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## Over 17,000 displaced people in Sana'a in urgent need of humanitarian aid

## By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, JAN. 31 – Over 17,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) from the governorate of Sa'ada struggle to find shelter and income in Sana'a.

The displaced have fled ongoing fighting between Houthi insurgents and the Yemeni and Saudi governments in the northern governorate, where war resumed for the sixth time six months ago.

Yemen Times visited some displaced families in Sana'a.

Mohamed Al-Fareh was a teacher in Razih in Sa'ada, but fled to Sana'a after he lost his job because of the war, his house was destroyed by air raids, and his brother was killed.

He and the 19 members of his family with him in Sana'a now live in three rooms in a house belonging to a relative. In total, there are 113 people from 18 families living in the nine-room house

"We were living a safe and normal life in our homes with our properties and sources of income, but air raids from both the Yemeni and Saudi air forces destroyed our homes, cars, and



killed thousands of civilians," he said. "In Sana'a, landlords do not easily rent us apartments as they are afraid of us, although we have committed no sin except leaving our homes to flee the daily air strikes and destruction," he

The average number of people in each family living in the same building is around ten people and all the families have no sources of income, according to Al-Fareh.

said.

The displaced people from Sa'ada started flowing into Sana'a city since the five-year-old conflict between the government and the Houthis escalated into open hostilities on 12 August 2009, according to Marie Marullaz, associate external relations officer of the IDPs at the UN Refugees' Agency (UNHCR). "The continuous fighting in Sa'ada

governorate has resulted in an increased number of civilians reaching the capital



Sana'a, whereas some 11,853 displaced have been registered so far, so, now we estimate that 17,000 displaced are now in the capital," said Marullaz.

"The IDPs officer at the UNHCR said that in Sana'a governorate, IDPs are scattered in urban settlements, living in host communities and most of them rent shelters and report facing difficulty to do so," she said.

The continuous war in Sa'ada forced over 157,832 of civilians to flee their homes seeking safety of their lives to Hajja, Amran and Sana'a, according to UNHCR.

#### No income for rent

The Sa'ada IDPs in Sana'a not only risk losing their properties, but also face discrimination when looking for a room to live in, said Al-Fareh.

Dr. Essam Al-Dain Awadh from the Islah Charitable Welfare Society confirmed that the displaced people in Sana'a are confronted with society's indifference.

Another IDP in Sana'a who chose to remain anonymous said that, in the coming days, families who are living in rented apartments will be thrown out because they have no source of income.

"When those displaced people fled to Sana'a, they arrived here with some amounts of money as they were obliged to sell their livestock of sheep and cows for a low price, but now they are running out of money," said the displaced man

"Now, they really will not be able to afford the rent of apartments or even to fill their empty stomachs," he added.

Al-Fareh estimated that, of the Sa'ada IDPs in Sana'a, over a half are children in need of medical care as well as food and basic items as there parents have no Al-Fareh who is from Razih.

Al-Fareh said that he and other IDPs who previously worked for the Ministry of Education have a list of all the 400

only focusing on the IDPs in Sa'ada and Hajja and have not yet paid any attention for the displaced people in Sana'a.

"The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) do not provide aids to the IDPs in Sana'a and there might be other organizations that work in this field," said Rabab Al-Rifai, communica-

tions officer at the ICRC. The lack of shelter is a main concern in all governorates where the IDPs have sought refuge, said the UNHCR officer. The officer said that a shelter task force has been deployed by the UNHCR in Sana'a as well as in Amran and Hajja to work on different solutions according to the population group. The

assessment will be completed at the end of January

#### Going into debt

"The most worrisome is that an increasing number families are going into debt," she added.

Some IDPs suggested to the humanitarian organizations to aid the displaced families in Sana'a with some cash aids in order be able to pay rent for their shelters.

"Until now, we have not received any aid from anybody and we hope they will hear about our suffering through your newspapers," said another displaced man.





## Thousands of children from Sa'ada who have fled to the capital with their families risk being without shelter because their parents have no income.

source of income. According to Al-Fareh, there are over 400 displaced families in Sana'a from Razih and they are centered in Al-Hasaba, Al-Matar area, and Al-Qadisya neighborhood, according to



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## **Around the Nation**



## Shura Council delays dialogue for the fourth time **Opposition to boycott national dialogue**

## By: Mohammad Bin Salam

SANA'A, JAN. 31 - The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) have rejected taking part in the National Dialogue.

The General Secretary of the Communist Party, Yaseen Saeed No'man, stated for the Yemen Times on Saturday that the ruling party will hold a dialogue with itself in the event that the ruling party insisted on neglecting the JMP.

No'man said that the JMP ordered all its parties not to take part in the dialogue which was earlier called for by the state. However, he insisted that the JMP wants a clear and transparent dialogue.

He described the discussions as a dialogue devoted only to the state's interests because it is an extension of the February 2009 agreement signed by the ruling party and the JMP to amend the electoral system.

The delay of the national dialogue comes after the failure of the negotiations between the ruling party, represented by Abdul Kareem Al-Eryani, and the JMP, represented by Abdul Wahab Mahmoud.

As a result of this failure, Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, the president of the Shura Council, has delayed the nation-

al dialogue to be well-prepared for it. A delayed statement released by the Shura Council, stated that in order to have a successful discourse leading to guaranteed national approval, the national dialogue was delayed so that the preparatory committee of the dialogue could complete all needed arrangements

Earlier, the JMP announced the necessity for a national dialogue that enables the people to solve all national political crises through the ability to tackle all economic and social problems and to uplift their living standards.

In a statement by its supreme council, the JMP stated that it disagrees with the way the state is dealing with its political crises. They added that handling the political situation militarily has further intensified tensions in the country and led the nation into more complicated crises than before. These actions have also led to external

interference in the country's affairs, as a result.

Conditions were given by the JMP for them to accept the dialogue. The conditions begin with the stipulation for further democratization of the political atmosphere demonstrated by releasing people detained and kidnapped by force, ceasing the trials of political activists, and releasing banned journalists, in addition to providing every possible and practical means available to end the war in Sa'ada.

They also stipulated that there should be legislation to ensure that all political and social forces including civil society organizations are included at the dialogue table, and that the ruling party is to organize this mission.

In the end, they said that a transparent dialogue is what is needed to gather all forces to place the interests of the country above any personal interests, and that all points of views should be considered so that the next conference for dialogue can involve all parties previously not able to take part in it.

## Hundreds demand London conference recognize Southern Movement

## By: Fuad Mos'ad For the Yemen Times

AL-DHALE', JAN. 31 - Hundreds of people in Radfan and Al-Dhale have protested continuously since last Wednesday, demanding the release of the detainees arrested in the wake of the Southern Movement's acts.

The protestors deliberately selected Wednesday for protests to coincide with the London conference, held on the same day. They demanded for the ongoing situation in Yemen to be discussed and the conference to recognize the Southern Movement.

In addition, the southern cities witnessed, last Sunday, half day protests called for by the leaders of the Southern Movement demanding secession and release of detainees of the south.

Last Thursday also witnessed protests in Al-Dhale' in which protestors hailed the Southern Movement and held boards in English and Arabic as well as the photo of Ali Salim



Al-Beidh, the president of the South Yemen before 1990

On its part, the National Authority for Defending Yemen's Unity, expressed its deep regrets about the Southern Movement seeking help from the British and Al-Qaeda, and stated that the Southern Movement wanted to destroy the unity of Yemen through destructing its security.

The authority called on all segments of the society, persons and political activists to work together to make the national dialogue succeed as the outcome of a democratic system uniting all people.

## Yemen suppresses human rights, says HRW

#### By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, JAN. 31 — The Yemeni government has suppressed efforts to promote human rights and backed away from bold reforms, despite growing human rights challenges and promises to take action, Human Rights Watch (HWR) said last week.

Its 20th annual review of human rights around the globe summarizes major human rights issues in more than 90 nations and territories worldwide, including 15 countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

The 612-page report highlighted the state of human rights in Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen.

Regarding Yemen, the report said, "The human rights situation in Yemen deteriorated significantly in 2009. Yemen's previous advances in the rule of law have been eroded by hundreds of arbitrary arrests and use of lethal force against peaceful demonstrators as the central government responded to increasing political unrest in the south.'

Besides mentioning the suppression of the demonstrations, the report noted the constant viola-

branch of Al-Qaeda in Yemen, the live in rural areas with no hospitals security forces arbitrarily detained more than 135 terrorism suspects without charge, including one former Guantanamo detainee held for five months, and two children held as hostages to induce relatives to surrender"

The report titled "World report: Harsher climate for Human Rights" said that, in Yemen, there were increased reports on torture of detainees in central prisons around the country and in the detention facility of the National Security and the Political Security Organization.

HRW called the Yemeni government to take steps to combat torture, including facilitating visits by independent monitors to all places of detention and prosecuting officials alleged to have participated in torture.

Although the report praised the parliament's decision, last year, to give women the right to pass their nationality on to their children, and set the minimum legal age for marriage at 17, it emphasized that domestic abuse went largely unpunished in Yemen

Early marriage remains widespread, exposing young girls to protesters, such as those participatdomestic violence and maternal mortality, and cutting short their education, said the report.

and that women in Yemen who marry against parental wishes are sometimes charged with adultery and imprisoned. Listing, what it considered human right breaches committed against women in Yemen, such as decriminalizing marital rape, forcibly trapping married girls and women in relationships with abusive husbands, the report said that "women fleeing domestic violence are sometimes incarcerated, and may face prolonged detention when male relatives refuse to collect them.".

"The year 2009 was one of the missed opportunities for women and migrants in the region," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director at HRW. "For human rights defenders, their small space for maneuvering shrank even further."

The report strongly recommended that Yemen end child marriage and strengthen protection for victims of violence against women and accountability for perpetrators of such violence.

It also suggested to train law enforcement officers on non-lethal methods of crowd control, and not use deadly force against unarmed ing in large demonstrations in the

## Higher education between local improvements and student's suffering

## **By: Yemen Times Staff**

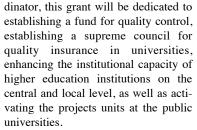
SANA'A, JAN. 31 - Forty five million dollars is what the Ministry of Higher Education is spending annually on Yemeni students studying abroad, according to Minister of Higher Education Dr. Saleh Basurra.

The above was revealed by the minister in the award giving ceremony for 2008/2009 academic year secondary level toppers with distinction, on Saturday.

Out of the ten secondary level top arts section students, only the top three will receive scholarships to pursue university education abroad, while the rest will receive grants to study in Yemen since "their specialization is available in Yemen. But the science students are luckier," said the minister.

The Ministry of Higher Education is working on establishing a fund to ensure and improve the quality of higher education in Yemen, which, according to the deputy minister of Higher Education, Dr. Mohammed Mutahar, can be looked upon as a good alternative to sending Yemeni students abroad in search of quality higher education.

