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Monday, 4 January, 2010 • Issue No. 1326 • Price 40 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf www.yementimes.com

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Yemen Times Person of the Year 2009

General Manager of Traffic: Brigadier Yahya Mohammed Zahir

Every year Yemen Times chooses a Yemeni man or woman who has contributed to the country's development through their professional or personal work. This Year Brigadier Yahya Mohammed Zahir, General Manager of Traffic, received this award, in recognition for his effort to make Yemeni streets a safer place to be.



Yemen Times Person of the Year 2009

Brigadier Yahya Mohammed Zahir

By Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, JAN. 3 — For anyone who has lived in Yemen, he or she would realize that driving in Yemen especially in Sana'a is very risky, to say the least. Since he commenced his post in October 2008, Zahir has made it a point for this to change.

"Yemen deserves better than this. The impression we give people who visit the country is that we are mad people on wheels. We owe it to our country to improve ourselves not just for our own safety but for the country's image as a whole," he said.

During 2009, the Traffic General Authority, which is affiliated to the Ministry of Interior conducted several safety and awareness campaigns, the latest of which is for seatbelts. As a reaction to this campaign in particular he mentioned that generally people are responsive and appreciative. The "few" who don't like this new trend will have to adjust as Zahir intends to make it a fixed habit on the roads of Yemen.

Another project Zahir has been working on all year and hopefully will be out soon, is reforming the Yemeni traffic law. "The one we have is outdated," he said. "So much has changed and we need to have the laws upgraded in order to facilitate traffic and safety procedures."

The new law has been drafted and is currently being studied at the legal

affairs department at the Ministry of Interior. Once the department approves it, the law will be passed to the parliament for voting.

A third important project Zahir has pushed forward during this year is regarding upgrading vehicles license plates. Through his visits to other countries and participation in various conferences, he has concluded that the Yemeni vehicles license plates are outdated and need to be changed. The new plates will change in texture, color and numbering systems.

"We will use electronic chips in the new plates in order to identify cars. The existing system is really outdated but with the new technology, which is currently being imported by the authority, we hope that by next year we will start introducing the new plates system," he explained.

The numbering system for the new license plates will also be neutral as the current ones allow for distinction between governorates. Through existing plates one can make out whether this car was licensed in Sana'a, Aden or any other city. With the new system this distinction will disappear.

During 2009, Zahir has also implemented new regulations for motorbikes. "Many of the immediate deaths resulting from accidents are because of motorbikes, especially in cities where bikes are a common means of transport such as Hodeida," he said. Regulating motorbikes has been an ongoing

project for the authority and Zahir has given it a push forward.

The bikes did not have license plates before. But now the deadline for bikers to register their bikes is next week. Any bike without a plate will be confiscated.

Continued on page 2

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Terrorist group promises reinforcements to Yemen

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, JAN. 3 — The promise of sending reinforcements to Yemen, made by Somalia's rebel group (Al-Shabaab), has alarmed the Yemeni public, government, the Somali community, and foreign embassies in Yemen.

Mukhtar Robow Abu Mansour, a senior official in Al-Shabab, announced on Friday at a ceremony for hundreds of newly trained fighters in northern Mogadishu, to send fighters to aid Al-Qaeda militants currently battling Yemeni government forces.

"We tell our Muslim brothers in Yemen that we will cross the water between us and reach your place to assist you fight the enemy of Allah," he said.

"Today you see what is happening in Yemen, the enemy of Allah is destroying your Muslim brothers," he said.

"I call upon the young men in Arab lands to join the fight there," he added.

This call has increased concern among Yemenis as well as Somalis in Yemen, which is the only country in the Arabian peninsula giving asylum to Somalis, who have fled a civil war that has raged in that country since 1991.

"Yemen should stop receiving more Somalis immigrants, and reconsider the asylum decisions that have already been granted," said Mahmoud Alsami, a Yemeni citizen.

"These refugees are an economic burden on Yemen, and now they are a security threat," he added.



Al Shabab is an Al Qaeda-inspired militant group that has taken control of large areas of south and central Somalia.

Yet, many human right activists in Yemen believe that Yemen should commit to its obligation of receiving refugees, as Yemen has ratified Refugees convention in 1951. However they insisted on the importance of increased security measures to avoid any terrorists actions.

"Yemen should take accurate measures, like recruiting more coast guards, to ensure the security of its vast shoreline, to be able to control the constant exodus of African immigrants," said Dr. Sarah Al-Arasi, professor of international law in Sana'a university.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni government commented on Saturday that it will not tolerate foreign terrorists on its soil.

"Yemen will not accept on its territory any presence by [foreign] terrorist elements and will be on guard against anyone who tries to act against its security and stability," Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, Yemen's foreign minister, stated to the official Saba news agency.

"It would have

been wiser for those who promise to export terrorism to work towards stability in their own war-ridden state," Al-Qirbi comment.

Al Shabaab, which means "Youth" in Arabic, is an al Qaeda-inspired militant group that has taken control of large areas of south and central Somalia.

Al Shabaab's headline militia was part of the Somalia Islamic Courts Council (SICC) movement that pushed U.S.-backed warlords out of Mogadishu in June 2006 and ruled for six months before Somali and Ethiopian forces ousted them.

Discrimination Concerns

Though no incident has officially been recorded yet against Somalis since the announcement of the Al-Shabab, however, the Somalis community has expressed their fears of being subjected to any discrimination from Yemenis or the government. "Yemeni people and the Yemeni government have received us generously. However and after this announcement, we are really anxious of its negative impact," said Mohammed Sadat, coordinator at the Somalis community in Yemen.

He criticized the Al-Shabab group saying that their announcement expose all Somalis over the world to risk, as they will be stereotyped as terrorists.

"Since 1991, about two millions and five hundred thousands Somalis have arrived in Yemen, thirty present of

which have sneaked into Gulf Countries which deported them to back to Somalia. Maybe those returnees were involved with Al-Shabab," he added.

Difficulties such as renting houses, getting jobs, and harassment on the streets are all expected to increase for Somalis, said Mohamed Shaikh Isahak, social affairs official in the Somali community in Yemen.

"We were concerned when the Yemeni government arrested Somalis who had links to Al-Houthies (the rebels northern Yemen). With the announcement from Al-Shabab, the situation of Somali refugees in Yemen could worsen," he said.

The risk coming from the sea

Following the vow of Al-ShababThe Yemeni Coast Guard has stressed security measures and stepped up its patrols along Yemeni coasts on the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Arab Sea, said the General Director of the Yemeni Coast Guard Abdullah Al-Jalal. He pointed out that the guards are now searching all boats coming from African countries, and investigate the ID cards of the arrivals and scanning the sea using helicopters.

Ever since the collapse of their government in 1991, Somalis have been arriving at the port of Bossaso, to buy passage in small open fishing boats to Yemen, where they are given automatic political asylum.

The majority land safely on the beach at Bir Ali in Yemen, but hundreds of survivors report being forced overboard in deep water far from shore by unscrupulous traffickers.

"No one knows for sure how many Somalis have made their way to Yemen since the collapse of their government in 1991 and immigrants can always sneak into inner Yemeni regions, or neighboring countries, as only those who are found on the beach as they arrived are registered by the UN agency for Refugees, while the registration at by Yemeni authorities is optional," noted Dr. Ali Al-Awaj, researcher in refugees affairs in Yemen.

Support to fight terrorism

Despite increased security procedures by Yemeni officials to avoid terrorist actions, the US and British embassies

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closed on Sunday in the face of Al-Qaeda threats. The White House counterterrorism chief said the American Embassy, which was attacked twice in 2008, was shut because of an "active" al-Qaeda threat. A statement on the embassy's website announcing the closure cited "ongoing threats" from the terrorist group and did not say how long it would remain closed. In London, Britain's Foreign Office said its embassy was closed for security reasons. It said officials would decide later whether to reopen it tomorrow.

However both countries announced an increase in aid to the government to fight Al-Qaeda. Prime Minister Gordon Brown has called for a High level international conference to be held on

the 28 January to address the "failing state" of Yemen and the "strengthening" of intelligence in the area.

Britain announced that Washington and London will back a new counterterrorism police unit in Yemen.

Yemen has come under increasing scrutiny since Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, a group in Yemen that combines Al-Qaeda wings from Saudi Arabia and Yemen, claimed responsibility for the failed attempt on the 25th of December to bomb a US plane, on which 300 passengers travelled.

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.

Houthis welcome president's conditions yet lay their own

By: Mohammad Bin Salam

SA'ADA, JAN. 3 — Abdul Malek Al-Houthi, leader of the Houthi insurgents in Sa'ada north of Yemen welcomed on Saturday President Saleh's call for national dialogue which was initiated by the president last month. The dialogue invitation was an attempt to reach agreements on national issues with opposition and other stakeholders.

In a statement by Al-Houthi, he said "We welcome dialogue and we consider this initiative as a positive step toward peace and security".

"When the hostilities end, we will accept the conditions that Saleh has proposed. We are only defending ourselves but when the war ends we will be ready to talk. We want no more bloodshed and people and property kept safe. We

do not want more destruction because our country is going through critical times," he added.

In a rare act, President Saleh wrote the editorial of the official state newspaper Al-Tahwar in which he made a six point proposal. One point demanded the Houthis not to breach Saudi Arabia's borders. Houthis welcomed this proposal saying that they accept all the points and conditions since they are the ones under attack by the Saudi army.

The other points included ceasing fire, opening roads, eliminating land mines and stop ambushing citizens and military people alongside the long distance roads between cities.

They were demanded to withdrawing their armed men, returning stolen ammunition and releasing detainees. Finally, the Houthis must be law abiding

citizens.

Houthis confirmed that they do not target KSA because they do believe in respecting the neighboring countries.

The Supreme Security Committee showed its willingness to cease fire in case of Houthis commit themselves to the six points of Saleh. "If Houthis commit themselves to Saleh's points, cease fire will start without no delay", according to the Committee.

Houthis five demands are headed by respecting public freedom including freedom of opinion. Houthis also demanded to get the equality in sources and not to treat them discriminately depending on nominalization or sectarianism. Their list is ended demanding to stop all aggression prosecutions such as targeting them by media outlets and to get rid of all results of war including

compensating all victims of war.

On behalf of Houthis, their spokesman, Mohammad Abdul Salam, said that their demands are not impossible to fulfill.

The confrontations between Houthis from one side and the Yemeni and Saudi armies from the other side continued with unstopably in some provinces in Sa'ada.

Houthis, from their side, said that the Saudi air force launched on Saturday eleventh air raids on Al-Malaheth and Mounds of Al-Marwi and Al-Dokhan.

Houthis said in a statement that the Saudi air forces launched 720 missiles on northern western provinces of Sa'ada.

According to the statement, the Yemeni air force launched seven air raids on Dhahyan, Amesha and Harf Sofian

province in Amran governorate.

The Saudi journal, Al-Ryadh, mentioned that Al-Manzalah village in KSA located in the sothern Saudi borders was exposed to Houthis attack.

According to the journal, the attack resulted in confrontations between Saudi tribes and Houthis in which 19 Saudi have been killed.

