical care to their homes and check the families and people around the patients in order to limit the spread of the disease. This is probably the reason why we have controlled the spread of the virus this well.

We hope that vaccinations will be ready by the end of this year or beginning of next year, but until then the only way to deal with the disease is controlling the spread and medicines.

Any last comment?

I wish Yemen prosperity and stability under its leadership. It is a good country with kind people who deserve all the best.

E. histolytica infection in Yemen

By: Ali Saeed

Fuad is 26 years old and has a regular job government job. He continually has to leave his office to vomit.

Fuad continually suffers from nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

He is embarrassed that he goes to the bathroom during working hours more often than others.

Fuad repeatedly goes to labs to have stool samples taken, and every time the lab technician tells him, "You have an Entamoeba histolytica cyst."

When Fuad's family and friends dismiss ask him about the test results and he informs them about the lab results, they wonder if he is not just suffering from a parasite commonly known in Yemen as 'amoeba.'

They tell him, "Oh do not worry it is very easy, it is just amoeba, you could have been treated without visiting the doctor."

Because Fuad has had limited health education, his family and friends easily convince him that having amoeba or any other form of bacteria is not a risk to his health.

They relate cases of people who have amoeba and live normally, and he starts to believe that having amoeba is a simple matter.

But amoeba makes Fuad's body unable to absorb food. He becomes weak and thin, and is often in pain.

Fuad is not alone. What is known as 'amoeba' is a catch-all phrase for an incredibly common infection in Yemen. However, it is often neglected in Yemen despite being widespread because of the absence of health education.

"Amoeba is a parasite that grows in the human bowels and lives on human food, leading to many health complications," said Dr. Ahmed Al-Gharati, head of the medical ward at Al-Jumhuri hospital in Sana'a.

"Unfortunately, many Yemenis are not aware of this parasite's risks to their health," added the doctor. "Furthermore, they do not get treatment for amoeba, thinking that it is a simple infection, and it is not."

It is estimated that around 10 percent of the world's population is infected

with this parasite. The prevalence of Entamoeba infections is as high as 50 percent in areas of Central and South America, Africa, and Asia.

In Egypt, 38 percent of individuals that went to an outpatient clinic with acute diarrhea were found to have amebic colitis.

Amebic colitis and other forms of amoeba parasites are second only to malaria in terms of protozoa-associated mortality.

The combined prevalence of amebic colitis and amebic liver abscess is estimated at 40 to 50 million cases annually worldwide, resulting in 40,000 to 100,000 deaths every year. It is an infection that is caused by contaminated food, hands and poor sanitation.

"E. histolytica is a major cause of mortality wherever sewage facilities are inadequate, particularly in third world countries and countries where there is civil conflict or war," according to an online medical article by Lewis Tomalty, Queens University Canada.

"Although the organism can be found in cold regions of the world, it is most prevalent in tropical and subtropical regions that have contaminated water," the article stated.

Low-quality cafeterias

In Yemeni cities, most people who suffer from this infection are workers who come from the countryside and eat in low quality restaurants and cafeterias where the parasite comes from the food.

"I'm working as a painter and have no family here to cook for me, so I have my meals in this cafeteria, and many times I have E. histolytica," said Adel, who is from the countryside of Ibb and works in Sana'a.

"Amoeba is really a threat to people's health, especially when the parasite forms a cyst. Eating spicy food triggers the parasite, causing acute and bloody diarrhea," said Dr. Isam Awadh, health officer at the Islah Charitable Organization.

Dr. Isam agreed with Dr. Al-Gharati that people in Yemen neglect to treat these kinds of infections, saying that "Amoeba is prevalent everywhere in Yemen and in every person, but they opt not to seek treatment for it."

"The reasons behind the commonness of this parasite in Yemen is that



Contaminated food is one of the main causes of Entamoeba histolytica.

our country is one of the third world countries where we have little to no hygiene or good sanitation," he added.

