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Instability in Yemen slows counterterrorism efforts

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Sept. 13 – Al-Qaeda is taking advantage of unrest in Yemen, according to American observers.

A failed Al-Qaeda suicide attack two weeks ago, targeting Saudi Arabia's security chief, Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, has been called a new strategy, adopted by the Saudi and Yemeni branches of Al-Qaeda, said Reuters.

The branches merged early this year to form Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, which claimed responsibility for the failed assassination on Thursday.

It was the first direct attempt to assassinate a member of the Saudi royal family since Al-Qaeda launched a campaign of violence in the kingdom in May 2003.

According to Saudi media, the Saudi attacker, Abdullah Al-Asiri, 23, crossed into Saudi Arabia from the central Yemen region of Marib, where Al-Qaeda militants, including many who fled from Saudi Arabia, have been

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rebuilding their strength.

Al-Asiri, wanted by the Saudi government because he was suspected of an Al-Qaeda connection, stumbled as he approached the Prince at his office in Jeddah, and accidentally detonated the explosives he was carrying,

The explosives had been surgically placed inside Al-Asiri's, according to Saudi media. The attacker was the only fatality, but the prince suffered minor wounds.

Al-Asiri, had posed as a repentant militant seeking to surrender personally to the prince, who allowed him to pass through security at a Ramadan reception without being searched.

Most of the 85 militants named on the recent Saudi wanted list issued in February are believed to be in Yemen. All but two on the list - including Al-Asiri and his brother Ibrahim - are Saudis.

Reuters quoted Christopher Boucek, an associate of the Carnegie Middle East Programme saying that if this operation had been successful "it would have been an incredibly significant propaganda victory for Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula."

"But it's not on the level of sophistication seen in previous multiple, coordinated attacks." he added.

Instability in Yemen could put neighboring countries in danger, including Saudi Arabia, as well as making it difficult to combat terrorism and piracy, according to Rueters.

An expert on Yemen issues, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace analyst Gregory D. Johnsen said that the Yemeni government sees the current conflict in the north, which it calls an insurgency, and the secessionist movement in the south as bigger threats



The Obama administration has supported critical reforms in Yemen, funding for programs that address good governance, health, and education, as a strategy to increase stability in Yemen.

than Al-Qaeda.

"The government is facing several domestic crises that severely weaken its capacity to govern, let alone fight Al-Qaeda," according to the Carnegie Endowment Web site.

Yemen suffers a "deteriorating economic situation, looming water shortages, rampant illegal arms trafficking, a porous border, and insufficient maritime security. As the government's control over its territory weakens and citizen dissatisfaction grows, Al-Qaeda is growing stronger," is reads.

Reuters also reported that 11 militants carrying arms were intercepted by Saudi authorities near the Yemeni border.

US officials warned that there appears to be a link between Al-Qaeda operatives in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia to coordinate training and

attacks on Western targets. Yemeni government officials frequently accuse Western embassies and media of overstating the security threat. In August, Yemen's foreign minister Abu Baker Al-Qarbi downplayed the idea that Al-Qaeda militants were relocating from Iraq and Afghanistan to Yemen. He called the reports, "exaggerated." He did not, however, deny the

But Al-Qarbi told Reuters this month that Yemen needs more funding to combat terrorism, and urged the US to

US reports.

(a) (b) (b) (b) (b)

share more intelligence information.

Al-Qaeda militants claimed an attack that killed four South Korean tourists in March as well as mortar attacks on foreign embassies, including the Italian Embassy and the US embassy in 2008. Twenty people died in the embassy

attacks, all Yemenis. Johnsen suggests that Yemeni government is in denial.

"One surprising thing is almost a refusal to acknowledge that Al-Qaeda is a local problem, not something imported from Iraq or Afghanistan, or something the Americans created," he said

Shari Villarosa, deputy coordinator for Regional Affairs in the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, argued that preventing Yemen from becoming another Al-Qaeda safe haven requires more than traditional security assistance from the US.

She explained that in addition to tra-

ditional security assistance - such as law enforcement training- assistance is needed to improve border security, and support for counterterrorism legislation, according to the Carnegie Endowment Web site.

"Yemen's security is vital to the security of the United States and the region, and America will adopt an initiative to help Yemen ... face development challenges and support reform efforts," said US President Barack Obama in a letter delivered by his counterterrorism adviser John Brennan to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The Yemeni state news agency, Saba, said last week that Obama said Al-Qaeda was a "common threat...dangerous to everyone"

Saba reported that the US has offered to help Yemen in its "fight against terrorism" and assist the country with its reforms and will "stand beside Yemen,





Female members of the anti-terrorism unit line up at the headquarters of Yemen's National Security Forces in Sana'a.

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Around the Nation



Houthis receive support from foreign parties, says Saleh

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Sept. 13 – The Houthi movement receives financial support from Iranian parties, President Ali Abdullah Saleh said during an interview with the Al-Jazeera satellite channel. He, however, did not accuse any Iranian official authorities of supporting the movement.

Saleh confirmed that security authorities discovered two Yemeni cells, which, he says, received money amounting to USD100,000 from Iranian parties, adding that members of both cells are standing trial in court.

The Yemeni leader reiterated that they receive direct support.

"We can't accuse the Iranian official side," he said, pointing out that the Iranian government makes contacts with rebels and clear evidence for this is its offer to mediate in mitigating the conflict."

During a meeting for foreign ministers of Arab states in the Egyptian capital Cairo last week, Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi reviewed developments in the volatile Sa'ada governorate and proofs of regional intervention in the conflict.

Al-Qirbi affirmed that his state rejects internationalizing the Sa'ada issue, adding that "Yemen's stability is key to security of the entire region."

"The Sa'ada conflict is an internal concern and any international or regional interventions in the issue may not necessarily care about Yemen's unity and stability," he maintained. "Houthis aspire to rule Yemen, not only



Tens of thousands of Sa'ada residents have fled their homes in the past few weeks, but humanitarian aid is still unable to reach the war-torn countryside, according to the UN, which estimates that 150,000 people have been displaced by the conflict.

announce their own state in Sa'ada. They receive adequate funding from foreign sources."

Yemen cares about preventing potential regionalization of the Sa'ada conflict in order for the issue to remain within its control, according to a diplomatic source at the Arab League.

While statements by Yemeni officials revealed that the Houthi-led rebellion receives support from Iranian parties and the Sadri current in Iraq, the Sadri current said earlier that it had exerted mediation efforts to stop the bloodshed in north Yemen.

"Religious groups in Iran and Iraq are the main source of Houthi movement, which is merely an extension of the

Khameini Revolution," Sultan Al-Barakani, assistant secretary general of the ruling General People's Congress, who also head of the party's parliamentary bloc, said in a statement to Al-Sahwa weekly.

Al-Barakani asked the Qatari side to be honest in revealing who broke the Doha-brokered peace deal. Accusing Houthis of breaching the deal, Al-Barakani said that the Sa'ada issue is manipulated by foreign parties beyond the control of the Yemeni government.

Iranian support for Yemen

Form its side, the Iranian government announced its support for Yemen' unity and sovereignty.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran announced its support for the Yemeni government and people on several occasions," the Iranian official news agency quoted spokesman for the country's foreign ministry Hasan Qashqawi as saying last week.

Qashqawi added that strengthening relations between Yemen and his state, as well as their mutual cooperation, is key to boosting common interests in the region.

"Talks between senior officials from Iran and Yemen are aimed at enhancing bilateral relations between both states and maintaining security in Yemen," he noted.

According to Qashqawi, Iran called for mitigating Yemen's conflict via peaceful means, and therefore said it is ready to offer possible helps in this respect.

Yemeni Minister of Information Hasan Al-Lawzi denied allegations that the government had backed out on its conditions for a ceasefire in Sa'ada and neighboring areas.

He said the Houthis had not respected the condition that they surrender their arms to military forces and unblock roads.

New tactics

Ongoing fighting between the Yemeni army and Houthi supporters in Sa'ada is taking a new turn. It has extended to the Sa'ada governorate's capital, especially in the old city, where street battles have been reported by informed sources in Sa'ada.

Official sources claimed that govern-

ment troops had killed more than 60 Houthi followers and injured hundreds in ongoing clashes in both the Sa'ada and Amran governorates, adding that dozens were arrested.

Yemen News Agency, Saba, quoted military sources as saying that the armed forces cleared the mountainous area of Al-Ahmar, 15 km south of Saada city, of Houthis, who are said to have destroyed telecom towers in the area.

Fierce clashes between troops and Houthi followers continue on several fronts of the war-ravaged governorate. The army has launched heavy aerial

shelling on Houthi strongholds in several areas of Sa'ada, as well as in Amran's Harf Sufyan district, about 50 km north of the capital Sana'a.

Humanitarian situation

Ongoing clashes between both warring parties compound the humanitarian needs of tens of thousands of displaced people. The United Nations and other humanitarian organizations have expressed concern over the worsening situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sa'ada since the beginning of the sixth war now in its fifth week.

UN aid agencies have said that widespread clashes had forced civilians to flee their homes.

"In Sa'ada city, civilians suffer the most...they are stranded inside their homes with no access to water or electricity as a result of clashes...they also suffer the soaring prices of basic foodstuffs in the city that became inaccessible for one month now," the aid agen-

cies said. "The situation continues to wors-

en...it will grow into a humanitarian catastrophe," Gian Carlo Cirri, country director of World Food Program, (WFP) told Reuters.

The UN agencies appealed for an additional USD 23.5 million to meet the urgent need of IDPs in north Yemen, but the response of donors didn't come as expected, according to Cirri.

"Our main concern is access," he maintained. "WFP had access to only 10 percent of IDPs in the region.

Rashid Khalikov, office director for the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), arrived in Yemen on Saturday on a fact-minding mission due to last four days.

During his assignment, Khalikov will assess the situation of war-uprooted civilians.

According to a statement issued by the OCHA, Khalikov will visit many areas where IDPs are taking sanctuary. He will also meet Yemeni government officials and aid workers to reach a better understanding of the crisis and the challenges facing aid workers.

"We are concerned about the current shortfall of funding, however, we can offer help to tens of thousands of IDPs," the statement quoted Khalikov as saying. "For the time being, we can't have a clear image of the humanitarian situation due to insecurity and lack of accurate data. "

On Sept. 2, OCHA launched an appeal for USD23.5 million to meet the IDPs' urgent need for essential humanitarian aids.

Government refuses opposition 'national rescue' plan

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Sept. 13 - President Ali Abdullah Saleh lashed out the National Rescue Plan presented by the opposition parties in an interview with Al-Jazeera on Friday.

The document was put forward to extract Yemen from its ongoing crises by the National Dialogue Preparation Committee, which is a political movement spearheaded by the opposition Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), operating since May 2009.

Saleh said JMP leaders are "politically bankrupt" and that they had not achieved success in any previous presidential, parliamentary or local council elections because the people did not trust them.

He said that parties seek to save themselves first. The national rescue document was meant to save the opposition parties - not to save the country, he said.

The JMP's National Dialogue

said that its vision aimed at the best solutions to extract the country from the dark tunnel it had ended in.

He called upon Yemeni people to stand up to achieve a decentralized state in which all Yemenis can enjoy justice and equality.

He said that the Sa'ada conflict and events in the southern governorates were part of the crisis threatening Yemen's present and future.

Ba Sunduwa defined the crisis as "the spread of corruption, widespread poverty, water shortage, frequent power cuts, lack of services and infrastructure, the absence of equality between citizens, the lack of the rule of law, the deterioration of education and healthcare.'

He criticized the negative attitude in the country's leadership, saying the attitude caused the country's crises.

Dialogue open to all

"All Yemenis will be invited to the national dialogue," said Sheikh Hamid

political and social organizations, dignitaries, businessmen, scholars, intellectuals and women and youth leaders. The committee has 90 members.

He accused the president of wasting the sacrifices made by Yemenis, as well as ignoring the achievements of the Yemeni revolution and unity.

Al-Ahmar said the constitutional and legal legitimacy of the Yemeni government had been undermined, and corruption has swallowed the nation's wealth and denied citizens of their rights. He also called for peaceful change through fair elections.

As for the solutions included in the vision, Al-Ahmar said that there is a need for solutions that preserve the state entity and stop the downfall.

He stressed the importance of finding a fair solution to the crisis in the south that gives people what is legally theirs, as well as finding a realistic solution for recurring wars in Sa'ada and some adjacent districts.

tion's suggested National Rescue Plan was built on ideas taken from the GPC and National Democratic Alliance Parties (NDAP).

It said their own draft for reform was drawn up within the context of existing conflicts, towards good governance and good administration. It also included the concepts of transparency and accountability, among others.

The draft was to include broader powers for local government, to expand the scope of public participation, and to strengthen democratic practices, in the light of what was produced by conferences of local councils in the governorates.

The GPC committee rejected the draft of the National Rescue Plan announced by the National Dialogue Preparation Committee.

The GPC said that a political party should gain the trust of voters through the ballot box first, and then work to

translate its vision through its presence in the government.

By: Ali Saeed

Public schools teachers in secondary and primary schools now can insure themselves and their families through a program called, "Teacher Insurance" with small premiums subtracted from their salaries.

The available insurance covers accident victims, and compensates the families of deceased teachers, but does not help them pay normal medical bills. Ahmed Al-Rabahi, director of Teachers' Syndicate said that he encourages teachers to buy the insurance because the premium is small- about YR 300.

"For sure this service from insurance companies is good for teachers, as they are working hard and underpaid," he said. "This need was to be covered by the government, but unfortunately it did nothing."

"Teachers also suffer from medical expenses and there is no medical insurance for teachers neither from the option is YR 255.

Insurance for teachers

A third option adds the coverage of medical expenses in case of an accident and the coverage is YR 60,000.

The monthly premium of the third option is YR 285.

According to Sayf, manager of the Individuals' Insurance Administration at the company, most teachers took the third option, since it includes the main coverage of life insurance with extra coverage.

Now, around 25,000 teachers have joined the service out of about 200,000 teachers in the country. The service is open to every teacher in the eight governorates that the companies serve.

