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## Five Al-Qaeda members reported dead Yemeni religious scholars reject foreign military intervention

By: **Mohammad Bin Sallam and Ali Saeed**

SA'ADA, JAN. 17 — The Ministry of the Interior has confirmed that five people killed last Saturday in a government air raid in Al-Ajasher are members of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

They were ambushed by the Yemeni Air Force on Friday in Al-Ajasher, which is located between Al-Jawf governorate and Al-Booq', near the Yemeni-Saudi border.

According to sources, there were eight individuals travelling in a four-wheel drive who were targeted, and six of whom were killed, while two escaped.

The slain individuals, who are alleged to have been members of Al-Qaeda, were Qasem Al-Raimi, a field leader, Ammar Al-Wa'eli, Saleh Al-Tais, Aedh Al-Shabwani and Ibraheem Al-Bana'a who went by the name Saleh Al-Jawfi and who was considered their ideological leader. The sixth, however, could not be identified.

According to Yemeni sources, Ammar Al-Wa'eli and Saleh Al-Tais were selling weapons and ammunition to Houthis to benefit Al-Qaeda operations. The ammunition was taken illegally from coastal cities and transported through the desert to Sa'ada.

Security sources said that Ayed Al-Shabwani was killed in confrontations between Al-Qaeda members and Yemeni soldiers in Al-Jawf last July. For their part, Al-Qaeda has denied that.

Qasem Al-Raimi is one of Yemen's most wanted fugitives. He escaped along with another 23 prisoners from the Yemeni secret police in February, 2006. About 116 additional individuals were also announced as wanted, 85 of whom are from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

The security sources reported that the Yemeni secret police exerted their best efforts in order to investigate the wanted fugitives. They distributed identifying pictures of the wanted men to many authorities like Yemeni security offices, marine, air and land ports, the Authority of Civil Affairs and registration bureaus and all branches of these authorities in addition to all police stations and security and military check-points.

Al-Raimi is not on the FBI's most wanted list of fugitives. He is only wanted for questioning regarding possible links to terrorism.

The Ministry of Interior has confirmed that it will work on "pursuing Al-Qaeda terrorists" and that the government will spare no efforts in expelling terrorism from Yemen.

Tribal sources announced the presence of a military jihadist camp in Al-Ajasher. This camp, as well as the Jubara Jihadist camp, were re-established during the fifth war in Sa'ada.

Sheikh Saleh Habra, the spokesman for the Houthis, stated to the Yemen

Times in a former interview that there exists a new camp for Jihadists in the desert near the Yemeni-Saudi border, which was set-up again during the fifth war.

The Friday air raid was launched as a part of a series of strikes against Al-Qaeda members. Abdullah Al-Mehdhar was killed by the air raid. He is suspected to have been the leader of Al-Qaeda members in Shabwa governorate in Yemen.

Ali Hassan Al-Ahmadi, the Governor of Shabwa, said that dozens of fighters, among them Egyptians and Saudis, are hiding in Shabwa. He confirmed that Nasser Al-Wohaishi, Al-Qaeda leader in Yemen, Anwar Al-Awlaqi and Saeed Al-Shehri were hiding there as well.

The security authorities stated last week that Mohammad Al-Haneq, in addition to two other men, were arrested because they were suspected of sending threatening letters to foreign offices in Yemen which forced many embassies, including the American and the British, to close their operations for several days.

In a related subject, September Net, the Yemeni Army website, mentioned that three members of Al-Qaeda were arrested yesterday as they were in the process of disguising themselves by donning military uniforms. The three men were all holding grenades and in possession of propaganda promoting terrorism.

On Thursday, over 150 Yemeni religious scholars have warned that if participants in the London Conference later this month decide on foreign military intervention in Yemen, the scholars will call for jihad.

The 150 Islamic scholars from different Islamic schools throughout Yemen said this after a statement made by

the Chairman of the US Senate Armed Services Committee, Carl Levin, in which he advised the US administration to target Al Qaeda with armed drones, air strikes, or covert operations.

However, US newspapers quoted U.S. President Obama as saying he has no intention of sending troops to Yemen.

The scholars gathered in Al-Mashad Mosque in the center of the Old City in Sana'a. The mosque has historical significance for all Yemenis since it was built by the Prophet's companion Farwa bin Musaik and it was the first place in Sana'a used for Eid prayer.

Continued on page 2

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## Girls drop out of school due to lack of female teachers

By: Sadeq Al-Wasabi  
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, JAN. 17 — A recent study done by the Women National Committee, showed that, in comparison to boys, the rate of girl dropouts in the primary schools is higher for many reasons, the most important of which is the small number of female teachers especially in the rural areas.

The Women National Committee (WNC is a quasi governmental body with the mandate of mainstreaming gender in all works and structures of the government), recently undertook the study with support from Oxfam (Oxfam is vibrant global movement dedicated to fighting poverty and has been active in Yemen for the past 27 years). The study, focusing on the correlation between the number of female teachers and the rate of girl dropouts in primary schools

was conducted by Qaed Aqlan, an academic researcher. The study was a part of Oxfam's 'Good Governance in the Implementation and Monitoring of the 3rd FYP project, in which the WNC is a partner.

The study showed that the education of girls in Yemen, is neither improving nor is it helping socio-economic improvement. Girls' education is receding, women illiteracy rate is increasing and women participation in the process of improving the country is decreasing.

The study further showed that though economical, cultural and social constraints of the people are the biggest challenges faced by girls' education in the country, the most important challenge that keeps girls away from schools is the inadequacy of the female teachers, especially in the rural areas. The total percentage of the female (out of total number of teachers) teachers in the rural

areas and countryside together, for the academic year 2007-2008, was no more than 24%, which means that the female teachers constitute less than a quarter of the total teachers.

In addition, the study showed that female teachers in the urban areas are more than female teachers in rural areas.

The study revealed that, in Yemen, where it is culturally unacceptable for girl students, especially fourth grade onwards, to study under male teachers, girls are not enrolled in schools which do not have female teachers.

The study also proved that as the number of the female teachers in schools increases, there is an increase in enrolment of girls in schools.

At present, the total number of female teachers is 39694 and additional 17,614 numbers of female teachers are needed to meet the demand.

According to the study, the annual

budget required to employ the 17,614 number deficit of female teachers is estimated at 9.511.560.000 YR, whereas the annual budget estimates 16.162.740.000 YR to employ 29.931 female teachers where, 45,000 YR is the minimum monthly salary for one teacher.

The study recommends redistributing more teacher positions for female teachers in the rural areas and the countryside, in order to improve the enrollment of girls in schools.

The study concluded that partly the problem is attributed to the planning and finance policy of the primary schools which says that males can help females but not the vice versa. Also, the eligibility requirements for the posts of teachers make it difficult for local females to apply as they do not meet the qualifications required and urban qualified females are reluctant to apply for posts in rural areas.

## Unanimity over the weak performance of the Parliament in 2009

By: Ismail Al-Ghaberi

SANA'A, JAN. 16 — Members of the Ruling Party and of all Opposition Parties, have unanimously agreed upon the weak performance of the Yemeni parliament during the year 2009.

Abdul Aziz Al-Jubari, the representative of the Ruling Party in the Parliament, says that the weak performance of the Parliament can be attributed to a lack of balanced representation for all parties in the Parliament and its Presidency, as well as legitimacy of the institution being in doubt. In addition, proper audits have not been carried out to evaluate the structural component of the Parliament.

Stating that though the Parliament had at times handled issues of the citizens, Jubari generally referred to the sessions held by the Parliament in 2009, as violations against the Parliament's committees, as the sessions had not been attended by

the sufficient numbers of MP voters.

Referring to the role the Parliament has been tasked to undertake once a week, since 2003, in terms of auditing issues, an independent member of the Parliament, Sakhr Al-Wajeeh, said that the disproportionately large number of 'majority' members of the Ruling party, which is an 'organized party, is responsible for the suppression of the voices of the 'minority' in the Parliament.

Agreeing with Jubari that the Parliament had occasionally dealt with issues of the citizens, Al-Wajeeh said that in spite of this, there remain many other challenges that the parliament has remained paralyzed on. Al-Wajeeh also agreed that some sessions were held without the presence of the minimum required number of members.

"The way the Parliament treats some issues is unclear, particularly issues relating to finance," he added.

Aidroos Al-Naqeeb, the head of the Communist Party in the Parliament, said that the Parliament had expired in 2009 and that the February 2009 Agreement to extend the Parliament's validity was intended for the Parliament to consider amendments aimed at improving the mechanics of the elections and the electoral process and the system for electing the Supreme Election Committee.

Al-Naqeeb stated for News Yemen that the Parliament only fulfilled the first part of its obligations, in order to extend its validity, after which it neglected to carry out the remaining commitments.

Accusing the Parliament of turning a blind eye to the issues facing the population, he said that "The Parliament could approve the budgets, loans, assets and the policy of the government, but has not even moved a muscle towards rectifying the killing of 72 civilians in Abyan, in Southern Yemen."

Al-Naqeeb adds his voice to that of his colleagues in the Parliament who claim that two sessions were held without the presence of the opposition parties. Condemning this, he added that the Parliament has become an abode for the political majority, which no longer cares about the people who voted for the opposition parties.

Zaid Al-Shami, a member of the Parliament and the opposition Islah Conservative Party, said that the Parliament's performance had been weak even before 2009 and confirmed that the members of the Ruling Party's who are in Parliament, sometimes hold sessions in the absence of the opposition parties. He also agreed that the Parliament has become an abode of the political majority and that many violations are bound to occur when there exists such an imbalance between the opposition parties and the Ruling Party.

## Houthis claim to have shot down Saudi plane

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, JAN. 17 — The Houthis shot down a Saudi war plane last Friday during an air raid on the Al-Madood mountain in the northern governorate of Sa'ada, according to Houthi sources.

The Saudis have not confirmed this news.

The Saudi army on Friday evening also launched around 29 air raids on Razeh, Al-Saha'af, Maran, Al-Mahathir, and Wada'a, according to a statement by the Houthis.

The statement added that the Saudi army had shelled the Yemeni-Saudi border in Al-Madood and Al-Rumaih mountains with more than 1,300 missiles.

The Houthis have denied last week's news that four Saudi soldiers were killed in confrontations with them on the Saudi-Yemeni border.

Saudi Deputy Minister of Defense Khalid Bin Sultan had previously announced the death of the four soldiers,

and noted that there had been 82 Saudi casualties since the start of confrontations with the Houthis on November 3.

Bin Sultan added that the Saudi forces had killed all Houthis in the area of the Al-Jaberi mountain.

According to the Houthis' website, the Houthis still hold their positions in Al-Jaberi and they have the ability to take control of other Saudi areas.

The same source said that the Saudi air force last Tuesday launched four air raids and shelled the Al-Dokhan mountain with 896 missiles. The air raids were also intensified on the Al-Mudud mountain, and in Shatha and Ghafera in Sa'ada.

Saudi newspaper Jazan, for its part, said that the Houthis are present on the Yemeni-Saudi border in Al-Ayn to the southeast of the Fayfa mountain. The Houthis' presence in these areas was expected to increase the amount of ammunition sent by the Saudi government to these areas to prevent Houthis from penetrating Saudi territory.

According to the Yemeni Armed Forces' website, recent confrontations between the Yemeni army and the Houthis have resulted in the death of 19 Houthis in Sa'ada.

The Houthis have said that the civilians in Sa'ada are increasingly becoming victims of the violence. The Ministry of Interior stated that the security forces have surveyed in the old city of Sa'ada. The Ministry added that 25 people were arrested. No victims were recorded.

On the Al-Jawf frontline, confrontations on Tuesday resulted in the death of more than 14 Houthis.

Local sources said that in the confrontations on Monday between the Houthis and pro-government tribes Sholan and Al-Saqrah resulted in the death of 11 Houthis and three men from the Saqrah tribe.

The Yemeni Ministry of Interior said that 15 Houthis were killed last week in Al-Matma and Al-Moton in Al-Jawf governorate.

The Yemeni military air forces shelled

Houthis sites in Al-Jawf areas on Monday. The shelling was targeting Houthis sites in which sever loses were recorded, according to the army's website.

In confrontations between the Yemeni forces and the Houthis, eight Yemeni soldiers and 17 Houthis were killed last Sunday.

The Houthis said that they stopped the Yemeni and Saudi forces attacks in Al-Dokhan mountain, in which 1,300 missiles have been launched since last Monday.

The Houthis also said that they thwarted an attempt by the army to penetrate into Houthi territory, while the Saudi army launched air raids against Sa'ada especially in the Dhahr Al-Himar mountain. The confrontations are reportedly ongoing, according to the Houthi website.

The Houthis said that they have gained control over three military sites along the main road in the city of Sa'ada. The Houthis also claim to have seized ammunition and weapons.

## Politics, not sectarianism source of Yemen's conflicts

By: Amel Ariqi

SANA'A, JAN. 16 — The nature of conflicts in Yemen is political and not sectarian, according to Yemeni academics at Sana'a University who met on Tuesday to hold an open discussion on the various issues being discussed in the media today.

The professors, who addressed a group of Sana'a University students, researchers and media personalities at a seminar held in the Education and Psychological Counseling Centre, to discuss the coexistence of religious sects in Yemen, warned of stamping out the current unrest as sectarian conflicts.

"Yemen is now being portrayed in the Western media as another Afghanistan," said Dr. Ahmed Al-Daghashi, an instructor who was referring to this incorrect analysis, which portrays Yemen's disturbance in a sectarian light.

In Yemen there are two Islamic sects; the Sunni Shafi'i sect, and the Shiite Zaidi sect, with both sects having always successfully co-existed with one another. Followers of these two sects use the same mosques and schools, said Dr Mahmoud AlHarzi.

However, recently the sects have been politicized and used to influence people to fight each other. "The biggest obstacle facing dialogue and discussion is that each side is attempting to lure members from the other side to their faction, while promoting their beliefs and completely discounting the teachings and beliefs of their counterparts" said Dr Al-Daghashi. He pointed out that throughout Yemen's history, the intellectuals and scientists who comprised these two sects always exchanged their knowledge and endeavored to accept their differences. Although this hasn't always prevented the emergence of extremists on either side, or the advent of armed conflicts, the key has always been to accept and accommodate their differences as opposed to trying to completely eliminate each other.

Yemen is currently suffering from an armed conflict between the government and the Al-Houthis in the North in Sa'ada, unrest in the South where a political group called the Southern Move-

ment is calling for secession from the rest of Yemen, in addition to increasing concerns that Yemen is becoming a hub for Al Qaeda militants.

A segment of the Al-Houthis claims that the current government is oppressing them and has denied them the right to freely practice their religious beliefs. The government refutes this claim and counters that the Al-Houthi rebels have an agenda which is influenced by foreign sources, and which threatens national security. They also claim that the Al-Houthis would like to see the country go backwards and return to a time of Imamat. Al-Qaeda, meanwhile, has vowed to kick out foreigners (calling them kfir or unbelievers) from Islamic lands, and to continue attacking them in their own homelands.

Often, Western media describes the war in Sada'a as a conflict between Shi'ite rebels and the Sunni government, while describing Al-Qaeda as extremist Sunni terrorists, which simply reinforces the stereotypes and misunderstandings regarding the nature and complexities of the disturbances in Yemen, according to the professors.

"From my perspective, the word 'sect' is an intellectual expression; it is not religious nor is it an identity. So, if someone disagrees with this sect that doesn't make him an apostate or a traitor," according to Professor Abdullah Al-Shamkhi, adding that when each group attempts to impose its ideas on the other and the sect becomes their identity, then hostilities are aroused.

Al-Shamkhi differentiates between Islam as a faith in the certainty of a belief in Allah (God) and the prophets etc., and sects as intellectual jurisprudence. Al-Shamkhi believes that troubles occur when people try to impose their sect's beliefs on others, and gain political power and benefits.