He recommended housewives make sure that every food item served to the family is hygienic and that the water used for both cooking and drinking is clean and pure.

Symptoms of E. histolytica

"Only about 10 percent to 20 percent of people who are infected with E. histolytica become sick from the infection," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The symptoms often include loose stools, stomach pain, and stomach cramping. Amebic dysentery is a severe form of amebiasis associated with stomach pain, bloody stools and fever.

"Rarely, E. histolytica invades the liver and forms an abscess. Even less commonly, it spreads to other parts of the body, such as the lungs or brain," according to the CDC.

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On the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, we offer you our sincere and heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.



Sheikh Abdulla Bin Husien Al-Ahmar Charitable Foundation renovates 48 houses for families affected by flash floods in Hadramout

Up to 175 families and 14766 people benefited from the projects and services offered by the foundation

Within its contribution to alleviating ordeal of citizens affected by flash floods that stormed Hadramout governorate late last year, Sheikh Abdulla Bin Husien Al-Ahmar Foundation carried out a number of charitable and humanitarian projects which benefited 175 families and 14766 individuals.



Mr. Mohammed Al-Ashwal, head of the committee in charge of carrying out the projects, said that the foundation has finished in cooperation with Charitable Society for Social Welfare's branch in Al-Mukalla the renovation of 48 houses affected by floods that hit Al-Mukalla city. He pointed out that the renovation process included rebuilding the destroyed walls with bricks and covering them with cement. It also included repairing roofs of the destroyed houses with wood and new boards as well as a layer of asphalt and cement. In addition, the foundation rehabilitated bathrooms and kitchens with tiles and cement as well as other electric and materials.

Al-Ashwal said that following the renovation, the beneficiaries were submitted their houses and that they currently live in them after some of them lived in schools and some others with other families. He pointed out that some people have been living in their renovated house for over two months.

Many beneficiaries showed their gratitude to Sheikh Abdulla Foundation for its efforts and support. Here are some samples of the beneficiaries' impressions:

"My house was affected by the flash floods. I suffer from paralysis. May God have mercy upon Sheikh

Abdulla Bin Husien Al-Ahmar who donated to renovate our houses."

"The foundation renovated my house and restored it as it was in the past."

"We are grateful to Sheikh Abdulla Bin Husien Al-Ahmar Foundation. The renovated our houses."

"We are grateful to Sheikh Al-Ahmar Foundation for the efforts it exerted to

renovate the house of my late brother Mahmoud Subait."

In cooperation with Al-Tarahum Charitable Association in Ghail Bawazeer, the foundation had distributed mattresses, blankets and home and cooking utensils among 1166 people in Al-Jaheel, Mashta and Al-Qooz areas with a total cost amounting to YR 3, 520 million. In addition, prepared meals were distributed among 64 families with a total cost amounting to YR 8

hundred thousand.

In cooperation with Charitable Society for Social Welfare, the foundation drained stagnate water in Wadi Hadramout and carried out anti-mosquitoes spray operations in a number of areas and districts to combat potential epidemics due to flash floods. The total cost of the project amounted to over YR 2 million.

Pure potable water was offered to 13 thousand individuals in Sah district. The total cost amounted to over YR 3,330 million. Around 6 hundred people benefited from the daily nutrition which the foundation offered for 30 days in Hesn Falluqa camp with a total cost amounting to YR 9, 9 million.

Al-Ashwal said that the number of beneficiaries from the projects and services that were carried out in the governorate amounted to 175 families and 14,766 individuals. The total cost of these projects and services amounted to YR 40,974 million.



Renovations in progress for damaged houses

Back to school with a dream

By: Alice Hackman

Fairuz Mohammad, 23, first came to Sana'a with her family from Dhamar when she was three months old. By the age of eight, she was married off by her father. She escaped after one day, and eventually was divorced.

"We girls can't say anything," she said. "When the groom comes, that's it."

When she was thirteen, she was married again to a man in his seventies with whom she had three children, the oldest of which is now ten. When she divorced him four years later, she had missed out on four years of school.

