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MP warns U.S against sending troops to Yemen

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Dec. 30 — A Member of the Yemeni parliament Shawqi Al-Qadhi warned the U.S. on Tuesday against sending its troops to Yemen to fight Al-Qaeda, describing such action as "a disaster by all means."

The warning comes while some senators argue that "Yemen will be tomorrow's war" for the US.

"If the U.S insists on sending its troops to Yemen, the whole Yemeni people will turn to the Al-Qaeda," said Al-Qadhi, who represents the opposition party, the JMP.

"Yemen is characterized with its army nation that already has a sense of frustration towards the presence of the US and its failure in Iraq and Pakistan," Al-Qadhi said, adding that if the US troops arrived in Yemen, they will do great favor for Al-Qaeda, which will use this to carry out more violent actions under the pretext of kicking out the "troops of the foreigners."

The concerns that Yemen is becoming a hub for the Al Qaeda increased at the American agencies, particularly after the latest failed bomb Christmas Day attack on Lagos-to-Amsterdam-to-Detroit flight, attempted by the 23-year-old Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab. Abdulmutallab reportedly obtained explosives from an Al Qaeda contact in Yemen, and attempted to ignite explosives on the US airline before he was subdued by quick-acting passengers.

He had spent a year in Yemen previously, from 2004-5, and came back in August 2009 to stay until December.

He had visas from America and other "friendly countries" in his passport, said the Yemeni government on Tuesday.

Yemen had not been informed he had been banned from Britain and was later put on an American watch list. "We didn't get any notice from the Americans to put this man on a list," the information minister, Hassan Al-Lawzi, said. "America should have told Yemen about this man, as they have of others."

Consequently, the cabinet decided to tighten visa conditions for students, saying that in future they would have to be cleared by the interior ministry.

Moreover, the Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula claimed responsibility for the attempted bombing on the Delta Airlines plane

The group said it was avenging what it described as U.S. attacks against its leaders and operatives in Yemen during the recent attacks in Shabwa and Abyan governorates.

Following the failed attempt to blow up the plane, on which at least 300 passengers were broad, the US president Obama, has vowed to go after those behind the attempted bombing.

US lawmakers have even gone to the extent of saying that Yemen could be the next Afghanistan. Senator Joseph Lieberman, chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, said on "Fox News Sunday" that the United States had a "growing presence" in Yemen, which includes Special Operations, Green Berets and intelligence. He further quoted a US government official as telling him that "Iraq was yesterday's war. Afghanistan is today's war. If we don't act preemptively, Yemen will be

tomorrow's war." Said the senator who visited Yemen in August.

Arlen Specter from the democratic party, who was on the same program, said an attack against targets in Yemen should be "something we should consider."

They were describing Yemen as an emerging hot bed of terrorist threats and calling for pre-emptive action against the country, if necessary.

"(The wife is always the last to know)" commented the Yemeni parliamentarian Al-Qadhi, on the role of the Yemeni parliament to accept or refuse the US presence in Yemen.

"The parliament becomes the weakest institute in Yemen, and has been marginalized, and uninvolved, particularly in security issues. We don't know what is going on in Sada'a, northern Yemen, we don't know what is going on southern Yemen," he added.

The parliament had demanded an explanation from the government following the news of civilians deaths during the military operations against Al-Qaeda last week.

"We regret the casualties incurred during these operations, however responsibility lies with the terrorists who brought their families to a training camp which is a military objective" said the Yemeni defense ministry in its report to the parliament, last week.

The report gave details of the operations that were carried out by Yemeni authorities in three regions: Arhab, Abyan and Sana'a on December 17. The camps' trainees would-be suicide bombers to attack the British embassy, international schools, according



Yemen Central Security Forces during field training in 2007. The Yemeni Foreign Minister states that Yemen has the will and ability to deal with Al-Qaeda, but was undermined by the lack of support.

to details of the report. These threats prompted Yemeni police to act forcefully against Al-Qaeda, killing 34 and arresting 21 others. Meanwhile, the Yemeni defense ministry said a Thursday pre-dawn strike killed at least 30 other Al-Qaeda militants in Shabwa governorate in southern Yemen. The report was coy about the role of the U.S in these operations.

However, local sources said that about 40 civilians were killed during the air strikes in Abyan, which made

many human rights activists and parliamentarians protest against what they called "unfair governmental behavior." They demanded the state to establish a legal investigative committee consisting of members of the parliament and activists.

Angered by the recent military action against them, Al-Qaeda has vowed publicly to strike back against the US and the Yemeni government, after the government killed and arrested dozens of its operatives.

Continued on page 2

Internet freedom in Yemen going downhill

The Egypt-based Arabic Network for Human Rights Information civil society organization has just published a report called: "One Social Network with a Rebellious Message" which examines Internet freedom in 20 Arab countries. Following is the situation of Yemen.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Dec. 30 — The number of internet subscribers has reached only 369,643 by mid 2009 according to the only Internet service provider TeleYemen. With a total population at least 22 million this makes a percentage of Yemenis connecting to the internet around 1.6 percent of the total population.

The number of users is obviously more since usually more than one person access Internet using the same connection. However even if there are five people accessing the internet for every internet connection the estimation of eight percent of the population accessing the internet is one of the lowest in the world.

The problem is not technology because the Yemeni telecommunications witnessed a major leap in 2009 where the number of telephone lines reached 199,685 at the end of the first half of the year compared with 3,548 lines in 1999.

The problem is not the legislation ei-

ther. The Yemeni Constitution explicitly provides for "freedom and confidentiality of post, telephone and telegraph and other means of communication." It affirms that they "may not be monitored, inspected, disclosed, delayed or confiscated except in cases specified by law and only by court order."

Yet between 2007 and 2008 the number of sites hosted by the national portal Yemen Net has significantly decreased from 915 sites to only 460. Some attribute this to the blocking policy and the many onerous conditions imposed on site owners or applicants including the increasing hosting price.

Internet prices are quite high, ranging between YR 4,000 (US\$ 19) to YR 6,000 (US\$ 30) per month. These are high rates compared to annual per capita income which does not exceed US\$250. Prices are high because the two ISPs TeleYemen and YemenNet have monopolized the service since Internet was introduced.

Blocking in the name of the law

The monopoly and increase in prices prompted numerous citizens, bloggers and independent journalists to launch a national protest campaign against poor Internet services. The campaign urged the Yemeni government to improve the service, stop blocking websites and reduce Internet service prices. In response, the Yemeni government blocked the campaign site itself in February 2009.

The Internet, as well as independent newspapers in Yemen are among the most prominent forums of opposition to political and social conditions. They represent the most effective means to confront political repression. Figures demonstrate this as the Mareb Press Video site receives more than 600 visits per week with a member list that reached 700 in a short period, particularly after the riots in the south in 2009. On the other hand, the number of visitors to News Yemen, an important site that reports on the press and freedom of expression, exceeded 14 million in 2008. Authorities are trying to limit the impact

of the web as an alternative to traditional sources of information by controlling it in various ways, particularly through a set of punitive laws against dissidents and independents in Yemen.

In March 2009 the government submitted a legislation concerning the right to access information and to build websites. The draft was misleading and lacked clarity. It included prison sentences, some of which reach six years for anyone "trying to extract or publish prohibited content," according to the government's view. The authorities also launched a campaign to block news sites, hack them and delete all content, claiming they stir the public and incite violence and terrorism. The sites the Yemeni authorities targeted included Sons of the South, Al-Taif Network News, Free Yemen, Shamsan News, Dali Gate of the South, Abyan Forum and Hadramout News.

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War in Sa'ada continues, Yemen and KSA fail to win

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Dec. 30 – Local sources from Sa'ada confirmed that confrontations continue fiercely between the Houthis on one side and KSA and Yemen on the other.

The Yemeni Ministry of Defense announced on Tuesday that the army controlled Houthi frontlines as well as attacking sites like Al-Malaheth and Miran in Sa'ada.

The army's site, 26th December, said that the army defeated Houthis and caused them many casualties and losses in ammunition. The site added that the army stopped Houthi attacks in Harf Sufian in Amran governorate and killed many Houthis in Shabareq.

In the same context, the air force attacked six times areas like the Black Mountain in Al-Jawf on Tuesday.

The spokesman of the government, Hassan Al-Lawzi said last Tuesday in a press conference that Abdul Malek Al-Houthi, the Houthi leader, was injured and his whereabouts are unknown. He noted that there are other leaders trying to fill the void left by Al-Houthi. He added that the Houthi's activities become semi-paralyzed in addition to the insurgents' surrendering to the government.

A late night report by the Houthi said that the army launched an attack against Harf Sufian on Tuesday. The report mentioned that the attack was launched from four different places. The first one was from the Red Hill, the second one from Tho Salman, the third one from Tho Al-Alkhhoban and the fourth one from Karn Al-Demam.

What make the battles between Saudi forces and Houthis intensive is that the Houthi controlled Al-Qmra and Al-Khoba, which are areas close to the Saudi borders.

A statement by the Al-Houthi office said that the Saudi army attacked Al-Jaberi three times early in the morning, resembling the attack in the afternoon. The final ambush was in the evening. The statement said that the attacks failed and that the Houthi destroyed five tanks.

Dozens of air raids were launched against many areas in Sa'ada and Amran by the Saudi air force, according to the statement.

"The Saudi forces tried to penetrate Shada province several times. The Saudis also tried to penetrate Yemen's borders; however it could not due to the fierceness of the confrontations between us "the Houthis" and them "the Saudi forces," according to the statement.

The statement added that about 42 air raids were also launched against provinces like Haraz, Al-Ghala, Al-Anad, Alsaleem, Al-Mutakaser, Al-Anm Mountain and Razeh.

Meanwhile, the spokesman of the Houthi, Mohammad Abdul Salam, denied Abdul Malek Al-Houthi's death and said that such rumors have been started by the government as a part of psychological warfare tactics meant to confuse Houthis. "Abdul Malek Al-Houthi enjoys life and supervises the frontlines as he used to do." "After we defeated the government, it tries its best to turn away people's attention from this defeat. It tries its best to affect our insurgency badly but all of us know that this

is only psychological warfare, that it cannot move us away from what we are doing," he added.

Abu Baker Al-Kerbi, the Minister of Exterior said last Monday that the government is ready to grant the Houthis any fair demands in case they followed the constitution and law.

During his meeting with ambassadors from Europe, Africa, Asia, USA and the representative of the UN in Sana'a, the Minister reviewed the battleplans to confront Houthi in Sa'ada and Amran.

Saudi Arabia and Syria statements

Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, the Saudi Minister of Defense and Aviation showed his sorrow over civilian deaths on the Saudi-Yemeni borders. "Each blood drop is part of our Arab Muslim blood. We wanted the weapons used in this war to be drawn against our enemies not against ourselves," he said.

He added, "Saudi Arabia does not like killing people. However we found ourselves in a position that forces us to defend our kingdom. We are a peaceful country that only wants to progress."

In other developments, the Syrian Minister of Exterior, Waleed Al-Almu'alem, accused some forces, without naming them, of sabotaging efforts by Syria to resolve the conflict between the Houthis and Iran on one side and Yemen on the other.

"We believe that the diplomatic solution is the best way to get out of this situation. However, there are some forces that are preventing this solution," Al-Almu'alem added.

'I love my book' campaign in schools soon

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, Dec. 29 — The Global Change Makers' campaign 'I love my book' for promoting reading among children started its second phase on Thursday with a discussion with principals of five big public and private schools in Sana'a.

With cooperation from schools administrators, teachers and librarians, the campaign aims to implant a love of reading among children, increase the rates of reading among them in addition to emphasizing the importance of reading in society. It targets third to eighth grade children.

"Reading is rare in the Arab world which affects development in these countries," said Nawaf Shamsan, assistant director of the British Council.

"The British Council supports the youth in their campaign to spread awareness of the importance of reading," he said "And we if it achieve success we might expand it to other governorates."

In the discussion, the campaign members, school principals, librarians and teachers discussed reading as an issue in the Arab world and compared it to Europe.

In their discussions they referred to the importance allowing children to choose what they read instead of assigning books, providing an ideal atmosphere, whether at school or at home and making sure that a child enjoys what he or she reads.

Transferring the campaigning activities to the five 5 targeted schools to educate about 2500 students about reading. The campaign also aims to establish reading groups among students themselves as a core student community love reading and to create a partnership between the existed school libraries, and those will be opened.

About 12 students from third to eighth grade will be selected from targeted schools to be trained by campaign members to become reading ambassadors to their schools. These students will lead different awareness activities for their school mates.

The campaign was started during the Sana'a book fair in October of this year and it gained the support of many of the fair visitors, educators and intellectuals.

"It is an excellent campaign," said Abdulhabib Hizam, who is a teacher and researcher in education. "And it is an integral job between parents, teacher and school administrators.

Hizam said that students' preferences should be considered. "There are students who like to read stories, others like to read science and some students are not interested in reading at all but they have other interests."

Providing an ideal atmosphere for a child to read is very important. The quietness, the variety of books and allocating periods for reading during school day all encourage student to read, according to Hizam.



according to Hizam.

"From observing what the students read, teachers can discover the inclinations of students," He concluded.

The campaign team has been trained in Jordan on building capacities, leadership skills and campaigning in order to enable them to implement projects that would be useful for their community. The design and delivery of creative community specific awareness campaigns by Global Change Makers target youth who are usually outside the reach

of similar initiatives.

Global Changemakers is a British Council program that supports a global network of young activists who has demonstrated a significant track record of achievement in their local communities through social activism and volunteer work. These youth are part of a global network where they share ideas and model practices. They work individually and together on projects that directly impact the lives of those in their local communities.

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Protestors call on government to stop violations against professors

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Dec. 29 — Dozens of protesters from different backgrounds gathered on Tuesday in freedom square in solidarity with suspended professors demanding the administration of Sana'a University to stop mistreatments against the instructors.

This protest came after the administration of Sana'a University suspended a group of professors after they formed an organization called "Academics Against Corruption".

This organization was intended to reveal financial and administrative corruption at the university caused by the rectorship of the university.

The violations against professors by the rectorship included suspension from teaching, elimination, threatening, and interrogation by the university.

Protestors from teachers' syndicate, doctors' syndicate, members of the parliament, human rights activists, and college students raised billboards that said, "Stop violations against professors".

"The academics now have joined us in the freedom square against corruption and injustice," said Sultan Al-Atwani, a member of the parliament. "The government had considered the academics as supporters of its mistreatment, but the professors have proved this to be an incorrect assumption," he added.

The National Organization for Defending



Instructors and staff of Sana'a University demanded an end to corruption in the academic institutions.

Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD, called for the protest and released a statement on Monday condemning the actions that were taken against the professors by the administration of the university.

