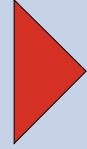

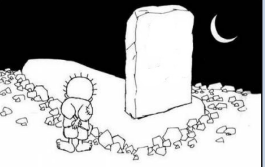



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**Inside:**   **5** Sana'a University instructors' residents  **7** Human Rights in the Middle East  **8** Cooking gas shortage

## Lack of gender specific planning behind high gender gap in education

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, FEB. 3 — A lack of positive discrimination in favor of girls' education in Yemen's educational policies and projects is one of the main reasons behind the significant gender gap in the Yemeni education system.

This was concluded in an analytical report on educational gender indicators for the year 2008. The report was funded by Oxfam-GB Yemen, through its good governance program which aims at promoting girls' education in Yemen.

The report highlighted the Ministry of Education's plans, projects' implementation and achievements. It concluded with recommendations for policy makers, in order to reduce this educational gender gap.

"The report compared the planned to the already implemented education gender projects," said author of the report Dhekra Al-Naqeb, of the Womens' National Committee, which is one of Oxfam's national partners in the good governance program.

"We have found out that projects aimed at enhancing girls' education are few, do not cover many areas in the country and in some cases are not even completed."

### Gender vague policies

Only 29 of 289 projects implemented by the Ministry of Education in 2008 were gender oriented. Many of the ministry's activities did not define targeted groups with categories such as gender and geographical location.

The report explains that for example,

a project aim would state 'training a certain number of teachers in a certain governorate,' without defining how many of the trainees should be men or women, or from which area and because there are more male teachers than female teachers, consequently more men than women are trained. This directly affects the opportunities available for female teachers especially in rural and remote areas.

The training programs have not defined sex in their target groups which makes it difficult to know the gender indicators and measure the gender gap in education.

The financial data on projects' expenditure and implementation is unclear in the ministry's annual reports. This makes it difficult to assess expenditure gender wise and compare it to plans. Similarly, it was not easy to assess the government's commitment to its gender related legislations and policies.

According to the report, girls' enrollment especially in rural areas, is affected by two factors; a lack of female teachers and a shortage in all girls' schools.

There are insufficient numbers of female teachers in rural areas. Women comprise only 20 percent of the total number of teachers.

In the educational infrastructure plans for construction and furnishing of new schools, the gender definition of targeted students or educational levels was not clear. This reduces the rate of girls' enrollment in these schools.

"There is a significant gender gap and it increases with the higher levels of education," said the report. "The basic education enrollment rate is 65 percent girls and 84 percent boys, while in secondary education it is about 46 percent boys and 26 girls."

YT Photo by Khaled Al-Hilaly



Girls studying in an overcrowded classroom with insufficient chairs in the outskirts of Sana'a. The lack of adequate school buildings and female teachers lead to the low enrollment rate for girls especially at secondary level as it does not exceed 26 percent in rural areas.

Regarding co-education, statistics show

that 86 percent of schools are mixed. Only 6.5 percent represent all girls' schools, compared to 7.5 percent for all boys' schools. Moreover, smaller construction projects, such as adding new classrooms

or a laboratory, are not defined as per target group, which also increases this gender gap. The report finds that the distribution of incentives for families to encourage them

to send their daughters to schools was limited to only some areas, despite the need for such incentives in many other rural areas in the country.

Continued on page 2

## Fuel prices increase by 14 percent and new price hikes loom

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, FEB. 1 — The price of fuel in Yemen increased more than 14 per cent to reach YR 65 (31 cent) per one liter, compared to YR 60 (29 cent).

This new fuel price started on Sunday, January, 31 at 3:00 pm (12 GMT), according to a statement by the Yemen Petroleum Company. This company is run by the government.

Other oil derivatives such as diesel and kerosene also were raised by up to 14 per cent.

The price of diesel was raised from YR 35 per one liter (17 cent) to YR 39 (19 cent).

Kerosene, that is used in rural areas much more than urban areas, was also raised from YR 35 (17 cent) per one liter to YR 40 (19 cent).

The Yemen Petroleum Company distributed a statement of the oil derivatives' prices to all petrol stations to standardize this new price.

The government used to subsidize oil derivatives in order to make citizens on low income able to buy this commodity but the government has been trying to abolish this subsidy since 2005. However,



Increased petrol and diesel prices directly lead to an increase in all other commodities including locally produced fruits and vegetables.

the riots sparked after each attempt dented the state's intentions.

In 2005, the government suspended the price increase of diesel and kerosene fuel and after 22 people were killed and more than 3,000 were wounded in riots caused by these price hikes.

"The government justifies these measures by saying it is part of the economic reforms program," said Mostafa Nasr, Chairman of the Studies and Economic Media Center.

By this action, the government wants to reduce the subsidy bill and as a result the general expenditures consequently will be reduced, according to Nasr.

"That is good for the economy, and the money that is being spent on the oil subsidy is supposed to be spent on development projects, if there was good governance" Nasr said.

When the fuel price increases, all the other basic commodities such as wheat, rice and sugar rise too.

"Raising the fuel price affects transportation, which logically causes price increases of commodities," he said.

According to Nasr, the raising of the fuel price is just to test public opinion to see if they would accept or reject these decisions.

Nasr said that after this small increase of the fuel price, new price hikes are expected to be released by the government soon, in order to apply the London Conference recommendations for economic reforms.

Continued on page 2

## Influential tribe invades government premises over suspended student

By: Yemen Times Correspondent

DHAMAR, FEB. 3 — It has been 15 days since armed men from Al-Bukhaiti tribe took over three government institutions in Al-Hada district of Dhamar governorate, around 100 kilometers south of the capital city Sana'a.

Under the leadership of sheikh Yahya Naser Al-Bukhaiti, who is also the deputy director of Dhamar governorate's security, the tribe occupied the security premises and local council office, on the night of January 20.

According to security sources at the district, this conflict started when a student of the Administrative Sciences College of Dhamar University, Suhaib Al-Bukhaiti, son of the deputy director for security, was suspended as per the dean's instructions under charges of 'identity impersonation'.

The student, who had paid someone to impersonate him during the 2008 mid-term exams, was outraged at his suspension order and along with

a group of armed men from his tribe forced his way into campus, destroying some of the advertisement boards and windows of the university building, before heading for the dean's house, who at that time was not at home, and causing a scene there as well as terrifying the deans' children.

As a consequence of this assault, on both the university campus and the house of the dean, Dr. Faisal Al-Mikhlafi, the staff of Dhamar University went on a strike demanding the local council and security apparatus of the district to take immediate action and arrest Al-Bukhaiti and his gang.

After more than two weeks of no concrete action taken by the security, the dean gave his resignation and asked Minister of Education for transfer to another university elsewhere in the country. The Minister of Education, however, rejected the resignation and asked the ministry's legal department to take the matter to court on behalf of the dean and Dhamar University. Several members of the university's academic staff are also applying to jobs elsewhere.

The dean and other members of the faculty have been threatened by members of Al-Bukhaiti tribe.

Continued on page 2

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**Lufthansa**

## UK State Minister: Yemen must continue military action against Al-Qaeda

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, FEB. 02 — Yemen must continue military action to defeat Al-Qaeda for the country's own sake as well as the rest of the world, said British State Minister of Foreign Office, Ivan Lewis, during his recent visit to Yemen.

"We have to see security and stability in this country, to give the Yemenis hope for their future," said Lewis in a press conference with the Yemeni Foreign Minister, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, held at the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

He said that the international community is responsible for supporting the government of Yemen in the challenges facing the country.

"The country faces many challenges; the security and stability and the most important which are the economic and social challenges," he commented.

He said that donors have to support the government of Yemen to create jobs for the people, improve standards of living, help the health and education services and to enable citizens to access



Yemeni Foreign Minister (right) with Lewis at the conference.

these services.

He said he met with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and discussed the aftermaths of London Conference held last Wednesday and the establishment of a new era of bilateral cooperation.

Regarding the results of his talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, he said he discussed with him the government's 'ten-priorities plan' which will be discussed next March at a conference of Yemen's group of friends.

As to the results of the London Conference, he said that it had given Yemen a great opportunity to discuss with the International Monetary Fund

about reforming the economy and generating more resources for the government, so that it will be able to respond to its future challenges.

"We also agreed in the conference to establish a fund for Yemen which will help towards the number of challenges that Yemen faces," he added.

Regarding the reasons for his visit to Yemen, he said that the main one was the discussions about preparation for the two forthcoming conferences on Yemen; the GCC meeting in Riyadh late of this month and the March meeting for the group of Yemen's friends.

Inspecting British-funded projects in Yemen and enquiring about the kidnapped Briton were other reasons for his visit.

Over the suspension of Yemenia Airways' flights to the United Kingdom, he stated that this suspension comes within the framework of strengthening security measures to cope with the high level of security risks present.

He indicated that the flights will be resumed after the two countries (Yemen and the United Kingdom) ensure ade-

quate security measures but he argued that Yemen needed to strengthen security measures in its airports.

Responding to question of hostages, the UK State Minister called on the kidnappers to release them. "Whatever their grievances are, it is totally wrong to use civilians in the pursuit of political or other objectives."

On the government's efforts to release the kidnappers, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi said the government continues its efforts to release the kidnapped, "efforts are continued to ensure their safety and then their release."

Over latest increase of fuel prices during the past two days, Al-Qirbi justified that the increase "is a result of a program of reforms that the government is following up," reassuring everyone that there will be policies and measures implemented to ease the effects of increasing prices on citizens with low income.

Regarding the internal problem in the north and the south and the help of Britain and other countries to Yemen in

overcoming them, the British official said, "we provide security support to Yemen represented in the supporting of coast guards as well as other projects."

In respect to the TV channel of separatists which is broadcasting from London, Lewis said there was difference between the freedom of speech where people have the right to oppose any government and that his country deals with it according to UK law.

However, he said, taking legal action against it would need clear proof but if it is just the expressing of views that bother the government, this is something that falls under the freedom of speech.

Over the British support given to Yemen to deal with terrorism, to the government efforts to restore order in Sa'ada, stabilize the south and how the London meeting discussed this, he again affirmed his country's interest to help stabilize Yemen and overcome its internal problems.

Over the agenda of the next meeting of Yemen's group of friends due in December, the British official revealed that the conference will focus on providing Yemen with financial resources. These donors had pledged to give to Yemen in the London Conference for Yemen's donors held back in 2006.

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### Continued from page 1

#### Lack of gender specific planning behind high gender gap in education

Employment opportunities for female university graduates in the educational system are mostly limited to urban areas. There are few financial or logistical incentives for women to work as teachers in rural areas, or even for existing female teachers to continue teaching in such areas.

As a result, it also affects the rate of girls' enrollment in schools, due to cultural barriers found in the more conservative rural societies.

"In 2008, the percentage of female teachers recruited was 35 percent of the total job opportunities for that year, which indicates a huge gender gap," said the report. "This affects enrollment among girls, especially in remote areas where parents prefer not to send their daughters to schools where the only teachers are men."

Women compose only 20 percent of the entire country's educational labor force and this, in turn, decreases girls' chances for completing their education.

Among female teachers recruited in 2008, only 2.27 percent carried a post secondary level diploma, compared to 20 percent who completed their secondary education. However, approximately 53 percent of recruited female teachers in the same year had a university degree.

#### Plans to enhance education

The 2006 - 2010 education strategy included the following objectives:

Increasing the rate of girls' enrollment from 77 percent to 90 percent. Narrowing the gender gap from 25 points to 11. Reducing the general illiteracy rate from 47 percent to 30 percent with special focus on women.

To achieve these goals the ministry has carried out a project to encourage poor families to educate their girls, through providing incentives and abolishing registration fees for grades one to six for boys and one to nine for girls. The ministry also distributed school bags and stationery to students from poor families in some areas.

Only 68 percent of the gender oriented projects for 2008 were completed. Ten percent are still under implementation and the rest have not been implemented at all.

In its recommendations, the report called on the Ministry of Education to adopt detailed gender originated plans for future projects whether for infrastructure, capacity building or incentives. It also urged the ministry to disclose expenditure numbers for all projects, in order to allow for an accurate assessment of benefits for both men and women.

It also recommends building more girls' schools in its 2011-2015 plan, increasing the number of female teachers, especially in rural areas, and expanding their incentive projects' outreach to cover poor families all around the country.

"We just want to attract attention to the shortcomings in the educational system so that they can be avoided in prospective plans for the benefit of Yemeni girls and their future potential," said Al-Naqib.

#### Fuel prices increase by 14 percent and new price hikes loom

However Nasr, who chairs The Economic Studies Center in Sana'a, said the policy of raising prices is not a solution to reform the economy, but only leads to inflation and increases poverty.

"In the economic reforms, the govern-

ment always resorts to simple actions that touch the livelihoods of people," Nasr said.

"The action of raising prices, under the pretext of economic reforms, does not cost the government anything, but the government is unable to reform itself institutionally and combat its corruption," he said.

"It would be better for the government if it started reforming itself, before taking these actions that affect the people," Nasr said.

In a related incident, the security forces thwarted an attempt by a 42 year old tribesman, to blow up an oil pipeline that passes through the Jahana district which is outside Sana'a, according to the Ministry of Interior.

The security forces that guard the pipeline said that the suspect fired on some wires that caused an explosion at the side of the asphalted road.

The security discovered the attempt by the man, exchanged fire with him and shot him in his right hand.

The ministry said that man ran away but security forces will search for him until he is caught.

#### Influential tribe invades government premises over suspended student

In the meeting of the University Professors Syndicate in Dhamar, on Tuesday, the staff expressed feeling insecure and said that the academic process at the university was being disturbed by the absence of rule of law and prevalence of violence.

With support from Mr. Mutahar Rashad Al-Masri, the Minister of Interior, four armed vehicles were sent by the local council and security office. The vehicles surrounded the house of the deputy director of security demanding him to surrender his son, which he did, under the condition that his son would be kept in temporary custody only.

However, director of Dhamar security, Brigadier Najmaldin Harash ordered the son to be placed in jail during the investigation process. The father responded to this action, by not only using his influence to release his son from jail within just two days of the arrest, but by taking over the government premises with the help of his tribe. The situation remains unchanged till today.

The conflict has now turned into a power struggle between the director of security and other state institutions on one side and the deputy director of security and his tribe on the other.

#### Further complications

"Armed men from the tribe forced their way into the local council premises at night while we were not there, kicked out the guards and since then we have no access to our offices," complained Abdulwahab Al-Mashriqi, district director, Al-Hada.

Some members of Al-Bukhaiti tribe have tried mediating between the security office and the Al-Bukhaiti family but their mediation was rejected and the deadline for surrendering the attackers, which was set for last Saturday, has passed.

Almost three weeks have passed since the incident, during which the district's local council conducted several emergency meetings with the executive office of the district. The local council and the executive office of the district, together, issued a statement demanding the state to evacuate the tribal men, arrest the attackers, reinstate the rule of law in the area and went on a strike condemning the occupation of their offices and the state's lack of interest in taking action

on this matter.

According to district's officials, the state is dealing with this issue calmly, because it is based in an educational conflict, not a political one. Consequently, the University Professors Syndicate in Dhamar issued several condemning statements and went on a partial strike, with red badges on their shirts as a sign of protest against the attack.