Worth mentioning is that Al-Dood Mountain testifies military operations by the Saudi army against Houthis who are, in their turn, controlling areas in the Yemeni-Saudi borders.

Abdul Malek Al Houthi called on the international society to stand by the civilian who are killed by air raids in Sa'ada governorate.

Just after the rumors of the death of Al-Houthi, he said in a recorded tape, that Houthis put the responsibility of

killing dozens of civilian people on the international and the local society.

He said that the silence of the international and civil society organizations encouraged the attackers to commit genocide in the northern governorates. He ascribed what the slaughtering in Sa'ada to the fact of the civilians being unarmed Yemeni Muslims.

Al-Houthis mentioned the air raids to be Israeli-like because they tend to finish civilians from existence. "Air raids, regrettably, affect civilians. Armed fighters, on the other hand, can manage and avoid such raids; if there is someone wants to destroy us, we are ready, but civilians have nothing to do with the war," he said.

Al-Houthi concluded that operations will named in victims names as a revenge for their death.

YT Person of the Year 2009: Brigadier Yahya Mohammed Zahir

Every year Yemen Times chooses a Yemeni man or woman who has contributed to the country's development through their professional or personal work. This Year Brigadier Yahya Mohammed Zahir, General Manager of Traffic, received this award, in recognition for his efforts to make Yemeni streets a safer place to be.

Continued from page 1

Scary numbers

The traffic authority is not the only party responsible for safety in the streets. There are many authorities involved and many times there is an overlap in the responsibilities. "It's not just us, there is the Ministry of Works responsible for the roads maintenance and traffic lights and signs; there is the Ministry of Transportation involved in organization vehicles and road issues, the Ministry of Education for supporting traffic safety in the curricula, the Ministry of Information for supporting our media campaigns, Local Councils for their local jurisdictions and finally other security apparatus of the Ministry of Interior.

Most of the problems lie in people's awareness, both drivers and pedestrians. Around 85 percent of the causes of acci-



Yemen Times Editor Nadia Al-Sakkaf hands over Yemen Times Person of the Year 2009 Award to Brigadier Yahya Mohammed Zahir, General Manager of Traffic.

dents are due to human error. The number one cause is high speed, which is the reason behind one third of the accidents. This is followed by drivers' negligence and pedestrian carelessness.

In 2009 15,511 accidents were reported around the country, one third of which were in the capital city. During the same year 9,534 people were critically injured and another 3071 died on

the spot. Because of these accidents material losses were estimated at more than three billion and 800 million Yemeni Riyals. This number does not include the cost of losses of human life and medical expenses for the injured.

Revenues from violation tickets this year have also increased, as traffic officers became more vigilant. This year ticket revenues exceeded 300 million

Yemeni Riyals, mostly coming from the capital city.

There are more than 900,000 vehicles around the country, 23,000 of which are used in public transport such as taxis and minibuses. More than 30 percent of all these vehicles are in the Capital Secretariat and hence most of accidents are here in Sana'a. The traffic workforce, including officers, is no more than 6,222 officers and soldiers, including only 15 women working in office jobs at the headquarters.

During last year, official reports show that there are more than 3000 immediate deaths caused by traffic accidents. The traffic authority has used accidents during the Eid festivals as indicators for the success of the seatbelt campaign. Accordingly, number of deaths has decreased from 118 deaths across the republic during Eid Al-Adha to 83 deaths during Eid Al-Fitr for the same number of days. Testimonies from citizens who have seen how their lives have been saved by wearing seatbelts prove that this campaign is a success. However, according to Zahir there is yet so much more to be done.

Ambitions for the New Year

Zahir has many ambitions for the New

Year including the continuation of successes from last year. Along with the projects mentioned above, soon the traffic authority will launch a new electronic system whereby, drivers will be able to check their record online. With the new system, if they have tickets or license renewal or any other official business related to their vehicle, they can follow it online.

During this year the authority will also complete the electronic network with its branches all over the country. Establishing this network will decrease the centralization of the traffic authority and many procedures that needed to be done in the capital city will be done any-

where around the country.

But what he mostly hopes to achieve is endorsing a culture of safety and respect on the roads. "We will follow with our campaigns until the Yemeni driver becomes an example of disciplined polite drivers for the world to see. We will work to make the streets safer and reduce the number of accidents and losses, as much as we can," he said. "I hope that we can achieve this. And I know this will not be accomplished without the help of all stakeholders. As it is, we have had a lot of support from H.E. Minister of Interior and I hope that other ministries will also support our work, as what we do matters to all."

Yahya Zahir in a few words

Yahya Mohammed Zahir was born in Bani Al-Hareth in Wadi Dhar of Sana'a governorate in 1958. He graduated from the Police Academy and has a Bachelor in Law. He has also completed a higher diploma in law and participated in several international conferences, where he gave presentations and working papers on traffic and street safety.

He has done a comprehensive study, in 1986, on "the traffic problems of Yemen". Since his graduation he has taken several positions in the traffic authority except between 1994 and 1995, when he worked as deputy to Capital Secretariat Security Chief. He has taken posts as Amran Traffic Manager and Taiz Traffic Manager and since October 2008 he has become General Manager of the Traffic Authority.

He is married and has six children four boys and two girls.

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JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE CAPITAL (12)

‘Still a Muslima, but one that makes many mistakes’

By: Judith Spiegel
For the Yemen Times

You can find them in the streets, mosques and Arabic language schools of Sana'a, Europeans or North Americans who have converted to Islam. They usually look and behave more Muslim – if there is such a thing – than most Yemeni's. It is always men, or so it seems. What about women converting to Islam? Where can we find them and why do they want to become a Muslima?

One floor above a dentist, on Haddah Street, there is the Cultural Center for Foreigner's Call. This is clearly a men only outfit. You can say from the sizes of the plastic flip flops on the doormat. Apart from a few dark men in long white robes it is quiet at the centre. There are brochures and booklets on display and there is a Public Relations Officer, sitting at a clean desk. He refers to the fifth floor, where the women's branch is.

"We are here to talk about Islam and spread the message, not to force it upon anyone", says Nawal, the head of the women's branch. The branch now exists three years and has taught the first steps to Islam mostly to Russian, Philippine and Ethiopian women. Altogether no more than a hundred women have visited the place. "Some have married a Yemeni man and want to convert to their husband's and children's religion." Nawal is friendly, eloquent and patient, but when asked whether this conversion is voluntarily, or strongly encouraged by the husbands, she seems slightly irritated. "Of course this is voluntary, they have found the truth and are interested in learning more about it".

The question arises whether the position of women in Islam is not an obstacle for them to convert. "Of

course not, women only obtained rights since Islam", Nawal says. "Before Islam they had nothing, no property rights, no inheritance rights, nothing." To learn more about this, she presents a booklet "Woman in the shade of Islam".

The booklet is "prepared" by a man, "rendered into English" by a man, "introduced" by a man and "revised" by a man. After an introduction, the second chapter is about the rights of women in the old Roman, Greek, Jewish and Christian societies. According to the booklet, and like Nawal said before, women in these societies had no rights, they were often considered less than nothing. Islam then gave them rights. Like Nawal, the booklet does not mention the fact that Roman, Greek, Jewish and Christian societies have changed quite a bit over the years, so it seems at most a historically relevant comparison.

The next chapter talks about issues such as polygamy, inheritance, work, divorce, travelling and finally, about the beating of women. In the travelling part it is written that women, by nature, are, at least physically, weaker than men. It also says that "women are also weaker psychologically than men. They are easily inclined to follow their emotions rather than facts. (...) Therefore, a woman is in need for someone to care for her, protect her and maintain her needs while travelling".

In the beating part it is explained that a woman can only be beaten as a last resort, after having been warned and after her husband has "left her bed". If this does not help, beating is permitted (albeit without hurting, breaking a bone, leaving blue or black marks on the body or hitting her in the face) to "let the wife know that her behaviour, conduct and attitude towards her husband are not acceptable". Nawal explains that this



is not about "normal women like you and me". It is meant for "abnormal women". It is not entirely clear what she means by this.

What is clear is that it must be hard for women to convert if, for example, she would still want to travel without "immediate male escort". Or if she does not, never, wants to be beaten by her husband, regardless how bad her behaviour. Or if she does not want to be treated like a precious vulnerable creature. Or if she wants to become president of her country.

Abdollah Hussein, funder and director of the Islam Presentation Committee, another institute dedicated to spread the message of Islam, has no doubt: "She can still be a Muslima but

one that makes many mistakes, for which she then has to repent. If she does this sincerely, Allah will forgive her".

The Islam Presentation Committee yearly receives around fifty women. Like the Cultural Center for Foreigner's Call, the institute is funded by private donations, mostly from Yemen. And like the Cultural Center for Foreigner's Call, most women that come to the Committee are Ethiopians, Russians and Philippines. "Many of them work as housemaids for Yemeni families and see how humanitarian their treatment is, which is a reflection of Islam". Others, according to Abdollah, find that Islam places them in their rightful place, "where it is

made the responsibility of the husband to support her".

What if a woman wants to work herself? Abdollah: "Women already have the most important job in the world, for which only she is equipped: to raise presidents, commanders and other great men". If women go to work, it goes wrong, he says. "Many wars were started by maniacs, who were deprived of the love of their mothers. They went to kindergarten for example." (This theory does not apply to the war in Sada'a because "this is a war for political reasons", Abdollah says.)

Abdollah hands out some more books, brochures and CD's. They too, try to convince their readers that there

is no such thing as equality between men and women. Apparently, this concept does not come natural to the readers. One starts to wonder whether this does not come very close to forcing something upon someone after all. Also, one starts to wonder whether the contents of these reading materials are not discouraging women to convert, instead of encouraging them.

Abdollah disagrees. "When I was in the United States, I talked to a girl and asked: How would you like it if a man would propose to marry you and let you be a housewife?" She answered: this is my dream". It is not clear whether Abdollah also explained that with the dream, some restrictions come as well.

Someone who does realise this, is Lailani. She is Philippine and started her conversion into Islam two years ago. Today she came to the Cultural Centre for Foreigner's Call to practice the prayers. She does not find it easy at all, to become a Muslima. "It is very hard because I have to give up many of my freedoms. I do not like that I cannot wear what I want for example. It is much easier to live as a Roman Catholic". But she perseveres, mainly driven by one thing: fear.

"I am so scared that if I die, I will go to the fire." The fact that Catholics believe in paradise too, is lost upon Lailani. "Only Muslims go to heaven. The Catholics cannot because they believe in the Holy Trinity and this is wrong, there can only be one god, and this is Allah, Jesus was only a messenger". Lailani found out about this after her Yemeni friends gave her some books. "After having read one book I knew this was the true religion. What the priests told me on the Philippines I never believed." Lailani hopes to get married soon, to a Yemeni man. "He tried to convince me to convert to Islam, but never forced me".

Sabafon takes part in the Formula-1 2009 season



Sabafon, the Yemeni Mobil company, participated in the 2009 Formula-1 season in Abu Dhabi between 28th, October, 2009 and 2nd November 2009. The season is known also as Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in which one-seat open wheels vehicles participate. Formula-1 races are considered the most popular racing sport in the world in which more than 200 media outlets as well as two billion TV spectators became interested in this event.