"The HOOD organization condemns this administrative oppression by the rectorship of Sana'a University that was supposed to encourage the practice of the right of expression, not to turn the university as a place of oppression and silence," the statement read.

"The public job is a general right for citizens and using it to extort persons who disagree with you in opinion or against the political oppositionist is not allowed," added the statement.

The HOOD organization also consid-

ered the action of the university against the professors as illegal since it violates their rights of expression. "This action is an abuse against the professors and their human rights of expression," HOOD said. The HOOD called on the Minister of Higher Education to stop such violations against professors and apologize to them.

Seven of the ten professors who were suspended or eliminated belong to the ruling party and three of them are independent.

Their names are as follows, Dr. Saeed Al-Ghilisi, Dr. Khaled Al-Fahd, Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih, Dr. Mohamed Al-Dahiri, Abdalbagi Shamsan, Dr. Abdullah Al-Najar, Dr. Hakeem Al-Samawi, Dr. Khaled Al-Odaini, Dr. Aref A-Sayani, and Dr. Omar Al-Amadi.

Continued from page 1

MP warns U.S against sending troops to Yemen

"The war in Yemen is between Al-Qaeda and the US and not between Al-Qaeda and the Yemeni army," said a man, who was unmasked with a bodyguard, standing among tribesmen who were protesting against the air strike.

American Media quoted American military officials that U.S. has provided intelligence and 'firepower' for the recent strikes against Al-Qaeda in Yemen. However Yemen's foreign minister, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, confirmed that the airstrikes were carried out by the Yemeni military alone. He did not deny the Yemeni military cooperation with the United States and Saudi Arabia, which included information provided by the United States — 'the most important element' in the successful strike on Qaeda members.

In his recent interview with BBC radio Al-Qirbi said that Yemen had the will and ability to deal with Al-Qaeda, but was undermined by a lack of support.

Appealing for more help from the United States and Europe, Al-Qirbi, described the current level of assistance as 'inadequate' and said his country needed more training for counter-terrorism units, and more military equipment, particularly helicopters.

U.S. counter-terrorism official said that the threat posed by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, the civil war between the government and the rebels northern Yemen and lawlessness in southern Yemen, have made Yemen an ideal base for al-Qaeda, which has largely been pushed out of Afghanistan and has come under increasing military pressure to leave

Pakistan's tribal areas.

The United States has increased the amount of military equipment, intelligence and training it provides to Yemeni forces to root out suspected al-Qaeda hide-outs.

"The Pentagon's main publicly disclosed counter-terrorism assistance program for Yemen has grown from just \$4.6 million in fiscal 2006 to \$67 million in fiscal 2009," said Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman, adding that the money was used to provide training, as well as equipment like radios, helicopter spare parts, trucks and patrol boats.

The Yemen port of Aden was the site of the audacious bombing of the American destroyer Cole in October 2000 by Qaeda militants, which killed 17 U.S. soldiers.

Internet freedom in Yemen going downhill

The Yemen Portal published a list of blocked sites to which it had access. It managed to publish the contents of the blocked sites. As a result, the Yemen Portal itself was blocked. However, its owner managed to create a program to free all blocked sites. He called it Al-Kasser (the breaker). Yemeni authorities deliberately blocked the most popular sites that host blogs to prevent bloggers from publishing their articles and pictures and information exchange. With the blocking of the Jordanian site Maktoob, Yemeni bloggers use aliases for fear of prosecution, pursuit or abduction. Examples are the sites Thamoody, Hadramout Hope, and Free Voice From Sanaa.

Due to frequent attacks, some sites and blogs clustered to start a campaign to resist blocking Yemeni websites. The campaign's official website monitors encroachments and violations against sites. The site also publishes techniques to allow browsing blocked content.

Prisoners of the Internet

Under the undeclared state of emergency enforced by the Yemeni authorities, it has become very easy to hunt down free writers on the web in many ways. The most common method is kidnapping by "civilians". In September 2009 unknown persons kidnapped Mohammed Al-Maqaleh, an e-journalist at Al-Ishtarak (The Socialist) after he published articles critical of government performance in security issues. Yemeni opposition accused Yemen's national security of the kidnapping. In May 2009 the police arrested Yemeni reporter Fuad Rashid, editor of the e-paper Mukalla Press, and Yahia Bamehruz, former editor of Hadramout News, without giving any reasons. Another example is the continued harassment of journalist, blogger and editor of Al-Shoura Net Abdul-Karim al-Khaiwani who spent a year in prison because of his writings criticizing the regime. He was released in 2005 by presidential pardon.

In June 2008 Khaiwani was sentenced to six years in prison for «terrorism and scheming with the rebels of the Sana'a Second Cell". He was kidnapped several times in 2007 and banned from travel. Khaiwani wrote critical articles that annoyed the regime, such as the Ead Al-Jolous and Ali Katyusha.

In October 2009 a new approach was introduced into Yemen's e-space to harass annoying voices. Editor of Itijah Net Zbeen Ayed Attia accused «certain departments" of trying to assassinate him and fabricate cases against him to prevent him from disclosing facts through his journalistic work.

Internet cafés and attempts to demonize the web

According to the Yemeni News Agency the number of Internet cafés reached around 984 as of June 2009. Cafés experience «organizational" campaigns which seek to «oblige cafés to observe regulations and provide a complete and integrated database to facilitate dealing with the Public Institution for Telecommunications, business centers and Internet cafés."

The Yemeni community still views Internet cafés with suspicion and mistrust. According to observers, the Internet is a means to access immoral sites and is considered unsafe for the young people. However, many Yemenis are skeptical of this unfair government image aiming to drive citizens away from the Internet which even calls Internet users sinners. In August 2007 the official news agency Sabaa conducted a survey that showed that 70% of the respondents were young people seeking pornographic sites.

The continued crackdowns in pro-government papers against sites like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and DailyMotion provide further evidence of the Yemeni regime's fear that ordinary citizens would access information and news from independent sources beyond their control.

Patriarchal Internet

Women are not welcome The modest logistic resources and low number of Internet users had a negative impact on women users in Yemen, rendering them invisible. Official figures show that illiterate Yemeni women represent over 70%. This explains women's absence from the Internet scene. Female computer science students of government universities in 2009 are 489 compared to 2,915 male students. The number of women employed in the public sector in the field of computer and communication technologies does not exceed 78

out of 88,000 females in other areas. Female bloggers are almost non-existent due to extreme poverty that renders owning a computer and an Internet connection quite beyond reach. In addition, girl presence in Internet cafés goes totally against conservative Yemeni society patriarchal traditions. The official website of the Yemeni Women's Union, one of the most prominent Yemeni web sites is a positive point in favor of Yemeni women. The site was censored and even hacked several times for publishing articles and positions that bothered the regime.

Communications and Internet in the Arab world as of 2009

- Number of Arab internet users: 58 million of around 338 million.
- Number of mobile phones in the Arab world: about 176 million
- Number of landlines in the Arab world: about 34 million.
- Number of Facebook users in the Arab world: about 12 million.
- Number of Arabic blogs: about 600,000, active blogs: 150,000.
- Largest number of internet cafés and cyber clubs: 16,000 in Algeria.
- Largest number of internet users: 15 million in Egypt.
- Least number of internet users: 60,000 in Mauritania.
- Countries most intensely using Facebook: Egypt, Lebanon and Algeria.
- Highest number of mobile phone lines: 7.5 million, in UAE.
- Highest percentage of internet users, compared to population: 2.86 million in UAE, i.e. more than 50% percent of the total population.
- Countries most intensely monitoring internet: Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.
- Countries most repressive of internet activists: Egypt.
- Best countries dealing with internet: Lebanon and Algeria.
- Best country in internet services: Morocco.
- Countries most intensely tapping communications: Lebanon and Egypt.
- Countries hosting majority of extremist sites: Saudi Arabia.
- Countries hosting majority of secular sites secular: Morocco, Lebanon and Egypt.
- Best communities of online bloggers and activists: Morocco.
- Countries most intensely using YouTube: Egypt.

Source: www.anhri.net

In Brief

SANA'A
Some 76 killed, injured due to traffic accidents in one day

About nine people were killed and 67 others were injured caused by traffic accidents taken place on Saturday throughout the country's, Interior Ministry reported Sunday.

According to the source, about 41 traffic accidents were occurred in the same day, included 19 crash accidents causing the death of three and injuring 40.

The 17 running over accidents resulted in six deaths and 15 injuries, while 12 people died due to four fall accidents, the source added.

The reasons behind the accidents were the excessive speed, wrong overtaking, in addition to the drivers' carelessness.

Yemen's victory coming: Egyptian FM says

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit has said that Yemen will certainly win victory soon, 26 September website reported on Monday.

In an interview with Egyptian Al Ahram paper, Aboul Gheit affirmed that President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Yemeni government will manage to overcome all obstacles.

He said that Yemeni government,

people and President Saleh can safeguard the unity of Yemen, pointing out that Yemeni society should reconsider its internal condition to realize new understandings could strengthen the Yemeni society and state.

Egypt always shows its support to the stability and security of Yemen, Aboul Gheit said.

Thousands of refugees from different nationalities registered

Migration, Nationality and Passport Authority has said that the number of registered refugees from different nationalities in the beginning of 2009 until August reached 165,783 including 114,373 males and 51,410 females, 26sep.net reported on Monday.

Statistics issued by the Authority said that the majority of the refugees are Somalis who reached over 165,000 persons with 109,000 males and 47,000 females during 2009.

The statistics noted that the rest of the refugees from Ethiopia, Eritrea and Iraq, while the number of refugees from other countries reached 738.

On the other hand, the number of Yemenis who have gotten married with foreigners in 2009 reached 1237.

During 2009, about 106 persons from different nationalities have got-

ten the Yemeni nationality through marriage.

ADEN
Yemeni vessel said hijacked off Aden

Somali pirates have hijacked a vessel owned by a Yemeni businessman, according to sources at the Aden-based Coastguard.

The vessel, Almahmoud 2, was attacked in sea after it left Aden port on December 18 with 15 crew members aboard and the African pirates took it and headed towards the Indian Ocean, according to the sources.

Other sources cited by media outlets noted that the vessel was fishing in Somalia's waters.

According to official statistics there were about 41 hijackings of vessels in the pirate-plagued Gulf of Aden this year. About 521 crew members were onboard the ships.

In recent years, piracy has soared off Somalia, with pirates attacking more than 140 merchant vessels and ships in 2008 along with crews.

The surge threatening one of the world's busiest waterways where about 20,000 ships pass a year was concerned by the world, triggering anti-piracy missions dispatched to the

region. In Yemen, a number of pirates went on trials, with some confessing to piracy and attempting burglary against ships passing in the region.

Aden local official receives Egyptian consul

Secretary General of Aden Local Council Abdul-Karim Shaif received on Monday the new Egyptian Consul Haddad al-Jawhari and reviewed with him the available opportunities of investment in Yemen, in general, and Aden, in particular.

Shaif called Egyptian investors to benefit from the merits and facilities provided by the Yemen Investment Act for Arab and foreign investors, welcoming the new Consul and wishing him success in his tasks in Yemen.

Scientific conference for hepatitis starts in Aden

A scientific conference on Hepatitis and Digestive System Diseases would take place in Aden on 30-31 December. 300 Yemeni, Arab and European physicians would attend this conference.

This is one of the activities performed by Yemen Association for Gall Bladder and Hepatitis.

It aims to activate scientific meetings and exchange experiences and know the updates of diagnosis and treatment, Dr. Mansour al-Amrani the head of the conference has said to al-motamar.net.

Under the logo "For Hepatitis Free Society" they would discuss the causes, the ways of transmitting and how to carry out diagnoses and treat the disease, as well as its negative effects on the society, in general, and individuals, in particular.

Dr. Amrani affirmed that the conference would result in a number of valuable recommendations and treatment plans that should be internationally approved in this field.

LAHJ
Two Yemenis arrested in Lahj for smuggling Somalis

Security Authority in Lahj province have arrested two peoples, 22 - 35, while trying to smuggle 12 Somali refugees to Taiz province, Interior Ministry has reported.

The refugees have been gathered and sent back to the main camp of refugees in Kharaz district of Lahj province.

The two men have been sent to the competent authorities to complete the

legal procedures. In December, the security authorities have foiled over 15 attempts to transport Somali refugees from one province to another as well as arrested 20 people were involved in such type of smuggling between provinces.

Anti-bilharzias campaign launched

A campaign to get rid of Bilharzias launched on Sunday by the Public Health and Population Ministry in Sana'a, Dhamar, and Hajjah governorates.

The campaign to be carried out on 27 - 30 December targets 831,402 persons who are aged six years and older to be provided with the anti-medicines of Bilharzias and intestinal worms transmitted through the soil.

During the launching, Minister of Public Health Abdul-Karim Rase'a said that the campaign is the first event carried out by the finance of the World Bank (WB) with a total cost of US \$ 25 million, agreed by the WB lately. He said that Yemen has managed during the last three years to get rid of Polio, and there have been no cases discovered since February 2006. After implementing the national campaign of fighting measles in 2006, Yemen has also eradicated measles, Rase'a confirmed.

Their News

Goodbye Brown, Hello Green

Dubai, UAE - Dec 20, 2009 (PRN): 'Going Green' is not a fad anymore. It is a lifestyle that everybody is embracing. Ekotribe offers environmentally-friendly products that have been carefully sourced from US, Canada, Europe, India and Australia to enable people in our region live a green and positive lifestyle.

Ekotribe is introducing the Enviro-

sax designer reusable bags in the UAE. According to Anu Agarwal, Director of Ekotribe, "It is one of the quickest and easiest ways to 'start going green' without losing your fashion edge. Chic, inexpensive and compact, these eco-friendly bags have many colors and styles to choose from. Each bag holds the equivalent of two supermarket bags. We are confident that people will love the utility of these bags."

Envirosax manufactures a premium line of reusable bags utilizing the best nature has to offer in fabrics of linen, bamboo, hemp and organic cotton. Printed with vegetable based inks, the variance in fabric texture creates a variety of effects with the different designs. Each bag is packaged in its own little pouch for easy storage in a glove compartment or handbag. All packaging is made from recycled cardboard printed with soy-based inks. Natural, earth-grown fabrics are the ultimate in sustainability.

A range of eco-friendly products including green gadgets and appliances, solar lights, reusable gift bags and shopping bags, recycled paper and stationery, eco-friendly shower heads, eco-friendly toys, green books, BPA-free water bottles and lunch boxes, soy candles, organic beauty products, organic table linen, eco-friendly wallpaper and wall stickers, solar powered totes, solar powered backpacks, bamboo kitchen ware, eco-friendly household cleaners, biodegradable tableware and organic pet products are available at www.ekotribe.com.