Yemen Times tried to reach deputy director of security Al-Bukhaiti who refused to comment. His son and suspended student, Suhaib Al-Bukhaiti, also could not be found to comment. However, one of his brothers, Amr explained the tribe's position regarding the conflict.

"The dean had no right to suspend my brother and should have followed the regulations. There have been other similar cases, previously, which, however, were not punished with suspension. In addition, ordering suspension falls more within the scope of the disciplinary council of the university and not that of the dean. Moreover, there was hardly any need to bring in four armed vehicles to our house and arrest my brother, treating him like some kind of a vicious criminal. Our tribe will not withdraw from the premises until our honor is restored," said Amr.

He added that they also demand the dismissal of the director of security since "he was unable to control security issues in the governorate and deal with many tribal conflicts and bloodshed in the governorate, adequately."

Amr Al-Bukhaiti also clarified that his father, the deputy director of security was not involved in any of the attacks and in fact the "attack on the government offices were carried out under the leadership of his brother, Suhaib Al-Bukhaiti, the suspended university student, without the consent of his father."

#### Reaching the governor and higher up

Escalation of the problem resulted in the governor of Dhamar, Mr. Yahya Al-Omari, to become involved in the matter and meet the representatives of the university and the local council. He promised to attend to the matter and gave the security apparatus in Al-Hada district instructions to arrest the culprits and prosecute them according to the law. He requested some time though, to carry out this operation without causing armed confrontation and accordingly the university staff suspended their strike, while still continuing to the red badges.

"We are going to follow the security's progress regarding this matter closely and we will resume the strike, if we see that the state is not serious in carrying out its promises. This is a matter of grave importance and must be handled accordingly. The violence and armed conflicts are sabotaging the development of this area and certainly do not help the educational process," said Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Yafa'a, head of the University Professor's Syndicate in Dhamar.

He appreciated the Minister of Interior's prompt response in sending the security to arrest the culprits when contacted by the syndicate about the students' attack on the university campus.

"If it was true that the suspension of Suhaib Al-Bukhaiti was unfair, he should have worked through the normal procedures requesting the university's disciplinary council to investigate into his case and the university could have very much ruled in his favor and annulled the suspension. But he resorted to using violence and this is something we will not tolerate," said Dr. Yafa'a.

A reliable security source from inside the security director's office told Yemen Times that Minister of Interior had ear-

lier ordered the suspension of director of security from duty, thinking that the security guards allowed the tribes to invade security and local council premises.

However, he recalled his decision upon being informed that the guards thought Al-Bukhaiti had entered the premises in his capacity as deputy director of security, and were shocked when he forced them to evacuate the premises.

The Al-Hada district local council, condemned the behavior of Al-Bukhaiti and said that it was embarrassing for the entire district which had produced prominent national figures and distinguished security officials such as the deputy Minister of Interior, Major General Mohammed Al-Qawsi as well as the governor of Dhamar, Mr. Yahya Al-Omari. The local council members said that their district will always stand against violence and corruption and fight terrorism as they always have been and that many of the men of Al-Hada district are already fighting the Houthi rebels in Sa'ada governorate and in Hard Sufian in Amran.



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In Brief

Two million disabled in Yemen

Two million people out of Yemen's population are with different types of disabilities, according to the National Association for Disabled.

The announcement was based on a recent statistic by the Central Statistic Organization.

The association has 200,000 active members across the republic, Secretary General of the organization said, adding that it trains the disabled in many activities including handicrafts such as sewing and embroidery.

The association also trains the disabled in the use of computer, learning English and secretary and various administrative skills, said Ali Murshid Ali Abdul Samad.

There are new serious plans of the association to improve its training programs as it is seeking to activate the disabled laws, he said.

The association has about 20 branches across the republic, he said.

17 people died in traffic accidents on Sunday

Some 17 people were killed and other 56 injured in 50 traffic accidents happened across the country on Sunday.

The report of the General Traffic Department considered casualties as highest rate in one day, saying that reasons behind these accidents were excessive speed, wrong overtaking, carelessness and ignorance for the safety belt in addition to vehicle technical faults.

During last year, the department said about 3,041 people killed due to road

accidents throughout the country compared to 2,897 deaths in 2008.

The annual statistic report issued by the General Traffic Department showed that 19,828 people were injured in traffic accidents last year.

The report pointed out that the number of traffic accidents in 2009 reached 15,122.

SANA'A

**Japan funds five schools in Sana'a**  
Minister of Education Abdul Salam al-Jaofi along with the outgoing Japanese ambassador to Sana'a Masakazu Toshikage opened on Monday the second phase of schools project which is funded by the Japanese government.

The second phase includes handing over five school of basic education in Sana'a city and Sana'a province, which were built at total cost of 687 million yen.

Al-Jaofi highlighted deep routed relations between Yemen and Japan, valuing support of the Japanese government to the education in Yemen.

The Japanese diplomat expressed happiness to finalize the second phase to hand over these schools, saying that the first and second phases were implemented at total cost of \$ 15 million.

**Agricultural cooperatives' issues**

Prime Minister Ali Mujawar met here on Monday with leadership of the Agricultural Cooperative Union.

During the meeting, a number of issues were discussed relating to the agricultural cooperative activity, and the role of the agricultural cooperative

societies in the agricultural development as well as the essential role of the Agriculture and Fisheries Production Encouragement Fund in supporting the small farmers.

The premier affirmed the government's support to the union's efforts, as the government believes in the vital role of the union in the field of agricultural development.

He stressed the union's role to observe the cooperative societies and assess the level of their activities and the extent to which the farmers take advantage of the support and services provided by the government to this important sector.

Mujawar urged the union to refer those cooperative societies, which violate their work to investigation in accordance with the law.

He pointed that the government is as to reorganize the Agriculture and Fisheries Production Encouragement Fund in accordance with new principles and standards that serve the basic function of the fund represented in serving the agricultural and fisheries development.

Meanwhile, he indicated that the government would work to revive the role of the Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank (CAC Bank) in lending farmers to ensure the required balance between the bank's rights and the farmers' requirements, especially the small farmers segment.

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Mansour al-Hawshabi noted to the impotence of enhancing the partnership between the ministry and the union and the concerned authorities so as to serve

the vital role of the union.

For his part, head of the union Mohamed Bashir affirmed the national and developmental role of the agricultural cooperatives in serving the country and the food security, pointing to the main challenges faced by the union.

He noted in this regard to the massive destruction suffered by the cooperative societies, refrigerators, and markets of the union in Saada province by the insurgents.

One hundred cooperative societies were separated from the union within the union's efforts to tackle and correct the cooperative societies' conditions across the country, Bashir added.

AMRAN

**Amran suffers from water shortage**

Undersecretary of Amran governorate Saleh Abu Awja said on Sunday that the province suffers from water shortage as a result of the indiscriminate depletion of water.

During his meeting with the CHF representatives, Abu Awja affirmed the readiness of Amran local council to cooperate with CHF and to facilitate its tasks, pinning hope that the CHF would provide support for the province in sectors of water, agriculture, education and health.

The meeting also discussed supporting the development areas in Amran province, in addition to the projects CHF can provide for the province after evaluating extensively the important needs of the province.

ADEN

**All sport facilities of Gulf 20th almost ready**

Undersecretary of Ministry of Youth and Sports for financial affairs Hussein al-Sharif has said that all sports facilities of the Gulf 20th Championship are almost ready, the state-run 26sep.net reported on Monday.

He added that most of the sport facilities are in the final stages of finishing and would be completed three months prior to the championship.

Al-Sharif told the 26sept.net that the ministry would receive in next September the main stadiums in the cities of Aden and Abyan in addition to six other stadiums in Abyan province in next April.

Yemen would be ready to host the Gulf 20th on the planned time and the ratio of implementation in the different sport and services facilities amounted to 70 per cent, al-Sharif added.

HAJJA

**Activities of Care International in Hajjah**

Hajjah governor Farid Mujawar held a meeting on Monday with the delegation of Care International organization over activities of the organization in the province of Hajjah.

They also discussed possibilities of starting an education project of building 100 schools at sum of \$ 20 million by building 10 schools as first phase in this year at amount of 1 million dollar.

They affirmed importance of gathering efforts to bring activities of the organization in the province into success.

The governor highly appreciated activities of the organization and its contributions in field of developing rural women during years ago.

**Drugs seized in Haradh**

Security authorities in Harad district of Hajjah province have seized large quantities of drugs and alcohol hidden in the border line with Saudi Arabia, the state-run 26sep.net has reported.

Commander of Border Guards Naser al-Shagi said that the destruction of the drugs and alcohol quantities took place on Sunday.

He explained that the destroyed quantities reached at about 450 kg drugs and 200 alcohol bottles.

DHAMAR

**JICA support for girl education in Dhamar**

A meeting was held on Monday in Dhamar province to enlighten officials about support presented by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to carry out a project of developing girl education in sixty schools in six districts of the province.

Dhamar governor Yahya al-Emad reviewed promising results that would come out from this project, pointing out to the role of the ministry of education and local council in the province to bring this project into success.

In the meeting deputy director of the education at the Ministry of Education Mohammed Khamash reviewed contents of the project and achievements of the project in Taiz province in developing girl education.

Their News

**Prince El Hassan: A Consultation on the Carrying Capacity of Natural and Human Resources is a Must**

His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal, on Monday (February, 1, 2010), said that unless the West Asia and North Africa region moves towards a consultation on the carrying capacity of natural and human resources, this region will be subjected to fragmentation.

Addressing the participants in the conference on "Food Security and Climate Change in Dry Areas", in Amman, HRH added that it is important not to separate the physical changes from human changes, stressing the importance of free thinking in facing pressing humanitarian issues.

At the conference which is organized by the National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE) in cooperation with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), HRH called for finding comprehensive solutions to the problems and issues facing the poor areas, including the food, water, energy and legal empowerment of the poor.

Prince El Hassan focused on food security and climate change in dry areas, through their relationship to human security, calling for regional cooperation in this context and for establishing comprehensive projects to combat poverty and hunger, which threaten many of the peoples in the world.

HRH said that the challenges of climate change require concerted efforts on the global and regional levels and that they pose a significant threat to the world. HRH stressed that economic inequality and intellectual imprisonment have pushed communities to the edge and the world needs a resurgence of creative energy.

We, in the West Asia and North Africa region, need an economic council as well as a social council to address the various pressing issues and to push for the representation of the region as a region at the international level, particularly with respect to existential issues and the basics of human security, Prince El Hassan emphasized.

HRH also called for networking of the various initiatives that aim to promote humanitarian status in West Asia and North Africa in order for regional commons to meet global commons.

HRH pointed out that since the Madrid and Oslo processes the cost of lost opportunities in the region from 1991 until today is \$12 trillion. HRH asked how we can talk about oil and climate change when climate change has been induced by war. Prince El Hassan called for addressing the basic humanitarian issues in the region rather than continuing to complain. He stressed the need for various development projects to fit into concepts that will serve the people. This could lead to a consultation concept of the third sphere (governments, private sector and civil society) in order to serve the public good.

HRH also underlined the importance of the diplomacy of citizens, in addition to humanizing and Arabizing globalization so that people will be more aware of

what we are talking about. This will enable everyone to participate in building a prosperous future based on the enhancement of human dignity.

**DFID's Development Innovation Fund: An Opportunity for Small NGOs**

For those small NGOs who think that it is impossible to access funding from international bilateral agencies, here is something that can change their mind.

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) has launched the Development Innovation Fund (DIF) specially "aimed at community based organizations involved in providing specific small scale, one-off support that directly targets poverty in the developing world and includes a significant development awareness component in the UK." No doubt, DFID has always considered that partnership with civil society organizations is critical to reduce global poverty. In its recent White Paper, "Eliminating World Poverty: Building Our Common Future", it has even committed to increase its work with organizations in future. But there are certain challenges for small NGOs to seek direct partnerships with DFID under its existing funding schemes. DFID itself acknowledges that "[it] already has a number of other centrally managed funds which are open to not for profit organizations. However, all have criteria which make it very difficult for small scale organizations and applications to compete." Keeping this fact under consideration, it has launched DIF for small NGOs in developing countries as well as in the UK who "are involved in supporting very small scale, often localized activities which do not meet the criteria we have for our existing centrally managed civil society funding schemes, such as the Partnership Program Arrangements (PPA) and Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF)."

For more Information, visit: <http://www.masader.ps/p/en/node/7796>

**Association of the Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas signs new contract with European Commission**

The Association of the Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas, has signed a new service contract with the European Commission for the period 2010-12.

Global Arab Network received a press release from the Association said the European Commission's continued support to MEDREG was not only due to the very good results of the first contract (2008-09), but also to the aims of the Association, which are to promote the achievement of a consistent, harmonised and investment-friendly regulatory framework in the Mediterranean energy market.

The actions of MEDREG, in collaboration with the European Commission, are expected to provide benefits to energy consumers of the Mediterranean region, and are seen as crucial to enable a permanent, stable and strong collaboration among Mediterranean energy Regulators.

MEDREG will also focus on promoting the exchange of know-how and expertise and will do so through specialised training and studies in the field of energy regulation, notably in collaboration with the Florence School of Regulation (FSR), created by the CEER (Council of European Energy Regulators) and the European University Institute, and with the support of the European Commission.

The regional approach is seen by MEDREG as the necessary starting point of cooperation on energy regulation, in the perspective of an integrated and efficient regional market that requires modernisation of existing infrastructure and activation of new grids, as well as the setting up of a legislative and regulatory framework for energy that is as harmonised, coherent and stable as possible.

This is of fundamental importance for the long-term stability on which investments are so strongly dependent.

The new MEDREG-European Commission contract will be carried out taking into consideration the objectives already achieved in the last years and the ones foreseen by the MEDREG Action Plan 2010-2012, that was adopted by the MEDREG General Assembly in

November 2009 in Nicosia. Currently 20 Mediterranean countries (in total 22 National Regulators) belong to MEDREG: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

**Archaeological Rocky Cave Unearthed in South Syria**

A rocky cave in the shape of a natural grotto was unearthed in Daraa city (south Syria), a new one to be added to a series of caves already discovered in Lajat and al-Zaidi Vallies in this Syrian southern governorate.

Chairman of Nimer Council Ziad Moussa said the cave unearthed so far is 5-meters deep and 6-meter high, extending 10-15 meters sideways.

Director of Daraa Archaeology Department Hussein Mashhadawi said the cave resembles natural grottos commonly known in Daraa.

"The cave is a black basalt rock which is semi-circular in shape, with limestone stalactites, which are presumably the effect of volcanoes the southern region witnessed in the past decades.

Tourism Director in Daraa Mohammad Salim Kteifan said tourism to natural grottos and the related discoveries is gaining popularity all over the world, adding that they can be used for educational purposes and a destination for people seeking cure.

Daraa Archaeology Department unearthed a mosaic painting dating back to the Byzantine era during an excavation mission last year.

**Saudi Arabia: GCC Program appropriates \$164 mln to finance projects in Gaza**

The program of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)'s member states for the reconstruction of Gaza Strip approved to finance projects worth a total of \$ 164 million in the Strip.

This came at the conclusion of the first meeting of the program, which was held recently at the headquarters of the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah.

Projects approved by the Coordinating Committee for the first generation of the program for 2010 includes sectors of health, education, water & sanitation, electricity, transportation, agriculture, housing and municipal services.

