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# YEMEN TIMES

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 **14** Renowned painter Hashem Ali dies

## Yemen Times Award announced during Yemeni press review seminar

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Nov. 15 — The Yemeni press could have been more influential in creating a public opinion had the media people been more sincere and had better capacities. This was the common theme discussed during the press review seminar organized by the Ministry of Information yesterday.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf, editor in chief of Yemen Times, described some examples from the region on how media, especially blogs, could be influential in creating change. She called on various media stake holders to come together and create a committee to support media in influencing public opinion and announced the Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf Responsible and Influential Media award.

"Al-Saqqaf founded Yemen Times

around 20 years ago to promote development and democracy and create change. Now we want all Yemeni media to create positive change, and through this award we hope to encourage Yemeni media to play their role in supporting this country," she said. Details of the award will be announced in January 2010, she only disclosed that it is no less than half million Yemeni Riyals.

The seminar included participants from various stake holders and for the first time in Yemen's recent history, a minister stayed until the very end of the discussions. Minister of Information Hassan Al-Lawzi said that he wanted to hear the debates and attend the presentations conducted by seven newspapers.

"This is an occasion for us to stop and review ourselves. We should take the time to study our failures and learn from them, and examine our successes and repeat them," he said.

On the subject of government censor-



ship, Al-Lawzi was adamant that there is no ministry control over what is published. He said the fact that six newspapers were confiscated from the streets in May this year was proof that the Ministry does not know what the content of news reports before they are published.

"The law allows the ministry to confiscate any newspapers that violate the

press code or entice hatred or violence. You should refer to articles number 113 and 117 in the press code," said Fathiya Abdulwase, the deputy minister of information for legal affairs.

Abdulwase also replied to a question about withholding license permits for those who wish to establish new newspapers.

"There are more than 490 publications, and just this year we gave a permit to 22 private publications, whether magazines or newspapers. If the applicant meets the requirements, the ministry is obliged to give the permit, and if it doesn't the applicant has the right to go to court," she added.

An intense debate also took place on whether press legislation in Yemen promotes freedom within responsible limits.

"We must admit that this year has been very difficult for Yemeni press and there is room for improvement. For example if we had private TV and radio stations, the media could have done its job better, and we call on the ministry and other concerned authority to allow private broadcasting in Yemen," said Ali Al-Saqqaf editor in chief of Al-Share, an independent newspaper.

**Do Yemeni media influence public opinion?**

Dr. Abdulmalek Al-Danani chairman of the journalism department at the faculty of mass communication at Sana'a University gave the participants a quick review from his research on whether Yemeni press is influential or not from an academic point of view. He started by saying that many journalists and decision makers in Yemen claim that the Yemeni press has more freedom than many other Arab countries.

take their work seriously, the readers don't either. He talked about an initiative for ethical journalism which was created by the syndicate along with a committee to follow up. He hoped that this initiative will help create a code of ethics for Yemeni press to increase the level of professionalism and hence its effectiveness.

Hassan Abdulwarith, editor in chief of the weekly Wihda state-run newspaper disagreed with the notion that Yemeni press does not influence the public at all. In fact, he attributed a large part of the tension that led to the 1994 civil war in Yemen to the media. "Some irresponsible press intensified the bad feelings between the two parts and poured fuel into the fire. Our press is not yet liberated from the political parties and personal positions baggage and is not capable of providing objective constructive journalism to the people. Despite the increase in number and variety in positions, Yemeni press remains inadequate and incapable of representing or reaching the people."

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## Order, security, infrastructure are basic needs of investments

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

ADEN, Nov. 13 — The Aden Investment and Economic Conference, titled "Aden: Gate to the World," drew more than 1000 officials, business people, investors, and media personnel last week.

The conference aimed at promoting investment opportunities in Aden governorate, defining the greatest challenges facing Aden and the free zone and identifying a strategic vision to the zone.

The two-day conference included 11 work sessions on introducing investment opportunities across the governorate in fields of tourism, fisheries, industrial zones and basic infrastructure, as well as challenges facing investment and piracy.

"Aden city has many investment opportunities because of its strategic location on the international marine line", said Prime Minister Ali Mujawar in the opening speech of the conference.

The Prime Minister told investors that the government had issued a new legislation, tax law and a new investment law to facilitate investment in this governorate. He also said that his government is working on preparing industrial zones and giving place to private sector to carry out projects and services.

"The government will put to test all its potentials to enhance investments in this governorate," he said, calling all investors to build partnerships with the government in order to carry out successful projects. "Investors have to have confidence in the enabling environment created by investment law", he said.

"Aden has always been a rich historical city, an important international



More than 1,000 people turned out for the "Aden: Gate to the World" economic conference but many complained that not enough investors participated, and wondered if the conference will have a positive impact on business in Yemen.

port and a free zone," said Sheikh Mohammad Ba-Mashmoum, Chairman of Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Head of Preparatory Committee of the conference.

"We depend on Aden and its free zones to revive the economy of Yemen," said Ba-Mashmoum. "Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the governor demanded to hold this economic and investment conference because investment is the main basis for development," he added.

### Improvement despite obstacles

Regarding the blame put on the company, by officials and observers, for the delay by the company in finishing the construction of Aden port, the Chairman of Aden and Dubai Development Ports Company, Mr. Abdullah Buqshan said his company is doing good progress in Aden Port

despite difficulties and obstacles faced: like global financial crises, piracy and old equipments they inherited from the previous operator.

He said the company has expanded the area of containers to include 940,000 containers instead of 540,000 and set up an automatic machine system to operate the port (Aden port). This system will update the performance of the port and will organize the process of the in-coming and outgoing containers.

### Successful examples Yemen has to learn from

Manager of Dubai Ports Mohammad al-Mua'alem presented a review of Dubai city and how it has changed from a small village of 60,000 people depending on fishing to a modern city of 2 million people.

The change was initiated in 1977

when an environment study was conducted. Al-Mua'alem said, "The main reasons behind the success of Dubai were: its strategic location, political stability, investment, future vision, planning, unique performance and continuous training".

"But, the most important reason was the strong will of the President of the United Arab Emirates who does not believe in the work 'impossible'. This leader always thinks how to improve his country and he argues with his people to believe that nothing is impossible", he said.

He said UAE has four ports with Dubai, as well as the first port in the world to use new system for containers.

### Feeling of despair both among officials and people

While participants talked about the lack of economic profits from holding conferences in the current conditions and criticized the government for not implementing economic reforms, some officials talked privately about obstacles before investors.

"There are three main obstacles facing investment in Yemen, corruption, absence of security and lack of infrastructures," said a high ranking official in a condition of anonymity.

One of the participants said that five investment conferences have been held in Aden but all failed. When he proceeded to inquire about the support of donors and deteriorated infrastructure, he was stopped by chairman of the session Minister of Industry and Trade Yahya Al-Mutawakel.

Another participant doubted that there were any realized projects in Aden governorate during the past years. She said Aden was called the

city of light but is now deprived of projects. She was also interrupted by Al-Mutawakel to say that there are many projects for private and public sectors in Aden.

### Electricity and land problems given high focus

During the 11 sessions, many issues were raised to address the problems facing investments in Yemen in general and Aden in particular. However the dominating issues were the sharp shortages of electricity in Aden and land problems.

The Chairman of the Board of Yemen-Bahrain Bank, Mr. Ahmad Ba-Zara'a said the greatest problem facing investments in Aden is the problem of lands (land problems include difficulties in getting licenses and some influential people who blackmail investors and sometimes takeover their lands).

Others complained of lack of basic services, especially electricity, which is very important to investments in Aden.

### Opportunities in Aden Free Zone

Dr. Abdul-Galil Al-Shuaibi, the Chairman of Aden Free Zone (AFZ) said the zone had introduced a number of projects. The AFZ provides incentives to investors represented in tax exemptions, bringing laborers they want, 100 percent ownership of the land and free customs.

Concerning the basic services such as electricity, Al-Shuaibi said we are solving this issue ourselves without returning to government's initiatives; we have encouraged private sector to set up electricity plant to produce nearly 60 megawatts.

Regarding interests in investing in Aden Free Zone, Al-Shuaibi said he

received many offers from businessmen to invest in Aden in fields of industry.

### Solutions to investment problems

Abdul-Karim Sha'ef, the Secretary General of Aden Local Council said all investment opportunities presented in the conference are free from land problems.

Regarding the problems related to influential people threatening investments in Yemen, Sha'ef commented that "there are no influential people. The word influential is a general word and people use this word even if they have ordinary problems. They describe these people as influential because, when these cases go to the court, the verdict was not on their side. Tell me who are the influential people and we will deal with them."

### Strong recommendations

The recommendations focused on two points, law and infrastructure. The participants stressed imposing the state's prestige, activating laws and plans, committing to Aden's general design, solving land problems, working on improving banking system and establishing a stock market.

The participants asked for activating the role of trade courts, implementing contracts lawfully establishing courts for real estates and encouraging insurance companies.

The recommendations underlined the importance of providing electric power needed for investment projects, working on preparing the industrial zones, allocating lands for investments and providing free lands to giant projects, in addition to giving space for the private sector to play its positive role to carry out projects.

## "The second generation of internet" to Help HIVs in Yemen

SANA'A, NOV 14, At Abhar organization, 14 November 2009, Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA), Yemen office, conducted a training workshop on 'the Second Generation of Internet(web 2.0) and it's role in bringing about a social change'. The participants were 10 people affected by HIV/AIDS. The workshop was as result of co-operation between Taking IT Global and AID Community.

GYCA, a youth-led network of 5,000 young leaders and adult allies working to end the spread of HIV and AIDS, in over 150 countries worldwide, builds the capacity of these young leaders by connecting them to trainings, information, resources, and, most importantly, each other.

The Second Generation of Internet (web 2.0), a technical concept used to refer to Internet-based services — such as social networking sites, focuses on building online communities of people who share interests and/or activities, or who are interested in exploring the interests and activities of others, such as Facebook, and MySpace.

The national focal point in Yemen for GYCA-YEMEN x and the trainer Fathi al-Dafree confirmed that this workshop is considered to be the first workshop in Yemen for people who living with HIV/AIDS. The workshop discussed the techniques of the new social media, and it's role in changing the society, and to remove the social stigma that is associated with HIV.

Moreover, the workshop was also designed to promote the role of media in reaching out to the people living with

HIV/AIDS making other aware of their suffering. "This workshop intends to help people who live with HIV/AIDS to acquire some new life skills which will help them in advocating for their rights, remove the stigma and the erroneous stereotype image about people living with HIV/AIDS" said al-Dafree.

"This is a good initiative and constructive help offered by GYCA-YEMEN to educate people about HIV/AIDS virus using a new technology - web 2.0. Furthermore, hosting people who live with AIDS in this training workshop was something unique, that had never happened before in Yemen", said the Secretary General of Complementary Care for people living with AIDS, Mr. Abdul Hafad Al-Ward.

Al-Ward also said that, "this workshop is considered to be a huge help for those people who live with HIV/AIDS because it helps them to break down the barriers of fear and helps them in acquiring new life skills in addition to some another skills such as, training of trainers (ToTs) on AIDS, ways of dealing with high-risk AIDS groups and establishing private institutions to support people living with HIV/AIDS. "AID community was trying very hard, in previous years to get help and this year in co-operation with some partners such as, National Program to Combat AIDS, AIDS Program in Arab countries, and the Joint United Nations Program on AIDS, we were able to take this step towards helping this community to live positively" al-Ward added.

Mr. Nabil Ahmed from Abhar Organization confirmed that the organi-

zation is ready to host any youth events or initiatives on different issues, and particularly on HIV/AIDS.

"Our organization strongly believes on the huge value of new social media which calls Web 2.0 such as, face book, twitter, you tube.....etc in advocating and increasing awareness about social issues of, people living with HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Basheer Al-Selwi, a journalist and member of GYCA-YEMEN called all media channels to dedicate more efforts towards advocating on the issues of people living with HIV/AIDS and making possible for delivering their messages to people whenever, wherever. "Media must take an effective role in removing the stigma associated with HIV and the negative stereotype image of people living with HIV/AIDS. Moreover, I emphasize the importance of using new social media, web2.0, in order to open a safe channel for people living with HIV/AIDS to be able to express their opinions safely" al-Selwi pointed out. During the workshop, the participants "people living with HIV/AIDS": 3 Yemeni women and 7 Yemeni men, aged between 18- 30 years, spoke about the problems they encountered in their daily life such as, poverty, lack of good health care, social stigma and discrimination.

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For more information about the organization activities visit [www.youthaidscoalition.org](http://www.youthaidscoalition.org)

## National and Local Organizations trained on logistical procedures within development and disasters contexts

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Nov. 11 – Thirty three representatives from thirteen national and local organizations based in Sana'a, Aden, Hadramout and Sa'ada learned about logistical operations generally and specifically around times of humanitarian situations caused by disasters last week.

The organizations were part of Oxfam-GB Yemen Program's partners of the good governance, women empowerment, health and humanitarian programs. The training was carried out by international logistical experts led by Rebecca Vince, Supply and Logistics Advisor at Oxfam Great Britain.

Under the title "Partners and Logistics Learning (PALL)", the four day training aimed at improving the partners' knowledge regarding the logistics concepts, principles in supply and storage, added value, risk management, warehousing and other issues.