"We are working on stages and now around eight governorates have been included in the teacher insurance service," said Sayf. The service is not available in 13 of Yemen's 21 governorates

"Teachers in the governorates of Sana'a, Taiz, Ibb, Abyan, Thamar, Amran, Raima and Hodiedah have already approved the company request and the other governorates will be included according to the company strategy," said Sayf. "The mechanism of joining this insurance is that the company coordinates with the education office in the governorate. The company explains to the officials in the office teachers' rights and duties in joining the insurance and then provides application forms to the office officials to be sent to schools in the governorate," explained Sayf. "If teachers in specific schools agreed to join the service, they are required to fill the application from with their names, number of their financial accounts and stamp of school administration to confirm that those teachers are working," he added. It is not only the UIC who provides such insurance since the Islamic Insurance Company also provides its customers this service through takaful insurance service. Three weeks ago, the Islamic Insurance Company paid YR 750,000 to the family of a dead teacher, Omar Ali Al-Zabra in the Raima governorate as a first case in teacher insurance the company compensated.

Preparation Committee, made up of opposition parties and independent politicians, one week ago announced its vision for national rescue.

Mohammed Salem Ba Sunduwa, the president's advisor and chairman of the committee, who is a member of the opposition and prepared the rescue plan, in a press conference last week Al-Ahmar, secretary general of the National Dialogue Preparation Committee. "The dialogue committee will adhere to transparency in this dialogue by letting all participate and excluding no one, except those who wish to exclude themselves."

He said that the committee comprised movements, political parties,

would contact them, but instead they

A second national vision

In response to the opposition's National Rescue Plan, the General Committee of the General People's Congress (GPC) announced the draft of the National Vision for Modernization and Comprehensive Reforms in a meeting last Wednesday headed by Saleh.

The GPC committee said the opposi-

The committee asked the JMP to commit to implementing the February 2009 agreement between the opposition parties and the ruling party, notably to postpone the parliamentary elections for two years

The GPC committee said it regretted the "personification of national issues" by the opposition.

send a letter to the prosecutor and

Minster of the Interior on behalf of the

The three Al-Gholi family members

were originally arrested on Feb. 23,

Bullet holes are visible in the walls

according to Mrs. Al-Gholi. The house

Lawyers say detainees denied rights

By: Nesreen Shadad of HOOD For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Sept. 13 - About seven months ago, a 50-year-old man and his two sons were arrested because they were suspected of having an affiliation whereabouts of elder son, Mohammad Al-Gholi, 23, was unknown.

Al-Gholi is now in the Political Security Organization jail, having been transferred to the prosecution.

Human rights lawyers said Al-Gholi and his family were denied their right to legal counsel, and held for extensive periods without being charged.

"The prosecution asked the family for the names of lawyers that they wanted to attend," said Abdul Rahman Barman, the head of the Prisoner Organization. "They told them my name and Ahmed Arman, the executive secretary of National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms."

"The prosecution told the family they bargain with authorities because his son added. have their names and numbers, so they had recently disappeared.

interrogated him and transferred him to Gholi is weird," he said. the prosecution without contacting us." Barman said that HOOD clients regularly complain about being arrested lawyer. arbitrarily, not charged once in custody, with Al-Qaeda. Until recently, the lawyers. He said his office gets several complaints a month, and that there are hundreds of similar cases in the prisons

> "The prosecution tries to convince present because lawyers create more problems for them," Barman added. On August 29, Mohamad's father, Ali Qasim al-Gholi was arrested at 2 a.m. trary arrest and detention. at his home and taken to Al-Mua'allimi police station in Sana'a.

For eight days he was kept in prison without charges, Barman said.

He added that Ali Qasim Al-Gholi was arrested because a neighbor told Arman said. authorities he was an Al-Qaeda member. The neighbor, he said, was trying to

"The reason behind arresting Al-

According to Ali Qasim Al-Gholi's wife, he was also denied his right to a

"Though my husband suffers from and being prevented from accessing chronic diseases, epilepsy and inflam- was surrounded by numerous security mation of the thyroid, the personnel officials firing their weapons in the air, refused to let us visit him or bring a lawyer to attend the interrogation," said Al-Gholi.

Ahmed Arman, the executive secrethe accused not to ask for a lawyer tary of the National Organization for women's rooms without permission, Defending Rights and Freedoms, she said. This triggered Mohammed to known as HOOD, confirmed that the resist the officers, while Mrs. Al-Gholi constitution of Yemen prohibits arbi-

> "The arrest should be on orders issued by a competent judge or prosecution. The prosecution should set free all the detainees, Al-Gholi included, and they should investigate this case,"

"In terms of suspicion, the state's custody shouldn't exceed 24 hours," he

Arman also said HOOD plans to Barman.

government nor from the private sector, pointed out the director.

The insurance companies, however, say they are providing a much-needed service for an important sector of society.

"We realized the importance of the teacher's mission in educating the people, enlightening the society, and creating a better future," said Abdulwahed Mohammed Sayf, the manager of the Individuals' Insurance Administration at the United Insurance Company. "So we have offered our services through the ministry of education."

The service, which was started by the UIC in 2006, offers teacher three options, the first option is life insurance in which if the teacher dies normally, the company compensates his family with YR 750,000 and if he or she dies from an accident, the company pays YR 1,500,000 to the family.

For the first option, the monthly premium is YR 215 and it is subtracted from his salary by the education office in the governorate of where the teacher works.

The second option is like the first, but it also covers major permanent disability caused by an accident. The compensation for this kind of disability is YR 750.000.

The second option covers permanent disabilities that allow the victim to continue working, like a hand severed in an accident. The amount of money the victim is compensated depends on the size of the disability.

The monthly premium for the second

According to the Teacher's Syndicate, however, this kind of payment does not do enough to help teachers.

"We demand the government to release a medical insurance law to help teachers get over the burden of medical expenses," said Al-Rabahi.

He suggested also establishing an independent authority to manage the task of medical insurance.

During the raid, two men rushed into screamed. Mohammed was then injured by the

of the home.

Al-Gholi's.

she said.

men, and he was taken away in a police car. The father was released after spending a month in jail, she said. Ibrahim, 17, was also released also, and neither man was charged.

However, Mohammed, who was seriously injured by the officers, was interrogated him and transferred to the prosecution without a lawyer present, said



Around the Nation

In Brief

SANA'A

USD 6 mln project to assist floodsaffected areas in Hadhramout and Maharah signed

Yemen and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed on Wednesday a USD 6 million project document titled "Early Recovery for the Livelihoods Sector of the Flood Affected Areas, in Hadhramout and Maharah governorates.

The initial focus of this project will be on rapid delivery of assistance to meet immediate and transitional recovery needs of the affected communities. Moreover, and from the outset, it will promote approaches and activities that go beyond initial recovery towards more sustained social and economic recovery.

The project document was signed by Hisham Sharaf Abdullah, Vice Minister Planning and International of Cooperation and Ms. Pratibha Mehta, UNDP Resident Representative.

In the long run, the project aims to lay the foundation for a long-term development of the floods affected areas, in Hadhramout and Maharah governorates. It will support Yemen in enhancing its coordination capacity for the recovery of the local economic and social structures.

Taking into consideration that 75 percent of the affected population by the floods is comprised of farmers, rehabilitation of livelihood on the community level will be a key component of this project. In addition, it will give a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women.

Related local authorities will play a key role in the recovery activities outlined in this project.

Education Ministry delays school year one week

Education Ministry announced on Wednesday the postponement of the new school year for one week after the vacation of Eid al-Fitr in order to take necessity procedure to prevent the spreading of H1N1 virus among students.

Deputy Minister of Education

Abdullah al-Hamedi said to Saba the postponement aims to take the precautionary measures for the 6 million students who will head to their schools.

Education Ministry in coordination with Health Ministry will prepare awareness courses on swine flu's risks and ways of treatment, he added.

The deputy Minister also called the students' parents not to be afraid from these precautionary measures for they are only for ensuring the safety of students.

The cabinet in, in its weekly meeting held on Tuesday, got acquainted with the report of Education as well as Public Health and Population Ministers on defensive procedures on the swine flu before starting the school year.

In this regard, the cabinet approved the delay decision to enable Education Ministry and Public Health and Population Ministry to enhance the precautionary procedures.

Over 100 motorcyclists died due to traffic accidents

At least 11 motorcyclists died and 111 injured during the first week of September died to traffic accidents, Interior Ministry has reported.

The traffic reports indicated that 82 traffic accidents took place in different provinces of the country; Sana'a capital came first with 32 accidents, Hodeidah province came second with 15 accidents, Hadramout province came third with 8 accidents and Taiz province came fourth with 5 accidents. Other 4 accidents took place in Dhamar and 3 accidents in each of Ibb and Hajjah provinces.

Over speed, overtaking and no compliance with traffic signs are the main problems of motorcyclists in Yemen.

Eritrean president to visit Yemen soon

Eritrean President Isaias Afworki is to visit Yemen after by the end of September in which he will hold talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

talks will deal with issues related to

bilateral cooperation relations between the two countries and ways to deepen and strengthen them.

The two sides will stress on the importance of forming an executive committee in order to discuss several projects submitted by the two countries as well as activating the partnership between Yemen and Eritrea, particularly in the fishing field.

The two leaders also will review the latest developments in the Horn Africa, particularly in Somalia.

CDPF session on women right to access to parliament

Cultural Development Programs Foundation (CDPF) has organized a discussion session on women right to access to the parliament.

During the session which was attended by 20 participants from Civil Organizations Society (CSOs), International Organizations, chairwoman of (CDPF) Foundation R'awfah Hassen affirmed the keenness of women's participation in political action, decision-making positions, pushing women to run to the parliamentary and local councils' seats.

The discussion session dealt with six papers were women's responsibilities towards nation, the concept of state and citizenship, the Islamic attitude towards women citizenship and women's travel without a Mahram, a man of her close relatives.

Yemen, Algeria discuss mutual cooperation

Minister of Public Works and Roads Amr al-Kurshomi held talks on Thursday with the Algerian ambassador to Yemen Saad bin Al-Abad over mutual cooperation between the two countries. They discussed aspects of the mutual cooperation between the two countries in

Palestinians give blood to Saada rebellion injured people

field of public works and roads.

Palestinian Community in Yemen has launched in cooperation with Kan'an Association for Palestine a campaign for

giving blood to the Saada insurgence injured people.

The Charge D'affaires of the Palestinian embassy in Yemen said that the campaign confirms the firm Palestinian attitude with a unified Yemen enjoying with its security and stability. The head of the Palestinian

Community in Sana'a Nemr Jabir announced that the Palestinian community has donated one YR million as a humble donation to the displaced people of Saada government.

The campaign will contain also sending a relief convey of foodstuffs from the Palestinians to the displaced people.

5th int'l tender for oil offshore, land blocks to be announced in 2010

Yemen is to announce the fifth international tender for oil offshore and land blocks in 2010, Oil and Minerals Minster Amir al-Aydarus has said.

Al-Aydarus told the state-run 26sep.net that the tender will be announced during a conference the Ministry planed to be held on the beginning of 2010.

The conference aims to promote oil and gas investment opportunities in the country to international companies that would be invited to the conference.

It is worth to mention that the government signed last Wednesday a memo of understanding with GasCities, a joint venture between Dana Gas and Crescent Petroleum, to possibly develop a 'gas city' in the country.

The project includes industrial complexes for different gas-based industries among them petrochemicals industry, gas-power plant and water desalination as well as the other projects. The project's study is expected to be finished by 2010. The project's cost is estimated to be \$15 - 20 billion. The project will provide 15,000 direct jobs opportunities and about 70,000 indirect ones

Saleh: We can't accuse Iran, but Iranian support reaches rebels President Ali Abdullah Saleh said on Friday the Houthi rebels fighting the government forces in the northern parts

of Saada and Amran for years received

support from Iranian bodies.



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Yemen can't accuse the Iranian government of providing support for the rebels, but when Iran says it can mediate between the government and the rebels this means it contacts the rebels, Saleh said in an interview with AlJazeear News Channel aired on Friday night.

Two rebel rings have been arrested and they told interrogators the Houthi followers received financial support from Iranian bodies worth \$ 100.000, Saleh said.

During the interview, Saleh highlighted the short-lived suspension of military operations in Saada and Amran that came in response to the calls of relief organizations to allow in aid for the affected and commitment of the rebels to stop fighting and more destructive acts.

He also touched upon all efforts exerted to contain the situation in Saada since confrontations started in 2004, saying the government always preferred solving the matter through dialog and showed this through truce initiatives it announced and stopping military action against the rebels several times. He also talked about the Qatari mediation between the rebels and the government, saying the rebels insist on rebellion, and affirming all the Yemeni people and political spectrum are against this destructive movement.

Their News

My Father's House photography competition

My Father's House competition, open from March 2009 to February 2010 presented by British Council. The theme for this competition is cultural heritage and how it is perceived in the Gulf States and the Arabian Peninsula.

The British Council challenges you to produce photographs that capture what heritage as an idea might mean to you and which respond to one of the following briefs:

- 1. Past A Place in Time.
- 2. Present A sense of home.
- 3. Future Nostalgia for the Future.

Through photography, the competition

tative status in the United Nations ECOSOC, and observer status in the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. CIHRS is also a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) and is an Observer Member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). CIHRS was awarded the French Republic Award for Human

Rights in December 2007. Tasks • The media Officer is responsible for promoting brand recognition, positive profiling and public support for CIHRS,

Watchdog Role of the Media at Vienna Conference on Terrorism, Media and the Law

In just over three weeks, on 5-6 October, media representatives, lawyers, human rights advocates, and security and counter-terrorism experts will gather in Vienna, Austria, to discuss the fight against terrorism and its impact on civil liberties, in particular freedom of expression and press freedom, at a conference organized by the International Press Institute (IPI) and the Center for International Legal Studies (CILS).

World News, is the latest addition to a distinguished list of speakers who will take

Prominent Experts to Discuss

Nik Gowing, Main Presenter for BBC

تیلی___ TeleYemen

VSAT HUB TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

TeleYemen would like to invite interested companies working on International Satellite Communication Services to submit their proposal for: a Turnkey Project for Supplying, Installing and Commissioning a VSAT Hub System at TeleYemen Sana'a site in Republic of Yemen. Interested bidders should submit their request to TeleYemen purchasing and contracting department in TeleYemen main building in 26th September street, and collect a copy of the Tender.