Al-Daghashi warned about the various religious centers in Yemen, calling for more vigorous monitoring of these centers. He also strongly advised that the school curriculum be revised, in order to reduce political sectarian materials, otherwise Yemen would have to contend with several "retarded" generations both politically, and religiously.

## IRY trains CSOs in strategic planning and management

By: Mahmoud Assamee

SANA'A, JAN. 16 — Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY) organized, on Saturday, its first capacity building training, in a series of trainings under the 'Strengthening the Capacity of Yemeni Civil Society Organizations in Development Cooperation Project'.

During this training, international trainers, will improve the skills of the 26 participants, who are the heads of CSOs from project target areas in the country, through practical exercises and resource sharing. The three-day training on 'Strategic Planning and Management' aims at enhancing the organizational capacity of the CSOs, especially from the point of view of long term development planning for the organization.

In the opening ceremony, IRY's Country Director Khaled Almulad said "today, we are inaugurating the first training and the first phase of activities planned under this project. The more active civil society organizations, the more concern and support from donors."

Explaining that local organizations have to be qualified to follow up their work, he said that "we believe that this cannot be achieved without the cooperation of the CSOs."

Deputy Minister of Social Affairs and Labors, for development sector, Ali Saleh Abdullah hailed the successes achieved by government in field of law, hoping that this success would be reflected in practical as well.

He said that there are around 7000 CSOs in Yemen and only 25 percent of them are active due to the absence of administrative and organizational skills inside these organizations.

He also said that the government does not impose restrictions or bur-

dens on the work of civil society organizations and considers them main partners in development, despite weakness in their performance.

Ambassador Head of Delegation of the European Union in Yemen, Michele Cervone d'Urso, attended the opening ceremony of the training. He said that the EU has raised its annual support to civil society organizations from € 1.5 million to 2.5 million.

"The project (of strengthening capacity of CSOs), which receives support from the EU and IRY, deals with 40 civil society organizations. Its aim is to increase the quality, influence and cooperation for benefiting poor and marginalized groups," said the European official.

This first training will improve capacity of participating representatives, and through them improve the performance of civil society organizations, in field of administration management.

"Weak performance of CSOs is mainly attributed to weak administrative capabilities in field of planning. Therefore, this training is important," said Ahmad Al-Gorashi, the Chairman of SEYAJ Organization for Child Protection.

Islamic Relief is an international aid agency with its headquarters in Birmingham, UK. It works in 26 countries in Africa, Asia, Middle East and Eastern Europe responding to emergencies and supporting sustainable development with vulnerable communities.

Islamic Relief Yemen has been operating in the Republic of Yemen since 1998. To date, IRY has implemented various projects ranging from water and sanitation, health, orphans support, child protection, emergency response and conflict transformation and peace building.

### Continued from page 1

#### Yemeni religious scholars reject foreign military intervention

During the conference, the scholars discussed the danger of foreign intervention in Yemen, sending a powerful message to any foreign power who might be considering military intervention in Yemen that such action would lead to a call for jihad.

In the religious statement (fatwa) signed by all 150 Islamic scholars, they expressed their complete refusal to consider having the military bases of any foreign power on Yemen's territory or within its regional waters.

They also condemned the killing of Al-Qaeda members without fair trials in court, saying that Islam prohibits the killing of foreign civilians and anyone who commits such aggression, must be brought to court.

In the fatwa, they criminalized the killing of innocent civilians in the governorates of Abyan, Shabwa, and Arhab as a result of US-supported government raids on Al-Qaeda hideouts at the end of December.

The majority of the civilian deaths resulting from the raids occurred in Abyan, as approximately 82 were killed and more than 213 were injured, according to previous reports by the Yemen Times.

The conference was attended by many Islamic students from the Iman Univer-

sity, and the Al-Da'wa Salafi School in Sana'a, as well as by dozens of western reporters.

The attendees from among the students and scholars were silent until the fatwa stated that all Yemeni scholars refuse any foreign intervention, to which all the attendees shouted loudly, "Allahu akbar! Allahu akbar!" (God is the greatest).

"Yemeni scholars have been following up on the new dangerous developments that Yemen has been going through and the conspiracy by foreign powers to interfere in Yemen's issues such as security, military and politics," read the preamble of the fatwa.

The preamble considered the portrayal of Yemen's situation as a threat to the regional and international status quo and its exaggeration to internationalize the issue as simply a pretext to creating another Afghanistan or Iraq in order to create more homeless and dead people.

It also sent a warning to those participating in the London Conference that is going to be held on January 18, regarding the conference as a threat to the Yemen's security, unity and stability since the conference was called on by foreign powers.

At the end of the fatwa's preamble, it stated that this fatwa by the Yemeni scholars comes as a religious duty upon clerics to advise people about what

should be done.

Before reading the fatwa, Sheikh Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani, rector of the Iman University, said that the conference was in response to Yemenis asking about the role of Islamic scholars in this critical situation.

"In order to carry out their duties to the Yemeni citizens, the scholars prepared for this conference for a couple of days" Al-Zindani said.

"After we heard some generals at the US Pentagon stating to the press that Yemen is a state teetering on the brink of failure and the advice of the US administration to take action, the Yemeni scholars became alert and held this conference," he added.

Al-Zindani also condemned the prevalence of international forces in the Gulf of Aden under the pretext of combating piracy.

"Somali pirates are a small group and do not require all these forces," he said. "So why are they gathering in the Gulf of Aden?"

"And we also heard Britain -who were occupying the South of Yemen at the beginning of the past century- calling for a conference to discuss the Yemen's issues," he said. "Who are you to discuss our problems?"

He suggested that all Yemenis should resolve their disputes within Yemen and

all of them: the ruler, the opposition, and the people should come to the table of Islamic Shariah law.

The fatwa also states the refusal of any convention or security and military cooperation with any foreign party that violates the Islamic Shariah law and harms the interests of the country.

And in case the cooperation or the convention does not violate Islam or does not harm the country, it should be approved by the Parliament, Shura Council, and the scholars.

The fatwa recommends forming a committee composed of scholars, judges, and experts to examine these incidents, their causes, and their results in order to determine legal solutions.

In addition, the fatwa invited all Yemenis, the President, the state, the people and all the effective powers in the country to seek advice from the Holy Quran and the Sunna.

The fatwa urged all Islamic nations, rulers and people, scholars and organizations to support their Muslim brothers in Yemen and stand with them against any foreign conspiracy or intervention.

In a similar context, the Islamic Action Front Party in Jordan condemned the American intervention in Yemen saying that Washington is working to bring about chaos in Yemen in order to dominate the Arab region.

In Brief

**SANA'A**  
**Yemen to partake in Arab Forum on Technical and Vocational Training**

Yemen is to take part in the Arab Forum on Technical and Vocational Training and Labor Market Needs to be held next Saturday in Saudi Arabia.

Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training Ibrahim Hajri told

Saba that the three-day forum would deal with many important issues relating to the linking bases between the technical education outputs and the labor market needs, in addition to the social impacts of the global economic crisis on the Arab region and the role of the technical and vocational institutions in reducing its impacts.

He noted it will also focus on the Arab standard classification of occu-

pations, the joint development of professional standards, the Arab strategy for education and technical and vocational training, and the Arab initiatives to support the technical and vocational training and increase employability and encourage self-employment.

For her part, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Amat al-Razaq Humad indicated that the forum would discuss the role of private sector in supporting

the technical and vocational training institutions in terms of funding and operating as well as participation in planning.

The forum will also discuss a project to establish an Arab association for vocational and technical training and selection of Arab centers for training trainers of technical and professional areas, Humad explained.

**Yemen to take part in IRENA meeting**

Yemen is to take part in the first meeting of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) which is expected to be held in the UAE capital, Abu Dhabi on 16-18 January.

Speaking to Saba, Electricity Minister Awadh al-Socotri said that the meeting will deal with several issues regarding to approve the IRENA's agenda for 2010 as well as looking into speeding up energy transfer and boosting sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy.

"Yemen will present the experience on the renewable energy in the country", said al-Socotri, hoping the organization to support Yemen in this field.

The Yemeni official added that a number of donors had provided \$ 9 million to complete Energy projects in the country.

"Yemen is now working to establish wind-operated power projects and also it had started to establish a number of solar energy stations in some rural areas", he pointed out.

**Yemen to take part in IRENA meeting**

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**Yemeni referee wins trip to the World Cup**

During the tenth draw for many valuable awards including a sponsored attendance of the World Cup 2010 in South Africa MTN-Yemen grants its subscribers, a Yemeni referee Abdullah Mahdi Saleh Tumbah Awadh's dream came true. Awadh is a second level football referee from Lahj who was the tenth lucky winner through MTN-Yemen's weekly draws to be able to attend the world cup.

Another seven winners received 32 inch Sony Bravia flat screens and others won many other in-kind gifts from MTN.

Director of public relations Ali AL-Shahithi and a number of MTN employees and friends attended the draw. Al-Shahithi said that since MTN is this World Cup's sponsor, MTN-Yemen is promoting the championship and granting many Yemenis the opportunity to be part of this great event organized by FIFA.

To enter the draw, MTN clients must correctly answer through sms a sport question and send it to 2010. From the correct answers a draw takes place and every week lucky winners come to Sana'a to receive their awards.

Every week one lucky winner gets a grand prize of sponsored attendance of the world cup in South Africa. MTN covers, tickets, accommodation and living expenses as well as an interesting tourism program to visit the main tourist attractions of South Africa and of course attend the matches.

Awadh was very delighted at winning this week's opportunity and said not only that it would be a great chance to visit



another country and enjoy the matches, it would also mean much more to him career wise since he is a foot ball referee. The other winners of in-kind prizes this week were also delighted and happy at the surprise. They thanked MTN-Yemen and appreciated what the company does for its clients.

**WAN-IFRA appoints new Chief Executive**

WAN-IFRA, the global, industry organization for the newspaper and news publishing industry, is very pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Christoph Riess as the new Group Chief Executive of the enlarged WAN-IFRA industry representative body. This appointment follows the merger of the World Association of Newspapers (based in Paris) and IFRA (based in Darmstadt) during 2009. The appointment will take effect from February 1st 2010.

Christoph Riess (53) joins WAN-IFRA from Mitsubishi Paper, having previously worked for Bertelsmann AG, Heidelberger Druckmaschinen and PaperlinX.

Commenting on the appointment,

WAN-IFRA President Gavin O'Reilly said: "We are delighted to welcome Christoph as the new leader of WAN-IFRA. He brings both enormous industry experience and a modern, proactive perspective on the needs of the global news publishing industry. His appointment comes at a pivotal and exciting time for WAN-IFRA, following the merger of these two fine institutions in July 2009."

Christoph will be assisted by Timothy Balding, former Chief Executive of the World Association of Newspapers (prior to the merger), who will now become the new Director General of WAN-IFRA Global Affairs, based in Paris, continuing to lead relations with member associations, governments and international

organisations, together with overseeing press freedom and media development, and public affairs. Balding, who is British, had been with WAN since 1985, and had led the Paris-based organisation since 1986.

The future position of Reiner Mittelbach, the CEO of the former IFRA will be announced at a later stage.

WAN-IFRA, based in Paris, France, and Darmstadt, Germany, with subsidiaries in Singapore, India, Spain, France and Sweden, is the global organisation of the world's newspapers and news publishers. It represents more than 18,000 publications, 15,000 online sites and over 3,000 companies in more than 120 countries.

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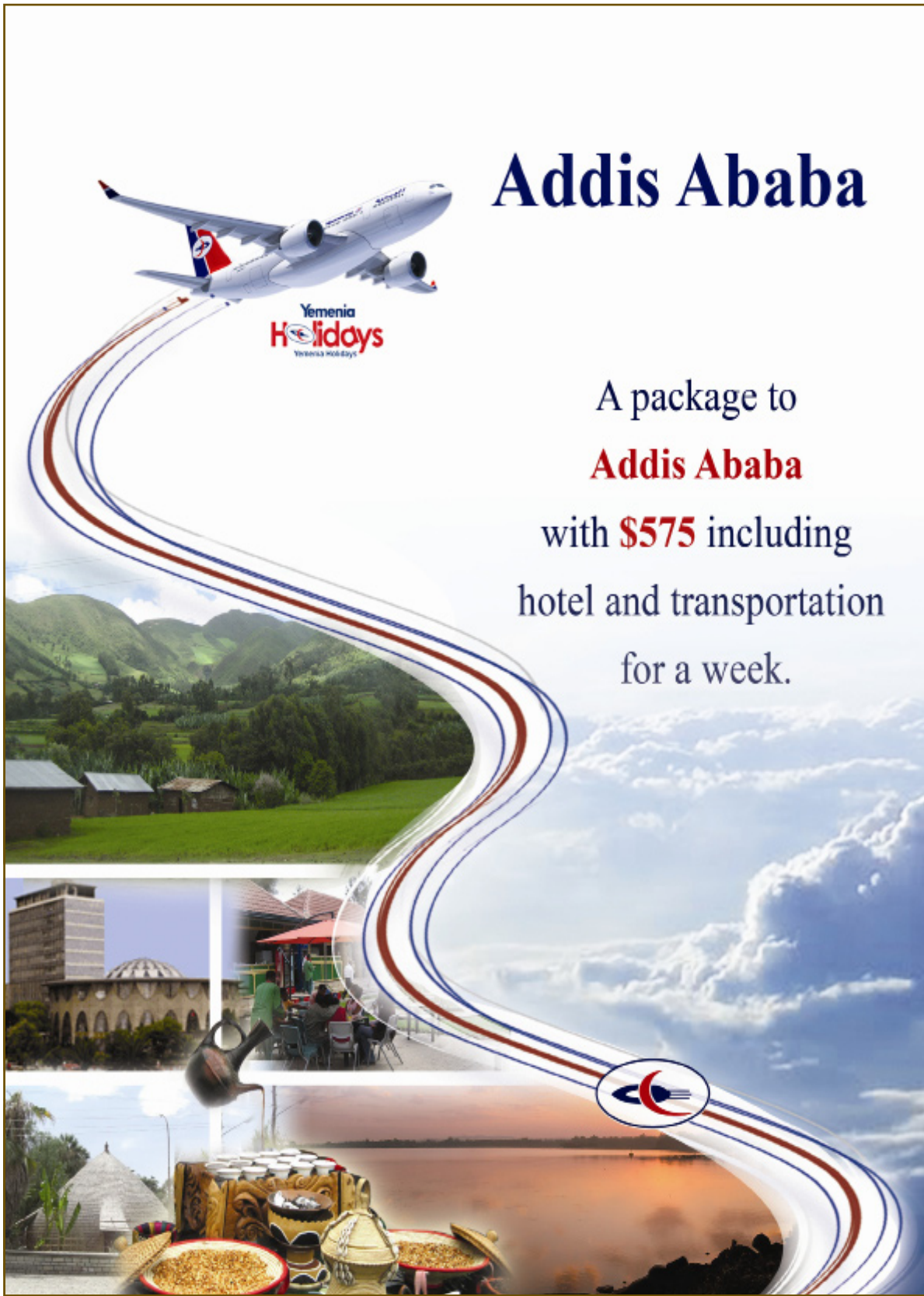
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JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE CAPITAL (14)

Soqatra 2020, Goatland and guaranteed dolphins?

By: Judith Spiegel  
For the Yemen Times

It is hard to imagine that only ten years ago these goats were walking in the streets, naturally mingling with the life of the inhabitants of the island and the few tourists visiting it. They were eating carton boxes, plastic bags and everything else they could lay their hoofs on. Now, they are living a happy and well fed life in Goatland, the "only goat zoo in the world".

