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Inside:  **5** Being an outcast for.... for what actually?
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Insurance companies pay victim's families and compensate Yemenia

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Nov. 1 — Yemenia airlines will re-commence its flights to European capitals in December. The flights had been discontinued for a little less than two months, as a response to some financial problems faced by the company. According to an official source at the airlines, the company is now responding to governmental directives ordering the company to out its operations normally and with assurance of full government support, especially because the company is the national airlines of Yemen.

The 42nd general assembly of the Arab Air Transport Union has announced its solidarity with Yemenia, against the negative campaign the company has faced since the Comoros incident earlier in June this year. The assembly recommended the involvement of the union the Civil Aviation Arab Authority, along with the concerned European

Commission figures, to stop this campaign, which could tint the good relations between the Arab and European aviation businesses.

The chairperson of Yemenia Board, Capitan Abdulkhalik Al-Qadhi, confirmed during the 42nd assembly, that the Yemenia adheres to all international 'aviation safety' standards and that the issue is a priority for the company in all its operations, especially those of the technical departments such as operations, maintenance and passenger services.

According to Al-Qadhi, insurance companies have compensated the families of the victims, as well as the damaged aircraft's, but unfortunately, the media was not informed of this.

"The compensation by the insurance companies is a clear indication that the

tragic incident, in the Comoros, is not a result of 'negligence' by Yemenia. This is a response to all the parties which tried to defame Yemenia and stain our image in front our passengers and the international community. The compensation is a result of hard work in the investigation following the tragic incident, which as we all know now was not a result of a technical error," he said.

Yemenia participated vigorously in the search efforts for the aircraft's black box and eventually the investigation revealed that the plane, which was heading towards Mornoi Airport, fell before reaching the airport. The A310 aircraft took off from France and plunged into the Indian Ocean, on June 30, shortly after beginning its descent towards the Comoros. The aircraft was carrying mainly French and Comoran passengers.

According to Yemenia official resources, a rocket fired by the French navy training, in the Indian Ocean, caused the Yemenia Airways crash, in which 153 passengers and crew were killed. A 13-year-old girl was the only survivor. She was found clinging onto a floating

wreckage of the aircraft.

Media reports since then included statements from international figures pointing fingers at Yemenia, indicating that the accident was due to a technical flaw, while the airlines defended its maintenance operations and asserting that the International Airbus Company had given Yemenia a certificate for its thorough maintenance.

Al-Qadhi confirmed Yemenia bringing new additions to its aviation fleet, responding to the increasing demand from passengers. He also confirmed that in 2015, ten new Airbus 350-800 crafts will be a part of the Yemenia fleet. Currently negotiations are underway to replace a few Airbus 310-300s with modern 320 crafts or with Boeing 800-737s.

"Yemenia is today, respected by passengers from all around the world and we appreciate the trust our passengers have in us. We will continue to work hard to ensure their comfort and safety. We are work around the clock to improve the capacities of our staff in order to promote Yemen's image everywhere," he said.



Tunisian, Egyptian, Moroccan and Yemeni flight attendants hold pictures of colleagues who were victims of the crash that killed 153 people and left a sole survivor, on a peaceful protest on July 8, 2009.

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Warring parties trade accusations amid ongoing clashes

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ANA, Nov. 1 — A Yemeni Defense Ministry's official source spoke about great victories achieved by the army in various fighting fronts; particularly in the Malahidh district, northwest of Sa'ada city and the Amran governorate's Harf Sufyan district. This came as both parties trade accusations of targeting of civilians.

"The military units carried out successful offensives against the main strongholds of Houthi fighters in areas and farmlands near the Maqash district, as well as in Mahadhir and Al Amar areas, during which Houthis suffered heavy losses, and several of them were killed in their trenches," Yemen News Agency, Saba, quoted the source as saying.

The same source added that other Houthi gunmen faced heavy losses too, as they were trying to sneak into the areas of Dhahr Al-Himar, Jabal Al-Khazan and Jabal Al-Masfouh, as well as Jaraeb, Qalaa and Hasama.

He added, "The military and security units thwarted an attempt of Houthis in Harf Sufyan to sneak into a strategic military position in Qarn Demam, forcing them to flee."

Child abuse

"Security personnel caught a child under age 10 who was used by Houthis to supply them with explosives and ammunition," the military source said. "Caught up at Bab Al-Yemen in the old Sanaa city, the child was carrying 20 mine detonators, plus electric wires usually used for exploding mines and grenades...This is clear evidence of the horrible child abuse practiced by Houthis."

From their side, Houthis accused the government air forces of killing 32 civilians and injuring another 15 in an aerial strike on Thursday against the Qarn village in Razih district, which Houthis took over a few days ago.

This is the second airstrike against civilians after around 88 people were killed last September in a similar strike on a makeshift camp for the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Harf Sufyan.

According to a recent statement by Houthis, the Qarn village faced seven air raids during the daytime on Thursday, destroying homes with occupants inside. "Many families are still under the rubble," the statement said.

Humanitarian situation

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) announced that an unknown number of IDPs were killed or injured when confrontations between army personnel and Houthi supporters took place near their camp, northwest of Sa'ada on Thursday.

The Geneva-headquartered UN agency released a statement on Friday saying "an unknown number of IDPs were killed and wounded during an exchange of fire between government troops and Houthis in their area of displacement on Oct. 29."

The victims belong to a group of some 500 internally displaced people (IDPs) who found shelter in the Sam camp on the outskirts of Sa'ada city — one of the two remaining IDP camps in the troubled town, according to the statement.

According to sketchy information from Sa'ada, a rocket or a mortar round landed in the camp, killing and wounding the IDPs, women and children among them, the agency reported in its

website. UNHCR continued, "as the conflict enters the fourth month with no signs of abating, the latest incident adds urgency to UNHCR's repeated appeals for a ceasefire and opening of humanitarian corridors in northern Yemen that would allow civilians to leave the conflict zone and enable humanitarian workers to deliver much needed aid to thousands of IDPs in this remote part of the country. This remains a top priority for UNHCR."

Dialogue

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) urged both conflicting sides to stop the war, which they described as "futile", and called for a comprehensive national dialogue, including all the political parties and groups in Yemen, to bring effective solutions to the ongoing fighting.

The opposition alliance, comprised of 6 major parties, is of the opinion that dialogue is the most effective option to deal with escalating political crises in Yemen.

On a side note, the U.S. Administration called on Yemeni government and Houthis to respect the ceasefire deal reached in Qatar in 2008, and remained committed to principles of the International Humanitarian Law.

Spokesperson for the US State Department, Ayan Kelly, said that "Washington is concerned about the humanitarian situation in Yemen," calling parties to the conflict to coordinate safe corridors for delivery of assistance to the displaced.

Regarding trials of Houthi supporters, the State Security Court on Saturday sentenced 8 Houthis — arrested during last year's clashes with the army in Bani Heshaihs district, some 30 km east of Sana'a — to death. Another 15 Houthi loyalists faced jail terms ranging from 3 to 12 years.

Yemeni prisoners in Saudi prisons mistreatment and death

By: Ali Saeed

SA'ANA, Nov. 1- Yemeni detainees in Saudi prisons are being tortured and deprived health care, sometimes causing their deaths, according to lawyers and human rights organizations.

Salem Abood Ba Haneef, 33, a Yemeni detainee who was sentenced to serve three years in prison, but after two and half years he died. Al-Karama Organization, (The Dignity Organization) a human rights organization said he died on September 29 due to health care negligence.

During his stay in the prison, the victim was suffering from pneumonia, but he was diagnosed and admitted to the hospital

only after his condition became critical, according to a recent report published by Al-Karama.

"Even though the victim was suffering from repeated and continuous fainting spells, was unable to move, and his condition was critical, he was not given health care and was chained to a bed in the hospital where he died," Al-Karama said.

The Saudi detention facilities lack to health care and that led to prisoners suffering.

