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 **8** Expensive dates, healthy dates, and dates at risk

State schools in Sana'a and Hadramout remain closed

By: Alice Hackman

SANA'A, Sept. 30 — To prevent the further spread of the H1N1 influenza virus, or swine flu, state schools in Sana'a and Hadramout will remain closed for the next few weeks, said the government.

Up to 236 cases of H1N1 have been recorded in Yemen so far, of which six were fatal, according to Dr. Abdul Kareem Al-Kuhlani, general director for disease control and surveillance with special focus on H1N1 flu at the Ministry of Health.

State schools in Sana'a and Hadramout have been kept closed because the H1N1 outbreak has so far centered on the capital governorate and in Seyoun in Hadramout, explained Al-Kuhlani.

Sana'a has been mostly affected because it is the arrival point for travellers from abroad, he explained. As for Seyoun, where 10 cases have been recorded so far, it is a nomadic area whose inhabitants have relatives in the neighboring countries of Saudi Arabia, Oman and parts of the UAE.

"During the past months, there has been a lot of travel," he said, explaining that travellers from Hadramout, who may have attended weddings abroad before Ramadan, do not always use official points of entry when they return to the country.

Health workers had been stationed at major entry points to the country to monitor the health of incoming travelers, including in Haradh on the border with Saudi Arabia, Al-Kuhlani told the Yemen Times earlier this month.

The decision to postpone the beginning of the school year in the two governorates intended to prevent the spread of the flu among students in crowded classrooms, he said, explaining that this move follows World Health Organization

(WHO) guidelines.

"Modeling studies suggest that school closure has its greatest benefits when schools are closed very early in an outbreak, ideally before 1 percent of the population falls ill," says the WHO.

"Under ideal conditions, school closure can reduce the demand for health care by an estimated 30-50 percent at the peak of the pandemic," it explains. "However, if schools close too late in the course of a community-wide outbreak, the resulting reduction in transmission is likely to be very limited."

Guidelines for schools

"There has been a decision that six to ninth graders will start on Oct. 14 and first to sixth graders start on Oct. 31," said Mulatif Ajlan, principal of the governmental Bilal Bin Rabah School for boys in Sana'a.

"I have heard that science teachers and school councillors would receive a week's training," explained the principal, who awaits further details from the ministry.

Guidelines were distributed on Tuesday and Wednesday to schools nationwide, but will not have yet reached the schools, said Al-Kuhlani. These will be given to two teachers nominated in each school, who will observe the children and send any child with flu symptoms home.

According to guidelines, the teacher will then contact the district's disease surveillance officer, who will be prepared to take action, he explained. There is one disease surveillance officer for each of Yemen's 334 districts, he said.

The Ministry of Health has distributed Ohtlamivir, the drug Yemen has in stock to treat swine flu, to all governorates including Soqatra, said Al-Kuhlani, which will be distributing them to surveillance officers on the district level.

The Yemeni Cabinet on Tuesday approved measures to be taken if H1N1 is discovered in schools, explained Al-Kuhlani.

"If any single case is detected in one class, the class will be closed for one week," he said. "If any other case is detected [in another class], the whole school will be closed for one week"

The week starts from the time when the last case was discovered, he stressed.

While state schools waited for the green light from the Ministry of Education, private schools in Sana'a

have taken precautions and have started the year as normal.

The Sana'a International School, for example, stands prepared to teach its students via email, and has online learning program ready in case an outbreak causes the school to be closed, according to its principal Gordon Blackie.

Vaccines under discussion

Despite some parents' hopes that the government will provide a vaccine for their children going to school, Yemen has not yet purchased any of the controversial H1N1 vaccines, according to Al-Kuhlani.

Media reports and mass emails warning about the side-effects of the H1N1 vaccine have been circulated on internet in recent weeks.

The vaccine issue remains under discussion and is being directly handled by Minister of Health Abdulkareem Al-Rase'ee, who will travel to the WHO regional meeting next week to further discuss the matter, he said.

Al-Kuhlani previously told the Yemen Times that any initial vaccination drive would focus on health workers, officials, and people with a higher risk of catching swine flu, such as pregnant women and people with chronic diseases.

The US Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that vaccines be given to pregnant women, healthcare and emergency medical personnel, caregivers for children younger than 6 months. The center also recommends vaccines for all young people 6 months to 24 years old, as well as those between 25 and 64 who have health conditions linked to a higher risk of complications from the flu.

The latest H1N1 fatality in Yemen was a 20-year-old pregnant woman from Seyoun with bronchial asthma, according to Al-Kuhlani. By the time she sought medical help, she was on the sixth day of the disease and was suffering from severe pneumonia in both lungs. She was treated immediately, but it was unfortunately too late, he explained. She died a few hours before the lab results arrived.

Mask on, mask off

To protect themselves, some people in Yemen have started wearing disposable face masks. Especially during the last days of Ramadan, many could be seen sporting them in crowded streets and shopping malls.

In a traffic jam in Al-Hasaba on Monday, a teenage street vendor approached drivers dangling a handful of disposable face masks in the car fumes. "Do you want one or two?" he asked.

But face masks are not necessary for the general population, said Al-Kuhlani.

"For the time being, keeping away from big gatherings is enough," he said.

Avoid too many kisses and too much shaking of hands, he said, adding jokingly that there were no kisses after Eid this

year at the Ministry of Health, for example.

"Use of N95 respirators or face masks generally is not recommended for workers in non-healthcare occupational settings for general work activities," agrees the CDC, who stresses that limited data is available on the effectiveness of these in preventing transmission of H1N1 or seasonal influenza.

The CDC specifically recommends health workers, and patients with suspected, probable or confirmed H1N1 influenza wear a face mask at home, and definitely when breastfeeding.

Yemenis' reactions to face masks are mixed.

"It's not good to doubt too much," said Ghalib Mohammad, 27, father of three and a taxi driver, explaining that his family does not wear face masks. "You have to trust in God."

"I only put it on when a lot of customers enter the shop at the same time," said a shopkeeper with a mask round his neck in Yemen Mall during the Eid holiday.

Other adults ensure that their children are wearing them, but not wear them themselves.

Mask sales dwindle

Dr Abdulbari Ahmed, general manager of a pharmacy in Hadda, sells disposable face masks made in China at YR 30 a piece, after he sold out his stock of YR 350 American face masks.

The Yemeni agent who supplied him with the US masks said he has run out, and had to order for more, which are due to be delivered in about a month.

"A lot of people get one, or two, or three [masks], others take the whole box for the whole family," said Ahmed, explaining that mostly well-off Yemenis and oil companies bought the American masks.

Disposable face masks sold well during the last few days of Ramadan, according to Mohammad Abdu, another pharmacist in Hadda, but now customers are few and far between. Whereas a few weeks ago he sold 100 to 150 disposable face masks a day, now he is lucky if he sells ten.

"Maybe they feel restricted wearing them," he offered as a possible explanation.

Swine flu in Yemen

In Yemen, six people have died from the influenza since the first case was reported two and a half months ago, according to the government.

In comparison, the Ministry of Interior reported 128 fatalities from road accidents during this year's 10-day Eid holiday.



School children with flu symptoms should stay at home, but face masks are not necessary for the general population, says the Ministry of Health.

The first Yemeni case of H1N1 was discovered on June 15, according to Al-Kuhlani. Local transmission started in Seyoun, Hadramout, on Aug. 17 and in Sana'a on Aug. 24. By the end of August, there were 24 cases in the country. In September, the number of cases increased dramatically, reaching 180 in Seyoun, Hadramout, on Aug. 17 and in Sana'a on Aug. 24. By the end of Wednesday, there were 236 declared cases nationwide.

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Twice as many Somali refugees in 2009



Exhausted survivors wait for help after crossing the Gulf of Aden.

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, Sept. 30 — More than 50,400 people have landed in Yemen from the Horn of Africa so far this year, already surpassing the 50,091 people for the whole of 2008, has said the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

This is a stunning 50 percent increase in comparison with the same nine-month period last year when 33,596 refugees arrived by boat in Yemen.

In 2008, more than 50,000 new arrivals landed on the shores of Yemen — a 70 percent increase on the previous year.

This year, numbers show that more than half of the immigrants arriving Yemen are Ethiopians, while in 2008 Somalis formed the majority of arrivals.

More than 27,633 of this year's arrivals are Ethiopians, whereas about 22,791 are Somalis, said the UNHCR.

Unlike Somalis who automatically get refugee status in Yemen, other African nationalists, including Ethiopians, need to prove that they

have been persecuted in order to obtain asylum.

Yemeni authorities tend to deport those who fail to prove persecution, and send refugees to the Kharaz camp in Lahj or Al-Basateen in Aden, where they can either decide to stay to receive aid from the UN agencies or leave the camp to live as a urban refugees.

Somalis, Ethiopians and Eritreans crossing the Gulf of Aden are fleeing desperate situations of civil war, political instability, poverty, drought and famine in Somalia and the Horn of Africa. About 20,000 refugees are expected to cross the gulf to Yemen during the rest of the year.

Clashes sparked in February on the southern bounders of Ethiopia, between the Ethiopian Borana clan and the Somali Gheri clan, according to media reports.

"September and October are the height of the sailing season and the number of arrivals by sea is staggering," said UNHCR.

"The deteriorating security situation and prolonged drought in Somalia are forcing more people to flee further a field, into the neighboring countries and beyond," said spokesperson for the

UNHCR Andrej Mahecic, at the press briefing last week in Geneva.

"Using unscrupulous smugglers, thousands risk their lives and take the perilous journey across the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea to reach Yemen or the Mediterranean Sea to get to Europe," he said.

"So far this year, 266 people drowned and another 153 are missing and presumed dead. For all of last year, the death toll was 589 people drowned and 359 others who went missing and were presumed dead," he added.

As the situation in Somalia becomes increasingly desperate, many Somalis are literally dying to cross over to Yemen and other neighboring countries to seek safety. Others choose to make money from piracy operations.

On Tuesday, the Yemeni Specialized Penal Court started the first hearing in the trial of 12 Somalis accused of hijacking a Yemeni oil tanker from Al-Mukalla in southeast Yemen in April, and killing one of its crew members.

In the presence of the defendants, the public prosecution called for the death penalty for pirates, but the judge adjourned the trial to October because of the absence of translators.

Screw worm outbreak expected as winter approaches

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Sept. 30 — A new outbreak of a livestock disease commonly known as screw worm is expected in the coming months as winter approaches, and may reach most areas of the country, said officials.

"The good environment for the fly is humidity and cool temperature, so the fly activates more in winter and during summer it moves from Tehama region to cool areas," stated Dr. Mansoor Al-Qadasi, General Manager of Animal Health Administration.

The disease, which traveled from Saudi Arabia to Al-Malahidh district in northern Yemen in November 2007, became rampant in 2008 in the governorates of Mahwit, Hajja, Saada and Hodiedah.

Now the disease has moved to reach the governorates of Taiz, Thamar, Ibb and Raima.

"In August and September we received notifications from farmers in the governorates of Taiz, Thamar, Ibb and Raima reporting that the epidemic hit their areas," said Dr. Mohammed Al-Hadad, manager of campaigns administration at the Animal Health Administration.

"We responded to those notifications and assigned veterinarian teams to survey areas of infection, treat infected livestock and train farmers on how to deal with the disease," he added.

"Campaigns are still working until now," said Al-Hadad.

Although officials at the animal health administration are saying that they were able to control the epidemic in the first hit areas of Mahwit, Hajja, Saada and Hodiedah this year, many losses were reported in 2008 especially in Mahwit.

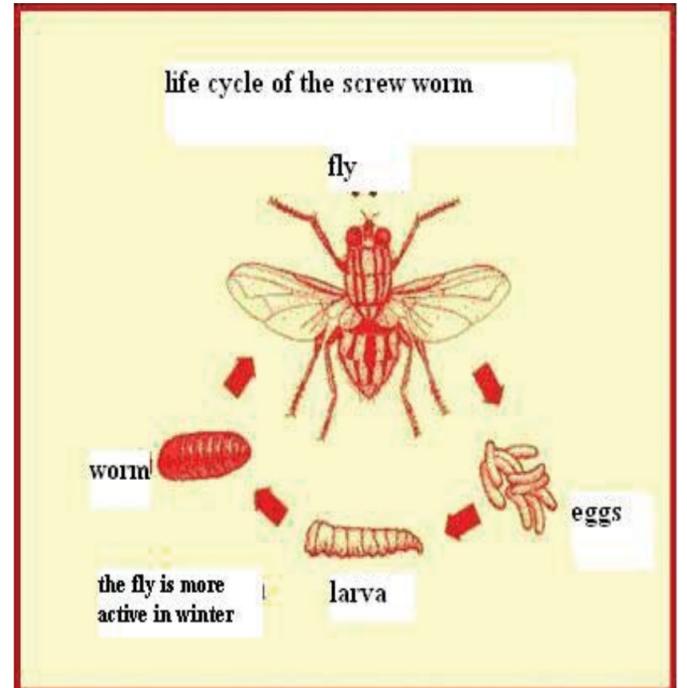
"In 2008, the epidemic in Mahwit alone caused the death of 1465 camels, cows, and sheep," stated earlier Ahmed Al-Hasibi, Director of the Animal Wealth Administration in the governorate.

In recent outbreaks in the governorates of Taiz, Ibb, Thamar and Raima around 200 cows, sheep and goats died, local officials told the press.

However, Dr. Al-Qadasi, denied these reports, saying that the infection in these governorates started in September, and no previous cases were reported.

He said that during summer, flies in those areas are inactive.

"However the upcoming months will be winter and the probability of the disease proliferation is going to be very high in hot areas as the weather



there will be cool, making fly breeding more active," he added.

"The fly lays its eggs on the wound of the animal and then eggs hatch to become larva or maggots. These maggots live on the soft tissues of the animal's body," clarified Al-Qadasi.