Sabafon participated in this international sport event for the second time. Jawhar Nasher, the sales manager, and twenty Sabafon representatives attended the functions of this event.

Formula-1 is one of the races known as the Grand Prix performed in courses made especially for this race. The race is solemnly performed outside the specific for Formula-1 courses. The points of each race results are collected in each season, and then two prizes are granted twice a year. One of the prizes is granted for the drivers and the other one is granted for the cars' manufactures. The speed of the cars participated in the event may exceed 320 km an hour.

The Formula-1's shows on TV dominate the top 20 most watched channels by 90%. Usually more than 500 reporters work for journals, agencies and international media internet sits report the Formula-1 news. Car companies use this opportunity to broadcast for automotive industry and companies like TOYOTA, Reno, Mercedes-Benz, Ferari and B M W.

The participation of Sabafon Company comes within the context of its taking part in sports, cultural, humanitarian, charitable, social and educational functions whether locally or internationally.



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The Agency retained the financial strength rating of the Bank as (BB) due to the strong financial position it maintains.

In its report the Agency declared this is the strongest and highest rating among the banks in Yemen.

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RATING REPORT

November 2009

Words of Wisdom



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

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



OUR OPINION

One year closer to defining our destiny

There goes one of the worst years in the country's recent history. Despite all the difficulties I am glad that as a country and as a nation we went through it. Sometimes nations are like people, in order to wake up and make a change in their lives they have to go through strong traumatic events. Maybe the on-going tragedies in Yemen were meant to push this country towards a situation of "can't get any worse than this" so that it would seem that the only way ahead has to be upwards.

I am really not being ironic, although this might sound cynical. I have seen and heard many desperate calls and initiatives during 2009 than I had seen before. I have come to know several bright committed Yemeni reformers who, in the middle of all chaos, are trying to make things better. And their attempts are much more valuable and visible today as any time before.

Moreover, during 2009 the spirit of resistance and change has heightened to, let's say a "heroic level" and many groups and individuals have decided that there are some things in life worth taking risks for.

During 2009, the state has become very reckless and violent against change oriented activists. It has also become more aggressive against insurgents and secessionists and now Al-Qaeda in Yemen. I support the unity and Yemen's sovereignty but I don't agree that reformists, activists including independent and opposition journalists and politicians should be placed in the same category and dealt with the same way as the former group.

I hope that the experiences the country has gone through in 2009 will help the state make better decisions this year. Another positive point is that the international community has finally paid serious attention to Yemen's ordeal. Although I am not in favor of American military intervention in Yemen because history shows that there is no single country in which the USA got involved, military wise, that has not become worse. But it also means that Yemen, as the state admits, is in a situation that it needs help, to deal with its issues, from international powers. And as therapists always say, the first step to recovery is admitting you have a problem. And to hear that the UK wants to hold an urgent conference on Yemen, towards the end of this month in London, this means business and some things are about to change.

So there goes another year from our lives and as we welcome the New Year we hope and pray that the situation of our country does not worsen much more before things look up again. Happy new year to all and may this year bring joy and success to you all.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Disturbing in Yemen

By Tariq Alhomed

How disturbing was the initial statement attributed to a Yemeni source that was published in the Washington Post following the young Nigerian Omar Abdulmutallab's failed attempt to blow up a US Delta plane. The official told the newspaper, "If and when the would-be bomber's alleged link to Yemen is officially identified, authorities will take immediate action." The source added that the Americans are yet to present any information [on the incident] to his country.

What is worrying is that in our Arab world, there are still people among us who are asking for proof; as if all these crimes being committed in the name of religion and in our countries and elsewhere are not enough that we still [need to] look for evidence. It's as if we're talking about a shop burglary or an ordinary murder case.

It is enough to look carefully at the initial response from Nigeria in comparison to the response from Yemen; Nigerian officials were the first to provide the media with information on the terrorist's identity and that in fact, his father was the

first one to alert the US embassy of his son's intentions before the incident took place. Moreover, religious figures in Nigeria condemned the terrorist act and warned of its danger. Yemen, on the other hand, spoke about evidence and we have Sanaa admitting that the young man visited Yemen and stayed there on the pretext of studying the Arabic language!

The problem here is that the size of Al Qaeda in Yemen and the spread of this group is no longer a secret. We have recently seen how some leaders of the organization are coming out openly in front of the television cameras and the Yemeni government itself revolted against Al Qaeda last week and carried out major operations against the organization; so why the hesitation and hypersensitivity?

The comments made by a security official last Monday were comforting when, in response to the statement released by Al Qaeda that claimed [responsibility for] the failed attempt to blow up the US airplane, he stressed that his country, "will never be a safe haven for those killer terrorists and drug traffickers, and its [Yemen's] mountains will never be a Tora Bora for them."

I have no doubt that Yemen wants to combat Al Qaeda but that will not

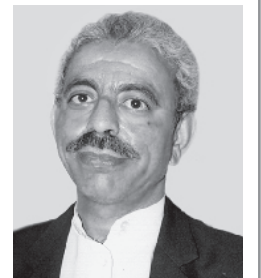
happen if there is hesitation and hypersensitivity, especially as some regions in Yemen [already] pose more of a threat than Tora Bora. Al Qaeda is a plague, which [Yemen] should not be sensitive about declaring war upon and the first stage of that war is about information and exchanging information quickly. The best example here is the US Delta plane incident as it is evidence of a gross security error and negligence. The father of the young Nigerian man himself informed [authorities] of his son and the British refused him a visa to enter their country. However, the US security apparatus failed in using the information [it had] and only by the grace of God was a major disaster prevented.

Today, after all the terrorist acts we have seen, it is no longer acceptable to justify terrorism or to be hyper sensitive about fighting terrorism because we have all become victims. It is true that Yemen needs friendly states to stand by it against terrorism but Yemen must firstly stand by itself by providing its friends with information, not only in terms of security but also in terms of the media in order to mobilize public opinion against terrorism and terrorists.

Source : Asharq Alawsat

COMMON SENSE

The illogic of American intervention in Yemen (2/3)



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

In the wake of recent American concern about the rather dubious recent jump in the presence of Al-Qaida in Yemen, one cannot help but ask, what factors raise the contention within the Barack Obama Administration that Yemen is now indeed the new home base for AQ's "menacing" activities throughout the world? Most knowledgeable observers are inclined to suggest to President Obama that his understanding of the real situation in Yemen needs a lot of reinforcement. It is not a rare occasion to see a US Administration sometimes pursuing a policy that is reliant on questionable events and circumstances almost aimed at redirecting that policy to make it conducive to interests that are not necessarily at par with US interests. In Yemen, there are a multitude of problems that would rank the AQ threat as actually being among the lowest in ranking amongst these problems. This comes notwithstanding the many apparently orchestrated events here in Yemen and elsewhere which prompted this recent US rush to show its tough muscles again with little hope for success.

Needless to say, AQ is a menacing evil that Yemen could do well without. Many Yemenis inside and outside the political spectrum and who have a broad view of the overall scenario that is looming over Yemen are looking for the plausible solution to this menace. However these Yemeni observers would have to suggest that the course of US policy for Yemen as being promulgated by the US media and as announced by Barack Obama himself raise more questions and dig more unwanted graves than would be welcome at this moment. Surely, this AQ threat is indeed a malleable irritant that seems to find its rightful niche whenever the covert masters of this highly suspicious phenomenon find it suitable to shift locale, tactic and victims.

However, before embarking on another highly costly military and security operation and bringing more sources of tragedy and pain for the overwhelming majority of Yemeni citizens, we suggest again that the United States Government make a careful assessment of what AQ is really all about and what allows it to continue its menacing and irritating presence in the world arena? This is not to say that an increasing American presence in Yemen is viewed with disfavor because of a "hatred" of Uncle Sam (does anybody still remember him?). On the contrary, increasing American attention for Yemen can be healthy and even welcome, if channeled properly and is based on the real mutual interests of both the American people and the Yemeni people. The vibes emanating from Washington these days continue to suggest that the US Government considers all the solutions to the problems of the world as resting on expensive and complicated military/security operations. Thus the inputs are fed into a computer and within a few minutes, hours or days the blue print is drawn out for the appropriate military and security steps to be taken and the initially modest needed funding to fuel the effort, that will soon increase manifold to accommodate for increased needs or changing tactics. This kind of strategic and tactical planning ignore the all important factor of the human cost, whether in US (and allied) personnel or the thousands and eventually millions of innocent civilians that are eventually killed wounded or rendered homeless, poor, destitute and perpetually hopeless. One is quite convinced that such monumental costs hardly result in accomplishing any advances against terrorism, in all its manifestations, especially the dubious AQ version. All one has to do is retract over the last decade and attempt to draw up a scorecard on the "War on Terror". If the Iraqi example can be used in this context, the inescapable conclusion that one can draw is that terrorism of the largely ineffective AQ, suicide bomber and the miscalled Jihadi genre entered Iraq with the US invasion of Iraq.

President Obama promised in his campaign for the Presidency that he would eventually get to the root of the "terrorist" mobs and uproot them once and for all. As such, they would not continue to pose a threat, etc. to American security, American interests (overseas) and to "western civilization", as some extreme right wingers in the US and other "western" countries would like to suggest. This promise was made on the pretext that the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan was obviously not the home of origin of AQ and other forms of so called Islamic fundamentalist dogma and the alleged terror that comes with it. Yet, the Taliban and their AQ allies did manage to wrench control of Afghanistan from a moderate Government, thanks mainly to substantial tactical, reconnaissance support mainly from the Pakistani intelligence service. PIS were (by the latter's own admissions) were actually working under contract for Saudi Government agencies and Quasi Government "religious" agencies and institutions towards this purpose. It has always struck the observer with awe, how the very capable Pakistani intelligence organs (thanks to American training and logistical support during the Cold War), turned their eyes away from the strong growing seeds of a Taliban culture that were simultaneously also being planted in Pakistan as well.

Will the elimination of AQ in Yemen actually be realized as the Obama Administration hopes? If so, will it end the AQ and Jihadi terrorism that is now dealt with by Barack Obama by following a merry-go-round approach lead to any ultimate success of eliminating AQ and its irritating bogus threat to the US and to a considerably greater extent to the Moslem World? The ramifications of this new American intervention in Yemen will be the focus of next week's Common Sense.

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

Yemen and the Huthi Game

By Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed

Oversimplification in dealing with the Huthi problem is what led to this becoming a larger Yemeni crisis that now threatens the ruling regime. Whether the Huthi rebels number in the hundreds or the tens of thousands - estimates are uncertain - they are capable of doubling the numbers of their supporters if they win important victories on the ground.

There are a series of questions that we cannot ignore, for example why do the Americans repeat their denials of the existence of a relationship between Tehran and the Huthis?

Is there a threat to Sanaa from the southern Yemeni [political] star [and former Vice President] Ali Salim al-Beidh, who is calling strongly for the division of the country?

