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Thursday, 28 January, 2010 • Issue No. 1333 • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf • www.yementimes.com Price 40 Yemeni Riyals

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Yemeni youth lobby to be heard on terrorism

By: Alice Hackman

SANA'A, JAN. 27 — A Yemeni youth group is lobbying to have its voice heard by members of the international community discussing terrorism in Yemen.

"With nearly 70 percent of Yemen's population being no older than 25, Resonate Yemen believes the upcoming talks about Yemen are missing a key partner," the movement's organizers said in a press release on January 18.

To give Yemen's youth a voice, Rafat Al-Akhali, 27, Ahmed Al-Awah, 28, and Alaa Qasem, 28, earlier this month launched Resonate Yemen, a website for Yemenis aged 15 to 30 to voice their opinion on the challenges to their country's fight against terrorism.

"When was the last time you heard of a 50-year-old suicide bomber?" said Al-Akhali. "Any serious discussions about tackling terrorism should always involve youth representatives from the problem regions."

The three young Yemenis behind the initiative currently work and study in Canada, but have used the internet to promote the movement.

Their website in particular generated 9,000 views over the span of 9 days resulting in 120 participants with a total of 300 comments, according to Al-Awah.

A report has been written to summarize these comments.

Although it was not possible to present the report at Wednesday's ministerial meeting in London as participants had initially hoped, it has been sent to Ginny Hill, director of the Yemen Forum at Chatham House, a center for international studies in London, and to the US Ambassador in Yemen, according to Al-Awah.

A representative of the group attended a meeting on Yemen at Chatham House on Tuesday evening.

"Depending on what we hear from our UK contact we will follow up accordingly," Al-Awah wrote to the Yemen Times on Wednesday. "Our objective is to try and get as much coverage of the report as possible."

Social networking

Beside the website, Resonate Yemen has created a group called "I know someone in Yemen and he/she is not a terrorist" on Facebook. On Wednesday evening, the group had over 3,700 members.

One participant also used social media platform Yoosk to seek the ear of the British government. Rana Jarhoun, a Yemeni student living in the UK, asked the British government how the London meeting would deal with the situation in Yemen.

Ivan Lewis, Minister of State at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, replied to her question, and the video is posted on the initiative's page on Facebook.

In his answer, he speaks of boosting Ye-

men's economy, creating job opportunities for young people, and improving basic services like health and education.

He explains to viewers that this is "to ensure that Yemen has some optimism about reforming its economy, so that it can experience economic growth, and that economic growth can be used for the benefit of the people."

In Yemen, participants used more traditional networking tactics as well as the internet.

"Given the difficulty in reaching Yemeni youth in a country with minimal infrastructure and relatively few Internet subscribers, several low-tech methods were also used for outreach in Yemen," explains the report.

Hussam Sallam, 22, student at the University of Aden, asked students for their contribution and approached Yemeni youth organizations for their support. He sent the opinions he collected to Canada to be part of the final report.

"There was great response from youth, because they were going to put forward their point of view to the international community," he said.

Solve unemployment

According to the opinions collected by Resonate Yemen, Yemeni youth see unemployment as a key challenge to resolve to fight extremism in the country.

"In general, the participants rated poverty as the top challenge facing Yemen in com-

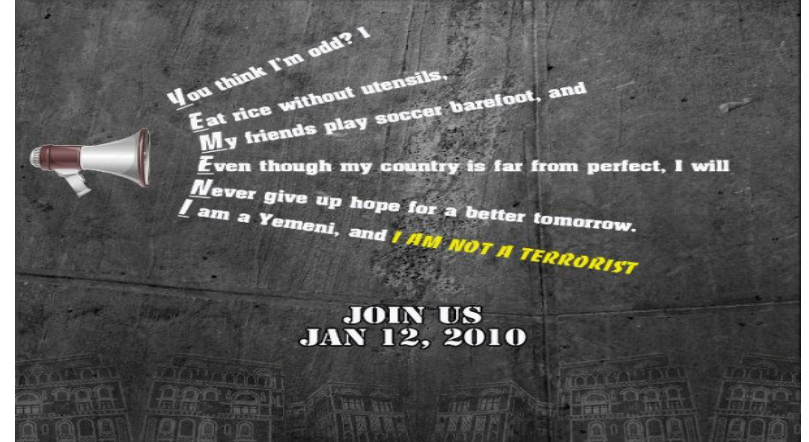
bating terrorism," wrote Al-Awah in the report. "The weak economy and very high unemployment rate lead to desperation and assist terrorist organizations with targeting youth by simply giving them a goal in life and the promise for a 'better future'."

"The youth expressed their frustration with the rampant corruption in all levels of the government and the society as a whole," he added. "This level of corruption is seen as a major contributor to the poverty situation and the weak economy of the country."

The report outlines young Yemenis' concern with the absence of the rule of law in the country: "The government's inability to spread its sovereignty over a large portion of the country has given terrorist networks the freedom to penetrate the country's borders and wander around freely preaching a message of hatred and terror, equipped with misguided quotations from Islamic text to people with simple understanding of the religion."

Aid from Islamic countries

Finally, when asked about the type and ori-



"A 'teaser' poster for the worldwide debut of an ambitious new initiative by a group of Canadian-based Yemenis," reads the comment under this image on Facebook. The initiative can be viewed at www.resonateyemen.org.

gin of assistance needed by Yemen, most participants preferred assistance from Gulf countries, Arab countries, and Islamic countries, according to the report.

"There is a general mistrust of the intentions of the west when offering assistance," says the Resonate Yemen report. "They also believe that the most effective way to assist Yemen is through financial aid and technical assistance to the mili-

tary."

Participants emphasized the need to establish measures to shield the assistance from the corrosive nature of corruption, says the report.

"We hope the 'Friends of Yemen' group will work on engaging youth in their future plans for our country," it concludes. "Yemen's youth are here, they want to help and they need to be heard."

Yemen seeks financial support in London conference

By: Amel Al-Arifi

SANA'A, JAN. 27 — Among rejection and expectations, the London conference concluded on Wednesday 27 January, with representatives of 21 countries present to address Yemen's security problems and bolster its faltering economy.

Until the moment of writing this news, the outcome of the conference had not been declared.

The conference, which brought together the Group of Eight world powers, Yemen's neighbors in the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, came after Yemen became the forefront of the world agenda late last year, when it was revealed that the Nigerian accused of attempting to blow up a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit, US, had links to the Al-Qaeda based in Yemen.

The European Union, United Nations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) also attended the conference, which was mainly organized to tackle the future of Afghanistan, but had devoted two hours to discuss Yemen.

Yemen announced its agenda a few days before the conference in a press statement by its foreign minister, Abubakr Al-Qirbi. He said that he hopes that the international community will pledge aid at the London conference in support to the economic plans of curbing unemployment and poverty, the two main reasons largely believed to be behind the recent rise in terrorist activities in the country.

Al-Qirbi also spoke of the danger of Yemen becoming a failed state, if it does not get support from the international community to improve its economy.

Earlier, the minister stated that the Yemeni government will not accept anything in the London conference "that will harm its sov-

ereignty or lead to interference in its internal affairs."

"Issues like human rights and freedom of the press, the unrest in southern governorates, and the ongoing war in the north with Houthis are all considered as internal affairs," said Al-Qirbi.

Official statements before the conference indicated that Yemen will take concrete steps towards writing off at least half of its debts, which are burdening the country.

Yemen needs USD50 billion over 10 years — for infrastructure, poverty alleviation and development projects, according to the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

The US and Britain have already promised more cash to bolster the Yemenis' fight against AL-Qaeda's in the wake of the failed airline suicide bombing attempt.

The US pledged to double the USD70 million aid it gave last year, and in 2006, to become USD 150 million, while the United Kingdom planned to give USD160 million from 2006 to 2010. The money will go for "development of a special operations and military projects such as the development of Yemen's coastguard, development of major elements of Yemen's special operations and counter-terrorist forces, as well as select conventional forces," according to American media outlets.

The conference was preceded with many local conferences and discussions organized

by Yemeni officials, Yemeni NGOs, and tribal as well as religious scholars in Yemen.

In their conference last Tuesday, Yemeni tribal and religious sheikhs stated that they considered such conference as "the interference of foreign governments in Yemen's internal affairs under the pretext of fighting terrorism."

The conference refuted the governments' claims that there was any tribal connection to terrorism.

On Sunday, the "Civil Society Parallel Forum to the London Conference" assembled 160 participants and human right activists in Sana'a under the slogan "Guarantee Our Safety, Freedom and Rights as Pre-requisites to Fighting Terrorism."

"In recent years, the government has manipulated international partners in this regard by portraying political opponents as terrorists, while demonstrating a complacent attitude in implementing serious procedures tackling terrorist groups. The instrumentalization of the campaign against terror for political gain culminated in its use to hinder competition in the 2006 presidential elections," said a statement in the parallel forum.

At the 2006 donor conference in London, the international community pledged about USD 5 billion in aid to Yemen, but only USD 415 million of that was delivered, considering Yemen's limitations in terms of capacity and transparent tender procedures.

Exhibition of children's drawings on war banned

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, JAN. 26 — Security at Sana'a University last week prevented an exhibition of drawings on the war in Sa'ada by children in Aden.

The exhibition was entitled "War through Innocent Eyes" and was scheduled to begin on Sunday in the corridors of the Faculty of Arts. On the morning of the opening day, its guards prevented Aad Noman, human rights activist and organizer of the event, from entering with the children's drawings.

According to Noman, the university's security told him that the paintings "harm national security." Noman had requested permission to organize the exhibition from the Head of the Department of Social Services of the faculty.

"Because there were no instructions from the head of the university, the paintings were banned from being exhibited in the faculty area," said Colonel Saleh Al-Jubri, the Director of Security at Sana'a University.

Noman said children are the most marginalized group in society and attention to their activities is rare. He is concerned that the children will ask why their drawings were not exhibited.

Noman has been preparing for this exhibition for some time in order to highlight the reality of war without delving into politics, he said. He had previously



A drawing by a third grade child from Aden depicts what he understands of the war in Sa'ada. He links the suffering of Yemenis to that of the Palestinians by drawing a boy next to his flag throwing stones at the attackers.

tried to exhibit the children's drawings on the outer fence of the Culture House and the Public Authority of Books, but he was referred to the Capital Secretariat Authority to receive permission.

"I was referred to the local council in the Al-Tahreer district where I was asked to pay for the permission and I told them I had no money," he said.

Now Noman is trying to hold the exhibition at a foreign cultural center in Sana'a.

The drawings are expressions of mar-

ginalized children from schools in Aden. The initiative was supported by MP Abdel Bari Dughaiha.

"The security members have more influence and power than academics inside the university," said Noman.

"Exhibiting these drawings is by no means an indication of support for one side or the other," said Noman. "The drawings simply carry the message that the consequences of war, with all of its destruction, displacement, and death of so many people, are truly gruesome."

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Ministry announces refugee registration deadline

SANAA, JAN. 26 (IRIN) - Yemen's Interior Ministry on 18 January announced that all unregistered refugees in Yemen must register with the authorities within two months. It justified the move saying illegal immigration was a real threat to the country's security.

"Illegal immigrants from the Horn of Africa were found to be engaging in the war waged by Houthi-led Shia rebels against the government in the northern province of Saada, as well as in other violent acts and crimes," Abdussalam Jawhar, head of Refugee Affairs Department (RAD) at the Interior Ministry, told IRIN on 19 January.

"When those immigrants have legal status, this will help us identify their residence addresses, observe their movements in various parts of the country, and recognize their IDs," Jawhar said.

He warned that immigrants who are still unregistered after the deadline expires, will be deported.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is coordinating the registration process, supporting the government with equipment and funding, and handing out forms at its reception centres, but it is the government which issues refugee IDs.

UNHCR supports the government's right to ensure that everybody is accounted for, provided that Yemen's obligations under international law are respected, Rocco Nuri, UNHCR's Aden-based external relations officer, told IRIN.

Registration

According to Jawhar, the Interior Ministry and UNHCR run three refugee registration centres - two in southern Aden and Lahj governorates (Basatin and Kharaz camps respectively), and one in Sanaa.

"Further centres will be opened in Taiz, Shabwa, Hadramaut, Hajjah and Hodeidah governorates," Jawhar said. "The cost of refugee registration is covered by UNHCR."

"The total number of immigrants in the country is estimated at 740,000. However, only about a quarter have



It took three months for handicapped Somali Huda Ali to be granted refugee status because she did not come to one of the reception centers near Yemen's coast.

[refugee] status," he said.

At the end of 2009, there were 170,854 refugees registered with UNHCR - including 35,000 registered since March 2009 by the government's permanent registration centre in Sanaa (funded by UNHCR) - according to Andrew Knight, UNHCR's external relations officer in Sanaa.

Knight said "refugees can register with the government and thereby legalize their stay in Yemen."

According to the 2010 UNHCR country profile - Yemen, Yemen has a generous open-door policy for Somalis, granting new arrivals prima facie refugee status, but many Ethiopians are arrested and either detained or deported. Some migrants are fearful of the security forces and go underground as soon as they reach the country, avoiding assistance and advice available at UNHCR reception centres.