"If the wound is not treated, maggots develop into screw worms... If medicine is not given fast, the animal may pass a way," added Al-Qadasi.

New strategy for epidemic controlling

In the past two years the Ministry of Agriculture combated the epidemic by spraying plants and animal yards with pesticides, but now the animal health administration has stopped the practice.

"We used to spray animal yards and plants with pesticides to prevent livestock from the disease, but this method has negative impacts on the environment," said Al-Qadasi.

"We realized that we prevent livestock disease by spraying, and at the same time we hurt beekeeping," added Al-Qadasi.

"Most infected areas are places of beekeeping and spraying plants with pesticides is killing them and this consequently harms environment and beekeepers," he explained.

"Now we adopted the strategy of making farmers combat the disease," said Al-Qadasi.

He believes that training farmers on how to check their animals daily, how to prevent them from infection and how to treat infected cases is the best way loss reducing losses and controlling the epidemic.

"At the beginning of 2009, we

carried out campaigns in Hajja, Mahwit and Hodiedah. In these campaigns, veterinarians surveyed infection areas, treated infected cases and trained farmers on how to deal with the disease. We appointed one veterinarian in each district to be consultant for farmers in his area as well as to distribute free medicine for farmers who have infected cases," explained Al-Qadasi.

"The campaigns will continue as they are realizing excellent results," said Al-Hadad, Manager of campaigns administration.

Yemen alone can't eradicate the epidemic

Officials at the animal health administration confirmed the risk of the screw worm on the production of domestic livestock and the livelihood of small farmers.

"As we know, between 75 and 80 percent of Yemen's population live in rural areas where most people depend on animal husbandry," said Al-Qadasi.

"The disease is affecting the produce especially newborns, milk and meat," he added.

"Many charitable funds and non-governmental organizations give sheep or cows to poor families to be a source of their income, but the epidemic really threatens these projects," he explained.

"Yemen alone can not eradicate the epidemic since it is a fly in the air and a disease that does not recognizes borders," he said.

Al-Qadasi called on all international organizations and finding countries to be aware of the epidemic hazards and to join Yemen in its battle against this fly.

Violence against health workers common, says study

By: Ola Al-Shami
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Sept. 30- Violence against health workers in Sana'a city is common, says a survey conducted by the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sana'a.

The study entitled "Violence against Health Workers in the Workplace" noted a high prevalence of violence against health workers in medical establishments.

The cross sectional study questioned a sample of 722 medical staff, including senior and general physicians, nurses, midwife, students, laboratory technicians, and pharmacists.

The study, which took two years to complete, covered all public hospitals in Sana'a and 13 private hospitals randomly selected from 68 private hospitals in Sana'a city.

"The survey, considered to be the first of its kind in Yemen, aimed to search for factors that may contribute to violence and strategies to prevent it," said Dr. Yahya Raja, the supervisor of seven medical students conducted the study.

"The report on the survey will provide the background information for the design of appropriate policies to address violence in the workplace, nationally and internationally," said Raja.

More than 77 percent of the 700 health workers surveyed said that they had been subjected to violence at work.

The most common type of violence is verbal abuse with 67.7 percent, followed by bullying or emotional abuse with 41.3 percent.

Then followed discrimination based on the town of origin with 23.9 percent, sexual harassment with 21.7 percent, and finally physical violence with 14.9 percent.

Yemeni medical personnel are subjected to more violence than non-Yemeni staff, said the study.

Men were more victimized than women in all types of violence, except for sexual harassment reported by 22.6 percent of women compared to 4.2 of men.

Besides, the percentage for violence from a work colleague reached 93.2 percent.

"Violence in the workplace might be from colleague to colleague, from company to medical worker, or from patient to doctor," Raja explained.

"However, we did not address violence that patients face in hospitals which needs a separate investigation," he noted.

Clear punishment needed

"These threats occur against medical staff for many reasons as the study suggests," said Raja. "One of the factors is the weak role of union in controlling the violence against the medical staff and the lack of support for the meant victims."

"The other factor, according to the study, is due to the hospitals' managements which have no clear approach or policy in tackling and dealing with this issue seriously," he said.

Raja pointed out that there are no clear measures to solve the problem.

"The aim of the study is to have clear procedures against the harasser decided by the union and implemented by

the hospital administration for medical staff in the work place," he said

"We demand clear punishment for anyone who commits violence in the medical field," he added.

"These legislations must make clear how the harasser for example would be punished and who should punish him," he explained. "These details must be clearly and sufficiently determined."

For example, there must be legislation in the work place to prevent the violence cases and a unit to spread awareness among medical and the administration staff

Last December, Dr. Dirhem Al-Qadasi, head of the Intensive Care Unit at the Science and Technology Hospital in Sana'a was killed by a group of tribesmen while on duty.

The latter stormed into the hospital overpowering unarmed security personnel and fatally stabbing Al-Qadasi, after being informed of their elderly father's death.

This crime sparked huge debate about the medical workers' protection, as well as the responsibility of doctors towards their patients.

"However the violence that the medical workers face is not necessarily the cause or a result of medical negligence or medical errors," said Raja.

"It happens because of the inability to treat more than one patient at a time, especially in the emergency section," he explained.

"There are other reasons too, such as the presence of armed people in the emergency unit who accompany the patient, which makes the medical worker confused and lack the ability to control the situation," he said.



Myiasis has caused more than 1,000 animal deaths while over 60,000 other animals have been vaccinated since last December.

In Brief

SANA'A

Conference on higher education challenges to be held soon

The 3rd annual Higher Education Conference is to discuss the challenges of higher education and academic accreditation quality, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Mohammed Motahar said on Tuesday.

The conference, which is to be organized by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research during the period 11-13 of coming October in Sana'a, will be attended by Malaysia, UK, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, UAE, and Philippines.

Deputy Minister told Saba that the Ministry aims to get acquainted with the experiences of the participated countries in the conference in the academic accreditation and quality assurance areas to benefit from them in improving higher education quality.

He also said the conference targets, through discussing a number of work papers, to study the quality and academic accreditation challenges as well as analyzing them to put practical proposals to overcome these challenges in the Arab world, in general, and Yemen, in particular.

Motahar noted that choosing "challenges of higher education and academic accreditation quality" as a slogan for the conference reflects the Ministry's keenness to improve the level of higher education.

The conference coincides with steps taken by the Ministry in this field topped by establishing council for academic accreditation and quality assurance for the higher education institutions.

WFP receives food for peace contribution for Sa'ada

Through the United States Department for International Development (USAID) and its Food for Peace program, the United States of America has made a contribution of over \$2.5 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Yemen. The WFP has received this food contribution in support of its Emergency Operation in Sa'ada. The contribution was confirmed on 4 August 2009 in response to the urgent humanitarian needs of the internally displaced persons in Sa'ada governorate. It consists of 3,440 metric tons of wheat and 460 metric tons of beans, enough to feed 100,000 people for two and a half months.

The first shipment of wheat was offloaded in the port of Hodeida on 23 September 2009 and the grain is now in storage in Sana'a, ready to be transported to Sa'ada. The second shipment of beans is expected to reach Hodeida at the end of November. While the Food for Peace contribution was pledged before the start of the 6th War, it is now a very important and timely contribution in support of WFP's ongoing emergency response in Sa'ada and ensures that WFP's food pipeline is in good shape. USAID made an enormous effort to get the food faster into the country by borrowing these resources from another operation in the Horn of Africa. The contribution has also allowed WFP to decrease the overall needs for internally displaced persons that have been requested from donors within the context of the recently launched Flash Appeal (2 September).

U.S. raises vocational training center aid to Yemen to \$3.7 mln

Yemen and the U.S. agreed on Tuesday on increasing the American aid to vocational training centers in Yemen to \$3.7 million.

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul-Karim al-Arhabi and director of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Jes Ashley signed in Sana'a an understanding memo stipulated amending and raising the American grants agreement concerning propping up the vocational training centers and technical support programs for technical education and vocational training sector.

The American grant includes enhancing the potentials to qualify youth technically and vocationally and acquiring youth with the required

marketing skills.

Moreover, the USAID provides technical assistance for Al-Saleh Foundation to run the Vocational Training Center for Youth Development and equipping a number of vocational centers in Yemen.

Cabinet delays study in schools of Sana'a city and Sayon

In its weekly meeting, the cabinet approved to delay the study in all schools of the Sana'a city and Sayon district of Hadramout province because growing affected swine flu cases in these cities.

The ministerial council delayed the study in these regions as the secondary schools would be opened by 10th October and from 7th class to 9th class of primary schools by 24th October.

The rest classes would be opened by 31st October. Regarding other provinces, the cabinet approved starting the study next Saturday (3rd October, 2009).

Such measures have been taken to give time for the ministry of health to control the new swine flu affected cases, the cabinet said.

According to the report of health ministry, some 202 swine flu affected cases were registered until now and 171 cases have been recovered.

IFJ Head arrives in Sana'a

Head of the International Federation of Journalists Jim Boumelha arrived here on Tuesday.

During the visit, Boumelha is to take part in an initiative on ethical journalism to be launched on Wednesday by Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS).

Sponsoring by the International Federation of Journalists, the Ethical Journalism Initiative aims to create confidence between associations and press and build dialogue between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and government as well as making press more independent and transparent.

It is worth to mention that the last ethical journalism initiative was launched in Bahrain last June.

Indian musical band to hold artistic celebration in Sana'a

The Indian Cathak Band, one of the major traditional dance forms of northern India, is to hold on Wednesday an artistic celebration in the Cultural Center in Sana'a.

A statement issued by the Indian embassy in Sana'a indicated that the Indian embassy, under the auspices of Indian Council of Cultural Relations, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture in Yemen will host the cultural band called "Cathak" which is coming from northern India

Telecomm. Ministry, AFD to develop Internet

Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology Kamal al-Jabri met with Director of the Office of the French Development Agency (AFD) in Yemen Kristian Flament on Monday in Sana'a.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed aspects of joint cooperation between the Ministry and the Agency relating to the development of telecommunications and information technology sector in Yemen.

They agreed to start preparation of the reference conditions for the implementation of the evaluation study of Internet in Yemen which will be financed by the French Development Agency.

They also discussed other areas of cooperation in the strategy projects in the telecommunications sector, including completion of the project for connecting the Yemeni islands.

The minister expressed satisfaction with the developed relationship and partnership between the two countries in various fields.

Yemen, UK tackle arrangements for annual meeting on partnership treaty

Yemen and Britain discussed on Tuesday in Sana'a the British aid for Yemen for the next two years that comes within a new cooperation treaty between them as well as arrangements for the annual meeting on reviewing the development partnership agreement.

Meeting with new British director

for the UK International Development Ministry in Yemen Jiana Reed, minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul Karim al-Arhabi affirmed Yemen's interest in strengthening its cooperation ties with Britain.

The meeting also dealt with details of the British support offered for the war-affected people in northern Yemen.

Reed expressed her country's desire to develop its cooperation with Yemen, as she highlighted the new partnership agreement between Yemen and Britain.

For his part, UK ambassador to Yemen Tim Tiller underlined his country's support for relief efforts for the displaced in Saada and Amran, and for Yemen's unity and stability.

ADEN

Academic cooperation between Aden and Rostock universities discussed

Rector of Aden University Abdul Aziz Bin Habtor held a meeting on Monday with the team of German Rostock University over cooperation between the two universities.

Bin Habtor highlighted academic support of the German university for medicine faculty in Aden University.

They also discussed ongoing arrangements to receive the German medical team who would do free surgical operations for period from 24th October to 7th November of 2009 in Republican Hospital in Aden.

Chinese military naval vessel arrives

A Chinese military naval vessel arrived on Monday in the port of Aden for a several-day good will visit.

The visit of China's military naval came within the framework of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in areas of combating terrorism, smuggling, reducing the maritime piracy, securing the international navigation routes and boosting technical joint coordination between the two countries to serve common interests.

The Chinese warship is one of the Chinese military naval vessels located in the international waters.

TAIZ

169 Somali refugees arrive in Yemen

About 169 Somali refugees have arrived in Thubab coast of Taiz governorate including 69 women on 3 smuggling boats, Interior Ministry has reported.

The security authorities have gathered and sent them to a camp for Somali refugees in Lahj province in cooperation with the Yemen Red Crescent Society.

Moreover, about 298 Somali refugees have arrived in Kharaz camp in Lahj province, including 37 women and 8 children.

Yemen to partake in 52nd session of Committee on Rights of Child in Geneva

Yemen is to participate on Wednesday in the 52nd Session of Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva.

The session is devoted to discuss the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Yemen's participating delegation led by Secretary General of the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood Nafisa al-Jaifi would discuss in the session the national report on the session's topic, Information Department Manager in the council Afrah Hammad made it clear to Saba.

The national report would include the taken measures to implement the protocol's items, Hammad said.

Hammad added that the report deals with the efforts exerted by Yemen in coordination with Saudi Arabia to combat trafficking children as well as carrying several awareness campaigns via media in this respect.

It is worthy to mention that Yemen acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography by Act No. 20 of 24 August 2004. Its first report was submitted in January 2008.

Invitation for Prequalification

Country: Republic of Yemen
Project: Dhamar — Alhussainiah Road Project Section II
1- Part (A1+ A2) Byt Alkabodi — Addan — Bani Muslim Branch- Souq Al-Thalooth (51 Km)
2- Part (B1) Addan — Al-Nahia Branch- Souq Al Thalooth (24 Km)
3- Part (B2, B3) Souq Al-Thalooth- Bait Albaadani — Al-Mishrafa (40 Km)
In Dhamar Governorate, Republic of Yemen

Loan/Credit No: Loan. No.445/2003

The Government of the Republic of Yemen has received a Grant/Loan toward the cost of **Dhamar — Alhussainiah Road Project Section II**, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this [loan No.445/2003] to payments under the contract for **construction of Dhamar — Alhussainiah Road Project Section II**. The **Ministry of Public Works and Highways** intends to prequalify contractors for the construction of the above mentioned projects. The projects are:

1- Part (A1+ A2) Byt Alkabodi — Addan — Bani Muslim Branch- Souq Al-Thalooth (51 Km)

The typical cross section of the road consists 7.00 m paved single carriageway of 2 lanes and 2 x 1-1.5 m earth shoulders as shown in the Tender Drawings. The pavement thickness consists of 5 cm bituminous base course over 15 cm granular base course.