"The absence of health care is a common problem in most Saudi prisons, which are run by the Saudi Interior Ministry," Al-Karama added.

"In addition to that, prisoners who are suffering from diseases are allowed to only one medical visit once a week and on a specific day," Al-Karama said.

"The sick prisoners also are not admitted to the hospital only after their conditions became critical," Al-Karama added.

The lack of health care in the Saudi detention facilities also caused the outbreak of some epidemics that threaten the lives of prisoners.

"According to our private sources, although the tuberculosis is highly rampant in the Saudi prisons, the Saudi authorities have never taken actions to control the epidemic in the facilities," said Al-Karama.

The Al-Karama Organization called on the Saudi authorities to investigate the death of Ba Haneef and all the other recent fatalities that took place in Al-Hayer prison connected with mistreatment and lack of health care.

Abdurahman Barman, a lawyer at the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD, told the Yemen Times that Saudi authorities deal with Yemeni detainees and prisoners with discrimination.

"There is discrimination against Yemeni detainees and prisoners in the Saudi prisons by the Saudi authorities unlike that is not felt against prisoners of other nationalities such as Philippinose, Pakistanis and Egyptians," said Barman.

"I contacted a Yemeni prisoner who had a surgical operation and when he was brought out of the operations room, he fainted and at the same time he was chained to his bed. But his charge was not criminal, it was just personal disagreement," said the lawyer.

The number of Yemeni detainees and

prisoners in Saudi prisons is large and increasing as Yemenis often enter the Saudi Arabia without passports, looking for work.

"Earlier, the Yemeni Minister of Human Rights stated that there are around 900 Yemeni prisoners in Saudi Arabia, however this number is not accurate since the flowing of Yemenis who travel to Saudi Arabia without passports is on rise," Barman explained.

The HOOD Organization calculated the number of Yemeni prisoners in Abha'a prison and found that there are between 400 to 600 prisoners.

In Al-Tayf prison also there are around 66 Yemeni prisoners and in the Jeddah deporting prison about 80 prisoners, according to the lawyer.

The lawyer also said about 88 Yemeni detainees in Al-Qaseem prison who have been detained without trial as part of the 'war on terrorism'.

"The lack of health care and mistreatment by Saudi authorities against Yemeni prisoners violates Islamic law and international law," said the lawyer.

The lawyer urged the Saudi authorities to recognize the fraternal, Islamic and neighboring relations and mutual interests between the two countries. He called upon the authorities to treat Yemeni prisoners and detainees in their land according to Islamic law.

In 1982, Saudi Arabia signed an international resolution about medical ethics that commits the signatories to providing prisoners healthcare of the same quality that is afforded to those who are not detained.

SA'ANA, Oct. 31 — Women, children and elder persons make-up the majority of the 150,000 displaced people from the current Sa'ada conflict. Thousands of pregnant women and girls are at risk and their situation is of great concern to UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

Displaced women are having difficulties registering as heads of households due to social and traditional cultural beliefs that forbid women from assuming this role, which is hindering their access to food rations and non-food items, as

well as other essential services. They are suffering from lack of access to basic hygiene; some have not had a change of clothes in three months.

"Health services that currently exist within the camps and outside are not enough to cover the increasing needs and demands of the affected population. This was evident from the numbers of women standing and waiting in lines for hours under the hot sun to be seen by health providers in Al-Mizraq camp", said Zeljka Mudrovic, UNFPA Representative a.i. in Yemen, after a visit to

the camp.

Additionally, women and girls are struggling from lack of privacy at the available health services. This is seriously affecting their ability to seek proper medical care for themselves and their dependents. UNFPA is concerned about their protection in such environment.

In response to the critical needs of women, UNFPA, has procured emergency medical supplies, including life-saving reproductive health supplies, drugs/medication and equipments to

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi
For the Yemen Times

SA'ANA, Oct. 29 — The sentencing of two Yemeni journalists this week by the Press Court was met with resentment amongst journalists and human right activists and was welcomed by officials.

The Press Court on Saturday sentenced to jail the managing editor of an independent newspaper - a columnist for labeling President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Samir Jubran was given a one-year suspended sentence and banned from running the Al-Masdar newspaper for one year, while Munir Al-Marawi, who is a columnist and has a fixed column at the same newspaper, was given a two-year sentence and banned journalism lastingly.

Al-Marawi, who lives in the United States, is not expected to serve his sentence, as he is writing for American media outlets.

He and Jubran were found guilty of insulting the Yemeni President Saleh after the newspaper published articles titled "Weapons of Mass Destruction" criticizing harshly the policies by which the President handles the country and accusing him of corruption.

Samir Jubran told Yemen Times "the sentence is too harsh, of course. It has illegal dimensions, as it prevents me to be publisher of newspapers, which I own, as well as it prevents me from engaging in the editorial. We appeal the



Samir Jubran talks to the media after the verdict. YT PHOTO: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

verdict,"

Hamdi AlBukari, the head of the Legal Committee in the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate deplored the ruling "This sentence shocked journalists. It is inconsistent with the Constitution, does not guarantee a minimum of freedom of opinion and expression. It also violates the Constitution through the confiscation to be publishers and editors," he added.

The sentence on Saturday came after the completion of investigations, conducted by the Press and Publications Prosecution, with Jubran, on issues related to the situation in the south,

which undergoes unrests and calls for separation.

The Prosecution accused him of harming the independence of Yemen and the higher interest of the nation and inciting armed rebellion

As for his part, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Mamoun Al-Shami, stated that the President has developed an ideal model for all state officials, when he resorted to the court.

The verdicts were handed down by a special court set up last May, based on a suggestion from the Yemeni Minister of Justice Ghazi Al-Aghbari, to deal with alleged press abuses.

Arbitrary arrests on rise due to Sa'ada war

By: Ali Saeed

SA'ANA, Oct. 25 — Hundreds of Yemenis were arbitrarily detained during the past months of this year during the armed conflict in Sa'ada, and the number is on the rise, according to a report by the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD.

HOOD's report was in line with figures quoted in a Human Rights Watch report entitled, "Disappearances and Arbitrary Arrests in the Armed Conflict with Houthi Rebels in Yemen" which was published in October of last year.

Human Rights Watch's report indicated that in the first half of 2008, the extent of arbitrary arrests and "disappearances" expanded, with the government broadening its targets to include persons reporting on the war's impact on civilians.

"Dozens if not hundreds of persons remain in detention and new arrests have taken place," said the report. HOOD's report was based on the experiences of two citizens, Noor Al-Din Mohamed Faraj, 18, and Salim Musfer, 30, who were both illegally detained on October the 2nd, 2009 in Sobaha, an area to the west of Sana'a.

Noor Al-Din's father told the story of the arrest of his son. "My son is a friend of Salim, who works as a driver while my son works in a telephone shop in Sana'a," said Mr Faraj. "Salim traveled from Saada to Sana'a to sell pomegranates and gave my son a ride to work."

"On their way to Sana'a, specifically in the area of Matna, Salim bought 12 empty iron barrels for YR 30,000 from some traders there," he said.

"When they want to pass the checkpoint in Sobaha, they were prevented from passing and the soldiers did not

allow them to bring the barrels back to the trader," he explained.

"My son, Salim, and Salim's nephew, who is only seven years old, were arrested and until now only the child was released whereas my son and Salim are still in detention."

"The child is named Rabee, and he was detained with his uncle for three days, and then released and now the kid lives with distant family, since his parents are in Saada and his uncle in detention," explained Faraj.

Ahmed Arman, the Secretary of HOOD, describes the two cases as an example of continuous violations against human rights.

He condemned the arbitrary arrest and attributed the reason behind them to the fact that their license plate number begins with ten, indicating a Saada resident. He said that this targets people as a result of their belongings.

Faraj is demanding the state to release his son and to pay him compensation as he until now spent nearly YR 200,000 on the case, and quit his job to

be able to keep pursuing the issue.