About Envirosax

Envirosax, the world leader in designer reusable bags, is committed to making a substantial environmental impact with fashion, design and innovative products. The Envirosax team operates on environmentally sustainable principles following

the lead of founders Belinda and Mark David-Tooze who live an organic, sustainable, carbon neutral lifestyle

About Ekotribe

Ekotribe was started with a desire to introduce green living. Ekotribe support environmentally friendly manufacturers & designers. All customers are guaranteed products which are easily absorbed into the ecosystem, without compromising on design or quality.

Ekotribe strives to offer high quality products that are either - Biodegradable, Environmentally safe, Handmade, Natural, Recycled, Recyclable, Reusable, Sustainable or Organic. Ekotribe is promoting a lifestyle that includes being aware of the environment, yet enjoying high-end products without forgoing quality & design.

For more information, contact:

Anu Agarwal, Director, Ekotribe
P.O.Box 53735 Dubai
Tel: 04-3312627
Mobile: +97150 6459113
Email: enquiry@ekotribe.com
Website: http://www.ekotribe.com

Radio 1812: When the Virtual World Makes Migrants' Voices Real

Radio 1812 is an event organised by December 18, a Brussels-based international resource center on the Human Rights of Migrant Workers.

Every year on the 18th of December, Radio 1812 brings together as many radio stations as possible worldwide to celebrate International Migrants Day.

Radios are asked to produce and broadcast programmes on 18th December and to share this content online by uploading their audio contributions on the Radio 1812 website after their own air-waves broadcast.

Radio 1812 is the result of a reflection by the December 18 team on the impact and potential of International Migrants Day. Whilst the day was designated by the UN in 2000, few countries and organizations participated and the Day itself is not that well known, even amongst migrant organizations themselves.

It was to address this that December 18 decided to launch the project. It is a global event that brings togeth-

er migrant groups and radios from around the world to produce, broadcast and share programs celebrating the achievements and highlighting the concerns of migrants worldwide.

Contact Information:

Najatte Kaaouss, Coordinator
Décembre 18 asbl Rue du progrès 323 B-1030 Bruxelles
Tel: +32 (0)2 274 14 36
Fax: +32 (0)2 274 14 38
Email: info@december18.net This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it
Website: www.december18.net - www.radio1812.net
Ekotribe Launches Eco-Friendly Reusable Designer Shopping Bags In The UAE

MTN subscription clients reaches 3 million

Malek Al-Kusa, MTN public relationship and advertisement manager, announced that the number of the subscribers is to reach three million in the near future. He said that MTN will launch a group of services for every subscriber as the World Cup 2010 in South Africa is approaching.



The seventh lucky winner of the World Cup 2010 Championship Abdul Rakeeb Abdul Kawi Amer has received his prize to travel to South Africa and attend the sports event. His travel expenses, accommodation and tickets to attend the matches will be covered by MTN which to host this important sports championship happening for the first time in Africa.

Another seven 32 inch "Sony Bravia" TV flat screens were distributed to winners. Many other winners won in the seventh week in-kind prizes.

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
Vacancy Announcement
Senior Registration Clerk (field based)

DRC is a non-profit, non-partisan, independent, international non-governmental organisation working with refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants in Yemen. DRC is currently looking to fill ONE position as Senior Registration clerk (Male or Female) for its UNHCR-funded programme in Yemen and invites qualified candidates to submit their applications.

Duty Station: Kharaz, Ahwar and Mayfa'a
Duration: 9 months with possibility of extension depending on availability of funds
Salary: approx. 102,000 YER basic monthly salary (approx. 144,000 YER take home pay)

- Overall Objectives:**
- Responsible for Admin, Finance and Logistics (including IT environment) management and follow up at field office level;
 - Ensure procedure adherence as per HR manual & program handbook;
 - Field coordination and planning of the day-to-day registration operations;
 - Overseeing the orderly reception of refugees, asylum-seekers and other persons of concern approaching the Office, including crowd management and monitoring possible security concerns;
 - Assisting in daily electronic data processing and data management including executing quality assurance validation daily and weekly;
 - Ensure safety and regular back up of data;
 - Assist in setting up a referral system and identifying services available for special cases;
 - Support the registration clerks in receiving persons at the registration centres and provide information on the registration procedure;

- Qualifications:**
- College degree in Law, Social Science, Information Technology or a related field;
 - Proficiency in English & Arabic, good command of Somali, Oromo or Amharic;
 - Minimum 2 years of previous work experience working in the field with refugee, IDPs or vulnerable people;
 - Previous experience of Information Management System and/or data process (participative survey, focus group, interviews);
 - Demonstrated leadership and management skills;
 - Good IT skills with good command of MS word, Excel and Email software;
 - Excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to establish effective and working relations with local and international partners;
 - Good understanding of refugee and protection-related issues.

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with their CV to jobs@drcyemen.org

- Please note:**
- You must clearly mention "Senior Registration Clerk" in the "Subject" line of the email, otherwise your application will not be considered.
 - Your application letter must clearly specify the position you are applying to.
 - Any attached document must be named including the applicant's name.
 - Deadline for applications is January 15th, 2010, applications received after this date will not be considered.
 - Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews. No face to face contact or phone contact will be entertained.
 - Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
Vacancy Announcement
Protection Monitoring Assistant
Male or Female

DRC is a non-profit, non-partisan, independent, international non-governmental organisation working with refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants in Yemen. DRC is currently looking to fill ONE position as Protection Monitoring Assistant (Male or Female) for its UNHCR-funded programme in Southern Yemen and invites qualified candidates to submit their applications.

Duty Station: Bab al Mandab, with frequent travel along the Red Sea coast
Duration: 10 months with possibility of extension depending on availability of funds
Salary: Approx. 105,000 YER basic salary per month (approx. 144,000 YER take home pay per month)

- Overall objectives:**
- Ensure data collection on new arrivals along the Red Sea coast on a daily basis;
 - Screen vulnerable people upon arrival and liaise with DRC Kharaz registration team for referral purposes;
 - Conduct focus group discussion and interview with new arrival;
 - Work in close collaboration with partners in Kharaz RC according to existing MoU and SOPs;
 - Ensure roving patrol along the coast to observe migration movement ;
 - Raise awareness and inform new arrival on their rights, national policy and services provided by UNHCR and Implementing Partners ;
 - Backstop Protection Monitoring officer when absent from the field, sick or on home leave;
 - Maintain a Excel database to ensure that statistics and other reports are produced on a timely basis.

- Qualifications & Experience:**
- University degree in Law, Social Science, Information Technology, Communication or related field;
 - Minimum 2 years of previous job experience in working in the field of legal advice, protection of refugee or social counselling, and management position;
 - Proficiency in English & Arabic is essential; knowledge of Amharic, Oromo or Somali would be an asset;
 - Excellent interpersonal skills;
 - Good understanding of refugee and protection related issues;
 - Good computer skills, specially with MS Word and Excel;
 - Able to work under pressure and in harsh living conditions;

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with their CV to jobs@drcyemen.org

- Please note:**
- You must clearly mention "Protection Monitoring Assistant" in the "Subject" line of the email, otherwise your application will not be considered.
 - Your application letter must clearly specify the position you are applying to.
 - Any attached document must be named including the applicant's name.
 - Deadline for applications is January 15th, 2010, applications received after this date will not be considered.
 - Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews. No face to face contact or phone contact will be entertained.
 - Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
Vacancy Announcement
Programme Assistant Registration

DRC is a non-profit, non-partisan, independent, international non-governmental organisation working with refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants in Yemen. DRC is currently looking to fill ONE position as Programme Assistant Registration (Male or Female) for its UNHCR-funded programme in Yemen and invites qualified candidates to submit their applications.

Duty Station: Kharaz, Ahwar and Mayfa'a
Duration: 9 months with possibility of extension depending on availability of funds
Salary: approx. 106,000 YER basic monthly salary (approx. 132,000 YER take home pay)

- Overall Objectives**
- Assisting in follow-up of administration, finance, logistical and purchase requests related to registration activities;
 - Ensure proper filing and maintenance of records, documents, and work plans pertaining to the registration activities;
 - Assisting in daily, weekly and monthly electronic quality assurance checks to ensure data management at Aden level;
 - Organize and compile data from registration database to produce statistical analysis and contribute to the assessment of trends;
 - Organize and conduct regular field visits related to registration activities in order to support field registration teams;
 - Ensure that meetings in the office related to the programme activities are held on time, agenda circulated, minutes recorded, actions are followed up on and all relevant documentation is filed subsequent to the meeting

- Qualifications:**
- College degree in Law, Social Science, Information Technology or any related field;
 - Minimum 2 years of previous job experience in working in the field with refugee, IDPs or vulnerable people;
 - Previous experience of Information Management System and/or data process (participative survey, focus group, interviews);
 - Excellent command of MS Word, Excel and email software;
 - Proficiency in English & Arabic is essential;
 - Excellent interpersonal skills;
 - Good understanding of refugee and protection related issues.

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with their CV to jobs@drcyemen.org

- Please note:**
- You must clearly mention "Programme Assistant Registration" in the "Subject" line of the email, otherwise your application will not be considered.
 - Your application letter must clearly specify the position you are applying to.
 - Any attached document must be named including the applicant's name.
 - Deadline for applications is January 15th, 2010, applications received after this date will not be considered.
 - Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews. No face to face contact or phone contact will be entertained.
 - Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.



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نارس / حدة الرئيس	01/242606/116	01/242606/119	01/242606/119
النهضة الجامع	01/260380	01/260382	01/260381
22 مايو حدة	01/1322099	01/1322099/119	01/1322099
الأصبدي القاسية	01/1602022	01/1602044	01/1602002

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Consultant's opportunity

(6 months contract renewable)

A- IT technical support officer:

(Job description and activities)

- Finality**
 - Monitor and maintain the computer systems and networks.
 - Installation and configuration for computer systems
 - Diagnosing hardware/software faults and solve technical problems, either over the phone or face-to-face.
- Typical work activities**
 - Installing and configuring computer systems.
 - Monitoring and maintaining computer systems and networks.
 - Talking staff/clients through a series of actions, either face to face or over the telephone.
 - Troubleshooting system, diagnosing and solving hardware/software faults;
 - Finding solutions for problems, and fixing the major faults on the operating system, replacing parts as required
 - Providing support, including procedural documentation, following diagrams and written instructions to repair a fault or set up a system.
 - Data and Information Backup and recovery
 - Setting up new users.
 - Testing and evaluating new technology;
 - Conducting electrical safety checks on computer equipment.
 - Ensure hardware is stripped and secured before disposal
 - Perform maintenance, repair and equipments cleaning.
- Languages:** Arabic and English
- Education and experience (two years at least):**
 - University degree in computer engineering or IT hardware field.
 - Ability to install and admin computer
 - Familiarity with ms office applications, (analytical ability).
 - Familiar with all hardware and software
 - Familiar with network operating system
- Other Skills:**
 - Team work building and communications skills
 - Analytical and problem solving skills
 - Familiar with all hardware and software
 - Familiar with network operating system
 - Strong analytical abilities and professional office experience needed.
 - Ability to learn and support new applications.

B- IT specialist officer:

(Job description and activities)

- Finality**
 - Monitor and maintain the computer systems, networks and security.
 - Installation and configuration for computer systems and Networks
 - Optimizing the IT security issues
- Typical work activities**
 - Installing and configuring for computer servers, storage systems and firewall, proxy and web systems.
 - Monitoring and maintaining computer systems, networks and data traffic.
 - Troubleshooting system and network problems, diagnosing and solving hardware/software faults.
 - Setting up new users.
 - Testing and evaluating new technology;
 - Conducting electrical safety for computer equipments.
 - Provide network accounts and passwords as required
 - Monitor security of all technology
 - Input and maintain IP addresses
 - Ensure installation of lock out programs
 - Developing agreed solutions and implementing new systems.
 - Documents network problems and resolution for future reference.
- Education and experience (three years at least):**
 - Education: Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering, Science, Information Technology or similar.
 - Certifications: MCSE, CCNA, CCNP, CCIE, CNE
 - High Practical: VPN networking and configuration - DSL/ ADSL connection technology - Windows server 2003 -ISA server - Exchange server)
 - Systems: Windows, Cisco Systems, UNIX, Linux, Novell
 - Networking: Switches, Routers, Hubs, Servers, Cables, Racks, Firewalls, LAN, WAN, TCP/IP, DNS, UDP, Latency, VoIP, QoS, EIGRP, BGP, OSPF, NHRP, ATM, PPP, MPLS
- Other Skills**
 - Ability to install and administer computer hardware, software and networks
 - Team building skills
 - Analytical and problem solving skills
 - Solid knowledge of information security principles and practices
 - Strong analytical abilities and professional office experience needed.
 - Ability to learn and support new applications.

Interested candidates should submit their application by email to:
manam@sfd.yemen.org or mhga2000@gmail.com before deadline of 10/01/2010.
Interested candidates should write type of required officer
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews



Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen) Vacant Announcement

Yemen International Telecommunications Co. (TeleYemen), would like to call qualified candidates to apply for the following vacant post within its main office in Sana'a.

Applications Administrator

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Maintain in timely and efficiently manner the on line, batch and routine runs for billing and information packages (applications) and ensure that the related functions, operations, and action are properly performed, controlled, updated; review the system applications structure, privilege and access level and monitor users' performance to ensure their adherence to the working practice procedures and access level authorization.
- Control and update the applications' parameters in accordance with company's procedures and business requirements, giving the necessary and continues support to various users; Document and respond to users comments, queries and complains, and ensure high level of understanding by users.
- Rebuild the application if necessary in a timely manner, by installing and configuring all components necessary for the application; ensure the applications interface requirements with other software components.
- Identify, troubleshoot, and close service requests for routine client issues; diagnose, document and automate solutions for common issues and tasks.
- Strong focus on database management and full life cycle application development, with progressive responsibilities involving interactive software and relational database design, implementation, and maintenance.
- Demonstrated understanding of Linux, Solaris, database administration (Oracle), SQL, querying, and Web/Application server technologies.
- Demonstrated knowledge of web-related technologies e.g. HTML, SSI, DHTML, XML, CSS/JavaScript
- Resourceful, dynamic, self-starter, mature, briefful and team-player.
- Demonstrated ability to develop and maintain effective work relationships.
- Demonstrated analytical and judgmental skills, with the ability to understand and translate user needs into defined requirements and solutions.