During the meeting, a memorandum

of understanding between the Coordinating Committee of the program and the Islamic Development Bank was signed under which the Committee will implement the reconstruction projects in the framework of the program.

It is worth mentioning that the Program was created immediately after the recent attack on Gaza. The financing of the Projects is part of US\$ 1.6 Billion package that was approved by the GCC member countries to reconstruct the Gaza Strip.

The Islamic Development Bank is an international financial institution established in pursuance of the Declaration of Intent issued by the Conference of Finance Ministers of Muslim Countries held in Jeddah in Dhul Q'adah 1393H, corresponding to December 1973. The Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Governors took place in Rajab 1395H, corresponding to July 1975, and the Bank was formally opened on 15 Shawwal 1395H corresponding to 20 October 1975.

The purpose of the Bank is to foster the economic development and social progress of member countries and Muslim communities individually as well as jointly in accordance with the principles of Shari'ah i.e., Islamic Law.

**Al-Amal Psychiatry Hospital receives international award**



Sheikh Fahed Al Ahmad Al Sabah Award for charity is granted every year to a charity or institution which is particularly effective and generous in helping people.

Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti minister of Government and Economical Affairs and the sponsor of the Al Sabah Award for charity, has granted the award this year for Al-Amal Psychiatry Hospital in Yemen.

The hospital which belongs to the Charitable Society for Social Welfare was granted the award on the basis of its works and efforts to help people who need its help in terms of giving them the treatment they need.

Abdul Wase' Ahmad Al-Wase'e, the

manager of the hospital, stated that this award is a tribute to the charitable work done for the sake of vanishing people's pain which done to seek Allah's forgiveness.

Al-Wase'e said that the hospital aims to solve many problems people have such as the social and economical ones. He pointed out that the hospital was in competition with many other charitable organizations to get the Award.

Thanks to the Almighty, the hospital is working on forward to be the pioneer of psychiatry hospitals and help people voluntarily. In the end he thanked Kuwait represented by Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah and all those who helped and participated in this charitable work.

**Al-Tazaj now in Sana'a**

At a total cost of 30 million dollars, Al-Tazaj restaurant for barbeque and chicken is now opened in Sana'a. Minister of Trade and Industry Yahya Al-Mutwakil inaugurated this Saudi based restaurant chain last Monday. He welcomed this investment and said that it would have a positive effect on the national economy.



"The restaurants prices are suitable to all segments of the Yemeni society and were put according to a study on the food service industry

in Yemen of traditional restaurants. Moreover, we have a distinguished service and quality of meals with no added chemical preservatives," said Al-Khamiri.

The restaurant's chicken meals are imported directly from Fakhieh poultry farms which are designed up to special high quality standards different from what is served by other fast food restaurants.

The opening of Sana'a restaurant is the first of a national chain which would include branches in Aden, Hadramout, Taiz and other Yemeni governorates.



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Walk-in interview will be conducted from **10.00 am to 4.00 pm** at the following date & venue:

Sana'a  
**9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010**  
At Sheba Hotel

\*subject to change

For further inquiries please contact **Muhammad Ghaleb Wasef** Mobile: 733812532

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# Sana'a University instructors' residents ... vanishing dreams

By: Shatha Al-Harazi  
For the Yemen Times

"It has been 17 years since we were promised, President, to be granted homes near our workplace" This is a plea by university instructors to President Saleh, calling him not to go back on a promise he has made. The promise is 19 years old and professors are only given USD 150 allowance per month for housing expenses.

## The tragedy of getting a piece of land

At the end of 1991, Saleh ordered an allocation of land property, to university professors, near their workplace. The Prime Minister, Dr. Ali Mujawar, however, referred the order to the Minister of Housing and International Cooperation and then to the Real Estates and Land Properties Authority.

According to that order, each university professor was given a piece of land in the Shamlan district in the suburbs of Sana'a, to build a residential city. The area of the land is estimated at 10801 lebna (44 square meters). The professors were given the land on May 26th 1996. They were, however, denied from receiving it because it was taken by members of the Aviation Defense Authority.

## The Residential Association is looking for a dream

In 2007, the Sana'a university professors started to think of a practical solution that guaranteed their rights. For this purpose the Residential Association was established as an attempt to get the pieces of land they were promised previously. One of its objec-

tives was to find a funding source to finance the construction of a typical residential city for them.

On May 3rd 2007, the Residential Association addressed the General Authority for Land Spaces and Construction Planning to give them pieces of land other than in the Shamlan area. As a consequence, the authority compensated the professors by giving them the same amount of land but in another area, in Bani Al-Hareth district in Sana'a.

A submitting land letter was signed between the Association and the authority, in which the members agreed that the land must be fenced.

As the expression goes "The happiest moments do not last long" and the professors found themselves facing yet another problem. Although the land given to them is certified to have been belonging to Al-Abass, a prince from the Imam period, when the Association members went to their land to supervise the fencing, they found people claiming the ownership of this area. It may be worth a mention that after the revolution, the land ownership was referred by the State. Also worth mentioning is that those people shot at the members of the Association and the police officers who accompanied them.

Naji Al-Shamiri, a university professor, said that it has been 19 years since they were promised these homes. He said that professors were not given these rights for weapon holders to loot these lands in few moments.

Mohammad Al-Zubair, another university professor, said that the more the professors are patient and hopefully wait for the promise to be fulfilled, the more the lands, which are supposed to be near the universi-

ty, become further away from their workplace.

He added that even when they accept the land, which is far away, this land ends up owned by others or looted by those who cannot speak except in the language of weapons.

Another member of the society, Khaled Al-Shamiri, confirmed what was said. He wondered why the university professors, who should be respected due to their important jobs, are not given the right of having residences near their workplace.

## The Ministry of Endowments project

A residential project which is supposed to be constructed under the supervision of Ministry of Endowments is another dream that may blow away with the wind. The objectives of the project were supposed to be fulfilling a promise of building blocks consisting of 200 residential units to the north of the university campus for the university professors.

The work started in 2005. However, it was stopped for about a year before it was resumed. Unfortunately, the work is proceeding as fast as a tortoise due to the small number of construction workers, which is only five.

In this respect, the Ministry of Endowments claimed that the presidency of Sana'a University must pay an allowance to the Ministry so that it can finish the work on time.

For its part, the Sana'a University presidency said that it should not have to pay anything because it referred the work to the Ministry which, according to the contract signed by both parties, has to erect the residential buildings for the professors according to President Saleh's orders.



A residential project started in 2005 for constructing 200 residential units to the north of the university campus for the university professors. It was never completed because of logistical and administrative disputes among the various concerned authorities.

It is said that there are some violations registered against the Ministry inasmuch as some small grocery shops have been built. The Ministry justified this as its having the right to do so because the allocated money for the building is not enough and that the revenue of these shops will help to cover the money needed for building.

The professors say that these shops deform the "academic" appearance of the university.

Hassan Abdul Mughni, a professor, said the contract mentioned that each building is supposed to consist of five floors. Nevertheless, eight floors are in each building.

He wondered whether or not the structure of the buildings under construction, was adjusted to hold the eight floors. According to him, the construction of these buildings was delayed for two years.

## The consultative meeting of the Association

In the first consultative meeting of the Association, the members discussed the updates of their many issues. They suggested strike action until they are given the buildings they were promised a long time ago.

Their suggestion was met by an offer from the President of Sana'a University, Khaled Tomaim. He suggested solving the problem by giving them 20 lebna (a lebna is 44 square meters) for each professor in Al-Hodaydah governorate, instead of the 10 lebna they were promised to have in Sana'a. He also suggested that they could sell this land and buy themselves private land in Sana'a, instead.

President Tomaim said that he tried his best to tackle this problem by working cooperatively with the Association mem-

bers and that they are on their way to finding a final solution. He added, however, that a go-between would be the best solution for this problem.

Professor Hassan Abdul Moghni asked the State to keep its word. He said as long as the State promised to grant lands for the university, it has to do so and not allow anybody to oppose its orders, whatever the case may be.

In the end, the professor Ahmad Al-Jaberi wrote a letter to President Saleh in which he said, "Do you want the teaching staff and their assistants to have homes near their workplace? If the answer is "Yes", then we are waiting to have these homes as promised this month. If the answer is "No" then we are sorry but we may have to leave the country, in order to take up the better opportunities presented outside of it."

## Development needs research

Yemen Polling Center is the first professional center created in Yemen to provide opinion polls, scientific researches, and surveys that serve the research needs of national and international institutions and non-profit organizations, corporations, government agencies, and professional associations.

Its mission is to set the highest professional standards for public opinion and market research as well as to advance the understanding among citizens, the media and general public, of how polls can positively bring about a positive change in all aspects of life. Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviewed its Director Hafez Al Bakary on the importance of research for development projects and related topics.



Hafez Al Bakary

Do you think that the Yemeni Center for Measuring Public Opinion is the first of its type? Why there are not a lot of similar centers?

Yes, I believe it is the first of its type. The center was officially established in late 2005 AC to be the first specialized center in measuring public opinion in Yemen. Its surveys and statistical and research activities are built upon a scientific methodology and perform according to international standards which are adopted by the most prestigious and well established centers and International Organizations. Throughout the previous years, the center has worked on developing this vital domain through its projects in different sectors; social, political, economic, cultural, educational, media, health, service, public life etc.

As per the second half of the question, this domain newly exists in Yemen and the spread of similar centers is connected closely to the capacity of the presumed role of public opinion research in the process of community participation, the quality of decision- and policy-making and the short-term general plans of the state. It aims to explore future prospects for a full range of national issues and challenges. In addition, the whole process is related to the degree of acceptance by official authorities, communities and individuals for this type of participation is based upon a specific methodology, scientific standards and the interactions it has with its outputs.

Why measuring public opinion and conducting field surveys is of significance for developmental projects?

This is due to the dual role of drawing initial conclusions and then making them accessible for decision-makers and any units concerned with options and alternatives within the various services and facilities. Thus, it would be impossible to approve a development project without: studying its feasibility and the extent to which the community or the targeted group has a need for it; its positive impact on the current and future stages; potential challenges; addressing its requirements and standards; the priorities of these projects and what mean for the targeted group; the importance and neces-

sity of studying public opinion, particularly those based on methodology and credibility, for development decision-makers.

Additionally, making use of such studies will depend on the extent to which decision-makers are accepting the methodology by which these polls are carried out. This is to ensure the directions, desires and priorities of the citizen and other targeted segments of these development projects. It is important here to refer to the government's communication with the community, to know the extent of its understanding of the social segments and the beneficiaries in general with their plans; social, economic and political programs, in order to achieve stability and improve the developmental process.

How would you advise the many organizations and associations that do not know how to carry out an empirical study to understand the social problems?

In this context we have two types of studies; the first is simple and can be carried out easily by these organizations, but the other needs some technical and financial capacity building. There are indicative evidences that could be referred to in regards to simple projects. In addition, training projects can take place within organizations that will help them to set up their programs. Actually, we have implemented some similar projects in partnership with supporting agencies in the framework of increasing the capacity of CSOs.

Is it possible for these organizations to determine the cost this training (on how to carry out studies and indicators) with estimated sums?

In the past, we have already carried out a number of training programs and seminars for organizations such as political parties, political organizations, unions, chambers of commerce and industry, as well as human rights organizations. Moreover, we are quite ready deliver these sessions whenever there is the need. This would help in benefiting them - the organizations - and improving their capacity to conduct surveys and the entitlement to trainings and its implications, which includes the financial aspect. This latter could be agreed upon or a partner could be brought in. What is more important is the associations' desire and readiness of commitment to the possible training program.

What is the most needed type of studies that donors may ask for in any field?

Polls, questionnaires, surveys, training and habilitation, focus Groups, in-depth interviews etc. The last two come in the context of utilizing effective polls and questionnaires. They come in typical areas as social, economic, political, media, public services, cultural, health, judicial, educational, water, agriculture, banking, corporate governance and public life

and others. All these are of interest to the Center and our partners.

Does it ever happen while doing a study or a field survey, that the conclusion is contrary to those announced by the government of Yemen? How did this happen and how do you deal with the official bodies in such situations?

First we would like to clarify that our work in the first place is based on opinion polls, namely: the search; understanding the desires and orientations of the public for different issues; and conducting field surveys and questionnaires. In addition, the center draws conclusions based on empirical pilots and reaching factual indicators which form the trends in the public opinion. This whole process depends on variables, but the degree of confidence in it is high in all cases, as long as the methodology is accurate and clear. This has nothing to do with government declarations; since the latter usually gives numbers reliant on inaccurate givens and therefore are subject to discrepancy with reality. What is more important in this sense is, how do official bodies deal with the results of these studies, questionnaires, polls and surveys? Also, government agencies are usually keen to adopt this type of research as a basis for their decision-making processes. Unfortunately, we believe that the government and its decision-making institutions are often indifferent to the outcome of the processes' goals and outputs.

Unfortunately, they include them only in the luxury of and the redundant theorizing. Some of these institutions may go even farther than that. They are sometimes accused of incredibility and bias towards certain results, and in involving the indicators of public opinion in the context of wrangling and speculation. They show suspicion in the goals of the poll or questionnaire, the questions, the sample, the mechanism of data collection and its analysis, and putting forward some options and alternatives before the informants.

These governmental institutions usually show anger at non-governmental research centers regardless of the neutrality and credibility of studies and research, the credibility of the scientific methodology used and its research survey standards. The fallacy is not confined to such suspicion, but can go to the extent of accusing some of these centers of being double agents for the West and cast doubt on sources of funding. The resort of some government agencies and media platforms to such tactics is an attempt to escape from the duties of the Government towards the principle of community partnership, escaping from meeting the desires of the population, and taking into account peoples' preferences and opinions towards the different areas of public and national benefit.

How do you solve the problem of the difficulty of obtaining, or even absence of, data?

It is true that there is difficulty in obtaining data due to Yemen's geography, the weakness of the structure of transportations and the dispersion of population. Yemen is considered as the biggest country in the world in the aspect of population dispersion (for instance; in some villages there are merely one or two families). Despite this, our center is active throughout

all Yemen's governorates. Our activities are related to the type of projects that we execute, either with partners or the funded projects with donors. Furthermore, we adopt an accurate methodology in selecting population and geographical samples and rely on the latest available statistical numbers or our own database.

In spite of our limited capabilities, we attempt to fill these information gaps. The greater role is done by the relevant governmental institutions because each institution

supposedly carries out its work in providing data for its own scope of concern. Nevertheless, I believe that the Central Bureau of Statistics is regarded as the most active institution in presenting information regardless of any drawbacks that may occur as a governmental entity influenced by the environment in which it operates.

What surveys or studies of development have you made recently? What polls have attracted your attention with its results in

the development field in general?

We were not surprised by the results of the studies we have undertaken either in the development or any other domain. However, there are interesting results showing the frustration that permeates most of our young people, a lack of youth enthusiasm for the taking the initiative or even participating in changing the status-quo and finally, even the lack of understanding of its great impact on them and their country.

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## Yemen's problems will not stay in Yemen

By: Christopher Boucek  
Special to CNN

In recent days, international attention has refocused on the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Yemen. The claim of responsibility for the attack on Northwest flight 253 on December 25 by al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has underscored the fact that Yemen's problems will not stay in Yemen.