Last week, a three day workshop funded by the World Bank, on quality control in education and creation of a special manual on university research projects, was held. The director of the



In 2006, more than 7,000 Yemeni students were sent abroad, to 43 countries, on government scholarships. However, Yemeni students in several demanded their stipends or asked the government to take them back home, since continuing to study abroad, in the absence of stipends, is impossible. A Yemeni student in Germany, complained that his monthly scholarship of USD 350 (210 Euros) is not enough to cover his living expenses comprising of education fees, rent and other living expenses and costing more than 450 Euros a month. "How am I supposed to cover the difference?" asks the student.

Yemeni students protest in front of the Yemeni embassy in Malaysia demanding their complete timely stipend or returning them home. Photo: Shamar Press dinator, this grant will be dedicated to establishing a fund for quality control,

tions committed in Sa'ada by the rebels and government's military such as recruiting child soldiers and denying humanitarian access to the displaced.

The report also referred to Al-Qaeda activities in Yemen, adding that since the emerge of new

The report also said that Yemen has one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates, with an estimated eight women dying each day, from childbirth complications. Seventy-five percent of Yemenis southern provinces.

It also called on the Yemeni government to respect the rights to freedom of expression and of assembly and to release all persons detained for their peaceful expression or participation in peaceful protests.

Higher Education Development Department, Dr. Mohammed Al-Mikhlafi, confirmed that the World Bank has agreed to grant Yemen ten million dollars for the project, which aims at improving higher education in public universities.

According to Aziz Al-Haddi, Higher Education Development Project's coorcountries, such as India, Malaysia, Syria, Algeria, Iran, have continuously complained of delays or stoppages in their stipends which hinders their education due to financial difficulties. In October last year, dozens of Yemeni students in Iran held two sit-ins in the Yemeni embassy demanding their stipends. Yemeni students in India also

Students in Malaysia held a protest earlier last month, condemning the corruption responsible for the delays or stoppages of their stipend and demanding a concrete solution to their problems, complaining that last academic year, USD 500 were deducted from each student's scholarship without giving any reasons for the cuts.

## While Saudi raids continue, Houthis accept the five conditions

#### **By: Mohammad Bin Sallam**

SA'ADA, JAN. 31 - Houthi leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi has announced on Saturday evening his acceptance to the five conditions laid by the Yemeni government, but has demanded that the Yemeni army to stop attacking Houthis

"Because, we are careful to save blood, rescue the country from the current catastrophe and the genocide against civilians, we renew for the fourth time what we have already announced our acceptance with the five conditions after stopping the aggression," said Al-Houthi in audio record.

"We hope all the parties understand this initiative and favor the interest of the country and the ball now is in the yard of the regime that says it is fighting us for these conditions," he added.

The five conditions that were earlier published by the President Saleh on the editorial of the Thawra, state-run daily newspaper at the beginning of

January this year were as follows One point demanded the Houthis not to breach Saudi Arabia's border. Houthis welcomed this proposal at

that time saying that they accept all the points and conditions since they are the ones under attack by the Saudi army.

The other points included ceasing fire, opening roads, eliminating land mines and stop ambushing citizens and military people alongside the long distance roads between cities. They were demanded to disarm their men, returning stolen ammunition and releasing detainees. Finally, the Houthis must be law abiding citizens.

Similarly, the Prince Khaled Bin Sultan, the Saudi Deputy Minister of Defense declared on Wednesday, January, 27 that Saudi Arabia will stop its strikes against Houthis.

This new development came after just one day since Houthis' leader, Abdulmalik Al-Houthi announced the full withdrawal of his troops from near the Saudi border.

During a press conference, the

prince confirmed that around 1,500 Houthis and infiltrators were arrested by Saudi Arabia.

He laid down three conditions to stop the war with the Houthis: for the Houthis to withdraw from Saudi territory, for them to free six Saudi prisoners, and for the Yemeni government to control the Saudi-Yemeni border.

The Houthis however on their website have said that the Saudis have not committed to their side of the bargain, and have continued their strikes on Houthis.

They said that the Saudi air forces on Thursday evening, January 28, launched 17 raids on the areas of Razih, Ghafera, Al-Safeya, Tayban, and Al-Malahidh in Sa'ada.

They added that the missiles shelling continued with more than 148 missiles on the areas of Al-Jaza, Al-Malahidh, the mountain of Dhahr Al-Himar.

Spokesman for the Houthis Saleh Habra said that, although the withdrawal started on Monday, the Saudi Air Force had not stopped their air

raids on Sa'ada.

On Monday evening, about 540 missiles have been launched on the Al-Maran area in Sa'ada, in which five people were killed and two were injured.

Houthi sources mentioned that areas included in the Houthi withdrawal from the Saudi border are Al-Saba, Batool, Al-Majda'a, Al-Jawf, Um Kum', Al-Garesha, Jawf Al-Nosabi, Al-Jabery, Um Dahwa, Um Sharaheel, Ra'asha, Um Ruzma, Dar Al-Nasr, Gam Ku'oob, Um Dormia, Qayem Saha, Um Rasba, Um Qeema, Al-Sabia, Al-Utaimi, Um Baisi and the houses of Ahmad Hadi.

As for withdrawal from the mountains, the Houthis said they will withdraw from the mountains of Al-Farjoom, Al-Hashkool, Kumama, Al-Sabtawi, as well as the areas of Al-Burj, Al-Batool, Al-Johfa, Al-Mawateer and Al-Asasia.

For his part, Habra told the Yemen Times last Wednesday that the withdrawal of Houthis from the Saudi border was agreed upon after negotiations

between the Houthis and Yemeni mediators

Ameen Al-Akimi is said to be one of the mediators, but Habra did not confirm this, nor did he provide any further information on the subject.

He also denied media reports regarding the defeat of the Houthis by Saudi forces. He added that the Houthis were able to seize more than 140 sites and that, in spite of the military superiority of Saudi forces, they were not able to defeat the Houthis.

"Sometimes people believe what is said about us having been defeated by the Saudi forces. All of these allegations are false and the images seen on television are victims who are citizens targeted by the Yemeni and Saudi Air Force raids," Hara said.

He accused both the American and British Air Force of providing the Saudi forces with prohibited weapons with which to strike the Houthis.

"We have credible information which assures us of the presence of about 20 American officers who assist the Yemeni forces in executing opera-

tions against us," he added.

He claims that the aid collected for the sake of civilians in Sa'ada is being given to soldiers and promised to verify this claim by publishing pictures in the coming days.

A governmental source, who talked to the BBC on Monday confirmed what Habra said about the ceasefire by the Houthis and that the Yemeni state is putting forth six conditions in order to reach a compromise with the Houthis.

In the same context, Hasan Zaid, the former President of the Supreme Council of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), told the Yemen Times that he felt very optimistic that such a positive initiative would yield excellent results and lead to a cessation of hostilities between the Houthis and the Yemeni forces.

Zaid reiterated his belief that the Yemeni government would not achieve a military victory over the Houthis, stating that a diplomatic solution is the only way to end the war.



## **Around the Nation**

## MTN to surprise subscribers

MTN Yemen, celebrated on January, 20th on the occasion of delivering the prizes to the winners of the 10th draw within the draws of the FIFA 2010.

The ceremony was attended by the MTN public relationship and advertisement manager, Malek Al-Kusa, media people, journalists and a number of MTN employees. The eleventh lucky winner of the World Cup 2010 Championship Abdu Ali Mohammad Al-Awadhi has received his prize to travel to South Africa and attend the sports event. Another seven 32 inch "Sony Bravia" TV flat screens were distributed to winners. Many other winners won in the seventh week in-kind prices.

Kusa said that MTN is preparing a surprise for its subscribers as the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa is approaching. He mentioned that the weekly draws are done according to specific standards in which a question is sent to all the subscribers with two options. They select the correct answer and send it to the number "2010". In the end he thanks everybody who attended the ceremony.

Worth mentioning is that the winners will get the travel expenses, accommodation and tickets to attend the matches, covered by MTN which is to host this important sports championship happening for the first time in Africa. In addition to this, tours in South Africa will be organized for the winners.

The 10th winner, Abdullah Mahdi, said that the trip will be of benefit for him for he is a referee. The other winners said that they did not expect to get the tickets to the 2010 World Cup



scribers. MTN charitable program

Within its charitable program that aims to the sponsoring of the social and charitable activities, MTN Yemen Charitable Corporation has announced its ensuring for 200 orphans from all the Yemeni governorates.

In this context, Mohammad Al-Wadhaf, the coordinator of MTN charitable Corporation and Tawfiq Al-Nadheef, the Information officer, have handled the allocated money, for ensuring 200 orphans, to the Charitable Society for Social Welfare. MTN, for its part, has received the yearly reports of the orphans whom were ensured by the corporation. It is pointed out that MTN initiates to ensure orphans to better their life conditions.

Ali Abdul Wareth, MTN Charitable Corporation Vice-president of the Executive Manager, called on all private sector organizations to contribute in the programs which aim at promoting the social solidarity in the country. He also expressed his sincere thinks to all establishments that have relations with the corporation.

Abdul Wareth draw the attention to the necessity of establishing programs that aim at uplifting the educational, vocational and cultural levels for the unemployed people, enabling them and raising their capacity.



## For the second consecutive year, **The Yemen Commercial Bank** fulfills its promises

## In Brief

## SANA'A

Workshop to discuss improving systems of quality fund

Sana'a University launched on Tuesday a workshop to train leaders on improving systems of Quality Improving Fund which would continue for three days under the auspices of Dr. Saleh Ali Ba-Surra Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Deputy Minister of HESR Dr. Mohammad Mutahar said that the workshop's goal is to discuss the details of the projects presented by the universities for the guide of the Quality Improving Fund to exchange experiences to get the benefit from the meetings.

Mutahar added that the WB project for improving quality is considered the first one, indicating that there were talks with Arab countries to improve the studious programs through the permanent fund containing the donors and government side finance, in addition to the universities which contribute by 10-15%.

On the other hand, WB expert in projects programming field relating to quality improving Mr. Roojer Bersen said that Japanese grant it is primary component for these projects, indicating that there are some of the presented proposals from universities are distinctive but some of them need improving.

## FM deputy meets Libyan diplomat

Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Muthana met here on Wednesday the acting of the Libvan Arab Brotherhood office in Sana'a Saleh al-Marghani.

The meeting was held on the occasion of ending al-Marghani's term as an ambassador of Libya to Yemen.

During the meeting, Muthana and al-Marghani have discussed the bilateral relations and how to enhance them.

#### Yemen takes procedures to thwart African terrorists infiltration

Yemen's security authorities have taken precautionary procedures to prevent African terrorists infiltration to the Yemeni lands among the Somali daily influx, a security source said Thursday.

The source told the weekly 26september that the procedures include enhancing marine monitoring along the

# Yemeni coastline and the immediate

register for the arrival humanitarian refugees either in the especial outlets or reception locations.

Field searching campaigns will be intensified throughout the main cities in the country to hold the illegal resident refugees and deport them to their home, the source said.

Late in 2009, the Somali Young Mejuhideen Movement (Harakat Al Shabaab) announced its readiness to send militants to support Al-Qaeda members in Yemen amid crackdown on them by the government supported by regional and international allies.