Qualifications & Experience :

- University degree in computer science/Information Systems or equivalent disciplines.
 - Minimum 2 years of progressive relevant experience in billing and IS operations with solid system applications background.
 - Proficiency in Arabic and English
 - Good skills/background in database administration and programming using transportable programming language
- Interested candidates may submit their application letter with detailed Curriculum Vitae ONLY to the following address no later than 6th January 2010.
Please note that only candidates who fulfill above requirements will be considered.

C/O Manager Human Resources, TeleYemen, PO Box 2646, Sana'a, Yemen Republic.

www.teleyemen.com.ye

Study: Around 99 percent of women in Sana'a have been sexually harassed

Eye teasing in the streets and some workplaces is quite common in Sana'a according to testimonies of the women living here. However, there are no clear statistics as to the extent of this phenomenon until recently. With funding from the Middle East Program Initiative, Athar Foundation for Development, a civil society organization, surveyed more than 500 women and found out that 98.9 percent of them have been sexually harassed one way or the other.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The sexual miss-acts against women living in Sana'a include verbal blasting, stalking, phone calls, dirty signs and body exposure or even physical attacks.

The profile of a Yemeni sexual harasser according to 540 women in Sana'a City, is a single man of low education and unsustainable income who lives alone. Although ironically, being married and having a family does not deter a harasser with this profile from sexually abusing women in the streets. Around 79.4% of the women believed that a sexual harasser is probably single, yet some 76.3% of the sample thought a sexual harasser could as well be a married man.

The women interviewed were mainly school and university students and employees of all sectors, as well as a small portion of house wives. The women were not identified in their individual capacity but as representatives of women in all walks of life.

The interviewees attributed such bad practices by men to several reasons: Bad parenting (25.4%), expensive dowries (21.1%) and thus late marriage, men's low self-esteem (7%), and the internet's influence on young men.

"It was sometime around two in the afternoon when I entered a two story toy shop on Hadda road. There was nobody in the shop except for the young attendant. He said he had better toys in the upper floor and that I should go and take a look. I had my back to him when he cornered me against the wall. I panicked, and somehow escaped from him and ran away. I did not tell my parents, but told a man friend who gave him a good beating the following day," said Amal M. a young private sector employee living in Sana'a.

Amal did not refer to the authori-

ties or any formal figure because she wanted to avoid the embarrassment. In order to get even, she sent her friend who avenged her ordeal. According to the study, around 30 percent of the harassed women do not report about what has happened to them to their families. Yet the ones that do report it either narrate the incident as an anecdote or in search for emotional support. Of the seventy percent who report the incident, families of only 2.6 percent took the matter further to authorities.

Most of the women suffer from verbal abuse caused by young males between 20 and 25 or 26-30 years (respectively 55.9% and 48.7%). The younger men are mostly sexually frustrated undergraduates. More than 70 percent of the respondents believed sexual harassment was driven by either excessive free time and/ or religious and moral emptiness by males; the rate of 47.2% accused the media for inducing this attitude, and only 1.1% of the sample accused women's dressing & behaviors of inducing and encouraging this attitude by males.

Almost equal rates of veiled (83.9%) and unveiled (88.5%) respondents experienced sexual harassment on the

Women driving their own vehicles were slightly less harassed than those using public transport. Many families realize this fact, and would -despite the conservative environment- encourage and support their girls to get own vehicles. This explains the increasing numbers of women driving their own cars despite the difficult economic situations.

Community's tolerance

In Yemen, like most Arab countries- this problem has been assuming a serious form during the last decade; today it has become a disease especially on the street and possibly in working establishments according to the study. There is a lack of official statistics on the incidents and extent and impact of sexual harassment imposed on women, is attributed to the fact that in the Yemeni context sexual harassment is not usually studied alone but is explored and discussed amongst different types of violence and as a part of discriminating actions against women.

According to the study this might as well be a maneuver to avoid pointing directly to sexual harassment as an existing phenomenon in the community. Many harassed women contribute to strengthening this phenomenon through their passive indifferent attitude.

The surveyed women's top three im-

cident happening in the work place was reported to the supervisor.

More than half of the women explained that the community tolerates such behavior and this is why the perpetrators are not afraid of being punished. Sometimes the offender is encouraged if a woman is judged of having a bad character or if she works until late hours of the evening.

Despite the fact that the Yemeni Penalty Law has six articles that criminalize anyone who carries out an act of rape, molestation or public indecency, the majority of respondents that believed there are no legislative measures against sexual verbal harassment. Only 36.7 percent of all respondents knew about the existence of laws dealing with sexual harassment against women. Most of those were the youngest women between 20 to 39 years (55.6%) and the least were the middle-aged respondents (32.9%).

Standing up for yourself

All women who had endured such experience had suffered from negative psychological effects which were the top end impact of sexual harassment on women.

Um Samar is a house wife in her thirties. On her way to the market place a man elbowed her. "I am known for my short temper and strong personality. I guess this does not make me an easy target and hence I would not let anyone get away with hurting me. First I shouted at him, but he turned around and hit me again. I took off my shoe and told him to come near me if he was a man. He started laughing at me. I chased him but he ran away."

According to Um Samar, if women don't stand up for themselves men get encouraged and carried away in their bad behaviors. Many girls do not have confidence in themselves. The survey confirms this point as around half of the victimized women lost trust in themselves and more than 38 percent of the interviewed women said that their passive reaction empowers men.

Some women (18.2%) also feared that reporting the sexual abuse to their husbands could lead to divorce. While around 12 percent of young girls who were exposed to harassment feared that if they told their parents they could be forced into an early marriage.

The responses of the victimized women's families varied between the two extremes of complete support for the victimized women (82.0%) and depriving them the privilege of going-out (0.6%);

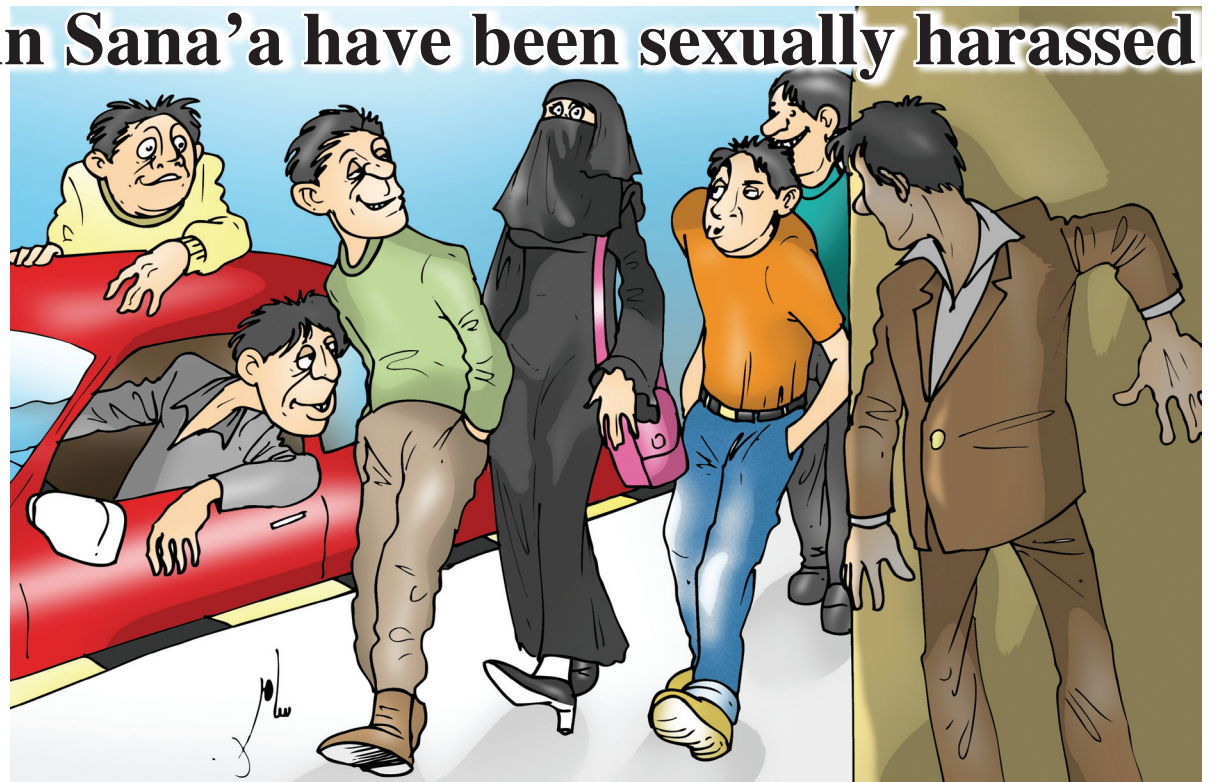
Many women end up feeling ashamed and guilty. Some try to escape the harassment scene by taking a bus or a taxi or running into the nearest house.

This survey is the first and core component of a series of activities within the project, i.e. fighting sexual harassment against women in Yemen; which is one of the most distressing issues for the women, but topic that has not found much attention in Yemen.

The main purpose of this exercise was to shed light on the different aspects of sexual harassment imposed on women, so as to make available basic information that would provide factual reference-material for designing awareness campaigns and advocacy activities against this phenomenon.

All the interviewed women were asked how this phenomenon could be ended. Some suggested awareness programs for men as well as making the ideal youth busy with jobs or productive programs. Some believed it is the responsibility of the parents and teachers to discipline their boys and teach them to respect women, while some argued that serious punishment by the law enforcement authority would do the trick.

Finally a small rate of 4.6 percent recommended social and psychological support programs for the women in general to stand up for themselves.



What do the mischievous men do?

A surveyed sample of 530 women in Sana'a said that they have experienced one or more than one of the following forms of sexual harassment:

- Verbal molestation, that was mentioned to be imposed on 86.0 percent of the sample;
- Phone calls, identified by 43.2 percent of them;
- Around 30.3 percent and 30.1 percent of the respondents said they endured respectively stalking and physical attack; and lastly
- Dirty jokes, dirty signs/acts, and indecent-exposure of male private parts were practiced against respectively 20.5 percent, 17.7 percent and 8.3 percent of the women.

Do women call for indecent attention?

According to the study, a few of the interviewed women admitted that some women call for the attention through their dressing or behaviors. Around half of the youngest women age-groups (20-39 years) in comparison to less than third of the eldest women accused women's dressing and behaviors of inducing sexual harassment by males.

The survey illustrates a direct proportional relation between women's educational level and their accusation of women as stimulants for street sexual harassment. This means, according to the survey's results, that the more educated the woman is, the more she would be inclined to think that women's behavior caused the harassment.

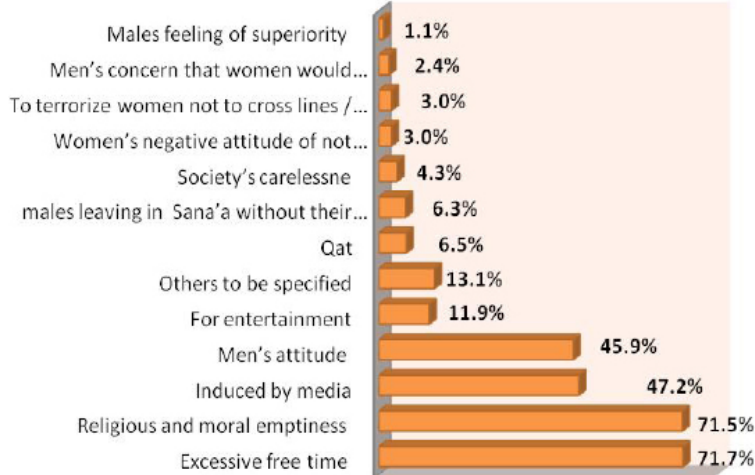
When do the bad men strike?

The interviewees identified afternoons (58.3%), after seven p.m. (54.1%), and noontime on their way home from school or government jobs (53.7%) as the day-times women undergo excessive sexual annoyance.

The women related these times with:

- Women's presence in big numbers at these times (33%),
- The crowding at rush-hours (29%),
- Harasser related reasons including moral emptiness and excessive free time at these times (19%), and
- Time related reason: Especially evenings because men believe that women who go out late evening or night time are purposely seeking congregation with men and thus sexual contentment (11%)

Drives for sexual Harassment



4U

For more information on this study send an email: impact-yemen@yemen.net.ye or athar-foundation@yemen.net.ye



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'She is just a 'woman'!

Dr. Nemah A. A. Al-Zabidi

Dear men,
I am wondering why this usually happens in Yemen, why it is that men consider women inferior to them although Islam never says that. Islam on the other hand has definitely honored the woman and has never degraded her for sure. Why does a woman's success or excellence in all walks of life and achievement leave everyone cold and unexcited in a country like Yemen? Very long ago, women had innumerable constraints imposed on them by social and moral conventions, which with the passage of time gave way to women's empowerment, enabling them to enter different fields they wish to choose without a hindrance or hesitation. This drastically reduced the gap between the sexes in many nations except Yemen. The picture is still different in Yemen.

I am addressing men with open, broad and rational mindsets, men with a comprehensive understanding of Islamic principles and rules. I am not an iconoclastic bohemian who has no respect for what Islam has to offer. Surely, I don't want to violate the Islamic ethos simply to appease myself and in pursuance of my views. I'd never do that. But I am presenting a facet of some Yemeni men, which I experienced during my research stay in India.

Almighty never oppresses and creates inequity among his believers (both men and women). It is mentioned in the holy Qur'an that "Allah is never unjust in the least degree: If there is any good (done), He doubleth it, and giveth from His own self a great reward" (40/15). He rewards and punishes each sex according to their deeds. He never unfairly curtails the woman's reward, simply because of her feminine nature, Almighty says: "Whoever works righteously, man or woman, and has faith, Verily, to him will We give a life that is good and pure, and We bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions" (97-14). We also find that Allah has clearly and graciously honored the women and revealed An-Nisa'a Surat (An-nisa'a literally means women in English) that deals with the women's rights in marriage, property and inheritance. These rights are justly recognized and should be respected by Muslims.

Almighty has fairly differentiated between men and women, allotting all their duties and rights equally. It is true that man is much different from a woman in the sense that he is physically stronger than her, has to earn a living to support his family. But a woman can also do the same and help. A man also has the right of dominance in his family. A wife should be obedient to him and it is a must for her to do the man's bidding and bring kids up. It is clear in this Lord's sacred verse: "Men are the protectors and maintainers of women because Allah has given men more (strength) than women, and because they support them from their means. Therefore, the righteous women are devoutly obedient, and guard (the husband's) absence what Allah would have them guard..." (34/15). In return, a husband should be understanding, caring, helpful, appreciative and devoted. Both should be aware of and follow all the Islamic instructions. In the long run, a man may not live a life without a woman since there is no life without a wife.