The UNHCR in Yemen received 77,802 new arrivals from the Horn of Africa in 2009, a 55 percent increase over 2008, and for the first time Somalis were not the majority nationality. The

number of Ethiopians making the perilous boat journey across the Gulf of Aden more than doubled to 44,814.

Discrimination?

Some experts say that while Somalis are unlikely to have problems regularizing their status, non-Somali African immigrants might find it difficult to do so.

Ame Addu, aged 34, currently living in Safiya zone in Sanaa and originally from the Oromia region of Ethiopia, fears being deported as a result of the new measures. "I went to the UNHCR office in Sanaa several times in an attempt to get a refugee ID but couldn't. Had I been from Somalia, I would have got an ID," he said.

Addu, who fled his home country in early 2008, said: "I fled to Yemen in order to survive. There is nothing in Oromia except poverty, drought and famine".

"I make some YR 700-900 (US\$2.5-3.5) a day cleaning cars in Sanaa's streets, but in Oromia I used to go for months without any money," he said.

More psychological care needed for juveniles

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi
For the Yemen Times

SANAA, JAN. 26 — Psychologists and sociologists confirmed that juveniles in prisons suffer from mistreatment.

The Yemeni law on juvenile welfare provides protection for the children victims during the stages of the investigation and trial.

"Most juveniles in prisons still lack psychological care," said Dr. Salahaddin Al-Joma'ae, professor of psychology at Sana'a university.

"The Ministry of Justice has taken serious steps in supporting juvenile justice, but this isn't enough because the juveniles need special treatment," he said.

"We must talk about prevention before cure," Al-Joma'ae added.

Al-Joma'ae stressed the need for specialized centers to prevent the mistreatment of children and confirmed that psychological care is a must for juveniles. He urged judges and soldiers to be fathers for these children.

One of the mistreatments that children are vulnerable to is the illegal detention, according to lawyers.

"The presence of juveniles in the prison is illegal, and the solution for this problem is to establish care centers for them" said Helmi Al-Hameedi, a lawyer and a specialist in the juvenile issues.

Child trafficking is another challenge in mistreatment of children, the lawyer noted.

The Yemeni law for juveniles guarantees full care for children who commit violence and recommends rehabilitation programs and not putting them in jails.

Furthermore, the law also recommends to put the juveniles in special care places and to conduct secret trials for them in order to maintain their reputation.

Ahmed Al-Qurashi, the director of SEYAJ, a Yemeni organization for children protection said that Yemen has successful experiences in dealing with issues of juveniles, but judges need training.

"Yemen took an important step by having a separate department for juveniles, but the judges in this department need to be trained and well qualified," said Al-Qurashi in a statement to the Yemen Times.

He pointed out that his organization is the only body that provides volunteer lawyers to protect juveniles and so far it has provided more than 500 children and now around 50 cases are in court.

Yemeni journalists trained to support positive health messages

By: Shatha Al-Harazi
For the Yemen Times

SANAA, JAN. 25 — Despite their importance, health issues tend to be ignored in Yemen, where political situation is prioritized over the health issues. About 365 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births were reported in Yemen. Most of the death cases were of women under 18 years of age.

Early marriage is a serious issue and should be unanimously voted against in the parliament. Early marriage should be abolished because of the fact that majority of girls who marry early are vulnerable to death at the time of delivering the first child, as compared to those who marry after the minimum age.

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) is another pandemic spreading because people prefer not to go to a doctor, in such cases, for the fear of being stigmatized. About 2,223 AIDS cases were reported in Yemen. The number is increasing and the media requested to maintain a positive attitude regarding these cases.

Abdul Kareem Rase', minister of Public Health and Population, confirmed the lack of programs on health care, in the Yemeni media and said that the ministry is taking positive steps to-

wards this and calling the media to focus on health issues such as safe motherhood, reducing the maternal mortality and promoting contraceptives.

Rase' explained that ignorance is the main reason behind people's perceptions, such as the misconception that AIDS is transmitted only through having sex, birth control is prohibited by religion, etc. And this is where the media can play an important role in spreading awareness on health issues in the communities.

Yehya Al-Naggar, the deputy of Ministry of Endowment, said, "the issue of birth control has always been a controversial matter. Prophet Mohammad (BPUH) once said that he urges Muslims to childbearing, however, his saying was misinterpreted by some Muslims to having many children and that the statement can also be interpreted as having one child is enough.

Underlining the correlation between big families, poverty, ignorance and unemployment, Al-Naggar stressed that the media should play a positive role in raising the awareness of people on reproductive health.

Khaled Al-Grohi, a journalist, said that the political issues, such as Sada'a's war interest the Yemeni journalists more, in comparison to health issues, because of the general assump-

tion that political issues attract more readers. He also said that health issues can be of more importance if the media outlets are successful in drawing the peoples' attention to them.

In journalism, pictures speak louder than words and nobody can deny the importance of the role of caricatures, which have a great potential to capture people's attention to serious health issues as against lengthy articles.

Adnan Jummen emphasized the importance of caricatures but said that, "unfortunately, the editing policy of some journals force the journalists to focus on selective issues to draw."

The Ministry of Public Health and Population in cooperation with Ministry of Information conducted training workshops on health issues for journalists and television media.

Naser Al-Abisi, the manager of Health Education Administration, said that no efforts should be spared in this regard and that the administration makes sure that the people get health information based on scientific facts. He added that health reports should be made available to journalists to facilitate communicating the information to the people in the right way.

The Ministry of Public Health aims to achieve its goal of reducing infant and maternal mortality, by 2015.

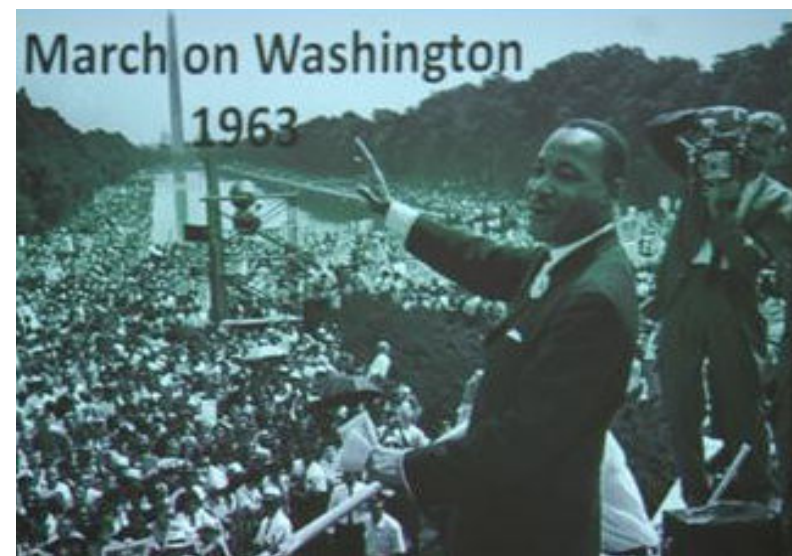
Yemeni students mark Martin Luther King Jr. Day

By: Ibrahim Nagi & Jessica Claycomb
For the Yemen Times

SANAA, JAN. 24 — Thirty Department of State Access Micro-scholarship students - five alumni of the Youth and Exchange Study Program, attended a presentation held at AMIDEAST Sana'a marking Martin Luther King Jr. Day. A guest speaker from the American Embassy in Sana'a, Ms. Carissa Gonzalez, led the presentation. The anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday is marked on January 18 every year in the U.S. and around the world.

Ms. Carissa Gonzalez began her one-hour discussion with a PowerPoint presentation outlining the different stages of King's struggle for equality that led to the Civil Rights Movement. The presentation, 'Honoring a Man and a Dream', shed light on the importance of King to American history and the whole world, as his legacy affected not only minorities in America, but also minorities across the world who suffered and still suffer from discrimination and social injustice based on the color of their skin, their race, their religion, and their gender. Ms. Gonzalez went on to explain how King's Civil Rights movement was non-violent and how it embodied the American Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776, which states:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure



these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Ms. Gonzalez continued, discussing the famous march on Washington in 1963 and King's historical speech, "I have a dream." She also talked about the shift in American history towards recognizing and supporting minorities thanks to the subsequent passing of laws and rules that punish any act of discrimination in public places and institutions. Further, she explained, King's efforts marked a major change in American history as American people continue to this day to show the world that their country is a 'melting pot', and resulting, most recently, in the election of Barack Obama as the first African-American President of the United States of America.

Afterwards, Ms. Carissa Gonzalez

invited the students to ask questions. A lively Q&A session followed, which included participation by the YES alumni, who had had the opportunity to live and study in America for a year, as well as Access students. The event showed how Martin Luther King Jr. had made America better, and what we should learn from him as a person and his dream in order to continue improving America and the rest of the world. Sarah Al-Ariqi, an Access student, said, "King's principles and his non-violent movement has taught me that violence is not the way to get things; it is the power of our faith in what we believe in." Another Access student, Wafa' Al-Sagheer, said, "I have learnt that there must not be any discrimination based on the color of peoples' skin, their race, their religion, or their gender, as we are all equal."

Over 2,500 motorcycles issued number plates in Ibb

By: Mofeed Al-Gaad
For the Yemen Times

IBB, JAN. 27 — An October 2009 cabinet decision to issue all motorcycles in Yemen with number plates has received mixed reactions in Ibb.

While the measure is intended to improve security and reduce theft, it also means that riders without a number plate have to pay the customs duty on their vehicle.

There are 6,000 motorcycles in Ibb city and only about half of them have been given number plates by the traffic authority until now, according to the archive of the Ibb traffic authority.

"We want to have number plates on motorcycles for security reasons, which will make it easy for policemen to control motorcyclists violating the law," said general manager of Ibb traffic authority Abdulazeez Al-Sofiani.

According to Al-Sofiani, the decision will be implemented in three steps. If a motorcycle is caught without a license plate the first time, it will be confiscated and the word 'violation' will be written on his ownership document.

If a motorcycle is caught for the sec-

ond time, the motorcycle will be confiscated and kept in the yard of traffic authority for one month. The third time the motorcycle will be sent to the general traffic authority in Sana'a city.

"We are overloaded by the work of registering motorcycles and collecting unpaid custom fees from motorcycle owners," said Fuad Hoborah, the president of the traffic archive. "We are implementing the cabinet resolution and motorcycle owners who don't pay the tax will be punished by having their motorcycles confiscated."

"We have until now registered more than 2,500 motorcycles," said Hoborah. "The period within which to clear the due taxes on motorcycles is three months. However, as owners are still coming to get number plates for their motorcycles, we will probably extend the period."

Most motorcycle riders work hard to support their families and, as the motorcycles are the source of their livelihoods, they will be greatly affected by the cabinet resolution.

Against the background of the high rate of poverty among Yemenis, a large number of people from Ibb resort to giv-

ing motorcycle rides to passengers to make a living. Given their meager income, paying the customs duty for these unregistered motorcycles is a heavy burden.

"I graduated from college a long time ago, but could not find a job in the governmental or private sector. So I bought a motorcycle to earn a living and support the family," said Mohammad Mosharah, a motorcycle rider.

"I borrowed YR 20,000 to treat my sick daughter but the traffic authority forced me to pay the money as taxes for my motorcycle" Mohammad added.

"I have a family of five members and I couldn't collect the required money to pay the tax on my motorcycle, because of our difficult financial circumstances," said Raid Ali, another rider.

According to the archive of Ibb traffic authority, the customs duty levied on motorcycles is different depending on the model and make of the motorcycle. For example, the customs duty on a 2009 model Chinese motorcycle is YR 22,000, and it is on a 2000 to 2008 model Chinese motorcycle is YR 17,000, whereas the tax on a Japanese motorcycle is YR 12,500. Whereas for the better off, this

amount has no implications, for poor motorcycle riders who earn a living by giving rides to passengers, the customs duty is extremely high.

"I can hardly meet the basic needs of my family," said Yahia Al-Thamari, a motorcycle rider. "How am I supposed to pay the motorcycle custom fee? The amount is very high for me, even if it is less than YR 5,000."

"Most of motorcycle riders don't have the amount to pay the tax. I sold a golden ring in order to pay my tax and to be able to continue working peacefully, without being afraid of the authorities," said Waheeb Abdu, a motorcycle rider.

Measure to stop theft

On the other hand, giving motorcycles number plates is considered to be a positive step towards curbing the spread of robberies committed by motorcycle riders, in which motorcycles have proved easy means for committing the robbery.

People walking on the streets are attacked by fast riding motorcyclists and their accomplices, snatching bags or other valuables from pedestrians. Numerous men and women have lost their valuables in this way.



Hundreds of damaged motorcycles at the General Traffic Authority's main premises in Sana'a. The authority has started sincere campaigns all over the country to regulate motorcyclists who were not used to licensing their vehicles or abiding by traffic laws.

"I was walking, on my way to college, when suddenly a motorcyclist snatched my hand bag and I fell down. I stood up to looking for somebody to follow the motorcyclist and bring back my bag which had money as well as some gold in it, and the thief disappeared quickly. I think having number plates for motorcycles is a very good step," said a female college student.

"Yesterday I was walking on the street holding a bag of qat that cost YR 2,000. A motorcyclist snatched the bag

and disappeared within a minute," said Selman Noman.