These arbitrary arrests include a wide range of people, including many who were not actively participating in hostilities against government forces, according to the Human Rights Watch report.

"They can be grouped into three categories. First are those effectively held hostage to pressure a wanted family member to surrender or end their activities. Second are Hashemites, adherents of Zaidi Shi'ism who may have been targeted by the security forces on the basis of their religious activism. Third are Zaidis going to or returning from areas of recent fighting between the army and Houthi rebels, or who are otherwise suspected of sympathizing with them," the report said.

"A new and separate category which has emerged over the past two years is that of persons arbitrarily arrested for publishing information about the armed conflict, including journalists and website writers," indicated the report.

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The Acting Executive Director will be expected to take on the following roles and responsibilities: Initiating and developing resourcing strategies, management practice and thematic projects related to youth; Planning, reviewing and monitoring work linked to youth, migration, environment and development and writing concept notes/funding proposals;

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campaign included the inauguration of several projects such as MTN Cancer laboratory and MTN Free Clinic in Ibb, Kidney dialysis and cancer unit at Al-Tahwra General Hospital in Sana'a, Al-Zahra Medical Project in Hodeidah and providing Al-Tahadi Association for disabled women with a medium size bus for transport.

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JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE CAPITAL (3)

Being an outcast for... for what actually?

By Judith Spiegel
For the Yemen Times

Right there, behind that small iron door in this dusty street in one of Sana's poor outskirts lives Fazea. The bare concrete walls are adorned with a few plastic bags, which contain her belongings. The floor is covered with three thin mattresses. The shack smells of poverty and sadness. Here, Fazea tries to survive with five of her seven children.

Fazea did not always live in these circumstances. She was forced to flee from her village when her husband raped their then 10-year old daughter. At first Fazea did not believe her daughter when she said that her father was raping her. Fazea beat the girl with a hot spoon, and the abuse could thus go on for six months. Finally, Fazea realized that her daughter was telling the truth. Soon after that, her husband, who works for the army, started to beat the whole family.

Fazea, who cannot read or write, took her children and left her house and family. She ran from one place to another. Everywhere she went, her husband managed to find her and beat her once more. The poor room she now lives in was found with the help of a kind police officer- one of the few people she met who actually tried to help her. This cannot be said of her own family, who refused to support her in her much needed divorce.

The few others that are trying to help Fazea are human rights lawyer Linda Mohammed and human rights activist Mogib Hassan. They say: "When Fazea went to the sheikh of her village to ask for a divorce, her family



Fazea and her children.

told her that if she would divorce, they would never want to see her or her children again. Because socially, a woman can not live on her own, she needs the support of the family. A few of Fazea's family members threatened to kill her because she caused so much shame."

Fazea persisted, and went through with the divorce. For her, being on her own was preferable to the ongoing abuse. Strangely, her husband had already divorced her a few times (by

the out-of-court divorce that only men are able to initiate), but whenever she asked him to sign the divorce papers, he refused. According to Linda, he did this to annoy Fazea. Finally, Fazea got her divorce through court.

We visited Fazea to see how she is doing. Fazea is not doing so well. Being a divorced woman, living on her own with her children, life did not become easier. Her raped daughter was put into an orphanage by court order, where she now suffers serious

mental health problems. Her family does not want to see her children anymore, and her husband still manages to find her here.

Linda Mohammed and Mogib Hassan: "She could only go back to her family if she would leave her children behind with the father. That's the social rule, not the legal rule. Legally, she should be entitled to live with her children, and her husband is even held to support them financially. However, in practice, this

law cannot be enforced. In reality, it is up to him. "Obviously, Fazea did not want to leave her children with her husband. Her husband does not give them any financial support. Her children now collect plastic bottles in the streets to make some sort of living. The oldest son works in a little shop in the street." Linda and Mogib help her out whenever they can.

For a while, it is peaceful in Fazea's house. The older children cuddle their little baby sister who was born here in this house. They suck their lollipops with great concentration and smile happily. Outside, there are sounds of playing children. It is almost like a normal family life, a poor but normal family life. Until stones start hitting the iron door. None of the family members seems surprised. They are used to this behavior in the neighborhood. The message is clear: they want her out. For them, Fazea is nothing but a prostitute, living there without a husband, and with her children. Threats, violence, and poverty have become a permanent fixture in the lives of Fazea and her children.

There was a time, not so long ago, when Fazea's 10-year old son was missing for three days. Fazea finally saw him in the marketplace, being dragged behind a collapsed building by a young man. Fazea, knowing something was very wrong, started to scream. Her son was saved from another round of sexual abuse, like he suffered from before. When she asked her son how this could happen, he replied "for some breakfast." Fazea is strangely relaxed about this, as if one can absorb only so many abuses in one's family life.

Linda Mohammed and Mogib Hassan: "The neighborhood knows Fazea's story. They blame the mother

for it. They think she is a 'loose woman'. This is how it socially is here. They do not distinguish between victim and perpetrator. In fact, the neighborhood now thinks that it can abuse the whole family."

Unfortunately, Fazea's case is not unique, although Linda and Mogib admit that it is a striking one. "Things like this happen repeatedly. It is because of how people are brought up. Everything is done within the family to suit the men. The women in the family, who may understand what it is like to lose your children or the support of your family, have no say."

When we leave, the neighborhood makes it very clear that our presence, like Fazea's, is not wanted. Children bang on the sides of the car, open the doors and throw stones at the windows. With a smashed rear window we leave Fazea behind in her hostile surroundings. She is an outcast for being the victim of violence, who therefore again faces violence. Until Fazea finds a sheltered place to live with her family, this is not likely to change soon.

According to the latest numbers of a not-yet published survey done in 2008 by the Women Research and Training Centre in Aden University in Yemen, more than 40% of women and girls are subject to various forms of violence including physical, psychosocial and sexual violence. As to possible reasons, the World Bank states in a report from 2009 that conflict and economic strain may lead to the strengthening of restricting socio-cultural practices. It may also create conditions for increased domestic violence, and harmful traditional practices, sexual exploitation, and abuse, both in urban and rural areas of Yemen.



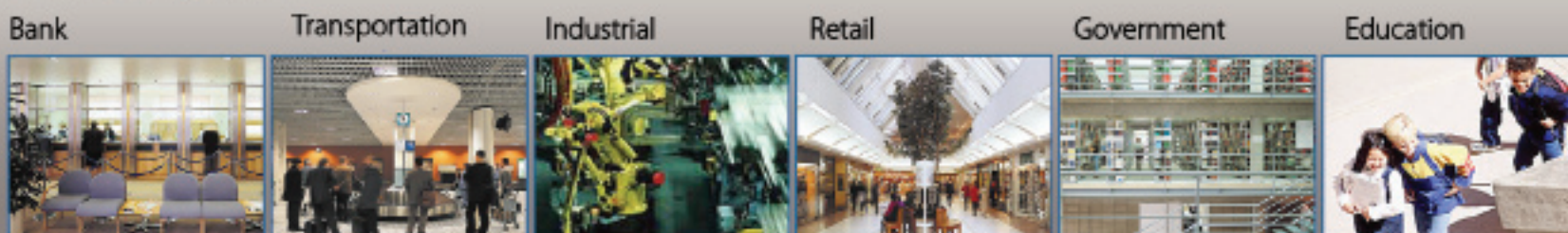
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Words of Wisdom



Many countries hold elections. Even when these are not rigged, they tend to cement the old patron-clientele relations in a new grab. The reason is that the people in power use their connections (and state funds, media, bureaucracy, etc.) to achieve the election results they want. The result is that they create docile parliaments. Elections thus end up enabling those in power to hold on to it.

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



OUR OPINION

Taking interest in our community

According to sources, ten days ago some young men from the new university neighborhood on Dairi Street blocked traffic for about six hours, demanding water and cooking gas. According to a second hand source, which is a friend of a friend, whose son was either part of the protest or knew someone who was part of the protest, (is this reporting?) after six hours, the local authority brought water and gas to the families. As a journalist, I was very intrigued with this story-although suspicious about the facts that I could not verify yet. The way our society works, for all I know, it could have been five teenagers blocking the street for ten minutes.

