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Saleh threatens Houthis of renewing war

Mohammad Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, March. 3 — On Tuesday, during a meeting with Houthi representatives, President Saleh threatened to renew the war if they do not commit to carry out the six conditions agreed to in the ceasefire.

According to media sources, this the first time Saleh has met with Houthi field leaders. Those who met with him were Abo Taha and Abu Malek, along with Sheikh Naser Kursha, one of the prior mediators between Saleh and the Houthis.

The sources reported that the Houthis demanded from Saleh that he fulfill his initial promises to release previously arrested Houthis and their supporters, before the six conditions are actioned. For his part, Saleh said that the Houthis should start to carry them out without any further procrastination.

"The state has proclaimed its demands through the six conditions to end the war and implement peace. We are fed up with a war that does not lead anywhere except to the destruction of Yemen," Saleh added.

Nevertheless, Saleh granted them the right to form a Houthi political party, saying that the state and the law guaranteed that for them.

Colonel Mohammad Al-Haweri, the head of the committee to implement the ceasefire on the Saudi-Yemeni border, said that the first condition had been fulfilled by the Houthis. He added that the second condition of handing over Houthi weapons is going well and confirmed that prisoners are also being transferred.

Al-Haweri revealed that by the end of March 10, the Houthis must fulfill all their obligations stated in the six conditions. He said that the committee has supervised the removal of landmines and occupation of mountain areas, in addition to the opening of roads between Sa'ada and the other governorates.

He added that in spite of the Houthis' being slow in fulfilling all their obligations, they had not committed any violations as regards the ceasefire agreement. The Houthis again confirmed their willingness to end hostilities, unless the government doesn't fulfill all their promised obligations.

A statement by the Houthis, mentioned on Tuesday, claimed that they have already ended occupying the mountains and that they have evacuated more than 20 positions in Al-Mahather and Dammaj, in Sa'ada.

In a similar context, tribal sources in the Al-Jawf governorate said that the intense dispute between the Houthis and Aal Saqra Aal Shawlan tribe had been settled by other tribes who wanted an end to the Houthi siege against the Al-Matama district, which had lasted for three months.

The head of the arbitration, Sheikh Saleh Durman, said that the Aal Saqra Aal Shawlan tribe desperately needed an end to this Houthi siege, in the knowledge that 75 people had been killed as a direct result of it. He added that opening roads and ending the siege were issues soon to be settled.

It is worth mentioning that the Al-Shawlan tribes in the Al-Jawf governorate are the only tribes that have fought with Houthis.

Eye-witnesses said that they saw Houthis driving cars, in Sa'ada, belonging to the government Central Security without any sign of intervention from the Yemeni army.

New developments
At the beginning of this week, around 200

schools, out of a total of 713, have started the new 2009-2010 school year, in Sa'ada.

It had been delayed for an entire semester, due to the armed conflict between the Yemeni government and the Houthis, in most of the surrounding districts. All these schools are located in the districts of Al-Hashwa, Sahar and Sa'ada city.

Educational sources from Sa'ada said that over 214 out of 713 schools have been damaged by the war.

The local authority in the governorate have also now decided not to resume the school year in some undamaged schools that are not under its control but this will hinder the studies of up to 120,000 primary and secondary school students.

On Thursday, Houthi spokesperson, Saleh Habra, attacked the head of the observation committee in Sa'ada city, parliamentarian Ali Abu Haliqa, describing him as a parasite.

"Abu Haliqa is not the head of the observation committee as was agreed, so why is he speaking on behalf of them?" asked Habra, in a telephone call to Al-Esharaki.net. Habra added that the committee is composed of four sub-committees and, to date, it hasn't signed any memos or held any meetings since its formation, due to the distance between each committee.

Eight wounded in confrontations in Al-Dhale'

By: Fuad Mussed
For the Yemen Times

AL-DHALE', March 7 — Violent confrontations took place on Saturday in Al-Dale' between the security guards and supporters of the Southern Movement.

The local authority imposed a curfew starting from 6 am in which confrontations continued between the security and the secessionists.

Around six soldiers and two women were injured. One was the mother of Mohammad Fadhl, wanted by the state for murdering a police officer.

Around seven houses were damaged in the crossfire.

The security also arrested Abu Al-Ma'atary, the leader of the so-called «Southern Revolution» and Mohammad Musa'ad Saif, the media person in for the secessionists.

In Zinjubar, Abyan, security forces last week besieged Sheikh Al-Fadhly's house demanding him to stop supporting secessionists in their protest against the state.

Sheikh Al-Fadhly is said to have signed an agreement with the state. The people in the south accused him of

siding with the state against them and of handing over — Ali Saleh Al-Yafi'i, a supporter of the Southern Movement and friend of Al-Fadhly, to the state to be executed.

As a result of Al-Fadhly's signing an agreement with the state and his ordering the people who live around his house to remove secessionist flags, tranquility resumed after months of unrest the governorate of Abyan.

As rumors about Al-Fadhly helping the state spread, news agencies have said that the state promised Al-Fadhly to appoint his brother as a governor of Abyan.

Supporters of the Southern Movement say that Al-Fadhly is still on their side and accuse the state of trying to split them to better control them.

A leader in the Southern Movement, who preferred to remain anonymous due to the sensitivity of the subject, said that Al-Fadhly is alleged to be working for the state to split the people who call for secessionism.

Over the last few months, people in the south have protested and attacked the properties of people from the northern districts of Yemen.

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Forged US dollars seized

By: Mahmoud Al-Harazi
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, March 6 — Approximately 25,000 forged US dollar notes have been brought into to Yemen with Egyptian aid by two brothers from Jordan.

They were working in the United Nations office in Egypt, said Mohammed Al-Faqiah, a prosecutor at the Public Funds Court.

To Al-Faqiah's knowledge, this fake currency definitely came from Egypt.

"The USD 25,000 were fake, but fine copies resembling originals. The two

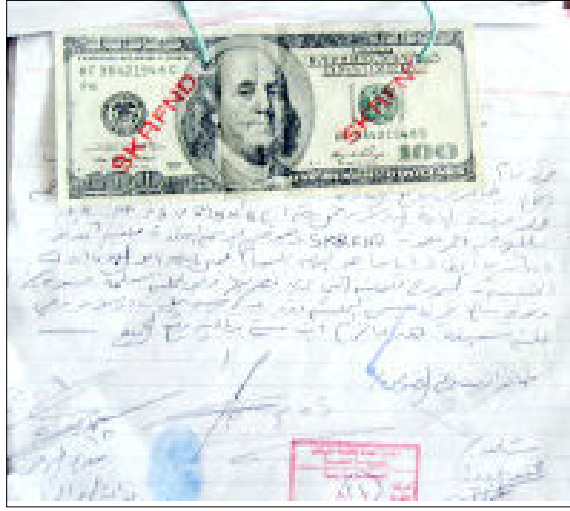
Jordanians asked an investor in Sana'a to look for a buyer for them. They bought the fake USD 100 for USD 30, and they intended to sell them for USD 50," the investor told the prosecution.

According to Al-Faqiah, the Jordanians were also held real USD 200 notes. One of them said that there were about USD 7 million. They were the real thing, stolen from the Egyptian United Nations office, but on each 100 dollar note there was writing, in red. They needed something to remove the writing before they could be sold.

The forged currency had been presented to the Court of Public Funds in that same week, according to the Judge Abderrazaq Al-Akhali, the Head of Public Funds Court.

The amount was about USD 2,500 in USD 100 notes and also YR200,000 in YR1,000 notes, and YR100,000 in YR 500 notes. In addition, there were approximately YR 50,000 in both YR1,000 and YR 500 notes.

Anyone who forges coins or banknotes in Yemen is imprisoned for up



to ten years. This is according to the 1994 law no. 12 of the Penal Code.

In 2009, Al-Akhali stated that there were 45 cases of forgery and handling forged currency, dealt with by the Court of Public Funds. He added that in the same year, 23 cases had been proved, sentenced and closed. One case is pending a ruling by the Court. Currently, there are 22 similar cases up in court in addition to these two new cases brought to the court a fortnight ago.

The suspects are two Jordanian brothers, according to Al-Akhali. They were detained by the Public Funds Court prior to trial but one of them has since been released from prison after the other one took full responsibility for the forgeries.

Forged currency, whether it local or international, results in continued losses for the national economy because it has not been produced by any true developmental activity, said

Mustafa Nassr, Chairman of the

Economic and Studies Centre.

When forged currency is found in quantity in the marketplace, production activity decreases and many people are affected, according to Nassr, who said that it confuses the economic cycle and the natural circulation of currency throughout the Yemeni economy.

"People also lose trust in currency that may be forged," he said.

This particular crime can be combated by incorporating designs rendering them difficult to print, said Nassr. He also said as well as these measures, the community must be made aware of the differences and the ways to spot forgeries. Then people will not become innocent victims.

Every year, five to six YR1,000 notes are found in markets, according to Edris Al-Qubati, who works at the Western Union money exchange shop in Sana'a.

"Every five months or so, our exchange offices discover forged USD 100 and YR 1,000 notes. These notes are handed in by people who are totally surprised by finding themselves with forged money," said Al-Qubati. "In the past there were much forged Saudi currency in the market especially, SR 500 notes"

The Yemen Times visited the suspect many times but he declined to comment.

State buildings in Dhamar still occupied by tribesmen

By: Yemen Times correspondent
For the Yemen Times

DHAMAR, March 3 — Three government buildings in Al-Hada district, Dhamar governorate, 100 km to the south of the capital Sana'a, continue to be occupied by tribesmen belonging to the Al-Bukhaiti tribe, headed by their leader Colonel Yahya Naser Al-Bukhaiti.

Three buildings in the district center, namely the local administration building, the general security building and the zakat duties administration building, were taken over by these tribesmen on January 20 and are now controlled by more than 1,000 armed men belonging to the Al-Bukhaiti tribe, according to Amr Yahya Al-Bukhaiti, the son of the tribal leader.

Al-Bukhaiti said that an attempt for mediation to free the district center from the armed men the attempt was unsuccessful.

He also accused the government of trying to create disputes between his tribe and the Al-Qawsi tribe in the governorate in order to divide them.

The recent appointment of Mohamed Al-Filahi as the head of the district by the Ministry of the Local Administration aggravated the tension between the state and the Al-Bukhaiti tribe. Al-Filahi, who is from Bani Falah tribe, was appointed after the former head, Abd Al-Wahab Al-Mashraqi, was fired and this is one of the causes of the tension, according to Al-Bukhaiti.

Al-Bukhaiti considers this decision, on the part of the ministry, as an attempt to weaken the tribe by dividing it and creating disputes, so that the government can use the situation to

regain its control over the tree buildings. He also described the state's action as one of the causes inciting violence.

"Certain actions of the state that are based in unequal treatment of tribes have been the cause of violence and illegal actions by the tribes," he said.

Al-Bukhaiti defended his tribe's actions by saying that his tribe is one of the most law abiding tribes and that it has always upheld the constitution.

He also accused the state of unequal distribution of development projects to tribes.

"The Al-Qawsi tribe has many more development projects in areas of technical education and roads compared to our tribe," said Al-Bukhaiti.

He said that, although his tribe protects the oil pipeline from Safer in Mareb to Aden Exporting Port passing through their lands, the tribe has not received any such projects.

An expelled student

Coming back to the topic of the occupied buildings, Al-Bukhaiti said that his armed men would not withdraw from the buildings unless the state apologized to his father, held the head of security in the governorate accountable and resolved the issue of his brother.

His brother Suhaib, the son of the tribal leader was a third-year student at the college of management studies at the University of Dhamar, but was expelled on account of disrespect to his professors and the rules of the university.

Last year, the student sent somebody instead of him during the final examinations of the university, was discovered, and prohibited from completing

his exams. The student was enraged and threatened both his professors and the administration at the university to allow him complete his exams.