Prior to the Somali movement announcement, the Yemeni counterterrorism troops raided several Al-Qaeda hideouts and training sites killing and arresting scores terrorist suspects.

#### **Conference on Yemeni employment** to be held in February

An international conference on promoting Yemeni employment in the labor markets in of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will be held on 22 February.

A number of specialists, academics and experts from Yemen and the GCC will take part in the conference which aims at studying the requirements of Yemeni employment in the labor markets in GCC.

The Yemeni government seeks to implement a rehabilitation and training program for the Yemeni employment in accordance to the requirements of the GCC markets.

**Conference on Yemeni employment** to be held in February

An international conference on promot-



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ing Yemeni employment in the labor markets in of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will be held on 22 February.

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and experts from Yemen and the GCC will take part in the conference which aims at studying the requirements of Yemeni employment in the labor markets in GCC.

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Salaries



Sheikh Mohamed Ben Yahya Al-Rowaishan confirmed his happiness on the occasion of announcing the winner of the Dream House Draw for the second year.

"We are very happy that Fatima Saeed Abdu Mirisi won the Dream House Draw," he said, handing over the Draw.

"The Dream House Draw is one of the Yemen Commercial Bank's fruit and successful production," said Al-Rowaishan, congratulating the winner, her husband and her children."The Yemen Commercial Bank is well-known for its credibility, and we hope that this credibility and transparency in dealing with our customers will promote the trust in the bank's services, which are unique, trustworthy, and competitive in Yemeni banking."

The winner Fatima thanked in her return Sheikh Al-Rowaishan, the executive manger and all the staff in the Yemen Commercial Bank.

She also praised the distinguished services that the bank offers through his lawahir Program. "I came from Aden to Sana'a to receive my prize," she said. "I really appreciate the services of the bank, and I hope all the best for its competitive achievement in trade."





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# TIMES

## Feature

## JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE CAPITAL (17)

# Sana'a night life



#### By: Judith Spiegel For the Yemen Times

t is midnight in Sana'a. The sounds of honking cars, screaming children, singing egg sellers, banging iron doors and rolling gas bottles have come to a grinding halt. The last little shop has closed its shutters and the city falls into a deep and dark sleep. The only sounds are those of plastic bags flying in the wind and angry cats. Life has come to a complete stand still. Or so you would think. Because maybe there is night life after all. For the traffic on the roads may have stopped at night, air traffic is at it busiest at this time of the day. This must mean that there is life somewhere, and it must be at the airport. Let's go and find out.

01.00 AM – The taxi ride is a quick one for all the roads are empty. Except for the rare illuminated shop signs, the city is pitch dark. Without the usual crowd at the market stalls and debab stands, the unpaved streets of Hasabah look like a war zone. Some stray dogs and stray men cross Airport road, for the rest there is nothing. Even the airport can hardly be called a sea of light. Nevertheless, before the entrance gate to the parking lot a long line of cars, taxi's and private cars, is waiting.

01.30 AM – Outside the arrival hall it is very busy. It is freezing cold so people beg the soldiers on guard to be let in. They are refused for "it

will be too crowded inside", as one of the soldiers says, while lazily leaning on his gun. Women on the other hand, are allowed in. They are greeted with a sign saying "have a nice flight". Someone must have mixed up the arrival and the departure hall. Inside, not only women are waiting for their families. Some men seem to have slipped in as well. "You need to know the right people", one of them explains.

The airport manager, for example, who is smoking a cigarette under a non-smoking sign. The man who just explained how to get in, is angry about this. "If people who make the laws are not even obeying them, this country can never improve", he sighs. Most offices are closed, only the buffet is open. There is no chewing gum with mint taste left at this time of the day, only banana gum is available. An old man shuffles with his walking stick to the barriers where his family members should appear soon. Turkish Airlines has just arrived from Istanbul. At the gates, a Russian man is waiting for a friend from Uzbekistan.

2.00 AM – Around 40 people are now inside the arrival hall. There is quiet talking and quiet waiting. The waiting crowd is treated to a little show. There is some consternation about the photo's taken by one of the waiting women. Not a good idea because soldiers appear on the photo's and they know. So does the woman. She is taken to the police office where she has to open her camera. She explains that there is no film inside but that she can delete the photos, if necessary. It is necessary. She is released after a chat about Real Madrid and FC Barcelona. At the barriers, people are still waiting for their friends and families.

Like Amin, who is waiting for his son, who should arrive with Royal Air Jordanian soon. He went to Jordan for medical treatment since he fell of a scaffold during his work as a constructor. He hurt his neck badly, his father explains while rubbing his own neck. When asked whether the treatment was successful Amin sadly replies "No, it completely failed, he is dead now, I am waiting for his body". Amin does not know that the dead are being led away through a side door.

3.00 AM – A peak through the windows of the closed offices reveals a disturbing amount of maps in the office called "Baggage services". This, according to a waiting man is because "there are always problems with baggage, especially with Royal Air Jordanian". Meanwhile, outside the amount of people has increased substantially. Cigarette smoke fills the ice cold air. A man is brought in. He only wears a T-shirt and is shaking and shivering severely. A friend wraps him in a towel and he is allowed to sit inside. The man at the buffet colls with a share the substantial of the second to sit the second to sit the second to sit the second to sit the second to second the second to

buffet sells him overpriced tea. Meanwhile, the passengers of the Saudi Arabian Airlines flight walk

# Sana'a residents prepare to face rain

#### By: Saddam Al-Ashmori For the Yemen Times

o be prepared in the case of unseasonal rain, residents in Al-Ashash district, Sana'a, have started erecting wooden and stone walls in front of their houses to protect them from possible floods.

Although the rainy season in Sana'a is usually during the summer months, sudden rain last January caused floods and damage to private property in the capital.

The Al-Ashash district, in Hadda, Sana'a, is located in the natural trajectory of any large flow of rainwater from the mountains of 'Ayban to the west of Sana'a, and its residents are working to prevent any damage from floods due to rain outside the rainy season.

Ahmad Othman, one of the residents of the district, started taking precautions early this year. "I erected barriers fearing the

floods," he said, wondering why the state had not set up a drainage system in his district.

Shaher Al-Shaibani, a physician and a resident at Al-Ashash, said that a barrier was supposed to be built in the eighties as an answer to the floods. However, the project did not see the light.

A 35 meter-long fence around the garden, the septic tank in the garden, and the ground floor of Al-Shaibani's house were destroyed due to severity of floods last year during the same period.

The Al-Raimi family is also getting ready to face floods, but their preparations are different from those of Al-Shaibani. They have surrounded their house with heaps of clay and stones to prevent floods from getting into their house.

The Al-Raimi house was destroyed by unexpected floods this time last year, which swept away all the furni-

ture inside. Other damage caused by the floods included damaged electric poles, houses, and telephone wires being swept away.

With no modern drainage system in the area, residents in Al-Ashash have

piled stones outside their houses to protect them against possible floods.

## Appeal to authorities

Residents of the district are now appealing to authorities to solve the problem of floods by paving the road and building a drainage system.

Engineer Mu'ayn Bashaq, a resident in the area, explained that a wide asphalted road, drains and a water barrier such as the one planned for in the eighties would help prevent damage in the case of flood in the future. But no official measures have been taken to start this.

Moneer Al-Maktari, the area's social leader, said that a 12 meter-wide paved road is the solution to the problem: "We pay taxes to the state," he said."Why don't we get even our basic needs?"

President Saleh visited the area two years ago this area promising the people the services they needed, said Al-Maktari.

"We are simple people and unfortu-

nately we do not have anyone representing us in the parliament to put forth our issues," he complained, explaining that their representative in parliament, a man responsible for the whole of the Bani Matar area, has not put forward the residents' issues.

Mohammad Al-Hawani, a member of the local council for Al-Ashash, said that he was unable to do anything because the role of the local councils in Yemen has not been activated.

Part of the road inside the area is still not asphalted. When the rains come, the asphalted part is damaged and the non-paved part becomes muddy. The general authority for roads sends trucks to clear and even out the road, but not to pave it, say residents.

To find out whether plans were underway to pave the road in the area, the Yemen Times contacted the Ministry of Planning, and was successively transferred to the Ministry of Construction, the Fund for Roads and Bridges, and to the Ministry of Finance.

None so far have confirmed plans to do so.





في شين عد مواقع إعلانية عارجية منا لإعلام عنه المعلم عد مواقع إعلانية عارجية منا لإعلام عدمة مياة للمركان موقع موضع موضع منا للماقيه في الإسلام الماقيه على المركان الموضع معرودة الماقية في مراحية الماقية عدمودة الماقية الماقية الماقية عدمودة الماقية الماقي الماقي الماقي الماقية الماقي الماقية الماقية الماق thought the gates. Bright white dresses and enormous amounts of luggage move through the arrival hall. A lonely representative of a travel agency is sitting in one of the blue plastic chairs. Does he expect any clients? "No, just a friend from the United States. He is coming with Egypt Air, the last flight of the night." The sound of roaring jet engines can be heard. Maybe his friend has arrived. "No this is a military jet", the lonely travel agent expertly remarks. 4.00 AM – The arrival hall is

4.00 AM – The arrival hall is deserted. Except for the lonely travel agent and some children, everybody has left. The digital displays with arrival times are switched off. Actually, they were never switched on. A handful of Egypt Air passengers comes out. The airport boss hurries them through the gates. It seems as if he – still smoking – has impatiently been waiting for them so that he can finally switch of the lights of his little airport.

4.30 AM – The taxi ride back from the airport is an equally dark affair as the ride to the airport. But, upon reaching the Old City slowly life comes back to town. The first mosques are opening their microphones for the morning prayers and hot tea, fresh bread and steaming beans can be bought at some food stalls around Tahrir square. Sana'a may not have much of a night life, it sure offers the perfect meal after a grand night out.

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## Words of Wisdom



Many countries hold elections. Even when these are not rigged they tend to cement the old patron-clientele relations in a new grab. The reason is that the people in power use their connections (and state funds, media, bureaucracy, etc.) to achieve the election results they want. The result is that they create docile parliaments. Elections thus end up enabling those in power to hold on to it. Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999)

Founder of Yemen Times



## **Friends of Yemen**

xpectations varied as senior officials from 20 countries met last week in London to simply discuss Yemen. An initiative lead by the Italians to create "Friends of Yemen" was perhaps one of the most positive thoughts concluded from the two hours or so meeting.

According to news reports from the meeting, Yemen admitted the severity of the situation and that it really needs help in order to stop the degradation towards bottom rock. Yemen has always been reported through more than one international and local independent organization to be in a dire situation. It is enough to look at the simplest of indices to realize that an urgent action must take place. Yet I cannot understand why US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton was struck by the Yemeni government's presentation on the depressing situation of Yemen.

Perhaps she was struck by the fact that she is hearing it from the Yemeni government itself. However, the growing population, dwindling oil reserves, water shortages and political instability are certainly not news for anyone who has the slightest interest in Yemeni affairs.

