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YEMEN TIMES

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Saleh: Real war against Houthis has just begun

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANAA, Nov. 8 — The Yemeni President said in a speech on Saturday that the real war against Houthis has just begun over the past two days, which means that since Saudi Arabia has engaged in the war, according to political observers. This came as Houthi fighters entered into clashes with both Yemeni and Saudi armies.

Inaugurating the Liquefied Natural Gas Project and the export of the first consignment in Shabwa's Belhaf area, Saleh said, "It is now that Yemeni forces are more aware of the harsh topography of some Sa'ada areas, where fighting is taking place."

He vowed not to stop the war before eliminating Houthis. "We sacrifice many patriotic officers, soldiers and citizens every day. Therefore, no reconciliation, truce or stopping of the war is accepted unless the rebellious group in the Sa'ada governorate is exterminated."

Saleh added that Sa'ada experiences a war of personal liquidations, as not all those fighting against the government are Houthis.

From his side, Yahya Badraddin Al-Houthi, one of the Houthi leaders abroad, declared that their fighters will continue to resist what he described as "two-side aggression against their followers."

War prisoners

Saudi forces continue fighting against Houthis at its border with Yemen. "Saudi mortars struck areas surrounding the 2000-meter high Dukhan Mountain, near their southern border with Yemen," Saudi official sources said.

According to Saudi official media, Prince Khalid Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz, Assistant to Saudi Defense Minister, denied that there are Saudi war prisoners held captive by Houthis. "There are only

four troops missing," he said. This came after Houthis announced that they arrested many Saudi soldiers. However, this wasn't confirmed by independent sources.

The Saudi official denied that his government troops entered Yemeni soil, contradicting an allegation by Houthis that they clashed with Saudi troops inside Yemen's territory.

Spokesman for Houthis Mohammed Abdussalam told the Aljazeera satellite channel that his fighters will transmit a recorded tape of the Saudi soldiers held captive. He warned Saudi authorities against encroaching upon Yemen's sovereignty.

Abdussalam asked Saudi Arabia not to intervene in Yemen's internal affairs, as well as not to allow the Yemeni army to use its territory for attacking his followers. "Houthis are entitled to defend themselves by all means available," he confirmed.

"Worst Day"

A Saudi medic at Samta Hospital, near the border of Yemen, said that seven Saudis, including four women from the same family were killed, and up to 126 others

injured since the Saudi-Houthi clashes erupted last Tuesday.

Media sources described last Friday as the "worst day" for Saudi Arabia when the hospital received several casualties. The Saudi Arabiya.net quoted a military expert as saying that "It is clear that Saudi forces finalized deployment along their border with Yemen within a comprehensive plan to close up all the outlets against Houthis and protect its civilians from violence."

The Saudi authorities imposed a curfew in particular southern areas, which they described as a fighting scene, particularly at night in order to verify identities of IDPs (internally displaced people), after some Houthis sneaked into some Saudi villages and mixed with IDPs, wearing Pakistani clothes.

Media Office of field leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi said that Saudi jets hit the Yemeni Malahidh district and nearby villages on Saturday in five air raids, adding that the Saudi forces fired more than 30 rockets at the district.

According to a recent statement by the Houthi media office, Houthi fighters resisted Saudi infantry units that entered

Yemeni territory, capturing many soldiers and seizing their equipment.

The Saudi air forces waged on Wednesday through Friday several raids against Houthi strategic positions in the Dukhan Mountain and neighboring areas. "We took a series of measures to confront Houthis, two of which were launching intensive aerial shelling against Houthi positions in the mountain, and hitting other Houthi targets on Saudi soil," the Saudi government said in a statement.

The statement added that Saudi forces stopped advancement of Houthi infiltrators and took control of some strategic positions, which Houthis tried to take over.

Media sources reported that Saudi raids targeted Houthi camps in the Yemeni Sa'ada governorate, near the border with Saudi Arabia, in coordination with the Sana'a-based government.

The confrontations between Saudi troops and Houthis began when the latter accused the former of allowing the Yemeni army to establish a military base in the Dukhan Mountain to assault them, which is why they resorted to attacking

the base and taking control of the mountain that is part of the Saudi territory, according to the Border Demarcation Agreement between both bordering states in 2000.

Reports by various media outlets confirmed that at least 100 Houthis have been arrested by the Saudi troops since last Tuesday, adding their number is expected to increase.

Accusations

An official source at Yemen's Supreme Security Committee accused Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) of being publicly involved in supporting Houthis in the volatile Sa'ada governorate. He added that the JMP member parties encourage Houthis to trigger violence and chaos, as well as hurt security, stability and unity of the homeland.

The source went on to say, "Anyone contemplating on the political and media address of JMP member parties will surely understand that this address foments sectarianism, sedition, and backs vandalistic acts practiced by rebels in the northern Sa'ada governorate."

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Yemen exports the first gas shipment from its strategic project

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, Nov. 8 — Yemen has started officially exporting gas shipments from its strategic project in Balhaf Port on the Arab Sea.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who launched the first shipment of gas to international markets in Asia, Korea and to the two Americas on Saturday, said the project is good for all Yemeni citizens.

In a statement he made to state-run Yemen News Agency (Saba), Saleh said the project, which worth nearly USD 5 billion, will provide work opportunities to more than 10 thousand Yemeni laborers.

But Saleh said the projects needs security and stability. "Strategic projects need security, safety and stability. Any strategic and developmental project can not be achieved only under security, safety and stability."

Launching the gas project sends a clear message to the world that Yemen is a suitable land for investments, said Minister of Oil and Minerals Amir Al-Aidruss. The project adds Yemen

to world gas map that exports clean energy to major markets in Asia and the two Americas.

Al-Aidruss said, in addition to current Asian, American and Mexican markets, the project will target European and Indian in the future. He said the project that took 15 years of construction, and will generate USD 30-50 billion to Yemen in its 25 years.

The first shipment was 149 thousands cubic meters carried from Balhaf Port by a Korea Gas Corporation (KOGAZ) tanker to Korean markets, said Ministry of Oil and Minerals spokesperson, Aref Moharram. The second shipment will be 160 thousands cubic meter will be carried by Yemeni Arwa Tanker to American markets.

Moharram said the regularly scheduled export of gas from the port to the international markets will be one shipment of 149 thousand cubic meters every two weeks. The company, he said, owns four tankers for carrying the gas, in addition to three other rented ones from KOGAZ.

On Oct. 15, Yemen Liquefied

Natural Gas (LNG) announced the Company started producing from its liquefaction terminal in Balhaf, on the Gulf of Aden.

The Yemen LNG project is the largest and most important investment ever made in Yemen with an investment of around USD 4.5 billion. It consists of supplying gas from Block 18, located in the Marib region in central Yemen, through a 320 kilometre pipeline to the LNG plant located at the port of Balhaf on the Arab Sea, south east of Yemen.

The plant started production with the first train while the construction of the second train is being completed. The total production capacity will reach 6.7 million tons of LNG per year.

Launched in August 2005, the project shareholders are TOTAL (project leader) (39.62 percent), Yemen Gas Company (16.73 percent), Hunt Oil Company (17.22 percent), SK Energy Co., Ltd. (9.55 percent), KOGAS (6 percent), the General Authority for Social Security and Pensions of Yemen (5 percent) and Hyundai Corporation (5.88 percent).

Panic in Ibb Over swine flu

By: Mofeed Al-Gaad

Ibb, Nov.5 — New cases of swine flu have been discovered in four different schools in the Ibb governorate, in northern Yemen, which has led to panic amongst parents and students.

Teachers and educational officials revealed to Yemen Times that at the beginning of the school year for 2008-2009 new cases of swine flu have been discovered in four different schools: Al-Farouq School, Somiah School for Girls, Kahlid School, and Mogamah Al-Saed School for Girls.

Many cases have emerged, first in the Al-Farouq School, where examinations revealed that three students were infected with swine flu. Three cases have also been discovered in Somiah school, and three other cases were discovered in Mogamah Al-Saed School for Girls.

The Ministry of Education has already issued directives to school headmasters to close any class in which one case of swine flu was discovered, or to shut down all classes once more than one case is discovered in several classes in the same school.

The Ministry also postponed the new academic year for more two weeks, especially for primary schools, and more classes and schools have been reportedly shut nationwide.

"The swine flu virus is a dangerous disease that corrupted the fresh and nice atmosphere of school, forcing large number of pupils to stay at home" Said Nageep Al-Moliki, the headmaster of Khalid school, where only one infected cases was discovered.

"One H1N1 infection has already been discovered in our school among secondary pupils, and we took the necessary steps, calling the general manager of the health office, who always meets our demands. Yet we still face some difficulties in examining our pupils" he said.

"We are suffering a lot from delaying the result of examinations, which come from the far away city of Sana'a, so we send our request through your newspaper to the government in general and the Ministry of Health in particular to provide the Ibb governorate with a laboratory in order be able to take the result of examinations easily and rapidly" Al-Moliki said.

The fast dissemination of the swine flu infection created a horrible

atmosphere among the residents of Ibb. After broadcasting the news of discovering new cases of H1N1, most parents kept their sons and daughters home from school, taking them to hospitals and clinics to be examined. Hospitals and private clinics have become overloaded with the huge number of pupils who come to have examinations to assure themselves that they are not ill.

"Pupils nowadays are living under a horrible and anxious situation and we are doing our best to help them get rid of this health crises that has overtaken Ibb city" said Nasser Al-Morahi, a teacher in Khalid school.

"I think it's better to prevent the pupils from going to school for a period of time, and I personally have prevented my sons from going to school" Nasser Al-Morahi added.

"In fact, pupils these days have become sick psychologically as they are overwhelmed with the fear and anxiety of the rapid outbreak of H1N1," said Latef Al-Wasapi, a math teacher. "It is well known that these days are the beginning of the winter season in which most people have a runny nose and cough, but most people consider these familiar diseases to be the infection of H1N1," he said.

"The rapid outbreak of H1N1 that creates a horrible atmosphere among pupils is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, which should perform its job correctly," Latef Al-Wasapi recommended.

Faizah Al-Badani, the headmistress of Mogamah Alsaed, showed Yemen Times the document she received from the Office of Education asking that the school be closed, and expressed her dissatisfaction of the decision of that office. "Eight girls are sent to the medical center and the results of examinations proved that there is only one case who is infected with H1N1, but people on the street said that there are ten cases among the huge number of the girls in Mogama Al-saed" she said. "People and some of the media have spread fear among my pupils and teachers, who want to stay at home under the auspices of protection from the outbreak of the H1N1 infection" Faiza Al-Badani added.

Expectations of some educational officials revealed that many cases of swine flu in Ibb may discover in the upcoming days that the Ministry of

Health and its office in the governorate doesn't pay enough attention to the healthy conditions of the new generation. "Due to the carelessness of the Ministry of Health, we deprived our sons, brothers and daughters from going to school in order to protect them from H1N1 infection. School headmasters promise us to open the schools as soon as possible, but who can confirm for us that the schools will be free from the H1N1 infection?" Said Ali Al-Gaad, father of four students.

Abdalmalik Al-Sanani, the general manager of the Office of Health in Ibb, from his side denies the accusations of some pupils, parents and some educational officials who said that the Office of Health doesn't perform its role in combating the outbreak of the swine flu virus. "We are doing our best to combat the outbreak of H1N1 infection, using good medical methods. We confess that we delay the results of examinations because the examination results of the swine flu virus come only from Sana'a"

On Monday evening, more than 300 people were in one of the private clinics waiting for the doctor to examine them. "The emergence of new infected cases of the swine flu virus pushed pupils' parents to bring their children to the private clinics, causing a noisy and overcrowded situation in these clinics" Dr Ahmed Abdalraheem, a popular doctor in Ibb city, said. "The problem is that we can only diagnose the physical primary symptoms of swine flu virus, and the final result of the examination comes from Sana'a city, so we can't assure the pupils' parents as soon as they would like." Dr. Ahmed added. The strange thing is that usually the infected cases of swine flu are from pupils but here, in Ibb city, the teacher is one of the 9 cases.