It is the same with the alleged number of swine flu victims. By the time the news reached my aunt in her village, the number had multiplied by five, and half of the reported cases "according to her sources" had died. Regardless of the details of the road blocking incident, if it is true, this would be a sign of a popular movement and people's demand for better services. This demand was short lived, since the people are quiet today, and no other neighborhood has done anything similar.

A friend from the West said that Yemenis don't act for bettering their lives, because they are probably chewing their way to the future. I do blame qat for the passiveness of Yemeni society towards its own needs, but I blame the media more. The Yemeni media, whether state-run or private, has done nothing to create a public opinion and to represent the community's demands in its mediums.

Many times, it even does the opposite through highlighting topics that are far off from what the people should be talking about and diverting the attention from the real issues. The problem with creating a public opinion in Yemen is that it can't be done through blogs, which is what is happening in Egypt- because only a small fraction of the community has online access. Even written media is not that effective, because it does not have much credibility. Perhaps the only newspaper in Yemen that did have influence on the street was Al-Ayam newspaper, which was based in Aden.

Even that sole example, the closest we had to community or citizen journalism has disappeared because our authorities just could not handle it. There is so much that the media can do if it only put its act together and puts the people's best interest at heart. The media can work with religious leaders, and together they can create a peaceful public movement and help decision makers feel the pulse of the street. In Ukraine, the Orange Revolution was triggered by media and citizen journalists.

A small television station, Channel 5, had been bought by members of the opposition to promote an independent view on Ukrainian politics. Although Channel 5 was only available to 30% of the population, the station became well known for its alternative view on domestic affairs. Not only that, but new media such as blogs and mobile news helped create change in that country. The Internet allowed for the creation of a space for the dissenting opinions of 'citizen journalists' in an otherwise self-censored media environment.

Moreover, pro-democracy activists used the convergence of mobile phones and the Internet to coordinate a wide range of activities including election monitoring and large-scale protests. In Georgia, Rustavi-2, a private TV station lobbied the masses to the streets for the peaceful Rose Revolution. The people watched the broadcast on their TVs, which were connected to car batteries because of the frequent blackouts. Rustavi 2 was the main mass media source used as a tribune by the opposition leaders during the Rose Revolution in November, 2003. I am not asking Yemeni media to lead a similar revolution, but the least we can do is have interest in our own community and what our readers really want to and should know about.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The world can no longer afford to ignore Yemen's internal convulsions

By: Brian O'Neill

Yemen, an ancient and remote place, has long been ignored by the media. Its oceans, deserts and mountains have greeted potential conquerors with hostility, and its confused and confusing politics have kept journalists at bay. Even to dedicated scholars of and in the Arab world, Yemen has been an exotic place.

But recently, the convulsions driven by an inexorable pull of history have captured the attention of journalists, politicians and scholars. Frequently immune to history, Yemen is isolated no more.

The reasons why are known to anyone with a browsing familiarity with the daily papers. Yemen is currently being wrenched by three revolutions, independent of each other but with a common theme: the central government is more than illegitimate – it is antithetical to the nature and history of Yemen.

The rebellions are the Houthi revolt in the north, the southern secessionist movement and the pervasive threat of a reconstituted Al-Qaeda. Without delving too deeply into history, each one is based on a series of decisions and indecisions flowing from Yemen's separate revolts against imamate and colonialism, its unification and its civil war.

The north, roughly, feels that President Ali Abdullah Saleh's approximation of republicanism is an affront to Yemen's monarchical, decentralized rule, and southerners broadly feel colonized in their own country.

Al-Qaeda, of course, feels that any ruler not following its strict laws is an apostate and a traitor. These are the themes being played out in Yemen, set tragically against the jagged backdrop of economic collapse and ecological ruin.

The Houthi rebellion has been the one grabbing the most attention since violence flared for the sixth time earlier this year. The government showed a disdain for subtlety, nicknaming its campaign Operation Scorched Earth. Though a ceasefire is in effect, the underlying grievances still remain.

And while the war is rooted deeply in Yemeni history, many

commentators have tried to paint it as proxy fight between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the regional powers.

The main thrust of the argument is that the rebels are Shiite Muslims and therefore supposedly kindred with the "ancient" revolutionaries running Iran, hence getting aid and comfort.

And, of course, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia opposes any attempt by Iran to impose its will in the region and certainly on the Peninsula.

This ignores the fact that the Shiite Islam practiced by the Houthis is far removed from Iran's Twelver theology (and is often referred to as the sixth school of Sunni Islam); it also ignores the long-standing enmity between Sanaa and Riyadh. And despite the picture Sanaa attempts to present to the world, there is no evidence of Iranian interference.

But his portrayal has been effective, and supposed Iranian mischief has been a reason why the world has largely turned a blind eye to the government's scorched earth policy. In international relations, there is little shadow between perception and reality.

The southern secessionist movement is a different animal. The world is concerned about Yemen fragmenting, and distaste for Marxist remnants is subsumed under the auspices of national unity.

Were Yemen to split apart, aside from the historical failure of what was a rare political triumph in the Arab world, the Saleh government would lose major sources of revenue both in oil and from the large port of Aden.

This would hasten its slide into failed state. And it would also be a perception loss for the West: an ostensible ally in the war against radical fundamentalism can't be allowed to split apart.

Al-Qaeda's revolt is more immediately prominent in the international context. Though there is no evidence that displaced jihadists from the Afghanistan/Pakistan region are regrouping in Yemen, it is indisputable that a powerful new franchise has broken ground in the Peninsula.

The marriage between the Saudi and Yemeni branches of Al-Qaeda was essentially consummated in the failed attempt on the life of Saudi Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad

bin Nayef.

Though the attack was unsuccessful, it showed the patience, the cunning and the reach of the organization – a group with the intelligence and the manpower to carry out attacks in Saudi Arabia as well as on key shipping lanes around the Horn of Africa. The world is tied down in the AfPak conflict; Al-Qaeda has almost free reign in the wilds of Yemen.

And that is the main importance, on a global political scale, of these rebellions. Yemen is poised on the brink of collapse, and the enemies of the Western world stand ready to take advantage. A strong and well-funded government would have enormous difficulties dealing with these problems; Yemen is neither, and is therefore incapable.

A failed state would be even more of a breeding ground and safe-haven for Al-Qaeda – even more than a dangerously distracted or overstretched state currently is. Were there no Al-Qaeda, the world might be able to treat Yemen's internal convulsions as an unfortunate sideshow, like fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan. That might not be moral, but it would be possible.

That luxury, though, is impossible. Yemen has been an important stop on trade routes and has given the world spices and stories and legends. But it has rarely played a decisive role in history.

That is no longer the case. Were the global community to take the cheap and easy route of ignoring Yemen's crumbling edifices, it would have to pay for it 10 times over in the near future.

Yemen's history may be exotic, its politics may be confusing and its present may be idiosyncratic, but it is unwillingly imposing its problems on the rest of the world. The world, in turn, has to be willing to adopt these problems.

Brian O'Neill is a freelance writer based in Chicago. A former reporter and editor for the Yemen Observer, he currently co-runs the Yemen blog Waq al-Waq (islamandinsurgencyinyemen.blogspot.com). This commentary first appeared at bitterlemons-international.org, an online newsletter.