Goatland is cleverly located between the airport and Hadibu, the main town of the island, where most of the hotels are. Most people visit Goatland on their way to the airport when they realize they have plenty of time before their flight to Sana'a leaves. The entrance fee of 1000 YR is reasonable, especially because part of it goes to the preservation of the island. Which part, the Goatland brochure does not say.

In the small port of Ras Erssel a row of polyester yellow glass bottom boats is bobbing on the gentle waves. The town was once a sleepy and very poor fishing community that made a living out of shark fishing. Since the new hotel was built, on an arid hill behind the village, life had changed. Most fishermen gave up on the hard and dangerous shark fishing business and now take tourists in their glass bottom boats, where they can conveniently watch marine life without having to be in the water themselves.

The hotel is part of a chain that over the past five years has developed three similar hotels on isolated spots on the island. All of them white three story buildings, built around a courtyard with a swimming pool. It is now no longer necessary to bring a tent and cooking gear when you want to stay near the beautiful sweet water pools or on the snow white sandy beaches. In fact, it is no longer possible to camp out there since now the hotels have taken over these once untouched places. The Egyptian vultures that used to roam the simple campsites, or actually the whole



island, have mysteriously disappeared. No equivalent of Goatland for them.

In one of the hotels, every day at 4 PM a small group of tourists gather at the reception. In a couple of minutes they will be driven to the jetty, five minutes down the road, where their boat is waiting for the sunset dolphin tour, advertised as "dolphins guaranteed, soft drinks included". The boat takes off to the tip of the island. There, quickly and

out of sight of the passengers, the captain throws some bits of dead tuna in the water. Shortly thereafter, the dolphins turn up. One of the women screams, excitedly, "look, there they are, right in time, as if they knew we were coming!".

It is not only sunset dolphin tours and glass bottom boat trips the hotels have to offer. The information boards near the reception of the White Sands hotel,

near Umaq, shows that there is much more to do. Quads and camels can be hired, "exciting" dune bashing is possible too, as well as botanic tours with an expert guide, or night time sea turtle watching. On Thursday nights, there is a buffet dinner with traditional dancing.

No, Soqatra 2020 is no longer what it was. Until 2002, the island remained almost completely isolated. That year the airport was constructed and since then, tourism was introduced to the island. The first ten years it developed in a modest, eco-friendly, way. The beauty of the island was hardly touched by tourism. Although even then, one could feel the change in the air. Restaurants in the main town Hadibu started overcharging, and the shops had a surprising stock of cans of Frankfurter sausages (chicken,halal), miniature bottles of olive oil, peanut butter and other convenient food for the Western outdoor lover.

Since 2012, when Yemen slowly started to recover from its reputation of dangerous terrorist nest, developments

on Soqatra really took off. Hotels were built, the road around the island was finished and Soqatra became part of the programme of every tour operator, and not only of its tours to Yemen, but also of tours to Oman and even Dubai. The island is now a bustling, albeit still small scale, holiday island where new buildings still seem to rise every day.




Let's stop here. Because by the same token, Soqatra 2020 is still what it is today. A beautiful, undeveloped island, with kind but poor inhabitants who still need Unicef to build them schools and who still live from what the sea and the goats give them every day. And actually, would that not be better? For we do not want white spiffy hotels to ruin the coastline do we? We do not want Soqatra to become Hurgada, do we? We all want to feel that we were one of the first who discovered the island, don't we? Ok, there is peanut butter and Frankfurters in the shops, but we are still bravely sleeping in our tents among the goats.

Let's stop again. Because what if in

2020 for most of the islanders, life has improved substantially. One third of the working population is making a living out of tourism, whether directly by driving the glass bottom boats, or indirectly by printing the brochures of hotels, restaurants and tour operators. There is a working system of garbage collection, and solar panels are used to provide electricity to the hotels. True, the dolphins behave like pets nowadays and sea turtles have not been around for quite a while.

Inevitably, one day, Soqatra too, is going to face the dilemma of tourism. Say no to it and stay beautiful but poor, or say yes to it and become ugly and rich. That is, if the wrong people will be in charge. Who wakes up by the sound of the sea, walks bare feet over the green soft moss to take a bath in the sweet water brook and has breakfast of stale bread and peanut butter, can only hope for the right people. Let them be in charge, please, and give Soqatra a third option: say yes to it, become rich and stay beautiful.





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# Yemen's electricity problem in details

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

“The situation of electricity in Yemen is complicated and citizens are not aware of how the electricity reaches their house,” says Minister of Electricity and Energy- Awadh Al-Suqatari.

In a friendly meeting with many concerned journalists, considered a transparent move by a minister for the first time in the history of electricity, minister Al-Suqatari revealed the real situation of electricity in Yemen and the problems facing this vital sector in the country.

## The country depends on old power stations which are in a poor condition

Yemen depends on old power stations, established in the early 1990s, which today are in a poor state and are virtually without any upgrading ever since their establishment. The whole energy output the country depends on, is only 1150 megawatts. 650 megawatts are generated by the old power stations forming the National Electric Network (NEN) in 11 governorates, 300 megawatts are generated by individual power stations in isolated areas like Hadramout and Al-Mahra, and 200 megawatts are called bought from Agrreko Company, which started providing its services in the country in 2006, to boost NEN power in six governorates.

“No single electric station has been constructed since 1990s to cope-up with the increasing demand.”

## No law to organize work of electric sector

Since its establishment until the present, there is no law in place to organize the work of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and control the wide spread corruption in electric sector. “Absence of a law is one of the main issues hindering the work of the Ministry to reform the electric sector.”

Recently however, such a law has been issued. The law gives the ministry wider powers and clearly defines its responsibilities. Based on the new law, the private sector will join electricity sector in order to help the government to overcome the electricity shortage in the country.

Under the new law, three corporations will be created to organize the work in electric sector, namely: the generating corporation, the distributing corporation and the transferring corporation.

## Growing demand, little work

However, the efforts will contribute to only 3% out of the 9% growing demand for electricity. Last summer the shortage reached 300 megawatts, the greatest shortage experienced in the history of the country. The expected shortage for 2010 summer is between 550 to 600 megawatts. With the Mareb Power Sta-

tion working on gas or Mareb 1 buying 130 megawatt of power from the private sector and entering to provide the service, the shortage will be reduced to 184 megawatts. The output of Mareb 1 is 341 megawatts; 80 megawatt will be used to replace a part of the bought energy from Agrreko (200 megawatts).

The Private sector will carry out two projects in Aden and Hudeidah to help fill the gap of demand. Two stations will be constructed with an output of 60 megawatts each, in the two governorates.

Constructing electric stations is not an easy task. To construct a station working on gas, similar to Mareb 1, needs no less than 24 months in the best conditions (i.e. if there are no tribal and other social or geographical obstacles). An additional six month time period is again needed for trial operations and yet another to check the national network.

## Problems over Agrreko

Agreko Company entered to provide services in Yemen in May 2006 with small generators to light Hodaida city for the 15th Yemen Reunification anniversary celebrations held in Al-Hodaida, in an effort by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy to supply the city with enough light for the occasion since supplying enough light was a direct order from the country's leadership.

In the absence of a enough time for the ministry to study the project (of supplying the city with enough power), the ministry invited quick tenders for the purpose and Agrreko won the bid as it gave the suitable offer. The company bought generators from England and supplied the city with electricity for the purpose.

In response to increasing power shortage in major cities, the company expanded its services to include other five six cities, including Sana'a and Aden, supplying them with the power. It bought many additional generators, each with one or two megawatt outputs, which were linked to the National Electric Network.

With the expansion of services by Agrreko, the demand for diesel (fuel for these generators) increased and so did the debts of the ministry (the company sells the energy to the ministry for higher prices and the contract signed between the ministry and Agrreko says that the ministry has to pay a fine in case of delays in supplying diesel to Agrreko.)

The ministry and the General Electric Corporation found themselves unable to pay the claims of the company, which led to differences between the two and in some instances to Agrreko closing down its generators temporarily.

“We could not keep our commitments to Agrreko.” The ministry is now planning to dispense off a part of the services provided by Agrreko service, mostly 80 megawatts, once Mareb 1 enters to provide services.

## Challenges facing constructing and operating Mareb 1

Mareb Electric Station, which operates on gas, or Mareb 1, has being facing challenges since the onset of the project in 2005. The station has experienced many problems including technical problems and problems with tribes and land owners in the Mareb governorate.

The construction of the station had to be completed by the end of 2007 and the station ready to enter the service in early 2008. However, there was a delay by the Iranian Persian Company, which was constructing transferring stations needed for distributing the electricity coming from Mareb 1, unwillingly. The blockade imposed on Iran forced the company to import its equipments from Europe, though Iran able to provide the company with them.

While problems caused by tribes have been solved, the great technical problem faced by the operating the station still remains. The problem is that the gas supplied by Safer Company contains impurities and great quantities of diesel, a mistake on the parts of Safer Companies for Oil and Gas, which provides the station with gas as fuel and the German Siemens Company, which has constructed the station.

Differences erupted between the two companies over the problem. Siemens claims that the gas it received from Safer, as a fuel sample for the station, before construction, was different from the one which is given now and that the first was clean and the second is full of impurities and quantities of diesel.

But Safer says that the gas sample handed to Siemens before, was of the same type as the one which is going to be used as the fuel. The ministry interrogated Safer, went into clashes with it over the problem and in the end returned to Siemens asking for help.

Considering the high cost quoted by German Siemens Company to repair the mistake, a special committee has been set up to study the problem and provide solutions. The Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister and comprises of other concerned bodies as members.

The committee suggested three “sources” (solutions) to operate Mareb 1, the first source, tested during the past three months, has failed. Now the committee is using the second source. This “source” consists of extending a pipeline from the Yemeni Company for Liquefied and Natural Gas or Yemen LNG to Mareb 1.

Tests are going on for operating the station by the gas coming from Yemen LNG, which has got a certificate of approval saying that it is clean and dry and suitable to the station. This, 8-inch diameter pipeline from Yemen LNG was extended to the station as the second source of solving operation problem, following several unsuccessful attempts made by safer to clean the gas.

“Impurities in gas have not caused great effects on the equipments of the station because the problem has been discovered early and this is an advan-

tage of the trial operation.” The third “source” or solution is still not revealed, but is still ‘in hand’ if need arises.

Based on these solutions, the second trial operation of the station will start in January and with this the 341- megawatts station will enter the service in April.

## Corruption in electric sector

Corruption exists in every public intuition, and the Ministry of Electricity is no exception. Besides administrative corruption, corruption in electric sector goes deeper and has entered in tenders, in collecting the cost of electricity and other things.

“Specialized bodies, like the Central Organization for Control and Audit and The Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption, have to do their duties in dealing with corruption related to tenders.” Another form of corruption, is that sheikhs and other influential people evade from paying the price of electricity and some employees are colluding with them.

The ministry and the General Electric Corporation have started interrogating corrupt managers in an attempt to reduce corruption.

## Promising vision

The ministry has plans to utilize renewable energy. Given that Yemen is rich in natural forms of energy such as wind, sun, heat or steam and nuclear energy, the future will witness carrying out a number of projects using these resources.

Nearly 1000 solar panels, which produce electricity from the sun, will be distributed to rural areas characterized by remote and scattered houses on hilltops.

The Government, World Bank and Islamic Bank for Development will finance this project, which will cost USD 9 million. This kind of energy is costly but it is also safe.

Producing energy from winds is the cheapest and the most relevant. The ministry has prepared a study on constructing a power station working on wind energy with output of 60 megawatts in Bab al-Mandab and Mocha area. This project will be funded by Donors, World Bank and Islamic Bank for Development.

Furthermore, there are plans to construct another station working on wind. This project will be carried out by the private sector and will be announced once the ministry reaches an agreement with the investors.

Steam energy is also being studied; there is coordination with concerned parities to dig a well in Jabal Allessi in Dhamar to measure the available quantity of the steam and identify ways to harness this source of energy.

## Shortsighted vision

Though the government approved 15 years strategy for electricity predicts that the real demand for electricity by 2025 will be only 5,000 megawatt, this is an unrealistic figure. If the de-

mand for electricity is estimated at 1600 megawatts in 2009 and demand increases by 9-10 megawatts annually, it shows that the strategy is shortsighted.

“This power will not be enough to cover the consumption; the country has to work hard during the forthcoming years to solve this problem.”

## Future projects

The government announcement to support electricity with YR 113 billion from its budget, reflects political will to improve this vital sector which affects the daily life of the people.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has many projects planned to start this year. It plans to use all the funds collected from the government and the donor community to establish new projects in field of electricity to fill the gap in the demand. The projects of constructing two power stations operating on gas in Mareb - Mareb 2 and Mareb 3 that will generate 900 megawatts are also scheduled for this year.

The ministry also has a plan to set up stations operating on mazot because mazot is cheaper than diesel. The real price of the one liter of diesel is YR 100-200 but it is subsidized by the government both for electricity and other private projects.

Besides these public projects, tenders have been approved for private energy projects to supply the national network with 450 megawatts energy and lessen the energy shortage. These projects will start next year.

Rural areas will witness more electric projects as well.

## Role of the private sector

One of the merits of the new law for the ministry is that it includes the private sector to help the government to overcome the power problem. No country can do without the private sector to overcome the electricity problems, as electricity is a basic need.

The law visualizes the private sector to play a role either as investors or in managing electrical projects. “Including private sector in electricity is a positive move to help the ministry overcome challenges it faces.”

Even rich countries, like Saudi Arabia need the help of private sector. The kingdom recently announced a strategic power project with output of 3000 megawatts to be carried out by the private sector.

Besides electric projects which will be carried out by the government, the Ministry of Electricity has a plan with the private sector according to which the private sector will construct power stations and the ministry will buy the electricity from it to sell to the citizens.

The agreement is that the private sector will provide the country with 200 megawatts as an interim solution, and in the future, this sector will raise the level of energy it sells to the ministry to 400 megawatts.

The energy provided by the private

sector is called bought energy. This kind of energy is considered an interim solution to bridge the wide gap of power shortage. Tenders have been recently opened for this and the Egyptian Al-Ahram Company won the bid to supply 50 megawatts of energy for Al-Hodaida, Al-Saqr company won a bid to supply Aden with 20 megawatts of energy, in addition to another company which will supply Hadramout with 40 megawatts.

## Updating electric service

In its efforts to improve this vital sector and to do away with faults and power stealing, the ministry has installed 130 prepaid meters in the past and this service will be improved in the future. But this system is still not used extensively in many countries, indicating that it is not appropriate to apply this system to the 1.5 million consumers.

The ministry is carrying out a study on ways to reduce electricity losses. It has a plan to reduce electric losses from 26 to 20 percent before 2013.

In rural areas, which face problems of power cut because of the differences over the payment of electricity, a new system will be applied. The ministry is planning to install central meters to overcome this issue and will use the private sector to organize the projects in rural areas.

## Social beliefs: part of electricity problems

People in Yemen, especially in tribal areas, use electricity illegally. While some do not pay the price of electricity, others get access to it randomly from the nearby towers.

These problems are a result of ignorance of citizens and the connivance of some employees in the ministry or in the electricity department. “Citizens believe that they have the right to get electricity free of charge.”

Random access to electricity causes many dangers and affects the national economy. Fire incidents, damaging home and loss of electricity are few of the problems resulting from illegal access to electricity.

## Important Statistics

- USD 1.1 billion, the government support to electricity sector in 2008.
- YR 90 billions, expected revenues of electricity for 2009.
- YR 67 billion, electricity revenues for 2008.
- YR 22 billions, due debts for General Electric Corporation.
- USD 80 millions, annual revenues of the bought energy.
- USD 25 million, debt of GEC to Agrreko.
- USD 18 million, costs of technical faults of Mareb 1
- More than USD 3 million as daily cost of diesel.
- YR 700 million, cost to improve electricity in Aden, Abyan and Lahj for hosting Gulf 20 championship.