I want fair people with elastic minds to judge some men, who are, I think, creeping, ill-natured, narrow-minded and having jaundiced eyes. These men are practically unable to steer the wheels of their lives and their conduct doesn't accord with any level of their education. Therefore, they are prone to sneak into others' affairs with doubtful looks at women. If someone is unable to achieve progress in his life, why would he act as a peeping Tom and hoot that 'she is just a woman'? He should realize that such behavior/reaction only reveals the inferiority complex he suffers from. Let her be a decent woman with a successful life and strong will. This is better than being a man with numerous failures in life and immature, childish behaviour.

I think these social bias and distorted prejudiced irrational perspectives are instilled in the minds of many illiterate people and a few educated ones. In retrospect, I still remember the comments of some of my male classmates, who were undergoing an English course with me some years back. They taunted one female teacher who was teaching us, not verbally but just with their looks. After the class, they commented sarcastically, 'they shouldn't ask a lady to teach us'. Whenever this teacher

started her classes late or changed the timetable, those students made fun of her after the class, saying with great contempt, "Stay at home lady"! My female classmates and I felt so bad because belittling this good teacher meant denigration of all the female human species.

Also, I'd never forget the reaction of one of the Yemeni students who was the only Arab and Yemeni observer at a Seminar in Bangalore where I presented my second ELT paper in 2004. Some of the seminar organizers wanted to please me because I was the only Yemeni and Arabic-speaking presenter there, so they intentionally introduced this Yemeni to me. I felt really happy to meet, at last, one with an Arabic-speaking tongue. He thought he would encourage me since all the participants were Indians and aliens. But, surprisingly, his reaction was unexpected. He was completely taken back by the sight of a Yemeni, that too a woman from a city like Hodeidah being there to present paper. He patted his head and exclaimed with incredulous looks: 'I can't believe that a young woman and from Hodeidah is here to present a paper!' I have furiously retorted 'What!' 'What do you mean?' 'What's wrong if I am a woman and from Hodeidah! Is the Yemeni woman useless and unable to stand on her own feet and present a paper?' I embarrassed him, he then said: 'No, No...I don't mean that, but I never imagine that I may once come across a Hodeidaian woman in such a seminar!' I, in return, turned my back on and moved. Then when it was my turn to present the paper on the stage, I reluctantly called him for taking some pictures for me while I was presenting my paper on the stage because all were old lecturers, professors and educationists and I felt ashamed to ask someone to take pictures for me. But he declined and gave a lame excuse "I don't know anyone here, so I can't do that inside the auditorium".

Let me remind those unjust and rigid men of our history since history never lies. I should proudly remind you all of the Queen of Sheba (by name of Bilqis in Arabian tradition). Her story with the prophet Solomon (i.e. Suliman) is still outstanding and mentioned eloquently in some verses of the Holy Qur'an. This queen is a source of honor and pride for every Yemeni (both male and female). Bilq-

is is a woman with a broad mind and wisdom that enabled her to run Yemen from every side that time. She had everything with her. Almighty says "... I found (there, namely - in Sheba), a woman ruling over them and provided with every requisite, and she has a magnificent throne" (22-23/19). Her thoughtfulness, dignity, consultative policy and full confidence in herself and her subjects, as disclosed in the holy Qur'an, had made her a successful ruler. Although she is a woman, her people, who were manly, loyal and contented, were ready to carry out all her commands and take the field against any enemy. Allah says: "She said: 'ye chiefs! Advise me in (this). My affair: no affair have I decided Except in Your presence'" (32/19) That the word 'woman' is used repeatedly in the Holy Qur'an is an indication of the importance the Almighty accords the woman. But these men don't discern this.

Admittedly, we, the students abroad, are forming the educational and academic stratum of the Yemeni society. We represent our country abroad and should transmit good ideas and sketch an attractive portrait of Yemen to people around the globe. But, unfortunately, what happens is that some Yemeni students abroad are 'in search of freedom', as admitted by them. Their idea of freedom is to practise what they have been deprived of in their country, some want to lead others, others get philosophical, and many adopt the western-life style. They disappointingly follow divergent routes that don't lead to Rome.

So what if most of them are hailing from well-established wealthy families or from influential tribes! Actually, they shouldn't boast of that, in fact, they should be proud of what they (themselves) are, what they have achieved and how they have handled their life. They should keep in their minds that their families are waiting for them, their country is opening its hands to receive them though the life is not that easy there but 'happy is the man with a wise son'.

We should together realize that facts may be ignored but they never cease to exist. As educationists and academicians (women), we should know how to carry on to achieve success. Naturally, every path has a puddle. We should not give up what we believe in, simply because society considers us not practically equal to men. We would surely go ahead and never lose with our honesty, dedication, confidence, decency and faith. Never look back since many expect our fall and setback. Trust yourselves and your potentials and firmly have a belief that you would make it. Let stray creatures hoot contemptibly and they would get lost. Ignore them and be sure that you are the best and will have the laugh last.

I conclude this with my wishes that you, men, have fully perceived the rationale of this letter and what I mean. It is worthwhile here to mention this proverb 'oak may fall when reeds bend'. Life never goes without men as well as women since they are complementary to each other. But each gladiator should give a chance for others in the arena of Rome to fight in the battle of success. You shouldn't deny the significance of the other side and should give respect to get respect. Ultimately, remember that 'the thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing'.

The president as a president should be

By: Ghada Hassen Abu-Ras
redroseg@yahoo.com

Corruption is the main enemy of civilization. Where there is corruption, there is injustice and savageness. However, we always have people who fight it strongly. Today, I am talking about our great president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, who fights destructive factors in all possible ways. Sometimes words cannot describe how great people are. Our leader (May god save him) is one of them. When you look at him, you feel he is the dear father, the helpful brother, the faithful friend, and the dutiful son. He has an incredible character. It is always said that names have great roles in their beholders' personalities; this is shown in our president remarkably. Saleh represents the tribal side as well as the civil side of our society; he is north, south, east, and west of Yemen. In fact, he is Yemen itself.

In 1978, Ali Abdullah Saleh became the official president of North Yemen (at that time Yemen was divided into two parts North Yemen and South Yemen). He immediately had remarkable achievements, such as exporting oil to other countries, making the budget of the Central Bank, and drawing the boundaries of Yemen with Oman and Saudi Arabia. Moreover, he united Yemen which, I believe, is one of the most significant incidents nationally and in-

ternationally.

Despite obstacles and handicaps, Saleh has proven that he is the right person in the right place. He has been struggling against corruption since he took office. Education, technology and technical studies have been high priorities. He prepares a strong generation by rigorously educating our citizens. Furthermore, he has granted people the freedom to express their opinions and points of view freely. He is a man of democracy.

Saleh is a wise, strict, strong, but peaceful. For instance, in 1996, The Eritrean Army occupied Honaish (a Yemeni island that lies on the Red Sea). Our president (May god save him) dealt with that issue wisely and patiently: within a few months the Yemeni authorities reclaimed it peacefully after an International Arbitration. The history of Saleh is full of such stories. I can say he is one of the greatest presidents in the history of Yemen and in the history of The Middle East as well. What Saleh did in the 70-Day Siege that Sana'a faced in 1970 is another vivid example of how Saleh bravely fought to protect our precious revolution.

Finally, Saleh is a tolerant, generous, judicious, flexible and brave leader. Ali Abdullah Saleh is the one who was created to be the president of Yemen. He is a man of a word and action. As a Yemeni citizen, I think he is the president who deserves to be a timeless legend of the present era.

Gulf leadership confronting the Houthis

By: Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed

It is a coincidence that Kuwait is hosting the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit at the same time that the Jabal Dokhan region along the Saudi Arabian border is in flames. The fear of the Iraq-Iran war spreading to the Gulf led to the Gulf States forming the GCC thirty years ago in order to establish a common defence against any external aggression.

Today there is a problem that may not [initially] appear to be dangerous, and that is the Houthi rebellion in Yemen and this movement's infiltration of Saudi territory. Observers of the movement believe this reflects the hidden intentions of Iran. What can the GCC do against the Houthis?

In my opinion, Yemen failing to resolve this battle will send a signal to Iran that it is capable of threatening the safety of the GCC by replaying this rebellion [in other Arab countries] and expanding the scope of the confrontation. I do not wish to exaggerate the military value of the Houthis, but we are facing the threat of the Iranian trend, rather than a battle in a remote area of limited strategic value.

It is natural that the officials in Iran and the GCC do not speak about the indirect confrontation that is taking place between them, or on or near their borders, but the majority of indications point to this. Iran expanding the scope of the confrontation in the region to include Egypt, the Gulf region, and southern Saudi Arabia - completing the set of chaos - is not a fantasy, which is what is said by those who fail to understand what is taking place and refuse to be convinced that Iran is capable of all this.

The GCC leaders are meeting in Kuwait, and there are many issues on the agenda, controversial and others, yet the Houthi problem remains top of the agenda, because this is the purpose

for which the GCC was established thirty years ago; namely to confront the Iranian threat. It is not required that they launch a collective war against the militias in Northern Yemen, but rather that they firstly acknowledge the disturbing situation, and secondly issue a clear declaration of support for Yemen against the rebels, and finally initiate a project that aims to support the Yemenis to confront the Houthis themselves.

Yemen is fighting three wars; the country has been in a state of war against the Houthi rebels in northern Yemen for four years; there is also the southern secessionist campaign, not to mention the fact that many Al Qaeda leaders and members have swapped the mountains of Afghanistan for the mountains of Yemen. Therefore supporting Yemen and preventing its collapse, whether this is due to external plans or is a coincidence due to three wars taking place simultaneously, will also protect the entire Gulf region, not just Yemen alone. Sanaa cannot face the chaos in Somalia - its maritime neighbour; fight against the Al Qaeda organization, which the US troops failed to defeat; and maintain unity with the South, whilst at the same time fighting a group that is affiliated to Iran ideologically and with regards to its arms.

If the Gulf admits to these realities at the Kuwait summit, then the project to rescue Yemen must be top of the agenda. From here, Yemen can be explicitly aided militarily, politically, and economically. Openness means extending huge military support to Yemen, and this must be done publicly, rather than these countries making statements that they do not wish to interfere in Yemen's internal affairs. This will not be interference as long as it comes from the legitimate authority [Yemen], and in fact it is the duty of these countries to extend their support to protect the legitimacy of a country that is being targeted externally.

Source: Asharq alawsat



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Offices

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

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf
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Obama undermines the UN climate process

By: Jeffrey D. Sachs

New York – Two years of climate change negotiations have now ended in a farce in Copenhagen. Rather than grappling with complex issues, President Barack Obama decided instead to declare victory with a vague statement of principles agreed with four other countries. The remaining 187 were handed a fait accompli, which some accepted and others denounced. After the fact, the United Nations has argued that the document was generally accepted, though for most on a take-it-or-leave-it basis.

Responsibility for this disaster reaches far and wide. Let us start with George W. Bush, who ignored climate change for the eight years of his presidency, wasting the world's precious time. Then comes the UN, for managing the negotiating process so miserably during a two-year period. Then comes the European Union for pushing relentlessly for a single-minded vision of a global emissions-trading system, even when

such a system would not fit the rest of the world.

Then comes the United States Senate, which has ignored climate change for 15 consecutive years since ratifying the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Finally, there is Obama, who effectively abandoned a systematic course of action under the UN framework, because it was proving nettlesome to US power and domestic politics.

Obama's decision to declare a phony negotiating victory undermines the UN process by signaling that rich countries will do what they want and must no longer listen to the "pesky" concerns of many smaller and poorer countries. Some will view this as pragmatic, reflecting the difficulty of getting agreement with 192 UN member states. But it is worse than that. International law, as complicated as it is, has been replaced by the insincere, inconsistent, and unconvincing word of a few powers, notably the US. America has insisted that others sign on to its terms – leaving the

UN process hanging by a thread – but it has never shown goodwill to the rest of the world on this issue, nor the ability or interest needed to take the lead on it.

From the standpoint of actual reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions, this agreement is unlikely to accomplish anything real. It is non-binding and will probably strengthen the forces of opposition to emissions reductions. Who will take seriously the extra costs of emissions reduction if they see how lax others' promises are?

The reality is that the world will now wait to see if the US accomplishes any serious emissions reduction. Grave doubts are in order on that score. Obama does not have the votes in the Senate, has not displayed any willingness to expend political capital to reach a Senate agreement, and may not even see a Senate vote on the issue in 2010 unless he pushes much harder than he has so far.

The Copenhagen summit also fell short on financial help from rich countries to poor countries. Plenty of num-

bers were thrown around, but most of these were, as usual, empty promises. Aside from announcements of modest outlays for the next few years, which might – just might – add up to a real few billion dollars, the big news was a commitment of \$100 billion per year for the developing countries by 2020. Yet this figure was unaccompanied by any details about how it would be achieved.

Experience with financial aid for development teaches us that announcements about money a decade from now are mostly empty words. They do not bind the rich countries at all. There is no political will behind them. Indeed, Obama has never once discussed with the American people their responsibility under the UN Framework Convention to help poor countries adapt to the impact of climate change. As soon as US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton mentioned the \$100 billion "goal," many Congressmen and the conservative media denounced it.

One of the most notable features of the US-led document is that it doesn't

mention any intention to continue negotiations in 2010. This is almost surely deliberate. Obama has cut the legs out from under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, in effect declaring that the US will do what it will do, but that it will not become further entangled in messy UN climate processes in 2010.

That stance might well reflect the upcoming 2010 mid-term Congressional elections in the US. Obama does not want to be trapped in the middle of unpopular international negotiations when election season arrives. He may also feel that such negotiations would not achieve much. Right or wrong on that point, the intention seems to be to kill the negotiations. If soothe US does not participate in further negotiations, Obama will prove to have been even more damaging to the international system of environmental law than George Bush was.

For me, the image that remains of Copenhagen is that of Obama appearing at a press conference to announce

an agreement that only five countries had yet seen, and then rushing off to the airport to fly back to Washington, DC, to avoid a snowstorm back home. He has taken on a grave responsibility in history. If his action proves unworthy, if the voluntary commitments of the US and others prove insufficient, and if future negotiations are derailed, it will have been Obama who single-handedly traded in international law for big-power politics on climate change.

Perhaps the UN will rally itself to get better organized. Perhaps Obama's gambit will work, the US Senate will pass legislation, and other countries will do their part as well. Or perhaps we have just witnessed a serious step towards global ruin through our failure to cooperate on a complex and difficult challenge that requires patience, expertise, goodwill, and respect for international law – all of which were in short supply in Copenhagen.