The project consists of the following major work items:

- ¥ More than 1,600,000.0 m³ of Earthwork
- ¥ More than 55,000 m³ of Masonry work
- ¥ More than 174,000.0 m³ of sub-base and base course
- ¥ More than 18, 500.0 m³ of hot mix asphalt concrete

2- Part (B1) Addan — Al-Nahia Branch- Souq AlThalooth (24 Km)

The typical cross section of the road consists 7.00 m paved single carriageway of 2 lanes and 2 x 1-1.5 m earth shoulders as shown in the Tender Drawings. The pavement thickness consists of 5 cm bituminous base course over 15 cm granular base course.

The project consists of the following major work items:

- ¥ More than 1,300,000.0 m³ of Earthwork
- ¥ More than 23,000 m³ of Masonry work
- ¥ More than 29,000.0 m³ of sub-base and base course
- ¥ More than 8,400.0 m³ of hot mix asphalt concrete

3- Part (B2, B3) Souq Al-Thalooth- BaitAlbaadani — Al-Mishrafa (40 Km)

The typical cross section of the road consists 7.00 m paved single carriageway of 2 lanes and 2 _ 1-1.5 m earth shoulders as shown in the Tender Drawings. The pavement thickness consists of 5 cm bituminous base course over 15 cm granular base course.

The project consists of the following major work items:

- ¥ More than 1,500,000.0 m³ of Earthwork
- ¥ More than 52,000 m³ of Masonry work
- ¥ More than 71,000.0 m³ of sub-base and base course
- ¥ More than 14, 400.0 m³ of hot mix asphalt concrete

It is expected that invitations for bid will be made in **Dec. 2009**.

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

Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification document at the **Ministry of Public Works and Highways** from **8:30AM to 2:00 PM, Saturday-Wednesday**, at the address below. A complete set of the prequalification document in **English** may be obtained by interested applicants (a) on the submission of a written application to the address below at no charge , but a **US\$50.00** courier charges is required for overseas delivery, from the following address:

Ministry of Public Works and Highways
Internationally Funded Projects Implementation Unit (IFPIU)
Nuqum, Next to Berlin Public Park
MPWH Head Offices Building, 3rd Floor
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Tel: + 967 1 545164
Fax: + 967 1 546134
Email: ifrpiu@yemen.net.ye
Attention: The Director,IFPIU, MPWH

The deadline for application submission is: **11:00 AM, Wed.11 Nov., 2009**

Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address above by **11:00 AM, Wed.11 Nov.,2009**, and be clearly marked Application to Prequalify for **The Construction of Dhamar — Alhussainiah Road Project Section II**



Job vacancy

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

□ Head Landscaper □

Position is responsible for performing a variety of landscaping and grounds maintenance for Embassy landscape area and gardens, leading and training group of gardeners

Qualifications Required:

A. Education:

Medium or advance diploma of landscaping, agriculture or any other related degree, completion of elementary school is a must.

B. Prior Work Experience:

Minimum of 4 years experience in successful landscape previous work, 6 years working as gardener.

C. Language Proficiency:

Level 3 English language knowledge.

D. Skills and Abilities:

Should be able to solve all problems related to the Embassy landscaper garden.

Grade/Salary: *Ordinarily Resident

FSN -4 US \$ 6, 500 starting salary per annum plus \$2,500 in benefits and allowances.

Detailed Position Description is available at <http://yemen.usembassy.gov/yemen/vacancies.html>

How to apply:

Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sana'a or via Fax No. 303-182 or through e-mail address: hrosanaa@state.gov no later than October 12, 2009.

NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.



Position Opening Tracing Coordinator

The Yemen Red Crescent Society headquarter (HQ) has an opening for an experienced and qualified Individual to assume the position of Tracing Coordinator in the Organization's HQ in Sana'a. The successful candidate will be responsible for coordinating countrywide efforts to Restore Family Links (RFL). RFL entails searching for missing family members, restoring and maintaining family links for those who have lost contact with, or have no news of, their loved ones as a consequence of armed conflict or other situations of violence, natural or man-made disasters or other circumstances requiring a humanitarian response.

Requirements

- Yemeni Citizen, holder of a national ID Card
- Excellent knowledge of the English language (Spoken & Written)
- Field Experience in humanitarian work.
- Excellent administrative skills including budgeting and monitoring expenditures.
- Proficient use of information technology and effective computer skills
- Ability to develop and maintain good working relationships.
- Capable of implementing training programs within area of expertise.
- Willing to travel within country and abroad.

Candidates meeting the above Criteria please send your resume with a covering letter, copies of certificates and working experience by **15 October 2009** to the following address:

Yemen Red Crescent Society Headquarters
26 September Street Building no. 10, Second floor
Att : Mr. Mohamed Yahya Sawlan
Disaster Management Coordinator
Tel / fax : 01 485 416
Email : mohamed.sawlan@ifrc.org

اعلان من جمعية الهلال الاحمر اليمني وظيفة شاغرة: منسق روابط عائلية

تعلن جمعية الهلال الاحمر اليمني عن وجود وظيفة شاغرة مفتوحة لذوي المؤهلات والخبرة لتولي وظيفة منسق خدمات البحث عن المفقودين في المركز الرئيسي بصنعاء وحسب الشروط التالية:
المرشح الفائز سيكون مسؤولاً عن تنسيق الجهود عبر البلاد في مجال إعادة الروابط العائلية.
إن إعادة الروابط العائلية تستلزم البحث عن المفقودين من أفراد الأسرة، وإعادة الروابط العائلية والحفاظ عليها بالنسبة لأولئك الذين فقدوا كل اتصال مع ذويهم، أو لم تصلهم أخبار عنهم نتيجة للنزاعات المسلحة أو حالات العنف الأخرى أو الكوارث الطبيعية أو الكوارث التي يصنعها الإنسان أو غيرها من الحالات التي تتطلب استجابات إنسانية.

الشروط المطلوبة:

- أن يكون يمني الجنسية وحائزاً على البطاقة الشخصية
- أن يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية تماماً (كتابة ومحادثة)
- أن تكون لديه خبرة في مجال العمل الإنساني
- أن تكون لديه مهارات إدارية بما في ذلك إعداد الميزانيات وضبط المصاريف
- أن يكون ذا خبرة في استعمال تكنولوجيا المعلومات وذا مهارات فعلية في استعمال الحاسوب (الكمبيوتر)
- أن يكون قادراً على إنشاء علاقات عمل جيدة والمحافظة عليها
- أن يكون قادراً على تنفيذ برامج تدريبية في مجال الاختصاص
- أن تكون لديه رغبة في السفر داخل البلد وخارج

يرجى ممن تتوفر فيه المهارات والمؤهلات المطلوبة:

تقديم السيرة الذاتية مع رسالة مصاحبة ونسخة من الشهادات الدراسية وشهادات العمل وذلك قبل تاريخ ١٥ أكتوبر ٢٠٠٩ إلى العنوان التالي:

جمعية الهلال الاحمر اليمني - المركز الرئيسي بصنعاء الكائن في شارع ٢٦ سبتمبر عماره رقم ١٠ الطابق الثاني
الهاتف/الفاكس ٠١٤٨٥٤١٦ - منسق ادارة الكوارث
البريد الالكتروني mohamed.sawlan@ifrc.org



Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), is an International Humanitarian Organization providing medical aid to populations in distress, regardless of race, religion and political beliefs. For more information, www.msfuae.ae

JOB VACANCY: Assistant Head of Mission

MSF-France is looking for a dynamic and experienced Yemeni national to support the Head of Mission and help the organisation to continue its medical activities in Yemen.

Location: Sana'a with regular travel to field

Date of Entry on Duty: As soon as possible

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge:

- University Degree, preference to Social Sciences (Political Sciences, International Public Law, Economics...), advance University studies would be an asset
- Knowledge of and interest in the field of human rights/humanitarian law and humanitarian issues
- Excellent knowledge of the country and the region (Arabic peninsula, Middle East)

Experience:

- Working experience at different levels (Government, University, International NGOs, Local NGOs, media, etc.)
- Experience in research, data collection, reporting and analysis

Skills:

- Capacity to analyse data and translate it into practical outputs
- Diplomatic negotiation skills
- Strong organisational and communication skills
- Excellent computer skills, particularly Word, Excel and use of Data Base
- Flexibility to travel to the field when required

Language:

- Arabic as mother tongue
- High level command in English (both oral & written)

JOB DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supports the Head of Mission through delegated tasks and responsibilities
- Monitors, documents and provides analysis on contextual developments
- Supports the Head of Mission in representing issues
- Translates, drafts, edits and/or consolidates written materials
- Supports the Head of Mission for contacts with the media

Applications must be in English language. Candidates should submit a Cover Letter, CV, relevant training and work certificates, copies of diplomas, and any recommendations from previous employers.

Deadline for application: October 12th 2009 to:

Médecins sans Frontières France
P.O. Box 12565 Old University Post Office,
Sana'a
E-mail : msff-sanaa@paris.msf.org

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews. No face-to-face contact or phone contact will be considered.

إفتح وألعب فوراً

SHARK ENERGY DRINK

العديد من الجوائز القيمة

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10,000 YR

1000 YR

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إستلام الجوائز من مراكز الإستبدال أو فروع الشركة متكو

تعر: تلفون: ٥٧ - ٢٤٨٨٩٤ صنعاء: تلفون: ٢٠١٥٤٤ - ٢٠٢٢٧٧ عدن: تلفون: ٢٥٠٨٥٩ / ٢٥٠٩٤٨ الحليدية: تلفون: ٢٢٠٨٢٥ - ٢٢٠٨٤٩ إب: تلفون: ٤١٧٢٢٢/٤
التمكلا: تلفون: ٢١٤٢٦٩ سينون: تلفون: ٥٢٣٦٦

The Chairman of General Authority for Lands, Survey and Urban Planning to the Yemen Times:

“The random construction will continue due to the absence of and the inability of local authorities.”

The General Authority for Lands, Survey and Urban Planning was established in 1995 to inventory, record, protect, manage and dispose of state property and lands. However, its duties do not restrict its mission. The authority is also handling critical issues like the random construction, Yemeni immigrants' investments in lands, and the constant plundering the lands. The Chairman of General Authority for Lands, Survey and Urban planning Mr. Yahya A. Dowaid answered Ismeel Al-Ghabri's questions regarding the authority and its mission.



Mr. Yahya A. Dowaid

Can you tell us more about the authority's missions?

The authority works to supervise the public's possessions such as property and lands, and their inheritance. The authority makes the necessary plans and programs to preserve properties, and files government papers related to the purchase of lands and property. It also handles compensation to property owners whose holdings are utilized for the sake of the public interest

The authority conducts studies that form the basis of the state public plans about issues such as specifying the lands that are allocated to the public services, and reducing the construction on the agricultural lands. The studies also make inventories of the random construction sights and work on preparing them to take into consideration the environmental, social and service aspects of building in coordination with Ministry of Public Works and Highways and other ministries.

Also, we try to specify the requirements for the promotion and attraction of property investment that reduces the gap between requirements for residents and the ones exhibited whenever it is necessary. Moreover the authority is working on providing lands for governmental and investment projects, and housing projects in coordination with the Ministry of Public Works and Highways.

The authority is also preparing the

technical specifications and systems for all surveys and aerial photography, and drawing maps and establishing and sustaining a national network that covers all the islands and lands, which preserves them in coordination with the local authorities.

We also study and analyze the space and aerial images and the results of the remote sensing that are adequate to meet the requirements of the authority project implementation. Moreover, we are granting licenses and directly supervising the execution of aerial photography and any other surveys carried out by foreign or local companies.

Does random construction still exist, even though your authority is mandated for planning?

Random construction cannot mean lack of planning. But ideally, the existence of planning means no more random construction. For example, take the Sana'a municipality. It is already planned for the upcoming years and I can say that Sana'a is now planned for the year of 2020. Plans issued for the years 2008-2009 are designed to accommodate the population and construction growth.

I believe that these plans have the capacity to cover the Sana'a municipality. But the random construction will continue due to the following elements:

First, the disability of the local authorities to apply the plans and pre-

serve them upon their issuance, the disability of the local authorities to seize the breaches and remove them immediately, and when the costs of the lands increase at the places that are planned, many people tend to build randomly and illegally on cheap unplanned lands.

But if the local authorities increase their power and their ability to enforce the laws, they may overcome the phenomenon of random constructions

What are the legal regulations that guarantee the protection of the citizen's right, and is there any coordination between you and any other authorities?

There are laws related to the authority functions such as the land law and its executive bylaw, the law of property registration, the planning law and law of non-Yemeni possession of real estate. This group of laws assures everyone's rights and organizes the property circulation among the property dealers. In regards to the coordination, there is coordination most of the time when cases are common and related to the works of other authorities.

In your opinion, what are the factors for enhancing investment?

Services and infrastructure are the basic requirements for the existence of urban planning. Important services areof water, sanitation, electricity, communications...etc. There are also other essential requirements such as security, stability and effective judiciary, in addition to finding requirements for investment project such as labor and the role of the project in the community.

What about the plundering of lands by some executive officials?

This is due largely to the dysfunction among all the concerned public authorities and this is the responsibility of the Public Authority for Lands. The authority has the right to supervise the state properties and it is not responsibility of the local administration alone.