In the absence of immediate and sustained attention by the international community, Yemen may be overwhelmed by a unique convergence of crises. While some observers feared this would come in several years, it is increasingly apparent that failure may come sooner than previously expected.

Yemen has frequently been described as a failing state -- and with good reason. Civil war, terrorism, a deepening secessionist movement and economic and demographic trends threaten to overpower the Yemeni government, provide a breeding ground for terrorists and destabilize the region. Yemen has often teetered on the brink of collapse, but it has never faced so many interconnected challenges at one time.

At the heart of the country's problems is a looming economic crisis. Oil is the source of nearly 80 percent of government revenue, and it is quickly running out. There are few viable options for a sustainable post-oil economy, and Yemen is already the poorest country in the Arab world with an unemployment rate conservatively estimated at 35 percent.

Yemen's pending economic collapse has been greatly accelerated by the civil war in Saada. Government forces have been unable to decisively put down the rebels in the north of the country, and there is no military solution to the conflict. The toll in Saada has been severe, with extensive damage to infrastructure and an estimated 175,000 internally displaced people.

The conflict's strain on the Yemeni army has led to questions about the military's ability to simultaneously engage in other operations, including counterterrorism.

The government is spending foreign currency reserves at an alarming rate, recently estimated at more than \$200 million per month. Spending on the war will create a major budget deficit next year. Every dollar spent on the civil war is a dollar not spent on addressing the underlying causes of instability in Yemen.

Yemen also is facing a growing secessionist movement in the south of

the country. When the war in Saada subsides, it is feared that the secessionist movement will again flare up. The government does not control the entire territory of Yemen, and the emergence of additional areas outside of the capital of Sanaa's control will create more under-governed spaces that can be exploited by terrorist movements.

For the past year, there have been growing indications that al Qaeda is regrouping in Yemen and preparing to strike Western and other targets. Recent counterterrorism measures in Saudi Arabia have forced extremists to seek refuge elsewhere, and analysts have observed a steady flow of extremists relocating to Yemen's under-governed areas.

In spring 2008, al Qaeda operatives in Saudi Arabia were encouraged by local Saudi al Qaeda commanders to escape to Yemen, and by January 2009, the Saudi and Yemeni al Qaeda affiliates merged.

A video announcing the establishment of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula featured two Saudis previously released from the U.S. military detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba -- both assumed leadership positions in the newly formed organization. Mohammed al-Awfi subsequently surrendered to Saudi authorities and Said al-Shihri reportedly escaped a recent counterterrorism strike that preceded the Northwest bombing.

The emergence of the regional al Qaeda group marks a major deterioration of security in Yemen. As recent events have highlighted, Yemen is becoming a base for al Qaeda to mount operations not only inside the country but also across the Arabian Peninsula and internationally.

In August 2009, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula nearly assassinated Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the Saudi counterterrorism chief, in an attack that was eerily similar to the Christmas Day Northwest bomb attack. Following the attack on Prince Mohammed, it boasted of its new bomb technology and threatened to use its new 'undetectable substance' again.

And in mid-October, several Saudis were killed trying to cross into Saudi Arabia, including the brother of deputy commander Said al-Shihri. According to local press reports, the two were attempting to smuggle several suicide vests into Saudi Arabia.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula was allegedly bolstered by the relocation of al Qaeda operatives from Pakistan and Afghanistan this summer. Media reports quoted intelligence sources saying that fighters fleeing from South Asia were seeking

safe havens in Yemen and Somalia.

Any single event -- or more likely a confluence of worst-case events beyond the ability of the Yemeni government to control -- could lead to a further erosion of central government authority in Yemen and destabilization of the region.

As the central government's authority and legitimacy continue to deteriorate, there will be more opportunities for extremists directed or inspired by al Qaeda to regroup, organize, train and launch operations against U.S. and allied targets throughout the Gulf region and globally.

Military operations to kill or capture al Qaeda operatives will likely increase in 2010. These actions carry risks. Publicly acknowledged American involvement in counterterrorism operations in Yemen would be deeply unpopular in the country, likely undermine the legitimacy of the Yemeni government and feed into the grievances that help fuel al Qaeda militancy.

Development assistance is one of the most effective tools available to address the interconnected long-term challenges facing Yemen. But, U.S. aid is disproportionately small considering the magnitude of the problems facing the country and Yemen's strategic importance to the United States.

In addition to the reported \$70 million of military and security assistance, the United States recently announced \$121 million in development aid over the next three years, a significant increase from previous years and a vital step in the right direction.

Still, the amount pales in comparison to the \$1.5 billion allotted to Pakistan in the next year alone. This disparity persists even as U.S. officials increasingly cite Yemen as a terrorism and security priority second only to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

No perfect solutions exist for Yemen's problems today, and none of its many pressing challenges can be fully averted. However, steps can be taken to lessen their impact. The United States has a stake in helping Yemen deal with its problems, and the cost of inaction would be too great.

Failure to act now would lead to fewer and even worse options in the future. As one administration official recently said to me, "We've seen this movie before, and we know how it ends."

Christopher Boucek is an associate in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

## Why southern Yemen is pushing for secession

By: Ibn Alshibani  
The Christian Science Monitor

With bleak housing blocks and rusty wrecks for taxis, south Yemen residents pushing for secession say they've been sidelined by the government.

As Yemen struggles to quell Houthi rebels in the north, a secession movement gathering steam in the south threatens to deprive the central government of badly needed resources. While outside analysts have become increasingly concerned that the two conflicts are creating an unstable state where Al Qaeda could more freely operate, the chief domestic concern is more pressing: survival.

The south has all the resources and only one third of the population. We cannot allow them to secede," said a member of the opposition party Islah in the capital, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak for the party. "Northerners will fight to keep Yemen together. They know it is a matter of survival."

More than 70 percent of Yemen's revenue comes from its oil exports. Studies by both the World Bank and the United Nations Development Fund predict a precipitous decline in Yemeni oil production over the next five years, raising the stakes for control of the dwindling supplies.

"Eighty percent of Yemen's oil comes from the south but where does the money go? It goes to Sanaa," the capital, said a member of the Yemeni Socialist Party in Aden who did not want to be named for fear of government reprisal. "The people of the south have not benefited from any of this wealth and now it is running out."

So despite President Ali Abdullah Saleh's calls for unity, many in southern Yemen are taking to the streets in protest. Fed up with high prices and an overall lack of development,

they're calling for secession less than two decades after joining with the north to create a unified Yemen. The result has been violent confrontations between protesters and government security forces -- forces which Human Rights Watch lambasted in a Dec. 15 report for being too harsh.

For now, the Saleh government seems more committed to quelling protests than addressing southerners' grievances.

### 'We haven't gained anything by unification'

Upon arriving in the southern port town of Aden from Sanaa, one immediately notices the differences: there are few new buildings and the taxis and cars are often little more than rusted wrecks -- a stark contrast with the luxury cars and plethora of new shops and hotels one finds in Sanaa.

But despite the run-down appearances, everything from fish to building supplies costs far more here than in the more prosperous north.

"Why is it that fish caught 10 kilometers [six miles] from here cost more than the fish trucked to Sanaa?" asks resident Mohammad Nahass, pointing to fish stacked on a piece of cardboard in Aden's fish market.

Many throughout southern Yemen are asking the same question. They see little value in their 1990 unification with the north -- a move that was precipitated by the fall of the Soviet Union. As a result of the USSR's collapse, the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) -- the only Marxist state in the Arabian Peninsula -- lost its primary source of economic support and was forced to join North Yemen in a newly united Republic of Yemen, under the leadership of President Saleh, who has remained in power for 15 years.

"Most of what we have is what the British built when they were here. We haven't gained anything from unification," says a former colonel in the PDRY army, voicing a common sentiment as he waves his hand

towards a row of bleak buildings. "I would rather have had the British here for 400 years than be ruled by Saleh and the Sanhan [President Saleh's tribe]."

The south has in fact already tried to secede once since unification, which resulted in a civil war in 1994. The colonel says that after the war, officers such as himself were thrown out of the army and the civilian government was destroyed -- leaving little role for the region's formerly prominent players.

"Now everyone who has any power is a northerner," he says. "The young people here have no chance to find decent jobs because they don't have the tribal connections required to get them."

The colonel's grievances with the north are heard across Aden, in tea shops and at daily qat sessions where many Adenis gather to chew the mildly intoxicating leaves of the qat tree.

### 'God willing, we will not have to rebuild again'

The front steps of the al-Aydarus mosque in Aden are stacked with men waiting out the mid-afternoon sun. They are reluctant to talk, but an elderly man who gives his name as Ibrahim stands up and ushers a visitor into the mosque. He points to recently completed repairs after the mosque was partially destroyed by conservative tribesmen during the 1994 civil war. "God willing, we will not have to rebuild again," he says.

But most Yemenis in the south do not share Ibrahim's guarded optimism.

"There will be war when the money runs out," says the retired colonel. As he hands a coin to a Somali beggar, he continues, "President Saleh is a clever man -- he knows how to play the tribes off one another, but this takes money. Money for the sheikhs, money for the army, it is endless. The people here will wait until he is weak enough and then they will strike."

## Yemen is not Afghanistan

By: Brian O'Neill

The subtext of the question that has been echoing around media and policy circles the last few weeks -- What to do about Yemen? -- has been a discussion about where Yemen is going. The question that has been asked, repeatedly, is if Yemen is the next Afghanistan, or, with a little more nuance to the story, if it is the next Somalia.

However, it is neither of these. Lost in comparison is the simple truth, seemingly too obvious to merit mention: It is nothing except the current Yemen.

I know it seems rhetorical -- Yemen is Yemen -- but I think it is something that policymakers need to keep reminding themselves. The language that we use shapes policy, and if we gear our policy to avoid a "new Afghanistan," we'll be boxing ourselves into the ideas and strategies that shaped our Afghan plan. Essentially, we will be fighting the last war.

On the surface, the comparisons make sense. Like Afghanistan, Yemen is a mountainous, fractured country without a strong tradition of central government, and with a history of Islamist ideology (the mountains are interesting as more than just a quirk of geology; in an under-developed country, mountains tend to

separate culture and inhibit a sense of nation).

Somalia looks like the nightmare template for Yemen's future: a lawless, tribal land of premodern government and postmodern weaponry. But Yemen is neither of these. For starters, while Afghanistan is a country that is ethnically divided, with the Pashtun population more connected with their brethren in Pakistan, Yemen, for whatever its political divisions, is uniformly Yemeni. There are a multitude of ideas about what this means. Some want a republic, some a tribal confederation, some a secular democracy, for a few an Islamist government. But there is no doubt that people want their version of Yemen, a land that while not connected, has for millennia had a sense of self. Even the mountains are part of the creation myth, rather than just a military fastness.

There is a one-letter difference to the challenges, one that sounds uncomfortably like vague and squishy poli-sci lingo, but is actually very important. In Afghanistan (and Iraq), the trick is to bring together various peoples. In Yemen, it is to deal with various people. Please don't take that as some kind of Pollyanna sentiment; the difficulty of the task is enormous. But even the religious differences -- Sunni vs. Shia -- are far less relevant than the political difference between the groups. The dominant strand of

Yemeni Shi'ism, Zaydism, is much closer to Sunni practices than it is to what is practiced in Iran or Iraq. It is here that the U.S. can do the most good. By stepping back militarily and helping Yemen's structural problems, it will be able to be seen as a more honest and benign friend, and not further the central government's legitimacy crisis.

By aiding Yemen's underlying fault lines -- the country is running out of oil, water and money -- we can help stave off the catastrophe of state failure, and give the government more breathing room to deal with both al-Qaida and the other, far more dangerous rebellions.

This is impossible, though, if we treat it like Afghanistan. Even suggesting the comparison brings up an unavoidable debate. Troops are justifiable in Afghanistan. So that makes the discussion start with military action, instead of taking that reckless and self-defeating option off the table from the get-go.

When we look backwards, we will inevitably stumble.

Brian O'Neill, a former writer and editor at *The Yemen Observer*, is currently an independent analyst and Yemen security expert based out of Chicago. This article was published as a guest opinion at the *Herald News* on Jan. 14, 2010.



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## Abused Donkeys Find Sanctuary in Holy Land

Donkeys are still widely used in the Holy Land but some are finding their way to sanctuaries after terrible abuses.

Arieh O'Sullivan / The Media Line

The Middle East is most commonly described as the coming together of the ancient with the new. If one were to select a single illustration of this phenomenon, the donkey would rank high on that list: the donkey has been the beast of burden from time immemorial.

Here in the technologically advanced 21st Century, the age-old pack animal still performs the very same tasks it did in Biblical times – and does so in the very same way. The lowly donkey is often used by farmers who cannot afford mechanized transport and can still be seen strapped to the plow in the field or

laden with heavy loads.

And although frequently abused, donkeys suffer in silence.

"Obviously you see abuse from being beaten with a stick so you have lacerations cuts and so on where they were hit," says Dr. Daniel Ronen, a veterinarian who works in the Jerusalem corridor hills. "And I have also seen torture where they actually tried to burn them or pour hot water on them or this type of thing."

Abuse of donkeys goes way back. The Bible records an instance in *Numbers 22:21-35* where the prophet Balaam beats his donkey and God, obviously angered, gives the donkey the gift of speech to rebuke her rider.

Israel and Palestine are not the only

places at fault. Call up [donkeyrescue.org](http://donkeyrescue.org) to read about why donkeys are the "most mistreated domestic farm animals in America," and how to adopt one.

Today there is relief for abused donkeys. There are good Samaritans who have rescued donkey from their abusive owners and have brought them to farms where their wounds are treated. Some are given to families and others spend their lives grazing in the fields.

Today in Israel, two donkey sanctuaries work to rescue the animals from abuse. One of the shelters is called the Pegasus Donkey Sanctuary. It's run by Tzvika Tamuz and is located in the center of the country.

The other is called Safe Haven for Donkeys and is run by former airline stewardess Lucy Fensom. Calls to rescue donkeys go out every day to the sanctuaries.

"Sometimes you can even see tears on the donkey but they do it in silence," says Tamuz as he strolls through the

stables of his sanctuary. "They suffer in silence."

The cloudy-white donkey Shmaya nuzzles up to Tamuz, and he allows the man to rub his neck and offer gentle words. As the donkey's kite-shaped face nods up and down, Tamuz strokes his stiff mane and lovingly passes over gaping holes where long donkey ears once protruded. Shmaya's previous owners had cruelly chopped off his ears and beat him severely till he bled.

"When I first saw him I cried and then I put him on a trailer and brought him here," says Tamuz. "Sometimes [donkeys] are so nice even though they hurt them so much. They are still nice and they don't even try to kick you or to bite you. Sometimes they are disturbed mentally because of what they have been through."

The earless Shmaya, who's name means 'God's listener,' was skittish and spiteful when he first arrived, but after a few weeks of kind words and some

friendly stroking, donkeys like Shmaya no longer see man as a source of their suffering and let themselves be approached by humans again.

Some of the donkeys, like "Big Jim," were owned by Palestinians who overloaded them with scrap iron allegedly stolen in Israel. Border Police confiscated the iron, arrested the Palestinian and turned over the black and grey donkey to the donkey haven.