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Father Christmas is a Muslim

By: Dr. Terry Lacey

In Indonesia the latest news to encourage Christian-Muslim dialogue and reconciliation, despite some reports of harassment of Christian groups attempting to build churches by hardline Muslims, is that Father Christmas is actually a Muslim and lives in Jakarta. (The Jakarta Post, 24.12.09).

On Christmas Eve The Jakarta Post revealed that Father Christmas is a Muslim called Suroto, who formerly worked as a motorcycle taxi driver, called locally an 'ojek'.

Suroto made the headlines because he has been Father Christmas for six years, so he has a track record, or his sleigh is leaving a track behind it in the shopping

mall snow.

Moreover, several hundred Jakarta residents dress up as Father Christmas every year, and we are not sure how many of them are Muslim or Christian (or Hindu or Buddhist) because in Indonesia your religious affiliation is not a requirement for this particular job.

But you should be nice and well mannered, and not too thin and be able to remember "Ho Ho Ho" and wave at children all day.

Not to mention thousands of shop assistants and restaurant staff who also dress up in red and white suits and goggles, with funny hats.

It probably helps that the colors of Indonesia are red and white, so it all looks very patriotic. That may help explain why Father Christmas has taken off in

Indonesia, complete with sleigh and elves.

Suroto only has one name because in Indonesian culture, especially that of Java, some people only have one name, so its their first name, their last name and their only name.

Suroto did wonder if it was halal, or religiously acceptable. For him to be Father Christmas since he is a Muslim but his explanations seem diplomatic and theologically sound.

Firstly he sees Father Christmas as a Christian character rather than a religious symbol. In fact most Indonesians don't know how Father Christmas started. One newspaper Copy Editor I asked thought he started in Germany or Holland as being St Nicholas and dressed in black because he came down the chimney. Then

he thought he changed to red and white to advertise Coca Cola.

There is also an apocryphal story of a Japanese Christmas card showing Father Christmas being crucified. But despite this reported attempt at a religious angle, there is no historical or theological relationship between Father Christmas and God, the Holy Trinity or Jesus, except that Christmas is the day that the birth of Jesus is celebrated.

In practice, Christmas day has become a wider commercial or cultural event in which non-Christians join and in Indonesia despite reservations from some clerics and rural Muslims in Java, it has become part of a sequence of happy holidays, when people have a jolly time, dress up and get and give cards or presents.

Moreover Indonesians get multi-cultural holidays, so there are more of them, for example there are three kinds of New Year (Islamic, European calendar-based, and Chinese). So in Indonesia it's not surprising if the person saying Happy Christmas to you is wearing a hijab.

Some social pessimists think the pressure from hard liners against Happy Christmas is growing with global extremism. Such sentiments may be a little more noticeable, but are mainly a reaction to the pace and breadth of economic and social change, with some people feeling a bit left out.

As society globalizes and changes and the number in poverty and ignorance falls, with people gaining income and confidence, then Happy Christmas represents a celebration of diversity rather

than a threat to religious identity. And it makes piles of money.

Suroto asked a religious leader in his neighborhood if it was okay for a Muslim to be Father Christmas, "he said it was okay because I was only looking for an honest job."

Suroto finally produced a more theological justification when he said "Also I really enjoy entertaining the children. Surely making people happy is in compliance with my religion."

Terry Lacey is a development economist who writes from Jakarta on modernization in the Muslim world, investment and trade relations with the EU and Islamic banking.

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U.S. – led World Community fails, Palestinians on brink of explosion

By Nicola Nasser*

In the absence of all hope, we cry out our cry of hope." Palestinian Christian leaders, representing churches and church-related organizations, meeting in Bethlehem on December 11, concluded in their 13-page document titled "Kairos Palestine – 2009: A Moment of Truth," enlisting Christians worldwide in proactive efforts to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. Their "cry" symbolizes the popular mood of their people as well as the political status quo.

On both sides of the inter-Palestinian divide between the U.S. – backed presidency and the Israeli – hunted legislative, the Fatah – led West Bank (where the leadership of the Palestine Liberation organization (PLO) is committed to peace, direct negotiations and security coordination with the Israeli occupying power, but the 16 – year old "peace process" has reached an impasse and the negotiations are deadlocked in a one – year old stalemate over the cancer – like expanding Jewish colonial settlements) and the Hamas – led Gaza Strip (where the Islamic resistance Movement (Hamas) is strictly committed to ceasefire save in self – defense while conducting indirect negotiations mediated by Egypt and Germany over an exchange of POWs), both political and military solutions for the century – old Arab – Israeli conflict have failed and aborted all prospects of peace, which have proved an elusive mirage, a stark failure of the U.S. led world community. An imminent explosion seems the only breakthrough ahead.

"There is no bilateral solution. The fastest road to the next round of violence is through another failed negotiation process ... and it has zero chance. Next year ... could be ripe for an explosion," Gershon Baskin of the Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information told a Russian-sponsored debate on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea last week. The "dangerous standoff" needs a "rescue mission," the speakers said, according to Reuters. Former Russian Prime Minister

Evgeny Primakov warned that a "real crisis" could develop if the international community did not intervene, adding that the role of the so-called Middle East Quartet (the United States, United Nations, Russia and the European Union) was in default. On December 15, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas told the PLO Central Council in Ramallah: "Now the ball is in the international community's court and in America's court."

But Abbas seems to knock at the wrong door. Barak Obama will go down in history as the first U.S. president who pushed a life - long Palestinian ally like Abbas to publicly pronounce the first ever pronounced Palestinian "disappointment" with the United States and its role as the mediator in the conflict, despite the Palestinian euphoria Obama invoked when he chose Abbas as the first foreign leader to give a phone call as soon as he set foot in the White House. The Obama Administration "made zero progress. Not only, of course, has it failed even to get negotiations going ... but there isn't the slightest shred of evidence to believe that anything is going to change in the rest of its term," director of the Global Research in International Affairs (GLORIA) Center, Interdisciplinary university, Barry Rubin wrote in Global Politician on December 19.

Obama shot down the mission of his presidential envoy to the Middle East, George Mitchell, when he sent Secretary of State Hillary Clinton early in March ostensibly on a mission to bring together Palestinian and Israeli leaders to resume their negotiations, but her mission was a resounding failure because she did exactly the opposite, which made her visit the milestone of her administration's shift from what was believed by the Palestinians as an honest broker to a mediator who aborted his mediation by completely adopting the views of the Israelis.

The following U.S. – Israeli deal to kill the Goldstone report in the bud – allegedly because it created a "fairly substantial gap" between the two sides (Assistant U.S. Secretary of State P.J. Crowley on December 10) – indicated

that Clinton's failure was not a personal one but an official policy that should have been expected after Obama failed to back up his earlier demand for a "freeze" of Israeli colonial settlement as a pre-condition for the resumption of Palestinian – Israeli talks, a demand that misled Abbas to demand no less, and to become the hostage of an un-honored U.S. promise and of his own decision to put all his eggs in the American basket.

Obama and his administration show no regrets, but are following in the footsteps of the traditional U.S. – Israeli strategic alliance, dispelling whatever remains of Obama's promises of "change" to his voters. Last week Obama signed the foreign aid budget law for 2010, raising security aid to Israel by US\$225 million the next year to US\$2.775 billion, an aid which under a MoU is to rise from \$2.55 billion in 2009 to \$3.1 billion in 2013. Arabs, including Palestinians, view this aid as fueling the Israeli intransigence in the peace process. The \$500 million allocated to the Palestinian Authority (PA), including \$100 million to be used by US General Keith Dayton, practically boils down to a contribution to keep the PA floating as a collateral for Israel's security.

Even in the best of times, long before the inter-Palestinian division, the 2002 military reoccupation of the PA territory in the West Bank and the current tight siege imposed on Gaza, the PA has become dependent on donors since the PLO-Israeli "Declaration of Principles" (DoP) was signed in Washington DC in 1993, relieving the Israeli occupying power of its obligations under international law.

Grudgingly but gratefully the PLO accepted the donors money as a temporary arrangement, pending the end of the interim period in final status negotiations that were supposed to conclude by the creation of an independent Palestinian state living in peace and security side by side with Israel as promised by the U.S. – led international community first in 1999, then in 2005, again in 2008, and now within two years according to Obama administration.

Politically however the donors money have become a temporary permanent arrangement, relieving the budget of the occupying power of burdens it must be held responsible for, financing the unending military occupation, defusing the economic incentive for revolt against the occupation, and holding the PA and the PLO hostages to the political conditions attached to donors' contributions.

Disillusionment with the role the donors' money is playing is growing alongside the Palestinian disillusionment with the "peace process." The Palestinians, who contributed substantially to regional state building and who still contribute to many regional economies are a resourceful and indignant people who have the capital, the expertise and skillful labor, the scientific and intellectual manpower, and the intelligence and the political will to build their own society once they are empowered with self – determination to gain liberty, freedom and independence. With the growing disillusionment, the donors political role is increasingly becoming suspicious, creating a sense of humiliation, exacerbating the national frustration, and could not any longer keep the lid tightly on the boiling refusal of the interim – turned – permanent status quo.

Palestinian sense of betrayal by the international community is as old as the United Nations General Assembly's 1947 resolution No. 181 for the partition of their homeland into two states and its resolution No. 194 of 1948 for their return to their homeland. This same sense of betrayal has a strong vocal voice in the West Bank recently in the "disappointment" that Abbas, the signatory (DoP), made clear by declaring his irrevocable decision not to run anew for presidency: "I found all ways blocked, then I decided not to rerun for another term. I am not optimistic and I do not want to have illusions," he had told the London – based Ash-Sharq Al-Awsat. In the Gaza Strip, the latest chapter of the betrayal of the world community was voiced in Paris on December 22 by sixteen rights groups, including Amnesty International, Oxfam, and Christian Aid:

"The international community has betrayed the people of Gaza by failing to back their words with effective action to secure the ending of the Israeli blockade ... World powers have also failed and even betrayed Gaza's ordinary citizens. They have wrung hands and issued statements, but have taken little meaningful action," they said in a report.

This sense of betrayal is explosive given the political siege imposed under the direct Israeli military occupation on the PLO and PA in the West Bank and the Israeli military siege imposed tightly on the Gaza Strip. Conditions are ripe for a third Palestinian "Intifada" (uprising) in the West Bank and all indications refer to a renewal of Israeli military invasion of Gaza.

Abbas, in an interview with The Wall Street Journal on December 22 warned of an imminent "Intifada." True he pledged that, "As long as I'm in office, I will not allow anybody to start a new intifada. Never. Never. But if I leave, it's no longer my responsibility and I can't make any guarantees," he said.

Meanwhile in the Gaza Strip, Hamas, on the eve of the first anniversary of the December 27 Israeli three -week invasion, is warning against an imminent Israeli new invasion. Their strongest indicator is a steel wall the U.S. Engineering Corps are building underground to block an estimated 1,500 tunnels that span the 14-kilometer Sinai-Gaza border. In January 2008 thousands of Arab Palestinians from Gaza swarmed the Egyptian – Gazan borders as an outlet into a compatriot Arab government who nonetheless proved no more compassionate to their plight under siege than the Israelis when they immediately after the episode closed their border crossings. The tunnels were the Palestinian alternative.

Now the U.S. – made 18 – meter steel slabs, which were tested in U.S. laboratories to resist bombs, melting or cutting and meant to reach 30 meters underground, threaten -- in addition to disrupting and contaminating the underground water flow -- when the project is completed, reportedly in eighteen months, to deprive them of sixty percent of their

basic needs, according to the UNRWA American Commissioner – General, Karen Koning AbuZayd, who told a forum organized by the American University in Cairo that the steel wall is more secure than the Bar Lev Line, built by Israeli military along the eastern coast of the Suez Canal after it occupied the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt in 1967.

No people or country in the world would tolerate such a "defensive" wall on their borders, a first worldwide, or view it as not an act of war. The steel wall serves only Israeli political and military goals, notwithstanding the fact it is "U.S. – made" -- according to AbuZayd -- and the labor as well as the guarding soldiers are Egyptians. As such the wall is viewed as part of the Israeli occupation and as an integral part of the Israeli siege mechanisms, and accordingly, from a Palestinian point of view, its targeting is legitimate. However, Palestinians, at least in Gaza strip, are in a state of war with Israel, but not with Egypt. Consequently, any expected violent flare up which the wall could ignite would be Palestinian – Israeli hostilities. Hamas argues that Egypt cannot risk the expected angry Palestinian, Arab, Muslim and international outcry against the collective punishment of one and a half million Palestinians in Gaza unless Cairo is expecting an Israeli invasion that would make such an outcry short-lived.

Israel is diverting attention away from the Palestinian imminent explosion and away from both its political siege of the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank and its military siege of the rival Palestinian leadership in Gaza by highlighting as a priority an Iranian nuclear threat, which has yet to be vindicated. All indications are that the Obama administration has subscribed to the Israeli agenda, dragging with it its European satellites. All other Middle East regional conflicts could wait, it seems, even the explosive Arab and Palestinian – Israeli conflict.

Nicola Nasser is a veteran Arab journalist based in Bir Zeit, West Bank of the Israeli – occupied territories.

“Islamic Banks in Yemen stumble between mismanagement and status quo” said an economist

By: Ali Saeed

Islamic banking has the same purpose as conventional banking except that it operates in accordance with the rules of shariah. Islamic Banks operate on Islamic principles of profit and loss sharing and other approved modes of investment. It strictly avoids interest which is the root of all exploitation and is responsible for large scale inflation and unemployment. An Islamic Bank is committed to do away with disparity and establish justice in the economy, trade, commerce and industry; build socio-economic infrastructure and create employment opportunities.

According to Ali Al-Wafi, a Yemeni economist, with 20 years experience in economics, especially on the economy of Yemen, “the Islamic Banks in Yemen are suffering as a result of poor management and the general status in country, and have been unable to achieve their commitments.”

The Islamic banks in Yemen were established, ten years ago, to achieve the same commitments as any Islamic bank and especially to attract capital from people, to be used mainly for investing in productive and service projects. Most importantly, the role envisaged for the Islamic Banks, was to make capital available for economic,

productive business, on basis of Islamic principles, to link people with the labor market and create employment opportunities. However, the banks have failed to achieve this.

Though the banks have been successful in attracting capital, the success can be more attributed to the preference of the Yemenis for Islamic Banks over the conventional banks, rather than an achievement on the part of the banks.

“Unfortunately, in spite of attracting capital, the Islamic banks in Yemen could not manage the capital collected efficiently,” says Al Wafi, explaining that, “the main problem of capital management, restricting the performance of Islamic banks in Yemen, is that administrations of these banks monopolize the use of the capital and divert it for investing only in the businesses of certain privileged segments of the society.”