Everybody can see that the US is putting a spin on the Huthi rebels, and one phrase is being repeated on the lips of every US official when this question is asked and that is "we have no evidence of Iran having any ties to the Huthi operations in Yemen" and sometimes they go further than this and say "the insurgency is an internal Yemeni

problem." In reality, if there is one side that knows of the Huthi ties [to Iran] it is the United States, and this is by virtue of its specialization in monitoring Iranian activity and the magnitude of their capabilities in the region. This either means that Washington believes that the Sanaa government is lying by sticking to their accusations that Iran is involved in order to incite western public opinion against the Huthis, or that Washington itself is lying and is truly ware of the depths of the Iranian involvement [with the Huthis] but does not wish to expand the scope of its conflict [with Iran]. I am inclined to believe the second interpretation because the relationship of the Huthi leadership with the Iranian regime is confirmed by accurate information, and this relationship is more than 10 years old.

If we assume that Washington knows [the truth] then why are they covering up for the Huthis?

In my opinion, the Americans are pursuing two policies; a silent policy to provide important logistical support and information to the Yemeni army against the Huthis, and a public policy to reject the accusations against the Huthis, avoiding openly supporting the [Yemeni] regime. This is a different tactic from the usual US policies when supporting its allies.

Perhaps the US is being the most intelligent this time by maintaining - even faintly - their relationship with the Huthis, and thereby not pushing the rebels to ally with Al Qaeda. However this relationship, however faint, will collapse because the rebels - by the nature of their ideological beliefs - are most likely to become involved in anti-American operations, and evidence of ties with Al Qaeda and Iran will also appear in the future, and so Washington will not be able to remain silent on this issue [in the long-term]. When this happens this will be good news for Sanaa, as the Yemeni regime wants to incite the world against the Huthi rebels.

We cannot put an end to this talk about an existing problem even if it is not [publicly] acknowledged by

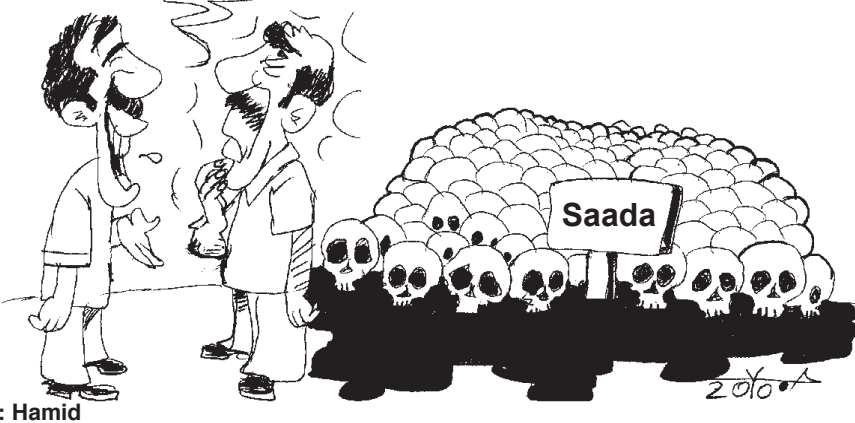
the two allies, Washington and Sanaa. The Yemeni regime has been accused of exploiting crises for internal purposes, and was accused of turning a blind eye to the presence of Al Qaeda on its territory, forcing US troops to carry out [military] operations on Yemeni soil themselves. President Ali Saleh is accused of inciting the Yemeni public to criticize the Americans, and occasionally even maneuver against them. He is also accused - despite his conditional support of them - of abandoning his pledges for economic and political reform.

Today the opponents of the [Yemeni] regime have increased and they have allied against the President despite the fact that they have nothing in common with each other except for their desire to weaken or even cause the collapse of the regime. From here, the profile of Ali Salem al-Beidh has appeared to plague the regime. It is true that he has taken advantage of the chaotic state of affairs [in Yemen] in order to impose his presence, but the blame for this falls upon Sanaa who made no attempt to contain him when the President decided on reconciling and absorbing the southern [separatist] leaders who lost the war, for if al-Beidh had returned [from exile] at that time there would be no threat to the Yemeni regime. Today the situation has become complex and this requires re-opening the door to those [separatists] in the south that remain to return and participate [in politics] for this is the least damaging of the available option. President Saleh launched a new reconciliation initiative in parliament, but this does not include any courageous concessions that may result in the required momentum. I do not want to exaggerate the situation by saying that the regime in Sanaa is under siege, but it is facing serious challenges by three rebel military fronts, and opposition activity from abroad, as well as the US backing away from supporting the regime, and regional considerations that are greater than the considerations of Sana'a.

Source : Asharq Alawsat

SKETCHED OPINION

You think the Houthi guy died or not?



By: Hamid

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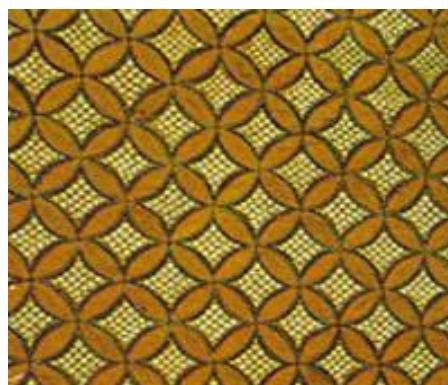
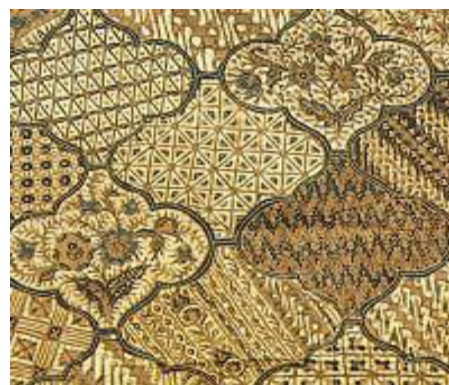
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Vibrant Indonesian Batik show wins the hearts of Yemen



Ashwini Bhanagay
For the Yemen Times

On Friday, October 2, 2009, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono had called on all Indonesians to wear batik on that day to celebrate UNESCO's decision to include batik in its list of "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" items. Students, people who work in hotels and bars as well as those who work for private companies were also urged to wear Batik on this day. The government announced special discounts for those entering recreational centers, museums wearing batik.

Have you heard of the 'Madiba' Shirt? It is a batik silk shirt, with bright and colourful print. It has become a well-known nickname for batik shirts in South Africa, being popularised by former South African president Nelson Mandela.

What is Batik? Batik is a process of dyeing using the 'resistance technique' in which wax is used as a substance barrier. Even though the ancient Egyptians and Indians knew the technique of Batik, the origins of the word "batik" are found in the Indonesian words 'ambatik' meaning 'a cloth with little dots', where 'tik' means little dot, drop, point or to make dots or in the Javanese word 'tritik' meaning a resist process for dyeing where the patterns are reserved on the textiles by tying and sewing areas prior to dyeing.

Some experts feel that batik was originally reserved as an art form for Javanese royalty and others say that its use was also prevalent with the rakyat - the people and was regarded an important part of a young ladies accomplishment that she be

capable of handling a canting (a wax pen) with a reasonable amount of skill.

Though batik or fabrics with the traditional batik patterns are also found in several countries such as Malaysia, Japan, China, India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, and Singapore, the island of Java in Indonesia is responsible for developing batik into its present day intricate and exceptional art form.

On 27 December, within the framework of cultural cooperation between Yemen and Indonesia, the Indonesian Embassy in Sana'a and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Yemen, hosted the Indonesian Batik Show at the cultural house Tahrir Sana'a. The show took place under the auspicious presence of H.E. Dr. Mohammed Abdu Bakr Al-Mafflahi, Minister of Culture Yemen and H.E. Mr. Nurul Aulia, Indonesian Ambassador in Sana'a.

The entire hall had come alive with the display of beautifully dyed batiks - silk, cotton, synthetic scarves, sarongs, shirts, table cloths, bags, purses and bamboo and paper fans - the Indonesian Fashion Show.

What was unique about this show was the warm and welcoming atmosphere, the colorful fabrics, the lively fashion show parading 'batik' fabrics in traditional Indonesian as well as the Muslim outfits, the subtle movements of the traditional Indonesian dances, and most of all the pride of the Indonesians to show off their rich heritage and the enthusiasm of the Yemenis to try the art and take home their 'creation' - the piece of batik they had themselves made.

At the Cultural house, in Sana'a, today, everybody was busy trying their

hand at 'tulis' meaning applying wax by hand using a wax pen or 'canting'. Nakula Sadeva the artisan from the Batik Company from Yogyakarta, Central of Java and his assistants were promptly providing the eager hands with cloths (having penciled and waxed patterns and a space for the participants to draw on) and bamboo frames in which to fix the cloth tightly. Soon 'Cantings' were picked up and dipped into the 'wajan', as the enthusiasts tried to make patterns with the canting.

'Canting' consist of small thin wall spouted copper container connected to a 11 centimeter long bamboo handle, which is the modest tool used in batik. Canting have different sizes and number of spouts depending on the effect desired. Cantings having upto 9 spouts are used to make dots and parallel lines. A piece of cotton attached to a spout can act like a brush. A 'wajan' is an iron or earthenware containers that holds the molten wax.

However, struggling to control the fast flowing wax from the canting and trying hard not to make a blob, everyone soon realized that the work required great skill and patience, for the wax once applied or spilled can never really be removed.

In batik the quality of fabrics matters a lot. Also, it is important that the wax is absorbed and does not come out from the other side of the cloth. Therefore, densely woven silk and cotton fabrics which can absorb the wax that is applied in the dye resisting process and at the same time maintain the intricate design qualities of batik, are preferred. The cloth is washed and boiled in water many times before applying wax, so that all traces of starches, lime, chalk and other sizing

materials are removed.

The best waxes are from the Indonesian islands of Timor, Sumbawa and Sumatra; three types of petroleum-based paraffin (white, yellow and black) are used. The temperature of the wax has to be maintained, for if the wax is too hot it flows very fast and cannot be controlled and if it is too cold it does not flow at all. To meet the growing demands and to make the fabric more affordable, 'caps' or copper blocks that make up a design unit are used as stamps to apply wax, instead of the tedious 'tulis' technique. Or 'kombinasi, a combination of the two techniques is used.

Traditionally natural dyes coming from the Tingi, Tegeran, Jambal, Jolawe, Indio - the native Indonesian species, are used and primarily consist of beige, blue, brown and black colors. However, today chemical dyes are used as well.

After everyone completed applying wax, Nakula Sadeva, dipped the cloth pieces first in soap water, then in the first Naphtolene bath, the second Naphtolene bath, a dye of choice - red or indigo and lastly in boiling water (which removed the wax). These creations were then quickly put into plastic bags and handed over to waiting hands and eager faces, to take home.

Usually batik involves ten steps. Penciling the pattern on a beige or white cloth, wax application over the penciled pattern, first dye bath in indigo blue in which the waxed area remains white, second application of wax, second dye bath - navy blue - in which areas not covered by wax become dark blue, scraping the wax off, third application of wax in areas which the artist wants in blue and white, submerging the fabric in the final

dye and removal of all wax and finishing the cloth. The motifs remaining in white can also be colored by hand using brushes. The dyes are fixed to the cloth by 'Mordanting' - immersing metal elements to bind the dyes to the cloth.