Well-informed sources said that the

aims to encourage a creative dialogue about what constitutes cultural heritage throughout the Arabian Peninsula. It prompts us to think about how societies are seeking to define themselves, particularly through architecture and the built environment.

Young people's creative responses to the issues above are especially encouraged

This competition is open to residents in the following countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. For more information go to: www.myfathershousecompetition.org

Vacancy in Cairo Institute for Human **Rights Studies**

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) is looking for a Media Officer to work in its Cairo office. The contract Duration: Two years with possible extension (with 3-month probation period)

Remuneration will be commensurate with the experience of the applicant, and competitive rates in Egyptian NGOs

Background about CIHRS

The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) is an independent regional non-governmental organization founded in 1994. It aims at promoting respect for the principles of human rights and democracy, analyzing the difficulties facing the application of International Human Rights Law and disseminating Human Rights Culture in the Arab Region as well as engaging in dialogue between cultures. A key part of CIHRS' mandate is to help shape the understanding of the most pressing human rights issues within the region and then to coordinate and mobilize the key players and NGOs from across the Arab world to work together towards solutions. CIHRS enjoys consul-

- S/he is responsible for liaison with, media personal, academic institutions, NGOs, and like-minded organizations
- Producing newsletters, annual reports and press releases,
- Managing the website and develop web materials.
- Devise and implement appropriate media strategies to support CIHRS goals Required qualifications
- Excellent communications and presentation skills.
- Excellent written and spoken English and Arabic, preferably French.
- Thorough understanding of the global media market and of the requirements of different kinds of media (print, TV, radio and web).
- Excellent inter-personal skills and ability to work collaboratively on a wide range of issues.
- Experience in the NGOs sector is desirable.
- Work effectively in a multicultural environment. Analytical skills, resourceful and organised work practices with capacity to deal effectively with changing priorities, ability to keep deadlines and deal with several tasks simultaneously.

Application

Applicants should send a CV and cover letter to info@cihrs.org or through mail

P. O. Box 117 (Maglis El Shaab), Cairo, Egypt. Or fax: +2 279-219-13. No telephone call is needed. Deadline before 11 October 2009.

Only successful candidates will be contacted for an interview.

part in the two-day international conference, "The War on Words - Terrorism, Media and the Law.

Gowing will moderate the panel session, "The Watchdog Role of the Media in the Fight against Terrorism," which will examine how anti-terrorism measures affect the ability of the media to carry out its crucial role in providing the public with the information they need to understand the complexities of the fight against terrorism.

Confirmed speakers on this panel include Raphael Perl, Head of the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit, Lucy Dalglish, Executive Director of the Arlington, Virginia-based Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, and Elmar Thevessen, Deputy Editor-in-Chief and Terrorism Analyst for ZDF German Television

Nik Gowing became a main programme anchor for the BBC's international television news channel BBC World in 1996. He has presented "The World Today," "Europe Direct", and "HARDtalk," among other programmes. Drawing on his extensive reporting experience over two decades in diplomacy, defence and international security, he recently authored the influential report. "Skyful of Lies and Black Swans: The new tyranny of shifting information power in crises" (Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism Publications).

Sponsored by UNESCO and the OSCE, among others, "The War on Words - Terrorism, Media and the Law" will be held at Vienna's prestigious Diplomatic Academy.

For further information or to register, visit the conference webpage: www.freemedia.at/waronwords

Tender documents are available until 16/9/09

TeleYemen Address:

Purchasing and Contracting Manager Purchasing & Contracting Department 26th September St. P.O. Box 168 TeleYemen Sana'a, Yemen Telephone: 00967-1-275404 Tel: 967-1-7522180 Fax: 00967-1-7522181 E-mail: a-k.saif@teleyemen.com.ye

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Feature

Charities during Ramadan: a competitive race for a good cause

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

YEMEN IME

ver 74 percent of Yemeni families have become poorer compared to their standard of living last year, according to a recent study by the Yemeni Center for Economic Studies and Media.

The study focused on how most Yemenis spent less this year during Ramadan compared to last year. Ramadan is a month in which Yemenis' habits are dominated by a sense of social celebration and consumption especially for food stuffs.

It is also a month whereby civil society organizations increase their charity work and social services to the maximum throughout the year.

"We plan for Ramadan activities and charity work throughout the year," explained Yahya Al-Dabba director of activity planning and training at the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW). "It is the highlight of our charity work because of the special significance Yemenis give to this month."

The charity's mission statement is: to aspire for distinction in humanitarian work for development and poverty alleviation in Yemen through implementing projects in partnership with local communities and donor organizations.

With a poverty rate of at least forty percent of the population, charity and civil society associations face more and more demand for support and donations.

This Ramadan, the CSSW is sponsoring 100 iftars, the meal at the end of a day's fasting, each hosting between 150 and 200 persons, as well as providing food for 30,000 poor families.



Ali Al-Barmaki

Towards the end of the month, the society starts distributing new clothes for children up to 18 years old, and this year the society has set aside a budget to cover new clothes for 120,000 children.

The Al-Saleh foundation is also in the race for a good cause and this year aims to provide iftar for one million poor people distributed in 300 iftar meals around the country.

"We also target people who are usually forgotten, such as children in the juvenile centers and orphanages and even prisoners," said Ali Al-Barmaki, director of the planning department and in charge of the projects department at the Saleh founda-



The Charitable Society for Social Welfare distributes food to poor families

so we learned that people need develop-

"This is when we started our work

The society includes more than 300

focusing on sustainable development

while still maintaining some of our chari-

employees and more than 12,000 volun-

teers who support the charity and devel-

opment work regularly. CSSW has a wide

support group and relies heavily on the

religious sentiments of people especially

during holy occasions such as Ramadan

"We feel we are like the muazzen

[caller to prayer]," said Al-Dabba, "We let

the people know there is this issue that

needs their attention and each responds in

Not only has the society shifted its

focus from charity to development, it has

also learned to coordinate with interna-

tional donors and benefit from their sup-

Before 2000, most of the funds for the

society's activities came either from local

donations or generous grants from busi-

nessmen and organizations in the Gulf

countries. Today the society has carried

out projects with the help of many inter-

national donors from various countries.

Today, the society is working on creat-

ing its own sources to generate sustain-

able income. It is currently constructing

the Baraka Tower, the rent of which will

go directly to its orphanage program once

Micro-credit projects have become the

trend to eradicate poverty, and both

organizations have such programs. Poor

families are given amounts sufficient to

start small businesses, and given the tech-

The loans would grow as the business-

es did and both the CSSW and Al-Saleh

foundation have large scheme microfi-

nance projects in many governorates

around the country although mainly tar-

In 2003, a network of civil society organ-

izations was created through the Good

Governance Program of Oxfam-GB in

nical tools to be successful at it.

port to do the development work.

ment more than relief."

ty activities," he said.

and the two eids.

his or her own way."

it starts flowing.

geting women.

Civil society networking

caused by the sudden influx of Yemenis deported from Gulf countries after the first Gulf War. Around one and half million Yemenis returned suddenly, and most of them were not financially prepared and had nowhere to go.

A number of leading business figures founded the society and its first activity was establishing a camp on the Saudi-Yemen border in Abs district – Hodeida where thousands of Yemenis were sheltered and given food and clothes.

Gradually, the CSSW started expanding its charity work and while it started with sponsoring 50 orphans, today the number of orphans it supported financially and otherwise have reached 40,000. Currently there are 25,000 orphans sponsored through the society.

The society started with one branch in Hodeida, where the camp was set up and today it has 23 camps around the country. The Al-Saleh foundation was established more recently in 2005, and started off big.

It was created at a time when international donor-led projects were common and accessible. Therefore, its range of activities included training and capacity building from the very beginning and not simply charity.

Today, the Al-Saleh foundation has its headquarters in Sana'a and branches in Sa'ada, Amran, Hodeida, Al-Dhale', Lahj and Taiz. The foundation has started projects in environment, healthcare, education and literacy along with capacity building and poverty reduction.

It has even created projects to shelter and rehabilitate street children and charged minors in the juveniles' detention center.

Relief became a part of the Al-Saleh foundation's work later on as the number of displaced persons from the conflict in Sa'ada grew as the war escalated in 2007. Even today, the foundation provides aid to the camps and contributes to rehabilitation projects in Sa'ada governorate.

Personal relations and social contacts are key to fundraising, as proven by both organizations. Second comes creating sustainable development projects with international donors.

international donors. More recently, prominent civil society organizations have started to realize that they cannot rely completely on external means to finance their projects, and have to create internal income revenue projects caught as they are smuggled accross are taken to a special center run by the foundation and provided with adequate psychological care in order to reintegrate them with their families. **No political affiliations**

gled children in the town of Haradh on the

Yemeni-Saudi border. Children who are

The CSSW is often confused with the Islah party because of the similarities of their names in Arabic. However, it was created before the political party and has no formal affiliation with it.

"We don't have a particularly religious inclination," explained Al-Dabba. "We are a Muslim Yemenis working in a Muslim civil society organization. We benefit from the help of religious preachers who like our ideas and we receive the wrath of others who think we are spreading non-Islamic values."

He mentioned the complaints and condemnation the CSSW had received from some fanatic religious men who opposed CSSW's call against female genital mutilation and early marriage. In fact, it closed down its reproductive project in Mukalla after having been heavily attacked and even threatened by religious men and imams in mosques.

Similarly, the Al-Saleh foundation has also been accused of being the charity hand of the General People's Congress, the ruling party headed by the president. Since the director of both the party and the foundation is the same person, people often consider that charity work done by the foundation aims at strengthening the position of the political party especially during election times.

"We are not a political organization and our work focuses on development and poverty eradication," insisted Al-Barmaki. "We work during election time just like we work during other times. It does not make sense to suspend our activities and our assistance to the poor just because people might assume we are working in favor of the GPC."

His main concern was that there are some people who speak in the name of the foundation without having the right to. In the past, some employees at the foundation could not differentiate between development work and politics, and caused some of the confusion, he said. Today staff have been given special training and orientation to separate their polit-

ical affiliations from their development work.

"We have staff working for us from all over the country and from many political parties. The inclusiveness of our workforce shows that we do not have a political agenda," he insisted.

The CSSW works closely with stakeholders at the community level such as local councils, parliamentarians and community leaders. The projects CSSW take on depend on the feedback they receive from their partners and beneficiaries at the grassroots level. Beneficiaries are identified through first hand surveys conducted each year at the central level and once every two years at the governorate level. At the moment, 9,000 families benefit from the society.

Al-Dabba also denied rumors that the society works heavily during the national elections.

"We stay away from politics," he insisted, stressing that the society even suspends certain charity activities during the elections so that it is not confused with the Islah political party and does not indirectly create propaganda for the party.





ire

tion. "We want to tell them that people in the outside are thinking of them and wishing them well.

The foundation is also planning on providing new clothes for Eid at the end of Ramadan for 80,000 children between the ages of 2 and 17. It will also send fruit baskets or watches and some clothes as gifts to patients in hospitals and detainees in prisons.

Fundraising during Ramadan

The Al-Saleh foundation is largely sponsored by the president himself, especially since it carries his name and is run by his son Ahmed.

Every year, the president donates a good amount to the foundation to help it in carrying out its charity work. The president also donates relative amounts to the CSSW and other charities, thus posing as a role model in philanthropy.

During Ramadan, many Yemenis rich and poor donate money and items to charities in an attempt to ease the suffering of the poor and hungry, especially during the day when Muslims keep fast and feel the pangs of hunger.

Businessmen pay their annual zakat, alms Muslims are required to give to the poor, and donated amounts during this month almost equal the donations for the whole of the rest of the rest of the year.

"With a number of mosques, we have organized a donations' box, where those who pray put money that eventually goes to projects run by CSSW," explained Al-Dabba. "We have not faced any difficulties in fundraising. You would expect that since Yemenis are getting poorer, fewer would be able to donate, but that is not the case."

The society established in March 1990 as a response to economic problems



Yahya Al-Dabba

to ensure the sustainability of their work. For example, the Al-Saleh foundation has created a project for manufacturing coffee in Bani Matar, outside Sana'a.

"In a way, we are encouraging a local Yemeni agriculture business that is being overshadowed by qat while we create a constant source of income for the foundation's work," explained Al-Barmaki.

In the next few years the foundation will be launching a large-scale medical project known as the Saleh Medical City. The income generated from this medical city will go to the foundation's charity and development work, and help with the expenses of its more than 450 employees and 5,000 volunteers across the country.

From charity to development "The real change happened between 1999 and 2000" explained Al-Dabba. "We realized that we can never cover the needs of the people and growing poverty, Yemen. The network coordinated its members' efforts to create pressure on decision makers and have a say on policies at the national level.

As a member of the network, CSSW has lobbied and campaigned with other member organizations to change some policies and make them pro-poor. It has also worked with organizations outside the network in joint activities especially during disasters such as the floods in Hadramout and the humanitarian crisis in Sa'ada.

CSSW has an institutional structure in which elections take place every three years in the general body to change the management. No previous member of the management can run in the elections twice, which ensures that there is always new blood in the management. This is probably one of the reasons of its success. Since 2007, women has been elected as

members of the society's general body, which means that any of them can be elected president next year.

The Al-Saleh foundation has started projects in coordination with other institutions including the CSSW, and not just in relief or civil society work.

"We have established a center for physiotherapy," said Al-Barmaki. "Not many organizations have ventured into this field. We have organized visits for physicians and specialists from the qualified state and private medical centers and facilitated visits for patients to our center at minimal charges or even free of charge."

"We have even arranged for the specialists to pay home visits to those patients who can't come to the center," he added.

In coordination with the Ministry of Interior and child organizations, Al-Saleh has also started up a program for smug-



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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Decentralization and Local Development Support Program is requesting applications to fill in the post of:

Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant

Duties and responsibilities

Under the guidance of the Decentralization and Local Development Support Program (DLDSP), the Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor shall provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Local Administration (MoLA) in (i) the design of a Performance Monitoring and

Evaluation (M&E) System for Local Authorities, and (ii) the drafting of an M&E manual for District Local Authorities.