As a result of this disrespect shown by the student towards his professors, the university expelled him and his tribe resorted to occupy the governmental buildings in order to exert pressure on the state, to allow the student to pursue his education.

Sources from the local authority in the district said that the local leadership is not concerned about removing the tribesmen from the occupied buildings, as the occupiers are not posing any kind of a risk or threat to the district.

"The district's affairs are being run normally without obstruction," said the source, adding that the armed tribesmen will probably leave the buildings of their own accord.

"The local authority will not use force to make the tribesmen to leave the buildings and it will not allow bloodshed for such trivial matters," said the source.

The Ministry of Local Administration appointed Mohamed Al-Filahi, a former officer at the Republican Guard, as the head of Al-Hada' district, two weeks ago and asked the resignation of Abd Al-Wahab Al-Mashraqi in the context of the incident.

Sources at the local authority confirmed that the new head of the district has not yet assumed office in order to avoid further clashes between his tribe, the Bani Falah tribe, and the Bukhaiti tribe.

Tribes in Al-Hada district are considered to be among the most important tribes in Yemen.

Second national conference on combating violence against women

Stop violence against women

Yemeni women need to be empowered from an early age so that they become active contributors to the development of their countries and for this to happen we must eliminate all the challenges facing women in Yemen. "Invest in women and girls and they will do the rest," was the message of the Women National Committee's second conference on the occasion of the International Women's Day March 8.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, March 7 — The first conference was conducted in March 2003, and since then there have been many activities and policies to combat violence against women. However, these policies have not found much implementation on the ground. During the seven years since the first conference, one of the most important achievements in this regard is the creation of SHIMA which is a network of civil society and government organizations working to eliminate violence against women.

"What we did is try to identify the priorities, gaps and required solutions for improving women's conditions especially since we don't have much concrete data in this field. So we did a lot of research and identified indicators so as to support policy makers in their future national plans," said Rashida Al-Hamdani, chairperson of the Women National Committee.

Prime Minister Dr. Ali Mujawar, inaugurated the conference and said that it takes place one day after the seventh meeting of the supreme coun-

cil for women which is a government body created to support women's issues in Yemen in 2003.

"We are committed to women's rights, and this is clearly visible in the five year national plan and the government's thematic policies. As we celebrate international women's day we should be proud of the achievements of Yemeni women as they are already part of the high level positions as ministers, ambassadors, deputy ministers and general directors," said the prime minister.

"I promise that the government will do its utmost best to give women their rights, and I call the political parties to support women," he said.

Al-Hamdani called on the various stakeholders to integrate women's needs and gender perspective in the national plans and budgets. Yet according to Al-Hamdani it is more important to dedicate resources and time to ensure the real implementation of those policies.

On behalf of the Dutch embassy First Secretary Gender/Women Development Conny Westgeest commented that this year the topic of cele-

brating International women's day is "Equal rights, equal opportunities: Progress for all".

"Women in Yemen are still suffering from various challenges, such as two thirds of girls in the rural areas don't go to school, and many Yemeni girls suffer from female genital mutilation, violence, and lack of maternal health care," she said. She added that there is a need to push for legislation of the minimum age for marriage to at least 17 years old which when applied would decrease the maternal mortality rates and reproductive health problems.

"Thanks to the world of the WNC and civil society organizations some progress could be seen in improving women's conditions in Yemen," Westgeest said.

"We must take the issue of gender sensitive budgets seriously, because this would lead to improving women's conditions and the country overall. And this is not a new trend or something we invented here, it is in fact, a world known method especially through adopting program based budgets rather than item based budgets," Al-Hamdani commented.

The WNC has achieved a significant progress when the decision makers and budget policy makers realized that gender sensitive policies don't mean dedicating budgets only for women, but rather integrate women's priorities in all the budgets. And this is gradually happening through the approach to dedicate more job opportunities for female teachers especially in rural areas.

Working on the position of women is very complicated task and integrating gender policies in the national plans does not quickly yield its results, according to Westgeest. She emphasized the Dutch embassy's will to empower Yemeni women and facilitate processes that leads to equality. For more than 30 years, the embassy has supported social development projects in Yemen especially those that empower women. And currently the embassy is working on helping women in the health, water and education sectors especially when it comes to qualifying and employing women. The embassy does this in close coordination with the government especially the Ministry of Planning as well as national and international organizations such as Oxfam. Therefore a close coordination between donors, government and civil society, and this is why the embassy supports the WNC in its work.

"But whatever aid and financial and technical support is given, it cannot lead to the desired results unless the policies and budget at high levels makes women's needs a priority. I know that the policy makers already know the needs of women but we still need more gender sensitive planning and budgeting at the top level of the government," emphasized Westgeest.

"We need to demand for a quota system in all policy and decision making positions and this is something we should not compromise in. Also we must dedicate all resources to legislate a minimum age for marriage in order to protect our little girls," Al-Hamdani said.

Video conference between students in Yemen and UK

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Mar.3- Students from Yemen and the UK put forward their own ideas for making the world a better place during the first international videoconference on Monday, March,1 between the schools, as part of the British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme.

The videoconference "The Future, Our Future" held at the British Council in Sana'a saw 10 Yemeni students from Baghdad School for Boys and Rabeia Al Adawiyah School for Girls, in Sana'a discuss with stu-

dents from Ysgol Dinas Bran in Wales issues they had agreed in advance. These covered what the students can do as responsible global citizens to preserve the environment, how they would like to change things for the better in their own countries and what they can learn from each other.

This videoconference is the latest in a series of joint school projects undertaken by the Yemeni and Welsh schools since their international school partnership was formed in 2005, as a way to help build greater understanding and trust between the two societies. The successful school

partnership has seen students from Raba'a Al Adawya'a and Bagdad schools travel to Wales last summer at the invitation of Ysgol Dinas Bran to take part in the World Youth Skills Challenge, where they gained a first hand insight into each other's cultures.

Since the British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme was introduced into the Middle East in 2006 more than 300 schools in the region and the UK are now exchanging knowledge about their respective cultures through international school partnerships, which includes 45

schools in Yemen.

"Teachers say this dynamic and real world learning opportunity motivates students and encourages them to also learn a little more about their own culture," said Michael White, Country Director Yemen "This also helps raise standards in schools and provides teachers with opportunities for professional development."

"Initiatives such as this videoconference are an exciting new way for students in Yemen and the UK to work together to build greater understanding about each others' cultures," he added

"It was clear that all the students were learning something from the opportunity to see and talk to each other even though they were separated by thousands of kilometres. Their animated discussions showed how committed these young people are to making a positive contribution to building a better world for their future."

"Connecting Classrooms is just one of the British Council's global programmes which contribute to its core purpose of building engagement and trust for the UK through the exchange of knowledge and ideas world-wide

working in particular with people face to face, through education and culture in the world's most difficult places and building trust where the UK divides opinion – in places like Yemen, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, and Burma."

Connecting Classrooms builds lasting partnerships between schools in the UK and others around the world. Through these partnerships, the programme develops trust and understanding between young people in different societies, creating a safer and more connected world for the future.

In Brief

SANA'A Meteorological Center: Impact of Sumatra quake may not reach Yemen coasts

The National Meteorological Center ensured Friday fishermen and locals of Yemeni islands and coastal cities that the possibility of a similar quake resulting from the Sumatra quake is very unexpected. The Center said, in a statement, "The Tsunami impact due to the aftershocks which rattled northern Sumatra Island does not go above 100 km p/h which very much diminishes the possibility of the impact reaching Yemen islands and coasts overlooking the Indian Ocean."

It affirmed this statement is final if no new information or changes has popped up.

IFAD future projects in Yemen reviewed

Yemen and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) discussed on Wednesday the future projects the Fund would carry out in Yemen.

Minister of Fisheries Wealth Mohammed Shamlan held talks with the Yemen's Portfolio manager in IFAD Omar Zafar on the details of the projects that would be implemented under the IFAD's grant to the fishery sector in Yemen amounting to \$15 million. The grant aims to develop the

coastal areas in Yemen via carrying out infrastructure projects in the areas of fishermen communities and upgrading the fishery facilities management and training on the good exploitation of fishery resources and developing women's capabilities in the coastal areas in addition to offering loans for fishermen.

Shamlan appreciated the fund's aid that aims to develop the fishery sector, enhance the food security and advance the development in Yemen.

Dutch 2010 development aid budget for Yemen discussed

Yemen and the Netherlands held Talks here on Wednesday on the details of the Dutch development aid budget for Yemen for 2010.

During his meeting with the Dutch ambassador to Yemen RH Buikeman, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul-Karim al-Arhabi reviewed the work progress of developing the initiative of the Group of Yemen's Friends.

Al-Arhabi gave the Dutch ambassador a clear idea on the results of the meeting held in Riyadh between Yemen and the donors, expressing his satisfaction of the meeting's outcomes which reflected the regnant understanding in the Yemen's relations with donors' on the challenges nature

Yemen faces.

Al-Arhabi and Buikeman also discussed the arrangements for the fourth five-year plan.

On the other hand, al-Arhabi briefed the officer of the Middle East and the Yemeni-British relations at the UK Foreign Ministry Michael Aaron on the Riyadh meeting's outcomes as well as the developments in the Group of Yemen's Friends' initiative.

Moreover, al-Arhabi and Aaron talked about subjects for promoting the existing cooperation between Yemen and UK, particularly in the aspects of the new support for development process in Yemen during the coming three years.

Food and waters security meeting to be held next September

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Mansor al-Haoshabi announced on Friday that Yemen would host a meeting on food and waters security next September within activities of 2010 Tarim Islamic Cultural Capital.

In his statement to Saba, al-Haoshabi said that the meeting aims at enlightening people on food and waters security which are considered main problems facing the nation.

The minister reviewed measures taken by the ministry to achieve the waters secu-

rity in province of Hadramout such as building eight dams in different regions of the province.

YWU ends 3rd National Conference activities

The 3rd National Conference of the Yemeni Women Union (YWU) affirmed Thursday the significance of amending the personal status laws to contribute to reinforcing the protection of childhood and family against oppression, injustice and abuse.

In the final statement of the conference, the female participants demanded concerned bodies set the safe marriage age at 18.

They emphasized the importance of creating permanent social alliances supporting the approval of quota system at 15 per cent at the minimum as an approach to reach the Parliament, Shoura Council, local councils, political parties and executive authority.

The statement valued the supportive efforts being exerted by the political leadership represented by President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his firm positions to enable the Yemeni woman to reach decision making positions.

They pointed out their adherence to the Yemeni unity as it is the fate of Yemen, denouncing any call for separation in the Yemeni unified people and land.

Their News

Queen Rania joins forces with GSMA to launch IGOAL: Education for All Mobile Campaign

Operators serving more than 1 billion mobile users will reach out to subscribers to back the IGOAL education initiative in a massive communication campaign

Tuesday, February 16th 2010 (Office of Her Majesty, Press Department-Barcelona) At the Mobile World Congress held in Barcelona today, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan joined forces with the GSMA, the mobile industry's leading institution, to announce the IGOAL: Education for All Mobile Campaign in support of 72 million children still denied access to basic primary education.

As the world's largest ever cause-related campaign of its kind, the initiative brings together mobile network operators from around the world, football stars and FIFA, along with educational champions, celebrities, charities and campaigners to support IGOAL - the legacy of the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa.

"We are grateful for the GSMA's leadership and partnership in creating this campaign," said Her Majesty Queen Rania, co-founder and global co-chair of the IGOAL initiative.

"I want to thank each and every one of you here today who has joined the IGOAL team and who'll reach out to subscribers with a message, an app, or a widget," added Queen Rania at the event attended by over 1,600 mobile professionals, industry executives and media representatives.

Along with IGOAL, the mobile campaign coordinated by GSMA will leverage the popularity of the World Cup to petition global leaders to meet the UN's 2015 target date for achieving universal education.