Colorful batiks involve much more work. If a marble effect is desired, the wax is intentionally cracked before being placed in the dye bath. The dye seeps into the tiny cracks that create the fine lines that are characteristic of batik. Traditionally, though cracks were a sign of inferior cloth especially on indigo color batik. For special occasions, batik was formerly decorated with gold lead or gold dust.

Amazing, isn't it? How the Indonesian batik has survived through all times? However, it is not so surprising because what the Indonesians have done is just capitalized on their strengths, found solutions to the weaknesses and lived upto the opportunities. For example, they have preserved all that was good in traditional batik, the traditional batik designs like the Kawung - intersecting circles, Ceplok - geometric designs based on squares, rhombs, circles, stars, Parang - slanting rows of thick knife-like segments running in parallel diagonal bands, Tambil Miring design, etc. natural dyes, traditional tools like the canting and cap, and their artisans. At the same time, modern motifs involving treatment of leaves, flowers and birds, the use of chemical dyes which can produce any color an artisan wishes as against the handful colors offered by the natural dyes, systemizing the process of applying wax, dyeing, making sure that the dyes bind well to the fabric, all show efforts to cope up with the times.

In Indonesia, 'batik' is considered auspicious. The government is committed to preserving and developing their heritage. For years government officials have been wearing batik clothes to the Friday prayer, to support preserving the heritage. The government, through some of its agencies concerned, was giving special attention to batik makers as part of the efforts to perpetuate and develop the Batik trade. The government, provides the batik-making industry with assistance in the form of low-interest credits and training in production processes and design making in several potential areas across Indonesia. First Lady Ani Yudhoyono recently called on all parties to improve the condition of traditional batik craftsmen and women so as to preserve the craft as part of the nation's cultural legacy because they are important in handing down the legacy to the next generations. Last year the Batik Company, whose products were displayed in today's show, earned 300 million U.S. dollars from sales and the company targets sales to reach 1 billion U.S. dollars in the coming five years. The company made this presentation in Yemen today hoping to mesmerize the Yemeni businessmen.

The level of perfection to which the Indonesians have taken their traditional art, the efforts they put in the entire event, the commitment of the Indonesian government, all has led to the prosperity of the Indonesian batik industry and has become an example for others to learn from.

Today, crossing boundaries of nations, religions, races, cultures, and languages, this batik show once again asserted the power of art in bringing hearts together.



JOB VACANCY

ISLAMIC RELIEF YEMEN

Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY) is seeking qualified candidate to fill the following vacancy:

Position: Media & Communications Officer (sana'a Based)

Reference: MCO/IPD/02.01.10

Job Purpose: The key purpose of this role is to assist and support programme & fund raising communication needs in IRY, IRW and for IR Worldwide partner offices needs

Responsibilities:

- To undertake a communication assessment and as a result develop and implement the organisation's communication strategy for the humanitarian crisis in northern Yemen and in consultation with the country team and the media department at IRW.
- To develop a long term media strategy for IRY.
- To lead in developing creative ways to document the progress (e.g. through photos/ case stories / video/etc).
- Ensure that the organisation's publications, photos, and videos are of high quality and are disseminated appropriately.
- To raise the profile of IRY in Yemen and worldwide. Draft press releases / blogs/ articles
- Assist in capacity building on communication and advocacy for national staff by providing relevant training and support
- To act as IRY's spokesperson and to represent IRY at external events.
- To contribute towards developing an effective country team and friendly environment.
- To participate in all orphan and child welfare programme activities
- To be able to intensively travel to all areas of Yemen as required
- To carry out other duties assigned by the line manager

Requirements:

- Degree in Communication, Journalism, Public Relations; or equivalent professional work experience in the communication area combined with university degree in a related field.
- 5 years of experience in managing development communication strategies.
- Excellent spoken and written English with ability to express clearly and concisely complex ideas and concepts in written and oral form in order to engage the public and other stakeholders.
- Experience of producing high quality media materials such as press releases and articles/stories for traditional and electronic media.
- Knowledge of computer systems and applications, specifically interactive digital media and design programmes
- Experience of working with an international NGO and or UN agency and good understanding of humanitarian issues, especially related to complex emergencies.
- Good interpersonal skills: the ability to communicate clearly and effectively at all levels, taking into account cultural and language difficulties.
- Good team player with a flexible and adaptable approach to work and deadlines, and ability to work under pressure.

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 14th January 2010.

HR/Admin Department
Islamic Relief Yemen, P. O. Box 15088, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Fax No: 01-415998 Or Email: info@iryemen.org

Applicants should be sympathetic to the values and principles of Islamic Relief
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Yemen Press Review

National Dialogue
National dialogue between government and opposition leaders to contain pressing issues in the country was a common topic in various official, opposition and independent media outlets. While official media are optimistic the dialogue would help resolve any issues in the nation, independent newspapers seemingly ran out of hope that parties to the dialogue could change the miserable situations in Yemen.



Al-Nida
Political
Independent
Weekly

The weekly reported that both former Presidents of once South Yemen Ali Nasser Mohammed and Ali Salem Al-Beidh met in the Lebanese capital city of Beirut on a lunch table on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009, with Sheikh Senan Abu Luhom, who has been in Beirut where he spent several weeks for treatment, arranging the meeting.

The paper said that Abu Luhom has a strong relationship with Mohammed since the early 1970s, as well as with Al-Beidh, who once served as Vice-President for the first three years following Reunification of both parts of Yemen in May 1990.

According to the weekly, this is the first meeting between both leaders since the tragic events of January 13, 1986 as a result of disagreement between both leaders and their supporters. It added that both politicians existed together in the Jordanian capital Amman during protocols of signing Document of Pledge and Accord in February 1994. It quoted sources as saying that the three men talked about current developments in Yemen, particularly those related with Southern

Movement, national dialogue and situation of Joint Meeting Parties (JMP).



As-Siyas Daily

The daily, which is affiliated with Yemen News Agency, reported that Shoura Council Chairman Abdulaziz Abdulghani, who is also head of the council's National Dialogue Preparatory Committee, chaired on Tuesday Dec. 29, 2009 a meeting for NDPC subcommittees.

It added that the meeting reviewed actions undertaken by political, financial, media, security and documentation subcommittees as part of preparations for the conference of national dialogue. Abdulghani reaffirmed principles of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's call for approving the approach of dialogue, based on comprehensive national partnership, to contain all the pressing issues in the homeland.

Abdulghani said that his council cares about involving all the political parties and partners in the prospective dialogue, describing it as the ideal way to reach a compromise on all issues of concern to the homeland. This came during Abdulghani's meeting with Resident Director of National Democratic Institute (NDI) Ms Heather Therrien, who emphasized significance of President's call for a comprehensive national dialogue.



Al-Ghad
Political
Independent
Weekly

Describing the so-called national dialogue as "a race toward a worse standoff in the Cat-Mouse Game", the

weekly reported that political parties in the government and opposition are racing these days for what is going to complicate the current turmoil in the country and abort any hopes for political compromise.

It added that each party insists on its unchanged viewpoint and position while dialoging with others, pointing out that such a fact makes one cast doubt on the presence of real intents for a serious and responsible dialogue.

According to the weekly, the dialogue was about to begin on Saturday, Dec. 26, 2009 as per an initiative declared by President Saleh, however, the Shoura Council, which is concerned with translating the initiative into real practice, adjourned appointment of the dialogue. It went on to say, "Irrespective of potential consequences due to be produced by the government and opposition committees in their dialogue, the real-life situation indicates that dialogue, as an immoral value, is emptied out of its contents, even the term "National Dialogue", which turned out to be source of disgust, frustration and pessimism because each party claims ownership rights for dialoging with the other.

Tourism and Investment

While independent media highlights that the situation of tourism was unsatisfactory in 2009 with a decline in the number of foreign tourists coming to Aden by sea, official media, on the contrary, reveals an investment boost in the city, adding that the number of investment projects increased in 2009.



Elaf Independent
Political
Weekly

The independent weekly reported that the situation of foreign tourism deteriorated in 2009, adding that five tourist hotels were closed after their owners declared bankruptcy as a result. It quoted a report on activities of the Aden Port in 2009, issued by the Aden Ports Corporation, as revealing that the number of tourists coming to the city via the sea in 2009 declined by 40 percent, compared to their number the previous year (2008).

The report added that up to 4180 foreign tourists arrived in the city on board ships between January and September 2008, but this number declined to 2485 (tourists) during the same period of 2009.

According to the weekly, the report attributed the unsatisfactory situation of foreign tourism, in Yemen in general and Aden city in particular, to the current political unrest in both the northern and southern areas of the country, coupled with the most recent terrorist operations, carried out by Qaeda members against foreign tourists in Yemen.



Al-Thawrah
Stat-run Daily

The official daily highlighted the number of investment projects in the Aden Free Zone at a total cost of US\$134.7 million. It said that the number of licensed investment projects in the Free Zone increased up to 37 between January and June 2009, compared to 21 projects during the same period in 2008.

The daily added that official stats estimated the total cost of those investment projects at US\$134.7, with a difference high of US\$ 22.8, compared to the cost of projects within the same period the previous year.

According to the daily, those licensed projects have been distributed over several economic sectors, of which 11 in industry at a cost of US\$ 44.6 million, 6 in tourism for a cost of US\$ 47.5 million and another 6 in warehousing worth US\$ million. It maintained that nine projects were carried out in the service sector for a cost of US\$ 1.3 million, in addition to a housing project worth US\$ 5.9 million.

The daily also said that the government seeks to develop the Aden Free Zone and transform it into an international station for sea and air shipping, as well as an international trade center to attract local and foreign investments in fields of imported industries, trade activities, warehousing, shipping and helping services.

Education

The independent newspaper published a story about threats of closure directed by the relevant authority to some private universities running programs contravening the relevant law. On the other hand, the official news website highlighted efforts by government and international officials to improve secondary education quality and boost girls enrollment.



Al-Ahale
Independent
Political
Weekly

The independent weekly reported in its latest issue, dated Tuesday Dec. 29, 2009, that Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research threatened to withdraw licenses from three private universities unless they stop their bachelors' programs in dentistry and human medicine, add-

ing that the three universities haven't obtained licenses from the ministry to run the just said programs in accordance with the law and its implementing bylaw.

It added that the ministry gave a 14-day ultimatum for these universities to stop their programs. Otherwise, the ministry will disband them, will not recognize certificates granted by them and will be held accountable for consequences of such legal violations.

The weekly quoted Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Saleh Basurrah as saying that Arwa, Yemen and Dar As-Salam universities violated the Law No. 13 of 2000 concerning Private Universities, Institutes and Colleges and its implementing bylaw issued by the Republican Decree No. 140 of 2007, by admitting applicants and running the above-said programs.

Sabwa News Agency

The agency reported in its website that a meeting held Monday, Dec. 28, 2009 in the presence of Taiz Governor Hamoud Khalid Al-Sofi, Education Minister Dr. Abdussalam Al-Jawfi and World Bank Representative in Yemen, reviewed the Secondary Education Development and Girls Enrollment Project, which is due to be implemented in four governorates including Taiz.