Others, like Geula, were rescued from an Israeli farming village where youth had been tormenting and beating her.

"Sometimes people take a big stick and hit them really hard and they bleed from it but otherwise you don't know how much they suffer," Tamuz said. "When you take the harness off you see big wounds, chronic wounds that never get better."

Veterinarian Ronen says that the donkeys are such expendable animals much of their abuse goes unreported. They

can be bought for a few hundred shekels and often are abandoned by their owners.

"The truth is, as a vet doctor we often don't see the cases of donkeys since they are not worth much and few call on us to treat them," Ronen says.

The donkey sanctuaries have 24-hour hotlines or can be reached via their websites. [www.pegasus-israel.org](http://www.pegasus-israel.org) and [www.safehaven4donkeys.org](http://www.safehaven4donkeys.org) For donkeys rescued by Tamuz, their new life typically includes pasture lands and freedom from burden in a new home. Some are given to families who can prove they have the facilities to give them loving shelter. One kibbutz has received over a dozen where they are "hard at work" keeping the weeds around the fish ponds at bay.

The donkey is a loyal beast who happily settles for a bucket of feed at the end of the day of hard work. And for some who are abused, a better home awaits.

## Saudis to Regulate 'Chaotic Fatwas'

# Radical religious decrees have gotten out of hand in Saudi Arabia, religious authorities say

Rachelle Kliger / The Media Line

Saudi authorities are planning to regulate the issuance of Islamic rulings by limiting the number of people allowed to formulate religious decrees.

The plan is currently being discussed by the Higher Council of Religious Scholars and could be implemented as early as next month.

"If the Saudi authorities regulate the fatwa industry, it will reduce the amount of extreme fatwas and it will send a positive message to those who are irresponsible and unaccountable with their fatwas," Dr. Khalil Al-Khalil, a former Saudi Member of Parliament (MP) and an expert on Islamic trends told The Media Line. "It will send them a message that they are not doing

the right thing."

Islamic scholar Sheikh Ahmad Bin Abd Al-Aziz Bin Baz told Al-Arabiyya that the issuance of fatwas, or religious scholarly opinions, in the Saudi kingdom had gotten out of hand to the extent there was a need to regulate and unify them.

The Saudi authorities are mainly concerned about extreme fatwas that are being disseminated via mass-media forms such as the Internet and satellite television.

Radical messages in extreme fatwas often receive much attention in western media as legitimizing terror attacks against non-Muslims.

Media experts warn that these broadcasts can have a huge impact, especially since the target audience is young and impressionable.

"[Those issuing fatwas] know very

well that the people here are connected with the government and the state regulations, and no one wants to be seen in conflict with the Saudi authorities," Al-Khalil added. "It will make those who are extreme think twice before issuing a fatwa."

Opposition groups within Saudi Arabia are saying that allowing only a select few to issue Islamic religious opinions stifles pluralism of opinion and goes against the spirit of Islam.

Critics of the planned regulation further point out that hundreds of Arabic-language satellite stations are beyond the reach of the Saudi government, rendering the moves ineffective, as Saudis will continue to be exposed to extreme messages through the Internet and other media forms.

Al-Khalil himself believes that regulating fatwas, despite the advantages,

is not only impossible to implement but is also contrary to the spirit of Islam.

"It will not be successful in any place in the world," he said. "They want to formulate a group at the national level and the local level who will be authorized to issue fatwas. They will employ specific individuals, who will have the right to issue fatwas and this is an impossible mission."

Al-Khalil explained that this contradicted the very nature of Islam, which allows people to choose for themselves who is qualified to issue a fatwa.

"Who will choose those people, and based on what qualifications and what orientations?" Al-Khalil asked. "You can choose for yourself but you can't choose for everyone in your state. We know that usually selection of authorized individuals in any field in life is

based on politics and the mood and not on expert qualification."

Contrary to much popular belief, fatwas are diverse in content and are a guideline for endless mundane matters, such as how a Muslim should shake hands, if a Muslim can consume caffeine, whether it is appropriate for a man to grow his hair, whether Muslims should play football, and many more.

But Western media in recent years has often depicted fatwas as associated with edicts on warfare and death sentences, such as the fatwa seeking the death of author Salman Rushdie after the Iranians found his writings offensive to Islam.

A fatwa can be issued by anyone who is seen to have sufficient Islamic scholarly training for the task, usually a Muslim with high standing in his community.

Those in favor of regulating these edicts say there is 'fatwa chaos' where anyone can issue opinions, which often serve narrow interests, be they related to politics, security, commerce or a social interest.

"The function of a fatwa in Islam is not a court verdict," Al-Khalil stressed. "A verdict is binding when the process is complete and it has to be implemented, but fatwas from religious authorities are different."

"It's just an effort to give advice," he said. "It's not supposed to be a binding verdict that must be implemented."

The state or the leader can choose to implement that fatwa and then it becomes obligatory by law, but if it's issued by an individual, formal or informal, it's just advice or a religious opinion and it's not obligatory."

## Missed Opportunities and Bigger Challenges for Human Rights in the Middle East

Middle East governments repressed efforts to promote human rights and backed away from bold reforms despite growing human rights challenges and promises to take action, Human Rights Watch said today in releasing the Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen country studies from its World Report 2010.

(MENASSAT) The 612-page report, the organization's 20th annual review of human rights practices 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.

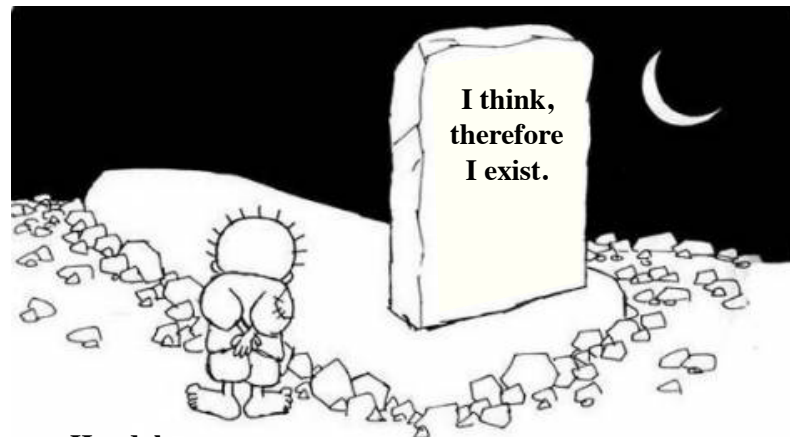
"The year 2009 was one of the missed opportunities for women and migrants in the region," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director at Human Rights Watch. "For human rights defenders, their small space for maneuvering shrank even further."

The studies detail missed opportunities on women's rights in Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria; ineffective measures to protect migrant domestic workers in Jordan, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia; torture of suspects in custody in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria; and repression of human rights defenders in Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen.

Saudi Arabia discriminated against its Shi'a population and Syria against its Kurds; Lebanon disregarded the plight of its Palestinian refugees; and Jordan stripped some Jordanians of Palestinian origin of their Jordanian nationality. Yemen's government committed violations in the civil war in the north and the social unrest in the south.

"Middle East governments should publicly set out their human rights agenda for 2010," Whitson said, "and expect to be measured against their achievements."

Middle Eastern governments responded weakly to calls to curb violence against women. Perpetrators of so-called honor killings in Jordan (where there were at least 20 such killings), and in Syria (at least 12), benefit from legal provisions that mitigate their punishments, even though Syria closed a legal loophole that allowed such



Handala.

perpetrators to avoid criminal sanction altogether. Domestic abuse went largely unpunished in Saudi Arabia and Yemen. In Lebanon and Jordan, where domestic abuse can be tried as assault, protection mechanisms for women are largely inadequate and ineffective.

Despite their increasing participation in public life, women faced discrimination in personal status, nationality, and penal laws. In Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, women cannot confer their nationality either on foreign spouses or their children. Saudi women require a male guardian's approval for travel, study or work, and to receive health care in certain circumstances. Saudi Arabia promised to abolish the male legal guardianship system over women, but failed to take steps to do so.

Migrant domestic workers in the Middle East faced exploitation and abuse by employers, including excessive work hours, non-payment of wages, and restrictions on their liberty. Governments adopted some measures to reduce the abuse but did not enforce them. Jordan issued regulations providing certain rights to migrant domestic workers after becoming the first Middle Eastern country in 2008 to include them under the labor law. However, these regulations fell short of international standards, and allow for an employer to confine a worker in the employer's house.

In January in Lebanon, the Labor Ministry put in effect tighter regulations for employment agencies and a standard employment contract that clarifies certain terms and conditions of employment for domestic workers,

such as the maximum number of daily working hours. However, the rules have no enforcement mechanisms. Suicides and botched escape attempts killed many migrant domestic workers in Lebanon, with eight deaths in October alone.

In Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen, human rights defenders paid a heavy price for their activities. Syrian State Security detained Muhammad al-Hasani, president of the Syrian Human Rights Organization in July, and Haytham al-Maleh, a prominent human rights lawyer, 78, in October, and later charged them with "weakening national sentiment." They remain detained. In Saudi Arabia, the secret police (mabahith) arrested Muhammad al-Utaibi and Khalid al-Umair in January for attempting to hold a peaceful protest in solidarity with the people of Gaza. One year later, the mabahith still hold them despite the six-month legal limit on pre-trial detention and the prosecution's decision not to press charges.

In Yemen, Central Security, National Security, and Political Security officers arrested scores of activists, mostly from the secessionist so-called Southern Movement, and began trials of some of them for "contesting the unity of the state," including Professor Husain al-Aqil, an online journalist, Salah al-Saqladi, and a former diplomat, Muhammad 'Askar Jubran.

Syria has not licensed any human rights groups, and Saudi Arabia refused legal recognition to at least two new rights groups. Jordan passed a new law extending the government's ability to control and interfere in the work of charitable organizations.

Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen failed to tackle frequent incidents of torture. Jordan's prison reform program has not strengthened accountability mechanisms for torture. Conditions in prisons and detention facilities were poor in Lebanon, with overcrowding and lack of proper medical care a perennial problem. While Lebanon ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OP-CAT) in December 2008, the country has not yet fulfilled its obligation to set up a national preventive mechanism to visit and monitor places of detention.

Saudi authorities punished those they believed responsible for leaking footage of torture in Ha'ir prison, but did not announce steps taken to hold accountable the prison guards who beat the inmates. In Yemen, there were increased reports by detainees of torture in central prisons around the country and in the detention facility of the National Security and the Political Security Organizations in San'a.

The estimated 300,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon lived in appalling social and economic conditions and were subject to wide-ranging restrictions on housing and employment. Jordanian authorities since 2004 have arbitrarily deprived over 2,700 Jordanians of Palestinian origin of their nationality, usually on grounds that they did not hold valid Israeli-issued residency permits for the West Bank. No such condition for maintaining Jordanian nationality exists in law. Hundreds of thousands more Jordanians may be at risk of losing their nationality.

Following clashes in Saudi Arabia between minority Shi'a pilgrims and Wahhabi religious policemen in Medina in February, the authorities arrested scores of Shi'a in Medina and in the Eastern Province. The Eastern Province governorate also arrested Shi'a who led prayers in their private homes in Khobar and in Ahsa' and closed Khobar's only mosque for Isma'ilis, a branch of Shi'ism.

Kurds, Syria's largest non-Arab ethnic minority, were subject to systematic discrimination, including the arbitrary denial of citizenship to an estimated 300,000 born in Syria. Authorities suppressed expressions of Kurdish identity and prohibited teaching Kurdish in schools. On February 28, security forces violently

dispersed Kurds who had gathered to protest a decree restricting real estate transactions in border areas, and the authorities subsequently detained 21 demonstrators. The authorities also detained and tried at least nine prominent Kurdish political leaders on vague charges of "weakening national sentiment" and "broadcasting false information."

"Middle Eastern governments need to recognize that the rights of minorities, refugees, and stateless persons need greater protections," Whitson said.

### In 2010, Jordan should:

- Strike clauses from the law that allow for punishment-reducing mitigating circumstances for "honor" killers.
- Ease restrictions in the law governing the operation of nongovernmental organizations to bring it into compliance with international standards on freedom of association.
- Revise regulations governing migrant domestic workers to comply with international labor and human rights standards, and set up a mechanism to investigate allegations of abuses against workers.
- Strengthen accountability for torture by moving jurisdiction over acts of torture by police agents from the Police Court to the civilian courts.
- Stop withdrawing the nationality of Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin.

### In 2010, Lebanon should:

- Amend its citizenship law to ensure that all Lebanese women, regardless of the nationality of their husbands, can pass on their citizenship to their children and husbands.
- Publish the results of the Interior Ministry's 2008 investigations into torture, set up a national prevention mechanism for torture, and prosecute officials suspected of torture.
- Amend the labor code to provide legal protection for domestic workers equal to that for other workers and create a labor inspection unit to monitor working conditions for migrant domestic workers.
- Amend legislation that restricts the ability of Palestinian refugees to

own property and remove restrictions on their employment.

### In 2010, Saudi Arabia should:

- Dismantle the system of male legal guardianship over women, and strengthen protection for women against violence and accountability for perpetrators of such violence.
- Ensure equal citizenship rights for its Shi'a minorities, especially the freedom to practice their religion.
- Release long-term detainees or try them in fair proceedings that meet international standards.

### In 2010, Syria should

- Free people being detained for peacefully exercising freedom of expression, association, or assembly.
- Form a commission to address the human rights grievances of the Kurdish minority.
- Investigate officials alleged to have tortured or mistreated detainees.
- Reform all the articles in the criminal code that treat those who say they killed for "honor" more leniently than other murderers.

### In 2010, Yemen should

- End child marriage and strengthen protection for victims of violence against women and accountability for perpetrators of such violence.
- 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.
- Stop indiscriminate bombardments of civilians in the armed conflict with northern rebels, and create a mechanism to ensure that the armed forces, or allied tribal militias, do not employ child soldiers.
- Train law enforcement officers on non-lethal methods of crowd control, and do not use deadly force against unarmed protesters, such as those who participated in large demonstrations in the southern provinces.
- Respect the rights to freedom of expression and of assembly and release all persons detained for their peaceful expression or participation in peaceful protests.

To view the Human Rights Watch World

# Yemen witnesses biggest crisis in cooking gas shortage

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

Yemeni people, who are accustomed to suffering from repeated crises involving the shortage of cooking gas, especially during important Islamic occasions (Ramadan and Eid Al-Adha or the Ceremony of Sacrifice), are facing a similar crisis now, this being the most serious and longest one, having begun at the beginning of January and still showing no signs of letting up.

These crises are always accompanied by the doubling of prices for this crucial commodity that is a daily necessity in people's lives. While the approved price for a single gas cylinder is YR 600, some people are unable to locate any, even for YR 1500.

"I can not find a single gas cylinder. My urgent need for cooking gas has made me offer YR 1500 for a cylinder," says Tawfiq Abdul-Aziz, Deputy General Manager in a public institution.

## Long lines in front of gas stores

Everywhere you go, you can see long queues of people; men and women, the elderly, young and children are forming long lines in front of gas stores waiting for their turn to get a cylinder of gas. Some of them have been waiting for their turn from the early morning until the evening. After this period of waiting, one gets a cylinder while the other walks away empty-handed.