The participants discussed their local experiences and learned from each other and from the trainers on how to improve their logistical operations especially using concepts such as project supply planning, vehicle management and safety and asset management.

"We needed our partners to be able to use their own resources to the most optimum level. National and local organizations play an important role in the development process in Yemen



The participants learned about efficient logistical procedures and how to optimally utilize their resources.

and they need to be prepared to participate in supporting the government and international organizations developmental and humanitarian efforts" said El-Tayeb Musa, Oxfam-GB Yemen Country Representative.

Participants expressed their interest in learning more about this field especially that they realized that much money and time could be saved using

adequate planning and resource sharing.

In Yemen, Oxfam's focus is on women's rights, education, health care, disaster preparedness and response, and helping people have a say in the decisions that affect them. It has been working in Yemen in development programs and disaster relief since 1983

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, Nov. 14- More than 40,000 tons of shrimp and squid were exported illegally from Yemeni coasts during 2008 and 2009, said the Minister of Fishery Wealth, Mohammad Shamlan.

In a workshop held on Monday about Health Safety Standards in the fishery sector and organized by the Yemeni Seafood Exporters Association, Shamlan explained that the shrimp was not checked in at the fish landing sites and not counted within the exported quantities.

Shamlan said influential people

smuggle the expensive seafood for their own benefit because landing sites are not organized. "We want the law to be implemented," he said.

The minister revealed some facts concerning fishery wealth. He said the real annual production of fisheries in Yemen is more than 600,000 tons but reports and data put the figure as only 120,000 tons. The country's revenue from this wealth are more than YR 20 billion.

He said smugglers sell seafood at drastically reduced prices to avoid paying taxes and fees. "Do you know that a kilogram of fish, which is sold in a local market for YR 2,000 or 3,000,

is sold in landing sites for only YR 100," he said, noting that the fishery sector in Yemen is not yet organized and full of irregularities.

"Fish wealth in Yemen is more important than oil. It contributes significantly in national economy and competes in international markets but this sector still needs reforms," said the minister.

He stressed the role of concerned bodies in investigating the process of marketing fisheries, starting from fishing process, landing sites, preparation and ending with the means of distribution to consumer.

The Chairman of Yemeni Seafood

Exporters Association, Salem Al-Saadi, called for integrating the efforts of all active bodies in the fishery sector headed by Ministry of Fisheries to form joint council representing all these parties to work on coordination to discuss and help prepare successful strategies.

He also called for improving the fishery sector in order to help the national economy and increase the percentage of its contribution, which is currently less than 2 percent.

He demanded fishing boats and anchors to help fishermen unload easily. He also demanded improvements of landing sites, markets, and tradi-

tional fishing, in addition to training programs for all workers in the field.

International expert in fisheries' food safety Ian Goulding said landing sites in Yemen are in a very bad condition, and that government investments are not enough. He stressed private sector participation in managing the fish business.

A strategy to implement health standards in the fishery sector was also discussed in the workshop. The strategy was prepared by Yemeni Seafood Exporters Association in cooperation with the International Trade Center and the World Trade Organization. It suggests implement-

ing health standards in landing sites, including putting all the ministry's laboratories under one body, allocating a separate budget from the ministry of fisheries to these laboratories and enacting financial measures to impose fees on fish trading.

The strategy also stressed setting up health standards for fishing boats, landing sites and expanding inspection system to cover all fishing vessels.

Yearly fish quantities amount to 250,000 tons. Almost 99 percent of the revenues of the profits go to traditional fishermen. More than 10,000 people work in fish trade.



In Brief

**ADEN**  
**Coast Guard captures 8 pirates in Gulf of Aden**

Yemen's Coast Guard has seized eight Somali pirates in the pirate-plagued Gulf of Aden.

A spokesman for the authority said Friday the pirates were captured on a fishing boat with two RPGs and small and medium weapons.

A ladder, believed to be used to get onboard attacked ships by the pirates, was seized with the Somalis who were apprehended in the area of Amran, he said.

An investigation is underway as a prelude to turn over the Africans to the judiciary.

Piracy has surged off Somalia in recent years, with more than 140 vessels attacked last year.

**ATO General Secretary leaves Sana'a**

General Secretary of the Arab Tourism Organization (ATO) Mohammed al-Jahni left Aden on Wednesday after his participation in the investment conference "Aden...Yemen's gate to the World" being held in Aden on 11- 12 November.

Al-Jahni said the participation of ATO aims to get acquainted with the investment opportunities in Yemen and Aden in particular, which has many tourism potentials could be turned into promising opportunities for the Yemeni, Arabs and foreigners investors.

Al-Jahni praised the merits and

facilities provided by the Yemeni investment law for investors in various areas of investment.

**DAPDC plans Aden Container Terminal expansion**

Prime Minister Ali Mujawar got acquainted on Wednesday with the work progress in Aden Container Terminal (ACT) in Aden Free Zone (AFZ) and the expansion plans in the ACT.

The premier also was briefed by Chairman of Board of Directors of Dubai and Aden Port Development Company (DAPDC) Abdullah Boqshan on the company activity.

Boqshan pointed to plans for expanding the container yard, which currently receives 940 containers, by more 8 Hectares and it will be expanded to receive 1.5 million containers by the beginning of 2013.

Mujawar also introduced himself to the port's operating automated system expected to lift up the port's performance, in addition to the underway work in the containers facilities development.

The premier praised the company's plans for developing the work in Aden and Mualla ports, pointing to the importance of the port and its strategic location in the international shipping routes.

He affirmed the state's keenness on facilitating all difficulties that face investors and encouraging suchlike strategic investments so as to contrib-

ute to push forward the development process.

**SANA'A**  
**8-9 die in Yemen roads a day, minister says**

Between 8-9 people die and 50-60 are hurt a day in road accidents in Yemen, Minister of Interior said Friday.

A day before launching an awareness campaign over the safety belt and barring the use of cell phone while driving, Mutahar Rashad al-Masri said the traffic issue is a society responsibility but not up to the ministry alone.

Reviewing precious human losses due to traffic accidents, al-Masri urged all, particularly the media, to contribute to the success of campaign.

Road accidents have claimed 22000 lives and injured more than 159000 people since 2000, he said, adding other losses have been estimated at YR 23 billion.

**Yemen poised to sign \$ 90 million EU grant**

Yemen and the World bank are poised to initially sign a \$ 90 million grant in EU aid to finance three developmental projects over the next few days.

Upon departure for Cairo, deputy minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdullah al-Shatir said on Friday the talks to be held with WB officials in Egypt's capital of Cairo on Saturday would focus on WB continuous support for developmental projects in Yemen.

The grant would be signed for a \$ 40-million rural road building and maintaining project, a \$ 25-million anti-bilharzias project and a \$ 25-million aid project for the Social Welfare Fund, he said.

It comes within the EU support for Yemen through the WB aimed at supporting the country to face the food crisis and fight poverty, he added.

**ECC organizes plastic art exhibition**

Some 12 Yemeni, Arab and Turkish painters would show their 100 paintings in an exhibition that would be organized and held at Egyptian Culture Center (ECC) in Sana'a on Saturday.

According to the press release of the center, the twelve painters are from Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq and Turkey who would show their paintings of glasses, ceramic and albarda papers.

The center said that the paintings reflect the daily life in these countries, and their cultural heritages.

The exhibition would last for ten days, the center said.

**Saleh and Saudi Monarch in phone conversation**

President Ali Abdullah Saleh telephoned on Thursday Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz.

The two leaders discussed the bilateral relationship and means to strengthen it.

They also dealt with the latest developments in the region as well as issues concerned by the Arab nation.

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Their News

**Prince El Hassan: there is a need to mobilize people towards the priorities of greening WANA**

HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal said, on Monday (November 9, 2009), that there is a need to mobilise people towards the priorities of "greening" the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region in the context of a holistic focus on building regional supra-national concepts within which joint projects can develop.

In his keynote speech at the consultation on "Greening WANA", HRH said that a comprehensive approach in presenting development projects must take into account the cultural aspects of the needs of people, stressing that if the central planning era has ended, this does not mean that the era of priorities has also ended.

Prince El Hassan stressed the need for people to have the opportunity to give their best and develop their talents. He expressed hope in developing an active program, within the

region, to make the law work for everyone, including the silenced majority.

Prince El Hassan said that the region needs an initiative for "Green Jobs", in order to develop a joint work program in which global commons meets regional commons, through governments, businesses and civil society, as well as addressing issues of poverty, migration, conflicts and climate change within a supra-national framework that takes into account the harmony between economy, society, culture and the environment.

HRH also said that it is time to organize the Arab house so that Arabs can have an intellectual and ethical starting point to participate in developing a human future. HRH pointed out the need to develop a road map that is sensitive to the social challenge of the Arab identity so that Arabs can actively participate in building a productive industrial base.

Prince El Hassan called for promot-

ing awareness and moving towards the development of a consultation mode rather than a negotiating mode with regard to common issues in WANA.

HRH said that the region needs a genuine development policy which comes from within and which is based on social realities and social solidarity. HRH stressed the need for increasing awareness among the various actors of the need to focus on core issues away from stereotypes and labels.

HH Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi, CEO of the UAE Al Ihsan Charity Centre, spoke of the environmental challenges and roadmap facing the WANA region as well as other regions around the world, including population size and climate change. However, he remarked that the real challenge is to break down these challenges into basics and to look at the environment from the inside.

He encouraged participants to follow the principles of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) that apply to nature, such as tawhid (unity), khalifa (stewardship) and amana (trust).

Sheikh Abdul Aziz highlighted the three E's: Economy, Environment and Education and stated that these are all interconnected, especially for WANA. "An environment without ethics does not work; it will be unsustainable. We

need a global environment ethics network", he stated.

The event gathered experts, entrepreneurs, academics and dignitaries from WANA countries, including Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Yemen and the UAE, as well as partners from Japan.

The consultation aims to "green" the region by educating for water security and sustainable development and leapfrogging to the third, post-carbon, industrial revolution.

Environmental education, establishing a modern green industrial base and green regional infrastructure were among the priority issues selected by participants at the First Annual WANA Forum, which was held last April in Amman.

The Forum gathered 70 eminent individuals from WANA, and partners from outside the region, to identify regional challenges as well as discuss and evaluate feasible approaches for tackling these concerns and advancing regional cooperation.

**Geneva Raindrops Award 2009**

The International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA) is launching its international contest on the best videos illustrating the benefits of using rainwater.

Artists around the globe are invited to realise video films, animations,

movies or cartoons which demonstrate the qualities of this precious resource named rainwater.

Three awards are at stake:

- First prize: 500.- CHF
- Second prize: 300.- CHF
- Third prize: 200.- CHF

One of the aims of the IRHA's programs is to sensitize the population towards the benefits that rainwater provides. For should the advantages of the use of rainwater harvesting be recognized amongst professionals, is the population aware of it? Let us move out of the space where development specialists are dealing! Let us diffuse the information to the public at large and develop a common language. All these will certainly enable us to reach people who could support us in our work of the protection of a vital resource as water.

We would like to have more water in Greece, Australia and the South of Spain, less water in the United Kingdom and in Bangladesh. We would like to save the animals which die in Argentina due to flooding, and protect those which risk dying the following year due to lack of water. Not only must the act of rainwater harvesting be the priority of national political program on the agenda, but it could also become an environmental contribution for everyone.

Furthermore, in calling for common effort to protect the planet, it should lead diverse cultures to come together. Good rainwater harvesting is an objective by itself, but it is also a means for adapting the world to its most haunting problem, which is the climate change.

This is the reason why the IRHA launches at the end of the year the second edition of its grand competition:

Having the success record of last year at its first launching linking development with graphic art, this year will be awarded the Best Video Films demonstrating the techniques and advantages of catching and using rainwater. The emerging star will be Rainwater Harvesting! Participants across the globe are invited to present their visions and dreams on the usefulness and the worthiness that provides good rainwater harvesting.

The date for the final submission of the videos on the grand competition on Geneva Rain Drops Award, 2009 is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 12 a.m. (12 midnight) GMT. The best videos will be awarded as follows: the first prize will receive CHF 500; the second prize, CHF 300, and the third prize, CHF 200.

More information at [www.irha-h2o.org/raindrops-ge2008-en.html](http://www.irha-h2o.org/raindrops-ge2008-en.html)

**MTN Yemen celebrates first World Cup 2010 winner**

MTN Yemen recently celebrated its first winner, Mohamed Ahmed Musa Shaikh Al-Barhamy, who won a trip to attend the 2010 world cup that will be held in South Africa next year.

Seven Sony Bravia 32" LCD monitors along with many other awards have been rewarded to other winners.

The trip package includes tickets, accommodation and a program to visit tourist places in South Africa as well as attending the 2010 world cup matches.

The competition includes answering questions related to sports which are posted weekly on local media. The answers must be sent as SMS to number 2010.

MTN Yemen's director of public relations Ali Al-Shahedhi made a speech in which he expressed the company's desire to organize and sponsor sports activities as part of MTN International activities, the

official sponsor of the 2010 world cup.

MTN takes interest in youth inclinations in different sports activities especially football that is the most popular sport in Yemen.