On the other hand, the classmates of the infected pupils are making appeals to both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to interfere sooner and save their children from this dangerous disease: "We are terrified from the fast outbreak of H1N1 infection. The atmosphere of school has become horrible and fearful, so we prefer staying at home to going to a school which looks these days like a field of H1N1 infection" said Waleed Al-Gathi and Mofeed Koshafah, classmate of an infected pupil.

Hizb ut Tahrir's call in Yemen



Members of Hizb ut Tahrir addressing Khilafah

By: Yousef Al-Raddadi
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Nov. 7 — Hizb ut Tahrir (Party of Liberation) held a public conference on October 29, calling all Muslims to join in the grindstone of reestablishing the Khilafah (Islamic State), which they say will end all of the current problems in Yemen and the rest of the Muslim world.

The conference was one of many held by the group in Yemen this year. During the summer, another conference was held in Sana'a titled, "The solution to all the problems in Yemen." Over 900 people attended the July 7 conference however, more than half where refused entrance by government officials, according to Hizb ut Tahrir spokesperson Nasser Wahan Al-Lahabi.

Although detested by current governments, their call to reestablish the Khilafah has captured the hearts and minds of many Muslims around the globe. In 2007, the group organized one of the largest Islamic conferences in the world. Over one hundred thousand Muslims attended the conference in Indonesia, all calling for the immediate establishment of an Islamic state. Video of the conference can be viewed on the group's official Web site, hizbuttahrir.org.

"The work to establish the Khilafah

is a divine obligation on every Muslim," said Al-Lahabi, who is also head of the party's Yemeni office. "Just as Allah said 'And let there arise from amongst you a group inviting to all that is good, Islam, enjoining the ma'roof, good, and forbidding the munkar, evil. And it is they who are the successful,'" he quoted from the Quran.

"Because of this command from Allah... we Hizb ut Tahrir dedicate all our work and effort into reviving the Islamic way of life. Our main goal is to establish and implement Islam in all aspects of life including governing, just as Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, did in Medina," he added.

The group was founded in 1953 by Taqiuddin an-Nabhani, a scholar, politician, and judge in the Court of Appeals in Al-Quds, Jerusalem. Today, the group is present in over 60 countries including Indonesia, Great Britain and the United States. They have worked in Yemen since 1995, expanding and in raising public awareness.

In accordance with the groups interpretation of the guidelines of Shar'ee texts (Qur'an and Sunnah), Hizb ut Tahrir dismisses the legitimacy of all current borders which separate the Muslim lands due to the western colonization taking place shortly after the destruction of the previous Khilafah (Ottoman Empire) on March

3, 1924.

Hizb ut Tahrir has publicly condemned all regimes for assisting the west with the so-called "war on terror." The group argues that the current insurgency is only aimed at keeping the Muslim world divided, and more importantly aimed at preventing the establishment of a Khilafah state by all measures. They condemn the Muslim rulers for "not ruling by what Allah swt has revealed", and for being "puppets of the west." The Party of Liberation call on all Muslim rulers to unite under the banner of Islam, thereby relinquishing all current borders separating the Muslim lands and uniting under one nation, according to laws derived from the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH).

Hizb ut Tahrir, is a global Islamic political organization, whose work revolves around reestablishing the Khilafah (Islamic State). It is one of the largest Islamic groups in the world. Their work involves holding conferences, protesting, handing out books and leaflets to make the Muslim world aware of the call to establish the Islamic way of life. While some moderate Muslims argue that the establishment of an Islamic state is impossible, Hizb ut Tahrir alongside millions of supporters argue that it is not a question of if, but when.

Tomato price increases 200 percent

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Nov 8 — The price of tomatoes in Yemen witnessed a large jump recently compared to previous months, rising 200 percent since last September.

This increase tends to occur every year when winter starts and production decreases, according to wholesale merchants and housewives.

"In September, we could buy one kilo of tomatoes for YR 100 (50 cents), but now it's been raised to YR 3,00 (1 USD and 50 cents)," said Um Khalil, a housewife in Hodiadah.

The price hike of tomatoes has made some families either stop buying tomatoes or regulate purchasing to a weekly basis.

"In the past month, we used to buy one kilogram for each day, but now we buy only one kilogram a week, and I know families who stopped buying tomatoes and replaced them with sauce," She said.

"In Summer, tomatoes are grown in cool areas like Sana'a, Thamar and Amran, since the weather in those areas is usually fair and that boosts up the production. However, when winter starts, the production minimizes, which leads to the price hike," said Adnan Murshed, a wholesale merchant in Sana'a.

The price of one tomato basket, which weighs around 20 kg is now YR 6,000 (USD 30), and it was only between YR 500 to YR 800 in September, according to Murshed.

Even though Winter is good weather for tomato growth in hot areas like

Hodiadah and Lahj, the first period of the season often is just a preparation phase for the cultivation, which generates after two or three months.

"This period is really a break between tomatoes' productive areas of cool and hot governorates," said Murshed "Cold weather causes low production in mountainous areas, which are the only market tomato providers in Yemen during the first period of winter," he added.

This price hike of tomatoes continues from November to March, which is associated with the scarcity of production in the cold areas and the late production in hot areas, according to the economic expert Ali Al-Wafi.

Only farmers in cold areas benefit from this season, whereas farmers of hot areas do not- as their production comes late with oversupply.

After March, there is often overproduction from the Tehama and Lahj governorates, when one kilo gram reaches YR 50 and sometimes YR 20, it devastates farmers' incomes and forces them to resort to leaving tomatoes growing or selling their farms.

"I'm a farmer in Tehama and this year I stopped growing tomatoes. I know many farmers in Tehama who are going to stop tomato planting as well, since we lose a lot when one kilogram of tomatoes decreases to YR 20 in March and April," said Al-Wafi.

According to the expert, during the overproduction in March and April from Tehama and Lahj there are no

exporting outlets to the Gulf States to contain the problem of oversupply in the local markets.

However, the General Director of Research and Studies at the Yemen Supreme Export Council, Tawfeeq Sallam, attributed the absence of outlets for tomato exports to the Gulf States to the uselessness of tomato exporting to these countries, since there will be similar overproduction in those states as well.

The economic expert said that Yemen's economic relationship with the Gulf States is not as good as other relations in education, sport and culture.

"Why are the Gulf States just interested in strengthening their relationship with Yemen in sport and education? Wondered the expert.

"The Gulf States should care about their trading relationship with Yemen, and that will boost up the economies of both sides," he added.

To overcome the price hike of tomatoes in the period from November to March, the Director of Research and Studies suggested that Yemen grow tomatoes in greenhouses either in cold or hot areas.

"The protected agriculture in which plants are grown in greenhouses can be a solution to the problem of tomato price hike," said Sallam "Even though this solution is expensive, the market demand will generate good revenues," he added.

He also suggested that local sauce factories utilize the overproduction of tomatoes in March and April, and purchase large quantities.

In Brief

SANA'A
WB Vice President arrives in Yemen
 The World Bank Vice President for Middle East and North Africa region, Ms. Shamshad Akhtar and an accompanying delegation arrived on Friday in Sana'a on a three-day visit to the country.

Speaking to Saba, the WB official said that she would review with senior Yemeni officials the level of implementation of the projects funded by the Bank in the country.

Akhtar pointed out that the WB delegation would discuss with the private sector ways to set up a partnership effectively with the government and the WB in order to boost development.

She added that Yemen is one of the countries that deserves support from the International Development Association (IDA) which provides soft loans, confirming that she would raise the annual loan of \$ 120 million allocated to Yemen from the IDA to \$ 200 million.

Promoting Yemeni-Lebanese relations discussed
 Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi

discussed here on Wednesday with the Lebanese ambassador to Yemen Hassan Abu Aker ways of enhancing the two countries bilateral relations.

From another hand, al-Qirbi received the credentials of the newly appointed Palestinian ambassador to Yemen Basim Agha.

Al-Qirbi and Agha discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian arena. Al-Qirbi expressed the Ministry's readiness to provide all facilities needed for carrying out his tasks in Yemen.

Yemen to partake in Television, Radio Int'l meeting in Brussels
 Minister of Information Hasan al-Lawzi headed on Thursday for Belgium to take part in the meeting Television and Radio International Union, which is scheduled to be held next week.

Speaking to Saba, al-Lawzi said that the participation aims at boosting the role of Radio and Television Cooperation in the international union as well as building good bilateral relations with the Union to benefit from media experiences in the field of media development in Yemen.

The meeting will discuss the possible of exchanging programs in order to re-broadcast in member-states of the television of union's states, he added.

He said that the meeting will be a great opportunity to hold talks and agreements to produce common television works.

UK Prince Andrew in Yemen soon
 The UK's Special Representative for International Trade and Investment Prince Andrew Edward is to arrive in Yemen on Thursday.

The visit of Prince Edward, who will lead an investment delegation to Yemen, is a replay for President Ali Abdullah Saleh's invitation.

Will-informed sources said that the British Prince will held talks with President Saleh and many senior officials on means of developing the cooperation between Yemen and UK in different fields topped by economy, trade and culture.

Prince Andrew Albert Christian Edward is Duke of York. He was born in 19-Feb-1960 in London, England. He is the second son and third child of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. He was graduated from Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

Besides his many royal duties, he currently serves as the United Kingdom's Special Representative for International Trade and Investment.

Yemeni candidate runs for governing US city

The Yemeni American candidate Abdul-Kareem al-Ghazli is competing to be elected the governor of Hamtramck city in the US State of Michigan.

Preparatory elections set him a strong candidate against the current governor of the city which increase the possibility for him to win the elections, the state-run 26sep.net has reported.

Worth to mention that a high rate of Yemenis as well as Bengalis, Albanians and Bosnians live in this state who are expected to vote for him.

ADEN
Governor of Aden returns home

Governor of Aden Adnan al-Jeffri returned home on Wednesday after a week-long visit to Italian Tuscany

Province. Al-Jeffri said that he has held talks with a number of local officials in the province on local areas and means to develop relationship between the two friendly nations.

He was agreed with the Italian side on outfitting the maternity unit in al-Wihdah Hospital in Aden in the next month. Additionally, a group of Italian doctors is to visit to Aden to get acquainted with the Heart Center which is under construction now and to know the centre's needs, al-Jeffri said.

On the other hand, Aden governor has invited a number of Italian investors to take part in the Investment Conference (Aden ... Yemen's gate to the World) due to be held this month.

MAHWEET
WB mission in Mahweet for developmental projects

The WB mission spearheaded by Vice President for the MENA region Shamshad Akhtar currently visiting Yemen paid on Friday a visit to Mahweet province in northwest Yemen.

The goal of the visit was to assess the developmental projects funded by the World Bank in the districts of Shibam, Rajem and Mahweet as well as the district of Thula in Amran.

The mission met with governor Ahmed Ali Mohsen who briefed it on progress on developmental projects and programs implemented by the Public Works Project and the Social Welfare Fund and that are focused on road and educational services.

The mission landed in Yemen early today for a three-day visit to assess the WB-funded developmental projects across the republic.

Upon arrival, Akhtar said Yemen is one of the countries that deserve support from the International Development Association (IDA) which provides soft loans, confirming that she would raise the annual loan of \$ 120 million allocated to Yemen from the IDA to \$ 200 million.

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Haseem Plus

Banned radio broadcasters seek voice

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Listening to a radio program about early marriage produced outside the Yemeni government broadcasting studios has a different taste. Every bit of it sounds different - the material, the voices, the music and the atmosphere. The official tone is almost absent. It is alive, colorful and it touches your life. But this program, and dozens of other similar ones, are not aired. They are kept on CDs, waiting for a long-awaited law to reform private broadcasting.