The Consultant will work alongside the relevant sectors and departments in MoLA to:

- Review the existing Local Authority monitoring systems and procedures in the Ministry of Local Administration.
- Support the design of a Local Authority Performance M&E system (covering the two levels of sub-national authority: Governorates and Districts), including: identification of performance indicators and relevant sources of information; design of information collection and verification mechanisms, and data collection instruments; preparation of guidelines on information processing, analysis and reporting.
- In line with the system referred to above, draft an M&E manual for District Local Authorities own use. sensitive to existing organizational capacities at the District level, and using as reference DLDSP s previously-developed manuals.
- Train and provide technical backstopping support to the relevant Ministry staff on the Performance M&E system, and on the District M&E Manual.
- Any other activity related to the nature of the post, and as instructed by DLDSP s CTA or Officer in Charge.

Required Qualifications and Competences

- A Bachelors Degree in administration/management, or another relevant field is the minimum qualification for this assignment. Post-graduate degrees, in field such as M&E, organizational development, public management, or similar fields, is desirable.
- At least five years of substantive experience in the development and management of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems (preferably for public sector institutions), and at least three years of experience providing advisory services for public sector officials. Past experience working in governance projects in Yemen will be considered an asset.
- Analytical skills, people and networking skills, strong communication skills and writing ability is essential
- Fluency in Arabic is essential. Knowledge of English will be considered an asset.

Interested potential candidates should forward their CVs with indications of relevant experience to the following address:

Email Address: procurement.ye@undp.org

Or Fax: + 967 1 448841 Attn: Ms. Amal Ali

Deadline of receiving CVs is 26 September 2009. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



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

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (11) for the second time with a hundred percent governmental funding for the year 2009 for:

Importing, fixing, licensing, testing, operating and guaranteeing TV cameras

Republic of Yemen

Ministry of water & Environment - Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Water Sector Support Program (WSSP), National Irrigation Program (NIP)

Announcement for Posts of NIP

(IDA Grant Number: H449-RY) (Open for Yemenis only)

The Water Sector Support Program (WSSP) is designed to support implementation of Yemen s National Water Sector Strategy Investment Program (NWSSIP) through substantial improvement to five water sub-sectors including irrigation; WSSP would be implemented during five years period (2009-2014), with a total cost of US\$340 million to be co-financed from the Government of Yemen and Donor Partners (DP s) consisting of IDA of the World Bank, Germany, and the Netherlands.

The Republic of Yemen has received a financing grant from the International Development Association (IDA) in the amount equivalent to \$90.8 million (being its share through pooled financing) to be disbursed over five years 2009-2014, towards the cost of implementation of the WSSP. This includes contribution of US\$68.9 million (IDA share US\$51 million) for the implementation of the irrigation program. Implementation of this program will be carried out by the Irrigation and Land Reclamation Sector of MAI through establishment of a National Irrigation Program (NIP) and associated agencies and programs.

It was agreed that the tasks under NIP will be implemented through a Program Management/Implementation Arrangement comprised of an executive secretary, financial and procurement specialists with required secretarial support. This program will be headed by a Director who will be supported with two heads of units in the fields of surface irrigation and groundwater irrigation

The WSSP intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the contract to cover the costs of appointment of three national consultants for the posts of director of NIP and two heads of units in the fields of surface irrigation and groundwater irrigation. The Deputy Minister of MAI for Irrigation and Land Reclamation now invites qualified applicants to fill in thre posts. The posts with their terms of

reference (TOR) and other requirements are given here-under:

Director of NIP

Terms of References (TOR)

Under the supervision of the subsectoral NIP Committee, chaired by The Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) for Irrigation Sector and Land Reclamation, and observing the legal, administrative, financial directives, and adhering to the project s rules and procedures, to be included in a Project Implementation Manual (PIM), the nominated Executive Secretary scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the following during the life of the NIP/MAI under the context of WSSP:

- Review and update all project related documents;
- Coordinate and supervise the process of designing and implementing the entire NIP program and associated capacity building and institutional development including support to WUAs (b)
- Facilitate a conducive environment involving MAI, NIP, NWRA, and Basin Committees, Local authorities to coordinate efforts and streamline activities within basin and local /district water plans. Act as NIP/MAI Coordinator for all program aspects during effectiveness and implementation (including procurement, financial management, (d)
- monitoring and evaluation, environmental management, and anti-corruption action plan/communication/safeguards actions); (e) Manage the team at the Executive Secretariat of NIP unit which will include two Advisers for Procurement and Financial Management and
- three assistants as required and according to their respective mandates; Prepare quarterly and annual progress reports about activities of NIP . These reports are to be submitted to Deputy Minister of (MAI) for (f)
- Irrigation Sector and Land Reclamation and copied to the Executive Secretariat (ES) of WSSP;. Lead the effort in preparation of NIP/MAI Annual Operating Plans consistent with the Project Appraisal Document and the Financing (q) Agreement(s);
- (h)
- Assist in preparing and finalizing the NIP/MAI Annual Operating Plan for the 1st year and subsequent years; On an annual basis, review the aforementioned plans and furnish same to the WSSP Executive Secretariat within one week thereafter; (i)
- Develop TORs for various management consultants to be hired to support the NIP/MAI
- Ensure that the PIM, Annual Operating Plans and all Financial and Procurement arrangements are followed in NIP/MAI; Ensure the delivery of program investments, consolidating of the existing Groundwater and Soil Conservation Project (GSCP), Sana a Basin (k (I)
- Water Management Projects (SBWMP) and the ex Irrigation Improvement Project (IIP) within the program
- (m) Ensure the alliance of Agricultural and Fisheries Production Promotion Fund (AFPPF) activities within the NIP/MAI
 (n) Hold monthly meetings of the sub sector NIP Follow up Committee and attend the periodical meetings of the Irrigation Sector Directors headed by the Deputy Minister /MAI for Irrigation and Land Reclamation. (0)
 - Conduct overall project progress reviews and site visits at the request of implementing authorities in MAI.

Qualification and Experience

- The candidate is expected to have the following: (a) At least M.Sc. Degree or equivalent in Irrigation Engineering or Water Resources Management.
- (b) Experience of at least ten years related to the assignment of the post or in management of agricultural/ irrigation projects involving fields of irrigation design, construction and supervision of irrigation works and supervision of implementation of consultancy services in irrigation and water resources development studies. Experience in working with project financed by foreign agencies (e.g IDA, Arab Funds) or grants from donor countries. will be preferred
- Good knowledge and experience in computer applications with skills in at least Microsoft Office.
- Good Knowledge of writing, reading, and speaking Arabic and English language

Duration of the assignment A contract for one year will be signed with the successful candidate and will be initially on probation during the first three months.

Head of Surface Irrigation Unit/NIP

Terms of References (TOR)

Under the supervision of the Director of NIP (MAI) and observing the legal, administrative, financial directives, and adhering to the project s rules and procedures, to be included in a Project Implementation Manual (PIM), the nominated Head of Surface Irrigation Unit scope of work includes, but is not imited to, the following:

- a) Assist the NIP Director in implementing the approved plans and programs and revise studies and technical designs regarding surface irrigation works in spate irrigated Wadis.
- b) Directly supervise the performance of employees and consultants and contractors working in the field and ensure quality of work and regular submission of reports on progress achieved and problems encountered and make sure that interim payment certificates of contractors are submitted to the Head Quarters of the Program on time to facilitate review and prompt payment. Also participate in issuance of handing over certificates of completed works by contractors.
- Work with Water Users Associations and Local Councils to solve any dispute likely to negatively affect smooth implementation of work.
- Supervise O&M works and establishment of MIS/GIS system in spate irrigated Wadis under NIP/WSSP. d)
- Supervise implementation of water harvesting techniques and watershed management activities of a number of wadis under NIP. f)
 - Facilitate implementation of Irrigation extension activities (Irrigation Advisory Services) through the staff available in the irrigation and land reclamation sector branches or in cooperation with the General Department of Extension and Communication in MAI.
- The candidate should implement any tasks entrusted to him by his supervisor the director of NIP. g)

Qualification and Experience

The candidate is expected to have the following:

(a) At least B Sc degree in irrigation or civil engineering or equivalent field. Experience of at least ten years related to the tasks of the post and working in spate irrigation schemes and Wadis design, Experience in working in irrigation projects financed by foreign agencies (e.g. IDA, Arab Funds) or grants from donor countries will be considered an



and two mobile montage units with peripheries.

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

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

Cost for buying the bid documents (US\$ 250) non refundable. The deadline of selling the documents is: 3/10/2009.

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

- 1. An unconditional bank guarantee of (US 7,500\$) valid for 120 days as of the date of bid opening or a cashable check.
- 2. A copy of valid tax certificate for the year 2009 (feign bidders with no existing business activities in Yemen may furnish a copy of equivalent VAT registration document from their home countries).
- 3. A copy f valid insurance certificate for the year 2009 (insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefit from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen).
- 4. A copy of valid registration and classification for the year 2009.
- 5. A copy of valid Zakat certificate for the year 2009.
- 6. A copy of valid commercial registration valid for the year 2009.
- 7. A copy of valid profession license certificate for the year 2009.
- 8. A copy of valid sales tax registration certificate for the year 2009.
- 9. Interested applicants in this bid may review the tender documents before purchasing it during the official working hours for twenty days starting from the date of the first announcement

The deadline for receiving the proposals is at 11:00 am on Saturday 10/10/2009 at the corporation's main premises.

- Good knowledge and experience in computer applications with skills in at least Microsoft Office and should be familiar with computer (f) applications in his field of work.
- Good Knowledge of writing, reading, and speaking Arabic and English language. (g)

Duration of the assignment

A contract for one year will be signed with the successful candidate and will be initially on probation during the first three months

3. Head of Groundwater Irrigation Unit/NIP

Terms of References (TOR):

Under the supervision of the Director of NIP (MAI) and observing the legal, administrative, financial directives, and adhering to the project s rules and procedures, to be included in a Project Implementation Manual (PIM), the nominated Head of Groundwater Irrigation Unit scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) Assist the NIP Director in implementing the approved plans and programs and revise studies and technical designs on the ground in the field of on farm water management. Directly supervise the performance of employees and consultants and contractors working in the field and ensure quality of work and submit
- b) reports regularly on progress achieved and problems encountered and make sure that the completion certificates of contractors are submitted to the Head Quarters of the Program on time to facilitate review and prompt payment.
- Work with Water Users Associations and Local Councils to solve any dispute likely to negatively affect smooth implementation of work.
- Supervise implementation of on farm water management activities and field irrigation studies.
- Supervise installation and operation of modern irrigation systems in agricultural fields irrigated by wells e) h)
- Facilitate implementation of Irrigation extension activities (Irrigation Advisory Services) through the staff available in the irrigation and land reclamation sector branches or in cooperation with the General Department of Extension and Communication in MAI.
- The candidate should implement any tasks entrusted to him by his supervisor the director of NIP. f)

Qualification and Experience

The candidate is expected to have the following:

- At least a BSc degree in irrigation techniques, irrigation agronomy, on farm water management or equivalent field.
- Experience of at least ten years related to the tasks of the post and working in groundwater irrigation schemes including design, construction and supervision of field irrigation works and supervision of implementation of on farm water management studies. Experience in working with irrigation projects financed by foreign agencies (e.g IDA, Arab Funds) or grants from donor countries will be considered an advantage to the candidate
- Good knowledge and experience in computer applications with skills in at least Microsoft Office and should be familiar with computer (C) applications in his field of work.
- Good Knowledge of writing, reading, and speaking Arabic and English language (d)

Duration of the assignment

A contract for one year will be signed with the successful candidate and will be initially on probation during the first three months

The applications for each of the above posts will be evaluated by a committee according to Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants by Word Bank Borrowers of May,2004 and revised on October 1st 2006. This will be based on criteria of to what extent they are meting the TOR, qualifications and experience requirements mentioned above

Only responsive applicants will be short listed for interviews by the evaluation committee in order to finalize selection of the best candidate

Interested applicants who strictly meet the above requirements are requested to submit their applications with CV s and supporting documents during working hours to the address shown below on or before 12;00 noon on 10th October, 2009.

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Opinion



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



Four children killed by ignorance, irresponsibility, and the state

he fire broke out when five children, including two infants, lit candles because the electricity was cut off in Shumeila, Sana'a, last week.

It was after midnight and the five children were alone at home. There were three women living in the house at the time, but all three had gone out shopping, while the men went out to chew qat with friends.

In Ramadan, life in Yemen turns upside down. Day becomes night and night becomes day. Yemenis tend to stay up all night eating, socializing and watching television, and sleep through most of the day. Power cuts during the night have nowadays become such a regular phenomenon that candles and flashlights are kept handy in most households.

The problem with this family is that the children were left to take care of themselves. The eldest was a girl no more than 12 years.

The children lit candles to light their surroundings at around one thirty in the morning. As they did, a polyester mattress caught fire. The children put off the fire, or at least thought they had. They ran up to their neighbors on the fifth floor and told them about the incident. The neighbors sent them back down to make sure the fire had properly been put out.

In less than two minutes, the neighbors heard the children screaming. Smoke was everywhere and the fire had engulfed the apartment. The neighbors told the children to run downstairs out of the building while they collected their own family members and woke up other the other neighbors banging hard on their doors.

When the neighbors did not see any of the five children around, they assumed they had done as they had been told and run out of the building. The family stormed down the five

Institutional Islamophobia and the politics of a minor's choice

By: Abukar Arman

ot since France's banning of wearing the hijab or Islamic headwear in schools has i n s t i t u t i o n a l Islamophobia unveiled its ugly head under the spotlight of world attention. In Florida, political pressure has

caused the scale of justice to tilt. The case of Rifqa Bary—a 17 year old Muslim girl who converted to Christianity then ran away from her parents' home in Ohio (to Florida) has set the stage for the ideological bankrupt Neocons and Right Wing evangelical to pursue another desperate attempt to resuscitate their all but

defunct "clash of civilization" scare. Rifqa claimed that her parents believe in 'honor killing' and that they were planning to execute her as a result of her religious conversion- a claim that later proved inconsistent, to say the least.

Discrepancies to Rifqa's account emerged when her parents started to openly discuss their daughter's situation. Clearly Rifqa had her way with her family. "We love her; we want her back. She is free to practice her religion, whatever she believes in. That's O.K.," Mr. Bary told media and law enforcement.