As part of an effort to demonstrate that universal education is a universal demand, operators serving more than 1 billion mobile users will provide a platform for people and football fans globally, to sign up to IGOAL via a host of mobile response mechanisms.

Speaking at the event, Rob Conway, CEO of the GSMA, said: "Our board has recognized the role, responsibility and reach of mobile in harnessing global support for

universal education, a critical part of the UN's mission to eliminate world poverty."

"As a result, today we announce a collaborative campaign that is unprecedented in our industry, utilizing the scale of the world's largest communications medium to make a practical difference to the future for millions of children in the world," Conway added.

Also today, Aaron Mokoena who flew in from South Africa for the announcement said: "As the South African team captain and on behalf of all of my team, and the children of Africa, thank you to the global mobile companies that have signed up so far to support IGOAL. This will be the year that the mobile fraternity and football joined hands for the greatest of events, and the greatest of causes; Education for All."

Attending the event today, President of FC Barcelona, Joan Laporta also committed his team's support to the event and to the IGOAL campaign.

During the keynote address at the Congress, Queen Rania recognized the power and increase in mobile communication technology, citing Africa's 1000% increase in mobile subscribers in just ten years and the GSMA's growth rate of over 1000 subscribers per minute, suggesting that the way mobile phones and text messages are being used today, is revolutionizing societies and boosting economies as well as transforming the way we tackle humanitarian crises and aid efforts.

"Today, the mobile telephone is not just a means for talking, texting and keeping in touch," said Queen Rania. In the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake, mobile phone technology was not only effective in rallying masses and raising money, but also in saving lives and reconnecting loved ones, she added.

However, Her Majesty noted that, mobile phones are also transforming health, banking and agricultural sectors in many developing countries, but, as yet, their potential in the education sector was still to be realized.

As a global education advocate, Queen Rania urged operators all over the world to leverage their research and innovation tools to scale up mobile technologies and learning:

"I want you to be the institution that makes m-learning massive, and turns it into a force for dynamic educational impact,"

stated Queen Rania.

Mobile-learning, often referred to as "anytime, anywhere" learning, widens educational opportunities for children, Her Majesty explained, by providing schooling services in areas where traditional education aid cannot reach, like rural villages and conflict zones.

Citing examples of pioneering m-learning services offered in countries like Kenya, for example, where mobile operators have launched an application where kids can take quizzes in maths and science, Queen Rania further underscored the advantages of introducing this kind of technology to support the learning process in the classroom.

Further calling on industry leaders to connect all children to a network of knowledge which ensures "digital justice," Her Majesty encouraged attendees to re-imagine the potential of m-learning, especially in

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Astrologer's earthquake prediction sparks fear in Dhamar

For the Yemen Times

The people of Dhamar, 100 km south of the capital Sana'a, have been worried for the last three months about rumors of an earthquake that could wipe the city of 200,000 inhabitants off the map.

Their worry increased after seismic activity recorded 7 km to the southeast of the city in the area of High Samah in February, as confirmed by the Earthquakes and Volcanoes Monitoring and Research Center (EVMRC) based in Dhamar city.

The Haiti earthquake in January revived the memory of an earthquake in Dhamar in December 1982 that measured 6 on the Richter scale. It left 2,500 people dead and 25,000 wounded in addition to the complete destruction of 15,000 houses and partial destruction of 50,000 others.

All this seismic activity has been very disturbing for locals, especially those who lived through the 1982 earthquake catastrophe considered to be the most serious earthquake in the country in modern history.

The EVMRC assured the locals that no major earthquakes would take place, but the predictions of some astrologers reported in the media were taken seriously by most locals.

In January and February, some residents took to sleeping in their backyards, in their cars parked in valleys and public spaces in the city and others on both sides of the streets. Although they have now returned to their homes, they still live in fear.

Some locals expressed their fear from the increasing number of the recent seismic activities that would mean a strong earthquake similar to the 1982 earthquake leaving thousands of dead and injured.

Abdulla Hamoud, one local, said that he took his children out of the house to a small tin room in the backyard for several nights while he and his wife stayed inside, because he has a strong belief in destiny. He did this only to make his children become used to possible future emergencies.

Nasser Ahmed, an employee, said that he and his wife travelled to Sana'a for a few days to stay at his wife's family's house until the mood settled in Dhamar and also travelled to Aden for a week. Later, when he returned home, he was criticized by his father and brothers.

Student Abdulla Salah said that his family left their house which was built according to regular building specifications and moved into his uncle's house that was built according to more sophisticated specifications. He was however surprised to see that his uncle's family slept in the backyard for three days, despite frost waves reaching their peak during that month.

Construction worker Naji Emran said that he still every now and then feels mild tremors that make him wake up from sleep with a start, and that he keeps having earthquake nightmares leaving him sleepless and terrified.

Hussein Al-Insi, a teacher, said that he noticed one night in one of the city's old neighborhoods that some families had set tents far away from their homes to sleep in and that most of them there believed that the earthquake would take place during the night.

Al-Insi said that he saw, in one of the tents, an old lady of almost 80 years sleeping outside on a night that was one of the coldest this year. The old lady had left home like the other family members, fearing the earthquake.

Mohammed Ahmed said that he and his children all slept in one room and that he feared that Dhamar would one day witness such a devastating earthquake that would completely destroy a city that contains so many slum areas and buildings built according to minimum architectural specifications.

Ali Al-Insi, another employee, said that people here didn't learn from the first time when the strong earthquake hit the city, and that they did not make sure to build according to better specifications and benefit from the experience of 1982.

He also mentioned that a number of residential villages were established in a number of areas according to earthquake resistance specifications.

Afrah, a university student, said that fear is spreading all over the city. Women

believe in rumors more than men do and consequently they play a major role in spreading them all over especially during parties, weddings and women's gathering.

They talk mainly about the earthquake sharing inaccurate and misleading news and information about it, making it sound more serious and horrifying.

The 2008 earthquake

Basher Abdel Wahab, a well-educated man, brought us back to October 2008.

In August that year, Al-Thawra newspaper published the predictions of a 7.8 degree earthquake hitting the country and affecting neighboring Gulf countries. The published article left Dhamar locals terrified for several days.

Basher said that the published predictions were taken seriously by the different public and formal entities inside and outside Yemen, leaving people worried and terrified. Many families left their homes to set tents up in their backyards, in public parks, and in farming lands, living like Bedouin for a few days.

The earthquake -predicted to happen on October 19, 2008- didn't happen eventually as expected, says Basher. It took place three days later on October 21 in the Dhoor'an Ans district and was very mild. It merely ensured that the astrologer who had predicted it save face, he said.

According to Basher, the mild seismic activity gave a little importance to those predictions, to the extent that some criticized the EVMRC as being ineffective and a waste of resources.

Scientists reject predictions

An academic resource from the Faculty of Applied Sciences at Dhamar University, who preferred to remain anonymous, questioned the credibility of this year's predictions, highlighting the difference between astrology and geology and the movement of earth's tectonic plates.

He said that it was the responsibility and major role of the media to raise the public's awareness, instead of misleading them and spreading fear among them.

EVMRC director Engineer Jamal Sha'lan denied the predictions of future seismic activity in the area, saying that no international researcher can predict the time and place of possible future earthquakes.

The specialized researcher can only gather information about previous earthquakes in point of the earth to research the possibilities of earthquake reoccurrence in the future.

Sha'lan also noted that it is widely known since thousands of years that mild earthquakes happen constantly in the western areas by the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, based on historical data collected and documented by the center.

In the southern part of the Red Sea and the center of the Gulf of Aden, earthquakes happen regularly and their strength may reach more than 6 degrees on Richter scale.

He also said that all the seismic activity that was recorded during the last few months in Dhamar, specifically in the south eastern part of the governorate, is part of the mild natural activity in the south western parts of the country due to the existence of distinct volcanic fields in those parts.

Some of these fields are either volcanic exits or hot water springs where there is a considerable amounts of sulfur gases causing mild earthquakes to take place every now and then.

Sha'lan said that lack of awareness and minimum scientific knowledge among people in the community cause rumor such as the current one about an earthquake to spread so fast.

He also said that spreading misleading rumors about the earthquake has a negative influence on the center as well as deceives members of the public providing them with false scientific information.

Moreover, Sha'lan stressed the fact that earthquakes are a natural renewable phenomena that no one can prevent from happening, no matter what his scientific background or power.

Prepare yourselves

Following strict architectural guidelines during the construction of buildings can limit the damage of earthquakes, said the engineer.



The difference between developing and developed countries is clear, he said. The Haiti 7 degree earthquake left massive destruction due to the poor infrastructure and building specifications, while such an earthquake in Japan for instance or in the United States would not be as destructive, he said.

Sha'lan also confirmed that all the EVMRC research stations started recording constant seismic activities deep in the ground since November 29, 2009 in the area of High Samah, 7 km away from the southeast of Dhamar.

He clarified that those activities are constantly recorded since November and that the highest was recorded on January 17, at 4.3 degrees on the Richter scale and 3.6 km deep, which is considered to be relatively mild activity.

Another one was recorded on December 22, 2009, with 3.9 degrees on the Richter scale and 6 km deep.

He also added that the center has set a field monitoring station in the area to monitor and record seismic activity in that area and in the different Yemeni areas, whether at sea or on the land.

Earthquake danger maps

The main scientific role of the EVMRC is to collect all data from the different monitoring stations throughout the country and then use this data to make maps called Earthquakes Danger Maps. On these maps, land and water where seismic activity has been recorded are all pinpointed on a timeline of 10 to 20 years ahead.

These maps are distributed to the different public and formal entities to improve construction in the areas specified, where buildings are then built according to special customized specifications to better resist earthquakes.

Those activities recorded in Dhamar have alerted the different formal bodies who have met to announce the formation of the Friends of Civil Defense to work on building the community's ability to face earthquakes and train them on emergency responses. This will be conducted through the civil defense, the Yemeni Red Crescent and other involved organizations.

Ahmed Al-Azab, chief of civil defense in Dhamar, said that his men had gone through major training based on the predictions published and that they have developed a training plan for the locals as well.

Dr. Abdassalam Al-Ahsab, president of the Yemeni Red Crescent in Dhamar, said that the Yemeni Red Crescent is founding an emergency team of volunteers from Dhamar and it is adopting earthquake and disaster awareness programs for elementary and secondary school students.

Al-Ahsab also said that it is essential to build the capacities of the Red Crescent to deal with any future possible disasters.

It is also important for international organizations to adopt the emergency

training programs of the Red Crescent volunteers and contribute to the establishment of branches for the Red Crescent in the different directorates of Dhamar, a governorate where some locations are hard to access.

Astrologers predict

Yemeni astrologer Homoud Al-Zaidi, currently the head of the Insightful Stars Scientific Center for Astronomical Engineering and Identification of Disasters and Natural Resources, in January predicted that devastating earthquakes ranging 6 to 7 degrees on the Richter scale would take place in the

center and west of Yemen and in the southwest of Saudi Arabia and in Ethiopia and Mexico between the January 21 and 23. They did not happen.

He also warned about a flooding of the Nile in southern Egypt and Northern Sudan in the same three days mentioned. This did not happen either.

In a statement broadcast by Al-Jomhour newspaper on the Internet on January 21, he called on all the specialized entities in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia and Mexico to take the necessary procedures.

At the end of August 2008, Al-Zaidi told the Al-Thawra newspaper that all

safety precautions should be taken to face a potential major earthquake that might record 8.7 degree on Richter scale expected to happen on October 19, 2008 in the area of the Gulf of Aden and the south of the Red Sea.

The earthquake would center on Yemen and Ethiopia with the possibility of reaching Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, Ukraine and Tanzania. Al-Zaidi's expectations during 2008 spread fear among the public in Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

His predictions were dispelled by both Yemeni astrologer Ahmed Muhsen Al-Joobi and the EVMRC at the time as lacking scientific justification.