Our delegation headed to London with a list of requests from the world, including an aid of 40 billion US dollars which according to Abubakr Al-Qirbi, Yemen's foreign minister is what Yemen needs to get out of this mess.

I wonder if this is what really will drag us out of this situation and how the Yemeni government came up with this number. We have not yet used even one third of the pledges from the larger London and more serious conference in 2006.

Whether it is a matter of admitting mistakes, or international support I don't believe that anything wrong could result from last week's conference. Perhaps it is a turning point for Yemen, and the scolding our government officials got while they were trying to get support might actually work.

Yemen's number one problem is that its people especially those in decision making positions are not feeling responsible and the people are not holding them accountable. With the new admission of failure and the tough love given by the Friends of Yemen from around the world, perhaps something good could result.

I hope that the picture does brighten up eventually and the world helps Yemen with its issues, as friends not guardians. But what I hope more for is Yemenis becoming friends of Yemen,

U.S. targets Yemen, expands 'war on terror' By: Joyce Chediac Workers World

n Jan. 4, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton claimed "instability" in Yemen posed "a global threat." Why is Yemen unstable? Where does the "threat" really come from? Why are U.S. cruise missiles killing civilians in Yemen? Brief history of Yemen

The Republic of Yemen is strategically located in the southwestern tip of the Arabian Peninsula and across from the Horn of Africa. It is bordered in the north by Saudi Arabia and in the east by Oman.

In modern times, this country's struggle for sovereignty has drawn fire from the most powerful imperialist countries and their Middle Eastern clients. Yemen was taken over by the British and made a colo-

ny in 1939. When the Suez Canal opened in 1869, the port of Aden - one of Yemen's natural resources became British colonialism's refueling port.

When a wave of anti-imperialist struggle gripped the Arab world in the 1950s and 1960s, the Yemeni people threw out the British colonizers and formed the Yemen Arab Republic in 1962. The new state was supported by Egypt, then a leader in the Arab national struggle, which sent in troops to protect it.

Yemeni independence and self-determination was opposed by Saudi Arabia, a surrogate for Washington and to this day the oppressor regime in the Arabian Peninsula. The heavily armed Saudi regime has regularly interfered in Yemeni affairs and opposed any progressive measures there.

Yemenis in the southern part of the country took the struggle a step further. After a successful armed struggle, they set up a state which aspired to build socialism. In 1967, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen was born in the south. The new state aligned with the Soviet Union, China and Cuba.

The PDRY contained most of Yemen's natural resources. The port of Aden and Yemen's oil deposits are in the south. The PDRY controlled the Bab al Mandeb straits a strategic oil tanker passageway — which the U.S. government now seeks to control. Despite these resources, relentless pressure from world imperialism and repeated attempts by the Saudis to destabilize the progressive government prevented the PDRY from developing its economy.

In 1990, after the collapse of the socialist camp, the socialist south and capitalist north reunited in a strained union to form the Republic of Yemen. The new government, headed by Yemen's current president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, for a short time included a relative balance of representatives between Yemen's north and south.

A year later, when the U.S. and its allies invaded Iraq for the first time, the Republic of Yemen opposed this attack on Iraq. The Saudi regime retaliated against Yemen for its progressive and independent stand by expelling a million Yemenis working and living in Saudi Arabia; thereby destabilizing Yemen, which could not absorb them all. A half million desperate people camped outside Sann'a, the capital city. Yemen's poverty level shot up to 47 percent, and remains in the same range today.

The message was clear. Imperialism and its surrogates in the region would not tolerate independent positions from Yemen. The Yemeni government became an agent of the Saudis and the U.S. The resource-rich south was virtually annexed, its political leaders forced to flee, and its inhabitants treated like second-class citizens.

Since then, the Sann'a regime's pro-imperialist and corrupt policies have isolated ever growing sectors of the population. Yemen oil money was used not to develop the country but to line the Swiss bank accounts of

Yemen's rulers and those they buy off. The drop in oil prices associated with the 2008 capitalist economic crisis struck a body blow to the Yemeni economy. As Yemen's economy has become more unstable, its rulers have become more corrupt and more repressive.

Opinion

#### U.S., Yemeni and Saudi regimes bombing Yemeni people

When Clinton raised concern over Yemen's "instability" she never mentioned the root causes and imperialism's role. Nor does she mention that right now, under the guise of fighting terror, the U.S., Yemeni and Saudi regimes are bombing and terrorizing the people of Yemen

Today there are three distinct insurgencies in Yemeni. Most significant are the Houthi insurrection in the north and especially the secular Southern Movement. Most recently, at the behest of the U.S., Sann'a has begun attacking the small group called al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, not before seen as a threat.

The U.S. media claim that the Houthi fight with Sann'a is a Sunni-Shiite conflict based on religion. However, Edmund J. Jull, U.S. ambassador to Yemen from 2002 to 2004, calls this a "myth" and explains that "the Houthi and President Saleh are followers of the Zaidi sect of Shiite Islam." The Houthis are fighting for cultural rights against a repressive regime. The Yemeni government has been destroying their villages since 2004, making tens of thousands refugees. Saudi jets regularly bomb Houthi positions.

The Southern Movement is a broad-based secular movement whose goal is the secession of the south. Its core is made up of former officials and military officers of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. It also includes Baathists, Nassarites and traditional local leaders. Gary Leupp, writing in the Jan. 15-17 issue of Counterpunch, says the Southern Movement has "little in common with al-Qaida" and views Yemeni President Saleh as "a corrupt, nepotistic dictator using U.S. aid and the exaggerated al-Qaida threat to his own advantage."

Tiny al-Qaida not seen as a Yemeni "problem"

As for al-Qaida in the Arabian Gulf, even U.S. intelligence estimates that the group is only loosely affiliated with the Bin Laden group and has no more than 200 people, most of whom do not have weapons. The group, however, is located in the oil-rich and strategic south.

Gregory Johnson, a Princeton graduate student specializing in Yemen, said, "The Yemeni government is much more concerned with fighting the Houthis in Saada and with the secessionists in the south. Al-Qaida ranks a distant third. The government doesn't see it as a Yemeni problem. [It sees it as] a foreign problem.'

That was before government instability in this strategic country sounded alarm bells in Washington. Now, said Leupp, Yemeni President Saleh has "smeared" the Southern Movement "as an al-Qaida offshoot" to "strengthen his grip over the country with U.S. support" because "his government is weak and risks losing control over the oil-rich south without outside help.

Washington claims "threats" from Yemen stem from an alleged al-Qaida connection and the aborted attempt to bring down a U.S. airliner on Dec. 25. Yet the Pentagon began air strikes on southern Yemen on Dec. 18, seven days earlier. CBS reports that the 60 victims were mostly civilians, including women and children. Additionally, the Houthis in north Yemen, far from al-Qaida, say that they have been bombed by U.S. drones.

The U.S. concern in Yemen is not al-Qaida "threats." It is concern that imperialism remain in control of strategic and oil-rich Yemen and the nearby oil routes. Washington, however, underestimates the determination of the Yemeni people, who are very political, and have a long history of struggle.

## **COMMON SENSE**

## Sykes – Picot 2010: In Yemen and elsewhere: We simply let it be

very dear friend of mine (A Roamer of the World – as I call him) from the university days of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck (NJ) Campus sent me the following observation on the London meeting of last week on Yemen, which I would like to share with my good readers, as it came:



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

"near the former colonial offices the major powers conferred: what is to be done to deter exploding underpants? the south arabian gibraltar could join the commonwealth [dredge the harbour, chase pirates practice amphibious landings on socotra] each press release emphasized the theme 'not a failed state but a failing government' a necessary disclaimer before pursuing a lesser evil"

#### Christopher Seymour

My answer to Chris, who is the only one of the many friends I had at that time, who actually made it to this now Arabia Infelix, was as follows (with a feeling of nostalgia for the idealism filled days that arose out of the hip culture of the Seventies in the good old USA:

Nice to hear from you again with a delightful short treatise on the fallacy of our programmed lives by people who never give a damn about how much human suffering their interests must be served by just so they can satisfy their rotten egos and live high on the hog at the expense of nine-tenths of the population of the world. Twenty nations met to work out the future of Yemen, without even asking anyone in Yemen just what the hell is going on in this God-forsaken land?

Tyranny and oppression have once again been rewarded and the victims of it all have been told once again, go to hell!

We really had a whole different vision of what the world ought to have been like in the Seventies and almost believed nothing could stop us from making it so real. Naiveté surely overtook us! It is not that they outwitted us. We simply believed that evil would never find any grounds to be entrenched in anymore. We were fooled by the beauty of our dreams and overwhelmed by the goodness of our aspirations. We thought for sure we knew what God and all those prophets and philosophers really wanted to make of this world, only to find that we hardly knew ourselves well enough - our strengths have been turned into submissive apathy and non-chalance, while the bad guys of the world were slowly eradicating all desires for goodness in this world.

What do we do? Surrender and let them destroy the beautiful virgin island of Socotra? Hell no! We got to believe in ourselves again, otherwise God will forsake us for our reluctance to maintain our self proclaimed honorable mission. We must uphold goodness, fairness, equality and justice in their rightful position in our hearts and minds. Oh sure, it is not our fault, since the power in our voices slackened with our content with letting the heavy sounds of rock music and electric blues assure us that we have reached the fulfillment we should strive for. May the Lord forgive us!

For now the only consolation we have is the knowledge that God could never be on their side! Even if we have lost the momentum desired of us, and the guts to call a spade a spade, humanity's destiny must end at the end of the rainbow we pictured in our vision. If that is not God's will, then what the hell are we here for?

Keep the faith - we must be sure that we are right and they are dead wrong!

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

## Helping pull Yemen back from the brink

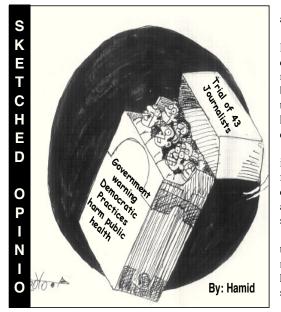
**By: Ivan Lewis Global Arab Network** 

Development Partnership Arrangement with the we are committed to working with all the play-The root cause of many of the challenges is Government of Yemen to underline our support ers in the region to empower the Yemeni authorities to provide effective and just governance to ensure that Al-Qa'idah cannot gain a foothold.



because what we really need at this point is for Yemenis to love Yemen, only then the world would follow.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf



n the context of the recent growing interest in the situation in Yemen, I have been frequently asked; why is the UK suddenly talking about Yemen, what is your agenda and what are you hoping to achieve

Let me make it very clear that all of us have learnt a lot from the experiences and heavy costs of Iraq and Afghanistan. It is clearly far more desirable and straightforward to help bring a country back from the cusp of disaster that it is to pick up the pieces again after a state has collapsed, with far less catastrophic consequences for ordinary people.

This is why we are fully committed to helping Yemen address the multiple challenges it faces right now and we aim to facilitate a coordinated international response in a manner that accords with the interests of Yemenis themselves.

