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## RSF: Yemen uses "combating terrorism" to crack down on media

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, JAN. 6 — Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemned Yemen's attempt to use the current anti-terror climate to subject journalists to censorship and banning publications, the Yemen Times has learned.

"Ali Abdallah Saleh's government is taking advantage of support from foreign powers in the fight against terrorism on its soil to deliberately violate people's rights", said the organization.

"The international community must remind the Sana'a government that the legitimate fight against terrorism can never be used to justify cracking down on the media", it said.

The condemnation came while Yemeni police Wednesday arrested on Wednesday the owner and editor of the banned daily newspaper, Al-Ayyam, following clashes between police and armed people who staged sit in outside the newspaper's office. They called for the newspaper to reopen, which has been banned by the Yemeni authorities since May.

Hisham Bashraheel, 66, was taken into custody over clashes since Monday in which a policeman and a newspaper's guard were killed and seven people were wounded.

The Police attempted to storm the of-

fices of Al-Ayyam daily on Tuesday to arrest guards who had killed a policeman and wounded another on Monday when security forces were trying to disperse a demonstration protesting the continued ban of the newspaper.

According to Gen.Saleh Zuari, the Deputy Interior minister, armed members of Al-Qaeda-linked southern movement exchanged fire with police

act" described Zuari

However the Editor Bashrahil has described the scene - before his arrest - to Reporters Without Borders: "The security forces started firing on the crowd at 16.07pm. The police even aimed at one of their own number to make it look like the demonstrators were armed, when in fact everyone came to protest peacefully".

On Tuesday evening, local media talked about Mediation led by social dignitaries and officials to contain the mess after the clashes.

About 50 protesters participated in mediation to the mediation committee as a good-will act. The people then were handed to security who imprisoned them.

It wasn't clear if Bashrahil, who is wanted by prosecutors in Sana'a to stand trial for his alleged role in the murder of a man in front of the paper's offices in 2008, has willingly surrendered to authority or was forced.

Wednesday afternoon, police announced the arrest of Bashrahil with his son, adding that heavy weaponry was discovered in the editor's house, which is located inside the newspaper's building.

Since May, the authorities have repeatedly used the judiciary, the police, and other security apparatuses to harass and intimidate Al-Ayyam. We hold the Yemeni government directly responsible for the well-being of all those who remain surrounded as this siege continues," said Mohamed Abdel Dayem, Middle East and North Africa program coordinator of The Committee to Protect Journalists before the arrest of the editor

Last May one person was killed and three wounded in a gunfight which erupted as police moved in to arrest Bashrahil.

On 15 July a journalist on the newspaper, Anis Ahmed Mansur Hamida, was sentenced to 14 months in prison for "attacking national unity" and "separatism."

The paper, was one of the largest newspapers in the south, suspended along with other 8 publications last year in connection over allegations of inciting separatism in the region amid a wave of deadly unrest there.

According to Reporters Without Borders, the Al-Ayyam incidents is not first of its type. The state of press freedom in Yemen has considerably worsened since May 2009, said the worldwide freedom press organization.

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Yemeni journalists regularly protested in Sana'a over the continued ban of Aden based daily newspaper Al-Ayyam. Now protests are escalating in southern governorates after the newspaper's editor was arrested on Wednesday after being accused of hiding weapons in his home.

The organization cited incidents during 2009, particularly in the south of the country.

Nothing has been heard of Khalid Jahafi a journalist on the opposition news website Alshawa.net since security forces arrested him on 27 December 2009 while he was taking photos of clashes between police officers and supporters of the southern - movement, which demand to separate southern Yemen from which they called "Sana'a government"

Continued on page 2

## Yemen Metrological Service warns of low temperatures

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, JAN. 6 — The National Center for Metrological Service still warns citizens of low temperatures in the governorates of Sa'ada, Amran, Sana'a, Thamar, Ibb, Al-Dhale'e, and Al-Baida.

"The center warns of noticeably low temperatures that probably cause a frost wave that harms plants," read the press release by the center.

The center also warns that the frost wave may extend to reach some parts of the governorates of Al-Jawf, Mareb, Shabwa, and desert areas of Hadramout and AL-Mahra.

It recommends the elderly and children residing in these areas to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves from the frost.

Consequently the Ministry of Agriculture has warned farmers in these areas, of the impact of the frost on their farms.

The ministry recommends farmers to stop irrigation during the coming days, especially for the fruit trees, to lessen the effects of the frost such as: stunting.

"The crops of apricot, grapes, plum, tomatoes and potatoes are among the most likely to be affected by the frost and it is recommended to warm these plants with burning some woods next them," said the ministry.



This is one of the coldest winters Yemen has seen in decades. The change in the weather in Yemen and countries around the world comes as a result of the climate change, according to the 2009 Report of Environment and Development by the Arab Forum for Environment and Development.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Sayani, General Director of Plant Protection at the Ministry of Agriculture stated to Saba News Agency that the frost does have negative impacts on plants but it mostly affects the quality and quantity of the produce.

"The frost stunts the plant, weakens it making it vulnerable to pests," Al-Sayani said.

In the same context, Rasheed Al-Ariqi, head of the Weather Forecast Unit at the Metrological Center told the Yemen Times that Socotra Island, on Monday, witnessed heavy rains that continued for about 24 hours.

After the warning by the Metrological Center, schools announced starting one hour late every day for a period.

The change in the weather in Yemen and countries around the world comes as a result of the climate change, according to the 2009 Report of Environment and Development by the Arab Forum for Environment and Development.

According to the report, though Climate change acts directly to change natural weather patterns, its effects quickly cascade through many sectors and result into scarcity of food, water and loss of coastal areas, disruption of ecosystems, and adverse effects on human health as well.

Moreover the report indicated that climate change also has negative impact on economies of countries. "The economic sector is not immune and disruptions to infrastructure and tourism, for example, which will conceivably cancel the economic benefits."

The report recommends the governments of the Arab region to treat this as a national priority and to take actions to save the lives of their people.

## Hadrami people exert efforts to fight qat

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

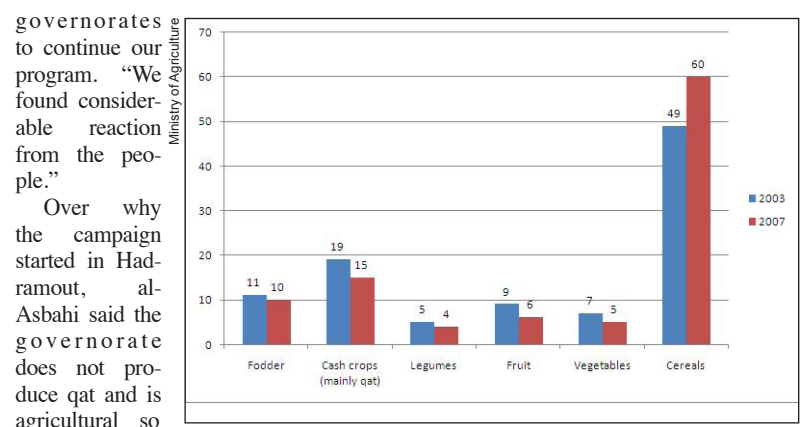
HADRAMOUT, JAN. 5 — In cooperation with the World Bank, a specialized committee in charge of following up on an anti-qat project in Hadramout held last month a meeting to discuss the agreement signed recently between local authority and the WB to fight qat consumption in Hadramout, The Yemen Time has learned.

The meeting stressed the role that could be played by the elite to enlighten people on health dangers of qat consumption and on stopping qat trade. The meeting stressed on making qat markets far away of the cities, in a bid to stop entirely its trade.

These moves will be accompanied by efforts to seek alternatives to young people like clubs and training centers to spend their time in ways benefiting them.

World Bank's Qat Consultant Qahtan al-Asbahi said this move, which started in Hadramout last October and November, falls under the organization's program shared with the Yemeni government to combat qat addiction.

"Our program aims at reducing qat consumption. We started it in governorates of Hadramout and Aden where people consume qat but do not grow it," said al-Asbahi. Then we will move to other



Percent of different agriculture products from the total produce.

governorates to continue our program. "We found considerable reaction from the people."

Over why the campaign started in Hadramout, al-Asbahi said the governorate does not produce qat and is agricultural so that it is easy to hold anti-qat consumption campaigns.

Cultivating qat in the governorate is not successful because it is flat land with does not exceed 800 meters above sea level while qat is grown only in areas above 800 meters.

With failed tries to grow qat in Hadramout, it was easy to carry out the anti-qat camping in this governorate besides; In addition, that most of the people are not qat addicted.

Regarding alternatives the World Bank provides to young people in Hadramout, al-Asbahi said the organization helps promoting cultural activities. "We in the World Bank help and support spreading cultural programs, night programs and sport contests. We provide USD 6000 to every activity."

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation share the anti-qat program with the World Bank, said Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Abdul-Malik al-Thawr.

The program is divided into two parts, the production and consumption, he explained. The ministry is responsible on combating the production while the World Bank is responsible on carrying out anti-qat consumption campaigns.

The anti-qat program falls under the project of preserving ground water, given that qat consumes 30 percent of ground water. Under this prospect, we categorize water into two kinds, green water (rain water) and blue water (ground water).

Our focus is to protect blue water against exhaustion and we do not have problem with farmers using green water, said al-Thawr.

Carrying out such activities in the governorate came as respond to a message of Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul-Karim al-Arhabi to enlighten People on the dangerous effects of qat consumption, said Mohammad

Saeed ba-Qatmi, Assistant Deputy Governor of Hadramout, the Head of Anti-Qat Committee.

The campaign aimed at making the city clean by forcing all people selling qat in streets out of the city. Selling qat inside the city has damaged its good image before visitors.

By forcing people selling qat out of the city, this will lead to reduce demand for qat because the young man or the man who wants to buy qat from the market will find it difficult to go out of the city and return to chew qat. Step by step, the people will give up this bad habit willingly (chewing qat) has spread recently, mostly among young people.

"Tens days ago, we started carrying out enlightenment projects supported by the World Bank. We intend to publish encyclopedias on the dangers of qat in cooperation with media," said ba-Qatmi.

Over other alternatives to be provided to the people to occupy their spare time, the Head of Anti-Qat Committee said, there is action plan with local authority to create clubs, enlightenment parks, internet coffeehouse and holding forums and theaters to help people forget qat.

Hadramout is considered the vastest agricultural valley in Yemen and riches ground for water. It is famous of producing dates, honey and wheat, besides vegetables. Hadrami people are the less in the country who chew qat due to the spread of specific culture that people who chew qat and smoke are considered unrespectable.

The governorate does not grow qat but traders bring the plant from the governorates of Dhale'a, al-Baidha' and Dhamar.

Qat cultivation is spread on 140,000 hectare of Yemeni agricultural lands. Every hector generates annual revenues of YR, 2,64 million in the best cases. But expansion of qat trees comes on the account of other important strategic crops like coffee besides vegetables and fruits.

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## Entrepreneurship way for youth's economic empowerment

By: Shatha Al-Harazi  
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, JAN. 5 — Asama'a Ahmad is a girl who cut short the long journey of waiting for a job by establishing her own project, a cafeteria in a private university. Asma'a, a graduate student at the Faculty of Commerce, said that she saw her sister waiting for a long time to get public work, so she decided to use her savings, borrowed money and established a cafeteria with her friends.

"I had many difficulties in the beginning; however, I managed to cover all my debts. Now, I can earn a living until I get a job. I even can expand the project and establish new ones," she said.

Unemployment is a problem that enlarges poverty and minimizes development. It has increased by 60 percent and may continue to do so due to the large number of universities graduates. Many civil society organizations and governmental authorities have adopted a strategy to support these projects as a real step toward lowering unemployment and raising employees' income.

The Islamic, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) has fully accomplished its duty by adopting a project for qualifying youth in technical and vocational and special skills. This project

aims at finding job opportunities for youth to enable them to be effective in the society. The organization has qualified 40 youth of both sexes who were nominated by Ministry of Civil Service.

Questions are raised by some about the reason why authorities in charge adopt creating jobs opportunity projects through assigning this task to a specific authority which qualify a group of youth and develop their skills in administration, marketing and the vocation fields.

Hameed Maharesh, an accountancy bachelor degree holder, spent three years waiting for a job. He said "Three years is the period of time I have been waiting for a job. When I felt depressed of getting a job, I tried a private sector corporation, however they asked for a three years experience which is something I do not have. I felt, I am one of those who increase the number of unemployment." Adding "I just have one question, how on earth can we find a job if they keep on demanding this "experience" which is something cannot be attained except by having a job. Unfortunately no one can get a job unless he has a go-between."

"Being one of the participants of the training course, I felt there is a hope" Maharesh commented. He added that he can now establish his project to design accountancy programs for the newly established

organizations in addition to offering consultations, but still he is looking for a sponsoring organization.

Abeer Al-Hamadani is one of the participants who has many diplomas in computer literacy, felt she can establish her own project with some of her training course mates. "I had been waiting for a job uselessly. In the end I found out that establishing my own project is the best way to find a job. My mates and I started working on our project and a sponsor for it." She said.

Rashed Al-Mawiri, another participant, said that he is waiting for a job since 2003. "I just realized that public work cannot be attained. We must save ourselves from the unemployment." He added, "We must be constructive and establish our own projects. Organization have to inform youth of the importance of the small projects."

The General Secretary of ISESCO, Ahmad Al-Ma'amari said that the unemployment occur among youth between (15-25). The educational corporations graduated do not get jobs easily especially university thousands of graduates.

According to him, some countries have reviewed their educational and training systems so that youth find interesting fields to develop their capacities and to direct them to establish their private projects as an alternative. "I think this is what we should do, he commented.

## Children of Yemen need protection

By: Mahmoud Assamie

SANA'A, JAN. 2 — With poverty plaguing Yemen and ignorance and backwardness rampant across the country, the future of the children of Yemen is at a risk. This status quo imposes on the government, on all society organizations, international organizations and on parents, to take care of the children of Yemen.

Holding conferences and workshops, in the absence of any real and practical measures to protect children against the dangers they face every day, the future of the children of Yemen will only get darker and darker.

Government efforts under these conditions, unfortunately, are not sufficient to alleviate the condition of these children.

"During the past decades, childhood in Yemen has witnessed a remarkable improvement and Yemen has taken positive steps in form of programs, policies and strategies to protect and take care of children in all fields", said Prime Minister Ali Mujawr.

He said that this improvement has taken place, throughout the period, through enacting legislations and laws concerning children or amendments in the related legislations, such as amendments to remove discrepancies related to the minimum marriage age, criminal accountability, female genital circumcision and sale and exploitation of children.

In his speech, in the 'Workshop on Concluding Observations on Yemen's First Report on Convention on the Right of the Child's Optional Protocol on Sale of Children, Prostitution and Pornography', the Minister of Education, Mr. Abdul-Salam Al-Jawfi, said "Yemen has assumed the responsibility of being committed to and complying with the international treaties and protocols concerning child protection".

Mr. Abdul-Salam Al-Jawfi said that the Yemeni government has committed itself to creating a 'safe environment' for children protecting them from child trafficking, smuggling and exploitation and directed the concerned government bodies to take strict measures against children traffickers and those exploiting them through pornography.

He also demanded the judiciary system to take instant decisions on issues concerning children and issues deterring verdicts against any one violating the rights of children.

The workshop discussed six topics namely: policies and legislations, building capabilities and enlightenment, developing surveillance and following up system, evaluation, studies and researches and protecting children and qualifying them.

"Six working groups, consisting of representatives of the Supreme Council for



With half of the Yemeni population under fifteen years old, children and youth become the most vulnerable groups to economic downturns and social instability. Over forty percent of Yemenis live below the food poverty line, half of those are children.

Motherhood and Childhood (SCMC), Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology, international organizations, civil society organizations, the parliament and Judiciary, discussed one of the six topics each and presented an action plan to implement the recommendations and following up the process of implementation during the period of four years, related to that topic", said Abdul-Latif al-Hamadani, the Director of Studies, Researches and Child Protection in the SCMC.