He also pointed out that MTN Yemen supports many sport activities in Yemen especially football clubs for the last three seasons.

It also sponsored MTN tennis tournament, a youth marathon organized by the Ministry of Sports and Youth, the general cycling league and cycling marathon in Ibb, Al-Baidhah and Rada cities.

The winners thanked MTN Yemen for encouraging youth and developing their skills through its programs, competitions and services.

The 2010 world cup will be the 19th FIFA World Cup that is scheduled to take place between 11 June and 11 July in South Africa and this will be the first time it takes place in the African continent.



**UNHCR**  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

**INTERNAL & EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE**

Title of Post: **Driver**  
Position Number: **10015529**  
Category & Level: **GL 2**  
Location: **Mayfa'a**

Date of Entry on Duty: **01/01/2010**  
Duration: **31/12/2010**  
Closing Date: **28/11/2009**

**Duties and Responsibilities**  
Under the direct supervision of the Associate Field Officer Mayfa'a Reception Centre, the incumbent is expected to perform the following duties, guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

- Drives office vehicles for the transport of authorized personnel and delivery and collection of mail, documents and other items.
- Makes own assessment of the threats to security in given circumstances, and takes action to reduce risks wherever possible.
- Has a detailed knowledge of standard UN/UNHCR security procedures, and applies these meticulously when conditions require them.
- Facilitates formalities with local authorities as required.
- Responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle, checks oil, water, battery, brakes, tires, etc., performs minor repairs and arranges for other repairs and ensures that the vehicle is kept clean.
- Logs official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption, oil changes greasing, etc.
- Ensures that the steps required by rules and regulations are taken in case of involvement in accident.
- Performs other duties as required.

**Qualification Requirements**  
**Knowledge and Skills:** Primary Education, possess a valid Driving licence and have knowledge of driving rules and regulations and be able to undertake minor vehicle repair.  
**Experience:** Two years of previous job experience  
**Languages:** Good knowledge of local language and knowledge of the working language of the duty station (English) is a must.

**For Internal Candidates:**  
Priority consideration will be given to staff members whose grades are equal or below that of the post advertised. Only candidates who have served one year in their present post will be eligible for consideration as internal candidates in connection with the vacancy. Candidates who do not meet the criteria as internal candidates can be considered as external candidates.

**For Internal & External Candidates**  
If no internal candidate is qualified, external candidate will be considered.  
If you wish to be considered for this vacancy, please submit your application and UN P11 form or a well elaborated C.V., Fitness certificate including eye test and valid driving license.

**IMPORTANT:**

- APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE ABOVE MENTIONED CLOSING DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATION SECTION OF UNHCR. Tele.: 231441/235111
- APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN SEALED ENVELOP TO:

**Mr. Majed Rajeh, Asst. Field Officer Mayfa'a Mayfa'a Reception Center UNHCR Yemen**  
Or by Tel Fax: +967-5-280267

**UNHCR**  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

**INTERNAL & EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE**

Title of Post: **Driver**  
Position Number: **10015528**  
Category & Level: **GL 2**  
Location: **Ahwar**

Date of Entry on Duty: **01/01/2010**  
Duration: **31/12/2010**  
Closing Date: **28/11/2009**

**Duties and Responsibilities**  
Under the direct supervision of the Associate Field Officer Ahwar Reception Centre, the incumbent is expected to perform the following duties, guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

- Drives office vehicles for the transport of authorized personnel and delivery and collection of mail, documents and other items.
- Makes own assessment of the threats to security in given circumstances, and takes action to reduce risks wherever possible.
- Has a detailed knowledge of standard UN/UNHCR security procedures, and applies these meticulously when conditions require them.
- Facilitates formalities with local authorities as required.
- Responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle, checks oil, water, battery, brakes, tires, etc., performs minor repairs and arranges for other repairs and ensures that the vehicle is kept clean.
- Logs official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption, oil changes greasing, etc.
- Ensures that the steps required by rules and regulations are taken in case of involvement in accident.
- Performs other duties as required.

**Qualification Requirements**  
**Knowledge and Skills:** Primary Education, possess a valid Driving licence and have knowledge of driving rules and regulations and be able to undertake minor vehicle repair.  
**Experience:** Two years of previous job experience  
**Languages:** Good knowledge of local language and knowledge of the working language of the duty station (English) is a must.

**For Internal Candidates:**  
Priority consideration will be given to staff members whose grades are equal or below that of the post advertised. Only candidates who have served one year in their present post will be eligible for consideration as internal candidates in connection with the vacancy. Candidates who do not meet the criteria as internal candidates can be considered as external candidates.

**For Internal & External Candidates**  
If no internal candidate is qualified, external candidate will be considered.  
If you wish to be considered for this vacancy, please submit your application and UN P11 form or a well elaborated C.V., Fitness certificate including eye test and valid driving license.

**IMPORTANT:**

- APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE ABOVE MENTIONED CLOSING DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATION SECTION OF UNHCR. Tele.: 231441/235111
- APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN SEALED ENVELOP TO:

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JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE CAPITAL (5)

Multitasking in a 'flying coffin'

By: Judith Spiegel

He is talking in his telephone, he is smoking a cigarette, he is chewing qat and he is driving his car. He is driving it fast and he believes he can take over the slower car before him, just before a turn on the winding mountain road. He just knows there is no oncoming traffic. His rear-view mirror is missing, so are the seat belts and the first gear gave up a while ago. He does not care, he does not need those items anyway. Who is this multi-tasking miracle?

He is a driver of a bijou ('Peugeot' in Arabic). The bijou, a shared taxi, is invariably an old and battered Peugeot, also known as the 'flying coffin.' The driver is not suicidal, nor is he a kind thrill seeker, he is the average Yemeni driver in an average Yemeni car. He has probably been driving since he was 10 years old. As a little kid, his father asked him all the time to move the car a bit up the street, and gave him the keys. So surely he can drive a car.

It is no secret that the numbers of traffic deaths and injuries are very high in Yemen. In 2007, 2,781 people died, and 19,105 were injured. According to Omar Abdulaziz, deputy-manager of the Al-Salamah Driving School, 80 percent of the accidents in Yemen are caused by drivers' decisions, 12 percent by road conditions and 8 percent by defective cars. Omar said, "The biggest problem is the amount of drivers without a license." But the deplorable state of the cars and of the roads add to it. "Have you ever seen a road sign?" Omar asks. "And if there is a sign on a long road connecting cities, it usually has a long warning sentence on it. People drive too fast to read



For a license, one needs to take driving lessons or a driving test.

that, apart from the problem of illiteracy."

The law stipulates that a driver must be at least 18 years old and must have a driving license. It also says drivers and passengers must fasten seat belts. The problem is that this law has not been enforced for years.

Besides, driving licenses are for sale on the black market and, according to many, so are the police. Drivers also lack awareness of the dangers of the road.

But, things seem to change. Or at least, an effort is made to improve things. Nowadays, for a license, or the

renewal of it, one needs to take driving lessons and/or a test. Currently the Al-Salamah Driving School is the only school in Yemen that is licensed to give these lessons. Al-Salamah is a public-private institution, partly owned by the government. Omar Abdulaziz said, "The company acts

like a public service sector or institution. It is not a monopoly, we are just the only ones with a license."

According to Omar Abdulaziz people are becoming more aware about the importance of driving lessons and of acquiring a driving licence. "This is a good sign that we have seen over the years, which is reflecting positively on the Yemeni roads. Moreover the young generation is very responsive and is a good example of improvement."

Rima, 25, with sunglasses on her stylish headscarf, works for Total. Today, she is driving a small Hyundai on the vast circuit of Al-Salamah Driving School, off Mathbah road. It is her second and final week of outdoor practice. "I want to drive myself, I am annoyed by the taxis. I have to go out a lot, to work, to friends. Back and forth, every day." While talking, Rima shifts expertly to the next gear, neatly staying between the orange ninepins. She already has a car, all she now needs is the license.

During the first week Rima stayed inside a big conference hall where she was taught the road signs, traffic rules and first aid. Thereafter, women take two weeks of lessons, two hours a day. Men only take one week. Rima tells that she informed about this difference between men and women. "Am I stupid or what?" The answer she got was that ladies do not get it immediately. Rima, grinning, said, "So I am stupid apparently." Rokaya Taha Al-Hadi, director of training at Al-Salamah Driving School, said, "Women are often too friendly. Men go out in the streets and they are fine. But after some days, so are the women. And actually, once they have their license, they are better drivers, more careful."

So men are apparently still not careful. Does this not bring us straight

back to the same problem? Omar said, "It is all about awareness. Chewing qat, talking in the telephone, smoking cigarettes, talking to a friend, making signalling out of the window with your hand, this all takes the hand of the steering wheel. We try to make people aware of this. " Omar is realistic and emphasizes that things cannot change overnight. "But things do change. Five years ago, you saw very little seatbelts. Of course, it is all still relative. Five years ago, you saw one a day, now six. We have only been active since 2005 and how many people can you reach?"

Apart from creating awareness, there is another paramount condition for the new rules regarding driving licenses to become a success: their enforcement. No matter how professional the driving school, no matter how many women like Rima learn how to drive properly, there will still be many drivers out there with or without a license, driving like mad men. If the police do not act against this, little difference will be made. "This is important. People seem to forget what they have learned during the course, once they are on the road. But we work within the same ministry and every year, a road safety awareness week is organized by the police," said Omar.

He is well rested before he gets into his car, he is not in a hurry, he has eaten well and has all necessary documents with him. Also, he checked his well maintained and inspected vehicle before taking off. He does not put his 2-year old child in the passenger's seat, he fastens his seatbelt and checks his mirrors before he hits the road. Who he is? He is the ideal Yemeni driver. He leaves the governorate, and sees the sign, which says "Goodbye with safety," and knows it is not to be taken literally.

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## Civil Works Bid Announcement

### For the Rehabilitation of Al-Mukala-Sayhout Road Project (135 km) in Hadramout Governorate IFB#4CW/AFESD/2009 Republic of Yemen

The Republic of Yemen has received credit no (403/2000) from the Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development towards the cost of construction of Al-Mukala-Sayhout Road Project (135km) in Hadramout Governorate, and intends to apply part of the credit proceeds towards eligible payments for the civil work bid whose details are shown below:

S/R No.	Project/Location	Bid No	Date of Availability of Documents	Prie of Bidding Documents	Date and time for pre-bid meeting	Amount of bid Guarantee	Bid submission time & date	Bid opening date
1	Rehabilitation of al-Mukala-Sayhout Road Project (135km) in Hadramout Governorate	IFB#4CW/AFESD/09	14/11/2009	US\$300	11AM 9/12/2009	US\$6600,000.0	10AM 13/1/2010	11AM 13/1/2010

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH), Internationally Funded Projects Implementation Unit (IFPIU), now invites contractors to submit their sealed bids for the construction of the road projects mentioned above. A post-qualification will be conducted for the participating bidders which will include the following:

- o Past experience in similar nature projects
  - o Minimum average annual construction work turnover for the last 5 years = US\$12,500,000.0
  - o Minimum cash flow and liquid assets=US\$4,500,000.0
- Interested bidders may obtain the required bidding documents upon submission of a written application and payment of the above mentioned non-refundable fee, plus the courier charges for overseas delivery of US\$150, during working Hours (8:00 Am: 2:00 Pm, Sat-Wed) from the following address:

**Ministry of Public Works and Highways**  
Internationally Funded Projects Implementation Unit (IFPIU)  
3rd floor, MPWH Head Office Bilding  
Nuqum Area, Next to Berlin Public Park  
Phone: 00967-01545164  
Fax: 00967-01-546134  
Email: [ifrpui@yemen.net.ye](mailto:ifrpui@yemen.net.ye)  
Sana'a, RoY

Interested Bidders can inspect bidding documents before purchasing during working hours until one week before the bid opening date, at the same address shown above.

Sealed and properly addressed bids should be delivered to the above address, on or before 10:00 AM of the specified date, and shall be accompanied by:

- o A bid Guarantee for the amount shown in the above table and valid for 180 days from the date of bid opening.
- o A valid tax card (for local contractors)
- o Valid registration and Classification Certificate for local Contractors in road construction.

Bids will be publicly opened in the MPWH-IFPIU office on the date and time specified above at the presence of the bidders/or their authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.



## Invitation for Bid

The International Telecommunication Company (TeleYemen) announces the bid no. (TY/MKT/1-09) for:

### Marketing and Advertising Services Supply

Bids must be sealed, received by 30/12/2009 at 11:00 am, and submitted by registered mail (Courier -express mail) in three (3) copies to:

**Purchasing & Contracting Department**  
26th September St.  
P.O. Box 168  
TeleYemen  
Sana'a, Yemen  
Telephone: + 967 777009410.

Interested bidders can submit their request for the bid documents during the working hours to the above contact address

*The deadline for obtaining the bid documents will be 12 of December 2008.*

All bidders must submit the following with their bids:

- 1- A bid security equal to \$ 2,000, which can be in the form of either a certified check, or an irrevocable bank guarantee from a reputable bank
- 2- A Valid tax certificate
- 3- A Valid registration and classification certificate

**The deadline for bids submission and opening will be 30/12/2009 at 11:00 am.**  
Bids opening will take place at TeleYemen Headquarter, Sep. Building, 26th Sep Street.