Terrorism may be the most tangible issue to the person on the street in the West reading newspaper reports about the Yemen situation, however we do not regard terrorism as necessarily the greatest or only threat facing Yemen economic; there are many in Yemen who feel marginalised and disenchanted and are struggling to provide for their families from the dwindling natural resources. Civil unrest over economic and social issues is growing, especially in the South. That said, most of the grievances are shared nationally, including the lack of jobs, corruption, poor and uneven delivery of government services and the rule of law, lack of effective social support mechanisms for the genuinely needy.

today.

This growing sense of marginalisation and disenchantment is also reflected in the resumption of the conflict in Sa'dah, where a long-term settlement can only be achieved politically.

We remain focussed on providing, through the UN and others, urgent humanitarian assistance to those displaced by this conflict whilst continuing to work closely with the Government of Yemen to support efforts towards a peaceful settlement. We did not suddenly become aware of Yemen in the wake of reports on the Detroit attempted plane bombing, but we have been stepping up our assistance to Yemen for some vears.

In August 2007 we signed a 10-year

and agree objectives on poverty reduction and reform. We agreed an indicative amount of £105m from 2008/09 to 2010/11, dependent on the Government of Yemen's adherence to its commitments and ability to absorb aid. Over the last 18 months, the UK has grown increasingly concerned about Yemen and our strategy has evolved accordingly. UK objectives focus on supporting the Government of Yemen in delivering services and jobs to its citizens as well as developing a strong, democratic state which is capable of addressing the causes of conflict and instability.

Yes, we regard Al-Qa'idah in Yemen as potentially a huge threat to the Middle East and the world, but there is nothing Al-Qa'idah benefits from more than instability. An increasing AQ stranglehold on the country would be a disaster for Yemen considering the trail of blood and destruction they have left in their wake in other countries where they have had a substantial presence. AQ is also clearly having a damaging effect of Yemen's ability to benefit from tourism, which is a tragedy for a country so well-endowed with a rich historical legacy and areas of outstanding natural beauty. Therefore

The responses to Yemen's difficulties must not be primarily military. President Obama has also stressed that he has no intention of sending troops to Yemen. Yemen urgently needs a peaceful resolution to the Sa'dah conflict, and we will certainly not give AQ what it wants; a heavy-handed and military Western intervention which alienates ordinary Yemenis and creates the instability on which AQ thrives.

Therefore, the meeting on Yemen planned for the coming days is part of the process to focus international awareness on Yemen's many difficulties and channel international support to secure a coordinated response. There is no promise of success here, as the situation in Yemen is clearly very bleak. However, an ambitious effort now to strengthen Yemen's resilience to these threats will be infinitely more straightforward to achieve, than a mission to put all the bits back together, in the event that we leave the nation of Yemen to fall apart.

Ivan Lewis is a FCO Middle East Minister

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YEMEN

## **China's Cyber-Warriors**

#### **By: Brahma Chellaney**

he world now accepts that protecting our atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere – the "global commons" – is the responsibility of all countries. The same norm must apply to cyberspace, which is critical to our everyday life, economic wellbeing, and security.

At a time when cyber attacks are increasing worldwide, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was right to declare that an attack on one nation's computer networks "can be an attack on all." Indeed, the attacks are a reminder that, as a new part of the global commons, cyberspace already has come under threat.

Cyberspace must be treated, along with outer space, international waters, and international airspace, as property held in common for the good of all. And, like ocean piracy and airplane hijacking, cyber-crime cannot be allowed to go unpunished if we are to safeguard our common assets and collective interests.

Naming China among a handful of countries that have stepped up Internet censorship, Clinton warned that "a new information curtain is descending across much of the world." Her statement, with its allusion to the Cold War-era Iron Curtain, amounted to an implicit admission that the central assumption guiding US policy on China since the 1990's – that assisting China's economic rise would usher in greater political openness there – has gone awry.

The strategy of using market forces and the Internet to open up a closed political system simply is not working. Indeed, the more economic power China has accumulated, the more adept it has become in extending censorship to cyberspace.

If anything, China has proven that a country can blend control, coercion, and patronage to stymie the Internet's politically liberalizing elements. Through discreet but tough controls, Beijing pursues a policy of wai song, nei jin – relaxed on the outside, vigilant internally.

Google is now crying foul over "a highly sophisticated and targeted attack on our corporate infrastructure originating from China." But, despite its corporate motto – "Don't be evil" – Google itself was instrumental in aiding online censorship in China, having custombuilt a search engine that purges all references and Web sites that the Chinese government considers inappropriate. Now Google itself has become a victim of China's growing cyber prowess, in the same way that appeasement of Hitler boomeranged onto France and Britain.

China deploys tens of thousands of " cyber police" to block Web sites, patrol cyber-cafes, monitor the use of cellular telephones, and track down Internet activists. But the threat to the new global commons comes not from what China does domestically. Rather, it comes from the way in which the know-how that China has gained in fashioning domestic cyber oversight is proving invaluable to it in its efforts to engage in cyber intrusion across its frontiers.

Canadian researchers have discovered a vast Chinese surveillance system called "GhostNet," which can compromise computers in organizations abroad through booby-trapped e-mail messages that automatically scan and transfer documents to a digital storage facility in China. This is what happened when computers of the Tibetan governmentin-exile in Dharamsala, India, were attacked last year.

India's national security adviser recently complained that his office was targeted yet again by hackers. "People seem to be fairly sure it was the Chinese," he said. Officials in Germany, Britain, and the US have acknowledged that hackers believed to be from China also have broken into their government and military networks.

The state-sponsored transnational cyber threat is at two levels. The first is national, with the hackers largely interested in two objectives. One is to steal secrets and gain an asymmetrical advantage over another country. Cyber intrusion in peacetime allows the prowler to read the content and understand the relative importance of different computer networks so that it knows what to disable in a conflict situation. The other objective is commercial: to pilfer intellectual property.

The second level of cyber threat is against chosen individuals. The most common type of intrusion is an attempt to hack into e-mail accounts. The targets also can face Trojan-horse attacks by e-mail intended to breach their computers and allow the infiltrators to corrupt or transfer files remotely.

To be sure, if a cyber attack is camouflaged, it is not easy to identify the country from which it originated. Through the use of so-called "false-flag espionage" and other methods, attacks can be routed through the computers of a third country. Just as some Chinese pharmaceutical firms exported to Africa spurious medicines with "Made in India" labels – a fact admitted by the Chinese government – some Chinese hackers are known to have routed their cyber intrusion through computers in Russia, Iran, Cuba, and other countries.

But, like their comrades in the pharmaceutical industry, such hackers tend to leave telltale signs. Then there are many cases in which the attacks have originated directly from China.

It seems unlikely that these hackers, especially those engaged in cyber espionage, pilferage, and intimidation, are private individuals with no links to the Chinese government. It is more likely that they are tied to the People's Liberation Army. In war, this irregular contingent of hackers would become the vanguard behind which the PLA takes on the enemy. Systematic cyber attacks constitute a new frontier of asymmetrical warfare at a time when the world already confronts other unconventional threats, including transnational terrorism.

With national security and prosperity now dependent on the safekeeping of cyberspace, cybercrime must be effectively countered as an international priority. If not, cyberspace will become the new global-commons battlefield.

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ملتزمون بالتميُّز



## **Yemen Community Livelihoods**

CHF International's mission is to be a catalyst for long-lasting positive change in low- and moderate-income communities around the world, helping them to improve their social, economic and environmental conditions.

CHF International seeks experienced managers and technical specialists to implement a proposed USAID- funded Community Livelihoods Program in Yemen. This high-profile and large-scale program will implement a multi-sectoral, community-based initiative to mitigate the drivers of instability in some of Yemen's most difficult areas through job creation, community livelihoods, civic participation and improved local government service delivery.

## **Deputy Chief of Party – Programs**

#### Responsibilities

- Provide daily management of the program activities in accordance with all donor rules and regulations and CHF policies and procedures.
- Provide technical support to program assessments and implementation activities.
- Recommend program design modifications to achieve target indicators and

## **Technical Specialists**

The Yemeni Technical Specialists will implement specific technical aspects of the program; ensure deliverables are met on time and within budget; represent the program to key stakeholders within the community and government; coordinate program activities with partners; supervise staff; and prepare monthly and quarterly reports.

#### Qualifications

## **Chief of Party**

## Responsibilities

- Provide strategic direction and oversee management of the overall program.
- Coordinate with USAID to identify opportunities and constraints related to the achievement of program objectives and make appropriate adjustments.
- Ensure program activities and operations are consistent with and in compliance with USAID rules and regulations for cooperative agreements.
- Provide technical leadership and oversight to all program planning, implementation, and monitoring activities.
- Integrate capacity building of local organizations and individuals and enhance sustainability in all facets of program implementation.
- Coordinate program initiatives with other organizations implementing related activities in the program's target areas.
- Provide ongoing technical and programmatic leadership to a diverse group of stakeholders, including project staff, local NGOs, community-based groups, and representatives of local government.
- Achieve target indicators and remain cognizant of project goals and objectives.

## Qualifications

- Masters Degree preferred.
- Minimum 10 years experience managing development programs in an international setting, preferably in similar conflict-affected environments.
- Experience managing large USAID-funded projects and familiarity with USAID reporting requirements and procedures.
- In-depth knowledge of and/or experience in Yemen a plus.
- Experience with community livelihoods and development projects, especially in conflicted-affected and difficult settings.
- Demonstrated knowledge of integrated, multi-sectoral approaches including health, education, youth-focused programming and economic opportunity.
- Excellent communication skills (including intercultural communication), as well as superior negotiation and administrative abilities.
- Strong commitment to team management approach.
- Fluency in English (written and oral). Arabic language skills preferred.

- enhance sustainability.
- Assist in compilation and production of program reports as required by HQ and donor.

Coordinate activities of program partners to ensure achievement of deliverables.

 Liaise with government representatives, community leaders and other stakeholders.

## Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree and at least 10 years total work experience.
- Minimum 7 years field management experience of donor funded programs.
- Experience providing technical assistance in community development projects in one or more areas: health, education, job creation, youth-focused programming, and economic opportunity.
- Knowledge of and/or experience in Yemen or similar conflict-affected environments.
- Proven program management skills in complex environments, with multiple offices and a large national and international staff.
- Excellent analytical, planning, management and organizational skills.
- Ability to work effectively with multiple stakeholders and staff at all levels.
- Fluency in English (written and oral). Arabic language skills preferred.

## **Deputy Chief of Party – Field Operations**

- Responsibilities
- Oversee all field operations in geographically-dispersed target areas.
- Develop and implement operational policies and procedures for all offices ensuring compliance with CHF and donor standards and requirements.
- Provide overall supervision of Field Office Managers; ensure close collaboration with and support to program staff.
- Oversee recruitment and training of field office staff.
- Ensure that security policies and procedures are in effect at all times.