Yemen Hadith, or Modern Yemen, is the name of the radio station the Media Women Forum plans to start.

"In this station we will adopt templates modern new concepts in the programs," said Rahmah Hujairah head of MWF. "We have trained dozens of journalists on human rights, gender and economic reforms in order to create different programs."

She said bureaucracy in the official media has harmed the quality of programs, but private radio could do better. "There is wider freedom margin for journalists' who work with us. The production unit we have is very modern with great potential for audio processing and effects, in addition to the enough time we have to produce better programs," she added.

With population of more than 22 million and eleven radio stations, Yemen continues to depend on only state-owned radio stations. In recent years, Yemen has begun to decentralize the broadcast system by launching a series of local radio stations. But they are under direct government supervision and their broadcasts are short. They also lack of training for their staff. Many say the government considers the broadcast media a political tool and prefers to keep the technology out of the public's hands.

There are two long wave government broadcast station, one in Sana'a and the other in Aden, in addition to local short wave radio stations in Taiz,

Hodeidah, Syoum, Mukala, Ibb, Haja, Abyan, Mahra, and Sa'ada. These stations are controlled by the Ministry of Information through the Public Corporation for Radio and Television.

Most of the radio stations have two shows. The programs generally air from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Abbas Al-Dailami, Head of the Sana'a supported establishing private radios and FMs based on a law. "A law would specify grounds, procedures and guarantees the rights for both sides [the government and private radios]," he said.

"Private radio stations and FM will create competition," he added.

Local radio stations focus on reflecting the character of the governorate that they broadcast in, he said. For example a Hodeida radio program has to deal with different issues than an Ibb radio program.

During the fourth journalists' conference President Ali Abdullah Saleh promised to release a law for television and radio broadcasting, but nothing has happened so far.

Major international media corporations like the BBC, Monte Carlo and Voice of America have asked the Yemeni government for access to FM radio stations, like in other Arab countries, but the absence of the private television and radio law is still used as excuse for delays.

Local radio stations Salah Al-Qadri, director of government-controlled Ibb radio station said that the radio tries to satisfy its audience in more than five governorates that receive its live broadcasts. "We make the listener a partner in our programs by addressing the local community and discussing its issues," he said. "We pay attention to religious awareness."

Al-Qadri noted that live programming, with listeners calling in, helps in assessing the listener's opinions about the programs.

The MWF has produced about 25 programs based on suggestions

from conferences with radio stations and NGOs in Hadramout, Sana'a, Taiz, Aden and Hodaidah. The MWF said are old-fashioned and dull said Fakhria Ali, executive director of the organization.

MWF programs focus on women, children and youth, in agreement with Internews. There are programs on subjects like early marriage, contempt for difficult jobs, female genital mutilation and unemployment. "We have agreed with local radio stations to broadcast our programs," said Ali. "We have managed to broadcast one program on local government radio about women's development."

Raja'a Al-Abbasi, the project director of Internews, an international media development organization, which provided equipment for MWF, said people need training on how to deal with digital studios. Internews trains journalists to be able to bring the journalistic martial to the sound engineer in almost-ready-to-broadcast form.

Internews plans to support local radio stations and provide them with equipment and training for their staffs. It also has offered to produce special programs for people who have been displaced by the war in Sa'ada, to be aired on the local radio of Hajjah.

"The program is half an hour of broadcasting in the morning, and another half in the evening and local people of the governorate can do the reporting," said Al-Abbasi. "The programs are all about humanitarian issues."

Al-Abbasi expressed her disappointment because the programs her organization helped produce have not been aired. "I am so disappointed," she said. "The production doesn't see light, and is only saved in CDs."

But she said that she guarantees that when officials listen to samples of the programs produced outside the government owned studios they will like them. She recalled how an official visited them, listened to their programs and expressed his appreciation for their efforts.



Although there are 1050 non-governmental radio stations in the Arab World, Yemen has none. The government promised to lift the ban last spring but independent radio stations remain off the air.

Female journalists participated in these programs have gone to the countryside and interviewed female farmers. "We want to hear the voice of women in countryside, how does her morning look like?" said Al-Abbasi. "I managed to broadcast her tired voice."

She further explained how she respects the experiences of people who participate in current radio talk shows about women in countryside, but she believes intellectuals' opinions should be accompanied by the women they are discussing.

She criticized the way the journalists work from their studios and avoid field work. She said it is a shared responsibility to help journalists go to the field to see, listen and feel the place they are reporting on.

"Private broadcasting enriches the media business," said Al-Abbasi referring to the variety of private and public radio programs available in some Arabic countries and how they serve their communities. For instance,

she said, the Jordanian station Amn (security) provides people with safety and security information.

On the ban on private broadcasting, Al-Abbasi said the law is the solution. "Anything can be regulated by laws exactly like print journalism."

Hujairah, the head of MWF, said "This project will not be successful at least 80 percent unless there is cooperation from official media institutions, so one of our goals is to commit to the Yemen media policy by the Ministry of Information."

"Until now we cannot broadcast because there is no law for private broadcasting," said Hujairah.

On using alternative ways to broadcast programs her organization has produced, she said it is easy to broadcast on the Internet but the targeted people can only be reaching through local radio station.

Hujairah said she dreams of having her own broadcasting station but she has little hope she doesn't believe the

president's promise.

Hujairah believes that because of the importance of the radio for Yemenis, as WHAT percent cannot read, the government prefers to be the only voice reaching the people.

"Media has a huge impact on the people and we count on it in the regard of modernization and development in Yemen."

Only few people in Yemen have access to Internet services, especially in the rural areas where more than 70 percent of the population lives, so there are no Internet radio stations, even though it is easy to start one.

More than 100 new radio stations started broadcasting in the Arab World between 2007 and 2008. Last year there were about 316 FM radio stations in the 18 Arab countries, 150 of them non-government, according to a report by the Arab Advisors Group. Egypt and Tunisia were the first countries in the Middle East to allow private radio stations.

JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE CAPITAL (4)

No witnesses, no lethal weapon, no computers, no photocopies

By Judith Spiegel

Every morning they are of-flooded into the courtyard of Sana'a's South District Court. From there, handcuffed to another prisoner, dressed in blue overalls, they enter a cage. The cage ends up in the court room. There, the judge is waiting. As is the public, prosecutor and the audience. Today's first suspect is accused of murder.

His hearing takes no longer than fifteen minutes. The judge, wearing a business suit and a green diagonal scarf, is annoyed by the public prosecutor for not having brought forward any witnesses. Or the lethal weapon for that matter. Furthermore, he is annoyed by the public prosecutor for not having made any photocopies of the crime report for the lawyer of the deceased's family. The lawyer, in black robe with the Yemeni flag sewed on, raises his hands in a dramatic gesture, the universal lawyer's gesture, to express his dissatisfaction.

Meanwhile the suspect shows the shot wound - incurred during the gunfire that took the life of his opponent - on his arm. He sticks out his arm through the bars of the cage and demands to see a doctor who, in his opinion, should make a report on his situation. His lawyer, a small older woman, repeats this request. And that's it for today. The judge closes the faded pink file and orders the public prosecutor to bring a witness, the weapon and photocopies. The next hearing in this case is set on Wednesday. One of the clerks writes this down. There are no computers in Yemeni courts. Lost files are not uncommon, whether on purpose or not.

In 2000 the World Bank summarized the main problems facing the Yemeni judiciary as follows: 1. Poor legal and administrative performance of the judiciary and administrative personnel due to lack of motivation and requisite edu-

cation and skills. 2. Absence of proper administrative systems (file keeping, registration of contracts, regulation of fees, etc.). 3. Dilapidated court buildings; and, above all, 4. A lack of probity at all levels.

Have things improved since then? Someone who knows the system inside out is the lawyer who smuggled me into the courtroom, who prefers to stay anonymous. In Yemen, defendants in felony cases are entitled to counsel. The lawyer is one of these attorneys and mainly working on cases involving minors. The lawyers are paid by the Ministry of Justice. For a mere USD 110 per month they go to court almost every day to do what they can for their clients. "However, there is so little I can do, this is the system, or rather the non-system. It is difficult, but commitment, belief and dedication keep me going".

Today, before going to court, the lawyer tried to find one of the employees responsible for the registration of last month's work at the Ministry of Justice. As on so many days, the office is empty, just as most other offices in the building. "The problem is that the people working at the ministry usually have one or more other jobs." Apparently, this one can be skipped easiest. The lawyer continues: "Even when I manage to get my work registered, it takes ages before I finally get the money. I don't know, maybe 40 signatures are required, all up to the Minister himself, and then down again to the lowest level".

Suspect number two today is accused of murder as well. He killed someone with his jambiya. He smiles and waves at his children, gathered in the courtroom. Court officials walk back and forth with documents. Only two of the twelve ceiling lights are working. Outside the court room it is noisy. The suspect's lawyer is absent. But this time, there is a witness. One of the judge's helpers reads out the statement the witness made earlier at the police station. Does he stick to it? Yes, he does, he saw

the stabbing then and there. The family of the victim requests for another witness, who is waiting outside the courtroom. He comes in, adjusts his scarf and, under oath, stated that he saw it as well, then and there.

Yemen's legal system is laid down in written legislation. Its sole source is the Shari'a, as stipulated in the amended Constitution of 1994. The lawyer explains that the laws are "nice enough." The problem is that customary law, made by the tribes, usually prevails. "This makes it extremely difficult and unpredictable to work. But a lawyer must be brave. And some judges are more modern than others. One of the few steps forward is that there are now some female judges in Yemen."

According to the World Bank Report very little respect for the law and legal institutions exists in Yemen, and even less respect is accorded the individual judges and prosecutors. The justice system receives a very low measure of trust both from the public at large and from other state institutions. It is popularly believed to be inefficient and corrupt. This, according to the World Bank, can be explained by the very low salaries paid to judicial branch personnel. The report states: "The average judge's salary is barely sufficient to meet housing, qat and food expenditures. All other basic expenditures and any "extras" have to be paid from a non-salary source."

The hearing of the second witness comes to an end after some fifteen minutes. The next hearing in his case is set two weeks from now. The lawyer explains that it can easily take two or three years to conclude a case. And then there is the secondary court (court of appeals), where again it can take a couple of years for the case to conclude. "That is, if there is no money paid somewhere along the way. To a judge, a clerk or the public prosecutor," the lawyer sighs. "I had many dreams when I left university. Like for so many young people of Yemen, the dreams died."

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Experiences:

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- Working experience at different levels (government, University, International NGOs, Local NGOs, Media, etc)

Languages:

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

Skills:

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- Together with the Head of Mission, represents MSF-Spain in Sana'a including communication with authorities, UN agencies, NGO's, media, etc.
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Candidates fulfilling the above mentioned criteria should send their contacts

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Interested candidates are asked to submit their applications at the offices or via mail to the following address: intersos_yemen@hotmail.it to the attention of Ms M. Ferrante, specifying what position you are applying to. The deadline for receiving applications is the 10th November, 2009.

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Words of Wisdom

The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.



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

OUR OPINION

Conflicts within terrorist movements

The meaning of the word terrorism in Yemen is vague, as it is anywhere around the world. Only in Yemen, we have many other synonyms depending on which point of view you are coming from. In all cases, Yemenis, both the state and the people, understand terrorism as acts of destruction, whether it causes loss of life, or property.

Today we have many such cases; in some instances the state's long security hand terrorizes its own people either directly through illegitimate raids on homes and detention of innocent people, or indirectly by allowing influential people to bully the rest of the community.

But there are conventional terrorists as well, such as the organized movements of Al-Qaeda or violent branches of the Houthis, or even armed groups of retired soldiers who decided life isn't fair and it is time to destroy some public property.