Law-abiding motorcycle riders welcomed the resolution which included paying their due custom taxes immediately, as the criminal activities of a few have slandered the reputation of motorcycles riders in general.

"Although the tariff is somewhat high, it's considered as a positive step in deterring those committing robberies from escaping," said Bader Al-Rahabi, a law-abiding motorcycle rider.

In Brief

SANA'A
Deputy premier receives Hamas representative
 Deputy Prime Minister for Interior Affairs Sadiq Abu Ras met on Sunday with representative of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) Abdul-Muti Zaqout.
 During the meeting, Zaqout briefed Abu Ras on the current situations in the Palestinian area, specially the latest developments in the dialogue among the Palestinian factions as well as the deterioration of the humanitarian situations in Gaza Strip under the continuous aggressive blockade imposed by Israel.
 Abu Ras called, during the meeting, all the Palestinian factions to agree on a unified national program to meet ambitions of the Palestinian people and liberate the occupied lands of Palestine.
 He noted efforts of Yemen aimed to reinforce convergence and achieve the Palestinian reconciliation.

down on alleged hideouts of al-Qaeda. Yemen's war against al-Qaeda resulted in killing many leaders of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) including the top regional leader of al-Qaeda Qassim Yahya Mahdi al-Raymi.
 Interior Ministry has said that Yemen's war on terrorism and al-Qaeda would continue almost daily to prevent al-Qaeda operations against any national and foreign interests.

Yemen to participate in AEDC
 Yemen will participate in the Arab-European Dialogue Conference (AEDC) to be held in the French capital, Paris, from 27 - 28 January.
 The secretary general of the Yemeni National Commission for Education, Culture and Science Ahmad al-Mamrie said that the conference brings together the secretaries general of the national committees of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to create a dialogue for the civilizations convergence.
 The conference will also support countries and institutions to spread concepts of culture plurality and cultural interaction, cooperation and common human interests, al-Mamrie said.

Commission to summon officials Yemen, Indonesia talk cooperation in oil, gas areas
 Minister of Oil and Minerals Amir al-Aydarus discussed here on Monday with the Indonesian President's special envoy Alawi bin Shihab aspects of cooperation between the two countries in oil, gas, minerals fields and ways of enhancing them.

In presence of Chairman of the Indonesian Medco for Oil Exploration, Hilmi Panigoro, the two sides reviewed activities of the Indonesian company operating in Blocks 82 and 83 in Hadramout, eastern Yemen.
 They also dealt with aspects relating to increasing Indonesian investments in Yemen in oil, gas, minerals areas and the available investment opportunities in this field.
 During the meeting, al-Aydarus welcomed the Indonesian investments, saying that they would enjoy all facilities.
 Al-Aydarus noted the advantages and facilities provided to investors in the oil, gas, minerals areas, as well as the promising investment opportunities in Yemen in these sectors.

Over 30 terrorists killed in Yemen: Interior Minister
 About 30 terrorists of al-Qaeda have been killed by security forces recently, Interior Minister Mutahar al-Masri said Sunday.
 In the conclusion of a training course for new police forces, al-Masri said that the security authorities have been managed to raid strongly al-Qaeda.
 Many of al-Qaeda members have been apprehended and the others will be hunted all over the country, the minister said.
 "Yemen faces three challenges; Houthi rebellion, southern movement and al-Qaeda" he said, underlining that the security authorities in Yemen are able to tackle them.
 Yemen has been intensifying its crack-

Renowned Palestinian-Lebanese businessman and founder of the Consolidated Contractors Company Hasib Sabbagh passed away in Athens on Tuesday evening at the age of 90.
 Hasib Sabbagh's story is the story of Palestine. His death today is a loss for all Palestinians. His world-wide achievements on the business and philanthropic fronts make his words when he used to describe himself as a man who went from being «a refugee to a citizen of the world» indisputable.
 Hasib Sabbagh was born to a distinguished family in Palestine in 1922. After graduating from AUB with a degree in civil engineering, he co-founded the Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC). After Israel was established in 1948, Sabbagh fled Palestine and CCC was moved from Palestine to Beirut, and then later on to Athens where he died last night.
 His vision and dedication to make a contribution to the world became evident by CCC's respected name throughout the world, and his ability to share its success with many in need. Today, CCC is the region's largest multinational company and one of the largest contractors worldwide with an annual revenue of \$ 4 billion, and more than 140,000 employees composed of over sixty nationalities.
 An advocate for Peace between Palestinians and Israelis, and man that deeply cared for Palestine and its people, Hasib Sabbagh was and will remain a leading philanthropist that gave generously to the health and education sectors in Palestine.
 an. 13 (Bloomberg) --Hasib Sabbagh, the billionaire Christian Palestinian businessman who co-founded Consolidated Contractors Company International, one of the largest building companies in the Middle East, has died.
 Sabbagh died yesterday in a hospital in Cleveland, Ohio at the age of 90, a CCC representative said via phone

WFP to provide aid in food security for Yemen
 World Food Programme (WFP) is to continue providing Yemen with the possible aid in area of food security.
 WFP's Regional Director for the Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe Daly Belgamsi expressed, during his meeting with Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul-Karim al-Arhabi, his appreciation for the government's facilities for carrying out the WFP's activities in Yemen.
 Al-Arhabi and Belgamsi held talks on mutual cooperation aspects in supporting the humanitarian relief efforts for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sa'ada.

The meeting also reviewed the WFP contribution in propping up the government's efforts to execute the national strategy of food security in Yemen.
 Al-Arhabi applauded the humanitarian role of WFP in promoting Yemen's efforts to combat poverty, affirming the country's commitment to enhance its future cooperation with the WFP.

NDI official: Yemen is real partner in democratic field
 Head of Middle East Department at the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Les Campbell affirmed on Monday that Yemen is a real partner in the democratic field.
 Upon leaving Sana'a, Campbell said

that despite that Yemen is currently undergoing a rough time as a result of the economic difficulties and emergence of extremism and violence in the north and the southern provinces, but it is characterized by the presence of an elected parliament, elected local councils, civil society organizations, existence of political pluralism, and the democratic institutions.
 He noted that he met officials in the government and all political forces and discussed with them horizons of cooperation between Yemen and the NDI in the democratic field, expressing his confidence that the Yemenis are able to solve their problems and face the challenges.

After a successful journey in the business world

Hasib Sabbagh passes away



today from Athens, without giving more details.
 CCC, set up in 1952 by Sabbagh and his brother-in-law, Said Khoury, thrived in some of the world's most-volatile regions, helped by Sabbagh's contacts with a wide range of business executives and politicians. The company built Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison, which was completed in 1969, a decade before Saddam Hussein became president, and a terminal extension at Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport.
 "He maintained relationships with very senior and key decision makers around the world," Taher Masri, a former Jordanian prime minister said in a telephone interview today. "Hasib went from being a Palestinian refugee to being a citizen of the world."
 Sabbagh was born in 1920 in Tiberias, Palestine. He graduated from the Arab College of Jerusalem in 1938, and in 1941 earned a civil engineering degree from the American University of Beirut.
 CCC moved its headquarters to Athens from Beirut after civil war broke out in Lebanon in 1975. The company then benefited from the economic construction boom of Dubai and provided offshore services to the oil and gas industries in the countries of the Persian Gulf.

world and ranked him 19 on its 2009 list of the richest Arabs with a net worth of \$4.3 billion.
 Sabbagh was also a member of the Palestine National Council and helped former Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to get into a dialogue with the U.S. Sabbagh was a donor to the Carter Center, which was founded in 1982 by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and promotes respect for human rights and fights global poverty.
 Carter said in 2005 that Sabbagh was "one of my earliest and strongest allies in pursuing peace in the Middle East" and that "Hasib's integrity and judgment, which made him a successful businessman, also made him a trusted adviser."

Philanthropist
 Sabbagh was also a philanthropist and

proponent of education and providing financial aid to Palestinians.
 After the death of his wife, he founded the Diana Tamari Sabbagh Foundation, which receives 1 percent of his annual income and distributes it to a wide variety of institutions in the Middle East, Europe, and the U.S., according to Sabbagh's personal Web site.
 He gave financial aid to the Beirut Charities Foundation, the American University of Beirut, the Jordan Charities Foundation, the Welfare Association in Geneva, and the Vatican.
 The Diana Tamari Sabbagh Foundation has given grants to the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Harvard University, Georgetown University, the American Enterprise Institute, Eureka College in California, and Weber College in Florida.

Turkish Airlines is The New Sponsor For Barcelona

The fastest growing airline company which takes the frontline as having the youngest fleet in Europe as well as being an airline that increases its number of passenger and quality, Turkish Airlines has become formal sponsor of the world-famous football club for the next three years. Barcelona had broken a record last season by receiving six cups. Along with the formal ceremony which will be taking place at the legendary stadium of Barcelona Camp Nou in January, Turkish Airlines will also start to undertake work in the areas of advertising and communications with regard to the subject. Due to this formal sponsorship the FC Barcelona club will be flying to international tournaments with the safety and comfort of Turkish Airlines.

Vacancy Announcement

An international company based in Sana'a is seeking to recruit a Medical Receptionist

Position Title: **Receptionist**

Location: **Sana'a**

Deadline Date: **28th February 2010**

Key Responsibilities

- Answering the telephone
- Arranging patients' appointments
- Taking messages for medical staff
- Supervise patient flow to ensure prompt service
- Keeping patients' medical files up to date
- Liaise with external providers

Essential Criteria

- Should be Male or Female Yemeni National
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Good presentation and ability to convey positive image and build positive relationships with others
- Ability to communicate professionally and tactfully with staff, patients and the public
- Have good organisational skills, and be able to prioritise workload in a busy environment
- Minimum 2 years experience in similar position or in customer service position
- Computer literate and proficient with Microsoft Office applications

Interested candidates are requested to submit a detailed CV together with an introduction letter and be sent by email to: **receptionist.sanaa@gmail.com**
 Responses will only be made to short listed candidates

Vacancy Announcement

إعلان وظائف شاذرة

منظمة المهنات الطبية الدولية (AMI) - منظمة فرنسية غير حكومية إسبانية غير سبائية ولابعية. تمارس أعمالها في 9 دول، ولاكثر من 25 عاماً. تقوم المنظمة بتقديم الخدمات الطبية للسكان المتضررين والمعرضين من كافة أنحاء الرعاية الصحية. تعمل المنظمة حالياً في الجمهورية اليمنية منذ بداية عام 2007، وتقوم بدمج خدمات الرعاية الصحية الأولية في محافظة الحديدة وتنفيذ مشاريعها بالتعاون مع وزارة الصحة العامة والسكان، وتركز بشكل رئيسي على رفع مستوى الخدمات التنظيمية وتقديم اللعراق الصحية في مديريتي الحادي والمرابوة وذلك لتكثيف من تقديم أفضل الخدمات الصحية المناسبة وتأت الكفاءة. يعين مقر المكتب التنفيذي للمنظمة عن فرص عمل في المجال التالي

مسئول إداري

ملخص الوظيفة:
 المسؤول الإداري يدير ويوظف عمل تحت إشراف رئيس المحطة وسيكون مسؤولاً عن صندوق النقد والقرض والحسابات ويقوم بالتدقيق لجميع الوثائق وفقاً لإجراءات AMI المالية. ويكون مسؤولاً عن العديد من المهام الإدارية مثل: متابعة المتقادم، والتوريد، الموارد البشرية، والعلاقات مع الإدارات الصحية وتقديم الخدمات. ويتوجب عليه أن يقوم بمتابعة الترجمة لجميع الأوراق المطلوبة. وأخيراً، عليه أيضاً أن يشرف على فريق من المترجمين، والطباخ وعامل النظافة.

لا بد من توفر الشروط التالية في المتقدمين:

- درجة جامعية أو خبرة عملية في الإدارة المالية والمحاسبية، أو خبرة في الإدارة.
- سواها في القطاع العام أو القطاع الخاص.
- اللغات الانكليزية (لغة العمل الرسمية، تحدثاً وقراءة وكتابة)؛ و يجيد العربية (القراءة والكتابة).
- مهارات جيدة في مجال تشغيل الحاسوب (خاصة برنامج الورد واستخدام الأكليل بشكل ممتاز).
- ويفضل إجادة استخدام البرنامج المحاسبي (SAGA).
- معرفة الإجراءات المتعلقة بالمناجحين.
- أن يكون دقيقاً، ومنظماً بشكل جيد ويكون جديراً بالثقة، والعمل بشفاافية.

عقد العمل:

- مدة عقد العمل 6 أشهر مع إمكانية التمديد.
- منقرع لداوم عمل كامل بالحديدية.
- الراتب سيكون وفقاً لسلم وراتب المنظمة.
- على المتقدمين للوظيفة تقديم سيرتهم الذاتية ورسالة بالغة الانكليزية توضح خبراتهم ولتحصيم العمل بالتفصيل على العناوين التالية:

مكتب منظمة المهنات الطبية الدولية (AMI)
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 - تلفاكس 2/2.0885 -
 البريد الإلكتروني yemen@amifrance.org

آخر موعد لتقديم الطلبات الأربعاء، 31/ يناير/ 2010 م. في الساعة 4:00 مساءً.
 الطلبات التي لا تتوفر فيها الشروط المذكورة أعلاه، لن ينظر فيها.
 سيتم التواصل فقط بالعدد المختار من المرشحين المقابلة الشخصية.