## Grassroots management of Muslims' extremism and terrorism on a space TV. Program..... soon

All national and international NGOs are called and welcome to be partners in supporting and funding an upcoming youth space TV. program of three parts about analysis and management of present Muslim extremism and terrorism.

The program aims at eradicating the ideologies that are nourishing Muslims' extremists and terrorists as well as presenting an effective strong strategy for preventing spread of such ideologies to more new young people. The work is led by Dr. Sami Almoayad, a medical doctor and an influential youth trainer on attitude and behavior change. The director of the program is Om -Ammar Alkohali, a well known Yemeni tv. program director.

The first part is a ten-episode show, 45 minutes each. The program achieves its goals through deep systematic discussions and thoughtful dialogues by five young very carefully selected and trained Yemeni persons. It will be performed in a very extraordinary creative way to attract a huge number of young audiences in the Arab countries as well as non Arab after translating the program.

The program is the first of its kind worldwide in terms of its subject and goal of grassroots specialized management of Muslims' extremism and terrorism as well as its expected great impact on Muslims' extremists. If the team gets enough support and fund, it will disseminate messages of the program to non-Arab Muslims through translating the program to different languages as well as transforming messages of the program to written forms such as booklets. The program with its three parts would be a unique great reference and strong base in war of ideas against Muslim extremists and terrorists. It would defeat Muslim extremists and terrorists ideologically.

A Yemeni local TV. program production company estimated cost of the first part at sixty thousands USD if produced in Yemen and much more if produced outside Yemen.

If you like to be a partner in this project or to support the program in any way please email Dr. Sami Almoayad at: [samialmoayad@yahoo.com](mailto:samialmoayad@yahoo.com) the sooner the better.



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The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), based in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, has an international mandate to protect refugees and to seek durable solutions to their problems. UNHCR plays a major role in coordinating aid to refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern.

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**Basic Education Development Project**  
Credit No. 3988-YEM and Grant No. TF-053721 & KFW 2004 66 268)

These requests for expression of interest follow the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in UND Business and DG Market dated Feb. 2, 2005.

The Ministry of Education (MOE), Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and Multi-Donors Trust Fund and Kfw Grant, toward the cost of Basic Education Development Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit & grants to payments under the contracts for the below-listed consulting services.

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**Basic Education Development Project**  
60 m Southern Rd. -Bait Meyad  
Tel:+967-1-619163, Fax: +967-1-619219  
Email: The project Director: [a.al-arashi@y.net.ye](mailto:a.al-arashi@y.net.ye)  
Email: The procurement Officer: [sqawasemi@yahoo.com](mailto:sqawasemi@yahoo.com)

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## Words of Wisdom



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

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

## Amateur hour for US media on terrorism

By: Rami G. Khouri  
Daily Star staff

It has been depressing this week to watch mainstream American television networks cover Yemen and wider issues related to tensions and terrorism in our region. It is depressing because, with very few exceptions, the media that provide a majority of Americans with their news and views of world events is covering the Yemen story with a shocking combination of amateurism, ideological distortion, and selectivity.

If media are a mirror of the political system in the United States – and I believe they are – then it is no wonder that the past two decades have seen a steady expansion of two related and symbiotic problems: the spread of terrorism in and from the Arab-Asian region; and the spread of the American armed forces and covert operations in the same region.

Yemen media coverage captures this very neatly. The mainstream American media, especially network and cable television, mainly report that the problems that spur terrorism from Yemen are poverty, religious extremism, and ineffective government. Charismatic Muslim preachers, often using the internet, are also widely mentioned these days as a real problem that exacerbates the terror threat. In every report I have seen, without fail, the thrust of the report is that terrorism is a consequence of Muslim religious extremism that is somehow connected with a visceral hatred of the United States or Western ways in general.

The flaw in this approach – and it was evident in President Barack Obama's remarks Thursday on how the US would improve its intelligence defenses against terrorism – is that it refuses to acknowledge that terrorism in our age is largely a reaction-

ary movement that responds to perceived threats against those societies from where terrorists emerge. It is striking that in most cases of successful or failed terror attacks, the perpetrators or the organizations that send them to kill explain that they carry out their deed in response to the deeds of others – such as Israel's assault on Palestinians, US and British armies in Iraq or Afghanistan, American drone attacks against Yemeni militants, or some other such issue.

This fact has been well documented by the pioneering work of Robert Pape at the University of Chicago. His analysis of over 500 "suicide" or "martyrdom" attacks around the world since 1980 allowed him to observe that "what over 95 percent of all suicide terrorist attacks, around the world since 1980, have in common – from Lebanon, to Chechnya, to Sri Lanka, to Kashmir, to the West Bank – is not religion, but a specific strategic goal: to compel a modern democracy to withdraw combat forces from territory the terrorists view is their homeland, or prize greatly."

The unacceptable criminal nature of terror attacks against civilians in Arab, Western or South Asian cities are beyond question; they are totally intolerable and must be fought with all legitimate political, military and legal means. Yet if the starting point for fighting terror is only the terror attacks themselves and the societies from which they emanate, without a fuller acknowledgment of the wider cycle of political violence that also includes sustained aggressive policies by the US, the United Kingdom, Israel, Arab governments and others in the region, we will only perpetuate the current insanity mentioned earlier: the simultaneous proliferation of terrorism, American armed forces, Israeli assassinations, and other elements of

the full cycle of political violence in the Arab-Asian region.

Tightening and sharpening the work of intelligence networks, as Obama promised, will prevent some attacks, for sure, and should be done to protect innocent lives. But the likelihood of this removing the terror problem is nearly zero, for the terrorists will only shift their targets and the means to implement their criminal deeds from more secure airplanes and airports to other more vulnerable and exposed targets, such as trains, boats and municipal water, power and transport systems.

Mainstream American media coverage of terrorism, Yemen and related issues is, with very few exceptions in terms of quality analysis and reporting, a horror show of superficiality, selectivity and racist sensationalism. The latest culprits for the US media are "Muslim televangelists," as they are called. A few years ago, the culprits were the madrasas, or Muslim religious schools. Before that the culprits were the folks at Al-Jazeera television. Before that they were Saudi-financed Salafists. Before that the problem was poverty and hopelessness. Before that it was that Muslims had trouble with "modernity." Next month, the culprits will be someone else. When will this evasive nonsense ever stop, and when will mainstream American journalism executives grow up and act like adults, rather than adolescents, on this score?

The terror problem will persist among the strange and dangerous ways of radical Muslims in exotic mountainous lands, as long as American, Israeli and Arab state policies degrade and dehumanize normal people to the point where a few of them become abnormal criminals and terrorists.

Rami G. Khouri is published twice-weekly by THE DAILY STAR.

## COMMON SENSE

### For Those Who May Not Know Al-Houthis and Al-Qaida in Yemen: What, When and Why

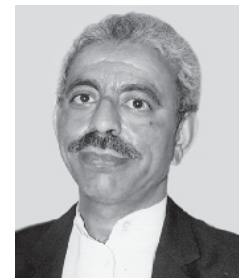
The first five rounds of the Sa'ada conflict were fought mainly between the Yemeni Government forces and the Believing Youth Movement founded by the late Hussein Badr Eddine Al-Houthi (killed in the First Round in September 2004). That was the only successful round for the Yemeni Government. Hussein Al-Houthi was the son of a very prominent Zeidi scholar (now in his nineties) and a scholar in his own right. The Yemeni Government, under prodding from Salafi and Wahhabi followers projected Hussein Al-Houthi as Shiites of the 12th Imam or Ja'afari persuasion, i.e., followers of Iran. There is quite a difference between the Zeidi sect and these other 2 Shia sects. The Zeidis may be viewed as predominantly Sunni in doctrine, except for the political view that the caliphate was to remain within the descendants of the House of Ali and the Prophet's daughter Fatima. The Government of Yemen accuses the Houthis; alias Believing Youth (No relations to the Somali group at all) of wanting to reinstate the Imamate. In an Abu Dhabi Satellite Channel interview Hussein Al-Houthi tried to show otherwise: "If I wanted a leadership position, I would seek the Presidency. The only requirement is the ability to read and write. There are 14 tough conditions in order to be an Imam, which most likely I could never fulfill". The Houthis insist that they are only preventing the systematic marginalization and elimination of the Zeidi sect, which many government officials of Salafi persuasion or Saudi linkage have vied to achieve. The former Governor of Sa'ada Yahya Al-Amry (now ironically the Governor of Dhamar, which is another former Zeidi stronghold) was doing all in his power to facilitate the political and spiritual empowerment of the Salafi/Wahhabi organizations. He also tightened restrictions on any cultural, educational and religious activities by Zeidi followers. The Governor tried to arrest Hussein Al-Houthi (an MP) on the premise that the latter was organizing marches in support of the Palestinians, who were then undergoing the worst treatment that Israeli right wing Prime Minister Ariel Sharon could inflict on the Palestinians in the "Second Intifada". Al-Houthi and some of his followers were stopped at a security checkpoint. Al-Houthi sensed that Al-Amry was trying to find any excuse to have him killed. Failing to negotiate his way out of the ambush, he shot his way to escape and Round One began (18 June 2004 - 15 September 2004).

Many observers warned then not to engage in any conflict with the proud and resilient people of Sa'ada. Historically, Sa'ada Governorate has never been forcefully subdued. In the Civil War of 1962 - 1970, Sa'ada and the nearby governorates withheld a modern Egyptian Army that reached 70,000 strong. Ironically at that time, Saudi Arabia was supporting the Zeidi backers of the Imam then, out of fear of the spread of Nasserite Nationalism. President Nasser of Egypt was calling for the overthrow of most traditional monarchies in the Arab World.

The Houthis managed to rebound after every round. The Government was compelled to make temporary truces with the Houthis after each Round. The Fourth Round peace agreement mediated by Qatar actually even called for the exile of all the Houthi family members and leaders. However, the Yemeni Government renege on some of its obligations (releasing Houthi or suspected Houthi detainees), while continuing the tough campaign against the Zeidis in general.

The Sa'ada War became a profitable enterprise for many players in Yemen, who managed to commit both the Yemeni Government and the Saudi Government (the latter footing the bill for the most part, and probably not too pleased at the growing influential role of Qatar) to insist on the complete defeat of the Houthis. The Houthis grew stronger and more experienced. By the time the Sixth Round flared up last Ramadan or September 2009, the Houthis had become (at least in their own turf in Sa'ada and Amran Governorates) well in command of the situation. Out of frustration at the Government forces not being able to make headway with the Houthis, the Saudis first provided logistical support to the Government forces: use of Saudi territory for movement or tactical maneuvering and use of facilities. The Houthis found this irritating and finally were forced into a showdown with the Saudis over borderline Mount Dukhan, which was mostly in Saudi territory. Probably the Saudis wish now that they stayed out of the fighting. Observers suggest that Saudi continuing involvement would present insurmountable security risks for the Saudi regime. Long engagements by the Saudis threaten the domestic security situation in the Kingdom, as well as bring embarrassment for the Saudis regionally and internationally. But the Saudis are now stuck with having achieved very little to bolster the Yemeni Government efforts or to regain their lost territory. With the Houthis projecting a David versus Goliath scenario, and the credibility of the Saudis and the Yemeni Government declining, the Al-Qaida factor now comes to the rescue to bring in a third player, Uncle Sam.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years. He may be blogged at:



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## OUR OPINION

### Give actual numbers for public spending not budgets

Yemen's National Budget for 2010 has been declared and approved by the Parliament at an amount of U.S. \$10 billion. In reality, only around twenty percent of this budget actually goes into the country's development, as most of it is spent on either salaries or security.

The Yemeni government has made its budget quite accessible to anyone who would want to take a look. It is available on the website of the Ministry of Finance, and a copy can be made available through the National Information Center to those who ask for it.

Yet, what is not available is how much was really spent in the last several years. For obvious reasons, it does not matter how much you plan to spend if you actually spend is an entirely different amount.

And this is the story of Yemen.

Figures from existing projects show that only 35 percent of government allocations towards development projects actually get spent on these projects. The remainder of the money vanishes through the hierarchical bureaucratic ladder, from the top most official, down to the janitor who passes the paperwork between departments.

This is why, for example, projects carried out by the Social Fund for Development are much more effective because the fund develops the projects directly along with implementing agencies rather than going through the official bureaucratic channels.

This is also why many donors have reverted to working directly with civil society rather than through the government, although they continue to need to learn more about cost efficiency.

Yet, even when talking about allocations on paper, what is really dedicated to development, or what is known as capital expenditure, does not exceed twenty percent. Twenty percent of the ten billion is two billion dollars. This is how much our wise government intends to spend on education, healthcare, social security, water and sanitation, employment, infrastructure, youth and sports, environment, investment, agriculture, fishery, etc.

The poverty rate in this country exceeds 40 percent on average. Unemployment is at least 35 percent. Only one third of the population has access to adequate sanitation and even in the capital city the electricity is sporadic.

Not only do we have a problem with good financial planning, we have a problem with political favoritism, and this is what has turned Yemen into a graveyard of projects.

When a high level official visits a village or a town, the locals demand the establishment of some projects, to which he, as an astute and charming politician, agrees to. And then overnight a construction site is created after which appears the skeleton of a school, healthcare clinic or whatever project has been promised. However, give it a few weeks and inevitably this project will be abandoned as they almost always seem to be here, and this is the reality of government spending in Yemen.

Worse than this is the fact that our many of our public projects are being financed by the private sector. The state contracts a company to carry out a project; the company starts working; however, when fee collection time comes, the state's contract is rendered worthless by the careless and corrupt officials who are not interested in following through with their commitments.

Yemen is definitely a country run by erratic leaders who only consider their own interests before those of the people. How else can we explain such an outrageous budget discrepancy and even more ridiculous expenditure? Financial planning is supposed to give Yemenis a better year ahead than the previous one, but we are even more uncertain about where people's money has gone and how the new money is going to be spent.

As representatives of the media and civil society, we demand that all state expenditures become public records. Only then will we be able to hold the state accountable for its responsibilities.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## Reading on president Saleh's Article White page for a new year

By: Sameer Al-Yosofi

"Let it be a blessed year". This is the title of the article by President Saleh published in the AlThowra, on the occasion of the new year.

Let it be a blessed year to all Yemenis, Arabs and the whole world. A blessed world will be only when leaders move forward from only sending best wishes to each other and start implementing plans, embrace objectiveness and intellect, reject violence and discrimination and uphold forgiveness for guilty granting them the chance to return to the path of righteousness.

This is the main message of the article in which the President, giving the rebels in Sa'ada or 'those who have been led by the devil', one more chance to live peacefully before they kill themselves and others. He called them to commit themselves to the six conditions such as ceasing fire, stop ping blood shed, releasing the detainees and stopping penetrating into the Saudi Arabia land.

These conditions cannot be said to be abusive or unlawful because they are based on the international human rights conventions which forbid attacking unarmed civilians.

Yemen is an Islamic country even if there is a Jewish minority in the country killed and mutilated by Houthis. Unfortunately, Houthis want to re-establish the rule of a specific sect of people in Sa'ada where once the Zaidis and Shafe'ies (Islamic sects) lived together. This ambition of sectarianism origin stems from disturbed people who contempt and despise others.

President Saleh genuinely calling-for-peace initiatives, urged Yemen to build a bridge of peace between the country and the rebels, saying that "Yemen has never been a county of violence. Yemen will forgive who ever rebels against it because it knows that these people are misguided. It is the duty of the state to guide its people onto the right path, in which upholding the common interests is the main goal of the state and the Law and Constitution are the tools this state will use in case the rebels refuse to surrender."