The local police, the children's services and the county prosecutor in Ohio all concluded that the Bary family is a caring family who is genuinely concerned about the wellbeing of their daughter. The Bary family knew about their daughter's conversion three years earlier, and had even allowed her to join the cheerleading team of her high school.

The parents believe that their daughter was "brainwashed" by an internetbased virtual Pastor by the name Blake Lorenz who leads a religious outfit called the Global Revolution Church . Mr. Lorenz openly espouses anti-Islamic views. He has been quoted saying "Christians are at war with Islam and Islam is evil."

It should surprise no one that this case has attracted the 'who-is-who' among the usual suspects- the founder of paranoia fueling website JihadWatch, Robert Spencer; the notorious neocon policy worrier and the founder of Center for security Policy, Frank Gaffney, and Right Wing "legal pit-bull," John Stemberger, to name a faw

Their strategy was predictably straight out of the Neocon/Right-Wing playbook crafted by the same overzealous special interest ideologues whose "global war on terrorism" policy has left a legacy of destruction and massive political debris around the world that would take generations to clean.

To these political predators, facts are elastic variables; they are inflated when they are available to support their cause and are conveniently fabricated when they are not. They rely on propaganda as the means to demonize and dehumanize others. And they use any means at their disposal to reach their goal, regardless of the fairness, decency, or how their actions may hurt others.

In dealing with the case at hand, instead of providing convincing evidence to support Rifqa's claim, they resorted to a two track strategy that puts the brand of Shariah (Islamic law) that promotes the killing of an apostate on trial, and to wage a smear campaign on Noor Islamic and Cultural Center (NICC) in Columbus area by accusing it of espousing extremist ideologies and being connected to international terrorism. [This author is one of the many Central Ohio Muslims who worship in that center]

Of course, this diversionary tactic is designed to stir public suspicion and outrage.. It is nothing but smoke screen to cover the real issues. Whether a minor has a choice and whether a non-family adult could hide a minor.

During a controversial fatwa—religious edict—that sentenced an Afghani man who converted to Christianity to death a few years ago, over 100 scholars in the US and many more around the world have written a unified opinion that no one should be sentenced to death for deciding to change his or her religion. And that the only time such sentence has a religious (as well as secular) justification is in case of proven treason against the state.

The Qur'an—the highest authority of the moral code in Islam—unequivocally states that "Let there be no compulsion in religion" Chapter 2: Verse 256. Because, like love and similar matters of the heart, faith is a conviction embraced in the heart; and as such, can never be forced. Forcing such matters renders the opposite effect.

Also, in Chapter 4: Verse 137, God says, "Behold, as for those who come to believe, and then deny the truth (converted or became apostate) and again come to believe and again deny the truth and thereafter, grow stubborn in their denial of the truth, God will not forgive them, nor will He guide them in any way." This verse clearly indicates that even those who professed Islam and then rejected it more than once cannot be condemned to execution. They are only accountable to God.

Also, in Chapter 18: Verse 29, God says "The Truth is from your Lord; so let him who please believe and let him who please disbelieve".

"Hate groups appear to be using this family matter as an opportunity to attack the Muslim community and Islamic organizations in order to further their religious and political goals," read a statement issued by NICC. And "These Islamophobes are not only paranoiac but are so manipulative. Their method of guilt by association is comical in a way and dangerous in another. To follow their logic is to declare the disciples of Jesus who joined him in the last supper as co-conspirators in the crucifixion" added Dr. Hany Saqr, the center's Director.

Back to the real issue of contention: on their part, investigators from Florida have completed their interstate investigation. Their findings are believed to being in agreement with previous investigations done in Ohio. Their report was turned to Circuit Judge Daniel Dawson, who, instead of sending Rifqa back to her parents, decided to grant a motion filed by Mr. Stemberger in which he requested the evidence to be sealed- an evidence that could very well vindicated the parents.

The Florida statute dealing with Juvenile Justice and Interstate Compact on Juveniles is clear "A person may not knowingly provide aid to an unmarried minor who has run away from home without first contacting the minor's parent or guardian or notifying a law enforcement officer." Mr. Lorenz hid the runaway girl for two weeks; however, no one is after him, so far. He is currently "reorganizing" his church to protect it from future lawsuits.

In this all too familiar circus, I cannot help but wonder: what if a non-Muslim minor was recruited through cyber space by an adult Imam (Muslim cleric) who leads a religious entity called the Global Revolution Mosque whose objective is to target youth of all ages in order to change the world through spiritual revolution!

Abukar Arman is a writer who lives in Ohio . His articles and analysis are widely published. He could be reached at: abukar.arman@yahoo.com

COMMON SENSE

Israel also has its manifest destiny Mr. Obama's foreign policy

his observer is not ready yet to pass judgment on Mr. Barack Obama as an effective initiator and mover of positive directions in the foreign policy of the United States. Nor would it be fair to chastise him for not having fulfilled some remotely hidden hopes that indeed the United States can exercise respon-



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

sible foreign policy that works to encourage the making of a world that opens the doors of hopes for the overwhelming majority of the discontent people in the world. Yes, America must take into consideration its interests and its own internal difficulties. However, this should not mean that the rest of the world should be dealt with while the attitude that now there is unfinished work that has to be tended to. That is fine but not with more of the same sword waving and hard nosed bull dog reliance on the eventuality that might could still make right. Of course, Mr. Obama had not altogether ignored the foreign arena, and indeed he has striven to project a foreign policy that is at least not seeking to underscore any point that America is going to get all it wants by nook or crook.

Having said the foregoing, one would hope that by now, Mr. Obama would have shown a more visible and coherent direction for his (and Mrs. Hilary Clinton's) foreign policy agenda. I would think that both clearly understand by now that the longer they take to face the Middle East dilemma, the harder it gets to find an easily attainable solution. Mr. Obama, I am sure understands what is the crux of the Middle East problem: The fulfillment of an extremist Zionist agenda does not seem to show any signs of coming to terms with any hopes of peace in the region, because this agenda cannot even hope to thrive if peace was to overwhelm the region. That is why there will never be a stop to Israeli illegal settlements and all the suffering that the Palestinians of the Occupied West Bank and the half-way starving "liberated" Gaza must undergo to pave the way for those settlements. Perhaps, the Israelis are not eyeing yet for Gaza now, because the demographics simply do not allow for enough maneuverability there - Gaza is so overcrowded now that there is not enough space for Israeli tractor - shovels to turn around without squishing a child or two. With Hamas in there, there is a challenge that is bound to occur whenever the Israelis try to do some softening up (barricades, continuous arrests, security walls and all the instruments the Israelis use with scientific precision to keep the inhabitants of the West Bank living practically under lock and key. But, that does not mean that Gaza cannot be kept under siege; how else then can Israel show off its wonderful good neighbor policy, which is an integral element of the Zionist agenda

Mr. Obama has yet to show that he truly understands what are the obstacles to peace, if all he can come up with is polite statement begging the Israelis to "stop building settlements." No, the Israelis are simply not going to stop something that has been the whole driving inertia for the existence of the State of Israel. So what do the Israelis tell the White House or Mr. George Mitchell? They pointedly and outrightly not just state, but insist on putting what they say on the ground: "Israel will not be Israel if we stopped building settlements. Israel will not be Israel anymore; if the Palestinians are not driven to extinction by the most oppressive occupation policy history has ever shown. The Israelis will always point out to the American President that America did not come out of the blues, but out mercilessly spelt blood of an entire population of American "Indian" inhabitants. So, what the Israelis are doing is seeking to achieve their "manifest destiny" from the Nile to the Euphrates.

There is no question in this observer's mind that the biggest help to this unholy situation that exists in the Land of the Prophets is not so much Obama's slow and almost irreconcil-



stories through smoke and fire, but outside none of the five children could be found and the flames had already spread into the stairs. Fire fighters were called in and after one

and half hours the fire was extinguished.

The only survivor among the children was a four-year-old girl who had fled to a neighboring flat where the family sought shelter on the balcony. The other four children suffocated to death as the fire devoured their flat.

They must have been too scared to run down the stairs in smoke and darkness without electricity. Instead, they must have thought they would be safe in a remote room of their own flat.

When the adults were finally located, they returned to a tragic scene. Their shopping bags were flung onto the ground, as the women wailed and men grieved. How could have this tragedy have been prevented? And whose fault is it that these four children died?

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

able approach to the rapidly changing realities on the ground of the shrinking territory left for Palestinian statehood. There are 22 Arab States that are the epitome of self government and the gross misrepresentation of national affinity. Yes, with half these states under situations that at best can only be described as menacingly quite, one would think that there would be some meeting of minds between governments and their constituencies when it comes to the looming threat of a hungry and sleazy Zionist cutthroat that lies in their midst. Most Arab citizens from Morocco to Oman have no hesitation in saying that their governments are the biggest cause of the Zionist adamancy in carrying out their merciless agenda in the Holy Land. They would also be ready to give their governments the same cutthroat status as well as they give to the Zionist state, with more pluses for the Israelis, since at least Israelis are much more closer to living under a more palatable social contract. Most Arab citizens know deep in their hearts that, their governments are the last to want to make Mr. Obama see what a real menace to peace that the Zionist State has been and will be, because most Arab regimes do not rule by the provisions of the social contract as God, philosophers and seekers of justice in the world have meant this contract to be and worked so hard for centuries to see it on the ground as well.

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

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CEO Khair Aldin Al Nsour

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Offices

Aden Bureau: Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596 Fax: +967 (2) 347056 Email: *ytaden@y.net.ye*

Subscription rates:

Taiz Bureau:

Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,

P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz

Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

Telefax: +967 (4) 217157

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Press Review / OPED





Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party Thursday, Sept. 10,2009

Main headlines

- Preparatory Committee calls for national solidarity to produce change
- Taiz police attack citizens praying in the street
- Political solution is the most workable to turmoil of the homeland, Mohammed
- Al-Zindani: stability requires justice, judicial autonomy is a constitutional goal

Sheikh Abdulmajid Al-Zindani, Rector of the Eman University, denied reports by official media outlets that he called for fighting against Houthis in the northern volatile Saada province, the weekly reported.

It quoted Al-Zindani as saying, "I was surprised to see statements attributed to me, which is other than what I said during a meeting with some scholars last Friday. I only addressed Muslim scholars saying that if a particular group pointed its arms against the authority and is dissident, the Sharia legislation in this regard is that the legitimate ruler has two choices before him."

"First he should check whether they have grievances or were oppressed. In this case, he should respond to their grievances or petitions. Second, he should send to them able scholars to clarify to them any misunderstood things and inquire why they are pointing arms at the authority. If members of this group refuse to lay down their arms, then the ruler must stop rebellion and violence. This is the Sharia legislation I briefed Muslim scholars on. I didn't come with a new thing," Al-Zindani reacted

In a statement to the weekly, Al-Zindani clarified that stability within society necessitates justice while justice cannot exist unless there is an independent judiciary with its own autonomous financial sources.

He confirmed that judiciary in Yemen is not financially autonomous and is still suffering financial and administrative influence, recommending that any proposed reform package includes judicial independence.



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of Nasserite Unionist People's Organization (NUPO) Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009

Main Headlines

- Bloody tribal confrontations in Saada compounds humanitarian plight
- Municipality offices quarrel with street vendors in Hayel area

• Dialogue Committee releases national rescue initiative

The Preparatory Committee for National Dialogue released on Monday a national rescue initiative during a news conference in the presence of more than 300 social figures in the capital Sanaa, the weekly reported.

It added that the National Dialogue Document (NDD) determined the root of the problem in the country, which is a personalized totalitarian regime that changed the Yemeni state from a national political project into a narrow familial project. Such a narrow project destroyed and wasted struggles and sacrifices offered by Yemeni people. It also eliminated the achievements and goals of the Yemeni Revolution and content of the peaceful unity established in May 1990.

According to the weekly, the rescue-oriented solutions include serious efforts to compose a popular alignment and national consensus in order to produce changes that maintain sovereignty of the Yemeni state and restore the peaceful unity. It pointed out that the first step is to

address the worsening situations affecting the majority of Yemeni people, most notably citizens in the volatile province of Saada, and then move directly to resolving the Southern Issue with all its political and legal dimensions.

The NDD focused on enhancing national partnership, peaceful transfer of power and protecting the homeland from potential collapse as a result of poor policies pursued by

s the current authority.



Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of General People's Congress (Ruling Party)

Monday, Sept. 7, 2009 Main Headlines

- Obama: Yemen's security is vital for U.S. Security
- a Rebels resort to myths and black magic in their war
 Attempts to smuggle rebel leader

Abdumalik Al-Houthi thwarted The ruling party's mouthpiece reported that it learned from wellinformed sources in Saada province that the armed forces thwarted attempts to traffic main rebel leaders in the company of foreign experts, who aid rebels in managing battles and training them on how to carry out guerrilla warfare tactics. These experts also train rebels on how to use modern and sophisticated weapons they got from a regional state.

According to the weekly, those attempts were thwarted by intensified airstrikes and ground attacks carried out by heroic military and security members that restricted movements of rebels and destroyed their mains strongholds.

The paper quoted its local sources as saying that top terrorist Abdulmalik Al-Houthi and many of his aides attempt to flee through the

security cordon applied around the remaining strongholds of rebels, who are on the way to collapse. As a result, rebel leaders resorted to using alternative plans they have prepared in advance in order to flee without informing other elements that are still fighting on the ground under command of Al-Houthi.

Citizens and witnesses, participating in the fight against rebellious groups in Saada, confirmed that key rebel leaders in the districts of Naqaa, Matra and Ghamr attempted over the past few days to flee the battleground using tricky means, adding these rebels were put on woman garments and headed toward camps, sheltering thousands of internally displaced persons.



Al-Nass Independent Weekly Monday, Sept. 7, 2009

Main Headlines

- Municipality: Horror sweeping streets and markets
- Saudi Arabia worries about gathering of Qaeda elements in Yemen following assassination attempt on Interior Minister's son Report: 425 state officials accused of corruption, 60% of the
- It is said that ammunition of a tank unit, fighting against rebels, ran out

state's budget feeds nepotism

after its commander stole wages of his men, telling them they can make money by selling cleansing bullets, the weekly reported. As a result, his men resorted to firing at any moving thing.

According to the weekly, a report published by Reuters, revealed that 60 percent of the state's public budget feeds the network of nepotism through corruption. The report quoted Yemeni and foreign experts as saying that efforts aimed at combating corruption, most prominent of which is establishment of the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (SNACC), made no progress on the ground.