[www.teleyemen.com.ye](http://www.teleyemen.com.ye)



## Job vacancy

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

### "Human Resources / Travel Clerk"

The position is located in the Human Resources section under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Specialist. The incumbent will perform a wide variety of human resources clerk duties, which include routine work. The H.R./Travel Clerk is also responsible for providing full-range travel services to all DOS employees USDHs, DOS LESs, TCNs, USAID (switching between DOS and USAID systems) and Military Personnel serving the DOS offices.

#### Qualifications Required

##### A. Education:

Secondary school or diploma in related field is required.

##### B. Prior Work Experience:

Two years of clerical and/or administration experience in Human Resources is required.

##### C. Language Proficiency:

Level III (Good working knowledge) English is required. Level IV (Fluent) Arabic is required.

##### D. Job Knowledge:

Must have a good knowledge of general office operations and procedural requirements pertaining to functions performed in a personnel office.

##### E. Skills and Abilities:

Ability to work under pressure, level II typing a good working knowledge of Word Processing and Access applications.

##### Grade/Salary: \*Ordinarily Resident:

FSN-06 (Full Performance Level) US \$7,980 Starting Salary per annum.

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

##### How to apply:

Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa or via fax No. 303-182 or through e-mail address: [hrosanaa@state.gov](mailto:hrosanaa@state.gov) no later than November 22, 2009.

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

## UNICEF YEMEN

P. O. BOX 725  
SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN  
TEL: (967.1) 211 400  
FAX: (967.1) 206 092

### EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 09/2009

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified Yemeni Nationals for the following position:

**Title: Education Officer**      **Level: NOA**      **Type of contract: Fixed-Term**  
**Duty station: Sana'a**      **IMIS#: 64151**

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Chief communications Officer (L-4), the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

- 1) Support education authorities at central, governorate and district levels and UNICEF field offices in reformulating and implementing the Child-Friendly Schools (CFS) initiative. Finalize the initial design and guidelines/manuals of the child friendly schools (CFS) concepts in Yemeni context. Communicates with counterpart local authorities on project details. Recommend courses of action to the supervisor.
- 2) Collects and assembles data and background information on CFS with regard to programs/projects and provides updated information on program/project financial and administrative status for analysis and report purposes
- 3) Monitors the flow of supply and non-supply assistance to local authorities. Drafts supply PGMs for central / governorate level and financial documentation. Collects and records information on supply/non-supply inventory, distribution and utilization. Check the efficiency distribution and use of supplies when appropriate
- 4) Undertakes arrangements for exchange visits to project sites for government and other partners (NGOs), which include providing information and briefing on project activities and status.
- 5) Provide regular support and guidance to targeted pilot schools and DOEs concerned in the implementation of the CFS initiative; undertake field visits, coordinate, monitoring, as well as periodic project/program reviews with counterparts and other partners. Identify necessary action for project/program adjustments, and make appropriate recommendation.
- 6) Identify training needs of the school team for the purpose of capacity building in the areas of the CFS initiative and initiate action to support possible implementation. Identify resources and implementing partners (NGOs, CBOs, etc.) working in the area and ensure their support and participation where possible.
- 7) Support the development of an effective monitoring and collect baseline data for the school for future evaluations; compile reports on the status and progress of the initiative and submit it to UNICEF regularly.
- 8) Follow-up with government counterparts, NGOs and CBOs for documentations that are necessary for project/ programme implementation; processing of payments; and confirmation / verification of completion of project/ programme activities including CAG liquidation, Cargo Movement Report and government receipts.

#### Qualifications:

##### Education

A first level university degree in combination with qualifying experience in social Sciences or related technical field related to the work of UNICEF

##### Work Experience

A minimum of three years of progressively responsible professional experience in dealing with project administration at national level. Experience in dealing with large project in particular with Basic Education is preferred.

##### Language

Fluency in written and Spoken English and Arabic language is required.

##### Other Skills

Computer skills, including internet navigation and various office applications required  
Demonstrate ability to work in a multicultural environment and establish harmonious and effective working relationships both within and outside the organization

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with their CV to the [yemenhr@unicef.org](mailto:yemenhr@unicef.org). Applications received after November 25, 2009 will not be considered. UNICEF encourages qualified women candidates to apply. UNICEF is a non smoking environment



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## Words of Wisdom



In the final analysis, it is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful. It would be unfortunate if the change in Yemen remains merely a show or something superficial. Our politicians need to believe in preparing for the 21st century. To do that, they have to internalize some new values.

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

OUR  
OPINIONThe third industrial  
revolution:  
Alternative energy

Imagine not having to pay for fuel for your car. Imagine that public transport buses and vehicles are not driven in the streets, but have their own tracks somewhere in the air. Imagine not having to pay, or in our case in Yemen, worry about electricity, cooking gas or heating. Imagine that you don't have to go through that "Damn, I forgot to charge my cell phone" when the battery dies in the middle of a conversation, or having to choose between various electrical appliances since you have only one power plug.

Imagine that you don't need to connect your laptop to a power outlet. Imagine you can put your TV anywhere you want in the house without worrying about wires. In fact, you can carry your TV with you and watch your programs wherever you want.

Imagine that you don't have to switch the lights on or off as you leave the room, that you can blow dry your hair in the car, that you can have an air conditioner or fan with you wherever you go.

Imagine all that, and I invite you to imagine more... think of all the things you wanted but could not do because of electricity or power related restrictions. Let your dreams take you to places just like the Jetsons on TV, and dare to dream that that way of life could be yours.

We in the Arab world, or rather the West Asia North Africa region have missed out on the steel and the oil industrial revolutions. Now as the third industrial revolution based on alternative energy looms in the horizon, it is should come from here.

In this region, we have not invested millions of dollars in factories and industries, because we import everything from everywhere else. Therefore, in essence, we don't have to replace oil based or carbon industry, because we don't have it. e could simply leapfrog into the future, taking a shortcut and utilizing the local resources and technologies of the developed world.

Only crazy people who dare to dream can change the world. The WANA region needs some champions who dare to be seen as crazy and are not afraid to dream. When you come to think of it, many of the problems in our developing nations are because of energy- or rather the lack of it. If power can be generated from solar cells, hydro-plants, or windmills then it would become so available, and so cheap. We need some intelligent and courageous business leaders who are willing to invest in alternative energy industry. Manufacture electric cars, solar heating systems, mobile phones with chargeable solar energy. An entrepreneur who will be able to provide a service whereby a solar chip could be inserted into any electrical device and change it from needing to operate on conventional electricity to solar.

According to research from Japan, if only 1.5% of the land in the world is covered with solar cells, all the people around the world will be able to utilize as much energy as American people do.

It is possible to launch a project like this. We would create jobs, provide a service and a product, and protect the environment. A pessimist sees difficulties in every opportunity, while an optimist sees opportunities in every difficulty. Pessimism comes from our sentiments, while optimism comes from will. It is time for an intelligent, optimist businessman who dares to dream and sees this opportunity with his heart and mind.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## What, how and why?

By: Huda Mohammed Alkebsi

Undoubtedly, Yemen entered into serious socio-economic and socio-political problems which are alarming since their impacts reached almost every individual in the society. It would be a big leap to consider these problems as marginal, temporary or as a result of certain internal or external development or as a result of lack of resources. They are rather obvious to be an accumulated product of many and different factors dominated over the last decades. Biased policies and performances accompanied with unclear visions and objectives as well as changing priorities of the state institutions and their very poor governance are main factors laying on the government side. This has led, over time, to the creation of contradicting and changing loyalties of government institutions diverting their mandates into practices to serve the interests of certain powerful groups and individuals from within and outside the government. Consequently, the relationships between state institutions and the rest of population tended to become closer, more and more, in gaining feudalist pattern. This process is still ongoing and is hardly to become irreversible, at rea-

sonable costs. Some evidences can be illustrated hereby proving these facts, namely the migration of professionals and intellectuals, preference to invest abroad, the increased mistrust on government performance and the selective enforcement of laws.

As this has become apparent (since over 10 years), several attempts have been made by top government officials and by the highest institutional levels of the state aiming at controlling this trend and to stand against such practices (or at least to limit their due impacts) without causing socio political dissatisfactions and/or major disagreements. This took, mainly, the form of macro adjustment policies and measures including decisions for adapting new laws and regulations (e.g. aggregation/disaggregation of some institutions and creating new ones, privatization, restructuring, changing posts and governments, power decentralization etc.). However, most of interest groups and individuals were already rooted in the system and remained (despite changed power positions) and have built shortly new alliances with old and new groups/ individuals and formed different BUT more powerful than previously. Although these efforts may have been well designed, they have been misused to worsen the situation through expanding the play-

ing fields for interest groups and individuals and through the creation of multi- and parallel institutional structures. This has also led to increased pressures on state budget and on ordinary small and medium businesses and individuals.

The BIG question would be here why did this happen? Why all attempts have failed to realize their objectives and the situation became worse and unlike it was desired by the top government?. From own observations it is to argue that the main reasons behind what Yemen is experiencing nowadays are internally in kind. Some can be indicated here. The council of representatives did not intervene adequately and it was partially isolated as a responsible institution (many of its members are part of interest groups). The government role became increasingly weak due to the absence of proper management and information systems which can facilitate proper, timely bound and targeted interventions. In addition, civil society organizations are very weak and incapable to take part effectively in any action.

So unless fundamental changes occur on the ground accompanied with hard will of the highest level of the state, the situation is likely to become out of control.

## The road ahead in the Middle East

By: Prince El Hassan bin Talal

During these hard times for Israeli-Palestinian relations, it is vital that positive steps be taken and international goodwill be mobilized. For a significant number of both Palestinians and Israelis, the use of force has come to represent the only conceivable option. Palestinian society can feel very little hope in the immediate term, so what else is there to lose? Yet it seems just as clear that the pursuit of extreme measures by any party will surely lead to wider and worse clashes.

Rather than resign ourselves to more years of hate and misery, it is urgent that the foundations for future peace be rebuilt before all civilized structures are swept away. The priority in everyone's minds is the present conflict; but until human well-being becomes a universal priority, conflicts will continue to dominate interpersonal and international relations.

Those who wish to contribute to reducing tensions should identify and promote starting points for peace-builders to find common ground. Political and media support ought to focus on programs that work on the ground, as reported by humanitarian and non-governmental agencies, and not on particular religious agendas. Priority should go to cooperative projects—enhancing cooperation between different faiths, between different schools within the same faith, and between religious

and secular groups.

Islam as a religion of peace and human betterment is betrayed by anyone who commits atrocities in its name. It is a broad and inclusive religion whose adherents across the world presently suffer from their lack of a unified voice.

For example, issuing *fatwas*, or religious edicts, is legitimately undertaken by those whose high standing is acknowledged by the whole *Ummah*, or Muslim community. We need trustworthy and reputable bodies for issuing globally significant *fatwa*, with the authority to represent Muslim communities worldwide; such bodies could be based in Mecca and Najaf, representing Sunni and Shi'a centers of religious thought.

Such a step would bring to non-Muslims some of the sharpest thinking in the Islamic world, and would contribute a missing voice to debates about global values. Globalization and Islam are not incompatible, so long as Islam is recognized as a tradition that has much to contribute to world civilization, not treated as a menace to be neutralized.

The goal today must be to modernize each tradition, while remaining faithful to its roots. A total collapse of religious norms would truly be destabilizing. If it is to succeed in making the world a better place, globalization can not be predicated upon market forces alone, but needs to reinforce the stability and integration of diverse societies.

In the Middle East, clear ethical leadership is needed. But such leadership cannot achieve results in a

vacuum. Global standards of behavior can only be implemented effectively if they are upheld by all. If a supposedly universal policy is seen to be applied inconsistently in order to further one nation's or culture's interests, that policy will lose credibility and be rejected as representing a double standard.

It is the responsibility of rulers and opinion leaders to insist that universal rights are implemented universally—that all, without exception, are subject to the rule of law. Only when we achieve a culture of compliance with humanitarian norms will we be able to establish the framework for securing a vibrant civil society, negotiation instead of conflict, and continuing human welfare. The developed world has an obligation to live up to the standards of the Declaration of Human Rights and other documents describing universal norms.

One of the most important expressions of goodwill is the gift of humanitarian aid. At this time, when military conflict risks worsening in different corners of the world, western agencies in particular can support the people of a troubled area. Yet humanitarian aid must not become just another foreign policy tool. If aid is thought by the people receiving it to be manipulated for political gain, it will reduce the possibility for international relations based on any kind of trust. There should be a re-evaluation of the place of altruism and compliance with universal humanitarian norms.

The international community can offer stability and improvements in living conditions for both Israelis and Palestinians by intervening now with a peacekeeping and humanitarian presence, endorsed by the United Nations and with the support of the United States. Outside intervention may be necessary, including international commitment to specific objectives—not just to a process intended to reach those objectives—before it becomes possible to visualize a viable future in which both parties can flourish alongside each other.

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By: Hamid

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## COMMON SENSE

Unclear future for  
Yemen, as usual

As the war in Sa'ada continues without any signs of the conflict even coming close to a finale, the observer is bound to wonder, if any of the meaningful elements with a possibility of bringing the conflict to an end really have any sense of the significant hardships that many people must endure as a result of the political follies of careless leadership. This guilt is equally shared by all the parties at stake directly in the conflict and also the regional powers and international community.