During the meeting, Al-Sofi praised WB role in supporting development efforts in Yemen, affirming that the educational development process begins with selecting competent school administrations.

He highlighted a package of procedures so far taken by the governorate leadership to improve performance of the education office and resolve the problem of teachers deficit particularly in rural areas.

Let a hundred theories bloom

By: George Akerlof
and Joseph E. Stiglitz

The economic and financial crisis has been a telling moment for the economics profession, for it has put many long-standing ideas to the test. If science is defined by its ability to forecast the future, the failure of much of the economics profession to see the crisis coming should be a cause of great concern.

But there is, in fact, a much greater diversity of ideas within the economics profession than is often realized. This year's Nobel laureates in economics are two scholars whose life work explored alternative approaches. Economics has generated a wealth of ideas, many of which argue that markets are not necessarily either efficient or stable, or that the economy, and our society, is not well described by the standard models of competitive equilibrium used by a majority of economists.

Behavioral economics, for example, emphasizes that market participants often act in ways that cannot easily be reconciled with rationality. Similarly, modern information economics shows that even if markets are competitive, they are almost never efficient when information is imperfect or asymmetric (some people know something that others do not, as in the recent financial debacle) — that is, always.

A long line of research has shown that even using the models of the so-called "rational expectations" school of economics, markets might not behave stably, and that there can be price bubbles. The crisis has, indeed, provided ample evidence that investors are far from rational; but the flaws in the rational expectations line of reasoning—hidden assumptions such as that all investors have the same information—had been exposed well before the crisis.

Just as the crisis has reinvigorated

thinking about the need for regulation, so it has given new impetus to the exploration of alternative strands of thought that would provide better insights into how our complex economic system functions — and perhaps also to the search for policies that might avert a recurrence of the recent calamity.

Fortunately, while some economists were pushing the idea of self-regulating, fully efficient markets that always remain at full employment, other economists and social scientists have been exploring a variety of different approaches. These include agent-based models that emphasize the diversity of circumstances; network models, which focus on the complex interrelations among firms (such as those that enable bankruptcy cascades); a fresh look at the neglected work of Hyman Minsky on financial crises (which have increased in frequency since deregulation began three decades ago); and innovation models, which attempt to explain the dynamics of growth.

Much of the most exciting work in economics now underway extends the boundary of economics to include work by psychologists, political scientists, and sociologists. We have much to learn, too, from economic history. For all the fanfare surrounding financial innovation, this crisis is remarkably similar to past financial crises, except that the complexity of new financial products reduced transparency, aggravating fear about what might happen should there not be a massive public bailout.

Ideas matter, as much or perhaps even more than self-interest. Our regulators and elected officials were politically captured — special interests in the financial markets gained a great deal from rampant deregulation and the failure to adapt the regulatory structure to the new products. But our regulators and politicians also suffered from intellectual capture. They need a wider and more robust portfolio

of ideas to draw upon.

That is why the recent announcement by George Soros at the Central European University in Budapest of the creation of a well-funded Initiative for New Economic Thinking (INET) to help support these is so exciting. Research grants, symposia, conferences, and a new journal — all will help encourage new ideas and collaborative efforts to flourish.

INET has been given complete freedom — with respect to both content and strategy — and one hopes that it will draw further support from other sources. Its only commitment is to "new economic thinking," in the broadest sense. Last month, Soros assembled a remarkable group of economic luminaries, from across the spectrum of the profession — theory to policy, left to right, young and old, establishment and counter-establishment — to discuss the need and prospects for such an initiative, and how it might best proceed.

For the past three decades, one strand within the economics profession was constructing models that assumed that markets worked perfectly. This assumption overshadowed a wide body of research that helped explain why markets often work imperfectly — why, indeed, there are widespread market failures.

The marketplace for ideas also often works in a way that is less than ideal. In a world of human fallibility and imperfect understanding of the complexity of the economy, INET holds out the promise of the pursuit of alternative strands of thought — and thereby at least ameliorating this costly market imperfection.

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A- IT technical support officer:

(Job description and activities)

- 1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Languages: Arabic and English

4. 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

5. 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)

- 1. Finality**
 - Monitor and maintain the computer systems, networks and security.
 - Installation and configuration for computer systems and Networks
 - Optimizing the IT security issues

2. 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.

3. 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

4. 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



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Early sex cervical cancer link: Study

“Girls who have sex in their teens are at greater risk of developing cervical cancer,” the Daily Mail reported. It said a study into why poorer women have a higher risk of the disease found that they tended to have sex four years earlier than more affluent women.

This study investigated how socioeconomic status affects the risk of HPV infection, a sexually transmitted virus that causes almost all cases of cervical cancer. It was not aimed at determining whether the age that a woman first has sex is a risk factor for cervical cancer. However, based on what is already known, it makes sense that the sooner a woman first has sex, the greater her risk of being infected by HPV, and for a longer period of time.

This research was carried out mainly in developing countries that did not have widespread high-quality screening programs in place, and before cervical cancer vaccination was available. Therefore, these results may not apply to the UK.

Where did the story come from? The research was carried out by Dr Silvia Franceschi and colleagues from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) study groups. It was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and published in the peer-reviewed British Journal of Cancer.

The BBC and Daily Mail covered the story. Both reports concentrated on the increased risk of cervical cancer associated with intercourse and pregnancy at an early age, rather than focusing on the main factor that was assessed in this study: level of education (as an indicator of socioeconomic status).

What kind of research was this? Almost all cases of cervical cancer are caused by certain strains of human papilloma virus (HPV), which is spread through sexual contact. This research analyzed data from two sets of studies looking at risk factors for cervical cancer. One study used a case control design (the IARC Multicentre Case-Control Study) and the other study used a cross-sectional design (the IARC HPV Prevalence Surveys). The researchers say that cervical cancer risk is associated with low socioeconomic status, but the reasons for the association are not fully understood. This analysis evaluated the association between education as a measure of socioeconomic status, and the risk of HPV infection and cervical cancer.

One limitation to this approach is that education level may not fully capture a woman's socioeconomic status. In addition, due to the non-randomized observational nature of these studies,

other factors may have influenced the results. This possibility can be reduced by taking such factors into account in the analyses.

What did the research involve? The studies asked women how long they were in education, then examined whether this was related to their risk of HPV infection or cervical cancer.

The IARC case control study compared 2,446 women with invasive cervical cancer (cases) with 2,390 women of a similar age and without cervical cancer (controls). The study was carried out between 1985 and 1999. The IARC surveys included 15,051 women aged 15 and above, who were mostly married (94%) and had had sexual intercourse. These surveys were cross-sectional studies and carried out between 1993 and 2006.

Both sets of studies asked the women about their education, sexual and reproductive history, and smoking, and tested them for the HPV virus. Education level was classified into four groups (0 years, 1-5 years, 6-10 years, or more than 10 years). Owing to small numbers, the last two groups were pooled in the case-control studies. The studies were carried out in countries across the world, mainly in Africa, Asia, and Central and South America. Most of these countries did not have cervical cancer screening programs in place at the time of the studies.

The researchers then compared the level of education in women with cervical cancer to the control women in the case-control study. They also investigated whether level of education affected a woman's risk of HPV infection in either the case control or the cross sectional studies. The researchers took factors that could affect the results into account, including age, where a woman lived, number of sexual partners, age at first sexual intercourse, whether their husband had

extramarital sexual relationships, number of pregnancies, age at first pregnancy, use of contraceptives, smoking, and history of cervical screening (Pap smear). Taking these factors into account is important, as they may not be balanced between women with different levels of education, and could affect results if analyses did not adjust for them.

What were the basic results? In the case control study, 82% of cases reported having only up to five years of education, compared to 66% of the controls. Statistical analysis showed that the less education a woman had, the greater her risk of developing cervical cancer. When the researchers took into account the women's age when they first had sexual intercourse and age at their first pregnancy, this weakened the link between educational level and cervical cancer risk. Taking into account how many children the women had, and whether they had had cervical screening also reduced the strength of this link.

Other factors had less of an impact in this analysis. After taking these factors into account, women who had received five years or less of formal education were at 41% greater odds of developing cervical cancer than those who had more than five years of education. There was no association between education level and risk of HPV infection in either the case control study or the surveys.

How did the researchers interpret the results? The researchers conclude that the higher rates of cervical cancer in women with low socioeconomic status do not seem to be explained by a higher rate of HPV infection, but “by early events in a woman's sexually active life that may modify the cancer-causing potential of HPV infection”.

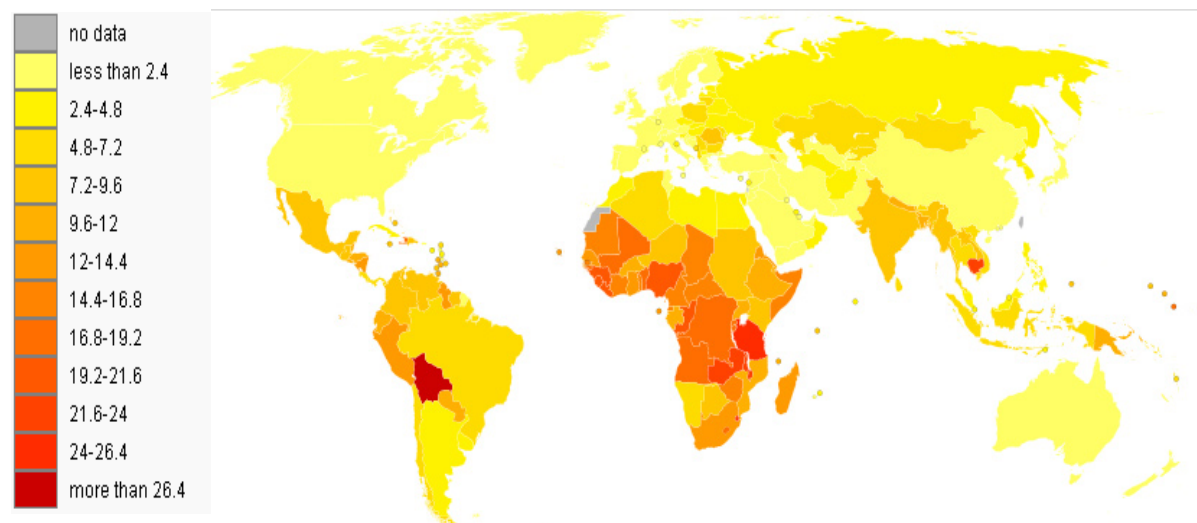
They suggest that this could be because women who have sexual intercourse earlier and contract an HPV

infection will have that infection for longer than women who contract the infection later in life.

This research aimed to investigate why women with low socioeconomic status are at greater risk of cervical cancer. There are a number of points to note:

The number of years of education was used as an indicator of socioeconomic status. However, this relatively simple measure may not be fully representative of a person's socioeconomic status. Other indicators, such as income and house ownership, were collected in some countries, but not in others, therefore could not be used in this analysis. It wouldn't be possible to use a randomized controlled trial to look at the effects of education or socioeconomic status on risk of cervical cancer or HPV infection. Observational studies such as this are therefore the best way to look at this question. However, these studies may be affected by confounding, i.e. where factors other than those of interest are causing the links seen. The researchers tried to take some of these factors into account, but say that confounding factors are still likely to account for some of the link seen between education level and cervical cancer risk. The women reported their own sexual histories. This may lead to inaccuracies due to inability or unwillingness to accurately recall these details. This study looked mainly at women in developing countries, and the results may not be directly applicable to more developed countries. In particular, these countries did not have widespread high-quality cervical screening programs in place at the time of the studies. Such screening programs could have an impact on the links seen, as could vaccination programs against HPV that have recently started in the UK.