The report dealt with measures taken by the country to implement the child rights convention on the ground.

On his part, the Head of the Public Freedom and Human Rights Committee in the Parliament, Sheikh Mohammad al-Sha'ef, presented the efforts of the committee in monitoring the situation of the children, their rights, the status of Yemeni families and the strategic plans worked out by the concerned bodies on the basis of this status-quo. The Strategic plans are based on the field visits and reports developed by the committee.

Sheikh Mohammad al-Sha'ef called on all concerned humanitarian organizations, to coordinate with the freedoms committee in the parliament, to ensure avoiding any catastrophe in the Yemeni society. He said that the committee will share the results of the workshop with the parliament.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Dr. Nafisa Al-Ja'efi, said that since Yemen is a signatory to the Convention on the Right of the Child's Optional Protocol on Sale of Children and Pornography for 2004 it is binding for Yemen to produce an initial report on the condition of children in

also postponed indefinitely and without explanation the trial of journalist Iyyad Ghanem, who is in poor health from a two-week hunger strike. He has been in custody for six months after filming a rally by supporters of the southern rebel groups in the city of Korsch.

Further, nothing has been heard since 18 September of journalist Muhammad Al-Maqalih, who disappeared in unexplained circumstances. Many Yemeni journalists believe that security services

were responsible for his abduction. Fouad Rashid, editor of the website Al-Mukalla Press, and Salah Al-Saqadi, editor of the website Adengulf-website, are also still being held.

The organization has ranked Yemen's press freedom at 167 out of 175 countries it has surveyed this year. This rank is twelve points lower compared to last year and by this making Yemen one of the ten worst countries in the world regarding press freedom.

## Yemeni Expatriates in KSA find no solutions to their problems

By: sadeq AL-Wesabi  
For the Yemen Times

JEDDAH, JAN. 6 — Many Yemeni expatriates in The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) complain about the many difficulties they face with no active solutions conducted by the Yemeni Community in KSA.

One million Yemeni expatriates are estimated to live in KSA. Many of them have obstacles with investing in Yemen, but many more suffer from the lack of health care and social support and an education system that has failed them for years.

The Yemeni communities' leaders in KSA struggle to agree on key issues, exacerbating their inability to aid the Yemeni expatriates.

Abdul Kareem Al-Musbahi, the vice president of the Yemeni Community in east and west areas of KSA, said "The atmosphere in which the Yemeni communities live is one where genuine efforts to improve the situation are few and far between. Also, some actively work against the best interests of the community to serve their own interests. He added, "Very few expatriates even know the leaders of their communities."

According to expatriate Hamzah Ahmad, there are no social, health care or educational committees taking care of the expatriates issues. "we do not depend on the leaders of the communities to solve our problems because we know already that they will do nothing," Hamzah said.

In Jeddah, where many Yemeni expatriates live, having access to reliable health care is difficult. Thousands of Yemenis who suffer from pathological cases cannot afford to get treated due to the high costs. While the leaders of



the communities claim to pay for the patients, there is no evidence to support that assertion.

The health care system is not the only social service that is in need of significant improvements. Schools and colleges are expensive, forcing Yemeni university students in Jeddah to depend upon distance learning methods. The students must pay huge fees otherwise they cannot continue studying.

As deep poverty affects many expatriate families, it is little wonder that quality educational and health care facilities are out of reach.

These families have been suffering from poverty but no one look at them with merciful eye, according to Al-Musbahi. Tragedies such as men divorcing their wives and neglecting their children or sending his wife to the embassy, are common occurrences.

Al-Musbahi is hopeful that the com-

munity in KSA can solve the expatriates problems but acknowledges that his center is overwhelmed by enormous tasks at hand. Making matters worse, The Yemeni Community office in Jeddah is closed, leaving people without a venue through which their concerns can be addressed.

The absence of such facilities leads to communication problems as well. Expatriate Abdul Wase' Abdu said that he does not hear about the community functions except on some occasions or in press. "We depend only on Allah when we have problems," Abdu concluded.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirms that it supports all Yemenis abroad. During the third conference conducted by the Ministry, protecting the expatriates investors and solving their problems were two aims of the conference, and President Saleh has also pledged to assist the expatriates.

## Sugar price goes up by 80 percent

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, JAN. 5 — The Price of sugar went up in the recent weeks to reach YR 9,000 (USD 44) for 50 kg leaping 80 percent compared to YR 7,200 (USD 35) for the same quantity.

The Yemen Times surveyed some markets in Sana'a to identify the reasons behind the price hike of the sugar.

Most retailers and wholesalers in Sana'a think that importers and dealers are the persons who caused the surprised price hike.

"The price hike of sugar to YR 9,000 basically goes back to importers and dealers of international companies who monopolize this important commodity," Said Ahmed Al-Weshali, wholesaler in Sana'a.

Hamoud Al-Hobaishi, a retailer in Sana'a agreed with Al-Weshali in accusing importers and dealers in monopolizing this commodity that leads to price hike.

"I used to sell one kilo gram of sugar with YR 150 (0.73 cent) and now I sell it with YR 200 around (USD)," he said.

Some owners of supermarkets in Sana'a also think that the price hike of

sugar from time to time is because no unified price policy in the country.

Low income Families became in fight to obtain this main commodity as the price hike added a new burden on their shoulders.

"The sugar price has increased to be a burden and now we can't buy it," Saleh Ahmed said, who is the breadwinner of a family.

"The state is absent in consumer protection and there is no control over prices in the market," said Mohsen Mauda, an employee in the public sector.

Retailers and wholesalers became in a problem with their customers due to the price hike.

"The price hike of sugar to this level created problems for us with our customers and when we ask importers about the reasons behind the hike, they never reply us," said Mohammed Al-Mikhlaflay, wholesaler in Taiz street.

The surprise hike of sugar price also affected the business of cafeterias in Sana'a.

"Of course the price hike of sugar causes loss to us," said Mohammed Al-Hashidi, an owner of a cafeteria.

"Our customers do not convince when

we increase the price of juice due to the price hike of sugar," he explained.

"There is no much profit after the one kilogram of sugar is sold with YR 250 and we might close the cafeteria," he added.

Wholesalers think that there are no clear justifications for the price hike of sugar and it will just worsen the lives of poor families who already live in difficult situations.

"The current price hike of sugar does not have any justification, but the ministry of industry and trade is not doing its task in monitoring the prices in markets," said Naqeeb Al-Hilaly.

The Yemen Times contacted the Office of the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Sana'a to know the reasons behind the price hike of sugar and the role of the ministry in alleviating it, but no one replied.

For his part, the Studies and Economic Media Center in a press release warned of manipulation of sugar price indicating that prices in Yemeni markets are more than markets in Gulf States to around ten percent calling on the Ministry of Industry and Trade to do its roles in prices inspection.

## Abdul Aziz Al-Makaleh wins Al-Oais Foundation Award

By: Isma'el Al-Ghabri

DUBAI, JAN. 4 — Last Saturday, Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Makaleh, Yemen's first poet won the Al-Owais cultural Award. Dr. Maqaleh, won the award along with Al Taher Wattar, Abdul Salam Al Misaddi and Jalal Amin. The award Secretary-General Abdul Hamid Ahmed, said in a press release issued by the Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation in Dubai, that the winners were chosen unanimously by the jury, from amongst 1183 applicants for the award, after deliberation and discussions.

The award Secretary General said that Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Maqaleh, whose poems represent an artistic model of modern poetry and contemporary creativeness by utilising heritage, national and human symbols in his poetry which will continue to inspire generations to come, was selected "out of 209 nominees in the poetry category because his poems deal with the problems and issues of mankind," Ahmad said.

On receiving the award, Dr. Maqaleh said: "the existence of such foundations in the Arab world or in the whole world, which honor creativity is a very important matter."

This was the 11th session of the award, which was established on December 17, 1987, by the poet Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais, as a permanent award bearing his name. In 1992, the



award, which was established with the aim of honouring, encouraging and supporting Arab scholars, litterateurs and intellectuals, developed into an autonomous cultural foundation.

Dr. Maqaleh's works: Sana'a will be my destination even after a long journey (1971), A letter to Saif Bin Thi Yazan, (1972), Yemen Colloquial poetry, Reading in Al-Zaidia's (Islamic section) thought in Yemen, Yemeni dailies in literature and arts, Priorities of literary criticism in Yemen, Priorities of theatre in Yemen, Studies in short story and novel in Yemen, Ali Ahmad Ba Kather, the pioneer of modernization in the modern Arabic poetry, are amongst his numerous works, which won him this award.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Maqaleh is a cultural consultant to the President of the Republic of Yemen, the head of the Studies and Research Center and an instructor in Sana'a University, Faculty

of Arts, as well as a MA and PHD degrees supervisor.

Many studies have been conducted on his works, as a critic and as a poet. A few examples are: Criticism Explanations by Izaldeen Sohail and Ahmad Hijazi and The Picture in Al-Maqaleh Poetry and The Symbolism and Psychological Dimensions by Al-Odi.

A member of the Linguistic Community in Cairo, the Linguistic Community in Damascus and a member of the Center for Arab Unity Studies in Beirut, Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Maqaleh was born in 1927, in the governorate of Ibb. In 1970, he received an university degree. He has a MA, PHD from Ien Shams University, Faculty of Arts, Egypt. From 1982 to 2001, Dr. Maqaleh was a rector in the Sana'a University.

The Lotus award (1986), Arts and Literature medal (Aden 1980), Arts and Literature medal (Sana'a 1982), Arab Culture award (UNESCO, Paris 2002), Chevalier (Knight) award (France 2003), Arab cultural award, The Arab Organization for Education, Sciences and Culture award (2004), are the other awards and medals won by Dr. Maqaleh.

Continued from page 1

**RSF: Yemen uses "combating terrorism" to crack down on media**

al-Abd, a journalist on the newspaper al-Nada, as well as four members of the leadership of the Federation of Southern Youth, were arrested by police in Aden on 28 December, before being moved to Khor Maksar jail in Aden province. The journalist has been charged with forming a political party hostile to "security and national unity". A court in Lahij province has



In Brief

**SANA'A**  
**Yemeni wing in Dubai Global Village inaugurated**

Yemeni wing in Dubai Global Village which organized by Apollo International Exhibitions was officially inaugurated on Sunday.

During the inauguration, Undersecretary of the capital Sana'a for Financial and Administrative Affairs Mohammed al-Amri and Commercial advisor at the Yemeni Embassy in UAE Jamal al-Qawsi were briefed on the contents showing in the wing.

Al-Amri hailed the distinctive organization and presentation of the Yemeni product in this international tourism event which reflects the variety of Yemeni product.

He also called the concerned authorities in Tourism Ministry to play a big and active role in the Yemeni wing.

**British embassy to be reopened soon: UK ambassador says**

British ambassador to Yemen Tim Torlot said on Monday that the British embassy is to be reopened soon.

In an interview with Saba, Torlot said that closure of the UK embassy is a precautionary measure imposed by temporary security considerations and.

He affirmed that the preparations for holding the UK-called international conference are underway, adding that the conference to be held in January 28 in London aims to assist Yemen to encounter its challenges, topped by the terrorism and al-Qaeda.

He made reference to the conference's agenda, saying that it contains four goals focusing on mo-

bilizing support to help Yemen in areas of development, economy, policy and security.

The UK diplomat denied reports said that the conference agenda will only concentrate on the security and military challenges Yemen faces.

The coming conference will be equivalent to the London Donor Conference held in London on 2006 November, adding that it all the countries taken part in the international conference on supporting Afghanistan will participate in the conference, Torlot said.

**Syrian Culture Center launches 2010 program**

The Syrian Cultural Center in Sana'a launched Sunday its activities program for the year 2010.

The program contains a number of activities such as cultural, scientific and intellectual events to be carried out by the center every Sunday nights.

Moreover, the center will hold artistic and plastic art shows, symposiums and poetic evenings.

**Study calls for investigations on ties of some refugees with terror groups**

An official study over condition of refugees in Yemen has called for investigations on ties of some refugees with terror groups, al-motamar.net reported on Sunday.

The study of Center of Immigration Studies and Refugees at Sana'a University affirmed importance of doing such investigations to preserve security and stability of the country and refugees as well.

It criticized role of authorities in registering refugees, saying that au-

thorities have inactive role in process of registering refugees as they only register who come to them.

The study - was prepared by the head of the center Ali al-Awajsh showed that there is no a plan for following refugees, saying that process of registration for refugees was started by the authorities in 2008 after an agreement with the UNHCR.

On the other hand, the Immigration and Passport Authority in Yemen said that police have faced difficulties to identify suspected elements among Somalia refugees in different regions of Yemen.

The authority called for a clear national policy to deal with the file of refugees by adopting laws which organize tasks of bodies related with refugees affairs.

**France confirms support for Yemeni**

**Japanese football team arrives**  
Japanese Football national team arrived in Sana'a to play a 2011 Asian Cup qualifier as scheduled in Sana'a next Wednesday

There were media reports doubted about arrival of the Japanese team to Yemen because security reasons.

The Japan is presently in first place with nine points.

Japan and Yemen are in the group (A), which includes Bahrain and Hong Kong.

**Japanese football team arrives**

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**ADEN**  
**LLC exports first shipment in 2010 from AFZ**

International Lube LLC exported on Sunday its first shipment of car oil produced from its factory in Aden Free Zone (AFZ) to a number of Asian and African countries.

The exported shipment was 50 oil containers containing 10,000 metric tons of car oil produced from Yemeni raw oil.

In the inauguration ceremony held in the company's factory in Aden, Aden deputy governor Ahmed al-Dhilei welcomed Arab and foreign capitals to invest in Aden.

He also hoped to establish big projects in AFZ in order to contribute in developing the national economy and the absorption of Yemeni labor, affirming Aden local authority's readiness to provide all the need support and facilitations for implementing such projects.

Chairman of AFZ Abdul Jalil Al-Shuaibi affirmed that Aden would witness during the coming period more activities at the investment level which would contribute in activating the economic and developmental movement in Aden city.

In return, the LLC General Manager valued the support of the AFZ leadership in implementing this project, which started its activities in mid of May of 2009.

The factory created jobs for 100 Yemeni qualified workers beside 90

foreign ones. It is worth to mention that International Lube LLC was established in Aden in the year 2008.

**Policemen killed, hurt as unauthorized Aden rally thwarted**

A soldier was killed and three others were injured when al-Qaeda-linked southern movement rioters exchanged fire with police in Yemen's commercial capital of Aden on Monday, almotamar.net reported.

Anti-riot troops broke up an unauthorized rally that was held in solidarity with the suspended-newspaper of al-Ayyam and attended by fans of the movement, the mouthpiece of the Ruling Party added.

Citing local sources, it also said that the rioters of the movement randomly fired bullets and then the casualties took place.

A hunt was launched for the perpetrators. The paper was suspended along with other 8 publications last year in connection with anti-unity rhetoric.

**TAIZ**  
**Over 200 European tourists visit Taiz**

A tourist group of more than 200 Europeans has visited some tourist landmarks in the historical city of Taiz, south Yemen.

The European tourists visited the historical Cairo Castle and a number of the ancient landmarks in the old city of Taiz.

The tourists expressed great admiration of Islamic arabesque and patterns of the old mosque of Ashrafieh that being restored by specialists.

Tourist sources said to Saba that a

group of 150 Japanese tourists had tripped to the landmarks, bazaars and historical sites of Taiz.

**HODIDAH**  
**Drugs smuggling gang arrested**

Security authorities in Beit al-Faqih district in Hodeidah governorate arrested on Saturday a drugs and alcohol smuggling gang, NewsYemen reported on Monday.

The security authorities in Beit al-Faqih province have been informed of the arrival of a truck of smugglers laden with drugs and alcohol.

There was a heavy exchange of fire on both sides causing 3 smugglers injured, one of them is seriously injured. Investigation is still ongoing.

**Yemen, China discuss Hodeidah investment potentials**

Governor of Hodeidah Ahmed al-Jabali held talks here on Tuesday with the Chinese ambassador to Yemen Liu Denglin on the investment opportunities of Hodeidah governorate in different sectors.