The issue is an integral to the work of the authorities. The judiciary should bear its responsibilities, the prosecution should bear its responsibilities, and security should also bear its responsibilities. Also the local authorities should bear their responsibility in the governorates and the their districts. The Public Works Offices and their branches along with the Public Authority for lands should bear their responsibilities. This responsibility should be integral and cooperative. It is like the stones of a building- if one stone falls down, the whole building will fall down.

There are several complaints from immigrants who receive frequent calls from the state to invest their

أرض حمير للتجارة
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China: Tel: 00862081367815 - Fax: 00862022374180 - 00862081369937

funds in the country, but in the end they face many obstacles related to land possession and plunder?

Our study of a large group of immigrants and their problems indicated that many lack of awareness, and most of them are victims of this lack of awareness.

For example, when immigrants conduct business with untrustworthy people, such as their relatives and sometimes their employees, for the purpose of property possession. The other thing is that immigrants are not careful about the proper procedures to investigate the validity of the property before the purchase.

Through the procedures that the authority adopted and will adopt a short while later, there will be guideline manuals that guide the immigrants and citizens of how to proceed with the correct legal procedures of the operation of property circulation in a way that guarantees the protection of their rights and that their property will not to be subjected to plunder or deception.

The authority is committed to developing and is attempting, in cooperation with the Immigrants Ministry and other ministries, to be critical of our own work and overcome challenges that come up from time to time and work on to avoid them. For example, the authority drafted a proposal of the non-Yemeni possession law. It is noticed that most of the Yemeni immigrants are granted citizenship from other countries. Therefore, when they come to Yemen, they are dealt with as foreigners and this obliges them to conduct business with people who may be untrustworthy. Thus they are subject to a lot of troubles.

With the adoption of this law, Yemeni immigrants who have been granted other citizenship have priority over the other foreign nationals so they can work without any obstacles or restrictions.

Is there any relationship between the tribal influence and the plundering,

as most of the plunder operations are carried out with the support of a tribe?

I personally do not think that there is any relationship at all. Tribes have no effect on the state, the constitution and the laws. Tribes move in the remote areas that are governed by the state, and if the state is able to reach these areas,

it finds the tribes stands are on its side.

Our last question is that: What are the greatest challenges that the authority faces?

Whatever people report in regards to lands problems, difficulties and risks- these are the challenges in front of the authority.

The Tehama Trading Company is the Dealer for Nissan and Peugeot vehicles in Republic of Yemen with branch offices is Aden, Hodeidah, Mukalla, Sana'a and Taiz.

We need immediately a Sales Supervisor for our Aden show room. Interested candidates having 5 to 6 years experience in automobile sales with fluency in English and Arabic language may please mail their resume to ttchod@tehama.com.ye immediately.

The Tehama Trading Co.
 Post Box No 5370, Alsaidi Street, Maala, Aden
 Fax: 02 241736

JOB VACANCY
National Consultant:
Human Rights Curriculum

Location: Sana'a — Yemen
 Application Deadline: 12 October 2009
 Nationality: Yemeni
 Duration: 30 days.

Background:
 The UNDP Project of Enhancing National Human Rights Capacity in Yemen aims at strengthening the capacity of both the Government and civil society organizations to promote, protect and respect human rights in Yemen. The program will focus on the following three areas: law harmonization, development of a national human rights strategy and support to Civil Society Organizations

This consultancy will constitute the first phase of activities to develop human rights and gender sensitive curriculum for schools and universities. The objectives of the consultancy are:

- Assessing the curriculum for education as well as teacher education to determine areas where and how human rights principles can be included
- Recommend the process and methodology for incorporating human rights education in the curricula for schools, universities and teacher education.

The findings/recommendations from this exercise will be the basis for developing and implementing activities for mainstreaming human rights and gender in educational institutions.

Duties & Responsibilities:
 The consultant will undertake this work with an International consultant and will undertake the following Specific Tasks:

- Identify current efforts or initiatives undertaken on human rights curriculum development in Yemen
- Review literature and school books to obtain information on the inclusion of human rights
- Review the curriculum for schools and teacher training and identify areas where human rights can be incorporated
- Produce work plan and recommendations on the process and methodology for incorporating human rights into the school curriculum and curriculum for training teachers

Qualifications & Competencies:

- A postgraduate degree in Education, human rights or related field with an emphasis on curriculum development
- Comprehensive knowledge of human rights, UN treaties and conventions
- Minimum 5years experience in human rights education.
- Experience in situational analysis and preparation of reports with strategic recommendations and capacity to develop practical solutions to multifaceted problems
- High level of communication skills, and competent in report writing
- Excellent knowledge of written and spoken Arabic and English.

To apply for this position please forward your CV along with a cover letter to:
 UNDP-YEMEN
 Attn: Ms. Amal Ali
 E-mail: procurement.ye@undp.org
 Vender Registration website: www.undp.org/ye/procurement.php
 Fax: + 967 1 448841

JOB VACANCY
National Consultant:
National Human Rights Strategy

Location: Sana'a — Yemen
 Application Deadline: 12 October 2009
 Nationality: Yemeni
 Duration: 30 days.

Background:
 The UNDP Project of Enhancing National Human Rights Capacity in Yemen, aims at strengthening the capacity of both the Government and civil society organizations to promote, protect and respect human rights in Yemen. The programme will focus on the following three areas: law harmonization, development of a national human rights strategy and support to Civil Society Organisations

This consultancy will constitute the first phase of activities to develop the Yemeni National Human Rights Strategy with broad consultations with Yemeni citizens. The strategy will include law harmonization, human rights education curriculum development etc. The findings/recommendations from this exercise will be the basis for developing and implementing the process of developing the strategy

Duties & Responsibilities:
 The National Consultant, working alongside an International Consultant, will undertake the following tasks:

- Review similar processes undertaken elsewhere and identify best practices and lessons learnt in developing National Human Rights Strategies
- Identify components, issues and stakeholders to be included in developing the National Human Rights Strategy
- Recommend a strategy and work plan for the process of developing the national human rights strategy

Qualifications & competencies:

- Advanced Degree in law, international law, human rights or related fields
- Extensive knowledge of the human rights and gender equality situation in Yemen
- Minimum 5 years of proven work experience in the, human rights, or gender equality areas
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience with research, writing, and analysis in the field of international human rights
- Excellent knowledge of computer software
- Excellent knowledge of written and spoken Arabic and English.

To apply for this position please forward your CV along with a cover letter to:
 UNDP-YEMEN
 Attn: Ms. Amal Ali
 E-mail: procurement.ye@undp.org
 Vender Registration website: www.undp.org/ye/procurement.php
 Fax: + 967 1 448841

نرحم جدي يضئني في سماء بيت القعود
 فنزف اللعاني الى المعهدهس/
محمد أحمد القعود
 بمناسبة ارتقاء المولود الجديد والذي اسماه
زياد
 فاك ألف مبروك ..
 وجعله الله قرة عينه والديه وانبيته نبأنا حسناً
المهملون

والدك الحاج / أحمد القعود
 اخوانك / مطهر وفاخمل وحشمان وزياد ومختار ويحيى وهيثم القعود
 وكافة الاطال والاصدقاء وهي مكللة بالورد والياسمين من رشيد السخاف

Fears of Yemen becoming an international combat zone

By: Ali Abdul Jalil

Yemen is still the field of battles in the south and the north. The government continues to shell the strongholds of the Houthis insurgents and the Houthis continue to defend themselves, claiming that they are fighting for a decent and secure life and asking for detainees captured in 2004 to be released.

However, the possible influence of outside powers is becoming clear. The insurgents have extended their resistance to government forces out of Sa'ada and into the Amran and Al-Jawf governorates. The government has accused the Iraqi Sadri movement of supporting the insurgents. Analysts think that the rebels receive support from other Shiite groups in Iraq and Lebanon.

Sana'a: There is nothing so far to assert that the war between the government and Houthis is nearing its end. While the military has dubbed its operation the "Operation Burnt Land" and promised to uproot the rebels, recorded military events show that this is merely another round - the sixth - in a series of wars that have been breaking out now

and then since 2004.

The foreign factor has become clearer with the continuation and spread of the battles that have led opposition parties to express their fears that Yemen might become an international battleground. The aim of this, they say, would be to create strategies in line with Iran's endeavors to extend its influence to the Gulf states through Yemen, whose strategic location may play a role in determining the course of any future struggle between Iran and other countries in the region and the world.

America has warned against the expansion of clashes out of the mountains in the north. If they reach the coasts of the Red Sea, it will be easier for Iran to support the insurgents who enjoy ideological relations with it, which may jeopardize energy resources especially as Yemen is controlling Bab Al-Mandab Strait.

Iran denies support for the Houthis, but the continuation and expansion of fighting outside Sa'ada affirms that there is some type of support. The government did not hesitate in accusing the Sadri movement of supporting the insurgents, and even the calls by Hasan Nasrallah to President Saleh were inter-

preted as the interest of Shiite powers in Lebanon and Iran in what is happening in Yemen. Although the two fighting parties respond positively to a ceasefire, battles soon break out again among mutual accusations of having violated it.

Government-set conditions to end hostilities were: the Houthis' withdrawal from all districts, opening and securing roads, descending from mountains and evacuating strongholds, returning all confiscated weapons and refraining from interfering in the local authority's affairs. The Houthis eventually accepted such demands, after they had declared an initiative of their own. Nevertheless, they expressed their doubts about the government's seriousness and asked for an independent committee to supervise the end of fighting.

While officials say that this will be the last war to wipe out the insurgents, it does not seem that the matter will go as planned. Military intervention might not be the answer, despite the use of advanced weapons with tribal and religious support, because the Houthis' guerilla warfare, supported by undeclared logistic support to obtain arms from the army or arms dealers, has surprised many.

In a media war in which each party claims to defeat the other and cause it dire human and material losses, it has become clear that, despite the absence of independent statistics, hundreds of Yemenis have died, thousands of others have been injured, and some 150,000 people have been displaced and are not safe even within their camps.

Hussein Al-Houthi, the movement founder, was killed in 2004 while fighting against the government. He was influenced by the teachings of his father, Badruddin, who is said to belong to Jarwadiyya sect radiating from the Zaidi school of thought close to the Twelver Shiite trend adopted by many Iranians. Badruddin believed that leadership should be on the condition of the imam or chief being a descendant of Hashemite family. In this, he opposes Zaidi scholars who say that presidency is the right of anyone elected by the people.

The Houthis have adopted the slogans embraced by Iran - "God is great, die America, die Israel, damn the Jews, victory to Islam," which strengthens suspicions of their being connected to Iran.

Source: www.elaph.com

War crimes in Yemen?

By: Brian Whitaker

After Gaza, the next task for Judge Goldstone could be Yemen where the government continues to fight a rebellion in the north

Now that the UN commission has published its findings on Gaza, there's another task waiting for Judge Goldstone and his team: an investigation into possible war crimes in Yemen. Off and on for the last five years, the Yemeni government has been fighting a rebellion in the north of the country. The latest flare-up began five weeks ago when the military launched an offensive codenamed Operation Scorched Earth.

It is difficult to know exactly what is going on there, partly because access is severely restricted (for aid workers as well as journalists). Day after day the government claims to have inflicted further "painful" strikes against the rebels - known as Houthis - and the rebels in turn appear to have killed and captured significant numbers of government troops, as well as some armoured vehicles.

One thing beyond doubt, though, is that this has created a major humanitarian crisis. Tens of thousands have had to flee their homes and, so far, aid agencies have been unable to provide food or shelter for many of them.

The Houthis are fierce fighters and by no means a pleasant bunch: there have been numerous reports of them killing people in cold blood.

The government says it is going to finish them off once and for all, and some of its statements sound remarkably similar to those heard from Israel about wiping out Hezbollah in 2006 and Hamas earlier this year. As in Lebanon and Gaza, it is probably not going to succeed. It may kill lots of people and quieten the rebellion, but disaffection in the rebel areas will not go away any time soon: it is a result of decades of exclusion and marginalisation.

Since Operation Scorched Earth began, the Yemeni military has been

relying heavily on air strikes. This raises the question of how - if at all - they distinguish between rebel fighters and civilians, especially in a lawless part of the country where citizens habitually carry guns for their own protection.

In the first days of the offensive there were reports of 15 civilians killed when a fighter jet attacked a marketplace.

Ten weeks ago, more than 80 people - mostly women and children - were reportedly killed when aircraft repeatedly struck an encampment of people who had fled the fighting. For once, there appears to be plenty of evidence from witnesses who can testify to the attack.

According to Human Rights Watch, one witness said that "Yemeni military planes conducted four raids this morning [Wednesday] and, without warning, bombed a group of displaced persons sheltering in an open area near a school. There were no armed clashes or rebels in the area at the time, the witness said, but the area was close to a road sometimes used by Houthi rebels."

Unicef expressed "deep concern" at the civilian deaths and its regional director said: "This is unacceptable. Children should not be caught in conflict. Their right to health, protection and safety must be protected at all times."

Human Rights Watch called on the Yemeni government "to promptly and impartially investigate responsibility for any attacks on civilians, and urged all parties to the armed conflict in the region to respect the prohibition under international law against targeting civilians".

The Yemeni government says it will investigate, but the specially formed "fact-finding commission" is not independent - it is under the control of the army - and there are already signs as to which way the investigation is heading.

The defence ministry is blaming the rebels for "preventing citizens from leaving to the safe areas" and says, "The terrorists are using innocent citizens as human shields."

Source: The Guardian

Who are the expatriates and what do they want from the government?

By: Fareed ba Abbad

Upon completing this article on expatriates, I realized that some people will be angry with me when they read the first part, calm in the middle and by the end of it, most, if not all of them, will agree with me.

We know that the state has established the Ministry of Expatriates that is headed by a minister from the Cabinet. We also know that the ministry has a headquarters, representatives, agents and employees (whose numbers I don't know and don't care to know as an expatriate). The important thing here is that the government does care about emigrants, and this is demonstrated by the founding of the ministry. It was a crucial step that could benefit the whole country.