Source: NHS Choices



Death rates in 2009 from Cervix uteri cancer by country (per 100,000 inhabitants). WHO Worldwide, cervical cancer is the fifth most deadly cancer in women.[68] It affects about 16 per 100,000 women per year and kills about 9 per 100,000 per year.



By: Dr. Siva

This weekly column by Dr. Siva is to disseminate health information to the readers in Yemen and outside. Dr.Siva is currently working at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Life style diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and Naturopathy are his passions.

Acute Appendicitis What you should know?

Ashwaq was suddenly jolted out of her bed at midnight, when her daughter Salma started vomiting. Salma is 8 years old and had been complaining of pain around her navel, since late afternoon. Earlier in the afternoon, she had been to her Aunt Ansam's house where she ate 'zur-biyan'. Ashwaq initially thought it was indigestion that was causing the pain. Salma also had a low grade fever. After a couple of hours, the pain in Salma's tummy increased; this time the pain was in the right loin. Every time Ashwaq tried to touch her daughter's belly, she screamed in pain.



Ashwaq became anxious and called her sister who was a pediatrician living in the same neighborhood. She came at once, examined Salma and said that it could be appendicitis. Salma was then immediately taken to a nursing home nearby and admitted. The diagnosis was confirmed by a surgeon. She was operated in the morning and is recuperating well.

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Acute Appendicitis

Appendicitis is a condition in which the appendix becomes inflamed and fills with pus. Appendix is a finger-shaped structure that projects out from the large intestine (colon) in the lower right side of the abdomen. This small structure has no known essential purpose in humans. However, sometimes it is a seat of trouble.

Appendicitis can strike at any age, but it most often occurs in people between the ages of 10 and 30. The treatment of choice is surgical removal of the appendix.

What causes appendicitis?

It is not clear why people get appendicitis. Infection in the appendix causes appendicitis. But doctors and scientists are not sure what causes the infection. In many cases, a small object (such as a hard piece of stool) blocks the opening to the appendix. Then bacteria can grow in the appendix and cause an infection leading to appendicitis.

How to recognize acute appendicitis?

Pain in acute appendicitis typically begins around the navel and then shifts to the lower right abdomen. When you touch the right lower abdomen and slightly press, there will be shooting pain (severe tenderness). Another peculiarity about this pain is that it may reappear once you take your hand off from the painful area (rebound tenderness). The child may prefer to lie down all the time because actions like coughing, walking or making other movements may worsen the pain. There may be an associated low grade fever, fast pulse and vomiting. Constipation or diarrhea is rarely seen. The location of the pain may vary, depending on the age and the position of the appendix. When young children or pregnant women have appendicitis, the pain may be in different locations. It'll be always wise to consult the doctor even if one or two of these symptoms are missing.

Tests and diagnosis

The pain from appendicitis may change over time, so establishing a diagnosis can sometimes be difficult. In addition, abdominal pain can arise from a number of health problems other than appendicitis. With careful clinical examination and proper history taking, the doctor can easily diagnose appendicitis. Blood tests show evidence of infection. Urine tests may rule out other (urinary) causes of pain which can occur in the same area. An ultrasound scan is occasionally done to look for causes of pain.

Treatment

The only treatment for appendicitis is removal of appendix surgically (appendectomy or appendicectomy). If you have appendicitis and do not get it removed on time, the appendix can burst. A burst appendix can cause serious problems. The goal is to remove the appendix before it ruptures and spreads infection to the abdomen (peritonitis).

There are different types of surgery for appendicitis. The surgeon may operate through a large cut (incision) in the belly or use a tool called a laparoscope to remove the appendix through a few smaller incisions. In general, laparoscopic surgery allows faster recovery and wound healing with less scarring. However, laparoscopic surgery isn't appropriate for everyone.

The patient may take antibiotics before the surgery, after the surgery, or both. (Some doctors do not prefer antibiotics in uncomplicated appendicitis). However, if the appendix does burst, antibiotic coverage is absolutely necessary. Surgery to remove a burst appendix may be more complicated.

The patient may have to spend one or two days in the hospital after a laparoscopic appendectomy or a week after the conventional surgery.

Sometimes during an abdominal surgery for any other reason the doctor may remove the appendix to avoid a future appendicitis.

During the recovery period, the following should be born in mind:

- Physical activity should be limited for the first 10 to 14 days after surgery.
- There may be abdominal pain during coughing, laughing or making other movements. In such events the abdomen should be supported by a pillow and applying gentle pressure.
- There can be pain at the operated site for about four to six weeks. If pain persists longer despite pain medications, the patient should visit the doctor.
- Strenuous physical activity and sports should be avoided till the doctor approves.
- Children may return to school after a week following surgery, though strenuous activity, such as sports, should be limited further for two to four weeks after surgery.

Complications

With uncomplicated appendicitis, most people recover with no long-term problems. If the appendix ruptures, there is a greater risk of complications, including death. This increase in risk is generally found in the very young, elderly, and those with weakened immune system, including diabetics. Young women should take prompt treatment if they develop appendicitis. Otherwise, they may run the risk of becoming infertile if the appendix perforates.



Student Councils Project, Yemen

The Academy for Educational Development, an independent, nonprofit organization, is seeking candidates for MEPI Student Councils Project, based in Sana'a, as follows:

Educational Trainer: Trainer

Duties

Working under the direct supervision of the Project Director, trainers' duties will include

- Studying the current status of student councils in targeted schools in three governorates (Hodidah, Taiz, Ibb).
- Designing guidelines for activities of student and parent councils in schools based on national regulations.
- Designing tools to assist schools in establishing student and parent councils
- Visiting project school on a regular basis
- Facilitating collaboration between school and community
- Supporting student and parent councils in the development of action plans
- Carrying out training duties
- Reporting regularly on the progress of the training activities
- Other responsibilities, as required

Essential Skills

- Minimum BA in education or related field
- Experience in training
- Experience in the analysis of school-based data
- Experience in research
- Readiness to work regularly in Hodidah, Taiz, Ibb
- Fluency in written English is required

Duration: One year with possible renewal

Submission Guidelines

Applications should be submitted to adeem@aed-scs.org Fax :01-309905

Submitted after 15/01/2010 will not be considered.



VACANCY

A new Foundation for Health and Social Development in Yemen

Is seeking to recruit a

Director of Administration and Finance

To take responsibility for overseeing, controlling and managing all aspects of the Foundation's financial operations, IT, administrative and logistical systems, human resources, and facilities on a day-to-day basis. The Director also supervises legal and contractual matters, contributes to the ongoing operational and financial planning and analysis processes, builds capacity within the Foundation and actively seeks to increase and diversify resource streams.

Experience and Competencies required:

- 5+ years of strong financial management, budgeting, and operations management experience either in the commercial or NGO sector
- Strong analytical skills, excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Professional accounting qualification/ Degree in Accounting, Finance or related field
- IT and financial database proficiency
- Good written and spoken English and Arabic
- Highly organised, professional and mature.

This is a full time position based in the Foundation Head Office in Sana'a, with occasional travel to other governorates, reporting to the Executive Director.

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Deadline for applications is 20th Jan. 2010 .Please send CVs and a cover letter in **English** to mcsadm@y.net.ye or fax to (01) 428 739. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



JOB VACANCY

ISLAMIC RELIEF YEMEN

Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY) is seeking qualified candidate to fill the following vacancy:

Position: Media & Communications Officer (sana'a Based)

Reference: MCO/IPD/02.01.10

Job Purpose: The key purpose of this role is to assist and support programme & fund raising communication needs in IRY, IRW and for IR Worldwide partner offices needs

Responsibilities:

- To undertake a communication assessment and as a result develop and implement the organisation's communication strategy for the humanitarian crisis in northern Yemen and in consultation with the country team and the media department at IRW.
- To develop a long term media strategy for IRY.
- To lead in developing creative ways to document the progress (e.g. through photos/ case stories / video/etc).
- Ensure that the organisation's publications, photos, and videos are of high quality and are disseminated appropriately.
- To raise the profile of IRY in Yemen and worldwide. Draft press releases / blogs/ articles
- Assist in capacity building on communication and advocacy for national staff by providing relevant training and support
- To act as IRY's spokesperson and to represent IRY at external events.
- To contribute towards developing an effective country team and friendly environment.
- To participate in all orphan and child welfare programme activities
- To be able to intensively travel to all areas of Yemen as required
- To carry out other duties assigned by the line manager

Requirements:

- Degree in Communication, Journalism, Public Relations; or equivalent professional work experience in the communication area combined with university degree in a related field.
- 5 years of experience in managing development communication strategies.
- Excellent spoken and written English with ability to express clearly and concisely complex ideas and concepts in written and oral form in order to engage the public and other stakeholders.
- Experience of producing high quality media materials such as press releases and articles/stories for traditional and electronic media.
- Knowledge of computer systems and applications, specifically interactive digital media and design programmes
- Experience of working with an international NGO and or UN agency and good understanding of humanitarian issues, especially related to complex emergencies.
- Good interpersonal skills: the ability to communicate clearly and effectively at all levels, taking into account cultural and language difficulties.
- Good team player with a flexible and adaptable approach to work and deadlines, and ability to work under pressure.

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 14th January 2010.

HR/Admin Department
Islamic Relief Yemen, P. O. Box 15088, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Fax No: 01-415998 Or Email: info@iryemen.org

*Applicants should be sympathetic to the values and principles of Islamic Relief
Islamic Relief is an equal opportunities employer.
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.*

Islamic Relief is an international relief and development charity with its headquarters in the UK that aims to alleviate the suffering of the world's poorest people

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Vibrant Indonesian Batik show wins the hearts of Yemen

Ashwini Bhanagay
For the Yemen Times

On Friday, October 2, 2009, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono had called on all Indonesians to wear batik on that day to celebrate UNESCO's decision to include batik in its list of "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" items. Students, people who work in hotels and bars as well as those who work for private companies were also urged to wear Batik on this day. The government announced special discounts for those entering recreational centers, museums wearing batik.

Have you heard of the 'Madiba' Shirt? It is a batik silk shirt, with bright and colourful print. It has become a well-known nickname for batik shirts in South Africa, being popularised by former South African president Nelson Mandela.

What is Batik? Batik is a process of dyeing using the 'resistance technique' in which wax is used as a substance barrier. Even though the ancient Egyptians and Indians knew the technique of Batik, the origins of the word "batik" are found in the Indonesian words 'ambatik' meaning 'a cloth with little dots', where 'tik' means little dot, drop, point or to make dots or in the Javanese word 'tritik' meaning a resist process for dyeing where the patterns are reserved on the textiles by tying

and sewing areas prior to dyeing.