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4- Commercial officer:

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Life resumes at the orphanage



Photos courtesy of Al-Rahma Orphanage

By: Shatha Al-Harazi
For the Yemen Times

At the Rahma Orphanage in Sana'a, 15-year-old Hana sat on her bed reading.

"Her parents died in Dhamar so she moved to Sana'a to live with her only uncle, who was the only person she had left, and that's when her tragedy started," explained the young woman who now acts as her foster mother at the orphanage.

"Her uncle was a drunken monster who tortured her; beating and burning her," she said. "You can easily see the scars on her body. He even burnt her tongue with a cigarette."

"Finally he brought her to Sana'a and left her alone in Shumeila Street. Someone found her there and took her back to their house for a while, before bringing her here to the orphanage."

"The orphans' horrible histories follow them in their dreams," said Faiza Obad, head of the orphanage. "We sometimes think, after listening to their stories, that nothing could make them feel secure from life's cruelty. Not only have their parents died, but also the child inside them."

"That is why we try our best to help them overcome their individual traumas," she said.

"We are the first Yemeni orphanage for girls," she continued. "We try to make sure that these girls feel that the place is their safe home."

The orphanage has asked two therapists to help out on a voluntary basis, she explained.

"When a girl acts strangely or seems distressed, they call them in," she said. "They sit with the girls, talk to them, and encourage them to draw. They may only use these simple methods to treat the girls, but it works and we soon notice the difference."

The Rahma Orphanage is one of five orphanages funded by the Rahma Foundation for Human Development. Although this orphanage is for girls only, other branches exist for their brothers.

The orphanage provides accommo-

modation, education, training and rehabilitation, in addition to health and psychological care to those in need. The girls are also given monthly pocket money.

When we visited, in the reception area, three girls brought us chocolates whilst outside, a group of girls were cleaning the building's windows, as others played together in the yard. It was like one big family.

Up in their rooms, the orphans were sitting on the floor reading books and chatting with each other. About 12 girls share a four-bedroom apartment with refrigerator, washing machine, television and toys. There are five apartments in two different buildings.

New mothers

Each apartment has a supervisor called a "mother," who wakes them up in the morning. She makes sure they eat properly, supervises their homework, and reads them the Quran. She is also there to listen and advise them, if they have problems.

The girls clean their apartments and each one has her own duties. At prayer time, they stop everything and gather for prayer, choosing one of them every day to be the imam.

"We try our best to make them feel at home and part of a family; that's why we ask them call their supervisors 'mother,' but some orphans depend on and love these 'mother' so much that if she ever had to leave the orphanage, it would traumatize the child all over again," said Obad. "In the past, sadly, this has happened."

"Now we routinely change the mothers, to avoid the shock when a mother leaves," said Obad, the only constant mother.

"The orphanage supplies all supervisors with training in child psychology so that they can interact with the orphans better and raise their own awareness of how to deal with abnormal child behaviour. This will help the girls relate better to each other and overcome their sadness," added the head of the orphanage.

Overcoming the trauma

Basma's story began with a father

who divorced her mother three times.

Her mother went back to live with her grandfather, who then refused to support her and her three daughters. He threw them out of the family home and she found herself alone in the street, with three children. She managed to rent a small apartment to live in.

Her husband searched all over Sana'a and eventually tracked them down. He broke into their apartment and stabbed her three times in front of his own children, then ran away.

Basma, the eldest, tried to call the neighbours to rescue her mother but they preferred to hide, rather than become involved in a murder case.

When she first arrived at the orphanage, Basma was put into the best apartment with girls of her own age and a very kind 'mother'.

"She needs so much kindness in her life," said her new mother. "She has experienced so many bad times and she now needs to feel safe. When she arrived, she was very sad."

"We started by introducing her to the other girls and giving her responsibility for the gifts given to those who finish their duties and homework, and through this she felt loved and valued," she explained. "Day by day, she felt more secure."

"Sometimes she still seems miserable. When I notice that, I gather the girls and play with them. Sometimes, we have competitions and I help her to win by making it easier for her. She then feels happier and forgets this sadness. Now she is one of the best girls in the orphanage. She helps the others and studies hard."

Different methods work with different children.

"We found this little girl whose mother had sold her to someone who smuggles children out of Yemen, to work as a beggar," explained a 'mother'. "Somehow, they brought her back here and placed her in this orphanage. We have tried hard to change her street attitude and teach her how to be a normal child again."

When she first arrived, she used bad words and was violent with the other girls, so the orphanage gave her a stricter 'mother'. Now all her anti-social behaviour has stopped and she is much calmer, according to her mother, who can now treat her more gently.

Regaining trust

Amira, 10, is suspicious of everything around her and seems to trust no one. One minute she tells a story and then immediately denies it, seemingly afraid of something.

She came to the orphanage almost two years ago and still no one knows her true story.

"I escaped from my father's house in one of the Gulf countries. He was beating me because one day, I accidentally broke the refrigerator so I waited until midnight and escaped," she said.

"A man found me in the street but when he asked about my parents, I lied and told him that they were dead, so he took me to a police station. When they couldn't find any relatives they deported me back to Yemen and I was taken from the police station and put in this orphanage."

Her face is marked with scars that she says are a result of being beaten with iron chains.

She refuses to say who was responsible, once accusing the police of hitting her before her deportation, then accusing the Yemeni policemen, and finally changing her story, yet again, to accuse some unknown men.

"They hurt me badly and threatened me. Nothing will stop them from kill-

ing me if I tell you their names," she said.

Her supervisor said that when Amira arrived at the orphanage, she was very aggressive. But with time, her manners are improving despite her still being distressed. She still has nightmares and screams in her sleep, say the supervisors.

When she first arrived, the mothers were very kind to her. Then, slowly, they told her off when she lied, either directly or, if possible, indirectly through addressing all the children.

According to her supervisor, she now apologizes to the other girls if she has lied to them.

"She was the most difficult girl we have dealt with, but with time we have tried to teach her that lying is bad," she said. "If she confesses, the punishment is less than she expects; like not having chocolates, but when she doesn't own up, she is not allowed to eat with the others or the girls are not allowed to talk to her for two days, or she has to stay at the orphanage when everyone else goes to the park."

"She has improved. She still lies from time to time - but not as much as before."

Further studies and marriage

"One girl, who first came to the orphanage in 2002, got married and she and her husband received a

scholarship to study at a university in the US," said Obad. "She is still in touch with us. Whatever happens, she calls us. When she passes her exams, she always calls us to share her good news."

"These girls' marriages are very normal," she explained. "When a young man comes and proposes, we ask about his upbringing and discuss it with the girl. If she approves, they can marry."

"All the girls remain in touch with us, because, after all, we are their family," said Obad.

"Last year, five girls graduated from high school and they are looking forward to starting university. We encourage all the girls to complete their studies. If they then can't find a job, we hire them at the orphanage or encourage them to do some volunteer work until they find paid employment."



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INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

Consulting Services - Health Sector

Deadline: 07.04.2010

International, Open Tender for Reproductive Health Project III

Ref-N°: 2007 65 230 (grant number)

Tenderer: Ministry of Public Health and Population, Yemen

Project Measures: The Project is designed as a pilot for "output based aid" in the reproductive health sector in Yemen. It comprises German Financial Cooperation, funded through KfW Development Bank, to support the introduction of a voucher system ("Safe Motherhood Voucher" and "Family Planning Voucher"). The Project finances vouchers for the diagnosis and treatment of childbirth, measures of clinical birth control, family planning, and the design and management of the vouchers.

Requested Consultant Services: Voucher Agency for the design, implementation and management of a voucher system

The prequalification of experienced Consultants will follow the latest version of the "Guidelines for Assignment of Consultants in Financial Co-operation Projects" (refer to homepage of KfW development bank www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de). It is foreseen to give the service to an independent Consultant experienced in the financial management and health sector and the region with a minimum annual turnover of 200,000 EUR. The complete invitation letter is available at KfW Office Sana'a (Tel. 00967-1-426351, gmandan.manshalin@kfw.de).

**REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION
PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION UNIT (PIU)**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCY FIRMS
To Conduct**

Design Modification of Al-Ghaidah General Hospital (RFP # 01)

The Ministry of Public Health and Population has received Governmental Support from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) and intends to apply this support to payments under the contract to conduct the design modification of "Al-Ghaidah General Hospital" in Al-Mahrah Governorate.

The objective of the Consultancy and expected tasks:

- 1- Survey and Soil investigation.
- 2- Prepare Site plan, Site development in terms of buildings, utilities, infrastructure, External works landscaping, Floor plan to define the layout of various departments in terms of zoning, space, accommodation inter & intra department relationship.
- 3- Final detailed designs for Al-Ghaidah General Hospital.
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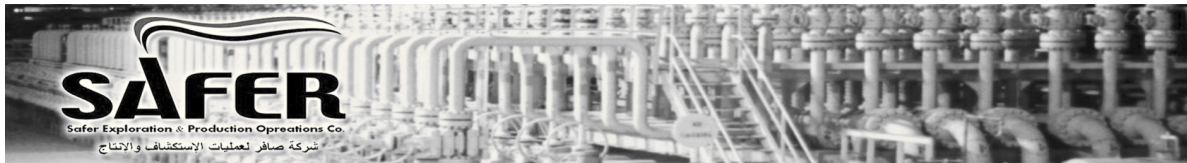
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PT (Penetrant Testing), MT (Magnetic Particle Testing), RT (Radiographic Testing) etc.

Requirements

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- Hands on Experience with oil and Gas Static Equipment.
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- Should be fully conversant with MS Office.
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- Proficiency in English, both spoken and written is must.

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Requirements

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- Must have good knowledge of safe work practices including hot/cold work permits
- Must be able to read and understand spare parts, service manuals and technical literature
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Requirements

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- 5-10 years work experience in related position in the oil & gas industry.
- Ability to read and interpret engineering and manufacturers drawings, P&IDs and blue prints is essential.
- Must have PLC, RTU and SCADA experience.
- Must have good knowledge of safe work practices including hot/cold work permits.
- Must be able to read and understand spare parts, service manuals and technical literature.
- Proficient in using computers including Microsoft office applications.
- Good reading and writing of English.

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ONLY shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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

Can Gaza become a Somalia or Yemen?

By: Matthew Levitt

If al-Qaida's global jihad were to truly set roots in Gaza, it would markedly increase the nature of the terrorist threat it faces.

The recent arrest of an organized cell in the northern West Bank inspired by al-Qaida's ideology is a stark reminder of the expanding nature of the threat facing Israel. Today, threats come not only from the enemies it has long known, such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad which target Israel at home, but from new and potentially more dangerous ones, such as radicalized individuals in the West Bank or formalized groups such as Jaish al Islam and Jund Ansar Allah in the Gaza Strip, that are ideologically aligned with al-Qaida and are eager to globalize the assault on Israel.

In the West Bank, where intelligence and law enforcement agencies can keep close tabs on terrorist recruitment in general, and Salafi-Jihadi elements in particular, al-Qaida-inspired terrorism has appeared only sporadically through individuals radicalized from the Internet or traveling abroad. The ability of West Bank Arabs to travel and study abroad creates opportunities for radicalization and recruitment, but the area's relatively strong and growing civil society makes it less amenable to the development of organized Salafi-Jihadi groups. While even small cells or lone wolves could potentially carry out significant terrorist attacks, the threat is minimized by the strong Israeli and growing Palestinian security presence in the West Bank.

THE GAZA Strip, however, is another story. In fact, even as Gaza terrorists floated barrel bombs toward Israel last week, a virtual terrorist salvo was also being directed out of Gaza.

The al-Fallujah web forum featured a Salafi-Jihadi blogger from Gaza who called on al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula to attack Yemeni Jews (and even a Hamas official in Yemen) in an effort to broaden the terrorist threat from Gaza well beyond the shores of southern Israel.