Today, she sits confidently in the office of the Yemen Education Relief Organization (YERO) in Sana'a telling her story. She is starting her last year of secondary school after Ramadan.

"I wanted to study," Fairuz said, explaining that she sought out the organization on her own. "I was ambitious and [Nouria] helped."

Nouria Nagi first established YERO in 2003, to help children like Fairuz, often from very poor families, to go to school. What was once a pilot project now financially supports 400 children through school, said Nagi.

When Fairuz first arrived at the organization, her hands were very shaky, says Nagi. It took her over a year and a half to recover, but now she is an accomplished artist and hopes one day to become a radio presenter too.

In Yemen, about 65 percent of boys and 55 percent of girls were enrolled in basic education in 2005-2006.

Multi-Purpose Family Health Survey, Government of Yemen, 2005-2006

"She's a fighter determined to make something out of life," said Nagi.

"I want minimum age for marriage to be 20 years old, when a girl is mature, understands and is clever," she added. "When she marries, it should be on her own with her husband, not with a big family."

A law was passed earlier this year to set 17 as the minimum age for marriage in Yemen, but was revoked and remains under discussion. Until such a law is passed, there remains no legal minimum age for marriage in the country.

Fourteen percent of married women in Yemen were married before they were 15, and over a half were married by the age of 18, found a 2006 United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF) survey.

Studies have often pointed to poverty as one of the main factors for the persistence of early marriage, which causes young girls to drop out of school before they have completed their education to start a family.

But education is a vital pre-requisite for combating poverty, says UNICEF.

Brand-new school bags

Inside a small classroom at YERO, several dozens of beige backpacks are neatly lined up across the rows of desks



School uniforms put poor children on equal footing with their peers.

waiting for the next school year. Each is individually labeled and contains a new specially-tailored uniform, books and pens. Boxes of brand-new sports shoes pile up against the classroom's windows.

In a second room, some of the bags are pink for girls, but their contents are the same, with the exception of the color and shape of the uniform.

The uniforms are good quality so that they last longer, said Nagi, holding out a long dark green tunic, a school uniform for girls in Sana'a. The uniform from the previous school year is usually in good condition, she explained.

The school uniforms help children from families where clothes and school supplies are a luxury after food and rent, to ensure that they receive an education.

Hana Al-Hamudi, 16, from Taiz, is another girl who has been supported through school by the center. She has three brothers and three sisters. After her father had to close down his cassette shop because of debts, he struggled to find his current job in the army which earns him YR 20,000 a month.

"We pay YR 15,000 for rent," explained Hana. "That leaves us with YR 5,000. What are we supposed to do with YR 5,000? Now they want to put up the rent to YR 18,000 so we are

Poverty and financial burden are factors which push families to marry their daughters at early ages.

UNICEF

looking for another place."

Some days meals at home are bread and sweet tea, Al-Hamudi explained, and sometimes she doesn't eat at home so her siblings can.

"Most people come from the village thinking they will have a better life, but are shocked by the rent," said Nagi, explaining that in the village at least

some of these families had land and income.

When Hana finishes school in five years time, she hopes to become a journalist to defend women's and girl's rights.

Poor Yemeni families are forced to spend up to 65 percent of their income on food, at the cost of children's health and education.

World Food Program in Yemen, 2008

rights, but stresses that although her life is hard at the moment, she is free.

"I have my freedom, despite the difficult conditions," she said.

Micro-loans for the mothers

In Yemen, 15 percent of the population lives on less than a dollar a day. For the country's poorest families, school fees and the cost a uniform are not only too steep, but they may also rely on their children for an income.

Nineteen-year-old Hanaj Al-Matari has been at YERO for eight years. One of the first girls that Nagi took under her wing, she has finished secondary school and now studies political sciences at university in her second year.

Before she learned about the organization through her brother, her little brothers Ahmad and Hamza, then aged 10 and 11, worked to support the family. The smallest washed cars, while the other worked in a small shop.