Media, especially state media, always gives acts of terrorism full coverage, and some writers are overly creative and fill in the gaps from their own imagination. What they fail to cover is the internal dynamics of terrorist groups. Political analyst Jonathan Power explains that policy makers and the media skim over the built-in weaknesses of terrorist groups. Their dastardly deeds get full play, but the potent evidence that points to infighting and factionalization is downplayed.

There had been many rumors concerning who really kidnapped the seven Germans and the Brit two months ago, but the latest theory was that it was a branch of Al-Qaeda that had ideological disagreements, and therefore cooperated with a faction of the Houthis. If this is really the case, then this explains why neither Al-Qaeda nor the Houthis have claimed responsibility. This theory also claims that they were killed because they were doing missionary work, and this explains why so much time has passed without resolution of the situation.

According to Power, terrorists often overreach, losing whatever civilian sympathy they may have built their strength on. Al-Qaeda is the best example. Its support is a poor shadow of what I was at the time of September 11. Even in Yemen, a conservative Muslim country, many people who earlier viewed Bin Laden as a hero, today understand what Al-Qaeda means to their livelihood and country, and even the image of Muslims around the world. They don't want anything to do with it.

In time, Powell predicts, Al-Qaeda is likely to destroy itself through its own internal feuds, admittedly only under pressure. But that must be implemented not by armies and drones, but by tough policing. The many Al-Qaeda-type cells around the world have been broken by solid police work. According to 'How Terrorism Ends' by Audrey Kurth Cronin, "one long-standing source of dispute is the argument between those who adhere to the beliefs of revered Salafist and Hadith scholar, Sheikh Al-Albani, who argues that jihad should entail elements of compromise and those who, like Ayman Zawahiri, Bin Laden's deputy, who argue that anything less than killing the infidels is 'appeasement'."

Likewise, a divisive and passionate element of discord is the issue of whether or not it is acceptable to kill Muslims, particularly the elderly, children, and women.

We need to bring down terrorist movements by exposing the weaknesses within those organizations through media and through good police work. We also need to gain the support of the communities, especially those who have lost their trust in the movements. Through soft security we must get the public to be loyal to their nation, not to some group who uses the name of God to kill their fellow man.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Conflicts in Yemen need Arab mediation

By: Mostapha Elmouloudi
melmouloudi@thenational.ae
The National

Mohammed Karroub, in a comment piece for the Jordanian newspaper Al Rai, wrote about the role that the Arab League secretary-general, Amr Moussa, along with leaders of other Arab countries, could play in Yemen. The press release issued by Saba, the Yemeni official news agency, following the meeting of Moussa with the Yemeni president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, mentioned nothing about a plan or efforts to contain the unrest in the country. Oddly, it said that the talks held between the two leaders dwelt on current Arab issues, primarily the latest developments concerning the Palestinian cause, and the situation in Iraq and Somalia.

"The two men seemed to have had the luxury of time to discuss crises erupting elsewhere, but they have no intention of addressing incidents in northern Saada and tensions rising in the South. When it came to Yemen, the agency's statement mentioned only the importance of maintaining the country's unity and stability." By this, Yemen showed a reluctance to accept Arab mediation, hence leaving wide open the possibility of bringing the issue to an international level. The press release explained also that Moussa's visit came only out of courtesy.

"Yet, Arab initiatives to contain the Yemen's crisis need to be allowed in order to establish grounds for dialogue between different forces in the country and to spare it from disaster."

Juba conference shows much deception

In a comment piece for the UAE newspaper Al Bayan, Ahmad Amrabi commented on the Juba conference for opposition parties held last week at the initiative of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) based

in the south of Sudan, which brought together many senior leaders of political parties from the North.

"The conference was reminiscent of the democratic opposition's national rallies of the mid-1990s, which had started disintegrating in 2000. Thus, the meeting was an occasion for mutual deception, where northern parties came to compensate for their weakness by seeking the support of the SPLM. The latter also saw the conference as an opportunity to provoke its partner in government, the National Congress Party."

The delegates recommended the creation of an independent truth and reconciliation commission to inquire into violations of human rights since independence. "One can easily see through this recommendation that it is driven by feelings of revenge by southerners."

Yet one should not ignore the fact that the war was a human, economic and political disaster for both people, either in the South or in the North. "So it is important now to stop asking questions about who instigated the war first."

Environment should top Lebanese agenda

The visit of King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia to Damascus is an important step that will cement bilateral reconciliation, benefiting Lebanon, wrote Randa Taqi al Dine in an opinion piece for the London-based newspaper Al Hayat. This leads to great hope that Lebanon's prime minister-designate, Saad al Hariri, will succeed this week in forming his cabinet.

The visit of the Saudi monarch to Damascus is likely to ease tensions between Syria's allies in Lebanon, representing the opposition, and the majority who won the last legislative election. Once the macro-political scene is settled, the new government should shift attention to more urgent local issues that touch the lives of every Lebanese, such as the

environment.

"There is a need to save the beautiful scenery of Lebanon because it is under strain. Urban areas are crowded with new buildings under construction, but without any green spaces breaking up the urban blocks."

Another environmental issue concerns maritime life. "Out of neglect, the Mediterranean waters along the Lebanese coastline have been turned into a huge trash bin. The issue of the environment should top the agenda of the new cabinet. That is why it is very important to carefully choose a minister in charge of the environment who can turn Lebanon to an environmental protection workshop."

Losing a race is not the end of the world

"After the Egyptian minister of culture, Farouk Hosni, lost the contest to become Unesco secretary-general, a sea of comments has flowed considering the outcome as a disaster and a global conspiracy. The whole issue remains, however, a race for one position at the international level, no more, no less," wrote Abdul Arahman Arrashed in an opinion article for the London-based daily Al Sharq al Awsat.

Shortly afterward, the US president Barack Obama lost the bid for hosting the 2016 Olympic games to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. "Though armed with media and public relations power to boost his hometown's candidacy, he returned empty-handed. In contrast with Egyptians, he exhibited good sportsmanship in defeat. He did not consider his loss as a conspiracy, nor did he blame anybody."

The failure of Mr Hosni to win his post should, by no means, be seen as belittling the position of Egypt whose value as a nation is above a temporary position. By the same token, the value of the UNESCO position has been too magnified. Moreover, the organization itself cannot be compared in importance with the International Atomic Energy Agency which is under the administration of an Egyptian.

Break the Houthi thorn

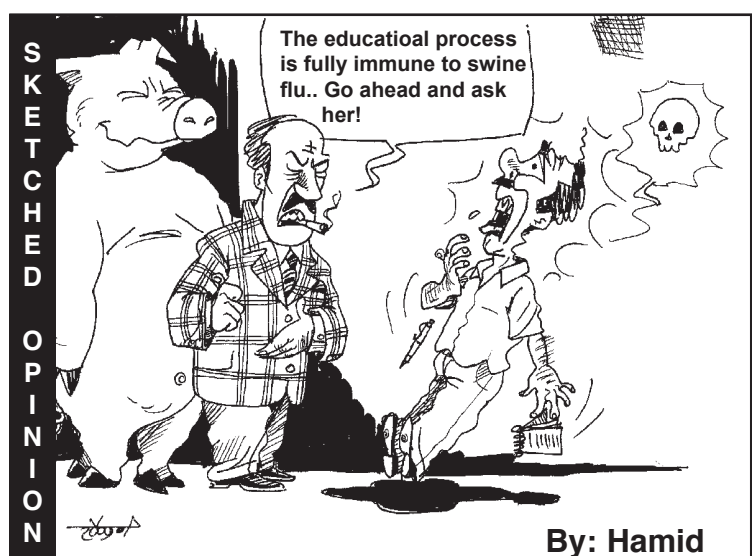
By: Tariq Alhomayed

There is no other way to deal with the Houthi attack on Saudi territory – that led to the vicious deaths of a number of border guards – but with a preventive response and by breaking the Houthi thorn decisively and quickly. What the Houthis dared to do was not incidental; it was a calculated operation with well-known repercussions. What the Houthis want is escalation with Saudi Arabia in order to move on from their predicament in Yemen, and above all, [they want] to serve Iranian goals, the most prominent of which is to preoccupy the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a blazing front on the Saudi borders.

The area of Jebel Dukhan, or the terrestrial Saudi-Yemeni borders, is an area basically inflamed by arms smuggling operations and operations to infiltrate Al Qaeda militants into Saudi Arabia. Therefore, the clear goal that the Houthis undertook in the attack

and territory. When we say "break the Houthi thorn" the meaning is clear in that it is to teach them and Iran's agents in the region a harsh lesson that Saudi security and territories are not matters that can be bargained. Moreover, what is happening is not a result of internal problems in Yemen but rather the result of foreign interference in Yemen developing so much that it has reached the Saudi borders.

Naturally, respecting the sovereignty and territories of Yemen is a decisive matter to the Saudis and it is not something that is up for debate or something that can be bargained. This is what I heard from a Saudi official [who said so] in a clear and concise manner. However the challenge against the Houthis and breaking the Houthi thorn is nothing but full support of [the state of] Yemen and before anything else it is for preserving Saudi's security, which is one of its rights after the Houthis violated Saudi's sovereignty

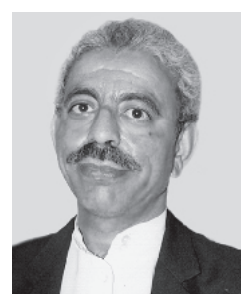


By: Hamid

COMMON SENSE

**Miscalculated Saudi policy
Peace is much cheaper than war**

The last war that Saudi Arabia engaged in independently was the Yemeni – Saudi War of 1934 and it might be worth recalling that it was the King of Yemen then, who appealed to the wisdom of King Abdul-Aziz to end the war on a temporary truce, lest the foreign forces that were prying for power and influence in the region close all the channels for fraternal Arab brothers to make peace.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Incidentally in that war, Prince Ahmed Bin Yahya, the Imam's son and commander of the Yemeni forces had advanced beyond Najran and was already on his way towards cutting the supply lines of Prince Faisal (later King of Saudi Arabia), who had already advanced to near Hodeida.

The war would have been a disaster for the Saudis then, because Ahmed was a military genius beyond dispute, as many of his companions have quickly attested. Thus, when Imam Yahya rightly or wrongly called for a truce, it was out of conviction that Arabs should not be fighting Arabs, especially if both were Moslems and surely should not fight wars for the sake of foreign powers. Many of those accompanying Prince Ahmed would be quick to point out that this moment was the first time they saw Prince Ahmed cry, when his father ordered him to retreat back to the agreed truce lines.

Ahmed is well known for never having to lose any battles or wars he was engaged in and was unequalled in military genius in his times. He knew well how to handle and lead Yemeni tribesmen and make a formidable force out of them, even if they were meagerly equipped. He was so confident that the Saudis were easy game then and was ready to march to Taef City after cutting the lines of supply to Faisal. King Abdul-Aziz knew this well and saw good wisdom in agreeing to the truce suggested by Imam Yahya.

Whatever the case, any war between the brotherly nations of Yemen and Saudi Arabia is never good for any of the adversaries involved. Thus, it was with surprise and total disagreement that this observer finds it necessary to suggest to our Saudi brothers that if the Egyptians with a force of 70,000 troops could not break the back of the resistance they met in Sa'ada during the war to save the Republic (1962 – 1969), how can they expect to do better, when the force they are confronting is far more resolute and apparently well adapted to durable combat.

The Saudis are also causing much more anger to reside within the hearts and minds of many Yemenis, who really expected that their Saudi brothers would look with greater affinity towards their southern brothers and invest in the development of the country, so that Yemenis will be less contemptuous (not jealous, mind you) of their Saudi brothers for enjoying the lavish splendor they are living under, while turning the other way when they realize how destitute are the lives of their southern brothers. One surely does not think that the counsel that the Saudis are getting to carry out a meaningless and surely fruitless war against any Yemeni faction is actually counterproductive and not in the interests of the Saudi family at all. Never mind that the Saudis will only enflame the anger of Yemenis, who are already saddened by the ungrateful attitude of the Saudis towards the Yemenis, who played a major role in the building of modern Saudi Arabia during the 1960s, 70s and 80s. The recent fighting in the Yemeni – Saudi border, even if it has the blessings of the Saleh regime, is absolutely contrary to the interests of both the Yemeni and Saudi people, and surely counterproductive, as far as the Saudi regime is concerned.