For Gazan jihadists, like this blogger, Israel, Jews and even Hamas are all enemies. By engaging in secular politics, failing to institute Shari'a, and cracking down on fellow Palestinians who do attack Israel or threaten its rule, Hamas has created a vacuum Salafi-Jihadi groups have been keen to fill. Such groups are in large part comprised of disillusioned Hamas members and a small number of foreign fighters – from places as diverse as Yemen, Egypt, Syria, France and Belgium. Some foreign fighters from Europe have reportedly "come with their credit cards" and financed jihadist activities while in Gaza. And yet none of the Salafi-Jihadi groups in the Gaza Strip are formally tied to al-Qaida.

Contrary to the conventional wisdom perpetuated by media reports that regularly inflate their numbers and capabilities, membership in Gaza's various Salafi-Jihadi groups totals just 200-300 combined.

While small in number, such groups nonetheless "think big" and are regularly plotting large-scale attacks, such as infiltrating Israel with booby-trapped trucks. Their capabilities have been significantly enhanced by the entry of several dozen foreign fighters starting in 2005, after Israel's withdrawal from Gaza.

In 2009, reports emerged that some individuals who traveled to Iraq to fight US forces have since turned to Gaza. Israeli defense officials express concern that this influx will increase as US forces are rotated out of the country. While few, if any, of these foreign fighters are directly affiliated with al-Qaida, they bring operational

know-how and a globally driven ideology. The fear is that such a "glocal" ideology could serve as a bridge between traditional Palestinian nationalism and al-Qaida's global Salafi-Jihadi ideology. The former theoretically allows for a two-state solution; the latter requires adherents to actively wage violent jihad against all infidels and apostates until an Islamic state can be declared on as large a territory as possible.

TO BE sure, while Salafi-Jihadi groups in Gaza have failed to execute spectacular attacks, they are eager to catapult themselves to center stage and demand the attention of al-Qaida's core leadership, something they could do with a single successful attack.

In the words of a Gaza jihadist, "So far al-Qaida has not sponsored our work. We are waiting to carry out a big jihadist operation dedicated to Sheikh Osama Bin Laden. Our course and doctrine are similar to those of al-Qaida. If al-Qaida asks us to pledge allegiance to it, we are completely ready for it."

Frustrating such ambitions demands a concerted and multi-layered effort by Israel and its allies. Securing the Egypt-Gaza border to prevent the infiltration of still more foreign fighters is a first critical step, but border security cannot be predicated on securing the last line of defense.

As Israel has demonstrated, targeting weapons smuggling convoys on land and ships at sea, only with enhanced intelligence-sharing and cooperation can human, weapons or other smuggling operations be detected "upstream" before reaching its borders.

Salafi-Jihadi groups are not mollified by progress toward peace. To the contrary, they are motivated to undermine peace with Israel – temporary or permanent – at all costs. A second step is therefore maintaining an active counterterrorism posture in the West Bank and exacting a high cost for continued attacks stemming from Hamas-controlled Gaza, regardless of who carries out any given attack. Only under continued pressure will Hamas, the de facto governing entity, challenge these groups' efforts to target Israel, fellow Palestinians and Western interests.

The good news is that al-Qaida as such has not yet come to the West Bank or Gaza. The West Bank features still small numbers of al-Qaida inspired individuals and the few Salafi-Jihadi groups in Gaza lack significant numbers and are in the rare position of facing challenges from Israel and Hamas both.

The bad news is that a pernicious ideology inspired by al-Qaida has taken root among some Palestinians. While the number acting on this ideology remains small, they operate within a society at some level sympathetic to their ideas. According to a new Pew Research Center poll, 51 percent of Palestinians express confidence in al-Qaida leader Osama Bin Laden.

Barrel bombs and mortars, while dangerous, pose no strategic threat to Israel. But if al-Qaida's global jihad were to truly set roots in the West Bank or Gaza it would markedly increase the nature of the terrorist threat it faces.

A robust security presence keeps the West Bank under control. Planning strategically now could prevent Gaza from ultimately becoming the next Somalia or Yemen. And with a number of Yemeni and other foreign fighters already there, time is of the essence.

The writer directs the Stein program on counterterrorism and intelligence at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. A former US counterterrorism official, he is the co-author of Deterred but Determined: Salafi-Jihadi Groups in the Palestinian Arena (January 2010).

COMMON SENSE

The right to life is a God given right

Bloodshed is not the only solution to Yemen's problems



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

If bloodshed is not the right solution to any problem anywhere else in the world, it certainly is not the case more so in Yemen. In Yemen bloodshed only begets more bloodshed as the ritual of blood vengeance is clearly embedded in the tribal culture of Yemen and it is not understood why the regime in Sana'a continues to think that it can confront all of its problems by the nozzle of the guns it has in its possession pointing and firing at the citizens it purports to rule and serve. While this may be sound logic very temporarily in the case of the former, it certainly does not reflect a genuine desire to carry out any services expected of Government, which are for all practical purposes non-existent. With the nozzles now somewhat quite in the Northern provinces of Sa'ada and Amran and other nearby governorates (although there are looming threats of a Round Seven emerging), they have been uncovered in the southern governorates and with greater disregard for the codes of honor that our tribal heritage also left us, such as the ban on assaults on armless civilians, the respect for the rights of life to women and children and the lack of use of houses of worship as staging points for attacks against adversaries or civilian protestors. On the other hand, there are several constitutional stipulations being currently violated in the Southern Governorates that certainly forbid the armed attack on any citizens, who may have expressed opinions that may seem demeaning to certain Government officials.

One wonders to what extent the state security apparatus would be used to serve the wishes of elements of a regime that has failed to provide the minimum standards of government services and failed to apply the very laws it has diligently amended so many times to suit its purposes as much as possible. In the southern governorates, there is a strong feeling that the dichard regime in Sana'a has out stepped the bounds of purposeful government and has acted more like an occupying power, rather than a government of the people, for the people, and by the people. At least that is how our southern brothers see it. While the feeling is really shared by all the people of Yemen, north and south, the southerners have found the situation so deplorable that they find it unbearable to carry on under such gross misuse of government by careless officials, who grant themselves the right to grab anything and everything they like, as if God had only created the Earth for them to plunder and loot as they wish. Just to reassure our brothers in the south, this feeling is shared by their northern brothers and really does not hide the existence of better conditions north of Mikeiras at all. The fact of the matter is that the regime in Sana'a has been the most flagrant violator of not only its own laws, but the very international conventions it has become party to, wantonly bringing hundreds of civilians in Sa'ada to their untimely death without justifiable cause, except to reflect an unholy arrogance that has come to characterize the regime, especially since the end of the 1994 uncalled for invasion of the south. It that senseless war was to "protect the union" (It was only after the invasion by about three weeks that the leaders of the southern side in the Unification Agreement decided for a break up), the aftermath of the war gave more reason for a desired divorce). In fact, one at that time relished the delicate balance of power that helped to create a modest aura of freedom and civil involvement in government affairs, which should be credited to the presence of our southern brothers in the merged regime that arose after unification from May 1990 to April 1994 (when the "Northern" forces attacked the "Southern" forces that were deployed in Amran as part of the redeployment of military forces of both North and South Yemen agreed to in the unification accord).

While it is not yet understood how the regime can claim that Yemen enjoys democratic rule with free speech and assembly, but when the Southerners try to enjoy this right, they are greeted by immediate firepower from the exaggerated security presence that usually greets any civil expressions of discontent in Dhale'a, Loder or Zanjiyar. As if that was not enough, the security forces are unabashed at resorting to attacking any person who may have used symbolic expressions of discontent against particular elements of the regime, as if these people not only enjoyed immunity from displeasure by their "subjects", but immunity from discontent by their subjects. This is tantamount to "shirk" and accords the rulers of the land a partnership with the Divine, which is totally unacceptable, no matter what rationale are given for this unholy assertion.

One wonders if the security organs have forgotten that it is their primary duty to protect the citizens of the country from any harm, even if they expressed an opinion that may not be favorable to any of the icons of the regime and even if these icons infringe upon the constitutional rights of free expression and assembly, in which case they should really side with the protestors. Certainly, state funds should not be allocated to such organs if they attack peaceful demonstrators in their homes and use houses of worship as staging points for their unholy bloody missions to do away with such protestors. Needless to say, those demonstrators were not even carrying armaments during the demonstrations.

It is time for the regime in Sana'a to seek more constructive methods of answering legitimate protest in both the North and the South if it has any hopes of keeping the unity of Yemen intact. The misdoings of icons of the regime are the reasons behind the obvious discontent in the North and the South and the latter will not fade away by machine gun fire from the minarets of mosques, which were constructed to call the people to come together and to remember that all are equal before God and the Law. The irrational spilling of blood in the South must end immediately if this union is to be saved. The regime in Sana'a has to come to terms with the people it purports to govern by their consent, for there is simply no excuse for continued failure to perform under the social contract and the shedding of blood of legitimate protestors does not hide any of the regime's incompetence at all.

But wait folks, there may be ominous threats that Round Seven is looming in the horizon in the North as well. For sure the future is gloomier than ever.

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



OUR OPINION

Women between city attractions and freedom in the countryside

As we celebrate international women's day on March 8, it becomes a great occasion to advocate for Yemeni women's rights especially their right to a dignified life free of violence.

Yemeni women live in a male dominated environment that prevents them from being visible in public life. This is not new, but what is new is that more and more Yemeni women are being drawn back into the circle of oppression contrary to the assumption that the situation of women in Yemen is improving.

Obviously we have more women in decision making positions and we have even more women with access to basic services, as many families have moved from underdeveloped rural areas to the cities. Yet ironically, it is my belief that women in urban areas are more excluded from participating in their own community and having a say in their surrounding than those in the villages.

As it is most Yemeni women wherever they are excluded from having a say in the most important decisions of their lives, such as education, marriage, pregnancy, job opportunities and so on. Naturally this exclusion extends to other matters that concern the family: where to live, which schools should the children go to, where to spend the family money, who should enter the family home and who should not... and on goes the list.

As a result, Yemeni women take refuge in social sessions especially those where qat chewing dominates. They gradually fall into bad habits such as smoking cigarettes and even shisha (water pipe), and chewing extensively. They also become engrossed in gossip. It fills their lives, especially for women in the cities.

The situation is somewhat different for women in the rural areas who don't have much free time to spare for gossiping or chewing qat, unless while working on the farm or in the house.

Rural women are more secure despite the fact that they have less access to "modern" services. Rural women value themselves slightly more because they are more productive, even if it is back breaking chores inside and outside the house. In all regards they are however also very much oppressed and seen as a tool for serving the family.

Ironically, access to education, healthcare and, to a certain extent, to job opportunities has not given city women much self esteem. In fact, the city environment is much more male controlled and rigid when it comes to women. Most of the children who are led astray –either to crime and drugs or to become jihadis- are those who have lived in the cities where they fall into bad company.

Physical violence against women is more common in urban areas than in rural ones. Perhaps it is because it is less visible. In the villages, everyone knows what is happening with everyone else. The culture is more closely knit together. Hence they can easily ask for help or advice from someone else. And in the villages, every adult is every child's parent. Parents have the implied authority to discipline other people's children. And naturally life in the rural areas is much less complicated with fewer attractions by far.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf



By: Hamid

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Second Award of scholastic Excellence and Superiority In the Framework of social responsibility of HAYEL SAEED ANA'AM GROUP of COMPANIES in serving local society

ABU WALAD BISCUITS sponsors the Scholastic Excellence and Superiority Award and grants winners YR 3 millions in the second carnival for 2010



Amid a big public presence, Aden Mall hosted on Sunday morning February 21,2010 in Aden City the activity of honoring winners of Scholastic Excellence and Superiority Award based on initiative by Head of the National Organization For Developing Society (NODS) and support of Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce (YCIC) represented by (ABU WALAD BISCUIT) product. This comes within the framework of social responsibility of HAYEL SAEED ANA'AM GROUP of COMPANIES in serving local society and in sponsoring superiors of the country.