Al-Jabali reviewed the investments potentials in the governorate, particularly in the fishery, agriculture and industry terms, haling the Yemeni-Chinese cooperation ties.

For his part, the Chinese official said that his visit to Hodeidah aims to get acquainted with availability of the investment infrastructure in the governorate and the projects that could be carried out.

He said that he would submit an inclusive report to the Chinese government on the means of enhancing the economic cooperation between the two countries.

Their News

**US\$25 Million Grant from the World Bank to Combat Schistosomiasis in Yemen**

The Minister of Public Health and Population, Dr. Abdulkareem Rasae, the Governor of Hajah, Mr. Fareed Mujawer, the WHO Regional Director Dr. Hussein Al-Gazaery and the World Bank Country Manger, Mr. Benson Ateng launched December 27, 2009 the Schistosomiasis Control Campaign in Hajah governorate. The campaign, which will be conducted between 27-30 of December in three pilot governorates; Sana'a, Hajah and Dhamar and targeting more than 800,000 people, is organized by the Ministry of Public Health and implemented by the World Bank-funded

Schistosomiasis Project, in partnership with WHO

During the launching of the campaign, Mr. Ateng thanked the Health Minister for his outstanding leadership in guiding the preparation of the Schistosomiasis Project along with the Ministry key staff and Project team for their distinguished efforts and commitment while preparing this vital project.

In addition, Mr. Ateng has extended appreciation to the support provided by some partners agencies such as the WHO represented by Dr. Hussein Al-Gazaery, the Regional Director of WHO EMRO, Dr. Gholam Popal, WHO Representative for Yemen and the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative

team who provided technical support to the project.

"This project represents an excellent opportunity for Yemen to control the morbidity due to Schistosomiasis and decrease the number of people affected by the disease and hopefully would lead to the disappearance of Schistosomiasis as a public health problem in Yemen. We hope that the Bank's financial support for the Schistosomiasis Control Project, amounting to US\$25 million, will support the nation-wide implementation of campaigns and ensure the availability of drugs to protect individuals from the risk of developing Schistosomiasis." Said Mr. Ateng.

From his part, Dr. Rasae praised

the World Bank support provided to health sector in Yemen in general and said "Unlike previous campaigns, this pilot campaign, which is the first activity organized by the Schistosomiasis project funded by the World Bank, will cover schools and health centres in three governorates using micro-planning methodology to reach remote areas students and children between 6-18 years old." He added that next campaigns would provide treatment and protection against Schistosomiasis to all community members of the target areas.

Dr. Abdul-Hakim AlKohlany, the General Director of Disease Control and Surveillance in the Public Health & Population Ministry stated that the pilot campaign comes within the Ministry new strategy to eradicate Schistosomiasis through mass community treatment for individuals above 6 years old.

The WHO speech was delivered by the regional director, Dr. Al-Gazaery who referred to the role of WHO in eradicating serious diseases in Yemen like smallpox and plague and stressed on the need for more cooperation between all partners, community and individuals to fight Schistosomiasis. "Fighting this serious disease is the responsibility of all and community participation is key to implement the campaigns and there would be economic values and interests that Yemen may gain if it is this disease put to an end." Dr. Al-Gazaery stated.

It is worth mentioning that the Schistosomiasis project is one of a number of projects the World Bank is supporting in the health sector in Yemen. "Currently, the Bank is supporting the implementation of the Safe Motherhood Project, amounting to USD6.0 million. Another project under preparation, Health and Population Project, amounting to USD28 million, is expected to contribute to the acceleration of the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 4 & 5 that is, reduction in childhood mortality and improvement of maternal health, respectively." The World Bank Country Manager concluded.

**Fully-Funded International Research Scholarships (FIRS), University of Leeds, UK**  
The University of Leeds is pleased

to offer at least nine Fully-Funded International Research Scholarships (FIRS), which are available for high quality international students who will be commencing PhD research study from Session 2010/11 for study in any Faculty at the University. The Scholarships may be held for up to three years, subject to satisfactory academic progress. The Scholarships will provide full international fees together with a maintenance grant of £13,490 1 for Session 2010/11.

**Eligibility Criteria – Applicants must:**

- have applied for an academic place for PhD research study at the University of Leeds and be in receipt of a University BANNER ID Number;
- normally be liable to pay academic fees at the full international fee rate;
- hold a First Degree at undergraduate level equivalent to at least a UK First Class Honours degree (applications should either have graduated with the appropriate First Degree or be in their final year of study.
- meet the University's English Language requirements. Some Schools require a standard of English higher than the University minimum;
- be commencing PhD research study for the first time in Session 2010/11;
- not already hold a doctorate or equivalent qualification;
- not hold another Scholarship;

**Application Process:**

Application forms, regulations and guidance notes for completion of applications are available from the web address: [http://www.leeds.ac.uk/rds/postgraduate\\_scholarships/firs-info.doc](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/rds/postgraduate_scholarships/firs-info.doc)

Application forms are also available by email request ([pg\\_scholarships@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:pg_scholarships@leeds.ac.uk)).

Completed application forms should be returned to the Postgraduate Scholarships Office or by email to [pg\\_scholarships@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:pg_scholarships@leeds.ac.uk) by 29 January 2010. Postgraduate Scholarships Office Marjorie & Arnold Ziff Building University of Leeds Leeds LS2 9JT, UK

Tel: +44 113 3434007  
Email: [pg\\_scholarships@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:pg_scholarships@leeds.ac.uk)  
<http://scholarships.leeds.ac.uk>

**"Youth for Change" Program - Phase II**

**Apply for Mini-Grants Now!**  
Global Youth Culture and Participation

Inspiring, Informing and Involving Arab Youth as Agents of Change

TakingITGlobal is pleased to announce the launching of phase II of "Youth for Change" which focuses on the theme: Global Youth Culture and Participation and aims to encourage cross-cultural dialogue and support youth-led development initiatives. The program is implemented in partnership with Bibliotheca Alexandrina and other local organizations from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

Join now to find out more about the program activities and most importantly apply for mini-grants of \$1000 US as well as scholarships to attend the 5th Arab Youth forum in Alexandria, and the World Youth Congress in Turkey!

The deadline for sending your project application is 17 January 2010. Don't miss it!

<http://www.yfc.tigweb.org/>

- Note:**
- Join us on 9th January 2010 Online (at 4.00 pm GMT) for a session on Proposal Writing to receive support and tips to prepare your application! If you are interested in joining register here: <http://events.tigweb.org/25757>
  - Join us on 13th January 2010 in Egypt at (Al Shaer House) (at 5.00 pm CLT) for a session on Proposal Writing to receive support and tips to prepare your application! If you are interested in joining register here: <http://events.tigweb.org/25757>

For any further information  
Youth For Change  
Tala Nabulsi  
Program Manager  
Email: [yfc@takingitglobal.org](mailto:yfc@takingitglobal.org)  
<http://yfc.tigweb.org/>

**Islah Charitable Association conducts illustration training courses about AIDS**

Within the fighting AIDS program, Islah Charitable Association conducted for hotels employees on Monday a training course about the contagion of AIDS. The course is conducted for hotels employees in areas in the Capital Secretariat such as Al-Safia, Wadi Ahmad and Dares.

The program is conducted in cooperation with the Social Marketing Project for Parity Health Care. The Social Marketing Project program is adopted in seven governorates, the Capital Secretariat, Aden, Lahj, Al- Hodeida, Hadramout, Taiz and Sa'ada.

Under the logo of "Chastity and knowing are the ways of precaution", Yahya Al-Daba, the General Manager of Training, delivered a word through which he emphasized the importance of collaboration between the Islah Charitable Association and other social leaders to work on facing this dangerous disease by conducting campaigns to fight and suggest ways of precautions.

Al-Daba pointed out to the significant role 14 thousand volunteers are playing in getting the efforts of the association to be a success. He also said that the association has stepped from the statues of being only a charitable field to be a developing field.

For his part, Saeed Al-Kamel, the Chairman of the Health Sector in the Association mentioned that AIDS



cases reached the number 2723 by the end of 2008.

"Some communities neglected this disease till it became spread in more than half of the population," Al-Kamel said.

He added that since the first AIDS case was deducted in Yemen, Islah Charitable Association decided to be a part of the strategic plan of fighting against this catastrophe in which the plan went through many stages starting from deducting AIDS, going through the awareness campaigns and ending with offering the treatment.

Within the same context, Basheer Al-Fadhley, the Head of AIDS Fighting Program at Islah Charitable Association, pointed out that

the Association aims at establishing awareness campaigns with the help of orators, hotels employees and media people in addition to barbers. The campaigns aim at educating people about this disease and wiping out the stigma surrounding peoples who were affected not to mention the promoting for medical centers which provide free consults.

Al-Fadhley explained that volunteers of both sex had an 11-day course. The three areas in the Capital Secretariat, Al-Safia, Wadi Ahmad and Dares were deliberately picked to witness the campaign due to their rural nature in which orators, hotels employees, media people and barbers were the main target of the campaign.



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النهضة الجامعات	هاتف: 01/260380	هاتف: 01/260382	هاتف: 01/260381	هاتف: 01/260381
22 مايو حدة	هاتف: 01/132099	هاتف: 01/132099/119	هاتف: 01/132099	هاتف: 01/132099
الأصبحي القاسية	هاتف: 01/102022	هاتف: 01/102024	هاتف: 01/102022	هاتف: 01/102022

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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 out side The Republic of Yemen)**

- 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)
- 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
<b>Technical Training</b>			
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.
<b>Financial and Administrative Training</b>			
150 Trainee	12 Trainee	15 Months	Administration by aims, planning and strategic planning, information and finance management and analysis and decision making.

- 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)
- Further information may be obtained during working hours from the Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation at the address below.
- 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

- The Documents shall contain all the above mentioned documents or at least:
  - Organization History and Experience
  - Curriculum Vitas for the proposed staff including Administration staff and Head of organization
  - Institutions and clients who have benefited from the organization services and kind of services provided
  - Associated consultancies and organization including their experience
  - 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
  - Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

## MTN Discount on international calls during January

MTN Yemen announces a discount on international calls during January 2010. The price of any international country per minute will be 99 Yemeni Riyals only. MTN-Yemen has also launched the international roaming service for prepaid cards at the same tariff of billing system customers.

Now MTN customers can recharge their credit through using local prepaid cards while travelling in Syria, Sudan, Iran, Cyprus and Afghanistan.

Media Officer of MTN-Yemen Tawfeeq Al-Nadheef confirmed that the company aspires to always provide added value services to its subscribers through quality delivery of services and customer relations. He said this during the awarding ceremony for the eighth winner of the Football World Cup Championship due to take place this year in South Africa for the first time in the African continent.

MTN-International is main sponsor for the World Cup and MTN-Yemen has been awarding lucky winners a complete package to travel to South Africa and attend the championship. Other winners received seven Sony Bravia flat TV monitors and many other in-kind gifts.

The lucky eighth winner who gets to travel to SA is Abdullah Mohammed Hamoud Sinan Al-Ozaib from the capital city. Al-Ozaib was thrilled that he won the draw and is very appreciative at the chance.





# Civil Society Organizations investigate institutions' commitment to transparency

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

Local and international civil society organizations carried out four studies to investigate the performance of four leading control bodies, Parliament, Supreme Judiciary Council (SJC), the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (SNACC) and Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA).

A workshop organized last Sunday by Studies and Economic Media Center in collaboration with the United National Development Program, discussed the four studies on the performance of the four above institutions and their commitment to transparency.

## The Supreme Judiciary Council (SJC)

The study made on the judiciary council revealed many faults in the performance of the council and states that the council is not completely independent and hence cannot perform its duties as required, there is confusion and overlapping between the powers of the Minister of Justice and the judiciary council, as the minister interferes in the SJC's work, the work of the judiciary council is not organized and that the judges do not issue strict verdicts on judges who violate their duties. The study further states that sometimes judges in the council hide violations.

Lawyer Abdurrahman Barman who conducted the study illustrated the unlimited powers of individuals working in the council by citing an incident when the security in the council forced a group of journalists out, without such orders being given by the concerned judges.

Concerning transparency, the study found that the SJC lacks enough media outlet, and its only website is

not updated since two months. The study criticized the council for holding closed hearings, issuing verdicts in closed halls, which is against the principles of transparency. The study accused the SJC of hiding public information, only giving the news to Yemen News Agency (Saba) and neglecting other national media. According to the study, the website itself takes its news from Saba, which is worse. The study also revealed inadequacy and absence of qualified media personnel.

Judge Abdul-Ghani Al-Ghorafi, the director of Judges Affairs in the SJC refused to accept the findings of the study.

## The Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (SNACC)

The study on the SNACC, which was presented by Professor Mohammad al-Aqari, Media Professor- Sana'a University, confirmed overlaps in some law texts and inconsistency regarding - enhancing transparency and partnership with media outlets. The study mentioned that the local media failed to convey simple basic information of the financial disclosure.

The study also revealed weakness in media sector performance and lack of enough and qualified personnel.

Accused the authority of not adhering to its internal by-laws in organizing the work of the body, the study showed that the power of SNACC is limited only on minor posts and it has no power to hold those who are in the post of deputy minister and above, accountable or put them on trail and demanded activating data-bases in the media sector and making information on the authorities accessible to the public as well as publicly announcing corruption cases.

The study, however, gave credit to the SNACC in successfully following

up the corruption cases of nuclear energy and oil pollution in Balhaf Port, in Yemen but pointed out that, in case of the latter, although the authority had brought the company responsible for the pollution to court, there is still a possibility of the company escaping trial. The study acknowledged SNACC's publishing names of 3097 officials who did not submit financial disclosures.

In his response to the findings of the study, Head of SNACC's Media Sector Yasin Abdul Saeed, said that the authority has by-laws organizing its work and that the sector is following up daily what is published in media outlets. He said that the authority has referred 13 corruption cases to the court but there have been no trials for them till now. Accusing Yemeni media and journalists of not doing their work honestly, he said "Newspapers write about some corrupt judges as honest. Journalism has overstepped all bounds in criticizing government. There is a lack of investigative journalism in the country and 90 percent of the journalist work is opinion."

## The parliament

According to the study on the parliament, which was done by Journalism Associate Professor in the University of Science and Technology and the journalist Khaled al-Alwani, despite the efforts to ensure flow of information to the public and improvement in the mechanism of documentation and dissemination, to guarantee maximum availability of information to the public, the parliament is still far away from realizing the transparency principle.

The study revealed that journalists or citizen are not allowed to enter the Yemeni parliament, though many parliaments in different countries are encouraging the citizens to attend the



The Women Journalists without Chains, Yemeni Teachers' Syndicate and professors from Sana'a university in the freedom square in September 2009 in a protest against corruption.

parliament sessions.

The study brought into light the discrepancy between law texts and the practices followed inside the parliament, such as banning journalists from carrying their equipment inside the parliament and the absence of live coverage of parliamentary sessions.

The study recommended allowing live coverage of the parliamentary sessions, announcing about the technical committees, giving access to public and media to information and sensitizing the members of the parliament on transparency.

The MP Zaid Al-Shami said that the prevailing culture of the society is the reason behind the absence of transparency in addition to non-transparent practices on parts of some officials

under the name to preserving the countries interests.

## The Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA)

The study made by the journalist Rashad Al-Shara'abi on the Central Organization for Control and Audit, found that there no improvement in enacting laws, particularly in field of transparency and information and a lack of awareness on the importance of availability and accessibility of information to the public. The study indicated that the organization is like any other public institution, when it comes to bureaucracy.

The study, showed that the employees of COCA, in leading and medium posts, were afraid of giving any information, indicated an absence of news

on the organization in media and attributed this to absence of links between the organization and media.

The study recommended issuing a law on transparency, constitutional amendments to enhance the independence to make the organization independent from the executive authority, and sensitization on the importance of applying transparency principles.

Responding on the study, COCA's Deputy Yahya Zuhra said the study was not complete and that the organization has regulations to control and guide its work, as well as for information dissemination. He added that every country has its unique ways of dealing with transparency and boundaries regarding which information can be shared and which to withhold.