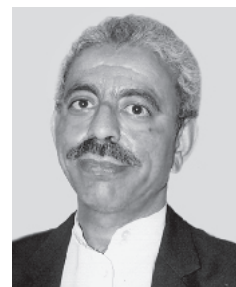
Source: Daily Star

COMMON SENSE

Iran and Turkey
(and maybe Pakistan, Malaysia, etc.):

Maybe the beginning of a new era for the Moslem World

One of the most phenomenal characteristics of Islam is that it is indeed a universal message and its adherents have an understandably strong affinity (a feeling of fraternal association) towards each other that is perhaps unequalled by any other form of religious human cohesiveness. An English historian (and politician) once remarked that one of the most



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

peculiar things about Islam is that it could go down to the bottom of the pit in terms of taking on a respectable prominence in this world. However, and all of a sudden, one is bound to see the Moslem World rebound back into a robust and powerful culture that takes on the banner of Islam to new heights of cultural and economic progress. This would be in addition to a healthy and viable display of an international movement that has a strong influence in the affairs of humankind in all spheres of human development. Unfortunately many people, who have never taken a close and objective look at Islam tend to view Islam as merely being a religious movement that is prone to violence, materialist plunder and voluptuous harems as Hollywood and many misinformed or prejudiced historians or chroniclers tend to picture this most dynamic of all spiritual inclinations. One is not interested in delving into the background causes of the current pitiful state of the Moslem World, while not ignoring that Moslems are not entirely free from any responsibility for the sorry state the Nation of Islam is in. On the latter, it is pathetically sad that many Moslems, as individuals as well as states, have forgotten that they themselves are actually causing great harm to their nation, either by outright acquiescence to foreign powers or out of their poor comprehension of the expectations that come with belonging to the universal Nation of Islam. Mainstream Moslems of the world have become appalled by the behavior of the many Moslem (and especially Arab Governments) as the latter worked diligently to kill the institutionalization of mainstream Islam in all its sectoral manifestations. They also fail to understand why many Moslem leaders actually seek to distance their constituencies from a proper understanding of their own faith. They either have introduced horrendous distortions of the religious principles that have always put Islam in the forefront of modern theological and dogmatic human attachments. They are of course not doing this for any misunderstanding of their religion. They are quite aware that had they been vulnerable if their constituencies were to enjoy the appropriate civil liberties and human rights now deemed standard of all modern progressive nations. One should not be misled by the Taliban or Wahhabi renditions, which have tended erroneously to capture media attention, more because of their bizarre heresies and misinterpretation of the very progressive social implications of the message delivered by the Prophet Mohammed (PABAUH) some fourteen hundred years ago. Notwithstanding the lip service most current Moslem Governments try to project to show their attachment to the religion of Islam, the truth of the matter is that their application of Moslem teachings, on the social front leave a lot to be desired.

The current display of strong Moslem states like Iran, Turkey, Malaysia and belatedly Pakistan of efforts to bring back the Moslem World to its rightful place in guiding this world to a better climate of human cohesion and international justice and equal opportunities for all inhabitants of this planet (as well as non-Moslems) is very inspiring and healthy indeed. The observer could not escape from noticing that there are indications that all hope is not lost for the Moslems of the world and the rest of humanity, who have been left out of the vast progress that has been made in most of the significant fields that can bring greater well being and prosperity to all people of the world.

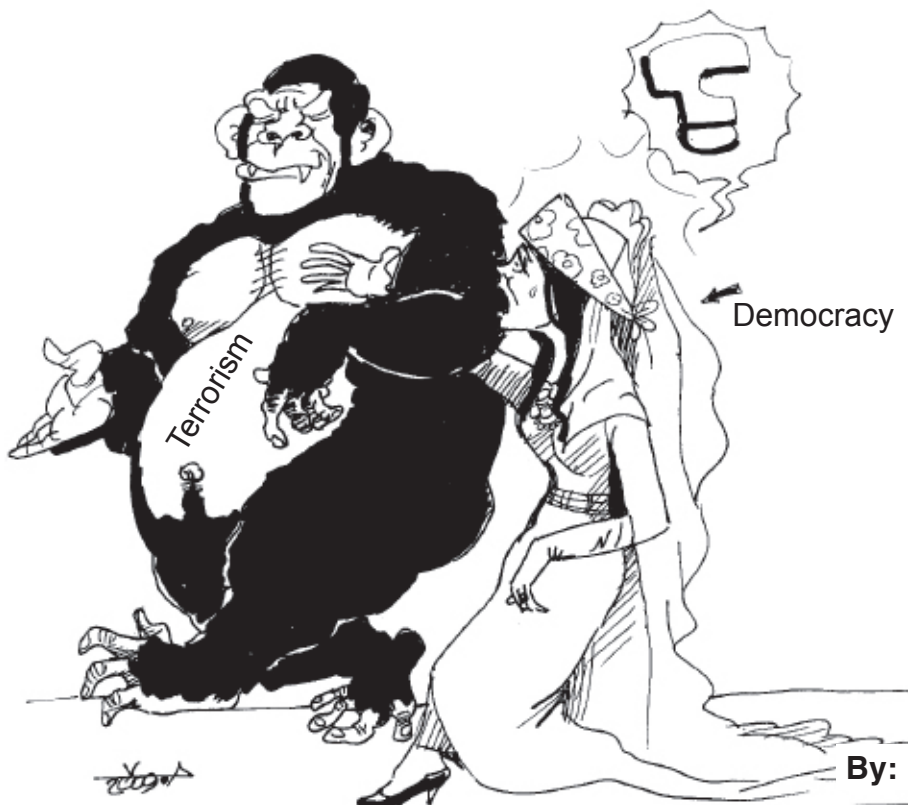
It is understandable why Turkey should do the only possible thing to save its face and keep its international stature, especially with the leading players in the European Union simply not finding it acceptable for Turkey to be regarded as one of their peers. The former have sought to put every obstacle to keep Turkey from joining this agglomeration of modern nations and now Turkey rightfully turned to the Moslem World for a better chance at expanding its economic and political prospects. The experience of Turkey as the leader of the Moslem World and holder of the Caliphate for four hundred years would certainly enrich the prospects for all the Moslem World to come out of their subservience to the Western masters of their governments. To follow a greater course of independence would certainly be welcome by most Moslems of the world and sooner or later, most Moslem constituencies would get on the bandwagon. Iran has shown that it can be done and no matter what obstacles and hindrances a Moslem nation faces, as it seeks to become set on a proper course of development, as long as one plays by the book, the barriers can easily be overcome.

For sure this is causing great worry in Israel, but then again so what?

Peace and Blessings of Allah be Upon Him

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

SKETCHED OPINION



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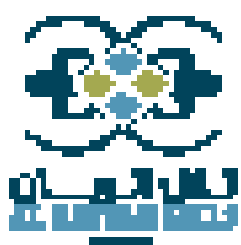


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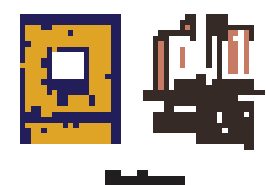
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Yemeni HIV patients face the media

By: Abdulwahed Abdullah
For the Yemen Times

The problem is not HIV, but the frightening images and discrimination that has made HIV patients lose their sense of stability. In this spirit, a discussion took place in a workshop titled "Transformational Leadership: Workshop on HIV Media Messaging" in Sana'a.

Khalid, an HIV patient, told participants how he suffers from stigma and discrimination. He talked about discrimination in the medical sector. "When I declared to the doctors that my wife has HIV, more than one hospital refused to receive her when she was in labor. I and my wife were thrown out. The best solution was silence. Then she was accepted," said Khalid.

The stigma that accompanies HIV is one of the main causes of denial and silence, which makes the disease more dangerous for patients.

Media awareness:

The workshop was the first effort to raise awareness in the Yemeni media in order to break the silence to decrease the stigma and discrimination which will help to limit the spread of HIV. Prior to this workshop, there was an awareness raising workshop for the religious leaders and parliament members by the UNDP team from Egypt and Yemen.

An HIV patient is a human being, and should not be judged. The collaboration of efforts makes limiting the spread of HIV easier. HIV can be treated but has no cure, just like diabetes and blood pressure.