The Saudis are not only arousing the anger of the majority of Yemeni citizens, but causing great disfavor among most of the Arab people, who will tend to view the battle north of Sa'ada as a David – versus Goliath encounter. With the Houthis regarded as the David in this battle and with the Saudis not looked upon very favorably already in most of the Arab streets, for many reasons, which one would not like to delve in now, the observer believes that it is time to let wisdom prevail in determining the course of Saudi policy towards their brothers in the South.

Fired up emotions and misguided arithmetic are not the ways to handle relations with neighbors, who have been tested many times in battle and the support of the regime in Sana'a to Saudi intervention may have its own undesirable outcomes from the Saudi viewpoint as time will soon show.

On the other hand, instead of wasting countless billions of Riyals in a seemingly unwinnable war, the Saudis could consider investing a quarter of the money to be wasted on the development of their southern neighbor, who God has left under the hands of a government that has for all practical purposes missed out on the performance of the Social Contract to which they have been committed to for well over a quarter of a century.

One important question remains to be answered: Should the regime in Sana'a compromise the sovereignty of Yemen because it could not overcome what began as a minor security issue and eventually turned into a full scale rebellion, because of the way the regime confronted the Houthis at the start of the conflict up to these trying moments?

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

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Yemen Press Review



26 September Weekly, Organ of Yemeni Army
Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009

Main Headlines

• Army takes over Dukhan mountain, arrests scores of rebels

The armed and security forces took control of the Dukhan Mountain and the nearby heights and areas near Al-Mauqid valley north-west of Al-Mirkab village, plus other strategic positions overlooking the valley, the weekly quoted military officials as saying on Sunday.

The source added the army drove rebels off their hideouts east of Minzala and the heights overlooking Layeh valley and arrested dozens of them and seized large quantities of light and medium weapons, mortar and RPK shells, landmines, anti-tank weapons and a number of vehicles as well as some documents, tapes and IDs.

According to the weekly, military and security units launched an attack on hideouts of terrorist elements in areas east and west of Al-Uqab, killing many of them and injuring others.

The military source confirmed that military engineering units defused landmines and explosives and discovered already-dug graves by the terrorists to bury the dead in order for their death toll to remain unknown.

Army and security personnel thwarted an infiltration attempt by terrorists in Al-Hijra area, making them suffer heavy losses, killing and wounding dozens. The troops also destroyed one of their cars and hideouts in west Gharaz and Sahla areas.

• Large international support for Yemen's unity and stability United States of America has agreed with the Council of the European Union's October 27 statement in support of a unified, stable, democratic and prosperous Yemen, the weekly reported.
It added that US State Department

Spokesman Ian Kelly said yesterday the USA also joined the Council in recognizing the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the security, political, and economic challenges that Yemen faces and reiterated the United States' readiness to support the government in its efforts to address these challenges.

According to the weekly, Yemen's Deputy Prime Minister Abdulkarim al-Arhabi, who is also Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, and currently head of Yemen's delegation at the meeting of Yemeni-European Committee, which was held in Brussels Yesterday, confirmed Yemeni government's appreciation for EU attitude and member states that strongly support Yemen in coping with various political, development and economic challenges.

During the opening session of the joint committee, Al-Arhabi said that his government welcomes an increased diplomatic representation for EU in Sana'a due to its continue support for Yemen in the various areas.

According to the weekly, the meeting also discussed the latest developments in the regional and international area as well as the efforts exerted to fight terrorism and piracy.



Al-Nass Independent Political Weekly
Monday, Nov. 2, 2009

Main Headlines

• Conflicting news about Sa'ada fighting

The various local and international media outlets report conflicting news about the ongoing clashes in the already volatile Sa'ada governorate, the weekly reported.

It added that a field military source confirmed that the most important man of Al-Houthi leaders Abdullah Awadh Al-Rizami was killed along with several Houthi fighters on Saturday in the Kadam area on Saturday as they were

attempting to sneak into the Al-Buqaa Area.

Until the time of writing this report late Saturday, no denial or confirmation as issued by office of Abdulmalik Al-Houthi. From their side, Houthis justify their lack of interaction with this news to the allegation that they don't deal with the official media.

• Al-Anisi: Yemeni faces three extremist projects one of which is power bequeathal

Yemen is currently facing three extremist projects topped by the planned bequeathal of power, which itself is the main cause of the other two extremist projects of the Southern Movement and Saada conflict, the weekly quoted Abdulwahab Al-Anisi, Secretary General of the major opposition Islah Party, as saying.

Speaking before the Islah Party's Shoura Council last week, Al-Anisi said the three extremist projects share baseless justifications among them. "As the government's extremism justifies the other two extremist projects of Southern Movement and Saada conflict, the latter (two projects) justify the government's extremism in dealing with them, particularly as both raise illegal demands, contravening the Yemeni Constitution and unity," the opposition leader confirmed.

Al-Anisi stressed necessity of peaceful struggle and comprehensive national dialogue conducted by the Islah party, along with other Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) members to help the homeland recover from its current turmoil.

On a side note, the weekly reported that the major opposition party's Shoura Council called for an immediate ceasefire in Saada and bringing the problem into a dialogue table involving all the active political parties on the ground.

The council urged all those parties concerned about Yemen's security, stability and unity to do their best for making the dialogue a success and resolving the current political turmoil in Yemen.

Praising efforts of the Preparatory Committee for National Dialogue in this regard, the council affirmed that

dialogue is the most ideal means to rescue Yemen from escalating crises in various fronts.



Al-Sahwah Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009

Main Headlines

• Opposition condemns attack against spokesperson

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) condemned the attack against their spokesperson Naif Al-Qanis, holding the authorities accountable for the incidence if they don't arrest the perpetrators, the weekly reported.

It added that the Popular Movement of Justice and Change in Taiz governorate denounced the attack, considering it one of a series of repeated attacks against politicians, activists and journalists in a way contradicting all international conventions to which Yemen is a signatory.

Al-Qanis was kidnapped and severely beaten by gunmen on Sunday in Sana'a.

The victim told the weekly sources in his bed in hospital that he was taken after the beating to Dola area, a suburb of the capital, Sana'a where he lost consciousness.

Iranian Embassy denies arms aboard ship seized by Yemen
Iranian embassy in Yemeni denied authenticity of reports about the ship seized by Yemen while allegedly carrying Iranian-made arms to Houthis in north Yemen, the weekly reported.

The embassy said in a statement that all what was reported about the arm-loaded ship was groundless and fabricated.

"The ship had not been carrying any cargo from its origin in Sharjah port in the United Arab Emirates, and official documents can be provided to prove that", the Iranian government said in a statement.

Yemen accuses Iran of supporting Al-Houthi rebels in Saada, but Iran

strongly denies the accusations.

On a side note, the weekly reported that the United States Administration expressed concerns about the humanitarian situation in Saada, urging both warring parties to return to the ceasefire that was established in 2008; to respect principles of international humanitarian law; and to avoid any action that would endanger the civilian population – including relief workers – in the affected areas.

"In the absence of a permanent ceasefire, we call on all parties to coordinate humanitarian pauses during the fighting to provide international relief agencies the opportunity to deliver urgently-needed food and medical supplies to tens of thousands of displaced Yemenis as well as civilians to escape the conflict zones," the U.S. said in a statement.

It agreed with the Council of the European Union's October 27 statement in support of a unified, stable, democratic and prosperous Yemen, and recognizing the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the security, political, and economic challenges that Yemen faces.



Al-Ahale Independent Political Weekly
Tuesday, Nov 3, 2009

Main Headlines

• Press Court sentences Al-Masdar Editor to jail, prevents him from reporting

Press Court sentenced on Saturday the editor of Al-Masdar weekly to one-year suspended term in prison and banned him from writing and leading the newspaper for one year, the weekly reported.

The court also sentenced Yemeni-American columnist Muneer al-Mawiri, who is living in US, to two years in prison in absentia and barred him from writing in all Yemeni media forever.

The court convicted Jubran and al-Mawiri with insulting President Saleh

in a critical article against the president. The article, written by al-Mawiri and printed by Al-Masdar in 2008, depicted President Saleh as "Yemen's Weapon of Mass Destruction".

Al-Mawiri, known for his critical articles against President Saleh and his government, said Saleh seeks to destroy the country through his "irresponsible" actions. He said Saleh leads corruption in the country. Al-Mawiri also said that all hostilities in the country are a result of President Saleh's evils.

• U.S. increases help for Yemen to face Qaeda threats

The US troops are engaged in costly wars in the fronts of Afghanistan and Pakistan after activities of the Taliban Movement and Qaeda comrades have expanded in unexpected way, the weekly reported.

It quoted American sources as saying that the U.S. war in both vulnerable Asian countries made positive progress, thanks to the huge pressure practiced by Washington against the Qaeda operatives via its unmanned planes. Aerial shelling on Qaeda comrades has become even heavier since the current US President took job in January this year.

According to American sources, heavy attacks on Qaeda Organization elements forced most of them to flee the Afghan and Pakistani territories to other countries including Somalia and Yemen.

Following escalating events in various parts of the country, Yemen has been changed into a ground for confrontations with Qaeda militants, which is the world's superpower increased its support for Yemen.

It is obviously known the Qaeda Organization in the Middle East is the fruit of integration and alignment among militants in Yemen and Saudi Arabia earlier this year. The organization is co-led by Nasser Al-Wahishi, a Yemeni citizen, and Saeed Al-Shihri, a Saudi citizen. This step encouraged the top US intelligence official to say that Yemen is becoming a potential battleground for serious Qaeda operations targeting western and Arab interests in the region.

The women of Europe's dream

By: Jean-Pierre Lehmann

I was born in 1945. My grandfather was a German Jew. Fortunately, none of my immediate family perished in the Holocaust. But its shadow hung over me throughout my formative years. When I began, in my teens, to meet with German contemporaries, there was an initial reticence and discomfort. But we talked and talked and talked. There was no attempt to hide the past, but there was a burning desire to make a different future. It followed that I became an ardent Europhile.

Two decades ago, the Berlin Wall was torn asunder by jubilant crowds. Today, ten former communist nations are fully integrated members of the European Union. Were my father to reappear suddenly and I told him that Lithuania was a member state, he would stare in disbelief and wonder what I was smoking.

The sad news, however, is that as the structure of the Union (for example, the single market and the single

currency) has been put in place, the spirit of unity has died. The European "project" has become an exercise of unalloyed cynicism. The most depressing illustration of this has been the handling of the "European Constitution" and the Lisbon Treaty, and the totally unedifying means by which the European president, a key part of the Lisbon Treaty, is being selected.

The good news is that Tony Blair's candidacy seems to have been ditched. The reasons for his inappropriateness for the post are too numerous to mention – the single word "Iraq" should suffice.

It would have been an act of supreme cynicism and hypocrisy, even by European standards, had he been selected.

The bad news is that the other candidates allegedly being considered – all current or mainly former heads of government – are as inspiring as cold porridge.

The implications of what we are currently witnessing could be enormous.

As impressive as Europe's history has been since the Treaty of Rome established the European Economic Community in 1957, by no means should it be assumed that the EU has become permanent.

Indeed, on the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, no less a Euro-luminary than Jacques Delors expressed the fear that the EU could "unravel"; Germany's former foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, expressed similar sentiments in an interview on the BBC in early 2009.

While such an outcome may be improbable, it would be complacent folly to dismiss the possibility. No institution, society, or civilization can survive purely on autopilot. History, after all, is replete with "rise-and-fall" stories.