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Tender Document is available on the Air India website www.airindia.in

The completed questionnaire (in English) should be forwarded to the address specified in the Tender Document by 08 February, 2010.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Yemen is inviting applications as follows:

1 Security Guard

Essentials

- Experience of working in a security industry.
- Basic English communication skill is desirable.

Duties will include

- Access, Crowd, Traffic control.
- Meeting visitors and issuing security passes

2 Body Guards

Essentials

- Experience of working as a Body Guards
- English communication skill is desirable.

Duties will include

- Providing Embassy staff with Close Protection

***Applicants must be flexible and quick to adapt to works in demand**
 Application (CV, Cover Letter and a photo taken within 6 months) should be sent by e-mail to yemen@mofat.go.kr no later than 30 JAN, 2010.



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3. يحصل المتدرب / ة على مناهج معتمدة من أكاديمية أوراكل.
4. يحصل المتدرب / ة على (3) شهادات من أكاديمية أوراكل بالإضافة إلى شهادة دبلوم نهائية من المركز التدريبي.
5. يحصل المتدرب / ة على فرصة المشاركة في ورش عمل المهارات الوظيفية و المتضمنة 10 جلسات.

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 فرع المكلا: شارع 22 مايو - أمام مركز العودي
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Counterfeit products fake it to the shelves

By: Mohamed Adam
For the Yemen Times

You bought a chic brand new pair of Adidas sport shoes featuring the famous Adidas logo of three parallel bars, but, roughly a week after you acquired them, they began to fall apart. What happened? Perhaps you bought 'Adibas' and not Adidas. After all, the market is awash with counterfeits that resemble genuine products meant to deceive potential unwitting consumers.

"I recently bought an 'Alkatel' cell phone and my sister brought to my attention the substitution of the letter 'c' in the genuine Alcatel. I bought the fake 'Alkatel' for USD 200 and the genuine one costs the same amount," said Hashim Ahmed, a freshman law student at Sana'a university. "It was too late to return the cell phone to the store when I learned it was a fake Alcatel and within three months it run out of service; I was simply deceived."

Counterfeiters ride on the intellectual property rights of others and will stop at nothing to sell shoddy items to you since their primary objective is to make quick money. Thanks to grinding poverty in third world countries like Yemen, counterfeit products easily find their way into the hands of consumers browsing for cheap commodities.

It is estimated that 5-7 percent of world trade is in counterfeit goods and, in the Arab region, an estimated 56 percent of locally traded products are believed to be either counterfeit or not original.

According to Yahya Ghamdan, the general manager of Maximum

Telecom, Nokia's representative in Yemen, in 2009 Nokia spent USD 30,000 on campaigning against fake Nokia products in Yemen.

"Counterfeiting is an international phenomenon and companies like Nokia have become easy targets because of their quality products. We fight counterfeits through public awareness campaigns like running Radio advertisements warning people against the risk of buying fake products, but counterfeiters take advantage of the poor people who can't afford the real products which tend to be expensive compared to low quality counterfeit goods," said Ghamdan.

Stores selling a variety of products in Sana'a are stocked with clone products ranging from clothes, watches to electronics and much more. International brand names like Nokia, Sony and Sony Ericsson are often prime targets of fake presentation in the market. A common trick used by counterfeiters to imitate international brand names is either altering the arrangement of the letters or substituting one of the letters for their product to appear authentic.

Sony is presented as Sonny or Soni, Panasonic is imitated as Penisonic, while Sony Ericsson is the rip-off of Sony Ericsson. In order to woo sports fanatics, brand names like Puma are displayed on the shelves with names like Fuma while Nike has to contend with counterfeit versions trading under names like Hike and Nika. Clothes are sold under names like Locaste and Lucoste to dupe those ready to put their hand in their pocket for Lacoste.

But some products counterfeiters use the original brand names, without visible manipulation, and it is baffling to distinguish the genuine items from the fake model. For example, it is hard



Double check your item before you walk away with it, you could be sold a counterfeit product.

to distinguish a fake Nokia from the real Nokia except that the genuine model is more expensive and has a warranty. A genuine N95 costs USD 445 while the clone Chinese N95 Nokia costs USD 67.

In a bid to fight counterfeit, Nokia has adopted holographic image on its batteries as well as an authentication code hidden under a scratch-off area on the label. The holographic image allows consumers to identify detailed information on the battery to examine whether their battery is an original Nokia battery. The visual elements include the Nokia Connecting Hands symbol, Nokia Original Enhancements logo, and a series of dots around the Nokia Original Enhancements logo. Each element is visible depending on the viewing angle. In addition, users can verify online the 20-digit authentication code hidden under the scratch-off area. However, according to Yahya Ghamdan of Maximum Telecom, counterfeiters imitate measure taken against them like the holographic image in order to deceive gullible consumers.

To beguile consumers, counterfeiters add some features to the clone products, especially to electronic devices. For example, a clone Chinese 'Sony Ericsson W595' is a dual-SIM: you buy it packed with two batteries

and a touch-screen display at the bargain price of around USD 80 - these features are not found in the genuine Sony Ericsson which costs USD 210. But on the flipside, the battery of the fake 'Sony Ericsson W595' tends to last less than three hour during talk time, 30 hours on standby mode and nine hours on listening music. In comparison, the battery of genuine Sony Ericsson can support 26 hours of listening on music, nine hours talk time and 365 hours on standby mode.

According to Ahmed Jalil, the sales manager of Jalil Telecom, a distributor of Sony Ericsson, many customers fall victim to unfaithful dealers of counter-

feit products.

"A lot of people come to us complaining about the quality of the fake cell phones while others come to us looking for Sony Ericsson accessories and cell phone battery chargers for their devices only to discover their handsets aren't the real brand of Sony Ericsson," he said. "A common problem faced by consumers who buy the fake 'Sony Ericsson' is that the batteries are easily overheated and cause damage to the phones."

Legal action

Al-Mutarreb, the sole representative of Brava mobile phones in Yemen,

recently won a court case against a knock-off company which was marketing its product under Brava Bariq.

"We took them to court in order to defend our brand name and, most of all, to protect our customers against fake products sold under our name," said Mohamed Al-Dhawi, the marketing and advertising manager of Al-Mutarreb. "Counterfeiters exploit consumers and genuine brands alike."

Counterfeit goods could be dirt cheap but might not up to par. So, next time you're out shopping, make sure that you're buying the genuine article - unless, of course, you're out shopping for a counterfeit!



Nokla is the rip-off model of Nokia

Did you know that?

Once emails are sent, they become vulnerable to intercepting, illegal distribution or unintended forwarding at numerous points. Recent public exposure of "Carnivore" e-mail snooping program and the global digital surveillance system Echelon has highlighted what has been known for a long time - everything you transmit by e-mail can be intercepted and read by others. External industrial espionage, hacker attacks or internal information theft, are all urgent threats that you need to protect yourself against.

Today, the tools to intercept and open emails are readily available and the others are able to use the correspondence, financial and commercial confidence.

Did you know that if your computer is under attack, gets stolen or is lost, someone else can gain access to all unprotected files and digital information stored on it. Also, the others are able to open password-protected files through software programs not be obtained from the internet and access it.

Did you know that all of the information and files that you once had saved on your computer, remain in your computer, even after you think you have deleted them. This means that someone else can recreate the files that you think you had already deleted and expose your business at risk.



The solution to protect your communication and information

SafeIT programs by the pioneering Israeli company Ardy Electronics is the ideal solution, which is a High security office package with PCP2P/SMTP e-mail Encryption, File Encryption, File Shredding and Secure Disk Encryption in one easy-to-use product. A powerful fully automatic security suite for all your privacy needs. Provides unique solutions to protect your data and uses strong 2048-bit encryption to prevent unauthorized access and distribution of confidential information.

These products are utilized by major companies and banks in the world, in addition to many other government departments and agencies, such as: the American space Agency (NASA).

Main features in software include:

- SafeIT E-mail Encryption with unique encryption keys used for each E-mail sent.
- SafeIT File Encryption, the best way to protect sensitive information against any intrusion.
- SafeIT File Shredding, the only true way to permanently remove unwanted files and data.
- SafeIT Secure Disk, for securing information on your computer memory sticks and Flash Disk.
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Aiding Yemen

By Nadia Hijab

It was the fall of 2005, and we were sitting in the former minister of planning's large office -- "we" being two international consultants and the local representative of an international development agency.

The minister responded to all our questions with that sharp intelligence characteristic of so many Yemenis, but also politely wondered why we were there at all. He gently reminded us that earlier that year leaders from developed and developing nations had adopted the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, a resounding commitment to respect national leadership and to coordinate aid accordingly.

This issue may not sound like much against the backdrop of problems plaguing Yemen -- including corruption, poverty, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and two major internal conflicts.

Others set up non-governmental organizations that attract funding for areas donors love to support, such as gender and human rights. Meanwhile, the government itself is staffed by poorly-paid professionals. And to make matters worse, much of the government's time and effort is sucked up in servicing the requirements of these aid agencies -- tons of paperwork and many meetings generated by dozens of donors' procedural requirements.

The new head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Raj Shah, acknowledged the problem at one of his first press briefings. He said it was very hard to expect a health minister to offer leadership if he or she was spending "half or two-thirds of their time having visitors from different donor agencies... that are working in a way that's not coordinated or coherent." Well, yes.

When I visited Yemen again last year, I was happy to see that the minister of education was imposing coordination on the donor community, though with mixed success given his ministry's still weak capacity. That was one bright spot in an otherwise gloomy picture. The point is, that without strong capacity to manage development LDC governments are unable to set their own agendas, and instead remain at the mercy of whatever approach is being peddled by international organizations -- structural adjustment, poverty reduction, and the like.

The solution? Most of it is right there in the Paris Declaration. And there has been some progress. For example, in some cases donors pool their budgets to support entire sectors of the country rather than just managing projects. But change has not gone far enough.

Western donor agencies need to be visible to show their taxpayers that they are doing something with their money. And inter-governmental organizations need to be visible to donor governments -- otherwise they would not attract funding and would cease to exist.

There is much that is good about aid and much that is problematic -- including, of course, the problems of a political nature. (For example, the distorted role of aid in the Palestinian territories helps to perpetuate the Israeli occupation by minimizing its costs to Israel.)

What is crucial at this moment is that there needs to be a deeper discussion about aiding Yemen. Otherwise that country's problems may just be beginning.

Nadia Hijab is an independent analyst and a senior fellow at the Institute for Palestine Studies. Copyright © 2010 Nadia Hijab - distributed by Agence Global

High level meeting in London a real opportunity for Yemen

By: Tim Torlot
British Ambassador to Yemen

On 30 November 1967, British forces left Aden after 130 years for the last time. That date marked the end of Britain's colonial relationship with Yemen, and we have no intention of coming back.

Since that time, the relationship between Yemen and the United Kingdom has had its ups and downs. In the past few years, however, it has gone from strength to strength. But there is still a good deal of suspicion that we have some sort of hidden agenda.

Our modern relationship brings together two sovereign and independent states. We do not interfere in each other's affairs. But in so many areas, our interests overlap, and we work together as friends and partners.

That is a good thing. In the modern world, we all need to co-operate to solve problems that affect all of us - climate change, which threatens Yemen's precious and scarce water supplies, the

global economic situation, which has a huge impact on the world price of your most valuable resources - oil and gas. And of course terrorism, which threatens to destroy your economy and undermine the foundations of your society.

The Yemeni government and people cannot alone solve those problems. They need the support and co-operation of friends and partners, in Yemen and on the world stage. That is why the Yemeni and British governments have worked so closely together to arrange today's high-level meeting in London. And I mean together. Less than one hour after I heard about the idea for the event, I was on the phone to the Yemeni Foreign Minister to discuss the framework for the meeting and our shared objectives.

The meeting represents a huge opportunity for Yemen. 24 of your most important partners and friends will be gath-

ered in London to focus on how we can together support the Yemeni government in tackling the huge challenges confronting this country. Challenges of a declining economy, of rising unemployment, of power shortages and scarce water. The population is growing fast, with ever more young people in need of good education and jobs. In some parts of the country the government cannot maintain the rule of law or provide services. The cancer of corruption afflicts all areas of political and economic life. Diversification away from oil and gas is weak.

Britain's support for Yemen is growing year on year. Over 90% of that support is targeted at the development needs of the people of Yemen - the long-term future of the country. We give substantial financial assistance to the Social Fund for Development for projects that provide much needed jobs and basic services to local communities. We have a big programme of support for education. A new programme, worth YER 2.9 billion, is aimed directly at strengthening Yemen's private sector, to make it easier for businesses to start up and grow, and provide much needed jobs for ordinary people. And we are working quietly but ceaselessly to encourage others to support Yemen's developmental chal-

lenges. The major London summit in 2006 brought promises of massive new economic support from Yemen's Gulf neighbours. One of the challenges of our meeting today will be to examine how we can work together to speed up the delivery of those pledges, and to ensure that aid is used effectively to support the real needs of the people of Yemen.