نتقدم بخالص التهاني القلبية  
لإخوة العزيزة/ حسين يحيى مصلح القعبي،  
بمناسبة الزفاف الميمون

المهنتون:  
والملك واخوات محمد وعادل، م. أمين النضاري، م. سليمان الجواش، د. فضل الجنيدي، د. اسماعيل الوزيري،  
د. محمد شجاع الدين، د. ماجد الشرجي، مجلبي الخوي، نصري ومجدي ابوبكر السقاف،  
بسام شجاع الدين، بسام العربي، خالد الهاللي، باسم القباطي، تائف عباس السقاف، محمد التميري،  
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## Yemen between international aid and airstrikes

By: Ahmed Hezam  
ahezamyem@gmail.com

By now and since 9/11 (and even before that), it has been very obvious that the Yemeni Government - in spite of all the negative speculations and interpretations and political analysis/reporting (though some are/were very rational) on the seriousness of the political will, interrelated and integrated radical relations, its inner dynamics and weak institutionalism, ... etc - become an alley and a partner with the US and the western hemispheres on what it has been known to be called "The War on Terror".

Yemen relations, facilitations, countering and problems with Jihadists/Radicalism/Terrorists/Al-Qaidah went through a long compound complex process from (for example) the early 1980s and the "Afghani Mujahedeen/ Jihad" to the 1994 "Yemen Separatists War" coming to the late 1990s-2009 USS Cole and US Embassy 2009 Attack passing through so many attacks and suicide bombings and kidnapping cases and ending with the Mysterious Drama of Al-Farooq Omer AbdulMutaleb - that tourists, foreign diplomats, Yemeni civilians, and neighboring regional and international countries were all caught and interacted with.

In the last decade or so, the Yemeni Government started to step up its measures, procedures and readiness depending on its local means and capabilities as well as some international aids; from security special forces training to military and intelligence exchange and support passing through the establishment of new intelligence agency "Yemen National Security" - and ending with its semi reform structuring and Navy Support Focus.

Moreover, and with the support and help from some international and regional agencies and programs, The Yemeni Fight Against terror has been attempting also to start to tackle the questions of poverty and socioeconomic development; youth and economic aid with some new investments focus and strategies.

On the other hand, some international programs and agencies, and as part of its current new approaches or developed from its previous ones, started and continued with its own practical and field directed tangible programs/projects, as well with other intangible sociopolitical and socioeconomic ones - as all kind of development definitions and approaches from poverty reduction to agriculture to economic aid and Good Governance can easily be interpreted and reshaped to fit and target and match and fall under within the counterterrorism efforts and readings.

Yet, terrorism activities attacks and involvements kept going on showing itself in different forms, strategies, and tactics. The Yemeni people and Yemen image were always the first to be harmed and damaged more and more.

Called on the initiative of British prime minister Gordon Brown, Western Governments have convened a top-level meeting for this month to discuss strategies to counter Yemen's growing role as a recruitment base for terrorists, in the wake of last week failed attack on a US-bound airliner. Mr. Brown will host the talks in parallel with the conference on Afghanistan being held in London on January 28th. The Yemen summit has "strong support" from the US and European Union, and the UK hopes to secure the backing of Saudi Arabia and Gulf states, Mr. Brown's office stated.

"British and US security services believe Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (23), the Nigerian who boarded a Christmas

Day flight to Detroit with 80 grams of explosive in his undergarments, was recruited by Al-Qaeda in Yemen after leaving the UK in 2008". "Abdulmutallab has told the FBI that he was radicalized and trained in Yemen, apparently in the last six months," a UK insider stated last week. The London talks are designed to raise global financial support for Yemen and to improve co-ordination of anti-terrorist efforts in the region, according to the British government. "The international community must not deny Yemen the support it needs to tackle extremism," Mr. Brown said.

Thus, The real challenges for such meeting(s) will be to really to attempt to examine and assess what has been going on the field; the dynamics of international and regional counterterrorism development aid and its domestic government and civil counterparts' approaches and responsiveness; what did work and what didn't and what was missing. Will airstrike and extensive use of military and security force be the answers? Or better targeted and specialized sociopolitical and socioeconomic development and mechanisms and approaches with more and new intelligence coordination/efforts and programs that focus on Youth and socio-religious ideological debate and fight 9with transparent strong wide Media wing and marketing) will be the best solutions for better tomorrow?

However, The Yemeni Government and All the components of the Yemeni Civil Society from its Political parties to its CSOs/NGOs as well as its social tribal communities, if possible and they could, will be the one who will decide and determine on the future of such fragile state and failing country - especially on the light of the other two fronts that continue to threaten its stability more and more; the Sa'adah Houthi Movement and the Southern Hiraq/Disturbances.

## Yemen's deteriorating security, economy could fuel terrorism

By: Christopher Boucek

Yemen's problems are many, and some are already spreading beyond its borders. Security and stability are deteriorating. The population is growing rapidly. The economy is collapsing. There are few good options today; things will look worse tomorrow. Immediate and sustained international attention is needed to at least lessen the impact of some problems.

Yemen is a weak state with little history of central government control. The government's first priorities have been a civil war in the north and a growing secessionist movement in the south; lower on the list has been confronting al-Qaeda, which is now resurgent.

The government does not fully control all territory, nor does it have the authority or capacity to adequately deliver so-

cial services in many rural areas. Organizations inspired or directed by al-Qaeda have sought refuge in undergoverned spaces.

Spending is not directed toward the root causes of instability but toward war costs, accelerating the economic collapse. Petroleum sales supply the bulk of government revenue, but oil reserves are shrinking and there has been little serious planning for a post-oil economy. A large deficit is forecast for next year, and foreign currency reserves are being spent at an alarming rate. Corruption is a major problem. Separately, mismanagement, rising consumption, increased urbanization and poor irrigation practices are contributing to dire water shortages. Sanaa's post style may be the first capital in modern history to run out of water. The population, most of which is under 30, is expected to double in the next 20 years. Meanwhile, unemployment is on par with levels in the United States dur-

ing the Depression.

Yemen is often considered a failing state. Its stability should be a critical concern for the United States. The international community needs an integrated and comprehensive approach that addresses both the immediate security issues and the underlying sources of instability and militancy. While military and counterterrorism operations are critical, long-term development assistance is also necessary.

The United States can support police reforms, help to professionalize the prison service, and assist in implementing effective counterterrorism laws. Coast guard and border officials also need quiet aid in controlling smuggling, trafficking and illicit migration. The international community needs to build local capacity in Yemen before it is too late.

source : <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

## Yemen in the mix:

### Background reading on a new world hot spot

By: E. Derek Butler

The latest attempt - bungled as it may be - on a US airliner on Christmas Day has concentrated international attention on new risks in the modern era of international terrorism. That attempt has also turned the spotlight to Yemen as a new source of instability and radicalism, fostered and sponsored by Al-Qaeda and its affiliates.

Yemen is several things, all at once. A place of mystery and charm, with mountain top Shangri-la-like villages and a warm and generous people: the Newfoundland of the Middle East, I used to call it.

It is a place full of history, with extensive ties to the incense trades supplying various religious rites: frankincense and myrrh (and perhaps even the gold) had their origins in Yemen and neighboring regions.

In its more recent history, Yemen was North and South, the former a typical authoritarian oligarchy ruled by Ali Abdullah Saleh; the latter the world's sole Arab Marxist state, a failure in every sense of the word apart from, well, failure.

The end of client status given the decline of the Soviet Union was part motivation for the south to consider joining the north. The north no doubt had its eyes on oil fields in western 'South Yemen.'

After various starts and stops, out of necessity as much as anything, unity between the two countries was achieved in May 1990. The new unified Yemen committed to a democratic regime form: regular elections, a separate parliament, a free press. It was arguably before its time for the region, a rough neighborhood on a good day. It had a card to play for international attention that few others in the Arab world did.

In one of those historical twists of fate that the new Yemen could well have done without, South Yemen had been elected to the UN Security Council just 5 months prior to the new Yemen coming into effect. That seat was then converted to the new unified Republic of Yemen - the only Arab country on the UN Security Council.

Sadly, the new regime found itself on the wrong side of the international coalition in the first Gulf War - which included most regional players and most notably Saudi Arabia. It abstained from various votes on Iraq and Kuwait imbroglio, and then against the actual war that pushed Iraq out of Kuwait.

### Saudi Arabia and its allies expelled Yemeni workers

The impact was economically devastating. Given the number of Yemenis working in the Kingdom combined with the levels of income outside versus inside Yemen, the country's major source of earnings was in wages sent home (hints of Alberta-Newfoundland for some communities in the province, but magnified many times over). Upwards of 850,000 workers were forced back to Yemen, a country that could hardly afford the loss of income (add to that the cancellation of various international aid programs and cooperation).

Yemen remained offside on Iraq for some time - theories abound, and I have my own - and paid a high price for its foreign policy.

But its democracy was nascent, and that attracted renewed international attention. While nascent democracy is not a big step from authoritarian, it was of note.

No international scholar in the field might have predicted in 1989 that just a year later a poor, oligarchic-Marxist mix in the Arab world would undertake parliamentary elections and the like in short order.

But happen it did. After initial parliamentary elections in 1993 saw former Southern political elites demoted to third place, the country once again trod the path of turmoil: a secession attempt from the south and brief civil war in 1994 - won by the North - gave the unification its footing, and the country remains as one the present.

New elections in early 1997 were boycotted by the former southern party, and the buy-in of the south re. unity remained in question for some time.

Saleh came to power in 1978, an apparent interim candidate - two predecessors had been assassinated within 7 months of each other - to hold the office while the powers behind the throne connived and contrived to find a long-term successor who could pull off the high-wire balancing act between the competing forces in the country. To the surprise of most, Saleh held on, and still rules the unified Yemen. But advancing the region's first Arab stab at multi-party democracy is not Yemen's only challenge at present. Rule of law is a gap that needs attention, in sync with if not as a precursor to more success on the democracy front. The country needs substantial economic and social devel-

opment at the same time.

While not a failed state, it borders on it. And that is part of its - and our - collective challenge.

It matters to us all that Yemen is a security threat of the first order. Thousands of Yemenis were in Afghanistan to push out the Soviets. They know and are inclined to a good fight.

Bin Laden hails from Yemen, his family being from the Hadramout region which formed part of South Yemen, and which continues as a hotbed of religious foment and political agitation.

When the US hit Afghanistan and Sudan with missiles in August 1998 in retaliation for the Embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya, Yemeni training camps were also a much speculated target. They were passed over given the courting of the country by Washington.

Yemen has now joined that club. Since late 2009 - shortly after the US President announced his Afghanistan surge - Al-Qaeda training camps and allies have been the target of US cruise missile strikes. Those camps existed in the late nineties, but received little public attention. Now, prisoners freed from Guantanamo have made their way back to Yemen, but they are small in number next to those already standing in line to fight the next jihad, or fly the friendly skies with bomb-laden underwear. And that one was a modern 'recruit.'

In a recent BBC interview, Yemen's Foreign Minister Abubakr Al-Qurbi says Yemen is an Al-Qaeda training ground with fighters numbering in the hundreds. The US in turn has doubled security aid of late, with Reuters reporting on New Year's Day that number will reach \$70 million. Much is at stake: strategic location considerations aside (straddling the shipping lanes of the Red Sea, long border with Saudi Arabia, across the way from Somalia), Yemen has been a hotbed for some time. Its reach include Afghanistan (then and now), Iraq, and most recently Delta flights into Detroit.

Loveable rogues, and a great place to visit. But the issue of Yemen's ongoing development, democracy and security concerns us all.

*E. Derek Butler lived and worked in Yemen for almost 3 years, managing political development initiatives with parliament and political parties. He is a sessional lecturer in political science at Memorial University in St. John's.*

## Worries of receiving the new year

By: Mohammad Al-Asa'adi

I feel much inclined to write about my concerns as a citizen of a country filled with worries, as we receive the new year with open files and a premonition of forthcoming events. Although it seems impossible to gather the scattered thoughts and events resulting from the calls for separation, nominalism, sectarianism and terrorism, I will follow my inclination and write about all my concerns.

One day, an instructor from the Sana'a University, told me that an Egyptian once asked his son "why do not the Yemenis love their homeland?" I think that if we think on this question, feelings of 'sadness' which have been put off for years, will be once again rekindled.

Yemeni citizens, unfortunately, do not enjoy their civil, constitutional and legal rights, especially those who are well-behaved, "educated" people. For example, a woman bought a land property belonging to a peaceful citizen, by using force. The poor man could not get his property back, simply because he was confronted by the woman's armed guards. Actually, I want to ask a question; what is the use of the state for its citizens, if the very

cars or processions of the state are the first to trample the citizens.

In the state which we live in, people are either lamb-like or wolf-like. The wolf-like people who snatch whatever they want using the power they have and become more powerful and the lamb-like loyal citizens who follow the norms, only to be denied even their basic rights, in return.

In our country, one might be a politician babbling to the media till he runs out of energy, eventually getting afflicted by some chronic disease, and being confined to bed. And, if you are an employee it is wise to always remember the saying "if you make yourself a sheep, wolves will eat you". If you are working for an educational institute then you should probably uphold democratic values and participate in sit-ins and protest, but I cannot guarantee that somebody will listen.

If you are one of those who wear ties and trust your capacities then you may be the ones exploited the most, but not if you belong to a notorious tribe. In that case, you will be the biggest winners and will be given the liberty to kidnap foreigners or citizens from Sana'a - the capital, or any other governorate. You can then plunder gas or oil locomotives

and be sure the state will compensate if, God forbid, anything happens.

If you are claiming citizenship, then you, like millions of others have the right to select the way to die. You can die either from an electrical shock, in a road accident or in a gas cylinder explosion. Do not worry; the list of choices' is endless! You can also die by a gun directed to your face if you are a doctor. You can die by drowning in the sea, food poisoning, medical mistakes or from consuming expired medicines. Or, you can die in an air raid from a neighboring country, while you are enjoying your time with your family, simply because your neighbors are 'wanted' men.

All this will make you depressed and you will wish you disappeared behind the qat leaves, which have destroyed the country and its people. Thanks to the state, we are educated and can recognize such things, but I must confess that the same education we received, has made some illiterates as well. Because why on earth then would the Houthis' young insurgents, not hold pens and books and stand in lines in the school to sing the National Anthem, instead of holding weapons against their homeland and repeating a slogan whose even meaning they do not understand.



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## Egypt: Rooftops empower the poor

By: Cam McGrath  
Inter Press Service

In one of the poorest and most populous neighborhoods of Cairo, Hussein Soliman and his family live in a small apartment that is a model of clean energy living.

The two solar panels and bio-gas unit on the roof of Soliman's building in Darb El-Ahmar provide hot water and cooking gas to his two-bedroom apartment, reducing his family's carbon footprint and energy costs. The clean energy appliances, made mostly from recycled material, have reduced his household's waste have meant that "my gas and electricity bills are much less than before," says Soliman. They shaved nearly 50 percent off the utility bills.

Soliman ventured into clean energy in 2008 when he joined Solar CITIES (Connecting Community Catalysts and Integrating Technologies for Industrial Ecology Systems), a development initiative spearheaded by U.S. urban planner Thomas Culhane. The project leverages local experience and innovation to develop cheap and robust clean energy technologies adapted to the rigorous operating environment of Cairo's poorest neighborhoods.

"There is no 'one size fits all' in development and part of the problem is precisely that so-called 'experts' come



Home-made solar panels on a roof in a low-income Cairo neighborhood.

in and try to promote products and designs that are inappropriate for the local community," Culhane tells IPS.

Culhane and his German wife, Sybille, have brought on board as innovators the residents of the low-income neighborhoods in which they hope to make the greatest impact. Their designs for solar water heaters and bio-gas digesters have evolved through experimentation, group brainstorming sessions, and "jumping into dumpsters to find materials that might work."

Using recycled materials, Culhane's team was able to put together a solar water heating system for under 500 dollars.

The system's solar panels are built from scrap aluminum, glass, old copper pipes and styrofoam insulation. It uses two recycled 200-litre shampoo barrels as tanks, one for storing the water heated by the panels and the other as a backup water supply.