Some experts feel that batik was originally reserved as an art form for Javanese royalty and others say that its use was also prevalent with the rakyat - the people and was regarded an important part of a young ladies accomplishment that she be capable of handling a canting (a wax pen) with a reasonable amount of skill.

Though batik or fabrics with the traditional batik patterns are also found in several countries such as Malaysia, Japan, China, India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, and Singapore, the island of Java in Indonesia is responsible for developing batik into its present day intricate and exceptional art form.

On 27 December, within the framework of cultural cooperation between Yemen and Indonesia, the Indonesian Embassy in Sana'a and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Yemen, hosted the Indonesian Batik Show at the cultural house Tahrir Sana'a. The show took place under the auspicious presence of H.E. Dr. Mohammed Abdu Bakr Al-Maflahi, Minister of Culture Yemen and H.E. Mr. Nurul Aulia, Indonesian Ambassador in Sana'a.

The entire hall had come alive with the display of beautifully dyed batiks - silk, cotton, synthetic scarves, sarongs, shirts, table cloths, bags, purses and bamboo and paper fans - the Indonesian Fashion Show.

What was unique about this show was the warm and welcoming atmosphere, the colorful fabrics, the lively fashion show parading 'batik' fabrics in traditional Indonesian as well as the Muslim outfits, the subtle movements of the traditional Indonesian dances, and most of all the pride of the Indonesians to show off their rich heritage and the enthusiasm of the Yemenis to try the art and take home their 'creation' - the piece of batik they had themselves made.

At the Cultural house, in Sana'a, today, everybody was busy trying their hand at 'tulis' meaning applying wax by hand using a wax pen or 'canting'. Nakula Sadeva the artisan from the Batik Company from Yogyakarta, Central of Java and his assistants were promptly providing the eager hands with cloths (having penciled and waxed patterns and a space for the participants to draw on) and bamboo frames in which to fix the cloth tightly. Soon 'Cantings' were picked up and dipped into the 'wajan', as the enthusiasts tried to make patterns with the canting.

'Canting' consist of small thin wall spouted copper container connected to a 11 centimeter long bamboo handle, which is the modest tool used in batik. Canting have different sizes and number of spouts depending on the effect desired. Cantings having upto 9 spouts are used to make dots and parallel lines. A piece of cotton attached to a spout can act like a brush. A 'wajan' is an iron or earthenware containers that holds the molten wax.

However, struggling to control the fast flowing wax from the canting and trying hard not to make a blob, everyone soon realized that the work required great skill and patience, for the wax once applied or spilled can never really be removed.

In batik the quality of fabrics matters a lot. Also, it is important that the wax is absorbed and does not come out from the other side of the cloth. Therefore, densely woven silk and cotton fabrics which can absorb the wax that is applied in the dye resisting process and at the same time maintain the intricate design qualities of batik, are preferred. The cloth is washed and boiled in water many times before applying wax, so that all traces of starches, lime, chalk and other sizing materials are removed.



The best waxes are from the Indonesian islands of Timor, Sumbawa and Sumatra; three types of petroleum-based paraffin (white, yellow and black) are used. The temperature of the wax has to be maintained, for if the wax is too hot it flows very fast and cannot be controlled and if it is too cold it does not flow at all. To meet the growing demands and to make the fabric more affordable, 'caps' or copper blocks that make up a design unit are used as stamps to apply wax, instead of the tedious 'tulis' technique. Or 'kombinasi, a combination of the two techniques is used.

Traditionally natural dyes coming from the Tingi, Tegeran, Jambal, Jolawe, Indio - the native Indonesian species, are used and primarily consist of beige, blue, brown and black colors. However, today chemical dyes are used as well.

After everyone completed applying wax, Nakula Sadeva, dipped the cloth pieces first in soap water, then in the first Naphtolene bath, the second Naphtolene bath, a dye of choice - red or indigo and lastly in boiling water (which removed the wax). These creations were then quickly put into plastic bags and handed over to waiting hands and eager faces, to take home.

Usually batik involves ten steps. Penciling the pattern on a beige or white cloth, wax application over the penciled pattern, first dye bath in indigo blue in

which the waxed area remains white, second application of wax, second dye bath - navy blue - in which areas not covered by wax become dark blue, scraping the wax off, third application of wax in areas which the artist wants in blue and white, submerging the fabric in the final dye and removal of all wax and finishing the cloth.

The motifs remaining in white can also be colored by hand using brushes. The dyes are fixed to the cloth by 'Mor-danting' - immersing metal elements to bind the dyes to the cloth.

Colorful batiks involve much more work. If a marble effect is desired, the wax is intentionally cracked before being placed in the dye bath. The dye seeps into the tiny cracks that create the fine lines that are characteristic of batik. Traditionally, though cracks were a sign of inferior cloth especially on indigo color batik. For special occasions, batik was formerly decorated with gold leaf or gold dust. Amazing, isn't it? How the Indonesian batik has survived through all times? However, it is not so surprising because what the Indonesians have done is just capitalized on their strengths, found solutions to the weaknesses and lived upto the opportunities.

For example, they have preserved all that was good in traditional batik, the traditional batik designs like the Kawung - intersecting circles, Ceplok - geometric

designs based on squares, rhombs, circles, stars, Parang - slanting rows of thick knife-like segments running in parallel diagonal bands, Tambil Miring design, etc. natural dyes, traditional tools like the canting and cap, and their artisans. At the same time, modern motifs involving treatment of leaves, flowers and birds, the use of chemical dyes which can produce any color an artisan wishes as against the handful colors offered by the natural dyes, systemizing the process of applying wax, dyeing, making sure that the dyes bind well to the fabric, all show efforts to cope up with the times.

In Indonesia, 'batik' is considered auspicious. The government is committed to preserving and developing their heritage. For years government officials have been wearing batik clothes to the Friday prayer, to support preserving the heritage. The government, through some of its agencies concerned, was giving special attention to batik makers as part of the efforts to perpetuate and develop the Batik trade. The government, provides the batik-making industry with assistance in the form of low-interest credits and training in production processes and design making in several potential areas across Indonesia. First Lady Ani Yudhoyono recently called on all parties to improve the condition of traditional batik craftsmen and women so as to preserve the craft as part of the nation's cultural legacy because they are important in handing down the legacy to the next generations. Last year the Batik Company, whose products were displayed in today's show, earned 300 million U.S. dollars from sales and the company targets sales to reach 1 billion U.S. dollars in the coming five years. The company made this presentation in Yemen today hoping to mesmerize the Yemeni business men.

The level of perfection to which the Indonesians have taken their traditional art, the efforts they put in the entire event, the commitment of the Indonesian government, all has led to the prosperity of the Indonesian batik industry and has become an example for others to learn from.

Today, crossing boundaries of nations, religions, races, cultures, and languages, this batik show once again asserted the power of art in bringing hearts together.



Correction advertisements for tender no. (23) Selection of Consultants Request for Expression of Interest For Providing Consultancy Services in the Field of Port Design

Due to the technological improvements in the shipping industry and the current and future market conditions which have dictated that The Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation (Hodeidah) to review the 2006 design of the container terminal and the approach channel and turning area and to carry out complete study for the design or a Greenfield container terminal in 2006. The study included design of berths, container yards and approach channel and turning area (basin) with complete tender documents.

Hence,

Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation (YRSPC) - Hodeidah Port, invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the necessary consultancy services for the above project. Interested consultants must provide their qualification information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

The consultancy services required shall include:

1. design review for the berths and the new container terminal in the port of Hodeidah based on 2006 design,
2. design of the new turning area and also design of the approach channel, and
3. Update of the tender documents according to the above changes.

Period of the consultancy services is expected to be **FOUR MONTHS** from the date of signing the contract with the selected consultant.

The consultant shall submit the following qualification documents:

1. its qualification for the job,
2. its financial, technical and administrative status,
3. its major business activities and years of relevant experience,
4. key staff qualification,
5. references (for verification)

Expressions of Interest shall be made in duplicate hard copies along with a soft copy (CD) to the address mentioned below.

Finance: Self Financed

The consultant will be selected in accordance with prevailing laws (regulations and Tender Law 23-2007) and the procedures set out in the High Tender Board's Manual for the Procurement of Consultants Services. Interested consultant may obtain further information at the address below between 09:00 am and 1400 pm from Saturday through Wednesday, excluding official holidays.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the address below:

Executive Chairman - Chairman of the Board

Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation

Head Office, Port of Hodeidah

Hodeidah, Yemen

Tel: +967 3 211600/211603

Fax: +967 3 211264/211561

Email: pmac@y.net.ye

requirements_purchasing@yahoo.com

Website: www.portofhodeidah.com

Deadline for submission is 12:00 hour's noon on by Monday 1st February 2010.

No submission after the date above will be considered.

Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation

Republic of Yemen
Water and Environment Ministry
Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation
Sana'a Sanitation Project Implementation Unit

Expression of Interest for Consultancy Services for Training Program

Stage I: Technical Training (Inside and outside The Republic of Yemen)

Stage II: Financial and Administrative Training (Inside and outside The Republic of Yemen)

1. The republic of Yemen has received a fund from Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development towards the cost of Sana'a Sanitation Project, Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation (SWSLC) intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the Financial, Administrative and Technical Training Program for the SWSLC staff. The training program shall include:
Stage I: Technical Training (Inside and outside The Republic of Yemen)
Stage II: Financial and Administrative Training (Inside and outside The Republic of Yemen)
2. The Ministry of Water and Environment and Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation (Project Implementation Unit) invites eligible International Universities and Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested universities and consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Associated University and Consultant with Local or Arabian consultants are preferable.

Scope of training includes but not limited to the following:

Number of Trainees inside of Yemen	Number of Trainees outside of Yemen	Total Training Duration	Scope of Training
Technical Training			
120 Trainee	166 Trainee	24 Months	1) Design, Execution /Implementation and operation and maintenance of wastewater collection, disposal and treatment facilities (Sewers, pumping station and treatment plants). 2) Design, Execution /Implementation and operation and maintenance of water supply networks, pumping stations and ground water wells. 3) Drilling, testing and commissioning of ground water wells.
Financial and Administrative Training			
150 Trainee	12 Trainee	15 Months	Administration by aims, planning and strategic planning, information and finance management and analysis and decision making.

3. Universities and Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures and guidelines set out in Arab Fund for Economic and Social Fund and Regulations of the Republic of Yemen (www.htb.gov.ye)
4. Further information may be obtained during working hours from the Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation at the address below.
5. Two copies of the Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below not after maximum thirty (30) days after the date of advertisement.
Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation
Head of Sana'a Sanitation Project Implementation Unit
Al Hasaba - Near the Ministry of public Health and population
Tel. 01 237644
Fax. 01 237645
6. The Documents shall contain all the above mentioned documents or at least:
 - a. Organization History and Experience
 - b. Curriculum Vitae for the proposed staff including Administration staff and Head of organization
 - c. Institutions and clients who have benefited from the organization services and kind of services provided
 - d. Associated consultates and organization including their experience
 - e. Information about the objectives and the message provided by the organization, Ownership, organizational structure, financial situation, expertise and record of the implementation of previous training programs and services and previous other similar services
 - f. Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