The report disclosed that influential tribal leaders and key military and security officials are the main beneficiaries from corruption, based on a 94-page assessment, released by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The report continued that a apart from causing economic problems, rampant corruption is making troubles in the vulnerable country more worse, particularly as a tribal revolt by Shia rebels is raging in the north, opposition leaders and activists in the south are advocating secession and Qaeda operatives are taking root.

"Underlying and overlying all this is corruption, described as everyone's biggest gripe," the report quoted a western diplomat, describing dire situations in Yemen, as saying. The diplomat labeled Yemen as a small oil producer with a nascent gas industry.

The legacy of 9/11

Rebecca Cataldi

Washington, DC - This year, which marks the 8th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, has prompted many conversations on how the world has changed since. Many of these changes are bleak indeed: relations between America and the Muslim world suffered from wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and terrorist attacks from London to Madrid, and from Pakistan to Indonesia. Security measures increased; so did suspicion and distrust.

Both Americans and Muslims

that it began asking people to donate to other organisations instead. People filled houses of worship, turning to something higher than themselves.

"The Arab American In Experience After September 11", the Arab American Institute documents how non-Muslim Americans stood guard for a week outside a local Islamic centre in Rockville, Maryland to protect it from any backlash following the attacks. Others accompanied Muslims to school or prayers to ensure they wouldn't be harassed. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Illinois Governor George Ryan declared November to be Arab Heritage Month, while the Ad Council launched public service announcements against hate and celebrating diversity. The number of Americans studying Arabic surged, as did the number of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies programmes. In his article, "Studying Islam after

September 11: Reflections and Resources", Dr. Gary Bunt, director and senior lecturer in Islamic studies at the University of Wales, writes, "There is certainly a new and sustained interest in the study of Islam and Muslim societies.... Books on Islam...have been enjoying an international sales boom, whilst the Qur'an has been reprinted to meet a growing demand, and newspapers have introduced basic guides to Islam.."

In the aftermath of 9/11, people in Muslim-majority countries gathered outside US embassies to express peace through the "Common Word" letter from Muslim world leaders to Christian world leaders, and their enthusiastic response, "Loving God and Neighbor Together".

Scholars, such as the American imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, have written books like What's Right with Islam is What's Right with America, which highlights values that America and Islam share-faith, service, individual dignity and God-given human rights. Key US civil society leaders, including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, in partnership with the conflict transformation organisation Search for Common Ground and the non-profit Consensus Building Institute, formed bipartisan US-Muslim the Engagement Project to advise US policymakers how to improve US-Muslim world relations through diplomacy, exchange, mutual respect and understanding.

Always a religious country, America experienced an increase in both religiosity and interfaith cooperation after 9/11. Before 9/11, I doubt many non-Muslim Americans knew what Ramadan was. This year, in one week, I—a Catholic attended three different iftars, where we broke the daily Ramadan fast: one at a mosque, another at a Catholic church and yet another at a Jewish synagogue. US government agencies held their own iftars as well.

The annual 9/11 Unity Walk in America commemorates the

service to their communities.

September 11 was a horrific tragedy, but its legacy need not be. And that legacy is not yet finished. We can still choose how to respond to 9/11—by lashing out against each other in violence and by building walls of distrust and isolation, or by coming together in cooperation for peace.

The choice is ours.

Rebecca Cataldi is a programme manager at the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy (ICRD)

know the fear that comes from feeling that aspects of our identities can make us targets for attack.

But perhaps there is another legacy of that fateful day. In America, 9/11 reminded many of us of what's really important. There was an outpouring of solidarity with one's community, compassion toward one's neighbour and service to one's society. The Red Cross received so many donations their solidarity with the victims. In America, families of those killed in the attacks formed groups like September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows to promote alternatives to violence and aid victims of war in Afghanistan and Iraq. There has been a flourishing of dialogue and initiatives like the UN Alliance of Civilizations, the Saudi interfaith summit, the outreach of anniversary of 9/11 with a gathering of people from different faiths who pray together at various houses of worship to demonstrate solidarity against violence and unity as one human family. This year, US President Barack Obama designated 11 September as the National Day of Service and Remembrance, so that the memory of that day might inspire people to recommit themselves to and a master's candidate at George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. This article was written for the Common Ground News Service (CGNews).

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The Domestic Crusaders: a Muslim journey, an American journey

By: Wajahat Ali

Fremont, California - In recent years—and especially since 11 September—many self-proclaimed experts have tried to place Muslims in the United States under a microscope for examination and analysis. But this 11 September, The Domestic Crusaders, one of the first major Muslim American plays, will present complex Muslim American characters on stage, in contrast to the simplistic caricatures portrayed by Holl! ywood or political propaganda.

The Domestic Crusaders is a loaded title. The word "crusade" brings to mind the tragic potential of religious division and intolerance, whether in medieval times or presently. The play defuses the explosive power of the term by showing the humanness of Muslim Americans who straddle both East and West. They are people simply trying their best to live their lives, strive for their dreams and understand themselves.

The six characters in the play represent three generations of one family who gather to celebrate the youngest son's 21st birthday in their suburban home. The family dynamics illuminate the triumphs and struggles of individuals dealing with faith and identity in a globalised and everchanging world.

There is the grandfather, Hakim, an eccentric, retired Pakistani general who dispenses humour and wisdom while enjoying his daily cup of tea. His granddaughter, Fatima, is an outspoken and strong-willed 24-year-old law student and activist who wears the hijab, or headscarf, much to the annoyance of Khulsoom, her

Pakistani immigrant mother. Khulsoom disapproves of her daughter's newfound religious and political activism, wishing she would find a nice husband instead.

Fatima, neither oppressed nor submissive, is critical of the men in her community and prefers to spend her time protesting at political rallies despite her older brother, Salahuddin, mocking her activism as a "crusader fad faze".

Their father, Salman, is a successful corporate engineer who is obsessed with making sure his sons follow in his footsteps and take "high-status" jobs. The youngest son, Ghafur, struggles with his identity as a Muslim American and with his father's vision for success: going to medical school and then earning a high salary. Ultimately, Ghafur decides against becoming the family's first doctor and resolves that he will chart his own course, a conclusion he comes to soon after he is racially profiled at the airport for having a beard and wearing a traditional kufi, or cap, on his head.

Regardless of apparent familial, cultural and religious differences, audience members can easily identify and empathise with the characters' triumphs and tragedies—sibling rivalry, generational divides, parental expectations and trying to hold onto one's faith and culture in a pluralistic society. All issues that are tackled in the play transcend barriers and speak to issues that every family—whether Muslim American or not—deals with. The Domestic Crusaders began

as a short story for a writing class

when I was a student at University of

California, Berkeley in 2001. The

play's journey reflects something of

America's journey in a post-9/11 world: moving from fear to hope. Since the inaugural 2005 performance in Berkeley, my team and I have tried to bring the performance to other venues but artistic directors around the country, who in private said they loved the play, have been hesitant to host The Domestic Crusaders, reflecting the politically sensitive atmosphere of the time.

But now, times are changing.

The landmark Nuyorican Poets Cafe, a cultural staple of the Lower East Side in New York City, agreed to house The Domestic Crusaders.

After spending a year travelling the country to raise funds and generate awareness for the play, we have created a multicultural, national grassroots movement dedicated to hearing these crusaders finally speak on stage—where they belong.

Good things take time. And on this 9/11, a fateful day forever reminding the world of the tragic consequences of extremism, madness and violence, The Domestic Crusaders will make its New York City debut and remind us that stories not only have the power to entertain and educate, but can also create bridges of understanding and healing.

Wajahat

(www.goatmilk.wordpress.com) is a writer, journalist, blogger and attorney. This article was written for the Common Ground News Service (CGNews).

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The American Clean Energy and Security Act: An Important First Step

Taqrir Washington Kendall Scott

n the evening of June 26th, members of the House of U.S. Representatives voted to pass a controversial new climate change bill by the nerveracking margin of 219 to 212. Introduced in mid-May, the legislation promises to cut America's greenhouse gas emissions 17 percent by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050 -if it passes the Senate that is. While considerable obstacles remain between the bill and the President's desk, policy makers are optimistic. The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, or the Waxman-Markey bill as it's known around the Hill, marks a long-awaited first step in climate change legislation, and could revolutionize the way Americans use energy

On Sunday the 28th, President Obama held an interview at the White House to discuss the implications of Friday's vote. Though unsure on some of the last minute amendments, the President stated his excitement and support for the bill's success. "This is an extraordinary first step," he explained, "I think what seems controversial now is going to seem like common sense in hindsight."

The President wasn't the only one talking about the bill. Across the Capital, environmental, economic, and political experts met to weigh-in on and evaluate the proposed legislation. At the National Press Club, Robert H. Frank, author of the Economic Naturalist and professor of economics at Cornell University, and Eric Carlson, president of the environmental group Carbonfund.org, discussed the feasibility of a carbon offsets program, one of the bill's main components. As moderator Mark Schoeff whispered to the panelists before beginning, attendance was quite limited, not due to a lack of interest, but because so many similar events were occurring that same day. One was taking place just down the hall.

Discussion of the Clean Energy Act has been so extensive, because the bill's provisions are highly controver-Written by House sial. Representatives Henry Waxman, a Democrat from California, and Ed Markey, a Democrat from Massachusetts, the bill is over 1, 200 pages long, not including amendments. Within these pages is a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support renewable energy, develop environmentally friendly technologies, and promote an energy efficient economy. Such measures could obviously be quite damaging to coal, automotive, petroleum, and manufacturing industries, which produce the most pollutants and rely heavily on cheap electricity. Lobbyists from these groups are very powerful in Washington and have exerted significant pressure to reduce the bill's impacts.

Representatives from states such as West Virginia, where coal mining is directly responsible for around 40,000 jobs, are also unenthusiastic about legislation that would harm their key industries. A major criticism, primarily coming from House

Republics, is that Waxman-Markey would hurt some states and businesses more than others, picking winners and losers, to use political terminology. In places like West Virginia, this could spell considerable job-loss and economic hardship in the midst of an already crippling recession. Though supporters of the legislation point to provisions for new green jobs and transitional assistance for groups hit the hardest, with such high stakes, it's no wonder the Clean Energy and Security Act has incited debate.

Of course, partisanship has played an important roll in Waxman-Markey's rocky road to victory as well. Of the 219 Representatives who voted in favor of the bill, 211 were Democrats and only 8 were Republicans. Of the 212 Nay votes, 148 were Republics and 44 Democrats. The Democrats who defected were primarily from heavy industry, Rust-Belt states, where a vote in favor of climate change regulations amounts to political suicide. The Republican Party is already moving in on vulnerable freshman Congressmen, whose votes supporting the bill may anger constitutions and make reelection difficult. On the other end of the spectrum, some Democratic progressives felt that, after concessions to Republicans and industrial interest groups, the Clean Energy and Security Act simply does not do enough

Even moments before the deciding vote took place Friday night, a number of Congress men and women remained on the fence. The bill's ultimate success in the House has been attributed largely to the aggressive lobbying of Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other Democratic heavyweights, who pulled out all the stops to ensure victory. Pelosi and her supporters cajoled, sweet-talked, and argued with last minute undecideds to make sure that the necessary 'Aye' votes were in place. President Obama, who like Pelosi has staked a huge amount of personal prestige on the bill's success, even pitched-in and called crucial Representatives.

But what does the Clean Energy and Security bill actually mean? Despite rampant debate throughout the capital, many Americans remain unaware of climate change legislation's existence, much less its implications. The House is, after all, only step one in what will be a very difficult process. If the Clean Energy and Security Act is to be signed into law by President Obama, it must pass through the Senate, where it will most certainly be subject to more fierce negotiations and political bickering. California Democrat Barbara Boxer is set to introduce the bill to the upper house later this summer and 60 favorable votes will be necessary to ensure that Republicans do not simply filibuster it to death. According to the New York Times, only 45 yes votes are currently in place.

So if the climate change bill succeeds, what will it mean? Among the act's most poorly understood provisions is the cap-and-trade system. Cap-and-trade is a mechanism for reducing the overall amount of carbon released into the atmosphere each year by a fixed percentage. Eventually, a final goal, 83 percent by 2050 in this case, is reached. An

emissions limit, the cap, is placed on all large-scale producers through mandatory permits, which must be obtained for every ton of greenhouse gases let loose. The overall number of permits available is steadily lowered, along with the total amount of carbon discharged into the atmosphere.

The trade in cap-and-trade refers to the ability of more efficient companies, which emit less than their permits allow, to sell their extra permits to less efficient companies. Under this system, the total amount of carbon produced can be lowered in an enforceable way, but some flexibility is still allowed within the market. Industries will have a monetary incentive to become more environmentally friendly, while able to purchase additional permits as necessary. The cap-and-trade system, if properly executed, could provide the most efficient route to reduced greenhouse gas emissions. As frequently cited by

supporters of the bill, cap-and-trade has already been used successfully in the early 1990s. The 1990 Clean Air Act capped the production of sulfuric gases, which had led to problems with acid rain. And when is the last time anyone has heard of that phenomenon?

At the National Press Conference discussion, Robert H. Frank and Eric Carlson spoke in full support of a carbon offset system. Though critics claim that cap-and-trade essentially allows businesses to buy their way out of trouble, Frank explained, "all we care about is the total amount of carbon in the atmosphere." And that is certainly all the planet cares about. Cap-and-trade gets greenhouse gas emissions down, "as quickly and efficiently and painlessly as possible," which works for the environment and the economy, Carlson pointed out.

Still, the costs of a cap-and-trade program remain widely contested, and not just in the House. According to the Congressional Budget Office estimate, by 2020 carbon offsets will raise electricity prices by 175 dollars a year for the average American household. According to the American Petroleum Institute on the other hand, by that same year the price will have risen 3,000 dollars per household. The heightened cost of production for energy-dependent industries could push businesses out of the United States to countries with no regulations at all. In addition to the loss of American jobs, this could actually increase the amount of greenhouse gases in the air.