So what else will the meeting achieve? We are setting out to reach a common understanding of the key challenges facing Yemen, and to give greater impetus to political and economic reform, including urgent and concrete action by the Government of Yemen. We believe that Yemen's problems, including security and instability, can be resolved only by a comprehensive set of measures to strengthen the economy, provide education and jobs, improve services and effective social support for the poor, and provide security and fair, transparent and comprehensive rule of law.

To achieve this, Yemen needs the support of its friends in the international community. We must work better, too, to ensure our assistance truly meets the needs of the Yemeni people and is delivered in a timely and co-ordinated way. Today's meeting in London gives us all the opportunity to do just that.

USA and Yemen, a late response

By: Abdul Bari Atwan

Yemen has become the center of attention for almost all the Americans, majority of whom have no idea of what or where Yemen is. Yemen became one of the priorities of Barak Obama just after Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab allegedly tried to blow up a plane to Detroit on Christmas Day.

Abdulmutallab, a Nigerian, is said to have been trained in a radicalism college and armed by Yemeni-based Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. General David Howell Petraeus, (U.S. Central Command) visited Sana'a carrying a letter from Obama to Saleh. This led Gordon Brown to invite Yemen to participate in the fighting terrorism conference, to be held at the end of January. He suggested forming security units to follow up the situation in Yemen.

The U.S has never been interested in the situation in Yemen even while the war against Houthis was being fought. It has never been shown concerns over killing the innocent people even when the war expanded to the Yemeni-Saudi border. The U.S has never helped Yemen to overcome economical difficulties or get rid of the unemployment through offering investment opportunities. All of this has not happened because the U.S has considered all this 'interior affairs', as the victims are Muslims. However, when terrorism in Yemen (Al-Qaeda) started threatening the U.S, the situation changed and the

US started to take actions against what it calls terrorism.

I want to ask how many times have we asked the Gulf countries to help Yemen overcome its economical difficulties and unemployment so that Yemeni citizens get job opportunities through the investments, which has helped to stabilize and bring peace in other examples prior to Yemen. Regrettably, Gulf countries preferred to invest in the western countries which seemed much more profitable. In the end, the financial crises affected the western countries and the stock market of the Gulf countries lost a lot of their investments.

The situation now is totally different. The Gulf countries are ready to invest in Yemen, not for the sake of their neighboring country (Yemen) or for the sake of the benefit of investing in Yemen; but because the United States of America has asked them to do so and Yemen is now even expected to get accession to the Gulf Countries Council.

With no prior notification, So'ud Al-Faisal , the Saudi Minister of Exterior , has announced in a press release with his Turkish equivalent, that Gulf countries discuss the possibility of Yemen's joining the Gulf Countries Council, provided these countries themselves manage to stay united, considering the possibility of intensive internal disputes, which may arise in case the U.S or Israel attack Iran for its nuclear program.

The U.S administration has recently recognized how futility of fighting terrorism (Al-Qaeda) in Pakistan using an annual budget of USD 50,000. Al-Qaeda, however, proved to be much smarter than

the U.S administration, when the latter eggged for a new site in the south west of the Arab Peninsula, Yemen, which it described to be the most suitable place to rear Al-Qaeda ideologies.

The U.S administration is under the false impression that sending extra (30,000) soldiers to Afghanistan and raise the number of soldiers to 100,000 is going to enhance the American presence there. Again the Al-Qaeda proves to be smarter by changing its sites in Afghanistan for the empowering its sites in Yemen and Horn of Africa especially in Somalia so that all U.S efforts go in the air.

Yemen is a country where its people reserve an aggressive attitude towards the U.S for many reasons. Being the homeland of Osama Bin Laden, the leader of Al-Qaeda, the nearest country to Saudi Arabia, having an strategic place by controlling Bab al Mandab and the Arab Sea and being the largest store of poverty in the Arab Peninsula , Yemen deserves to be described as the first and the most suitable country to for Al-Qaeda existence.

I remember when I met Osama Bin Laden in 1996, asking him about the alternative place he would think of, in case of he was forced to leave Afghanistan, just like the time when he was forced to leave the Sudan. He paused for a moment and then, contemplating briefly on the snow covered Hindukush mountains, said that he may leave for Yemen for the geographical element(its mountains) and for its people who are brave.

Al-Qaeda has never forgotten Yemen nor did it go away from it. For example, in December 1992 an Al-Qaeda cell attacked a group of American force who

were on the way to Somalia after they spent some time in Gold More Hotel in Aden. In 2000 another cell attacked the American destroyer S.S Call in Aden port and killed 17 soldiers in addition to attacking a French oil tank which was on its way from Aden to Al Suez channel.

Obama's responsibilities and duties might be more difficult in Yemen than they were in Iraq and Afghanistan. Part of the difficulty lies in the change Yemen is going through. It suffers from two dire wars in the south and the north in addition to the fact that this society is a tribal one and it is separated by sectarianism not to mention the spread corruption. Yemen is a country where 60 million weapons can be found and where Osama Bin Laden is the most popular person among people. It is a country where the land as well as the sea are open to anybody.

When George W. Bush announced the war against Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan after 9/11 he had no idea about how many wars would have to be announced against Al-Qaeda. Now Obama has many wars to announce against Al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda now has sites in Yemen, Somalia, Iraq and in the Islamic countries in Morocco.

Yemen may be another Iraq or Afghanistan in case the U.S enters the country in the name of cleaning it up from Al-Qaeda existence. If the U.S army and all its security apparatus flow to Yemen, then it may turn into a country more disturbed than Iraq leaving it in utter misery . Not even this, according to the International Transparency Organization, the neighboring Arab regions may turn to places like hell, and Saleh's destiny may be like that of Hamed Qarazai's.



When shall the gas crises end?

By: Abdul Aziz Al-Makaleh

No doubt that the problems our government is facing, especially the economical ones, are making the crises more intensive. One of these crises is the intensive disputes happened lately.

The major reason behind the inability of the government to tackle some problems may be ascribed to the economical difficulties the country is going through. So, our government is waiting for the long list of promises from countries to slighen the economical crises. The state would be more able to get rid of the ongoing political crises if it has not had any economical disorder.

The retirement system in addition to sparing some retired military employees are some example of the poor treatment of the state to the economical crises in Yemen.

The crises in Yemen turned from

being a crises of economical nature to be of political and demanding nature to the degree that people forgot the factual origin of their protesting.

However, I think that I should draw your attention to the original reason of the constant public protesting. Being a gas exporting country, the state of Yemen should have been aware of the fact that it should provide people with gas before exporting it abroad. We need the Yemeni gas more than people outside Yemen do. It is really shame- calling to find a long line of people awaiting for gas cylinders when their country has gas reserve.

Ironically, about 90% of the Yemenis do not care but about the gas crises and only 10% (the elite) do not care but about Yemen's political situation for the simple fact that they do not suffer from lack of gas cylinders.

It is not accepted in Yemen to hear that the economical difficulties are the main reason of the political crises because the state could afford the basic needs for

people as it used to do in the past.

Other than that, we, the Yemenis, have proved to be firm in the face of challenges, we can be facing intensive disputes in the country by rejecting them.

Here I come back to the beginning, I really wonder why the state does not provide the poor people with gas cylinders; actually it has help them by allocating gas cylinders for them.

For the sake of trying to feel like the poor, I decided to buy a gas cylinder myself. I spent the whole day of Thursday roaming with my car in a vain attempt to get one. I went to gas stores and shows. I went to a branch of the gas company. In the end I found somebody buying gas cylinders on a wheel barrow. I got a gas cylinder for very expensive price.

In the end, I asked myself what the poor and needy do to get a gas cylinder as they do not have cars in addition to the fact that the government do not provide them with gas cylinders by sparing them one of gas trucks going abroad.

YEMEN TIMES logo and contact information: www.yementimes.com, First Political bi-weekly English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. Tel: +967 (1) 268-661, Fax: +967 (1) 268-276, P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen, Letters: yteditor@gmail.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief: Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf. CEO: Khair Aldin Al Nsour. Managing Editor: Amel Al-Ariqi. Feature Editor: Alice Hackman.

Head of News Dept.: Mohamed bin Sallam. Senior Reporter: Ismail Al-Ghabri. Head of Design Dept.: Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf. Editorial Staff: Ali Saeed, Khaled Al-Hilaly, Mahmoud Assamee, Malak Shaher, Mariem Al-Yameni.

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Yemen: discontent and poverty simmer in west's new front against al-Qaida

Arab country's dwindling oil revenues and vocal Islamist opposition present a volatile mixture

By: Ian Black
The Guardian

It has four soaring minarets, seven ornate domes and can be seen from all over Sana'a: the Yemeni capital's Salih mosque is a vast monument to the country's president, Ali Abdullah Salih, its lights blazing all night even when power cuts plunge parts of the city into darkness.

"Look at it," said Nasser al-Rimahi, a teacher. "Do you know how many -millions that mosque cost? Do you know the state of our hospitals and schools, the problems of making a living here? They say it was a gift from the president. But where did he get his money from?"

Salih has compared ruling Yemen to "dancing with snakes" - a striking image in a predominantly tribal country whose water and oil are fast running out and which has catastrophic rates of -poverty, illiteracy and population growth. But it has taken the spectre of jihadi terrorism to galvanise global interest -unprecedented in his 31 years in power.

Alarm bells went off when the -Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, praised today by Osama bin Laden as a "heroic warrior", tried to blow up an airliner over Detroit on Christmas Day. The stark realisation that al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (Aqap) could strike so far beyond its Yemeni base has resulted in

a high-profile international -conference in London this week to -discuss the twin issues of terrorism and development, and co-ordinate efforts to help a state which some say is -failing in slow motion.

Many Yemenis say the threat from Aqap is exaggerated by western -governments and media. "Life here is normal," said Ismail Sohaily, of al-Iman University, fighting off a reputation as a hotbed of Islamist activism. "This is not Waziristan or Tora Bora. My students joke that they were surprised we weren't blamed for the earthquake in Haiti."

Still, normality in Sana'a includes a fortress-like US embassy hit by suicide bombers in 2008, troops searching -vehicles for wanted men and weapons and displays of counterterrorist firepower for the foreign TV crews who poured in after the Detroit incident. "The media frenzy is over now," said commentator Nasser Arabyee, "but Yemen's problems remain."

It is not hard to gauge public -opinion. Salih presides over a system of what one expert calls "pluralised -authoritarianism," with a vocal and predominantly Islamist opposition and a press that is highly critical despite a crackdown in recent years.

Fears about terrorism are bad for desperately needed foreign investment and tourism. "It has been very hard these last few months," lamented a shopkeeper in Sana'a's labyrinthine



Egypt Faces Downgraded Status on Religious Freedom

old city, his cheek bulging with qat as he surveyed his unsold stock of curved -daggers, brocaded belts and jewellery. "It's all because of the security problems."

But fighting against rebels of the Shia Houthis in the north, the economy, corruption, separatist unrest in the south, malnutrition and a young population of 23 million that will double in 20 years all feature higher than al-Qaida in most people's lists of concerns.

"There is the ideology of al-Qaida that you can't get rid of very easily," said Jalal Omar Yaqoub, deputy finance minister. "Yemen has become fertile ground for it because of its economic and development challenges. Citizens want job opportunities, basic services, electricity, water, healthcare and the rule of law. If these are available the majority will be law-abiding; the security forces can deal with the small minority who are not."

Yaqoub is one of a "new gang" of technocrats close to Salih's son, Ahmed Ali, expected by some to succeed his father. But critics caution that the -president will have to give up some of his immense power to allow formal government to function more effectively. "If Salih continues to rule like this the economy will collapse," argued Abdel-Ghani al-Iryani, a consultant. "The regime must understand that if it wants to survive, it must change."

Economics, development, -politics and terrorism are seen as inextricably interlinked: -diminishing oil revenues have limited Salih's ability to buy support and maintain security in provinces such as Abyan, Shabwa and Marib - "ungoverned spaces" where al-Qaida is operating. The snake-dancing is getting riskier.

Yemeni officials hope that the current international concern will produce financial aid - \$4bn a year is the fig-

ure banded around. But Washington and London insist there will be no "blank cheques" or new pledges unless serious reforms get under way. Fuel subsidies, which consume a staggering third of state spending, are a prime target; thinning the ranks of the bloated civil -service another. Both feature in a 10-point reform plan drawn up by Yaqoub and praised by the US.

Help may come from Saudi Arabia, increasingly worried by the dangers from its poorer neighbour. It already pays billions of dollars a year to Yemeni sheikhs and others but has no long-term development strategy. Agreement by the Saudis and smaller Gulf states to reopen their labour markets - closed to Yemeni workers since Salih rashly backed Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait - could generate huge sums in remittances. That would be far better than any handout.

Diplomats say Salih is watching his back: Sheikh Abdel-Majid al-Zindani,

the cleric and Afghan war veteran who taught Osama bin Laden and founded al-Iman university, has already warned of an American plot to occupy Yemen - despite Barack Obama's insistence that he will not put US "boots on the ground".

Iraq and Afghanistan have taught painful lessons about getting too close to Washington: with the vast majority of Yemenis against foreign intervention, US involvement is likely to remain discreet. "It's a lose-lose situation," said a former official. "When the government attacks al-Qaida the opposition and the Islamists go crazy. The US has unrealistic expectations of what can be done."