This is against the principles of Islamic Banking, according to which, the capital collected should not benefit only a handful and must be utilized for investing in businesses of anyone in the country. Also it is necessary for a major part of the capital to be used for investment and creation of employment opportunities, which is not the case.

In measuring the level of compliance of the Yemeni Islamic Banks with

the Islamic principles of banking, the economist said that the success of the Islamic banks in Yemen in this regard differs from one bank to another and mostly they comply for reasons of “fear of Allah”, but at the same time Al Wafi indicated that there are banks who fail to comply.

Islamic banks in Yemen still on the onset of investing businesses

“Although more than ten years have passed since the establishment of Islamic banking in Yemen, the Islamic banks in Yemen have just begun to employ the capital collected, in economic and productive businesses, on the basis of profit and loss sharing” said Al-Wafi.

Recently, the Saba Islamic Bank, one of the leading Islamic banks in Yemen announced its investment in constructing residential cities in Sana’a and Aden. “The bank is successfully investing in real estate, and from the very onset, the bank has been committed to employ its resources to serve the economic and social development of the country,” said Jameel Al-Ansi, the General Manager of Saba Islamic Bank. “The bank has recently launched five more residential cities in Sana’a that follow the highest architecture and engineering standards,” he added. According to Al-Ansi, there will be



In spite of attracting capital, the Islamic banks in Yemen could not manage the capital collected efficiently.

around 4,000 residences constructed in Aden, as well.

Investing in construction of residential cities seems to be good as far as boosting up the assets these banks is concerned. According to Al-Anisi “Funding new residences and residential cities contributed to the

increasing of the bank’s assets, in the banking sector, from 1.7 percent in 1998 to 9.3 percent in 2009.

Islamic banks in Yemen reluctant to media

To enrich the report of Islamic banks in Yemen and to know more about their

future strategy and what obstacles they face, the Yemen Times visited administrations of the Al-Tadhamon International Islamic Bank and the Saba Islamic bank and faxed them to answer the questions of the report, but they kept making appointments without use.

Sugarcane industry, an undiscovered potential



Sugar cane is planted in some areas of Yemen especially in the valleys that are filled with springs and also in areas with a moderate and cold climate.

By: Mahmoud Al-Harazi
For the Yemen Times

This sweet crop is an industry in some countries, provides good revenues to the budget and creates job opportunities, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Statistics from the FAO indicate that the largest producer of sugar cane in the world is Brazil followed by India.

But, sugar cane is still a neglected potential industry in Yemen and unknown to concerned officials at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Sugar cane is planted in some areas of Yemen especially in the valleys that are filled with springs and also in areas with a moderate and cold climate.

The Ibb governorate, particularly the Al-Odain district, is the only area that produces sugar cane because of an abundance of water found there. It could also potentially be produced in Hajaa governorate, but no research has been conducted to determine where it can be planted.

“The Yemeni production of sugar cane is very small, and really not enough to be mentioned,” said Saleh Al-Abed, member of the Agricultural Media at the Ministry of Agriculture

“So information about this product in Yemen is very difficult to find,” he added.

There aren’t any plants in the country that can process such a small quantity of

produce and mill it into sugar.

But, the General Manager of the Industrial Zones at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Abdulrazaq Al-Sorori, stated that there is one plant in Hodiedah, which is still under construction.

However, he gave no details about the crop and whether the new plant will import the cane from abroad or it will look for suitable areas in the country to cultivate this product and then crush it into sugar.

The crop now is only sold as fresh produce by vendors in some cities such as Sana’a, Ibb, and Taiz.

“I buy the sugar cane from the agent in Sana’a, and sell it in streets of Sana’a,” said Belal Al-Jawlahi, a sugar cane vendor, who sells the crop on a wheelbarrow in Sana’a.

The customers of the fresh crop are usually school students and the cane vendors often compete in places especially near the schools.

The cane vendors are not making much money but they can meet their daily requirements through this profession.

“I sell about 2,000YR (USD 10) of sugar cane daily,” Al-Jawlahi said.

“Al-Odain district is the only district which produces sugar cane in Yemen, and sugar cane is distributed to all the governorates in Yemen except the distant governorates like Aden and Hadramout governorates,” said Abdelaziz Al-Maqrebi, a farmer in Al-Odain district.

Al-Maqrebi added that the only

retailers of the sugar cane are the vendors and cafeteria owners in Sana’a.

There are very big farms producing the cane in Anah valley, Adur valley, and Anaqel valley in Al-Odain, but those big farms need too much weekly water to plant the sugar cane, according to the farmer.

When Yemen Times asked the Ministry of Agriculture and irrigation officials and Sana’a university instructors about this subject, they didn’t appear to have any correct information about sugar cane, where it could be planted, nor how many districts sugar cane could be planted in.

Moreover the Agriculture Statistics Yearbook for 2009 did not include sugar cane as a Yemeni product planted in Al-Odain district.

Al-Odain farmers confirm that Al-Odain district is producing large quantities of sugar cane, and there are very big farms that can distribute sugar cane to all Yemeni areas.

“Sugar cane requires a period of 12 to 24 months to be harvested, and it’s one of the short day plants, and requires high temperatures to accelerate the growth of sugar cane plants, which helps to store the sugars in the stalks of plants. Sugar cane also needs the availability of large quantities of water, and needs to be well fertilized,” said Al-Maqrebi.

The sugar cane stalks can be part of the economic yield. They contain up to 15 percent sugar. The economic importance of sugar cane is not only in the production of sugar or drinking the

juice, but there are also many secondary industries that could be based on this crop, according to an article published in Alriyadh newspaper by Dr.Mohammed Ali Ahmed Basha.

Basha said that vinegar and popsicles can be made from the sugar cane. In addition, sugar cane is used in manufacturing paper and wood, and in manufacturing artificial silk (rayon), as

well as extracting wax from its outer layer. He added that the food value of sugar cane is present in the sugar. Sugar cane contains about 8 to 12 percent sugar when squeezed, and the sugar in the juice may reach more than 16 percent.

As for some of the real nutritional benefits of sugar cane, one is that it is an immediate source of energy, because it contains a good percentage of sugars for

quick absorption, Basha pointed out.

Sugar cane is useful for many of internal diseases. Its different percentages of iron, calcium and phosphorus, and is also rich in vitamins A and C, and has a small percentage of protein, Basha said.

Sugar cane protects against the hardening of arteries with the same efficacy as aspirin.

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Airport Road, Doha's, Republic of Qatar
PEC Procurement General Department

Come on, Israel ! Peace or no peace?

By: Mubeen Esam
Mibo_time@yahoo.com

Israel doesn't want peace with Arabs and Muslims because it doesn't need it, while the Arabs want it because they need it very much. There is no pragmatic plan to create peace between the Palestinians and Israel. Israel doesn't wish to stop building settlements on the Palestinian area because it doesn't want any peace with the Palestinians specifically, and the Arabs generally; therefore, it denies any terms that will bring peace.

The Israeli states eventually agreed that an independent Palestinian country should be established next to Israel, but only under the condition that in return, it be disarmed and the Palestinians proclaim that Israel has the right to exist and is a legitimate country. When world leaders agreed to establish an independent Palestinian country, their intention was not for it to end up as a welfare or apartheid state, always marginalized, and existing under the threat of annihilation. Israel doesn't want peace because it realizes that it may affect it negatively. I mean that if there's peace, Israel won't get areas and people upon whom to test its modern arms and weapons against. Many young people will not get jobs because they work in the security and military fields to keep Israel safe when there is no peace with the Palestinians. If there is peace with the Palestinians, both sides (Israel and Palestinians) will use the water sources equally Israel certainly doesn't accept this. In addition, Israel can't demolish its settlements because the settlers have nice buildings, big houses, special education and medicine, great clinics, high salaries and perfect safety. Consequently, Israel doesn't need nor want peace because it's afraid of the unknown. The Israeli situation following peace could threaten the Israelis' luxurious lives.

As we see, after each consensus between the Palestinians and Israel regarding peace and after every ceasefire, there is renewed fighting either between the Palestinians and Israel or among the Palestinians themselves. Peace from the Israeli perspective is wiping the Palestinians and Palestine out. The Israeli settlements strengthen the Israeli occupation on Palestinian land practically and psychologically and they also lessen the Palestinians' hopes for making peace.

Israel has attempted to turn this issue with the Palestinians into a Pan-Arab-

Israeli issue rather than an Israel-Palestinian one in order to pressure Arab leaders and their states into establishing good relations with Israel to solve the issue and bring about the desired peace.

Israel certainly wants Palestine to remain undeveloped politically, economically, and militarily and to continue be a market full of consumers of Israeli products; a very captive market. There are unemployment, poverty and population problems so that there are no practical economic factors that help to establish an independent Palestinian country. Israel doesn't care about who will administer Palestine or Gaza politically but the important thing is that whoever does this is only a figurehead: Palestine or Gaza must ultimately be controlled by Israeli leaders.

Israel regularly forges documents about Palestine's history and changes landmarks on Palestinian land in order to lend itself legitimacy in Palestine and the Palestinians have no land or rights to live on their own land. Israel always plays word games during peace-dialogues with the Palestinian and Arab leaders.

Israel must insure that the Palestinians can live peacefully side-by-side with the Israelis and that the daily lives of the Palestinians are a main part of the peace process. There should be more concrete steps taken by Israelis and actions showing Israel's true intentions for making peace. All Muslims realize that Israel will not disappear at all and many Israeli citizens realize that an independent Palestinian country is a necessary matter.

The Israeli settlements on Palestinian land are the main obstacle against making peace from the American government's perspective, but America can not or will not take any strict measures against Israel because both have the same things at stake and the same goals. In my opinion, one of the main factors that impede peace with the Palestinians is that the Israeli citizens can easily change their government; therefore, any Israeli government fears being voted out so it refuses to make peace with Arabs uselessly when that contravenes the Israelis' wishes. Yet, Israel should recognize that might isn't the solution for all the problems in the Middle East and that dialogue is wiser and stronger than force.

In fact, Israel believes that it has taken many steps and presented a lot of concessions for the sake of the peace and its people think that Arabs don't want to make peace because they

have asked for more concessions from Israel to make this peace. However, this is erroneous and I say to them that their state always cancels any successful talks with the Palestinians which have any hopes of leading to a just and lasting peace, and they use purposefully obtuse and unclear language in each meeting with Arab leaders to mislead them and confuse the issues. They don't keep their promises about making peace because they respect neither Arab nor world leaders. Israel feels disgraced when it holds a dialogue with the Arabs because it's more powerful than the Arab nations. In my personal opinion, the main reason that Israeli citizens believe they are in the right is that the Israeli educational syllabi in schools and universities are based on lies and the forging of facts. They teach their pupils and students incorrect events, false principles, and distorted facts to turn them against the Arabs and Palestinians, and accordingly their people hate the Arabs and Muslims and view them as extremists and terrorists who don't desire true peace.

In their textbooks, the Israeli state portrays the Arabs and Muslims as nomads, who are uncivilized and uneducated people, occupying Palestine (or Israel) which is Jewish land. In addition, the Israeli mass media perpetuates such false and misleading ideas about the Arabs and Muslims and enables them to grow in the Israelis' minds by broadcasting and producing programs which supplement and provide such ideas, as well as by providing incorrect news about what is going on in the Middle East and particularly in Palestine. Israel will not stop planning to occupy the entire Arab world.

Israel is safe when there is no peace with Arabs and Palestinians because such peace would seriously restrict its efforts and ambitions to produce dangerous arms, particularly nuclear arms. We as Arabs don't view the settlements as the only obstacle to peace as other world leaders do. We understand that all the former Israeli governments, as well as the current one, are not serious about concluding a successful peace treaty. If Israel intended to make peace, it would have done so. Israel has started using the new strategy of land for peace in recent years.

So, while Israel continues to achieve its aims in the Middle East, the Arabs are asleep. The Arabs' current situation is truly appalling and disgraceful and this weakens them, so Israel feels no need to make peace with its weak peer

and enemy. In the wake of that, Israel and Jews all over the world mock us, and they hold our culture, educational system, faith, religion, minds, leaders, history, past and future in disdain, while we extend our hands to them begging for peace; however, despite all this, we have wise factors that make us stronger and more developed than them.

Peace from Israel's viewpoint is a temporary peace, and one purely on their terms. Israel should know that peace will not be found coincidentally. Israel continues finding excuses in order to nullify the peace treaty. Israel is always searching for how to evade peace, but real peace requires concrete actions not only words. You should know that Israel is still Israel; always expect the worst as it has never changed its evil goals. As a result, the Arabs and Muslims must fight Israel and redeem their land, Palestine, because what is taken by force can, unfortunately, only be recovered by the same force. We should abandon asking Israel for peace through dialogue and we should realize that Israel is afraid of us. We should wage a constant war against Israel because this is the only way to eradicate Israel, the evil weed on our land. Israel is like a cancer which spreads rapidly all over the body. Israel wants to spread around the Arab world and impose its power on the Arabs.

In brief, the Arabs and their leaders must resolve their internal problems and be united in their fight against Israel until they overpower it. We should realize that if we don't eradicate Israel, it will destroy us. Israel has no long past, and any nation which has no long past, will have no long future. We should know that we're despised by the Israelis and Jews no matter how kind we are with them or how many attempts we make to bring about some kind of peace between our peoples. We must start making plans to fight Israel and root it out from our land because it's the main source of our current problems and the bleak situation we face. We should stop asking Israel for peace and force Israel to be the party which needs peace, not us. We must oblige Israel to make permanent peace by force, not by discourse. Israel always defeats us in dialogue but it can't defeat us in wars. We must take a firm decision that we don't want Israel any longer on our land, Palestine. We don't want peace with Israel while it is still occupying Palestine. We should lift up this slogan: "War then Peace."

The world of contradictions

By: Mayasa Ali
mayasa_a@yahoo.com

The world around us is full of contradictions. Whenever things begin to appear to be more correlated and more sequential, in one minute we realize the fact that all the correlation and sequence was just a dream. Yes we're dreaming, and we open our eyes to see a very frightful nightmare that makes us sleepless and worried.

It isn't a human being's philosophy, it's the turning points of fate that we rarely grant ourselves the chance to realize and understand its reality, and apprehend its little details, instead of all that when we face a crossroads, and not because it's reality, but because it's what we have created and envisaged for ourselves. We feel deeply happy deeply and think that it's the beginning of all our dreams being fulfilled. With what we view as only a few steps remaining between us and the happiest of endings, we choose only to see what we want to see and bring to life our own self-created and perpetuated reality.