But in truth, the Ministry of Expatriates would not be able to do anything if it did not receive help and support from other government departments. Otherwise the ministry would have nothing to do besides boasting about conferences.

But the fact that the government cares about the expatriates is not enough, when the only actions are words, speeches and statements.

There are two questions for the ministry should answer because it intends to hold a third conference on expatriates in Sana'a early next October.

I will do my best to both ask the question and answer them according to what I know and what I understand from other emigrants. The questions are: Who are

the expatriates? What do they want from the government?

Needless to say that the government should care about, and protect expatriate interests both outside Yemen and inside, because that would encourage investment by emigrants.

We do not want to delve into the scientific definition of an expatriate. An expatriate is simply someone who moves to another country. My conviction, however, is that a person who takes another nationality other than his original nationality, or is an illegal immigrant should not be considered as an emigrant. The former does not have to answer to the laws of his or her country of origin. The latter is violating the laws, so he or she has no right to request help from either country.

We can also divide emigrants into two categories: the first is involuntary expatriates or those who have been born out of their country of origin. This group had no choice in the matter and has no real connection or interest in their homeland. Their feelings towards it are no more than those of a soccer fan.

Some might think that I am a little harsh on this category, but this usually is the truth I see it

When something good or bad happens to these people's homeland, they have good or bad feelings about it for only a few minutes. Their ultimate dream is to obtain the citizenship of the country they are living in.

Unfortunately, this category represents a considerable amount of expatriates and many of them wish their original country would facilitate this because

they do not even think about going to their fatherland. Therefore, their country receives little from them, like sending home *zakat* money during Ramadan. I am not implying that this their fault. Years pass weaken their relationship to their country. Many have no relatives in Yemen.

While writing this article, I asked one expatriate what he would like his country to do for him. His spontaneous reply was: "I'd like my country to ask the country I live in to grant my family and me citizenship."

That was the impulsive answer he gave without even thinking that such task would not concern his homeland. People are concerned about improving their lives in the countries they live in. They want public schools, universities and hospitals that impose minimal fees, in addition to freedom of movement and business. This should not be seen as a strange desire since many of them were born in the other country, and some have been living abroad for dozens of years.

Also, former governments have helped many of these emigrants to sever their connection with their homeland through political, economic and ideological repellants. You can find some self-exiled people who have been living in other countries for 40 or 50 years with children in their thirties, who, in turn, have children. All have Yemeni citizenship, but what do they know about Yemen? Do they have real feelings for it?

This condition may seem disturbing to sociologists, but it is the bitter truth. Some people have retrieved their psy-

chological identity, and have reconciled with their nationality.

The second category is those emigrants who go to other countries with fixed goals that is saving enough money to fulfill dreams such as building their own house, and educating or marrying their children. This group plans to eventually settle in their home country.

This category is larger the first one, and thus huge funds are sent back to Yemen in transfers.

Unlike the first type, these expatriates are connected spiritually, ideologically and patriotically. They are affected by the developments taking place in their motherland, which is natural because everyone and everything that mean anything to them is there. In other words, their bodies are abroad, but their souls and hearts are at home. This category goes back home frequently, and they can be the connection between their native land and the lost first category. This group pays more attention to matters inside their country than outside, and thus the government should care about their interests.

The demands of the second group include, facilitating investment projects, regardless of the amount of its capital, setting up courts that look solely into expatriates' cases, giving priorities to expatriates' projects in order to encourage them to invest in Yemen, enhancing patriotism among emigrants and encouraging them to visit Yemen more frequently. They also want giving more attention paid to expatriates schools in non-Arab countries and curricula and competent teachers sent abroad to strengthen expatriates' relations with their homeland.

If we look at the things that should be provided by the government to expatriates, we can see that most of them are of legal, procedural and of an executive nature and that they would contribute considerably to encouraging emigrants to visit and invest in their country. This could provide many jobs for their countrymen. If this happened, even the first type of expatriates may even think about settling in Yemen instead of waiting for naturalization.

What I have said may appeal to many and it may upset some, but this is the truth. And as long as we are nearing the third expatriate conference, I, as expatriate, have written this article asking the government to help Yemeni emigrants because they can improve development. This will never happen unless expatriates see credible change that reestablishes trust in government. This conference is a critical turning point for either reinstating or dismissing confidence forever.

Source: nabanews.net

Thoughts for Sa'ada Rising

By: Marion Patrick Lavilla

Amongst calls to stop the war during the holy month, the violence in Sa'ada is escalating. Before, we thought they took it in the outskirts of the Sa'ada City. Now, we can hear the gunshots nearer and the explosions louder.

Before they told us we were safe. Just this morning, we felt an explosion near the compound and debris fell on the roofs. Most of us are living in fear and we no longer know who to believe.

I am not afraid. I am single and I don't have a family to take care for. Seeing my colleagues worry and cry over the phones make me want to call home and tell them how much I love and miss them. One day, I might not wake up or I might get hit by a stray bullet. We can't tell, especially when all you hear are opinions and gossip coming from other employees or the soldiers who visit the hospital.

The remains of the dead tell more stories than the ones you hear from these people. And there is so much to tell if you see a cadaver dressed in civilian clothes.

So far, they have yet to bring women involved in the crossfire or battle. A child was hit by a stray bullet in the back and the doctor has to insert a tube into his chest to remove the excess air or to drain blood.

We all felt bad when we saw the scene: The father was holding the child between his arms, robe drenched with blood, while the child tried not to scream from the pain he felt when a large tube was inserted with a sharp steel guide. For most of us, it was ordinary. For me, it was like La Pieta,

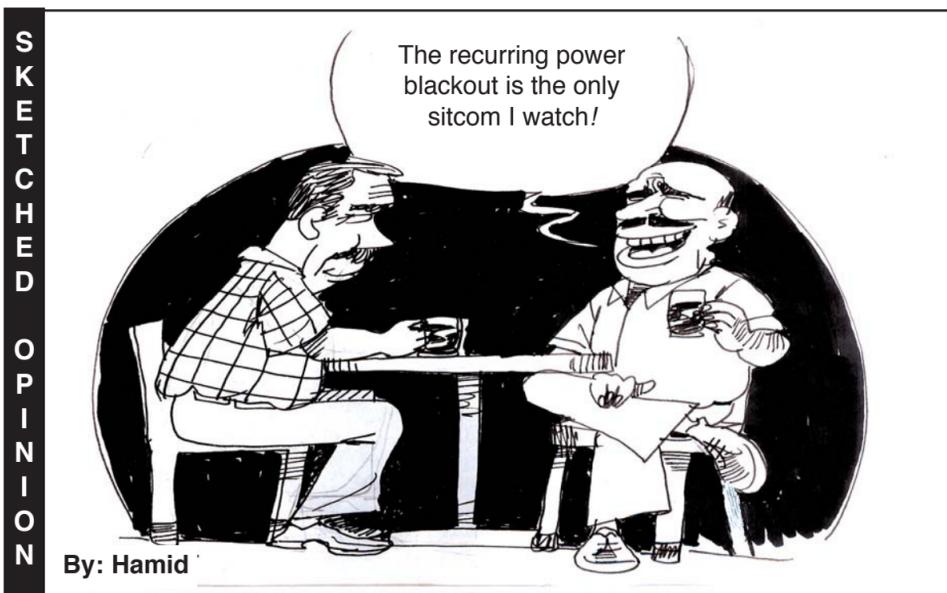
and a sudden urge to comfort both of them came through me.

When the night shift is about to end at about 5 to 6 am, trucks, army vehicles and ambulances will stop by ER to drop off the dead and the injured. The sight is ghastly but you have to get used to the bloody dead bodies and the odor they spread throughout the area because they haven't been waiting for over than a day.

Wrapped in blankets, the doctors will examine their wounds before they are kept in a room beside ER. There, our superiors will decide whether to keep them in the morgue or send them back to the military with a certificate. Sometimes -or rather, most of the time- the morgue is full. We have to put the dead bodies in the small room and keep them there overnight. In the morning, they emit a horrific smell. When you pass by the room, it is better if it's locked. If the door is slightly open, you have this curious feeling of wanting to check what's inside.

The night shift ended, admitting a number of patients who needs urgent and immediate care. We were all tired and wanted to leave the area early because we still had duty in the afternoon. Who do you think can get sleep with all those explosions? It's good I have a tolerance for the noise, my friend slept only for two hours. It might also be the reason she didn't feel like working and left most of it for me. I can't blame her.

Rising to this challenge makes us tough. If you don't have anyone to rely on, the "you concept" comes in place. There's no one who knows you better than yourself. When adversities come, ask yourself. Listen to your voice. This mantra comes in handy in times like this.



By: Hamid

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Muslims in Germany

The future chancellor-makers

Muslims in Germany form a potential voting block that cannot be ignored. But what are their political preferences and to what extent do the German parties take Muslim sensibilities into account? Moritz Baumstieger reports

Henny Kreeft would like to make one think clear. "We are not working to establish an Islamic Republic of the Netherlands." Kreeft, 53-years-old, is the Chairman of the Dutch Muslim Party (NMP), which announced in early August that it would field candidates in the next communal and parliamentary elections. Since then, he has spent much of his time trying to dissipate anxieties.

The NMP, established in 2007, has potential. The Netherlands has only a 0.66 percent threshold for candidates to overcome in order to be eligible for representation in parliament. With one million Muslims in a country with a total population of 16 million, this could be enough to enable a breakthrough for the party.

There was once even an Islamic party in Germany. It was registered in 1998, but whoever dials its Munich telephone number will hear the message "this number is no longer in service." In 2002, the Federal Returning Office removed the party from the electoral list as it had not participated in any elections nor had it complied with the requirements on providing information about itself.

Prolonged calculations
Nonetheless, Muslims in Germany form a potential voting block that cannot be ignored. This is especially the case when elections are as close as they were in 2005. Yet, the search for figures is difficult – even the total number of Muslims living in Germany is vague.

After prolonged calculations, the Islam Conference, a body initiated by German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble (CDU), issued a study at the

end of last June estimating the total number of Muslims in Germany at between 3.8 and 4.3 million, of which 1.84 million hold a German passport.

The German Federal Statistics Office conservatively estimates that some 750,000 Muslims are eligible to vote in the country.

Someone with perhaps a better idea of the figures is Salim Abdullah, Director of the Central Institute Islam Archive in Soest, the oldest Islamic institution in Germany. He regularly publishes a study entitled "New Facts and Figures on Islamic Life in Germany." Abdullah's polling is based on responses by some 1500 participants.

When it comes to questions about voting preferences among Muslims, the Federal Statistics Office in Wiesbaden turns to the archive. Even the Interior Ministry regards the data from Soest as the most reliable available.

According to a previously unpublished study from 2009 presented in excerpts by the Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper, there are 1.1 million Muslims eligible to vote – some 1.7 percent of total eligible voters. The new study also indicates how Muslims tend to vote.

A calculated electioneering move

Frank-Walter Steinmeier (SPD) would probably have mixed feelings when glancing at the results of this poll. The Social Democrats are in first place with 35.5 percent of the vote, but only two years ago, 52 percent of Muslims were willing to cast their ballots for the SPD. The party has primarily lost ground to non-voters.

In 2007, only 3.7 percent of respondents reported that they wouldn't vote. Now it is 16 percent and another



At the ballot box: according to a study from 2009, there are 1.1 million Muslims eligible to vote – some 1.7 percent of total eligible voters

20 percent remain undecided about voting.

The demand by Minister of Justice Brigitte Zypries (SPD) to introduce dual citizenship is a calculated electioneering move. The Greens have increased their support by 3.6 percent to a current level of 18 percent. This is a clear result of choosing Cem Özdemir as their leader, as confirmed by additional questions in the study.

The Left Party and FDP don't even make it to 5 percent, the cut-off threshold for seats in the German Bundestag. The same holds true of the CDU, which only garnered 4 percent support.

Conservative Muslims and Christian ideals

Bülent Arslan from the German-Turkish Forum of the CDU is attempting to turn these figures around. He believes the party holds a trump card that can be used to attract Muslims.

"The 'C' in our party name stands for an ideal of man based on religious values also common to Islam." One problem, however, is the manner in which the CDU has presented itself in the past. "You can't win the trust of Muslims by continuously characterizing them as a problem."

Hasret Karacuban of the Greens concurs with Arslan on this issue. "The immigration policies of the CDU leave a lot to be desired," says the spokesman for the 'Green Muslims.'

This makes it improbable that the CDU can win votes among Muslims, even when this group includes many adhering to conservative values. In order to attract these voters, the party needs a coordinated strategy. This is currently lacking, says Arslan, "and it is an issue on which I criticise my own party."

The 34-year-old attempted to run as a candidate for the CDU in 2002 and



Bülent Arslan: "You can't win the trust of Muslims by continuously characterizing them as a problem"

2005, but couldn't convince the party hierarchy. "It became clear to me that the time was not yet ripe. However, we in the CDU have to adapt before it is too late."

The SPD already opened its doors in the 1970s. At the time, labour unions served as a bridge to the party for many workers of Turkish origin. The Left Party also benefits from this connection. The FDP, by contrast, manages to win points from Muslim entrepreneurs.

"Adhere to the constitution!"

Do German Muslims require their own party? Bekir Altas from the General Secretariat of Milli Görüş says, "Muslims participate in daily life in Germany and are part of society. They should therefore engage themselves in the established parties."

The Central Committee of Muslims also doesn't think much of the idea. "Of

course, we could tip the scales in an election, but I regard this possibility as much too limited," says Deputy Chair Maryam Brigitte Weiss. "It is neither desirable or sensible to establish an Islamic party in Germany."

Henny Kreeft can understand those who chose to work towards integration. The situation in the Netherlands, however, is different. "We were established as a reaction to Geert Wilder's Anti-Islam Party." The right-wing group now has nine members in the Dutch parliament and demands a ban on immigration for Muslims.