Solar CITIES has built 35 solar water heaters in Egypt since 2007. Most

of the systems, including 30 units built with USAID funding, are installed on rooftops in underdeveloped areas where frequent power and water cuts cause commercial systems to break down. Stacked tanks and a float valve, similar to the type used in toilets, allow the water heaters to overcome the water pressure fluctuations that lead to failures.

"It took a lot of experimentation because we had to find placements for cold and hot water input and output that would balance the changing flow rate, opening the float valves at the right time," Culhane says.

After a year of operation, Soliman says the only maintenance his home-made solar water heater has required is a twice-weekly washing of the panels to remove the dust buildup.

"The panels heat the water, which pipes carry down to the kitchen and shower," he explains. "We only need electricity to heat water in the winter, and only if we're using it after midnight."

The bio-gas digester that Soliman assembled on his roof - one of eight built by the Solar CITIES project - converts organic garbage into cooking gas. Moldy bread and table scraps are soaked in water overnight, then poured into a 1,000-litre plastic tank to decompose. A pipe carries the gas to a burner in the kitchen, while a spigot drains the effluent, which Soliman sells as organic

fertiliser to upscale garden shops.

"I can use any organic waste from our kitchen to create gas," Soliman explains, while pouring a bucket of organic slurry into the tank's intake pipe. "The digester provides one hour a day of gas in winter, and two hours in summer."

The bio-gas unit's capacity for processing organic waste has taken on added value since the Egyptian government's decision last year to cull the country's pig population. Rotting heaps of kitchen waste, previously fed to hogs, have created a health hazard.

"My garbage man kisses me because I have the cleanest garbage on the block," Soliman boasts.

Moustafa Hussein, a career counselor for a local community development project, joined the Solar CITIES project in 2007 after a chance encounter with Culhane that sold him on the idea. The solar water heater he built on the roof of his apartment in Darb El-Ahmar provided hot water for his family until the dilapidated building collapsed three months ago.

His belief in the project unshaken, Hussein is now building another solar water heater, which he hopes to install on the roof of the temporary government housing where he now lives. He also wants to build a bio-gas unit.

"I'm planning to collect the organic waste from restaurants in the neighborhood to increase my gas output," he

says. "I'll give the restaurants plastic bags and they can separate out the organics, and I'll collect the bags at the end of each day."

The biggest obstacle to any project in impoverished neighborhoods is economics, says Hussein. Most area residents subsist on less than two dollars per day, and credit is difficult to obtain.

"It's hard to convince people here to invest in clean energy," says Hussein. "As a household why should they invest up to 1,000 Egyptian pounds (182 dollars) in bio-gas when it costs just six or seven for a butagas cylinder, which lasts two weeks and is much easier to handle?"

Due to Egypt's heavily subsidised gas and electricity, it may take up to 15 years to recover the costs of a Solar CITIES solar water heater or bio-gas digester. The cost recovery time is expected to fall as the government proceeds with plans to phase out energy subsidies in the coming four to seven years.

Hussein says having people who are part of the community involved gives the Solar CITIES initiative more credibility. But the project's success will ultimately depend on whether it can produce a cheap, durable and efficient model for the community.

"If the people see a good example, they will tell each other about it," he says. "Whether it succeeds or fails, everyone will know the same day."

## A village claimed by three countries

Residents are livid as Israel mulls yet again dividing a village straddling the border between Lebanon and the Golan Heights

By: Benjamin Joffe-Walt  
The Media Line

The road to Ghajar is long, rugged and somewhat bewildering. Military radar stations sit atop gorgeous, green hills and imposing mountains.

The entire area surrounding the village is a closed military zone, and any journalist asking questions of villagers driving through the area sparks a cauldron of military Jeeps to rush down the mountains.

Ghajar, a 2000-strong village which straddles the border between Lebanon and the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, is a territory claimed by three countries - Lebanon, Israel and Syria.

Recent talk of splitting the village between Israel and Lebanon has villagers incensed and taking to the streets.

"Nobody wants this," Najib Khatib, a village leader, tells The Media Line. "It's not enough that we are essentially living within a prison, now they want to put a fence right in the middle."

"They are going to divide families, take mothers from their kids," he says. "Yet the government is not updating us, not including us in the decisions, and not even informing us. Nobody cares about us, they treat us like animals and we hear about the future of the village from the media."

"We have no problem if Israel wants to return the entire village to Lebanon,"

Khatib adds. "But not as refugees without our lands. We are one united village. The entire village is one big family and we won't let the U.N. come in just to divide us."

"We have a serious problem here," Naser Mustafa, a contractor in the village, tells The Media Line. "It's become a huge issue. I am building on the northern side of the village but now I've stopped and I'm not sure if I should keep building."

As the legend goes, the modern history of Ghajar began with a horse.

A tiny riverside village straddling what is today Lebanon and Israel, Ghajar was originally known as Tanjeh.

Kurdish invaders seized the village during the Ottoman Empire, forced it's residents to sell the land and renamed the village Ghajar.

That all changed, the local legend claims, when the Kurdish governor of Ghajar tried to prance through the village on his horse to visit the tomb of Sheikh al-Arba'in, a local religious figure.

First the horse refused to go anywhere near the sheikh's tomb, and the following day a major fire broke out in the village, destroying the governor's shield and sword.

The Kurds assumed the sheikh was taking revenge, read the writing on the wall, fled the village and quickly sold all the land back to its original owners.

Life has not gotten any simpler for



the 2000 residents of Ghajar since those inauspicious Ottoman days.

Shortly after the fall of the Ottoman empire the village was given a choice of joining Lebanon or Syria.

Most village residents are Alawites, a sect of Shi'ah Islam and a powerful minority religious group in Syria, and the villagers voted overwhelmingly to join Syria, a status the village retained for over decades.

In 1967, Israel captured the Golan Heights, a large Syrian territory which included Ghajar. For over two months the village was considered a no-man's land until the villagers successfully petitioned Israeli authorities to include the village in the newly captured territory.

Israel annexed the Golan Heights in 1981 and most of Ghajar's residents accepted Israeli citizenship.

Meanwhile, following a 1978 Is-

raeli incursion into southern Lebanon, Israel handed over the territory to the Israel-friendly South Lebanon Army and began a "Good Fence" policy. That allowed Ghajar residents to begin expanding northwards into Lebanese territory, essentially taking the smaller Lebanese village of Wazzani as part of Ghajar.

But when Israel withdrew completely from southern Lebanon in 2000, the United Nations demarcated a final border between the two countries, known as the 'Blue Line.' The northern part of Ghajar fell on the Lebanese side of the Blue Line, while the southern part of the village remained in the Israeli controlled Golan Heights.

The villagers, who consider themselves Syrian, didn't appreciate the UN's decision and maps of the area produced prior to the 1967 war had conflicting

data, with some placing Ghajar in Syria and others indicating the village was in Lebanon.

"The U.N. made a huge mistake when they demarcated the Blue Line," Khatib says. "They based it on maps from 1923, way before Israel even existed. This is a Syrian village."

In the years following the demarcation of the Blue Line, Hezbollah, the Shi'ite paramilitary organisation which controls much of southern Lebanon, made a series of attempts to kidnap Israeli soldiers in the Ghajar area.

Tensions between Hezbollah and Israel came to ahead in 2006 with the outbreak of the Second Lebanon War, which ended in Israel re-occupying the northern half of Ghajar.

Ever since Israel has been under international pressure to return the northern half of the village to Lebanon in the

hope that a resolution to Ghajar's status will weaken Hezbollah.

Israeli officials, however, see Ghajar as an excuse Hezbollah uses to justify continued armed resistance against Israel. Giving part of Ghajar to Lebanon, the Israeli logic goes, will just embolden the Hezbollah.

The resulting stalemate has left Ghajar as an ostensibly Israeli village, full of Israeli citizens, but surrounded entirely by a fence, with the only way in and out through an Israeli army checkpoint.

"When you leave you are searched, when you enter you are searched," Mustafa says. "It's humiliating to have a dog search your car as you drive into the village you live in."

"The problem is we can't invite friends or anything," says one teenager, who asked not to be identified.

"They never let in anyone except doctors and people like that," his friend adds.

The checkpoint guards at the village entrance say they are just doing their job.

"The checkpoint is just to check for arms and drugs," one guard told The Media Line on the condition of anonymity, as he is unauthorized to speak to the media. "Since Ghajar is a built up area, it's easier for them to smuggle things into Israel."

Some residents say the Israeli authorities treat them well.

"They don't give us problems," says a local school teacher, who also asked not to be named in this article. "We are Israeli citizens and we can go in and out as we like."

The problem is they keep changing their minds about the village's status."

## In 2010, let's treat our domestic workers better

Here's a New Year's resolution to improve human rights in the United States.

By: Tiffany Williams

The holidays can be stressful for overscheduled families. The kids are home from school and daycare. The in-laws visit. There are year-end deadlines to meet, awkward office holiday parties to attend, and self-inflicted New Year's resolutions to conquer.

Here's a suggestion for hundreds of thousands of families who count on the invaluable contributions of a nanny, housekeeper, or elder caregiver to cope with the overwhelming challenges of family responsibilities: Make a resolution that in 2010 you will treat

your domestic workers with dignity.

The estimated two million women (and men) employed in the domestic worker industry are part of an almost-invisible workforce with few labor protections. And missing safeguards invite abuse. Long hours of backbreaking work at low wages are common, and only the very lucky have contracts and health insurance. Even fewer have sick leave or vacation pay. Retirement benefits and other "perks" common to white-collar jobs are almost unheard of.

A survey performed by Domestic Workers United and Datacenter revealed that domestic workers in New York City were earning poverty-level

wages, working 50-60 hours per week without overtime or health insurance, and over 30 percent had experienced verbal or physical abuse on the job.

Domestic workers are excluded from the National Labor Relations Act. Unlike workers in other sectors, they lack the right to organize for better working conditions. The isolated nature of the work exacerbates this problem. Domestic workers can spend up to 12 hours a day working inside the home, with no other co-workers or social interactions. Foreign-born workers are particularly vulnerable to abuse, as they have the added challenges of cultural integration, discrimination, and threats of deportation (even when they are "legal" immigrants).

Break the Chain Campaign is a direct service and advocacy project that aims to empower migrant working

women who have been exploited. As its social worker, I provide services to domestic workers who have survived human trafficking. One worker, a 24-year-old nanny, was forced to sleep on the basement floor in freezing temperatures and beg for scraps of food from the family's dinner table. Another, a 50-year-old housekeeper, worked for 10 years without pay and was never allowed to leave the home.

These extreme cases exemplify only the endpoint of a broad range of exploitation.

The same conditions that lead to "wage and hour violations" can just as easily lead to modern-day slavery. This kind of abuse happens in homes all over the United States, not just overseas, and not just in brothels and street corners. Our country might have officially abolished slavery 154 years

ago, but here, even in the nation's capital, we are seeing more and more cases of human trafficking of domestic workers by U.S. citizens.

The National Domestic Worker Alliance, representing 30 domestic worker organizations around the country, is readying to address the lack of labor protection in the industry. Within the Department of Labor, a campaign to strengthen key regulations like work hours and fair deductions for room and board, is gaining traction. In both California and New York, domestic workers are lobbying for statewide legislation that includes basics like overtime and sick leave. On the international level, this alliance has partnered with the AFL-CIO to advocate for a Domestic Worker Convention at the International Labor Organization. The proposed Convention would de-

fine humane and fair working conditions for domestic workers all over the world.

Your loving nanny, your hardworking housekeeper, your elderly father's caregiver, the women you see every week in the grocery store and at the playground: these people make it possible for you to go to work and support your own family, or just to cope with the crush of family responsibilities. They deserve the right and the ability to provide for themselves and their loved ones.

Tiffany Williams is the social worker and program manager at the Break the Chain Campaign, a project of the Institute for Policy Studies. This article was distributed by the IPS Minuteman Media project. It was published in the Torrington Register-Citizen on 12/25.



## Overview on Yemen's economy during 2009



Construction on the top project in real-estate began last year. The Al-Rayan hills, where 161 luxury villas are planned, will cost USD 600 million.

By: Ali Saeed

The performance of Yemen's economy was affected by many local and international variables, but the world financial crisis left great negative impacts on the national economy during 2009 as Yemen's revenues mainly depend on the oil sector.

The state's revenues fell to YR 904.3 billion (USD 4.3 billion) from January to September 2009 compared to YR 1.5 trillion (USD 7.2 billion) for the same period in 2008, falling to YR 689.2 billion (USD 3.3 billion). The state blamed the financial crisis for the reduction of oil revenues.

Yemeni oil revenues witnessed a high reduction reached to YR 498.5 billion (USD 2.4 billion) from January to September in 2009, while for the same period in 2008 it reached to YR 1.2 trillion (USD 5.8 billion) recording loss totaled USD 3.4 billion, with 41 percent reduction. This huge reduction in oil revenues was reflected in the diminishing of the general revenues, 70 percent of which are oil revenues.

This reduction in revenues also was reflected on the falling of real

expenditures in 2009 to YR 1.2 trillion (USD 5.8 billion) whereas in 2008 it was YR 1.5 trillion (USD 7.2 billion), recording reduction reached YR 344.5 billion (USD 2.6 billion). Because this high reduction in revenues during 2009, the state decreased the expenditures and abolished diesel subsidies. Despite those precautions by the state, but the results of the budget implementation for 2009 showed a deficit of YR 335 billion (USD 1.6 billion).

### Riyal devaluation

The Yemeni Riyal recorded a noticeable devaluation against the dollar during 2009. It fell back from YR 200 for one dollar at the end of 2008 to more than YR 206 at the end of 2009. This devaluation of the Riyal was attributed to the falling of external cash reserves for the Central Bank of Yemen from USD 8.1 billion in 2008 to USD 6.8 billion in 2009.

### Economic growth

The government claimed an economic growth rate estimated at 4.5 percent in 2009, falling 50 percent and failing to reach the 9.1 expected growth rate. The state's reports attributed the reasons of the economic decline delay of liquid

natural gas production that was planned for May 2009, but was delayed to November 2009. This delay also led to a quantity reduction of 1200 tonnes instead of 5280 tonnes.

The reduction in the production of liquid natural gas also caused a 20 percent decline in the gross domestic product for the oil and gas sector. Additionally, in the financial statement expectations for the 2009 budget to 2.7 percent in the financial statement expectations for the 2010 budget.

The non-oil sectors did not grow in 2009 as they only were expected to reach 4.2 percent compared to 4.7 percent in 2008. The growth of the oil gross domestic product is expected to reach 5.8 percent in 2010.

### External trade

The Ministry of Industry and Trade expects that the exchange trade between Yemen and abroad is going to decrease to YR 2.166 trillion (USD 10.500 billion) compared to YR 3.607 trillion (USD 17.509 billion) in 2009, a decline of YR 440 billion (USD 2.135 billion).

The ministry attributes the reasons reduced exchange trade to the reduction of goods exports to YR 646 billion (USD 3.135 billion), compared to YR 1.5 trillion (USD 7.281 billion) in 2008, declining YR 872 billion (USD 4.233 billion). Goods imports also fell in 2009 to YR 1.5 trillion (USD 7.281 billion) from YR 2.078 trillion, recording a reduction estimated at YR 567 billion (USD 2.752 billion).

### Real-estate tops investment projects in 2009

Real-estate investments dominated the investing activity during 2009, compared to slow activity of residential projects in the years before. Economists also predict the real-estate sector to grow next year.

Yet, the flow of investment reduced in 2009 to around 13 percent compared to 2008, as the General Investment Authority recorded about 214 projects with a total cost reached YR 146.1

billion (USD 800 million), whereas around 247 projects were recorded by the GIA with a value reached YR 317.3 billion (USD 1.540 billion) in 2008.

However, construction on the top project in real-estate began last year. The Al-Rayan hills, where 161 luxury villas are planned, will cost USD 600 million. This project is expected to stimulate investment in the country and supporting the national economy with new resources.