## Qualifications

Bachelor's degree and at least 10 years total work experience;

- Minimum 5 years field management experience in development programs.
- Demonstrated management and leadership skills working with large, complex USAID funded programs with multiple offices and a large national and international staff.
- Work experience in Yemen or similar conflict-affected environment.
- Excellent analytical, planning, management, prioritization and organizational skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Fluency in English (written and oral); Arabic language skills preferred.

- Bachelor's Degree required.
- Minimum 5 years experience in community-driven development in such technical areas as: community mobilization/facilitation, civil society, enterprise development, health, infrastructure, water & sanitation, education, youth, gender, conflict mitigation, training, or monitoring and evaluation.
- Prior experience on donor-funded development projects, USAID preferred.
- Demonstrated experience working cooperatively with a variety of local stakeholders, other projects, and international agencies.
- Fluency in English required (written and oral).

## **Grants and Contracts Manager**

## Responsibilities

- Provide fiscal oversight, guidance, and mentoring to sub-recipients and ensure documentation, accountability, and compliance of the sub-award process.
- Work with local partners to improve internal controls, reporting, documentation standards, and compliance with donor and CHF policies and regulations.
- Monitor and document sub-award disbursements against reported expenditures and workplan progress.
- Develop training modules for building the capacity of local partners in financial management and grant application, award, and management processes.

## Qualifications

- Bachelor degree in a relevant field required (economics, finance, or accounting).
- Minimum 5 years financial management or grant/contract management experience with international development programs, preferably USAID.
- Understanding and experience with USAID projects reporting rules and regulations.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Fluency in English (written and oral); Arabic highly preferred.

## **To Apply for All Positions:**

Yemeni candidates are encouraged to apply. Resumes must be submitted in English.

Submit resumes to **jobs.yemen@chfinternational.org** by February 15, 2010. Please do not submit certificates or other supporting documents at this time. Email and attachments should not exceed 1MB – anything above this limit will be automatically deleted and not reviewed.

## Health

## Herbs not drugs: alternative medicine in Yemen

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori For the Yemen Times

any are those in Yemen who believe in herbs to illness. Traditional medicine using natural remedies is a popular method of treatment for diabetes, hemorrhoids, rheumatism, stress, paralysis and even psychological complexes.

Hizam Al-Arashani, said that he had a painful headache. After he tried modern medicine without success, he decided to try alternative medicine. It helped him.

Mohammad Al-Qarmani said that he also went to a clinic specialized in alternative medicine. After several sessions in which he was given electric shocks and after following his doctor's prescription for a herbal mixture, he recovered completely from partial paralysis.

Physicians also confirm that this kind of medicine is preferred to modern drugs because they cause no side effects when ingested - even in too large quantities.

According to Fuad Ali Abdullah, the owner of Al-Fuad for Herbal Treatment, herbal remedies are a very efficient way of treating a number of ailments. However, he warned people not to use it without the prescription of the physician.

He added that nobody is allowed to practice alternative medicine unless he has prior experience, and has some knowledge of medicine and how to diagnose cases.

With its climatic and geographical diversity in Yemen, it has a diversity of aromatic and medical herbs. The island of Soqotra, for example, is a place where rare plants such as the dragon blood and aloe trees can be found.

Abdullah Husain, the owner of a medical center specialized in alterna-

emirates.com/y



Native to Soqotra, the dragon blood tree is one of Yemen's many plants used for their medicinal properties.

tive medical treatment using bees stings and herbs, said that this form of treatment is considered to be the best nowadays as it is an extension of century-old medicine.

He added that herbs are beneficial to the degree that all parts of medical herbs are used in treatment.

#### Specialized centers

A two-day conference on alternative medicine was attended by more than 100 people, including foreign guests, in Sana'a last Wednesday.

Due to the importance of plants used for medical purposes, herb doctors demanded to establish specialized centers as in many countries in the world.

During the conference, participants recommended that the Yemeni government issue an order to ban those who have no medical license from practicing alternative medicine. They said that this order would be for the benefit of the country as those who pretend to practice this kind of medicine will be stopped.

Ahmad Abdullah Al-Khathab, the coordinator of the conference, said that the most difficult barrier is the absence of the law as charlatans

## Did you know?

There are more than 116 kinds of medical herbs in Yemen. They cure blood pressure, heart diseases, diabetes, renal and hepatic diseases, some types of cancer and rheumatism. Some of the more common include mint, the cypress tree, bindweed, the carob tree, chamomile, and basil.

exploit people who seek medical attention.

There are some people who accuse alternative medicine practitioners of cheating people out of their money. They say that they do not have a medical license from the Ministry of Public Health and Population.

Abdulaziz Najmaddin, consultant at the Ministry of Public Health and Population, said that alternative medicine is a crucial element in treating diseases, but that there must be strict rules to stop charlatans and people pretending to be doctors.

#### Alternative medicine institutes

Due to its importance, Najmaddin



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

## Toxoplasmosis, an imperceptible evil of a healthy pregnancy

xoplasmosis (Gk: toxo=curved; plasm=body) is an infection caused by a parasite called Toxoplasma gondii. Studies have indicated that about 1 out of 4000 babies is born with defects as a result of prenatal infection. The parasite is commonly present in cattle, poultry, and many domestic animals

without any harmful effects. However, it continues to live in raw meat after slaughter until the meat is cooked, dried, or frozen for a prolonged period. The two major causes of human toxoplasmosis infection are the consumption of raw or undercooked meat and contact with the feces of the domestic cat. A single infection normally ensures immunity.



Although it causes an illness which is generally mild and symp-

tomless, it's risky during pregnancy because the parasite may infect the placenta and the unborn baby.

This infection can be mild or severe, causing stillbirth, long-term structural and neurological damage, and other devastating effects.

#### Chances of getting toxoplasmosis and infecting the baby

Only about 15 percent of women of childbearing age are immune to toxoplasmosis. Fortunately, the number of women who contract the infection during pregnancy is still relatively small. The baby's risk of becoming infected rises as pregnancy progresses. If you get infected with toxoplasmosis in the first trimester, the risk that your baby will also be infected is about 15 percent. If you get infected in the second trimester, your baby's risk is about 30 percent, and it's 60 percent in the third trimester.

There's also a very small risk of infecting your baby if you contract the infection within a few months before becoming pregnant. If you know that you've been infected recently, some experts suggest waiting for six months before trying to conceive.

#### Spread of toxoplasmosis

Experts estimate that about half of toxoplasmosis infections are caused by eating raw or undercooked infected meat, but you can also get the parasite by eating unwashed contaminated produce, drinking contaminated water, or handling contaminated soil, cat litter or meat and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes. Cat's feces is a major source of toxoplasmosis. Infection can also happen by eating unwashed vegetables, or drinking contaminated water soiled with the infected cat's feces. Meat also can be infested with these parasites. Toxoplasmosis can't be transmitted from person to person.

#### Symptoms

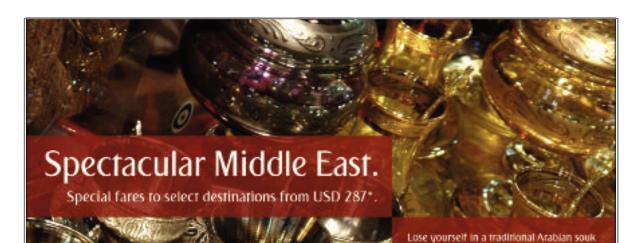
Majority of infected people may not have any symptoms at all. Sometimes painless swollen lymph glands and other symptoms, like muscle aches, fatigue, headache, fever, and possibly a sore throat or a rash may occur. Very rarely do more serious symptoms arise in otherwise healthy people. Sometimes toxoplasmosis is suspected in repeated abortions or when certain fetal abnormalities are picked up during a prenatal ultrasound. However, most infected babies appear normal.

#### Screening tests for toxoplasmosis

Blood tests can detect toxoplasma antibodies that indicate immunity or recent infection. The best test to diagnose the disease whether acute or chronic is to perform IgM, & IgG antibody test. (IgM positive indicates current infection; IgG positive indicates the status of immunity.) Prenatal testing for all women for toxoplasmosis should be mandatory. Whenever facilities are there, universal newborn testing can be included. When the new born child has conditions like congenital anomalies, prolonged jaundice or septicemia, toxoplasmosis has to be ruled out.

#### What happens if a woman is diagnosed with toxoplasmosis?

She should undergo treatment with antibiotics. In order to determine whether the baby also has the infection, the amniotic fluid of the mother should be examined. Regular (ultrasound) monitoring of the fetus throughout pregnancy should be done to rule out ab-



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called on the government to establish institutes to teach alternative medicine following a scientific methodology. He also demanded a syndicate for doctors practicing alternative medicine be established.

Mohammad Abdulsalam Al-Dhameen, the organizer of the conference, said that natural herbal mixtures are preferred to the pharmaceutical drugs because they induce no side effects.

He added that society should be aware of the importance of this kind of medicine that could improve the economy in the country.

Mohab Al-Kailany, a Syrian member of the conference's preparatory committee, confirmed what has been said about the alternative medicine as being a safe way of curing diseases.

Yemen's flora consists of various types of aromatic and medical herbs which are used in medicine, he said.

He said that such conferences stressed the importance of alternative medicine when modern medicine fails to cure a disease, and added that they encourage botanists and specialists to conduct research on plants to discover more herbal medicines.

Participants expressed their optimism about the future of alternative medicine in Yemen. They said that they would spare no effort in developing this medicine and explaining what it is to the public.

They also promised to update it so that it becomes a common culture that has credibility among all segments of Yemeni and Arab society.

normalities.

#### Toxoplasmosis in the baby

Toxoplasmosis infection in the child may result in miscarriage, stillbirth, or death shortly after birth. Once you have been shown to be recently infected, there are several ways to check if your fetus has been infected. The fluid around the fetus or fetal blood can be examined to determine the presence of infection. However, if the fetus is infected, these tests cannot tell you how severe the infection is. If the amniotic fluid or ultrasound shows evidence of toxoplasmosis in the baby the option is to end the pregnancy depending on the baby's gestational age. About one-third of the babies born with congenital toxoplasmosis will have a problem that could have been seen on ultrasound.

If the pregnancy is continued, antibiotics will be given sometime in the second trimester to reduce the baby's risk of problems. After birth, a blood test can be performed on the baby to confirm toxoplasmosis.

Congenital toxoplasmosis can affect the baby's brain, causing problems such as mental or motor developmental delays, cerebral palsy, and epilepsy. It can affect other organs too, most commonly the eyes, leading to visual impairment and sometimes blindness.

#### Can a baby show signs of toxoplasmosis as soon as he's born?

Some babies will have signs of toxoplasmosis at birth, which may include an enlarged liver and jaundice, an enlarged spleen, a low platelet count, a rash, a heart or lung infection, and enlarged lymph nodes. However, the vast majority of babies with congenital toxoplasmosis, particularly those infected later in pregnancy, seem normal at birth but may develop serious problems months or even years later.