The inescapable truth is that there are now close to perhaps 10,000 people who have lost their lives or suffered injuries, most of whom would probably have little to applaud and rave for no matter who win – if we can discern at all that there are ever any winners in any armed conflict/. This concern for the plight of most of the people of Sa'ada is further reinforced by the fact that the coming cold months of winter are at hand and there is nothing to indicate that the Internally Displaced People as a result of the conflict have any of the aid and assistance to help them withstand the cold mountain winters of the Governorate of Sa'ada or Amran or even Hajja. Moreover there is a strong fear that most of the so called assistance that is being delivered to the IDP's is not even reaching them as the convoys that are heading for Sa'ada carrying the donations or assistance provided by international agencies, foreign governments or the people of Yemen are subject to extinction before they even reach the IDP's. This observer asked some of the people accompanying some of the caravans that are supposedly heading for the IDP camps, which are not under the control of international aid agencies, etc. how much actually gets to the IDP's? The astounding response was that at best maybe 25 - 50%! When asked where the goods are actually going, the answer was manifold: the accompanying workers who are supposed to deliver the goods as they consume some of the aid for their own provisions; the Bedouins who have cut the roads in some of the areas of Mareb or Al-Jouf and to some of the troops in the outposts along the road to the IDPO camps. In fact in some of the convoys, it was reported that their drivers or accompaniment never saw any IDP camps or IDP's.

This kind of a scenario is really frightening as many of those who are supposed to benefit from this aid have left their homes and farms in the belief that they can find relief and solace to alleviate some of their suffering. As it is now turning out, with most of the IDP camps and IDP's being unreachable, one cannot be reassured that much of the aid flowing from outside and inside Yemen, which is still far below the minimum requirements, is not even reaching the intended beneficiaries.

Now in returning to the conflict, one would really hope that the major players will now realize that for Yemen, in particular, and the region in general the roar of the artillery, and the explosive sounds of all the incendiary ordnances being launched or unleashed in Sa'ada are mostly hitting the civilian population. This adds more fuel to the harsh suffering of the 200,000 or so people of Sa'ada, who are the losers in this conflict by all means and standards.

On the other hand one is disturbed by the fact that the conflict is getting more complicated rather than letting up and accordingly the civilian situation is getting worse and not better as now there are more random bombardments and shelling with the entry of Saudi Arabia as a major combatant in the war.

We are not arguing the merits or the demerits of this new/old party to the conflict, but surely one is surprised at the obvious tone of the belligerency of many of those who support or find comfort in the direct engagement of Saudi Arabia. What originally started as an internal case of civil disobedience, if one is to find any truth to what the government and its new actively participating allies are claiming. This means that the possibility of others being drawn into the conflict is not at all unforeseeable. For the people of Sa'ada, there is no reason to suggest then that a let up in the fighting can be foreseen. For the people of Yemen, it seems that hope for some peace and stability are now further than ever from realization.

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

## الاحدق

**Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist People's Organization (NUPO)**  
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009

### Main Headlines

- JMP holds authority accountable for Sa'ada war consequences
- Hamid Al-Ahmar accuses President Saleh of pursuing monarchy

Parliament Member Sheikh Hamid Abdullah Al-Ahmar accused President Ali Abdullah Saleh of pursuing the monarchic system through his attempt to bequeath rule of Yemen to his son Ahmad, the weekly reported.

During his conversation with Aljazeera, Al-Ahmar called for demonstrating a real republic on the ground, renewing his call on President Saleh to step down. He confirmed that replacing the top political leader in the country is a good approach to reforming the dire situations in Yemen.

"If Saleh wants people of Yemen to be in his side against monarchy and defend the national unity, he himself must quit pursuing monarchy," Al-Ahmar noted. He accused the Republican Guards, commanded by President's Son Ahmad, of supporting Houthis in previous wars.

Criticizing the way the government manages the Sa'ada war, Al-Ahmar said the government insulted the army

and made it lose its morale and enthusiasm for fighting the rebels.

On a side note, the weekly reported that Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) hold the government accountable for consequences of escalating clashes in volatile Saada and neighboring areas. According to JMP, it was possible for the government to have avoided the devastating war in Sa'ada through peaceful dialogues.

## al-Nass

**Al-Nass independent political weekly**  
Monday, Nov. 9, 2009

### Main Headlines

- Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar: Dialogue is the sole option for Yemen to get rid of its current turmoil
- Foreign Minister Al-Qirbi: The opposition should be part of the solution, not the problem

Dialogue remains the sole option to help Yemen get rid of its currently dire situations, the weekly quoted Sheikh Hamid Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Chairman of National Dialogue Committee as saying during his interview with Aljazeera satellite channel.

During the interview, Al-Ahmar disclosed that he makes contacts with former Vice-President Ali Salem Al-Biedh, as well as with Abdulmalik

Al-Houthi. "I would like to inform Yemeni people that positive steps to resolve pressing issues in the nation are underway," he said.

He added that dialogue will come up with a number of decisions to be implemented by the Yemeni people on the ground, adding that Houthis said they are against the state and their Zaidi Sect doesn't need anyone to defend it because it is present.

Al-Ahmar spoke about a prospective visit to Al-Biedh, who he described as "a unionist man", pointing out that he invited Al-Biedh to speak in the name of all people of Yemen.

The senior opposition leader said that thousands of the army members were killed in the Sa'ada fighting, not hundreds as Al-Qirbi said to the same satellite channel at the same time. "There are planned personal liquidations against certain military commanders, who are forced into the war with the purpose of eliminating them, and as a result, they lost trust in the political leadership," he noted.

According to Al-Ahmar, President Saleh should step down his post as part of resolving the political turmoil in the country.

From his side, Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi described Al-Ahmar's call on Saleh to step down as unserious. "This is a joke." Al-Ahmar is only serious when speaking to the TV and not on the ground.

Al-Qirbi maintained that the opposition must be part of the solution "not part of the problem", confirming that

Yemen cares to keep its bilateral relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, but called Tehran to condemn Houthis.

## المصحة

**Al-Sahwah Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party**  
Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009

### Main Headlines

- Opposition leader: the regime plans to overturn the republican system
- JMP urges neighboring states to end bloodshed in Yemen

Chairman of Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) Hassan Zaid accused the authority of planning to overturn republican and multiparty systems under the pretext of preparing the ground to be in line with the Gulf Cooperation Council's regulations and change the republic into a Sultanate, the weekly reported.

He said the authority never respected the constitution and law, pointing out that the it is involved in kidnapping, enforced disappearances of activists and politicians, closing down newspapers, repressing and cracking down on journalists and columnists, and issuing unfair sentences against them.

Zaid stressed that JMP is committed to the Yemeni constitution and law and vividly denied the authorities' charges for the opposition, accusing it

of supporting Saada rebels in the North and secessionists in the South.

On a side note, the weekly reported that JMP denounced what it called the government exclusionary and inciting rhetoric against the opposition, holding it responsible for the consequences of such rhetoric.

In a statement, JMP urged neighboring states to play a role in ending bloodshed in Yemen and addressing Saada war internally through genuine dialogue.

JMP stressed that the authorities always practice repression against national opposition leaders, intellectuals and journalists and use kidnapping, enforced disappearances, illegal pursuits of oppositionists and activists, warning that such acts could hurt democracy and lead to violence and instability.

## الاسبوع

**26 September Weekly, Organ of Yemeni Army**  
Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009

### Main Headlines

- Egypt renews solidarity with Yemen against Houthi rebels
- Yemen welcomes GCC member states' position on Saada conflict

President Ali Abdullah Saleh had on Tuesday a telephone conversation with his Egyptian counterpart Mohammed Husni Mubarak, the

weekly reported, adding that both leaders discuss bilateral relations between both states and horizons of enhancing joint cooperation on various fields.

According to the weekly, Egyptian President reaffirmed complete solidarity of the leadership, government and people of Egypt with the government and people of Yemen against the elements of sabotage and terrorism in Saada, renewing his state's supportive stance for the unity, security and stability of Yemen and its rejection of any foreign interference in the Yemen's internal affairs.

From his side, President Saleh considered the Egyptian position as an extension of the Arab state's tireless support for Yemen since the blessing revolution was established in the early 1960s.

On a side note, an official source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed on the same day the declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in their meeting in Doha, which affirms their support for Yemen's unity, security and stability.

The source said the GCC stances in their support for Yemen's unity, security and stability are not something strange as Yemen is a strategic depth for the Gulf States and a fundamental pillar for security of the GCC countries.

The source deemed such a stand as a proof of the deep-rooted brotherly ties between Yemen and the Gulf States.

## Promoting the charter of compassion

By: ASMA

The American Society for Muslim Advancement and Cordoba Initiative joined Karen Armstrong and the Council of Conscience in launching the Charter for Compassion on last week. The culmination of more than a year's work, the Charter for Compassion is a document that brings attention back to the principles of universal justice and respect that are central to all the world's great religions.

On the occasion of the launch, Daisy Khan, ASMA Executive Director, said, "Compassion is a Divine Attribute. Through it, God has granted us the ability and responsibility to transform selfish disregard, judgmentalism, and violence into empathy, understanding, and service to the other."

"And what will explain to you what the steep path is? It is the freeing of a (slave) from bondage; or the giving of food in a day of famine to an orphan relative, or to a needy in distress. Then will he be of those who believe, enjoin fortitude and encourage kindness and compassion." (The Holy Qur'an, 90: 12-1)

"We sent thee [Muhammad] not, but as a Mercy for all creatures." (The Holy Qur'an, 21:107)

The Charter for Compassion

"The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves.

Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect." Read the Entire Charter.

Lose your ego, find your compassion: Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf on Compassion

Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, Chairman of the Cordoba Initiative, recent talked about compassion in Islam at a TED Salon. The talk, entitled "Lose your

ego, find your compassion," Imam Feisal combines the teachings of the Qur'an, the stories of Rumi, and the examples of Muhammad and Jesus, to demonstrate that only one obstacle stands between each of us and absolute compassion -- ourselves.

Powerful quotes from the Charter of Compassion Launch

Describing the charter as a cooperative effort to restore compassionate thinking and action, Malaysia's former Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said its global launch was a noble initiative to understanding compassion among people of different faiths and providing help to the needy. Other memorable quotes from the Charter for Compassion's launch include:

"Compassion is a dangerous dream because it rocks the foundations of old interests and gives us new ground to stand on." Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell

"In this room, we have words that make a difference between death and life. Words can bring life and words can kill." Rev. Peter Storey

"This is the most collaborative undertaking of religious communities in history." Rabbi David Saperstein

"We often talk about one corner of the world as the holy land. The whole world is the holy land." Rev. Peter Storey

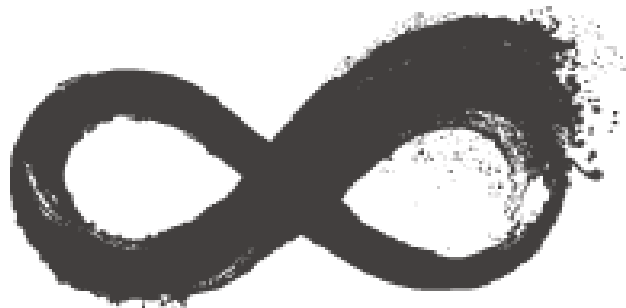
"The Charter is a hit song. Melody, rhythm, groove." Salman Ahmad, Pakistani Musician

You are invited to learn more about the Charter and its history, participate in events and help spread the word. The Charter also and invites you to share your own stories of compassion to inspire the world.

### WISE women on Compassion

"Compassion is one of the pillars of every religion without it we would be lost in a sea of violence." Mehnaz Mona-Afridi, Professor of Religious Studies, Antioch University and National University

"Compassion is to practice the Golden Rule. Practicing the Golden Rule, having Compassion, prevents wars, oppression, persecution, despo-



## Charter for Compassion

and subjugation of women." Laleh Bakhtiar, the first American woman to translate the Quran

"Compassion is at the core of our belief. Each time I recite Bismillah, I begin 'In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful' and invoke God's attribute of compassion." Sabeeha Rehman, Director of Interfaith Programs, American Society for Muslim Advancement

"Compassion is the treasure of the human heart, unlocked by concern, caring, and cooperation." Tayyibah Taylor, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief, Azzizah Magazine

"Compassion means a genuine attempt to walk for awhile in others' shoes, with a desire to understand their worldviews, even if -- or perhaps especially when -- such an attempt challenges our own worldview. Lacking compassion, we cannot achieve true pluralism, particularly in today's shrinking world." Sumbul Ali Karamali, author of "The Muslim Next Door: the Qur'an, the Media, and that Veil Thing"

Muslim Leaders of Tomorrow on Compassion

"Compassion means being sensitive to the struggles all disadvantaged peoples go through, and to use this struggle to further empower not just yourself, but others around you. Compassion is, therefore, a means to the empowerment of all of humanity." Zeeshan Suhail, board member of Americans for Informed Democracy and the Muslim Consultative

Network.

"One day, after giving a sermon, a new face approached me and thanked me for what I had said. He noted it was the first time he'd been to a sermon where the Imam had not yelled at him.