Another real-estate project in 2009 was the Aden Paradise Project by the Hayel Saeed group in Aden and Abyan. This residential project costs more than USD one billion and the infrastructure of the project was launched. In Hadramout also the Buqshan group in partnership with other investors announced their residential project in the Al-Muklla hills project with a cost reached SR 20 million (USD 5.331.357).

The same group also announced a real-estate project in constructing a tourist village from clay in Hadramout. The Shibam Holding Company which is public company that manages real-estate projects in Yemen also announced its determination to establish a funding company for real-estate projects.

That came with an initiative from the World Bank in Yemen to create a treasury special for real-estate funding.

More important than the real-estate sector is the new achievement in the legislation that was crowned with the approving of the law that allows foreigners to own land in Yemen. Approving this law will enhance real-estate investment in the country.

### Other investment projects

Although a number of recorded projects by the GIA last year was small compared to the previous year, yet there were many good projects that were announced in 2009.

The sharing investment in the insurance sector with a capital estimated at USD 100 million was announced by Yemeni-Qatari partnership. This Yemeni-Qatari project in the field of insurance is said to be the first of its kind in the country.

In the industry sector, a glass manufacturing plant was launched in the Thawma area in the district of Nehm, Sana'a governorate, costing USD 85 million.

During 2009, two projects also in the industry sector were announced. The first is creating an industrial and investing city in Hodiedah with a cost of YR 30 billion (USD 145 million) and the other is creating a Socotra trading port with a total cost USD 40 billion.

A cement plant was announced also in Thamar governorate with a cost YR 28 billion (USD 135.757 million) and the project of the Arab-Yemeni company for cement in Muklla was achieved with a cost reached USD 260 million.

The electricity sector which is a foundation for investment activity remains mysterious. Even though the Mreb gas power station was supposed to begin running at the end of 2009, the operator of the station, Safer company announced problems of the station related to the kind of the used gas.

The station was supposed to generate 341 million mega watts a cost reached around USD 300 million.

However, the station until now does not work properly and new tenders were

announced by the ministry of electricity in November to meet the needs of investment between 2009 and 2012.

The ministry tender plan included 46 electricity projects with a cost reached USD 2.913 billion.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) was contracted to do the project of constructing three power stations with a cost of YR 1.6 billion (USD 7.757 million) to the private sector.

A local investing company in Hadramout also announced that it will build a power station at a cost of YR 10 billion (USD 48.484 million). The local company said that it will allocate 30 mega watts to one of the investing projects in the governorate and 40 mega watts to the state to be distributed to the present electricity network.

### Tourism: alternative for oil depletion

Yemen's economy heavily depends on oil revenues, but this reliance on oil revenues is threatened by the depletion of the resource. Many economists recommend tourism to be the alternative for oil.

The Ministry of tourism in a recent statement to the Yemen Times said that Yemen will receive about one million and half tourists in 2015, however analysts think that this number is very small if compared to the world tourists in 2020 that is forecasted to reach 1.6 billion tourists, according to the World Tourism Organization.

The ministry also said that the one million and half tourists that Yemen will receive in 2015 will bring around USD two billion in tourism revenues. In 2009, tourism revenues reached around USD 653 million, while in 2008, it reached USD 572 million, increasing

about 19 percent

Although Yemen does have a great tourism resources such as the long coastal bar, valleys, green mountains and huge ancient folklore, tourism facilities such as hotels, resorts and restaurants are few or non-existent in many areas.

Currently, the ministry is offering around 49 tourist projects to the private sector to invest in to contain arrivals in the targeted areas. These projects include resorts, chalets, places for rest, and the construction of muddy and stony villages. From the 49 tourist projects, there are five pioneering projects distributed to five coastal governorates. Two of them are on the Red Sea and located in the Islands of Midi and Duwaymah, while the rest are on Arab Sea and located in Khur (creek) Ameerah in Lahj, in Tabtab beach in Al-shihr, and in Gazolette beach in Al-Mahra.

### Sa'ada war, secession movement and Qaeda threat

In August, the sixth war between the state's army and rebellion Houthis in Sa'ada emerged. Saudi Arabia also has joined the conflict against the rebellions and the Yemeni state accuses Iran of supporting Houthis. This long war that began in 2004, the secession movement in the south as well as the threat of Al-Qaeda, represent a big obstacle to the boosting of Yemen's economy.

Although the army carried out three raids against Al-Qaeda hideouts in Shabwa, Abyan and Arhab district in Sana'a, the Yemeni state now is facing media campaign that describes Yemen as a failing state and predicts that Yemen will become a haven for Al-Qaeda.



In 2009, the Central Bank of Yemen has launched a new money bill of 250 YR.

## Grandmasters and global growth

By: Kenneth Rogoff

As the global economy limps out of the last decade and enters a new one in 2010, what will be the next big driver of global growth? Here's betting that the "teens" is a decade in which artificial intelligence hits escape velocity, and starts to have an economic impact on par with the emergence of India and China.

Admittedly, my perspective is heavily colored by events in the world of chess, a game I once played at a professional level and still follow from a distance. Though special, computer chess nevertheless offers both a window into silicon evolution and a barometer of how people might adapt to it.

A little bit of history might help. In 1996 and 1997, World Chess Champion Gary Kasparov played a pair of matches against an IBM computer named "Deep Blue." At the

time, Kasparov dominated world chess, in the same way that Tiger Woods – at least until recently – has dominated golf. In the 1996 match, Deep Blue stunned the champion by beating him in the first game. But Kasparov quickly adjusted to exploit the computer's weakness in long-term strategic planning, where his judgment and intuition seemed to trump the computer's mechanical counting.

Unfortunately, the supremely confident Kasparov did not take Deep Blue seriously enough in the 1997 rematch. Deep Blue shocked the champion, winning the match 3.5 to 2.5. Many commentators have labeled Deep Blue's triumph one of the most important events of the twentieth century.

Perhaps Kasparov would have won the rematch had it continued to a full 24 games (then the standard length of world championship matches). But, over the next few years, even as humans learned from computers, computers improved at a far faster

pace.

With ever more powerful processors, silicon chess players developed the ability to calculate so far ahead that the distinction between short-term tactical calculations and long-term strategic planning became blurred. At the same time, computer programs began to exploit huge databases of games between grandmaster (the highest title in chess), using results from the human games to extrapolate what moves have the highest chances of success. Soon, it became clear that even the best human chess players would have little chance to do better than an occasional draw.

Today, chess programs have become so good that even grandmasters sometimes struggle to understand the logic behind some of their moves. In chess magazines, one often sees comments from top players such as "My silicon friend says I should have moved my King instead of my Queen, but I still think I played the best

'human' move."

It gets worse. Many commercially available computer programs can be set to mimic the styles of top grandmasters to an extent that is almost uncanny. Indeed, chess programs now come very close to passing the late British mathematician Alan Turing's ultimate test of artificial intelligence: can a human conversing with the machine tell it is not human?

I sure can't. Ironically, as computer-aided cheating increasingly pervades chess tournaments (with accusations reaching the highest levels), the main detection device requires using another computer. Only a machine can consistently tell what another computer would do in a given position. Perhaps if Turing were alive today, he would define artificial intelligence as the inability of a computer to tell whether another machine is human!

So has all this put chess players out of work? Encouragingly, the answer is "not yet." In fact, in some ways,

chess is as popular and successful today as at any point in the last few decades. Chess lends itself very well to Internet play, and fans can follow top-level tournaments in real time, often with commentary. Technology has helped thoroughly globalize chess, with the Indian Vishy Anand now the first Asian world champion, and the handsome young Norwegian Magnus Carlsen having reached rockstar status. Man and machine have learned to co-exist, for now.

Of course, this is a microcosm of the larger changes that we can expect. The horrible computerized telephone-answering systems that we all now suffer with might actually improve. Imagine, someday you might actually prefer digital to human operators.

In 50 years, computers might be doing everything from driving taxis to performing routine surgery. Sooner than that, artificial intelligence will transform higher learning, potentially making a world-class university education broadly affordable even in

poor developing countries. And, of course, there are more mundane but crucial uses of artificial intelligence everywhere, from managing the electronics and lighting in our homes to populating "smart grids" for water and electricity, helping monitor these and other systems to reduce waste.

In short, I do not share the view of many that, after the Internet and the personal computer, it will be a long wait until the next paradigm-shifting innovation. Artificial intelligence will provide the boost that keeps the teens rolling. So, despite a rough start from the financial crisis (which will still slow global growth this year and next), there is no reason why the new decade has to be an economic flop.

Barring another round of deep financial crises, it won't be – as long as politicians do not stand in the way of the new paradigm of trade, technology, and artificial intelligence.

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# “Connecting Classrooms” helps correcting stereotypes

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

As a part of the British Council's Connecting Classrooms project, students and teachers from the ten Yemeni Schools will be linked with partner schools in UK. Using the internet, the students will share videos, images and PowerPoint presentations to broaden their international horizons and prepare themselves to be global citizens.

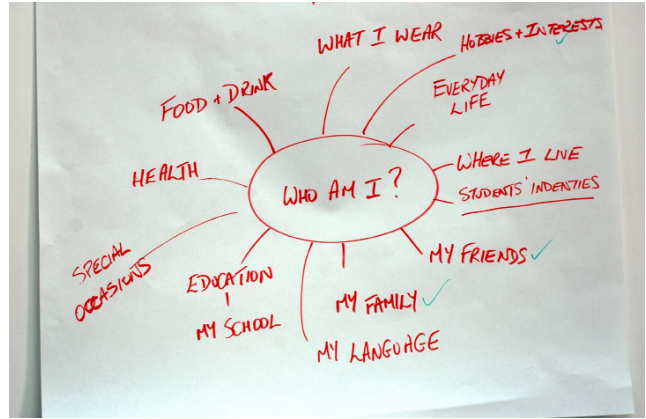
The project brings an international dimension into young people's lives as they learn about other cultures, challenge stereotypes and work as global citizens. It also offers teachers the opportunity to participate in joint curriculum projects, visit their partner schools and to be involved in collaborative learning.

Wafa'a Al-Haimi, secondary level student at Rabi'a Al-Adawiyya school, likes to learn more about people from all around the world. Wafa'a emailed a girl in UK, telling the girl about her life and family. "The British girl replied telling me about the traditions in her country and what she likes," said Wafa'a. "We stayed in touch for a while. I found out from her that the class activities in her school were different from ours and I told her about Yemen and the Yemeni traditions."

"I discovered that there are similarities between us and they are not so different from us. We like the same things," said another student, Alia Al-Mahdi, 16, after Alia and a student in UK exchanged photographs, gifts and details about cities and school subjects.

This year's program included ten new schools. Eight of which are in Sana'a, they are Abubaker Al-Sedeeg School, Amnah Bint Waheb School, Al-Ramah School, Al-Malekah School, Al-Qudami School, Al-Zubair Bin Al-Awam School, Al-Shaheed Mohammed Motahar School, Ibn Majed School. The other two schools are in Aden, Thanaweit Aden School and Al-Baihani School are participating in the project.

Ahmad Al-Qirbi a teacher at Al-Qudami girls school said that one of the purposes of the project is to develop teachers' experiences to encourage their students to use their abilities and know what is going on in the world around them. "Personally, I learned a lot about techniques used in classrooms from the project," he said.



The Connecting Classrooms brings an international dimension into young people's lives as they learn about other cultures, challenge stereotypes and work as global citizens.

Al-Qirbi added that teachers in UK have much more facilities in schools that unfortunately Yemeni teachers do not have. But nevertheless, teachers in Yemen are learning to make the most of the available potentials.

Last November, teachers from schools based in UK visited Yemen. They held discussions, with Yemeni teachers involved in the program, about the cultural differences between the two education systems. The British teachers also visited partner schools, attended classes and observed the teaching methods.

Andrew Thomas, a teacher from Humphry Davy School said "this visit helped me to breakdown the stereotypes in my head and I hope it will help break down barriers between the students from the two countries and help to dispel some of the misconceptions in the future."

From his classrooms observations in the schools he visited in Sana'a and Aden, Thomas was astonished at the smartness of the Yemeni students. "I have met a lot of children ...and I am absolutely blown away

by how good those children are."

He said that there is a real difference between the Yemeni and British education systems. In Yemen, he said that he saw instructors giving students facts and information and students blindly repeating after teachers.

"In the UK, we try to seek the kid's skills. We have so much technology in our classrooms too," he compared.

According to Thomas, a good teacher can always teach in any conditions. But at the same time, it is nice to have teaching aids to support and make a teacher's job easier. "All that we have to do in the UK is to find different ways to teach our children and to help engage them in the learning process," he added.

Expressing respect for the work teachers in Yemen are doing, he said "I am full of admiration for the fact that they can teach big classes of students with the limited resources they have."

Michael White the director of the British Council in Sana'a described Connecting Classrooms as one of the best projects



Clips of posted materials by students from Yemen on the global online community www.elanguages.com

of the British Council. "It helps students in UK to learn about Yemen and Yemeni children to learn about what life is like in the UK. The two countries don't know enough about each other, and there is a feeling of trepidation in Britain about Yemen," he said.

White further said that Connecting Classrooms makes children speak to each other, open up and learn. "Although, on the surface they are very different, deep down everyone is the same. Children are all very good, spontaneous, open and honest."

This is the third group of Yemeni teachers the project is dealing with. The first two groups were all from Sana'a. This year a couple of schools from Aden were added as well and the British Council plans to have schools from Taiz, Hodeida and other parts of the country, next year.

At the moment, the project focuses on teachers exchange and does not include student exchange. The students interact by writing to each other and by sending each other videos and emails. In 2009, though, two schools in Sana'a sent students to the UK as a part of a special initiative between these schools and a school in the UK, that ran an international festival, according to White.

**Experiences of a life time**  
The Yemen Times contacted the Dinas Ysgol Brân School in Llangollen, in Wales which organized the World Youth Skills Challenge (WYSC) last June and received the Yemeni students.

"I was amazed at the friendliness and generosity of Yemeni students and teachers," said Beth, an 11-year-old student at the school. "As each student and teacher left, we were overwhelmed by the gifts we received: keyrings, earrings, and I was extremely sad when they left. I felt that a chapter in my life had ended. One day, I would want to visit Yemen" she said.

Another 8-year-old student Megan, said that the Yemeni students opened her eyes by what she learned from them about the Yemeni culture. Thanking the students of Rabi'a Al-Adawiyya School, for this, she said, "I was surprised at how warm hearted and friendly all the students were," she added. "I also learned a bit of the [Arabic] language. I shed a few tears when they went. Keeping in touch with them is great."


Katie Blunden, project Manager of

Connecting Classrooms in UK said that Connecting Classrooms basically gives teachers and students the opportunity to understand each other's country better. "Connecting Classrooms with Yemen is particularly important because of the existing misunderstanding between the two cultures and it's important to give students the opportunity to communicate with one another and understand more about each other," she said.

It all starts when the teachers meet within the project, which includes a collaborative website called eLanguages, available in 23 languages one of which

is the Arabic. This website is accessible for all teachers and it is a global online community to share ideas and work together with their students on curriculum-relevant projects.

There are now more than 200 schools in the Middle East and the UK operating in partnerships, since Connecting Classrooms was introduced in the Middle East in 2006, with plans to increase that number by a further 180, over the next two years. 50 of the current participating schools are in Yemen. The project aims to directly engage 30,000 schools globally, by 2013.



## VACANCIES

Médécins du Monde, SANAA

**Medecins du Monde – Yemen – Sana'a**  
**VACANCY: program assistant**

**Qualification :**

- 1- University degree in public Health or related studies.
- 2- Previous work experience in a humanitarian context is mandatory.
- 3- Medical or paramedical back ground is an asset.
- 4- Arabic, English is compulsory, French is an asset.
- 5- Excellent translation skills.
- 6- Project management skills.
- 7- Excellent experience computer (word, excel, publisher .etc) as well as internet.
- 8- Logistics skills.
- 9- Previous work experience as project assistant is an asset.
- 10- Negotiation and Coordination skills, Diplomatic, with strong personality and ability to communicate with a variety of people.
- 11- Flexible attitude, to adjust to a different culture, medical context, political context
- 12- Good sense of organization is essential.
- 13- Ability to work with team spirit.
- 14- Ability to work under stressful conditions.