Though the Clean Energy and Security Act is not perfect, according to any side of the debate, it is an enforceable, efficient, and economically feasible mechanism to reduce the amount of carbon in our atmosphere. Voluntary emission caps have already been attempted but, as President Obama explained, "American ingenuity and technology moves a lot faster when incentives are in place." The cap-and-trade system outlined in the Waxman-Markey bill would provide such incentives, and could perhaps help reposition the United States at the forefront of a climate change solution. And in an environmental crisis that's implications are as global as its causes, even a first step is cause to celebrate.

VACANCY Project Accountant

Higher Education Development Project II

I. General Functional Areas of the Project Accountant

Under the supervision of the project s Financial Management Officer, the accountant will be in charge of recording of all financial transactions, keeping the supporting documents, preparing the financial reports of the project as required by the government regulations and the IDA credit, preparing annual and interim project s financial statements to reflect the financial positions of the project for auditing purposes. The accountant is hired as an assistant to the financial manager to support both the PHRD and PPF once on board, and if determined to be a good candidate, s/he can be proposed for the HEDPII.



Save the Children in Yemen is looking for eligible candidates for the positions of:

Project Officer and 4 Project Assistants for its Child Protection/Education In Emergencies Program in Harad (Hajja) and Amran

The Project Accountant s basic functions will be as follows:

- 1. Collect and file all supporting documentation on all financial transactions of the project under the Higher Education Project (HEDP) management.
- 2. Record on a daily basis all financial transactions after ensuring that they have been properly authorized and in accordance with the budget and the HEDP procedures of internal control.
- 3. Prepare bank reconciliation between the bank s account and the Special Account (SA) withdrawals, on a monthly basis, to reflect the monthly receipts and disbursements from the SA.
- 4. Prepare quarterly project financial statements under the HEDP direct management, and liaise with the procurement officer, to include procurement quarterly results and the project s physical progress of activities as measured by the project s indicators. Based on the above, prepare the Project Financial Management Report (FMR) to be submitted to the SC and then to the Bank.
- 5. Prepare the credit withdrawal applications with supporting documentation and submit it to the HEDP manager for approval and then submission to IDA for replenishment of funds as needed.
- 6. Assist the external auditors in performing their annual audit of the project by providing necessary documentation, written procedures, and annual financial statements.
- 7. Any other tasks as required by the project Financial Management Officer.

II. Qualifications

- ¥ A minimum of five years of private sector accounting experience preferably with an auditing of accounting firm.
- ¥ A minimum of a Bachelor s degree in accounting or auditing.
- ¥ A good knowledge and use of the generally accepted principles.
- ¥ The ability to operate accounting software, keep updated accounting records and books of accounts, and generate project s financial statements and other reports as needed by the project management.
- ¥ Proficiency in both Arabic and English
- ¥ Familiarity with computers, accounting and other software applications.

All applications along with a detailed resume should be submitted before October 7, 2009 to the following address:

Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research Higher Education Development Project II Alriyadh St. — Next to Alroni Building P.O. Box 15643 Tel: 471196 — 468466, Fax: 471195 Email: Info@hepyemen.org The successful candidate for the **Project Officer** position will be managing the implementation and monitoring of a project with community based Child Protection/Education in Emergencies activities through several partner-NGOs. Duties and responsibilities include ensuring the establishment of and functioning of Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), as well as development of Child Protective Networks through Child Protection Committees. In addition the Project Officer is expected to support education activities, including the establishment of temporary learning spaces. The position requires ability to liaise and coordinate with community members, humanitarian organizations and Governmental service sectors (education, health, social, legal etc).

The successful candidates for the **Project Assistant** positions will be assisting the project officer in the implementation of the project, including supporting partner NGOs with the implementation of regular activities for conflict affected children.

Requirements for the Project Officer position: College degree, computer literate and verified work experience with child protection and/or education programs, community mobilization and training skills, as well as monitoring and supporting partner NGOs.

Requirements for the Project Assistant position: At least 12th grade education, and verified work experience with child protection and/or education programs, community mobilization and training skills.

For both positions Save the Children expects willingness to do fieldwork, demonstration of well-developed skills for interpersonal communication and an ability to maintain goal-oriented when exposed to stress in emergencies. Save the Children is looking for applicants, both men and women with enthusiasm and commitment to address the right of children to be protected from harm in emergencies from Harad and Amran.

Applications and requests for a detailed Job Description need to be addressed to:

Hisham Al Hakimi, Administrator *halhakimi@scsmena.org* Fax: 203729

Save the Children, P.O Box 11391 Sana a - Republic of Yemen Visiting address: Algeria Street, (behind Tehama Co)

Closing date for the submission of applications is the 19 of October, 2009.

Health



Unhealthy animal markets in Yemen threaten domestic livestock

Compiled by: Ali Saeed

lthough livestock is a primary source of income to many farmers in Yemen, accounting for over 50 percent of their income, the absence of healthy animal markets is a serious threat to this sector, according to a recent report by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Yemen.

The report, which focused on improving livestock production and marketing in Yemen, said that the domestic livestock market and animal husbandry -raising cattle for milk and meat- were in decline, causing serious poverty among small producers in Yemen.

Yemen's animal markets are disorganized and places of parasites infections, it said.

"The informal markets such as Noqum animal market in the Sana'a governorate and the Marawia and Bajil markets in Hodeida governorate, are extremely chaotic and a breeding ground for disease and parasite infestation," said the report.

The report also criticized the infrastructure of these markets, which reportedly lacked essential services. "There are no veterinarian services or

other agricultural input services available at the market," pointed out the report.

For instance, the report gave an example on how the absence of these services highly affects the lives of animals and livelihoods of those who rear them.

"If there are sick livestock that are in need of veterinary services, the producer has to call and make arrangements for treatment," said the report. "The sick animals are held in the same area as the healthy animals."

Moreover, the report added that the location of current animal markets in Yemen are not appropriate and could be a factor in diseases spreading among animals and humans.

"All of these markets are located in

the center of the town population, causing a high probability of cross-contamination between human and animals," explained the report.

Quarantine 'in disrepair'

The report described quarantine process at entry ports for imported animals from the Horn of Africa and Ethiopia entered Yemen as in complete disrepair.

"The quarantine process in Yemen is in complete disrepair, and there is a complete lack of financial and technical support at the quarantine facilities," said the report.

Furthermore, the report said that imported animals are not being tested. Those in charge of the quarantine merely observe the animal for two days and then release it to Yemeni markets.

"There is no testing of livestock disease, with animals only observed for two days before being released into the general Yemen animal market," noted the report.

The report went on to say that no regulations are imposed for quarantine to check if animals are sick upon entry to Yemen.

"Quarantine for sick animals is up to the individual traders, and they usually are held in the same area as the healthy animals," said the report.

Domestic livestock malnourished

The report classified livestock in Yemen into two categories. The first category is domestic livestock, which is small in weight and size.

The second is imported livestock of cattle and sheep, bigger than in weight and size than domestic livestock.

The report attributed reasons of the small size and weight of domestic livestock to malnutrition, parasite infestation, and poor genetic vigor.

The report also criticized the behavior of some Yemeni farmers who sell young cattle and sheep.

"The sale of under-finished (term used to describe animals who have obtained full weight) and immature,



poor-health domestic stock is prevalent in these informal markets throughout Yemen," concluded the report.

The report found that domestic livestock is in sharp decline whereas imported livestock is on the increase due to the local demand.

"There is a severe decline in the domestic animal market in Yemen compared to the overall market demand in Yemen," it said.

Imported livestock of the rise

The report also said that the business of importing livestock is in progress. "In the present livestock market, imported livestock are far more profitable for the traders than buying and selling in the domestic market," the report said.

"During the ten-year period 1995 to 2005, there was a 643 percent increase in the number of livestock imported into Yemen.

The report examined the problem of domestic livestock declining and came to the conclusion that many factors led to this situation.

"A lack of forage and feed grains that force producers to sell immature animals in the marketplace, diseases such as PPR (Peste de Petit Ruminants), Sheep and Goat Pox, Foot and Mouth Disease, Brucellosis, and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), that are widespread in livestock contributed to the decline of domestic livestock production in Yemen," explained the report.

The report also indicated that drought has a direct effect to the declining of domestic livestock in Yemen that usually force producers to sell their livestock.

"High mortality rates in the domestic livestock sector, which leaves producers with a lack of motivation to adopt livestock also is a big factor in the declining of animals husbandry," indicated the report.

The report suggested a number of solutions for the Yemeni Ministry of Agriculture to improve animal markets to develop the livestock industry in Yemen, and motivate producers to give priority to their livestock.

Recommendations

The report recommended increasing supply and demand, and ultimately creating a sustainable and profitable market, through improved integration between producers and traders working simultaneously at the farm and industry level.

The capacity of livestock producers should be strengthened to increase production through sound and basic animal husbandry practices.

It recommended to develop quality livestock that are disease-free, produce good value for the Yemeni consumer, and create demand for the regional export market.

Veterinarian service should be improved to include providing vaccinations, medical supplies, artificial insemination, and distribution of feed supplements and mineral blocks.

The report suggested that all these veterinarian services work through something it called a "livestock sale barn," a unit in which both producer and trader work together.

It recommended support to training programs for health and nutrition, including targeted information distribution on proper animal husbandry practices to producers and traders.

Moreover, said the report, official Yemeni agencies need to be given the authority to quarantine imported and domestic animals that carry disease in upgraded centers, notably with confinement pens and laboratory equipment.

Finally, the Yemeni government should provide access to credit to all farmers, extremely critical for the sustainable success of the USAID's livestock sale barn program.



Stomach diseases and fasting

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

tomach diseases have become widespread across the planet. The percentage of people affected with stomach diseases varies from one country to another and from one group of people to another depending on lifestyle and relative exposure to diseases.

Bilal Naji, 20, a barber in Assiteen Street, is among those patients who have had a stomach disease for a long time. Bilal always feel pains in his abdomen and has been hospitalized several times. These days the pain is agitating, especially when he chews qat. He is losing his

appetite and has become pale and thin. When I feel pain I use calming medi ease and chemicals and pesticides on foods that are eaten.

This young poorly fed calf common among cattle herds in Yemen, lacking

adequate nutrition-rich feed will more easily fall victim to disease.

Dr. Abdul-Karim Zaid, the head of the intestine endoscope section in Al-Kuwait Teaching Hospital, added two other causes of stomach diseases. The first is a germ in the stomach called holocupoctor golory which eats stomach lining, causing ulcers and then tumors if not properly treated. The second cause is colon disease which irritates gastric juices and causes severe cuts in the stomach.

Stomach diseases and fasting

While fasting is healthy for human beings, some stomach patients are advised to be careful about how to organize their daily life during the month of Ramadan so they can benefit from fasting.

Hospital emergency units receives many patients

Due to lack of awareness, some people, as soon as they can break their fast, rush upon the different dishes of food and fill their stomachs immediately.

According to Dr. Adel Assamiee, Manager of Information Management at the Ministry of Public Health and Population, hospital emergency units receive many such people during the nighttime hours suffering from stomach disorders, problems of indigestion,

However, not all those hospitalized people are suffering from chronic abdominal diseases. The hospital receives people in poor condition suffering from temporary indigestion, according to another doctor working at Al-Jumhori Hospital. He said these patients do not suffer from abdominal diseases but come to the hospital because they filled their empty stomach with food too quickly after long hours of fasting. To overcome this problem, Assamiee advises people to break their fast appropriately. He said that a fasting person should break his or her fast at first with several dates ecause dates are rich in glucose and easy to digest. Then he or she should stop eating and take a break, perhaps to perform the sunset prayer. After prayer, he or she should eat a light dish like shafout, which is a light bread saturated with yogurt and hot salad, or soup. Then he or she should wait for an hour or two, time enough to perform the isha'a and taraweeh prayers, and then he or she can eat heavy dishes like meat.

rice for lunch with many other people. "Both poor and rich people in Yemen are exposed to stomach diseases. While the poor are not able to vary their meals, rich people are used to having heavy food for their meals, like eating meat every

Al-Gharati confirmed that one of the major reasons behind the increasing

"Besides chemicals and pesticides used on qat, the plant has some natural components that cause stomach ulcers."

Dr. Abdul-Hafiz Asselwi, consultant intestinal and liver diseases, confirmed that qat is not only dangerous for the stomach but threatens the human body as a whole. "For me, I would fear for myself if I chewed qat even once," said Asselwi, who has never chewed gat in his life and advises his patients to stop chewing the plant. He stated that farmers use large quantities of chemicals to grow the plant. Instead of using a normal level of pesticides to spray gat trees, most farmers double or even triple the quantity of chemicals to ensure a fast growth of leaves and boughs for immediate consumer use.

day," he explained. Qat and stomach diseases

number of stomach patients in Yemen is

said Al-Gharati.

cine called Omeprazole that I always keep with me," said Bilal. "But when I stop taking it, the pain increases. I cannot do without it."

Even though his condition is getting worse, he does not go to a specialized doctor to diagnose his case. He only goes to the nearby pharmacy to get another box of tablets.

The Stomach

The stomach is an organ of digestion. It has a saclike shape and is located between the esophagus and the intestines. Almost every animal has a stomach.

The human stomach is a muscular, elastic pear-shaped bag lying crosswise in the abdominal cavity beneath the diaphragm. It changes size and shape according to its position of the body and the amount of food inside. The stomach is about 12 inches (30.5 cm) long and is 6 inches (15.2 cm) wide at its widest point. The stomach's capacity is about 1 quart (0.94 liters) for the average adult.

Stomach diseases are classified into two main types: temporary and chronic. Temporary stomach ailments are characterized by a feeling of sourness at best and severe stomach cramping at worst, often because of eating food that hasn't been cooked or handled properly. Types of chronic diseases are more varied, the most common being gastric ulcers, gastric hyperacidity and stomach cancer.

Causes of stomach disease

According to Dr.Ahmed Al-Gharati, head of the medical ward at Al-Jumhori Hospital in Sana'a, there are many causes behind stomach diseases. Some of these causes are stress, smoking, improper food care, the increase of gastric juice excretion, inheritance of a particular dis-

"Stomach patients who suffer from duodenum ulcers feel so hungry while they are fasting, and when they break their fast they immediately consume a lot of food all at once," said Al-Gharati. "After filling their stomachs with food, these patients start feeling uncomfortable because their digestive systems do not work properly due to the stomach disease they are suffering from."

He added that hospital emergency units receive many patients like this during Ramadan.