In his word delivered in the occasion, Mr. Abdul-Fattah al-Aswadi, deputy general manager of Yemen company for industry and commerce (YCIC) said, today, we feel very glad and honored not only as we are the company that produces Abu walad biscuit the sponsor of the award, but because we aimed to a great extent to direct our capabilities on the right way to serve interest of the local society and these activities are to focus particularly on education and to prove and sponsors scholastic excellence and superiority of talented Yemeni school students

For his part, Mr. Shawqi al-Qadhi confirmed that private sector represented in this carnival by YCIC and NODS had the honor to initiate and hold these very major purposive institutional activities and circulate it on the level of entire Yemen. Al-Qadhi appreciated excellence and superiority of girl students who were placed highest ranks in the two carnivals which indicates even greater superiority of Yemen girl students. "The award is only allocated to these students who prove to be superiors, and thus as you sow, so you will reap", Al-Qadhi added.

Following that Mr. Ahmed Salem Rubai Ali, Deputy governor of Aden, Mr. Abdul Fattah Al-Aswadi, Deputy General Manager of YCIC, Mr. Shawqi al-Qadhi, Head of NODS and a number of administrative leaderships in Aden governorate honored the winners and submitted them their financial awards (One million for Amgaad Shafiq Ghanem, the 2nd million was equally granted to Mohamed Anwar Awad & Rooa'a Hani Abdu al kareem, the 3rd remaining million was equally granted to Hala Ameen Abeed, Shadi Gamal Ali & Safa'a Ali Fuad) which they attained out of their merit after they scored high from first primary until the third secondary grade on the level of the Republic.

At the end of the carnival, parents of the winners were, as well, awarded and honored for their greatest role in making the scholastic excellence and superiority of their of their sons & daughters

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE AWARD, PLES CALL: 04-218511, 04-223270



... and the story continues

Keeping Yemeni private schools in check

By: Shatha Al Harazi
For the Yemen Times

About 200,000 students pay almost YR 8 billion per year for private education, but do not receive the quality tuition one would expect in return for these fees.

Instead some students seem to believe that their parents pay so that they can behave as they like, say staff.

"I paid for this!" students often say in Yemeni private schools, according to the principal of a private school in Sana'a, who said that his school was better than others.

Students are sometimes treated as if they were tribal sheikhs, he said. Everything can be altered for their convenience, even if it requires firing a teacher.

Students are allowed to insult teachers with the excuse that they pay their salary and therefore have every right to do so, said Mohammad Al-Sharabi, a science teacher at a private school who explained that he dared not discipline his students for fear of their parents' reprisal.

These students disrupt the education of their classmates and encourage bad behavior, he said.

Most private schools overlook students' insults and misbehavior in order to give them the benign environment they wish for, which greatly harms the educational process, he said. It has become money-oriented and encourages the negative characteristics of a tribal culture in schools.

The idea behind establishing private schools in Yemen was to overcome the shortcomings of the public governmental

schools where overcrowding affects students' academic achievements, said Mohammed Mada'is, director of Private Education Management at the Ministry of Education.

However, private schooling has failed to overcome these problems. Instead, private schools have become yet another challenge to the Yemeni education system.

The lack of discipline in some private schools attracts students, which brings more money to the schools.

There are approximately 349 private schools in Yemen and according to the 2009 Private Education Management report of the Ministry of Education, 24 of which operate without a license. These do not have a license because they are not up to standard.

The report also highlighted the fact that, during the last year, 68 new schools were established in Sana'a, Ta'iz and Aden alone, representing an 11 percent increase in the overall number of the country's schools.

These private schools are owned by approximately 627 Yemeni investors and 24 foreign investors, most of which are either Iraqis or Egyptians.

These investors are one of the primary obstacles in the development of the educational system due to the fact that most of them come from non-educational backgrounds, according to the report. They therefore need a better understanding of these systems through varied but related training and meetings.

Another challenge that faces the sector is that the 12,000 teachers in the private schools have poor academic qualifications. Some have bachelor's degrees or diplomas, while others only have secondary school certificates.

M.S., a private school student, informed the Yemen Times that some schools suffer from a complete absence of strict control.

"I've learnt that close scrutiny is the most important factor in keeping order and maintaining healthy student behavior, however, this isn't the situation in my school," he said. "There may be a long list of the students' rules and regulations, but due to lack of management, this list is rendered useless and students tend to act as they wish."

"My colleagues support each other in hiding the cigarettes they smoke secretly in the bathrooms," added M.S. "They also bring mobile phones to the school and send bad jokes through Bluetooth. They even exchange pornographic CDs."

Some students believe that management avoids dealing with students' bad behavior on purpose, in order to save face. The administration, the students believe, knows only too well of the damage the students' misbehavior is causing but, when weighed up, expelling a student would cost a lot more to the school's finances so it is easier just to turn a blind eye.

The private schools' problems vary, according to the management. Foreign management is often more strict and doesn't consider the students' financial input.

Under foreign management, the student would be expelled from a school after a third warning or if he continually misbehaves in class, while Yemeni management would be more lenient and thereby endorse the students' feelings of power.

The behavior of students in the richer neighborhoods in worse, said



Mohammad Al-Ghazi, head of the Omar Al-Mukhtar Private School.

Whole curriculum not covered

At the end of term, teachers in private schools provide students with handouts of only 20 questions. This is highly appreciated by students, according to R.R., a private high school student.

"At the end of each term, in our school, some teachers provide us with

a summary handout of 20 questions or less that we know will come up in the final exams," he said. "This is why I love my school so much. We don't go through the trouble of studying any pages that won't be covered in the exam."

Students would consequently face huge difficulties studying for major exams set by the ministry as they wouldn't have covered the complete

curriculum.

Mada'is, who has been the director of Private Education Management at the Ministry of Education since the 1980s, made it clear that the management is ineffective in its role is to control the schools.

According to Mada'is, his department is merely a reviewing body with no authority. Only the local councils have authority, he said.

Teaching English better in Yemeni schools

Many have complained about how English language is taught in Yemeni schools. Jauda Lhmady, a fourth year student from the Faculty of Education at the University of Science and Technology in Hadramout, suggests more attention be given to listening and speaking English at an early age.

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 condi-

tions, poor motivation, lack of support from home and society, the pressures of an overly burdensome syllabus in other subjects, and too many subjects to be studied at the same time, all contribute to generally poor performance in teaching English.

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 abovementioned 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.

Early language acquisition

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.

According to these 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 natural order of learning language skills is listening, speaking, reading and writing. 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.

An unnatural way of teaching

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, 16, 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."

Too much reading and writing 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 English language teaching 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 English language teaching through which they can attain greater proficiency in English.

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- Ability to manage work with minimal supervision.
- Honesty, integrity, and strong work ethic.

Interested applicants should be prepared to provide documentation of their credentials and experience as well as personal/professional references. Closing date for applicants is **20 March 2010**. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxfam, an international NGO, works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering. Oxfam has been working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces the following vacant position for its development and humanitarian programme in Yemen:

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Interview with National Cancer Control Foundation Director Ali Al-Khawliani

“A good strategy for fundraising is through getting the support of national figures and celebrities”

The National Cancer Control Foundation was established in 2003 as a private charity organization dedicated to helping cancer patients and controlling the fatality of this disease in Yemen. It was established by a group of businessmen and is operated as a business in order to ensure its professionalism and sustainability. Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviewed its director Ali Al-Khawliani on the foundation and how it has managed to be a successful model for fund raising among civil society in Yemen.

The National Cancer Control Foundation was established as a development organization providing charity and help to cancer patients along with awareness activities and training to educate about the cancer issue in Yemen. It is owned by a group of businessmen so in essence it is a private sector organization and this is perhaps why it has been quite successful in growing and generating income for its cause.

“We work in a very institutional and organized structure with roles and responsibilities of all staff clearly defined. This has helped optimum get efficiency from our employees and our financial records are open to anyone to see,” said Ali Al-Khawliani director of the foundation.

The foundation has strategic action plans, and have a monitoring and evaluation system in place to ensure plans are implemented. Not only do the staff and volunteers get capacity building and training, even the patients’ awareness and capabilities are enhanced through several recreational and educational programs run by the foundation.

Fundraising

“When we first started, getting donation was very difficult. People did not believe in our cause. They would say: why give money to a person who is already doomed to die. They believed it was a lost case and we had to be persistent and informative in order to convince people to donate,” said Al-Khawliani.

Campaigning for cancer patients has been a priority for the foundation since day one. First it started with word of mouth and personal contacts. Today the campaign is on all media forms including sms messages in mobile phones. The foundation has donation boxes in almost all main public places, supermarkets and mosques. There are messages conveyed to the people through using champions and social figures such as Abdulwasie Hael, a well known businessman from Hael Saeed Anam Group.

Gradually people started coming by themselves to the foundation to donate.

The foundation also approached international donors who provided equipment and facilities for the foundation’s breast cancer’s early detection center or other services.

“A good strategic step in encouraging officials and authority figures to donate was having the president himself on board. We’d have our annual campaign launch and the president would say here is a hundred thousand dollars from me to the foundation, and look around the ministers or public figures and businessmen probing similar donations. Soon each would start

committing to donating money and the spirit would spread like fire,” said Al-Khawliani about having champions to encourage fundraising.

Another technique the foundation uses is inviting celebrities to take part in the fundraising campaign. There is a specific TV program called Lailat Al-Qadr, which is the special night during the last ten days of Ramadan whereby Muslims believe that their sins could be forgiven if they witness that night and carry out good deeds. This program is a series broadcasted through Yemen TV and encourages people to donate after talking about cancer and even inviting some recovered cancer patients to speak on TV. Every episode a famous guest speaker is invited to do the presentation and these are from the celebrities and prominent social figures.

“We get support from artists, singers, religious preachers and politicians and they all are symbols we use in our



National Cancer Control Foundation Director Ali Al-Khawliani.

Khawliani only a small percentage of the patients that come to the center can be cured as most of the cases come in very late stages.

The foundation sponsors the treatment of patients while are supposed to pay a certain percentage of the cost according to their financial situation. Yet there are other businessmen and philanthropists who take upon their shoulders to cover the costs of a number of patients’ treatment every year.

“The compassion made some peo-

ple at Al-Gumhuri Hospital in Sana’a after they are diagnosed and discovered to have cancer.

At the health services section, patients are given slips through which they can get medicines from the foundation’s Yushfeen pharmacy, or further tests in the hospitals the foundation has cooperation agreements with, or book a bed for more than one night stay at the hospitals or the foundation’s private accommodation.

“Patients are supposed to pay 50 per-



The foundation’s health center is equipped with modern medical equipment, especially with the recent additions of early detection equipment for breast cancer (left). The Yushfeen pharmacy (right) generates income for the foundation.



campaigns and examples of celebrities who advocate for our cause,” he said. Last year the Egyptian actress Hanan Turk was invited to Yemen to lead the campaign. She had special sessions with businesswomen and wives of diplomats and key figures. They all donated generously and, according to Al-Khawliani, the event yielded a good amount.

Awareness creates compassion

The community starts participating in the foundation’s aim through donation, but most importantly through spreading awareness. According to Al-

especially those who were touched by the messages we sent across media sponsor treatment of children or poor people. The problem with cancer is that it is a chronic disease and it costs so much making people who were relatively well off poor,” said the director.

The foundation is very good with media messages and slogans. Every year the campaign has a new slogan and this year it is

In order to ensure sustainability and not rely completely on donations, the foundation has started up several projects of income generation such as Yushfeen pharmacy chain. There are three of these pharmacies currently in Yemen. Abdu Sultan is the technical supervisor of Yushfeen Pharmacy in Sana’a. The pharmacy is located in the Doctors’ Tower in Zubairi Street and includes medicines for cancer patients along with general drugs found elsewhere.