Congratulating the people for the new year, the President urged those denying the 'blessing of unity' to stop violence, recklessness and promoting culture of hatred, which will only lead to destruction. Saying that the unity of Yemen is indestructible and bigger than tiny rebels, he said "the Unity of Yemen is the dignity of all Yemenis and thus real Yemenis will defend it with all their might."

Addressing the youth influenced by the philosophy of the extremists from Al-Qaeda, he advised the youth to take this year as an opportunity to contemplate upon what they have been doing and called on them to fear the Almighty and do no harm themselves, their families, and the nation. He advised them not to indulge in blood shed, reminding them about the verses from the Holy Quran that condemn killing people. Saleh also reminded them about a saying by the prophet Mohammad (PBUH) "Yemenis have the most lenient hearts of all people ever".

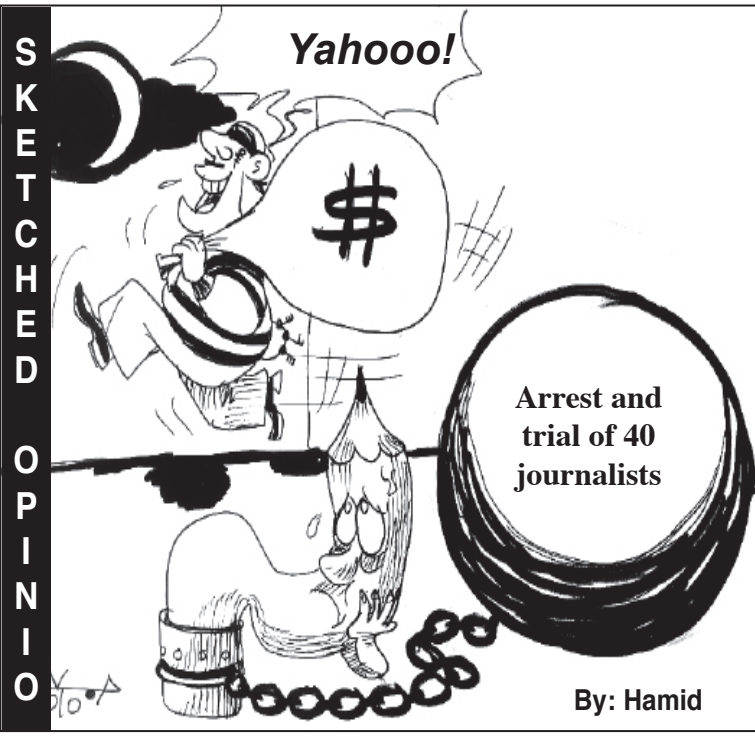
The President called all politi-

cal parties to join in the dialogue, which is to take place on January 9th. He said instead of sticking taking attitudes which cripples communication between parties, they should come up with new ideas full of suggestions for the benefit of the country. Saleh called on all scholars, politicians, dignitaries and civil society organizations and leaders of armed forces to gather around the dialogue table and put the interests of the country above all others and uphold the unity of Yemen. The invitation lays a great deal of importance on opinions and suggestions of all leaders to protect the republican system and unity of Yemen.

Through this overwhelming article, President Saleh, presented suggestions and solutions. He said that everybody know that they should stand by the state and help it to get rid of terrorism, make rebels follow the laws, reject fanaticism and respect the republican system. If this does not happen, then the country will be regrettably, open for war and plundering.

Having treated four essential issues (Houthis, separation initiatives, youth trapped by Al-Qaeda and the current political crises), the Presidents' article has not only diagnosed the disease but also presented a vision of the anticipated comprehensive solution which envisages all parties, organizations leaders and everybody to help the country.

In short, this is another new chance presented by Saleh to "crisis-makers", if taken, 2010 will be a peaceful and blessing year.



By: Hamid

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# Obama's Guantánamo policy: A maze of contradictions

The US administration will miss its self-imposed deadline of January 22, 2010, to close the Guantánamo Bay prison, as President Barack Obama himself has admitted. It looks like the US is sliding back to its bad old habit of lawlessness. A commentary by Balakrishnan Rajagopal

Concerning Guantánamo, the Obama administration is caught in a maze of contradictions. Four aspects are noteworthy in particular.

First, in spite of its promise to close the camp, the administration continues to assert its right to hold some detainees indefinitely without trial or charge, arguing that it considers these people dangerous. This ambiguity is harmful. From a human rights perspective, the root problem with Guantánamo is that people are deprived of their liberty indefinitely without legal review. As long as the administration holds on to this policy, it will obviously need some kind of detention facility, whether in Guantánamo or elsewhere.

The issue then is not Guantánamo, but the unlawful detention policy.

Second, Obama did not change his predecessor's policy of arrogating to the US some kind of "global right to ar-

rest". The administration feels justified to capture any person in any country, provided it suspects him or her of engaging in – or supporting – terrorism.

### Unlawful global practice

In international law, there is no basis for such sweeping extra-territorial authority. At very least, the areas where a foreign government might be entitled to such action would have to be defined according to the Geneva laws of war. If Obama really wanted the "new beginning" he promised in Cairo in June, he should have outlawed this unlawful global practice of arresting people, which, in itself, implies a need for Guantánamo.

Third, the Obama administration has retained the policy of rendition, including by the CIA. Rendition means that individuals are handed over to other countries, which then torture and commit other abuses. Rendition leads to torture, which is absolutely prohibited under international law. Obama's fine



At the beginning of his administration, Barack Obama issued a directive to shut down Guantánamo in January 2010. He later conceded that his deadline will not be met.

rhetoric on prohibiting this kind of crime rings hollow in view of rendition not being discontinued.

This policy has not been the topic of serious public debate in the USA, even

though an Italian court dealt it a hard blow in November, when it convicted 23 agents of the CIA for kidnapping a Muslim cleric in Milan in 2003 and transferring the man to Egypt.

Finally, Obama's Guantánamo policy is tied up with its policy towards the use of military commissions. The Bush administration had drafted the Military Commissions Act to bypass the regular judiciary. In 2008, the US Supreme Court ruled that all detainees in Guantánamo have the right to appeal to the US judiciary to check whether they are rightfully being held captive.

### Legally schizophrenic

The same judgment, however, did not outlaw military commissions as an alternative to formal US courts. So the Obama administration has revised the Military Commissions Act, seeking to make it better. This policy is legally schizophrenic, however, because it is based on a two-track justice process.

While some suspects will be prosecuted before federal courts, others will be tried before military tribunals. It really does not make any difference that these people are no longer called "unlawful enemy combatants" but have become "unprivileged enemy belligerents" in administration parlance.

The fact that only non-US citizens will be brought to trial before military commissions will offend public opinion

worldwide and lead to charges of unfairness and double standards.

Instead, the administration could have simply decided to bring all civilians before federal courts, if it had evidence against them, while prosecuting armed combatants under the regular system of military justice.

President Obama inspired hope, not only among many human rights campaigners, because he pledged to correct the mistakes of his predecessor. Now worries are growing that he may not be a transformational president in human rights terms after all, despite his best intentions. That he defended a right to wage "just wars" in his Nobel acceptance speech last month was certainly not an encouraging sign.

© Development and Cooperation 2009. "Unlawful detention policy": human rights organisations repeatedly requested the closing-down of the Guantánamo Prison, among them Amnesty International. Balakrishnan Rajagopal is professor of law and development, director of the Programme on Human Rights and Justice as well as interim head of the International Development Group at MIT.

# Women's Rights in India: The constitution can wait

India does not have a uniform civil code regulating family relationships. The religion of the parties determines which law governs the rights and obligations of a family's members, a situation that, according to Ved Kumari, professor of Law at the University of Delhi, upholds the inequality of the sexes



Increasing economic pressure is forcing a growing number of Indian women to seek work; nevertheless, in many respects they do not enjoy the same legal rights as men.

The various personal laws that apply in India have their origins in religious text books, customs and traditions. While customary Hindu law has been codified and modified in various respects to incorporate the liberal principle of equality, the state has been slow in actively regulating the personal laws of minorities. The official line is that the government is waiting for the demand for change to emanate from the minorities themselves.

India is a secular republic, so citizens enjoy the freedom of religion. However, the constitution also guarantees equality before the law and equal protection to all citizens. The pluralistic way in which family law is practised, however, does not fit in well with the constitutional principles of equality.

Religious rules generally privilege men, whereas the state is directed to ensure gender equality. Traditional norms, moreover, do not apply in a meaningful way to a fast changing society. The concept of family is changing too. In urban areas, joint families are being replaced by nuclear families.

The single or two-child norm is leading to an absence of extended families and the support structure it provided to old and young alike. In addition, technology is presenting newer challenges in defining the legal rights of the biological and genetic mothers.

### Scholars' choice

Those who teach family law face an alternative. They can either teach the law as it is or focus on its unequal nature, which results in discrimination not only within families but also in the public sphere. The University of Delhi revised its legal courses a few years ago, opting for the critical approach. Accordingly, the

focus of family-law courses has shifted away from consideration of the historical origins of various personal laws and the positivist acceptance of such provisions. In Delhi, the emphasis is now on assessing the various laws' impact on society. This shift made evident at least three levels of discrimination between men and women:

- There are distinct or discriminatory provisions for men and women.
- Even where a law's words apply equally to men and women, its application in practice will tend to either serve men or be violated by them.
- The impact of taking recourse to the law often affects women more adversely than it does men.

### Stereotypical role patterns

The differential age of eighteen years for girls and twenty-one years for boys for a valid marriage among two Hindus prescribed by the Hindu Marriage Act 1956 falls into the first category. Most students, when discussing the rationale of this differential age-limit, initially say that this regulation reflects the actual practice of girls marrying older boys, or that there are differences between physical and mental maturity of girls and boys.

However, with some more prodding, they will identify stereotypical role patterns. Indeed, the rule reinforces the notion of the patriarchal family, in which men are considered to be the bread earners and women the bearers and carers of children.

At the same time, codified law for Hindus recognises fathers as the natural guardians of children. This view is also evident in the husband's right to adopt a child without the consent of his wife. Married women enjoy no such right.

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### Disadvantaged in terms of inheritance

Until quite recently, women did not have equal right to family property either. The "coparcenary" or "joint heirship" consisted of only males. Basically, the rule means that land is shared among the coparceners, who used to be only male relatives of various degrees and several generations.

Before the recent reforms, daughters had an equal share with sons in the father's share in the ancestral property. Today, daughters, granddaughters and wives are members of coparcenary. One result is confusion, because women can now be members of more than one coparcenary. As long as only males were coparceners, that did not happen.

### Inequality clouded by gender-neutral language

Bigamy presents an example of discrimination in spite of gender-neutral language. Both the Indian Penal Code and the Hindu Marriage Act penalise any one who marries again in spite of already having a spouse who is alive.

According to an important court ruling, however, a man is not guilty of bigamy if he marries a second wife without solemnising certain ceremonies which, according to tradition, validate a Hindu wedding. For all practical purposes, judges have thus declared bigamy legal under certain circumstances.

The legal provisions about bigamy are spelled out in gender-neutral terms, and so is this particular interpretation. Nonetheless, it is biased in favour of men. Before the state defined monogamy as the norm for Hindus, polygynous families were quite common in most of India, but polyandry was not.

Accordingly, it is more often men, rather than women, who still have more than one spouse, and these bigamous husbands are absolved of criminal charges by this supposedly gender-neutral interpretation of the law.

Another important issue in Hindu law has been the location of the matrimonial home. According to traditional Hindu customs, the husband decides where that home is and his wife is obliged to reside there. This practice has lately been contested.

The reason is that women are increasingly going to work, as economic necessities demand. Unless women earn more money than their husbands and there is economic necessity, the courts still hold the view that the men have the right to define the matrimonial home, thus reinforcing and encouraging women's subordination.

In matters such as judicial separation and divorce, gender-neutral language again disguises gender-biased practices.

### Social and economic constraints

In theory, any aggrieved spouse – whether husband or wife – may resort to these remedies should the other spouse be abusive or neglect duties. Given the prevailing attitudes and role models in In-

dian society, however, these options are hardly viable for most women.

Women's upbringing (psychologically, socially and educationally) is about seeing marriage as their goal in life, and their inferior economic and educational status normally makes it difficult for them to live without the support of a man.

Single women, moreover, face social ostracism and insecurity. Indeed, most women who leave abusive husbands do not seek a divorce or a judicial separation, even though that would entitle them to maintenance.

The reason is the sense of social respectability that goes along with being married. Moreover, a petition for maintenance or judicial separation by a wife is usually met with an alternate petition by the husband for restitution of conjugal rights. Indian courts, so far, have no concept of rape in a marriage. Restitution of conjugal rights, therefore, thus is likely to expose the wife to sexualised violence.

### Judicial conservatism

In Muslim family law, gender disparities are even more obvious. Polygamous marriage by men is accepted, and so is talaq-divorce, which allows men to dissolve a marriage, whereas women have no such right. Grossly discriminatory inheritance rules continue to be valid despite the constitutional guarantee of equality.

In the recent past, judges have seemed to recognise that the various personal laws are in conflict with the constitution's guarantee of equality. Nonetheless, their rulings are quite conservative. To declare Muslim traditions unconstitutional would have dangerous political implications, and to date the courts have shied away from doing so.

However, the judiciary is quite conservative with regard to Hindu law too. In a recent case, the Supreme Court recognised the right of mothers to be the natural guardian of their children by interpreting the phrase "after the father" to mean "when the father is absent" instead of the earlier meaning of "after the death of father".

The Court could have done more by striking down the discriminatory provision altogether. Instead, it chose an interpretation of the law's language that only somewhat modifies its outdated meaning.

Analysing and studying family laws from the constitutional perspective provides scholars with an opportunity to discuss the patriarchal nature of family and how laws reinforce and incorporate the existing gendered notions.

This approach also provides space to examine the private-public dichotomy that is used to keep the public value of equality from the private sphere of family which still subjects women to continued discrimination.

The paradigm shift undertaken at the University of Delhi also brought to the fore the fact that the legal concept of family is limited to relationships by marriage, blood and adoption and thus has very little in common with the social conceptions of family as being a place

for love, affection and bonding.

It also exploded the myth of the family being a place of safety and peace by bringing out the issues of domestic violence and the powerlessness of the women to deal with it in the absence of appropriate laws.

It is my firm belief that teaching family law from the constitutional perspective is essential. This approach exposes the patriarchal nature of family and it generates critical thinking about the nature of law.

It also unravels the myths of universality and equal applicability of law to all without discrimination.

Law is an instrument of empowerment or disempowerment depending on the status, sex, abilities of the persons to whom it applies. In the long run, this is the road to finally fulfilling the Constitutional principle of equality of all citizens.

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**DEBT LIQUIDATIONS**  
**FOR DEBTORS CLAIMS**

Final steps have been taken in the liquidations of the BCCI/BCCIC/BCCF companies referred to above (the "BCCI Liquidations") in the Cayman Islands, Luxembourg, England, and the United Arab Emirates, all of which are parties to the 19 November 1994 Pooling Agreement governing the co-ordinated worldwide winding-up of the BCCI group) to fix a last date for claims.

**LAST DATE FOR CLAIMS – 31 MARCH 2009**

The last date by which creditors must file their claims in order to receive dividends from any of the BCCI Liquidations has been finally set at 31 MARCH 2009. Creditors who do not file their claims by this date will be excluded from the right to receive all dividends already declared as well as from all future dividends. If you do wish to file a claim, you should contact the Liquidators AS SOON AS POSSIBLE using the relevant details set out at the end of this Notice. You will then receive a Proof of Debt form which should be returned with all evidence to support the claim, so that it is RECEIVED by the Liquidators by 31 MARCH 2009.

Claims being filed directly in the BCCI Liquidations in Luxembourg or the United Arab Emirates MUST be sent by registered post. It is recommended that claims being filed directly in the BCCI Liquidations in the Cayman Islands and England also be filed by registered post if possible so that their receipt by the Liquidators can be verified.