#### Prevention is better than cure

Serious infection by toxoplasmosis can be effectively prevented by the avoidance of raw meat and by ensuring that all rare-cooked meats are heated throughout to at least 60° C (140° F). Avoid salt-cured or smoked meats. Contact with infected or unfamiliar cats and cat feces should be avoided. If you are a cat lover, ask your hubby to empty the cat litter box every day because the parasite eggs in cat feces do not become infective until two to four days after excretion. The best solution is not to have a cat or kitten in the house when you are pregnant and if you come across one, not to play with it.

Here are some more guidelines to keep in mind:

- Son't drink unpasteurized milk or products made from unpasteurized milk (like some cheese and yogurt), and avoid raw eggs. Don't take unboiled camel milk.
- ♦ Wash or peel fruits and vegetables before eating.
- \* Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils, and your hands with hot, soapy water after touching uncooked meat, poultry, or seafood.
- \* Don't touch your mouth, nose, or eyes while preparing food, and always wash your hands before eating. Don't work in the kitchen if you have cuts and open sores on your hands.
- ✤ Keep flies and cockroaches away from your food.
- ♦ Use bottled water when traveling.



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1 February, 2010 9

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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The <u>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</u> invites <u>Yemeni Nationals</u> to apply for the following position at the UNDP Office

Post Title: Information Communication Technology (ICT) Associate/Webmaster Pre-classified Grade: GS6 Duration: one year renewable

Duty Station: Sana'a

## Responsibilities:

- Develop and Manage workflow automation through web-based application with database management interfaces;
- Develop web pages to act as interfaces to a comprehensive database system that links all workflow information;
- Develop and maintain a dynamic and fast database to be used as a data store for all information of the country office automation;





The World Leading Food & Nutrition Company requires dynamic, self-motivated and success-oriented Candidates for its operations in Yemen

- Develop a control panel for administration of the workflow system and add the ability to add/edit/delete any or all parts of the system;
- Post/update/format/organize content developed by all content managers for the intranet/extranet/UNDP website/ UNDP projects/UN website(s);
- · Constantly review site to ensure all parts are functioning properly and that links are current;
- Execute structural changes at direction of content managers and suggest ways to speed viewers> access to information;
- Communicate through the ICT Manager with the Communications Officer, Knowledge Manager, UN Coordination
  Officer, Regional Information Officer, other Country Offices and UNDP Head Quarter on the best practices and
  design/content recommendations for the web sites and ensure adherence to the corporate design guidelines;
- Intranet structure should be under constant update in response to user needs and usage trends as shown by the statistics database;
- Maintain all electronic versions of photos and other images for use on the website and build and maintain an electronic photo library;
- Monitor visitors to site and provide routine summaries of which pages are seen most/least and by which people. Suggest ways to ensure that users are getting the information they need;
- Keep abreast of new technologies and design trends to ensure that the UNDP website is current and that all the website>s capabilities can be exploited;
- Register the site with major search engines to ensure increased access to information seekers from around the world;
- Maintain Local Area Network functionality and ensures smooth operation of client access;
- · Maintain local servers and client machines;
- Review checklists, logs and backup routines and recovery procedures;
- Go through backup and disaster recovery checklists and implement backup and disaster recovery plan;
- · Implement and suggest ways to improve local centralized systems and user access machines;
- · Provide timely user support to ensure business continuity at all times;
- · Implement security policies pertaining to computer users and network access;
- · Provide timely maintenance of communications equipment in the office;
- Provide training on policies and procedures on uses of ICT in the office;
- Perform non-technical training as required to staff on web, graphics, programming, database functionality and management, ftp and web server maintenance;

## Qualification:

- Secondary Education with specialized certification in Computer Science. University Degree in Computer Science is desirable.
- 7 years of relevant experience in Web Development, hardware/software maintenance as well as experience in telecommunications facilities;
- High proficiency in English and Arabic Languages with excellent drafting and communication skills.

## Only Online Applications will be accepted.

- Interested candidates are requested to apply online via our website at http://jobs.undp.org/
- Response will only be made to short listed candidates.
- The deadline for receiving applications is Wednesday, 10 February 2010.
- NOTE: The monthly salary for this post is approximately \$1200

## Accountant/Sales Administrator

## Job profile

Carry out various accounting/financial transactions and reports. Prepare the income tax and social security declarations. Mointain and update the Stock and Sales data on an origoing basis and coordinate with the consolidation team to generate monthly sales reports. Prepare the local monthly payroll while monitoring the HR cost and expenses versus the torecasted budget.

## Candidate profile

Holding a University Degree (Business Administration), with 3-4 yrs of experience in accounting and/or Sales Administration. Proficient in MS Office & MS Access, Good communication skills, fluent in both English & Arabic. Well organized with strong analytical skills and an ability to perform as a team member.

## Candidates meeting the above requirements are advised to send their CVs to the following address <u>yemen.careers@ye.nestle.com</u>

App "calions will be treated in shict Confidence; only short listed cancidates will be contacted.

## Culture



# Can a Muslim woman become a muftiyya?

For centuries deciding on the rules of conduct in Islam - what is halal (allowed) and what is haram (forbidden) - has been the specialty of men, despite the fact that one of the greatest religious references in Islamic history was Aisha bint Abu Bakr, a woman. Today, an international campaign is in place to empower Muslim women to take part in Islamic legislation through the Shura Council Project created by active Muslim women from all around the world.

#### By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

once heard a ridiculous fatwa that if you see breasts in your dream, it is an erotic dream and you should reconsider your conduct, repent and pray for forgiveness. I have five children and believe me, I have had many dreams including breasts and for me, this explanation could not have been any more wrong," explained renowned international Islamic scholar, Amina Wadud.

She explains that religion has been viewed mostly from a man's perspective, especially because it is men who are the ones behind legislations and rules. Negligence towards women's perspectives and the imposition of a man's rule over the general walks of life have led to many of the narrow interpretations of Islam.

Wadud is one of many women who have come together to set the record straight when it comes to Muslim women in today's world. Under the umbrella of Women Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE), a Shura Council has been brought to life.

The vision of this council is to generate a space in which Muslim women can actively take part in debate, and collaborate on pressing issues of social justice, in order to articulate an ethical and egalitarian Islam. One of the tools through which the WISE women intend to make this happen is through the "Muftiyya-Training Program" which was launched during the 2009 WISE Conference in Kuala Lampur.

"Nowhere does it say in Islam that the act of issuing a fatwa should be monopolized by men. It has been taken for granted because women were usually subdued and not included in this discipline. With this initiative, we can empower women who are willing to be muftiyyas through adequate scholarly training," said Tayyibah Taylor, Founding Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of the Azizah Magazine, and WISE Shura Council Member.

According to its mission, a long-term goal of the Shura Council is to create Muslim women jurists educated in Islamic law and secular disciplines of relevance. These women, who will enjoy full legitimacy from the perspective of Islamic legal traditions, in addition to their proficiency in other critical fields such as international affairs and national and international law. will be capable of issuing fatwas that can guide Muslims in their own societies.

Once this initial group of muftiyyas is trained, an «Ifta' Council» may be established with the requisite legitimacy to issue fatwas. As a council comprised exclusively of women, it would represent the first-ever global, institutionalized body of Muslim female scholars, an authority for Muslims around the globe.

"Obviously not anyone could and should become a muftiyya. We have decided on a number of requirements and necessary credentials for potential applicants who wish to join this training," explained Daisy Khan, Executive Director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement, and a Member of the WISE Shura Council.

Women who are going to be part of this project, according to Khan, must be very eager and willing to work hard in order to be able to answer to critics and appeasers. We can't afford to go wrong," she explained.

These requirements include English language proficiency in order to be able to communicate internationally, outstanding academic credentials, a commitment to Islamic scholarship as a profession, whether in their home countries or in an international setting, and the ability to demonstrate a commitment to Islam and its fundamental values of peace, justice, respect and human dignity. It is hoped that the outcome of this project will result in correcting the image about Islam and actively involve Muslim women in their own lives.

"We must lift up the truth of Islam, a truth that has inspired positive social change for fourteen hundred years. It is time for Muslim women to come together and generate a collective genius, passion, and energy," said Khan.

A muftiyya>s educational program

According to the educational programs' structure, it is not going to be limited to Islamic education, but also include secular education. The program's curriculum will remain both faithful to the rigorous requirements of a classical education in figh or Islamic jurisprudence, and sensitive to the demands of the globalized world. It will impart the requisite tools and experience to enable the muftiyyas to apply Islamic legal tenets within the contemporary

contexts in which they live.

The academic year will be spent at the site or sites of the training program. Here, students will join a 3-5 year training program in the Islamic sciences at a center of figh study in order to receive ijazas or licences to become legitimate muftiyyas. A necessarily rigorous process, this will comprise the bulk of their education. Combined with their secular education (see below), this training will provide them with a holistic, realistic and actionable perspective on Islam, Islamic law and the contemporary world.

Students will use their summers, or 1-2 contiguous years during or at the end of the Islamic education, to gain knowledge and training in interfaith seminaries and international settings. These intensive semesters will provide the women with the experience necessary to affect change within a globalized world. The women will participate in a variety of general interdisciplinary seminars and forums, which could include comparative religion, faith-based feminism and activism, national and international law, philosophy and sociology, international affairs, and economics.

Female Islamic scholars in Yemen The issue of Yemeni female Islamic scholars has not received much media coverage, but not because of the lack of female scholars. Rather, dozens of women Islamic scholars graduate every year whether from mainstream public and private universities or from the Iman University.

The Iman University has so far produced over 200 graduates with the title of "sheikha" equivalent to a PhD in figh or Islamic jurisprudence. Scholars have studied continuously for ten years and have to conduct much research in figh before they are giving the ijaza which is a license to give judgments and rulings on Islamic



More than 55 women met last year in Kuala Lampur to discuss how Muslim women can participate in defining and promoting Islam. As a result, the Shura Council project which includes training for future women muftiyyas was launched.

matters, the practice generally known as ifta.

Established around four years ago, the Women Figh Forum is a center where Yemeni muftiyyas assemble professionally. The forum produces a quarterly magazine called Al-Muntada Al-Fighi on religious issues totally written by women.

The women's section at the Iman University has its own periodical, Al-Shaqaeq, a monthly magazine that includes sections for fatwas managed by a different female scholar every month. Al-Shaqaeq prints over 20,000 copies a month, which at least doubles the circulation of many general newspapers in Yemen.

"A potential reason why Yemeni women scholars have not received much attention especially by the media is that most people who create media policies are leftist men," suggested Fathiya Hazza'a who is soon to establish the Women Figh Forum's marketing and public relations department.

She hopes that through this newly established department professional Yemeni women religious scholars will receive the attention they deserve.

## **4**U

If you want to be part of this training or are interested in knowing more about the Shura Council go to: http://www.wisemuslimwomen.org/ about/shuracouncil/

# **Qat: The cursed plant in Yemen**

#### **By: Yusuf Al-Shiraif**

#### The qat's sessions

In the monthly magazine "Reader's Digest" which had an Arabic version entitled "Al-Mukhtar" (The Favorite) and had been published during World War II, I read an article for the archaeologist and adventurer Wandal Phillips who discovered a lot of Yemeni civilization's ruins and antiques in Marib. Phillips recounted how chewing the qat helped him in communicating with and understanding Yemenis. Maybe I just traced him and got what he has got without being aware and without realizing the secret for admiring the Yemenis to the plant of the qat.