Khalid, which is his nickname, is a young man. He showed up in front of media workers smiling and talking about his experience without shame. But he still fears the stigma so he did not reveal his name. He is an activist in a society of HIV patients in Sana'a. The first time he met other HIV patients he gained a sense of stability after years of loneliness without any moral or psy-



Journalists can play an important role in countering AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. In Cairo, UNDP supported a training program to sensitize media professionals who report on HIV/AIDS

chological support.

The official number of HIV patients being treated in the national program for HIV control in Yemen is 233. But independent medical estimations indicate that there are 23,000 patients.

Khalid takes the medication for free from the national program, which is supported by the World Health Organization. But the medication is sometimes unavailable which worries patients.

The reaction at the time of infection

Khalid talked about his family's reaction when they heard about his infection. "When my relatives and the villagers knew, they were afraid of coming near me," he said. "My brother decided to get my mother out of the village to see me, but I came home to greet her and said to my brother that whoever visits me is welcome but I can't force anyone who doesn't want to visit."

Khalid got the virus outside Yemen and he transmitted to his wife when he

came back. The lecturer, Aamal Allam from Egypt, who is an activist in the UNDP, said that 80 percent of Arab women that get HIV are infected by their husbands who come from outside their country.

"Arab women were raised to obey their husbands and that stops her from asking their husbands to check his blood for the HIV and advise him to use a condom," she said.

She told participants "to raise the awareness of women regarding their rights and defending those rights in order to protect themselves and their families from disease."

UNDP team

The UNDP team from Egypt and Yemen participated in the lecture for the media workers. Dr. Fuad Al-Sabri, the head of the regional program for HIV in the Arab countries, Aamal Allam, the president of the youth and family department in the Sout Al-Arab radio

station in Cairo, and two activists, Sharif Abdulaziz and Ayman Ghali also participated.

Allam suffered accusations and outrage when she started earlier to talk about HIV patients.

The team presented, in several sessions, lectures about the scientific basics of the HIV, efforts and challenges of combating the disease in Yemen, and HIV statistics in the Arab world. They also talked about sensitive issues in the Arab media like HIV and drugs.

They presented testimonies of HIV patients, how HIV is treated in Arabic journalism and blogs, the nature of drug addiction and its roots, and the 12 steps program and the support groups for the most vulnerable groups. Documentaries were shown about Arab HIV patients, and cinema and HIV. Also, Khalid Abdulmajid and Kumar Sumar, the vice president of the UN developmental office in Yemen presented a lecture about the role of the UNDP in

managing the grant of the international fund to fight HIV.

Looking for the positive images in the media

The talk focused on ways to raise awareness of media workers so they can convey a positive image of HIV patients. It is not transmitted through kissing, hand shaking, or coming near patients. But it is transmitted through blood, semen, and vaginal secretions.

Raising the awareness of the media workers, religious leaders and parliament members came after an increase of the HIV cases in Yemen in an unexpected way according to the developmental program officials. One of the doctors, who didn't want to mention his name, said that he found a great number of HIV patients among the young prostitutes. He said there is a large prostitution network between the governorates that spread the disease.

Another one said, without mentioning his name, that a number of young people were found to have HIV when they applied for visa papers to travel abroad.

A documentary was displayed about a religious conference in Egypt in 2004 in which leaders emphasized the humanization of the HIV. It is not considered a curse from God.

As shown in the documentary, Dr. Yousef Al-Qaradawi confirmed that adultery is a sin but if a person gets seduced by satin to commit it, then he should use a condom. The UN officials considered the documentary an effective way in presenting a more human image of HIV patients.

To show the human image of the HIV patients in the Arabic and international cinema, two documentaries about the HIV were shown. The first was produced by Harbas and called, "I love life- Compassion in Action- Noor." In the movie, Egyptian movie stars talked about people who have HIV. They presented an image of tolerance and compassion for HIV patients in a number of Arab countries.

In The Indian movie, "Blood Brother," the director shows two characters living with the HIV. One is falling apart and the other is coping with his disease.

Blood Brothers was directed by award-winning new wave director Vishal Bhardwaj (Omkaara) and stars Siddhartha (Rang de Basanti) as a young man who gets a positive HIV diagnosis and allows his life to fall apart. Pankaj Kapoor plays his laconic doctor. Blood Brothers is one of four short dramatic films by cutting-edge Indian directors Mira Nair, Vishal Bhardwaj, Santosh Sivan and Farhan Akhtar that aim to dismantle myths and misconceptions about HIV/AIDS.

Politics and the HIV

There was a discussion in the work shop about the reasons behind the fact that some of the Arab governments hide the real numbers of the people who have the HIV. It was confirmed that there is no Arab official who dares to say the right number because that will cause panic, which will stop the government from limiting the disease.

Some of the Arab governments will not add to their economic suffering by giving the right numbers because then they might be obligated to offer treatments, which is highly expensive and will affect tourism. For these reasons, hiding such information is considered a part of the national security.

To point out the negative role of the Arab governments in combating HIV, the lecturer, Amal Allam, said that all the Arab channels refused to show the Arabic movie while it was marketed to LBC.

Khalid, the HIV patient, considers his life to be improved today. He talked about his role as an HIV patient in the UN awareness team. He moves with them in their travels and takes his medication regularly. He expressed his happiness that his children are HIV free. And although the disease has progressed, his wife decided to stay with him until death.



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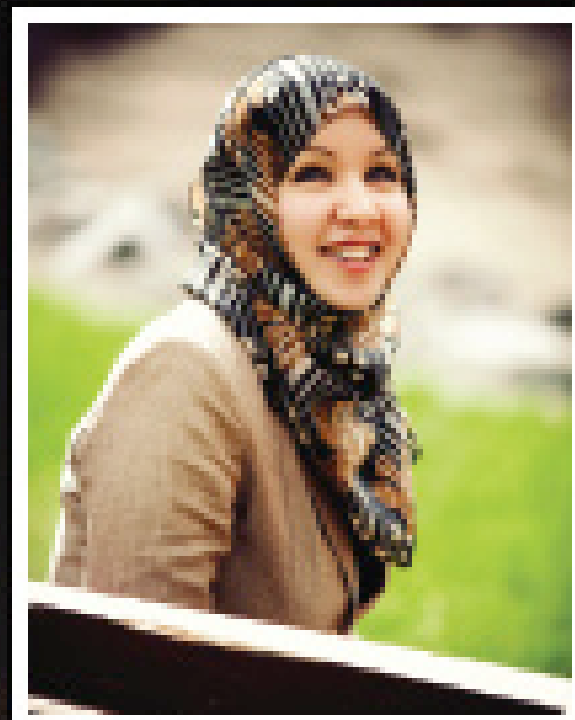
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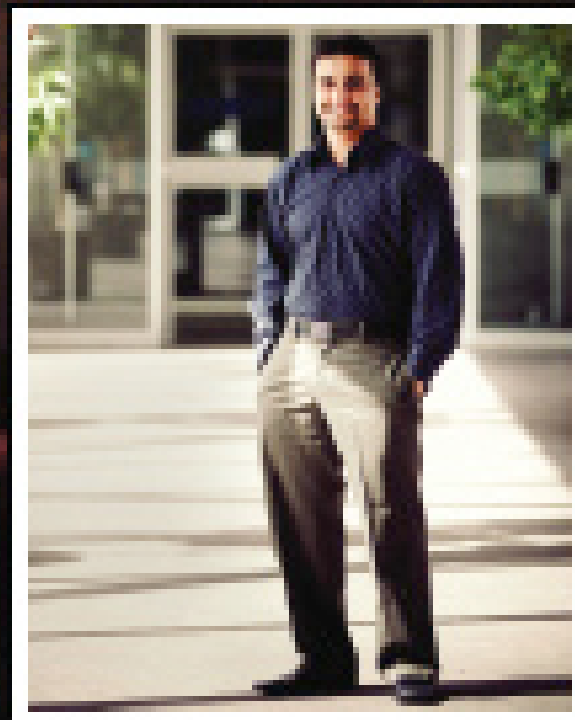
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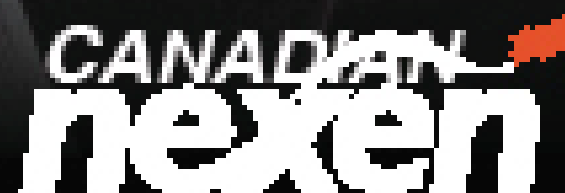
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Traditional headwear of Yemeni men: **What's in a man's hat?**