**FILED CLAIMS**

If you have filed a claim and it has not yet been either admitted (in whole or in part) or finally rejected (in whole or in part) by the Liquidators then you should contact the Liquidators AS SOON AS POSSIBLE using the relevant details set out at the end of this Notice. If you are such a creditor in the Luxembourg Liquidations, you must file a new claim by registered post in that respect with the Luxembourg Liquidators before 31 March 2009 otherwise you will be excluded from the right to receive any such claim.

If you have filed a claim and you consider you have not received the entire benefit of the 7 dividends to which you are entitled (currently totalling 95.7% for ordinary claims), then you should contact the Liquidators AS SOON AS POSSIBLE using the relevant details set out at the end of this Notice.

All creditors are reminded that they are required to file separate Proof of Debt forms for each individual account held as well as separate forms for every other separate claim. Failure to do so will mean that a particular claim has not been filed and may not qualify for dividends.

Debtors who received payments from deposit compensation schemes, may now be entitled to a distribution from one of the BCCI Liquidations. You should contact the relevant Liquidators.

**LIQUIDATORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BCCI LIQUIDATIONS**

Any party who has supplied services to the BCCI Liquidations or who otherwise has a claim for payment in an expense of any of these Liquidations, and who has not yet been paid, should contact the relevant Liquidators immediately using the details set out at the end of this Notice.

**FUTURE CREDITORS OF THE LIQUIDATIONS**

The Liquidators are continuing to pursue various recoveries and will not proceed to final claims until their recovery actions have been concluded.

**Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Luxembourg) SA**  
 Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA – Luxembourg  
 BCCI SA (in Liquidation)  
 1a, Kirchbiergasse, L-1052 Luxembourg  
 Tel: +352 49 04 04 1, Fax: +352 42 05 01

**Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA – English/Sole of Management**  
 BCCI SA (in Liquidation)  
 Address: Floor 5th, House 60, Rue de la Loi, London, EC4A 3DF, United Kingdom  
 Tel: +44 (0) 20 7907 0000, Fax: +44 (0) 20 7907 0200, Email: admin@bcci.co.uk

**Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA – United Arab Emirates**  
 Liquidations Administration of UAE Branches of BCCI (SA) Luxembourg  
 P.O. Box 2255, Al Wasl, Dubai, UAE  
 Tel: +971 2 4000204 / 4000205, Fax: +971 2 4000204

**Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas) Ltd.**  
 Credit and Finance Corporation Ltd.  
 International Credit and Investment Company (Overseas) Ltd.  
 BCCI (Overseas) Ltd (in Liquidation)  
 P.O. Box 2258, Canal City, Singapore, Singapore, SINGAPORE, SINGAPORE  
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# The New Glamorous NISSAN SUNNY has just emerged

**With a stylish, glamorous look, potent performance and fuel economical consumption, the new Nissan Sunny comes out in 2010.**



Sana'a, Jan. 10 – The 2010 version of Nissan Sunny will arrive to the show rooms in Yemen in January 2010.

The Nissan SUNNY has exceeded all expectations with its modern styling and richly appointed cabin, the outstanding performance and its economical consumption that satisfy everyone.

The General Manager of Tehama Trading Company at Sana'a said that the new design of Nissan Sunny 2010 has become more daring and powerful. "Many inner improvements have been made so that the car keep its status as one of the best sold cars," the General Manager added.

The New Nissan Sunny will be available in Yemen in two versions, PE 1.6L and SE 1.6L.

As for the exterior features, the new Sunny has much details. The sharp front styling slices through the air with aerodynamic efficiency, further contributing to its dynamic feel. Sunny has front halogen lamps and mist lamps blended with turning lamps. The back lamps along with the pedal pads are added to the car in addition to the thick wheels (16 inch).

While manufacturing Sunny, the designing team made a mid-sized cabin within the wide size of the car. This mid-sized cabin spares you a space to stretch your legs not to mention the high ceiling which make you feel free and comfortable. Furthermore, Sunny cabin is equipped with Interior packaging and a back and a front console chamber. A locking glove compartment has also been added.

Moreover, Sunny 2010 has inner improvements that guarantee you a comfortable and practical stay at the car. Accessories Parts grant the new Sunny a luxurious touch. with dual-stage supplemental front air bags and seat belts; seat belts with pretensioners and load limiters, you will feel the Standard interior comfort. A modern console at the ceiling equipped with Radio DIN2 with a CD reader and MP3 music in addition to a high quality voice system maximizer.

Sunny 2010 is powered by a 1.6 liter with auto blipping Downshift Rev Matching and Adaptive Shift Control. Moreover the friction, sound of the engines and consuming fuel is less than ever. The driving of the care make you feel comfortable. The combination is good for the city and on the highways. The engine is a friend of the environment.



# Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development Launched by Partners



By: Mahmoud Al-Harazi

**"F**or the last four years I worked as a director of a social marketing project for reproductive health services, and during that time, my conviction increased that people require help in services and education. My prevailing belief in the importance of development and the positive role of health services contributed greatly to the overall development of the Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development and to its eventual establishment," said Dr. Ashraf Badr, the Director of Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development.

**The Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development has been launched as a model based on other models of partnership between government and civil society institutions and its aim is to assist the Ministry of Public Health and Population in achieving their goals.**

According to Dr. Badr, Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development was officially operating in January 1st, 2010 after four years of cooperation with the partners such as Ministry of Public Health and Population, KFW Development Bank and Marie Stopes International introducing a successful social marketing project for reproductive health services.

It now functions as a civil society foundation specializing in health development as well as a partner to the Ministry of Public Health, and the rest of the development partners who are working towards developing a strategy for better reproductive health, and the national strategy for poverty alleviation, according to Prof. Abdul Karim Yahia Rasaa, Minister of Public Health and Population.

The social marketing project is the real center for the Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development, pointed out Prof. Rasaa

Marie Stopes International, as well as the Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development both have an interest in family planning and reproductive health in Yemen, said Dana Hovig the CEO, Marie Stopes International.

Reproductive health and family planning are practical solutions to facing the challenges of reducing both mother and infant mortality and the population issues in Yemen, particularly when considering the simultaneous challenges of limited economic and natural resources which Yemen suffers from, stated Jameela Saleh Al-Raebee, the deputy minister of health for the population sector.



Dr. Jameela Saleh Al-Raebee, Dr. Ashraf Badr and Mr. Dana Hovig cutting the ribbon to announce the inauguration of Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development.



The Ministry of Public Health and Population, under the leadership of Dr. Abdul Karim Rasaa, has accomplished a great deal in the field of reproductive health and family planning. They also provide the

infrastructure and a qualified team to introduce a high standard of services, according to Al-Raebee.

Achieving a greater degree of development in the field of health and reducing poverty in Yemen through

providing health services, spreading health awareness and facilitating greater access to more developed health services are all goals of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, which they hope to achieve in cooperation with Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development, said Prof. Amatalrazzak Ali Hommad, the Minister of Social Affairs.

According to Prof. Hommad, raising awareness about health and social issues such as family planning and AIDS prevention are some other goals for both the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development.

The Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development has been launched as a model based on other models of partnership between government and civil society institutions and its aim is to assist the Ministry of Public Health and Population in achieving their goals.

The Ministry of Public Health and Population, the KFW Development Bank and Marie Stopes International, who were partners in the social marketing project, all came together to establish The Yamaan Foundation, as a result of a genuine desire to address the issues of family planning, reproductive health, prevention of HIV/AIDS and health issues in Yemen.

The partners of the Yamaan Foundation have been committed and worked hard for more than one year to establish the Foundation and to provide all the necessary elements to ensure the success and continuity of the project in order for it to serve the civil society, particularly in the field of health.

The Foundation aims to reduce poverty through providing health services, and spreading health awareness while facilitating access to more advance health services. It also aims to serve the poor and those at the lower income strata of society through the activation of health and reproductive health services and social programs of high quality standards.



Prof. Amatalrazzak Ali Hommad, Minister of Social Affairs.



Prof. Abdul Karim Yahia Rasaa, Minister of Public Health and Population.



Dr. Jameela Saleh Al-Raebee, Deputy Minister of health for the population sector



Dr. Ashraf Badr, Director of Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development.



Mr. Dana Hovig, CEO, Marie Stopes International.



Yamaan team posing for a memorial photography after the inauguration ceremony

**According to Prof. Hommad, raising awareness about health and social issues such as family planning and AIDS prevention are some other goals for both the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development.**

## HIV positive refugees agonize over the fate of their children

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

“Take my daughter away from me,” pleaded Aisha, while holding her five-year-old daughter. Her will to give up her daughter seemed in opposition to her body language as her arms were embracing the slim girl, indicating her inner conflict.

Aisha is an Ethiopian refugee who came to Yemen with her husband several years ago. She survived the three-day, hazardous voyage, crossing the Gulf of Aden with merciless smugglers, after suffering the poverty and the drought that struck her small village.

She thought that by arriving in Yemen, her suffering would end, especially when she obtained asylum along with her husband, and she was able to work as a housemaid, and then she gave a birth to a little girl. However, a few years after her settlement in Yemen, her husband's health broke down rapidly. He passed away suddenly, which raised many questions. Aisha then discovered that her husband had been suffering from AIDS. She went in for a check-up only to discover that she had also been living with HIV. The only shred of good news was that her daughter had not been infected.

“I want to save my daughter's life. I don't want her to see me dying,” said Aisha, who is no longer working as a housemaid. She is currently depending on aid given by the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, in Sana'a, as well as begging.

“The UNHCR rents a house where there are two other women living who also have HIV. They have kids, but fortunately the kids haven't gotten the infection,” said Aisha.

African immigrants were the first to be blamed when HIV emerged in Yemen in the eighties. At that time, Yemeni locals as well as some Yemeni officials were warning of the “fatal disease coming from the Horn of Africa,” which caused many refugees' lives to be threatened, exposed them to discrimination, and sometimes to deportation.

However, the available statistics from Ministry of Health show that most HIV infections have occurred among Yemenis as opposed to immigrants (up to Sept.

2009 from a cumulative of 2813 HIV and AIDS cases).

Yet, the Yemeni government reserves the right to deport foreigners who have the HIV virus. Thus to protect the refugees, the UNHCR has argued with the Yemeni government to skip the HIV test for immigrants and make it optional.

In addition, hospitals refuse to treat patients who suffer from HIV (only two government hospitals in all of Yemen have centers to deal with people who have HIV; Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Sana'a and Al-Wahda Hospital in Aden).

Regarding the refugees, there are a few health clinics run by the UNHCR or non-governmental organizations that offer treatment and make referrals to local hospitals. In 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding between the UNHCR and the Ministry of Health and Population recognized the right of refugees to HIV/AIDS treatment equivalent to that accorded to nationals.

“Most of the refugees that discovered that they have HIV, did so accidentally,” said Dr. Sameer Al-Jubari, a doctor in one of the centers that provides medical and social support to refugees.

Ignorance, and the fear of being more stigmatized and rejected, make most refugees avoid carrying out the tests.

“Women whose husbands have passed away due to AIDS, or those who suffer symptoms of chronic illness will come to take the tests,” said Lina Aqlan, a doctor who receives and provides consultations to HIV patients.

The Center is located in southern Sana'a, in Al-Safia neighborhood which is also host to the largest community of African refugees in Sana'a.

“Currently there are 17 registered cases of refugees who have HIV in the Center, 15 women and two men,” said Al-Jubari.

Most of the infections are discovered among women, said Al-Jubari.

“In refugee communities, women are the main income earners, as they have easier access to work as housemaids, and this gives free time to the men, who tend to have sexual affairs outside the marriage, and hence they are more exposed to HIV infection, which they then transmit to their wives,” Al-Jubari explained.

### Limited services

The center, has started giving out free medication for some opportunistic diseases and provides pre-diagnostic testing and ongoing post-diagnostic counseling.

Since 2002, it has remained humbly furnished on a single floor. There is no proper signage and only a panel indicates that the center is located there.

“We try to avoid any trouble with the local community, as this center is providing free services for refugees, and such services may not be accessible for Yemeni citizens,” Al-Jubari explained.

However, not all refugees are lucky enough to get these services. T, a 28-year-old Ethiopian, was working in the center as a translator. He is married and has three kids. He knew that he was HIV positive in 2005.

“When they became aware of my infection, they kicked me out,” he claimed. Though his wife and children tested negative for HIV, they had to relocate their place of residence, as he became unable to pay the rent. “I lived with another immigrant who had not been recognized as a refugee. He later left for Saudi Arabia, leaving the house for me and my family. Neither the owner of the house, nor the neighbors have any idea about my infection. So far they are so kind with us, but if they knew that I have HIV, their attitude would certainly change,” he added.

Receiving food aid, and medicine for only three months, and dealing with the accusation of being a troublemaker, T finds himself and his children facing the unknown, as he is now unemployed. “I didn't ask them to resettle me in a third country. I want blankets for my family. I want milk for my little daughter,” pleaded T.

According to Al-Jubari, the UNHCR policy regarding dealing with people living with HIV is to train them to coexist with the infection, and to integrate with the society.

“We provide them with training, and they can also take advantage of micro-credit programs, but the problem lies in the fact that many of them have become so dependent on aid, and they tend to isolate themselves from the community, though we guarantee them complete

confidentiality and privacy in each case,” he confirmed.

### What about the children?

T and Aisha both reveal great concern and anxieties over the future of their children in such circumstances.

According to medical studies, HIV destroys a type of blood cell (CD4+ T) that is crucial to maintaining the normal functioning of the human immune system. The virus itself doesn't kill, but it weakens the immune system to such an extent that any diseases which attack the body, will lead to eventual death as the body can no longer fight them off.

The virus may be passed from one person to another when infected blood, semen, or vaginal secretions come in contact with an uninfected person's broken skin or mucous membranes.

In addition, infected pregnant women can pass HIV to their baby during pregnancy, delivery, or through breast-feeding.

AIDS is a severe, life-threatening condition caused by HIV. Most people infected with HIV seem healthy till AIDS related symptoms appear. Eventually, more than 95% of untreated infected people develop AIDS. On average, HIV infection will lead to full-blown AIDS within nine to ten years if left untreated.

There is no cure, and no vaccine as of yet, and there are only “antiretroviral drugs” which inhibit replication and progress of the virus.

Though T and Aisha have become aware of many of these medical facts, they still worry that their children are not receiving the proper care.

Unable to work, most refugees are also unable to afford education and healthcare.

“I'm unemployed, and so far we get donations from others who are ignorant of the fact that we are living with HIV. If anything happens to us, or if people discover our secret, our kids will pay for that. No schools, no hospitals, no friends will deal with them,” T said.

“If I die, who will look after my daughter? Most people know that I'm HIV infected, and I'm living with other infected people. I'm terrified that my daughter herself will be infected,” said Aisha.

## HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



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

## Spinach (Sabanah), the queen of leafy greens

avid cartoon lovers would know that the legendary source of Popeye's strength is spinach, a popular leafy green vegetable. Spinach is the queen of leafy greens, believed to be of Persian origin. The name comes from the Persian word 'esfenaj'. The Arabs introduced it to Europe in the 15th Century and thereafter it became extremely popular worldwide.



### Varieties

Spinach has two common varieties. Flat-leaf spinach has unwrinkled, spade-shaped leaves. Savoy spinach has crinkly, dark green leaves. There is also a semi-Savoy variety that has slightly curly leaves. Spinach is generally available throughout the year in most places. Apart from being tasty, spinach is highly nutritious and low in calories.

### Health benefits

It is an excellent source of many essential vitamins, anti-oxidants, proteins and minerals such as beta-carotene, vitamins A, C, E and K, calcium, potassium, iron, sodium, sulphur, folic acid and oxalic acid. The protein content of spinach is more than most of the commonly available vegetables.