They are both now in their last years in school, said Al-Matari.

To support her family, their mother has taken out a loan from YERO to open up a small shop, selling chips, tea and juices, said Nagi. The interest-free loan YR 15,000 and she can pay back the money whenever she can.

"The idea is to make them stand on their own feet," said Nagi, who explained that so far three mothers have taken out loans to start up their own businesses.

The 400 or so children that the organization supports are going to school, but not all is rosy, said Nagi. Some still also work to support their families, especially in the summer.

And children who come to the association have been given breakfast, said Nagi, since a 7-year-old fainted one morning because he hadn't eaten for several days.

Long term, the solution is not only to help mothers support their families through selling handicrafts or setting up their own small businesses, but also to empower the children so that they have the courage to go out and change things, said Nagi.

"Everyone has a dream and we are there to make them reach that dream," she said, recalling a little boy who first came to the association dreaming to be president, but now has changed his mind and wants to be in the army.

More sponsors needed

"Education is a vital prerequisite for combating poverty."

UNICEF

Although the organization currently supports around 400 children, only 250 have outside sponsors and the organization has to pay for rest, said Nagi. The organization is looking for more sponsors, especially for boys.

"Educate the boy and he will take care of the family and give freedom to the girls to study," she said. "He will be the brother, the husband and the father." "We live in a men's society. If we don't educate the boy to be a good man in society, we are not doing anything to change society."

Without a man's support it is hard for a girl to pursue an education, she said, recalling an incident in which a girl at the center suddenly left because she was married off by her father. Nagi's efforts to persuade him let his daughter finish school were in vain because he was illiterate and saw no value to education.

If the opportunity arose to expand the organization, Nagi would introduce literacy classes for the older children, who are usually embarrassed to learn the alphabet with 6-year-olds. She would also like to set up training to teach them a skill.

Until then, the determined children at the center look forward to finishing their studies and perhaps going to university.

"I want to get good marks so that I can choose what I want to study at university," said Fairuz, who dreams of being financially independent so that her three children can come and live with her permanently.

4U

If you would like to learn more about the Yemen Education Relief Organization, or sponsor a child through a school year, contact the organization by sending an email to yeroymen@yahoo.com or calling 00 967 1 473377

Renaissance personalities



The Renaissance period (1350-1550) was the transition period between the medieval era and the modern world. The word *renaissance* means "revival" or "rebirth". This was a period of great achievements in the arts and sciences combined with deep religious concerns. The Renaissance became one of the most productive periods in all history.

Renaissance women

"First lady of the Renaissance": Isabella d'Este

In the Renaissance times a Renaissance woman was supposed to marry well, be loyal to her husband and give birth to boys. A Renaissance man, on the other hand, had to be well-educated, have cultural grace, be a gentleman and understand the arts and sciences. He also had to have refinement, be of noble birth and have courage. Many women did not fit the mold of what they called a "Renaissance woman." Many of them would fit in as more of a "Renaissance man" or what we would call a "Renaissance woman" in our day and age.

A prime example of this exception is Isabella d'Este.

Isabella d'Este was born in 1474 into the ruling family of Ferrara. At the age of sixteen Isabella married Francesco Gonzaga. She then became the Marchioness of Mantua because Francesco was the Prince.

After the death of her husband, Isabella ruled Mantua alone. Isabella's father believed in the equality of men and women and so Isabella and her siblings were very well-educated. Isabella died at the age of sixty-four in 1539.

At the age of sixteen, Isabella d'Este was able to speak Greek and Latin as well as play the lute, sing, dance and debate with people much older than her. She was very well-educated and her political talent benefited Mantua while she was ruling. When her husband left, Isabella governed the city on her own, and after he died she took over his whole job. She showed great leadership skills in 1509 when she became Chief of State in Mantua.