So what can the London conference achieve? "We're seeing results in [Yemen's] counterterrorism efforts and we want to see similar results when it comes to development," Hillary Clinton, the US secretary of state, said on Friday. Yet some in Sana'a worry that for the west, fighting al-Qaida will take precedence.

"International support may empower Salih to be more repressive," warned Nadia al-Sakkaf, editor of the Yemen Times.

"I haven't seen corrupt officials being tried."

The government needs to be made more accountable. Help can't be given unconditionally. It doesn't have to be about bombing al-Qaida. It's got to be about re-instating the rule of law, about things that matter to the Yemeni people - not just to the outside world."

Source: The Guardian, www.guardian.co.uk

Hackers Take Iran's Civil War Online

Reformists set up computer hacking team to counter Iran's Cyber Army

By: Benjamin Joffe-Walt
The Media Line

Iran's civil war began in June at the ballot box.

Then it spread to the streets as reformists accused the Islamic republic's administration of rigging the results.

Soon the civil war was being fought in online social media outlets, with debate over Iran's future filling tens of thousands of blogs and twitter pages for months.

Finally, the battle came to Iran's courts, with hundreds of reformist activists dragged before the Islamic republic's judges and state TV outlets to confess their crimes or face judgment.

But as all these battlegrounds settle down, Iran's civil war seems to have found a new home: a hacker's den.

Earlier this month the Iranian Cyber Army, said to be a collection of hackers volunteering their time in defense of their country, came close to causing a diplomatic spat with China when the 'online soldiers' successfully brought down Baidu, China's largest online search engine in retaliation for an online campaign by Chinese activists supportive of Iran's reformist movement. The hackers redirected all Baidu traffic to a

message reading "This site has been hacked by the Iranian Cyber Army." That led to a number of counterattacks by Chinese hackers on the websites of Iranian state institutions.

The group, which does not claim any direct link with the Iranian government, has launched attacks in retaliation for online activity critical of the administration of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

But the Iranian Cyber Army's war is not only with China, and its 'soldiers' have brought down the microblogging site Twitter and a number of popular Iranian opposition websites.

Now Iran's 'Green' opposition movement has launched its own Green Cyber Army, whose hackers are set to go head to head with the Ahmadinejad-supporting cyber activists of the Iranian Cyber Army.

"There is not a lot of information about these two groups," Hamid Tehrani, Iran editor of Global Voices Online told The Media Line. "We don't really know where the people who are involved are based. There are rumors that they are not based in Iran but I have no evidence to back that up."

"The Iranian Cyber Army has attacked Twitter, Iranian opposition sites and China's main search engine Baidu, in revenge for Chinese attacks," he said. "They have claimed

to have nothing to do with the Iranian government but everything they do is in support of the government. The Green Cyber Army has targeted Iranian Islamic sites and pro-government militia sites, and define themselves as working against the Iranian Cyber Army."

"Basically there are three things going on in this online war," Tehrani said. "The first trend is the amateur hacking war within Iran. The second trend is crowd sourcing: people taking pictures of reformist activists or members of militias supportive of the government, posting them online and asking people to identify who they are."

The third trend is setting up organized hacking armies in which the Iranian virtual war has gone beyond Iran's border. It is this last trend which is a very new phenomenon."

Potkin Azarmehr, an Iranian blogger and founder of the Iranian Freedom Institute, said the online battles began well over a year ago.

"Ever since the beginning of this green movement there has been an ongoing war online that is just as important as the war on the streets," he told The Media Line. "It's a cat and mouse game - sometimes the government has the upper hand and sometimes the reformists have the upper hand."

"But even before the elections, Iran set up a cyber intelligence unit and started arresting people," he said. "They knew that social media and cyberspace in general was very important to the Green movement and eventually the Iranian intelligence ministry announced a cyber police."

Azarmehr argued that it was unlikely the Iranian Cyber Army was a group of citizens.

"Given the kinds of facilities you need to do the kinds of operations they are doing, this has to be supported by the state," he claimed. "I think it's very unlikely that these are just autonomous groups without any connection to the government."

Iran's 70 million citizens maintain an estimated 700,000 blogs, making Iran the third most active online country after the United States and China.

The Iranian government has taken extensive steps to curb online reformist activity, shutting down access to opposition websites, foreign news sources and detaining bloggers.

Pujan Ziaie, who worked as an IT strategist for the presidential campaign of Mehdi Karroubi, a leading opposition candidate, agreed with Azarmehr.

"It is an online war but I really doubt they have enough knowledge

to be able to hack a site like Twitter," he told The Media Line. "Most of the country's elite support the opposition so there are not actually that many highly trained hackers that support the government."

"They just use a lot of servers and attack one server and sometimes succeed in bringing it down," Ziaie said. "But it's not on the level of Chinese and American hackers."

"The level of IT knowledge among the Iranian authorities and their supporters is very low," he said. "The websites of most of the Iranian ministries have no information on them and are not active at all. Even the [government] committee responsible for IT strategies in Iran was easily hacked for two weeks a year ago."

Internet security analysts say political cyber warfare is rare.

"Sometimes there are consolidated groups of hackers that try to show some muscle and impress with their abilities," Bulent Teksoz, a Middle East security expert at Symantec, an international market leader in online security software and services, told The Media Line. "They will go to web pages and deface them or put their own logo on them, something like this."

"At Symantec we focus on the statistics and the methods of the attacks,

not the motives, but you don't really see this kind of hacking activity much anymore," he said. "The old days of hacking - five or six years ago - was just about fame and showing the world how smart you are. But today the vast amount of cyber crime and hacking activity is related to financial gain."

"We look at hacking groups like any other company," Teksoz said. "This underground warfare has emerged into a proper global economy, and the Middle East is getting into the international hacking business more and more. With broadband it doesn't matter if you're in the Middle East, the North Pole or the desert somewhere."

Symantec's Internet Security Threat Report 2009 found that countries which introduced broadband Internet experience a dramatic increase in online threat activity.

"Most recently this was noted in Egypt, which in 2008 experienced the most malicious activity per broadband user in the whole of Europe, the Middle East and Africa," Peter Rae, Symantec's Senior Communications Manager for Emerging Markets told The Media Line. "This shows that consumers and service providers lag in ensuring their networks are secure before taking advantage of newly-available broadband."

Egypt Faces Downgraded Status on Religious Freedom

Violence against Copt Christians may lead to the US downgrading Egypt's status from "watch list" to "countries of concern".

By: Arieh O'Sullivan
The Media Line

The recent violent attacks against the Copt Christian minority in Egypt and the dismissive reaction of the government may lead to the United States downgrading Egypt's status on religious freedom from the "watch list" to a "country of concern".

A delegation from the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) wound up a fact-finding visit to Egypt Tuesday before it

is due to report back to Washington.

The delegation met earlier this week with top Muslim clerics and state-supported human rights groups. But according to the Egyptian daily *Al Masry Al Youm* the Coptic Pope Shenouda III refused to meet with the delegation and accused it of "interfering in Egypt's domestic affairs."

An official from the Coptic Church could not be reached for comment.

USCIRF Communications Director Tom Carter told The Media Line that USCIRF could not comment regarding meeting the Coptic leadership "due to

the sensitive nature of [the] request."

Last week, US ambassador to Egypt Margaret Scobey met with Pope Shenouda III and discussed the January 1 attack on Copts in Upper Egypt that killed six Copt worshippers celebrating Coptic Orthodox Christmas Eve.

This was the latest in a series of clashes between Muslims and Coptic Christians, who make up about 10% of Egypt's Muslim-majority population of 80 million. The Egyptian government was slow to respond to the attack in the Nagaa Hammadi, initially saying it was a "criminal matter".

It wasn't until late last week that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak finally addressed the matter with a strong statement.

"The criminal act in Nagaa Hammadi has made the hearts of Egyptians bleed, whether Copts or

Muslims," Mubarak said in comments carried by the official news agency MENA.

Mubarak called for "the rational preachers, thinkers and media men to shoulder their great responsibility in hampering sedition, ignorance and blind fanaticism and to deter hateful sectarian motives that threaten our social unity."

Civil rights organizations in Egypt have criticized the government over the limp-arm response to violent attacks on its Christian communities. There have been very few prosecutions for these attacks over the years. In the latest case, in which a Muslim policeman was killed in addition to the six Copts, three Muslim men face trial for murder in an emergency security court next month.

The USCIRF delegation was

dispatched with a mandate to determine whether Egypt should be removed from its religious freedoms "watch list" and put on its list of "countries of concern". This would put Egypt in league with the world's top persecutors of religious minorities such as neighboring Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Eritrea, as well as Burma, China and North Korea.

Earlier this week, the delegation reportedly met with the Sheikh of Al-Azhar University, Muhammed Sayyid Tantawy, who told them there was no discrimination between Muslims and Christians in Egypt.

"Both have the same rights and duties," Tantawy was quoted as saying in *Al Masry Al Youm*. "Both pay taxes and are drafted in the army."

Copts are considered equal to Muslims under the Egyptian constitution but must gain presidential

permission to build churches and clearance from a governor to renovate them. Also, under Egyptian law, Muslim men may marry Christian women but Muslim women are prohibited from marrying Christian men.

According to the USCIRF serious problems of discrimination, intolerance, and other human rights violations against members of religious minorities like the Copts and Bahais, as well as nonconforming Muslims, remain widespread in Egypt.

There are only a handful of Christians in the upper ranks of the security services and armed forces. There is one Christian governor out of 28, one elected Member of Parliament out of 282 seats, no known university presidents or deans, and very few legislators or judges.

Yemeni saleswomen defy stereotypes

By: Ali Saeed

In Yemen it is unusual to find a woman working as a salesperson in a large supermarket, grocery or clothing store. But recently, a small number of women have started taking on these jobs, and challenging this society's traditions, in order to help themselves and their families.

Um Bashir from Taiz, is in her thirties and works in a large supermarket in the Hadda area of Sana'a. She is married with one child and started working as a salesperson six years ago.

"I began working as a salesperson six years ago and I'm very happy with my work," said Um Bashir.

There are two shifts at the supermarket. The first shift starts at nine a.m. and ends at five p.m. The second shift starts at two p.m. and ends at ten p.m.

Um Bashir feels that she has a responsibility to have a regular job in order to help her husband in improving their living standards.

"I think it's my duty to have a job in order to assist my husband in optimizing our livelihood within this difficult time of price hikes," she said.

Um Bashir said when she realized that the woman should help her husband and not only stay at home relying on what the man earns, she started working even before her marriage.

In addition, she believes that it is not just the improving their standard of living that makes her work, but she is also convinced by the notion that the family is a shared responsibility between the man and the woman.

"I do not only work, because I need money, but I believe in the woman's role in sharing the family responsibility with the man," said Um Bashir.

From her experience, Um Bashir thinks that people in Taiz are more open-minded than in Sana'a and that gave her the chance to work from an earlier time.

"Conversely, some people in Sana'a do not allow their women and daughters to go work except when they need money and are facing financial hardships."

Another single woman in the same supermarket from Sana'a recognized what her colleague said. Sua'ad Al-Hamadani, 25, is still studying in secondary school.

"My family would not allow me to work right now except that we are currently going through difficult economic times," Al-Hamadani said.

However, both of the women who talked to the Yemen Times openly advised each of their Yemeni female counterparts to join the labor market in a field in which she is interested.

"For me, being a salesperson is a safe job and I encourage women who are interested to work in this field and not to be reluctant or hesitant," said Um Bashir.

"However, I do advise them to wear respectable clothing and not to come to work with fashionable clothes to attract the eyes of men," she added.

Regarding obstacles facing Yemeni saleswomen, they said they face no impediments except harassment in the workplace or on the street.

"Harassment is a negative issue that we suffer from not only in the workplace, but on street, and even at home as well," said Um Bashir.

Despite that, the two Yemeni saleswomen said that harassment will not deter them from working.

"The problem is not harassment, but how to react to such behavior," Um Bashir said.

Some male customers mistake the good etiquette, behavior and friendly manner of saleswomen for something more.

"I remember one time a Palestinian man came in with his little daughter and just to make the customer feel relaxed, I was taking care of the little girl and I kissed her."

"But the following day, the man came to me and pulled me aside saying 'I want talk to you about an important issue,' she said. 'I asked him what he wanted. He said that he wanted my hand in marriage.'"

Um Bashir said that she reacted intelligently to this by simply showing him her ring to indicate that she is engaged and the man left.

"Harassment is always there everywhere, and sometimes male customers come to me saying, 'I'm a fan' as well as some who ask for friendship," she said.

For Yemeni women, the unemployment figures are higher than for men as is the case in many other Arab countries, according to the 2009 Arab Human Development Report.

This is largely because Yemeni society is still conservative and the Yemeni perspective about female labor continues to be traditional, according to Ali Al-Wafi, a Yemeni economist with 20 years experience on Yemen's economy.

"Another factor behind the increasing rate of the unemployment among Yemeni women results from the fact that women can only work as employees in cities and can not move from cities to rural areas," said the economist.

"The little job opportunities for women in Yemen are fewer than for men, in addition to fewer job opportunities in the country in general," he added.

"In addition, around 75 percent of the Yemen's population live in the countryside, so most Yemeni women work in the agricultural sector, but this kind of work is not considered a regular job," Al-Wafi said.