God is the Merciful and Loving, the One whose compassion surrounds and sustains the universe as a womb protects and nurtures a child. If we have lost this, if we have forgotten this, then what have we kept of our Islam?"

Haroon Mogul, Director of Communications, Islamic Center of New York University

"For me, compassion begins in the home. To borrow from Eleanor Roosevelt, compassion, like human rights, starts with our individual relationships, the people we live with, the schools we attend, the places where we work; we should nourish and protect it in our individual lives if we want to see it grow in the larger world." Asim Rehman, President,

## A call to bring the world together...

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism,

or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women ~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and

Muslim Bar Association of New York

"Compassion means relating to another human being from your deepest spiritual core." Asma T. Uddin, International Legal Fellow, The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty

"Compassion means digging deep down within ones soul and truly giving others a bit of yourself in everything you do; as my father used to tell us when I was young, "in this world of give and take one must learn what it takes to give".

It is about learning to separate sympathy from empathy-- you can be empathetic to someone's cause and understand where they are coming from without being sympathetic to them or their cause.

It is about learning about the plight of marginalized, neglected and desperate peoples, communities, and groups and sharing that knowledge with people who can advocate for the voiceless. Compassion is about caring-- caring for a better, brighter and safer world that we each long for." Hazami Barmada, Independent Consultant, Public and Cultural Diplomacy.

cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.





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## INTERNAL & EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE

Title of Post: **Field Assistant (Engineering)**  
Position Number: **10015527**  
Category & Level: **GL 6**  
Location: **Aden**

Date of Entry on Duty: **01/01/2010**  
Duration: **31/12/2010**  
Closing Date: **27/11/2009**

### Duties AND Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of the Programme Officer, in the Sub-Office Aden, and Functional Supervision by SDC Consultant in B.O. Sana'a, the incumbent is expected to perform the following duties, guided by the humanitarian principles and values of the United Nations, and adhering to the UN Code of Conduct:

- Conduct the entire cycle of construction process-survey, design, tendering and supervision of construction works in refugee camp, reception centres and elsewhere.
- Coordinate with TSS on UNHCR standards and norms for given situation, update shelter team and senior managers in Aden/Sana'a on the progress in planning, designs and construction phases in qualitative and quantitative terms.
- Supervise external consultants and contractors, in regards of technical project management; from design to construction supervision. Ensure that necessary technical input is provided in all phases of UNHCR project cycle.
- Ensure that construction management is carried out in compliance with the Bye-Laws applicable in the country and that design codes are considered in designs, tendering and construction of buildings, water systems and other technical matters.
- Constantly review the progress and identify improvement needs. Report immediately in case of slow pace of progress as opposed to planned/scheduled work plan or on any irregularities.
- Prepare tender documents, conduct competitive bidding for implementation of construction activities through most competitive contractor/ individuals and supervise and monitor all construction activities including the ones in Kharaz camp, Ahwar Reception Centre & Mayfa'a R.C.
- Ensure proper administrative procedures to follow up and report on project progress, output and impact related to objectives.
- Provide technical support for urban infrastructure/self-reliance activities and programs. Especially solid waste managements in Aden suburb Basateen. This issue includes construction, operation and maintenance of the necessary facilities, technical capacity building of implementing partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders, and permanent dialogue and cooperation with local authorities, (implementing) partners, and other UNHCR units.
- Assist in operation and maintenance and further development of the water/sanitation setup in Kharaz camp and the surrounding villages, in order to ensure precautionous use of available resources, and development of sustainable usage and water-sharing schemes.
- Prepare detailed designs, Bills of Quantities and specifications for all other constructions, conduct appropriate bidding process and supervise implementation in close collaboration within UNHCR and outside (competent local authorities and implementing partners).
- Undertake field missions on regular basis to identify the challenges faced by the implementers/contractors during the construction phase and prepare progress report for SO Aden for all constructions, at least every two weeks.
- Negotiations with suppliers and IP's and liaise with public utilities: water, Electricity, sewerage etc.
- Translations of technical documents: from Arabic to English and vice versa.
- Any other technical tasks as assigned by the supervisor.

### Qualification Requirements

- To carry out the above mentioned functions, the candidate must have the following educational background and pertinent experiences:
- University degree in civil engineering or equivalent, e.g. WatSan/environmental engineering with strong technical knowledge.
- Minimum of 4 years experience in site planning, design, construction and supervision of shelters, preferably in similar refugee situation.
- Sound understanding of ecological and economic aspects related to settlements, use of resources,
- Good computer skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, graphic designs (e.g. Auto CAD)
- Organizational capacity, proven writing skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work in multi-cultural environment and harsh working conditions

### For External Candidates

If no internal candidate is qualified, the external candidate will be considered.

### Gender Balance Policy:

Applications from equally qualified female candidates will be given priority consideration.

If you wish to be considered for this vacancy, please submit your application and UN P11 form or a well elaborated C.V. to the Administration Section, UNHCR, Sub-Office Aden P.O. Box 6090, Aden before the closing date.

### IMPORTANT:

- APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE ABOVE MENTIONED CLOSING DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATION SECTION OF UNHCR. Tel No.: 235111/231441 Fax No.: 02-234406
- APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN SEALED ENVELOP TO:

Ms. Diana A. Sallam, Snr. Admin./Finance Clerk  
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Regional charted herbalist Mohammed Sherbini to Yemen Times:

## “It is time for the Muslims to reclaim their own alternative medicine legacy that has been created by our ancestors”

Mohammed Sherbini is an Arab herbalist from Nablus, Palestine. He has more than two decades of experience in Western herbalism and traditional Tibb (Arabic Medicine). He started learning about it professionally three years ago in the Canadian Dominion College for Herbalism in British Columbia. He became a charted herbalist in early 2008, and was therefore the first with such qualification in the West Bank and one of few in the Arab world. He also studied Tibb therapy at the Muhesen Institute in Leicester in the United Kingdom and had training at the Bach Flower Remedies at the Dr. Edward Bach Center for treating emotional imbalances.

In order to put his knowledge into use for the public, he founded the Al-Antaki Center for herbalism in Nablus in 2007. Mohammed Sherbini is married to Reem, and has two daughters: Laila and Batool and one son named Abdullah. Nadia Al-Sakkaf met with Sherbini to talk about herbalism in the Arab world and its relation with modern science.



### What made you interested in this field, and where did you study it?

Since my early childhood, my grandfather had a nice garden which he took pride in. I used to watch him work in it and hear my parents talk about the various benefits of herbs. Moreover, I lived in a community where herbs are used in traditional recipes for treating diseases. For example, I noticed that the girls from the family next door used castor oil to strengthen their hair-even eyelashes. Others used herbal tea (Zuhoorat) to keep warm in the winter. My grandfather's garden had a lot of trees and plants. I used to hear my grandmother instruct my mother to use certain herbs from the garden for certain illnesses.

Then, I started researching this in the local libraries. I found some books which I did not understand and I tried my hand at making some recipes of my own. I used to ask the Attars [traditional herbalists] for certain exotic herbs that I had read about in the books and they would laugh at me.

As I grew, I learned more and when I was an adult I met a sheikh, Abu Ramzy, who was a known traditional herbalist in my area and I learned from him a lot. He taught me for years and he had some old scripts that he collected- especially those narrating recipes of Ibn Sina. When he treated people, he did not take money although he was very poor. He left his mark on me and made me want to learn this vocation as a science and give it back to the people in a professional way.

I only started confidently giving people recipes and advice about their health in the last few years, when I had a professional education from accredited institutions. Now I have scientific proof supporting the advice I give the people who come to me, and keep learning continuously in order to improve this discipline in my country and in the Arab world in general.

### You are currently working on merging Western knowledge with Mid-Eastern herbs. What have you found out so far?

On my business card, I wrote “Ancestor's legacy through futuristic vision.” I wanted to create a merger between science and inherited knowledge. I always referred to what has been passed through generations but wanted to validate it through science. Traditional practices from the Far East and Middle East are actually the foundations of Western herbalism, known as phytotherapy.

In the Arab world, we are still stuck with the concept of a traditional attar whom the community believes has the cure for everything, when he does not even know the ABC's of diagnosis or modern health care. Most traditional herbalists don't even know how to store herbs properly or their various side effects. The attars only know traditional recipes that had been passed on through generations and which could be distorted.

We in the Arab world need to promote this science and advocate for it in universities and other academic institutions, and in fact have regulations that control the work of attars and herbalists, just like it is with doctors. We need to encourage research to identify the benefits of the various herbs in our countries and how we can make it accessible to the people in a healthy and correct way.

Not only does this mean regulating the practice, it would also encourage planting local herbs and protecting them from becoming extinct. It also would create job opportunities for many, whether they are those who grow the plants, or those who use them for treatment. In fact, it could help the country as a whole, since some of the plants are only found locally and so tourists and researchers or even health care seekers from all around the world would come to visit us and make use of our local expertise.

You can find global interest in eastern medicine, such as Chinese or Indian therapy, but no one is talking about Arab medicine. We need to encourage this science and carry out research in this field to explore the various flora and herbs available in our lands and their benefits in a modern way. We even need to refer to the old texts to see how the ancient Arab doctors used to treat people. This science is being taught in India, Pakistan, and South Africa as Ancient

Greek medicine, when in fact it has Arab and Islamic origins. Many Muslim doctors in our history have helped develop this science, such as Ibn Sina, Al-Razi and AL-Antaki, whom I named my center after.

### Some Muslims feel that all these chakras and Buddhist meditations are foreign un-Islamic concepts that should be rejected. What do you think?

We have to distinguish between the existence of chakras as energy centers in human bodies and some philosophies or mythologies that are against the Islamic religion. There are some practices which go against Islamic teachings, such as believing in different Gods, and we have the right to reject them. But this does not mean that these energy points do not exist.

Moreover, the Sufi methodology, known as the Naqshbandi way in reference to Sufi imam Baha aldin Naqshband was the founder of what would become one of the

largest and most influential Sufi Muslim orders, the Naqshbandi, from Khurasan has very close concepts to Buddhist thinking.

The Naqshbandi way adopts what is called tazkiya al-lataef (purification of the soft spots) through dhikr (remembrance of Allah) and talks about the influence of dhikr on the body and soul. In old scripts there are said to be seven lataifa (singular of lataef), and each has its own distinguished color. That salient dhikr cleanses them and makes the energy flow and the spirituality of the person stronger. The lataef have specific locations in the body; four of these locations which coincide with the location four of the chakras, which are also said to have seven different colors and are cleansed through meditation, which is actually a form of silent remembrance.

So, if we consider that there is an original truth to the fact that man is both body and soul, and that there is an energy flow in the body connected with the soul, there would be no objection to the belief that treatment using energy exists. But we need to do it in a proper way, without using a philosophy that opposes religion.

### There are many hocus pocus so-called doctors who treat people with herbs, or even suggestive medication. How can one distinguish what is real and what is not?

The best way is to refer to the degrees or the training this person has, so that education or professional qualification becomes the distinguishing factor to trust the herbalist or spiritual practitioner.

Obviously we cannot generalize, and I cannot deny that there are traditional doctors who know what they are doing, but



Tools for traditional curing and herbal medicine jars at Sherbini's center

in my opinion all must be applied through modern science. Checking the qualification is a good place to start.

### What are the signs that people should look out to make sure the practitioner is genuine?

When it comes to spiritual powers, if someone claims they have spiritual powers to heal diseases, you should be skeptical. No matter how strong the spirituality or energy of the so-called healer is, he or she simply cannot remove the diseases and make you feel healthy.

Energy is scientifically proven to make people feel emotionally or spiritually better or worse. It has to do with what we call the aura of the person, which is the energy they emit. For example, when you feel sad, you also feel tired physically and this means your spiritual energy is negative and has affected your body. What a practitioner can do is feel the points in your aura that are weak or negative, and if he or she is good, they can give you some positive energy to make you feel better. For example, I can feel if the person has some self expression problems if I feel that the energy around their throat is kind of trapped. The person I am treating will feel as if he or she has a lump in their throat and what I can do is help them let it out. But I am not a counselor, and they would need to find someone professional to talk to and get better emotionally.

Another way to make sure this practitioner or herbalist is legitimate, is to check their background and the reputation they have in their community as a person. If they are known in the community for their decent character, how they treat their family members, neighbors, whether they have good manners, are they faithful, etc.

Another tip would be to notice what he or she is asking you to do. If they ask you or they themselves do something against your religion like drink blood, steal a person's belongings, or bring a bone from a grave, you should know that they are not genuine.

Finally, if you check for all these signs and still have your doubts, you might as well wait and see the results. If what they are doing works, even if you have no scientific explanation for it, then you might as well accept it. In the end, the results are what matters, just like how the Western world has adopted acupuncture before really understanding the scientific explanation behind it.

### What about exorcism? Or treatment with the Quran?

There has been so much talk about this. My opinion is that if the person was feeling disturbed and through methods which do not oppose the religion he or she gets better, then why not? Especially if the person was not getting better through conventional medicine. I do not want to dwell on whether it was a spirit haunting him or simply a psychological illness. Results are what matter.

### If it is true that alternative medicine has a scientific base, why are some diseases reported to be treated better with herbs rather than medicines?