If we have a pleasant dream during our slumber at night, when we get up in the morning, some of us need a few moments to realize whether it was a dream or reality. Those who are honest with try to persuade themselves that all that was just a dream, smile because they enjoyed it even if it was only in their sleep, and without losing a lot of time, they continue on their way, hoping that they might have such a lovely dream in the future or perhaps some of it might even come true. However, this is done without giving that hope the chance to affect their lives or plans because they believe that dreaming is one thing and reality is another,

and having a nice dream doesn't mean you waste your time and life waiting for it to come true for nothing.

For those who aren't honest with themselves, when they get up from that nice dream, a wide smile is drawn on their faces and a great feeling of happiness fills their hearts. Without giving themselves any chance to think carefully about what happened, they are persuaded that what they saw during the night was reality or at least a prediction of what they are going to face the next day. They then go about their day with hearts and minds that have become prisoners to that dream, waiting for its fulfillment every moment. They ignore everything except their illusion, and their day ends without them taking even one step in their lives. With great desperation, they return to their beds waiting for the same dream or another equally happy one. They're waiting purely for dreams, and dreaming of dreams, day after day until a great sadness and despair appears clearly on their faces and is apparent in their deeds just like the great happiness that was evident on them when they had the first dream. You see the contradictions? Now they have nothing to do except talk and talk about the lost dreams.

This is the real difference between those who try their best to be honest with themselves by taking enough time to realize and understand the turning point of fate, they don't surrender easily to great happiness till they look deeply at events and wait for everything to be clear, and at the end they are more honest and more satisfied with what comes from Allah as believing in Him and trusting Him greatly helps us to accept His fate and to be sure that He gives his people what is good for them, and a day will always come to prove that fact.

Does Obama deserve N. P. Prize?

By: Saeed Al-Buraihi
Saeed21ye2000@yahoo.com

Barack Obama winning the Nobel Peace Prize came as a surprise to many, including the U.S. President himself. To be honest, I think that Obama doesn't deserve the Nobel Peace Prize at this time; because he did not offer any real accomplishment in reality that would qualify him for this award, and his rule has not been more than nine months.

There have been various attempts by Obama to go further than we expected,

just on foreign policy specially the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Of course all of Obama's encouraging moves are merely pledges, initiatives, discussions and promises. We are right to press for more, but they are pledges, initiatives and discussions and all kinds of slow but necessary efforts that weren't taking place at all for eight years under the Bush regime. So I abandoned my head-shaking, and instead held my head high. I was impressed by Obama's own humble speech, in which he said flatly he didn't "deserve" the award, by the standards most of us hold for this crucial prize.

Japan: The love and dignity

By: Christina el-sa'aidi
christina_saeidi@yahoo.com

Nippon (Land of sun origin), Technology land; you may call it by those names, or just Japan. This country is an example of strength and struggling that led to the hugest developmental revolution ever known. I'm impressed, like many others, with these people and how they started over from scratch after World War II. In fact, Hiroshima and Nagasaki (1945) were a turning point for Japan. Despite the high price that was paid, this crisis and what came in the aftermath, showed how people are able to create miracles.

I often wondered about the secret behind that hard work, and their unique desire and stamina, till I was invited to the Japanese cultural days in Sana'a last November, where I saw how they appreciate everything and respect everyone. However, what really solved that puzzle was a movie I watched there called, "The Love and Dignity." A Japanese gentleman told me that it is one of the best movies representing Japanese culture, and he is right. It was a movie about a Samurai who

was accidentally blinded and how his wife was scared about maintaining his social and financial level because of the marvelous love she had towards him. It also showed how he stood up against someone who wanted to use this situation to take the Samurai's wife and how he fought despite being blind, just to defend his dignity knowing that he might die, but swore that if he did, his enemy would die with him. He was not afraid of death for the sake of accomplishing his goal.

Bingo! Now, I know the complete answer: Love and Dignity. The Japanese love their land and do whatever it takes to see it develop and win the race. They defend Japan's dignity and that is obvious in every dialogue, which demonstrates how the Japanese spirit is strong and resolute. This question occurred to me many times; what would happen if we had the same love towards our country? Yemen deserves the same love, and the defense of its dignity is certainly worth the fight. Why don't we make Yemen "ARAB NIPPON"? Well, it's not impossible. Remember, if there is a will there is a way (and no mountain is too high if you know how to climb it). Dear Japanese, thank you for sharing your secret with us.

To what extent their grudge reaches!

By: Majed Al-Kotamy
Majedahmed1985@yahoo.com

Last week, many people around the world were frighteningly startled when they saw a horrible scene, photographed by a Jewish hobbyist and broadcast on the two Israeli channels, which shows an Israeli motorist driving over and killing a Palestinian man in the street with his fashionable car.

Actually, this barbarous act is not the first nor last of this sort in the Jewish nation's history. It is merely one of a beastly series of crimes and a culture of bloodshed, multiplying on the backs of those murderous, savage people, whose cruelty has been a part of their nature since antiquity.

If we return to the early days of the establishment of this bloody country as a malignant cancer in the blessed land of Muslim Palestine, we can find many crimes committed by the Zionist gangs against unarmed people. In this article, light will be shed on some of those crimes and examples provided in order to allow the world to learn more about this cut-throat race.

Dair Yassain carnage

Dair Yassain is a small village, 20 Kilometers from Tel Aviv, with an Arab majority. It was attacked by Zionist gangs in 1948 and all its Arab people were slaughtered in cold blood.

Sabra and Shatila 1982

In this infamous massacre, Sharon, who was at that time the Minister of

War and Defense for Israel, used the traitorous hands of what was known as the "Southern Lebanon Army" to attack the peaceful Palestinian camps in both Sabra and Shatila, and slaughter over 3000 people, most of them women and the elderly.

Gana 1 "The Grapes of Wrath" 1984

In this event, the hands of the Israeli army reached out to assassinate innocent childhood in one of the UN-houses, as a kind of challenge for the world as well as the Security Council. Over 90 children were killed in a brutal and monstrous way.

Gana carnage 2006

The same criminal hands, the same victims and the same place, but a different number of children murdered.

Gaza 2008

One of the most horrible wars, the Gaza War, occurred in 2008. This has been the ugliest war to date, in which Israel used several different kinds of prohibited arms including white phosphorous.

Targeting the unarmed and besieged people in Gaza, the savagery and cruelty of this war was revealed by Israel's beastly way of killing and leaving behind it over 1400 martyrs and more than 4000 casualties in Gaza.

In brief, this hair-raising event revealed evidently the vast extent of the ingrained malignity of Jews towards other nations, whether they are Arabs or other nationalities. It showed their complete disregard for all human beings whose religion is not Judaism.

Transportation system in Yemen

By: Hanaa Al-Haroni
Hanaa_haroni@yahoo.com

Yemen is a developing country in which many things are under construction and development. One of these things is transportation means which is average and needs more improvements. However, Yemen has variety of transportation means such as: taxes, buses, cars, coaches, motorbikes and bikes. One of the most using transportation means is buses, because passengers pay less money. At the same time, they are facing a lot of problems and obstacles while moving

from one place into another.

To begin with, distribution of buses into bus stations does not cover all areas and streets which means that it is not balanced. So in some places we as passengers must wait for a bus to move for half and hour under the burning sun and air pollution even though there are a lot of buses in some other places. Moreover, streets in some cities in Yemen are cramped and reorganized because road diagram has not been planned well. Therefore, the official side has to reorganize the road diagram again for flood, telecommunication cables and sewage tunnel. All these causes traffic jam in the city and make moving hard

between destinations. Then no one arrive to his/her destination on time.

Furthermore, most of the buses are old, cramped and ding. Buses, these days, are not designed for comfort and safe of passengers but rather for gaining money. Drivers do not care how comfortable you are! But his most concern is to move space to other passengers in order to get 20 riyals to his pocket. The key problem is encountered by women who do not find a place for them on such buses as they face trouble-makers on buses. Such bad guys neither respect women nor do they give any sign of estimation to others. In addition to that smoking is a big problem which must be remedied

by authority, because smoking causes cancer and heart failure and many other diseases that are unknown now to you.

At last all problems which have been mentioned above should be taken into account by the government in order to give remedies to these problems such as importing new modern buses and making road diagram in some places to be planned well. Transportation system needs a lot of improvements. The government should do its best to overcome these problems. So that at the least our city will be an ideal example for transportation. That sounds impossible if we do not work together!

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للتواصل: ٧٧١٥٨٠٥٠٩
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My fifth visit to Socotra

By: Ameen Derham
titra@y.net.ye
For the Yemen Times

I decided to spend the Eid vacation in Socotra to enjoy the calmness of the nature. At Sana'a Airport, my luggage was checked by the security guards, for I had a lot of fruits and vegetables, including spearmint and coriander, which I wanted to give to my friend Adeb - a tourist camp owner in Socotra. I asked the guards what were they searching for? Their answer was qat. They said it was recently banned by a presidential decree, to carry qat to Socotra. "Thanks Allah" I said to myself. I had for very long wished for qat to be banned officially.

Anyway, on the way to the camp in Socotra, I asked the taxi driver pick me up at 4 pm, as I wanted to go on an expedition around the island. The driver came right on time, his mouth full of qat. I asked "where did you get qat?" Replying that it was sold in the market, "at a very high price, after it was banned", he said that qat selling started again after some builders threatened to go on a strike if qat was not made available.

"Surprising! I wonder whether infrastructure development in the KSA in the 70s and 80s, needed the Yemeni workers to chew qat" I said to myself trying to figure out the roots of the habit.

I really doubt that erecting buildings needs chewing qat. Therefore, I kindly request our government to investigate into the availability of qat on the island even after carrying qat to Socotra has been banned since six months and "strict procedures" in this regard are being followed at Sana'a Airport. I request the government to kindly start a real strict checking and stop qat from being carried to this island, before it is too late.



Health Care:

I drop by the new building of Hudibo Hospital. Every time I pay a visit to Socotra, I make it a point to visit the hospital. I found that the hospital scored progress, though it needs more funds. I hope the Ministry of Health will look for sponsors to fund paying medical instruments so that equipping the hospital with medical instruments is done simultaneously with completing the construction of the building.

I also feel trees should be planted in the hospital yard to make the atmosphere more pleasant and comforting, to the visiting patients and their families. And one more important thing. I think that the hospital should be equipped with modern toilets in addition to the Arabic ones; foreigners should also feel comfortable if they need to go to the hospital.

Hudibo and Kalansia streets:

President Saleh, Allah protect him, in April, ordered to pave a ten kilometer road in both the cities, of Hudibo and Kalansia. However, till date, nothing has been done on that. It is very important that the Local Administration acts

on the order and starts the process of paving, along with the street lighting, as per the plan of the budget for the year 2010.

The fish factory, arboretums and Adeb Hudaib camp:

The factory is closed for unknown reasons since more than two years. The island needs such factories in order to progress.

The arboretum, however, is progressing. There are 17 thousand trees, eleven thousand of which are Dragon's Blood trees.

It would be good idea for the Ministry of Agriculture to take up a project to plant trees in the island. Dragon's Blood trees, in particular, should be taken care of, because their number has become much lesser than what it used to be in the past. These trees take more than one hundred years to grow in addition to the fact that they need plenty of water. Bushes are unfortunately eaten up by livestock, consequently the green areas have started to pale.

The summer camp on the sea coast is progressing with its cuisine serving a variety of dishes.

Summer Land Hotel:

This three star hotel, located down town is rebuilt. The hotel was first build with the dawn of the Yemen's unity.

Zahrat Socotra farm:

This farm is located in Hajrrah (to the east of the capital Hudibo). Nashwan Almahdi, once an employee of the Yemen Bank, had an interest in Socotra island. Three months ago, he resigned and went to Socotra directly, to establish an agricultural project in the island, that he had always dreamed of. He has indeed established a 15 hundred lebna (44.4 square meters) farm in which he has planted various fruits and vegetables. He has also decided to invest in the many other lands he had bought before. Thanks to Nashwan and all who helped him, the residents of Socotra now know some new vegetables and fruits, which they did not know before.

Thought before the Indian Ocean:

I was standing in a place 20 thousand feet above sea level. The place was, naturally, outstanding. From where I stood, I could see only the sky - mingling with the water. I was so drawn to the wonderful scenery that when I was on the way to the airport, an idea just popped in my mind.

I hope this idea meets the approval of businessmen in Yemen. My idea is to qualify Socotra youth and give them training courses in tourism, as well as courses in hotel management so that they serve tourists - the way it should be.

During the Monsoon (a seasonal reversing wind accompanied by seasonal changes in precipitation happens from May to September case tourism to temporarily stops), five to ten youths from the island should be hosted in Sana'a to join English,

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Hodeidah: Tel : +967 3 201110, Fax : +967 3 201107, Taiz: Tel : +967 4 251454, Fax : +967 4 250632
Aden: Tel : +967 2 244290, Fax : +967 2 246207, Mukalla: Tel : +967 5 350997, Fax : +967 5 350989.

Free Call:
800 50 50

German, and Italian language institutes.

I ask all my friends to contact me at my email address and give their feedback on this thought. I think, that if this became a reality, Yemen and the island in particular will benefit.

In case the suggestion is approved, many job opportunities will be created and tourism will flourish.

In the end, I hope travels agencies promote internal tourism in Yemen in general and to this wonderful island, in particular.



Socotra's farmers

Addis Ababa

Yemenia Holidays

A package to **Addis Ababa** with **\$575** including hotel and transportation for a week.

BIOKUBE Biological purification of wastewater

HORIZON HORIZON AGENCIES & COMMERCIAL SERVICES (HACS)
P.O. Box : 15408 Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Tel : +967 - 1 - 421588 / 421533 Fax : +967 - 1 - 421514
Email: horizon@y.net.ye Website: www.HACS-Yemen.com

Biological Cleaning of Wastewater for Oilfield camps, Office buildings & Residential apartments (3 - 1000 persons)

- Small systems
- Big systems
- Mobile systems

AGENT FOR:

FMC Technologies Sewer Meters / LACT Metering Systems
Solar Turbines A Corrosion Company
FMC Technologies Fluid Control / Pump / Invalve / Manifolds
DRESSER Masoneilan Control Valves

MURPHY FW Murphy
ECP Euro Corrosion Project Management & Consulting Company
Enraf Complete Tank Gauging Inventory System
Score Group plc Intelligent Meter and Data Transfer Solutions

DRESSER Consolidated Safety valves & Pressure Relief valves
KOOL Flow Products Pressure Products Level Products Temperature Products
BIOKUBE Biological purification of wastewater
FMC Technologies WECCO / Chikool / Dynator products

Honeywell Field Process Solutions
MALBRANQUE Pressure Valves & Relief Equipment
Turbine Overhauling KITTA
SEKO Pumps & Dosing Systems

CALIBRATION & Maintenance Workshop For Flow meters
SGS Certified Calibration System