Researchers have identified at least 13 different flavonoid compounds in spinach that function as anti-oxidants. (Anti-oxidants are molecules capable of slowing or preventing the oxidation of other molecules and serve as anti-cancer agents.) Specialized spinach extracts have been proved to slow down cell division in stomach and skin cancers. A carotenoid found in spinach and other green leafy vegetables fights human prostate cancer. Spinach also contains a substance called kaempferol which can prevent breast cancer and ovarian cancers. The vitamin C and beta-carotene in spinach help to protect the colon cells from the damaging effects of ‘free radicals’. (Free radicals are substances formed in our body which can damage cells and accelerate the progression of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and other age-related diseases.)

Spinach is a rich source of nutrients. It has high content of chlorophyll which stimulates haemoglobin and red blood cell production. It has a chemical formula which is remarkably similar to that of haemoglobin. Cooked spinach is an excellent source of iron, which is important for pregnant, lactating and menstruating women, growing children and adolescents.

Spinach also helps prevent bone loss associated with osteoporosis. Its anti-inflammatory properties help in easing the pain in conditions like osteoarthritis, osteoporosis and rheumatoid arthritis. The Vitamin K contained in spinach prevents breakdown of bone.

In addition, the magnesium and riboflavin in spinach help to reduce the frequency of migraine attacks in people who suffer from them. The nutrients in spinach can also help in containing asthma.

Spinach is good for the heart and circulatory system and has energy-boosting properties. The vitamin C and beta carotene contained in spinach prevent cholesterol deposition on the walls of blood vessels. Spinach is also an excellent source of folate which can prevent heart attack and stroke. The magnesium in spinach also helps to lower high blood pressure and prevents heart disease too.

Spinach has plenty of potassium, which supports a healthy nervous system, aids proper muscle contraction, stabilizes blood pressure, regulates the transfer of nutrients through the cell membranes and, together with sodium, controls the body's water balance.

Lutein, a carotenoid which is protective against eye diseases such as Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMRD) and cataract, is found in spinach. A team of scientists have tried to improve the sight of blind people by implanting proteins from spinach leaves into their eyes with satisfactory results. They say, when light falls on the proteins, it creates an electrical voltage, which stimulates healthy regions of the retina and produces meaningful images.

On the negative side, spinach is high in purines and oxalates, which can contribute to gout. When eaten in large amounts spinach can damage an already damaged kidney.

### How to select and store

Choose spinach that has vibrant deep green leaves and stems with no signs of yellowing. The leaves should look fresh and tender, and not be wilted or bruised. Avoid those that have a slimy coating as this is an indication of decay.

Store fresh spinach loosely packed in a plastic bag in the refrigerator crisper where it will keep fresh for two days. Do not wash it before storing as the moisture will cause it to spoil. Avoid storing cooked spinach as it will not keep very well.

As it grows in sandy soil it should be washed carefully before use. One easy way to get rid of the sand and mud is to add a little salt to a bowl of cold water, swish the leaves around and transfer it to a colander. The damp spinach can either be microwaved without adding additional water or blanched by dropping the leaves in a pot of boiling water. Blanched spinach is good for sautéing or stuffing.

### Recipes

Spinach should form an important part of everyone's diet. To improve iron absorption, eat spinach along with vitamin C-rich foods such as tomatoes, orange or lemon juice.

\* Make a tasty and colorful salad with steamed spinach and other vegetables. Or add chopped spinach to any soup.

\* Add pureed spinach to yoghurt instead of cream for a version of creamed spinach. Or stir-fry spinach with garlic, grated ginger and shredded capsicum for a wonderful side dish.

## The prevention and treatments of urinary stone

By: Dr. Guoqizhen  
For the Yemen Times

The urinary stone is a common disease in many parts of the world, especially in Yemen. We can often see such patients in clinical work, and some need to do the operation. So it's very important to know some knowledge about the urinary stone.

### Etiology

The cause of the urinary stone is not very clear. The consequences of urinary calculi are responsible for most of the cases. Primary metabolic stone result from

hyperexcretion of an offending substance. Cystine and uric acid stone form in such patients with excessive urinary excretion of these substances. Increased calcium and phosphorus excretion is responsible for the formation of the triplephosphate stone. Excessive absorption of oxalate from the colon can produce hyperoxaluria, which is seen following ileal resection or small bowel bypass surgery.

Secondary stones arise as a result of foreign bodies, obstruction, or prolonged recumbency and consequent decalcification of bone with hyperexcretion of calcium salt in the urine. Infections with urea-splitting organisms result in ammonium-magnesium phosphate calculi, while

chronic pyelonephritis and ulcerative processes lead to a suitable nidus for the deposition of encrustations and eventual stone formation.

### Symptoms

The urinary stone can locate at any part of urinary tract, such as kidney, ureter, bladder, and urethral. Most of them are kidney and ureter stone. The typical symptoms of kidney and ureter stone are renal colic-severe pain and hematuria. Some patients also have nausea or vomited. The patients have no any sensation before renal colic caused by stone. There may be oliguria or anuria if the patients suffer from bilateral ureter stone. The bladder stone often happens in old man and children. The most common reason of bladder stone in old man is benign prostate hyperplasia(BPH), and malnutrition in children. The symptoms of bladder are frequent micturition; urgent urination; dysuria and hematuria. There also may be interruption of urinary stream and glans pain.

### Treatments:

#### Kidney and ureter stone

Conservative treatment: if the diameter of the stone is less than 0.5cm, the patient can drink more clean water, do movement, such as rope skipping. Some drugs can be used to dilate ureter for diuresis and expelling stone. In most cases the stone can be removed out of the body.

#### Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL)

Shock Waves are generated outside the body and focused on the stone. The Shock Wave harmlessly propagate through intervening tissue and attain sufficient intensity to fragment the stone only when it reach the calculus. Smaller stones, less than 2.5cm, are associated with higher success rate. The contraindication are that the patient has severe heart disease and there is obstruction below the stone and the patient has bleeding disease, such as hemophilia.

Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy: This technique is advantageous as it causes minimal renal injury and maximizes stone clearance. Holmium Laser Lithotripsy and Lithoclast Lithotripsy: These two ways are all use the ureteroscope to break the stone without incision, and D-J stent is often put in the kidney and ureter.

### Open operation: the operation indications are as follows:

The patients can not be treated with ESWL or it's no use after the treatment of ESWL. Persistent hydronephrosis above an obstruction stone exists, which fails to pass with reasonable time and treatment. The stone is huge and associated with infection, since the infection is not respond to the medication.

### Bladder stone

We have many treatments to the bladder stone, such as suprapubic cystolithotomy; endoscope; ESWL. The bladder stone in old man is often caused by lower urinary obstruction, which the most common disease is benign prostate hyperplasia(BPH). So in such patient the prostate should be removed at the same time. The children with bladder stone are usually caused by malnutrition, so the nutrition condition must be improved and the treatment is the same as adult.

### Prevention

People should drink more clean water to produce at least 2 L of urine per day. All patients with a history of stone disease should be instructed to make several life-style changes that reduce the risk of stone formation. For example, They should limit salt and protein intake, and should not ingest excessive amounts of vitamin C. However, they should not limit calcium intake because several studies show that higher calcium diets are associated with a reduced risk of stone formation. One also should eat the food rich in textile, not in one particular kind of food all the time, and keep dietary balance.

Eighty-four percent of the patients with hyperparathyroidism present with renal stone. In such patients the surgical removal of hyperfunctioning parathyroid should be followed by treatment of the urinary stone.

Patients with urinary infection should be treated on time, and the urinary obstruction should be relieved of effectively.

The physical examination should be performed at least one time per year, including blood count, renal function, urinalysis, urine culture, B-ultrasound, KUB or IVP, even CT-scan. If there are any abnormalities, doctor will give you proper advices for further examination and treatments.



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# The art of begging

By: Ali Saeed

**B**eggars in Yemen have become increasingly creative in extracting money from people by playing on their sympathy, morals and kindness.

Old men and women, as well as children can be seen begging in mosques, market places, outside public offices, at bus stations and along major roads such as the Sana'a-Hodiedah road. They use diverse techniques to fool people and use the opportunity to earn money.

Last Ramadan, as the early morning prayers came to an end, a young man who appeared to be in his twenties, stood in the mosque approaching people as they finished praying.

It is common to find young men begging, but this time the beggar appeared to be a respectable gentleman. He was wearing a brand-new suit, tie and a pair of glasses.

Eloquently addressing the public, he explained that he was a college student and that his father was suffering from a fatal disease, leaving him as the only breadwinner for his 12-member family.

"I don't know what to do? If I continue studying, I will have to watch my brothers and sisters starve. I don't like to beg, but circumstances are forcing



me to do it," he said.

Each and every person gathered in the mosque was moved by these impressive words, and everyone donated every single riyal he had in his pocket. Those who did not have money with them immediately sent their children home to fetch some.

As everyone dispersed, one kind soul from the neighborhood followed this young man to give him some food, but the young man promptly ran away.

Pretending to be a needy college student had become a common begging technique in the mosques of Sana'a.

At times, women and children are used by their guardians for begging. Recently, a well-dressed man in a robe, coat and jambiyya (dagger) entered the Al-Farouk mosque in Al-Asbahi, just in time for the afternoon prayer. A woman and child waited outside.

He told an amazing story. He said that he was returning from a visit to

his relatives in Shabwa with his wife and children, when they were forced to leave the bus because his wife went into labour. Eventually, she delivered in the sand. He then rented a car to Sana'a where he lost his wallet, all his money, and contact numbers.

"I do not know anyone here. Please. If any one of you can just lend me YR 3,000, I will be able to go back to my home in Raima," he said.

Once again, all those who had gath-

ered for prayer were moved. One man declared he would give him a lift in his car to Raima. Some others said they would give him some money.

As he prayed, a latecomer was listening to the conversation. He finished praying quickly, and waited until the beggar came out of the mosque.

Approaching the beggar, he said, "Are you not the same man that I met in the mosque of .....? I heard you telling the same story there, one week ago! Be ashamed of yourself and do not use this poor woman with her children."

The beggar, who was now standing next to his wife and child, was speechless. After a little while, those present realized that the beggar was lying. The man at once took a taxi and disappeared.

In Tahrir Square, Hayel Street, and Hadda Street, many women use disabled children to attract the attention of the passers-by. Women who do not have children hire small children from other families, inject them with sleeping drugs, and then beg in the streets, with the unconscious child in front of them, according to Muna Ali Salem, Manager of the Child Labor Unit at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Another technique that beggars use in Sana'a is showing passers-by official documents from hospitals describing a

family member's illness, or notes from social or religious leaders stating that they need financial support.

Some male beggars recite verses from the Holy Quran at the gates of mosques and in markets for money. Others a tape player with microphone that automatically blares out, "Help me, I'm blind!" or "Help me, I'm poor."

Begging in Yemen and has become a profession for more than 1.4 million around the country, according to the recent statistics.

Around 90 percent of the beggars in Yemen are in Sana'a, while children and women constitute 70 percent of the total beggars.

According to the Anti-begging Project, only 40 percent from the population of beggars is really poor and needy.

Price hikes, limited incomes, and countryside-to-city migration have contributed to the increase in begging in the country.

Around 60 percent of Yemenis live under the poverty line, according to the 2009 Arab Human Development Report.

Unemployment has now reached 35 percent, according to the World Bank.

Previous reports have linked begging to other factors such as early marriage, the absence of laws to prohibit the practice, and insufficient government support for poor families.

## Yemen celebrates International Literacy Day



An instructor from the Ministry of Agriculture teaches rural women about irrigation and water consumption issues. Because at least half of the women in rural areas are illiterate, awareness raisers and activists resort to pictures and diagrams to educate the rural population.

By: Ismail Al-Ghaberi

On the 8th January, the Literacy and Adult Education Organization of the Yemeni Ministry of Education, celebrated the International Literacy Day. This day was initially founded by the Arab League Council in 1968 to appreciate for all efforts done in wiping out illiteracy.

Ahmad Abdullah, the Head of Literacy and Adult Education Organization said that the occasion marked the achievements of the country in literacy and adult education, which are outcomes of sincere and efficient efforts. The major achievement is establishing many classes to wipe out illiteracy in which many adults have enrolled and the organization has got an encouraging response, as a result.

### Capacity building

One of the crucial tasks of the Literacy and Adults Education Organization is to build the capacities of its staff. The organization has conducted, at its own expense, many training courses and trained around 1000 staff including teachers, officials and supervisors. The coming weeks will witness many more training courses which will be funded by the Literacy and Adult Education Organization, Developing Education Project and the Social Fund for Development. Three new programs namely: Wiping out Illiteracy and Pro-

ceed in Education Program, the Training and Qualifying program and the Public Education Program, have been included in the training courses, in order to keep up with changing times.

The curriculum, consisting of 10 specially designed books, to match the needs of the adult illiterate students, covers the various aspects of life. The curriculum is in the process of being published and will soon be distributed in the target governorates to combat illiteracy.

A special curriculum, was also designed under the Female Training Program and includes topics like home management, sewing and handicrafts. Trainings were conducted in all targeted governorates under the public education program on topics like environment, home economy and child vaccination. The program also included awareness raising seminars and lectures for adults on law, politics, agriculture and health.

"The work is much more than our capacity, and therefore, at least for the time being, we cannot think about more strategies. At the moment we cannot say when Yemen will be successful in achieving minimum illiteracy. However, we hope this day will come soon and we will continue to work along with civil society organizations and education authorities to wipe the country clean from illiteracy. We are also going to have training

courses for the employees of our organization, who have not got the opportunity in life to learn to read and write" Ahmad Abdullah said.

It is worth mentioning that many international and regional organizations have extended support to Yemen to become a country clear from illiteracy.

### Action in numbers

A total of 3650 classes were established for the academic year 2009\2010, majority of which were for females. Out of the 2928 classes for the first grade, 224 are for males and 2704 for females. Out of the 2689 classes for the second grade, 138 are for males and 2554 for females. As for Consecutive Phase Classes (in which three academic grades are covered in one year), out of the 1520 classes, 73 are for males and 1447 for females.

A total of 176706 students have enrolled for these classes. 7544 are studying in the first grade, 60783 are studying in the second grade and 28338 in consecutive phase classes.

According to the Head of Literacy and Adult Education Organization, the total rate of illiteracy in Yemen is 45.7 percent for men and women over 10 years. The general illiteracy rate in the rural areas is 54.3 % while it is 25.8% in urban areas in which 62.1% of the females are illiterate and 29.8% of the males are illiterate.

## Qat, the cursed plant in Yemen *Part 2*

By: Yusuf Al-Shiraif

### • The Qat with Abraha Al-Habashi:

The source of the qat is Africa. It is named in Somalia as "Chatt" and in Kenya it has many names according to its type such as "Mira'a", "Qath", "Miranji", "Tamayat", "Milonji", and "Mawinj." In Uganda, the qat is known as "Mostat." In Abyssinia (now Ethiopia), the land in which Yemen joined Abraha in his way to demolish the Kaaba, Ethiopians call the qat "Taiji" or "Taidj." Imam Sharaf Ed-Din discovered the qat in Yemen

according to the narrations of some historians whereas other people focused on the fact that shepherds noticed how much their sheep get intoxicated each time they eat leaves of a certain plant. When shepherds chewed and milked leaves of this plant, they knew its secret. Afterwards, this plant became famous and Yemenis started planting and chewing its leaves generation after another. Unfortunately, Yemenis rooted up the luxurious Yemeni coffee trees and planted instead the odious plant of the qat. It is clear that the fame of Yemeni coffee spread throughout the world for the past centuries to the extent of issuing tens of books in many languages praising its characteristics and merits. Among these books "Everything about the Coffee" (issued in 1935 and written by William Akers) in which the author said: "For many centuries, the Mocha coffee, which is being exported from Makha port in Yemen, is still distinguished from all other coffees in the world with its hot flavor, scent, and desirable slight bitterness." Kevin Knox in his book entitled "The Principles of Coffee" (1957) said: "Drinking a cup of the Mocha coffee will satisfy your desire in tasting all other coffees in the world." In his book entitled "The Coffee's Book", John Thorne mentioned that the Yemeni coffee has the taste of a matured wine with an aromatic scent. In the annual exhibition of coffee which was held in San Francisco in April 14, 2000, the issued bulletin from the largest company for distributing coffee in the world stated: "We have the uniqueness in the civilized dealing with the Mocha coffee 60 years ago. It is absolutely the best with its fruity and spicy flavours and the chocolate's taste with a unique

sweet-smelling aroma."