The crisis is not limited to Sana'a, but has reached different parts of the country. El-Saeeda TV Channel, a Yemeni satellite channel owned by the private sector, televised this Friday in its weekly program called Sada Al-Usbo'a (Arabic meaning of Week's Echo) scenes of queues of people, men, women and children in Taiz governorate before gas stores waiting for gas.

The crisis is also occurring in other governorates. The Yemen Times reporter in Ibb revealed last week that there is a real emergency in the Ibb governorate.

## Children forced out of school into queues at gas stations

In front of any gas station, you will find children, some of them still in their school uniforms, waiting for their turn to exchange their empty gas cylinders for full ones.

"When the gas finished in my house, I went to a nearby gas station and joined a long line of people there to get gas cylinders. To make use of the day and get one cylinder, I divided the day between myself and my

child whom I was forced to remove from school," says Ahmad Saeed, a citizen from the Maeen district.

"I distributed the day between myself and my child to keep our turn in the long queue. I took the morning shift and gave him the afternoon shift and by the evening, we came out with one cylinder."

Saeed said he got the cylinder for the price approved by the government (YR 600).

## Restaurants are more affected

Abdul-Hafiz Al-Maghbashi, owner of a restaurant in Assiteen Street, says he is suffering even more than the regular people as a result of this prolonged crisis.

"I consume seven to eight gas cylinders a day and I am forced to buy every cylinder for YR 1500 to keep my restaurant functioning," said Al-Maghbashi. He disclosed that there is a nearby gas station selling the cylinders for YR 600 but there are long lines in front of it.

"If I send one of my workers to join the line, he will wait there the whole day and by the end of the day he will come out with only one cylinder and this method is not profitable for me because I will lose an entire working day of an employee," explained Al-Maghbashi.

## Owners of gas stations and vendors utilize gas crisis

As in all previous crises, owners of gas stations and vendors take advantage of the situation to make a profit. They are sometimes the reason behind the gas crisis.

Jalal Al-Usabi, a vendor who sells gas cylinders house to house in the Assiteen and Azal area, says they buy gas cylinders from gas stores.

While it is forbidden for owners of gas stations to sell a cylinder for more than YR 650, they violate the law and sell them to gas vendors for YR 800-1000 each.

"Nowadays, we buy the gas cylinders for YR 900-1000 each and sell them for YR 1300-1500 each," said Al-Usabi. "I get only eight cylinders a day and sometimes stay without work." But he says, he prefers ordinary days when there is no gas crisis because he sells between 20 to 30 cylinders a day.

Earlier, Ministry of Oil and Minerals' spokesperson, Aref Moharram, stated to the Yemen Times that owners of gas stores and vendors create gas crises in order to take advantage of them.

However, Sadiq Al-Asbahi, a gas vendor, also accuses the owners of gas stations of monopolizing the substance in order to increase their prices. "Although, they are sworn in



Every now and then there is a shortage of gas cylinders and locals have to stand in lines for hours in order to refill their cylinders at exaggerated prices.

while getting licenses (from concerned bodies) to open stores to sell the gas at a fixed price, which has been set by the gas company (YR 600 for a gas cylinder the time being), they are selling it for more than YR 800," said Al-Asbahi.

He reveals that owners of gas stores hire vendors to sell the substance at these soaring prices (more than the double) and to then share the profits.

He believes that this current crisis is the longest and worst of its type.

## Reasons behind the crisis

While observers and even vendors believe that the government is always behind gas crisis because it does not perform its duty as required, concerned bodies have their own justifications.

"I think the government is responsible for the gas crisis," says Redhwan Amer, a journalist. "The government has to strike anyone responsible for any problem touching people's daily needs with an iron fist."

Al-Asbahi, also holds the government accountable for not providing

enough quantities of gas to the people. He also talks about other factors contributing to the crisis, such as tribal interference with the smooth flow of gas trucks, the government's meddling with gas prices and corruption in the gas fields.

As usual, concerned bodies see tribes in Mareb as justification for the government's failure to secure providing people with gas.

"Reasons behind the crisis are cumulative as a result of tribal interruptions of the gas trucks on the Safer-Sana'a highway," said the Director of Technical Department at the Yemeni Company for Gas, Mohammad Al-Bawsani. "Up to 49 disruptions of operations have been carried out by tribes in Mareb from the beginning of 2009 to this January, for various demands like more employment."

He refers to other causes, like the increasing demand for gas, which is being used for different purposes like heating up agricultural products (especially qat).

In an interview on September 26,

in the state run newspaper, the Minister of Oil and Minerals Amir Al-Aidrous, stated that the gas project does not consume household gas, but on the contrary, the Ministry can utilize gas from the project to provide sufficient quantities of cooking gas to the market.

On overcoming the problem of the disruption of gas tankers, he said there must be a gas pipeline extended from Mareb to Sana'a. "It is not logic to provide more than two million people with gas via tankers, interrupted occasionally by tribes for reasons like demands for employment," he said.

But he also said the uses for household gas have varied as gas has started to be utilized for heating, transport, agriculture and poultry farms.

## Promising step

In a promising move which brings hope to destitute people, the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption handled the latest gas crisis in a meeting for the Authority held last week. Many people have hailed

this step and are waiting for solutions.

## Chronic crises, huge strategic gas reserve

The repeated gas crises are chronic and date back decades. Observers believe that the gas crises have occurred from time to time since the early 1990s, with no real solutions implemented as of yet.

"I have been witnessing gas crises in Yemen since my youth in the early 1990s and have not yet seen any concrete solutions to the problem," said Abdo Saeed, a journalist. "Where is the government? What has it done to solve this chronic problem? I do not believe the government is keen on resolving this issue."

With 4 trillion cubic meters, Yemen is considered to have the second largest gas reserve in the Middle East, after Qatar. It also has the biggest strategic gas project in the region. Last October, the President of the Republic launched the first shipment of gas to Asian and American markets.

# Rebuilding Haiti From Davos

By: Kanayo F Nwanze

When the captains of business and industry meet in Davos for the World Economic Forum this month, the devastation caused by the recent earthquake in Haiti will be near the top of their agenda. It should be, for there is much they can do to help.

Haiti was in dire straits even before the earthquake struck. Rapid population growth, coupled with political and social turmoil, helped make Haiti the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere. Right now, the international relief efforts in Haiti are rightly focused on the country's urban areas, which suffered most in the earthquake. But when rebuilding starts, rural areas must not be overlooked.

In fact, many of those who have lost their homes and jobs in Port-au-Prince and other Haitian cities will likely return to rural communities where they have family. This will put pressure on the rural economy and place more strain on areas already grappling with meagre resources.

Agriculture plays a vital role in Haiti's economy, yet the country does

not produce enough food to feed its people. Some 60% of the food Haitians need, and as much as 80% of the rice they eat, is imported. Sustainable agricultural development is essential to improving the country's prospects for long-term economic and food security.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has seen first-hand how investing in agriculture can help people recover from natural disasters. Our experience in developing countries tells us that investments in agriculture can be twice as effective in reducing poverty as similar investments in other sectors.

Less than two years ago, Haiti was devastated by a hurricane that caused about \$220 million in damage to food crops – at a time when the population was also struggling to feed itself because of high world food prices. IFAD funded a program to kick-start food production. The 2008 winter planting yielded \$5 million in bean crops, helping to improve food security and the incomes of poor farmers.

While the crisis in Haiti is a major setback in achieving increased food production, it should not be a stop sign on the path to long-term devel-

opment. The challenge is to ensure that earlier efforts are not lost, and that recovery includes a push toward sustainable agricultural production systems for Haiti.

One group now rising from the rubble is Fonkoze, a microfinance organization operating predominantly in rural Haiti. With assistance from IFAD's multi-donor Financing Facility for Remittances, Fonkoze purchased satellite phones and diesel generators in 2007, and began delivering remittance services in rural areas where basic infrastructure is often weak or lacking.

Only today is the true value of that investment coming to light. Fonkoze was back in operation only days after the earthquake. Remittances transferred through Fonkoze are free, giving recipient families in Haiti vital resources to meet short-term needs while also encouraging long-term development.

More than \$1.9 billion was sent to Haiti in 2008 through remittances, more than official development assistance and foreign direct investment combined, with more than half of these funds going directly into the hands of families in rural areas.

When I am in Davos, I will highlight for the CEOs and business lead-

ers the mutual benefits of forming partnerships with small producers. Much-needed capital investment can enable smallholder farmers to provide the private sector with a sustainable supply of high-quality agricultural produce.

Indeed, smallholder farmers are often extremely efficient producers per hectare, and can contribute to a country's economic growth and food security. For example, Vietnam transformed itself from a food-deficit country to the second-largest rice exporter in the world by developing its smallholder farming sector. As a result, poverty fell from 58% in 1979 to below 15% today.

In Haiti, and in developing countries around the world, smallholder farmers can contribute to food security and economic growth just as they did in Vietnam. But they cannot do so without secure access to land and water – as well as to rural financial services to pay for seed, tools, and fertilizer. They also need roads and transportation to get their products to market, and technology to receive and share the latest market information on prices. Above all, they need a long-term commitment to agriculture from their own governments, the international community, and the pri-

private sector, backed up by greater investment.

The productive capacity of Haiti's small farmers will be crucial in helping the country to overcome this crisis and avert severe food shortages. That is why Haiti needs the private sector now more than ever – to help rebuild both the country and the livelihoods of poor rural people.

Indeed, the private sector has a pivotal role to play in rural development, not just in Haiti but throughout the developing world. But public-private partnerships must be backed up with the right policies and support for rural communities, so that poor rural people can increase food production, improve their lives, and contribute to greater food security for all.

Organizations like IFAD can help link the private sector and smallholder farmers. We can support investments that expand the productive potential of the smallholder sector in the developing world by helping investors reduce their risks, and by



assisting smallholder farmers in accessing new financing and markets through private-sector partnerships.

Klaus Schwab, the founder and chairman of the World Economic Forum, has said that this year's Davos meeting should be used to "solicit commitments in practical help for relief of the continued pain of Haiti's people, and particularly for the reconstruction of Haiti." In Davos, I will work to ensure that the interests of the world's smallholder farmers – in Haiti and in developing countries around the world – are represented.

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## SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**Ministry of Transport.  
Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority, CAMA.  
Integrated Digital Accounting and Management System Project**

### CONSULTING SERVICES EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NO. (1/2010)

The Civil Aviation & Meteorology, CAMA has allocated part of its budget proceeds towards financing an Integrated Digital Accounting and Management System Project.

The objectives of the consultancy services is to assist CAMA in formulating and preparing the Terms of Reference (TOR) for a complete Integrated Digital System within the framework of the Information Technology as applied by the Civil Aviation & Meteorological Authority and the accredited basis used in the Republic of Yemen.

The anticipated duration of the services is 6 months from the date of contract signature with the awarded consultant.

The Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority, CAMA, now invites eligible international consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Yemeni High Tender Board's Manual for the Procurement of Consultants Services.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 09:00 to 11:00 (local time) Saturday to Wednesday.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by Tuesday 2nd March 2010

**Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority, CAMA**  
The chairman's office,  
Building No. 28, Zubairi Street,  
P.O.Box 1042 Sana'a  
Tel: +967 1 274717  
Fax: +967 1 274718  
E-mail: g-office@cama.gov.ye

## JOB VACANCY

We are working actively for petroleum exploration business in Yemen. Currently we are seeking to hire highly motivated and qualified candidates for the following vacant post.

**Job Title: Geophysicist**  
No. (012010)

### Qualification and Skills required

- Best knowledge & Good skill of seismic interpretation of Yemen (More than 10 years professional experience in Yemen oil industry).
- Best understanding of petrophysical analysis and its software such as IP.
- Good skill of Seismic interpretation and its software such as KINGDOM ADVANCED & Petrel.
- Good computer skill for Microsoft offices.
- Good writing and speaking English skills

**Job Title: Geologist**  
No. (022010)

### Qualification and Skills required

- Best understanding of general geology of Yemen (More than 10 years professional experience in Yemen oil industry).
- Experience as well site geologist in Yemen.
- Good understanding of petrophysical analysis and its software such as IP.
- Understanding of geophysical interpretation and its software such as KINGDOM ADVANCED & Petrel.
- Good computer skill for Microsoft offices.
- Good writing and speaking English skills

Please submit application letters with C.V. recent ID , related certificates through our email: hr@knoeyemen.com

### Note :

- Deadline for application : 8th of February,2010
- Applications that don't meet the minimum requirements listed above will not be considered.
- Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview.



## CBA, Sana'a University Celebrates Graduation of 25 Students of MBA



SANA'A, Jan. 28- Under the auspices of Prime Minister, Mr. Ali Mujawar and under the motto of «Development to Change», Center of Business Administration (CBA), Sana'a University and Maastricht School of Management in the Netherlands held last Thursday a graduation ceremony for 25 graduates of the second intake of the Executive Master of Business Administration Program. Deputy Prime Minister for Interior Affairs Sadiq Amin Abu Ras, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Saleh Ba-Surrah., Rector of Sana'a University, Dr. Khaled Tamim, ambassadors of Netherlands, Syria, Lebanon and Ethiopia, representatives of a number of other embassies in Yemen, business people, professors and VIPs attended the ceremony, which was held at Sana'a University's Jamal Abdul-Naser Hall. In the ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister for Interior Affairs Sadiq Amin Abu Ras delivered a speech in which he expressed happiness to witness the graduation of a number of holders of master degrees in important fields considered the top of development, business administration. «If the administration is good, the work will be successful. Administration is the foundation of life and the bases of work in all fields», said Abu Ras. He asserted that the government is doing its best to support higher education because education is the foundation of life. Meanwhile, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Saleh Ba-Surrah expressed happiness for his participation of the graduation ceremony of the second intake of CBA and Maastricht School of Management in Holland. «The Executive Master of Business Administration Program has been able to prepare five intakes with good level of international management, local and international accreditation. This program, which was supported by Dutch government, is a serial

of ten other programs working in different fields (in a number of country's governorates)», said Ba-Surrah. He concluded his speech by thanking the graduates for their success and thanking their families for their support. For his part, Ambassador of Netherlands in Sana'a Dr. Harry Buikema hailed the efforts exerted by students to realize success despite their commitments to their work and praised the performance of the CBA's staff on carrying out their training according to international standards. He also expressed his happiness for the success achieved by the Center of Business Administration (CBA). «As Dutch ambassador, I am proud that the Maastricht School of Management (MSM) has cooperated successfully with CBA to come to an educated setup of the MBA program, training, and consultancy.» He affirmed also that the cooperation between the two institutions, MSM and CBA will be continued. «This cooperation is very important because by trying and doing things together, one learns from another and this cooperation between different parts is very important to enhance understanding of different civilizations, which is very important to the whole world.» «It is essential to apply this model of success to all other organizations and institutions in Yemen», said Mr. Meinhard Gans, MSM International Project Director. He affirmed that the real success key was the clear vision, the spirit and the credibility carried out by a small team. Mr. Meinhard also pointed out to the importance of the role play of women in achieving success and that MSM will continue its strategic partnership with CBA and Sana'a University. Rector of Sana'a University, Professor Khaled Tamim welcomed the attendees and talked about the hard work made by

the staff of CBA in making the program successful and continual. He thanked all parties who participated in improving the program. «Although we have suffered a lot, we obtained victory via this unique program and the excellent professors who could bring the program into existence», he said. He thanked Maastricht School of Management for its great effort exerted to qualify the professors and students. He also thanked the graduates for their hard work, even in holidays, and thanked their families for their forbearance for this as holidays are part of family's rights. Director of Center of Business Administration Dr. Ahmed Bin-Mubarak said «while we are celebrating the graduation of the second intake; there are also preparations being done for the third. He also said preparations for holding the graduation ceremony of the fourth intake are underway and the fifth intake inauguration will be held next March.» The program has targeted higher leadership in public and private sectors. The students are decision-makers in their institutions», he affirmed. «The two-year study was full of achievements, hard work and staying awake at nights.» The Director thanked the graduates for they were distinguished students during their study and thanked Sana'a University for encouraging higher education students. He was so keen to thank all professors who are affiliated with CBA for their effort in teaching, supervising and guiding the graduates. At the end of the ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister for Interior Affairs Sadiq Ameen Abu Ras, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Saleh Ba-Surrah, International Project Director, Mr. Meinhard Gans and Rector of Sana'a University Khaled Tamim handed the students their Master's Degrees in Business Administration.