"It is difficult for Yemeni women to work as salespeople, and their experience in this field is not as successful as it is in other professions," said Sua'ad Al-Qadri, former head of the Women Worker Development Administration at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Al-Qadri said that it is difficult for Yemeni women to succeed in this field due to society's perspective and perceptions.

"If Yemeni women work as salesladies in women's appliances, it would be very successful as many women get embarrassed to ask a salesman about ladies' appliances," Al-Qadri said.

However, Al-Qadri said this new trend taken up by some Yemeni women is positive as it alleviates the poverty rate and it may help women to consider starting their own businesses.

Currently in Yemen, very few wom-



To help support their families, Yemeni women are starting to work as salespersons.

en are working in sales, but it seems that with promoting education to reach both boys and girls in all segments, these numbers will only increase over time.

Business and Yemeni women

Presently, there are about 400 Yemeni women registered at the Chamber of Commerce out of over 109 thousand women who own their own businesses, according to a statement made on 26 September, in the state-run newspaper by the head of the Yemeni Business Women's Council, Fawzya Nasher.

Other Yemeni business women who fail to register their businesses at the Chamber of Commerce do so in order to avoid paying taxes, according to Dr. Najat Juma'an, head of the Yemeni

Business Women's Administration at the Chamber of Commerce.

Juma'an, who earlier delivered a lecture at the Sheba Center for Strategic Studies entitled "Challenges and Opportunities," advised Yemeni business women to register their businesses at the Chamber of Commerce and assured them that the administration of women at the chamber will spare no effort in assisting them in obtaining a special discount in their tax payment.

Youths' perspective on female salespeople

Young Yemeni males generally don't like women to work in sales as women in this kind of work will be vulnerable to harassment.

"The owners of businesses who hire

women as salespeople do not consider the concept of work force recruitment, and only focus on ways of attracting more customers," said Ibraheem Owaidi, a 25 year old Yemeni who works in a company.

Owaidi also said that some business owners employ the women not only as a matter of gender, but because the owner will pay a lower salary for a female employee than for a male one.

"It's good for women to work in administrative jobs," said Owaidi.

Another youth who works as a teacher, Lutfi Bana, also said that in Yemen, it is not good for women to work in sales because the society does not accept this behavior yet. He does, however, think that it is good in terms of attracting customers.

Students question Sana'a University's use of private student fees

By: Shatha Al-Harazi
For the Yemen Times

Sana'a University's revenues are estimated to be YR 2.096 billion a year, according to a document obtained by the Yemen Times. Fees from private students, or students who pay higher fees than those students accepted into university through the normal vetting system, contribute YR 1 billion to that total number.

Many anticipated that this additional income generated by the admission of private students would help the university to improve its infrastructure as well as to establish new departments. However, not only did the situation not improve, but it has deteriorated, say students.

But the amount of money taken in from private students has stimulated corruption, they say. For instance, despite the fact that there is a cap of 100 students per department, 245 students are accepted instead, the obvious reason being to generate more income.

The private students of art subjects in the Faculty of Mass Communications, as well as the Faculty of Arts and Languages, annually pay around YR 42,000 per student, whereas the students who attend Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Engineering, and the Faculty of Computer Sciences annually pay between USD 1,500-2,000 per student.

The private system or "parallel system" at Sana'a University has been an issue of contention for some time now. The head of Sana'a University, however, has been turning a blind eye to the financial situation. As opposed to the situation being rectified, violations continue to be committed in terms of finance and administration.

Regrettably, the extra money is not registered and the university is usually late in paying teachers their salaries. In addition, a large number of students find that there aren't enough classrooms and

often the teachers are on strike because they have been deprived of their salaries.

The Yemen Times attempted to contact the administration at the University of Sana'a for comment, but without success.

Some students complain about individual problems that could, they say, be solved easily. A student of the Faculty of Medicine, for instance, complained of her inability to pay USD 1,800 this year.

"The University has established strict rules regarding accepting students into the regular system, but private students can join easily," she said. "I took the entrance examination and I passed with good marks, yet I was not accepted due to the large number of students who got higher marks than mine. I have always been dreaming of this college, so I insisted on joining it. Unfortunately, I could no longer pay the fees because my father passed away. I really wish that the university would be more compassionate about my case because the money I can afford to pay is really insubstantial compared to the money many other students can pay."

A student at the Faculty of Mass Communications complains of the shortage of proper study rooms and the careless reaction that the faculty show when students complain of the absence of instructors or any other problems.

Students of the Faculty of Agriculture are no better off than the other students. A student there told the Yemen Times that his mother is working as a tailor to earn the money to pay his fees.

"Eventually, the money she struggles to earn finds its way into the pockets of some employees who take it without making any mentionable efforts," he said.

Some faculty members set aside afternoons specifically for private students, which regular students join if they have a job in the morning. These students are then considered as private students and

Sana'a University expenditures for the academic year 2007-2008

Amount	Item	Details
147,991,511	Retired employees salaries	
259,406,989	Overtime bonuses	
35,933,981	Allowances	Meetings- transfer- appearances allowances
556,547,436	Bonuses + other expenditures	
8,630,377	Printed materials	
13,628,918	Publications and announcements	Congratulations
23,513,139	Fuel and oil (petrol)	
54,027,581	Consumption appliances	
130,519,317	Other expenditures	Unknown
61,981,232	Selling Vehicles, maintenance and rentals	
108,469,196	Celebrations and seminars	
1,753,882	Students activates funding	
3,577,890	Post and phone calls fees	
17,341,692	Accessories and needs	

Account	Item	Details
304,293,650	Aids	
1,462,650	Devices	Bought for the president's office for postgraduate studies
239,165,644	Instruments (unknown)	President's office for student affair
3,197,111	furniture	
31,435,632	Establishing new buildings	
0	The best scientific achievement award	
0	University books	
3,167,869	University research	
0	Supervising scientific research	
0	Renewing libraries and buying new scientific and literary books	
63,046,125	Other expenditures	Unknown

have to pay high fees.

Others have to join the parallel system as a private student because the quota for a course has been filled. They study the same curriculum as the regularly students, but have to pay more.

"If we have to study in the afternoon because rooms are full and teachers are busy in the morning, then why are we paying so much money if we are no different than the regular students?" asked one student in the Faculty of Mass Communications. "And why don't they build

new rooms with the money we pay?"

However, some of these students who had to pay more to become private students in the afternoon sometimes end up studying with regular students in the morning, as in the Faculty of Agriculture.

Sana'a University's revenue is estimated at about YR 2,096,000,000. According to the tables below, about YR 66 million of that has been spent without justification and is not recorded in the university's accounting records.

Sana'a University revenue for the academic year 2007-2008

Amount	Item	Details
59,218,175	Documents fees	Registration certificates - marks reports-temporary certificates- accredited certificates-University ID cards- case reports- coordination cards-allowances
10,027,434	Other documents	Unknown
48,324,965	Miscellaneous fees	Saving files- withdrawing files -examination fail fines-examinations- lab fines
109,357,220	Other	Unknown
4,143,175	Transfer fees	Transferring from university to university- from college to college- from department to department
3,413,947	Other	Unknown
33,269,125	Registration and acceptance fees	
33,479,589	Coordination and registration fees	
48,714,608	Student activities	
22,247,320	Acceptance examination fees	
30,374,275	Medical clinic fees	
35,392,664	Examination fees	
114,070,589	Other	Unknown

Account	Item	Details
28,279,658	Course fees	
6,549,710	Cafeteria rental	Unknown
3,907,300	Selling Faculty of Agriculture products	
16,010,752	Using lab fees	
10,940,391	Consultation fees	
9,274,724	Donation and sponsor	
110,347,209	Other	
332,904,207	General parallel system fees	
662,464,772	Afternoon- parallel system fees	
0	Distance learning system	
606,081,460	Parallel system (special expenditure)	
63,312,646	Supporting the general balance	
2,396,051,906	Total	

The tables below show the revenues and expenditures of the university in which the bonuses make up the major expenditures.

The employees of the university have gone on strike more than once in the last

two years for not receiving their allowances. If this is the case, to whom are the bonuses mentioned below being given?

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- F. **Skills and Abilities:**
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The only thing we can do is change (ourselves)

By: Faris Mohammed Al-Sheapi
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Undoubtedly, all people want to live in a society which boasts the latest advancements as well as leading capabilities in any field, be it the economy, trade, technology, education, medicine, agriculture, telecommunications, transport and all developments which enable the environment surrounding them to evolve and thrive, particularly that of their homeland.

Today, many people compare their native countries with more developed countries in terms of the civilizations within which those countries live as well as many other aspects of their societies, and they are wasting time talking and not achieving. But what does an individual who was born into a far less than ideal society do? Does he or she still blame this society for all his or her ills or continue to be hopeless? Or must he or she search for an alternative society outside of the one he or she was born into by immigrating to another place?

What will everyone have in his/her life? A plausible answer to these questions, and one which no one dares to deny, is that the Almighty (Allah) determines our destiny and provides for all his servants and all people on earth. So, everyone must be content and believe in destiny without complaint.

These days, many people complain about their societies, and blame them continuously, viewing them primarily negatively with remarks like, "This environment is filled with suffering, difficulties, corruption, tough circumstances, and bribery and there simply aren't any solutions to put an end to that."

Meanwhile, others dwell on trivial matters which don't warrant a great deal of thought. As a result of their wasted time and effort, they don't return

to society anything beneficial such as creative ideas about changing the situation and what must be done in the future to create a better society.

The above mentioned examples only confirm the fact that useless thinking and complaining don't offer up any solutions to improve the society in which we live.

Instead, everyone must consider how he or she can change him or her self in order to move towards a better future for all. What are the best ways and means to accomplish goals that will lead to an improved society and how can individuals take the initiative in doing this without waiting for their environment to change first? If each person takes responsibility for refining his or her skills and general self-improvement, the society as a whole will surely reap huge benefits.

In addition to that, certainly everyone has dreams or ambitions which they hope to achieve in the very near future, but can all of these dreams or ambitions be realistically attained? Each person must get a convincing answer according to their dreams or ambitions, and this can create distinct differences between the realism of the dreams and ambitions of one person to the next.

There are dreams and ambitions which can be attained and others, which can't. First of all, dreams and ambitions which are unattainable are those beyond one's capabilities. For example, one wants to be a singer but has no talent in this field, such as a beautiful voice, or the ability to memorize or comprehend a poem or words of a song; therefore, attaining this ambition is clearly out of the question for this individual as the necessary pre-conditions for becoming a singer are absent.

Secondly, other dreams and ambitions are those which someone can achieve in the future and has good reasons, conditions and targets in place in

order to reach them.

Moreover, no one can achieve what he or she wants without sacrificing some precious things along the way. To achieve our goals, we need to struggle, work hard, continually strive and be meticulously conscientious in taking the steps required to see the dreams and ambitions of yesterday (the past) transformed into the facts and realities of tomorrow (the future).

Taking the above into consideration, perhaps most of us may come to the realization that we lack the personal skills required to be productive members of our society and to realize our own goals by remembering and emulating past figures who succeeded in their lives.

It is often astonishing to note how many people have a formal education and yet this offers them little if any success without also the additional enhancement of their personal skills and practical training, in order for them to become effective members of society. Another point to consider, albeit a rather morbid one, is how many people have died never knowing the full extent of their skills and abilities, or perhaps even a fraction of their capabilities, and the great loss this has been to them as individuals and to the society as a whole.

At this stage, there is no point in dwelling on past mistakes because this may be painful as well as the fact that it's pointless, nor is anticipating the future wise because this only brings fear and worry. We must live in the present and within the parameters of one day. We must learn to forgive past mistakes by creating a new beginning towards the future because if we work hard today and fulfill our responsibilities and duties successfully the future will certainly be bright.

We should approach all things in life with a view to getting the most enjoyment out of the experience, and hope-

fully we are resourceful enough to obtain our targets without feeling despair or frustration. There are few things in the world which are more powerful than the positive push which an encouraging smile or optimistic and hopeful words can give to a person when things appear exceedingly challenging.

The first steps are always the most difficult ones to take on the road to achieving our ambitions, however one feels great relief and pleasure at the attainment of success. It is said that good luck and precious opportunities knock on our doors only once, so we must take advantage of these chances before they pass us by. We have to use our time wisely in society and not end up wasting it or spending it on projects and goals which will go nowhere. We should be aware of our talents and what we are and aren't capable of and develop ourselves and our skills through education and training.

This is of course only the first step towards our education and the way ahead is very long because the sea of knowledge (science) is deep and what we have studied and learned so far, and what we are studying and might study, is a mere drop in this very large, deep sea, and the deeper we swim, the more we discover.

And finally, we must remember that we are not going to become excellent swimmers if we fear swimming, and similarly in life as in sport, if we don't try (practice) we are not going to be successful in our society, particularly if we fear the future and continue remembering the painful past.

I would like to thank all the employees and staff at the Yemen Times Newspaper and to say that I wish you every success in your lives and I would also like to extend all my respect, affection and appreciation for giving me the chance to print my articles in the Yemen Times Newspaper.

Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Alkholidy
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Dear employers, do you think foreigners are better than Yemenis?