The problem is that planting the qat is similar to the bad goods which expelled new goods from the market. The planted areas of the qat reached 37% of fertilized lands and the agricultural statistics confirmed that this area was 8,000 hectares in 1970 and it increased to 934,102 hectares in 2000. The increasing ratio in planting the qat reached 87.11% and most of these lands were planted with coffee, other vegetables and fruits. The qat's farms are estimated to be around 180,000 distributed in the highest lands (between 800 to 2600 meters up the sea level) in provinces such as Sana'a, Hajja, Al-Mahweet, Ibb, Ta'izz, Al-Baydha, Amran, and Al-Dhali'a.

Another problem is related to the continuous obtaining for the groundwater and using it in irrigating the qat's plants at the rate of 830 million cubic meters per year and in also drinking this water during chewing the qat. This necessarily causes drought and salinity of groundwater and it also threatens to deplete the strategic reservoir of water. The random increment in digging wells led to worse and more abused using of the water reservoir and especially if we know that banks are competing in providing farmers with loans for buying their machines of digging. The other problem is in the negative effects of the qat on the social relations when this plant devours between 30% and 50% of the Yemeni family's budget. The ratio of the qat's chewers between males is 75% and 80% and 35% and 40% between females. An academic field research observed the cost that Yemenis consume in buying the qat around U.S. \$2.5 billion which exceeds the state's national budget. The worst thing is the moral corruption including bribes and

embezzlements among employees with low income who buy their needs of the qat and joined the qat's sessions as a way of pride and social connections with friends. The husband may find difficulties in nourishing his family in order to buy the qat and then he may exert pressure on his wife to sell her jewellery which leads at the end to divorce.

In the last years, the qat exploded another great catastrophe when farmers for the first time used many different deceived insecticides and manures for accelerating the process of growing up and multiplying the plant's leaves. This led to an unprecedented increasing in farmers' profits until the source of producing these insecticides was known as Israel despite that the insecticides are prohibited to be used internationally such as DDT, dioxin, and ferric insecticide. This caused to increase the rate of cancer and kidney failure cases and especially in the regions of planting the qat like Ibb, Mawiya, Shar'ab, Hamdan, and Jabal Sabir. In that way, new diseases were added to the other known diseases caused by the qat and among them cirrhoses, fetuses deformity, nervousness, colic, diarrhea, headache, impotence, and emotional tediousness between couples. Other medical cases include apoplexy for people who suffer from arteriosclerosis and the possibility of being infected with hemorrhoids, apprehension, psychopathy, neuropathy, breaking lipids, increasing in heart's beats, barrenness, and additionally increasing in the rate of cars' accidents and rapines!

Source: Weghat Nazar Magazine, February 2004, Volume No.: 38  
Translated by: Eyad N. Al-Samman  
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## Who will help these Turkish workers get their wages?

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

“We want our wages to be able to return to our families, we will not remain in Yemen without work and money while our families are hungry or ill.” These are the demands of 15 Turkish laborers who have been working for the Norak-Al-Rehab Company for Roads.

These people started working for the company, which is constructing the Dhamar-Al-Husainiah Road Project, in 2005. The company is Yemeni-Turkish and directed by the owner of the Turkish share which is 97 percent.

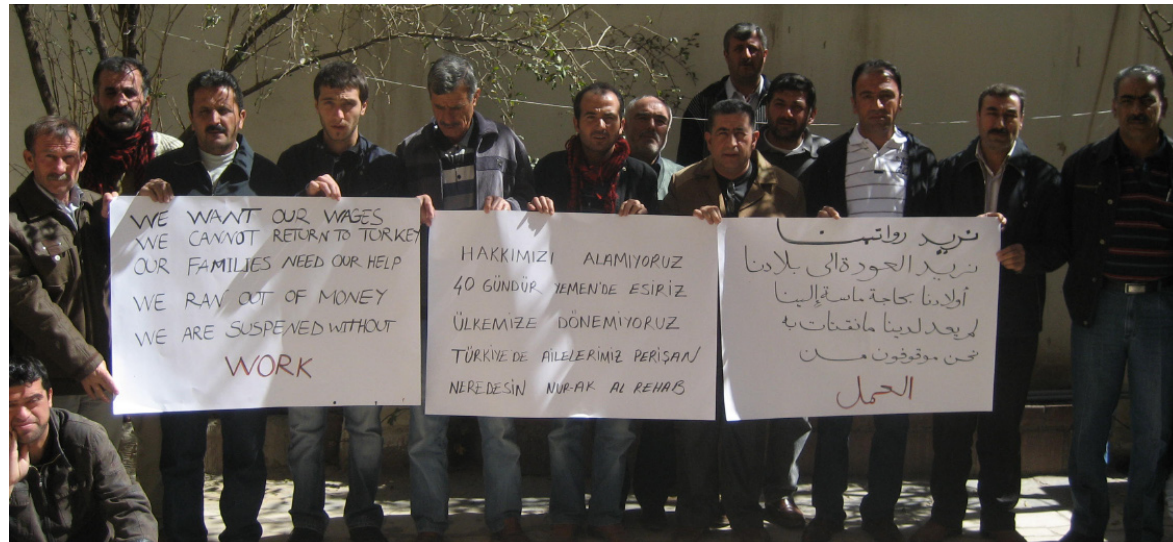
The 15 workers were fired from their work as the company stopped its work on the project months ago due to government reports that claim that the company's work is inadequate, according to a Yemeni witness working for the company. Now they are waiting for their wages to return to their homeland.

“We have been in a hotel for 40 days waiting for our money but we receive only YR 2000 per week and sometimes for two weeks. Now we are running out of money, we will not find anything to eat, and our families and children badly need our help.”

“I have not received my salary for 14 months and I want to return to my family. I sustained injuries while working on the project. I want to return to my country for medical help,” said Omer Gatole, a project manager.

Gatole, who does not want to remain in Yemen to continue working for the company, says he submitted his resignation 11 times to the company after he injured himself, but the company refused his request every time.

“The company did not even help me pay the costs of the operation and paid the hospital from my salary. Because the injury was serious and in a sensitive part on my knee and Yemeni hospitals lack the equipment and expertise



to treat me, I returned to Turkey to undergo the operation,” he added.

The project manager, who receives USD 7,000 per month claims the company owes him USD 77,000 but these monies underwent cut by the company to 30,000, “even though I did not get them and remain without work for three months.”

The salaries of these employees ranges from USD 1,800 to 7,000 per month. They tried every possible means to get their wages. They went to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs asking for help, and the minister gave directions to her deputy for labor affairs but according to them these directions were worthless.

They went to their embassy, the Turkish Embassy, which is supposed to help them get their salaries and return to their families. The embassy said it is not entitled to stand firm with them, but can only mediate to help them as a human service to them. Again they did not get anything.

According to them, they sent many letters to their concerned ministries and even to the prime minister of their country.

Mutaleb Maniak, worker supervisor, says he has been working for the company for ten months and he was only

paid for four months. His due salary is USD 2500 per month and he claims the company owes him USD 15,000. This sum was subjected to the cut of USD 9,000.

Each of the Turkish laborers complains about a cut from their salaries without justification. Furthermore, these cuts seem to be violations of their contracts. They have not been treated according to the contract they signed with company. They do not receive medical insurance for medical injuries.

“Every annual vacation in the world is a complete month for every employee but we were only granted 15 days,” they claimed. Moreover, they were not granted one day of holiday once a week but every two weeks.

Ouaisi Baghash, work director, is owed 11 months' pay. “The company (owes me) USD 21,500 they reduced my salary by USD 5,000, which leaves my salary at 16,500. These cuts violate what was agreed upon in the contract. We are not treated according to the contract but according to their mood.”

According to the Yemeni eyewitness, who requests anonymity because he fears retribution from the company's officials, the company has differences with the Ministry of Public Works and Roads and recently the ministry stopped

the company from working after finding the company unable to complete the project.

“The government stopped the project the company is working on for the second time. The first was in 2007 after reports the company failed to adequately complete the work. The company was not able to complete the work because (who?) entered the project with lower bid,” he said.

“The idea is that every four months, the employees were granted a month salary. As time passes, the salaries have accumulated and this makes it difficult to the company to pay all their salaries,” said the eyewitness.

But he says the company has enough money to pay the salaries. “This year, the company received USD 8 million. The company is aggressive against any worker or employee, now the company may prosecute these workers for any reason it can create.”

“I have been working in the company for 16 months and seven months passed without getting a salary,” claimed Fawzi Atap, stores' officer. Fawzi claims the company owes him USD 13,000. His monthly salary is USD 1800.

They all say they are living in a hotel in Sana'a without work and salaries for 44 days and what they get only is YR

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5000 weekly. 20 days ago, even this small amount has stopped being given to the laborers. “We want to return to our country, we do not want to stay here without work.”

“These people can not seek legal help because those who manage the company are supported by influential people. The owner of the company has escaped several arrest warrants, so even the court is not able to bring him to justice. Once, he was imprisoned for only two days. The problem is complicated,” said the Yemeni eyewitness.

Due to money problems, a third party entered the project to supply the company, Al-Haddah Exchanging Company. The company is still supplying Norak company, but we found that Al-Haddah company has become more involved than the Turkish company.

“Now, Al-Haddah Company uses its relations with influential people to escape the demands of these workers. No concerned body can bring Al-Haddah to justice, the government itself can not do anything to this company,” said the eyewitness.

Yemen Times contacted Al-Haddah Company for comment; Sheikhs Qasem

Al-Haddah, the owner of the company who affirmed the rights of these Turkish employees.

“These people have claims from the Norak-Alrehab Company and they have the right to speak about their concerns” said Al-Haddah. But he said the problem lies in the ministry of construction. “The company ( Norak-Al-Rehab) has money in the ministry and the ministry must give the company its money to enable it give the employees their claims.”

Yemen Times tried several times to communicate the Norak-Al-Rehab Company for a respond to the Turkish laborers' claims but the company officials gave only promises to speak and did not honor their promises. The asked for delay several times.

Norak-Al-Rehab Company was commissioned to construct the Dhamar-Al-Husainiah Road Project which is supposed to span 250 kilometers. The company has completed only 50 kilometers.

Now, the Turkish employees are threatening to organize sit-ins before the doors of any concerned body till they get their claims.

## Plundering against people in Ibb increases

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori For the Yemen Times

Around 80 men and 12 women with children, from Al-Ja'ashin village, Ibb governorate, have fled their homes and settled in the courtyard of the Al-Jama' Mosque in the New University of Sana'a, fearing Sheikh Mohammad Al-Mansoor.

Sheikh, Mohammed Ahmed Mansour, launches random raids to collect unbearable taxes from these poor villagers. The sheikh sometimes demands amounts as big as one million YR (\$5000) from these people and if they cannot pay, opening fire against their houses, plundering and terror is the reply.

Displaced al-Ja'ashin villagers have camped in Sana'a since last week beginning last Thursday and refuse to go home until their problem is solved. They

also held a sit-in last Thursday before the cabinet.

The Supreme Authority for Rights and Freedom Organization (HOOD) held a press conference after Al-Juma'a (Friday) prayer in the courtyard of the mosque where Al-Ja'ashin “refugees” are taking shelter.

Condemning what happened to these people, HOOD said that these people are victims of violating the law and that turning a blind eye to this would mean throwing away all values upheld by the Yemeni Revolution and the very reasons for which the martyrs gave their life.

Yahiya Allaw, the head of Hood organization, said that it is astonishing to find a sheikh plundering people's properties, bullying people and forcing them to pay him instead of paying it to the state. Addressing the displaced people as ‘refugees’, Allaw added that they were forced to leave their lands after

their hoses were demolished and that they had no choice other than seeking refuge in the capital of the country.

Hamood Mus'ad, one of the refugees, said that the affiliates of Sheikh Al-Mansoor attacked houses wearing the military uniforms and destroyed them. They also plundered money, properties and even livestock in the villages of Al-Shokhah and Al-Saff. Furthermore, people in Al-Anseyeen were traumatized by random shooting at their houses in which a woman was injured. The Sheikh's militia set check points at the entrances of the two districts of Al-Habalal and Al-Sefah.”

People living in Al-Shokhah province in Ibb said that they are being attacked fiercely by sheikh Al-Mansoor affiliates. They added that their village is surrounded and all connections to surrounding villages is cut.

The plundering has reached a de-

gree where six houses were plundered alongwith everything inside them such as furniture, personal property and legal documents. Qasem Naji, one of the residents of Al-Ja'ashin, said that about 500 affiliates of the sheikh plundered the livestock in the area because people did not pay to the sheikh. They said that their houses have been burnt as a result and their families are now homeless.

“Al-Ja'ashin's trouble is that they want to pay the tax to the state and not to the Sheikh,” Mr. Murshed summed up the trouble that al-Ja'ashin suffers. “Before People used to pay tax to the Sheikh due to their ignorance but now they are aware,” Murshed added. “We call upon the government to impose its authority upon the area,” he said Murshed. Murshed has vacated a house to establish an official police station to disarm the al-Sheikh of all his weapons and bring him to justice along with his



Many children from this village have complained that they were prevented by force by the feudal sheikh's men to go to school. “My books were burned my books and detained me in his private prison for two days,” said Taiseer Noman a teenage boy from the area.



The refugees are living in tents in the capital city hoping that their plight would attract attention of decision makers and get them to do right by those tormented citizens.



Saida Muqbil is a mother of three who was forced out of her home with her children following her husband who had fled the home long ago because he was indebted to the sheikh. She described how the Sheikh's men took away their cattle and confiscated their possessions.

militia.

During a press conference, three children said that they were arrested and chained in Sheikh Al-Mansoor's jail.

HOOD showed photographs of four jails which are said to belong to the Sheikh Al. According to Faisal Al-Hamdi, Sheikh Al-Mansoor does not follow the state's law and that the state cannot check his jails and the prisoners there.

“Dozens of terrified people are still fleeing their homes to Sana'a to escape the atrocities of the Sheikh,” Al-Hamdi said.

Copies of the photographs were distributed during the press conference in which HOOD called upon the President Saleh to take action against these violations. The question is “Does Al-Ja'ashin district belong to the Yemeni state?”

Since February 2008 and till April 2008 many people have fled their homes and sheltered in Sana'a where they or-

ganized sit-ins. The, Yemeni Women Forum has offered its courtyard as a temporary camping site and the Yemeni Women Journalists without Chains hosted the women and children. Thanks to Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khadi, compensations were paid to Al-Ja'ashin people. The compensations are estimated at four million and six hundred thousand YR .

This is the third time the people of Al-Ja'ashin have been displaced from their houses and fled to Sana'a looking for safety and stability. They previously demonstrated before the parliament for two months constantly until the parliament spelt out its recommendations, “dissolve the al-Sheikh's militia, destroy his private prisons and disarm him and his militia from weapons of all its kinds.” Those recommendations were never carried out, leading to the current crisis. The Al Ja'ashin consider the government's silence as a convenience of the Sheikh.