## The War of Sa'ada and my friend Yonis

By: Naji Gazali  
naji734@gmail.com

I am really at a complete loss when someone asks me what the Houthi rebellion is about.

Are the Houthis the targeted minority, oppressed for reasons of their religious affiliation, like the Saudi Shiites or the Sunni Iranians or for that matter like any other group which is subjected to prejudice and discrimination embedded in extremist values of race, religious background and ethnicity? Actually, the Houthis belong to the same religious sect as the president of Yemen and are also associated with the Al-Sada, one of the elite groups of Yemen, leaving literally the bare minimum or even no space to label this ongoing conflict as discrimination.

It is rather, a conflict for power, with the Houthis on one side, flexing their muscles at the expenses of their own

people and the government of Yemen on the other, not willing to share even the tiniest piece of the 'power pie' with anyone.

It is definitely a conflict rooted in power and control, but one in which, innocent people are paying a heavy price with their blood and life and enduring the harsh consequences of the war in being forced to leave their homes and flee, for their lives and for the lives of their children. Abdulmalik Al-Houthi or the government of Yemen, who are much engrossed in sometimes accepting and sometimes denying each others' peace initiatives, according to the convenience of their own personal gains, are surely not the ones paying the price. And, we the Yemenis are just the 'voiceless bystanders' silently watching, accepting and even applauding.

A friend of mine was killed in the war of Sa'ada. A poet at heart, he came from a village in Yemen to join the

army, full of positive energy, a sense of pride in serving in the army, patriotism and loyalty towards his country. But as he was fighting the Houthis, his conscience awakened and he committed the crime of listening to it. In a manner, rightly suiting the man he was, he became a conscientious objector, instead of running away, hiding or choosing other cowardly avenues of evading the authorities.

In return for the noble act, my friend, Yonis, was imprisoned, harassed and abused. His family sought the help of a tribal leader, begging him to intervene on behalf of their son; their only hope.

The tribal leader succeeded in releasing him, but not to his family; Yonis was released to the misfortune that claimed his life and joy of the news of his release was, in moments, painfully smashed and shadowed by the darkness of his death.

Indeed he has been liberated! Liberated from his duty towards his own

conscience, which brought him at odd ends with the sickening authorities and leadership of the country, who saw in him, nothing but an objector; not a patriot.

The death of my young friend is really heartbreaking. It is painful to think that he was accused for listening to his conscience and loving his country. Who killed him, the Houthis or the friendly fire of the government? The question becomes irrelevant; what remains is the sad reality of his death.

Maybe, the silence on our parts is what is responsible for the death of Yonis and of many others like him. I will always miss him and I call upon all the people of our village to be proud of him and remember him, forever, as a martyr who gave his life for what he believed in and who had the courage to listen to the call of his conscience and say 'I am against this war, fought at the expense of thousands of innocent people'.

## Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Alkholidy  
maged\_thabet@hotmail.com



## Believe it or not!

W e are all aware of the low standard of school education, cheating that is common place in schools and also of the fact, that in comparison with schools, university education is much better. However, the cheating that took place in the Faculty of Education, this week during an exam, compels us to lower our heads in shame.

Usually, during examinations, teaching and administrative staff are in charge of supervising the process in classes. However, during this particular examination, of the Holy Quran Department of the Faculty of Education, the supervisor of one class had left, leaving nobody except a student, from the same class and appearing for the exam, in charge of the supervision.

Taking advantage of this situation, books and handouts were freely used by the class students to answer the examination paper. The student 'in charge', did the same, with the only difference that, where other students were sitting in their places and cheating, the 'in charge' was sitting on the stage and cheating. And all this was done quietly and with perfection. Whenever a supervisor came to the class, the student 'in charge' stopped writing and walked around the class, pretending that all was fine.

At the time of submitting the answer sheets to the department, it was realized that the examination in this class had taken place in absence of any kind of supervision, and that the student left in charge, had not only let matters go out of hand but was himself a party to the cheating that took place. The authorities, how-

ever, did not think it necessary to question how the staff responsible for supervision could be so careless as to leave a class unsupervised during an examination.

An investigation took place in the college to look into this matter. Based on the findings of the investigations, the staff made some recommendations. One of the recommendations was to suspend lectures of that subject for the entire class. Another recommendation was to suspend the subject for the entire class and rusticate the student who was in charge of supervising the examination.

However, not even one recommendation was directed at taking any action against the staff responsible for supervision and the real cause of the misconduct. The entire episode illustrates the lack of seriousness, carelessness and biases of educational institutions.

Dear reader, what happened is truly not a matter to laugh at and set aside. I sincerely question the manner in which the matter was handled. Though the students are undoubtedly at fault, so are the authorities and staff in charge. And even more so, because it was the prime duty of the authorities to supervise the entire process of examination and ensure that it took place honestly. The authorities and staff, who come in contact with students daily, should be the first ones to be aware, that students cannot be left unsupervised, especially during examinations.

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

## The main problems of English Language Teaching (ELT) in Yemeni Schools

By: Jauda Lhmady  
Faculty of Education-Seiyun  
Hadamout University of Science and Technology

The current state of teaching English in most of the elementary and secondary schools in Yemen leaves a lot to be desired. It appears that a large number of students do not develop an adequate command of English after spending six years of schooling learning English as a foreign language. When they graduate from secondary school, they cannot communicate in English at all.

They cannot listen and comprehend, speak to other people or read and write effectively. Factors of a diverse nature, varying from place to place and situation to situation, do exist and can create enormous challenges in terms of facilitating the learning process. Unmanageable numbers of students in each class, poor classroom conditions, poor motivation, lack of support from home and society, the pressures of an overly burdensome syllabi in other subjects, and too many subjects to be studied at the same time, all contribute to generally poor performance in EFL proficiency. To complicate the matter, most teachers in Yemeni schools are not clear about the aim of teaching English and not fully competent in teaching the language; all of these factors often interfere with the instruction of the

English language on the one hand, and its comprehension and acquisition on the other.

However, weakness in English is not only caused by the above-mentioned factors, but is also brought about by many other elements. Three of the most important of these are: commencing English language instruction in grade seven as opposed to sooner; a lack of proper emphasis on the fundamental skills of listening and speaking; and finally, the substandard methods of delivering the English curriculum in most Yemeni schools.

It is often said that children acquire a second language more quickly and effectively than adults. Therefore, it stands to reason that we should start studying a second language in childhood. Much research has been done, which supports the idea that a critical period for language acquisition, usually up till about the age of thirteen, is directly connected with the maturation process. During this critical period, children can learn a second language with little effort, but after puberty the natural acquisition of language is blocked by a loss of cerebral elasticity, which is necessary to acquire languages relatively effortlessly, and furthermore, it will be impossible for the learner to acquire a native speaker's level of competence, particularly in pronunciation and intonation.

Therefore, according to these researches' findings and our observation of Yemeni pupils, the

Ministry of Education has demanded English Language Teaching in schools begin earlier because pupils in grade seven usually pass that critical period and their brains lose the ability to acquire languages quickly and effectively without much effort.

The communication skills of any language are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Also the natural order of these skills is listening, speaking, reading and writing (LSRW). This means that language-learners should follow this order in studying these skills in order to become proficient in that language, just as children do who begin to acquire their mother tongue by listening to the people around them.

Then they try to reproduce the language by speaking single sounds, words, sentence and so on. After some time, they can read and write letters, words, sentences and then on to more complex constructions. In Yemeni schools, the fundamental skills are totally neglected and the pupils start learning English by reading and writing. This unnatural way of language teaching and the lack of attention to listening and speaking create pupils who cannot communicate effectively in the English language. Practical examples of the difficulties faced by students who are deficient in these communication skills are made clear from their comments. Mohammed is a sixteen-year-old pupil who is about to graduate from elementary stage said: "I'm filled with

so much shame when I hear my little cousin who speaks English better than me after she's just finished the preliminary stage at a private school." Fatimah Ahmed, another student who is about to graduate from secondary school, said, "I was so frustrated when my family was visited by some of our relatives from abroad, and I couldn't communicate with their children who speak English fluently."

Finally, the English curriculum of Yemen is not taught effectively in most Yemeni schools. Teachers focus on grammar and only two skills, reading and writing. Therefore, some pupils can achieve full marks in their tests by memorizing the grammar rules and the lists of vocabulary words that are given to them, but at the same time, they cannot utter a phrase or a small sentence in a real conversation. This ineffective way of teaching needs to be revised to match the needs and interests of pupils who suffer greatly from the current methods of teaching and have poor results at the end of the teaching and learning processes.

The discussion regarding the problems of ELT in Yemen is not limited to what I have focused on above, but these are the most important issues, and if they are overcome, other problems will disappear automatically and Yemeni pupils will enjoy good and effective ELT through which they can attain greater proficiency in English. Therefore, an empirical study of the language skills developed in students is found to be essential.

## English Language Institutes

By: Fareed Ali AL-Somahi  
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In these recent years there is a considerable increasing of English Language Institutes, because people have become more concerned about English language and how they can improve their English language which is requested nowadays in so many fields students are conducting. In my opinion it is a good idea to have a lot of English Language Institutes in our country in order to improve our education.

Firstly; as English consider nowadays as international or global language and it is a language of communication and technology, our country should have a lot of English institutes to provide

our students golden opportunities to study English, so this means the more institutes we have the more opportunities our student will get.

Secondly; everybody knows that teachers of English language in the governmental schools do not teach students English language as well as they are expected to do, as a result of this students graduate from high schools without having sufficient knowledge of English language; and therefore they are not able to complete their academic study with out getting their English improved at such these institutes.

In contrast; some people argue that some of these institutes are only money oriented, they accuse them of seek for achieving their own

financial goal rather than teaching well. Other people argue that most of these institutes are out of censorship, so they teach what ever they like and reward certificates without teaching and evaluating students very well, and also the curricula they use do not get on with the governmental curricula which confuse students a lot, but I strongly believe that such things will be dissolved easily since we are aiming for English developing.

To cut a long story short and sum up ;English language institutes play a very great role in developing education process and help students to finish their education successfully. In my opinion such these institutes should be supported and encouraged by government and organizations

## Do you miss something ?!

By: Haneen Ali Omer Al-Mezgagi

Do you miss something?!  
Do you miss happiness?  
Do you miss the sweet taste of life?  
Why do you have this feeling?  
Why is your life filled with sadness?  
Why do the tears from your eyes not stop?  
Do you see happiness far away from your side?  
Do you see a sky without stars?  
Never wondered why you are like that?!

Why do you take a step and then quickly step back?  
Excuse me, I can answer instead.  
I think you miss having a goal for your life  
Believe me, try to have goal, which you have to try hard to achieve;  
Search of something you like, something in which you can find yourself.  
Don't say that it is difficult.  
Ask yourself these questions and they will help you :  
Who I am?  
Why I am here in this life?

What are my abilities?  
How I can develop my skills?  
Ask yourself questions like this and you will be able to determine your goal, but it is not enough. You will also need qualities like determination, enthusiasm and patience to achieve your goal.  
  
In the end, you have to remember this statement and make it the motto of your life:  
'If you don't add something to this life, you are a surplus.'

## Only One

By: Abdul-nasser Al-Abdali  
abdul\_nasser12@yahoo.com

All of us live sometimes and then die  
This is a truth we must believe and no't deny  
That only Allah remains alive and will never die  
With no any doubt for asking why  
As it is mentioned in the Holy Quran  
Before we deliver and see the sky  
And keep forever as obvious proof and reply  
Can everyone read and see by eye  
As clear as the sun without confusion or lie  
O, look at the birds when they fly  
Up and up in the sky  
By two wings can never make by  
All of us whatever we try  
Think of earth ;more wet than dry  
And of air on which our lives do rely  
Think if you asked when will you die  
Today, tomorrow or on the day of cry  
You still keep silent and then get shy  
For only Allah who knows the reply  
As all we have is given by  
To live sometimes and then die  
This is a truth we must believe and not deny  
That only ( Allah ) remains alive and will never die.

## Thoughts about Yemen

By: Minnesotastan  
retag4726@mypacks.net

I decided it was time to read something about Yemen now, since the U.S. is going to be sending troops there. These observations come from an essay by Patrick Cockburn at Counterpunch. He is strongly critical of the rising U.S. military presence there; other viewpoints are certainly possible. For now, these will do:

Yemen has always been a dangerous place. Wonderfully beautiful, the mountainous north of the country is guerrilla paradise with well-defended villages and towns clinging to every peak...

The strength of the central government in the capital Sanaa is limited and it generally avoids direct confrontations with tribes, clans and powerful families. Almost everybody has a gun, usually at least an AK-47 assault rifle, but tribesmen often have own heavier armament.

I have always loved the country. It is physically very beautiful with stone villages perched on mountain tops on the sides of which are cut hundreds of terraces, making the country look like an exaggerated Tuscan landscape. Yemenis are intelligent, humorous, sociable and democratic, infinitely preferable as company to the arrogant and ignorant playboys of the Arab oil states in the rest of the Arabian Peninsula...

It is in this fascinating but dangerous land that President Barack Obama is planning to increase US political and military involvement. Joint operations will be carried out by the US and Yemeni military. There will be American drone attacks on hamlets where al-Qa'ida supposedly has its bases. There is ominous use by American politicians and commentators of the phrase 'failed state' in relation to Yemen as if this somehow legitimises foreign intervention...

The US will get entangled because

the Yemeni government will want to manipulate US intervention in its own interests and to preserve its wilting authority. It has long been trying to portray the Shia rebels in north Yemen as Iranian cats-paws in order to secure American and Saudi support...

In Yemen the US will be intervening on one side in a country which is always in danger of sliding into a civil war. This has happened before. In Iraq the US was the supporter of the Shia Arabs and Kurds against the Sunni Arabs. In Afghanistan it is the ally of the Tajiks, Uzbeks and Hazara against the Pashtun community...