CV and letter of interest should be sent by e-mail at: [recruitment\\_mdm\\_yemen@yahoo.fr](mailto:recruitment_mdm_yemen@yahoo.fr), under the reference "program assistant"

Females are highly encouraged to apply for that job.  
No applications received after 30th of January 2010 will be considered.

**gtz** Office Sana'a

### Vacancy Announcement for National Personnel for the "Cooperation with Arab Donors– Open Regional Fund, MENA done by the GTZ Office Sana'a"

The Program "Cooperation with Arab Donors– Open Regional Fund, MENA" aims at improving the social and economic situation of the poor and strengthening civic participation in Arab countries. Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), several projects shall be initiated in the fields of education, strengthening women's rights and access to public services, youth promotion and support to microfinance institutions. The Program is implemented by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in Yemen, with a regional outreach. In order to promote the impact and efficiency of the projects, the GTZ will cooperate closely with a number of Arab donor organizations and governments of GCC member states, including their implementing agencies and partner organizations.

The Program has a vacancy for the position of a **Project Expert** to be based in the Project Office in Sana'a, Yemen. The Project Expert is responsible for

- the planning, administration and finance of the projects under his/her supervision, and ensuring that highest quality standards in implementation, monitoring and financial reporting are maintained
- maintaining and establishing networks and contacts with Arab donor organizations and other stakeholders
- conducting national and regional workshops, meetings, conferences and round tables with counterparts and donor organizations
- supporting strategic networking and planning
- ensuring communication flows between the partner organisations involved in the projects
- preparing project proposals, including the budgets as well as financing agreements, local subsidies and co-financing arrangements

The Project Expert reports to the Head of Program "Cooperation with Arab Donors– Open Regional Fund, MENA". Frequent job related travelling in Yemen and other Arab countries is required

**Required Entry Qualifications and Competencies**

- University Masters Degree, in Social Sciences, Economics or a related field
- At least 7 years of work experience, of which at least 4 years are in a management position
- Working experience with GTZ planning, implementation and reporting procedures will be appreciated

**Other Qualifications required**

- Excellent knowledge of English and Arabic, both spoken and written
- Good working knowledge of computer programs (e.g. MSOffice, Access, PowerPoint)
- High standard presentation and report writing skills
- Excellent communication, negotiation and problem-solving skills
- Ability to independently manage complex and alternating tasks
- High requirements concerning conceptual-creative thinking and self-initiative
- Experience working in Yemen and other Arab countries

**Duration**  
GTZ is offering a competitive remuneration package. The contract duration will be from February, 2010 until February 2012.

**Women are encouraged to apply.**

Interested candidates of suitable qualification are invited to send their application and an up-to-date CV in Arabic and English latest by 20/01/2010 to:


**By mail:** GTZ Office Sana'a  
Human Resources Officer  
Vacancy Announcement «Project Expert / CAD»

**By Fax:** Vacancy Announcement «Project Expert / CAD»  
Fax number: (00967-1) 412 539

**By E-mail:** Vacancy Announcement «Project Expert / CAD»  
e-mail address: [gtz-jemen@gtz.de](mailto:gtz-jemen@gtz.de)

**Only short listed applicants will be contacted and invited for interview.**

### National NGOs Consultant Vacancy



Organization: UNDP-YEM  
Duty Station: 80 % Socotra, 20% Sana'a  
Duration: 2 months  
Nationality: Yemeni

**Duties & Responsibilities:**  
Through a consultative process, engaging NGOs/CBOs established or working on Socotra as well as relevant stakeholders such as local councils in Hadibu and Qalansia, Environment Protection Authority Socotra Branch and others, the consultant is expected to conduct a survey, including SWOT analysis, on Socotra NGOs/CBOs activities and involvement. In order to enhance the participation of the civil society in community development, gender, sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and resources management, a Strategy is to be outlined, including capacity assessment of NGOs/CBOs, proposed capacity building activities, practical tools and techniques and document Lessons Learned. Socotra Conservation Fund, as proposed in the project document, should be especially assessed in a view of its future role of an intermediary support organization for other NGOs/CBOs on Socotra. The consultant cooperates closely with the project staff on Socotra and in Sana'a and briefs the national project coordinator on the work progress.

**Tasks:**

1. Compile a list and verify legal status/scope of work of NGOs/CBOs established or working on Socotra
2. Review activities and achievements of the NGOs/CBOs using the SCALE methodology (System-wide Collaborative Action for Livelihoods and the Environment) and prepare document lessons learned.
3. Assess the organization, technical and financial capacities of Socotra Conservation Fund, and propose measures and capacity development needs of the fund including training scheme, budget and work plan
4. Assess perception of NGOs/CBOs activities, role and level of involvement by local authorities, EPA and other relevant stakeholders
5. Propose training schemes, including training work plan and budget, in order to build capacity of NGOs/CBOs ensuring their technical and financial sustainability. Main themes relate but are not limited to administrative, legal issues, project development and financial management, gender mainstreaming, natural resources management and biodiversity conservation, communication, fund mobilization, reporting and other relevant fields
6. Propose a tool to improve cooperation between NGOs/CBOs and local authorities, EPA branch and other relevant stakeholders.
7. Assist the SCF in preparation for its intermediary support role in relation to the other NGOs/CBAs on Socotra

**Qualifications:**

- Post graduate degree in environmental, social studies or business administration or 5 years relevant working experience after bachelors degree
- Training in monitoring and evaluation will be an asset

**Competencies:**

- At least 35 years of relevant NGO management, assessment and capacity building experience
- Good practical knowledge of legal, organizational, administrative and financial aspects of NGOs/CBOs, as well as project management
- Experience in capacity building, experience in gender mainstreaming, sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, natural resources management will be an asset
- Community-based project management experience will be an asset
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Excellent report writing skills in Arabic, knowledge of English is an asset

**Deadline to receive CVs is 17 January 2010**  
**All applications to be sent to [procurement.ye@undp.org](mailto:procurement.ye@undp.org)**  
**Attn. Amal Ali**



## Some negative elements mistakenly associated with Khat chewers

By: Abdourahman Robleh  
robleh808@yahoo.com

It goes without saying that Khat is a negative element in Yemen's society. It is considered the main stumbling block to development, but people exaggerate when placing blame for everything on its chewers. People are correct in cursing Khat but are not correct in associating every single bad element such as wasting time, addiction and bribe taking with its consumers. I think this is unfair. In this article, I would like to discuss how these elements are not only relevant to Khat chewers, but also to the majority of people.

### Wasting of time

Some people argue that Khat chewers waste their time. They claim that they sit for five or six hours doing nothing but chewing. This is correct but one may ask, does time have any value in our society? It is noticeable that many

non-Khat chewers can be found sitting in restaurants just smoking shisha (waterpipe) and chatting, while others hang around the main streets for long periods of time. Moreover, many people watch too much TV. They waste their time and criticize Khat chewers over a lack of time management. Another example, is when one makes appointments and says, 'I will see you in the afternoon' or 'I'll see you at night' while afternoon or night could be in five or six hours from that time. We wait for that person to fulfill his/her appointment. Maybe khat chewers are somehow more specific when they make appointment to chew Khat together and benefit from their time in writing or copying their lessons. Therefore, the conclusion is that the vast majority of people here waste their time whether they chew Khat or not.

### Addiction

People are not only addicted to Khat but also to junk food and video games.

It is needless to say that junk food is unhealthy and causes obesity and heart disease. Despite the fact that health agencies in America and Europe have discussed banning it people continue to be addicted to it. Recent research conducted by Scripps Research Institute in Florida found that even rats can become addicted to junk food. Some others, most of them young children, are addicted to video games. Therefore, addiction is a part of human nature or, as research reveals, is a living thing's nature and not solely a result of Khat.

### Bribe-taking

Taking bribes is another supposed humiliation suffered by Khat chewers. Some people argue that Khat chewers accept bribes as a pretext to the phrase "haqal Qat" which implies (give me some money for Khat). This term is a synonym of the word bribe, but it does not necessarily show that bribe takers are Khat consumers. It is difficult for people to explicitly request a bribe

so, they invented this term to not feel guilty. Even non-Khat chewers accept kickbacks.

Moreover, the latest research conducted by the International Transparency Organization (ITO) listed certain countries that Khat is illegal and others Khat is legal in same number. For instance, Djibouti and Egypt ranked 105 on the list. Khat is legal in Djibouti while it is illegal in Egypt. Then, why have both countries received the same ranking?

In conclusion, accepting bribes, wasting time and addiction can be applied to many people and not to a particular category of the society and these negative qualities have nothing to do with whether or not he/she chews Khat. Most of us don't have a 'to do' list in our daily lives and perhaps this is another sign that we're wasting our time. Therefore, non-Khat chewers should stop being so self-righteousness and concentrate on correcting their own flaws before pointing the finger at others.

## Qat dries out land and people

Curtsy of:  
hadhramouts.blogspot.com

Is it worth chewing qat? It depends on who you ask; most people here in Yemen believe, qat is a necessity and a normal part of daily life. Although most people in Hadhramout still frown on the chewing of the narcotic leaves, its use is fast spreading.

Qat is at the center of Yemeni culture. Especially for men. It brings people together and many discussions and decisions are made during the chewing of the leaves. Cultivating qat and the trade of the leaves, keeps many people busy and gives many a source for earning income. Millions depend on it. The chewing of qat too, has made many here who would have opted for much worse intoxicants - avoid them.

In most neighboring, Arab and Muslim countries, qat is banned. In many other parts of the world, it is considered a crime to possess qat. Most religious scholars consider qat's bad sides too many, but very few have declared it haram. Medically, qat has very adverse side effects. No matter how one looks at it - the cost of growing and chewing qat is just too much. And with time, it keeps adding and piling up.

Most families here barely earn enough to feed themselves, and yet most men and some women, being too dependent on the leaves, have to purchase qat and other treats that go with the chewing, such as soft drinks and sweets - at the expense of basic goods and needs for the family; many families too, keep aside the best and largest rooms in their houses for qat sessions. Many better and beneficial social activities like sports and other recreational activities, are put aside due to much time being taken during much of the afternoons and evenings for chewing the plant. It also leads some to take bribes at work and to being corrupt so as to keep up the habit. And the cost to the country's health system is enormous.

Economically, the chewing of the intoxicant leads to fewer work hours and thus less production. This might be disputed by many qat chewers who claim that the chewing of the leaves sharpens their minds, lifts their spirits, gives them more energy and makes them work harder and better. Then there is the enormous amount of money used, nationally, daily, on the leaves: each day, billions are used on the leaves. If only for one day, all the money for that day which is to be used on qat is

collected and spent on social services - several clinics and schools can be built with only that day's money.

And now, across the country there is the other very destructive, very bad side of qat: its cultivation, which take up huge tracts of land, uses a 'vast and growing share of the water'. At a very fast rate. Yemen has always been a country with very little water, but now, the scarcity has become worse; with thousands, in some areas, now reportedly clambering up high mountains to find water. And with the population of Yemen growing fast, now at about 20 million but expected to triple in the next 40 years to 60 million - what lies ahead is terrifying to contemplate.

The chewing of qat is not only a part of Yemeni life; it is widespread in many parts of the Horn of Africa, East Africa and - though banned in all the neighboring Peninsula states - many in these countries illegally chew the plant. In East Africa, qat is mainly cultivated by non-Muslims but mostly chewed by Muslims. And the very adverse consequences of chewing qat or khat or miraa, is easily noticeable there: go to any urban center in East Africa, most African Muslims are poor; many, are in that stage of abject poverty due to the chewing of the plant which takes a

large amount of their earnings, which in turn makes it almost impossible for them to educate their children or uplift their families economically.

Qat's very adverse, destructive effects is not only on families and communities. Its worst consequences is on nations. It rips and destroys. Countries whose populations chew the leaves most, seem to be in the greatest mess. Look at Somalia, Ethiopia and now Yemen. Djibouti and Eritrea are no better off; Northern Kenya is the most underdeveloped and lawless in that country. Will it get even worse for Yemen; this great country of the Queen of Sheba?

"For millenniums, Yemen preserved traditions of careful water use. Farmers depended mostly on rainwater collection and shallow wells. In some areas they built dams, including the great Marib dam in northern Yemen, which lasted for more than 1,000 years until it collapsed in the sixth century A.D. Yemen has suffered ecological crises before and survived. The collapse of the Marib dam, for instance, led to a famine that pushed vast numbers of people to migrate abroad, and their descendants are now scattered across the Middle East." Will we Yemenis rise; and overcome and survive as before? Only time will tell.

## Is money everything?

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The majority of people all over the world and most religions quite disagree with the ancient Latin/biblical saying "The love of money is the root of all evil," because in fact they believe that money is the only way to have power among others; moreover, they consider that there is no way to survive without money. So when discussing thoughts about cash, they actually deceive you into holding the same opinion.

There are some people who are con-

tent with having just enough money to exist, although such a small amount is not so enough for essential things or even the significant things which they dream of obtaining, including a comfortable house, starting a small project or business and finishing their higher education. However, when considering this famous proverb, if this love for money and its pursuit goes beyond our needs and requirements, then certainly it can bring evil into one's life. People who are greedy and can never get enough money, may harm others and do anything in order to get their hands on more of those ridiculous notes and coins not only to fulfill their needs, but just for the sake of having

more money. On other hand, there are people who are dying, begging and traveling abroad just to feed their families. Money doesn't mean much to me if it's going to separate me from my parents, brothers, sisters and friends. Conversely, it is everything for others who are so busy trying to make more and more money that the love, concern and sympathy for their spouses and children are often missing. We are quite sure that our Islamic religion condones the desire to make money, but it must be done in the right way in order not to taint ourselves. At the same time, it comforts poor people not to worry about not having money because if it was meant to come your way it will so

long as you work for it sufficiently.

To end on a positive note, anyone can have a lot or a little money but it should be gained in a wholesome way, without greed and without forgetting ourselves and the actual mission which we are here for, and the evil that this "love of money" could cause.

## Optimism for success in life

By: Faris Mohammed Mohammed  
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Optimism is an outlook on life such that one maintains a view of the world as a positive place. All optimists generally believe that people and events are inherently good so that most situations work out in the end for the best. An optimist keeps each person spirits up even when things aren't going their way.

As the title states, optimism is increased and one's life is improved by choosing to surround oneself with optimistic friends and people because, an optimistic friend doesn't create despair for others. As the saying goes, "If the character of the man isn't clear to you look at his friend."

In addition to that, a friend is a person who sometimes accompanies you,

a person from whom you may or may not benefit. Some people think that the person who helps them with their work and shares time with them is their best friend.

Others say that the person with whom you entrust your secrets is the best kind of friend. But from my perspective, a

best friend is an optimistic person who guides you towards a brilliant future by means of giving the right kinds of recommendations to achieve your goals and uplift your spirits.

So, there may be small differences in people but those minor differences can quickly add up. The small difference is an attitude and the big difference is whether that attitude is positive or negative.

In my opinion, if one can't find an optimistic friend, it would be the best friend for anyone is a book. This is because a book can be a companion for you at any time and in any place and a book will keep you from wasting your time instead of pessimistic friends who happily provide frustrations, complications and obstacles to others.

Also, some friends may betray you, but a book will never do that or reveal your secrets as some friends do.

Moreover, a book doesn't get angry with you when you are busy and if it sees you with someone else, it is not jealous.

When you read a book, it listens to you without interrupting, but it does ask that you to keep it away from the sun and insects to keep it clear and glittering.

Once, I told my classmates when I was in college to speak the English language during our studies in college. I also told them about the importance of the English language for us as communications engineers as we need it to communicate with other nations. As well as I have postponed developing my specialization skills until I learned English so that we can easily get a job in any company because all companies request engineers who speak English fluently, but all my classmates said that it is out of the question to acquire English simply this way and I would not learn it because it is a difficult language.