Because conventional medicine has a different approach to the diseases than that of holistic or alternative medicine. The latter has a different vision and sees a human being as both body and soul, and could be better at finding the root cause of the illness compared to modern medicine, which seeks the symptoms only.

Another issue is that using herbs, which are a part of nature, is more effective than chemical drugs at working in harmony with the body. This does not mean we should ignore modern medication or what doctors say. On the contrary, what I am trying to say is that these two lines of medicines complement each other and must work together.

### There are many foreign medicines and creams in the market. International companies have nice names and promises to defy age, remove scars, or even increase stamina. Is this another commercial trick to fool people out of their money?

It really depends on the company, and it would not be right to generalize. What you should know is that many of these creams and herbs are actually based on natural ingredients. Like I said before, a good way to judge is to try for yourself and see the results. If it works, then why not?

### If alternative medicine is so good; effective, cheap, no side effects, available with local materials, then why has it not spread much in the Arab world, and why aren't there local colleges to teach this discipline in local universities?

One main reason why this has not happened yet, is psychological defeat that is spread in the Arab nations. We do not appreciate our own inherited knowledge or cultural wealth and would rather believe what comes from the outside world. There is a dominant feeling of our worth as consumers and not producers despite the fact that our ancestors were the ones who actually created this science.

Now, when this alternative medicine has become famous and gained the respect of the western world, we have started to accept and even search for it.

For example, just ten years ago when I used to talk about hijama (cupping) the local people rejected it and were afraid to use it. Yet when the West, especially the Germans, started talking about it they became interested and willing to try. Today alternative medicine is western testimonies as well as science. To convince people that this is good we tell them that it is used in the western world. It is not enough to say that this is an inherited tested remedy or sunna of the prophet (MPBH). Now it is time for the Muslims to reclaim their own alternative medicine legacy, that has been created by our ancestors.

## Healing by energy – personal experience

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Being the skeptical me, I wanted to see for myself how this works. So I asked Mohammed Sherbini to give me and my friend, Isra, a quick energy session.

After some warning that anything could happen, we went to a quiet place where he asked Isra to sit on a chair and close her eyes. He placed his palm on her head and started mumbling quietly. Later he said he was reading some Quran and recalling the name of God. She just sat there, and I watched as her right leg nervously ticked. Every now and then she would open her eyes and sneak a glance before she was instructed to close them and concentrate.

He then lifted his hand and placed it in front of her forehead without touching. He started moving it in circles still mumbling and slowly he did the same in front of her chest.

“What do you feel?” he asked her. She started fidgeting and said that she felt that her head was moving sideways. To me her head was still, but he explained that those are energy waves and that they are exhibited differently by different people. She said her throat was dry and she felt a sort of congestion in her chest. He continued with the hand circles and the mumbling and she said she felt a slight numbness on her right leg.

She started frowning as he was circling his palm against her head and she said she felt a tight lump in the center of her forehead and she had a headache. Eventually he let go, and told her that had he continued, it could have made her cry as the negative memories surfaced.

After some ten minutes, he stopped and asked her to open her eyes and relax. He too was looking quite tired and I didn't know was it because he was tired to start with or if the energy exercise really exhausted him. He told Isra that she should express herself more.

I didn't buy what he said, and to me, feeling head waves and the throat tightness and the rest of what Isra said was something anyone can feel at any time and could in all probability be just an illusion.

He drank some water, and when seeing my one eyebrow raised, he said “you next.” Willingly and really wanting to get to the bottom of this, I decided not to resist and try as much as



I can let him explore the inner side of my soul and all that stuff.

Patently, I sat on the chair and vowed not to open my eyes. He put his palm on my head as expected and started the mumbling. I felt nothing. Then he started the circular motions in front of face. I have to admit that I felt heat waves. How can a palm feel so hot without even touching my skin. I was a little scared and tried really to test what I felt on my face. He moved towards my throat still without touching and I really had trouble breathing. I had to take these long drags trying to inhale air into my lungs, which felt quite tight. Later, I learned that he was waving his hand as if helping me to exhale. Apparently

before every long sigh, he had given me a stronger energy wave. He asked me what I was feeling and I was not liking it. He said it is probably because I keep a lot of emotion inside. Apparently I was oppressed, go figure.

After awhile, I was starting to let go. Something was happening in my head, and I was not sure I was fainting or feeling sleepy, or whatever. Was it that I really wanted to feel something or that this energy stuff really works? Suddenly Isra was saying that my head was slightly moving forward and backwards like I was nodding. It took everything I had not to open my eyes, but I have to say that I really did not think my head was moving at all. A few more nods apparently, and my session was over. He said I have some expression issues, and according to him, Isra did too. I was wondering, which woman does not? The waves he said made my head go back and forth and Isra's sideways were a form of reaction to the energy he was transmitting to us.

“The good news is that you don't have any spirits possessing you or evil eye,” he said. Yet apparently we have some emotional issues regarding talking about our own feelings. And to think that I am a journalist and words were my job.

Mohammed was looking very tired. I had to let him go after he taught us some mental suggestion tricks, but I still have not made up my mind completely about this energy thing. What do you think?

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# Renowned painter Hashem Ali dies

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

At aged 64, the famous Yemeni pioneer of painting in died of disease on November 7 in the city of Taiz. Yemen has lost an asset and an active contributor to not only the development of the art of painting, but to the cultural movement in Yemen in general.

Born in 1945, Hashem Ali grew up loving knowledge and arts, and he received his early education in Hadramout. He fulfilled his desire and studied arts in early 1960s, and since 1970 he has kept his workshop open to those who are interested in studying and acquiring artistic skills.

Hashem Ali became known for his exceptional participation in more than 45 exhibitions in Yemen and abroad, the first of which he kicked off personally in 1967. He was among the founders of the Yemeni fine artists association, and he was later appointed as head of this association.

He was awarded Sana'a Golden Token –first class, and later, in 1989, he received the Token for Arts and Literature, and the in year 2001, he was

awarded Honor Shield by the Alsaed Culture and Science Establishment in Taiz.

Yemenis in general, and his colleagues, students, and the lovers of his art will not forget him, or his collection of beautiful, and fascinating work that has touched their feelings and won their admiration.

He has left behind a great heritage of works representing different artistic schools. However, he was a pioneer of realistic expressionism movement in the art of painting.

His paintbrush could deeply tackle the spirit of viewer and entice him to behold the vitality of colors, the shapes and the expressions of the artist himself, which have been poured into the picture in a magnificent way that appeals to the eye and soul of the viewer.

He translated the different facets of man's life on earth into lively colors. His works embodied changes in the surrounding environment and are a part of social sceneries.

Hashem Ali did not reduce himself to a mere pursuer of profits by trading in arts like some. Instead, he has been known for his commitment to values and personal self-respect. Realizing his

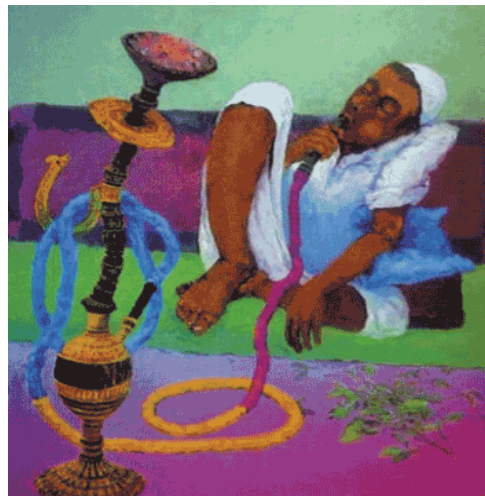


role as a senior artist, and a teacher as well, he elevated himself to the level that suits his experience as a unique artist.

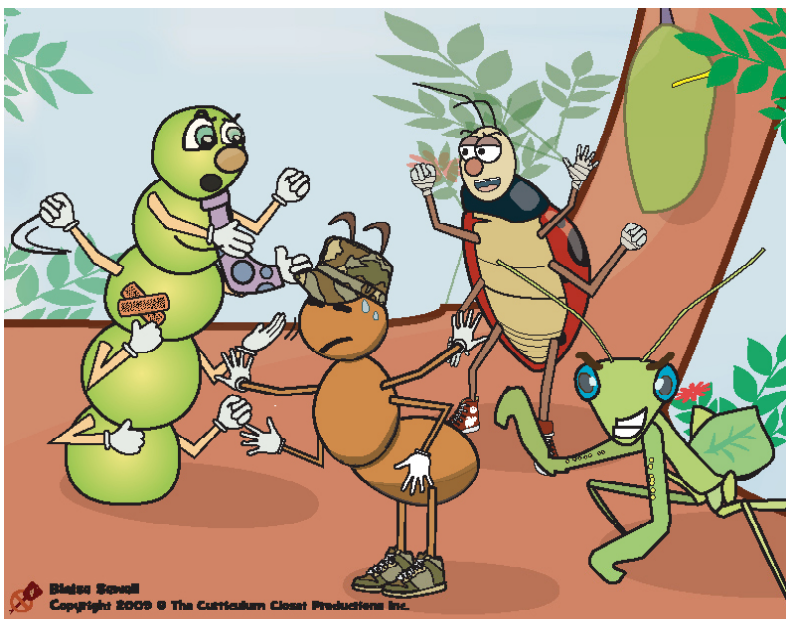
Colleagues and students paid a tribute to Hashem Ali and expressed with their sorrow that their valued senior's life has come to an end. They consoled themselves with memories of the deceased and his impact on their lives and careers. His memory will remain imprinted in their hearts and souls.

The funeral took place in Taiz City, and was attended by high ranking officials of the governorate including Taiz Governor Hamood Khaled Alsoofi, Deputy Minister of Culture Ahmed Aalem Alkadi, and other important figures in culture and litera-

ture. All expressed sorrow for the death of Hashem Ali and said it was a big loss for the nation. They expressed their admiration and appreciation for the great cultural achievements for his country, Yemen.



## Chapter 5 – The News Team Struggles



Written by Cathy Sewell  
Illustrated by Blaise Sewell  
Donated by The Curriculum Closet  
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The second edition of Fly on the Wall Journal has been delivered. Mary, the caterpillar is missing, and there is a mysterious pod hanging in the corner of the newspaper office.

As soon as the second edition of Fly on the Wall Journal was delivered, everyone in City Park celebrated the good news of the Jam Factory opening soon. Cindy danced around her web as all of the insects in the tree sang and cheered. Even though it still looked creepy, Matty managed a smile.

"Everyone loves us!" Rocko exclaimed. "We have created the greatest newspaper ever!"

"When should we get started on our

next edition?" Jake asked, anxious to get everyone right back to work.

"Oh, come on Jake," Cindy almost sang. "We all need to relax and celebrate a little," and she pulled out her yarn and knitting needles.

"Granny's right. Besides, I think Rocko's wounds could use some time to heal," José said, with a nod toward the bandage-covered centipede.

"At ease, ants," Ricky ordered, and they all instantly nodded off, still in a straight line. In fact, the whole branch got very quiet.

"I have a theory about this growth in the corner of our office," Jake said to break the silence. "I think that before Mary left she decided that we all needed a good way to exercise," Jake said, picking through Rocko's office supplies.

"What are you looking for?" Rocko tried to help Jake. "And be careful, there are sharp tools in that drawer!"

"Yeah, we wouldn't want anyone to get hurt," Matty said sarcastically.

"I did find more medical supplies," Cindy yelled over to Rocko and Jake. "But I was hoping to save them for the third edition of the Journal."

"Here it is!" Jake announced, as he pulled a roll of thick tape out of a drawer. He wrapped the tape around the ends of his front legs and walked over to the corner of the office.

"Jake, please tell me you aren't thinking of hitting the mystery object," Cindy begged.

"Well, it is clearly a punching bag," Jake responded, annoyed at Cindy's pestering. "So I figured one of us should test it out."

And right when Jake pulled his hand back for the first punch, Rocko grabbed it from behind. "I don't know what that crazy thing is... but it just doesn't seem right to go punching it."

"Well, I don't know what crazy thing you are, Rocko," Matty jumped in, "But I'd like to make a punching bag of you!"

"Hold on bugs!" Ricky stepped in

the middle of the three insects, just as it was getting ugly. "Let's not get in a fight just as things are going so well for our team."

"I agree with Ricky," Cindy shouted from her web. "We insects have to stick together!"

"What?" Jake said confused. "But Cindy, you're not an insect..." But before he could finish his sentence, Rocko had all of his arms wrapped around Jake's mouth.

"I'm not a what?" Cindy asked, not noticing Rocko whispering something to Jake.

"I meant to say 'you're a... an... um... you're a nice insect, Cindy. And I appreciate your advice.'" Jake stumbled through his response.

"Hey José," Rocko quickly changed the subject. "What story should we have in our next edition?"

"Oh, dear. Oh my," Cindy said, carefully picking up a small piece of a City newspaper that sat on her web. "This blew off of that massive stack of paper we have over there. I can't be sure but this headline sounds like something we might want to investigate!"

"Let me see that!" Matty reached over the edge of the web and grabbed the paper out of Cindy's hand. "EXTERMINATOR TO CLEAN OUT THE CITY," he read aloud to the group, and immediately his green skin turned white. Cindy thought he was going to faint, and she quickly spun a web next to him to cushion his fall.