You may go to Yemen for work or tourism and spend there days and years traveling all over it. However, you will not be able to get the required visa for penetrating Yemeni personality or be certified in delving into paths of the Yemeni mentality and knowing its humane and sentimental relief without qat's leaves slowly and carefully then you must press them consecutively and milk their nectar little by little until you get relaxed, clear your temperament, wake up your sentiments, and concentrate your senses wakefully and brilliantly. Accordingly, you may be an interviewer or a creative or even a listener or a contemplator or a wanderer in Allah's Kingdom or maybe whispering to the spectrum of the known or unknown lover. Our God has really His own affairs on His creators.

Because of that the sessions of the qat start in the siestas just after the launch time, the session of the qat was described as "Al-Magial or Magial".

There is also Maqial for women called "Al-Tafritah" in Sana'a, "Al-Nashra" in Al-Hodiedah, and "Al-Qaila" in Ta'izz and Aden. Apparently, the Sana'anian Maqial with its civilized rituals still the most famous and interesting one among others and especially if we know that Sana'a is the city of history and civilization and one of the ient cities in the world. In addition, the name of Sana'a in Arabic refers to the business and craft. The book entitled "Countries Encyclopaedia" mentions that the name of Sana'a refers to the goodness of the craft itself.

forms and touches similar to the leaves of jew>s mallow or leaves of rocket or the plant of ficus which grows on the walls of villas and palaces in Egypt. Some of the qat's names and kinds include Al-Dhla' ai, Al-Matari, Al-Sabri, Al-Hamdani, Al-Harazi, Al-Shami, Al-Maghribi, Al-Bukhari, Al-Wadi, and Al-Asri.

We are now in a deep-rooted house of the Old City of Sana'a and Al-Maqial's divan is the most beautiful and important place in the house. It was furnished with rugs or colored mats and cozy mattresses are scattered around its rectangular sides with a 30-centimeter height. Soft rugs also cover them with backrests in their sides and poufs for resting the arms. Usually, Al-Maqial's divan holds 10 persons in average and maybe for hundreds as the one in the tribal sheiks' palaces. The Yemeni hookah and maybe several other hookahs are always put in the middle of Al-Maqial's divan. The hookah is made of handcrafted copper with many pipes coming out of it and connected to the chewers' lips for smoking burning tobacco. The owner of Al-Maqial's divan also makes sure to provide bottles of waters and soft drinks! Generally, Al-Maqial's divan occupies the most scenic and highest place in the Sana'nian house and consequently is called "Al-Mafraj" (A Luxurious Penthouse) which ensures the panoramic scenery of the capital city and its civilized buildings! Each divan of Al-Maqial has its own social or cultural or political identity. Parties, syndicates, and associations have their private divans of Al-Maqial. Not long ago, each ministry and government authority have its private divan until the decree of the republic's president was issued and contained interesting the forbidding of chewing the qat by employees, police men, and army men during the official hours either in govgood the qat before ernment offices or military camps. In the early 1970s Sana'a was the scene of secret divans of Al-Maqial phenomenon which held members of national and left-wing movements during major Muhammad Khamais was occupying the post of public security's general manager. After the emerging of the Yemeni unity and applying the democracy of political pluralism this phenomenon disappeared gradually! Guests enters the divan of Al-Maqial holding his or her qat's bundle enveloped with a thin plastic cover and in the past the qat's bundles were enveloped with bananas' leaves in order to stay insecticide fresh. The guest greets the ones who preceded him or her by hand or by nodding and sometimes the guest sits down in his place quietly in order to not interrupt other guests' speech. Then one of long and short stem and others differ in those guests says: "May Allah will wel-

come who have just come!" The guest starts culling the gat's leaves of bad ones and selects good ones for chewing in succession until his or her left cheek becomes swelling. Then the process of chewing and milking starts and during this process attendees exchange the qat's stalks as a matter of diversifying

flavour and getting cordiality. The situation continues and passes in side or bilateral conversations until all chewers reach to the acme of rapture and vitality. Then owner of the divan or the most notable chewer notifies all and declares the selecting of a suitable subject to be dialogued about. I do certify that all attendees obtain their chances of democratic dialogue which is full of justice and balance whatever are their social or functional ranks!

Part 4

Source: Weghat Nazar Magazine, February 2004, Volume No.: 38 Translated by: Eyad N. Al-Samman





## Vacancy: B1 Deputy Programme Manager (Human Development), Department for International Development, British Embassy, Sana'a

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) is seeking to recruit a Deputy Programme Manager to work in our office in Sana'a. DFID is responsible for leading the British Government's fight against world poverty. In Yemen, our programme is £25 million in the current UK financial year. More information about DFID can be found at our website: www.dfid.gov.uk

Duties

wading into the experiment of chewing the qat in your left side of the mouth.

This way of chewing the qat is an involuntary movement and looks difficult to be substituted with chewing the qat in the right side (without finding a reason for that). You have also to chew the

#### The qat for all The qat is delivered



- Managing DFID Yemen's human development programmes, aimed at improving service delivery in health and education. This includes ensuring that the programmes are delivering results, and supporting the design of new programmes as required
- Representing DFID in conferences, workshops and meetings as required, communicating DFID policy objectives and strengthening DFID's partnerships with the Government of Yemen, donor agencies and civil society
- Supporting the development of DFID Yemen policy on health and education issues

## Essential skills

The successful candidate will have:

- A university degree in international development, social studies or related fields
- At least 3 years of work experience, preferably in development and/or project management
- Good working knowledge of key development issues in Yemen
- Excellent project management, team working and communication skills
- Initiative, and the ability to work independently and deliver in a high-pressure environment
- Fluent written and spoken English and Arabic
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The post is open to Yemeni citizens or those with permission to work in Yemen. The starting salary for this grade is YER 242,308 per calendar month. Permanent appointment will be subject to successful completion of a probationary period of 10 months.

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(Deputy Programme Manager) DFID **British Embassy** P.O. Box 1287 Sana'a

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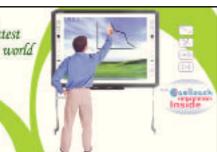


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# The many uses of cow dung in Shabwa



An old 200-year earthen house with cow dung remains applied around the windows.

By: Nasser Abdulla Nasser Salah For the Yemen Times

eople who lead the simplest ives can often be outstanding examples of how to best utilize natural materials to their advantage. Historically, Yemenis have led a simple life, mainly trusting in God, and always satisfied with their destiny, be it good or bad, as they saw it as God's will.

It is interesting to note that Yemenis took up residence everywhere: in the mountains, in villages, along coastal plains, and even in the desert. They dwelt in caves, huts made of dried branches from trees, small single

rooms built of stone and earth, tents made of animal hair and many other materials.

Over time, they settled down in villages and cities in earthen buildings, some of which were covered with lime and cement as, for example, in Shibam and Hadramout, and others built of stone or red bricks, as seen in other places in Yemen.

As modern building materials such as cement and paint were not available in the past, even as recently as the 1970s, old earthen buildings in Shabwa, and especially in the village of As-Said, used to be covered and protected with cow dung, known in the village as dhafi' .



An old house with remains of cow dung seen on its top.

"We collected the wet substance, which we soaked together with soil in water, or sometimes also with a kind of soft red stone that is called hammor for at least two days," said Haleema, a housewife. "This mixture was then spread over stairways and on the roofs and walls of buildings in order to form a thick, absorbent layer against rainwater, which could leak into the room."

"It was also spread around the win-

dows and main doors for decoration," she added.

"People here refer to this process with the words muhdh (noun) or yemhadh (verb). It colors the building either light green if there is no red stone added, or light red if there is red stone added," said Slameh, an old woman.

We use this substance if the house requires a touch-up, however we prefer



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to reserve it for the occasions of Eid Al-Fitr and Al-Adha to show our happiness and what is new to offer for celebrating such a joyous and special event," added Hasna.

Saleh, a farmer, commented that cow dung was used in manure in agriculture in the past, as there was no fertilizer. He confirmed that dung from livestock is very valuable for fertilizing soil, as it helps crops to grow richly.

## Cow dung firecrackers

Nasser and Awadh, two old men, as well as retired officers said, "Fireworks were not available when we were children, so we used to express our joy and celebrate the occasions of the two eids by collecting cow dung three days prior to Eid, and leaving it out to dry." They continued, "On the morning of Eid day, we would wear traditional new clothes, and go to the valley to attend the Eid rites and celebrations. In the meantime, we would burn the cow dung until it was hot, and then take small pieces to be placed on a stone and hit with another stone, which would result in an explosion."

This process was called nadhabeh: "We make an explosion with dung by hitting it between two stones, which is considered to be an expression of celebration at Eid."

This is another example of how the older generation was innovative, and used natural substances as an alternative to today's fancier and more expensive Eid fireworks.

Our ancestors and grandparents utilized everything available in their environment to survive. They took full advantage of raw materials to meet their needs, enduring the cruelty of nature, which could often be merciless. Not only were they able to survive, but very often they thrived.

There are many lessons yet to be learned from them.

## The Ubiquitous Bus: Getting around in Sana'a

n any Yemeni city, town, village or remote stretch of road you are likely to find a dubab (minivan bus), not to be mistaken for thubab (fly).

In Sana'a you can get almost everywhere on a dubab or two, or sometimes three. There are no actual bus stops, all you need to do is stand on the side of the road and wave





one down. They'll stop if they have space for you, and sometimes stop even if there is no space - so hold on tight!

Generally you would never have to wait more than a few minutes for one of these dubabs to come along, except if you are a woman. If a bus is full of men, you will have to wait until one comes along that already has a woman in it, or has a whole row seat vacant. If you travelling on the dubab alone and no other women get on the bus during your ride, you will have to pay for two seats because the driver feels he is missing out on making money on the seat beside vou because non-mahram men and women do not sit beside each

other in the dubab. Sometimes the the seat in front – which would be men don't mind re-arranging their seating by squashing five men into a seat made for three in order to accommodate a sister in Islam.

I haven't had any bad experiences on the dubab buses, but there have been reports of men sitting behind women and sliding their hand under



very disturbing for the sister sitting there! There are also regular occurrences of people falling off, especially children.

Prices for rides on the dubab are very reasonable. Most trips cost 20 rival (approx 15c at the time of writing). A trip in a taxi of the same distance would cost around 300-400 riyal, so you can see that the dubab is good value and readily available with minimal fuss (when travelling by taxi you need to negotiate the price before getting in).

If you aren't sure which bus to get on, it is not a problem to ask. The bus is full of people who know where they are going and will let you know if it is the right bus. At main bus gathering areas there are 'conductors' who have a face full of qat (mild narcotic plant) and take commission off the bus drivers for finding passengers. They will put you on the right bus – but of course, you will have to know where you are going and know it in Arabic!

Source: Al-Ghariba al-ghariba.blogspot.com