But, despite these negative speeches, I didn't believe them and they couldn't deter me from achieving my goals and I was always working hard to learn English until I reached this level.

Ultimately, if I had believed that couldn't reach this level, I would have been hopeless in those moments.

Thus, I advise everyone to select optimistic friends who give the impetus to others so that everyone is successful in his or her life. Then, in order to be optimistic and successful in the life, one must choose optimistic friends.

## Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Alkholidy  
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## Happy new year to all

Good-bye 1430, good-bye 2009. Happy New Year dear friends, relatives, dear readers and most of all the editor and staff of Yemen Times newspaper. Happy new year to everyone and everything in our lives. A new year has begun. We congratulate each other, not realizing that a year has gone of our ages. Has anybody asked himself/herself about what he/she has done in the last year? Has anybody planned for the coming year?

I hope everyone replies to the questions with "Yes" and "Yes". This is what successful persons usually do. And this is what everyone must do.

Firstly, we have to look into the fields of life that everyone deals with. These fields can be work, study, social affairs, etc. Of course, these fields can not be applied for all of us because some may work, but not study, or vice versa. Anyway, every one of you needs to ask the above questions.

Study, of course, is the way of self-qualifying. During a period of a year, what everyone has studied to improve himself/ herself. I know, some will say that they have finished study-maybe University or even higher studies. It is not, however, the last stage of study. Our prophet Mohammed says "Learn from the cradle to the grave". Those who think that by finishing a certain level they need not to study any longer are absolutely wrong. Study for self-improving never means to finish one particular level. It means learning and learning whatever is possible. In this way, one will not find himself/herself not updated in his knowledge.

To illustrate the point clearer, let us refer to an actual example. There are many doctors and professors who got high academic degrees in the fields of their study. But they kept themselves bounded within their specializations. They did not try to improve their skills in the field of computer, language and other fields which are essential for them to deal with the new technologies of the modern age. Such doctors and professors found themselves unable to use the computer, to use the internet or even to deal with materials in other languages. They found themselves paralyzed to update their knowledge even in the fields of their specializations. Here lies the importance of asking the questions of what has everyone learned, and what he/she is planning to learn in the coming year.

Again the same questions can be asked for the field of work. Some people think that it is only enough for them get a job. They do not care about the nature of that job; they even do not care about the experience they got in such jobs. What they care about most is only getting a salary to lead a life.

As an example of these, I know some people who got a job which much less than the qualifications they have. They never think about searching for better chances. Worse still, they never think of developing themselves in the jobs they have. They became like parrots only doing the daily routine duties. Of course, such routine duties change from time to time according to the policies of the companies or institutions they work in, and according to the new changes technologies. Surprisingly, they found themselves unable to deal with such changes so that they are considered as expired persons. So such big mistakes must not be repeated especially by the new generations because nobody knows what is hidden in the future. To avoid such mistakes, therefore, all of us should take it serious to ask ourselves what have we achieved in each year and what is to be achieved in each coming year.

The same questions also can be asked about the other fields of life. In our social relationships, for instance, we can count how many friends we got, and how many we have lost. Or what roles we have played in our society to make it better than before. Only by this, I think, we can be satisfied otherwise our lives will be in vain.

I do not want to bore you dear readers. The idea, I think, is clear and I hope everyone should keep it mind. Finally, believe me, I do write this article not to show that I am ideal in this respect. But, frankly, I do realize my shortcomings to deal with such matters and I wanted to remind myself first and to remind you of this idea which is the clue of everyone's success. Before saying good-bye, I wish the best for each one you and again happy New Year deal all.

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a contributing opinion writer from Taiz. He holds an MA in English, and is the former editor of Taiz University's English-language magazine.

## What is love?

A world without love or affection is worthless, and would only result in us human beings fighting against each other. That is why love was created, to ensure peace among human beings.

There are so many kinds of love. But the best kind is that which exists between man and woman. This kind of love is spiritual and divine. It has no limitations nor can it be expressed in words. The word "love" itself is boundless. It thrives in our hearts without our permission, unintentionally and at times without reason. But, unfortunately, some people, particularly the youth, treat it much in the same way as do "foxes". They have misused and distorted the real meaning of this divine

concept, making it but a device for having relationships with girls. Broadly speaking, they rather scratch its fertility in favor of earthly intentions. They, in this sense, pretend to love. Indeed, they look at love in a very narrow sense and intend to fulfill their pervert desires under the name of love.

To conclude, love is such a revered and divine gift and an unparalleled blessing that we should thank Allah for it. Love is, and always will be, an energy. It can neither be created nor be destroyed. But, we should be true to love as the word "love" is and dignify its divine meaning.

That is why we should not misuse or violate its divinity and its real mean-

## Feeling proud of one's self is better than underestimating one's self

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What I have read in the Yemen Times, issue no 1321, entitled The facts behind our disappointing failure, made me really understand how backwards the writer thinks Yemenis are. We are gracious, but not aware of our own strengths and capabilities. The writer's thinking is wrong. In some of his statements he makes us come across as so illiterate whereas in others we are well-educated and experienced enough. I think this is a

kind of self-denial and ignoring nation. The writer also praises us more than they have so I overcome one from western countries or Jewish ones to praise us as same as you have done. I do not deny that they have invented so many things but they actually derived many of them from our origins and many of their ideas are based on the ideas of our scientists and scholars of the past so we should feel proud of our nations, not laugh at them, and it is necessary to encourage the new generations and seek remedial solutions that can place Yemen on the same path as more advanced countries.

I firmly believe that the pessimistic view of the writer can never help our

people change either their behavior or their education; however, an optimistic view directly makes one motivate himself to accomplish more so ultimately, one should not be overly critical.

The writer is clearly educated so he must know something about our people, history and minds and it is not urgent to poke our nose into some thing. The clear evidence that we have very intelligent people in our nation is an example like Khalid Nashwan, who invented a device which helps treat people with heart problems, non-surgically. We should be informing others about our successes and our educated population, not our failures and our illiterate population.



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عن : ٢٤٤٢٨٠  
تعز : ٢٥٨٨٨١  
شركة اليمن للتأمين : صنعاء : ٢٧٢٨٠٦/٢٧٢٩١٢/٤٢  
عن : ٢٤٧٦١٧  
تعز : ٢٥٠٢٤٥

**مدارس**

روضة واحة الأطفال: تلفاكس: ٤٧٠٢٥٠ - موبايل: ٧٣٤٥٢٢٢٢٥  
مدرسة رينبو : ٤١٤٠٠٢١/٤٢٤٠٠٢٢  
مدارس صنعاء الدولية : ٢٧٠١٩١/٢ - فاكس: ٢٧٠١٩٣  
مدرسة التريكة الدولية : ٤٤٨٢٥٨/٩  
مدرسة الماجد اليمنية : ٢٠٦١٥٩

**سفريات**

النسيب للسفريات : ٢٧٠٧٥٠  
العالمية للسفريات والسياحة : ٤٤١١٥٨٩/٦٠

**مطاعم**

مطعم ومخازنة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)  
تلفون : ٢٦٦٦٣٥ - ٥٠٢٩٠ - فاكس : ٢٦٧٦١٩

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الإذاعة : ٢٨٢٠٦١ - التلفزيون : ١/٢ - ٣٢٢٠٠٠  
مؤسسة البصائر للتثقل داخل المدن : ٢٦٦١١١/٣  
وزارة المواصلات : ٢٢٥١١٠/٧/٢/٣ - السياحه : ٢٥٤٠٢٢  
الصليب الاحمر : ٢٠٢١٣١/٣ - تليم : ٧٥٢٢٢٢٧

**البنوك**

بنك اليمن والخليج : فاكس: ٢٦٠٨٢٤ - ١٦٠٠٨٢٢/١-١٦٠٠٨٢٢  
فرع عدن : ٢٢٧٨٢٩ / ٢ - فاكس: ٢٢٧٨٢٩  
بنك التضامن الإسلامي : ١/٦٦٦٦٦٦  
البنك التجاري : ٢٧٧٢٢٤ - فاكس: ٢٧٧٢٩١  
مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل : ٢٢٤٧٧٥, ٢٢٤٧٠٢ - فاكس: ٢٢٤٧٠٢, ٢٢٤٧٠٢  
بنك اليمن الدولي : ٤٠٧٠٣٠ - ١-٤٠٧٠٣٠  
البنك العربي : ٢٧٦٥٨٥/٢ - ١-٢٧٦٥٨٥  
بنك التسليف الزراعي : ١-٥٦٣٨١٢ - ١-٥٦٣٨١٢  
البنك المركزي : ٢٧٤٢١٤ - ١-٢٧٤٢١٤

**تأجير سيارات**

زاويه (Budget) : ٢٠٦٢٧٢ - ٢٠٦٢٧٢ - فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨  
بيروك كار : ٢٧٠٧٥١ - فاكس: ٢٧٠٨٠٤  
هيزتو لتأجير السيارات صنعاء : ١-٤٤٠٣٠٩ - ١-٤٤٠٣٠٩  
فرع شيراتون : ٤٥٥٩٨٥  
عن : ٢٤٥٦٢٥ - ٢-٢٤٥٦٢٥

**مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر**

بنك تعليم الكمبيوتر (تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) شهادة ايزو ١٠٠٠  
صنعاء : ١-٤٦٨٢٠٥  
فاكس : ٤٠٧٤٩٩ - ١-٤٠٧٤٩٩  
عن : ٢٠٢٣٧١٩٩ - ٢٠٢٣٧١٩٩  
تعز : ٤٠٢٥٠٢٤ - ٤٠٢٥٠٢٤  
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**البريد السريع**

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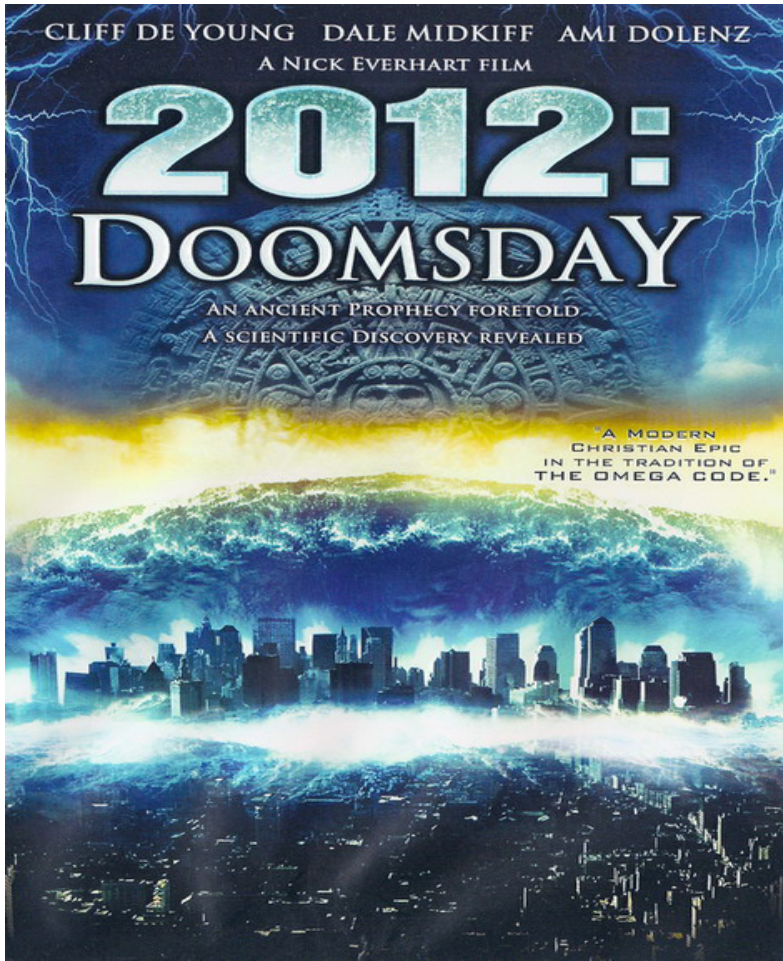


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# Muslim scholars warn not to watch the "DoomsDay" movie



time. The scholars condemned the movie because they believe that it is forbidden to predict the future. They condemned the movie believing that it may shake people's faith.

Despite this, many Indonesians watched the movie saying that watching the movie would not cause them to doubt their faith in the slightest.

Bassam is a young Yemeni man who was able to get a copy of the movie for only 100 YR. Although the movie cost two hundred million dollars to produce, Bassam sells a copy of the movie for less than a dollar. When Bassam heard of the movie he did not like the idea. However, he was curious about it and preferred to watch it alone.

The director of the movie, Roland Emmerich, said that he considered many factors, particularly Muslim beliefs and sensitivities. He did his utmost to avoid offending Muslims and becoming the recipient of any harsh reactions from the Muslim community.

### Movie plot

The plot of the movie is based on beliefs from the ancient Mayan civilization that the end of the world will occur on December 12th 2012. On that day, according to Mayan prophecy, the magnetic poles swap places. Consequently, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. People try in vain to avoid death, yet there is no safe place where they can find shelter. At that moment, only the Mayan people face Mother Nature courageously and welcome

death. In one scene, the President of the US is shown standing amongst his constituents when the disaster is about to occur. After that he is shown on TV saying words of farewell. He states that he is the last American president and refuses to get on a plane preferring instead to perish with his people.

As would be expected, the world's wealthy, including Arabs, are seen paying money to try to save themselves and gambling to finance a secret project in China to manufacture space ships.

### Controversial movie

Many rejected watching the movie due to the theme it portrays. They feel that the movie depicts "The Hour" signs in an inaccurate way, meaning they are not shown occurring as they have been mentioned in Islam.

The director of the movie himself declared that he fears mentioning

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By: Saqr Al-Sunaidi  
Courtesy of Al-Yaman Newspaper

In the movie "DoomsDay," there is a scene that shows all holy places being destroyed with the exception of the al Ka'aba, which is the

most holy site for the world's more than 1 billion Muslims and where Muslims are often shown praying to Allah.

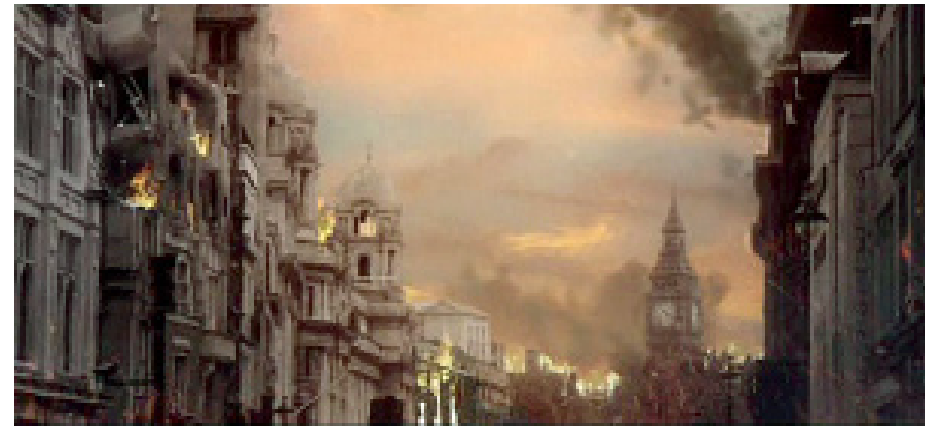
Muslim scholars all over Jakarta warned Muslims not to watch the movie "DoomsDay" as it depicts 'The Hour' events, which refer to events that will occur at the end of

anything about Islam as he may run the risk of angering Muslims.

Hundred books have been written regarding the signs of 'The Hour' all of which are based on evidence from the Holy Qur'an and Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) traditions.

There is a tradition about the signs of 'The Hour' which states, "The Hour will not be established till all nations conspire against you." (Against Mohammad's nation.)

The sources of people's beliefs may vary. Muslims, for example, depend on religious sources while Mayan civilization depended on astrological signs. On the other hand, the US depends on NASA, in which the latter denies that any such disaster will take place due to an absence of scientific evidence. That is why, while this movie may prove to be entertaining and perhaps even frightening for some, it should probably not be taken too seriously.



A snapshot from the movie depicts London in doomsday.

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