The store was established in September 2007 with a capital of YR 20 million and this year it not only covers its own expenses but the foundation owes USD 20,000 to the pharmacy in return for cancer related medicines.

There are four chemists working in the store along with a general manager and a public relations/ accountant.

Health services section

Ahmed Al-Guodabi financial officer of the section and the person responsible for collecting patients’ contributions to the medication costs. The cases are referred from tumor/cancer center at

percent of their treatment costs. But then many times they are poor and we have to let them get away by paying much less. Some patients are exempted completely and we cover all their expenses even their lodging if they come from other governorates,” said Al-Guodabi.

Every day the section receives 25 new cases many of which come from rural areas at an already late stage. Breast and lymph cancers are quite common and there are some children who come with cancer cases.

An eye cancer patient from Hajja had come to the center with his relative. He was not diagnosed at the local health center until very late. He feared the cancer could have spread to other parts and was patiently waiting in the section while his relative ran around getting paperwork signed in order to get the patient admitted.

“The problem is that there is no awareness and this makes the survival percentage low compared to what it should really be. What breaks my heart is that the patients and their relatives come in a state of depression they don’t even think there is hope,” said Abdullah Al-Futailhi, head of documentation and statistics department at the section.

Since 2000, the section keeps track of all the patients and their status and makes sure they come for their doses regularly. There are activities with the children patients to alleviate their suffering through fun and games every Wednesday. And the section also organizes for social counseling through group therapy almost every day.

HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



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

Working during pregnancy: Some common problems

Ansam and Ali are thrilled that Ansam’s pregnancy is confirmed. They visited a gynecologist who assured them that everything was normal. Ansam works in a private hospital as a theatre nurse. Though she is very devoted to her work, she has some apprehensions after she became pregnant. Firstly, she is worried whether working in the operation theatre and getting exposed to anesthetic gases may harm the baby in her womb. Added to that she is bothered by nausea and discomfort in her stomach all the time. Smell of medications in the hospital and theatre make her feel sick. On one occasion she had to rush to the bathroom in between a surgery to vomit. She was posted on night shifts and she found it difficult to cope up. She feels weak most of the time and is confused whether she will be able to carry on with her work. By now, Ansam realized that working during pregnancy isn’t always easy. She is puzzled as to how to battle her symptoms and stay healthy while continuing working.



baby and help prevent swelling. Keeping pillows between your legs and under your belly may increase your comfort.

Learn to be at ease

As your pregnancy progresses, everyday activities such as sitting and standing can become uncomfortable. Don’t be sitting all day. Take short, frequent breaks to combat fatigue. Moving around every few hours can also ease muscle tension and help prevent fluid buildup in your legs and feet.

- **Sitting.** Adjustable armrests, a firm seat and back cushions, and good lower back support can make long hours of sitting much easier — especially as your weight and posture change. If your chair isn’t adjustable, improvise. Use a small pillow or cushion to provide extra support for your back.

- **Standing.** Prolonged standing can cause blood to pool in your legs, which may lead to pain or dizziness. It also puts pressure on your back. If you must stand for long periods of time, put one of your feet up on a footrest, a low stool or a box. Switch feet often, and take frequent breaks. Wear comfortable shoes with good arch support. Consider wearing support hose, too. Avoid wearing high heel shoes.

- **Bending and lifting.** Proper posture can spare your back, even if you’re lifting something light. Bend at your knees, not at your waist. Keep the load close to your body, lifting with your legs — not your back. Avoid twisting your body while lifting. Ask for help when lifting heavy objects. Pregnancy causes the uterus to swell and it will enlarge to accommodate the growing fetus. Pregnant women will have an urge to urinate frequently. Many women have this symptom from two weeks after pregnancy has occurred. Pregnant women at work should anticipate this and visit the bathroom before it becomes an emergency.

Keep stress under control

Anxiety and stress at work can sap the energy you need to care for yourself and your baby. To minimize workplace stress:

- Make a to-do list every day. Prioritize your tasks. Delegate difficult work to someone else.
- Communicate openly and frequently with your friends or a supportive co-worker. Share your feelings and frustrations with them.
- Practice relaxation techniques, such as breathing slowly or imagining yourself in a calm place. Visualize that your whole pregnancy will be a very enjoyable one and you will deliver an adorable bundle of joy!

Take proper precautions at work

You should be aware of certain working conditions which may increase your risk of complications during pregnancy:

- Exposure to harmful substances like chemicals, gases and fumes as in a chemical laboratory or hospital
- Long working hours and unscheduled overtime work
- Night shifts
- Prolonged standing
- Lifting heavy objects
- Excessive noise during work
- Anxiety and mental stress

If you’re concerned about any of the above issues, discuss it with your boss. Together you can decide if you need to take special precautions or modify your work during your pregnancy.

Problems pregnant women face at their workplaces

Many working women face a similar situation like Ansam, when they become pregnant. Nowadays, women are employed in almost all jobs as men. Most women continue working during pregnancy. Working during pregnancy isn’t always easy. Women may face challenges at the workplace due to their being pregnant. Working women should know how to stay healthy and productive in their work. They should understand how to lessen common pregnancy discomforts. They should recognize in advance when the pregnancy might get complicated due to their work.

Managing nausea and vomiting

It may be called “morning” sickness, but in pregnancy nausea can hit at any time. To ease nausea at work:

- **Avoid anything which triggers nausea.** Some foods and smell of foods reheated can induce nausea. Stay away from anything that triggers nausea.
- **Take snacks.** Crackers and other bland foods can be eaten when you feel nauseated. Ginger or ginger tea may help, too.
- **Drink plenty of fluids.** If you don’t drink enough fluids, your nausea may get worse. Keep a water bottle at your desk or in your work area and sip throughout the day.
- **Don’t rush.** Allow yourself extra time to get out of bed and get ready for work. Rushing around can contribute to nausea.

Overcoming fatigue

Tiredness and fatigue are very common during pregnancy. This can be because of improper and inadequate nutrition and your body’s extra load in supporting your pregnancy

1. **Eat nutritious food.** Fatigue can be a symptom of anemia. You can correct this by improving your diet. Choose foods such as poultry, seafood, dates, leafy green vegetables, whole-grain cereal and pasta, beans, nuts, and seeds.
2. **Take frequent breaks.** Getting up and moving around for a few minutes can refresh you. Spending a few minutes with the lights off, eyes closed and feet up also can help you recharge.
3. **Don’t over-exert.** Schedule your work appropriately and save time and energy. Employ a house maid to take care of the work like cooking, cleaning etc.
4. **Exercise.** Walking, swimming and cycling are some exercises which are safe during pregnancy. Physical exercise may help boost your energy level.
5. **Sleep well.** Aim for seven to nine hours of sleep every night. Lie down comfortably. Resting on your left side will improve blood flow to your



Al-Khawliani describes the foundation’s plans in carrying out mass awareness sessions, whether in the local activities tent in the foundation’s premises on Hadda, or in other public locations.

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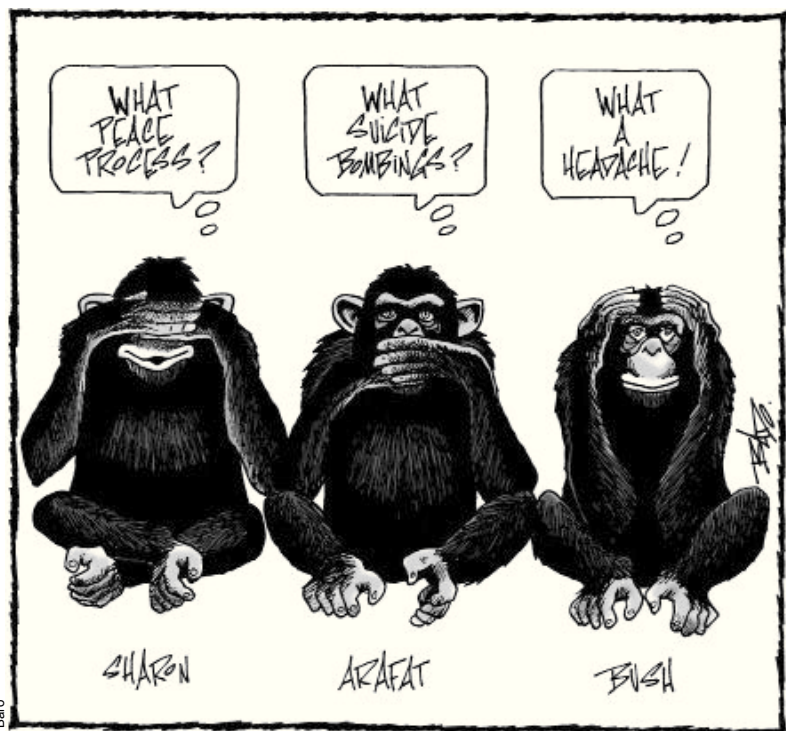
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Cartooning in conflict