So who the EU president will be matters a lot. What is needed is someone of impeccable integrity and the capacity to inspire – and especially to engage Europe's young people.

I see only two possible candidates that could meet these qualities: former

Irish President Mary Robinson and French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde. I have not excluded men a priori in this exercise, but none occurred to me, and in any case the EU establishment has too many middle-aged white men as it is.

Although the differences between Robinson and Lagarde are many, both would be excellent choices. Robinson may be the more inspirational candidate in light of the projects with which she has been involved since leaving office: Chair of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Honorary President of Oxfam International, Chair of the International Institute for Environment and Development, Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders, and founder of the Ethical Globalization Initiative.

Lagarde has other strengths. She is an accomplished professional, having been Chair of one of the world's largest law firms and ranked by Forbes in 2008 as the 14th most powerful woman in the world. Thus, she has had two brilliant careers – in business

and in politics – and has enormous charisma.

Both women therefore represent very different choices as leaders and potential role models. Moreover, Robinson, born in 1944, is a twentieth-century person. The presidency of the EU would mark the twilight of her career. Lagarde, at 53, is considerably younger.

Reviving the European dream, however, requires not just the choice of an individual.

There has to be a cause. And this is where a key question hangs over Lagarde: how does she feel about Turkey's membership in the Union? Her boss, Nicolas Sarkozy, is vehemently opposed, but Sarkozy (who cannot speak English and is computer illiterate) can hardly be described as a twenty-first-century role model. Lagarde, by contrast, seems to be a global Renaissance woman, but her views on Turkey's EU membership could disprove that image.

Perhaps the greatest challenge for Europe in the twenty-first century is

to bring down the walls between its non-Muslim and Muslim communities.

This applies not only to Muslim citizens in the EU, but also to those in the Balkans – notably Bosnia, Kosovo, and Albania – in the former Soviet Union, and especially in Turkey.

This cannot be accomplished overnight. But the process that was initiated has since stalled. Incorporating Turkey – and eventually other majority Muslim European countries – into the EU is the European dream of the twenty-first century. Getting the right president in 2010 would be an important step in this journey. Robinson or Lagarde could be the inspiring leaders that the EU needs to make this dream a reality.

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Going to the dogs

By: Clive D. L. Wynne

There are about 70 million dogs living in human homes in the United States. That's 10 million more dogs than children under the age of 15. The pattern in other Western nations is similar. Roughly 40% of house dogs are allowed to sleep on their owners' beds.

How did dogs achieve such an intimate position in our lives? One theory is that, in the thousands of years that dogs have lived with humans, they have become attuned to human ways of thinking. Certainly dogs have a remarkable sensitivity to human behavior.

Dogs are able to follow human pointing gestures to find hidden food, and they can indicate successfully to their owners by their own pointing actions where a hidden toy is located. Under certain circumstances, dogs understand that a human who cannot see them (because, for example, she is blindfolded) is less likely to respond to begging with a tasty treat than a person whose vision is not obscured. Dogs are also more likely to obey a command to leave something desirable alone if their master stays in the room than if he steps out.

And yet attempts to view canine smarts as cut from the same cloth as human intelligence gloss over a lot of the details about how dogs and humans operate. Evolution doesn't

ever build the same form of intelligence twice – even though similar problems may lead to similar solutions.

As most owners of puppies know, it takes time and care for a dog to learn the ways of humans. We don't literally raise our hackles when angry, or sniff each other's backsides when making new friends. And dogs don't gesture with their forepaws or use an elaborate grammatical language when trying to explain things.

In our own research, we have found that people remain somewhat mysterious to dogs for the first five months of life, and dogs at our local pound lag considerably behind house dogs when it comes to understanding human beings.

Recent research by Alexandra Horowitz at Barnard College in New York accentuates the "talking past each other" that sometimes goes on between humans and dogs. Horowitz asked owners to forbid their dogs to take a biscuit and then briefly leave the room. When the owners returned after a few moments away, some were told that their dogs had been naughty and eaten the forbidden food. Others were told their dog had been good and left the biscuit alone. If the dog had misbehaved, the owner was given a moment to berate his pet for its misdeed. The owners were then asked whether their dog looked guilty.

The twist in this tale is that only half of the owners were correctly informed. Half of the time, Horowitz

told the owner of a dog that had actually left the biscuit alone that his dog had taken the treat. And half the time the owner of a naughty dog was told that his dog had been good.

The point of this deception was that when Horowitz asked each owner whether his dog looked guilty, she could consider whether the owner's report of "guilty looks" actually had to do with the facts of the matter – whether the dog had taken the forbidden treat – or whether it reflected nothing more than whether the owner had chastised his hound.

The results showed very clearly that a dog's "guilty looks" came about solely because it was being scolded: the look had nothing to do with whether the dog had really committed

an offense.

This does not mean that we should not chastise our dogs (or praise them). Nor does it mean that we should not love our dogs – or sometimes be frustrated by them. All it means is that, if we want to live harmoniously with another species in our most intimate places, we must recognize that some of the time our preferred modes of reasoning are not theirs. We must try to understand dogs on their own terms, and help them to understand us.

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Male adolescents prefer marrying circumcised girls?

By: Huda Ashwini Mubarak
For the Yemen Times

Female genital mutilation (FGM) involves procedures that intentionally alter or injure female genital organs for non-medical reasons. An estimated 100 to 140 million girls and women worldwide are currently living with the consequences of FGM. In Africa, about three million girls are at risk for FGM annually. The procedure has no health benefits for girls and women. Procedures can cause severe bleeding and problems urinating, and later, potential childbirth complications and newborn mortality. FGM is mostly carried out on young girls sometime between infancy and the age of 15 years. FGM is internationally recognized as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is mostly carried out by traditional circumcisers, who often play other central roles in communities, such as attending childbirths. Increasingly, however, FGM is being performed by medically trained personnel. Female genital mutilation is classified into four major types:

Clitoridectomy: partial or total removal of the clitoris (a small, sensitive



An Eritrean girl protests against FGM. FGM has been banned in Eritrea and other African countries

and erectile part of the female genitals) and, rarely, the prepuce (the fold of skin surrounding the clitoris) as well.

Excision: partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (the labia are "the lips" that surround the vagina).

Infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal. The seal is formed by cutting and repositioning the inner, and sometimes outer, labia, with or without

removal of the clitoris.

Other: all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, e.g. pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterizing the genital area.

FGM is practiced in 20 countries. Anne-Marie Fonseca, UNICEF Deputy Representative in Yemen said, 'FGM has been perpetuated over generations by social and cultural practices in certain areas of Yemen.' Today, in Yemen, FGM is practiced mainly in coastal areas.

Recently, in August 2009, the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), carried out a knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) study on FGM/C in 11 districts, including the Aden, Al-Hodaidah and Al-Mahra governorates. The study interviewed mothers (mothers were mostly illiterate, housewives, and fell in the age group of 25-45 years), fathers (mostly educated and 30-45 years of age), grandmothers (aged 47-69), and adolescents. The study revealed that overall, FGM is predominantly practiced in Al-Mahra governorate and moderately and less practiced in the governorates of Al-Hodaida and Aden, where all three are coastal governorates. More than 50% of mother and fathers, 70% of grandmothers and about 65% of the adolescents interviewed were unaware of the risks of FGM. Mothers from Dar-Saad district Aden, fathers from Al-Ghaidhah and Saihout districts Al-Mahra, grandmothers from Al-Jaarhi district Al-hodaida, and adolescents from Bait Al-Faqueih district Al-Hodaida showed the least risk awareness. The decisions regarding the practice are group decisions involving the father or the mother. It is very rare for individual family members like father, mother, or grandmothers to decide on the matter. Mostly, types 1 and 4 of FGM are practiced. Types 2 and 3 are prevalent only to a limited extent. In about 50% cases, the 'Muzayenah' performs the practice, at home. However, a small number of cases, are also performed by doctors and nurses in health centers. A majority of the FGM practitioners are illiterate and receive money and gifts for performing FGM, which indicates that the practice is the source of income for them. More than half of the practitioners were unaware of the risks of FGM and do not relate FGM to Violence Against Women or a violation of Human Rights. The Practice of FGM is seen to be more prevalent in Al Mahra. In most cases, type 4 FGM is practiced, especially in the Al-Geshan district. Practice of type 1 FGM is also common. 34% of the mothers, more than 55% of fathers and the majority grandmothers support continuing the practice. A majority of mothers from Al-Mahra, about 94% of

the daughters, and 88% of the youngest daughters are circumcised. The trend does not show a decline in the practice. In Al-Hodaida, mostly FGM type 1 is practiced. Type 3 is practiced in the Al-Hali district and type 2 in Al-Jarrah district. A small percentage of mothers, 31% of fathers and a majority of the grandmothers in Al-hodaida want to continue the practice. Most adolescents support abandoning the practice. Most of the mothers, about 52% daughters and less than 45% of the youngest daughters are circumcised. The trend shows a slow decline in the practice. In Aden FGM type 1 is practiced. Mothers, fathers, grandmothers and adolescents from Aden support abandoning the practice. About 63% of mothers, 15% of daughters and 11% of youngest daughters are circumcised, showing a steep decline in the practice. Though more than 50% of the fathers and above 40% of grandmothers favor continuing the practice, more than 45% of the FGM practitioners were not convinced to abandon the practice and over 40% of male adolescents said they would prefer to marry circumcised girls. The families interviewed showed a declining trend in FGM. About 77% of the mothers had undergone the practice, but it had

reduced to 55% in cases of elder daughters and further reduced to 48.5% in cases of the youngest daughters.

The report recommended: an intensive campaign to abandon FGM all districts in Al Mahra governorate and some specific districts in Al-Hodaida governorates, health and education programs targeting mothers and grandmothers, specific messages targeting adolescent males to educate them about the advantages of a non-circumcised wife, messages targeting adolescent girls on helath and psychological benefits of not being circumcised, and messages about the harmful effects of FGM. The report recommended involving FGM practitioners in the campaign.

A majority of practitioners acknowledged the health risks of FGM and showed a readiness to join the campaign to abandon FGM. Less than 25% of the mothers want to continue the practice and more than 85% of girls said that they will not circumcise their daughters. This is evidence of the practice being feared and deplored by women, who are the victims of FGM and the need to stop the practice, which does only harm and has no benefits, especially to the victims.

FGM is a social convention. The social pressure to conform to what others do and have been doing is a strong motivation to perpetuate the practice.

FGM is often considered a necessary part of raising a girl properly, and a way to prepare her for adulthood and marriage.

FGM is often motivated by beliefs about what is considered proper sexual behaviour, linking procedures to premarital virginity and marital fidelity. FGM is believed by some to reduce a woman's libido and help her resist "illicit" sexual acts. When a vaginal opening is covered or narrowed (type 3 above), for example, a woman is physically hindered from premarital sex. Afterwards, a painful procedure is needed to reopen the closure to enable sexual intercourse.

FGM is associated with cultural ideals of femininity and modesty,

which include the notion that girls are "clean" and "beautiful" after removal of body parts that are considered "male" or "unclean".

Though no religious scripts prescribe the practice, practitioners often believe the practice has religious support.

Religious leaders take varying positions with regard to FGM: some promote it, some consider it irrelevant to religion, and others contribute to its elimination.

Local structures of power and authority, such as community leaders, religious leaders, circumcisers, and even some medical personnel can contribute to upholding the practice.

In most societies, FGM is considered a cultural tradition, which is often used as an argument for its continuation.

(Source: WHO fact sheet, May 2008)

Sinless HIV-positive children face discrimination

By: Shadha Al-Harazi
For the Yemen Times

International reports reveal that 7 million new HIV-positive cases worldwide appear per year, of which 2430 are from Yemen. Newborns account for 80 percent of the total number of cases in Yemen, according to figures by the National AIDS Control Program in 2007.