At this time she also founded a school for young women where they had to observe a strict code of morals. She was a patron of the Arts and she also set artistic fashions and standards. Isabella collected many paintings and statues. She also wrote over two thousand letters and in these she commented on everything from politics to war. That was the closest that any woman at that time ever got to writing history.

Isabella patronized and promoted the arts. She allowed writers, artists and poets to exchange their ideas in her home. While she was ruling, she set an example for women to break away from the traditional role of what women were supposed to be like. By doing this and many other things she was known as the "First Lady of the Renaissance."

Catherine de Medici

Catherine de Medici was born in Florence, Italy, 1519. She had a very troubled childhood. At only the young age of one, both of Catherine's parents died from a disease. The nuns where she lived, trained and disciplined her and as she grew older she became very well-educated. Catherine filled her library with numerous rare manuscripts. In 1533 her uncle, the Pope, arranged her marriage. For the first ten years of her marriage, Catherine was unable to produce children but finally she was able to. At the age of ten, one of her children became the King of France so she became the King's Regent,



which enabled her to be Queen Regent. In January of the year, 1589, Catherine died at the age of seventy.

Catherine de Medici was a major force in French politics, especially during the thirty years of the Roman Catholic-Huguenot wars. She ruled as a regent to her son and when he reached majority in 1563, Catherine dominated him.

Catherine was a Roman Catholic but when trying to create a balance with religions she sometimes agreed with the Huguenots. By doing this she created a policy of peace between the Catholics and the Protestants.

Under her influence, three of Catherine's sons became kings and she also arranged for her daughter to be married to the King of Spain in 1560.

Catherine had a great interest in architecture and she demonstrated this with her authority over the building of the new wing of the Louvre Museum, the construction of the Tuilleries Gardens, and the building of the Chateau Monceau.

Catherine de Medici was a great patron of the arts. In being this she helped the Renaissance flourish.

Isabella d'Este and Catherine de Medici had some female qualities that people of that era believed were necessary, but are also examples of what we call true "Renaissance Women."

Source: www.yesnet.yk.ca



YERO supports about 400 children through school, said Nagi.

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Campaign to protect children's dignity

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Since February this year, over 34 children have benefitted from assistance from the childhood protection legal unit at SEYAJ organization. Yet only a few of those cases were resolved and only two of the victimized children are receiving psychological help through the psychological support program that just started at the end of July this year.

In order to gain more support for abused children around the country, SEYAJ realized that a national campaign is required. As such, the Children's Dignity Protection Campaign was launched.

"The purpose of the campaign is to raise funds for psychological and legal assistance for children against crimes and violence. It is also to spread awareness of the importance of fighting violence against children and to set up networks involving all concerned people," said Ahmed Al-Qurashi, director of the organization.

The funds will be directed to the Monitoring, Legal and Psychological Support Unit where they will help with the legal expenses of defending children in court. Funds will also provide children with post trauma consultation and psychological treatment.

Director of the unit Nora Al-Amodi explained that in addition to financial support, what the unit really needs are

people to understand the importance of protecting children and providing them with specialized professional care.

"Unfortunately, only two of the victims are now getting psychological help. They are a boy and girl, eight and nine years old respectively, who suffered from an attempted kidnap. There are many other victims who suffered worse but are not getting any help, either because of lack of funds or family resistance," she said.

Al-Risala Hospital for Mental Health agreed with SEYAJ to provide free psychological assistance to the child victims in Sana'a. However, medicine remains a concern and children outside Sana'a are still in need of similar support.

"One of the campaign's main goals is

to give the opportunity to all people in society to participate in helping children and being partners against violence and crimes faced by children. Businessmen and philanthropists are most welcomed to be at the head of all donors," Al-Amodi said.

SEYAJ is a nongovernmental organization working to protect children's rights. SEYAJ has helped around 500 children through its monitoring and support unit since the end of last year.

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If you wish to donate to this campaign, send your support to Children's Dignity Protection Campaign Account No. (357475) at Tadhamon International Islamic Bank — Hasba Branch.



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