It is extraordinary to see the US begin to make the same mistakes in Yemen as it previously made in Afghanistan and Iraq. What it is doing is doing to al-Qa'ida's advantage. The real strength of al-Qa'ida is not that it can 'train' a fanatical Nigerian student to sew explosives into his underpants, but that it can provoke an exaggerated US response to every botched attack. Al-Qa'ida leaders openly admitted at the time of 9/11 that the aim of such operations is to provoke the US into direct military intervention in Muslim countries. It is a formula which worked under President George W Bush and it still appears to work under President Barack Obama...

There are approximately 90 Yemeni detainees who have been at Guantanamo for years and have never been charged with a crime. Half of them have been "cleared for release," meaning that government officials believe they did nothing wrong or are of no danger to the U.S. Now John McCain, Joe Lieberman and Dianne Feinstein are demanding that all Yemenis be kept imprisoned anyway and not released because their home country is "unstable." Their attorney, David Remes, is challenging detention without charges: "I don't see what the chaos in Yemen has to do with whether to return Yemenis to their home because these men have been determined not to be dangerous to the U.S."

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**Death Announcement**

On Friday 22/1/2010 Taha Ali Mohammed Almasani has died. Nephews and his brother's sons are looking for his daughter (Maria) and her mother (Alina).

**So please if you know anything about them contact us on 04-260738 or 777392362**

مالية - متوسط في اللغة الإنجليزية - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر والطباعة باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية. للتواصل: ٧٧٠٠٦٤٩٣٧

رفيق صالح - بكالوريوس تجارة - ادارة اعمال - اللغة الإنجليزية متوسطة كتابة ومحادثة - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر - يجيد أعمال المكتب الإدارية - يرغب في العمل في أي شركة. للتواصل: ٧٧٧٠٣٤٣٥٣

خريج كلية الآداب - لغة إنجليزية - خبرة سنتين في المراسلات التجارية - دبلوم كمبيوتر وتصميم - يرغب في العمل في هذا المجال. للتواصل: ٧١٣١١٤٣٠٧

**إعلاناتكم**

يرجى التواصل مع قسم الإعلانات والتسويق على ٢٦٨٦٦١-٥١٠٣٠٦

بكالوريوس هندسة كمبيوتر - فلسطيني الجنسية - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية وبرامج الكمبيوتر - قدرة ممتازة على التعامل مع الآخرين - مديرسابق لمعهد لغات - يرغب في العمل في أي مكان للتواصل: ٧٣٣٨٠٣١٩٤

مراد - دبلوم عالي في هندسة الكمبيوتر والألكترونيات - دورة في النظام المحاسبي المتكامل - خبرة في صيانة الكمبيوتر. للتواصل: ٣٩٦٠١٥٠٢

مالك عبد الكريم - بكالوريوس محاسبة - دبلوم لغة إنجليزية - دورات في النظام المحاسبي المتكامل - خبرة ثلاث سنوات - دورات برمجة وقواعد البيانات - دورات محادثة انجليزي - خبرة في صيانة الكمبيوترات وفي السوفت وير. للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٥٣٥٥٩ - ٧١٢٧٣٤٩١١

عبد الكريم - بكالوريوس علوم رياضيات - جامعة صنعا - خبرة في استخدام الفوتوشوب وال 3D Max والإدارة - جيد في اللغة الإنجليزية - دبلوم مايكروسوفت أوفيس - يُجيد الطباعة على الكمبيوتر. للتواصل: ٧٧١٣٠٣٠٩٦

ربيع أحمد - بكالوريوس تجارة - محاسبة - النظام المحاسبي المتكامل - خبرة سنة - دبلوم كمبيوتر - دبلوم تسويق - دورة إنترنت - متوسط في اللغة الإنجليزية. للتواصل: ٧٣٤١٧٣٧٠ - ٧٧٧٠٩٨٠٩١

ماهر عبد الوهاب - دبلوم محاسبة

DHL: 441099/8/7/6  
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ازامكس صنعا ت: ٤٤١٠٢٤/٥  
عنن ت: ٢٤٣١٢٤  
تمن ت: ٢١٣٤٨٩  
الحيوة ت: ٣٠٩٩٠  
٢١٩٦٤٣

**مستشفيات**

مستشفى الثورة ت: ٠١/٢٤٦٩٦٧-٦٦  
المستشفى الجمهوري ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٨٦/٨٧  
مستشفى حدة الأمل ت: ٠١-٤١٢٩٨١  
المستشفى الاماني الحديث ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠/٦٠٠٠٠  
فاكس: ٤٧٨١٦٦  
E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

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وراء لينك ت: ٠١-٤٤٤٥٥٠-٤٤١٩٣٥

**الارقام الهامة**  
IMPORTANT Numbers

لايشارك في هذه المساحة الاتصال على  
تحويله ٢٦٨٦٦١ ٢٦١

**مستشفيات**

مستشفى الثورة ت: ٠١/٢٤٦٩٦٧-٦٦  
المستشفى الجمهوري ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٨٦/٨٧  
مستشفى حدة الأمل ت: ٠١-٤١٢٩٨١  
المستشفى الاماني الحديث ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠/٦٠٠٠٠  
فاكس: ٤٧٨١٦٦  
E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

**البنوك**

الشؤون الخارجيه ٧/٢٥٤٤-٢٥٤٤/٧، الشؤون الداخليه ٧/٢٥٢٧٠-٧/٢٥٢٧٠  
الهجرة ٧/٢٥٠٧١١، وزارة المواصلات (تفون) ٧/٢٥٢٢٢٠-٧/٢٥٢٢٢٠  
الإذاعة ٦١/٢٨٢٠، التلفزيون ١/٢٢٢٠-١/٢٢٢٠  
مؤسسة الإصاات للتقل داخل المن ١١/٢٦٢١١١  
وزارة المواصلات ١١/٢٦٢١١٠، السياحه ٢٢٤٠٢٢  
الصليب الاحمر ١١/٢٦٢١١٧، تليم ٧٥٢٢٢٢٧

**فنادق**

فندق فرساي ت: ٠١-٤٢٥٩٧/١-٢  
فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٣٣٧٥٠٠  
فندق موفبيك ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦  
فندق سنبا ت: ٠١-٢٧٢٢٧٢  
فندق ريلاكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١  
فندق وأجنحة الخليج السياحي ت: ٠١-٦٠٣٣٥٥ - ٦٠٢١٣٤/٨

**سيارات**

للبيع: سيارة سوزوكي / سويفت ٢٠٠٧ - نظيفة جداً - خمسة أبواب - اللون أحمر - اوتوماتيك - سعر خاص (٥٩,٥٥٠\$) للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٨٣٧٢٨

**مكاتب ترجمة**

التهاب لخدمات الترجمة (عربي- إنجليزي) (إنجليزي - عربي) تليفون: ٧٧٧٧٢٠٢٠ أو ٧٣٣٠٠٨٨٦ - فاكس: ٠١/٤٢٠٦٥٧  
إيميل: sts.yemen@gmail.com

**بنك اليمن الدولي**  
بنك العربي  
بنك التسليف الزراعي  
بنك المركزي

**معاهد**

معهد بالي ت: ٤٤٨٠٣٩-٤٤٨٠٣٩/٢/٤-٤٤٥٤٨٢ فاكس: ٤٤٨٠٣٧  
معهد اللغة الألمانية ت: ٢٠٠٩٥٥  
المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٢٦٦٢٢٢  
معهد كارتيكوس ت: ٥٣٢٤٣٦ فاكس: ٥٣٢٤٣٦  
معهد أليكتك ت: ٤٥٠٨٢٢ - ٥١٠٦١٢ فاكس: ٢٦٥٥٢٧

**تأجير سيارات**

زاوية (Budget) ت: ٣٠٩٦١٨٠٠-٦٣٧٢ فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨  
يورب كار ت: ٢٧٠٧٥١ فاكس: ٢٧٠٨٠٤  
هيزرت لتأجير السيارات صنعا ت: ٠١-٤٤٠٣٠٩  
فرع شيراتون ت: ٥٥٩٨٥  
عنن ت: ٢٠٢٤٥٦٢٥

**شركات للتأمين**

الوطنية للتأمين ت: ٧٧٧١٢/٧٧٧٨٣ فاكس: ٧٧٩٢٤٤  
مرب للتأمين صنعا ت: ٢٠٦١٢٩/٨/١٣  
الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين صنعا ت: ٢٤٤١٩٣  
عنن ت: ٢٤٤٢٨٠  
تعز ت: ٢٥٨٨٨١  
شركة اليمن للتأمين صنعا ت: ٢٧٢١٩١/٤٣ فاكس: ٢٧٢١٩١  
عنن ت: ٢٤٧٦١٧  
تعز ت: ٢٥٠٢٤٥

**مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر**

أبتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر (تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) شهادة أيزو ١.

صنعا ت: ٠١-٤٦٨٣٠٥  
فاكس: ٠١-٤٠٧٤٩٩  
عنن ت: ٢٠-٢٣٧١٩٩  
تعز ت: ٤٠٢٥٠٢٤٣  
المكلا ت: ٥٠٣٠٧٤٩٦

**مدارس**

روضة واحة الأطفال: تلفاكس: ٤٧٠٢٥٠-٤٧٠٢٥٠ موبايل: ٧٣٤٥٢٢٢٢٥  
مدرسة رينبو ت: ٤١٤٠٠٠-٢٦/٤٤٤-٤٢٣  
مدارس صنعا الدولية ت: ٢٧٠١٩١/٢ فاكس: ٢٧٠١٩٣  
مدرسة التركيبة الدولية ت: ٤٤٨٢٥/٨٩  
مدرسة الماجد اليمنية ت: ٢٠٦١٥٩

**البريد السريع**

Infinit Education T: 444553  
NIIT لتعليم الكمبيوتر ت: ٤٤٥٥١٨/٧-٤٤٢٠٧٣

**مطاعم**

مطعم ومخازن الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني) تلفون: ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - ٥٠٢٩٠ فاكس: ٢٦٦٦١٩

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**سيارات**

للبيع: سيارة سوزوكي / سويفت ٢٠٠٧ - نظيفة جداً - خمسة أبواب - اللون أحمر - اوتوماتيك - سعر خاص (٥٩,٥٥٠\$) للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٨٣٧٢٨

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عنوان التواصل:

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## An evening with camels

By: Omar Barsawad  
Moments in Words from Hadramout

A few days ago, I spent an evening with these extraordinary animals. Just a few meters from the center of Al Mukalla, is a market for camels.

Most people wrongly believe that, as camels mainly live in very arid, hot places, the humps that they have is for storing water. The humps are actually a reservoir of fat; it helps in providing nutrients when needed and in a way helps in controlling heat over the animal's body.

Camels are born without humps; the hump develops as the camel grows. And as camels use the fat within the humps when they have less food, the hump's size reduces. Or it increases when the camel has more food. Camels can weigh up to 700 kilograms and can grow up to slightly over 2 meters. They gestate for 11 months; usually giving birth to 1 calf at a time. The young reach adulthood at between 5 to 7 years. A normal life span for a camel is 40 years.

A camel's hump is a giant mound of fat. In a healthy, well-fed camel, the hump can weigh as much as 35 kilograms. The hump allows a camel to survive an extremely long time without food, if need be.

Camels are cud-chewers. Its mouth is very sturdy enabling it to chew dry, thorny desert plants. Its eyelashes have an interlocking system, of three eye-lids, which automatically shut when necessary; like during sand storms. The first two eye-lids have long eye lashes, which keep out sand; the third eye-lid is transparent and blinks side ways like car wipers, and is transparent allowing camels to see even when their eyes are



closed. Its nostrils are shaped to protect it from dust and to trap water vapor and return the vapor to the body during respiration. The ears too, are shaped to protect it from dust and sand. Camels release white salivary stuff when they feel threatened; as the above camel is doing when I got too close to it while taking these photos.

A camel's neck is long. This enables it to reach leaves and thorns which are high on trees. Its thick, hairy coat reflects sunlight and insulates it from intense desert heat or keeps it warm when it gets cold. Camels are unique; they can survive in extreme temperatures, both hot and cold. Their maintenance is cheap and easy as they can browse and eat a wide range of plant species; and they are very resistant to diseases.

Camels can survive without water or food; depending on the heat and how what luggage it is carrying, a camel can survive for up to 10 days without food or water. If it is cool, it

can live even longer without water. In the Sahara, they can go all winter without water.

Camels do not only live in some of the most desolate and inhospitable places on Earth; they thrive there. Where most large animals would perish, camels survive. They are able to do this by their amazing body mechanism and their incredible ability to efficiently use the available resources there; and they are omnivorous and able to eat a most varied type of foods.

Docile and very good when treated well; camels easily become angry and stubborn when ill treated. No other animal is as endearing to Arabs as the camel; it is said that there are about 160 words for 'camel' in the Arabic language. To most Bedouins, camels are a symbol of wealth and strength.

Here, camel meat is cherished; and so is its milk. Both of which, especially its milk - are considered medicinal. Even a camel's urine is

used as medicine for treating hepatitis, cancer, skin diseases, toothache, autism and many other diseases. The urine is also used as an antiseptic. I know for a fact, that women who have used camel urine to wash their hair, their hairs became longer, lighter and more lustrous.

Did you know that camel meat has no fat or cholesterol? As the fat is concentrated on a camel's hump, its meat is lean and better for us than beef and much better than pork. And did you know that camel's milk is closer to human milk than cow's milk and thus better for us? It does not curdle. Is more easily digestible than cow's milk. It has three times the amount of vitamin C than cow's milk; is rich in B vitamins and iron. And it also contains anti-bodies and insulin which can fight diseases.

Able to travel for up to 50 kilometers per day in the harsh, hot deserts; camels have long legs which keep it high from the hot sand. Its feet, with broader hooves than that of horses, has two toes - underneath which are fatty balls of leathery pads or 'cushions' which enable it to walk easily on sands. Observe closely at the way camels walk: of all animals, only cats and giraffes are known to walk in the same way - moving both front and back legs on one side of the body and then the other legs on the other side.

Camels are used in all Middle



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Eastern countries and in many parts of Asia. But, surprisingly, camels' predecessors are from the Western Hemisphere and they are closely related to llamas, alpacas and vicuñas of South America. Did you know that, today, of all people - Somalis, both in Somalia and in Ethiopia, have more camels, per capita, than any other people?

And did you know that, although Arabs use both very well; and love and value both very much, horses detest the smell of camels? In wars, when camels are used against horses - horses are known to become hard to control; and many times they run away from charging camels.

All old great Middle Eastern civilizations, very much depended on camels. The Arabs, the Assyrians, the Persians and the Nabateans all used camels. And so did the Muslim armies that conquered the then superpowers: the Byzantine and the

Persian empires in the 7th AD. Whenever one thinks of the Great Prophets of old, camels come to mind. The camel is mentioned several times in the Holly Bible. It is eloquently mentioned in Quran Al Kareem: Do they not look at the Camels, how they are made? ..... ~ Surat al-Ghashiya ~ 17-21.

No other people respect, cherish and value camels as Arabs and Muslims do. No other animal species is as important here as is the camel. It has served us very well before. Is still serving us. And will undoubtedly continue to serve us always. With the present, fast World's changing climate and as quick as food prices rise - as environmentally friendly a mode of transport as it is; as beneficial a dietary as it is; and as versatile, sustainable and adaptive as it is, the Camel will be a most important part of life here, for as long as it and humans exist.

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