A physician's mistake, negligence of a barber or a sexual relationship may be an adequate reason for a person to lose eligibility for living. An AIDS sufferer is seen by others as a ticking bomb, which is why they avoid dealing with or speaking to him or her. Suicide is the only thing a sufferer thinks about, because of society's perceived negative stereotypes about the disease.

What about children born with a reason to be discriminated against? This is the main point of a conversation with some NACP specialists, among them Nahlah Al-Nusairi, who spoke about a project caring for orphans whose caretakers died from AIDS, and how to deal with the infected cases among them, as well as the healthy ones.

"At the program, we never dealt with an HIV-positive child directly, and his or her relatives may come to us for treatment after eight or nine years, which means that the child comes to us already an AIDS patient, not a HIV-infected case," Al-Nusairi said.

An AIDS child patient dies very soon

We found that a child of infected parents is more vulnerable to the disease, particularly if it has been too long since his or her father was infected. One family was found to have four healthy children but the youngest daughter infected, Al-Nusairi added.

She added, "We coordinated with NGOs on how to care for the orphans who lost their parents as a result of AIDS, and then began field visits to some orphans with the aim of having them integrated with their peers at the Saleh Social Foundation."

However, it was preferable for these children to live with their mothers and receive care in their homes. At the foundation, the infected orphans receive special treatment.

"For healthy newborns"

Regarding transmission of the disease to children, Dr. Mayadah Faisal, who is in charge of Cot Care Unit at the program, said, "We detected infected children with

the help of their families. When a father, for example, is found to be infected, his child must be screened, but regrettably some parents come to us after their children die."

She added that repeated miscarriages by a mother, particularly during the first three months of pregnancy, give another indicator that a particular family may have an HIV-positive member. "Between 1998 and 2007, we registered up to 80 HIV-positive children and the majority of them died. Only a few of them still are alive."

Transmission of the disease from the mother to her children accounts for some

during delivery without approaching the nearest healthcare center, the amnion membrane breaks at the time of delivery, and therefore increases the possibility of the newborn being infected with HIV, according to Faisal.

She maintained, "Other babies may be infected with the virus during lactation. However, this doesn't necessarily mean that milk is the cause of the infection. A baby may have scratches in its digestive track or an ulcer in its mouth, and at the same time, the mother may have acute pain in the nipple of her breast, which gives adequate opportunity for the infection to spread."

The doctor concludes that a breastfed baby or another fed with processed milk but who has ulcers in its digestive track is at a high risk of being infected with the virus.

Screening of the infected case:

The government, represented by the NACP, exerts good efforts in providing preventive measures to healthy mothers or treating the infected ones. "We selected sites for precautionary measures to prevent HIV transmission from the mother to her baby... We also do our best to ensure delivery of healthy newborns from HIV-positive mothers," Dr. Mayadah noted.

She went on to say that the program provides free healthcare services via voluntary staff to pregnant women in various centers including the Ulfi Healthcare Center in Sana'a. Mothers receive precautionary care, particularly during the seventh month of pregnancy, at delivery and for an entire week after delivery for them and their newborns. This process reduces risk of the infection by 2 percent.

"We bring well-trained staff to persuade pregnant women to have an HIV screening, which is provided for free," Faisal said. "Under no circumstance may

this screening be done without the knowledge of the mother, as doing so otherwise contravenes with international human rights."

She added that screening of the mother helps us discover if her husband has HIV, particularly as the majority of Yemeni HIV-positive women had the virus transmitted from their husbands.

The program gives syrup medicine to newborns and infants, but capsules to mothers while children over 10 years of age or weighing more than 10 kg take a half capsule. When the child's weight increases, this indicates that its body is benefiting from the medicine, Faisal clarified.



One child is born HIV-positive every six minutes in South Africa. The cruel reality of the HIV virus is that without treatment, half of all HIV-positive babies will not live long enough to see their second birthday; a third won't make it to their first. This has made HIV and AIDS one of the biggest killer of children under five in the world

20 - 45 percent of the total infected child cases, which means between 20 and 45 infected cases in every 100 newborns come from infected mothers, according to Faisal.

"There are numerous factors behind children who are infected with HIV, such as sexually transmitted diseases, malaria, and anemia suffered by their mothers. These diseases break the amnion membrane which separates the fetus from his mother, and therefore helps transmission of the virus to the fetus," she explained.

Some fetuses may develop well and remain healthy during the nine months of pregnancy, but as their mothers suffer

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The kilts of Yemen

Internationally, the most known skirt for men is the Scottish kilt, which became famous following the movie *Brave Heart* with Mel Gibson. However, Yemeni men also have their own traditional skirts, which they have no problem wearing in public. In fact, the skirts of Yemeni men are worn much more regularly and openly than the kilts worn by Scottish men.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

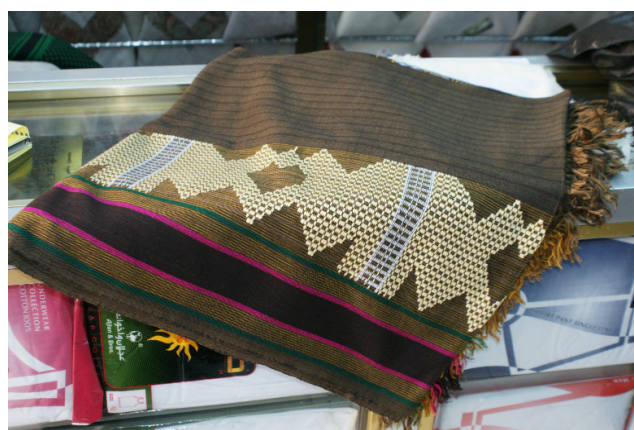
Men from coastal or hot areas wear it more than in mountainous areas, although you find Yemeni men's traditional skirts in almost every governorate around the country. There are several dedicated shops for selling these traditional men's skirts and Yemenis from all over the country—especially Aden, Hadramout, Hodeidah and Taiz—buy them. There are basically two kinds: ma'awiz and fowat, which are also called sawareen in Hadramout.

"The peak sales time is starting from Ramadan until Eid Al-Adha, because most Yemeni men want to wear new traditional clothes. On other occasions, it is usually worn on Fridays, or during social celebrations," said Dawood Al-Dubaie co-owner of the Shiak shop for traditional men's clothes. More recently there has been an interest in buying the "hibya" which is a closed broad belt worn by men while sitting down on the ground to support their posture; especially when they are sitting down for a long time, such as in mosques between Maghrib and Esha prayers. The hibya

is wrapped around the back and legs, loosely hugging a man's legs towards his torso. In order to wear it, a man sits down cross-legged and raises his knees towards his chest, surrounding himself with the hibya, then he relaxes his posture, letting his legs depend on the hibya to hold his body against his back. It costs between USD 2.5 and USD 15, if it is handmade.

"A hibya is used often by people who are overweight or old people who suffer from back pain. You would find many old people sitting outside their homes wearing it in the afternoons while chatting with each other," explained Abdulwahid Al-Sawani, an assistant at the shop.

There are many colors for hibyas and they usually have threads on one side as a matter of design. This side is placed downwards during use or when wearing it across one shoulder as a way of



A baidhani miwaz

style. Hibyas are commonly worn with the ma'awiz of fowat. For many, they are also worn with the traditional cap as a fashion item: something for the head, something for the chest and something for the legs. Moreover, ma'awiz and fowat are always worn with sandals

or slippers—traditionally, never with shoes.

Ma'awiz

The ma'awiz, plural for miwaz, are open rectangular cloths usually made of heavy cotton. A miwaz is two meters long and 1.2 meter high. It is worn around the waist like a wrap around, and is fixed on the body by folding the top most part in. A miwaz could cost on average between five to twenty American dollars.

There are many kinds of ma'awiz, such as the lahji, in reference to Lahj, where it is worn. The lahji is generally plain with the same embroidery at both ends so when a man wears it the same design is shown across the waist and below the knees.

The Hadrami miwaz is a reference to Hadramout where it is gaudier. It has designs all over the cloth and is generally in bright, attractive colors compared to the lahji one. Hadrami ma'awiz have decorative threads at the ends and the embroidery is machine made. There are ma'awiz with handmade embroidery, but those are made upon demand and are much more expensive.

The Baidhani miwaz, in reference to Al-Baidha, is the most expensive kind because the embroidery is very elegant and is usually handmade. They can cost up to fifty dollars each.

Fowat

The fowat, plural for fota, is similar to a miwaz but is closed from all sides so that to be worn a man needs to slip into it and not wrap it around his waist. A fota is also much cheaper. It costs only USD 2.5 on average and is much lighter, since it is made of cotton and polyester compared to a miwaz which has wool in it. Fota is cooler in texture and this is why it is worn especially in hot coastal areas.

It is the same length as a miwaz (two meters) but is shorter in height as it is only one meter high.

A fota has no embroidery and its design is a standard machine print. Moreover fowat are much more colorful and have a variety of print designs.



Lahji ma'awiz

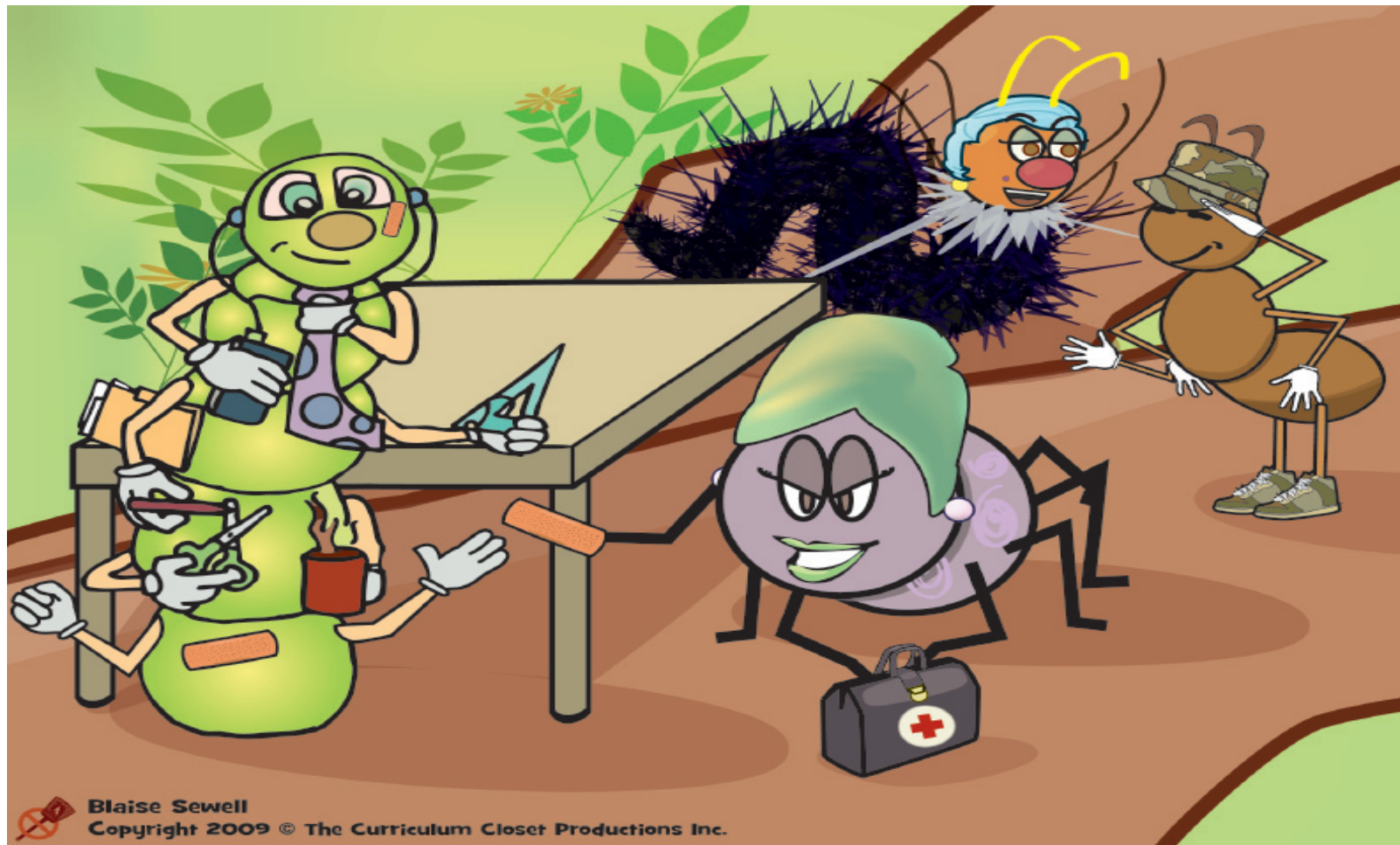


Hadrami ma'awiz



Various colors of hibyas

Chapter Three – Starting the Journal



Blaise Sewell
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Written by Cathy Sewell
Illustrated by Blaise Sewell
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José and his friends begin working on the first edition of the *Fly on the Wall Journal*, using information received from a beetle.