Kreeft nonetheless recommends that German Muslims exercise their "democratic right to found a party" if they are not happy within the established parties. And he quickly adds his standard bit of advice, "But by all means, adhere to the constitution!"

Moritz Baumstieger / Qantara.de 2009.

Maybe Israel just needs to acknowledge Palestinian pain

By: Jonathan Freedland

Many of Israel's supporters around the world have spotted an alarming trend in the debate on Middle East peace. Call it the "Back to '48" approach, which argues that any attempt to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is doomed unless it gets to the root of the problem, tackling not only the "1967 file" – ending the occupation, plus or minus a chunk of land here or there – but also the "1948 file," consisting of the issues left outstanding by Israel's birth.

These 1948 questions are even knottier and more sensitive than the 1967 ones: among them, whether Palestinians can at last come to terms with what was established in that fateful year, namely Israel as a Jewish state, and whether Israelis can at last acknowledge the impact of that event on Palestinians, including the creation of at least 700,000 Palestinian refugees.

Plenty of Jews and Israelis shy away from that latter question, even if they can see that the Oslo approach –

focusing narrowly on clearing up the mess left by 1967 – has not exactly been a stellar success.

For one thing, many, perhaps even most, Israelis believe there is nothing to answer for. Sure, they argue, bad things happened, but that was the Arabs' fault for making war on the nascent Jewish state; if Palestinians had only accepted the UN partition plan, all this heartache could have been avoided.

Of course, Palestinians respond to that by asking why they should have accepted 45% of the land in which they were then a majority.

But even if you reject that, even if you blame the Arabs for starting the war, you can still see that by the end of it, 700,000 people were dispossessed – and, as those Israeli historians who have trawled through the key archives have established, Israel played a crucial part in that process.

Others are wary of looking back at 1948 because they fear any discussion of the birth of the Palestinian refugee problem will end with the demographic death of Israel as a Jewish state. They fear any right of return for those

refugees and their descendants would see a wave of migrants numerous enough to erase Israel's Jewish majority. Pretty soon Israel would become just another Arab-majority state.

What's more, Jews and Israelis fret that any discussion of 1948 will, almost automatically, call into question the legitimacy of the state of Israel. Why else would anyone want to discuss the circumstances of a state's birth if not to undermine it?

Those diplomats and others currently arguing that the peace process, set to be revived by U.S. President Barack Obama later this month, needs to go back to 1948, have to tackle these fears head on. Which may not be as impossible as it sounds.

Some might be tempted to fall back on the usual method of reassurance, telling Israelis that even if a Palestinian right of return were ceded in the abstract, it would never be implemented in any concrete fashion worth worrying about.

Recognition of the right would be expressed by the return of a purely symbolic number of Palestinians and,

mainly, by a multibillion dollar restitution fund, just as the Clinton peace plan of 2000 envisioned.

The trouble is, that may not convince too many doubters, if only because Palestinians themselves so far have seemed unlikely to accept such a package.

Another tack might prove more fruitful. Zionists, inside and outside Israel, should ask themselves if acknowledging the Palestinian plight in 1948 really is synonymous with full-scale return, as the fearmongers argue.

Isn't it possible to acknowledge someone's pain without promising to turn back the clock and undo the events that led to it? Surely we know from our personal lives that sometimes it is simply the acknowledgment itself – the admission of responsibility – that has a healing effect.

Indeed, this might provide a clue as to why previous efforts have failed. It's possible that, in this relationship, Israelis are from Mars and Palestinians from Venus; Israelis have been the man who interrupts a sobbing woman as she explains a problem, rushing to come up

with the mechanics of a solution instead of just listening. Such a man won't realize that what the woman wanted most was to be heard, for her sorrow to be acknowledged.

So Israelis have sought to cut short the discussion of 1948, preferring to pull out the calculator and work out the compensation package that might make the problem go away. But done like that, it never will. If Israelis and their supporters were able instead to face the truth of what happened in 1948 and admit it, who knows what progress might be made?

Some will immediately ask – Martian-style – what form this acknowledgment would take. We might revive an idea floated at Taba, establishing a panel of historians from both peoples, or we might adapt South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation process. But the precise form is less important than the idea: an honest reckoning with the events that led those refugees to leave rather than a legalistic focus on preventing their mass return. My own conversations with Palestinians in the diaspora suggest it is

this reckoning, this acknowledgment, that they are after.

Would admitting the truth of 1948 instantly undermine the legitimacy of the State of Israel? Only if you believe that Israel's legitimacy was predicated on the notion that its birth would be bloodless. Israel's advocates can argue that the creation of a Jewish national home in 1948 was so morally necessary it remained, and remains, just – even if it came at a tragically high price.

If most Zionists believe that – and they surely have to – then they should not balk at spelling out precisely the price paid by others. It is the morally honest thing to do – and, taken together with a similar process of national contemplation on the Palestinian side, may just unblock a peace effort which desperately needs unblocking.

Jonathan Freedland is an editorial page columnist for *The Guardian* and the *Jewish Chronicle*.

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The G-20's empty promises

By: Martin Feldstein

Talk about "exit strategies" will be high on the agenda when the heads of the G-20 countries gather in Pittsburgh a few days from now. They will promise to reverse the explosive monetary and fiscal expansion of the past two years, to do it neither too soon nor too late, and to do it in a coordinated way.

These are the right things to promise. But what will such promises mean?

Consider first the goal of reversing the monetary expansion, which is necessary to avoid a surge of inflation when aggregate demand begins to pick up. But it is also important not to do it too soon, which might stifle today's nascent and very fragile recovery.

But promises by heads of government mean little, given that central banks are explicitly independent of government control in every important country. The US Federal Reserve's Ben Bernanke, the Bank of England's Mervyn King, and the

European Central Bank's Jean-Claude Trichet will each decide when and how to reverse their expansionary monetary policies. Bernanke doesn't take orders from the US president, and King doesn't take orders from the British prime minister (and it's not even clear who would claim to tell Trichet what to do).

So the political promises in Pittsburgh about monetary policy are really just statements of governments' confidence that their countries' respective monetary authorities will act in appropriate ways.

That will be particularly challenging for Bernanke. Although the Federal Reserve is technically independent and not accountable to the President, it is a creation of the US Congress and accountable to it.

Because of the lagged effects of monetary policy and the need to manage expectations, early tightening by the Fed would be appropriate. But the unemployment rate could be over 9% – and possibly even more than 10 – when it begins to act. If so, can we really expect Congress not to object?

In fact, Congress might tell the Fed that it should wait until there are clear signs of inflation and a much lower unemployment rate. Because Congress determines the Fed's regulatory powers and approves the appointments of its seven governors, Bernanke will have to listen to it carefully – heightening the risk of delayed tightening and rising inflation.

Reversing the upsurge in fiscal deficits is also critical to the global economy's health. While the fiscal stimulus packages enacted in the past two years have been helpful in achieving the current rise in economic activity, the path of future deficits can do substantial damage to long-run growth.

In the US, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that President Barack Obama's proposed policies would cause the federal government's fiscal deficit to exceed 5% of GDP in 2019, even after a decade of continuous economic growth. And the deficits run up during the intervening decade would cause the national debt to double, rising

to more than 80% of GDP.

Such large fiscal deficits would mean that the government must borrow funds that would otherwise be available for private businesses to finance investment in productivity-enhancing plant and equipment.

Without that investment, economic growth will be slower and the standard of living lower than it would otherwise be. Moreover, the deficits would mean higher interest rates and continued international imbalances.

In contrast to monetary policy, the US president does have a powerful and direct impact on future fiscal deficits. If the presidential promise to reduce the fiscal deficit was really a commitment to cut spending and raise taxes, we could see today's dangerous deficit trajectory be reversed.

Unfortunately, Obama shows no real interest in reducing deficits. The centerpiece of his domestic agenda is a health-care plan that will cost more than a trillion dollars over the next decade, and that he proposes to finance by reducing

waste in the existing government health programs (Medicare and Medicaid) without reducing the quantity and quality of services.

A second major policy thrust is a cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon emissions. But, instead of raising revenue by auctioning the emission permits, Obama has agreed to distribute them without charge to favored industries in order to attract enough congressional votes. Add to this the pledge not to raise taxes on anyone earning less than \$250,000 and you have a recipe for large fiscal deficits as long as this president can serve. I hope that the other G-20 leaders do a better job of reining in their budgets.

Finally, there is the G-20's promise to reduce monetary and fiscal excesses in an internationally coordinated way. While the meaning of "coordinated" has not been spelled out, it presumably implies that the national exit strategies should not lead to significant changes in exchange rates that would upset existing patterns of trade.

In fact, however, exchange rates will

change – and need to change in order to shrink the existing trade imbalances. The dollar, in particular, is likely to continue falling on a trade-weighted basis if investors around the world continue to set aside the extreme risk-aversion that caused the dollar's rise after 2007.

Once the Chinese are confident about their domestic growth rate, they can allow the real value of the renminbi to rise. Other exchange rates will respond to these shifts.

In short, it would be wrong for investors or ordinary citizens around the world to have too much faith in G-20's promises to rein in monetary and fiscal policies, much less to do so in a coordinated way.

Martin Feldstein, a professor of economics at Harvard, was Chairman of President Ronald Reagan's Council of Economic Advisors and President of the National Bureau for Economic Research.

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Expensive dates, healthy dates, and dates at risk

By: Ali Saeed

The price of Saudi dates went up by around 70 percent this Ramadan compared to last year, as a 25-kilo tin this year cost YR 12,000 (USD 60) compared to YR 7,000 (USD 34) last year.

A 10-kilo tin cost YR 5,700 (USD 27) this Ramadan, instead of YR 3,500 (USD 17).

The price of Saudi-grown dates increased due to a late harvest in Saudi Arabia this year, which meant that the country's produce could not reach Yemen in time for the festive season.

"Most Saudi dates this year are 2008 produce, not from this year's harvest, since this year the harvest was late at the beginning of Ramadan," said one of the date traders in Sana'a.

Despite Yemenis preferring to break their fast with this recommended food, many had to buy less dates for Ramadan this year.

"We used to buy one big [25 kg] tin in every Ramadan, but this year we just bought a small [10 kg] one because of the price hike," said Abdullah who supports a 12-member of his family.

There is no specific governmental body to oversee the price of dates, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade is only authorized to observe and inspect.

"According to the Internal Trade Law 5/2007, the Ministry of Industry and Trade is responsible for observing and inspecting goods in the market," said Hassan Al-Shami, in charge of consumer complaints at the ministry.

"The quality standardization is the job of the Yemeni Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control Organization (YSMO)," he added.

The increase in the price of Saudi dates this year also led to some traders, who could not afford to import them, to cheat customers by recycling last year's produce.

"We discovered that laboratories in Sana'a mix dates from last year with



Price of Saudi imported dates to Yemen witnessed a high increasing went up to 60 percent in comparing to the past year due to the late cultivation of crop that delayed until early Ramadan.

tea and offer them to consumers," said Yaseen Al-Tamimi, General Secretary of the Consumer Protection Society.

"The role of society to solve this problem is to write letters to the Ministry of Industry and Trade," said Al-Tamimi.

"In the past year, around five tons of rotten dates were seized from the markets and destroyed," said Al-Shami.

This season, the 26 September state-

run newspaper reported that around nine tons of rotten dates and expired food stuff were seized from markets in Sana'a.

Al-Tamimi said there is cooperation between consumers, officials at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the YSMO.

Yemenis spent around YR 6 billion (USD 30 million) on dates in 2008, according to a family budget survey by

the Central Statistics Organization.

This number is expected to rise in 2009 as the price of dates this year went up.

Individual traders, not import-export companies, usually import Saudi dates to Yemen.

"The owner of this shop himself goes to Saudi Arabia to bring quantities of dates," said Sameer who works as a salesperson in a date shop in Sana'a.

"Many Yemenis prefer to buy Saudi imported dates especially Sari dates," he added.

Yemenis prefer this kind of Saudi dates to others, because it is the cheapest. One kilo this year cost YR 500 (USD 2.45), as opposed to YR 350 (USD 1.72) last year.

The Sari date is much cheaper than the Anbarah date, a kilo of which was sold for around YR 6,000 (USD 30) this Ramadan.

"There are many kinds of imported Saudi dates to Yemen," said Sameer. He mentioned the Sari, Sofry, Anbarah, Ajwah and Sukkary kinds.

"One kilo of Ajwah dates in this season reached to YR 4,500 (USD 22) and in the rest year the price of Ajwah is fixed at YR 4,000 (USD 19)," he said.

Healthy dates all year round

Dates are not only popular during Ramadan in Yemen but also throughout the year, notably for their many

health properties.

According to medical studies, ripe dates are good for pregnant women. They contain a substance similar to that naturally secreted by the body that increases contractions, especially during delivery.

Dates contain stimulants which strengthen the muscles of the uterus in the last months of pregnancy, which helps the dilation of the uterus at the time of delivery and reduces post-natal bleeding.

The magnesium in them stimulates digestion and prevents cancer.

Dates are a natural cure for intestinal problems and great food for a healthy digestive system, as they are rich in vitamin B3.

The fruit contain a balanced proportion of sugar, fats, proteins and vitamins, and are a rich source of food high in calories.

Yemeni dates are mostly consumed as fresh dates, before the governmental Yemen Economic Corporation packs the rest up and distributes them to members of the armed forces and security in Ramadan, according to Abdullah Al-Kohali, deputy director for commercial affairs at the corporation.

The national company then sells the remaining dates in the local markets, but in small quantities.

Yemeni dates fight pests and floods

The domestic produce of dates is also at risk from pests and floods.

In late 2008, floods in Hadramout uprooted around 500,000 palms causing a loss for date farmers.

A pest commonly known as the dubas bug also reportedly threatens date farmers' livelihoods in Yemen, despite the Food and Agriculture Organization describing it as generally causing small economic losses to farmers.