In general, Al-Gharati added, fasting is healthy and beneficial to stomach patients. But he says patients who have duodenum ulcers face problems while fasting and some of them cannot fast if they do not take medicine. This kind of disease is aggravated when the stomach is empty.

However, those who suffer stomach ulcers can endure fasting and even feel comfortable while the stomach is free of food. Unlike patients of duodenum ulcers who overcome the disease by keeping food in their abdomen, stomach ulcer patients prefer not to eat because they feel comfortable when their stomach is empty of food. It is when they start eating that they feel pain, often throwing up their food afterward as a result of their disorder.

Some doctors advise their patients to take medicine directly before and during Ramadan to condition the stomach for fasting. Dr. Mohammad Awadh, a consultant for intestinal and heart disease, said that most stomach patients feel discomfort during and after fasting. He tells his patients that the effects of an abdomen disorder can remain for weeks after Ramadan ends

More stomach patients in Yemen

As compared to other countries in the world, there is a greater percentage of stomach patients among people in Yemen. Reasons for this are related to lifestyle habits and varying living conditions.

"Although there are no real statistics on the percentage of stomach patients, we can easily say Yemen has a higher percentage of people suffering from stomach diseases [than neighboring countries]," said Al-Gharati.

He explained that there are many reasons contributing to the commonality of stomach disease throughout the country. The most significant ones are unawareness, habits like chewing qat and the nature of Yemeni people who are commonly stressed. Moreover, most Yemenis do not vary their food. Some eat beans every day while others never quite feel full, sharing the same dish of meat and



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Culture

In memory of poet Abdullah Al- Baradoni

He was a Yemeni poet, satirist, writer, radio manager, and even divorce lawyer. On the tenth anniversary of his death, Abdullah Al-Baradoni is remembered.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

emen's late poet Abdullah Al-Baradoni was born in the village of Baradon in 1929. He contracted small pox at the age of five, leading him to lose his eyesight completely by the age of six.

He began school in his village at the age of seven, and two years later moved to Dhamar city where he enrolled at the Shamsia School. When he was 13 years old, he simultaneously started reading old poetry and writing his own.

As an adolescent, he satirized the Imamate in some of his poems which he circulated in secret, and in 1948 was arrested and thrown into prison for nine months.

He moved to Sana'a before he was 20, after his release. He studied in its Grand Mosque, the moved to Dar Al-Ulum at the beginning of 1940 to study poetry and language.

He graduated from Dar Al-Ulum with distinction and a certificate in Islamic law and Arabic language sciences. After graduation, he was became a teacher at Dar Al-Ulum. From 1954 to 1956, he practiced law, especially arguing the cases of divorced women, earning himself the

name "the divorcees' lawyer." After the 1962 revolution, he started working for Sana'a Radio, where he became manager in 1969 and, later, head of the programs until 1980.

He continued preparing a rich literature program called "Magazine of Thought and Literature" each week until his death in 1999.

He worked as supervisor for the army magazine from 1969 until 1975 and had a weekly article each week entitled "Thought and Literature Issues" and a weekly article in Al-Thawra newspaper entitled "Cultural Issues."

He was one of the first people to call for the creation of the Union for Yemeni Authors and Men of Letters, and was voted in as its first chairman.

Al-Baradoni was a prolific writer and published 12 volumes of poetry. Among these were: From the Land of Sheba, On the Path of Dawn, The City of Tomorrow, Journey to the Green Days, Smokey Faces in Night Mirrors,

Renaissance personalities

The Quality of Time, Creatures of the Second Nostalgia, The Fluidity of Light, Answer to the Ages, and The Return of Wiseman Ben Zaid.

Al-Baradoni also authored a number of books and studies, including: A Journey in Modern and Ancient Yemen poetry, Yemeni issues, Popular culture in Yemen, Popular culture, Yemeni Experience and Sayings, Culture and the Yemeni revolution, From the First Poem to the Last Bullet: A Poetic Study of Zubairi Poetry and his Life.

Al-Baradoni, as described by most critics, contributed to the rising of the Arabic poem along with a few great poets. Not only that, but he was described as one of the best contemporary Arabic poets to enrich Arabic literature with their great works.

Al-Baradoni's life was characterized with many variables, a radical politician, fond of his country and heritage, and a writing hero in a half-educated country. In spite of being a blind, he could see what sighted people could not and he did not hesitate to express his own views transparently.

However, most of his works were not published during his life and this can be attributed to the negligence which struck his work throughout his life. It is a pity to notice that we remember our intellectuals after their death only.

It is an occasion to ask the related

authorities to publish all his works as this is the least we can do for such a great poet who lived in poverty and overcame unbearable circumstances.

A vacuum in poetry

"The great poet Abdullah Al-Baradoni's passing away has left a great vacuum in the arena of poetry," said Dr. Abdulaziz Al- Maqaleh, an advisor to the president and director of the Yemen Center for Studies and Research.

"This vacuum can be filled only by his works, which were and will remain the subject of unlimited interest for coming generations in Yemen," he said. "This generation has lagged far behind the field of literary and creativity."

Minister of Culture Mohammad Abu Bakr Al-Muflehi said that Al-Baradoni is one of the most important symbols of global culture in the second half of the 20th century.

"He is one of those people who raised the name of Yemen in the Arab and international forums," said Al-Muflehi. "Yemen now has a prominent location on the map of Arab culture."

"At the end of each August, we remember how death has taken our poet, philosopher, and thinker," he said.

"He took it upon himself to upgrade, develop, and renovate Arab poetry to

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 architecture

t the end of the fourteenth century, the impressiveness of gothic architecture began to wear off. Europe was coming out of the middle ages, and into the Renaissance. The architects of the time changed their architecture to fit the era. They revived many of the ideas from classical (Greek and Roman) architecture. They did, however, use materials not associated with Greek and Roman architecture such as brick, and the color red became common. Artists and architects worked together much more, and many renaissance buildings have statues, murals, and much more artwork to go with them. Renaissance architecture began in Florence, Italy in the early fifteenth century. Italy had never really used gothic architecture, so when gothic became less popular, Italy had something different for the people to look to. The style spread to the area around Florence, encompassing Rome and Milan. Then it somehow got up to the Netherlands, and spread to the rest of Europe from there. Renaissance architecture was somewhat different in the rest of Europe than in Italy, but the basic principals were the same. Renaissance architecture did not get to France until nearly 125 years after it began in Florence. A common feature of renaissance architecture was the dome. Almost all renaissance cathedrals had domes. Many domes had paintings or decorations on the ceilings. French renaissance architecture had outer walls, and towers, and the domes were usually only on the inside of a building. Some good examples of renaissance architecture with domes are the Duomo of Florence, and St. Peter's cathedral in Rome. Famous architects and artists such as Michelangelo Buonarroti, Leonardo Di Vinci, and Filippo Brunelleschi were shapers of renaissance architecture.

lintels, as well as the use of semicircular arches, hemispherical domes, niches and aedicules replaced the more complex proportional systems and irregular profiles of medieval buildings.

Developed first in Florence, with Filippo Brunelleschi as one of its innovators, the Renaissance style quickly spread to other Italian cities and then to France, Germany, England, Russia and elsewhere.

The obvious distinguishing features of Classical Roman architecture were adopted by Renaissance architects. However, the forms and purposes of buildings had changed over time. So had the structure of cities. Among the











become one of its best- known poets," he said.

Al- Baradoni was not only a prominent poet, but a distinguished intellectual in local and Arab cultural affairs. He was also a link between modernity and Arab heritage. His writings were a profound analysis of the realities of Arab life, with all its triumphs, advances, and defeats.

On Aug. 30, 1999, during his last journey to Jordan for medical treatment for various aliments, his heart stopped beating. He is considered by many to be one of the greatest Arab poets of the twentieth century.

The renaissance style

The Renaissance style places emphasis on symmetry, proportion, geometry and the regularity of parts as they are demonstrated in the architecture of classical antiquity and in particular ancient Roman architecture, of which many examples remained. Orderly arrangements of columns, pilasters and earliest buildings of the reborn Classicism were churches of a type that the Romans had never constructed. Neither were there models for the type of large city dwellings required by wealthy merchants of the 15th century. Conversely, there was no call for enormous sporting fixtures and public bath houses such as the Romans had built. The ancient orders were analysed and reconstructed to serve new purposes.

Plan

The plans of Renaissance buildings have a square, symmetrical appearance in which proportions are usually based on a module. Within a church the module is often the width of an aisle. The need to integrate the design of the plan with the façade was introduced as an issue in the work of Filippo Brunelleschi, but he was never able to carry this aspect of his work into fruition. The first building to demonstrate this was St. Andrea in Mantua by Alberti. The development of the plan in secular architecture was to take place in the 16th century and culminated with the work of Palladio.

Facade

Façades are symmetrical around their vertical axis. Church facades are generally surmounted by a pediment and organized by a system of pilasters, arches and entablatures. The columns and windows show a progression towards the center. One of the first true Renaissance facades was the Cathedral of Pienza (1459–62), which has been attributed to the Florentine architect Bernardo Gambarelli (known as Rossellino) with Alberti perhaps having some responsibility in its design as



Classical Orders, engraving from the *Encyclopedie vol. 18*, 18th century.

well.

Domestic buildings are often surmounted by a cornice. There is a regular repetition of openings on each floor, and the centrally placed door is marked by a feature such as a balcony, or rusticated surround. An early and much copied prototype was the façade for the Palazzo Rucellai (1446 and 1451) in Florence with its three registers of pilasters

Columns and Pilasters

The Roman orders of columns are used:- Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite. The orders can either be structural, supporting an arcade or architrave, or purely decorative, set against a wall in the form of pilasters. During the Renaissance, architects aimed to use columns, pilasters, and entablatures as an integrated system. One of the first buildings to use pilasters as an integrated system was in the Old Sacristy (1421–1440) by Brunelleschi.

Arches

Arches are semi-circular or (in the Mannerist style) segmental. Arches are often used in arcades, supported on piers or columns with capitals. There may be a section of entablature



The dome of San Pietro in Vaticano (Saint Peter's Basilica) in Rome, seen from the roof of Engelsburg.

between the capital and the springing of the arch. Alberti was one of the first to use the arch on a monumental scale at the St. Andrea in Mantua.

Vaults

Vaults do not have ribs. They are semicircular or segmental and on a square plan, unlike the Gothic vault which is frequently rectangular. The barrel vault, is returned to architectural vocabulary as at the St. Andrea in Mantua.

Domes

The dome is used frequently, both as a very large structural feature that is visible from the exterior, and also as a means of roofing smaller spaces where they are only visible internally. Domes had been used only rarely in the Middle Ages, but after the success of the dome in Brunelleschi's design for the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore and its use in Bramante's plan for St. Peter's Basilica (1506) in Rome, the dome became an indispensable element in church architecture and later even for secular architecture, such as Palladio's Villa Rotonda.[12]

Ceilings

Roofs are fitted with flat or coffered ceilings. They are not left open as in

Interior of Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral in Montreal. Personal snapshot by Montréalais, August 2003.

Medieval architecture. They are frequently painted or decorated.

Doors

Doors usually have square lintels. They may be set within an arch or surmounted by a triangular or segmental pediment. Openings that do not have doors are usually arched and frequently have a large or decorative keystone.

Windows

Windows may be paired and set within a semi-circular arch. They may have square lintels and triangular or segmental pediments, which are often used alternately. Emblematic in this respect is the Palazzo Farnese in Rome, begun in 1517.

In the Mannerist period the "Palladian" arch was employed, using a motif of a high semi-circular topped opening flanked with two lower squaretopped openings. Windows are used to bring light into the building and in domestic architecture, to give views. Stained glass, although sometimes present, is not a feature.

Walls

External walls are generally of highlyfinished ashlar masonry, laid in straight courses. The corners of buildings are Renaissance façade of Graça Church in Evora, Portugal.

often emphasised by rusticated quoins. Basements and ground floors were often rusticated, as modeled on the Palazzo Medici Riccardi (1444–1460) in Florence. Internal walls are smoothly plastered and surfaced with white-chalk paint. For more formal spaces, internal surfaces are decorated with frescoes.

Details

Courses, mouldings and all decorative details are carved with great precision. Studying and mastering the details of the ancient Romans was one of the important aspects of Renaissance theory. The different orders each required different sets of details. Some architects were stricter in their use of classical details than others, but there was also a good deal of innovation in solving problems, especially at corners. Moldings stand out around doors and windows rather than being recessed, as in Gothic Architecture. Sculptured figures may be set in niches or placed on plinths. They are not integral to the building as in Medieval architecture.

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TIS students do charity work in Ramadan

By: Yemen Times Staff

he Turkish International School in Yemen's personnel, teachers, students and their parents organized a Ramadan food package delivery campaign for poor and needy families in Sana'a.

Besides learning how to organize a charitable event, students realized that people in need are just next door and that everyone should feel responsibility for them. These activities are part of extracurricular activities to encourage interaction between students and the community.

Every year the school delivers this aid to poor families. This year, 500 needy families received the packages. Each package included rice, sugar, oil, tomato paste, beans, noodles and biscuits.

The renowned Turkish nongovernmental organization Kimse Yok Mu Association collected the majority of the



donations and Yemeni businessmen also contributed with rice and other food.

School teachers and personnel distrib-

uted packages to families in Sunaina, Hail, Almajd Janubiyya areas. Turkish International Schools traditionally carry out charity and social services campaigns in order to encourage the students' to have a sense of community and their parents to contribute to the wel-

fare of society. The school's mission is to serve parents looking for excellent education in a purposeful, productive, caring and support-

DIE

ive environment, through recognizing and developing the individual ability, talents and interest of each child, in a serious and pleasant learning environment.

In previous years, the school has provided aid to hundreds of poor Yemeni families. After collecting the donations and purchasing the food, staff and parent and student volunteers divide the food into bags in preparation for distribution. The school has a list of poor families in

Sana'a and updates the list every year.

The students then start the distribution under the supervision of teachers, using the school vehicles. Students knock on doors, greet the families with a smile, and hand them the items. Families have already become used to kind gestures from the school and receive the students with warm hugs and gratitude.

This campaign has mobilized the students' sense of ownership and initiative towards their communities' problems, and they worked hard to collect donations from their parents and larger circles.



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