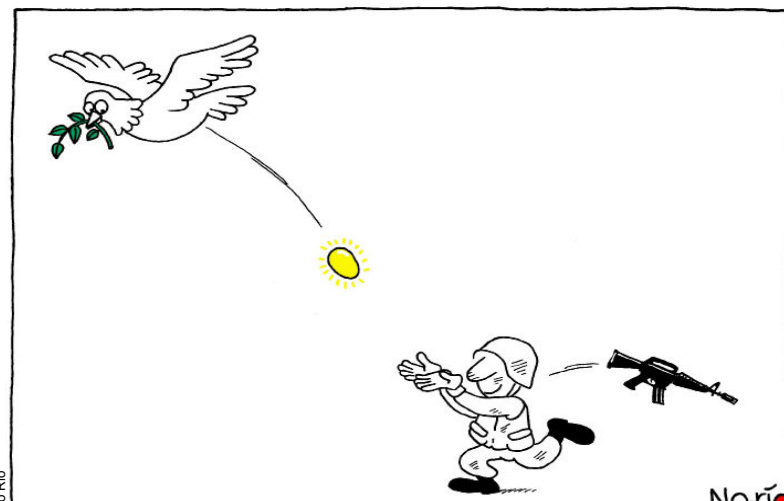
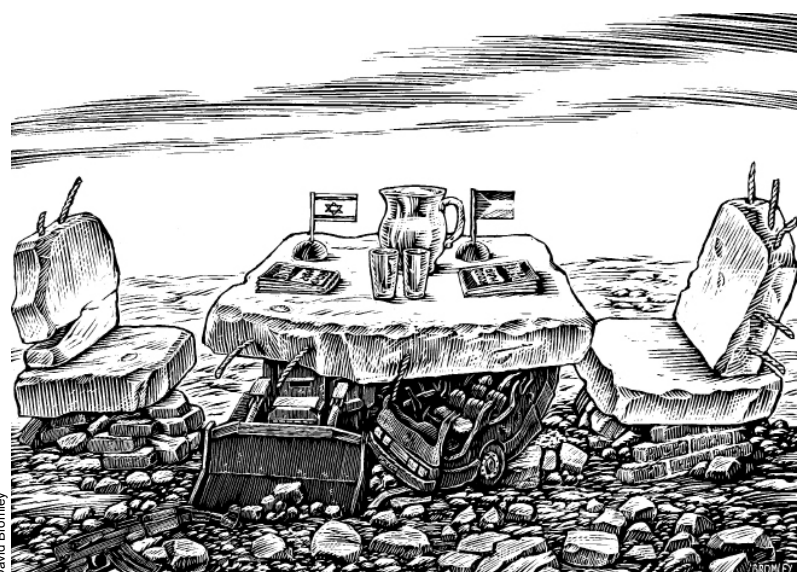
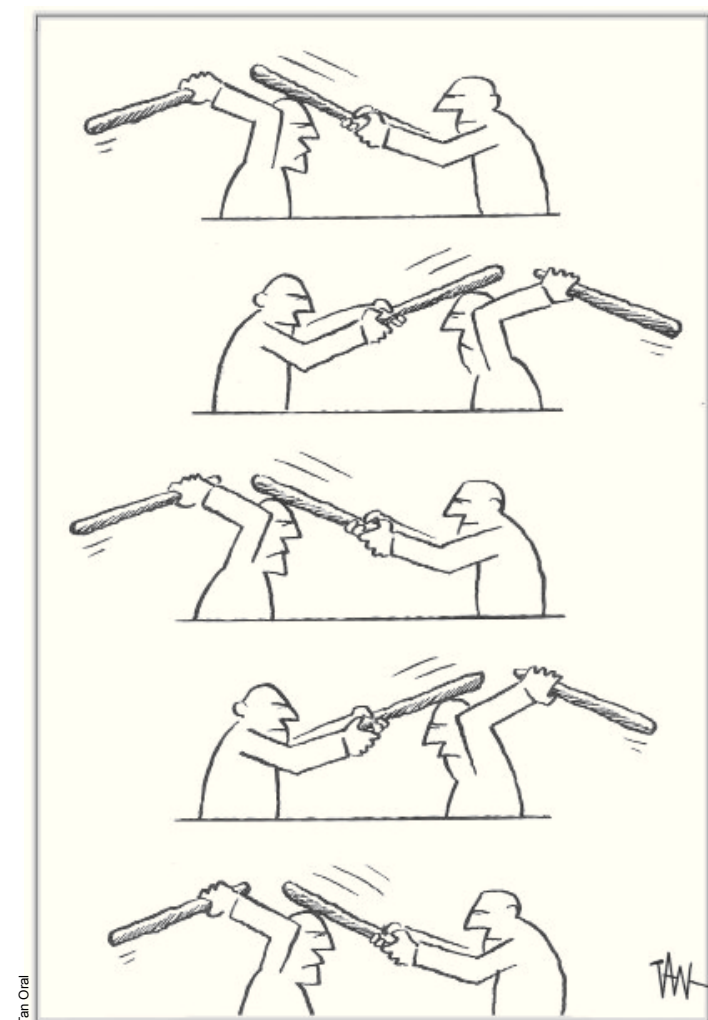
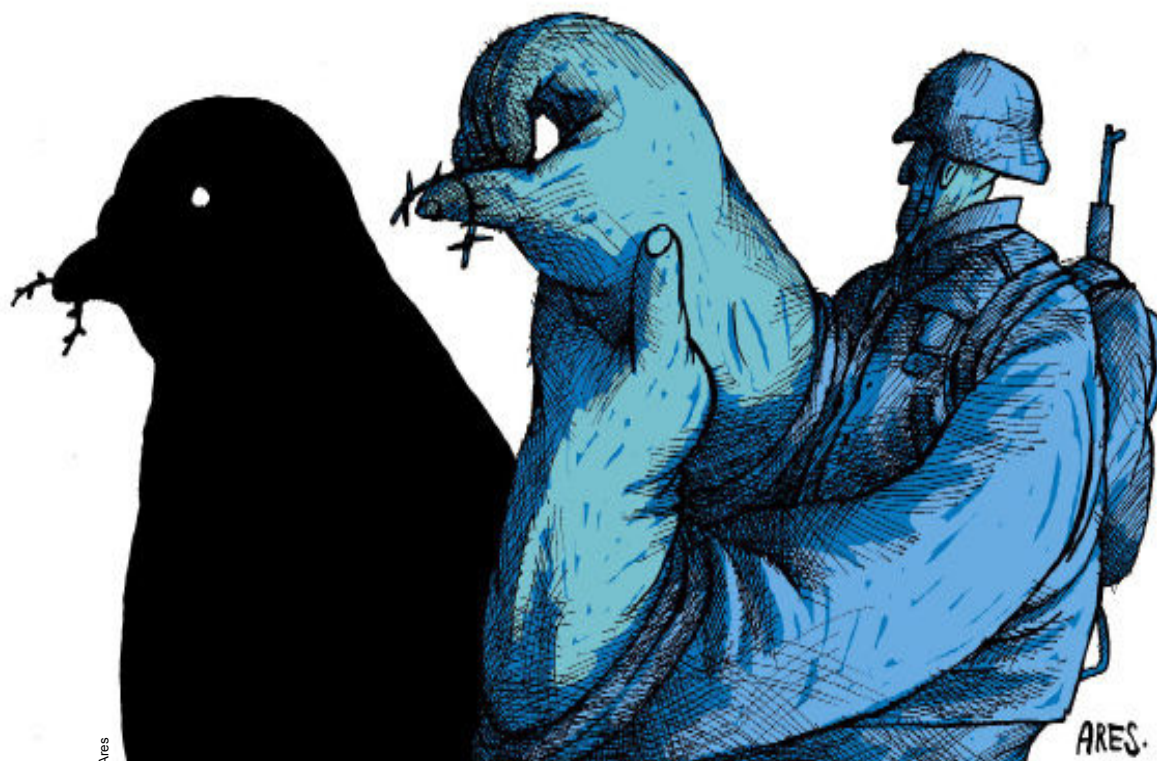
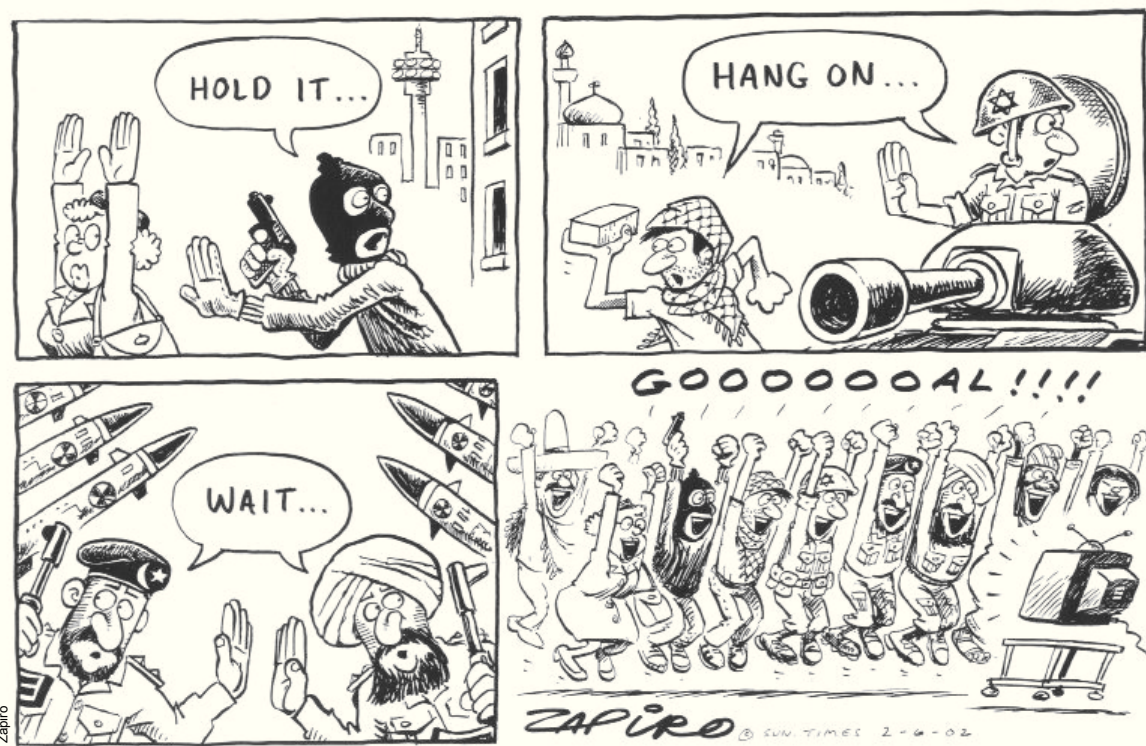


The Parents Circle - Families Forum is a unique grassroots organization, whose power stems from the collaborative work of its members – more than five hundred families, half Israeli and half Palestinian, all who have all lost immediate family members to the conflict. They seek to overcome the lack of trust and empathy between the sides that allows for the cycle of violence to continue.

The forum presents a different and much needed perspective on the reasons for the violence. To achieve this goal, the Parents Circle work to imbue both sides with a sense of empathy and reconciliation, rather than hatred and revenge. Sharing with others personal and painful stories, each day through the forum's activities and outreach, it reaffirms the sanctity of life and the need to safeguard human dignity and freedom.

The forum has created an exhibition of cartoons with a reflection on conflict, its consequences and in many of the works hope and reconciliation. This exhibition acts as a catalyst for the Parents Circle - Families Forum to bring its message of empathy rather than revenge, of dialog rather than violence, to an audience who might otherwise never have been exposed to an alternative to the hatred and impasse in the Middle East.

Some of the world's most famous cartoonists, many of whom have won the "Pulitzer" and other prestigious awards contributed their works to the exhibition which included around 60 - 100 cartoons. Thirteen of these cartoons were then included into the making of a 2010 calendar.



4U If you want to know more about this forum or the calendar visit: www.theparentscircle.org

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A portrait of Arab identity

By: Alice Hackman

The Sheikh of Qaryatein poses with his children on the road to Palmyra, Syria, in 1914. In the photo by Savignac, the sheikh stares defiantly into the camera. On

either side of his chair, his son holds a hawk and his daughter squints in the sun.

The sheikh is part of an exhibition of photos taken throughout the Middle East from 1905 to 1921, on show until March 10 at the French Cultural Center

in Sana'a.

The exhibition presents 52 out of 12,500 glass negatives from the photo archive of the French School of Archeology in Jerusalem.

"It was for our pleasure, for the beauty of the portraits," explains Jean-Michel de Tarragon, historian and responsible of the photo archive.

"They are all Arabs," he says. "They are from Palestine, Jordan, the Hejaz, Lebanon, Syria, and one from Egypt. There are men, women, children, soldiers and civilians."

The idea behind the exhibition was to present a different picture of Arab identity to Yemenis, to "extravert them," to show them the others Arabs, he says.

All enlargements of the photographs were made in Yemen directly from the negatives, which makes them much sharper, according to de Tarragon.

"We had thousands of negatives, and I had the idea to extract the portraits from them," adds archeologist Jean-Baptiste Humbert, who helped set up the exhibition.

Among the photos that Humbert printed in square format - "not very orthodox for the purists of photography," he jokes - is one of an Arab prisoner of the Turkish army in shackles, taken by Savignac in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 1917.

Is Humbert happy with the audience at the exhibition? His eyes sparkle. He says he overheard people asking each other, "But are they real Arabs?"

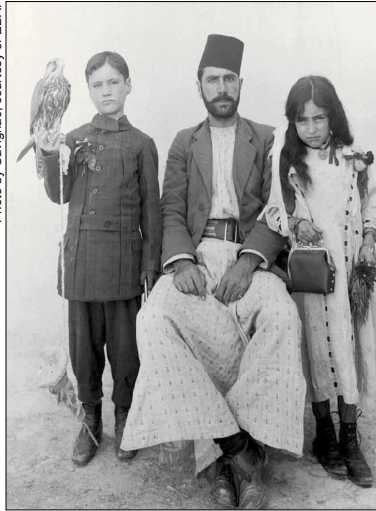
"They are not from the south, but they are real Arabs," he says.

The inhabitants of Soqatra are probably partly of Indian descent, but they are still Arabs, he explains, and it is normal that a Syrian - represented at the exhibition - is different from an Omani or a Yemeni.

Arab consciousness is first and foremost the Arabic language and a "formidable community of customs."

The sacrifice of the sheep is deep culture of the Orient, he explains. In the Levant, both Muslims and Christians

Photo by Savignac, courtesy of EBAF



used to sacrifice a sheep on all the same occasions: for weddings, a new house, a birth.

"The Orient taught me tolerance," he says. "With such a variety of cultures and societies, you have to be tolerant."

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