Today, when the Yemen is facing a problem of high unemployment, a number of foreigners, from Arab countries and others, are employed by companies and institutions in the public, private or mixed sectors, as foreign experts, earning attractive pay packages including high salaries in foreign currency and benefits such as accommodation, annual tickets, cars etc. Whereas, the salary paid, in the local currency, to a Yemeni, is less than even ten percent of that paid to a foreigner.

It is common to find foreigners occupying high-ranking positions, and Yemenis with good qualifications are seen to be working in lower positions, or unemployed. Though I agree that some foreigners are really better qualified and worthy of their positions, there are also some, who have no significant distinctions to earn the high rank, other than being a foreigner, and in which cases recruiting a Yemeni for that position would seem more logical. The question that thus arises is «are the Yemenis not capable of delivering the tasks that are assigned to these foreigners?»

This however is a matter to be reflected upon, by not only the recruiting authorities, but also by the Yemeni work force, because continuous improvement, seeking to be better qualified, being updated, ensuring timely and quality delivery of work, professionalism is a must to stay in the competition, as well as the only thing that can qualify one for better opportunities. This quest for self-improvement has to be pursued by all Yemenis for the sake its of future benefits.

Learning can take place anywhere and there is always something to learn from everyone, even the foreigners, and one can always start by appreciating the way they apply their mind and capabilities to tasks in hand. What is important is utilize all potentialities; to the optimum, in achieving whatever is in hand. In this way, as one strives to improve the work, constantly trying new things and learning all along, one gets better and better qualified, and at the same time, the employers benefit as well, in terms of output and money saved, by hiring the local workforce.

Importing goods and services has not only cost implications and implications on individuals, but impacts on the country as a whole, where the capability of the country, in its true sense, remains underdeveloped. Therefore, I call upon all Yemenis to qualify themselves in diverse fields, and I call upon all employers to reflect on this matter.

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

Getting angry can be counterproductive

By: Maged Al-Kotamy
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Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said in reply to the man, who came asking him for advice "don't be angry!". And then the prophet repeated this three times.

Actually, these wise words of the prophet were inspired by divine guidance. Also, because of his farseeing knowledge, the prophet could discern the negative consequences and potentially fatal diseases resulting from anger.

After nearly more than a thousand years, modern science has, today, proved the fact that anger is the main factor behind several fatal diseases and serious medical conditions including heart failures and heart attacks.

Doctors have lately confirmed that a fit of anger causes an intense shrink in the heart muscles that could lead, in most cases, to death or dangerous damages. Studies revealed that anger is the reason behind the diminished ability of the heart to pump the amount of blood needed for the body.

Researchers carried out a survey on patients who suffered a heart attacks while exercising and on patients who got a stroke in a fit of anger. It was found out that, in cases of patients who got a heart attack in a fit of anger, the heart attack reduced the natural capacity of heart, to pump the amount of blood required by the body, by 5%. On the other hand, in cases of patients who

got heart attacks while exercising, the natural capacity of the heart remained unchanged. The finding of this study was that anger is a sentiment which causes the most damage to the human heart.

Therefore, it is not strange to find doctors, all over the world, talking and warning of the consequences of anger. Anger is an acute disease virtually resulting in terminal illnesses.

Another study, which took place in Hytron Hospital in Australia 1985, showed that there is a correlation relation between the level of intensity of anger and the level of functioning of the coronaries. The study said that the accumulated effects of the frequent anger cause narrowing of the blood vessels, thus increasing the vulnerability of individuals to heart failure, and causing death. In some cases, it leads to suddenly closing of the coronary artery resulting in paralysis in just a half an hour.

The study also showed that heart patients with a tendency towards getting angry fast or towards aggressiveness are most vulnerable for another heart attack within a span of ten years, given the great disturbance in the process of the blood circulation, caused by anger.

Anger is a strong feeling of wanting to hurt someone in return of the hurt they gave. But anger causes the most damage to one's own self and increases the risk of heart attacks, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart failures and other heart diseases. And therefore, the prophet has warned us about anger.

Creativity in a beautiful world

By: Saeed Al-Buraihi
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Some people think that ingenious, talented people are born creative and this concept is incorrect. I say that everyone can be creative, unless they choose not to. No one can prevent anyone from being creative. Creative abilities are inherent in all, and need to be developed, try to return to, while looking for ways and alternatives to resolving problems or in

achieving a level of satisfaction. Creative people have a strong determination and will, clear goals and an ability to work towards their goals irrespective to what the others think and they do not fear failure. Take the example of Edison, who carried out one thousands experiments before inventing the light bulb. Creative people, do not like a routine and are positive and optimistic. If you don't have these qualities, don't think that you are not creative. You can always develop these qualities till they are ingrained in you and become habitual. Just try it.

A reply to 'Still a Muslima, but one that makes many mistakes'

Difficult to understand eloquent

By: Nawal Al-Thour
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Head of the women's section at the Foreigners Call Cultural Center

How it is really important to be honest when you transfer information from one to another so that people can decide by themselves what is right and wrong. This importance arises strongly when this comes from people who reached high education and knows about the objectivity in writing reports and researches. Unfortunately, I didn't find this after reading the article which is written by Judith Spiegel published on 4 January 2010 issue NO. 1326. I read her article and found it full of wrong information. Judith came to the Cultural Center for Foreigners' Call to know some information about new Muslims as she said but some of what is written isn't what has been said so we need to correct the information.

I want to attract the attention of the reader that I will not comment on everything but the important things. The first thing, I didn't say anything about the status of women in Old Roman, Greek, Jewish and Christian societies as she said "like Nawal, the booklet does not mention the fact that Roman, Greek, Jewish and Christian societies have changed" rather we were talking about Feminism and I asked her "Are you Feminist?". She replied by saying "No, but from this movement, women got their rights." So I told her "this is in Europe but women in Islam gained their rights since Islam came." The comparison in the Old times is mentioned in the book only. For the beating part, Judith wrote only what is in her mind not the fact. She said "Nawal explains that this is not about 'normal women like you and me'. It is meant for abnormal women. It is not entirely clear what she means by this..." I offered her to discuss the case just to make it clear but she refused and then said "I don't want to be bea-

ten by my husband" so I told her "this isn't intended for you because you are normal". Beating is neither obligatory nor preferable. If she let me explain the case fully, she would understand but she doesn't want to know the fact rather she wants only to attack Islam. Another thing is that when Judith made an interview with the new converter, Lailani, she distorted the facts. First of all, Lailani converted to Islam on the mid of December 2009 not before two years as she said. Secondly, Lailani never said it was not easy at all to become a Muslim. If it isn't easy at all why did she become a Muslim then and she came to the center with all her freedom to know about Islam and then converted to it. Lailani's main conversion to Islam was driven by conviction that Islam is the right religion to be followed and fear to lose the right path. When I showed Lailani the article, she wondered why Judith did not tell the truth. I apologized for the reader that I can't comment on what has been said between Judith and Abdollah Hussein because I didn't attend their meeting.

It is not logic to say that she didn't intend to attack Islam rather she wrote about the status of women in Yemen because simply she took an Islamic book and commented on it. Any way, Islam is higher than these false allegations because simply Islam came to call for goodness and raised men and women to the right position not belittled them. It isn't just to judge Islam by reading only one book and if you don't like it, you start accusing Islam. The best source to study Islam is the Qura'an so read it well and explore by yourself the beauty of Islam and take the help of those who understand it.

Why didn't Judith tell the truth? Why wasn't she objective in her report? Did she want to attack Islam? Didn't she understand me- though she said in her report that I am an eloquent? May Allah-God- make it easy for her to understand other people if she can't understand eloquent!!!

London conference on Yemen and Afghanistan

By: Naji Gazali
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Yemen finally found its place honorably or not next to Afghanistan and not Saudi Arabia or United Arab Emirate, but anyone who is not willing to accept this reality that we Yemenis and Afghani are suffering from the same problems and that's not terrorism but weak infrastructure of our government is still dreaming. Both countries have been in civil war on-and-off stretching back all the way to the seventies. But what interesting is our shared history both have relatively been except the port of Aden in Yemen being occupied by the British but in general we never been occupied by non Muslim. In Yemen we had the Imamate after the Turks were defeated and then we had quite interesting republic comprised of having a national leaders governing

us for as long as they live ending with Saleh may Allah lengthen his life to see the countless achievements he has had contributed to our country! And indeed his last contribution is bringing us back to reality with our brothers Afghani and how we can learn from them and walking together to combat terror in our backyard and their since we are facing the same enemy namely al-Qaeda. Afghanistan is fighting al-Qaeda and Taliban in the south and in the north while we are fighting althuthies in the north and al-Qaeda in the south. Both of us are living under poverty line and both of us are having a drug problem, the only different is that their drugs bring benefits or cash flow to the farmers yet our drug habit is neither profitable nor glamorous. Qat is depleting our water resources while theirs do not. I am hoping that our attendance will not convince us that we are really ahead of Afghanistan when it comes to sport either.

The way towards a moderate attitude

By: Yusra Al shahari

Someone might say, Yemeni's are violent by nature. But, if you ask any foreigner who has spent some time in Yemen, he will definitely reject this statement, because in the past decades, foreigners and diplomats were able to move around whole country, to associate with the Yemeni people, even participate in occasions and events, as well as implement development projects anywhere in the country, without risk or threat.

So what is going on nowadays and what contributes to Yemen, with its long history of war and peace, being considered as one of the dangerous places in the region? As an educated member from the Yemeni community, my thoughts should be considered realistic and close to reality.

In 1990, the Yemeni society was transformed to democracy and multiple party systems. Some people interpreted this as a process of weak-

ning political opponents. The open dialogues and differences in opinions as well as in ideologies of the leaders of the new political system raised the tension at the grassroots level leading to violence. This, however, is not the only reason behind the problem. In my opinion, there are several others, as follows:-

High levels of illiteracy which makes many people formulate their ideas through the deductions of others.

High rate of corruptions especially amongst politicians.

High rate of poverty which makes people accept and follow the views of others, without discussions.

Weak educational curriculums Ignorance regarding the role Women in society and marginal presence of women in the decision-making process.

In conclusion, every person carrying out an act of terror is a member of the very society we live in and we can either make that person and push him to acts of terror or we can return him onto the right path.

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عقارات

فيلا للإيجار، عدن - خورمكسر
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دورين، الدور الثاني ٤ غرف مع
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تسويق - دورة إنترنت - متوسط
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بشير أبو الرجال، خبرة في التسويق
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Ibb University students clean up campus



Students planted trees for a greener copus

By: Rania Ameen
 For the Yemen Times

English students at the University of Ibb took part in a cleaning and planting campaign to improve the cleanliness of their campus last week, under the motto "Initiative Youth ... Innovative Youth."

The campaign was the initiative of students of the English department at the Faculty of Arts and was supported by the faculty administration, the National Cultural Center of Youth, and the Enable Youth program of Care of Child Rights (CCR).

About 50 male and 50 female volun-

teer students, from all the four levels of the department, participated in a campaign cleaning classrooms, wiping chairs and tables, making and fixing curtains, painting doors, cleaning the campus and planting trees.

"The place was really in very bad situation, full of weeds and rubbish," said Om Al-Khir, a second-year student of the English department and the coordinator of the campaign. "We cleaned the halls, walls and furniture and moved trash away from the faculty campus and planted some trees in the yard of the faculty."

"Although there was a little reluctance on the part of some students, the majority are happy to participate in the

campaign. We hope to set an example for educational institutions all over the country," she said.

She added that the administration of the Faculty of Arts was very supportive, both morally and financially, and it was really impressive to see some of the administration's staff participating in the cleaning.

Overall, the campaign was carried out amidst excitement and positive attitudes amongst students.

Second-year students Mohammad Al-Kabsi, Abdulnaser Saif and Yahia Al-Sabri said that the youth had translated words into actions and that this activity was the first step in a series of activities planned for the year of 2010

to say "We are innovative."

First-year student Reema said, "If you have a clean home, it is only civilized to have a clean college as well."

Rofida and Fatan, both English department students in second year, said excitedly that "the cooperation and the participation of active youth are the main characteristics of this campaign."

Final year students Sara Al-Saighi and Anwer said, "This is not the first activity carried out by students, but this activity is unique and reflects the real meaning of cooperation and participation. It is a mixture of understanding, cooperation, awareness, and happiness".

Hanan Abdullah, in third year, added that "the activity was simple yet necessary, because it made the youth aware of the simple but essential things such as cleanliness."

All students participating in the campaign expressed their gratitude towards Abdulsalam Al-Riani, head of student affairs at the Faculty of Arts and Yasser Al-Hobishi, the general secretary of Faculty of Arts, for their moral and financial support.

Abdulsalam Al-Riani expressed his happiness at the initiative.

"This initiative is a real indicator of the readiness of students to serve the society they live in and this example set by the English department should be followed by other departments as well," he said. "I am proud that English department in the faculty of Arts has proved its activeness and innovativeness by taking this step."

Yasser Al-Hobishi said, "The financial support extended by the faculty administration might have been humble, but the faculty has spared no effort in raising awareness among students and providing moral support for the campaign, as is evident from the huge number of volunteer students

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participating in the campaign."

The initiative proved the potential of the spirit of the youth in bring-

ing about a change in the society, in simple but essential practices such as keeping the environment clean.



Ibb University students hope to set an example for the country

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