"Dubas is rampant in the governorates of Hadramout, Shabwa and Al-Mahara," said Dr. Mohammad Hubaishan, expert on the pest, currently inspecting date palms in Hadramout.

"The Ministry of Agriculture is not combating the pest and, if the situation were it to be left two years without action, the date palms would die," he explained.

"The pest absorbs the plant's natural juices and that weakens the plant, which leads to low production rates," he said. "It secretes a honey-like liquid that sticks to the plant and prevents sunlight from reaching the plant, which also weakens the plant."

"This liquid covers the fruits and that weakens the quality of the dates, making the price of dates very low," he explained.

From 2005 to 2007, the dubas bug severely damaged date crop and thousands of people's livelihoods, according to media reports.

State-university professors: Survival of the most connected

State universities have turned into a point of departure for qualified professors to either the private sector or abroad. Lucky professors get promoted to higher positions in the government, whereas the rest of teaching staff suffer from deteriorating working conditions while waiting for an opportunity to escape to better circumstances. Yahya Nashwan investigates the working conditions of Yemeni university professors and why they leave state universities to join the private sector.

A year and a half remains before the end of the current phase of a national strategy dedicated to higher education, and yet it seems the conditions of higher education in Yemen, especially in state run universities, are getting worse.

State universities have more than 2,650 teaching staff members, most of whom have doctorate degrees. An additional 1,750 members have a master's or bachelor's degrees.

Despite the limited capacity, state universities host more than one million students. Each year more than 250,000 students graduate from state universities. And this year, there were more than 280,000 university applicants.

In addition to the regular system at state universities, there is also the parallel system through which students that did not get accepted pay higher tuitions and study in evening hours. The number of the students in the parallel system is increasing rapidly and the teaching capacity of professors' motivation to "give" has been continuously questioned by the students themselves.

However, there is a greater problem facing state universities, and this is the fact that professors constantly leave their public jobs in search for better opportunities in the private sector or abroad.

Sana'a University does not have statistics of the teaching staff dropouts, either those moving to private universities or going abroad. Most private universities, employ state university professors in as part-time lecturers.

Prof. Ahmed Al-Kibsi, the Sana'a University deputy director for academic affairs, thinks that professors' attraction to non-teaching jobs is a serious problem. Some teaching staff with high degrees considers the state university as a departure point to other governmental posts. Others go abroad to achieve goals they cannot accomplish in Yemen.

"So," continued Al-Kibsi, "we see

that only a few professors with high qualifications still adhere to academic standards and teaching values and are committed to doing their work. As a result of their dedication to their work, they are not doing financially as well as the other 'more connected' professors, despite their being more competent."

Other professors admitted that political affiliations and personal relations with decision makers are the keys to the opportunity, and not qualifications.

Al-Kibsi says that the low pay is the main reason why professors are running away from teaching at public universities. The salaries they get meet neither their qualifications nor needs. Currently, there are a lot of complaints. As a result, professors are leaving Yemen to work in other countries, or getting jobs in the private sector.

In addition to the low pay, he added, professors' secondary duties take up more time than their main duties. "It is very annoying," he added.

As a result of this discouraging environment, there is a high rate of absenteeism among the professors who are still obliged to teaching at the state universities.

Prof. Mohammed Al-Shami, a professor of political science, said that unless state universities set a clear working mechanism for their teaching staff and provide them with adequate salaries, teachers may abandon the universities completely. He emphasized the importance of training and creating an incentive system as a means to improve the professors' working conditions.

He also listed some of the problems that state university teachers face: low pay, a bad working environment, no private offices, no secretaries, and no internet, phone or fax.

Al-Shami said that these reasons, among other things, have resulted in the departure of over 300 professors

working for the College of Medicine. According to the state university academic laws, professors are allowed a paid sabbatical for up to two years and can continue their leave for an additional unpaid year, but some professors stay away much longer.

Al-Kibsi said that besides the absence of a vision for state universities, private universities are like time bombs because they mainly seek quick revenue.

Prof. Najat Juma'an, a business administration associate professor, attributed the flow of teaching staff from public to private universities to the low level of job satisfaction in state universities.

She believes that libraries are short of reference materials, national universities communication with foreign universities is limited, university halls are not furnished well and there is a mismanagement of resources. As a result, the teaching environment is not stimulating.

Juma'an mentioned other problems such as students skipping lectures, lacking qualifications, and not adhering to university manners and regulations.

"Also," Juma'an went on, "career development is nonexistent and there is shortage in scientific research."

"There is no clear institutional framework, and thus we demand the following: proper incentives and a stimulating academic environment for the university teaching staff."

She said that there is a general deficiency in workshops and scientific activities and it has an adverse effect on academic attitudes. The situation could be improved by updating libraries, publishing periodicals and attending to the academic community's needs by learning from international reputable universities.

According to one of the professors who preferred to be anonymous, lecturers in Saudi Arabia get triple the pay of those in Yemen. He added that in Sana'a University, professors don't get paid for office work.

Even foreign professors, who earn far more than their Yemeni peers, would rather work in other countries because of the low pay in Yemen. Foreign teachers earn USD 1,400 for assistant lecturer, USD 1,600 for an associate professor and USD 1,800 for professor, which is less than they make in other countries.

Request for Expression of Interest

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR)
Project Management Unit (PMU)
Higher Education Development Project II (HEDP II) (P110733)
PHRD Grant No. TF 093102 & PPF Advance No. Q-682-0

Technical Assistance (TA) for STUDENT AND EMPLOYER SATISFACTION SURVEYS

The purpose of the surveys is to assess the extent to which the quality enhancement interventions funded by the Yemen Second Higher Education Project contribute to improving the satisfaction level of university students and their employers in the targeted university programs.

Since, the primary beneficiaries of higher education programs are students and their potential employers, the QIF will focus on the quality of teaching and learning in the areas of national priority. Therefore, it is important to collect the views of the main beneficiaries of the QIF, i.e. the students. In addition, as students will enter the labor market after graduation, it is also critical to gather the views of those who will hire them and to analyze how their views are affected by the project. To that end, the project will conduct: (i) a student satisfaction survey in the target program areas in each of the seven public universities in the Republic of Yemen and; (ii) a survey of employer satisfaction regarding the skills, attitudes and abilities of graduates from each university.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR), Republic of Yemen has received a PPF advance from the International Development Association (IDA) and a PHRD grant from the government of Japan and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this to payments under the contract for the above —consulting service.

The Project Management Unit now invites eligible Firms to indicate their interest in providing the service for STUDENT AND EMPLOYER SATISFACTION SURVEYS. Interested Firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the service, profiles, description of similar assignments, experience in similar assignment, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc. and experience in Yemen.

The selection method of the Consulting Firm will be QCBS in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004 and revised in October 2006. Interested consulting firms may obtain further information during working days Sat. —Wed. From 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by October 17, 2009.

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR)
Higher Education Development Project II
Alriadh St., next to Alroni Building
TEL:00967-1-471196 - 468466, FAX:00967-1- 471195 or to
Email: The Project Director: info@hepyemen.org



Invitation for Bids

Name of the Project: "Improving Access to Quality Primary Education in Yemen" Funded by Dubai Cares

Project location: Hajja Governorate

Goal: The overall goal of this project is to help the government of Yemen to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) for education and gender equity in primary school enrollment and completion.

Care International in Yemen and its partners, Ministry of Education and HYDRO Yemen invite applications from the reputed companies for the construction of following schools in Hajja Governorate. Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents for one or more than one schools in (English and Arabic) from 3rd to 13th October 2009 during office time (8am to 3.30pm) Saturday to Wednesday upon non refundable cost 50\$ or equivalent per package at the following addresses:

No	Name of school site	Name of Village	Name of District	No of classrooms required
PH1-07	Al Salam	Al Qubia	Bani Qais	4-single storey
PH1-08	Mutah Ben Jabal	Al Radeef	Bani Qais	4-single storey
PH1-09	7th July	Al Garoub	Bani Qais	6-single storey
PH1-10	Khalid Ben Walid	Al Hazza	Bani Qais	6-two storeys

Care Country Office Sana'a CARE International In Yemen Behind Mujahid Street, Arwa School Street, Tel: (01) 243379, 504377	Care Project Office Hajja CARE International In Yemen East of Al-Dahram, Civil Affairs Area Hajja Tel: (07) 221464
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Bids, one copy each (English and Arabic) with following documents must be submitted by hand in sealed envelopes to Care Country Office in Sana'a address mentioned above.

- A bank guarantee or payable cheque Valid for 120 days from the date of Bid opening as a Bid Security of 2.5% of the bid amount
- Valid income tax certificate
- The Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after bid opening
- Experience of at least a minimum of five projects in construction of public buildings

Deadline for the submission of bids is 17th of October 2009, 10:00am at Care International Sana'a office. Bids received after deadline and time will be returned unopened.

Bids will be opened on same day (17th October, 2009) at 11.00 am at Country Office Sana'a in presence of Bidders or their authorized representatives.

CARE International in Yemen reserves the right to reject any or all bids.



مهرجان
الجيل الجديد
العودة إلى المدرسة

تشكيلات مميزة للعام
الدراسي الجديد
2009
2010

زمازم بناتي (Strawberry)

زمازم ولادي (Spider-man)

زمازم بناتي (شخصيات متنوعة)

زمازم رياضية (Hot Wheels)

حافظات برودة (كبير)

حافظات برودة (صغير)

زمازم مزيج (ناظور)

زمازم (صور متحركة)

زمازم بتصاميم أنيقة

أطقم زمازم مع حافظات طعام (أبو عجل)

شنطات ولادي جانبي

شنطات ولادي متنوعة

سبورات أطفال مغلقة

حصالات أطفال جديدة

أطقم زمازم مع حافظات طعام

شنطات أطفال (حضانة)

شنطات رياضية

شنطات بناتي متنوعة

أطقم زمازم مع حافظات طعام

أطقم زمازم ميكانيكي وعادي

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أطق

Liars

By: Naji Gazali
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I was saddened by some of the comments of our elite when speaking in support of the ongoing war in Sa'ada, justifying their stand by quoting a Yemeni proverb that says "the best method of medical intervention is to intervene surgically and remove the cancerous growth."

Referring to the Houthis as a tumor and his followers as a cancer that must be surgically removed or burnt (the old method of treatment called "kiyee"), Dr. Naji Al-Haaj, professor at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sana'a, recently used his expertise to lend such advice in an article on the government website almutam.net.

Having read his article, I suggest to the dean of the faculty to either suspend him without pay or revoke his contract, for having violated work ethics and for supporting violent means of treatment.

In fact, I can't imagine that such an

educated person can support a violent means to suppress an internal opposition and to label it as cancerous and support its removal in order to keep others safe and healthy.

First, his comparison of Al-Houthi as a tumor and of Yemen as one body is misleading and inaccurate. Yemen has never been racially integrated and ethnicity and tribalism have always been the first means of identity. In fact, a name for each social group suggests how each group is treated, and covertly suggests how segregated and racist we can be without noticing.

For example, dark Yemenis will be called akhdam which means servants, and a person from Taiz will be called a lughlugh for the way he pronounces a letter. A Khubani, literally someone from Khuban in Ibb, is an idiot. Yet being called a Hashemi, sayyed, Sana'ani, Sanhani, Hasheedi, Bakeeli suggests that you are powerful, from an elite tribe, or a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Marriage between a Hashemi or

sayyed and Khubani or Akhdam is unheard of, in the same way as during the segregation era in America when it was a crime for a white lady to marry an African-American, one resulting in lynching and possible death.

My advice to the medical doctor is to concentrate on his field of work and to stop selling his knowledge and the degree that we paid for. Now he is using it to support politicians who are, in retrospect, the real problem.

I wish more people wrote to bring progress or install hope in our society, not to merely praise a leader. I am sorry to say that most of the government's press, either in hard copy or on the web, is square about how the president is wise and the rest of us are idiots.

If I may digress, let me encourage the government's army of journalists to ponder for a moment on the speech of president Obama last week to the US Congress. While he was speaking about his plan for national healthcare reform, he was yelled at by one senator who described him as a "liar." Nothing

happened to him.

What this means to me is that those leaders who are called liars, losers, and terrorists are human and surely have made a mistake here and there. And they must try to correct it.

But our leaders will never think of themselves that way because you, the army of journalists and political advisors, keep reminding them that they are the Only Wise Man Able to Get the Country out of Such a Calamity. In doing so, you are forfeiting your dignity and all the degrees that you spent your life working to obtain.

Let me tell something. Your degrees are not worthy of any recognition because you have simply sold them, and very cheap at that. I believe the entire "calamity" -whether political, economic, social, or even psychological- is purely the product and -ironically- the achievement of those Un-Wise and Corrupted leaders.

And I assure you all that I will never apologize for such a statement.

Angels could be dangers

By: Mubeen Esam
Mibo_time@yahoo.com

We continuously see some parents hit their children in the street, parks, schools, and other public places because their children make mistakes. Their parents exploit this event to empty their anger out into their children. Accordingly, we feel sad and angry when we see such actions, but we have no right to interfere except by calming either the father or the mother down. But these parents' behavior is wrong inasmuch as it has a lot of bad psychological ramifications for the child.

Dear parents, have you ever thought about the psychological results of humiliating children or hitting them? Have you ever thought about what your carelessness regarding their needs for food, drink, education, advice, or clothing might lead to? If you have no pity at all for your society, aren't you ashamed of your aggressive conduct against your children and among your neighbors in the street and at school? If you don't care about your children's health nor about protecting your society, aren't you afraid about what will happen if your children disobey you when you are old? Aren't you afraid of your children's revenge?

Physical punishment could certainly result in psychological disturbances. It's a sorrowful scene when you see a parent hit his or her child in a public place like the mall, streets or beaches. Consequently, the child has no recourse except screaming, weeping, or lying on the ground to express his or her pain and protest against the parent's actions.