"Reporting for duty, sir!" the biggest of the ant gang said, while saluting José. "We heard you might need help creating a newspaper."

"Well Ricky, I did hear Mary complaining that we don't have any paper for printing," José whispered.

"You hear that gang! We need to find

some paper!" Ricky barked, and all of the ants instantly lined up behind him. They marched in a long straight line, down the side of the tree and were quickly out of sight.

Matty and Cindy were arguing over the headline for their first story. Cindy suggested "HUMAN NESTS COMING." But Matty wanted something more dramatic like "PARK WILL BE DESTROYED."

By the time they settled on "PARK IN DANGER," Ricky and his gang returned. Each ant was holding a giant piece of paper over his head.

"Wow, thanks guys!" Mary said, trying to figure out where she was going to store all of the paper they had found.

"You're just in time. We're ready to write our story."

"You're welcome ma'am. We'll just wait over here for our next orders," Ricky tipped his camouflage-colored hat to Mary.

As soon as Mary handed Rocko the paper, he went right to work. Rocko's hands moved across the paper so quickly, everyone just watched in awe. Every now and then, he'd get moving too fast and accidentally hurt himself. First, he poked himself near his eye with a pencil.

"Now slow down Rocko," Cindy said softly, as she put a bandage over his right eye. But a few minutes later, she was cleaning out a cut on his knee, and

a little after that she was pulling a staple out of his back. None of the bugs could figure out how he did that one!

"Our first issue of *Fly on the Wall Journal* is ready to go!" Rocko announced, while Cindy put her last bandage across his round, green belly.

"OK Ricky, we need your help again," Mary alerted the troops. "Can you deliver our first newspaper to all of our friends in the park?"

"Right away sir, I mean ma'am," Ricky said. And José and Rocko rolled on the floor laughing. They both decided that from now on Mary would be called "sir."

It seemed that Ricky and his gang had only been gone a few moments when

discussions about the "Human Nest" story filled the whole tree. Everyone was worried and José and his friends were pleased with themselves for getting out the news.

"We did it!" Cindy sang. "Because of us, everyone knows what's going on."

"Well, you did get the news out... but the news is wrong," a ladybug flew into the middle of the celebration.

"What do you mean by 'wrong'?" José asked the shiny insect. "We all heard the crash, and I listened to the humans."

"I don't know who your source is, but your story is simply not true," the ladybug continued to ruin everyone's fun. "You see, I heard those humans talking too, but I stuck around long enough to hear the whole story. Instead of trying to destroy our park, they're trying to help it. They are planning a project to clean up the trash in the park, and one of them accidentally backed his truck into a statue. It fell over and broke into a million noisy pieces."

"Oh no, what have we done?" José asked.

"It'll be OK, Little José," Cindy promised. "We'll figure something out."

"I've got the perfect idea!" Rocko said, but as he held up his finger to emphasize his point, he accidentally poked himself in the other eye. "I think we just get working on our next edition. And from now on, we double and triple check our stories before we print them."

"And we'll be sure to run a correction about our first story," Cindy added.

"Maybe you could be one of our editors," José said to the ladybug. "We could use someone with an eye for detail. What's your name?"

"My name is Jake," the ladybug said to everyone, daring them to make fun.

"But you're a ladybug," Matty chuckled, while everyone else tried not to laugh.

"I know I'm a ladybug! But not all ladybugs are females," Jake was trying not to sound too much like a teacher. "Wow, you guys do need an editor don't you?"

"Sorry about that, José jumped in. "It was an honest mistake. We'd love to have your help!"

"Great, I'd like to be part of your team. In fact, I've got a great scoop for your next story!" Jake said, as everyone gathered around to listen.

Reading Comprehension Questions & Activities:

1. Why do you think Rocko keeps getting hurt?
2. Who delivered the newspapers?
3. Why did Matty think Jake's name was funny?
4. Why did Matty say that they needed an editor?
5. Write a paper about a time when you heard a rumor. What did you do with the information?

Insect World:

Ladybugs are often considered females. What other insects might be mislabeled in this way?

Research to find out more about the amazing strength of ants. How does the proportion of their strength compare to that of humans?

Newspaper Connection:

Look through the newspaper for examples of headlines. Create a headline for Chapter 3.

What is a source? What is a scoop?

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Disney

Almonds from Seed to dish of nuts



Yemeni almonds are sold in all local markets

By: Mohammed Ghoath
For the Yemen Times

Yemeni farmers are paying considerable more attention to the almond tree. This interest has increased recently due to a wide demand for the trees' products, both seeds and oil, in the local as well as the international

markets, according to agriculturist Mahmoud Ali.

The almond tree does not consume much water, which encourages many farmers to plant these trees in areas which are suffering from water shortage, he added.

"Yemeni almonds are sold in all local markets. Currently, Yemen is starting to export large quantities to the neighboring Gulf States, as well

as Syria and Jordan," Ali said.

When you wander around the old market of Sana'a, you can see a variety of the type of almond Yemeni farmers produce, alongside those imported from abroad.

For almond shopping, Bab Al-Yemen is a good place to start, as there are many almond shops in that part of the market.

In that market, you can see many

tourists and Yemeni families shopping for almonds, and they often prefer to buy local almonds, rather than the Iranian and American variations.

Marrowa, a housewife, said that women's social gatherings, which take place in the afternoon, wouldn't be complete without almonds being served to all guests with cakes, sweets and some traditional foods.

Religious vacations and wedding parties are considered the best occasions for almond sellers to sell their almonds in large quantities.

Ahmed, an almond seller, said that the price of local almonds is between YR 6000 and YR 10,000 per kilo. "It depends on the type of almond, and almonds from abroad are roughly half of the price of Yemeni almonds," he added.

Ahmed explained that there are many types of Yemeni almond available, such as sweet almonds and bitter almond. "Bitter are better," he noted, adding that the best type of local almond is the mountaintop almonds that grow in the governorate of Sana'a.

Ali, a farmer from the governorate of Amran, stated that Yemeni farmers interest in this tree comes from the tree's ability to survive in a dry climate and at the same time be profitable for farmers without much effort.

He added that almonds are growing in several areas in the governorates of Sana'a and Amran. The most famous are Bani Matr, Saeham, Al Gara, the valley of Al Hasain, Al Arqa, Bany Hemuer, Al Mashbah, Al Marbaek, Al Sharoak and Al Haima as well Bany Gabbar, bany Bahloal and Al Showkany.

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Despite this, almonds often face a number of risks from insects during different seasons of the year, but these insects can't affect the increase of its popularity, said the agriculturist Mahmoud Ali.

Almonds have many benefits, not only for people, but also for livestock, especially cows. Farmers feed them the leaves to improve the quality of beef and milk. Bees from mountaintop villages also use their flowers to produce honey, according to Said, a farmer from the governorate of Sana'a.

Contemporary medicine studies say that there are a number health benefits of almonds, such as reducing the possibility of heart diseases and reducing cholesterol levels. They also can help soften the skin.

In ancient times, almonds were given to patients as a food and cure.

Medical researchers are still interested in the medicinal properties of almonds.

Deep Rooted Tree

Yemeni historian al-Hamadany and others gave special attention to almonds when they wrote about the kingdom of Sheba and the paradise of Ma'areb.

Historically, ancient Yemeni men used arboretums for almond farming, putting the seed two centimeters into the ground and allowing it to grow in the damp soil.

For thousands of years the almond had only been eaten by kings and the wealthy, as commoners couldn't afford them, according to historians.

The return of planting almond trees indicates the strong, deep, and constant relationship between the Yemeni farmer and the almond tree.



For thousands of years the almond had only been eaten by kings and the wealthy, as commoners couldn't afford them.

Keeping tabs on synthetic drugs

Globally, there are significantly more users of synthetic drugs than there are users of heroin and cocaine combined. Unlike the markets for heroin and cocaine, the market for synthetic drugs is constantly evolving, with new products appearing each year. The global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme of UNODC was designed to improve the capacity of selected States to generate, manage, analyse, report and use information on illicit synthetic drugs.

Given the speed with which changes in the synthetic drugs markets occur, it is especially important to have a simple mechanism for frequently

sharing new information from different parts of the world. In order to meet this need, UNODC has published the Global SMART Update: Volume 2, which illustrates shifts in the manufacture, trafficking and use of various synthetic drugs.

Inside the publication

This volume of the Global SMART Update groups information on synthetic drugs in several categories, such as significant or unusual seizures of drugs or precursor chemicals, new locations or methods for clandestine manufacture, changes in legislation to combat synthetic drugs, emerging drugs or user groups and the health implications of using such drugs. The first volume (published in March 2009)

highlighted several countries across the globe where new incidents of manufacture had recently been identified, demonstrating the flexibility and speed with which ATS manufacturing processes can become established in any country.

Volume 2 contains several articles related to new types of synthetic drugs and precursor chemicals; while some of them are simply new combinations of existing chemicals, others such as fluoroamphetamine appear to be completely new to the market. Many of the substances are specifically engineered to circumvent international and national controls through subtle modifications made to their chemistry. These substances are almost never tested for human consumption and incidences

of poisoning, some fatal, have already been reported.

"West Africa is now on the verge of becoming a source of drugs, not only a transit area. Organized crime is growing indigenous roots"

One fact outlined in the issue was uncovered when a joint team of staff from UNODC and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) found the strongest evidence yet that West Africa is now involved in the manufacturing of synthetic drugs, specifically "ecstasy". It was widely known that West Africa was falling prey to the trafficking in drugs from Latin America to Europe, but this shift towards the production of synthetic drugs is an unwelcome development.

At two locations in Guinea, over 5,000 litres of sassafras oil and 80 litres of 3,4-MDP2P, two substances used in the production of "ecstasy", were found. Forensic analysis confirmed the presence of "ecstasy" in a high-pressure reaction vessel found at Kissosso. Four industrial-sized high-pressure chemical reaction vessels were also found at the second site. It is still unclear whether those vessels had been relocated from manufacturing site(s) within Guinea or brought in from outside the country. However, the seizure of chemicals used in the manufacture of "ecstasy", the presence of industrial-scale high-pressure reaction vessels and strong forensic evidence linking machinery and precursors to an intention to synthesize drugs is worry-

ing for Governments in Africa that are not prepared to fight this battle against drugs. More urgently than ever before, a truly global effort is needed to address the synthetic drugs problem.

As UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa warned today in the Security Council, "West Africa is now on the verge of becoming a source of drugs, not only a transit area. Organized crime is growing indigenous roots." The predicted and much dreaded scenario according to which substances under international control would be produced and processed in the area is unfolding at an alarming rate

Source: United Nation Office on Drugs and crimes