Not only are hats or headscarves a form of fashion and style, but they also carry a religious, social and even economic connotation. In traditional Yemen, you can make out the sect, geographical orientation and social status, from what a man wears generally and especially from what he wears on his head. Although these costumes have become less popular with time, there are still those who preserve it as part of the local heritage.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Only few shops in Sana'a are dedicated to selling traditional Yemeni clothes. One of those is the Al-Shaik Shop for men's traditional attire in Jamal Street, a shop that has been open for more than 12 years and has customers from as far as the United States, purchasing their traditional clothes and keeping links with their identity. Um Essam came with her mother to buy some Shilan (traditional head scarves

for men) for her sons who are living in the United States. She inspected the various items with an expert eye and decided on a couple of shilan, while her mother bargained over the price of the thoub (a traditional white, long one piece dress, worn by Yemeni men).

"They want to remember who they are and show off during festivals or during the Friday prayer assembly," said Um Essam talking about her sons in America. Apparently there are some shops there that sell Yemeni traditional clothes, but not "as good as

the ones here", this is why she buys them locally and sends them across half the world.

Not only do the Yemenis buy the traditional headwear, but also many foreigners like to do that. According to Abdu Hameed, a shopper, foreigners used to enter shops and buy Yemeni clothes, especially the traditional hats and headwear.

"It was simple to put them on and even the women wore Yemeni men's hats and shawls, it looked nice on them. Today foreigners don't come to Yemen that much and if they do they don't interact as they used to in the past. It seems they are afraid of us; it is a shame because we really enjoyed talking to them and it made us proud when they praised our traditional clothes. It also benefited the country as a whole through tourism," he said regretting the decline in tourism to Yemen.

Yemenis from all over the country buy the traditional caps called



"Kofiya" with or without the shawl which is called "Shal/ Shilan", "Ghutra", "Kashida", "Mashada" or even "Shumagh" according to area of Yemen which you come from. A normal shal is usually made of cotton.

Many Yemeni men especially the younger generations are starting to let go of this tradition in favor of western hats or going plain without any

headwear. However, festivals and social occasions such as weddings and Friday prayers revive these traditional habits and most men take out their Kofiyas or shilan, that were forgotten all week, from the closet.

Warm areas such as in the coasts have different kinds of headwear. They are usually lighter because of the heat and many don't wear the Kofiyas

but rather wear straw hats.

There is no law that forbids people of different areas or status to buy the clothes of another group as such. According to Al-Duba'ai the lines between these various geographical and cultural regions are fading. The trick is being able to "carry it nicely," he said.



"The fashion these days is white shilans with little embroidery at the edges," explains Dawood Al-Duba'ai co-owner of the Shaik shop. Fashion does not only dictate color it also determines price and wearing styles.



The design in the shilan's print indicates where the person, wearing it, is from. The most common design is the perpendicular squares or triangles or a zigzag print that are paced at fixed distances across the shawl, except at the edges. These shawls are known as the Palestinian shals if they are black and white or the Jordanian if they are red. Both colors usually referred to as Ghutra and are worn in Sana'a, Taiz and Aden but not in the other areas.



There are other styles and colors, like the blue or light brown or purple kofiyas brought from Oman and these are usually worn by the sheikhs or the scholars. "Sometimes you are forced to respect a man based on the type of 'kofiya' and 'shal' he wears. It shows wealth, knowledge or religious status," explained Al-Sawani.



Yet the most expensive type is called "Zunjubari" in reference to Zanzibar in Africa. These carry bright colors and a cap could reach a cost of USD 50, compared to the three dollars for the Yemeni one. According to Al-Dubai some African kofiyas made in Comoros islands could cost up to 400 Euros.



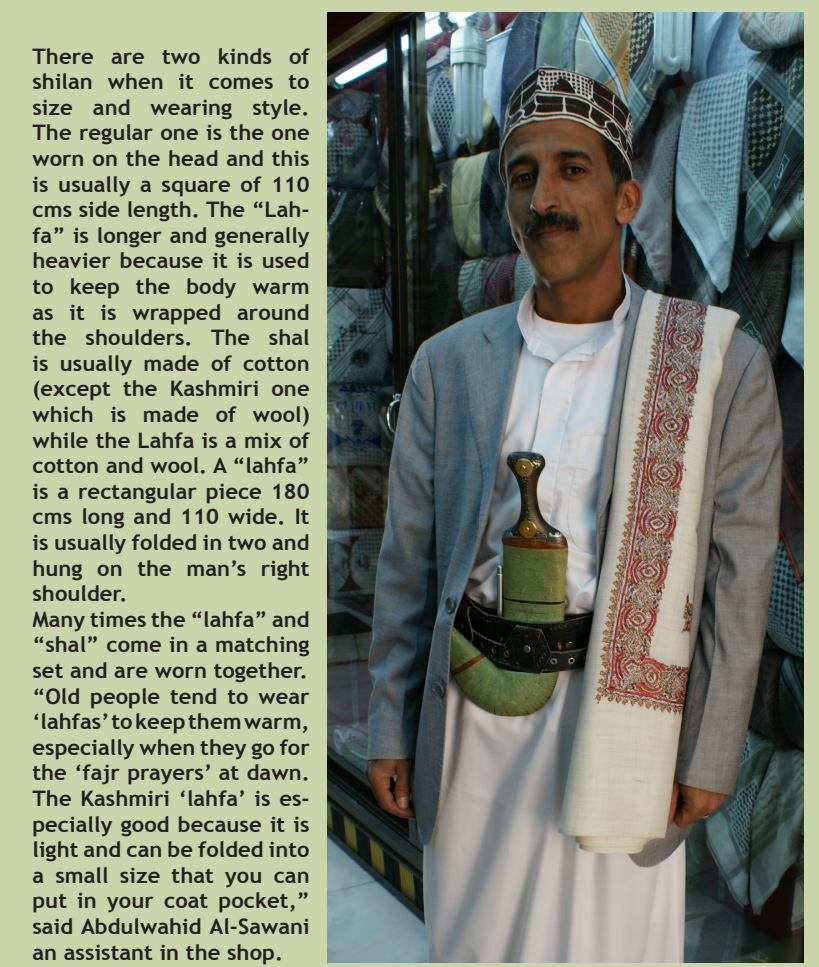
The most expensive shilans are the Kashmiri ones because they are not just beautifully hand-made from the finest wool, they are also light and warm. They are also called "Turma" and are usually red in color. "There is this expensive type of Kashmiri 'shal' that passes the 'ring test'. The price of this could reach a thousand dollars," added Al-Duba'ai. The ring test is when you can pull a 'shal' smoothly through a 'ring', without it being stuck or getting wrinkled.



The shilan of the nomad areas such as Al-Ghaidha in Shabwa usually have an extension at all four corners of the shal. Those shilans are usually painted in strong colors such as bright green, brown and purple and have very specific embroidery at the edges.



Other styles became popular with time and people from Taiz started wearing more colorful kofiyas which were imported from Asia especially Indonesia. These caps are higher and more expensive than the local plain ones.



There are two kinds of shilan when it comes to size and wearing style. The regular one is the one worn on the head and this is usually a square of 110 cms side length. The "Lahfa" is longer and generally heavier because it is used to keep the body warm as it is wrapped around the shoulders. The shal is usually made of cotton (except the Kashmiri one which is made of wool) while the Lahfa is a mix of cotton and wool. A "lahfa" is a rectangular piece 180 cms long and 110 wide. It is usually folded in two and hung on the man's right shoulder. Many times the "lahfa" and "shal" come in a matching set and are worn together. "Old people tend to wear 'lahfas' to keep them warm, especially when they go for the 'fajr prayers' at dawn. The Kashmiri 'lahfa' is especially good because it is light and can be folded into a small size that you can put in your coat pocket," said Abdulwahid Al-Sawani an assistant in the shop.