"No way!" Rocko said. "There's just no way we can put a story like that in our paper. Do you want to set off a panic in the park?"

"Rocko might be right," José agreed. "Who are we to tell everyone about such terrible news? I mean, everyone is so excited about the Jam Factory that we're the heroes! Who says we have to report such bad news?"

"Well, let's all gather together and figure out what we should do," Jake declared.

## CULTURAL SERIES FACES & TRACES

Faces & Traces is a cultural series of concise biographies of local or international famous and obscure personalities in fields such as literature, arts, culture and religion in which these individuals contribute affirmatively. It is a short journey in contemporary history, attempting to tackle numerous effective characters in human civilization.

### Janet Frame: A world-renowned reclusive kiwi writer

By: Eyad N. Al-Samman  
alsammanworld@yahoo.ca

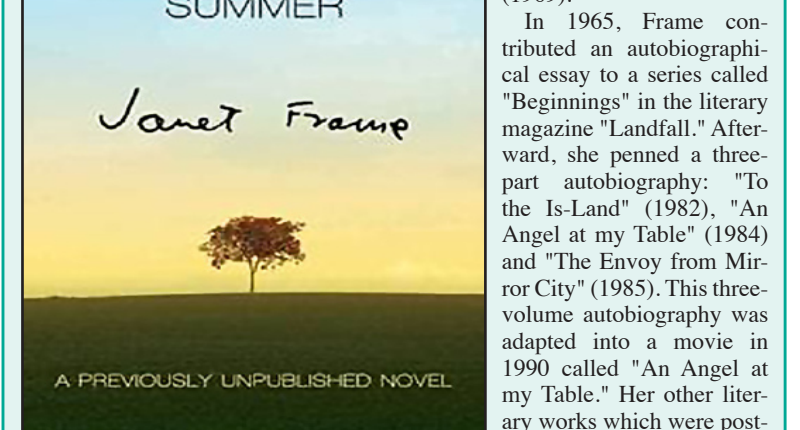
Frame, Janet, was a New Zealand novelist, poet, essayist and short-story writer. She was born on August 28, 1924, in Dunedin, city in New Zealand, on southeastern South Island, on Otago Harbor, near the Pacific Ocean. Frame grew up in a working-class family with a father working in the New Zealand railways and a mother working as a housemaid. She spent her early childhood years in different small towns in New Zealand's South Island provinces of Otago and Southland, before the family eventually settled in the coastal town of Oamaru. During her childhood, two of Frame's adolescent sisters died by drowning in separate accidents in 1937 and 1947. Frame attended Oamaru North School, Waitaki Girl's High School, and then began training as a teacher in 1943 at the Dunedin College of Education, auditing courses in English, French and psychology at the adjacent University of Otago. In 1944, Frame started a year of practical placement at the Arthur Street School in Dunedin. She left teaching and had to look after four elderly women in a boarding house to gain her livelihood.

In 1945, Frame had a breakdown and misdiagnosed as a schizophrenic, consequently, she was treated with insulin and administered over 100 rounds of electroconvulsive therapy. Over the course of the next eight years, Frame was repeatedly readmitted, often voluntarily, to a number of psychiatric hospitals in New Zealand, such as Seacliff Mental Hospital, in North Dunedin, Avondale, in Auckland, and Sunnyside in Christchurch. In 1952, Frame was on the surgical list at Seacliff Hospital for a prefrontal leucotomy to make her normal but she was saved when a hospital worker read that she had won a literary prize and the operation was cancelled. In 1955, after her release from Seacliff, Frame moved to Takapuna, Auckland, to live on the property of New Zealand notable writer, Frank Sargeson. Frame left her home country on a State Literary Fund grant in 1956. She then moved to live in Ibiza, Andorra, and London, England, for the next seven years. She returned to New Zealand in 1963, accepting the Burns Fellowship at the University of Otago in 1965. In subsequent years, Frame lived in various parts of New Zealand's North Island including Auckland, Taranaki, Wanganui, the Horowhenua, Palmerston North, Waiheke, Stratford, Browns Bay and Levin. She finally returned to Dunedin in 1997.

Frame published eleven novels in her lifetime, together with four collections of short stories, a book of poetry, a children's book, and three volumes of autobiography. She has been shortlisted many times for the Nobel Prize of Literature. Her works were translated into at least 17 languages including French, Italian, Swedish, Japanese and Chinese.

In 1951, Frame published her first collection of short stories, "The Lagoon and Other Stories" which won the Hubert Church Memorial Award. The collection consists of simple impressionist stories of childhood with unsettling hints of fantastic innate expressions of the world surrounding the child. Her first novel entitled "Owls Do Cry" (1957) in which Frame made extensive use of both her family tragedies and her time in hospitals. After publishing this novel, it was widely praised for its originality and its insights into the world of the insane. She wrote her next five books in London including "Faces in the Water" (1961), "The Edge of the Alphabet" (1962), "Scented Gardens for the Blind" (1963), and two story collections, "The Reservoir" (1963) and "Snowman, Snowman" (1963). Her other literary works include seven novels among them "A State of Siege" (1966), "Intensive Care" (1970), which describes a society after a nuclear World War III ruled by super-technocrats, "Daughter Buffalo" (1972), which grew from periods she spent at a writer's colony, and "The Carpathians" (1988), which was her last literary work and won the Commonwealth Writers Prize in 1989; a volume of poetry, "The Pocket Mirror" (1967), and a children's book, "Mona Minim and the Smell of the Sun" (1969).

In 1965, Frame contributed an autobiographical essay to a series called "Beginnings" in the literary magazine "Landfall." Afterward, she penned a three-part autobiography: "To the Is-Land" (1982), "An Angel at my Table" (1984) and "The Envoy from Mirror City" (1985). This three-volume autobiography was adapted into a movie in 1990 called "An Angel at my Table." Her other literary works which were posthumously released include



a novel entitled "Towards Another Summer" (2007), a second volume of poetry and a handful of previously unpublished short stories.

Frame was an honorary foreign member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She was awarded an honorary doctorate in literature in 1978 by the University of Otago and another one from Waikato University in 1992. She was also made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1983 and was made a Member of the Order of New Zealand in 1990, the New Zealand's highest civil honor. In 2003, she won the New Zealand prime minister's award for literary achievements in fiction.

Frame died of leukemia on January 29, 2004, in Dunedin, New Zealand, at the age of 79. She said more than once in her autobiography: "My writing saved me." Frame will achieve immortality because generations of New Zealanders to come will marvel at the inspiration that led a very quiet, rather small, unassuming New Zealand woman to scale such heights and produce such a lasting legacy. She once wrote: "There is no past, present or future. Using tenses to divide time is like making chalk marks on water."



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## Promising Yemeni writers win British Council contest

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

To mark the British Council's 75 years of work around the world, six Yemeni students were declared winners of the Middle East short story competition in Sana'a on Thursday.

"Writing a story is not only about language, it is more than that," said Fetwi Yosief, British Council English Project Manager in Yemen. "A good story is one that deals with feelings, thoughts and situations that we all experience as human beings and it makes us understand these feelings are different and we become more tolerant to each other."

The celebration focused on highlighting the council's experience and expertise in cultural relations and demonstrates how its work fosters international co-operation to help individuals address issues of global concern.

"A big motivation for participating in this competition was the laptop as the biggest prize," said Tawheeda Yehya an English teacher at Rabba'a Al-Adawiya School in Sana'a.

Yehya said she is proud of her students, three of whom won prizes in the competition. "This is the only relief we teachers get," she said. "We don't have any financial support, the only encouragement and enthusiasm we get is from our students when we see them succeed in life."

"It is a nice competition and it helps people think of stories and makes them



The six Yemeni winners were chosen from 74 participants from public and private schools.

believe that they can do something good or something big," said Arwah Al-Kahatani, a 14-year-old student at Rabba'a Al-Adawiya School.

The competition criteria was challenging for the participants, as they

were asked to create a short story in which the first letters of each new line spelled out the words "British Council is 75" when read vertically.

Michael White, British Council Director in Yemen said the winners

managed to overcome the challenge and they "created very interesting stories," he said.

For example, Al-Kahatani, wrote her story about a treasure hunter who

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meets witch in the forest. She said she hopes her story inspires readers to seek adventures. "You can have your adventure," she said. "You can do stuff, you don't have to be lazy at home."

Similar competitions were held by the council in the Gulf Countries and Iraq and targeted two age groups, 12 to 15, and 16 to 18. The countries that participated were Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Iraq and Yemen. The competitions have gone through several stages since it began in March 2009. First it was promoted, and then stories were collected and judged before the winners were announced. The Ministry of Education helped promoting the competition by advertising it for schools on its Web site.

The six Yemeni winners were cho-

sen from 74 participants from public and private schools. All the winners were female students who thanked their parents and teachers for encouraging them to participate. All winners will have their stories published on a page of the British Council Web site devoted to 75th anniversary events. Prizes included a laptop, an iPod and British Council electronic dictionaries.

The top winner was Ruba Al-Eryani from Sana'a International School in Sana'a. Other winners were Bothaina Abdu Alrakeeb Basha, Arwah Abdulgafour Al-Kahatani and Kholood Al Jedani from Rabba'a Al-Adawiya School in Sana'a, Amal Abubakar Rassem from Hail Saeed School in Hodaidah, and Shayma Mohammed Saleh Haydra from Al-Kuwait school in Taiz.

## Hip Hop Way of Life



Hip Hop can convey a message that Yemen is not a backward country, according to international Hip Hop performers.

BY: Layla Asda  
For the Yemen Times

Languages and cultures vary, but the language of music is the same everywhere; especially the language of hip hop - which is not only music, it's a way of life.

Hip hop is the language and the culture of this age, said international Hip Hop dancers in Sana'a, last week.

The French Cultural Center and the German House in Sana'a organized a Hip Hop concert that combined dancing, singing and music which was a mix of Western music and the Eastern folklore on the 18th of November, with the participation of several inter-

national dancers from France and Germany as well as singers from Yemen to mix both cultures.

The concert will be in The Yemeni cultural Centre.

The dancers are from Germany and Yemen, participating to revive this cultural event, which has been taken place three times in Yemen. Samir Akika is originally from Algeria. He is a dancer and a choreographer, and was in Havana staging one of his works with the Contemporary Dance Group of Cuba. Akika has done important work with dance-theater in Germany. His choreographic style is meant to combine the formal language of dancing with the visual medium of films, to produce a new cinematic

dance-theatre. He is still working on the resulting tension between theatrical distance and cinematic intimacy. His works included Didjelli, Lilja, Navara, and the latest, "Extended Teenage Era" and "Plastikseele" which is brand new. It was created and performed in Venezuela, performed in Germany last month, and scheduled for next year in Germany. He also did a lot of projects for children. For example, the Hip Hop academy in Hamburg where he worked this year.

From France, the performers were: Nabil Ouelhadj, Farid Berki, the French hip hop dancer who is one of the pioneers of hip hop in France and Europe, and the French DJ, Malik Berki.

From Yemen, there was Shorok, Abudallatif Yakoub, Hhaj who is a Rab singer, and Mohammed Farhan, who is originally from Iraq. He is a Hip Hop teacher as well.

The dancers mentioned that this concert is a result of two years of working and rehearsals. "Each one of them has done his part in his own language and field, which is a Factor for innovation and evaluation of new things to introduce it in a new way," said Nabil Ouelhadj, who is also an international dancer.

Farid Berki, the French Hip Hop dancer, pointed out that this concert combines dancing, singing, and playing music. "It is an extension of what they started doing last year, and now they have new ideas to apply," he added.

"As for what we are going to develop this year, we cooperated with Yemeni singers and I can say that we have a level of artistry that reached an advanced stage. Therefore, it will be interesting and useful for me to learn new things." The Yemeni Hip Hop performer said.

The other Yemeni Hip Hop performer Abud-Latif, talked the possibility of blending Yemeni folklore and Hip hop. "There is no difficulty at all because it is done by professional musicians and improvisation doesn't exist," He said also, "it doesn't change the Yemeni music keys at all, because it is an accurate work and considered the pinnacle of what was presented previously. This time, it is just introduced in a new and expressive way.

Moreover, Hajaj (AJ) pointed to the public acceptance to this kind of music performance saying: the acceptance is quite good, especially since most of the population of Yemen is youth and they accept it because it is something new that combines Rap and Pop in new way, through which they will discuss issues like the importance of Unity, and fighting terrorism, in an artistic way. According to them, Hip Hop can convey a message that

Yemen is not a backward country, where there are only terrorists.

They all agreed in one point, which is that a mixture of Western and Eastern music represented in a new way will add a creative touch.

The Director of the French Cultural Center, Joel Dechezlepretre talked about the good relationship between Yemen, France, and Germany and said that "there will be a Hip hop concert in the 18th of this month that combines the efforts of artists from France, Germany, and Yemen".

About this concert, the German cultural attache Jens Boshman In The German Embassy in Sana'a said, "It is a contributory project between the German Embassy and the French Embassy which is a symbol of the good relations," pointing out that this event came along with the anniversary of the collapse of the Berlin Wall 20 years ago."

Boshman pointed out that all artists have to create a nice cooperation, and on the 18th of November, there will be a big concert.

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