There are many dire consequences for children as a result of punishing them physically, such as fright, the absence of self-respect, psychological instability, the absence of self-confidence, hatred, using violence to achieve goals, anxiety, rebellion, personality disturbances, inability to make decisions or face reality, the production of underachieving students, the absence of conversation and discussion skills, stubbornness, and damage to the brain, nerves, muscles, backbone and blood vessels.

Parents must be restricted when they want to punish their children. These restrictions should be the following: the child must be at least 10 years old, the punishment must not be reiterative, the practiced punishment must not be used as revenge, the punishment must not be more than three hits, there should be no sharp tool used in the punishment, the punishment must not be too hurtful or painful or in only one place in the child's body (preferably the palms of the hands or the legs), and the punisher must stop immediately when the child mentions Allah.

I'll mention here some alternative scientific educational methods that can be used to alter bad behavior in children:

- 1- The parents should criticize wrong behavior rather than criticizing the children themselves.
- 2- The parents should talk with their children and know their needs and problems.
- 3- The parents should blame their child while looking at the child's eyes but without contempt or insulting him or her.
- 4- Self-punishment in which the child is responsible for the consequences of his or her impolite behavior.
- 5- Logical punishment in which the child is punished by performance of a different behavior. For example, if the parents prevent their child from playing soccer in the street but he or she doesn't obey them, the child is then deprived of playing soccer for a period of time.
- 6- Illogical punishment, which is used when the logical punishment is not fruitful. For example, the parents prevent the child from watching cartoons for two days because he or she lies to them.
- 7- Encouraging children to use their good manners rather than bad ones by using motivating words or by giving awards.
- 8- Disregarding the child's bad manner because such disregard will make the bad behavior disappear.
- 9- Avoiding the conditions that cause the undesirable behavior.
- 10- Using opportunities to prevent the undesirable behavior to happen, i.e. the parents should expose the child to the right behavior while he or she is doing the bad one.
- 11- Confiscating the toy children fight about rather than punishing either one child or both.
- 12- Physical punishment by slight hitting, using threats, or shouting at the child when he or she makes mistakes or exerts bad behavior.

I completely disagree with hitting a child because it causes temporary repression only as a means of survival. I prefer to use the scientific methods and educational measures to punish the child rather than resorting to violence, disgraceful words, or aggression against them. Hitting children only adds to the psychological complexes of the child and increases family violence. This leads to problems that can't be solved and turns children into victims of psychological terrorism.

In brief, we wish to establish a strong society and healthy future generations, so keep your children safe and let them, under guidance, do whatever they want. Try to sit with them in a friendly way, understand what they feel, know what they need and want, and be a friend to your child rather than hitting them or using hurtful words and a rod to polish your children's manners. You should motivate them to live proudly in their society.

Note: please don't say that the above-mentioned ways can't be used with Yemeni children.

To fuel to the fire...

By: Mubeen Esam
mibo_time@yahoo.com

Most, if not all of us as Muslims in Yemen, do various charitable actions such as giving money, clothes or constructing buildings. We know exactly who deserve these charitable actions in different governorates. The officials, merchants, ministers, and any one who can do a charitable action, must do it because Islam orders us to do so.

But there is an excess of charitable actions happening in the form of building mosques in some governorates that don't need it. In these cases, charity is just for acquiring a good reputation. As I see it, when I walk down the street, I find

sometimes two or more mosques. This surely uses up land, electricity and the water supply. In addition, when you go to a mosque to say prayers, you see few people praying because of the excessive numbers of mosques. The stereotype is that rich men who want to do charity have mosques built.

I'm not against building mosques at all because I'm Muslim and we live in an Islamic country, but imagine that if all the successful merchants or rich people built mosques.

How many mosques will be on a street? How much water will these mosque use? How many megawatts of electricity are used in these mosques? Don't the poor Yemenis basically need these resources? The water and electricity used in the excessive numbers of mosques could be used in the state hospitals, universities, colleges, schools, shops, restaurants,

factories and firms.

Again, I am not against building mosques for the sake of Islam but I'm against building mosques that reduce the number of people who pray at individual mosques, and exhaust the water and electricity supplies. I am also against the diversity of mosques that encourage religious disparities and sectarian fights.

We thank Allah because we have many mosques in Yemen to show that Yemen is an Islamic country and all of its people are Muslims. But I ask people who would like to do charitable actions to stop building mosques, or even schools, and start other projects that will help people more.

Build mental hospitals, especially in Aden where there's only one old mental hospital, which cannot care for enough patients, or treat them

properly.

Second, fix roads and alleys in governorates to draw visitors to their beauty. Third, supplying unemployed young people with money or at least some work. Fourth, grow grass or trees to protect cities from strong winds and storms in summer.

Fifth, restore the old general markets that used to sell various kinds of vegetables, fruit, meat, and fish. Finally, reform the old schools and public institutions rather than build new ones. All the above are samples of permanent charitable actions.

I get sad when I see too many new schools and mosques in Aden, or in other towns when there are a lot of old buildings that could be rebuilt. I am not against building mosques, but I strongly oppose building excessive mosques that exhaust Yemen's resources.

The impact of qat on the Yemeni economy

By: Saleh Ahmed AL-Tam
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The qat plant is widespread throughout Yemen, and it is sold and bought legally. Therefore, a lot of people in Yemen are working on qat farms or buying and selling it. And, unlike most countries, chewing qat is not forbidden in Yemen.

You can chew qat whenever and wherever you want.

However, chewing qat causes many

problems in the body such as indigestion, a lack of sleep, and mood changes after chewing qat. Sometimes, people experiences an increased sexual appetite after chewing qat, but they also experience premature ejaculation and weak erections.

On the other hand, poisonous pesticides used to grow qat cause dangerous diseases like cancer, and liver damage.

Also, a lot of people chew qat without washing it. There are many people in Yemen who infected with

cancer. Hence lots of people travel to abroad for treatment especially to Egypt, which creates economic problems for our country.

In rural areas, farmers have replaced coffee, grains, vegetables and fruit with qat. This it is a disaster, because coffee, grains, vegetables and fruit are exported to abroad but qat is illegal for export. Export crops helps the country as well as individual farmers.

Qat makes some people rich, and makes some people poor. Some people are forced to sow qat, because

it is the only possible source of livelihood for them. Additionally, the government does not encourage the farmers to replace qat with other crops.

Many people spend half of their salaries on qat. If 90 percent of Yemeni people are chewing qat, who will build the country? Last but not least, the government and the people should take responsibility for the problem. For example, if you are a father, don't let your sons or daughters chew qat. Qat chewing should not be passed through the generations.

A reply to the article "To marry educated or uneducated women?!"

By: Arwen Varner
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Though you argue for men to marry educated women, your argument is solely based on the benefit of services such a woman provides for a man. A woman is educated for her own sake, and for the benefit of everyone in her life, not just her husband. You are insulting both women and the power of education by acting as though education simply serves to make women better household robots.

You completely fail to mention that there are benefits to marrying an educated women that have purely to do with the woman herself, as a person, not just the efficiency of services she provides.

Some of these benefits include having more self respect, being able to assert authority on behalf of herself and children, being actively able and willing to question her husband's choices (which is a benefit, though you seemed to argue differently. It is a

benefit in the way that any system with checks in power benefits from not being subjected to the whims of passion).

Additionally, why do you not discuss a woman's benefits in marrying an educated man? In general, why is this article even an issue - since education is well known to increase everyone's quality of life (man or woman, married or not)?!

The only reason this article is considered legitimate by people such as you is because you treat marriage like a business transaction, with women an expensive commodity. You lump individual people into tiny, stereotypical categories that you think they should squeeze themselves into; obviously you believe everyone should live life exactly how you do.

Anyone who doesn't is what, immoral? Unsuccessful? A threat? So, according to you every woman should be married, educated, stay at home, raise children, and defer to her husband's every request.

You've got another thing coming. You may not think so now, but your

life is majorly missing something. You will never understand the joy of having the love, or even respect, of an intelligent, self-respecting woman. You will always pathetically be attempting to assert your meager authority over women who are more intelligent, compassionate, and admirable than you. And you will never be better than them. You will always be less than them, because of your egocentrism and weakness.

A woman's sole purpose in life is not to keep house and raise children - just like a man's purpose in life is not solely to make money and provide for a family. We are all diverse individuals, only partially described by our sex, not defined by it. We may choose to fill these more traditional roles, but it is selfish and cruel to act as though everyone's lives should be defined solely by their gender roles.

From, a very educated woman, soon to be married, and the bread-winner for her family, whose husband respects her, and happily plans to fulfill the role of stay-at-home dad when we decide that we want to have children.

Unknown Date

By: Nashwan Ahmed Al khawlani
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Somewhere someday
I hope I meet you on my way
At the smiling sun rising
When all buds start to grow
To be the flowers of tomorrow
Or Rather at the parting sunset
When your eyes like a sea it looks
Tears like rain, it falls
Arms like wings, it flies
When I hold you
Then that warm I feel
And the golden rays rise
When I look at you eyes
Somewhere some day
Soon or late on my way
Near or far I meet you
Then I can not account the way
I love you
Even it costs to cross the boundaries
Oceans and seas
Not for one only for you
And then my soul like a baby it snobs
When he sees her mam
To hug and sleep on her chest
Oh, Baby
I live for that day
That gathers our hearts all
Before the sunset of my soul

Nowhere to Be Found...

By: Waleed M. Al-Shiek
alshiek.waleed@gmail.com

-Slipping into dementia slowly but surely, lately it exists well-built.
-Missing the eyes that spark on every sight of a visit.
-Listening to your music makes pain into heartache.
-Love is beautiful and black, black like a moonless night in December.
-Heartache and misery are too often together whispering your name.
-Listening to J. Cash saying words noteworthy of pain.
-"...you could have it all; my empire of dirt. I will let you down. I will make you hurt".
-Blackest of nights where my thoughts wonder and travel to feel some pain to whichever emotion.
-Away from my eyes but close to my heart yet it torments me so.
-Word can only express so much but not what truly remains in one's heart.
-So many nights my five senses connect with you stronger when eyes are closed.
-I drive for hours thinking, pondering and wondering in total solitude when

will I find you.
-Your window seems so empty with a reflecting image of aches and memories.
-Chocolates on a steel table recalling the words 'good bye' to be said but not to be implied.
-A pillow of memories in a bag sent to me will only be unacceptable until February.
-I seek the ocean to cry in it because only there will my tears seem so small.
-Where are you? When will you? I currently wear a replica of smile to taint my sorrow.
-Life is lacking passion because there is an ocean between us my passion.
-I will endure this dark period of your absence, the explanation is love.
-We made a promise on the 23th for now and evermore, the 23th.
-Come back, come close, come now, come here I desperately anticipate.
-I miss your words, words of true meaning and weight "ya gallah".
-This message is focussed on you; hurry up KK life is getting darker without your presence because you're nowhere to be found.

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Tots tiptoe into room of toys



Yr photo by Heather Murdock

By: Heather Murdock

Twelve-year-old Hajjer's eyes glowed after her father lifted her out of the wheelchair and onto the red swing. She almost smiled.

Her legs, no more than a few inches thick, dangled under the swing, and her feet showed off her new shoes- black with shiny silver tips.

It was the night before Eid, and many patients of the children's ward at the National Oncology Center in Sana'a had gone home with their families for the holiday.

About seven children, however, their

families, volunteers and doctors stayed at the hospital to celebrate a rare occurrence in Yemen- the opening of a hospital playroom for children with cancer.

When the doors opened, most of the children looked confused as they wandered into the brightly-colored room of toys, rides, slides and swing-sets.

According to one of the volunteers that put together the room, the children, all cancer patients, were not accustomed to having fun.

"They don't even know how to start playing," said Lamis Ghaleb.

Cancer care in Yemen is new, according to Dr. Nadeem M. S. Nagi, the general manager of the center,

which opened in 2005, and children's facilities are rare.

"Now the baby will feel that he not only going to get an injection, he is going to play," he said, "which is very nice from a psychological point of view."

Most of the children that are treated in the center have lymphoma, he added.

Lymphoma is a cancer that attacks the bloodstream. Patients experience swollen arms and legs, numbness, tingling, and the feeling of being unnaturally full. They can also suffer high fevers, sudden weight-loss, night sweats, chills and itching, according to Medical News Daily.

About half of the children that come to the center for treatment, which can take nine months or more, are cured, according to the doctor. For the other half, the disease is fatal.

The cause of lymphoma is unknown, making prevention difficult. But according to Nagi, simple precautions can reduce the chances of getting cancer.

He suggested avoiding food that has been sitting outside for long periods of time, checking the expiration dates on food items, and consulting a doctor before taking medicine.

Yemen also has a high incidence of cancer from qat, cigarettes and other tobacco products, he added. And the fact that people marry their relatives contributes to rising cancer rates.

Treatment, he said, is hindered by patients who mistakenly believe that because they feel better, they can stop going to see the doctor.

"If he's feeling well, the family will not bring the child back," he said.

Besides prevention and treatment awareness, Yemen needs better equipment and expertise to accurately diagnose cancer. Nagi said there are about 10,000 patients a year at the center, but the number does not reflect the actual amount of cases.

World Health Organization statistics suggest that there are 20,000 cancer patients in Yemen.

And at Yemen's only cancer center earlier this month, parents coaxed some of their children into trying toys, while Nada Al-Shaibah, one of the volunteers that put the room together, helped cut a white and turquoise cake decorated with a train and stars.

"You don't see this anywhere," she said, referring to the room of toys. "It's very rare."

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- FMC Technologies** WECO / Chiksan/ Dynator products
- Honeywell** Field Process Solutions
- MALBRANQUE** Refinor Petroleum Valves - Wellhead Equipment
- Turbine** Overhauling
- SEKO** Pumps & Dosing Systems

CALIBRATION & Maintenance Workshop For Flow meters
SGS Certified Calibration System