The Kofiya or the Yemeni traditional cap is usually pure white, or white with golden embroidery. The latter is worn by the Buhra religious sect of Haraz area.



Moreover, the traditional cap is no higher than 6 cms in height and is known as "Kofiyat Al-Faqeh", in reference to Bait Al-Faqieh in Hodeidah, where it was originally made.

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Creating SAVE Spaces in Yemen



Opening lunch in Yemen where Dr. Schläffer with her team presenting the organization and SAVE project to active Yemeni women.

By: Ashwini Bhanagay,
For the Yemen Times

The SAVE (Sisters Against Violent Extremism) an initiative for peace, called during their current visit to Yemen upon the female NGOs in Yemen to establish a 'Network of Sisters' and to join the global network of women dedicated to ending terrorism and sharing best-practices. 'We are here because we are concerned about security around the world. The world is in a difficult situation, and we came to create SAVE spaces,' said Dr. Edith Schläffer, the founder and chairperson of Women without Borders and SAVE. A sociologist, married and with two children - a daughter and a son, Dr. Schläffer is determined that women can bring about a change. Women Without Borders is an international organization for women around the world, founded nine years ago, by Dr. Schläffer. SAVE started a year back in Vienna as an initiative of Women Without Borders which seeks to engage women in combating violence.

A global campaign
In Dr. Schläffer's own words, 'Extremism pulls countries apart and creates new divisions such as east and west, Muslims and non-Muslims. Terrorism is not about religion, or nationality. It is about human nature which has not been

guided properly. We have to reclaim our religion, re-question it, and frame it positively. Terrorists don't fall out of the sky, they are raised in the homes, in the religious institutions (churches, temples, mosques), they fly in planes. We have to start at the earliest, we have to start with the children.'

Reaching out to the women in Yemen in response to the question on how does the organization plan to reach out to women all over Yemen, Dr. Schläffer said, 'We were aware of women's groups, professors in universities, women activists, and female political leaders in Yemen, and we plan to

reach out to the women in Yemen through them.' The Deputy Director of MWF, Ms. Fakhria, said SAVE got an encouraging response in Yemen, and that women want to work on Sa'ada and South Yemen issues. SAVE plans to make a movie on the women in Sa'ada. Also, since the MWF has links to the Information Faculty in Sanaa University, it will work on reaching an agreement with the university to modify its curriculum to include SAVE concepts.

Peace starts at home 'We are convinced that women can bring stability. Studies have proved that female participation reduces corruption. We are concerned about the absence of women as key stakeholders in peace talks.

Uganda announced that it has 50% women political participation, and it has proved to be good,' says Dr. Schläffer. 'Women as mothers, nurturers, and policy shapers, are concerned about the safety of their children, the family. Women get the early signals of change in families, in children. To bring up a child in a different manner, however, the woman needs to be empowered. We want to reach out to mothers and their children, to resist violent extremism.' Walking into the future - creating SAVE spaces in Yemen

'Women in Yemen are active and courageous. My feeling is that this kind of enthusiasm will make society inclusive' 'The most important step is to get to know each other, meet on a common ground, to create Save spaces not through the government, but through the civil society,' says Dr. Schläffer. 'This is my first visit to Yemen. In Yemen, I found women eager to change society.

These women groups have been very welcoming. They are doing an admirable job and I am amazed with the lively discussions. There is no denial of problems and we have discussed the potential programs to be implemented by the NGOs,' says Dr. Schläffer referring to the Media Women Forum (MWF), the organization hosting her visit to Yemen, and the other women organizations who gave her an enthusiastic response. In response to the question regarding her work in Yemen, Dr. Schläffer said, 'at the local level, we have two approaches.

In the first approach, we will look at the family unit. Soon after the Network of Sisters is established, we will launch the 'Mothers say no to Terrorism Campaign,' mostly focusing on awareness raising of mothers and children.' 'In the second approach, education will be the instrument to reach forward, and we will work with children in colleges and universities.

This age group-the teenagers-are in search of identity, guidance. We have to offer them alternatives. In this world, the moderates don't have a lobby, the shouters have the stage. So we are planning to have programs for children to be lead by peace, not by extreme ideologies, and to teach ways to fight extreme violations,' said Dr. Schläffer. 'On one hand we will work on the curriculum of high school children, and on the other hand we will highlight female role models, like the ones depicted in the documentary.'

Women are not just by-standers SAVE, with support from the MWF, had organized showing a documentary film 'A Journey through Darkness - 3 Generations of Women affected by Terrorism', a strong portrayal of three female role models, real life hero's and their reactions to the terrorism taking place all around them and their journey towards change.

A mother - Hadiya Masieh, London, UK United States, September 11, 2001. A series of coordinated suicide attacks, by Al-Qaeda, killed 2,993 people. 'After 9/11 happened, I was deeply disturbed and upset. Never before had I linked the Khalifan State to bloodshed,' says Hadiya. Born & brought up in Yorkshire, London, UK, Hadiya was

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Clip from the film: Trailer Journeys through Darkness

introduced to the Islamist concept of the 'Khalifan State' by her husband. The couple was drawn to the thoughts on humanity, mankind, and injustices. Hadiya is now the Ambassador of SAVE UK.

A grandmother - Anne Carr, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1996 Belfast has been characterized by a degree of residential and educational segregation between Catholics and Protestants since its foundation in the early seventeenth century.

The Good Friday Agreement of Belfast pledges 'to facilitate and encourage integrated education and mixed housing.' Anne Carr, a Protestant, married to a Catholic, and was constantly scared for her children. Her husband was nearly shot for living in a protestant area. Anne Carr established mixed housing and cross community primary schools bringing Protestant and Catholic children together. 'We have a peace agreement. But the conflict is 30 years old.

I am still trying,' says Anne Carr established the first Womens' counter terrorism platform, with SAVE A sister- Beatriz, Madrid, Spain, 2004 On March 11, 2004, a series of coordinated bombings

against Cernanias (a commuter train) in Madrid, killed 191 people, directed by an Al-Qaeda-inspired terrorist cell. 'My brother takes a train to the university every day.

So do I. But only on that day, I did not. About 300 meters before entering the station, the train exploded,' Beatriz talks about her experience. 'People asked for closing down the mosques. My reaction was how can they think of closing the mosques? I have nothing against the Muslims. I hate terrorists!' 'If we talk to 15 children and make 10 think of a non-violent response, it is a step in the right direction,' says Beatriz. Beatriz stood up and represented the civil society, even though she had lost her brother.

Women shape History Women are not just bystanders, they shape the history.

In Vienna, many such women got together and shared their opinions that if men support women, they can achieve more, as is seen in historical examples. Save wants to bring the awareness to women that they can be driving change, since they are very important. It wants to give a message to all women, that what we do about injustice matters. Stand up and say that this is not in our name, and resist violent extremism.

SAVE
SISTERS AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The Vienna SAVE Declaration against violent extremism Dec. 2008

- I, as a woman, will use the local and global networks of women to stop the killing.
- I will inspire a new response to prevent terror, violence and discrimination.
- I will create awareness for not stigmatizing the families of the extremists/terrorists.
- I will support the young generation with non-violent alternatives in their search for a better life.
- I will engage all forms of media for spreading the message of non-violence.
- I will insist on peaceful resolutions to prevent escalation of conflict and violence.
- I will promote a global dialogue for a future without fear.
- I will raise my voice against all hostile states and politics that cause suffering.
- I recognise the urgency to create 'SAVE' spaces for a peaceful coexistence.
- I will always remember those affected by violent extremism.

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